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Contributors

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MARKET DRAYTON.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DRAYTON.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1905.

To the Rural District Council of Drayton.

Gentlemen,

I have now the honour of presenting my annual report upon the health of your district for the year 1905.

The death-rate was nearly 2 per 1,000 lower than the mean rate of the previous ten years. The infantile mortality rate shows the large decrease of 42 per 1,000 births below the preceding ten years' average. The zymotic death-rate is also considerably lower than the average.

PHYSICAL FEATURES & GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The Rural Sanitary District of Drayton comprises an area of upwards of 51,000 acres, situated in the great central plain of England. The general elevation of the District is about 300 feet. The District extends from the parishes of Adderley and Norton-in-Hales on the North, to the parish of Woore on the North-East, where the three counties, Cheshire, Staffordshire, and Shropshire join; to the South, as far as and including the parishes of Hinstock and Child's Ercall, and the villages of Eaton and Little Bolas in Stoke parish. On the East it is bounded by the River Tern and the parish of Cheswardine. On the West it extends to and includes the village of Stoke-upon-Tern, the parish and village of Hodnet, and the hamlet of Marchamley. Near the centre of the district is the town of Market Drayton with the township of Little Drayton adjoining, and the parish of Moreton Say. The formation throughout is the new red sandstone, which attains its greatest elevation in England in the district. The River Tern in its winding course to the Severn drains the greater portion of the district. The land in general contour is level, well watered, highly cultivated, and there are some finely timbered estates. The population is chiefly employed in agricultural pursuits and stock-raising.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.—The population of the Rural Sanitary District of Drayton at the last census (1901) was 11,708. The estimated population at the middle of 1905 was 11,602. The natural increase of population (being the excess of births over deaths registered in the year) was 137. The area of the district (exclusive of area covered by water) is 51,384 acres. The number of inhabited houses was 2,655, and the average number of persons per house was 4.4 at the last census.

MARRIAGES.—The number of marriages registered during the year in the whole district was 83, or at the rate of 7.1 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The average rate of the preceding ten years was 6.8 per 1,000.

BIRTHS.—The births registered in 1905 were 306, of which 15, or about 5 per cent., were illegitimate. The birth-rate was 26.3 per 1,000 of the estimated population, and is exactly the same as that of Rural England and Wales. The average birth-rate of the district in the previous ten years was 25.7 per 1,000.

DEATHS.—During 1905, 166 deaths were registered in the district. Two of these were non-residents, and have to be deducted, but three residents died in the County Asylum and two in the Salop Infirmary, and these have to be added, making the net total 169, equal to a death-rate of 14.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population per annum. The average death-rate of the preceding ten years was 16.2. The death-rate of Rural England and Wales in 1905 was 14.9 per 1,000 living. The number of deaths certified as due to the seven chief epidemic diseases was 7, equal to a rate of .6 per 1,000. The average rate from the preceding ten years was 0.99. The rate for Rural England and Wales in 1905 was 1.09 per 1,000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The number of infants dying under one year of age has steadily decreased since 1902. The number is still too large, being 27 in 1905, giving an infantile mortality rate of 88 per 1,000 births. This is well below the average of the preceding ten years, which was 130 per 1,000, and also much below the rate for Rural England and Wales in 1905, at 113 per 1,000 births.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS.—Of the 169 deaths occurring in 1905, 72 were of persons of the age of 65 and upwards, and forty-four died under the age of 5, the two extremes of life thus accounting for more than two-thirds of the total deaths. Twenty-six deaths were certified as due to old age, the average of the ages being nearly 80 years. Heart diseases accounted for twenty-seven deaths, Bronchitis 14, Phthisis (Consumption) and other tubercular diseases 16, Pneumonia 10, Influenza 4, and Premature Birth 3. There was an unusually large number of accidental deaths: 4 died of suffocation at the fire in Cheshire Street in May, 2 from burns, and 4 from other accidents. There was one suicide. Further details as to the causes of and ages at death, averages, &c., will be found in the official tables of the Local Government Board, affixed to this report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Fifty-seven cases of Infectious Diseases were notified to me from the whole district during the year, viz.: 23 of Scarlet Fever, 19 of Erysipelas, Diphtheria 7, Membranous Croup 2, and Enteric Fever 1. Five of the seven cases of Diphtheria occurred in one house at Sowdley, in September, a slight case being imported from another district in Shropshire. Two or three cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in nearly all the villages in the district, but it did not become epidemic in any of them. Norton Schools were closed for six weeks from 6th February in consequence of the prevalence of Measles among the children, and Woore Schools were closed for the same reason for four weeks from 10th April. In all cases of Infectious

Disease, printed instructions have been sent to the occupiers of the infected houses suggesting precautions to be taken, in order to check the spread of contagion. Where unsanitary conditions have been found to exist, they have been reported to your Council either by myself or the Sanitary Inspector. At the termination of all cases, disinfection and efficient cleansing of the infected rooms have been carried out under the supervision of your Sanitary Inspector. Measles and Whooping Cough are not included in the list of notifiable diseases. Pulmonary Tuberculosis is voluntarily notifiable, but very few of the cases occurring in the district have been reported to me. An Isolation Hospital for infectious diseases (other than Smallpox) was erected in 1904 at Little Drayton by the Joint Committee of Drayton and Blore Heath Rural District Councils. Six cases of Scarlet Fever and four of Diphtheria were admitted during 1905. A Joint Isolation Hospital at Prees Heath is now available for the reception of cases of Smallpox, should any occur in the district.

VACCINATION.—The statistics of Vaccination in your district are as follows:—The births of 306 children were registered in 1905; of these 206 were successfully vaccinated, 76 were not of age at the end of the year, 11 died unvaccinated, 5 were removed out of the district, the vaccination of 5 was postponed by medical certificate, 2 children were not accounted for at the end of the year, and one child remains unvaccinated because of the conscientious objection of its parents to vaccination.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE WORKING CLASS.—Building Bye-laws are now in force. The house accommodation for the working class in the district generally is at present ample. Many houses of an improved standard have been built recently in and around Market Drayton. Several old and dilapidated houses are having the attention of the Council.

PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL HAVE SUPERVISION.—Lodging-houses, Bakehouses, and Slaughter-houses are regularly inspected. Dairies, Cowsheds, &c., are registered, and their inspection is under consideration by the Council.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—The Ducat bacterial filter erected at Quarry Bank for the treatment of Little Drayton sewage is still working efficiently. The County Medical Officer analysed samples of the effluent, and found them satisfactory. The Royal Commissioners on Sewage Disposal inspected the filter in October, 1904, but their report has not yet been printed. The treatment of Market Drayton sewage should have the early consideration of the Council.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.—This is partly by water-closets, and partly by privies and outside closets in connection with cesspits. The number of water-closets has been further increased during the year, and with the abundant water supply, the water carriage system of disposal ought to become general in Market Drayton and Little Drayton.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.—At present the removal and disposal of refuse

falls upon the occupier, and is regulated by bye-laws. A public system is under consideration.

WATER SUPPLY.—Over 1,000 houses in Market Drayton and Little Drayton are now supplied from the mains of the Market Drayton Water Company. The supply is now being extended to Betton, and it is hoped that arrangements may be made with the Company to supply Norton-in-Hales.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS' ACT, 1901.—The Home Office official table, showing the administration of the Act in the district, is affixed to this report.

NUISANCES, &c.—A summary of the work done during the year by your Sanitary Inspector is given below.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A. MACQUEEN, M.D.

23th February, 1906.

The following is an account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of sanitary work for the year ending 31st December, 1905, in the Drayton Rural Sanitary District:—

Number of Houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey	696
Number of legal notices sent	21
Number of informal notices sent	326
Number of such notices complied with	306

Particulars of Sanitary Matters referred to in the above Notices:—

Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease	35
Deficient or objectionable water supply (not including village supplies which have been the subject of previous reports)	9
New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended	38
New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction	31
Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition	29
Offensive accumulations of all kinds	230
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	5
Houses over-crowded	5

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops:—

Number of Cowkeepers and Milksellers on register	20
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Remarks.—This return does not include inspections made under the Factories Acts, nor work done in connection with Bye-laws for Street Cleansing, Refuse removal, Inspections for new Water Certificates, under Building Bye-laws.—

G. A. CRAIG.