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Contributors

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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(R. B. ESKRIGGE, M.R.C.S.),

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1904.




BARNSELY :

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1905.



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ROYSTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT FOR 1904.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS.

Gentlemen,

The past year (except for the prevalence of Diphtheria) has not been noteworthy.

The birth and death-rate has been much as usual.

The weather, taken altogether, has been equable, there having been no great extremes of either cold or heat.

TABLE OF DEATHS.

1898	...	89
1899	...	54
1900	...	99
1901	...	118
1902	...	121
1903	...	107
1904	...	114

TABLE OF BIRTHS.

1898	...	183
1899	...	177
1900	...	172
1901	...	205
1902	...	186
1903	...	225
1904	...	194

There have been 3 Coroner's Inquests during 1904.

TABLE OF DEATHS AND BIRTHS, 1904.

			DEATHS.				BIRTHS.				
			Male.		Female.		Male.		Female.		
January	10	...	5	...	5	17	...	7	...	10
February	...	8	...	2	...	6	19	...	9	...	10
March	...	13	...	7	...	6	21	...	8	...	13
April	...	4	...	2	...	2	11	...	7	...	4
May	...	10	...	6	...	4	11	...	6	...	5
June	...	5	...	3	...	2	16	...	9	...	7
July	...	9	...	4	...	5	16	...	8	...	8
August	...	8	...	5	...	3	25	...	9	...	16
September	...	14	...	9	...	5	16	...	6	...	10
October	...	9	...	7	...	2	16	...	7	...	9
November	...	17	...	8	...	9	14	...	6	...	8
December	...	7	...	4	...	3	12	...	5	...	7
		<u>114</u>		<u>62</u>		<u>52</u>	<u>194</u>		<u>87</u>		<u>107</u>

The list of Infectious cases reported are :—

Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Puerpural Fever.
71	1	12	1

As regards Diphtheria, you will doubtless remember that when the complaint first showed itself about two years ago, my request to be supplied with Anti-toxin serum was kindly acceded to, and it was hoped by that means the disease would be abated.

In 1903, there were 39 cases and 8 deaths.

In 1904, there were 71 and 23 deaths.

The following table will give some idea as to the number of cases per month, and the deaths.

			No.			DEATHS.
January	...	...	5	...	...	4
February	...	...	1	...	...
March	...	...		...	...
April ...	...	...	1	...	...	1
May ...	...	...	5	...	...
June ...	...	...	15	...	...	2
July ...	...	...	3	...	...	3
August	...	...	5	...	...
September	...	...	11	...	...	4
October	...	...	5	...	...	3
November	...	...	18	...	...	6
December	...	...	2	...	...
			<u>71</u>			<u>23</u>

It will be seen from the above table and its results, that the two years' experience of treating Diphtheria cases at home is not a success, as the death-rate is higher than if the cases were sent to Hospital.

Several reasons may be adduced, and amongst them may be mentioned:—

I.—Inadequate nursing; in most cases the patient was kept in the living-room with the rest of the family, so as to save running up and down stairs.

II.—Kind and sympathetic neighbours and their children going in and out to inquire after invalids.

Now I don't think that if the angel Gabriel with a flaming sword were planted at the door that he would have a deterrent effect on stopping the above.

III.—School can be put down as another reason. And this, I think, may be proved in several ways.

In many slight cases, the throat cleaned in a few days, and within the week, the child was running about, but at the same time, though apparently cured, the breath and the nasal excretion probably were crowded with infectious media, and also the disease never stopped long in one part of the village, flying about, here and there where least expected.

IV.—The after consequences, viz., Paralysis, Heart Failure, these were the cause of most of the deaths.

Very few actually died in the acute stage of the disease, the serum in most cases cleaning the throat, but the want of skilled nursing and proper diet intensified the sequels mentioned, and so death supervened.

For the above reasons mentioned, it will be gathered that Hospital treatment is preferable to home in Diphtheria.

As regards the cause, I cannot help but think that the drainage has had a good deal to do with it.

Undoubtedly there have been fewer cases since the handbills were posted about the village, calling attention to the frequent flushing out of the waste pipes and gully traps.

During the year we have received the benefits (?) of gas, which it is to be hoped will improve, as at present it is a poor illuminant and is malodorous.

The water supply has been good and constant. During the year the extra supply tank at St. Helens was finished.

The Scavenging contract up to now has been excellent.

The Sewage Disposal Works have done their duty fairly well.

The usual systematic house to house inspection has been made and the results reported at your Monthly Meetings.

About 30 Nuisances have been reported and abated.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. ESKRIGGE, M.R.C.S.,

Medical Officer of Health.

ROYSTON,

Jan. 30th, 1905.

TABLE OF DEATHS, GIVING MONTH AND AGE.

	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	One and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.
January ...	10	4	2	2	1	1	
February ...	8	3	1			3	1
March ...	13	3	3			6	1
April ...	4	1	1		1	1	
May ...	10	4	1	4	1		
June ...	5	1		2	1	1	
July ...	9	3	5		1		
August ...	8	3	1	1		2	1
September ...	14	6	4	2		1	1
October ...	9	1	4	1	2	1	
November ...	15	1	11	4		1	
December ...	7	3		3		1	
	114	33	33	19	7	18	4

TABLE OF CAUSE OF DEATH AND MONTH.

	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.	TOTAL
Pneumonia	1	3	2		2	1	1		1		2	1	14
Diphtheria	4			1		2	3		4	3	6		23
Phthisis	1		1	1									3
Convulsions	2	2	1	1	4		2		4		2		18
Rheumatism	1									1			2
Abscess	1									1			2
Chronic Bronchitis		1				1							2
Heart Disease		2	2		1			1					6
Acute Bronchitis			2							1	1	1	5
Croup			1		1		1	1	1	2	2	2	11
Lencocythaun			1										1
Cancer			1					1					2
Inquest			1			1	1						3
Inanition					1		1	1	1		1	1	6
Infantile Paralysis					1								1
Acute Gastritis								1	1		1		3
Diarrhœa								1		1			2
Sarcoma								1			1		2
Marasnyus								1					1
Senile Decay... ..									1				1
Apoplexy									1			1	2
Acute Cerebral Menin- gitis											1	1	2
Various			1	1									2
	10	8	13	4	10	5	9	8	14	9	17	17	114