

[Report 1905] / Medical Officer of Health, Stevenage U.D.C.

Contributors

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Stevenage -

1905

The following is the annual report of the Medical Officer of Health, Mr. P. R. Tarbet:—

"I am very pleased to be able to state that the health of your district for the past year has been exceptionally good.

"During the year thirty-five deaths were registered in the district, and two deaths of residents in public institutions outside the district, making the total number of deaths of residents thirty-seven, which gives us a death-rate of 9.2 per 1,000 of estimated population, as against 12.16 per 1,000 of estimated population last year.

"Of the thirty-five deaths which occurred in the district, 4 were under one year, 4 were between one and five years, 2 were between 15 and 25 years, 13 were between 25 and 65 years, and 12 were over 65 years.

"Of the deaths over 65 years, 2 were over 70, 2 were over 80, and 1 was at the age of 93.

"As regards infant mortality, I am pleased to state that this year the figures work out at 33.7 per 1,000 births registered, as against 57.8 of last year.

"None of the deaths were caused by infectious disease. The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year is 32, made up as follows:—Erysipelas, 15; scarlet fever, 8; chicken-pox, 9. It is again satisfactory to note that no cases of diphtheria, typhoid fever or puerperal fever were notified in the district.

"The birth-rate for 1905 is rather higher than that of the previous year, the number of births registered having increased from 116 to 121.

"*Water supply.* During the past year the water supply has been a good and continuous one. In one of the outlying districts there still remains the case of a fully-licensed publichouse without a permanent supply on the premises. In reference to this your clerk communicated with the Licensing Justices on the matter.

"*Isolation Hospital Board.*—On two occasions I attended meetings at the Hitchin Joint Hospital Board. At these meetings I very strongly protested against the unnecessary amount proposed to be expended on Isolation Hospital accommodation, a large proportion of which would fall on this Urban District. The County Council have now directed their Medical Officer of Health to hold an inquiry as to the need of isolation accommodation in the districts comprising the Hitchin Joint Hospital area.

"*Nuisances.*—There have been very few nuisances during the past year, most of which were of a trivial character.

"*Drainage.*—The sewage farm has worked well and no complaints have again been received as to any smell arising from the same. I regret to see that no further steps have been taken in reference to the proposed storm water drain.

"*Premises under inspection.*—With your inspector I have inspected all the dairies, cowsheds, bakehouses, slaughterhouses, workshops, &c., in the district. At the present time they all appear to be in a very satisfactory condition."

Peter R. Tarbet

STEEPLETON,

STOCKBRIDGE,

February 20th, 1906.

To

The Chairman & Members of the STOCKBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg herewith to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of your District during the year 1905.

Vital
Statistics.

I also send with this, Tables I. to V. Vital Statistics required by the Local Government Board.

Population.
Area.

The Population at the last Census was 6130, and your District covers an area of 42,604 acres.

Birth Rate.

During the year 145 Births were registered, giving a Birth Rate of 20.7 per 1000 of estimated population for the whole Union compared with 22.42 per 1000, the average for the previous 10 years.

In the Stockbridge District there were 90 Births; in the Broughton District, 55.

Death Rate.

During the year 88 Deaths occurred. This gives a Death rate of 12.6 per 1000 of the estimated population compared with 11.8 the Death rate for 1904, 12.7 being the average for the last 10 years. Of these Deaths 52 occurred in the Stockbridge District, and 36 in the Broughton. Among the Stockbridge 52 are included the 8 which took place at the Workhouse. Cancer and Heart Disease were responsible for more Deaths than any other single disease, each of these maladies accounting for 10 Deaths during the year. Of the rest 5 were due to Bronchitis; 4 to Phthisis, 6 to Accidents, 5 to Suicide, and 4 Infants prematurely born succumbed at a very early age.

Infant
Mortality.

The Infant Mortality for the year was not higher than usual, 11 Infants under 1 year of age having died.

When the 4 Deaths from premature birth are taken from these it leaves 7 only, a number which compares favourably with previous years.

House Ac-
commodation.

In consequence of the employment of a number of imported hands in the erection of Buildings in the District, there has been considerable strain upon the House Accommodation; this, however, is now relieved by the completion of the works in question, and the accommodation may now be considered equal to the requirements of the neighbourhood.

One or two cases of overcrowding were reported to me, house to house Inspections were made, and the Reports found to be greatly exaggerated, it only being necessary to serve Notice of Abatement in one case.

Sewerage and
Drainage.

All newly-built Houses are fitted with good Drainage to proper Cess-pits, or the Pail System is in use: this latter is being pressed as far as possible throughout your District.

Water Supply. The Water Supply has been very plentiful through the year, and is uniformly good, with the exception of at Stockbridge, where the dangerous practice of using the River water for drinking purposes still exists in a few cottages : the number of these, however, is being lessened by degrees.

Bakehouses. The Bakehouses have been visited, and white-washing and general cleanliness insisted on.

Isolation Hospital. The Isolation Hospital provided by your Chairman is being kept in good condition at Steepleton, a third Berthon Hut being available, if required. The whole can be placed on a selected site at very short notice.

Notifiable Diseases. There were only 4 cases of Notifiable Diseases during the year : 3 of these were simple cases of Facial Erysipelas not caused by insanitary surroundings, the other was Scarlet Fever at Over Wallop which did not spread.

Thanks are due to Dr. Cusse for the careful way in which he isolates and orders disinfectants in the cases which he reports to me.

Measles. There were several outbreaks of Measles during the year, the most severe of these being at Broughton and King Somborne.

Schools. The Broughton Schools were closed by your Council at my recommendation in consequence of Measles.

Factory Act, 1901. There are no Workshops or Factories in your District requiring inspection under the Factory Act.

The Midwives' Act. The Midwives' Act seems to have been treated as a dead letter by the Women in your District, not more than two having registered.

Inspection. House-to-House Inspections were made at various times during the year by the Inspector and myself, and in several cases additional Privies were ordered to be provided, my object being to see a Privy for every house in the District.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WALTER K. LOVELESS,

M. O. H.



