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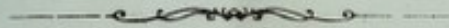


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*Wm H Johnson
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TOTNES
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF

Mr. Henry Sandford Johnson,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1895.



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OF THE

GENERAL DISTRICT

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TO THE TOTNES
Rural District Council.

*Annual Report on the Sanitary state of the District
for the Year ending December 31st, 1895.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1895, and in it you will find a resumé of the amount of Sickness, the number of Births and Deaths, as well as the principal Sanitary Works carried out during the year.

The District, as you are aware, is divided into two portions, No. 1 and No. 2, to each of which a Sanitary Inspector is appointed. No. 1 District comprises the parishes of Berry Pomeroy, Ashprington, Cornworthy, Churston Ferrers, Dittisham, Dartington, Harberton, Halwell, Marldon, Morley, Kingswear, Littlehempstone, and Stoke Gabriel, the population of which, according to the census of 1891, is 7,557, and the acreage 32,326 acres. The No. 2. District comprises the parishes of Buckfastleigh (West), Dean Prior, Diptford, Holne, Rattery, North Huish, Staverton, Ugborough, and South Brent, the population, according to the census of 1891, being 5,904, and the acreage 44,750 acres, the combined population being 13,461, and the combined acreage 77,076 acres.

During the year 1895 there were registered 201 deaths, 96 of which were males and 105 females ; 8 of the above deaths took place at the Plymouth Borough Asylum, Blackadon, Ugborough. The above figures give a death-rate of 14.9 per 1,000 of the population.

The greatest number of deaths took place in the months of February, March, and April, when 29, 25 and 19 deaths were registered, which is to be accounted for by the intensely cold weather, which visited us during those months, and carried off so many aged people, from Bronchitis and allied affections. The smallest number of deaths took place in May and August, when only 10 deaths were registered. Under 1 year 30 deaths were registered, from the 1st to the 5th year, 15 ; from the 5th to the 15th year, 8 ; from the 15th to the 25th, 12 ; from the 25th to the 65th year, 46 ; from the 65th to the 80th year, 59 ; and above the 80th year 31 deaths took place.

The deaths were classified as follows :—From the Respiratory Organs which includes Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy, 38 ; from Phthisis, 16 ; Circulatory, 23 ; Scarlatina, 2 ; Diphtheria, 0 ; Diarrhoea, 1 ; Typhoid Fever, 0 ; Injuries, 5 ; Measles, 5 ; Puerperal Fever, 2 ; Rheumatic Fever, 1. Whilst from all other causes 107 deaths were registered. During the year 1895, 14 inquests were held. It will be noted that no death from Typhoid Fever or Diphtheria took place, which in itself speaks well for the Sanitary condition of the district.

During the year 1895 there were registered the birth of 147 boys and 129 girls, total 276, this compared with the deaths 201 gives a natural increase of 75.

Under the Notification of Infectious Disease Act there have been notified during the year 3 cases of Typhoid Fever, 18 cases of Scarlatina, 2 of Diphtheria, 2 of Puerperal Fever, and 7 cases of Erysipelas, making a total of 32 cases against 38 in 1894.

Of the three cases of Typhoid Fever one was imported from Plymouth. One taken from drinking stagnant water from a barrel and the other supervened after an attack of Pneumonia. The 18 cases of Scarlatina, 15 of which occurred at Kingswear, were the continuation of the epidemic which visited the place during the latter month of 1894 and which was first imported from London, and carried by a washerwoman from house to house.

Of the two cases of Puerperal Fever, one was caused by a dirty ashpit and pigs too close to dwelling-house at Puddaven, Dartington; the other at Halwell Village I could not account for. The cause of the two cases of Diphtheria, both of which occurred at Kingswear, I was unable to discover. The two deaths from Scarlatina at Kingswear were from diseases which followed the original disease. Of the 32 cases reported under the above Act, 25 occurred in the No. 1 District and seven in the No. 2.

Owing to severe epidemics of Measles, it has been found necessary to close the Schools during the year 1895, in the following places:—Ashprington, South Brent, Harberton, Harbertonford, Littlehempstone, Berry Pomeroy, and Kingswear.

During the year I have visited and given instructions in every case of infectious disease reported to me, tested the water supply and examined the drains and sewers, and used every means to prevent the spread of the disease.

The following improvements were carried out during the past year:—

No. 1 DISTRICT.

DARTINGTON. New Sewer to Redworth and Radnor Terraces, and other Houses near Railway Station. This was recommended in my last Annual Report.

DITTISHAM. Water Supply extended along Quay and higher part of Village, but a large Storage Reservoir is needed.

STOKE GABRIEL. Drains extended in several parts of Village, and a new Sewer laid at Waddeton. Five new Closets also erected.

HARBERTONFORD requires an improved Water Supply.

ASHPRINGTON requires to be more effectually sewered, as at present Drains empty into stream which flows through village, and which gets dry in summer time.

No. 2 DISTRICT.

HOLNE has had a new water supply which is a great benefit, and was recommended in my last year's annual report.

RATTERY. New drain from school house and adjoining premises.

SOUTH BRENT. Extension of water main, Totnes Road, also the new water supply for the Town has been commenced after many years of difficulty in obtaining it, this, when completed, will be an inestimable advantage to the residents.

UGBOROUGH. Improved condition of stream in Littleburn Street.

The Hamlet of Filham is greatly in need of a better water supply, as in summer time the supply almost fails.

DIPTFORD. This village is also in need of an increased water supply.

STAVERTON. Old Toll House at Austin's Bridge removed, being considered unfit for occupation.

In addition to the above there have been several minor improvements in both Districts, such as the erection of new closets, the placing of ventilators to sewers and drains previously unventilated, and the substitution of pumps for the old fashioned dipping wells.

All Slaughter-houses and Dairies have been frequently inspected, and cleanliness and ventilation insisted on.

Several applications for the occupation of new houses have been made, and where the water and drainage were satisfactory, certificates were granted.

There were no prosecutions during the year, the work required by the Sanitary Authority being carried out without being obliged to resort to legal proceedings.

Application has been made to the Local Government Board to grant Urban powers to the Parishes of Kingswear and South Brent, which I think will be advantageous.

During the year 1895 I have had several hundred weight of Disinfectants distributed to the different parishes for purifying the sewers, &c.

It will be seen from the above report that several improvements have been carried out during the year, and I have made some suggestions respecting some of the parishes, which I hope the Sanitary Authority will see their way to carry out during the coming year.

The Sanitary Inspectors have, as usual, carried out their duties in a satisfactory manner.

I also beg to thank the members of the Sanitary Authority for the interest they take in the Sanitary work, and the careful consideration which they give to all matters brought under their notice.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

Buckfastleigh, February 28th, 1896.

(A) TABLE of DEATHS during the year 1895, in the TOTNES RURAL 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. (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.)	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																Total.						
	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.	FEVERS.																						
								Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.		Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.		
																													(i)	
Totnes Rural Sanitary District..	193	30	15	8	12	38	90	Under 5 upwds.	2							2			5		1	1		16	17	21	23	5	23	46
Plymouth Borough Asylum, Blackadon, Ugborough	8	8	..																		17				23	40
Totals	201	30	15	8	12	46	90	Under 5 upwds.	2							2			5		1	1		16	17	21	23	5	85	185


Area and Population of the District or Division to which this return relates.	
Area in Acres	77,076
Population (1891)	13,461
Death Rates { General	14.9 per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1895
{ Infant	108.9 per 1,000 Births Registered

Medical Officer of Health.
February 20th, 1896.

(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, 1895, in the TOTNES RURAL 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. (a)	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.											NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.										
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1895.			FEVERS.											FEVERS.										
	(b)	(c)			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.
Totnes Rural Sanitary District— Plymouth Borough Asylum, Blackadon, Ugborough	13461	13461	276	Under 5 & upwds.	2	11	1			1																

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District? Yes. Since when? 1890. Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated:—One at Blue Post, Harberton, other at Buckfastleigh West.



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