

[Report 1896] / Medical Officer of Health, Ripley U.D.C.

Contributors

Ripley (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1896

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/begyqx7x>

License and attribution

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

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. 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>

* 1896. *

DR. GAYLOR'S

TWENTY-THIRD

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE


Ripley Urban District Council,

From January 1st, 1896, to 31st December, 1896.

RIPLEY :

PRINTED AT THE "ADVERTISER" OFFICE, CHURCH STREET.

1897.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30035223>

TO THE

Ripley Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

Another year has passed away, and the period has arrived when we take a Sanitary Survey of the year 1896, and make one more addition to the vital statistics of your District.

I am glad to say that my twenty-third Annual Report is of a fairly favourable character, and shows the condition of your District to be generally good.

The epidemic of Measles, which will be referred to later on, spoilt what, up to that late period of the year, was really most satisfactory.

You are now fairly familiar with your large District, which was made what it is in 1895.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

This Act came into operation in your District in July, 1892, and there can be no question of its usefulness. We are enabled to deal with infectious disease at once, as far as instructions are concerned, and the removal of what might be its probable causes.

It may be of some interest if I insert here the number of Rural and Urban Districts which have adopted "The Infectious Diseases Notification Acts." It will show you what a very small proportion of the population are still without its advantages. It will be remembered, till the Act was passed (I think, in 1889), Medical Officers of Health knew nothing of the presence of infectious disease, except through the kindness of persons or timid correspondents living in the immediate neighbourhood, or else the copy of the death register sent by the Registrar, when, of course, it was too late. Under this Act we visit the place indicated, give verbal and printed instructions, and, though we have no Isolation Hospital, we have cases where we find they can be separated from the healthy portion of the family with a little wise re-arrangement of the household, and thus we in a very great measure curtail the ravages of some of the infectious diseases.

There are, then, the following Districts under the Act mentioned above—(this list was compiled up to March 31st, 1896):—

Urban Districts	-	-	820
Rural Districts	-	-	585

Making a total of 1405 Districts, with an aggregate population of 18,878,448. To this we add the population of London in 1891, where notification is compulsory, 4,232,118. Then there are 49 Towns who have notification under their own Local Acts, with 3,875,286. This makes up a grand total of 26,985,286 persons, out of a total population of England and Wales of 29,002,525.

There are some half-a-dozen Districts in Derbyshire who have not yet adopted the Act, but it is easy to imagine that an Act of Parliament which has been adopted *voluntarily* by *three-fourths* of the total population will soon put on a *compulsory* form, so as to bring in the other portion and make the Act complete. It is another instance of the unsatisfactory character of all Acts of Parliament which have a permissive character—it is quite time the "*may*" should be turned into "*shall*."

The total number in each year notified since you adopted the Act is given below.

1892	11	(Half the year)
1893	41	Epidemic at Marehay and Street Lane
1894	25	
1895	47	Small Pox at Ripley
1896	37	

The diseases notified in 1896 over the whole District were as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	28
Diphtheria	-	-	-	4
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	3
				—
Total	-	-	-	37

We shall see farther on that out of this number of cases only two deaths occurred, one from Scarlet Fever and one from Typhoid Fever.

You will see this is most favourable, and if we take the total cases notified in 1895 and 1896, we find it is 21 per cent. in favour of 1896. We will now see how these 37 cases were distributed over your District.

Ripley :

Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	21
Diphtheria	-	-	-	2
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	2
Erysipelas	-	-	-	2

Marehay :

Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	6
Diphtheria	-	-	-	1

Lower Hartshay :

Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1
Diphtheria	-	-	-	1
Erysipelas	-	-	-	1

It will be seen that no notification of infectious disease came from Waingroves, Street Lane, Upper Hartshay, or Butterley Park.

We will now deal with these diseases *seriatim*.

SMALL POX.

Fortunately I have no case of this disease to explain, as was the case in my 1895 Report.

We shall be better prepared if we should have a case of this terrible disease, because, as you have joined the Hospital scheme with the other Councils, your old tent will be erected away from your Township entirely, and so create no heartburnings and dispute as to the correct site for such a thing.

I am aware that the anti-Vaccination craze exists in the District, but there is no doubt whatever that many persons were vaccinated last year when the panic prevailed, and that has very likely protected you up to this date. It is, in fact, rather wonderful that such an epidemic should have cleared away so completely and left no sort of latent infection to crop up again under favourable circumstances. It is to be hoped that the very pronounced opinion upon the protective influence of Vaccination which the Royal Commissioners have just made, will clear away some of the hazy and crude notions which prevail among a class of persons who can't, by any possible stretch of imagination, have any real knowledge of the subject at issue.

SCARLET FEVER.

I have not much detail to trouble you with with this disease. They were all very much in common, and with one death only in 28 cases (a little over 4 per cent.), it would seem to indicate the mild form which the disease assumed.

The first case—the only fatal case—occurred in Alfred Street, where I reported the water supply. Rain water was consumed here in preference to a well in the garden, which I condemned at once; but in time of *drought* the rain water, of course, could not be had, and then this impure well water was drank.

Another case may be mentioned—at the Butterley Post Office. It was also a mild case, but, of course, I communicated with the Postal Authorities, and other arrangements had to be made, because, at the time of my visit, the boy was in the room where the letters were, and his skin was “peeling.” No blame attached to the people, as they didn't know it was Scarlet Fever till he was convalescent.

Another case happened at the house of a midwife, and, of course, she was ordered not to attend any cases for at the least two months, though the case was a mild one, being a child 7 years old.

Another case occurred at the Police Station. The little boy 8 years of age, was isolated and nursed by his mother. The whole place was scrupulously clean, but on inspecting the premises generally, I found that there were three cells for the prisoners, and very clean, but no door from either of them, or by a separate passage, for the prisoner to get to his airing or exercising yard, unless he was conducted through the living room of the Inspector who resided there. This seemed to be a very bad arrangement indeed, and I don't think the Inspector quite liked it, I reported it at the time, and I think now the attention of the Chief Constable should be called to it with a view to its being altered.

A case I saw at Greenwich where the water supply was from a well in the garden—the mouth of the well being level with the ground line. These wells have no right to be passed for drinking water, where a public supply can be had. The rain-fall, with the surface washings, is sure to pollute it, and their construction not being very perfect, the manurial products on the surrounding garden percolate into the well after heavy showers. The case—a boy 8 years old—couldn't be isolated in a room upstairs, because of a smoky chimney (weather was in December), consequently he had a bed down-stairs where four other children were all day.

Two cases which occurred at the Hillocks I found nothing wrong, except water in the pantry where food was kept. I think it could be drained, and, if so, it ought to be.

The remaining cases call for no particular notice. There were 13 houses with one case each, three houses had two cases each, one house had four cases, and one house had five cases.

DIPHTHERIA.

The first case of Diphtheria was in a house where there had been

three or four ordinary sore throats, but attended by two different medical men. There was nothing particularly insanitary on the premises. The site was low, and possibly damp. Two persons were sent away from here at once, and the case was isolated.

Another mild case occurred, with no history at all, only that the boy, 11 years of age, had suffered from sore throat previously.

Another was that of a woman, who had been an invalid for seven weeks with heart disease, and had kept her bed most of the time. She was 41 years of age, and I could glean nothing to enable me to trace its cause.

The next case was a fatal case, but died at the Royal Infirmary, Derby, where it had been removed, and had tracheotomy performed. The house itself was somewhat wretched and dirty. The child was four years old, and had been to school at Lower Hartshay. She had been ill for two or three days before medical attendance was had, and the child was found to be in a most dangerous condition, and was at once taken to the Royal Infirmary. I visited the Hartshay School, of course, to enquire about any sore throats. There were no complaints after the mistress had asked such to stand out. The school was very clean. The closets also, and the arrangement was what ought to be enforced everywhere. Each school had four separate closets with a single (private) seat in each, and not a range of seats all open and exposed under one common structure.

The above case was the only fatal case, but as it died at Derby I have not reckoned it in our bills of mortality.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Only two cases of Typhoid Fever were notified: one case at Station Road (a fatal case), and the other at Malthouse Yard.

The fatal case was a girl of 17 years of age, a factory worker. She lived in one of a row of decent cottages with the usual conveniences. No insanitary conditions were present, and no history could be obtained. The house and locality was very clean.

The next case was that of a young man, 16 years of age. This locality is very well known, and has a certain reputation, which in the present instance was fully maintained. The closet accommodation, since the Small Pox epidemic, has been increased and generally overhauled, but it takes a very clever landlord to keep his property intact in this neighbourhood, and some of the inhabitants have a very profound dislike of a Medical Officer of Health—and all his works.

ERYSIPELAS.

This is a notifiable disease under the Act, but the class of disease, as seen at Ripley, doesn't often put on that malignant form which is seen in some more densely populated places. The three cases here were simple in character of the ordinary kind, and called for no interference of the Sanitary Officers.

MEASLES.

This disease is a very peculiar one, and also of a fatal character. It has not been included in the notifiable diseases, because of the difficulty of diagnosing (discovering) the disease in its early stage. The disease is infectious before any eruption appears, and is very generally supposed at first to be a simple cold. As a fatal disease of childhood it is third on the list, Whooping Cough and Diarrhoea being first and second. On an average it destroys ten or eleven thousand lives in a year, and it is astonishing how very lightly some parents look upon the disease. According to statistics, the greater number of children die from this disease in the second year of their life. In recent years it has caused more deaths than Small Pox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, or other diseases under the common appellation of "Fever." Also that the other Zymotic Diseases (except Diphtheria) have during the last ten years been less fatal, and Measles has been more so.

It is, of course, very difficult to get any information about any early cases of Measles, and it is only when it assumes the epidemic form that the Health Officer knows anything about it. I have often thought School Attendance Officers might have some addition to their salary by adding to their duties the informing the Medical Officer of Health of the District of the causes of the absence from school of the children. There are two sides to be heard upon the subject of Notification, and it is a most difficult question to decide upon.

In your District the disease assumed an epidemic form in November and December, the first death being registered in December, and by the end of the month no less than 18 deaths had occurred in the following localities :—

Ripley	-	-	12
Waingroves	-	-	4
Marehay	-	-	2

Of course I've no means of ascertaining the number of children attacked by the disease, but the attendances at school fell off very largely, though all the absentees are not suffering from the disease. Some stay away from school for fear of catching the disease. Others live in houses where Measles is, and are not allowed to go to school. Those who are suffering from the disease are necessarily absent from the school. If we take the schools which I visited, and deemed it advisable to close them for various periods, we find them as follows :—Waingroves, boys, girls, and infants; The Hillocks, ditto; Butterley Bill, ditto. I found here in round numbers that the total of scholars at all the above schools should have been 1656. The actual number present on the days of my visits was about one thousand.

Of course the schools have been thoroughly cleansed and disinfected previous to the scholars re-assembling. It is generally admitted that school closing is the proper course to take in this disease; this, of course, in the absence of notification and isolation, the latter of which I think would be a most difficult task.

It is somewhat satisfactory to know that only two Measles deaths occurred during the month of January, 1897.

WHOOPING COUGH.

One death occurred from this disease, at Ripley, in December. I am not able to say if the disease was very prevalent. It is one of those diseases which Sanitarians can have very little effect upon.

DIARRHŒA.

Three deaths occurred from this disease, but in none of them had insanitary conditions any part.

PHTHISIS.

This disease, which destroys as many lives as the whole of those known as of the Zymotic class, caused in your District 13 deaths during the year 1896. This disease is fast being recognised as an infectious disease, and facts of corroboration crop up daily. Of course, pure air, plenty of sun-light, good ventilation in dwellings, dry site of houses, good water, and plenty of everything good and clean, would diminish the disease very much indeed; but at present our laws and regulations are at fault with respect to tuberculous milk and tuberculous flesh, both of which are capable of transmitting the disease to the human body.

Hospitals for Consumption now take extreme precautions to prevent the spread of the disease. The so-called phlegm, or sputa, is highly charged with the diseased microbe,—in fact, swarms with them. To prevent any mischief which this might produce, patients are not allowed to spit on the floors, because it gets dried and mixes up with the dust of the room, and so gets both inhaled and swallowed; so they spit in soft paper handkerchiefs, which are regularly burnt. Rooms which Phthisical patients have occupied should be well ventilated, and, wherever it can be, windows thrown wide open, and bedrooms should have windows more or less open night and day. After death, the room should be thoroughly disinfected.

As for tuberculous milk and meat, the present cow-sheds for the most part want a thorough overhauling, a more plentiful water supply to allow of frequent cleaning, more cubic space for each cow, and systematic inspection of the animals. At all events, the disease is known to be caused by a microbe, which loses a good deal of its infectiousness if its surroundings are sanitary.

BRONCHITIS.

This is a very fatal disease of the respiratory organs, and is largely due to exposure to cold, damp dwellings, and imperfect clothing. It is very fatal to children, and in your District it appears to have been responsible for 21 deaths, 11 being those of young children.

HEART DISEASE.

Eight deaths were caused by this disease. It is included here

because you will find a column for it on Table A of the Local Government Board, appended to this Report.

INQUEST CASES.

The following are the inquest cases for the year 1896 :—

Female, 70 years, accidental burn, at Waingroves.
 Female, 13 months, accidental scald, at Ripley.
 Female, 17 months, accidental scald, at Waingroves.
 Male, 65 years, syncope, at Ripley.

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS

Female, 10 days, convulsions, Marehay.
 Female, 4 months, convulsions, Ripley.
 Male, 1 day, convulsions, Ripley.
 Male, 3 hours, convulsions, Ripley.
 Female, 56 hours, syncope, Ripley.
 Female, 33 years (no presumed cause given), Ripley.
 Male, 5 days, convulsions, Ripley.
 Male, 3 hours, premature birth, Ripley.
 Male, 54 years, bronchitis, Ripley.
 Female, 14, premature birth, Ripley.

The above so-called "causes of death" are only presumed by those who were present, and who go to have the death registered without a medical certificate.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

I refer to this subject again on account of its importance, and to express my satisfaction that your infantile mortality (*that is to say, the number of Births in the year, measured, as it were, by the Deaths under 1 year of age*) is much less than it was in 1895. It was then 151 per 1000; in 1896 it is 126 per 1000. In England and Wales it is 148 per 1000.

It would be very interesting, and throw a great light on this subject of infant mortality, if some such system as follows could be adopted: Say a Town Nurse, such as the Town have recently appointed, had a list of all the Births supplied to her as they were registered. She would keep a Form, in which she would enter all particulars about each infant born for at all events say the *first year of the child's life*:—

Is the mother living?

Does the child suckle at the breast, if not, has it milk from the bottle, or (what is far better) from a cup and spoon?

What artificial food is given it?

Is it insured?

Does it sleep in a cradle, or in bed by its mother's side?

Is it illegitimate?

If we could have this information about every child for one year of its life, we should be able to interpret a great deal that is mysterious, though still designated infantile mortality. Of course this Nurse would require some extra remuneration for this extra duty; but it is one of those matters which could only be taken up by an active band of philanthropic ladies, or with an intelligent Nurse, who, when she had ascertained the above facts, would be prepared to give advice either then and there, or take her Report to the "Ladies' Health Society for the diffusion of knowledge as to the Laws of Health among the Poorer Classes." All this might be supplemented by a course of Lectures on this subject, given by competent lady lecturers to women only. You have your Gilchrist Lectures, I commend the above to your serious consideration, and your infant mortality would soon be reduced, and not stand, as it does, even in this good year, at over 4 per 1000. If we only compare the infant mortality among the better and more educated classes with those I've been speaking about, these matters explain themselves.

DEATHS AT ALL AGES.

There are 68 male deaths and 80 female deaths, making a total of 148. Of this number, 68, or 20 per cent. of the whole number, died before they reached the *fifth* year of existence. Their mean age at death was 10 months. 44 of these 68 died during the first year of existence, and had a mean age at death of not quite 15 weeks. 29 aged persons (those who had lived 65 years and upwards) had a mean age at death of 76 years. It will be seen from the above that 80 persons succeeded in battling with the dangers appertaining to the first five years of existence. These 80 persons had a mean age of 51 years.

The deaths were registered in the following quarters of the year:—

March Quarter	-	-	-	36
June Quarter	-	-	-	26
September Quarter	-	-	-	31
December Quarter	-	-	-	55
				148
Total	-	-	-	148

The deaths occurred in the following parts of the District:—

Ripley	-	-	-	117
Marehay	-	-	-	13
Waingroves	-	-	-	8
Street Lane	-	-	-	3
Upper Hartshay	-	-	-	1
Lower Hartshay	-	-	-	5
Butterley Park	-	-	-	1
				148
Total	-	-	-	148

The details of Tables A and B, of deaths at the different periods of life, are appended to this Report, in accordance with the Local Government Board's requirements.

TABLE I.
RIPLEY URBAN DISTRICT.
CAUSES OF DEATH.

From January 1st, 1896, to December 31st, 1896.

Population on December 31st, 1896, calculated by natural
increase since Census of 1891, 9850.

Area in Acres, 4026

Diseases.	Under five years of age	Above five years of age	Total.
Scarlet Fever		1	1
Typhoid Fever		1	1
Measles	18		18
Whooping Cough.....		1	1
Diarrhoea	2	1	3
Phthisis.....	2	11	13
Bronchitis.....	11	10	21
Heart Disease		8	8
Tubercular Diseases	3	1	4
Cancer		2	2
Apoplexy		7	7
Paralysis		2	2
Epilepsy		2	2
Convulsions	7		7
Teething	11		11
Disease of Bowels.....		7	7
Disease of Kidneys		3	3
Urinary Disease		2	2
Uterine Disease		1	1
Child Birth		1	1
Debility.....	4	2	6
Old Age.....		13	13
Inquests.....	3	1	4
Uncertified Deaths	7	3	10
Totals.....	68	80	148

Total death rate for 1896, 15.02 per 1000. Mean death rate for 24 years, 14.20 per 1000. The death rate for 1896 for England and Wales is 17.1 per 1000.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1896.

Deaths under 1 year of age	44	4.46	per 1000, or 29	per cent.
1 year, and under 5 years	24	2.43	"	16 "
5 " 15	7	.71	"	4 "
15 " 25	10	1.01	"	6 "
25 " 65	34	3.45	"	22 "
65 years, and upwards	29	2.94	"	19 "
Measles	18	1.82	"	12 "
Zymotic Diseases	24	2.43	"	16 "
Phthisis	13	1.31	"	8 "
Heart Disease	8	.81	"	5 "
Male Deaths	68	6.9	"	45 "
Female Deaths	80	8.12	"	54 "
Deaths under 5 years	68	6.9	"	45 "

DEATH RATES.

The death rates, to be of any value, should embrace a number of years, and then take the mean rate, which in your case is only 14.20, spread over 24 years. This is highly satisfactory.

You will have noticed that in consequence of the Measles epidemic, your Zymotic death rate is rather high. Had it not been for the Measles at the last month in the year, it would have been hardly anything at all. For this year it is 2.43 per 1000. The Zymotic death rate for England and Wales is 2.18 per 1000.

I may mention here, now that I am talking about the Measles epidemic once more, that out of the 18 deaths from that disease 14 were under two years of age; and it has been proved by observation and statistics that the first two years of life is the most fatal in Measles. After two years of age the fatality gets less and less. This should be a lesson to ignorant parents who rush their children where there is Measles because they are foolish enough to believe that they *must have Measles once*. This is not so; but, even if it were so, the above fact should deter them from exposure till the child is 5 or 6 years old, when the chances of fatality are so much lessened.

BIRTHS.

194 boys and 155 girls were born during the year 1896. This gives a total of 349. The natural increase of the population is therefore 201. This gives a very high birth rate, viz., 35.43 per 1000. The total birth rate for England and Wales is 29.7 per 1000. The male birth rate is 19.69 per 1000. The female birth rate is 15.73 per 1000.

The births were registered in the following quarters of the year:—

March Quarter	-	-	76
June Quarter	-	-	99
September Quarter	-	-	90
December Quarter	-	-	84
Total	-	-	349

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The delay in the completion of the above does not appear to be the fault of any of the Councils who have joined the scheme. The formalities to be gone through seem to be very vexatious and tedious. Your District has not suffered very much for the want of it this year, but we shall all feel in a better state of preparedness when we know the structure is there for us to make use of.

DISINFECTION.

You have already passed a resolution to deal with this question, under Section 5 of the Infectious Diseases Prevention Act of 1890, but I wish to call your attention to the matter. The old-fashioned sulphur fumigation is now giving way to a much more clean, certain, and handy destroyer of disease infection. It is called The Equifex Spray Disinfectant, and is highly spoken of: it reduces to a minimum the disturbance of the inmates of a house, and costs less time and expense than the sulphur process. Every part of a room can be dealt with quickly, and of course articles of clothing, linen, &c., which can be boiled, are subjected to the spray before being sent into the laundry. It is quite portable, and can easily be taken from house to house. Those persons who can afford to pay for their own disinfecting process would be glad to pay your officer a fee to have the benefit of so neat and cleanly an article. It is highly spoken of among Medical Officers who have seen it or used it. I don't know the price at all, but that could soon be ascertained at the agents, Messrs. Defries and Sons, 147, Houndsditch, London, E.C. Of course this would not do away with a disinfectant like Dr. Thresh's steam disinfection of heavy things like beds and mattresses, instead of burning them. But this will be for you a question in the future. The Hospital will have one, of course, and then it will have to be considered whether each build one up, or take the articles to be done at the Hospital.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

The supplementary water supply from the Hartshay pumping shaft has given a good help to the old supply, and now it is necessary to get out plans for its distribution at Marehay, Street Lane, Lower Hartshay, and Waingroves. In each place it is very badly wanted.

SEWAGE FARMS.

I've ascertained that both the North and South Sewage Farms are let to tenants who farm as they will.

SCAVENGING.

This is a very important matter, and at present, it appears, this is only done in the Central, or Ripley, Ward. It appears there is a population of over 7000 persons, and the scavenging is let to two contractors. No. 1 contract is £105 per annum. No. 2 contract is £100 per annum. And both have to find their own depot for that amount. I may be allowed to say here that scavenging by contract is very uncertain; in fact, it is condemned. It can never be properly done till Councils take it in their own hands. It is a most important part of their duties, and

ought not to be delegated to other parties. The existence of *dirt* is the existence of disease and low vitality, creating susceptibility to anything that may come which is inimical to health. This dirt should be removed by those whose duty it is to look after the Public Health. There are many defects in contract work in such a matter. The carts are not set apart for that purpose alone, consequently are not always available. Again, the contractor's cart is not constructed for its work, and hence soiled streets, bad smells, &c., follow the removal of the dirt, &c., by these means. The cost does not seem to be very much, as your Central, or Ripley, Ward has a population of some 7000 or so, and costs £205 for its scavenging. The great point is, why should about 2000 other people be left without the benefit of this scavenging? If I gave my opinion, I should distinctly say Marehay and Street Lane were much more in need of scavenging than Ripley Ward: that is to say, if the question of *dirt* comes in.

I am requested by the Authorities to press this matter upon your attention, and it is one of the very best means to preserve the health and comfort of the inhabitants.

GENERAL INSPECTION.

My monthly and quarterly Reports will keep you tolerably well up in details of what is going forward; but of course you are not troubled with many minutiae, which taken singly are not of so much importance, but when put together as the year's work assume considerable importance. Inspector Shelton and myself have compiled from our notes, &c., the following, not of course mentioning removal of small or insignificant nuisances in our presence and at our request.

LODGING-HOUSES.—There are two licensed lodging-houses in the District, and they have been inspected 40 or 50 times.

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS number 27, and they have been visited most weeks.

COWSHEDS are also 27 in number, are fairly kept, and are visited frequently.

BAKEHOUSES are 12 in number, and are visited once or twice a month.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES number 15, and have had 30 visits during the year.

ASHPITS AND PRIVIES number about 750; these, of course, are often seen.

PIGSTYS are somewhere about 50, and are visited when on our inspection.

PAN CLOSETS.—There are about 200 of these in the District, and they get emptied regularly.

NOTICES have been served on 51 persons to remove various nuisances.

THE MARKET is visited at intervals, and, in my absence, the Inspector would wire me before anything is done. The produce brought for sale is a great improvement on what it used to be.

REMOVAL OF ASHES AND NIGHT-SOIL.

I have ascertained that from December 31, 1895, to December 31, 1896, there have been removed from the Ripley Ward 2645 loads of the above dirt and refuse.

And now, gentlemen, I think this completes my 24th Annual Report, and takes us up to the very end of 1896.

I hope some of the points to which I have called your attention may be deemed worthy of your consideration. I think it is a system carried out in most Councils that the Medical Officer's Report should be read out in the first instance to the whole Council, and dealt with generally. Then if any difficult point arises refer that point to a Committee. This gives the Report greater publicity and greater value, and is a more prompt way of dealing with matters of Public Health and Public Safety.

In stating the above, I must not be considered charging the Council with any neglect of duty, or indisposition to help and back up their Medical Officer,—because I know that is not the case in any way—I merely throw out a hint as to administrative work, which I think would be an improvement. Of course it is a mere suggestion for your consideration

I have always received ready assistance from the Council, and every help for me to perform my work, and I desire to bear my testimony to that. We go on very smoothly. I know my work and don't give any more trouble than I can help to Mr. Capon, your Clerk, whom I'm often in correspondence with, and we always get on well together, and he too has my thanks for his assistance. As for Mr. Shelton, your Sanitary Inspector, he is always ready to meet me when I wish him to do so, and we work very harmoniously together, getting along as brother officers ought to do.

I hope in conclusion gentlemen, that I shall retain and deserve the same confidence you have extended to me for the past 24 years.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD GAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

Belper, Feb. 23rd, 1897.

(A) COUNTY OF DERBY.

Table of DEATHS during the year 1896, in the Urban Sanitary District of Ripley, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Area in Acres, 4026. Population, 1891, 8774. Estimated to December 31, 1896, 9850.

Medical Officer of Health, EDWARD GAYLOR.

Date, February 23rd, 1897.

Deaths from all Causes at subjoined Ages.

At all Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 Year and under 5	5 Years and under 15	15 Years and under 25	25 Years and under 65	65 and upwards.
148	44	24	7	10	34	39

Mortality from subjoined Causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.

Diseases.	Under Five Years of Age.	Over Five Years of Age.
Scarlatina		1
Enteric or Tphoid Fever.....		1
Measles	18	
Whooping Cough.....		1
Diarrhoea and Dysentery.....	2	1
Phthisis	2	11
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.....	11	10
Heart Disease		8
Injuries	2	1
All other Diseases	35	44
Total	70	78

EDWARD GAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

(B) COUNTY OF DERBY.

Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1896, in the Urban Sanitary District of Ripley; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Population of all Ages.			
Census, 1891	-	-	8774
ESTIMATED TO MIDDLE OF 1897	-	-	9750
Registered Births	-	-	370

New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.

Diseases.	Under Five Years of Age.	Over Five Years of Age.
Scarlatina	10	18
Diphtheria	2	2
Enteric or Typhoid Fever		2
Erysipelas	1	2
Total	13	24

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District.—Yes.

Since when?—1892.

EDWARD GAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

