

[Report 1898] / Medical Officer of Health, Weardale R.D.C. (Stanhope, Derwent, Wolsingham, and St John's Districts).

Contributors

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WEARDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

FOR

1898.

STANHOPE AND NEWLANDSIDE DISTRICT.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my report of the Sanitary condition of this District and also the tables of mortality and sickness.

The estimated population is 2,657, but many workmen travel to and from the quarries from other districts daily, so that it is difficult to say what the population actually is. The acreage is 24,864.

Births—The births were 85 (40 boys : 45 girls), an increase from last year of 17. This gives a birth rate of 32·6.

Deaths—The deaths numbered 39 (16males : 23 females), three less than last year, giving a death rate of 14·96.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Zymotic Rate.	Infant Mortality Rate	Consumption Rate	Other Lung Diseases
1898	2657	32·6	14·96	Nil	117·6	1·12	1·5
1897	2657	26·45	16·11	·26	132·3	1·5	Nil
1896	2657	23·41	14·97	·37	65·5	1·08	1·75
1895	2700	30·3	13·7	·37	97·5	1·8	1·4
1894	2757	22·1	10·8	·72	32·7	1·8	1·4
1893	2657	29·7	14·5	Nil	164·0	1·1	2·2

Two Inquests were held during the year—one on the body of a boy 16 years of age who was killed in the mine at Rookhope by a fall of stone ; the other on the body of a female who hanged herself in her own house at Frosterley when in a depressed state of mind.

Phthisis or Tubercular Diseases caused three deaths, = 1·12 per 1,000 of the population. This is less than it was last year and much less than thirty years ago. Consumption is now regarded as a very infectious disease and that the infection is spread from one person to another by means of the expectorations which contain the infective bacilli. Indeed in some quarters it has been proposed to schedule Tuberculosis as one of the infectious diseases and if it pursued its fatal course quickly instead of slowly this would have been done long ago. It can spread from animals to man and from man to animals. When the public thoroughly grasps the fact that in this Country 70,000 die annually from this disease a strong demand will be made for a healthy meat and milk supply, by means of the pole-axe and compensation to get rid of the Tuberculous cow. At the cost of a couple of ironclads this could be done ; the damage of eating cooked tuberculous meat, and the greater risk attending the consumption of raw tuberculous milk would be removed. Thousands of lives would annually be saved and in a comparatively short period of years the disease in man would be practically stamped out. It may be interesting to your Council to know that statistics have brought out this fact that general tuberculosis is most prevalent among old cows of the *Shorthorn* breed, which have been weakened by prolonged milking and improper housing and feeding ; and further that the Scotch Galloway or cross bred blue grey is much less liable to tuberculosis than the shorthorn.

Other Lung Diseases—There were 2 deaths under one year from pneumonia and bronchitis : one 77 years of age from chronic bronchitis and one 60 years of age from pneumonia. This is equal to 1·5 per 1000.

Infant Mortality—Ten infants died under one year of age from (1) enteritis, (1) acute hydrocephalus, (1) pneumonia, (1) bronchitis, (6) premature birth, = 117·6 mortality.

Zymotic Rate—Nil.

Ages at Death—Ten died under 1 year ; 0 over 1 and under 5 ; 0 over 5 and under 15 ; 4 over 15 and under 25 ; 15 over 25 and under 65 ; 10 over 65, of these ten 3 were over 80.

(A) Table of Deaths during the year 1898 in the Stanhope and Newlandside division of Weardale, classified according to diseases, ages, and localities.

Mortality from all causes at Subjoined Ages.

Locality	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
Stanhope and Newlandside)	39	10	0	0	4	15	10

MORTALITY from subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of children under 5 years of age.

	Mem-branous Croup	Diarrhœa or Dysentery	Phthisis or Tubercle	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Whooping Cough	Enteric Fever	Injuries	All other Diseases	TOTAL
Under 5	2	...	...	...	...	8	10
5 upwards	3	2	14	...	...	2	8	29
										39

(B) Table of Population, and of new cases of Infectious Disease coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1898, in the Stanhope and Newlandside District of Weardale, classified according to diseases, ages, and localities.

Locality.	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.		
	Census 1891	Estimated in 1898			Ery-sipelas	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever
Stanhope and Newlandside	2657	2657	85	Under 5	...	6	...
				5 upwards	5	9	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Influenza was prevalent over the whole District during the first quarter of the year. There were no deaths although it was accompanied by chest complications.

Erysipelas—There were five cases ; all recovered.

Scarlet Fever—There has been a sprinkling of Scarlet Fever cases during the last two quarters. It has been mild in character and there have been no fatal cases. Every precaution has been taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

Enteric Fever—Two cases occurred in November in Rookhope, one in the village itself and the other at a farm house near to the village. The only defects likely to give rise to the disease was a very defective midden privy which was cleaned out by the male patient three weeks before ; and in the other case leakage from the cow midden which is near the door in front. Measures were taken to disinfect and otherwise prevent the extension of the disease.

Diarrhœa was prevalent during the dry, hot weather of the third quarter of the year. There is no doubt but that this disease is caused by the filthy midden privies which are common all over the district. As I have pointed out before they are as a rule badly constructed, too large, filled with all kinds of rubbish, vegetable refuse, and water. When the hot weather comes decomposition sets in and a dangerous nuisance is created. As opportunity offers they should be reduced in size, so constructed as to have the ashes and night soil properly mixed, and all vegetable refuse should be burnt.

GENERAL SANITATION.

For a description of the district I refer you to previous reports. Speaking generally the condition is satisfactory, and the supply of water is good and plentiful.

The Sanitary Inspector and myself have regularly inspected the district. The Sanitary work done during the year is as follows :—

Nuisances—The ordinary midden privy nuisances where notices have been given number 19 cases ; deposits of manure, 5 ; faulty drains, 13 ; and pig sties, 5. All these notices have been attended to.

A nuisance which was a very stupid one occurred during the Smallpox epidemic at Middlesbrough. Several trucks which had been used for scavenging at Middlesbrough, came to Frosterley quarry to be filled with limestone, in a filthy condition. Notice was given and they were sent back empty the same day. No harm came from it I am glad to say.

Sanitary Improvements—At the Batts, Frosterley, 3 ashpits have been cemented and covered in; a house has been improved by draining the underground water. At Shittlehopeburn farm drains have been laid down and a liquid manure tank built; and the farm midden has been removed from the road side into an adjoining garth.

Schools—They are all in a very fair sanitary condition and all supplied with water.

Flooding—The flooding at the Batts still continues when there is a flood. I understand a committee has been going into the matter.

Water Supplies—The villages of Frosterley, Hill End, Eastgate, Crawleyside and Rookhope have been well supplied with water during the whole of the very dry summer. The Bridge End supply is the exception and as I have said more than once will never be any better till it is treated as a domestic supply only and the connection with the Newhouse quarry is cut off. This can be done without injury to the quarry. A new supply has been laid down for White House, screw jointed iron pipes being used. Low Bollihope supply seems to be polluted by the cattle; your Inspector has called the attention of the owner to the matter but it has not yet been rectified. The supply to Redburn farm houses and also to Brandon Walls is polluted; the owners have promised to put them right.

Sewers—During the hot weather the sewers were constantly flushed with water. A 6 inch cast iron vent has been put in to replace a 4 inch one.

New Houses—The new inn, 3 cottages, and one house at Frosterley have been completed and occupied. An office has been converted into a dwelling-house with suitable accommodation and a water supply. An addition with improvements has been made to Mr. Squire's house at Frosterley.

Mine Shop—The overcrowded and damp miners' lodging shop reported by your Inspector has been closed.

Disinfectants and fumigation were supplied in all the infectious cases.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

New sewer at Hill End.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedcient Servant,

T. LIVINGSTONE, M.D.

ST. JOHN'S DISTRICT.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my report for the year 1898, together with the tables of sickness and mortality.

General Description of District vide report for 1896.

Acreage is 36,096.

Population—The population is estimated at 3,400, the same as that given for the years 1895, 1896, and 1897. The census population was 3,510, but the estimate now arrived at, after careful consideration of the whole circumstances, although only an approximate, and at the best a doubtful one, fairly represents the facts of the case. Many men belonging to this district still find regular employment at Rookhope and Nent Head, which fact can not be overlooked in its tendency to diminish the permanent population.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Esti- mated Popu- lation	Births	Deaths	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Zymotic Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births	Phthisis Death Rate	Lung Diseases Death Rate
1895	3,400	89	64	26.1	18.8	1.17	123	0.88	5.29
1896	3,400	75	69	22.05	20.2	1.17	133	3.2	3.2
1897	3,400	70	51	20.5	15	.29	57.1	2.05	2.05
1898	3,400	77	62	22.6	18.2	Nil	147	3.5	2.05

Births—There were 77 births, 46 males and 31 females, or seven more than in 1897. The birth rate, although slightly higher than that of the two preceding years is still low.

Deaths—There were 62 deaths, as compared with 51 in 1897. This is a moderate death rate.

Zymotic Death Rate is nil. This is very satisfactory.

The Infant Mortality in relation to the birth rate per 1,000 is 147. This, as will be observed from the table of vital statistics given above, is decidedly higher than in the three previous years.

Consumption, Phthisis, or Tuberculosis—There were twelve deaths from this cause, or nearly one out of every five which were registered throughout the year. This high death rate does not include three deaths due to tubercular disease of organs other than the lungs (**tabes mesenterica**), and brought about in the same manner, **viz.** : by the introduction of the germs of tuberculosis into the system. It can not be too emphatically insisted upon, that this is an infectious disease, and, therefore, due precautions and care being observed, to a very large extent, a preventible one. There is no reason whatever why in future years consumption should not be as rare in Weardale as smallpox, that desirable consummation, however, depending not only upon the proper and systematic administration of the laws of hygiene, but in the sure, although necessarily slow education of the people. on this important matter.

The chief source of the infection is in the sputum of the patient, and in the milk of tuberculous cows. I referred, on this latter subject, in my last two annual reports which were submitted to your Council. I pointed out that cows which were kept in byres in which there is a deficiency of light and of ventilation, are very apt to develop tubercular disease, and, that the milk from such animals, especially where the udder of the cow is involved, if consumed in a raw and uncooked condition, constitutes a grave source of danger to the community. There can be no doubt whatever, that, according to the best authorities in veterinary pathology, the milk from such a cow is virulently poisonous, and becomes a vehicle for the spread of tuberculous disease among animals and also among human beings who drink it in an uncooked condition. These statements have been amply confirmed by the report, published early in 1898, of a Royal Commission appointed by Parliament to investigate the whole subject of tuberculosis. Then the valuable report of your Sanitary Inspector, written

by your instructions, and published at the request of your Council, on "Seventeen Cowbyres in Weardale," proves indisputably that some of the byres in this district are sadly deficient in those essential features of light and of ventilation which are so necessary for the health of the animals. For example, under the heading "Windows and Light," your Inspector reports "Nine of the 17 Cowbyres have no windows. Four have fixed panes of glass from 9 to 12 inches square. For instance: No. 2 is a narrow cowbyre 6 feet 10 inches high, capacity per cow kept 394 cubic feet, no ventilation, no light except a pane of glass 10 inches square fixed in a solid frame."

Under "Ventilation" the Inspector goes on to say that "considering that all the byres have solid coors or doors in one piece, and where openings existed (boolholes) as a means for throwing out manure, or for getting in hay from the stack-yard, have also solid wooden doors, and considering that more than half of the byres have no windows, the means for ventilation were, in many cases, practically nil." The Inspector concludes his admirable report by advising certain recommendations in the construction of byres, which, if acted upon, would not only improve the physical condition of the cattle themselves, but prove of material interest to the farmers welfare, and, at the same time, tend to diminish, what is now, on all hands admitted to be, a source of danger to the public health. Nothing, however, can be accomplished by compulsion, and a change for the better can only be brought about by public knowledge on the matter. The slow gradual education of the public in the true and accurate knowledge of the leading features of the disease, in order to ensure good and permanent results being obtained, must be persistently and perseveringly carried on. This of course requires both time and patience. Good work has been accomplished in this direction elsewhere. In the chief cities of the Continent it is quite common for the health Authorities to diffuse knowledge, and to print and distribute information and precautionary rules on this matter. Such means also have been carried on in New York for the last five years, with already admirable results, and in Glasgow the same means have been adopted for the past two years. The great cities of Manchester, Birmingham and Edinburgh have moved, or are moving in the same direction. The following suggestions are placed in every house at Hamburg, and will serve to show what can be done in the way of educating the public mind. The suggestions are so very simple and clear, and at the same time

embrace everything which is essential for the public to understand, that I do not hesitate to ask your Council to have them printed in circular form, stamped and endorsed with your official authority, and distributed to every house in this district. The expense of such a procedure, when one takes into account the tremendous sacrifice of life to such a formidable disease, would be trifling indeed.

1—More human beings die from tuberculosis (consumption) every year than from any other illness whatever. No other illness so preys upon the capacity for service and the prosperity of the people.

2—This malady seizes chiefly on the lungs, it may, however, in the first instance, attack the glands, certain bones, joints, and other parts of the body; and these forms of the illness may, later on, end in consumption.

3—The malady may be transmitted to healthy persons in a two-fold manner, through the expectoration of those who are suffering from pulmonary consumption, and through the milk of tuberculous cows. Sometimes months and even years pass after the reception of the seeds of the disease before the results of the infection are seen.

4—Infection is directly conveyed through the sputum of the consumptive's cough; by far the most frequent method of infection is the breathing by healthy persons of the dust arising from dried infectious sputa which may have been thrown upon the floor, walls, furniture, handkerchiefs, or articles of clothing. Children are especially exposed to this source of danger, not only because young lives are peculiarly susceptible of infectious disease, but because children are so much accustomed to play upon the floor, and to thrust their soiled hands and playthings into their mouths, and so more easily swallow the dangerous dust. Persons are most susceptible of all to infection from this disease at times when the bodily strength is reduced by illness, in particular may be mentioned, children who are reduced by measles or whooping cough and women during confinement. Moreover, the seeds of infection will enter healthy bodies through small wounds, abrasions of the skin, scratch wounds, caused through irritation from insect bites and otherwise.

5—To guard against infection from sputum it is necessary that persons suffering from coughs should hold the hand before the mouth in coughing, and only to spit into spittoons or portable vessels. Healthy persons should advise relatives suffering from chest disease to pay the

strictest attention to this precaution. Any consumptive who neglects such an obvious duty endangers the health of his fellow creatures, and especially that of his nearest relatives who may occupy the same dwelling with himself. On the other hand, a consumptive who obeys such a rule may render himself harmless to his surroundings.

6—Spittoons ought to be placed in all much frequented rooms and halls, and should in no case be omitted in the dwellings occupied by consumptive patients. Such vessels should contain wet sawdust or fibrous wool, but water is better than either. The contents of the vessels should be frequently changed and if possible burned in the fire-place, but on no account thrown away with sweepings. Water vessels should be emptied into closets.

7—Clothes, linen, dishes, and other effects soiled by the sputum of consumptives should be thoroughly cleansed, and where possible they should be boiled or otherwise disinfected.

8—Rooms occupied by consumptives cannot be too scrupulously cleansed, and should have abundant ventilation and sunlight. Special care should be taken against dust accumulation by frequent washing out of the room; and, in sweeping, the floor should be moistened to prevent the raising of the dust. Rooms in which consumptives have been long confined, or have died, should be carefully disinfected. No person should take a dwelling recently occupied by a consumptive without insisting upon disinfection. This will be carried out at once by the authorities of the Health Department to whom communication should be made by any one requiring it to be done.

9—No consumptive should be allowed to occupy the same bed with a healthy person, and children should as far as possible be excluded from the sick room. Where consumptives are employed in handling articles of food, or in clothing establishments, or where they mingle frequently with healthy persons as in schools, offices, workshops, or factories, the duty of strictly following the rules under number 5 should be strongly enjoined and insisted upon.

10—Consumptive women ought not to nurse children.

11—Tuberculosis (consumption) among cattle is of frequent occurrence. The seeds of disease are often carried by cow's milk, and it is a wise precaution to boil all milk before it is used for food.

12—The prospects of restoration for consumptive patients are much

more favourable when their case is at once brought under the notice of the physician.

There is another way, however, of looking at this matter. A life at its most active working period—say from the ages of 15 to 45 years—is declared by competent authorities to be worth on an average £300. Applying that test I find that nine out of the twelve deaths in this district took place at this active working period of their lives, representing no less a sum, on the above basis of calculation, than £2,700. Impressive as these figures are, they do not include in their reckoning the mental anxiety of all more immediately concerned in the issue of the disease, lasting for months, and in many cases for years, the weary struggle, as things are in the meantime of combating the malady, the heavy burden of expense, especially to the poor, and the loss of money which otherwise would be gained, should the patient happen to be a wage earner. Then in a working class community it must not be forgotten, in the event of the death of the wage earner, the probability of those who were depending upon him, requiring and obtaining parochial relief.

In my last year's report I stated "were it (consumption) to prove as quickly fatal as the other infectious diseases, then public opinion would be roused on the matter." Happily this charge of public apathy can no longer be made, for it is now nearer the truth to say that the crusade against consumption is the burning question of the hour. A series of public meetings has been held all over the country, fitly culminating in the splendid gathering held at Marlborough House, on the twentieth of December last, and presided over by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. This meeting was attended by well-known and representative physicians of the three Kingdoms, whose powerful advocacy greatly strengthened the crusade, and where the presence of the leading statesmen of both the great parties in the State gave additional countenance and support to the object aimed at by the promoters of the gathering.

Other Lung Diseases are accountable for seven deaths, or at the rate of 2·05 per 1,000.

Ages at Death—Eleven were persons under one year, three over one and under five, six over fifteen and under twenty-five, twenty-four over twenty-five and under sixty-five, and eighteen over sixty-five years. Of these last, eight occurred between the ages of seventy and eighty years, and five at eighty and upwards. The greatest age recorded for the year was eighty-seven years.

(A) Table of Deaths during the year 1898, in the St. John's Division of Weardale, classified according to diseases, ages, and localities.

Mortality from all Causes at Subjoined Ages.

LOCALITY.	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
St. John's Chapel Division	62	11	3	.	6	24	18

Mortality from Subjoined Causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under five years of age.

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentry	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Injuries	All other Diseases	TOTAL
Under 5	4	...	...	10	14
5 upwards	2	12	3	8	...	23	48

(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 1898, in the St. John's District of Weardale, classified according to diseases, ages and localities.

Locality	Population at all ages		Registered Births	Aged under 5 or over 5	New Cases of Sickness coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.	
	Census 1891	Estimated to middle 1898			Typhoid	Erysipelas
St. John's Chapel	3,510	3,400	77	Under 5	...	...
				5 upwards	1	3

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Influenza—Early in the year there was a well marked epidemic of Influenza, and to this cause can directly be attributed at least two of the deaths registered. Influenza is apt to be accompanied by, and to leave behind it, many complications of disease, which fact doubtless explained to some extent, the abnormal high death rate for the first quarter of the year.

Typhoid—Early in October a case of typhoid fever was reported from Providence Cottages, near Westgate. Diligent enquires were made to discover the source of the disease, but nothing definite was ascertained. Disinfectants were supplied by your Inspector.

Erysipelas—Throughout the year there were three cases notified, all of them isolated. One was reported from Brownriggside, near Westgate, another from Hill House, Westgate, and another from Side Foot, Daddry Shields. In each case disinfectants were supplied.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Inspection of District—I have carefully and systematically inspected all the villages, embraced in my district, at various parts of the year in company with the Sanitary Inspector.

Water Supplies—The Windyside water supply has been improved by having a cast iron pipe laid down.

There has been no want of water at the villages except once at West Black Dean.

At Westgate there has been no want of water, but at the close of the year a serious leakage at Daddry Shields Railway Bridge was reported by your Inspector, who is arranging to have the line of pipes covered up by the N.E. Railway Co. re-laid. The Company does the work. The Council is about to replace some of the sanitary pipes at Wearhead, with cast iron pipes which will be an improvement. Generally all water supplies have been good.

River Pollution—A great improvement has been effected at St. John's Chapel, where a vast amount of rubbish and waste material was put into the passing stream, the Harthope Burn. The banks on either side, formerly covered with ashes and rubbish, have been planted with trees by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and your Council has erected two notice boards as a caution.

Sewers : Westgate—A new system of sewerage works has been completed at Westgate village, and from personal inspection I am able to say that the system embraces properly cemented manholes and lampholes. It consists of sections laid in straight lines, and has six ventilating shafts composed of six inch cast iron pipes. A supply of water from the burn has been laid on, so that by means of three flushing chambers the main sewer can at any time be thoroughly flushed and the mains in this manner, kept perfectly clean. The system has been well constructed, and is on improved lines.

Sanitary Improvements—**HOUSE DRAINS**—In connection with the Westgate sewerage system a large number of old drains have been uprooted and re-placed with cement jointed water-tight drains. Two long lengths of sanitary pipe drains were old, and were taken up, and several stone drains done away with. All the new drains were well laid, and supplied with proper traps.

A new sanitary pipe drain has been laid down at Daisy Villa, near Westgate.

Considerable improvement has been made in draining and improving the school yard at Wearhead.

Two new privies and covered ashpits have been erected at Wearhead for three houses.

One new privy has been erected at a farm at Laneside.

At Westgate a new water-closet has been erected at the Post Office.

Additions and improvements have been made to a house at Ireshopeburn (Mr. T. Dawson's), as well as to one at Wearhead (Mr. James Spark's).

At Westgate a byre has been converted into a dwelling-house.

Nuisances—The general character of ordinary nuisances found arise from PRIVIES, ASHPITS, ACCUMULATION OF MANURE adjacent to cowbyres, and SLOP NUISANCES and BAD DRAINAGE. Notices given by the Inspector have been attended to.

One nuisance arose from the damming up of water issuing from the mine level or adit at Westgate. This was caused by pond weeds, and was immediately put right on the Weardale Lead Co. being notified.

A midden stead at Westgate causing a nuisance has been removed

Longlea farm stead has not been drained, but the Inspector informs me that this will be carried out at once as soon as the weather is favourable.

Slaughter Houses are kept clean and in good order. They are scattered over a large area.

Milk is distributed in small quantities.

Dairies and Cowsheds have been particularly referred to in relation to tuberculosis (consumption). Copies of the report on "Seventeen Cowbyres in Weardale," with suggestions or recommendations for improvements, and printed by the order of your Council, can be obtained on application to the Inspector.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.

- (1) An Isolation Hospital with suitable Ambulance and Disinfecting Apparatus.
- (2) Refuse depots for the different villages.
- (3) Sanitary pipe drainage for the villages.
- (4) Better light and ventilation for the cow-byres.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN EASTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

St. John's Chapel,
January 21st, 1899.

WOLSINGHAM DISTRICT.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my report for the year 1898.

Area in Acres.	Estimated Population.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
21,552	3,500	33·1	12·8	Nil.	129

Births.—There were 116 Births registered during the year 1898, consisting of:—

Males	-	-	54
Females	-	-	62

This is the largest number of births registered since 1886.

Deaths.—During the year 1898 there were 45 deaths registered from all causes. Three of these were of persons not belonging to the district, and three were due to accident.

This is a very small number as will be seen by the table below:—

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
1886	4	7	5	4	1	7	4	3	5	8	5	3	56
1887	2	7	4	2	2	6	7	6	5	3	6	11	61
1888	10	9	13	5	4	8	1	5	3	0	4	4	66
1889	5	2	4	4	6	1	1	3	1	5	3	5	41
1890	9	4	4	5	3	4	2	1	4	7	5	5	53
1891	2	3	3	3	3	4	6	4	4	6	9	3	50
1892	5	7	5	9	3	5	4	1	4	2	5	6	56
1893	6	3	1	3	7	5	1	3	9	5	5	4	52
1894	4	6	3	7	8	3	5	1	4	2	2	6	51
1895	10	2	3	9	4	6	2	6	4	3	9	4	62
1896	5	9	10	1	10	3	3	4	1	3	7	8	64
1897	6	5	4	2	4	4	3	5	8	0	3	7	51
1898	7	5	2	7	4	2	3	1	3	2	6	3	45

We had 7 less deaths than in 1897.

Of the deaths 21 were males. 24 females.

The phthisis death rate was 1.4, and in connection with this rate I shall not be astonished if it becomes larger as Wolsingham is becoming a health resort for such cases.

The death rate for other lung diseases was 3.1.

Of the deaths occurring during the year—

1	was	above	90	years.
5	were	„	80	
3	„	„	70	
2	„	„	60	
12	„	„	25	and under 60
4	„	„	15	„ 25
1	was	„	5	„ 15
2	were	„	1	„ 5
15	were	under	1	year.

The deaths under 1 year were from the following causes:—

1	was	due	to	accident
5	were	„	Bronchitis	
3	„	„	Convulsions	
3	„	„	Debility from birth	
2	„	„	Enteritis	
1	was	„	Tabes Mesenterica.	

Infectious Disease.—I am very glad to be able to report that during the whole of the year 1898 there has not being a single case of infectious disease notified. At the same time it has been a year of great anxiety to your officers owing to Scarlet Fever in adjoining districts, also to the epidemic of Small-pox at Middlesbro', as there are a good many people belonging to Wolsingham residing at Middlesbro', and during the epidemic wives and children were sent to Wolsingham to be out of the way, all of which persons were made a note of and kept under observation.

There has been during the year one or two cases of Measles and Influenza.

Water Supply.—About 12 more houses in Wolsingham have been supplied from the Weardale and Shildon Co.'s Mains.

Thornley supply is good.

Acting upon the result of an Inspection and the Analysis of Water from a shallow well in High Street, and under a notice from your Authority, three houses getting water from it were supplied from the Weardale and Shildon Water Co.

Chapel Wall Well and Pit Well have been looked after, and all necessary work done to keep them in order.

Sewers.—These have been regularly inspected and are in good order. A Sample of the effluent water from the Sewerage Field was taken by your Inspector in May and sent for Analysis to the County Analyst. His report says: "The Sample is practically free from suspended matter, gives off no unpleasant smell after standing 7 days. It is in my opinion a very satisfactory sample of sewerage effluent."

The Sewerage Field has been kept in better order during the year.

A New Ventilated Drain, with proper traps, has been put in at Redgate Lodge.

A New Drain and Sink at Mr. Thomas Gales.

Improvements.—Two New Privies and Covered Ashpits properly cemented at Mr. Cunliff's property.

One New Privy and Covered Ashpit properly cemented at Miss Peart's Causeway.

Two New Privies and Covered Ashpits properly cemented at the Black Bull.

One New Privy and Covered Ashpit properly cemented at Holywell Lodge.

One New Privy at Mr. Gale's Causeway.

Improvements to Tank and Buildings at Tunstal House.

New Byre with cemented floors and other improvements at Totspots Farm.

Improvements to Farm Buildings at High Joffies.

A New Tank and improvements to buildings at Fawnlees Farm.

Nuisances.—There is still an improvement with respect to Nuisances, very few accumulations are now to be seen on the periodical inspections.

Some 93 Nuisances were dealt with during the year. They consisted of full ashpits, stopped drains, accumulations of manure, deposits of rubbish, etc.

There is not nearly the delay in carting away ashes and other refuse brought from ashpits into the streets as there was two years ago.

In almost all cases of Nuisances where notice was given the nuisance was at once abated.

A large heap of Night Soil and Refuse—about 20 loads—from Tow Law was deposited outside the Urban Bounder. There was some delay in its removal, but was ultimately removed after notice from your Council.

As there is a tendency to deposit refuse by side of the roads near the boundary of the Tow Law Urban District, special attention requires to be kept at this part of the district.

Inspections.—Inspections of the district have been regularly carried out, and this no doubt has helped very much towards its good sanitary condition.

Sanitation.—Nothing of special note.

New Houses.—Two New Dwelling-houses belonging to Mrs. George Whitfield.

One New Dwelling-house belonging to Mr. Geo. Westgarth.
One " " " Mr. Firbank.
One " " " Mr. Cunliffe.

Several small erections have been made under plans approved by your Council—such as Pantries, Wash-houses, etc.

The following New Houses are not yet completed :—

Four belonging to the Co-operative Society.
 One House and Shop belonging to Mr. Landreth.
 One Addition to the house of Mr. Tom Whitfield.

One house at Harehope Gill unfit for habitation has been closed.

One old house in Wolsingham belonging to the Co-operative Society has been pulled down.

Slaughter Houses.—These have been regularly inspected, and are kept in fair good order.

Dairies.—The Dairies in the district are all small, consisting of two or three cows in each.

Cowsheds.—The Cowsheds are in much the same order as last year. It would be much better if some of them had more light and the floors cemented.

There has been a great improvement in a byre at Totspots Farm which was refitted and floor cemented.

Schools.—The sanitary arrangements are satisfactory and the out-offices kept in order.

Burial Ground.—There has been a large addition made to the Churchyard which will for some years supply space for all burials.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

T. V. DEVEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

Wolsingham,

January 12th, 1899.

DERWENT DISTRICT.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to your consideration my report on the Sanitary condition of the Derwent District during the year 1898.

The area of the District is 13,144 acres, or about 20 square miles. The altitude ranges from 700 to 1800 feet above the level of the sea. The soil is almost entirely heather-land and permanent pasture, and is well watered by the river Derwent which runs through the district. The population at the census of 1891 was 523, about half of which is clustered in the three small villages: Edmondbyers, Ruffside and Hunstanworth. In May I made an actual enumeration of the houses in the district, with the view of counting the population estimate. Supposing the number of inhabitants per house to have been the same in 1898 as in 1891, I estimate the population in May, 1898, at 481. The inhabitants are almost entirely engaged in agricultural pursuits.

Vital Statistics.—11 births and 9 deaths have been registered, equivalent to a birth-rate of 22·9, and a death-rate of 18·7 per 1000. As two of the deaths were visitors not belonging to the district, the death-rate should correctly be 14·5 per 1000. Infant mortality 181·8 per 1000 births registered, or more correctly (one death being that of a visitor) 90·9 per 1000 births registered. No death occurred from any of the "seven principal zymotic diseases," but one death, that of an infant two days old was certified as due to congenital influenza.

Infectious Diseases.—The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act is in operation, and a case of Erysipelas was notified during the year. Influenza was very prevalent, and one or two cases of Diarrhœa occurred. One case also of Whooping Cough brought from another district was notified.

Water Supply.—This is abundant and of excellent quality derived from the numerous natural springs, with which the district abounds. The summer was very dry, and the supply

at Hunstanworth and Edmondbyers became very small. This was remedied at the latter village by utilizing an additional spring. The main pipe was also extended in the village, and three additional houses supplied, at the usual rents of 5/- per house per annum. The Inspector is arranging, under your approval, to enlarge the present small tank, and thus provide additional storage. This is needed, and will be a great improvement towards keeping up a regular and constant supply.

Excrement Disposal and Disposal of Household Refuse.—All the houses are provided with privies, and most of them have also covered ashpits. Some of the Cowbyres are adjacent to dwellings, and many of the middens are very large, and only emptied at long intervals.

Burial Grounds.—There are two churchyards, which are sufficient for the needs of the district.

Isolation Hospital and Disinfecting Apparatus.—None.

Regulated Buildings and Trades.—There are no Common Lodging-houses. There is one Slaughter-house which is kept clean. Dairies and Cow-sheds kept clean. There are two Schools which are kept in good Sanitary condition. No Bake-houses. No offensive trades.

Dwellings of the Poorer Classes.—The houses are for the most part in a fair state of repair. The Privy accommodation is good. The houses at Ruffside are built back-to-back.

Bye-laws for New Streets and Buildings are in operation.

Nuisances.—No special cases have been reported or noticed.

Improvements.—A house at Edmondbyers has been considerably altered and enlarged, and new drainage put down. The Sewage runs on to land. New Stables are being built.

Inspection of District.—The district has been several times visited by the Sanitary Inspector, and is under my own daily observation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. J. CONNOR.

10th January, 1899.