

[Report 1909] / Medical Officer of Health, Tettenhall U.D.C.

Contributors

Tettenhall (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1909

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/radn9zuw>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

TETTENHALL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health's Report for 1909.

29TH ANNUAL REPORT.

Population Census, 1891	...	...	...	...	...	5145
" " 1901	...	...	...	...	...	5337
Inhabited Houses, 1891	...	...	...	...	...	1056
" " 1901	...	...	...	...	...	1176
Area in Statute Acres	...	...	...	...	...	1220
Tettenhall Local Board Constituted	...	...	...	...	...	1883
Adoption of Bye-Laws	...	...	...	...	...	1887
" " Notification Act	...	...	...	...	...	1889
Sewerage Works commenced 1890, finished	...	...	...	...	...	1892
Isolation Hospital Provided	...	...	...	...	...	1891
Public Scavenging Inaugurated, May	...	...	...	...	...	1897
Conversion of Sewerage Treatment	...	...	...	...	...	1900
Joint Small Pox Hospital Provided	...	...	...	...	...	1903

TABLES.

- I. & II. Table of Births, Deaths, and Infant Mortality, from 1899 to 1909.
- III. Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during 1909.
- IV. Causes of, and Ages at, Death during 1909.
- V. A Comparative Table of Epidemics, from 1883 to 1909.
- VI. Scarlet Fever.
- VII. Summary of Sanitary Work.

CENSUS OFFICE,
MILLBANK,
LONDON, S.W.,
12TH Nov., 1901.

*County Borough, Municipal
Borough or Urban District* } **Tettenhall (U.D.)**

Civil Parishes and Wards.	HOUSES.				POPULATION.		
	In- habited	Uninhabited		Building	Persons	Males	Females
		In Occupation	Not in Occupation				
Tettenhall (U.D.) Civil Parish, Tettenhall.	1176	5	48		5337	2481	2856

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT For 1909.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Tettenhall Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

During the year 1909 there were 115 Births and 47 Deaths. The Birth Rate was 20·7 and the Death Rate 8·4—the lowest death rate we have had for ten years.

Nine deaths occurred under one year, making the Infantile Mortality 78·2. Three of these infants were prematurely born; one had Congenital Heart Disease; one, Pneumonia; and one, Enteritis. Two children died shortly after birth from Congenital Debility, and one was found dead at Compton. Seven of these deaths were certified and two were the subject of Inquests.

No death took place from any of the Infectious Diseases, unless one includes Pneumonia, from which there were 6 Deaths.

There were 5 fatal cases of Tuberculosis:—3 of Pulmonary Phthisis; one of Intra-cranial Tumour; and one of Acute Tuberculosis in a child of four, who had contracted the disease outside the district.

Five deaths are certified from Cancer:—two of the breast, one of the stomach, and two of the intestines—the last a brother and sister living in the same house and dying within a short time of each other.

Of the 47 deaths 5 were uncertified. An Inquest was held in two of these, but two old people and a newly-born child were buried on the Coroner's Certificate on his being satisfied that there was no necessity for an enquiry.

NOTIFICATIONS.

Diphtheria, 7 ; Erysipelas, 3 ; Scarlet Fever, 9.

Diphtheria. Of the 7 cases of Diphtheria only one had the benefit of Antitoxin, though Practitioners in the District are informed that the Council will pay for Antitoxin.

Swabs were taken in three cases and shewed the Diphtheria bacillus.

In two cases the water was contaminated, and tap water laid on.

On August 6th, a case of Diphtheria occurred at a house from which a case of Scarlet Fever had been removed during the previous month.

All these cases were treated at home, and did well, without infecting the other members of the family.

When accommodation is inadequate we have a friendly arrangement with the General Hospital, Wolverhampton, to which cases can be removed.

SCARLET FEVER. Nine cases were notified and eight removed to the Isolation Hospital. The case that was not removed was not Scarlet Fever, but the circumstances of the case justified the Doctor who saw it in notifying. The child had a rash, and came from a house in Burton-on-Trent where there had been Scarlet Fever, but as rash was the only symptom and that not typical the child was kept at home. This is not the only case in which I have been asked by Practitioners this year to see doubtful cases.

The first three cases in the year were grown-up people working outside the district.

Four cases in July occurred in three houses, all in Tettenhall, three being in the Lower Street. In one house in the Lower Street Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria occurred in one month and the water was found to be polluted.

Consumption. Three cases were notified by the Parish Doctor, and we know of three others who died of Pulmonary Phthisis.

On the advice of the Local Government Board this Council have agreed to pay 2/6 for voluntary notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and Medical Men, practising in the district, have been notified to that effect.

Three cases of **Measles** and five of **Chicken Pox** have come under our notice.

I beg to recommend that Dr. Newsholmes' Memorandum on Tuberculosis—which only costs twopence—be given to each family with a Phthisical Member. It has the authority of the Local Government Board and will confirm any advice that your Medical Officer of Health may offer.

The Local Government Board have issued a very important Memorandum on the Closure of Schools and the Exclusion of children from School in Epidemic Disease.

The principles of the Memorandum have been for the past twenty years or more in your District where it has been accepted that the closure of Schools is a drastic and exceptional measure which dislocates the trend of education and does not materially cope with the spread of infection.

We have felt that Children at School were under the intelligent surveillance of teachers and we owed much to the

information they have given to the Sanitary Authority. When the School is closed we had no such source of information.

Therefore we considered it wiser not to close Schools but to rely on individual exclusion except in the case of Measles where the initial symptoms are mistaken for an ordinary cold.

For many years the nature of exclusion of individual scholars has been as follows :—

The Inspector is instructed, on the receipt of a Notification, to visit the house where the child is ill, to make inquiries and issue three notices stating a definite period of exclusion according to the disease notified. One Notice is left with the parents, the second sent to the School, and the third kept at the office. If the disease is Scarlet Fever the child is removed to Hospital at once if there is any doubt about reasonable isolation unless the house is hopelessly infected by an undetected case or a series of cases.

The Inspector then makes his Report and posts it, with the Notification, to the Medical Officer of Health.

The system works almost automatically and has answered well.

Doubtful cases are visited by the Medical Officer of Health as soon as he can make an appointment with the doctor in attendance.

Hitherto Schools have been closed and scholars excluded on the responsibility of the M.O.H., who reports his action at the next Council Meeting.

The Code of Regulations for Public Elementary Schools (1909) modifies this practice.

By Article 57 of this Code, Schools may be voluntarily closed by the Local Education Authority, or compulsorily by the Sanitary Authority.

ARTICLE 57. If the Sanitary Authority of the District in which the school is situated, or any two members thereof, acting on the advice of the Medical Officer of Health, require either the closure of the School or any department thereof, or the exclusion of certain children for a specified time, with a view to preventing the spread of disease.....such requirement must at once be complied with.

It will be noticed that the same rule applies to the Closure of a School or to the exclusion of particular Scholars. Children must be kept from School by the Sanitary Authority or two members of that body, on the advice of the M.O.H.

That is quite reasonable so far as it applies to the Closure of Schools, but a waste of time in the isolation of infectious children.

The Memorandum points that the Medical Officer of Health is responsible for dealing with outbreaks of Infectious Disease and that he should be in a position to take immediate action and that the new code does not diminish his responsibility.

It seems therefore reasonable to continue our present practice till we are directed by the Local Government Board to do otherwise.

The third part of the Memorandum is devoted to the management of children with Infectious Disease and those in Infected homes.

The rules for the exclusion of children, in each infectious disease, are so precise that a bound copy of the Memorandum should be kept at the Council Office for constant reference. It is the best way of co-ordinating the work of the School Authority and the Sanitary Authority. The Memorandum was issued with this object.

As I understand my Reports are used for reference by Members of the Council and your Officials I propose to make a brief resumé of my diary from month to month, with comments.

JANY. Poor Law Medical Officers have to notify cases of Phthisis to Medical Officers of Health. Dr. Reid requests that they should be included in the weekly post card sent to him.

[The Council have since agreed, on the advice of the L.G.B., to pay for Voluntary Notifications of cases of Pulmonary Consumption.]

In answer to a letter from the County Education Committee (10th Nov., 1908) the Council agreed to take part in a Conference of School and Sanitary Officials for the prevention and spread of disease. [This Conference has not taken place, but the matter has been dealt with by a Memorandum by Drs. Newsholmes and Newman.]

MARCH. Overcrowding at Compton. The nomadic sleeping habits of the unemployed make it difficult to estimate the number of persons living in a house. —Galvanized Bins.

APRIL. Wynn's Property—A case of Diphtheria contracted in Wolverhampton—The only complaint of pigs this year.

JUNE. Whooping Cough. Finchfield and Tettenhall Wood Infant Schools closed for Whitsuntide holidays from 28th May to 7th June. At Finchfield there are 28 children. On 28th May 5 had Whooping Cough; on 7th June, 1. At Tettenhall Wood I.S. there are 130 children. 17 had Whooping Cough on 28th May, and 23 on 9th June.

Measles. In reply to an enquiry by the Sanitary Inspector I wrote on 25th June: "Will you point out to Mr. Bassett that our Regulations, with regard to Quarantine and Isolation, were altered to conform with the Regulations of the Education Committee of the County Council. Since then the Education Committee have authorized the admission of children to School from houses where there are Measles, provided the children themselves are not suffering from the disease and have had Measles previously." I pointed out to the Council that though the germs of Measles soon lose their virulence, indirect contagion by fomites is common and may be conveyed by a third person or by clothes and infected books and toys. The Council agreed that children from houses in which there were Measles should not be allowed to go to School. [At one time Measles were very prevalent in Tettenhall, but we have had no epidemic since all children from Measles' houses have been rigorously excluded from School. In the Memorandum, already mentioned, it states that the procedure of the Education Authority "may need future modification."]

AUGUST. Anthrax. A cow died at Compton of this disease.

It is only the second case in 26 years in our district. The destruction of the carcase and the methods of disinfection were similar to the previous case and were successful.

First notifications under the Tubercular Regulations—First Report on the tubercular sputum. 21st.—Col. Ducat inspected Out-fall Works.

SEPT Council agreed to pay for Antitoxin for poor patients. Mr. Gibson of Darlington Street always holds a fresh stock and will supply a case of two tubes for 5/-.

Nov. Received Memorandum of School Closure and Annual Report of School Medical Officer, Staffs. County Council (1908). Dr. Reid is the School Medical Officer and Dr. Grieg the Inspector for this District. M.O.H.'s Report to Council on Memorandum and Report.

The L.G.B. very rightly attach great importance to the quality of food, especially meat and milk.

Tettenhall is well supplied with Meat, Milk and Bread.

I have on several occasions spoken favourably of the quality of **Meat** in our District and our New Inspector, Mr. Denton, who comes from Lancashire, thinks it above the average.

There are 5 Butchers' Shops and 4 Slaughter houses. 32 inspections were made at the slaughtering of animals, and at other times. The Inspector states: "In no case was it found necessary to condemn a carcase or part of a carcase."

The supply of **Milk** is plentiful and of good quality, but the danger of tubercle is very real and all milk should be well boiled

before being used. There were 35 Inspections of Dairies and Milkshops and 40 of Cowsheds.

There are no underground Bakehouses. Bakehouses were inspected 31 times. (v. Table vi.)

Mr. Denton has succeeded Mr. McCarter towards the end of the year as Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, and is rapidly familiarizing himself with the work of the district.

Owing to his recent appointment he is not in a position to make as full a statement as he will next year.

I append his Report as Sanitary Inspector.

I am Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. H. T. WINTER, M.O.H.

TETTENHALL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

**REPORT by SURVEYOR to M.O.H.
Of Sanitary Inspections during the Year 1909.**

Inspections. 646 inspections as to Nuisances have been made. 216 nuisances have been noted, 16 Formal Notices and 216 Informal Notices have been served, and 212 nuisances have been abated. School Notices were served in 17 instances.

Conversion of Privies. 32 privy middens have been converted to W.C's.

It is expected that the number of conversions will be largely increased during the present year and that in considerably less time than it was estimated in the report before you a year ago these insanitary abominations will be a thing of the past.

Removal of Nightsoil and House Refuse. 1965 loads of refuse have been removed from 416 ashpits, (including 102 bins) and 533 privy middens, affecting 1090 houses.

The number of ashbins have increased during the year by 43. The removal of house refuse at present is not carried out so satisfactory as I could wish owing to the large number of privies which have to be cleansed in the early morning and to the large area over which the comparatively small number of bins is distributed. It is the work of two men, and one horse and cart for $2\frac{1}{2}$ days each week to collect the refuse from the bins alone, and as considerable time is spent in travelling from one to another there is a loss of economy which with the universal adoption of bins would not be felt. I look forward to the time when it will be possible to establish a regular system of ashbin cleansing without it being necessary for occupiers to send notices as at present. It is expected this will come with the abolition of privies.

Compton Mill Pools. The pools are now being filled up with dry refuse.

Cowsheds and Milkshops. These have been inspected and several notices were issued requiring the limewashing of same, which were in all cases complied with.

Factories and Workshops. There are 2 Factories, 38 Workshops, and 7 Bakehouses in your District. These have been periodically inspected, and the defects found were in each case remedied.

There have been 7 addresses of Outworkers sent to me by the Inspector of Wolverhampton.

Waterworks. Water has been supplied to 27 houses and 20 W.C's. 4 samples of pump water were taken for analysis and 3 were found to be unfit for drinking purposes. Waterworks water was supplied in each case. The water mains have been extended for a distance of 1028 yards as follows:—Henwood Road, 587 yards of 3-inch main; New Street, off Waterworks Road, 216 yards of 3-inch main; and New Street, off Waterworks Road, 225 yards of 3-inch main. The length of main in Henwood Road was laid in order to provide a supply of water to The Elms, the previous supply was upon analysis found to be polluted with sewage and animal matter, and totally unfit for drinking purposes.

Sewerage. The Sewers discharging into your district have been extended a distance of 1661 lineal yards. 9 new connections have been made.

Sewage Disposal. During the year arrangements have been made with Lord Dartmouth, for the lease of 35 acres of land, at Blackbrook, for Sewage Disposal purposes. A scheme for utilising the land on the broad irrigation principle is now being carried out, and it is expected that the extensions will be sufficient

to satisfy the needs of your District, taking into consideration possible development, for many years to come. Col. Ducat, an Inspector of the Local Government Board, along with the Chairman of the Roads and Sanitary Committee, and the Medical Officer of Health, inspected the land on which trial holes had been dug, and it was found that the land was very suitable for filtration purposes, being of a light sandy nature.

Two of the Septic tanks have been cleaned out and the brickwork repaired and repointed. A large quantity of sludge had accumulated during the 5 years, which I am informed the tanks had been in constant use, and it is intended that the tanks shall be cleansed at more frequent intervals in future. Owing to the large quantity of sludge obtained from the two tanks cleansed, it will not be possible to clean out the remaining tanks for some time, as the available space for sludge is taken up; the sludge cannot be removed until dried, and the drying of the sludge is a slow process during the winter months. A good crop of Osiers has been grown during the year, and a new galvanized iron shed has been erected for the purpose of storing same until dry. The Walsall Blind Institutions tender for the purchase of the Osiers was accepted, but delivery is deferred till July next.

Private Street Works. The making of Nursery Walk, which appears to have been long delayed, is now being proceeded with. When I was instructed to prepare the necessary plans, specifications, and provisional apportionments, I was glad to find that the Council had adopted Private Street Work's Act, 1892. In my opinion it is much better to make up Private Streets under this Act, than under section 150 of the Public Health Act, 1875, which is still preferred by some Local Authorities.

Plans. 20 Plans for alterations, new houses, and additions, have been submitted and approved, and 4 new houses have been erected.

JOHN DENTON,

Surveyor and Inspector.

TABLES I. & II.

TETTENHALL URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and Previous Years.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each year	BIRTHS		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL	
		Number	Rate*	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number	Rate*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1899	5655	138	24.4	11	79.7	62	10.9
1900	5720	134	23.4	18	134.3	68	11.6
1901	5337	110	20.6	10	90.9	59	11
1902	5357	144	26.6	17	118	67	12.3
1903	5377	124	23	17	136.2	64	11.8
1904	5395	110	20.3	11	100	56	10.5
1905	5422	116	21.3	6	51.7	54	9.9
1906	5441	113	20.7	13	115	73	13.4
1907	5477	122	22.2	13	106.6	53	9.6
1908	5516	127	23	17	133.8	64	11.6
Averages for years 1899-1908	5479	123.8	22.4	13.3	108.1	62	11.3
1909	5545	115	20.7	9	78.2	47	8.4

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water).

1220

Total population at all ages .. 5337
 Number of inhabited houses .. 1176
 Average Number of persons per house 4.5

At Census of 1901

TABLE III.

TETTENHALL URBAN DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING
THE YEAR 1909.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT						
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years					
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and up- wards
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)...	7		5	1		1	
Erysipelas	3	1				1	1
Scarlet Fever*... ..	9		1	5	2	1	
Measles	2			2			
Chicken Pox	5			5			
Totals	26	1	6	13	2	3	1

* NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL, 8.

TABLE IV.

TETTENHALL URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING YEAR 1909.

CAUSES OF DEATH	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District
	All ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
Enteritis	1	1						
Gastritis	1					1		
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	3				1	1	1	
Other tubercular diseases	2		1			1		
Cancer, malignant disease	5					2	3	
Bronchitis	5						5	
Pneumonia	6	1		1	1	1	2	
Premature birth ...	3	3						
Heart Diseases ...	5	1				1	3	
All other causes ...	16	3				2	11	
All causes	47	9	1	1	2	9	25	

TABLE V. A COMPARATIVE TABLE OF EPIDEMIC DISEASES, from 1883—1909.

Year	Small-pox.		Scarlet Fever. SEE TABLE VI.		Diphtheria.		Typhoid.		Puerperal Fever.		Measles.		Epidemic Influenza.	
	No. of Cases	Deaths	No. of Cases	Deaths	No. of Cases	Deaths	No. of Cases.	Deaths	No. of Cases	Deaths	No. of Cases	Deaths	No. of Cases	Deaths
1883	7	1	5		1		1				XX	2		
1884			6				1				5			
1885					1	1	1				115	5		
1886					1		8	3			34	5		
1887	1		1	1			1							
1888			2				1							
1889*														
1890			16	1			3				49	3	XX	
1891			17				3		1		86	1	XX	
1892			14				6	1	1		X	1	XX	
1893			29		6	2	6		1		3		X	
1894			46	3	1	5	2	1	1		40	3		
1895			24	1	12	15	2	1	1					3
1896			50	2	40	4	1							1
1897			9		6		1						X	
1898			11	2	1		1							
1899			5		1		3				230	8	X	
1900			14		5		3	2			34		XX	
1901			11	1	28	1	4		1		10		XX	1
1902			57	1	13		3			1	66		X	1
1903			37	1	1						2			
1904			43								155	5		
1905			23		2						7			
1906			53	1	3								X	2
1907			63	1	8	1			1		6		X	4
1908			19		7				1		68			
1909			9		3						4		X	1
TOTALS	8	1	564	15	207	29	49	7	7	4	917	33		13

NOTE—A few cases X. Prevalent XX. Very Prevalent XXX.

*Adoption of Infectious Diseases' Notification Act.

TABLE VI.
—
SCARLET FEVER.

Year	Rent of Hospital	Charges for Board and Treatment in Hospital	No. of Days charged at 1/6 2/6		No. of Patients in Hospital	Deaths in Hospital	Patients not treated in Hospital	No. of Deaths in Patients not treated in Hospital
1892	£40	£16 2 6	215	—	4	—	10	—
1893	£40	£54 10 6	512	129	13	—	16	—
1894	£40	£61 17 6	728	33	17	2	29	1
1895	£40	£34 14 0	431	19	9	—	15	1
1896	£40	£151 12 6	975	629	32	2	18	—
1897	£40	£18 13 6	249	—	4	—	5	—
1898	£40	£8 9 6	113	—	4	2	7	—
1899	£40	£6 7 6	85	—	1	—	4	—
1900	£40	£27 15 0	370	—	8	—	6	—
1901	£40	£10 13 0	142	—	4	1	7	—
1902	£40	£182 6 0	862	940	39	1	18	—
1903	£40	£66 7 6	795	54	19	1	18	—
1904	£40	£139 17 6	680	711	30	1	12	—
1905	£40	£120 7 6	—	912	19	—	4	—
1906	£40	£136 13 0	—	1020	25	1	27	—
1907	£40	£319 3 0	—	2426	49	—	14	1
1908	£40	£69 15 0	—	525	15	—	4	—
1909	£40	£50 10 0*	—	374	8	—	—	—

* THIS INCLUDES £3 15s. 0d. FOR REMOVAL OF CASES.

TETTENHALL URBAN DISTRICT.

TABLE VII.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department during the year 1909, in the Urban District of Tettenhall.

		NUMBER OF		ABATEMENT NOTICES.		NUISANCES ABATED AFTER NOTICE BY	
		Inspections and Observations made	Defects found	Informal by Inspector	Formal by Authority.	Inspector	Authority
Dwelling houses and Schools	Foul Conditions	5	2	2		2	
	Structural Defects	14	5	5		5	
	Overcrowding						
	Dairies and Milkshops ..	35	4	4		4	
	Cowsheds	40	18	18		18	
	Bakehouses	31	14	14		14	
	Slaughter-houses	32	16	16		16	
	Ashpits and Privies	238	65	65	10	51	10
	Deposits of Refuse and Manure	12	5	5		5	
	Water Closets	13	5	5		5	
House Drainage	Defective Traps						
	No Disconnection	98	36	36	1	35	1
	Other Faults						
	Water Supply	72	18	18	5	13	5
	Pigsties						
	Animals improperly kept						
	Other Nuisances	56	28	28		28	
TOTALS		646	216	216	16	196	16
Samples of Water taken for Analysis							4
" " condemned as unfit for use							3
Precautions against Infectious Disease.							
Lots of Infected Bedding disinfected or destroyed							1
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease							19
Rooms Stripped, Cleansed, and Repapered							4

NOTE.—When an Inspection or Notice embraces more than one defect, it may be enumerated separately as regards each such defect.

Date, February 10th, 1910.

*Signed, JOHN DENTON,
Inspector of Nuisances.*