

[Report 1908] / Medical Officer of Health, Market Drayton R.D.C.

Contributors

Market Drayton (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1908

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/z75qrqky>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

MARKET DRAYTON.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DRAYTON.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1908.

To the Rural District Council of Drayton.
Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my annual report upon the health of your district for the year ending 31st December, 1908.

The birth-rate and the death-rate are both slightly under the ten years' average. The infant mortality rate again shews a satisfactory decrease, being 33 per 1,000 births lower than the average for the previous ten years. The zymotic death-rate is also well below the average.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND 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 Hawkstone Hills, near the Western limit of 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.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.—The population of the District at the last census (1901) was 11,708. The estimated population at the middle of 1908 was 11,532. The natural increase of population (that is, the excess of births over the deaths registered in the year) was 113. The area of the district (exclusive of the portion covered by water) is 51,383 acres. The number of in-

habited houses at the last census was 2,655, and the average number of persons in each house was 4.4.

MARRIAGES.—The number of marriages registered in the whole district was 78, against 79 in 1907, and 102 in 1906.

BIRTHS.—Two hundred and eighty births were registered, of which 23 were illegitimate. The birth-rate for the year was 24.2 per 1,000 of the estimated population, compared with 24.9, the average rate for the previous ten years.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths registered during the year was 167. This is equal to an annual death-rate of 14.4 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The average annual death-rate of the preceding ten years was 15.6 per 1,000. Seven deaths were certified as due to the seven chief epidemic diseases, giving a zymotic death-rate of 0.6 per 1,000, compared with 0.69 for 1907 and the average rate of 0.88 for the previous ten years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. — Twenty-four infants under one year of age died during the year, giving an infantile mortality rate of 85 per 1,000 births. The average rate for the preceding ten years was 118 per 1,000.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS.—Of the 167 deaths, 67 were persons of the age of 65 and upwards, and 35 under the age of 5, the two extremes of life thus accounting for more than half the total number of deaths. Fifteen deaths were certified as due to old age—the average age attained being 80 years. The average age for males was 80½ against 79½ for the females, although two of the latter reached 95 and 96 respectively. Heart diseases accounted for 28 deaths, Consumption (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) and other tuberculous diseases 19, Cancer 14, Pneumonia 13, Bronchitis 11, Cerebral Hæmorrhage 13, Kidney Diseases 5. There were 5 premature births, 1 accidental death from burns, and two suicides. Further details as to the causes of and ages at death, averages, etc., will be found in the official tables of the Local Government Board, affixed to this report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. — Twenty-three cases of infectious diseases were notified to me from the whole district during the year, viz., 13 of Diphtheria and Membranous Croup, 6 of Scarlet Fever, 2 of Erysipelas, 1 of Enteric Fever, and 1 of Small-pox. Eight patients were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Little Drayton, and the Small-pox patient was taken to the Joint Hospital at Prees Heath. Measles (not notifiable) became prevalent at Moreton Say twice in the year, and the Schools were closed for a month at each period. Hodnet, Adderley, Stoke, and Market Drayton (Infants') were each closed for a month in November—December, in order to check the spread of the same disease. Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Consumption) has been voluntarily notifiable since 1900. Very few cases have been notified. The existence of the disease, therefore, only comes to my knowledge in case of death. Notice is

then sent to the representatives of the disinfection necessary to be carried out. In all cases of infectious disease notified, printed instructions have been sent to the occupiers of the infected houses, suggesting the precautions to be taken in order to check the spread of contagion. Where unsanitary conditions have been found, they have been reported to the 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 direction of the Sanitary Inspector. At the Isolation Hospital, a steam disinfecter is used for clothing, etc., before the patient is allowed to leave, and proof of its effective action is shewn by the fact that there has not been a single "return case" since its installation.

VACCINATION. — The following are the statistics of Vaccination in your district for the year 1908:—Of the 280 children born and registered, 198 were successfully vaccinated, 30 were not of age at the end of the year, 18 died unvaccinated, 3 were removed from the district, the vaccination of 5 was postponed by medical certificate, 1 was insusceptible of vaccination, and 25 remain unvaccinated owing to the conscientious objections of their parents.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.—This is ample and satisfactory for the district. In Market Drayton and Little Drayton conditions have improved in recent years, as many old and dilapidated houses have been closed and an increasing number of houses have been built for the accommodation of the working classes.

PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL HAVE SUPERVISION.—Lodging-houses, bake-houses, and slaughter-houses are regularly inspected. The regulations of the Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Milkshops' Order (1886) have been adopted by the Council, and came into force on the 1st May, 1907.

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.—Occupiers are responsible, no public system being in force. The removal and disposal of refuse is regulated by bye-laws.

DISPOSAL OF EXCREMENT. — This is partly by water-closets and partly by privies and outside closets in connection with cess-pits. In Market Drayton and Little Drayton the water carriage system of disposal is becoming general.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—The greater portion of Little Drayton sewage is satisfactorily treated by the Ducat bacterial filter at Quarry Bank. The revised scheme for the treatment of Market Drayton sewage is under the consideration of the Council.

WATER SUPPLY. — Market Drayton and Little Drayton are well supplied with water of excellent quality, over 1,000 houses being now connected with the mains of the Market Drayton Water Co. The supply has been extended to Betton. Cheswardine has a public supply,

but in the other villages of the district the water supply, being mostly derived from pump-wells, often faulty in construction and in bad situations, offers much room for improvement in quality, and sometimes in quantity.

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

NUISANCES, &c.—A summary of the work of your Sanitary Inspector for the year is given below in tabular form.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A. MACQUEEN, M.D.

Market Drayton,
24th March, 1909.

The following is an account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of sanitary work for the year ending 31st December, 1908, 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	737
Number of legal notices sent	116
Number of informal notices sent	104
Number of such notices complied with	190
(Formal 86; still corresponding about 30, Informal 104.)	

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

Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease	20
Deficient or objectionable water supply	18
New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended	48
New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction	44
Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition	4
Offensive accumulations of all kinds	98
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	5
Houses overcrowded	3
Water Certificates granted	4

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops:—

A few inspections have been made, but very little has been done in this department.

Proceedings before Magistrates

Remarks.—The above inspections do not include inspections made under Petroleum Acts, Lodging-Houses, under Factory Acts, work in connection with Isolation Hospital, nor any work as Sanitary Surveyor, such as Sewerage Repairs, Disposal of Sewage, etc.

GEORGE A. CRAIG, Mem. R. San. Inst.,
Inspector of Nuisances.