

[Report 1909] / Medical Officer of Health, Stevenage U.D.C.

Contributors

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STEVENAGE, HERTS.,

29th January, 1910.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE STEVENAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting my Report for the past year, 1909, the general health of your district has been very good. I am able to report a very low death rate the statistics of which are given below. In August, owing to an outbreak of measles, it was necessary to close the infant department of the National Schools, and owing to the continued prevalence of the epidemic the schools were not re-opened on their proper date. As below, you will see that of the cases notified to me none were fatal. The effort made by the Hertfordshire County Council in supplying all midwives and their patients with their regulation card enables me to report a very low infantile death rate. I will now summarise my Report for the year under its different headings, viz.:-

THE DEATH RATE.

"Forty-four deaths have been notified to me, three of which occurred in outside institutions—namely, 2 at Hitchin Union, and 1 at the Great Northern Central Hospital. The death rate per thousand of estimated population for this year is 9.53, which is exceptionally low. The death rate for the three previous years was as follows:—1906, 14.75; 1907, 12.00; 1908, 13.25.

"The various ages at which these deaths occurred are given in the following tabulated form:—

Under 1 year	6
Between 1 year and 5 years	2
Between 5 and 65 years	7
65 years and over	26
	—41—

"Of the 26 deaths which occurred over the age of 65 years, 8 were between 65 and 70; 13 were between 70 and 80; 3 were between 80 and 90; and 2 were over 90 (i.e., 92 and 94 respectively).

"The infantile mortality per thousand births registered in this year 55.4, being a marked decrease from previous years—namely, 1907, 66.14; 1908, 78.47.

THE BIRTH RATE.

"The number of births during the present year was 109. Of these 57 were females and 52 males. The figures for the previous years were—1907, 121; 1908, 117.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

"Sixty-six cases have been notified during the past year, namely:—

Measles	57
Chicken-pox	1
Erysipelas	7
Scarlet fever	1
	—66—

"As stated in my last annual report, there is no isolation hospital for this district. In May of last year I attended a meeting called by the Local Government Board, over which Dr. W. W. T. Fletcher presided, as to the non-existence of an isolation hospital in the neighbourhood. The matter is not yet settled, so far as I have been informed. I do most strongly urge the Council to provide for the district a suitable hospital for infectious diseases.

WATER SUPPLY.

"I am able to report that the new reservoir which I mentioned as being necessary in my last report, is now almost completed. During the last year the supply has been good, and no complaints have been received by me. With the additional reservoir the liability of running short of water during the summer months should be obviated.

NUISANCES.

"During the past year the nuisances reported to me have been few, and in every case the suggestions made have been thoroughly carried out.

PREMISES UNDER INSPECTION.

"All the dairies, cow-sheds, bakehouses, slaughter-houses and workshops I have inspected during the last year with your Inspector. These we found in a satisfactory condition. Two cowsheds and two workshops have been added to the district this year.

THE NATIONAL SCHOOL.

"The new school for boys has now been erected in Letchmore Green-road. This, I think, will permit of the attendance of girls and infants in the old school without the previous insanitation and overcrowding. The alterations which are at present being made in the old schools necessitate their being closed for a short time.

SEWAGE FARM.

"During the past year the working of the sewage farm has been most satisfactory. I would again like to draw your attention to the necessity of having an efficient surface storm water drainage system in Stevenage."

The usual statistics are appended.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

PETER R. TARBET, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health.

