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**RISHWORTH**  
**Urban Sanitary District.**

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**MEDICAL OFFICER'S**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR 1897.**

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THE RISHWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

GENTLEMEN,

The health of the Rishworth Sanitary District during the year 1897 has been on the whole good.

No case has come to my knowledge of disease arising from insanitary conditions, defective drainage, or water supply. There has been complete freedom from epidemics—no actual Influenza, no Measles, &c., and though in the neighbouring districts a serious epidemic of Scarlet Fever has been dragging on since the end of August, it is a cause for congratulation that there have been only six cases of the disease in Rishworth during the year, and all have arisen from outside sources, the epidemic never having been permitted to gain a footing in the district.

No other cases of infectious disease have been reported. The greater number of cases of disease has been as usual from Lung troubles, Nervous diseases and Rheumatic disorders. During the first half-year, out of 13 deaths, 9 were from Lung troubles, and in the second quarter of the year all the 6 deaths were from disease of the Lungs, 5 having been from Acute Pneumonia, all the cases having arisen independently. During the last half-year however, there were no deaths from Lung Disease.

The fact that there was so much Lung Disease in the first half and so much less in the second half was no doubt due to the severity of the weather at the commencement of the year, and its comparative mildness during the latter part.

There were no Deaths during the months of October and November.

The Births have been 30 in number, viz.— 15 males and 15 females, or at the rate of 23· per 1000 per annum, as against 34·8 per 1000 per annum last year.

The Deaths have been 20 in number, viz. :—13 males and 7 females, or at the rate of 15·3 per 1000 per annum, as against 18·6 per 1000 per annum last year.

At the end of August a serious epidemic of Scarlet Fever sprang up in the neighbouring districts of Soyland and Barkisland, imported, it is believed at the "Rush-bearing" or Annual Flower Show and Fair by some of the show people coming in caravans, and though we had six cases of the disease in Rishworth before the end of the year, we happily escaped an epidemic, owing, I believe, to the intelligent manner in which the parents and friends of the patients attacked, followed the directions given them to prevent spread of contagion to others, and in all cases the infection came from outside sources except in one family where three children took the fever, though two had received the infection independently it appeared at a school in another district.

The first case occurred at Booth Wood, in the end of August, the child having been to the Fair a few days before, and no doubt contracted the fever there.

The second case, at Slitheroe, did not occur till the 12th of October, and this child also apparently got it at school in another district, a large number of cases having occurred at the same time at the school, necessitating its closure soon afterwards.

The next three cases occurred at a farm in a distant part of the District, and as stated above, two children got the Fever apparently independently at a school outside the District, and a third developed it later.

The last case occurred near Booth Wood, but no connection could be traced between this and the former case at Booth Wood.

Every precaution was taken to prevent the infection from being transmitted to others, and the friends carefully warned of all the possible means of spreading the disease in the District, and disinfectants freely supplied by the Sanitary Inspector gratis to all who required them. After each case had run its course and direct infection had ceased, the District Sanitary Inspector had the necessary disinfection of the houses in which the cases had occurred, carefully carried out and was much helped in this by the zeal of the friends to do their duty in this respect.

After the occurrence of the case at Slitheroe; as the patient was the grand-daughter of the gardiner at the Rishworth Grammar School, and lived in a cottage near the School, and the channels were numerous by which infection might come to the scholars, and also because the cases of Scarlet Fever were occurring in greatly increasing numbers in the adjacent part of the next District, and the epidemic appeared almost sure at that time to become general in that part of Rishworth, it was thought best to break up the School and it remained closed for a period of six weeks, by which

time the case above mentioned had ceased to be a source of danger and the epidemic in the neighbourhood had greatly abated.

The peculiar difficulty of isolating cases of infectious disease in the School made it particularly advisable to avoid what seemed a great likelihood of having Scarlet Fever among the scholars.

The Sanitary Inspector in his Report states that the Dairies, of which there are about 50 in the District, are all in a cleanly state, and that the Cow-sheds are all clean and well white-washed, that the Privies are in good condition and are emptied at regular periods, and that there are no overcrowding in the houses.

During the year five new Privies have been built, two at Follingworth-gate, two at Roadside, and one at Booth Wood. Improvements in drainage of Slop-stones, Gullies, &c., have been effected at Booth Wood and elsewhere, and others are in course of being carried out.

Owing to the operations coming partly to a close at the Water Works, Green Withins, the navvies and workmen, who in 1892 were quartered in the huts at Oxen Grainge, have now in large numbers left, so that the population of the district is diminished by some 400 since September.

The rain fall for the year was 43.56 inches.

I have the honour to be.

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. GREVILLE HUIE, M.D.,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.