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Contributors

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STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, 1910.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Report for the
year ending December 31st, 1910.

AREA OF PARISH OF STREET—2918 acres

POPULATION—Census 1901, 4018. Estimated to middle of 1910 at 4480.

GEOLOGY—Lower lias, consisting of alternating beds of limestones, clays and marls.

OCCUPATION—Principally Boot and Shoemaking, Leather-Board Factory, Chrome Tanning, Agricultural. Limestone Quarries in district.

BIRTH-RATE—91 births registered (48 males—43 females), giving a *birth-rate* of 20.3 per 1000 per annum.

DEATH-RATE—45 deaths registered (25 males—20 females), giving a *death-rate* of 10.04 per 1000 per annum.

4 deaths, in addition, of *residents* of this district were reported from Public Institutions *outside* this district.

THE ZYMOTIC RATE is 0.2—One death from Zymotic Disease being registered.

THE INFANT MORTALITY PER 1000 BIRTHS is 87.9—8 deaths under 1 year being registered.

For the Year 1909 :

Birth Rate per 1000 living	...	...	...	20.9
Death Rate	...	...	...	10.3
Zymotic Rate	...	...	...	nil.
Infant Mortality per 1000 Births	...	...	...	96.7

Average Rate from 1900 to 1909 (inclusive) :

Births	...	96.	Rate	22.6
Deaths	...	44.7	"	10.5
Deaths under one year	...	9.1	"	per 1000 births, 97.3

Ages Table of Deaths :

Under 1 year there were	...	8 deaths
1 and under 5 years there was	...	1 death
5 " " 15 " " "	...	1 "
15 " " 25 " " "	...	were 2 deaths
25 " " 65 " " "	...	10 "
65 and upwards	...	22 "

Causes of Death during the Year :

Erysipelas	1	Diabetes	1
Phthisis	3	Senile Decay (ages 80, 81, 86, 89, 101)	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis }		Nephritis	1
Other Tubercular Diseases	2	Spasm of Glottis	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	8	Debility from Birth	1
Bronchitis	2	Convulsions	2
Pneumonia	2	Hæmatemesis	1
Premature Birth	2	Meningitis	1
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	2	Spinal Caries	1
Heart Disease	6	Spina Bifida	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	2		

Water Supply.

The report for previous years concerning the water supply from the Mendip Hills holds good for 1910. It has again been plentiful, and of good quality, and is increasingly appreciated by the inhabitants of the district. The water has been laid on to 20 additional houses during the year—making a total of 743, in addition to supplying Godney and part of Polsham and shortly Sharpam.

I would again remark on the desirability of *every* house in the district within reach of the supply, taking advantage of it.

Sewerage, Drainage and Excrement Disposal.

A new drain has been laid in Orchard Road, thereby relieving the sewer in the main street. The Town is sewered throughout, the sewers being flushed at intervals, when necessary, under the Surveyor's supervision.

The disposal of the sewage by irrigation on the land at the Sewage Farm still continues to work satisfactorily. Fifty acres of land are used for this purpose, the soil being peat, the effluent is clear and satisfactory. The crops of osiers this year has not been so satisfactory as heretofore, disease having attacked the trees.

No complaint of pollution of the streams has been received during the year.

Many of the W.C's. in the district are now supplied with flushing cisterns—the Surveyor reports 3 additional ones supplied during the year. I would again remark on the advisability of all W.C's. being flushed by this method and the unsatisfactory plan of flushing by hand, which is still carried out in some of the closets.

Scavenging.

The ash and refuse heaps are under the supervision of the Surveyor, being removed by his directions. In many cases the ashes are used in the gardens attached to the dwelling houses. The Surveyor also directs the Council's Employees who attend to the roads, &c.

Prevalence of Disease.

Influenza and pulmonary diseases prevailed during the months of January, February, March, April, November and December. In May and June Measles was epidemic—chiefly affecting the young children, the Infant School being closed for a period.

Four cases of Erysipelas were notified during the year, one being fatal—the only death from Zymotic Disease.

Thirty-one cases of Scarlet Fever, mostly of a mild type were notified, extending over the months of January, February, March, April and May, the last case being notified in July, nine of which were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Fifty-five deaths have been registered during the year against fifty-six in 1909. In addition to these however four deaths of residents occurred in Public Institutions outside the district, against one in 1909.

The Infant Mortality is slightly less, 8 deaths under 1 year being registered, against 9 in 1909, none of which were due to neglect, hygienic nor dietetic causes. Heart Disease claimed 6 victims, against 5 in the previous year, all well advanced in years.

The deaths from Cancer or Malignant Disease number 8, against six in 1909. The deaths from Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases are 5, against 2 in 1909.

Isolation Hospital.

Joint Hospital for Glastonbury and Street, situated midway between the two places, in the Borough of Glastonbury, a nurse-caretaker and husband in charge.

The number of diseases that can concurrently be treated is two, *e.g.*, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, in which case an additional nurse would have to be engaged. So far the accommodation has proved ample.

The premises are in good order, with a Thresh's Disinfector, and properly equipped discharge-block. An Ambulance for joint use is kept on the premises.

Nine cases of Scarlet Fever from this district have been admitted during the year, the last being in July.

Disinfection Means.

Thresh's Disinfector at the Hospital. This also is used for disinfecting bedding, clothes, etc., in cases not removed to the Hospital, when required, at a small charge.

Fumigation of premises in home isolation is carried out by sulphur-dioxide or formalin. The rooms of deceased phthisical patients are also fumigated.

A portable spray has been purchased by the Council during the year.

Common Lodging Houses—None.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

The number on the register and which have been inspected by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself is 12. The dairies are clean and in good order and limewashed regularly. Instructions for limewashing the cowsheds have been given.

As previously reported the custom in the district is to keep the cows out at grass during the greater part of the year, hence some of the cowsheds are small and deficient in the necessary cubic air space.

The milk and butter supply is generally plentiful and of good quality. No case of Tuberculosis in cows has been reported to me during the year.

Slaughter-Houses and Bakehouses.

The Slaughter-Houses (5) and Bakehouses (7) are visited and inspected and limewashed regularly. Supervision is exercised over the meat supply. The Slaughter-Houses have a plentiful supply of good water and the drainage generally is satisfactory. The regular removal of offal is insisted upon.

No action under the Sale of Foods Acts has been taken, and no case of tuberculous meat has come to my knowledge.

Housing of the Working Classes.

House to house inspections have been made by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself. The house accommodation in the district is now insufficient. With the intention of building, the Council have purchased land in the centre of the town, and an application to the Local Government Board over the matter has been made. In some instances two families are living in one house, more houses are therefore urgently needed.

With some exceptions, the houses are generally kept clean and fairly well ventilated. The Garden accommodation is good and appreciated.

The erection of new houses is under the supervision of the Council and Surveyor.

The number of inhabited houses in the district is 940.

Factories and Workshops Acts.

A register is kept. Number of Factories 4. Number of Workshops 154. All have been inspected by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself, and the sanitation, ventilation, means of escape in case of fire, and provision of suitable sanitary conveniences enquired into.

Up-to-date sanitary accommodation is provided at the principal factory in the place, also at the Lockhill Factory and the necessary accommodation at the Leather Board Factory.

Public Schools.

One large Public School in the district, and a smaller School for infants at Overleigh. The sanitary conditions and water supply of the schools are good.

Inspection of the children has been carried out by the Inspectors appointed by the County Council. A School Nurse assists at the inspections and visits necessary cases afterwards.

Attendance is prohibited in known cases of infectious disease, all children from infected houses being excluded till period of infection is over. The Infant Department of the School was closed during June on account of an epidemic of Measles.

The notification of cases of Tuberculosis (with the exception of those occurring under the Poor Law)—is not in force in this district. Two cases were notified under the Poor Law of persons who stated they were coming to this district. In neither case, on enquiry, were they found to have taken up their residence here.

No hospital accommodation is provided, a limited number of cases are sent to Winsley Sanatorium through local subscribers.

A Dispensary for the treatment of Tuberculous patients by the Tuberculin method has been instituted during the year by Miss Hilda Clark, M.B., Lond., assisted by a Qualified Lady and a Health Visitor, the results of which will be followed with interest by all who desire the stamping out of this disease.

I append Tables of Statistics as required by the Local Government Board; together with the detailed report of the Inspector of Nuisances (Mr. James Pursey), to whose co-operation I am again greatly indebted.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE W. EGLINTON.

STREET, Somerset, January 27th, 1911.

Street Urban District Council.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1910.

Number of houses overcrowded	1
„ „ premises to be cleaned, limewashed, etc.	14
„ „ houses disinfected after illness of an infectious character	19
„ „ lots of bedding, etc., burnt after illness of an infectious character	1
HOUSE DRAINS:—	
Repaired, cleansed, trapped, etc.	3
New provided, or re-laid	1
Defective traps replaced by stoneware gully traps	6
PRIVIES AND W.C.'s:—	
Repaired, cleansed, etc.	6
New provided	3
Supplied with water through flushing cistern	3
Cesspits rebuilt, etc.	2
Removal of accumulation of ashes, manure, stagnant water and refuse	8
Number of houses provided with public water	20
Animals removed for being kept improperly or within limit	3
5 Slaughter houses periodically inspected (4 times each)	20
No. of Bakehouses „ „	7
„ „ Diaries and Cowsheds „ „	12
„ „ Factories	4
„ „ Workshops	154
Total number of inspections	<u>287</u>

Also a number of re-inspections and verbal notices for removal of ashes, manure, etc.

JAMES PURSEY,
Inspector.

20th Jan., 1911.