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Contributors

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THE
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE
PAIGNTON URBAN DISTRICT

FOR 1894.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting this my Fourth Annual Report, it gives me great satisfaction to be able to inform you that excepting in the month of January, the general health of the Town during the year has been very good, and the death rate low.

The Town has now increased to such an extent that the sewerage arrangements require to be enlarged, and Mr. Brereton, C.E., has been instructed to prepare plans.

Town water has been carried to Preston, and as it is being used for sanitary purposes, cesspits become practically useless, and sewers are absolutely necessary.

I wish to draw your attention to the unsatisfactory condition of many of the private roads, both main and back, and think it very desirable that the Council should largely enforce the Private Streets Act. At present the back roads are nearly all private, and consequently never scavenged, and hence they present a neglected and untidy appearance. In no case are they lighted, and this almost amounts to a danger in many places.

In October, Dr. Wheaton, Local Government Board Inspector, visited the Town, and in his report made recommendations as to a Sanitary Inspector, Water Supply, Preston Drainage, and the provision of an Isolation Hospital.

A Sanitary Inspector has been appointed to devote the whole of his time to the duties; the recommendation as to the Water is being provided for in the contract for the New Reservoir. Plans for the Drainage of Preston, and also for the Isolation Hospital, are being prepared, and in due course will be submitted to the Local Government Board.

Deaths. The total number of deaths registered was 94—males 43, females 51—giving an annual death rate of 13 per 1,000. This is lower than last year, when the death rate was 15·8 per 1,000.

Zymotic Disease. There were 3 deaths registered from zymotic disease, viz., enteric fever 1 and diarrhoea 2, giving a death rate from zymotic disease of 0·4 per 1,000 per annum.

The following table will show the number of deaths at the various ages :—

Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	18
1 year and under 5 ...	...	...	...	2
5 years „ 15	...	...	...	1
15 „ „ 25	...	...	...	2
25 „ „ 65	...	...	...	27
65 „ and upwards	...	...	...	44
				—
				94

Of the 94 deaths, 18 were over 70 years and 14 over 80 years of age.

The following is a summary of the causes of death registered during the year:—

Enteric fever	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	2
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	9
Diseases of the organs of respiration	...				15
„	„		circulation	...	12
Injuries	...	...	...	...	1
Other diseases	...	...	...	...	54
					—
					94

The deaths from Phthisis were 9, giving a death rate of 1·2 per 1,000 per annum.

The infant mortality is 18, and measured by the proportion of one year of age and under to the number of births registered is 105·8 per 1,000. This is an increase on last year, but is not excessive.

Infant
Mortality.

The births registered during the year were 170—boys, 91, girls, 79—giving a birth rate on an estimated population of 7,250 of 23·4 per 1,000, and is an increase on last year, when it was 22·1 per 1,000. The natural increase of the population for the year was 76.

Births.

During the year one death only was registered from infectious disease. Notifications were received of—

Infectious
Disease.

34 cases of Scarlet Fever.

6 „ Enteric Fever.

1 „ Erysipelas.

1 „ Diphtheria.

The first six months of the year were almost free from Scarlet Fever, but in July the Town was threatened with a severe outbreak, 14 cases were notified, and they occurred in three groups. On investigation I found in every case the outbreak was due to a mild case having occurred, and the friends of the sufferer had not considered it necessary to call in the services of a medical man. Dual notification is practically a dead letter, and no report was sent to the Medical Officer of Health. Children were sent to school in the peeling stage, and thus the disease was spread. I visited one of the Board Schools, and found two children suffering, and immediately sent them home, calling upon the parents later and insisted upon isolation. At the close of the day I had the schools carefully cleaned and disinfected, and no further cases occurred. At Collaton a case occurred and the child was sent to school in the peeling stage, and this case was the cause of nine others. In all the cases the whole of the children of the household were forbidden to attend school, disinfectants were liberally supplied, and at the close of the case the premises were cleansed and disinfected. Of the six cases of Enteric Fever, five occurred in one house. These cases all prove the necessity of means of isolation being provided. Vaccination is well looked after, as the following figures, supplied by the Vaccination Officer, prove:—births, 170; successfully vaccinated, 136; died unvaccinated, 12; postponed, 3; removed, 2 (and the Vaccination Officer of the district has been apprised), leaving only 17 unaccounted for.

Bakehouses

The various bakehouses in the town have been frequently inspected, and in two cases wells were closed and town water supplied.

The dairies and milkshops in the town are carefully kept. Dairies.
Milkshops.

The private slaughter-houses have been visited frequently, and I found them more carefully kept than formerly. Slaughter-houses.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. W. VICKERS, M.O.H.

