[Report 1904] / Medical Officer of Health, Stroud U.D.C.

Contributors

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Stroud Arban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Bealth

1904.



MEDICAL OFFICERS REPORT 1904.

January, 1905.

Gentlemen, - Each year the Medical Officer of health for every sanitary district receives a memorandum from the Local Government Board reminding him that his annual report should be sent to them within six weeks of the end of the year. In this memorandum instructions are given as to the chief subjects to be considered, and the Medical Officer of Health is further reminded that these reports are for the information of the Local Government Board and of the County Council, as well as for the Council of the District. also state that "it is very desirable that the annual report should be printed, for the sake of facility of reference, and in order that a supply of copies may be available for distribution among the Town or District Councillors, and other persons interested." I herewith beg to submit my third annual report, for the year, 1904:—

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

In my report of last year I mentioned a group of dilapidated cottages on the lower side of Summer Street, and stated that they had changed hands, and that enquiries were being made concerning them. During 1904 these cottages were entirely re-modelled and up to the present 5 have been placed in habitable repair. Five houses were condemned during the year as unfit for human habitation. In

the case of a group of four, the Council paid a sum of £200 to the owner on condition that the houses should be set back considerably when re-built, whereby a great improvement in the width of the street will result. The Fifth house, which was condemned, will also be re-built. It was not necessary in either case to take legal proceedings. The building of the houses in connection with the King Street Improvement Scheme has commenced. The number of new houses erected during 1904 was 5, while plans for 6 were submitted and passed by the Council. The number of new houses in 1903 was 6, and in 1902 4.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

There is nothing to add to the remarks I have made on this subject in previous reports, to which I would refer you.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

There has been no change in the arrangements for the removal and disposal of house refuse. One new cart, covered with a tarpaulin, has been obtained. I would however call your attention to the Bye-law (No. 6, Bye-laws with respect to Nuisances), which requires that "Every person . . . shall use a suitable vessel or receptacle properly constructed and furnished with a sufficient covering" for the reception of house refuse. The advisability of this will be admitted by everyone, but suitable covered receptacles appear to be but rarely provided.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

The Slad Brook has received considerable attention by the Council during the year, and attempts are being made to enforce the clearing of the bed of the brook. Two houses, which drained into the canal at Wallbridge,

have now been connected with the town sewers.

WATER SUPPLY.

Owing to the lower rainfall last year the springs of Stroud, as elsewhere, did not yield so abundantly as in 1903, and for a time the upper supply was short. This shortness was met temporarily by pumping the Gainey's Well water from Bird's Clock reservoir to the covered reservoir in Bisley Old Road. general question of the water supply is still receiving the special consideration of Council, and proposals for pumping direct from Gainey's Well to the covered reservoir have been approved by the Council, and arrangements are now being made for carrying the same into effect. Samples of the water have been taken as usual and sent to the County Analyst, who again reports favourably. July he said: "I have again the greatest plea-"sure in reporting on the excellent water "supply of the Stroud District; even the "amount of nitrates is reduced, although I "do not attach much importance to this in the "case of Stroud. Recent experiments have "proved to me beyond reasonable doubt that "in your case the nitrate question may be "ignored. The water is well suited for a town "supply, and gives no evidence of sewage pol "lution."

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The number of Common Lodging Houses is 5, and the number of persons for which they are licensed is 105. During the year one new house, to accommodate 22 persons, was erected, a great improvement being thereby effected. Careful observation is kept over these places, 53 visits being paid by the Inspector in the course of the year, and on the

whole they are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 10 private slaughter houses in the Urban District, of which 4 are "registered" and 6 "licensed." Some of these are very satisfactory, but the older ones do not reach so high a standard. Generally, considerable care is taken to keep these places clean, but this is not an easy matter with rough floors and walls. Non-absorbent receptacles, with closely fitting covers for the immediate reception of refuse, should be provided in each case, as required by the Bye-laws.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

The total number of these places on the register is 34, the same as in 1903, 1 having been added to and 1 crossed off the register during 1904. As I stated last year, a large proportion of the milk consumed in the town is brought in from the surrounding district and distributed from the carts, but there are several small retail milk sellers, especially in the poorer parts of the town. Too great care in the storage of this susceptible article of food cannot be taken, especially when it is surrounded as is often the case-by heterogeneous articles. In such cases it is very advisable to have a separate cupboard for the milk and milk vessels, ventilated to the outer air. 36 inspections of these places were made by the Inspector during the year. I would again suggest the advisability of adopting Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

The number of workshops on the register is 102, and the names of out-workers received during 1904 were 150 in number. 120 visits

were paid by the Inspector during the year, and attention called by him to defects in 24 instances, all being remedied on verbal notice from him. From this it would appear that on the whole the conditions of workshops, &c., in this district is fairly satisfactory. Considerable alterations were made early in the year in two bakehouses, which are technically underground, and these improvements being considered as sufficient to make them satisfactory, certificates for their use were granted by the Council.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

I received no direct complaint during 1904 of nuisance caused by the artificial manure works, to which attention has been called each year since I have been Medical Officer of Health for this District. From information given me the manufacture began later and finished earlier than in previous years. Tripe boiling is carried on in two places in the town. In one case I found a much larger collection of organic refuse than should have been allowed to accumulate, and in this establishment there is no outside yard where the necessary accumulation can be stored temporarily until it can be removed.

GENERAL.

It is satisfactory to note in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector the comparatively small number of cases in which statutory notices for the abatement of nuisances have been served, the great majority being remedied on notice from the Inspector, and that in no case has it been necessary to take legal proceedings.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of notifications received during 1904 was 24, an increase on the number in

1903 (11) which was the lowest in any year since the adoption (now compulsory) of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889 in The increase was chiefly due to the number of cases of scarlet fever (11), though the number of cases of erysipelas (9) was above the average (6). During the 13 years of notification of infectious diseases, the prevalence of the different diseases has varied greatly from year to year, especially of scarlet fever. There have been two marked periods of excessive prevalence of this disease, viz., May, 1892, to Nov., 1893 (44 cases), and August, 1899, to June, 1902 (295 cases). Taking the two Civil Parishes in this district separately the average annual attack-rates (1892-1904) for the following diseases have been :-

Typhoid Diph-Fever, theria. Fever sipelas. Fever Stroud C. P. .55 .41 3.57 .70 .05 Uplands C. P. .21 .64 2.82 .37 —

The only disease for which Uplands compares unfavourably with Stroud is diphtheria, of which disease 12 cases occurred in 3 years (1899-1901). With these exceptions this parish has been free from the disease.

SCARLET FEVER.

Eleven cases of this disease were notified during 1904, 6 of them being connected with a small school outbreak in the adjoining district. This number would possibly have been considerably larger had not a careful search for unrecognised cases been made. The disease was of a mild type, and in many cases the duration of illness was only a day or two. It is this that makes the control of many infectious diseases a most difficult matter even when all known cases are carefully isolated, and it is the detection of these cases that must

be aimed at in any real attempt to prevent the spread of such diseases as small-pox, diphtheria, and scarlet fever.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Your temporary Isolation Hospital Brickrow, which was opened on the 30th August, 1900, was finally closed at the end of November, 1904. During this period of $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, 125 patients were admitted-123 cases of scarlet fever, and 2 of typhoid fever (by special arrangement). The number of cases of scarlet fever that occurred during the time the Hospital was opened was 159, of which number 122 were removed to the Hospital, i.e., 76.8 per cent. The percentage would have been higher but for the fact that the Hospital was opened during a period of epidemic, and the accommodation was for a time insufficient. The eagerness with which parents availed themselves of the advantages of the temporary hospital throughout the whole time it was open augurs well for the use that will be made of the permanent building at Cainscross. addition to the obvious benefit of thorough isolation that such an institution affords, there is one that is not so fully realized, viz., if a child is isolated at home the long period of convalescence is very lonely and tedious, whilst in the hospital there are probably other children in a similar plight to himself. A full account of the permanent Isolation Hospital at Cainscross will be found in my annual report to the Stroud Rural District Council.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the district estimated to the middle of 1904 was 8,954. This figure has been calculated on the rate of decrease during the decennium, 1891-1901, and it is possible that it is somewhat smaller than it should be. The farther we advance from the census year the more difficult does it become to form an accurate idea of the population at any one time. It would be possible to correct the estimate if the actual number of inhabited houses could be obtained each year, but where the system of compounding rates has been adopted it is not an easy matter to get the number.

BIRTHS.

The number of births during 1904 was 178—83 males and 98 females—a rate per 1,000 of the population of 19.9, about 3 per 1,000 below the average of the previous 10 years. This year the birth rate in Uplands C.P. was 3.2 per 1,000 below, while the average for the previous six years was 2.6 per 1,000 above, that in the Stroud C.P. The number of illegitimate births was 9 the same as the average of the previous two years—5.1 per cent. of total births. The average for England and Wales (1891-1900) was 4.2 per cent. None of these occurred in Uplands C.P.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered in the district was 126, 14.1 per 1,000 of the population. Of this number 43 (the same as the average for the previous eight years) occurred in the Union Workhouse and General Hospital, 27 belonging to other districts. Five persons belonging to Stroud died in the County making the nett number of deaths 104-45 males and 59 females—a rate per 1,000 of 11.6, the lowest of which I have records since 1875), and 3.2 per 1,000 below the average of the previous 10 years. Further correcting for the sex and age distribution—as explained in my report on the Census—the death rate be-

SCHEDULE B.-Stroud Urban District, 1904.

SCILLDO	LL D		Oud			D.10		,		
Cause of Death,	All ages	Under 1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25-65	65 and upwards	Stroud	Uplands	In Public Institu- tions.
Epidemic Influenza	2				1	1		2		
Whooping-cough	2	1	1					2		
Erysipelas	1					1		. 1		
Ружтіа	1			1				1		
Tuberculosis of Meninges										1
Tuberculosis of Lungs	12	1			3	8		8	4	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1				1				1	
Alcoholism	1					1	* 11	1		
Cancer	11	-				3	8	9	2	2
Premature Birth	2	2				7		2		
Developmental Diseases	5	5						5		
Old Age	6			-			6	6		2
Meningitis	1		1					1		
Organic Diseases of Heart	7					3	4	7		1
Acute Bronchitis	2	.1					1	2		
Chronic Bronchitis	3					1	3	2	1	
Lobar (Croupous) Pneumonia	4						4	4		
Lobular (Broncho-) Pneumonia	a 4	2	2					4		- 1
Obstruction of Intestines	1				10 -		1	1		3
Cirrhosis of Liver	1					1		1		
Nephritis and Bright's Disease										2
Accidents and Diseases Parturition	of 2					2		2		
Deaths by Accident or Negliger	nce 2					2		1	1	1
Deaths by Suicide	1					1		1		
Deaths from Ill-defined Cause	s 7					2	5	7		
Syphilis	1	1						1	-	
All other Causes	24	4				7	13	22	2	13
ALL CAUSES	101	17	4	1	5	32	45	93	11	27

ě 33 Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and previous years.

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*Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 1,148. Total population at all ages, 9,153.

Number of inhabited houses, 3,507. Accesspe number of persons per house, 457. (At Consens of 195).

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District. (Strond General Respital.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District. (General Respital.

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TABLE II.

ES OF	NAMES OF LOCALITIES	LITTER.	1-W	L-WHOLE DISTRICT.	PERRIC	T.		2-STROUD	OD.	-	**	3-UPLANDS	NDS.	
×	Fran.		Population settle mated to middle of each year,	Birtha regia- fored.	lie to oftend	Deaths under	Population eath- mated to middle of each year.	-sign schill Jenet	Ila ta adraodi agea	Deaths coder 1 year.	Population eath- mated to middle of each jett.	-eign adniil Jaset	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under
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005	-	-	9,198	300	101	8	7,726	170	142	36	1472	75	22	*
1051	-		9,134	213	121	8	7,632	22.20	1115	38	1482	17	16	05
505	-	-	120%	151	1790	8	7,579	135	118	22	1492	8	18	-
5061			9,017	181	134	16	7,313	146	119	22	1504	12	15	-
Averages of 1894 to 1903 .	1981	Years	9,168	1901	140	22	1,00,7	ñ	12	223	1111	13	=	88
1001		1	8,954	178	101	11	7,440	1322	200	2	103	2		1

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904, TABLE III.

			CAMES	SOTIFIE	N SI O	HOLK D	CAMES SOTIFIED IN WHOLE DESTRICT,		TOTAL CASES SOTIFIED IN BACH LOCALITY.	OTAL CASES (PIED IN EACH LOCALITY.	REMON REMON	NO. OF CARES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL PROM KACH LOCALITY.
SOTIFIABL	SOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all			At Ages-Years,	-Years	35		1	81	-	- 1
		Agos.	Under 1,	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 2	25 to 62	1 to 5 5 to 15 15 to 25 25 to 65 65 and 1	STROUP,	CPLANDS.	STROUD.	STROUD, UPLANDS, STROUD, UPLANDS,
Small-gox											H	
Diphtheria		7					1		-			
Erynipelan		0			-	28	10	100		01		
Scarlet fever		11		9	02	-	-		10	1	9	2
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comes 11.2, while that for the Rural District (similarly corrected) was 11.5; and for England and Wales 16.2.

The figures for the constituent civil parishes are:—

		average
	1904.	1898-1903.
Stroud	12.5	16.0
Uplands	7.3	11.5
S. U. D	11.6	15.3

I am unable to make corrections for the age and sex distribution of the two parishes (which probably partly accounts for the above differences in the death rates) as the population at the various age groups for the two sexes is not obtainable.

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR.

The number of infants dying under the age of one year was 17, 16 in Stroud and 1 in Uplands. This is an infantile mortality (deaths per 1,000 births) of 96, slightly higher than the rate in 1903 (88), but below the average of the previous 10 years (123). There has not been the marked improvement that could be desired in this respect, though my chart shows that on the whole the infantile mortality is less than it was in the earlier periods considered, and below the general rate for the whole of England and Wales. It is still above that for the surrounding Rural The difference in the constituent District. Civil Parishes is very marked :-

	1001	average
	1904.	1898-1903.
Stroud	105	144
Uplands	38	94
S. U. D	96	137

The deaths of illegitimate infants were 3 in number, all in Stroud C.P., and the infantile mortality for illegitimate infants is 333 (deaths per 1,000 illegitimate births).

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The number of deaths which are included under this heading is 2, both from whooping cough.

PHTHISIS.

The deaths from tubercular diseases during 1904 were 13 in number, a rate per 1,000 of the population of 1.45, which is nearly the same as the average for the 10 years (1891-1901), but less than in either of the two immediately preceding years—2.3 and 1.7 respectively.

During the year Six houses been disinfected after deaths from this with the disease in accordance solution of the Council passed February, 1903. In the majority of cases this action is welcomed by the relatives, though in some cases, owing to the interval which elapsed \$ between the day of the death and my receiving the information, the general cleaning has been done and persons are unwilling to do it a second time after disinfection. Yet it is advisable that rooms occupied by consumptives should be thoroughly disinfected, and that wall papers should be stripped, or walls limewashed in every case. I would repeat the advice I gave last year, and emphasize the importance of carrying out the ordinary hygienic principles of perfect cleanliness in our habits as regards person, house and air-plenty of soap and water, proper receptacles for spittle, open windows, &c .- to control the spread of this and many other diseases.

DEATHS NOT CERTIFIED BY MEDICAL CERTIFICATE

These were 11 in number during 1904—10.6 per cent of deaths—inquests being held in 9 cases, 8.6 per cent. of total deaths, while on the remaining 2 deaths (1.9 per cent.) no in-

quests were held. The percentage of deaths on which inquests have been held varied greatly from year to year. The lowest was in 1882—3.3 per cent., and the highest in 1896, 15.7 per cent. Uncertified deaths show a distinct tendency to form a smaller proportion of the total than 20 years ago, when the percentage was as high as 5.1 and 5.4 in two years.

INQUESTS.

Of the 9 inquests, verdicts of accidental death were returned in two cases, and suicide in one. The ascribed causes of death were:—

1. Male (50 years). Died very suddenly from

natural causes, accelerated by exposure.

2. Male (38). Died in an epileptic fit, probably from cardiac failure.

3. Male (25). Epilepsy, aggravated by

want of food.

4. Male (3 months). Found dead in bed between his father and mother. Natural causes, probably convulsions.

5. Female (64 years). Died suddenly

Natural causes, probably heart disease.

- 6. Male (51). Accidentally killed by overturning of cart, of which he was in charge. Neck dislocated.
- 7. Female (51). Accidental burns. Fell against fire in kitchen on 5th October (dressed in flannellette nightdress). Long history of illness—cancer and tumour.

8. Female (50). Natural causes. Con-

sumption: hæmorrhage.

9. Male (38). Committed suicide by cutting his throat with a carving knife. Lived one hour.

UNCERTIFIED DEATHS.

The causes of death registered were:-

1, Male (51 hours). Convulsions,

2. Female (64 years). Heart failure.

Full statistical tables are appended in which will be found the numbers and rates of births, deaths, &c., in 1904 and previous years, and the numbers of cases of infectious disease and the parishes in which they occurred during 1904.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) J. MIDDLETON MARTIN,
B.A, M.D., B.C., D.PH., &c.,
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

For the Year Ending DEC. 31st. 1904.

To the Chairman and members of the Stroud Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,-

I beg to submit for your consideration and approval a brief report of the work of the

past year.

The number of nuisances abated amounted to 218, and are classified as follows: -25 houses whitewashed and cleansed; 17 houses repaired; 5 houses closed as unfit for habitation; 16 houses fumigated and cleansed after infectious diseases; 5 cases of overcrowding abated; 7 dairies and milkshops whitewashed; 9 bakehouses whitewashed; 10 slaughterhouses whitewashed; 4 cowsheds whitewashed; 7 new w.c.'s erected or re-built; 3 soil pipes and drains ventilated, 29 w.c.'s and drains unstopped; 2 drains disconnected; 6 new drains laid; 15 accumulations of manure and filth removed; 9 lots of animals improperly kept, removed, and cleansed; 25 workrooms and workshops cleansed and repaired; 24 various other nuisances removed.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 10 slaughterhouses in the town, which have been frequently visited and found

generally in a clean condition. The bye-laws relating to limewashing, cleasing and removal of offal have been duly enforced.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

The bakehouses, workshops, and factories have from time to time been visited. Notices have been served when needed, and reports made as to outworkers and employment in insanitary premises.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

Fifty-three visits were made to them during the year at irregular periods; being kept in fair order, there has been no necessity to resort to legal action, for the enforcement of the bye-laws.

A very great improvement has been effected by the erection of the new "Model" Lodging House in Acre Street, which is under good management, and continues to be well patronised.

COWSHEDS, DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS ORDER.

There are 7 cowsheds and 29 dairies and milkshops registered, to which 36 visits have been paid; notices given for cleansing and whitewashing having been complied with.

UNSOUND FOOD.

Several seizures of fruit and fish have been made, but as these were voluntarily given up no recourse to legal action was deemed necessary.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SCAVENGING.

The work in this department continues to be carried out in a satisfactory manner. About 2,500 loads of house and other refuse were collected and removed to the ashtip.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

All premises licensed for the storage of Petroleum have been inspected, and are in compliance with the regulations. Sixteen samples have been tested, all being over the standard requirements.

CANAL BOATS ACTS.

During the year Canal boats were inspected or re-inspected, and the boats were generally in good condition.

There were no cases of infectious diseases or overcrowding; only one boat with female and child on board; 6 infringments dealt with; 1 new boat registered; 1 old boat re-registered (change of owner). All boats were free from bilge water; ventilation fairly good; proper provision made for the storage of water.

No objections were made to Inspector's visits.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,
W. PARSONS, Cer. S.I.

