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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Bealth

OF THE

ST. ALBANS

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOR THE YEAR 1900,

BY

HENRY E. MAY,

M.A., M.B., B.C., CANTAB.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Етс., Етс.

ST. ALBANS:

PRINTED BY H. A. RICHARDSON, 5, HIGH STREET.



To the Chairman and Members of the St. Albans Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the past year, as Medical Officer of Health for the District over which you preside.

Owing to the illness of my predecessor, Dr. Dobbin, you unfortunately did not receive any report for the year 1899, I have therefore included the birth and death statistics for that year in my present report.

As the Census will be taken on April 1st in this year, all calculations as to estimated population, birth rates, death rates, etc., will have to be accepted as more or less provisional, and subject to revision on the exact population being ascertained.

I.—AREA AND POPULATION.

The total area of the District comprises 37,981 acres, having an estimated population of 12,122 persons, distributed amongst seven parishes or localities, as indicated in the following tables.

The average number of persons per acre is ·3.

The number of inhabited houses in the District is 2,724, which, with a population of 12,122, gives the average number of persons per house as 4.5.

The natural increase during the year has been 87 births over deaths, as shown in the following table:—

Excess of Births over Deaths.

				cess of Births
District.	Birth	is in 1900.	Deaths in 1900.	in 1900.
Harpenden Rural		4	3	1
Redbourne		46	39	7
St. Michaels Rura	d	11	5	6
St. Peter's Rural		88	41	47
St. Stephens		23	29	-6
Sandridge Rural		25	12	13
Wheathampstead		52	43	9
		_		
Total		259	172	87

II.—VITAL STATISTICS.

The total number of Births registered during the year was 259, composed of 126 males and 133 females. This gives a birth rate of 21.3 per 1000 population.

In England and Wales the birth rate for 1900 was 28.9 per 1000 of estimated population.

The number of Deaths registered in the District during the year was 172. This gives a death rate of 14·1 per 1000 population.

Eight non-residents were registered as having died in the District. Twenty-one residents were registered as having died beyond the District. Deducting therefore the 8 non-resident, and adding the 21 residents, we get the total number of deaths as 185, 9 of which took place at Hill End Asylum. This gives a death rate of 15.2 per 1000 population.

The death rate in England and Wales in 1900 was 18.3 per 1000 population.

The number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age was 34, which shows a rate of 131.27 per 1000 births.

The average number of deaths under 1 year of age per 1000 births in England and Wales in 1900 was 154.

Localities.	Area in Acres.	Population esti- mated for 1900			Average No. of Persons per House,		F.	Rate per 1000 Births.	Deaths.	Rate per 1000 Pop.
Harpenden Rural	3453	390	-11	76	5.13	3	1	10.25	3	.77
Redbourne	4260	2035	.48	503	4.04	24	22	22.6	39	19.11
St. Michaels Rural.	6079	950	·15	191	4.97	6	5	11.57	5	5.26
St. Peters Rural	5976	2954	.5	640	4.61	42	46	29.79	41	13.87
St. Stephens	7438	2138	-29	446	4.79	16	17	15.43	29	13.56
Sandridge Rural	5635	1210	-21	298	4.06	12	13	20.66	12	9.91
Wheathampstead	5140	2445	-47	570	4.29	25	27	21.26	43	17.58
						128	131			
	37981	12122	-32	2724	4.45	2	59	21.36	172	14.1

STATISTICS FOR 1899.

The total number of Births during the year 1899 was 306, which gave a birth rate of 25.4 per 1000 population.

The total number of Deaths registered during the year 1899 was 111, which gave a death rate of 9.22 per 1000 population. Twenty-five of these deaths were of infants under 1 year of age.

III.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 26 cases of Infectious Disease have been notified to me during the year.

The appended table shews the number of cases of each particular disease notified in the whole District, together

with the ages at which it occurred, also the total number notified in each locality, and the number of cases removed to the Sisters' Hospital from each locality.

The number of houses infected were 23, distributed as follows:—

Harpenden Rural	 	 0
Redbourn	 	 2
St. Michaels	 	 1
St. Peter's	 	 11
St. Stephens	 	 3
Sandridge	 	 6
Wheathampstead	 	 0

No cases of Small-pox occurred during the year.

There were 10 cases of Scarlet Fever, 7 of which were removed to the Sisters' Hospital.

The districts of St. Stephens and Sandridge Rural supplied 9 of these cases, the remaining one coming from St. Peter's. All but one of these cases occurred between the ages of 5 and 15 years, which one was under 5 years of age.

There were 5 cases of Diphtheria, 3 of Typhoid, 7 of Erysipelas, and 1 of Puerperal Fever.

During August, about 8 cases of Dysentry occurred in 2 groups of 3 houses each, situated in Sandpit Lane.

The wells supplying these houses were examined, and were found in a filthy condition. The drainage and general condition of the houses was also unsatisfactory, one group of houses particularly being in a very filthy and dilapidated condition.

Two of these houses have been shut up as unfit for human habitation. A fresh water supply from the St. Albans Water Company has been laid on, and other defects have been attended to.

Infectious Diseases during 1900. Showing Disease; also place and month of incidence.

SCARLET FEVER.

Parishes.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Harpenden Rural Redbourne St. Michaels Rural St. Peters Rural St. Stephens Sandridge Rural Wheathampstead						 1 1 		 1 1	 1	 2 1		2	0 0 0 1 4 5 0
Totals	 0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	3	0	2	10

DIPHTHERIA.

Parishes.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Harpenden Rural													0
Redbourne													0
St. Michaels Rural													0
St. Peters Rural			1						1			1	3
St. Stephens													0
Sandridge Rural								***	1	1			2
Wheathampstead													0
Totals	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	5

TYPHOID FEVER.

Parishes.		January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Harpenden Rural Redbourne St. Michaels Rural St. Peters Rural St. Stephens Sandridge Rural Wheathampstead				i i 		ï ï 					::	i i 		0 0 1 2 0 0
Totals		0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3

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	-		11/21	٦.

Parishes.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Harpenden Rural Redbourne St. Michaels Rural St. Peters Rural St. Stephens Sandridge Rural Wheathampstead	 2 		 1 			 1 	 1 			 1 1			0 2 0 4 0 1
Totals	 2	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	-0	2	0	0	7

Passing on to a detailed statement as to each locality, I have to report as follows:--

HARPENDEN RURAL.

Area in acres, 3453. Population, 390. Average number of persons per acre, 11. Number of inhabited houses, 76. Average number of persons per house, 5:13. Births, m. 3, f. 1, total 4. Deaths, 3; giving rate per 1000 of 10:25 for the former, and 77 for the latter. Deaths under 1 year of age, 1.

No case of Infectious Disease was notified during the year. The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 1.

Nothing occurred during the year in this locality which required my intervention.

REDBOURNE.

Area in acres, 4260. Population, 2035. Average number of persons per acre, 48. Number of inhabited houses, 503. Average number of persons per house, 4.04. Births, m. 24, f. 22, total 46. Deaths, 39; giving rate per 1000 of 22.6 for the former, and 19.11 for the latter. Deaths under 1 year of age, 11.

Two cases of Infectious Disease were notified, both of which were Erysipelas. Two houses were infected.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 2.

The Water supply in this village is very unsatisfactory. The Inspector and I made a house to house inspection of those parts of Redbourne known as Church End, West Common, Mount Pleasant, and North Common, examining each well separately, and reporting thereon to this Council.

The wells, almost without exception, are shallow wells, and built of open brickwork. The surroundings are in most cases bad, and in many cases very bad. The absence of drainage of these parts renders the wells particularly liable to pollution. The matter is receiving the attention of this Council.

The old privy system, which was in vogue until 1899, has been now almost entirely converted into the pan system, which is attended to by a scavenger employed by this Council.

ST. MICHAELS RURAL.

Area in acres, 6079. Population, 950. Average number of persons per acre, 15. Number of inhabited houses, 191. Average number of persons per house, 4.97. Births, m. 6, f. 5, total 11. Deaths, 5; giving rate per 1000 of 11.57 for the former, and 5.26 for the latter. Deaths under 1 year of age, 1.

One case of Infectious Disease was notified, that case being Typhoid Fever. The infection in this case was almost certainly imported. One house was infected.

There are no dairies or cowsheds registered in this district.

ST. PETER'S RURAL.

Area in acres, 5976. Population, 2954. Average number of persons per acre, 5. Number of inhabited houses, 640.

Average number of persons per house, 4.61. Births, m. 42, f. 46, total 88. Deaths, 41; giving rate per 1000 of 29.79 for the former, and 13.87 for the latter. Deaths under 1 year of age 10.

Eleven cases of Infectious Diseases were notified as follows, 3 Diphtheria, 4 Erysipelas, 1 Scarlet Fever, 2 Typhoid Fever, and 1 Puerperal Fever. Eleven houses were infected.

During August 5 cases of Dysentry occurred in a group of 3 houses. Two of these houses were found to be in filthy and dilapidated condition, and have since been closed as unfit for human habitation.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 5.

The removal of house refuse is contracted for in the Camp District of this parish.

ST. STEPHENS.

Area in acres, 7438. Population, 2138. Average number of persons per acre, ·29. Number of inhabited houses, 446. Average number of persons per house, 4·79. Births, m. 16, f. 17, total 33. Deaths, 29; giving rate per 1000 of 15·43 for the former, and 13·56 for the latter. Deaths under 1 year of age, 0.

Four cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, all of which were Scarlet Fever, and all of which were removed to the Sisters' Hospital. Three houses were infected.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 5.

During the snmmer there were many complaints from the inhabitants of Park Street, of the stench arising from the St. Albans Sewage Farm. The farm was visited by the Inspector and myself on more than one occasion, and always found in a very unsatisfactory condition.

The system at the farm is shortly to be altered by the St. Albans City Council, in order to remove the nuisance. The

plans of the proposed new system have already been submitted to the Local Government Board.

The water supply at Colney Street is very deficient. Polluted wells have been closed and no fresh supply is at present obtainable. The water supply at Park Street is also unsatisfactory, the wells being shallow wells and liable to pollution.

SANDRIDGE RURAL.

Area in acres, 5635. Population, 1210. Average number of persons per acre, 21. Number of inhabited houses, 298. Average number of persons per house 4.06. Births, m. 12, f. 13, total 25. Deaths, 12; giving rate per 1000 of 20.66 for the former, and 9.91 for the latter. Deaths under 1 year of age, 2.

Eight cases of Infectious Disease were notified, as follows: 2 Diphtheria, 1 Erysipelas, 5 Scarlet Fever, 3 of which were removed to the Sisters' Hospital. Six houses were infected.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 1.

During August several cases of Dysentry occurred in a group of 3 houses, the drainage and water supply of which were found unsatisfactory. A fresh water supply has now been obtained from the St. Albans Water Company, and other defects have been attended to.

The drainage at Bernard's Heath School being found unsatisfactory, has been completely re-constructed, and is now in a satisfactory condition.

The removal of the contents of the pan closets at Bernard's Heath is contracted for.

WHEATHAMPSTEAD.

Area in acres, 5140. Population, 2445. Average number of persons per acre, '47. Number of inhabited houses, 570. Average number of persons per house, 4.29. Births, m. 25,

f. 27, total, 52. Deaths, 43; giving rate per 1000 of 21.26 for the former, and 17.58 for the latter. Deaths under 1 year of age, 9.

No case of Infectious Disease was notified.

The number of dairies and cowsheds registered is 3.

Nothing occurred in this locality which required my intervention.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

The Sisters' Hospital, which we share with the Urban Authorities of St. Albans and Harpenden, has supplied ample accommodation for all cases of Scarlet Fever, but further accommodation is needed for Small-pox, Diphtheria, and Typhoid Fever.

Disinfection of bedding, etc., from infected houses could be more efficiently performed if the District were provided with a disinfector.

These matters are receiving the attention of the Council.

It is now well known and universally accepted that Phthisis is an infectious disease. With a view to the protection of the public health, knowledge of the existence of a case of Phthisis would be of great assistance to the Medical Officer of Health, enabling him to give information to the sick, and those in attendance, as to the proper precautions to be taken to prevent its spread.

Compulsory notification under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889, is not practicable; the Act was never intended to apply to a disease of so long duration as Phthisis usually is. But I would suggest that if Sanitary Authorities were to pay a fee of 2s. 6d. for each case voluntarily notified, the difficulty would be fairly met.

It would be of further assistance if arrangements were made with the Registrars to notify at once to the Medical Officer of Health all deaths due to Phthisis or Pulmonary Tuberculosis, so that the room, and if necessary the house could be disinfected.

As regards the communicability of Phthisis by Tuberculous milk, this too is beyond dispute. Undoubtedly the consumption of milk from Tuberculous cows causes a great proportion of the cases of Tuberculosis, especially in infancy.

I would suggest that this Council includes Tuberculosis amongst the Diseases Scheduled in the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1878, and inasmuch as Tuberculosis of the udder is often indistinguishable from other udder diseases, I would suggest that all diseases of the udder should be made notifiable.

In order to make there regulations effective, it would be necessary to appoint a Veterinary Surgeon to this Council.

Overcrowding exists in different parts of the District, but until further accommodation is available all attempts to prevent the overcrowding is futile. Even the closing of houses unfit for habitation may have a tendency to aggravate the evil.

IV.—GENERAL SANITATION.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

The number of cowsheds on register in the year 1900, is 17, distributed as follows:—

Harpenden Rural	 	 1
Redbourne	 	 2
St. Michaels	 	 0
St. Peter's	 	 5
St. Stephens	 	 5
Sandridge	 	 1
Wheathampstead	 	 3
		17

Amended regulations with regard to cleansing and draining etc., of dairies and cowsheds, under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order of 1885-1886, is needed in this District.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Slaughter houses in this district are not registered or licensed. This should be attended to in accordance with the powers recently received under Secs. 169 and 170, Public Health Act, 1875.

Cowsheds, slaughter houses, bakehouses, and schools in the District have been visited, and defects where necessary made good.

Appended is the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

My thanks are due to Mr. Freeman for the valuable assistance he has always afforded me, and to the other Officers of this Council with whom my work has brought me into contact.

In conclusion, I beg also to acknowledge with thanks, the courtesy and kind help which I have received from this Council.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
HENRY E. MAY,
M.A., M.B., B.C. Cantab,
Medical Officer of Health.

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	Deaths of Nor registered in	10	1011000000 8
	DEATHS PUBLIC INSTI	6	
AT ALL TOTAL.	RATE.*	8	12 23 15 5 14 8 13 6 9 7 12 6 11 5 11 5 9 22 9 22 14 1
DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.	Number.	7	159 218 211 194 140 187 170 182 139 111 171
IS UNDER YEAR AGE.	Rate per I,000 Births registered.	ďο	97.1 148.5 80.1 109.09 51 115.2 90.3 81.7 97.62
DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.	Number.	5	14 72 84 84 85 85 85 85 85 85 85 85 85 85 85 85 85
THS.	Rate.*	4	28.6 29.06 26.8 28.1 27.07 28.3 25.4 25.4 25.4 25.4 25.4
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imated to	Population est middle of eac	63	13000 14010 14180 14520 14520 14742 14991 15704 11840 12035 13937
	YEAR.	1	1890 1891 1892 1893 1894 1895 1896 1896 1897 1898 1899 1890—1899

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Note.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of illness, and dying there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of illness, and have died elsewhere.

10356 At Census of 1891, 2484 Exclusive of Harpenden Urban. Average number of persons per house Total population at all ages Number of inhabited houses 37981 (Exclusive of Harpenden Urban). (exclusive of area covered by water). Area of District in acres)

N.B.-In 1898 Harpenden Urban having an area in acres of 3616 and with a population of about 4000 became a separate district.

TABLE II.

The state of the	AB	LE II			
		Population estimated at middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year
		a.	b.	c.	d.
1899.			1730		
Harpenden Rural		385	8	1	1
Redbourne		2030	53	23	6
St. Michaels Rural		945	19	9	3 5 1
St. Peters Rural		2930	77	25	5
St. Stephens		2120	45	12	1
Sandridge Rural		1195	34	12	4 5
Wheathampstead		2430	70	29	5
1900.	179				
Harpenden Rural		390	4	3	1
Redbourne		2035	46	39	11
St. Michaels Rural		950	11	5	1
St. Peters Rural		2954	88	41	10
St. Stephens	-	2138	23	29	0
Sandridge Rural		1210	25	12	2
Wheathampstead		2445	52	43	9
				1	1 100

TABLE III.—Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1900.

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No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality		St. Peters Rural.	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	0
Case		St. Michals Rural.	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	0
o. of spital	-	Redbourne	:	:	:	:	::	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	0
Hos		Harpenden Rural.	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	0
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ases Lo	sį	St. Michael Rural.	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	7	:	:	:	:	1
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00		St. Stephens.	11171	- :- :	- : : 6		:		29
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es o	Deaths in whole D	I and under 5	::2	- : : :	:::0	:::	: ! - ! 60 63	:::::::	18
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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ST. ALBANS.

Summary of the Reports of the Inspector of Nuisances, for the Year ending December 31st, 1900.

						Matt	ers atte	ended t	o and N	uisano	es abat	ed und	er Pub	lic Hea	lth Act	, 1875.	2	lils.	2		ired	19	un	for	
Parish.	No. of inspections and re-inspections.	Complaints received.	Preliminary notices.	Statutory notices.	Defective drains.	Defective W.C.'s, E.C.'s, privies and cesspools.	Drainage provided to	W.C.'s or E.C.'s provided in lieu of old Privies.	Flushing Cisterns provided to W.C's.	Offensive accumulations.	Nuisances from keeping Animals.	Offensive Pools, Ditches, etc.	Ashbins provided.	Houses cleansed and repaired.	Houses disinfected	Overcrowding.	Total.	Samples of water from we	Proceedings taken to clos polluted wells.	No. of wells closed.	No. of wells cleansed & repa	Notices to make premises for human habitation.	Houses made fit for human	Houses closed as unfit for human habitation.	Remarks.
Harpenden Rural	. 17		14	1	1	2		12		1			4	1			21				3	2	6		NIL.
Redbourn	. *515	22	81	29	20	17	7	225		13	8	5	14	7	2	1	319	1			9	2	5	7	Scavenger employed to give whole time to cleansing the Village and removal of refuse. The small number of defec- tive drains dealt with by no means shows that the drainage of this Village is satisfactory. Pan system being adopted.
St. Michaels Rura	1 8		2		1	1	2							3	1		8			***	***	***		***	NIL.
St. Peters Rural	. 302	12	39	14	21	21	14	18	26	7	5	10	27	19	11	1	180	2			8	5	16	8	Removal of House Refuse contracted for in the Camp District. Proceedings taken in two cases under Sec. 95, Public Health Act 1875, and orders made.
St. Stephens	. 99	6	12	4	6	6	18	23		3	2	5	1	12	4	1	81	1	3	2	4	3	3	2	NIL.
Sandridge Rural	. 61	2	14	3	11	9	***	5		4	2	1	3	17	6	1	59	4	1		1	3	20		Removal of contents of Pan Closets contracted for in the Bernards Heath District, and Drainage of Bernards Heath School entirely re-constructed.
Wheathampstead	. 67	7	7	3	4	4	1	12		3		3		6			33				1		***		Sewage Farm attended to by contract, and Drainage of Boys' National School entirely re-constructed and connected to Public Sewer.
Totals	1069	49	169	54	64	60	42	295	26	31	17	24	49	65	24	4	701	8	4	01	26	15	50	17	
	* Number does not include the re-inspections made in connection with the adoption of pan closets. (Signal), L. V. FREEMAN, Assoc. San. Inst., Inspector of Nuisances.																								





