LOUGHBOROUGH RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ending 31st December, 1900

To the Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to lay before you my Annual Report on the Health of your District, during the Year 1900.

BIRTHS.

The total number of births registered was 112, which is 15 more than last year, and 9 more than the average of the last six years. This is an annual birth rate of 24·2 per thousand of the population, which although an improvement on the last few years, is still a low birth rate.

MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths registered within the district was 79, and after adding the 7 deaths of non-residents which occurred within the district and deducting 6 deaths of residents which occurred outside it, we get a mortality of 78, which is 14 more than last year, and two more than the average of the last three years. This is an annual death rate of 16·9 per thousand of the population. This increased mortality is due to an epidemic of measles at Belton which caused three deaths, to a prevalence of whooping cough at Belton and Charley which caused one death in each of these parishes, and to a large increase in deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs, due to the severe weather at the beginning of the year.

ZYMOTIC MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths from Zymotic diseases was 8, which is 6 more than last year, and 3 more than the average of the last six years. This is an annual Zymotic mortality of 1·7 per thousand, and is caused mainly by the measles and whooping cough mentioned above.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The total number of deaths of infants under one year is 12, which is at the rate of 107 per thousand births registered This is considerably lower than last year, and lower than the average of the last six years, and is a satisfactory indication of the good sanitary condition of the district.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

22 cases of infectious diseases were notified and were as follows: – Diphtheria 2. Erysipelas 1, Scarlet Fever 12, Enteric Fever 7.

DIPHTHERIA.

Two cases of this disease occurred at Wymeswold in March, at the same house, one of which terminated fatally. The disease was undoubtedly imported, there were, however, some insanitary conditions found existing, and the water supply was found to be impure. These conditions were remedied by order of the Council, and there was no further spread of the disease.

ERYSIPELAS.

One case of this disease occurred at Charley in March.

SCARLET FEVER.

Twelve cases of this disease were notified, the first case (an isolated one) occurred at Charley Mill in January, insanitary conditions were found existing, which were abated, by order of the Council.

The next outbreak occurred at Hathern in May, at Rookery Row, a case was notified in an overcrowded family. The disease was of a mild type, and was in an advanced stage when the doctor was called in. The disease quickly spread to three other members of the same family. On June 2nd the disease was notified in another family in Wide-street, and later, on June 12th, in two families on the Loughborough-road.

These cases were not referable to insanitary conditions; it is more probable that the first member affected of each family contracted the disease from some mild undetected case.

These several families were carefully isolated, and no further spread of the disease occurred.

Two isolated cases occurred at Nanpanton, one in June and the other in October, both cases were imported, and no spread occurred from either, each case having been very carefully isolated at their own homes.

One case was notified at Wymeswold in August; one at Thorpe Acre in August (this last was imported); and one at Long Whatton in October.

In neither of these last three cases was there any spread.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Seven cases of this disease were notified. The first occurred at Long Whatton in May, and was attributed to impure drinking water. The second occurred at Burton in September, and no cause of origin could be discovered.

The third case was notified at Mere Hill, Cotes, in a small cottage with two bedrooms, occupied by a family of five. This case was probably imported as the premises were in a good sanitary condition, and the water supply was found to be good. The disease soon spread to other members of the family. There was fortunately no mortality. I am of opinion that if the first case had been removed to an isolation hospital, and the house had been cleansed and disinfected, there would have been no spread of the disease. This outbreak shows the urgent need of some means of isolating cases of enteric fever and small-pox, &c.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply to the village of Nanpanton is abundant in quantity and excellent in quality, being supplied from the waterworks of the Borough of Loughborough. The supply for the other portion of the District is derived principally from wells. The situation of these wells in relation to accumulations of filth on the surface, drains, &c., is a matter of great importance, and receives the constant attention of your officers.

Thirteen samples of drinking water were submitted to me for analysis during the year, and in nine cases the water was so impure as to justify me in condemning it as unfit for drinking. In each of these cases orders were made by the Council to provide a suitable supply of drinking water. Twelve of these samples were submitted by the late Inspector, and one by Mr. Churchill.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF NIGHTSOIL AND HOUSE REFUSE.

The only system which exists in the district is the common ashpit or midden with privies in connection, and this seems the most suitable for a rural district, and is open to few objections provided that the middens are constructed of impervious materials, not made too large, frequently emptied, and situated at a sufficient distance from, and at a lower level than, a well or other source of water supply.

SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE, &c.

At Wymeswold the sewerage system has been working fairly satisfactory, a little more attention might with advantage be given to the filtering beds.

In the remainder of the district liquid house refuse and slop water, other than that which is collected in the middens above mentioned, runs off by the natural channels of drainage which in most instances are long tortuous dykes leading to the nearest river or brook. Most of the suspended matter is deposited from the water in these dykes, which are periodically cleansed by order of the Council, so that there is really very little pollution of rivers from any of the villages constituting the district.

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Clauses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21 and 24 of the Infectious Diseases Prevention Act have been adopted by the Council.

CONCLUSION.

I have made inspections of portions of the district, when infectious disease occurred, and at other times to discover possible causes of infectious illness. From the 28th of October to the end of the year the district was quite free from infectious disease.

Annexed to this report are tabulated statistics prepared according to the forms prescribed by the Local Government Board. Since my last annual report the form of tables have been revised, and a perusal of them will shew that considerable additional information is now required by the Department. The information at my disposal is not as complete as I could wish, but next year's report (after the Census) will, I hope, be more complete.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
THOMAS CORCORAN,
Medical Officer of Health.

Loughborough,
23rd February, 1901.

STATISTICS.

The population of the district is (1891 Census) 4620. Inhabited houses, 760. Average number of persons per house, 6. Area of district, 20,344 acres.

Mortality from subjoined causes:—Measles 3, Whooping Cough 2, Diphtheria 1, Epidemic Influenza 1, Diarrhœa 1, Phthisis 1, Cancer 3, Bronchitis 9, Pneumonia 2, Alcholism 1, Premature Birth 3, Heart Disease 13, Accidents 6, Suicide 1, other causes 30, Total 77.

	Births Registered.	Average last 6 years.	Deaths Registered	Average last 6 years.
Belton ...	8	16	15	9
Burton-on-the Wolds ...	7	8	5	4·6
Charley ...	5	2·4	2	1·6
Cotes & Prestwold	2	2	—	2
Garendon ...	—	—	—	—
Hathern ...	27	27	17	22
Hoton ...	4	8	4	5
Long Whatton	13	11	10	11
Nanpanton ...	10	7	2	1·8
Thorpe Acre and Dishley	9	5	4	3
Woodthorpe ...	—	1·4	—	·4
Wymeswold ...	27	18	18	12

For the whole district:—Births registered 112, rate per thousand of population 24·2. Average last six years: Births registered 103, rate per thousand 22·2. Deaths 77, rate 16·6. Average 76, rate 16·4.

IMSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Loughborough Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

During the past year 313 inspections have been made in parishes comprising the Loughborough Rural District, and 87 re-inspections. Houses cleansed and disinfected after typhoid or scarlet fever 8, of these 4 have been disinfected at the expense of the Authority. The sewage dykes throughout the district have been periodically cleansed as required. Samples of drinking water taken for analysis 13. Wells cleansed by order of the Council 4. New wells sunk and fresh water provided 1. Middens cleansed by order of Council 8. New middens built by order of Council 2. Drains taken up and cleansed or new provided by owners 8, by Council 1.

The workshops and factories have at various times been visited and have been found to be clean and well kept.

The cowsheds of the purveyors of milk have been constantly visited and found that the requirements contained in the Dairy, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order of 1885 were being carried out.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
EDWARD GEORGE CHURCHILL,
Sanitary Inspector.

Hathern,
31st December, 1900.