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SWINTON AND PENDLEBURY URBAN
SANITARY DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

1897.



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1897.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SWINTON AND PENDLEBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

During the year 1897 there was registered in the district a total of 820 births (410 males and 410 females) and 496 deaths (278 males and 218 females). These were apportioned as follows :—

BIRTHS.	North Ward.....	Males, 140 ; Females, 120	}	Total Swinton,
	South Ward	Males, 92 ; Females, 92		444.
	West Ward	Males, 103 ; Females, 122	}	Total Pendlebury,
	East Ward	Males, 75 ; Females, 96		376.
DEATHS.	North Ward... ..	Males, 68 ; Females, 47	}	Total Swinton,
	South Ward.....	Males, 45 ; Females, 47		213.
	Industrial Schools..	Males, 5 ; Females, 1		
	West Ward	Males, 79 ; Females, 56	}	Total Pendlebury,
	East Ward	Males, 54 ; Females, 43		283.
	Children's Hospital	Males, 27 ; Females, 24		

Estimated population to middle of 1897—Total, 27,000. (See Table B, appended hereto.)

Birth-rates per 1,000 Population in the various Wards :—

North Ward	35·8	}	For Swinton, 30·2.
South Ward	24·7		
West Ward	32·3	}	For Pendlebury, 33·2.
East Ward.....	34·7		

General District Birth-rate = 31·5.

Death-rates per 1,000 Population in the various Wards—

North Ward	15·8	} For Swinton, 14·07.
South Ward	12·3	
West Ward	19·4	} For Pendlebury, 20·5.
East Ward	21·8	

Infant Death-rates per 1,000 Births in the various Wards—

North Ward.....	169·2	} For Swinton, 157·6.
South Ward.....	141·3	
West Ward	266·6	} For Pendlebury, 276·5.
East Ward	291·3	

General District Death-rate—

(Excluding Schools and Hospital) = 16·8 per 1,000.

(Including Schools and Hospital) = 18·3 per 1,000.

General District Infant Death-rate = 212·1 per 1,000 Births.

Zymotic Death-rate = 2·51.

I have much satisfaction in stating that these figures, so far as they relate to the Birth and Death-rates, show very favourable improvement, but the Infant Mortality-rate was very much higher in Pendlebury than it has been for two or three years past. To this subject I shall refer later on. The death-rate from the seven principal Zymotic diseases (*i.e.*, smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, diarrhoea, and typhoid fever) showed no very perceptible diminution. It will be noted that no case of smallpox occurred, and an unusual circumstance was that no death occurred from scarlet fever either in Swinton or Pendlebury, if the six deaths occurring at the Children's Hospital are omitted.

The total number of cases of infectious disease recorded during the year was 128, this being the lowest number in any year since the Notification Act came into operation in December, 1889. A marked feature is the great decrease in scarlet fever, and although during the latter part of the year typhoid was more prevalent than usual, the total number of cases occurring for the year from that disease has not been quite so large as in recent years. I regret, however, to observe that the mortality (20 per cent) is somewhat higher. With the exception of Typhoid all the other diseases of that type have shown a favourable decrease, both as regards the number of cases recorded and the percentage of mortality.

Taking the wards of the district *seriatim*, the street distribution of Typhoid was as under :—

North Ward, Swinton (15 cases).—Watson Street—Moss Lane—Manchester Road—Swinton Hall Road (3 cases)—Wellington Road (4 cases)—Pendlebury Road—Wardley Street—Gate Street (2 cases)—Brackley Street.

South Ward, Swinton (9 cases).—Beech Street—Worsley Road—Argyll Street (off Partington Lane)—Harrowby Street (off Partington Lane)—Broad Oak Park—Ellesmere Street—Deans Road—Moorside Road (2 cases).

West Ward, Pendlebury (17 cases).—Eaton Street (2)—Rutland Street (2)—Moss Lane (2)—Grosvenor Street—Maurice Street—Kersal View—Heron Street—Union Street (6, 3 being in one dwelling)—Carrington Street.

East Ward, Pendlebury (14 cases).—Alice Street—Ellen Street (2)—Knowles Square—Dawson Street—Cobden Street—Harriett Street—Horrocks Street—Bury Lane (2)—George Street—Bolton Road—Cavendish Street—Spencer Street.

I have long thought that many of these typhoid cases may possibly have been the result of inhaling offensive smells, and under conditions especially favourable to the development of the disease germs whilst the men (for I have found that it is mostly young colliers who are primarily attacked) have been working at their occupations in the mine. An examination, however, of the particular localities affected in the several wards compels one to the conclusion that a very large proportion have occurred in parts of the district where insanitary conditions largely prevail, where the population is more or less thickly crowded together, and where the dwellings are by no means in a clean and healthy state—frequently through default of the occupiers themselves. Take, for example, Gate Street in the North Ward, Union Street in the West Ward, and nearly all the affected streets mentioned in the East Ward (particularly in the “Croft” and “Little Bilston”). Here we often find a condition of things existing with which any Sanitary Authority must always have a difficulty in dealing, owing to the fact that the class of persons occupying the dwellings is

persistently indifferent both to its own and its neighbours' health by neglect of such means of cleanliness as are at least within reach. On the other hand it must be said that not a few owners of cottage property in these localities take a somewhat limited view of their duties and responsibilities in the matter, and that the Council is fully alive to this point is shown, not only by the frequent discussions which have taken place during the year, but also by their taking action to compel certain owners to act up to those duties and responsibilities. Further, I would remind the Council that on its part much yet remains to be done, *e.g.*, a proper system of ventilation of the sewers, the renovation and more careful and frequent cleansing of the ashpits (more especially in parts of the district where these outbreaks are so liable to recur), and the paving of streets, back yards, and back passages. With regard to the first point I think the system in vogue in the neighbouring township of Clifton would be equally suitable for Pendlebury, and the proposal to utilise the mill chimneys for this purpose is one, I think, which may prove of practical value throughout the district. There are some instances in which untrapped grids, intended for surface water only, are placed a few feet only from the front doors of dwellings, and the result of these acting as sewer ventilators has no doubt been the cause of some of our typhoid cases. A large number of these have now been remedied. All these matters have, as I am aware, engaged your anxious attention, and will, I have no doubt, in due course be remedied. I trust they will be pushed on without unnecessary delay, because just at the beginning of the present year, 1898, we are in the presence of another somewhat serious outbreak of typhoid in one of the streets (George Street) closely adjoining the district to which I have referred in connection with the East Ward of Pendlebury.

The general death-rate from Diseases of the Lungs (including Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy, but excluding Phthisis) was 3·81 per 1,000 living; including Phthisis it was 4·70; these figures being about the same as, though slightly lower than, in 1896.

A.—TABLE OF DEATHS

DURING THE YEAR 1897, IN THE SWINTON AND PENDLEBURY URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DISEASES, AGES, AND LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.						MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																						
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	FEVERS.				Membranous Group	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Disease.	TOTAL.
								Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.																		
SWINTON:—	115	44	15	5	5	27	19	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds	Under 5 { 5 upwds
North Ward.....	92	26	11	3	6	29	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
South Ward.....	135	60	22	3	7	31	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
PENDLEBURY:—	97	44	22	3	4	13	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
West Ward	6	..	1	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
East Ward	51	9	27	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Swinton Industrial Schools	496	183	98	33	23	100	59	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pendlebury Children's Hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

AREA AND POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT OR DIVISION TO WHICH THIS RETURN RELATES.

Area in Acres, 2,222. Population (Last Census), 21,684. Population (estimated to middle of 1897), 27,000.

Death Rates—General, 18·3 per 1000 population (estimated to middle of 1897); Infants (under one year of age), 212·1 per 1000 Births Registered.

B.—Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness.

COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, DURING THE YEAR 1897, IN THE
SWINTON AND PENDLEBURY URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT; CLASSIFIED ACCORDING
TO DISEASES, AGES, AND LOCALITIES.

[illegible]

Notification compulsory since December 4, 1889.
Isolation Hospital—Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

The mortality amongst infants in Pendlebury was, as I have previously stated, exceptionally high in 1897. I have no specific information or speculative opinion to lay before the Council as to the particular causes which have operated to produce so unfortunate a state of things in this particular period other than to reiterate the belief—based on an analysis of the registered causes of death—that it is mainly due to improper feeding, insufficient clothing and other well-known causes which all culminate in neglect and inattention on the part of mothers.

Added to these is the important factor of improvident marriages and the inadequate training of young women for the duties pertaining to motherhood and the proper rearing of infants. As I have more than once stated, it would, in my opinion, be a most excellent plan to provide by means of our technical instruction classes for a course of lectures not only on sick nursing (as is, I believe, already done), but also on the care and management of young children; and it would, further, be of signal advantage to the poorer classes of our community if some such work as is so admirably carried on in Manchester by the Ladies' Health Society by way of assistance to the Health department of that Corporation (noticed in the *Manchester Guardian* of January 18th, 1898) could be inaugurated by some of the leisured classes in our district. If carried out in anything like an effective manner a philanthropic effort of this sort would, I am convinced, be productive of excellent results, and might be the means of largely minimising this great waste of infant life.

The following table shews the registered causes of the deaths amongst infants in the two wards of Pendlebury:—

	Bronchitis and Pneumonia.	Inflammation of Bowels.	Tubercular Disease (general)	Brain Disease.	Wasting Disease of Bowels.	Premature Birth.	Insufficient Vitality.	Convulsions.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea.	Debility.	Inquests.	Unclassified Diseases.	Total.
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	V.	VI.	VII.	VIII.	IX.	X.	XI.	XII.	XIII.	XIV.	
West	10	11	7	..	2	2	5	2	1	1	..	..	1	2	44
East	9	13	3	4	5	5	2	4	4	1	4	1	2	3	60
Totals	19	24	10	4	7	7	7	6	5	2	4	1	3	5	104

From this table it will be seen that of the total deaths in the two wards above-named, 18·8 per cent were due to lung diseases, and that inflammatory and wasting disease of the bowels was accountable for 29·8 per cent. If convulsions be included in the latter (a common result of improper feeding), we have a percentage of 35·5, or slightly over one-third of the total number of infant deaths in the two wards. Taking columns III., IV., VI. and VII. of the table, which include diseases mainly due to heredity, we have a percentage of 26·9 recorded (nearly one-fourth of the whole number in the two wards). The three inquests were held on infants “found dead in bed,” whilst measles, whooping-cough, and diarrhœa contributed 10·5 per cent of the whole number.

During the second and third quarters of the year measles was very prevalent in the district, one school in Swinton being closed for a period of three weeks. Owing to the prevalence of typhoid in the last quarter, I issued notices to householders throughout the affected localities, setting forth the precautions to be adopted by individual occupiers to lessen the risks of infection.

I have duly reported to you from time to time in the course of the year the results of my visits of inspection in the different parts of the district where my intervention has been called for, and aided by the co-operation of members of the Council—many of whom have personally interested themselves in these matters by accompanying the Sanitary Inspector and myself on our rounds—much useful work has been accomplished, and the sanitary condition of many parts of the district materially improved.

The dairies, the bakehouses, and the workshops (under the Factory and Workshops Act) have been periodically inspected by me as occasion has required, and generally speaking, I have not found anything calling for special intervention; the general condition of these places, in respect to cleanliness, amount of cubic air space, light, ventilation, and overcrowding being satisfactory. I would suggest, however, that a copy of the several orders and enactments regulating the conduct of these establishments should be supplied to each person affected thereby, as I find that a good

many are unaware of the necessity for keeping such information constantly before them for reference, thus laying themselves open to a prosecution for a breach of such regulations. A circular letter might be sent out to every dairyman, bakehouse-keeper, and occupier of a workshop (under the Factory and Workshop Acts) requiring them to forthwith supply themselves with copies of the regulations necessary to be observed in the carrying on of their respective occupations, which copies are required by law to be prominently displayed for ready reference on the part of all engaged therein.

No sample of unsound food has been brought under my notice, nor has any been seized or condemned.

The milk supply appears on the whole to have been satisfactory.

Amongst other important questions that of the provision of open spaces and recreation grounds has been actively taken in hand during the year, with the result that each portion of the district will, in all probability, ere long be adequately provided for in this respect.

The past year, ever memorable as the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, will also be remembered as the one in which Victoria Park and mansion (formerly Swinton Old Hall) was purchased by the Council for the purposes of a recreation ground and offices, a public improvement at once the envy and admiration of all who have visited it. The public gardens, too, which by private munificence have been handed over to the Council, have proved an inestimable boon both to the older and the younger inhabitants of Swinton generally, and of the North Ward in particular; whilst in Pendlebury the acquisition of the Institute as a Town Hall, with the provision of the Knowles' reading room and library, evince the excellent public spirit and enterprise displayed by the Council on behalf of its constituents.

It is a matter of congratulation, also, that the long standing question of the provision of hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease has at last been satisfactorily settled by an arrangement concluded with the Salford Corporation for receiving patients from this district into the Ladywell Sanatorium on the

expiration of our existing arrangements with the Manchester Corporation's Hospital at Monsall in 1899. Owing to the long distance of Monsall from our district we have hitherto been unable to practice isolation as completely and effectively as we could wish—many objecting to go so far or to allow their friends to be taken there—but one is hopeful that that difficulty will now be practically overcome, and that henceforth we shall be enabled to deal more promptly and therefore more effectually with periodical outbreaks of this class of disease.

I conclude, Gentlemen, by saying that the statistics I have laid before you convince me that, with the exception named in another part of this report, the general sanitary condition of our district at the close of 1897 shows no material retrogression. On the contrary, it is evident from the large diminution in the number of infectious cases of disease, and from the lower general rate of mortality that there has certainly been signs of improvement in many respects. Of course, a large district like ours requires the constant and vigilant attention of both the Council and its advisers in order to secure most satisfactory results, but I am happy to say that its members have shown such a cordial and intelligent interest in the sanitary work of the district, and so anxious a desire to do what is best for its welfare, that as the time goes on we may reasonably expect to find these results gradually and successfully accomplished.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL HOSEGOOD, M.R.C.S., Eng., L.S.A.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Briar Cottage,

Chorley Road, Swinton,

January 21, 1898.

REPORT

OF

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

January to December, 1897.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SWINTON AND
PENDLEBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the following summary of Sanitary
Work attended to during the year 1897 :—

NUISANCES AND REPAIRS, &C., NECESSARY TO PROPERTY.

Closets and ashpit walls requiring repairs.....	95
Wet ashpits, "owing chiefly to blocked drains and tenants throwing waste water into covered ashpits".....	88
Depositing ashpit refuse in prohibited places	11
Ashpits without doors	63
Broken and short slopstone pipes, "allowing waste water to drip down housewall"	407
Defective pavement around gullies in yards, "allowing waste water to lodge"	366
Untrapped drains. "Slopstone pipes directly connected with drains and untrapped grids in yards"	47
Blocked gullies. "Chiefly tenants' fault for not clearing same"	29
Defective drains and broken gullies	42
Dirty houses and accumulation of rubbish, &c., in yards ...	14
Defective structural condition of houses : "Walls, roofs, and spouting"	32
Inefficient draining of yards and passages.....	6
Firing of house chimneys	8
Defective manure receptacles	5
Overcrowding	2

In dealing with the before-mentioned nuisances and repairs, &c., necessary to property, notices have been issued as follows :—

Notices given verbally.....	115
Notices by letter	93
Legal notices served	143
Number of nuisances outstanding, December, 1896	28
Number of nuisances dealt with during the year 1897	1215
	—
Total	1243
Number of nuisances, &c., remedied during 1897	1209
	—
Number of nuisances, &c., outstanding December, 1897.....	34

In the majority of the cases all the notices have been complied with. Legal proceedings were continued in four instances, with the result that the nuisances complained of were abated.

Smoke tests have been made of the drains of several properties, and, in each case where defects were found to exist, the owners have had the necessary alterations made.

EMITTING OF SMOKE FROM CHIMNEYS OF WORKS.

There have been 173 observations taken of the smoke emitted from the works of eighteen of the manufactories and laundries, &c., within the district.

In two instances legal proceedings were threatened on account of the amount of dense smoke emitted, with the result that an improvement has been effected. Copies of the observations taken have been forwarded to the owners of the works dealt with.

LODGING HOUSES.

The one registered lodging house has been periodically visited, and found to be kept in good condition ; visits have also been paid to houses respecting which complaints of overcrowding have been made, and the occupiers upon being cautioned have complied with the notices.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

	Swinton.	Pendlebury.	Total.
Keepers of cows	18	9	27
„ dairies	6	4	10
Other vendors of milk, not residents, supplying in the district			14

The periodical inspection paid to the above by the Medical Officer of Health and myself, and the suggestions given jointly by us being acted on by the farmers and keepers of the dairies, &c., have been the means of keeping the places in good sanitary condition.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Swinton.....	10	Pendlebury.....	11
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These have been regularly inspected, several minor defects have at times of inspection been pointed out to the occupiers, and have been altered and repaired, with the result that the places are kept in compliance with the bye-laws.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The shops and places used for the sale of food and drugs, &c., have been kept under supervision.

Early in the year I had my attention drawn to a faulty milk supply brought into this district by a farmer in an adjacent district. On visiting at the farm, and making enquiries, I ascertained that one of the cows was suffering from a severe cold, but directly it came to the farmer's knowledge he separated it from the others, and none of its milk was used again until it had thoroughly recovered. No sickness was in any way found out as resulting from the supply.

Eight Samples of New Milk have been purchased and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis, with the result that all with the exception of one were certified genuine; the one was stated to be pure but of poor quality.

INFECTIOUS CASES.

Scarlet fever	21
Typhoid fever	52
Diphtheria.....	7
Number of visits paid to infected houses for the purposes of inspecting, ascertaining particulars, cautioning house- holders, removing patients, and disinfecting	210
Number of rooms disinfected.....	127
Number of patients removed to hospital—	
Diphtheria.....	1
Typhoid Fever	3
	— 4

DISINFECTANTS.

Carbolic Soap and Powder have been freely given to those in charge of infectious cases.

The supply of Diarrhoea Mixture has been greatly appreciated and liberally made use of, especially during the summer months, a considerable quantity having been given away.

ASHPITS.

	NUMBER EMPTIED.	
	Swinton.	Pendlebury.
January to June	1,854	2,024
July to December	2,141	2,056
	3,995	4,080
		3,995
Total		8,075

During the months of July and August a trial was made of emptying the ash pits during the night-time, with a beneficial result.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALBERT BLEAKLEY,

Inspector of Nuisances.