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Contributors

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1900.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

ST. AUSTELL

ANNUAL . .

. . REPORTS

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

SANITARY INSPECTOR,


AND

SURVEYOR.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

for 1900.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban
District Council of St. Austell.

ST. AUSTELL,

January, 1901.

GENTLEMEN,

I am instructed by the Local Government Board to make a Report of the Health and Sanitary Condition of your District during the past twelve months, and also what action has been taken by you in carrying out the Sanitary requirements as laid down by the Public Health Acts. The Tables submitted are somewhat different from previous ones, there being four on this occasion, whilst formerly there were only two; although causing trouble and extra work it will, I have no doubt, facilitate the statistical information required, and will also be a reference and instructive in years to come.

Notable Diseases—only ten were reported, and I am pleased to say there was no fatality from them—eight were cases of Scarlet Fever, one of Erysipelas, and one of Typhoid Fever. The Scarlet Fever was imported into the District in January, 1900, by a servant girl coming home from an infected house in the Rural District—three others of her family contracted the disease, but, owing to the strict supervision and constant visits from your Inspector, the disease did not further spread. At East Hill, in March, another case occurred but could not trace the source; the case was very mild. The former cases occurred at South Street but could not find that there was any communication between the two families. ~~In~~

August another case occurred at Greenwoods Row, the father was a licensed hawker, and no doubt brought the disease to his child, who had it very severely—here we paid several visits and had considerable trouble owing to the fact that their landlord wanted to turn them out, but there was no Isolation Hospital to take them to. We had to obtain the assistance of your Clerk, who, with great promptitude, wrote the landlord and arranged matters with him. In September and October two more cases occurred at East Hill. Could not trace any connection between these and the former ones; they were mild, and since, no further cases have been notified. The foregoing will point to you the necessity of an Isolation Hospital, and also that although Scarlet Fever is a highly Infectious disease it can be stopped by close supervision and isolation. It is the mild cases that are the more liable to convey the disease, as in most instances the parents make light of it.

One case of Typhoid Fever occurred at Pond-dhu Lane.—The origin of this disease has been doubtful. The Sanitary Arrangements about the house were satisfactory, the most probable cause that suggested itself was that the little boy was out of health at the time and drank some impure water—this did not further spread: the case was severe, but the parents were intelligent people and carried out the directions given them.

The Erysipelas occurred in an old woman, at Moorland Road, she had had it previously, but could find nothing unsanitary about the house.

The District, as you are aware, is situated on the slope of a Hill, the subsoil is granite and elvin, consequently the ground drains itself into the river which passes down the valley. It follows that the district situation is healthy provided nothing is done to interfere with the free inlet of air to the front and back of the dwelling houses. The water supply is good and sufficient for all domestic purposes—in dry weather it requires care, as it is used for other purposes. The water is piped from the

spring head to the Reservoir, the supply being obtained from Granite. The only open spaces are two small tanks, intended for filtering beds, which I do not consider necessary, and I have suggested the covering of these tanks for storage purposes several times.

The Drainage has been improved and extended in several places, notably—Palace Road, where three hundred feet of six-inch piped drain has been laid, and the old cesspit at the Railway done away with. At Market Hill about two hundred feet of piped drain was laid and the old stone one obliterated. At Trenance the old cesspit has been done away with and about fifteen hundred feet of a new six-inch piped drain has been laid. Several new Closets have been erected, and, with very few exceptions, the privies and earth closets done away with, they are chiefly Water-closets, a few being on the hopper system. The scavenging is done by the employès of the Council. As to the house accommodation in the district—in some parts it is limited owing to the smallness of the district, and this, I presume, is one of the reasons why the Housing of the Working Classes Act has not been put into force. The Council have at present in contemplation the enlarging of the District, which, I hope, will be soon accomplished.

House-to-house visitation has been made systematically. Fourteen houses were condemned and since have been demolished. Twenty-one houses have been erected. I have been informed that there is no necessity of Certification of occupation, this is a very important matter, and the Bye-laws ought to be strictly enforced as I find the owners can make the front and back to the building which is most convenient. Two cases of overcrowding have been reported to the Council and the nuisance has been abated on giving notice.

I am also pleased to find that Hotel Road has been improved and a further improvement is about to take place.—The pit and stables used by Mr. Box are to be done away with,;

the former has been frequently complained about, and no doubt that noxious matter besides stable dung was deposited there.

There is no Registered Lodging House in the District at present, although tramps come here as usual, and they evade the law by taking out a Coffee License.

There is only one Slaughter House in the District which is Registered, it is closely watched and if any nuisance occurs there, it will be reported to the Authority.

The Dairies and Cowsheds have had a great deal of attention from the Council during the past year, and although notices have been served on most of them a little has been done, but they do not come anywhere near the requirements of the Bye-laws.

The District has been much improved during the past year, the streets have been widened, footpaths improved, and new ones laid. There are still some things which the Council's attention will be called to during the present year.— I refer more especially to the enlarging of the District, the Building of an Isolation Hospital, the Compulsory Purchasing of the Market House, the Housing of the Working Class, and also the Improving of the Present Dwelling Houses. In some of the principle streets the houses have no backlet, no air space behind, and in some instances stables at the back. I will also call your attention again to the smoke nuisance caused by the Electric Light, as the nuisance has not been abated.

You will see by the foregoing the vast amount of work accomplished in a small district like yours.—What has been done has been useful work. When one considers the amount of money spent on Water, Drainage, and General Improvements, I think it will compare favourably with any other town of its size in the County.

Appended you will find the Tables issued by the Local Government Board. Table 1, you will see that the average Birth Rate for ten years is 84—rate 24.1 per 1,000. Death Rate average in the same period was 74—rate 21.2 per 1,000, whilst the deaths under one year average 12—rate 3.4, whilst for the last year the Birth Rate has been 68—rate 19.5 per 1,000. Death Rate 77—rate 22.1 per 1,000: under one year 13—rate 3.7. The Births have been less, the Death Rate more, and also the Deaths under one year.

In this Table I have ^{not} filled in the part that refers to people from other places dying in this District, and also people leaving this District and dying in another; the information is not easily obtained, nor do I see how it could be got at correctly, but calculate that one balances the other.

Taking Table No. 2 you have your District separate from the Workhouse, you will now see the real Death Rate of your District. The Birth Rate in the District average for ten years 72, giving rate of 21.4. Death Rate 52 equals 15.4 per 1,000: under one year rate 2.9, whilst for 1900 the Birth Rate was 62—rate 18.4: Death Rate was 59—rate 17.5 per 1,000, and children under one year 12—rate 3.5 per 1,000. The Birth Rate has considerably decreased, the Death Rate increased, and also deaths under one year.

The average deaths in the Union has been 21, whilst for 1900 there has been 18, a decrease of three—this being the lowest but one for the past 11 years. The average number of Births for the Union has been 11, this year six—the lowest recorded for several years.

Table 3 deals with the notifiable infectious diseases.—I have referred to them in full at the commencement of this Report.

Table 4 gives you the deaths from all diseases at all ages, which shew that the chief mortality was in aged people and in children under one year of age. It has been my usual

custom to give you the Birth and Death Rate since I have the honour of being your Officer, in fact, since my appointment, although the present form alters the routine to a great extent, still I hope it may prove useful and instructive.

In	Birth Rate	Death Rate:
1880	33·1	22·0
1881	26·5	18·1
1882	27·3	25·9
1883	26·2	24·8
1884	30·9	18·7
1885	27·07	27·3
1886	24·2	23·4
1887	25·1	25·9
1888	22·8	18·4
1889	23·4	15·6
1890	19·2	24·6
1891	25·3	22·1
1892	23·8	20·1
1893	26·7	23·8
1894	28·6	20·1
1895	25·02	18·9
1896	23·8	16·6
1897	22·1	16·6
1898	20·9	23·2
1899	27·3	27·03
1900	19·5	22·1

This is the lowest Birth Rate except 1890 when it was 19·2. For the past 21 years the Death Rate is above the average, but omitting the Union 17·5 per 1,000.

I will endeavour in the future, as in the past, to carry out the Sanitary Work of the District, I hope, to your satisfaction, and although I may have to bring under your notice some Sanitary Reforms, I feel they will receive at your hands due consideration.

I have the honour to remain

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM MASON, M.O.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, for 1900.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban
District Council of St. Austell.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit you my report and summary of Sanitary Work carried out for the past year.

I would say that the Sanitation of the District is most satisfactory. Special attention has been given to the flushing of W.C.'s, and I am pleased to inform you that a large number of flushing cisterns have been supplied.

In connection with house to house inspection and other nuisances, reports have been given on the condition of same.

Under the head of Offensive Trades, only one complaint was received, and that was relating to the chipped potatoe vans.

The requests for the Examination and Inspection of Premises were not numerous, in one case, the drain which passed under the house, and the space underneath the floor was full of excrement, which of course was removed, and a new drain laid, and concreted over, also an intercepting trap and a fresh air inlet connected to the same.

No inlet to any drain is now allowed within the house, pipes from baths are made to discharge a short distance from the gully traps, and all the drains under houses are being embedded in concrete, and ventilated.

There is only one slaughter house in the District which is entirely satisfactory.

The bakehouses have all been inspected, and I have no complaint to make thereon.

Scavenging has been carried out most satisfactorily, only a few complaints have been made, and about 2,496 loads of refuse have been removed.

During the year the District has been almost free from infectious diseases, and when requested by the M.O. disinfectants have been supplied, and the houses fumigated.

All the workshops in the District have been inspected, and a few irregularities were found, but have all been since rectified.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the period very few cases have been notified, and were all of a mild form.

COWSHEDS.

Special attention has been given to the above, most of them are obsolete buildings, and were in a state of semi-darkness, the walls, roofs, &c., being allowed to accumulate with dust and cobwebs, at present they are considerably improved. Monthly inspection will be made to each one in the District, and reported on during the coming year.

I would suggest an examination of all the Milch Cows within the District, with a view of ascertaining to what Milk has been drawn from tuberculous udders for human consumption, and with a further object of prohibiting the sale of Milk from cows so affected. The privilege of attending the Sanitary Congress at Southampton, in a discussion on

the inspection of Cowsheds, Mr. Sidney Viliar of Middlesex said—that it was the custom of the trade in his County to invite purchasers of their Milk, and the public generally to call and view the cattle and their surroundings. I trust the time is not far distant, when this suggestion will be adopted by all the Cowkeepers in the District.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. SAMBLE

St.Austell, 5th February, 1901.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1900.

Accumulations of offensive matters removed	10
Drains cleansed and repaired	8
Foul closets and privies cleansed	10
Water closets erected	18
New drains connected	21
Water closets ventilated & furnished with new apparatus	58
Drains tested with smoke machine	25
Sanitary Inspections by request	6
do. do. of school premises	4
do. do. of railway premises	4
Houses fumigated	1
Houses lime washed and cleansed	6
Pigs houses removed	9
Cess pits removed	2
Overcrowding cases abated	2
Notices served to remedy sanitary defects	10
Smoke nuisances	1
Offensive trades	1
Legal proceedings and convictions obtained	0
Reports to Council.....	11

The usual inspection of bakehouses, common lodging houses, slaughter houses, milk shops, dairies, cowsheds, and workshops has been made, and, when required, lime-washed and other cleansing carried out.

J. SAMBLE,

Sanitary Inspector.

St. Austell, 5th February, 1901.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT, for 1900.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban
District Council of St. Austell.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to hand you my Annual Report for the year ended 1900.—The District contains 186 acres, with an estimated population of 3,500. The ratable value for general district rate purposes is £12,454 8s. 9d., and the rate of one penny in the £ produces £51 17s. 10½d.

There are, within the District, about one-and-a-half miles of main roads, and five miles of other roads. During the year 789½ cube yards of stone was spread on the main roads at the cost of £250 os. 2d., and on the other roads 853 yards at a cost of £270 2s. 4d.

The area of concrete laid for footpaths was 517 yards super, length of kerbing—410 lineal feet, and the length of channels 540 feet.

During the year 1,325 feet of new pipe sewers were laid, and 360 feet of old sewers destroyed; many of the old sewers were in such a condition as to absolutely require removal, while others only required cleansing and flushing. There are, at present, about 11,847 yards of sewers, to which many important improvements have been made, and also to the drainage of the various houses in which, in some cases, I find the intercepting trap to be objectionable, owing to a certain amount of decomposed matter remaining in the trap, and in many of the large towns of England they do not now insist upon a trap at all. In view, however, of the probability of defects existing in house drains, I do not recommend that the intercepting trap should be abandoned.

PUBLIC LIGHTING.

There are within the District 70 gas lamps and 27 incandescent lamps; four extra lamps have been erected during the year, and the cost, for gas consumed, has been £166 19s. 0d. and the cost for lighting and cleaning the same has been £43 13s. 3d.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply during the past summer's four trying months was most satisfactory, the average rain fall being 1·47 inches, and the average gauging was as follows, viz :—

Bojea	42 gallons per minute
Carne Stents	83 gallons per minute
—	
Total	125 gallons per minute

which will give 51 gallons per head, for each person in the District for 24 hours, no doubt that a great waste is caused by imperfect fittings, but from experience I should say that the greatest waste is caused by the misuse of the water, for garden and stable purposes, and all water supplied for other than domestic purposes should be supplied through a meter, you would then find that the supply would be more than double the quantity required, as in nearly every case the owner of a garden or stable is supplied with a water tap, and the water is used for the stable without any extra payment whatever, this I think should receive your careful attention.

STABLE DEPARTMENT.

The Council are the owners of one horse, one cart, water cart, and two sets of harness, &c., the cost for the keep of the horse has been 12/- per week, but in addition to this

it was found necessary to hire others to carry on the work in the District, at the cost of, viz :—

	£	s.	d.
Main roads	108	7	6
Other roads	50	17	1
Total	£159	4	7

Seeing the above amount, I would suggest for your consideration, the advisability of purchasing another horse and cart, thereby materially decreasing the expenditure on team labour.

SCAVENGING DEPARTMENT.

The cost of cleansing and scavenging the District for manual and team labour was £167 14 0 and the amount of house and other refuse removed during the year was 2,496 loads.

The question of procuring a new site for a Depot has received your attention, but nothing further has been done in the matter,

NEW BUILDINGS.

The number of Plans, for new houses and for alterations to existing houses, submitted to the General Purpose Committee was 39, of this number 36 were approved and 3 disapproved, whilst there were 5 plans approved for other buildings, and during the year 14 old houses were demolished.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. SAMBLE.