

[Report 1913] / Medical Officer of Health, Stratton (Union) R.D.C.

Contributors

Stratton (Cornwall, England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1913

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**STRATTON RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL.**

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

OF THE

Stratton Rural Sanitary District

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December, 1913.

Perry Bolt, Printer, Bude.



STRATTON,
N. CORNWALL,
Feb 12th, 1914.

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health of the
Stratton Rural District for the Year 1913.**

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE STRATTON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Stratton Rural District for the year 1913, since my appointment on March 1st.

The area of the district, almost entirely agricultural in character, has remained the same, containing 53,264 acres, and the population, estimated to the middle of the year was 4904, a decrease of 20 as compared with the year previous. There were 108 Births and 60 Deaths registered within the district giving an actual natural increase of 48, but this has been overshadowed, I feel sure by outward movement of the population, chiefly emigration out of the country, which seems to have taken away many of the younger men and women of the district.

General Health. The General Health of the district has been exceedingly good, especially during the latter half of the year. On the returns of the last quarter the death rate was 6.52 very low indeed compared with the average of the other rural districts of Cornwall 11.39. The sickness incidence was fairly low too.

Infectious Diseases.

Of the Notifiable Infectious Diseases, there has only been one case returned—Scarlet Fever in Kilkhampton in the early part of the year. The case was satisfactorily isolated at home and the house thoroughly disinfected afterwards. Thus the Isolation Hospital has remained empty throughout the year as regards Rural cases except for one case of Measles admitted for convenience.

Measles however and Whooping Cough were prevalent during the earlier months of the year, necessitating the closure of the schools in the Parishes of St. Gennys, Poundstock, Marhamchurch and Poughill for some weeks each. So widespread was the infection that I should imagine some time must elapse before any further epidemic can occur, the present generation being so thoroughly protected.

There were no cases of Enteric Fever, Erysipelas or Poliomyelitis.

Special Enquiries.

No special Investigations were necessary.

Work of the Sanitary Inspector.

The work of the Sanitary Inspector has been thorough and good during the year, a fact you have recognised by granting him an increase in his salary.

He has had occasion to investigate some 23 nuisances and these were all remedied on attention being called to them.

With me, he made the necessary inspections under the Housing and Town Planning Act and the Housing of the Working Classes Act, besides the inspections carried on by both of us in our daily rounds.

No complaints were received.

Milk Supply and Dairies.

The Milk Supply has been good though reports of some scarcity were made toward the end of the year. There were no complaints as to quality and no action was necessary on that account.

The Dairies are as a rule clean and well kept, inspection being carried out by the Sanitary Inspector from time to time. Registration of these dairies is distinctly advisable.

One suspected case of Anthrax occurred but bacteriological examination disproved it.

Food Supply. The inspection of Food has not necessitated any seizures nor have any complaints been received.

All the Slaughter Houses have been inspected and found in good order though in one case report was made of some necessary improvements. There were no seizures on account of Tuberculosis.

Offensive Trades. There are no Offensive Trades carried on in the district.

Water Supply. There is no system of artificial water supply in the district and all the cottages have their own wells—two or three occasionally having a well in common. In the villages, a common well is provided which serves to supply all or most of the houses. The supply is usually quite good and ample and there has been no shortage during the year. Beside the provision of several new wells, the protection of those in existence is being improved—indeed, only in one case was there any sign of pollution.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal. There is no artificial system of drainage existent except at Kilkhampton where some improvements have been made. Each cottage has provided an earth or pail closet attached, cleared by hand and the refuse worked into the soil. This system practically works out well enough in an area with scattered houses as no nuisances are reported and no evidence of disease arising therefrom occurs. This closet accommodation in many cases is not kept in as good repair, as dry or as clean as it might be and it is with regard to this that the majority of the notices under the House Inspection Acts were necessary. I would suggest that special care should be taken to follow up any notices issued in regard to this.

River Pollution. The case of the pollution of the stream below the Urban Councils' Sewer Outfall at Howard again occurred during the hot dry weather. The river was in a terribly insanitary condition for some time, the water being absolutely undrinkable for the cattle.

This apparently recurs from time to time, disappearing after a heavy rainfall. On a recurrence I should advise formal complaint being made to the Authority concerned.

Refuse Disposal. This is carried out from the house receptacles and disposed of by digging in the gardens, no nuisance arises.

House Inspection.

This is carried out under the provisions of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, and the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

I regret that the number of inspections for the 10 months has not been as many as I could have wished but this is owing to the difficulties and amount of work involved in taking up a new position. In future arrangements will be made to carry on the work systematically. I understand however that practically all the district has been inspected during the last two years.

No. of dwelling houses inspected	...	...	98
" " " " in which defects were found	}	...	36
" " " " in which defects were rectified			
No. of representations made to L.A. with a view to the making of closing orders	}	...	nil
No. of closing orders made			
No. of dwelling houses closed			
(a) by voluntary action of owners	}	...	nil
(b) as a result of closing order			
No. of dwelling houses which after closing orders were made fit for habitation	}		nil
No. of dwelling houses demolished			
(a) by voluntary action	}	...	...
(b) after closing orders			

The General Character of the defects were want of ventilation, repairs and attention to cleanliness of closets and want of general cleanliness.

There was one case of overcrowding in which an order was passed. There is no great scarcity of houses.

New Water Supplies.

Ten Certificates for new water supplies have been granted.

Workshops.

The Workshops have been under inspection and are kept in a satisfactory condition.

Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Schools.

All the Schools in the district have been inspected during the year and have always been found well kept and I am glad to say well ventilated.

As already mentioned, several of the Schools were closed on account of the prevalence of Measles and Whooping Cough

Thorough disinfection before re-opening was carried out in each case.

The School at Marhamchurch has had some alterations with regard to the drainage of the closets and has now partly a waterborne and partly a pail system instead of only one system formerly. This was done I understand by requirement of the County Education Authorities.

Tuberculosis.

Cases reported 3, all Pulmonary, deaths 7, 3 of these being due to Pulmonary and 4 to other forms of Tuberculosis.

Some of the cases that died were reported in the previous year but one or two cannot have been reported at all. In all there must have been some 7 new cases of Tuberculosis during the year as compared with 11 during the previous year.

Vital Statistics.

Births. Registered 108—Males 58, Females 50.
Corrected 111—Rate 22.63.

Deaths. Males 24, Females 36, Total 60.
Death Rate 12.23.

Non-residents who died in the district, 1.
Residents who died outside the district, 3.

Inquest Cases, 5 (4 were due to Natural Causes, 1 Accidental drowning.)

Notifiable Zymotic Death Rate, nil.

Measles 1, Whooping Cough 1.

Deaths at age period	— 1 year	...	5
	1— 5 years	...	4
	5—15 years	...	2
	15—25 years	...	0
	25—45 years	...	8
	45—65 years	...	11
	over 65 years	...	<u>30</u>
			60

Of these 30, 17 were between 70 and 80 years of age and 8 were over 80.

Deaths due to Heart Disease	...	...	...	8
Respiratory Disease (including Phthisis)	...	...	...	10
Cancer	...	...	...	9

Infantile Mortality Rate (i.e. deaths under 1 year) per 1000 births was 46.30, less than half the figure for 1912, 105.76.

Vaccination. This year 66 cases were vaccinated, as against 71 last year—I regret to hear that ‘conscientious objectors’ seem on the increase.

Rainfall. There is apparently no observation now taken in the district but the year was undoubtedly drier than 1912. Using the figures of the Bude Station as a guide, the rainfall was 30.4 inches (estimated) as compared with 48.03 inches for 1912.

In conclusion, there is nothing in the report calling for special notice, proving I think that the district has enjoyed a year of excellent health and a noteworthy absence of any unfavourable conditions.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

E. L. MEYNELL, M.B.B.Sc.

Medical Officer of Health.