

**[Report 1906] / Medical Officer of Health, Sturminster R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

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Sturminster Rural District Council.



Sturminster Newton,  
Dorset,

May 6 1907

To  
The Librarian -  
British Medical Association Library

Dear Sir

In answer to your letter I write to inform you that the M.O.H.

for last year has recently died, & I have been appointed in his place -

I am enclosing a soiled copy of last year's report - the only one I can  
find amongst the late Dr. J.C. Leach's papers -

Hoping this will meet your requirements

Yours faithfully

Bernard S. Hollick



Sturminster Newton.  
February 14th. 1907.

Gentlemen,

My Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health (the 21st.) will

be necessarily a short one as I have none but satisfactory comments to

make on its chief points which are excellent.

Area of District (exclusive of area covered with water), - 39151  
acres.

Population (census 1901), - 3804.

ditto (estimated to middle of 1906), - 3640.

Births, - The births registered during the year numbered 176, of  
these 91 were males, and 85 females; the average number of births of  
the preceding ten years was 196.

Birth-rate, - This is 20.3 per 1000 persons living, as compared  
with the decennial average of 22.0; the same rate for Rural England  
and Wales being 26.3. The Registrar General in his remarks says "with  
trifling exceptions the fall in the birth-rate has been continuous  
since 1878".

Deaths, - The number of deaths registered from all causes was 101,  
of these 62 were males and 39 females; the decennial average being  
136.

Death-rate, - This is , as far as this district is concerned, the  
lowest on record being only 11.6 per 1000 persons living, whilst the  
average for the preceding ten years was 15.1 and that for Rural Eng-  
land and Wales 15.0 for 1906.

Natural Increase of Population, - viz: the excess of births over

Sturges  
February 1917

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1916. It is necessary to report that as I have not had time to examine the report in detail, I am unable to give you any information at this time.

The report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1916 shows that the death rate for the year was 12.5 per 1000 persons living, as compared with the death rate for the year 1915 of 13.0 per 1000 persons living.

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12.5

deaths was *therefore* 75.

**Average Age at Death,-** This was 55.4 years, not quite so high as last year when it was 58 years, but still well above the decennial average of about 50 years.

**Zymotic death-rate,-** This is nil as not a single death was registered as dying from any of the seven zymotic diseases.

**Infant Mortality,-** The proportion of deaths under one year of age to births registered was 67.0 which is low when compared to the decennial average of 94.3. The same rate for rural England and Wales for 1906 was 115.

**Prevalence of Infectious Disease, Notification,-** During this year as last only 10 cases were notified viz: 2 from Diphtheria both occurring at one farm in the parish of Marnhull, 4 from Scarlet Fever, being isolated cases at Marnhull, Stalbridge, Child Okeford, and Hanford, 3 from Erysipelas, and 1 from Typhoid Fever from Sturminster occurring at Sturminster Common and without doubt due to drinking bad water.

**Phthisis,-** 6 cases were so registered, 2 being between the ages of 15 and 25, the other 4 being of the ages of 33, 39, 42, and 49. 4 of the 6 cases occurred at Stalbridge, 1 at Stourton Caundle and one at Haselbury Bryan.

**Water Supply,-** No works to this end have taken place of any importance within the district. With regard to that for the supply of Sturminster Newton it seems now to be within sight as the last formality viz: the sanction of the High Court of Chancery has just been obtained, the delay in obtaining this will I fear be an expensive one as had this be<sup>en</sup> obtained six months ago all materials would have been much lower, work would have been provided *provided* during the winter months, xx

There are therefore 75.

at death, - This was 58.4 years, not quite so high as

last year when it was 59 years, but still well above the

average of about 50 years.

Typical death-rates, - This is all as not a single death was regis-

tered as being from any of the seven zymotic diseases.

Infant Mortality, - The proportion of deaths under one year of

age to births registered was 67.0 which is low when compared to the

national average of 84.7. The same rate for rural England and Wales

for 1896 was 71.5.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases, Notification, - During this

year no less than 19 cases were notified viz: 2 cases of Cholera,

occurring at one farm in the parish of Korbhill, 4 cases of Typhoid Fever,

being isolated cases at Korbhill, Galbridge, Child Oxley, and Bar-

row, 2 cases of Typhoid, and 1 case of Typhoid Fever from Sturminster

Newton at Sturminster Newton and without doubt due to drinking bad

water.

Phthisis, - 6 cases were so registered, 3 being between the

ages of 15 and 25, the other 3 being of the ages of 25, 30, 42, and

49. 4 of the 6 cases occurred at Galbridge, 1 at Sturminster Newton

and one at Hasebury Bryan.

Water Supply, - No works to this end have taken place of any im-

portance within the district. With regard to that for the supply of

Sturminster Newton it seems now to be within sight as the last form-

ally viz: the sanction of the High Court of Chancery has just been

obtained, the delay in obtaining this will I fear be an expensive one

as has this be obtained six months ago all authorities would have been

but now, work would have been finished during the winter months, and

the low costs would have been less, and this summer would have seen a plentiful supply in the town of Sturminster Newton.

Isolation Hospital,- There is none within this district, one of the cases of Scarlet Fever was sent to the Blandford Isolation Hospital, and I have come to the conclusion that in this district there is no special need of such an institution.

Housing of the Working Classes,- No cases of insanitary dwellings were reported and the cottage accommodation remains fairly satisfactory

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops &c.,- During the Autumn I made a systematic inspection of between 30 and 40 Dairies and Cowsheds, I find there has been no Register kept and consequently there has been no registration. The Dairies as a rule were excellently kept, very clean and in most cases well ventilated, only in one case did I find a drain connected with the outside and that has since been disconnected. As regards the Cowsheds in nearly every case they required whitewashing and this was promised to be done in all cases except where the nature of their construction did not admit of it. I found four cowsheds quite unfit for the housing of cows, one of these has already been rebuilt, and I believe the owners of the other three are to be given notice to rebuild. In many cases the cows remain out in the fields all the year round except when calving or ill. I should advise a register to be kept, that all be registered, and a system of inspection adopted.

Slaughter-Houses, Bakehouses, Common Lodging Houses,- The slaughter houses are satisfactory, several bake-houses have been inspected and improvements suggested. There are no Common lodging-houses in the district.

I think you will agree with me that this report bears out the



The law costs would have been less, and this amount would have been

applied in the form of a grant to the Government.

Location of the hospital - There is some question as to the

location of the hospital. It is suggested that it should be

located in the town of ... and I have seen the plan of the

is no special need of such an institution.

Working of the hospital - The cases of ...

are ... and the ...

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Systematic inspection of ...

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I think you will agree that this report bears out the

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favourable statement I made at the commencement, and I beg to congratulate your Council thereupon.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Yours obediently.

*J. Couper Leach. M.D.*

Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst. and I beg to con-

firmly assure you that your letter has been forwarded to the proper authorities.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. Cowper Wood, M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.