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TWENTY-EIGHTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TO THE

TODMORDEN

Rural District Council,

BY

J. LAWSON, B.A., M.B.,

UNIV., DUB.

PRESENTED 7th MARCH, 1906.

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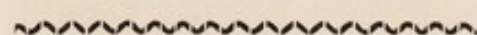
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Todmorden Rural District Council.



HEBDEN BRIDGE, 19TH FEBRUARY, 1906.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to present my Annual Report for 1905.

I estimate the Population to the middle of the year to be 5,900, an increase of 100 over 1904.

The Vital Statistics for your District are as follows: Birth-rate, 16·6 per 1,000; General Death-rate 16·4 per 1,000; Infantile Death-rate, 132·6 per 1,000; Zymotic Death-rate, 1·1 per 1,000; and Respiratory Death-rate, 2·8 per 1,000.

The Births registered were 98, viz., 46 males and 52 females, giving an annual Birth-rate of 16·6 per 1,000; three of these were illegitimate. The number of Births and Rate for 1904 were respectively 109 and 18·7 per 1,000. The average Birth-rate for the preceding ten years was 22·1 per 1,000. The Birth-rate is a declining one here, as it is in other places.

The Deaths recorded have been 87, viz., 47 males and 40 females, two of which were uncertified, yielding an annual Death-rate of 14·7 per 1,000. Ten others, viz., 6 males and 4 females, died away from home in public institutions, making the total Deaths 97, and the nett Death-rate for the year 16·4 per 1,000. The nett Deaths and Rate for the previous year were respectively 73 and 12·5 per 1,000. Thirteen of the 97 Deaths occurred in young children under one year; seven of these were prematurely born, making the infant mortality 132·6 per 1,000, a large increase

over the preceding year, when it was only 82·5 per 1,000. The old age Deaths, persons over 65 years, were 35, compared with 23 for 1904. Eleven cases of violent death were investigated by the Coroner.

The Deaths from the seven principal Zymotic or Infectious Diseases have been 7, viz., Typhoid Fever 4, Scarlet Fever 1, Membranous Croup 1, and Choleraic Diarrhœa 1, giving the Zymotic Death-rate of 1·1 per 1,000, against a Zymotic Death-rate of 2·0 per 1,000 for the previous year.

The remaining Deaths include 17 from Lung Diseases, 7 from Heart Diseases, 3 from Phthisis, and 4 from Cancer. These classes of disease vary little from year to year. Lung diseases are in excess for 1905.

The Infectious Diseases reported under the Notification Act have been 74, viz., Typhoid Fever 21, Continued Fever 2, Scarlet Fever 35, Smallpox 1, Diphtheria 2, Membranous Croup 2, and Erysipelas 11. Sixteen cases of Typhoid, 13 cases of Scarlet Fever, and 1 of Smallpox were sent to Hospital.

The Colden epidemic of Typhoid, which commenced on 12th December, 1904, continued until the 4th March, 1905, when it had practically subsided.

Two odd cases have recurred in this locality since that date, which were secondary and a sequel to the original outbreak. Twenty-three persons were affected with this specific illness, three of whom died. I recommended the closure of Colden Board School on the 28th January, 1905, for a fortnight, also its thorough disinfection and fumigation before re-opening. These measures were carried out then and repeated at the close of the year.

Thirty-five cases of Scarlet Fever have been notified, principally in the Townships of Heptonstall and Blackshaw, and mostly in the last two quarters of the year. This disorder, as I have

mentioned before, is spread mainly by carelessness of parents sending their children to school after slight attacks, and where there has been no medical supervision.

A case of Smallpox broke out in the Township of Wadsworth on the 18th March, which was contracted out of the neighbourhood. The patient was promptly removed to Hospital. All necessary precautions were taken, and although it occurred in a large household and in a populous district where contact was inevitable, no further cases followed.

Odd cases of Diphtheria or Membranous Croup have been notified, principally in the Colden District, and insanitary conditions, sufficient to originate the illness in most instances, have been found on the infected premises.

Eight new houses have been built during 1905 compared with three the preceding year.

I have to congratulate the Council on the arrangements they have completed with the Authorities at Hebden Bridge for the use of their disinfectors at Lewis Holme. This will be of immense advantage, and when the large number of infectious diseases which I have reported to you for this year are taken into consideration, the necessity for such procedure will be apparent. Bed clothes, carpets, curtains, &c., in contact with patients suffering from Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever and Diphtheria should, in the future, be disinfected at the public apparatus for that purpose in Hebden Bridge.

I append the usual Returns for the Local Government Board and County Council, also the Inspector's Report of sanitary work completed during the year.

I have also the honour to report for the information of the Right Honourable the Home Secretary, on the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act 1901, in your District, for the year 1905.

The sanitary accommodation for Factories is sufficient and adequate. There are six workshops on the register for the year, including two bakehouses. These are clean, and comply with all requirements of the Act.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOSEPH LAWSON, M.B., &c.,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Todmorden Rural District Council.

TABLE I.—For whole district.

Year.	Popula- tion esti- mated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of residents registered in Public Institu- tions be- yond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.				Total Deaths in Public In- stitutions in the District.	Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*					
1895	4,800	116	24.1	13	112.0	76	15.8					
1896	4,850	113	23.2	12	106.1	73	15.0					
1897	4,900	141	28.7	15	106.3	84	17.1					
1898	5,000	107	21.4	15	140.1	85	17.0					
1899	5,100	134	26.2	15	111.9	61	11.9					
1900	5,200	107	20.5	14	130.8	95	18.2					
1901	5,094	93	18.2	14	150.5	64	12.5	7	71	13.9		
1902	5,600	112	20.0	15	133.9	80	14.2	8	88	15.7		
1903	5,700	115	20.1	20	173.9	99	17.3	4	103	18.0		
1904	5,800	109	18.7	9	82.5	66	11.3	7	73	12.5		
Averages for years 1895-'04	5,204	114	22.1	14	124.8	78	15.0					
1905	5,900	98	16.6	13	132.6	87	14.7	10	97	16.4		

* Rates calculated per 1000 of the estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—15288 Acres.

Total population at all ages.....5094 } At Census of 1901.

Number of inhabited houses1269 } At Census of 1901.

Average number of persons per house 4 }
Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Todmorden Union
Workhouse, Fielden Hospital, Sourhall Hospital, and Halifax Infirmary.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District?—No.

TABLE III.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1905.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in whole District.							No. of Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Undr 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwrds	
Smallpox	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria.....	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Membranous Croup.....	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	11	0	0	4	0	7	0	0
Scarlet Fever.....	35	2	5	20	4	4	0	13
Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	21	0	8	5	4	4	0	16
Relapsing Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Continued Fever	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Plague	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	74	2	15	31	8	18	0	30

Isolation Hospital—Fielden and Sourhall Hospitals.

TABLE IV.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1905.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at subjoined ages of 'Residents' whether in or beyond the District.						
	All Ages	Undr 1	1 and un-der 5.	5 and un-der 15	15 & undr 25	25 & undr 65	65 & up-wds.
Smallpox.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Whooping Cough.....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.....	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Croup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	4	0	1	0	1	2	0
Epidemic Influenza.....	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cholera	2	1	0	0	0	0	1
Enteritis	3	0	0	0	0	1	2
Phthisis, pulmonary tuberculosis	3	1	2	0	0	0	0
Other tubercular diseases	4	0	0	0	0	3	1
Cancer, malignant disease.....	5	0	0	0	0	1	4
Bronchitis	11	1	2	0	0	3	5
Pneumonia	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Pleurisy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	7	7	0	0	0	0	0
Premature birth	7	0	0	0	0	3	4
Heart diseases	9	0	1	0	1	7	0
Accidents	2	0	0	0	0	2	0
Suicides	34	4	1	0	0	11	18
All other Causes	97	14	7	1	3	35	37

TABLE C, 1905.**TODMORDEN RURAL COUNCIL SANITARY DISTRICT.****MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—JOSEPH LAWSON, M.B.**

Salary £40.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—Mr. EMMETT SMITH, A.R.S.I.

Salary £45.

What other position does the Sanitary Inspector fill?—None.

WATER SUPPLY—

Quality?—Generally good. Action on Lead?—None reported.

Any extensions or change during 1905?—No.

Any inadequacy in any part?—Water scare in dry summers, mainly private supplies.

SEWERAGE—

Is the district systematically sewered?—No.

Is rainfall from roads excluded?—No.

Extensions or improvements during 1905?—None.

Any inadequacy, and where?—None.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL—

System adopted?—Precipitation for Heptonstall.

Any extensions in 1905?—No.

Any complaint in neighbourhood of sewage works?—Yes.

SCAVENGING—

Are the privy-middens, ash-places, &c., cleansed by Sanitary staff, by Contractors, or by Owners and Tenants?—Sanitary staff in Parish of Heptonstall.

ADOPTIVE ACTS—

Acts adopted during 1905 (or parts)?—No.

Any diseases added to Notification Schedule, e.g., Measles, Chicken-pox, &c.?—No.

Any system of voluntary notification of Phthisis?—No.

BY-LAWS—

Any adopted or sanctioned during 1905?—(a) Under the Public Health Act, 1875?—No. (b) Under the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890?—No.

REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, &C.—

- Common Lodging Houses ?—None.
- Canal Boats ?—75. Fair condition.
- Slaughter Houses ?—3. Fair condition.
- Cowsheds ?—70. Fair condition.
- Offensive Trades ?—1, Tripe Boiling. Fair condition.

COWSHEDS—

- Give date of Regulations in force under D.C.M. Order ?—September 21st, 1900.
- Any special inspection made during 1905 ?—No.
- Any systematic veterinary inspection of cows ?—No.
- Any action taken by outside authorities, e.g., under 'Milk Clauses' concerning milk supplied from this district ?—No.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE—

- What Disinfecting apparatus is available and where is it situate ?—Hebden Bridge Disinfectory, Lewis Holme.
- How are dwellings disinfected ?—Sulphur Fumigation.
- Any placards or handbills issued during 1905 ?—No.

SCHOOLS—

- No. closed during 1905 on account of sickness ?—One.
- Total duration of such closure ?—Two weeks.
- Any ailment or contagious disease associated particularly with school life during 1905 ?—Typhoid Fever, Colden Board School.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT—

- No. of workshops inspections ?—9. Written notices ?—None.
- Prosecutions ?—None. Defects found ?—None.
- Any cases of anthrax in factories or workshops during 1905 ?—No.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1902—

- No. of cases of Puerperal Fever occurring in the practice of Midwives ?—None.
- No. of such Midwives disinfected by Sanitary Authority under Rule E. 5 of the Central Midwives Board ?—None.

DWELLINGS—

- Number of houses built during 1905 ?—8. General character ?—Villas and cottages.
- Any occupied houses unfit for habitation ?—No.
- Any overcrowding of persons in houses ?—No.
- Any action taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts ?—No.
- Is house-to-house inspection systematically made ?—No. Are records kept ?—No.

ALLOTMENTS ACTS—

No. of allotments provided under the Acts ?—None.

No. of allotments provided otherwise ?—None.

Any need for further provision ?—None.

NUISANCES—

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1904 ?—None. At close of 1905 ?—5. Reported during 1905 ?—75. Abated during 1905 ?—70.

Total No. of Legal Notices served for Abatement of Nuisances during 1905 ?—10.

Total No. of Summonses or other Legal Proceedings ?—None.

No. of Sink wastes disconnected during 1905 ?—8.

No. of Sink wastes trapped during 1905 ?—8.

No. of Closets newly constructed during 1905 ?—4. Kinds ?—4 Pails.

No. of Closets reconstructed during 1905 ?—4. Kinds ?—Pails.

METEOROLOGY—

Mean Temperature for year 1905 ?—47·09. Rainfall ?—34·19 inches.

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN IN REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING MATTERS ?—

Seizures of Unsound Food ?—None. Prosecutions ?—None.

Samples under Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts ?—None. Prosecutions ?—None.

Has there been any poisoning during 1905 attributable to—Arsenical beer ?—None. Ptomaines ?—None. Lead-contaminated water ?—None reported.

Smoke observations taken ?—None. Legal Notices ?—None. Summonses ?—None.

Burial Grounds—No. in district ?—5. Any need for—(a) Extension ?—No. (b) Closure ?—No.

Mortuaries—No. in district (a) for Accidents ?—None. (b) Other ?—None.

BIRTHS DURING 1905—

Males 46, Females 52; total 98.

Number illegitimate, included in above ?—3.

Number of Still Births (not included) ?—None.

DEATHS DURING 1905—

(1) Gross Deaths, i.e., Total actually registered in the district, without any correction ?—87.

(2) Nett Deaths on which the rates are calculated ?—Males 53, Females 44; total 97.

Number uncertified, included in the above ?—2.

Inspector's Report of the Sanitary Work, &c.,

Completed in the Year ending December 31st, 1905.

- 19 Complaints received during the year.
- 765 Inspections made.
- 10 Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses and Premises.
- 45 Houses, Premises, &c., Cleansed and Disinfected.
- 8 New House Drains laid.
- 7 House Drains Repaired and Cleansed.
- 8 House Drains Trapped and Disconnected.
- 3255 Privies or Water Closets Cleansed, &c.
- 4 New Privies or Water Closets provided.
- 35 Privies or Water Closets repaired.
- 2 New Ash Pits provided.
- 325 Removals of Accumulations of Ashes and other Refuse.
- 70 Dairies and Cowsheds inspected.
- 25 Other Nuisances abated.
- 30 Patients removed to Infectious Hospitals.

Signed,

EMMETT SMITH, A.R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.