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# Salisbury Rural District Council.

## Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1902.

Area of District in Acres	... 55,665	Corrected Death-rate	... 12.9
Population (estimated to middle of 1902)	... 12,856	Infantile Death-rate (per 1,000 births registered)	... 101.3
Birth-rate	... 23.02	Zymotic Death-rate	... 1.2
Gross Death-rate	... 17.7	Phthisis Death-rate	... .5

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for 1902.

Our population estimated to the middle of 1902, is 12,856, and on this figure all rates are calculated. Population.

The number of Births registered was 296, Males, 138, and Females, 158. The birth-rate is therefore 23.02. Births and Birth-rate.

230 deaths were registered in the District, but corrections have to be made in this figure: thus 61 were of persons normally residing outside the district, while 11 persons, residents in the district, died outside its boundaries, in the Salisbury Infirmary and the County Asylum. Subtraction of the former (61), and addition the latter (11), from the gross total (230), shows the corrected deaths to be 180. The gross death-rate is therefore 17.7, and the corrected rate 14 per thousand living. Both rates are above the average. Deaths and Death-rate.

Zymotic diseases have been responsible for a total of 16 deaths, giving a Zymotic death-rate of 1.2. Zymotic Death-rate.

I beg to submit a copy of the Local Government Board's statistical tables embodying the above information.

Forty-eight new houses have been erected in the district. Two cases of overcrowding have occurred, and these were promptly abated. As a rule throughout the district the house accommodation is good. Building bye-laws are needed, and these are still under consideration. House Accommodation.

There is no system of sewerage in any part of the district. The parishes of Fisherton Anger Without and Milford Without stand badly in need of some such system. At Fisherton Anger Without in the part known as West End, the whole surface soil is waterlogged, water stands in the roadway in any but the driest weather, and the cesspits are constantly overflowing. Notices have been served without avail in abating the nuisance, but at present a scheme is on foot on the part of private owners of this district to drain that part of the district, and to connect with the sewers of the Salisbury Urban system. If this scheme can be carried through, it will, I think, meet the difficulty, but there should be no unreasonable delay about the matter. With regard to house drains twenty-three cases of various defects have been observed and dealt with. Dumbwells and cesspools from time to time give rise to nuisances, but as a rule the nuisance is promptly abated, upon notice being given. In ten cases water closets have been repaired, ventilated, or otherwise made efficient. With regard to privies the earth closet with a small pail receptacle is being increasingly used, and is one of the best, if not the best method in rural districts where the onus of removal rests with occupiers. In some of the newer houses cement lined tanks are being provided to take the household and slop water. These are provided with a pump, and periodically emptied. By this method pollution of water supplies from this source, can certainly be avoided. Sewerage.

House refuse is removed from a total of 437 houses in Fisherton Anger Without and Milford Without. The work is done by contract. In the rest of the district the onus of removal rests upon occupiers. House Refuse

The Rural portions of the district obtain their supply from wells, rain-water tanks, and springs. Fisherton Anger Without is supplied by the Fisherton and Bemerton Water Works Company, Milford Without by the Milford Water Works, and in part by the Urban Water Works. Water-supply

Alderbury has recently been provided with a public supply by Lord Radnor, which will prove an immense boon to the Village, whose water supply in dry seasons has been most precarious.

Under the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, every Rural District Council has to see that every occupied dwelling house within its district has, within a reasonable distance, an available supply of wholesome water. Within the past year arrangements were made for supply to Waterloo Gardens, Milford Without, which was one of the worst parts of the district in this respect.



Another duty is that imposed by the same Act (Sec. 6), viz., "that no house may be built or rebuilt in a Rural District without a proper supply of wholesome water."

This has been scrupulously carried out during the past year, and forty-eight certificates as to water supply have been granted. In some cases certificates were refused until the requirements of the Council were complied with.

In four cases samples of water have been analysed, and in those samples which were found to be polluted a fresh supply was provided.

Persons to the number of 86, engaged in the milk trade, are regularly under inspection. Contraventions of the bye-laws have been dealt with in two cases.

Possible infection of milk supplies has occurred in a number of cases, and will be referred to again.

Forty-three bake-houses and ten slaughter-houses are regularly inspected, and in most cases conform to sanitary requirements. Four bake-houses were certified for limewashing, etc.

The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, came into force at the beginning of the year under review. It imposes important duties upon District Councils in respect of every work-place coming under the Act. It involves a great amount of work, and so far we have been able to inspect only a few of the workshops in the district. Our Register of Workshops is however becoming more complete, and these will be inspected in accordance with the Act.

At present our list contains twenty-nine factories, and thirty-eight workshops (all in process of inspection). (Bake-houses have been dealt with above). The list of Home-workers is necessarily incomplete, but will be made more complete as time goes on.

One business of this nature exists in the district and is regularly inspected.

Many notices in regard to nuisances have been served, and in most cases readily complied with. In no case have proceedings been found necessary. Nuisances remaining unabated at present are (1) the cess-pools at the West End, Fisherton Anger Without, and the condition of the roadway at the same place, (2) a cess-pool at Belle Vue, London Road, which overflows into the roadway, and about which repeated notices have been served.

Inspection of the district has been regularly carried out by your Sanitary Inspector and myself. House to house inspection has been done by myself in a part of the district, with the result that some needed sanitary reforms were carried out.

There are twenty schools in the district, and of these, six have been closed during the past year, viz. :-

Farley	January	on account of Measles.
East Harnham	May	for Disinfection, etc.
West Harnham	July	on account of Measles.
Redlynch	July	on account of Measles.
Coombe Bissett	November	on account of Scarlet Fever.
Alderbury	November	on account of Scarlet Fever.

The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, has been in force since 1898, and during the past year 125 cases were notified. The average for the three years previous to 1902, is 27.3. The excess is almost entirely due to the wide-spread epidemic of scarlet fever with which we have had to deal.

The following table shows the incidence of infectious disease upon different parts of the district.

TABLE SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

	Total.	Alderbury.	Britford.	Clarendon.	Coombe Bissett.	Downton.	Fisherton Anger Without.	Grimstead, East & West.	Harnham, East & West.	Homington.	Landford.	Laverstock and Ford.	Milford Without.	Nomansland.	Nunton & Bodenham.	Odstock.	Redlynch.	Stratford-sub-Castle.	Whiteparish.	Fisherton Asylum.	Workhouse.
Diphtheria	9	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Erysipelas	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	4	1
Scarlet Fever	107	25	6	1	10	2	12	1	18	1	...	2	2	...	9	5	1	5	1	2	4
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS	125	25	6	1	10	2	14	1	18	2	2	2	4	2	9	5	1	7	3	6	5

In the case scarlet fever, we had to deal in nine instances with outbreaks in the houses of those who were engaged in the milk trade, in two cases bakehouses were infected, and in one case a public-house. In my annual report for 1900 I said "The need for some efficient means of isolating patients suffering from infectious disease is ever present with us. Events of the past year have, however, not made the necessity very clear, but that it exists no one can doubt, for at any moment we may be called upon



to deal with an epidemic of one of the more dangerous infectious diseases." I venture to think now, that events of the past year have made the necessity for an effective Isolation Hospital very clear, for with an epidemic such as that we have had, the economic loss in the district is somewhat severe, schools have to be closed, men are thrown out of work, business is restricted, and in some cases property destroyed, and this in addition to possible loss of life or health.

Efficient isolation is practically the only means of checking the spread of such an epidemic.

With regard to the question of whether or not it would be better to combine with other District Councils I cannot enter fully, but taking into consideration the nature of our and adjoining districts and the fact that the City Authority has recently acquired a hospital for infectious diseases, it will, I think, be best for the Council to provide one for their own district.

The whole question is again under consideration, and I can but hope that very soon a satisfactory conclusion will be arrived at.

In January of the past year this Council in conjunction with the Salisbury Urban Sanitary Authority erected a small-pox hospital for twelve patients. I am glad to say that this has remained unoccupied. The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, is again under consideration and will I hope, be shortly adopted. It gives District Councils some extra powers with regard to infectious disease, but its chief advantage lies in its enabling the officers of the Council to act promptly in case of need.

I append a record of work done by your able and energetic Sanitary Inspector.

#### 1.—Infectious Disease.

No. of cases enquired into	...	73
Houses disinfected (by owners or occupiers)	...	67
Bedding, etc., destroyed	...	2

#### 2.—Houses.

No inspected after erection	...	48
Overcrowding abated	...	2
Drains relaid	...	1
Drains cleansed, etc.	...	16
Dumbwells rectified	...	6
W.C.'s repaired, etc.	...	10
Privies converted to pail-closets	...	5
Privies repaired	...	3

#### 3.—Offensive Trades.

Under observation	...	1
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#### 4.—Water Supplies.

Wells sunk	...	5
Rain-water tanks built	...	4
Wells cleansed	...	2
Houses supplied by Waterworks	...	40

#### 5.—Slaughter Houses.

No. inspected	...	10
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#### 6.—Dairies and Cowsheds.

No. on Register and under supervision	...	86
No. of contraventions dealt with	...	2

#### 7.—Bakehouses.

No. inspected	...	43
No. certified for limewashing	...	4

#### 8.—Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance

#### 9.—Letters relating to Nuisances

115

I would draw the Council's attention to the large amount of extra work which the scarlet fever epidemic has thrown upon their Sanitary Inspector, and would most respectfully suggest that the Council should in some way recognise this.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GILBERT KEMPE, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., B.S.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Salisbury, February 8th 1903.



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