TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1897.

STANLEY,
JANUARY 29th, 1898.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present you with my Report giving the amount of Sickness from Zymotic Diseases, Vital Statistics, and an account of the Sanitary condition of the District during the year ending December 31st, 1897.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The number of notifiable diseases reported to me was 63, and the non-notifiable that came under my notice by enquiring and otherwise 138. The former was made up as follows :—Scarlatina, 49 ; Enteric Fever, 4 ; Croup, 2 ; Puerperal Fever, 3 ; Erysipelas, 5 ; and the latter, Measles, 64 ; Whooping Cough, 74.

SCARLATINA. This disease may be considered a permanent resident in Colliery districts. Except in the month of May, cases appeared every month of the year. In March, the greatest number occurred, and although it threatened to become epidemic, it almost ceased the following month. A little more than half of the district only was effected, and from beginning to end it was practically one continuous outbreak. The Villages of Causey, Tanfield Lea, and Tantobie were totally exempt.

ENTERIC FEVER. The District has a fairly satisfactory record as regards Enteric Fever, only Four cases were reported. The first appeared at Tantobie in January. The house occupied by the patient being little better than a hovel. The patient was promptly removed to the Fever Hospital. In September, seven months afterwards, a second case appeared in the same house, and was similarly treated. The third case resided at Clough Dene, and the fourth at Andrew's Houses, both having been attacked also in September, excepting for the possibility of number two being the product of number one, there was no apparent cause for the origin of any one of the cases.

CROUP showed no evidence of infectiveness.

PUERPERAL FEVER was more likely a severe febrile attack rather than a disease of a specific kind.

ERYSIPELAS. All the cases were unimportant, regarded as an infectious disease.

DIARRHŒA was never prevalent, and the cases that came under observation were of the ordinary non-specific type.

MEASLES made its first appearance in White-le-Head, in February, by importation from the adjoining district. It spread to the next village through the medium of the Schools, and ceased entirely at the end of the following month. In May it crossed the borders into the village of Causey, and assumed an epidemic from almost at once. It was considered desirable to close the Schools, partly on account of the lessened attendance, but chiefly as an alternative to withdrawing the children residing outside the affected area. The epidemic was practically confined to the Village proper.

WHOOPING COUGH began in January and continued until June. The first case was imported into White-le-Head, and from thence it spead to Tantobie, Tanfield, Hobson, Lintz and Burnopfield in the order mentioned.

Removal to the infectious hospital was offered to all cases suitable for admission, but no one availed themselves of that privilege except the above-mentioned cases of Typhoid Fever.

Disinfectants were promptly supplied by your Inspector wherever they could be of any utility, and, where practicable, houses were disinfected

---

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during the year amounted to 286, and the deaths to 135. This gives a birth-rate of 35·75, and a death-rate of 16·9 per 1000, estimating the population at 8000.

The Deaths from Zymotic Diseases, including Diarrhœa, were as follows, viz: Membranous Croup, 2; Enteric Fever, 1; Measles, 2; Whooping Cough, 5; Diarrhœa, 7; total, 17. This equals 12½ per cent of the whole deaths, a fairly satisfactory record. It will be noticed that no mortality has followed from Scarlatina.

Infantile Mortality continues to its usual high average. Deaths under one year were 53, being over a third of the whole, and by adding those 14 between the age of one and five, it will be seen that exactly half the total deaths occur under the age of five years. Your authority is not directly responsible for the excessive infantile mortality as only 10 deaths were due to really preventable diseases. Although particularising the causes of death, may not be of any practical use, still the following table may not be uninteresting.

Table of Infantile Mortality under 1 year—

Inanition and Defective Vitality	15
Constitutional Diseases	6
Convulsions	5
Disease of Digestive Organs	4
Diarrhœa	6
Measles	2
Whooping Cough	3
Diseases of Air Passages	7
All Others	5
Total	53

INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

NEW HOUSES. Forty-five new houses have been built during the course of the year, having all their Sanitary requirements made to the approval of your authority.

OLD PROPERTY. In Burnopfield six houses have been practically rebuilt, ten others were satisfactorily repaired, and two more were only repaired after closing orders had been obtained against the owners. One house was closed, being considered unfit for habitation. The sanitary condition of a block of houses situated in Brewery Yard, consisting of seven tenements, is most unsatisfactory, and should be dealt with in the manner recommended by your Inspector. The unsightly privy, middens attached to Liddle's Houses, have been removed. In Syke Lane, High Friarside, and Low Friarside, all insanitary houses have been or are now undergoing the necessary repairs, and at the last named place additional Out-Offices have been built. Very few improvements have been effected at the Lintz Colliery. Your authority has been supplied with full details of the existing sanitary defects. Defective houses at Mountsett were remedied, and the old wooden out-offices replaced by brick erections. A condemned house at Clough Dene has since been put into habitable condition. The owners of sixteen cottages situated at Tantobie were proceeded against, all of them, and in addition four other cottages have been or are being satisfactorily repaired, together with their attached out-offices. Several improvements have been carried out at White-le-Head, but the Faud and Liddle's houses are on the list of insanitary property. Proceedings were taken against the owner of the hall at Tanfield, and a closing order obtained in consequence of the delapidated condition of the whole house. The place has since been rendered habitable and will in future be tenanted by only one family, The Grange Farm House has been closed on account of its dangerous state. The out-offices and piggaries adjoining the road in the same village are a decided nuisance. At Andrew's Houses, Bob Gins, Causey Blue Rows, and Beamish Red Row, the whole improvements ordered to be done have not been completed. Two houses at Blackhill, unfit for habitation, were closed. Legal proceedings were taken against the owners representing thirty-four houses or tenements. Over eighty houses have undergone repairs either with or without structural changes. Nearly three hundred notices were served in consequence of nuisances or defects

SEWAGE. It is intended as soon as the drainage of High and Low Friarside is completed, to treat the sewage by broad irrigation. The sewers draining Hobson and Clough Dene should be carried to the sewage works at Tantobie, and Mountsett should be drained into the Hobson branch. There is no system of drainage in the village of Tanfield, and the same can be said of Causey Blue Row. The sewage has been removed from the main road at Beamish, and now flows over-land. Before the Hobson sewer is attached to the sewage works at Tantobie, considerable alterations will be required to the latter, in order that the additional flow may be treated anything like successfully. The land in intermittent irrigation is easily made sewer-sick, and simple percolation takes the place of filtration, leaving the effluent at times more offensive than the affluent. Outfall works will have to be provided for the treatment of the sewage from Tanfield, East Tanfield, and Tanfield Lea. A variety of methods have been adopted throughout the Country for the purification of sewage, and it is not necessary to secure land for treatment for ordinary house sewage.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE REMOVAL. The scavenging throughout the whole district has been, on the whole, carried out in a satisfactory manner. The removal of refuse, on the other hand, has not been done equally as satisfactory. There has been, and always will be, a certain amount of irregularity in the cleansing of the out-offices under the present system. But if your Board accepted the responsibility, and took the charge of this portion of sanitary work, the health and comfort of the inhabitants would be materially benefited.

WATER SUPPLY. The whole district, with a few exceptions, is abundantly supplied with good water by the Consett Water Company. A supply has been recently laid to all the houses in Busty Bank, and one is urgently needed to the houses at Crookgate Pit.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES are kept in good order.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS on the whole were fairly satisfactory.

No Prosecution has been found necessary under "The Food and Drugs Act."

Schedules of Cases of Sickness and Death supplied by the Local Government are attached.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. BENSON, Medical Officer.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
OF TANFIELD.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS on the whole were fa

No Prosecution has been found necessary under "The Food a

Schedules of Cases of Sickness and Death supplied by the Local G

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. BENSON, Medical Officer.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
OF TANFIELD.

(A) TABLE OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1897, IN THE TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DISEASES AND AGES.

Mortality from All Causes, at Subjoined Ages.								Mortality from Subjoined Causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.																				
								1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
												Fevers.																	
At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards		Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diptheria	Membranous Croup	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued.	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhœa & Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Influenza	Injuries	All Other Diseases	Total.
135	53	14	13	3	31	21	Under 5				1		1						2	5	6			10				42	67
							5 upwds				1										1		10	7	9	1	5	34	68

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this Return Relates.—Area in Acres, 4,650; Population last Census, 6,880; Population (estimated to middle of 1897) 8,000.

Death Rates.—General, 16·9 per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1897. Infant (under 1 year of age), 185 per 1,000 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 TANFIELD URBAN DISTRICT, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DISEASES AND AGES.

Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in the District coming to the Knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.													Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.												
				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
								Fevers.													Fevers.								
Last Census.	Estimated to middle of 1897.			Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diptheria	Membranous Croup	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued.	Relapsing	Puerperal.	Cholera	Erysipelas			Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diptheria	Membranous Croup	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas		
6880	8000	286	Under 5		20		1		1																				
			5 upwds		29		1		3			3		5								2							

"Notification of Infectious Disease" has been compulsory in this District since September, 1895. The Isolation Hospital used by the Sick of this District is that of Lanchester Joint Hospital Board situate at Leadgate.

T. BENSON, Medical Officer of Health.

January 29th, 1898.

Taylor & Co., Printers and Stationers, Front Street, Dipton.