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Contributors

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REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1903,

PRESENTED TO THE

Spilsby Rural District
Council,

BY

FRANCIS J. WALKER, M.D., L.S.Sc.,

M.R.C.S., Eng.; L.R.C.P., London; L.S.A.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SPILSBY:

W. K. MORTON, PRINTER, FRANKLIN HOUSE.

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TO THE

Spilsby Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

As your Medical Officer of Health I beg to lay before you my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1903.

It is to the meteorologist rather than to the sanitarian that the year just passed becomes specially interesting, for it has been distinguished by two characteristic features, excessive rainfall and deficient sunshine, and the latter, by preventing evaporation, has tended greatly to intensify the effects of the former. To the sanitarian, in spite of the depressing effects of damp, dirt, and darkness, the year has been a satisfactory one, for the death rate has considerably diminished, and is the lowest recorded, not only since I have been Medical Officer of Health, but also since Sanitary Authorities were first established just thirty years ago; and the number of notifications of infectious diseases has been reduced, in comparison with that of last year, by two-thirds.

I shall, as usual, divide my report under the headings of Epidemic Diseases, Sanitary Work, and Vital Statistics.

EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

MEASLES.—This disease may be looked upon as well-nigh absent during the year, for certainly nothing in the nature of an outbreak, however trifling, came under my notice.

SCARLET FEVER.—Of this disease 59 notifications have been received, a number which I am glad to say is 116 less than that of last year, but is still about the average for the last seven years. These cases were for the most part separate, and nothing in the shape of a large epidemic occurred. In January we saw the remains of a last year's outbreak at Toynton, and possibly connected with this we had two cases in one house in Spilsby; and in the same month we had eleven cases in two houses in an outlying part of Hogsthorpe. In February there were only two mild cases in one house in Friskney. In April there was one in Dalby clearly imported from Fulletby, and in Burgh the disease showed itself in five different families. In June two cases in one family cropped up in Wainfleet Marsh and also a single one in Croft. In August five cases occurred at a railway gatehouse in Huttoft, probably imported from a neighbouring district, and three at Addlethorpe introduced by a sailor from Chatham. For three months nothing was heard of the disease, but in December six cases were notified from Bilsby, but limited to two families. Out of these 59 cases, one proved fatal, that of a child aged five at Burgh. When we

consider the various and distant localities, the diversified times of the year, and the limited spread, we can only come to the conclusion, although the actual number was up to the average, that the disease must have been of a non-virulent character.

WHOOPING COUGH.—This disease has been more than usually prevalent during the year. In January there were several cases in South Ormsby, and in February in Spilsby, in May and in June in Midville, New Leake, Stickney, Stickford and West Keal, and in the latter part of the year, in Harrington, Ulceby and Huttoft. Altogether five children died, but all of them were infants under one year.

DIPHTHERIA.—Thirteen notifications have been received, being one more than those of last year, but still below the average. Of these, six referred to cases which were single, scattered and mild, and which call for no comment. The remaining seven referred to cases which were somewhat more severe, and were situated four at Wainfleet, two at Friskney and one at Toynton. The Wainfleet patients all recovered, one of the Friskney died, and the Toynton one, who came home with the disease upon him, died a few days after his arrival.

ENTERIC FEVER.—In February a case was notified from Bilsby, and on investigation it was found to have been imported and not to have been due to any local cause. In April a second case occurred,

this time at Great Steeping, and it too was imported from outside the district. In the same month, a notification was received from Thorpe relating to a girl who had been removed from a house in Firsby where the disease was known to have been present as far back as 1895. The fourth case occurred at Bilsby, but it had no connection with the one in the same village in February, and after close inspection of the premises they were found to be in a faultless sanitary condition.

ERYSIPELAS.—Eight notifications were received, a number which is slightly below the average of the last seven years. Five of these referred to solitary cases, and the remainder to three patients dwelling in one house at Bilsby, and of these two died, a man and his wife, aged 75 and 77 respectively.

DIARRHŒA.—One death was returned as from “epidemic diarrhœa,” that of an infant aged six months at Friskney.

INFLUENZA.—Only one death was put down to this disease, that of an old woman aged 76 in Cumberworth in the month of February.

The number of notifications received during 1903 was 84, a number 117 less than that of last year and 14 below the average of the last seven years. Their distribution under their several headings will be seen in the following table:—

Year.	Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Continued Fever.	Relapsing Fever.	Puerperal Fever	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Total.
1896		31	20			4	1		1		15	72
1897		27	26			7					9	69
1898		8	19	1		6	1		1		17	53
1899		37	19			13			1		14	84
1900		71	9			5			1		21	107
1901		44	41			10			1		7	103
1902	1	175	12			3	1				9	201
1903		59	13			4					8	84

SANITARY WORK.

ASWARDBY.—In this village, the drainage was found to be defective, and after survey it was deemed advisable to lay a new drain of about 200

yards, consisting of 6in. sanitary pipes with the necessary man-holes.

BURGH-LE-MARSH.—The main sewer from Burgh town to the pumping station was originally carried by syphons under the “Common Drain” and the “Catchwater Drain.” These syphons were composed of wood and had become defective. This being reported to your Council, an order was made for new iron pipes to be laid and connected with man-holes on each side of the drains. The carrying out of these repairs caused some trouble in consequence of the excessive amount of water during the recent wet season; but the work has now been completed in a satisfactory manner.

SPILSBY.—During the year I have received complaints from the residents of this and the neighbouring parish of Hundleby about the pollution of the water in their wells by coal gas. Since coal gas is not a natural constituent of soil, it follows that its introduction therein must be due to some faulty condition of the pipes, which are laid for the purpose not only of conducting but also of retaining it on its passage. Happily for mankind the presence of coal gas is easily recognised, for its disagreeable and unmistakeable odour, its nauseous taste, its property of blackening articles, together with its ready inflammability are characteristics which make it easily distinguished from anything else. I have no hesitation in saying that coal gas pollution of the air we breathe or the water

we drink is a nuisance which is prejudicial to health, and consequently is a matter deserving the consideration of the Sanitary Authority. Whatever may be the cause of the escape, clearly it is the duty of the gas company to discover and effectually to remedy it. It is but fair to report that the Spilsby Gas Company have bared their mains for a distance of say half-a-mile, and have made endeavour to discover and prevent leakage, but with what result time alone will show. In these exposures of the mains, a lamentable state of things was brought to view, disclosing that for yards at a time and at frequent intervals the soil was found to be blackened, reeking with gas, and emitting an odour which was perceptible at a considerable distance. Unfortunately this gas-laden soil has been replaced, and thus any good that repairs to mains may have effected must be slow in manifesting itself. It should be remembered that in certain cases, especially where one well only among a number is affected, that here probably the mischief may lie in the smaller service pipe between the main and the dwelling, rather than in the main itself. However, to sum matters up it must be clear to everybody that to poison drinking water is not only a cruel civil wrong to one's neighbour, but also a potent cause of serious detriment to Public Health.

SUTTON.—In my last report I included a warning note relating to the provisions at present existing

for the efficient drainage of this parish. This note was not only conveyed to your Council but also to the County Council. This latter body appointed a committee to visit the spot and examine into the state of affairs, and this visit was made on June 6th, and I cannot do better than copy the concluding remarks of the committee when reporting to their Council. It runs thus:—"The committee do not think any necessity arises for immediate action on the part of the County Council, but the drainage should be watched, and in case any considerable number of additional houses should be connected into the Sutton Sewage System some radical alteration may become necessary for the dealing with the outfall." So matters stand at present, but it will clearly behove your officials to keep a watchful eye, and it is to be hoped that the parochial authority will be on the alert, so as to ensure that the drainage of this growing seaside resort is put in a thoroughly satisfactory condition.

On May 22nd I received a letter from Dr. Collingbridge, Medical Officer of Health for the City of London, telling me that some army blankets, which were supposed to have come from South Africa and were in a dirty condition, had been sent from Messrs. Dobel & Co., of 20a Aldermanbury, London, to a tradesman in Wainfleet, and advising me to inspect the blankets, as similar ones had been found on board the training ship "Cornwall," and were supposed to have been the

cause of an epidemic of typhoid fever on board that vessel, for these blankets had been examined by Dr. Klim, the eminent bacteriologist, and were found to be infested with numerous typhoid bacillus. On the day I received the letter, I went to Wainfleet and found that on March 20th, 75 army blankets had been purchased from Messrs. Dobel & Co. Out of these 75, forty had already been sold, and the remaining 35 I carefully examined. I found nearly all of them to be in a filthy condition, being stained with what looked like blood, food, and dried earth. I recommended the destruction of these 35, and this recommendation was willingly agreed to, and before I left, I saw them burnt. I have traced most of the remaining 40, and they have either been destroyed or disinfected by means of boiling and exposure to direct sunlight. I am glad to say that I have no reason to believe that these second-hand army blankets have been the cause of any case of typhoid fever in this district.

The following is the Surveyor and Inspector's Report for 1903.

Number of nuisances reported	...	...	...	101
Number abated without formal notice	...	...	...	34
Number of formal notices served	...	...	...	67
Total number abated	...	...	...	101
Houses reported unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	3
Houses placed in habitable repair	...	...	...	3
New drainage to houses	...	...	...	10
Defective drainage to houses remedied	...	...	...	16
Houses cleansed and disinfected	...	...	...	34

New earth closets erected	8
New water closets erected... ..	6
Water closets repaired and ventilated	5
Privy vaults filled in and new earth closets erected	10
Old privies repaired and ventilated	3
New dust bins erected	5
Old dust bins repaired and covered in	7
Cases of overcrowding reported	4
Cases of overcrowding abated	4
Common lodging-houses inspected	1
Schools cleansed and disinfected	2
New water supply to houses	6
Wells cleansed and supply improved	5
Wells sunk for new water supply	6
Samples of water collected for analysis	13
Certificates given under Water Act	19
Dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops inspected ...	39
Slaughter-houses inspected	12
Buildings erected under Bye-laws:—	
Spilsby	13
Sutton	11
Burgh	1
Hogsthorpe	2
Wainfleet... ..	1
Winthorpe	1
Buildings erected in other parts of the district ...	9

During the year I analysed 13 samples of drinking water, and the results were that in 8 cases the water was classed as good, in 2 suspicious, and in 4 bad.

I have inspected 55 workshops and bakehouses under the “Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,” and with few exceptions have found them in a

satisfactory condition. Some have required slight structural alterations and these have been carried out.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In 1903 the Births were 465 and the Deaths 272. The Births were 16 less than last year and 17 below the average of the last 7 years. The Birth-rate was 23·08 per 1,000 population. The Death-rate was 13·50 which is 2·40 below the average of the last 7 years and is the lowest ever recorded not only since I have been Medical Officer of Health but also since the formation of Sanitary Authorities in 1874. The Birth-rate in England and Wales in 1903 was 28·4 per 1,000 population which is ·2 per 1,000 below the rate in 1902, and lower than that in any year on record. Compared with the average in 10 years, 1893—1902, the Birth-rate shows a decrease of 1·0 per 1,000. The Death-rate in 1903 was 15·4 per 1,000, and is the lowest on record; compared with the average rate in the 10 years 1893—1902, the Death-rate shows a decrease of 2·2 per 1,000.

The Death-rate of children under 1 year to 1,000 births was 81·7, and is 22·4 below the average of the last 7 years. The Death-rate in England and Wales for the same age was 132.

The number of deaths above 65 years is nearly half the total number.

The class of Zymotic Diseases contributed 10 to the total list, and these deaths were put down to Scarlet Fever 1, Whooping Cough 5, Diphtheria 2, Enteric Fever 1, and Diarrhœa 1, and they have already been alluded to. The Death-rate per 1,000 of the 7 principal Zymotic diseases amounted to .49. The Death-rate in England and Wales for the same Zymotic diseases was 1.46.

The Births were distributed according to quarters as follows :—

	LEGITIMATE.		ILLEGITIMATE.	
	MALES.	FEMALES.	MALES.	FEMALES.
Quarter ending March 31st	48	45	5	4
Quarter ending June 30th	54	57	2	3
Quarter ending Sept. 30th	56	49	6	4
Quarter ending Dec. 31st	68	58	2	4
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	226	209	15	15
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Legitimate ...	435	Total Males ...	241	
„ Illegitimate ...	30	„ Females ...	224	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	
Grand Total	465	Grand Total	465	
	<hr/>		<hr/>	

In filling up the tables relating to Vital Statistics issued by the Local Government Board and added as an appendix to this report, I have taken the liberty of altering the averages from 10 years to 7, as it is only for that number of years that the district has been as it is now with regard to area.

TABLE of DEATHS from the Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases during the last eight years.

	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	2	1	1	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	4	—	2	1
Diphtheria	1	3	1	1	10	2	2
Whooping Cough	1	9	—	4	1	2	5
Fever, Typhus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ Typhoid or Enteric	3	1	1	—	1	—	1
„ Other or doubtful	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	1	—	2	3	3	—	1
Total Deaths from the 7 principal Zymotic Diseases	7	14	5	13	15	6	10
Deaths from other causes	290	363	349	316	299	292	262
Total Deaths	297	377	354	329	314	298	272
Death-rate per 1000 Zymotic Diseases	·32	·66	·23	·61	·73	·29	·49
Death-rate per 1000 from all causes	13·88	15·13	16·97	15·91	15·22	14·66	13·50
Death-rate for England and Wales	17·1	17·4	18·3	18·3	16·9	16·3	15·4

In concluding this report, I beg to apologise for the lateness of its appearance, and at the same time to express to your Council my gratitude for the kindness and consideration shewn me during my recent severe and protracted illness and also for the satisfaction you have afforded me by appointing Dr. J. T. Burgess to act as deputy during the period of my incapacity.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS J. WALKER.

Spilsby,

March, 1904.

TABLE I.—For Whole District.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1893.	24,090	570	23.66	75	131.6	388	16.10	13	0	0	388	16.10
1894.	23,950	545	22.75	52	95.4	324	13.53	17	0	0	324	13.53
1895.	24,382	560	22.96	62	110.0	337	13.82	16	0	0	337	13.82
1896.	21,385	489	22.86	46	94.2	297	13.88	21	5	0	292	13.46
1897.	21,208	459	21.64	47	102.4	321	15.13	16	3	0	318	14.99
1898.	21,031	491	23.34	59	120.1	377	17.92	26	1	0	376	17.87
1899.	20,854	508	24.36	62	122.0	354	16.97	26	2	0	352	16.87
1900.	20,677	452	21.86	60	111.0	365	17.62	17	2	0	327	15.81
1901.	20,500	492	24.00	45	89.4	314	15.22	21	3	0	311	15.17
1902.	20,323	481	23.66	43	89.4	298	14.66	20	1	1	298	14.66
Averages for years 1896-1902.	20,854	482	23.10	52	104.1	332	15.90	21	2	0	325	15.55
1903.	20,146	465	23.08	38	81.7	272	13.50	13	1	1	272	13.50

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

TABLE II.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	SPILSBY.				ALFORD.				WAINFLEET.				BURGH.				STICKNEY.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1893 ..	6360	160	128	22	7032	153	106	24	4872	127	65	18	3578	71	61	9	2248	60	28	2
1894 ..	6310	142	87	15	7012	159	92	13	4843	109	73	14	3533	74	46	7	2252	61	26	3
1895 ..	6260	141	112	18	6992	150	92	14	4814	126	59	15	3488	78	38	8	2828	65	36	7
1896 ..	6212	134	128	15	4149	93	41	9	4752	123	52	12	3502	68	47	5	2770	59	29	5
1897 ..	6167	134	87	8	4121	103	67	11	4679	96	63	8	3538	68	69	9	2703	59	35	11
1898 ..	6127	126	129	19	4065	91	58	4	4648	113	88	23	3539	83	68	4	2652	78	34	9
1899 ..	6083	130	107	23	4015	90	59	6	4613	124	82	13	3541	91	67	10	2602	73	39	10
1900 ..	6039	123	112	12	3963	73	64	10	4582	114	64	11	3542	76	44	7	2551	68	45	13
1901 ..	5994	148	94	15	3919	80	45	3	4539	108	69	9	3543	88	63	8	2505	68	40	9
1902 ..	5949	113	112	17	3875	95	46	6	4496	114	55	10	3543	93	58	6	2460	66	27	4
Averages of Years 1896 to 1902.	6081	129	109	15	4015	89	54	7	4615	113	68	12	3535	81	59	7	2606	67	35	9
1903 ..	5904	137	93	11	3831	74	39	4	4453	115	67	11	3543	74	44	5	2415	65	29	7

TABLE III.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				
	At all Ages.	At Ages.—Years.						SPILSBY.	ALFORD.	WAINFLEET	BURGH.	STICKNEY.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.					
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	13	...	...	8	2	2	1	1	...	10	1	1
Membranous croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	8	...	...	...	1	3	4	...	4	1	1	2
Scarlet fever ...	59	...	13	32	10	4	...	8	13	6	30	2
Typhus fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever ...	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	2	...	1	...
Relapsing fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	84	...	13	40	17	9	5	10	19	17	33	5

TABLE IV. Classes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.						DEATHS IN LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).					DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS. UNION HOUSE.	
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	SPILSBY.	ALFORD.	WAINFLEET.	BURGH.		TICKNEY.
Small-pox...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Scarlet fever ...	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	3	...
Whooping-cough ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Diphtheria and membranous croup ...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Enteric ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other continued ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Enteritis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Puerperal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis ...	21	...	...	1	8	11	1	1	5	7	1	1	1
Other tubercular diseases ...	8	1	3	2	...	2	...	3	2	...	4	2	1
Cancer, malignant disease ...	22	...	...	...	...	10	12	6	4	5	2	2	1
Bronchitis ...	16	4	2	2	...	2	...	3	...	8	2	1	...
Pneumonia ...	12	3	...	...	...	...	7	2	1	7	1	1	...
Pleurisy ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ...	4	2	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	2	...	...
Alcoholism ...	4	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of liver ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Veneral diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth... Diseases and accidents of parturition ...	11	11	...	...	...	...	...	7	1	3	...	...	...
Heart diseases ...	3	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	...	1	...	1	...
Accidents ...	34	1	1	...	...	7	25	14	...	10	4	5	1
Suicides ...	6	...	...	2	...	1	3	4	1	1	...	...	...
All other causes...	115	18	4	3	2	26	62	29	19	19	26	13	9
All causes ...	272	46	10	12	14	66	124	80	39	67	44	29	13

APPENDIX.

RAINFALL FOR 1903.

Month.	No. of days on which '01 or more fell.	Amount in inches.	Average for last 28 years.
January	18	1·91	2·02
February	6	·41	2·02
March	17	3·38	1·74
April	17	2·07	1·71
May	16	3·05	2·01
June.....	5	1·41	1·83
July	14	2·89	2·70
August.....	17	5·30	2·78
September	21	4·35	2·61
October	29	6·51	3·32
November	24	2·59	2·77
December	16	1·13	2·62
Total	<hr/> 200 <hr/>	<hr/> 35·00 <hr/>	

This is the largest rainfall recorded since 1875 in this neighbourhood, and is 6·28 inches above the average of the last 28 years.



THIRTIETH
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
HEALTH OF STAFFORD.

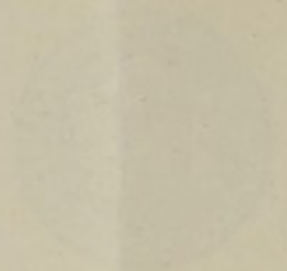
F. MILNES BLUMER,

B.A. Dunelm, M.B. & C.M. Edin.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

1903.

STAFFORD:
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THE STATE OF

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE STATE

FOR THE YEAR

1895

BY THE

COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

1895

MADEIRA

PRINTED BY THE STATE OF

Stafford,

21st March, 1904.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Public Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit herewith the Thirtieth Annual Report of the Health of the Borough of Stafford.

I am glad to be able to record a general Death-rate of only 14·20 per 1000, which is 2·29 lower than that of 1902. There has been a marked decrease in the prevalence of Zymotic Disease during the past year, and the Death-rate from Phthisis is also less.

The Statistics generally are more favourable than they have been of recent years.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. MILNES BLUMER.

Received
for deposit

To the Honorable and Members of the
Public Health Committee

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the report of the Board of Health, dated the 1st of January, 1881, in relation to the health of the city of New York, and to the various measures taken for the improvement of the same. The report is a valuable contribution to the knowledge of the health of the city, and the measures taken for its improvement. It is a valuable contribution to the knowledge of the health of the city, and the measures taken for its improvement. It is a valuable contribution to the knowledge of the health of the city, and the measures taken for its improvement.

W. W. W. W.

REPORT.

Area.—The Borough of Stafford contains an area of 1,084 acres.

Population.—The estimated population for the year 1903, including the Public Institutions, is 22,532. It is distributed as follows :—

Stafford Borough	...	...	20589
County Asylum	...	..	985
Workhouse	...	...	313
H.M. Prison	...	...	645
		—	1943
Total	...	...	22532*

This is an increase of 1,415 over the estimate of the previous year, and is due chiefly to the establishment of Messrs. Siemens' works in the town. The estimate, it should be noted, is for the middle of the year, and before the factory was in full work. The number of inhabited houses was 4,202, compared with 3,845 in 1901, the census year, an increase of 357. The population gives an average density of 20·78 per acre.

Births.—The number of Births registered during the year was 550, of which 280 were males and 270 were females. These returns are equal to an annual rate of 26·12 per 1,000, which is the lowest rate hitherto recorded for the Borough. Comparative statistics are given in Table I.

* The **Corrected Rates** are reckoned upon a population of 21,051, obtained by deducting 1,481 from the total, that being the proportion of those in the Institutions who do not belong to the Borough.

Deaths.—The total number of Deaths registered in the District during the year was 446, of which 233 were males and 213 were females. There were 151 deaths of persons who did not belong to the Borough previous to their admission into one or other of the public institutions, and there were four deaths of “residents” reported as having occurred beyond the District. The **corrected** number of deaths, therefore, is 299, which is equal to a rate of 14·20 per 1,000 per annum, compared with 16·49 and 17·88, the rates for 1902 and 1901. It is 1·83 below the average for the preceding 10 years, is the same as that recorded for 1897, and these two are the lowest since the year 1894. [*Vide* Table I.]

Infantile Mortality.—There were 72 deaths of children under a year old, which is equal to a rate of 130 per 1,000 registered births. This is 1·7 above the average for the preceding ten years. Whooping Cough caused 4 deaths, Croup (non-membranous) 1, Diarrhœa 2, Enteritis 2, Tubercular Disease 2, Diseases of the Respiratory Organs 15, Diseases of the Nervous System 10, Diseases of the Digestive System 2, Premature Birth 10, and other causes 24. As in the previous year, there were no infantile deaths from Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria.

Zymotic Diseases.—Only 15 deaths have been registered as due to the chief Infectious Fevers and Diarrhœa. Scarlet Fever caused 3, Whooping Cough 4, Diphtheria 2, and Diarrhœa 6. These returns are considerably below the average for the preceding ten years, and are equal to an annual rate of 0·71 per 1,000. The appended Table shows a comparison with the preceding decennium :—

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF CORRECTED DEATHS FROM EACH OF THE SEVEN CHIEF ZYMOTIC DISEASES
IN THE TEN YEARS 1893 TO 1902, AND IN THE YEAR 1903.

Diseases.	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	Average Annual Number of Deaths in the ten years 1893 to 1902.	Deaths in 1903.
Smallpox .....	...	2	10	3	...	17	...	19	...	...	...	...
Measles .....	...	...	1	4	...	1	...	...	9	3	5.4	...
Scarlet Fever	2	...	2	5	1	...	4	...	43	4	2.5	3
Diphtheria	1	...	5	2	7	...	1	18	2	16	8.7	2
Whooping Cough	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	2	1	3.7	4
Fever { Typhus .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric	2	1	...	...	1	2	2	...	2	2	1.2	...
{ Continued .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoeal Diseases	14	3	10	4	2	19	16	4	2	2	7.6	6
Total	28	6	28	18	11	40	23	51	58	28	29.1	15
Zymotic Death-rate per 1000 living	1.40	.31	1.4	.90	.54	1.96	1.11	2.44	2.97	1.42	1.44	0.71

Phthisis.—There were 29 deaths from Phthisis, which are equal to a rate of 1·37 per 1,000, compared with 1·68 in the previous year. It will be seen from the accompanying Table that these figures are also below the average for the past ten years.

Other forms of Tuberculosis caused 4 deaths, equal to a death-rate of 0·19 per 1,000.

Year	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1000.
1893	26	1·37
1894	24	1·25
1895	43	2·17
1896	29	1·45
1897	27	1·33
1898	33	1·62
1899	25	1·21
1900	28	1·34
1901	42	2·15
1902	33	1·68
Yearly Average 1893-02	31	1·55
1903	29	1·37

Developmental Diseases.—There were 47 deaths in this Class, 10 being ascribed to Premature Birth, 2 to Congenital Malformation, 1 to Atelectasis, and 34 to Old Age.

Local Diseases.—The 141 deaths in this Class were distributed thus—Diseases of the Nervous System 38, Circulatory System 37, Respiratory System 42, Digestive System 10, Urinary System 8, Other Systems 6.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.—Compared with recent years, there has been a welcome decrease in the amount of Zymotic Disease. The number of cases notified was 108, and they were returned as follows :—Scarlet Fever 53, Diphtheria 24, Enteric Fever 7, Erysipelas 22, and Puerperal Fever 2. The following Table shows a comparative statement of the cases notified during the previous ten years :—

	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	Average for ten years.	1903
Smallpox	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	·6	...
Scarlet Fever	170	13	70	101	110	33	80	86	162	93	91·8	53
Diphtheria	1	...	4	19	13	...	2	101	330	122	59·2	24
Simple Continued Fever	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	·2	...
Enteric Fever	37	9	8	8	15	22	11	25	11	5	15·1	7
Erysipelas.....	18	23	10	15	17	13	18	23	24	32	19·3	22
Puerperal Fever	5	1	3	2	1	3	2	1	2	2	2·2	2
TOTAL.....	236	46	95	148	156	71	113	236	529	254	188·4	108

Small-pox.—The District has fortunately escaped an outbreak of this disease, although a number of cases have appeared in other parts of the County. I heard from the Medical Officer of Health for Shropshire that a tramp suffering from Small-pox had stayed a night in May at the common Lodging-house in South Backwalls. I had the whole of the house and the bedding disinfected, and no fresh case appeared. In January a case occurred in H.M. Prison, in the person of a prisoner from Burslem. He was treated in the Prison.

Scarlet Fever.—There has been less Scarlet Fever than has been the case for some years. Only 53 cases occurred, compared with 93 in the previous year, and 91·8, the yearly average during ten years. They were notified in months, thus—6, 1, 4, 6, 11, 2, 4, 3, 6, 9, 0, 1. The number of houses infected was 37. Single cases occurred in 24 houses, double cases in 11, triple and quadruple in one each. The multiple cases occurred within a day or two of the original case in every instance except one, where the second case occurred a fortnight after the return home from Hospital of the first one. Three cases, complicated with Diphtheria, ended fatally. All of the cases, except four, two of them being young infants, were isolated in Hospital.

Diphtheria.—The epidemic which began in the Autumn of 1900, and continued so vehemently during 1901, practically came to an end in 1902. Last year there were only 24 cases notified, and their occurrence, which was fairly regular through the year, was in 21 houses. All the cases were treated at home, and two ended fatally. An examination of those 21 houses shewed the majority of them were in an apparently sanitary condition. Only in a few instances were defects found calling

for special action. One of the fatal cases was in a house situated near one of the polluted boundary brooks; the other was in probably the best drained house in the town. Except in three houses, where double cases occurred, no connection between the individual cases could be traced. Anti-toxin is supplied gratuitously both for curative and preventive purposes.

Enteric Fever has not been prevalent to any extent, only seven cases having been notified. In only one instance was any sanitary defect found on the premises where the disease appeared, and in one instance the disease was contracted away from home. There was no death from Enteric Fever.

Measles has been practically absent from the district during the year.

Pollution of the Water-courses.—This subject was dealt with in my Reports for 1898 and 1899. I inspected the Boundary Brooks towards the end of the year, and found they were all polluted to the same extent as was the case five years ago, and that nothing had been done by the Rural Sanitary Authority to abate the nuisance. That Authority has at last been threatened with legal proceedings, and I hope that my next year's Report may record that the necessary steps have been taken to ensure the removal of all sewage from these water-courses.

House Drainage.—The only condition which has given any trouble during the year has been the large number of stoppages that have taken place, chiefly where slop water-closets are in use. In 1901 there were 932 cases reported to the Inspector. Last year the number rose to 1,430. All sorts of articles have been found causing the obstruction, and serious damage is likely to be done to the drains before the block becomes manifest. I understand these objectionable closets are still being put into new houses, although the Health Committee discountenances their further use. I hope the architects and builders in the town will lend us their aid by discontinuing, as far as lies in their power, the use of the slop water-closet.

Unhealthy Dwellings.—Five houses were certified by me as unfit for habitation. They were situated in Brook Street, Allen's Court, Wright Street, and Gaol-gate Street. Three of them were closed, one has been repaired to the satisfaction of the Authority, while the condition of the fifth is at present a matter of dispute. Three cottages in North Backwalls, the property of the Corporation, have been demolished, as they could not, by means of repair, be put into a sanitary condition.

Vaccination Statistics.—The subjoined figures for 1902 apply to the whole of the Stafford Union :—

Births Registered	...	...	...	841
Vaccinated	...	...	...	685
Insusceptible	...	...	...	4
Certificates of Objection	...	...	...	33
Postponed	...	...	...	18
Died Unvaccinated	...	...	...	75
Gone: Address Unknown	...	...	...	26
				— 841

Proposal by the County Council to erect a Sanatorium for the Preventive Treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—A lengthy Report on this subject was presented to his Committee by the County Medical Officer last April. As reprints of it were furnished to all the members of the Public Health Committee of this Authority, and the purport of it is now so well known through the public Press, I need not here go into the subject in detail. A Conference of Delegates from the various Sanitary Authorities in the County was convened to meet the County Council on the 10th November, when the following resolution was agreed to :—

“That this meeting is of opinion that it is desirable to provide a Sanatorium for cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the County, and, without pledging themselves to support any specific proposals, the Representatives of Local Authorities present would gladly welcome and give most favourable consideration to any scheme having that object in view, which the County Council may submit for the approval of the Local Authorities, framed on the lines set forth in the Report of the County Medical Officer of Health, dated 31st March, 1903.”

The resolution reflects the opinion now almost universally held by the medical profession, that residence in a well-equipped and properly conducted Sanatorium

offers the best means, at present known, for arresting and curing Pulmonary Tuberculosis in its early stage. It has, moreover, been clearly demonstrated in recent years that climate *per se* is of little, if any, importance as a curative agent in the treatment of this disease. Results equally good have been obtained in Sanatoria, whether situated in cold climates or warm, damp or dry; the one essential being that the air shall be fresh, and the general surroundings healthy.

It is also held not to be wise to take consumptives far away from their own locality for treatment. They should be treated in the climate in which they have afterwards to reside and earn their living. If those views are sound—and they appear to be, for they are the outcome of the experience and observation of the highest authorities on the subject—it follows that the consumptives of Staffordshire requiring Sanatorium treatment should seek it in their own County, rather than in one in the south of England. How this Sanatorium is to be

provided is now under the consideration of the County Council, and until a detailed scheme is furnished by them, criticism must needs be withheld. The principle has been agreed to generally. When the scheme is laid before us I hope it will be one which the Authorities throughout the County will be able to approve for the treatment of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the poorer classes.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.—The provisions of this Act were detailed in my Report of last year. The powers of the Local Authority, and the duties of the Medical Officer of Health were pointed out, so that I need not again make any lengthened statement of the important provisions of the Act. It consolidates, with amendments, all previous Factory and Workshop Acts.

The following statistics give a summary of the work done :—

(a) CLASSIFICATION AND INSPECTION.

Total Number of Work-	{	Domestic Workshops	87
shops in the District,		Retail Bakehouses	... 37
as per Register, 283.		Other Workshops	... 159

Number of Visits of Inspection made during 1903 by Sanitary Inspector, 317.

The chief Workshop Industries in the District are Bootmaking and Repairing, Tailoring, Dress-making, and Millinery.

(b) SANITATION. (WORKSHOPS).

Cleanliness.—General condition	...	...	Good
„ Number of Notices served under Public Health Acts	...	...	4
„ Number of Notices to Cleanse, under Section 2	...	...	2
„ Legal Proceedings	...	...	0
Air Space.—General Condition...	...	...	Good
„ Number of Notices to abate Over-crowding	...	...	2
„ Legal Proceedings	...	...	0
Ventilation.—General Condition	...	...	Fair
„ Number of Notices served under Public Health Act	...	...	1

(c) ADDITIONAL SANITATION FOR “RETAIL BAKEHOUSES.”

Number in the District, 37.

Their General Sanitary condition is good. One in Mill Street has been closed. It was dark, and so constructed that it was practically impossible to ventilate it satisfactorily. The building is an old one, and the general condition of the Bakehouse was unhealthy.

No other proceedings were taken during the year as to the other Bakehouses.

(d) SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

Date of adoption of Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890—1891.

Number of Defects discovered thereunder in Factories and Workshops during 1903 ... 2

Viz.: Two Closets insufficient or unsuitable.

Number of Notices issued under the Section during the year 7

(e) HOME WORK.

Number of Lists of Outworkers received during the year was 48, representing 24 Employers and 111 Outworkers. They were all engaged in the making of wearing apparel. None of the premises were found unwholesome.

(f) GENERAL.

Number and Nature of Sanitary Defects reported to the Authority by H.M. Inspector during 1903—
one defective Closet.

Action taken in consequence ; notice given and complied with.

Sanitary Inspection.—A Table is appended giving the statistics of work done during the year in the Nuisance Inspector's Department. The Common Lodging-houses, Dairies and Milkshops, Cowsheds, Bakehouses, and Slaughter-houses are reported to be in a satisfactory condition. The probable infection of one of the Lodging-houses by a tramp passing through suffering from Small-pox, and the means taken to disinfect it, have been referred to earlier in this Report. Six cases of Overcrowding have been dealt with, and action was successfully taken to compel the abatement of a Smoke Nuisance at the Steam Laundry.

The disinfection of Bedding and Clothing has been carried out as usual.

The disinfection of Houses is now for the most part carried out by using the Mackenzie Spray. It has been found a much more rapid and effectual method than that of fumigation.

Tables of Statistics, drawn up in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board, are appended.

Stafford,

F. MILNES BLUMER.

21st March, 1904.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD RETURN.

TABLE I.

STAFFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions. in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of residents registered beyond District.	Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		ONE YEAR OF AGE.		AT ALL AGES.		Number	Rate*				Number	Rate •
		Number	Rate.*	Number	Rate*							
1	2	3	4	5	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1893	20411	576	30.36	96	166	483	23.66	195	151	..	332	17.50
1894	20473	643	33.78	74	115	401	19.58	198	163	..	238	12.50
1895	20535	600	31.42	89	148	498	24.25	217	165	..	333	17.43
1896	20597	591	30.85	60	101	410	19.90	178	135	..	275	14.35
1897	20659	542	28.20	76	140	451	21.83	228	178	..	273	14.20
1898	20721	569	29.51	77	135	522	25.19	253	198	..	324	16.80
1899	20783	566	29.26	66	116	488	23.48	257	211	..	277	14.32
1900	20847	541	27.87	80	147	519	24.89	227	159	6	366	18.85
1901	20911	525	26.90	53	100	481	23.00	194	152	20	349	17.88
1902	21117	556	28.39	64	115	482	22.82	216	161	2	323	16.49
Averages for years 1893-1902	20705.4	570.9	29.65	73.5	128.3	473.5	22.86	216.3	167.3		309	16.03
1903	22532	550	26.12	72	130	446	19.79	206	151	4	299	14.20

* Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population. Those in columns 4 and 13 are reckoned not upon the population as stated in column 2, but upon one 'corrected' by deducting the Non-Residents in the Institutions.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD RETURN

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the
Year 1903.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT						NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		under 1.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria...	24	1	5	12	3	3	...
Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	22	Ages	not	known	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	53	1	25	21	3	3	49
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	7	...	...	1	2	4	...
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	2	...	...	...	...	2	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	108	2	30	34	8	12	49

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD RETURN.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District.
	All Ages	under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards	
Smallpox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
Croup	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Continued ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	6	2	2	...	...	...	2	...
Enteritis	3	2	...	1	...	...	...	3
Puerperal Fever	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Phthisis	29	...	2	2	6	18	1	33
Other Tubercular Diseases	4	2	1	...	...	1	...	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	11	...	...	...	...	6	5	6
Bronchitis	23	9	1	...	...	5	8	16
Pneumonia	17	6	3	1	...	4	3	6
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory } Organs	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
Alcoholism } Cirrhosis of Liver	4	...	...	...	...	4	...	2
Venereal Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diseases & Accidents of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	37	...	...	2	1	20	14	18
Accidents	7	1	...	1	1	2	2	8
Suicides	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	2
Diseases of Nervous System	38	10	3	2	3	9	11	37
„ Digestive System	10	2	1	1	2	2	2	8
„ Urinary System	8	...	...	1	1	5	1	6
All other Causes	74	23	1	1	...	13	36	50
All Causes	299	72	19	13	14	95	86	206

TABLE V.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE NUISANCE
INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1903 IN THE
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF STAFFORD.

	Inspections and Observa- tions made.	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling- houses { Structural Defects	51	.. ..	.. ..
and Schools { Overcrowding	6	.. ..	.. ..
{ Unfit for Habitation	5	.. ..	.. ..
Lodging-houses	60	.. ..	.. ..
Dairies and Milkshops	24	.. ..	.. ..
Cowsheds	30	.. ..	.. ..
Bakehouses	70	.. ..	.. ..
Slaughter-houses	200	.. ..	.. ..
Stoppage in Surface Drains	25	.. ..	.. ..
Stables not Properly Connected to Sewer	4	.. ..	.. ..
Water Closets, Defects	78	.. ..	.. ..
House- { Defective Traps	5	.. ..	.. ..
Drainage. { Number of Stoppages	1430	.. ..	.. ..
{ Other Faults — Defective }	76	.. ..	.. ..
{ Spouting }			
Animals improperly kept	7	.. ..	.. ..
Smoke Nuisances	20	.. ..	.. ..
Inspections made	1178	.. ..	.. ..
Other Nuisances	50
Totals	3319	341	320

Seizures of Unwholesome Food	Nos. 1
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Precautions against Infectious Diseases.

Lots of Infected Bedding Disinfected	132
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease	77
Schools ditto ditto	1