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Contributors

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183 Euston Road
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RISHWORTH
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S

Annual Report,

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

DEAR SIRS,

The Report for the year 1895 is on the whole satisfactory, having no serious epidemic to cope with, nor any very extensive defective state of drainage or water supply.

In March this district was again visited by an epidemic of influenza, succeeding a long-continued severe frost. It caused the mortality for the first quarter of the year in consequence to become rather high, in comparison with the previous year, viz., 12·4 1894, and 18·6 1895.

On February 28th, I met Dr. Whitelegge at Rishworth Grammar School, and we made an inspection of the drainage and water supply, and on April 8th I again met him to make a further inspection. Dr. Whitelegge reported the results of his investigations to the Trustees of the Wheelwright's Charity, and several alterations have been carried out since.

The new water supply is nearing completion, which will be a great benefit for purposes of flushing drains and closets. It is conveyed from the reservoir by means of pipes, and so preventing any contamination, which has been liable to occur with the present supply, rendering it sometimes injurious for using for domestic purposes.

Dr. Whitelegge found it to contain, when stood in the pipes overnight, lead at the rate of 0·27 grains per gallon; and that taken after running freely still had 0·04. I found experimentally, too, that the action upon metallic lead was strongly marked. The hardness was 4·2 degrees.

In December we had a series of sore throats; one case developed into erysipelas at the above school. A defective drain was detected at the end of the slopstone in the kitchen, and it was found on inspection to have no outlet. From this point we traced a great many stone drains under the kitchen floor, intersecting each other, and full of accumulations of black, slimy mud—offensive. This, no doubt, had been accumulating for some time.

These stone drains have all been taken out, and filled up with quick lime, and replaced where it was necessary with 6-inch pot pipes and trapped.

In October and November whooping cough was very prevalent amongst children, without any mortality.

One or two cases of accidental death have occurred amongst the navvies on the Waterworks at Oxygrains. The state of health amongst these men has been fairly good. The huts are not now overcrowded, but the sanitary conditions in one or two places is not so good as it might be.

The Births have been 32, viz., 16 males and 16 females; or at the rate of 24·8 per 1000 per annum, as against 21 per 1000 last year.

The Deaths have been 17, viz., 12 males and 5 females, or at the rate of 13·1 per 1000 per annum, as against 15·5 per 1000 last year.

In the summary of births and deaths, both the birth-rate and death-rate are lower than last year. In April, May, July and September not a single death was returned; rather a remarkable coincidence, and speaks well for the health of the district.

The principal causes of death have been from lung diseases and heart. Two cases of phthisis, one sudden death, one suicide by hanging. Seven old persons have died over 60 years of age.

The water supply to this district is derived from independent sources. In some instances, in its course down the hill sides, the houses requiring it receive their supply; in others it is received from springs.

The rainfall for the year is 45·66 inches, 3 inches above the average for 25 years.

The Inspector of Nuisances, in his report, informs me that no new closets or ashpits have been erected.

The drains have been inspected and kept open, the road drains becoming blocked after the heavy rains which we have had on one or two occasions during the year.

The dairies and cowsheds are in a good sanitary state.

The district is now free from any zymotic disease, and the sanitary condition is in every way satisfactory.

Yours truly,

R. ATKINSON,

Medical Officer.

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R. ATKINSON

Medical Officer

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