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Contributors

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Royston
Urban District Council.



R E P O R T

For the Year 1897,

BY

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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1897.

Having had the honour of being appointed Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Royston (Herts.), separated on 30th September, 1897, from the Ashwell Rural District, which I have the honour to serve, and created into a separate urban district, and having in that capacity been called upon by the Local Government Board to make an Annual Report, I have felt considerable difficulty as to the manner in which I should address myself to the task, but by the courteous assistance of the Clerk I have ascertained from the Local Government Board that the best method to pursue is, for the purposes of calculation of vital statistics, to treat the district as having existed since the commencement of the year, and to limit any remarks that may be needful of a general character to the last three months. I have to thank the Superintendent Registrar and the two Sub-District Registrars for the ready assistance they have given me in supplying the needful materials for the statistical calculations.

Death-rate. A disturbing factor in the calculation of vital statistics is caused by the situation in the Urban District of the Union Workhouse; I have, therefore, in my calculations excluded the deaths which have occurred in that institution not belonging to the Urban District. The remaining deaths number 44, which calculated on a population, as given in Knights' Local Government Directory, of 3,218, gives a death-rate from all causes, and at all ages, per thousand living per annum of 13·6.

Zymotic Death-rate. The deaths due to the chief zymotic diseases during the year have been only two from infantile diarrhoea, giving a death-rate from these diseases of 0·62 per thousand living per annum.

Birth-rate. The total number of births registered is 89; the birth-rate therefore is 27·6 per thousand living per annum.

Infantile mortality. Infantile mortality is represented by a ratio of 69 deaths to 1,000 registered births.

DISEASE INCIDENCE.

Disease incidence. It has not been easy to allocate the zymotic disease incidence to the area of the town, but I think I am accurate in saying there have been one case of scarlet fever, two cases of typhoid fever, and five cases of erysipelas notified on behalf of the Ashwell Rural District Council.

Scarlet Fever. The case of scarlet fever occurred at Wrexham Terrace; the cause evaded discovery.

Typhoid Fever. The first case of typhoid fever occurred February 6th at Melbourn Road; the source of infection could not be satisfactorily traced, but the sanitary conditions of the house and its surroundings were very faulty, and have since been remedied.

The second case of typhoid fever (at Godfrey's Terrace), which was notified July 25th, was contracted on a journey to the Town, and was moved to the Cottage Hospital on July 26th, the infectious ward not being available by order of the Local Government Board.

Disinfection, isolation at home, and school exclusion were relied upon to prevent the spread of disease.

Although the incidence of zymotic disease has been unusually light during the year under review, such a fortunate circumstance cannot always be expected. I am therefore glad, especially in view of the action of the Local Government Board in disallowing the further use of the building set apart for infectious cases at the Union Workhouse, for persons other than paupers, that a committee of the Council has been appointed to confer with corresponding committees of the Ashwell and Melbourn Rural District Councils for the formulation of a scheme for a joint hospital.

Isolation
Hospital.

SANITARY SUPERVISION.

With regard to the sanitary supervision of the District by the Inspector of Nuisances during the latter three months of the year, it should be noted that several complaints have been made of the sewer ventilators; in some instances the complaints have not been well substantiated, and in others the nuisance complained of has been rectified by the more constant flushing of the drains and the repair of the ventilating shafts.

Sanitary
Supervision,
etc.

Insufficient closet accommodation was discovered at the Girls' National School, and also at the British Schools, by the Inspector of Nuisances, whose recommendations that the deficiency should be remedied was approved by the Managers and arrangements made for the carrying out of the necessary improvements during the forthcoming Easter holidays.

The public urinal on the Market Hill was found to have been used as a privy, and on the recommendation of the Inspector of Nuisances a door was fixed at the entrance and kept locked, except on market days, when only it is required.

At the junction of Queen's Road, Mill Road, and Gas Road the town ditch having frequently overflowed and flooded the adjacent houses during storms, a remedy has been attempted by alteration of the culvert passing under the road and raising the banks of the ditch.

Five cottages in the Gas Lane were found to be devoid of drainage, and on the representation of the Inspector of Nuisances the owners have promised to rectify the nuisance.

Several sanitary improvements of a minor character have been effected either by diversion or ventilation of house drains.

One purveyor of milk, living outside the district, was found not to be registered; application has since been made for registration and granted.

The adoption by the Council of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, and the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, has armed the Council with valuable powers which are not possessed by the Rural Districts.

As on instructions of the Local Government Board that the Annual Report should "consider these subjects with reference to the past and future as well as the particular year," I venture with regard to the future to suggest to the Council the advantage that would accrue to the district by the adoption of Nuisance and Building Bye-Laws, on the models drafted by the Local Government Board.

There is one advantage possessed by the district and that is an excellent supply of water from the chalk formation.

Another advantage is the possession of a Sewage Farm, which up to the present appears to have been satisfactorily worked.

Appended hereto are the Inspector's tabular statement of sanitary work, and the tables of population, births, deaths, and sickness.

BUSHELL ANNINGSON.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ROYSTON.

Inspector of Nuisances' Report for period from 1st October to 31st December, 1897.

Complaints of sewer ventilators attended to	...	...	4
Cottages repaired	...	...	6
Drains cleaned out and repaired	...	...	8
Dung heaps removed	...	...	2
Houses fumigated	...	...	1
„ inspected	...	...	120
„ new erected	...	...	7
New Closets erected	...	...	12
„ Drains made	...	...	13
Notices to repair	...	...	1
„ abate nuisances	...	...	4
Pond, foul, closed	...	...	1
Travellers' vans visited	...	...	23
Ventilators to sewer, repaired and improved	...	...	2
Visits to infectious cases	...	...	9
„ Slaughter-houses, bake-houses, dairies, and cow sheds	...	...	20

I am at present making a house-to-house inspection as to water supply, drainage, closet and general accommodation.

H. N. WOODWARD,

Inspector of Nuisances

TABLE B.

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1897, in the Urban District of Royston, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Estimated Population at all ages. 1897.	Registered Births.	d	New cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.													Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.												
				FEVERS.													FEVERS.												
				Small Pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	English Cholera.	Erysipelas.	12	13	Small Pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Perpetual.	English Cholera.	Erysipelas.	12	13
(a)		c		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Royston	3218	89	{ Under 5 5 upw'ds	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Union Work-house ..	..	..	{ Under 5 5 upw'ds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS	3218	89	{ Under 5 5 upw'ds	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

NOTE.—The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, has been adopted and will come into operation March, 1898. There is no Isolation Hospital for the use of the Sick.

