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**Contributors**

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## LOUGHBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT.

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1894.

To the Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN:

I beg to present to you my annual report on the health of the District during the year 1894, comprising an account of the number of cases of infectious diseases which occurred within the district, the steps taken to prevent the spread of such diseases and to remove the various influences which existed to the prejudice of the public health. As the Leicestershire parishes are now constituted a separate district, this report will have reference only to them. The new district has an area of 20,344 statute acres, and the population in 1891 was 4,620.

#### MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths registered during the year was 72. This is an annual death rate of 15.5 per thousand of the population, which is almost exactly the average of the last five years. The total number of deaths from zymotic diseases was 6, which is equal to an annual zymotic death rate of 1.3 per thousand of the population. This is a low zymotic death rate. The deaths from diseases of this class were as follows:—Scarlet fever, 2; diphtheria, 1; measles, 1; diarrhoea, 2.

#### BIRTHS.

The total number of births registered during the year was 113, which is an annual birth rate of 24.4 per thousand of the population.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT.

This Act came into operation in the district on the 1st of January, and I have no hesitation in saying that it has been most helpful in preventing the spread of infectious disease, for, as will be seen from the statistics appended hereto, although infectious disease arose in, or was imported into, several of the villages, there was no serious spread in any, except the diphtheria at Burton, and that was accounted for by the fact that the first case was of a mild character, and was allowed to attend school, and it was not till other members of the family were attacked by the disease in a more severe form that medical assistance was procured and the nature of the disorder ascertained. Meanwhile several children attending the Prestwold Schools had contracted diphtheria from the first child, and carried it to several homes in Hoton and Burton. Still, with prompt notification, isolation, and disinfection the disease was soon stamped out. The total number of cases of infectious disease notified was 37, of which 19 were scarlet fever, 14 diphtheria, 1 typhoid fever, and 3 erysipelas.

I shall now deal with the villages separately:—

#### BELTON.

Population, 571; births, 13; deaths, 10. One case of scarlet fever notified, which terminated fatally, at Gracedieu Lodge. Death rate, 17.5.

#### BURTON.

Population, 309; births, 9; deaths, 5; infectious diseases notified, 10: scarlet fever 3, diphtheria 7. The scarlet fever was imported from Leicester. A child who had been treated at the Leicester Corporation Fever Hospital was discharged cured. Her parents sent her to her grandmother at Burton, where a young man and woman resident in the cottage contracted the disease in about a week after the child's arrival. The cases were promptly isolated, and instructions given as to disinfectants, &c., and no further spread of the disease occurred. Diphtheria undoubtedly arose in the house occupied by Barnett, which was in a grossly unsanitary condition at that time. I reported the

particulars to this Authority, and, accompanied by the Inspector, made a systematic inspection of the village, made chemical analyses of the various water supplies, and, with the sanction of this Authority, made an order for the closing of Burton-on-the-Wolds United District Board School. I made several recommendations for remedying the unsanitary condition of the village to this Authority. Orders were in each case issued, which were promptly complied with by the principal owners. Altogether 12 cases occurred, with one death. With careful watching and prompt isolation, &c., the disease was stamped out in about three weeks. Death rate, 16.1.

#### CHARLEY.

Population, 151; births, 5; deaths, 1; no infectious disease. Death rate, 6 per thousand of the population.

#### HATHERN.

Population, 1,133; births, 32; deaths, 19; infectious disease notified, 7: 1 case of diphtheria, 1 of croup, 1 of typhoid fever, 2 of scarlet fever, 2 of erysipelas. There was only one death from zymotic disease—namely, diarrhoea. The case of diphtheria was a very mild one. The drinking water was found to be polluted, and an order made to clean the well, which order was promptly carried out. There was no spread of the disease. The case of typhoid occurred at Hathern Hill Farm; leakage from a midden into the well was the probable cause. No other case occurred. The death rate of the year was 16.7 per thousand.

#### HOTON.

Population, 294; births, 8; deaths, 5; infectious disease, 5, all cases of diphtheria originating in Burton School, as described above. The death rate was 17 per thousand. There was no death from zymotic disease.

#### LONG WHATTON.

Population, 633; births, 15; deaths, 14; infectious disease notified, 12—11 cases of scarlet fever and 1 of erysipelas. This was the only village in which scarlet fever showed an epidemic tendency. There was 1 death from zymotic disease—namely, scarlet fever. The death rate was 21.9 per thousand. Four of these deaths were in children under one year of age.

#### PRESTWOLD AND COTES.

Population, 141; births, 3; deaths, 4; infectious disease notified, 1, a case of scarlet fever which had its origin from infected clothing brought from Loughborough. Death rate, 28.3 per thousand. Two of these deaths were in children under one year.

#### THORPE ACRE AND DISHLEY.

Population, 191; births, 2; deaths, 1; no infectious disease. Death rate, 5.1 per thousand.

#### WOODTHORPE.

Population, 58; births, 1; no deaths; 1 case of scarlet fever, which was imported.

#### WYMERWOLD.

Population, 863; births, 18; deaths, 11; 1 case of scarlet fever notified. Death rate, 12.7 per thousand. Of these deaths, two were from zymotic diseases—namely, one from measles and one from diarrhoea.

#### NANPANTAN.

Population, 234; births, 7; deaths, 2; no infectious disease. Death rate, 8.5 per thousand.

#### GARENDON.

Population, 31; no births, no deaths, no infectious disease.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the District is derived from wells, and, as is well known to you, such water is liable to great variation on account of the movement of sub-soil water and also of the cleanliness or otherwise of the surface around wells, hence great vigilance on the part of the Inspector is necessary to see that no accumulation of filth is allowed even temporarily near any well from which drinking water is drawn. From the Inspector's report, you will see that such vigilance is exercised. Twelve samples of drinking water were submitted to me for analysis by the Inspector during the year; seven of these samples were, in my opinion, so impure as to be unfit for drinking. Orders were in each of these cases made by this Authority on the owners of the several properties to provide a proper water supply, which orders were in every case duly carried out.

#### COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF NIGHTSOIL AND HOUSE REFUSE.

This collection and disposal is effected by midden and privies, in which nightsoil and refuse is allowed to accumulate, and is then carried on to the land and used as manure. Great care should be exercised in the emptying of these middens, as the liquid filth is sometimes allowed to run over the surface of the ground, from which there is danger of its finding its way into the wells.

#### INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

In every fresh outbreak of infectious disease I have visited the locality, and made systematic inspections of villages or portions of villages as the necessities of the particular cases seemed to me to require; also, in company with the Inspector or at his request, to cases of overcrowding, dirty houses, or houses unfit for human habitation, &c. With regard to the sanitary state of the district at the end of the year, I think it was very good, as, with the exception of an imported case of scarlet fever at Woodthorpe, it was quite free from infectious disease. From the Inspector's report it will be seen that a large amount of work has been done, such as emptying of middens, removal of nuisances and accumulations of filth, disinfection and cleansing of houses after infectious disease, &c. Appended are the tabulated statistics of sickness and mortality, classified according to localities, ages and diseases, copies of which, and of this report, it will be necessary to send to the Local Government Board and to the Leicestershire County Council.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS CORCORAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Loughborough, 18th January, 1895.

#### TABULATED STATISTICS.

Mortality at all ages, 72; under one year, 14; one and under five, 6; five and under fifteen, 3; fifteen and under twenty-five, 4; twenty-five and under sixty-five, 18; sixty-five and upwards, 27.—Number of deaths in each parish:—Belton 10, Burton 5, Charley 1, Hathern 19, Hoton 5, Long Whatton 14, Prestwold and Cotes 4, Thorpe Acre and Dishley 1, Woodthorpe 0, Wymerwold 11, Nanpantan 2, Garendon 0.

Mortality from subjoined causes. Under five years, Measles 1, Diarrhoea 1, Bronchitis 3, all other diseases 15, total 20. Five years and upwards, Scarlatina 2, Diphtheria 1, Diarrhoea 1, Rheumatic Fever 1, Pthisis 3, Bronchitis 5, Heart Disease 9, Injuries 2, all other diseases 28, total 52.

#### INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

GENTLEMEN:

I have during the past year made periodical inspections of the parishes comprising the Loughborough District Council. There have been 21 houses disinfected and cleansed after infectious disease, 14 of which I have personally disinfected, at the expense of the Authority. Twelve samples of drinking water have been taken for analysis, five wells have been cleansed, two cases of overcrowding abated, four new middens have been erected, nine houses cleansed, three houses have been closed as unfit for habitation, ten middens emptied and filth removed, ten cases where pigs have been removed a greater distance from dwelling houses. The parish sewers have had their annual cleansing, and in two parishes new sanitary drains have been laid. Inspections under the Factory and Workshops Act show that there are 262 engaged in the manufacture of wearing apparel, and in four cases, owing to the presence of infectious disease on the premises, steps have been taken to prevent such manufacture being carried on during the time of infection. The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order of 1885 has been satisfactorily carried out.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GALLIO BOWLES.

