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Stockton Rural District Council.



REPORT

OF THE


Medical Officer of Health

FOR 1900.

Stockton-on-Tees:

J. SHARP, PRINTER AND STATIONER, 7, SILVER STREET.

—
1901.



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STOCKTON-ON-TEES,

March 13th, 1901.

TO THE MEMBERS
OF THE STOCKTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year 1900 to you. I regret that the death rate has increased since last year from 13·9 to 15·5. We have had several slight epidemics of infectious disease during the year. The most noted were Diphtheria at Carlton Ironworks, Scarlet Fever at Wynyard, and Whooping Cough extending over the Eastern portion of the District. In other respects infectious disease has not been a notable feature in the year's returns.

The steady increase of the death rate since the year 1896 is to be regretted, and may be caused by the large influx of the population into the populous parts of the District where buildings are being rapidly erected, without streets been completed, and all in a state of transition, to a little overcrowding, to a want of cleanliness in the people and their homes. Also careless scavenging and the lack of careful and systematic inspection. I drew the attention of your Council to the necessity of help being given to the Inspector in my last report. Your Council appointed someone to help him, but this assistance has no official status. Your Council have endeavoured to come to some scheme by which this responsible assistance could be supplied, but have hitherto been unable to arrange it. I would urge that this necessity should be faced in order to get the District properly inspected and scavenged, as I fear the retrogression in the sanitary condition may be partially due to this defect.

The scavenging has been very unsatisfactory at times. The establishment of ash-closets with small receptacles necessitate frequent attention, and if this is not done they become a dangerous nuisance as well as an inconvenience to the occupier. The superintendence of the scavenging should be regular and systematic, and no closet should be allowed to go more than 14 days, I would advise that your Council have some system of inspection that will get this done, for the contracts are that all ash-closets have to be emptied every 14 days; if this dealing with the ash-closets is not carefully observed we have introduced a system throughout the District which will be a curse to us instead of the blessing it is when regularly attended to. The first duty of the new Inspector will be to start a regular systematic house to house inspection, and get the District put into a cleanly and

sanitary condition. By these attentions to the sanitary state of the District I hope to find the death rate decrease, and this again become the lowest death rate in the populous parts of the County.

The deaths in young children have very seriously increased throughout the District; and in Billingham District, out of 81 deaths, 51 were in children under 5 years of age, or 62·9 per cent. of the whole deaths. A large number of children died just immediately after birth—this I very much regret, as it shows a want of health in the parents. The high infantile death rate in certain sections of the population is in a very great measure preventable, and I believe if every care and attention were given these fragile lives many might be saved. The food should be suitable to their age, it should be carefully and cleanly prepared, and given to the infants with as near an imitation to the feeding of a child by its mother as possible. The child should be kept cleanly and warm, and given as much fresh air as the circumstances will allow.

I append a table showing the infantile death rate.

	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths 1 & under 5.	Total deaths under 5.	Rate per cent.
NORTON ...	61	15	4	19	31·1
BILLINGHAM ...	81	35	16	51	62·9
COWPEN ...	25	3	1	4	16·0
WOLVISTON ...	12	4	1	5	41·6
WHITTON ...	22	5	4	9	40·9
EGGLESCLIFFE...	10	1	0	1	10·0
AGRICULTURAL	29	6	2	8	27·5
WHOLE DISTRICT	240	69	28	97	40·4

The estimated increase of the population is 725, so that I estimate the population at the end of the year 1900 at 15445, and the increase on the census of 1891, 3475.

The number of births during the year was 439, or 28·4 per 1000 of the population.

The number of deaths was 240, with a death rate of 15·5. The death rate of 1897 was 12·5, in 1898, 12·7, and in 1899, 13·9, so you see there has been a steady increase of the death rate.

The work of the Council has been conducted in harmony with both the County Council and Parish Councils, from which bodies you have at times received valuable assistance. No action at law has been necessary to carry out any improvements or abolition of nuisances. The whole of the populous places, except Carlton Ironworks, has been lighted by the Council,

The District is steadily increasing, for 145 new houses have been occupied during the year, distributed as follows :—

Billingham ...	28	Preston-on-Tees ...	19
Eaglescliffe ...	11	Whitton ...	17
Norton ...	68	Wolviston ...	2

The whole of the houses are good and well built, and will be an improvement in the District.

The sewers have acted well, and have been frequently flushed to keep them clean.

I regret that the drainage scheme of Fairfield has been so long delayed, and I hope that now the power to borrow money has been granted, after Local Government Board enquiry, the work will soon be accomplished. The condition at Fairfield is dangerous for they have got the water laid on to the houses, and many have baths, while there is no means of dealing with this increase of sewage except by the inefficient cesspools.

During the summer a flood occurred in Billingham Bottoms, after the water had subsided a fearful smell was emitted from the decaying vegetation, which was a great nuisance to the surrounding population. The stells and main water way in Billingham Bottom are silted up to such an extent as to seriously interfere with the drainage. To remedy this flooding, and to make the land productive and profitable, it will be necessary that the owners should clean out the main stells and side water courses. There was great stress put upon the whole drainage of the District by a flood on October 26th, caused by a rainfall of 3½ inches in 14 hours. This was so utterly beyond our calculations, and unlikely to occur again, that it can hardly be looked upon in the ordinary dealing with floods.

The water supply from the Tees Valley Water Board has been satisfactory, and in the places not so supplied the pumps have acted well.

The cowsheds are not kept so clean as I would like to see them; and I believe stricter cleanliness would prevent the spread of tuberculosis among cows. If the cowkeeper would recognise that the principal way in which tuberculosis is spread is by dust inhaled by the animals, he would keep his cowsheds frequently dusted and lime-washed to save his own pocket.

There were 70 cases of infectious diseases notified under the Act during the year. 26 were removed to the Hospital.

		Cases notified.	Removed to Hospital.
Scarlatina	...	43	21
Diphtheria	...	10	4
Typhoid Fever	...	10	1
Erysipelas	...	4	0
Membraneous Croup	...	3	0

The number of cases removed to the Hospital was much greater, and I am pleased to find that the popular prejudice against Hospital treatment is steadily decreasing, and I think that it is the wisest course for cases to be isolated. Although at times it may be thought that you get recrudescence on the return of the cases from Hospital, as happened twice during the last year; in these two cases I made enquiries and found that every precaution had been taken. The treatment of the patients at the Stockton Sanatorium has been perfectly satisfactory, and we should be pleased that they can still take our cases.

MEASLES were very prevalent during the early part of the year, causing 5 deaths.

SCARLATINA.—43 cases were notified during the year. No deaths. 21 were treated in the Hospital. The greater number of these cases were at Wynyard. The cause of the number of cases was that many children had the disease so slightly as not to be diagnosed, and still remain centres of infection. Most of these cases were removed to Hospital. On two occasions when cases came from the Hospital other cases occurred in the house to which they returned—it would seem as if they had brought back the infection. I made enquiries and found every precaution had been taken regarding the clothing of persons, and they were kept in Hospital until entirely desquamated.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANEOUS CROUP.—13 cases were notified, 6 died; 10 of the cases were notified from Carlton Ironworks. The first of the cases occurred in Lawson Street and Morrison Street, and there was sufficient intercommunication between the diseased and the healthy to account for the spread of the disease. I thought it better to have the sewers ventilated, which has been done, and if any more cases occur I will have the sewers tested by the smoke test in sections, so as to ascertain if there is any communication between the sewers and the houses. The water has I believe been satisfactory. One of the sewers went beneath the Infant School—this has been removed.

TYPHOID FEVER.—Ten cases have been notified during the year, causing two deaths. The cases have been sporadic, and in no case was there any trace of it spreading. Every care is taken to disinfect and bury the enteric excreta, and careful instructions given about the disinfection at the home, and the dangers of infection.

INFLUENZA accounted for nine deaths. This disease was complicated with lung mischief, and was epidemic in the spring.

TUBERCULOSIS AND PHTHISIS accounted for 19 deaths. This disease, although not notifiable, is distinctly infectious; if it were notified I think many lives might be saved both to those suffering from the disease and by saving others from infection. It is observed in Hospitals that by the care of disinfection of the sputum, plenty of fresh air, and with a certain amount of isolation the healthy do not become infected. I believe the same care can be taken in the bulk of private houses, and the treatment of the cases managed without interference with their work. This disease has a course of a few weeks in some cases to many years in others, so that Sanatorium treatment is beyond the means of many, and would be difficult to work at the public expense. If the Sanitary Authorities were notified at the earliest stage of the disease much might be done for the patient by advice, and more by the instructions given to avoid the disease spreading.

NORTON.

Census population, 3789; estimated population, 4915. Births, 126; deaths, 61; annual death rate, 12·4. The only remarkable items in the deaths are the large number—12 from heart disease and 5 from accidents. This village has increased; 68 new houses, with estimated inhabitants of 340, have been added during the year. The chief building operations have been on the South-West boundary, behind Mr. Kirby's shop, Grange Road and Mill Street, where some good six-roomed houses and cottages have been erected. There has also been some good middle-class houses, with cottages behind, erected on Billingham Bank, and a street of cottages down Billingham Lane. New streets will have to be formed to meet the requirements of the increase. The sewers have acted well. A new one has been laid down Portrack Lane, and the road down this lane has been made with slag as far as Blackrods turning. This is a great improvement and was very necessary. The scavenging at times during the year has been anything but satisfactory. The footpath on the West side of the Village is being flagged, which will be a great advantage in wet weather. The lighting has been satisfactory and extended where necessary, but would be improved

if incandescent burners were used, and without extra cost. It is to be hoped that the Stockton Corporation will extend their electric mains through the village, for I have no doubt many residents would avail themselves of the light. The water from the Tees Valley Water Board, which supplies the Village, has been good, plentiful, and pure.

BILLINGHAM (INCLUDING HAVERTON HILL).

Census population, 2649; estimated population, 3650. Births, 131; deaths, 81; annual death rate, 22·1. This village has a high death rate. The notable features in the District are 8 from Whooping Cough, 4 from Measles, and 3 from Influenza. These are diseases that are very fatal if care is not used, and I would advise that the parents should take great care of the patients during and after the attack. There are also 8 deaths notified in children within a few days from birth, from either being born prematurely or very weakly on birth. The infantile death rate in this District under 5 years of age is 62·9 per cent., or 51 deaths out of a total of 81. This is extremely heavy, and will account for the large death rate in this District, and it is a great contrast to other years. Last year the infantile deaths were only 37 per cent. of the whole.

The sewers have acted well, and the scavenging has been fairly well done both in Billingham Village and Haverton Hill. There has been a number of houses erected bordering on the road between Haverton Hill and Port Clarence, but these are not equal to the demand. I think that the building trade has been crippled by the high price of material and labour, or it would have made strides to meet the requirements of this largely increasing District. Messrs. Hemmingway have started large works near Haverton Hill during the year.

The lighting at Billingham is done by the Stockton Corporation and has been satisfactory, while Haverton is still lighted by oil lamps. The large number of workmen and general traffic that goes between Billingham and Haverton Hill would be greatly benefited if gas lamps were continued down the whole length of road between the villages.

COWPEN BEWLEY (INCLUDING PORT CLARENCE).

Census population, 1057; estimated population, 1066. Births, 32; deaths, 25; death rate, 23·4. The old village sewers have acted well, and the water supply from the pumps has been satisfactory. The health of the village has been good except for some mild cases of Scarlatina, many of which were never notified, and some cases of Whooping Cough.

The sewers at Port Clarence have acted well, and the scavenging has been satisfactorily done.

A large increase of the works at Messrs. Bell Bros. will draw a large number of hands, but in all probability these will be housed at Middlesbrough.

WOLVISTON.

Census population, 585; estimated population, 620. Births, 18; deaths, 12; death rate, 19·3. The village has been healthy during the year. The water supply from the pumps has been satisfactory. Not many of the inhabitants have taken the public supply; there is a prejudice against it as is usual, but I have no doubt in a short time the whole of the houses will have it laid on, and take advantage of this great boon. The only infectious case notified was one of Scarlatina.

The sewer from the west end of the village is to be brought down and join the one on Stockton Road, and pass through the tanks. The outfall sewer has been continued down the beck a considerable distance. This is part of the scheme for bacterial tanks; when the financial difficulty can be overcome, it will at all events remove that serious nuisance away from the beck near Billingham Road.

WHITTON.

Census population, 1081; estimated population, 1240. Births, 43; deaths, 22; death rate, 17·6. There has been 17 new houses occupied at Carlton Ironworks. The water supply from the Tees Valley Water Board has been satisfactory. The scavenging has been well attended to, and the sewers have acted well.

Two outbreaks of Diphtheria during the year have caused five deaths in ten cases. I could not trace the original source, but afterwards it could have been spread by contact. On visiting a house where a child had died, I found in the front room where the child had died and had been nursed great preparations of food for the funeral guests, which were to consist principally of children. Many people had visited this fatal case, and some had taken the disease home to their families, indeed in the bulk of cases that occurred I could trace communication with the sufferers from the disease.

The drain between back Morrison and Lawson Street had too little ventilation, and I advised that new ventilation should be constructed.

EAGLESCLIFFE.

Census population, 791; estimated population, 1305. Births, 31; deaths, 10; death rate, 7·6. Only one case of infectious disease was notified in this township. The village has been very healthy, and the sanitary works have all been satisfactory. The water supply from the Tees Valley Water Board has been good and plentiful.

AGRICULTURAL.

Census population, 2018; estimated population, 2633. Births, 58; deaths, 29; death rate, 11. The water supply from pumps has been plentiful and good, and in those villages supplied by the Tees Valley Water Board it has also been satisfactory. The scavenging by Contractors in Hartburn and Preston has been fairly well done. The Fairfield District of the township of Hartburn has had the mains laid.

The sewage works at Hartburn are still in abeyance. A Local Government Enquiry has been held to allow the borrowing of money to construct the necessary sewers, and connect with the Stockton Borough sewerage system, which goes by Lustrum Beck to the Tees. Leave to borrow the money has been given, so that I hope the objectionable sewerage garden at Hartburn will be done away with, and an efficient sewer will be constructed to drain the Fairfield District into the Stockton sewer.

A serious outbreak of Scarlatina lasted for a long time during the summer at Wynyard Park, and most of the cases were removed to the Hospital.

On the whole, the health of this area has been good. The sewers have acted well, but some of them should be flushed more frequently, especially those that drain areas that have no public water supply, but are dependent on local pumps.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J. W. BLANDFORD,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.—STOCKTON RURAL DISTRICT (for whole District).

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under one year of age		Deaths at all ages. Total		Deaths in Public Institutions	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District	Deaths at all ages. Nett	
		Number.	Rate*	Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number	Rate*				Number	*Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1890	12,860	404	32.1	59	146.0	218	17.5	...	4	...	214	16.6
1891	11,964	405	33.8	51	125.9	211	17.6	...	8	...	203	16.9
1892	12,024	369	30.6	59	159.8	192	15.9	...	3	...	189	15.7
1893	12,165	382	31.4	38	99.4	192	15.5	...	12	1	181	14.8
1894	12,440	387	31.4	38	98.1	154	12.3	...	2	12	164	12.8
1895	12,670	345	27.2	61	176.8	210	16.5	...	4	2	208	16.4
1896	13,200	356	26.9	43	120.7	160	12.1	...	3	8	165	12.5
1897	13,680	385	28.1	47	122.0	169	12.3	...	6	8	171	12.5
1898	14,245	383	26.8	48	125.3	178	12.4	...	2	5	181	12.7
1899	14,720	388	26.3	46	118.5	205	13.9	...	7	8	206	13.9
Averages for years 1890-1899	12,996	380	29.4	49	129.2	188	14.6	...	5.1	4.4	188	14.4
1900	15,445	439	28.4	69	157.1	238	15.4	10	8	10	240	15.5

* Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... 32,495.

Total population at all ages, 11,964; Number of inhabited houses, 2,254; Average number of persons per house, 5.3 (at Census of 1891).

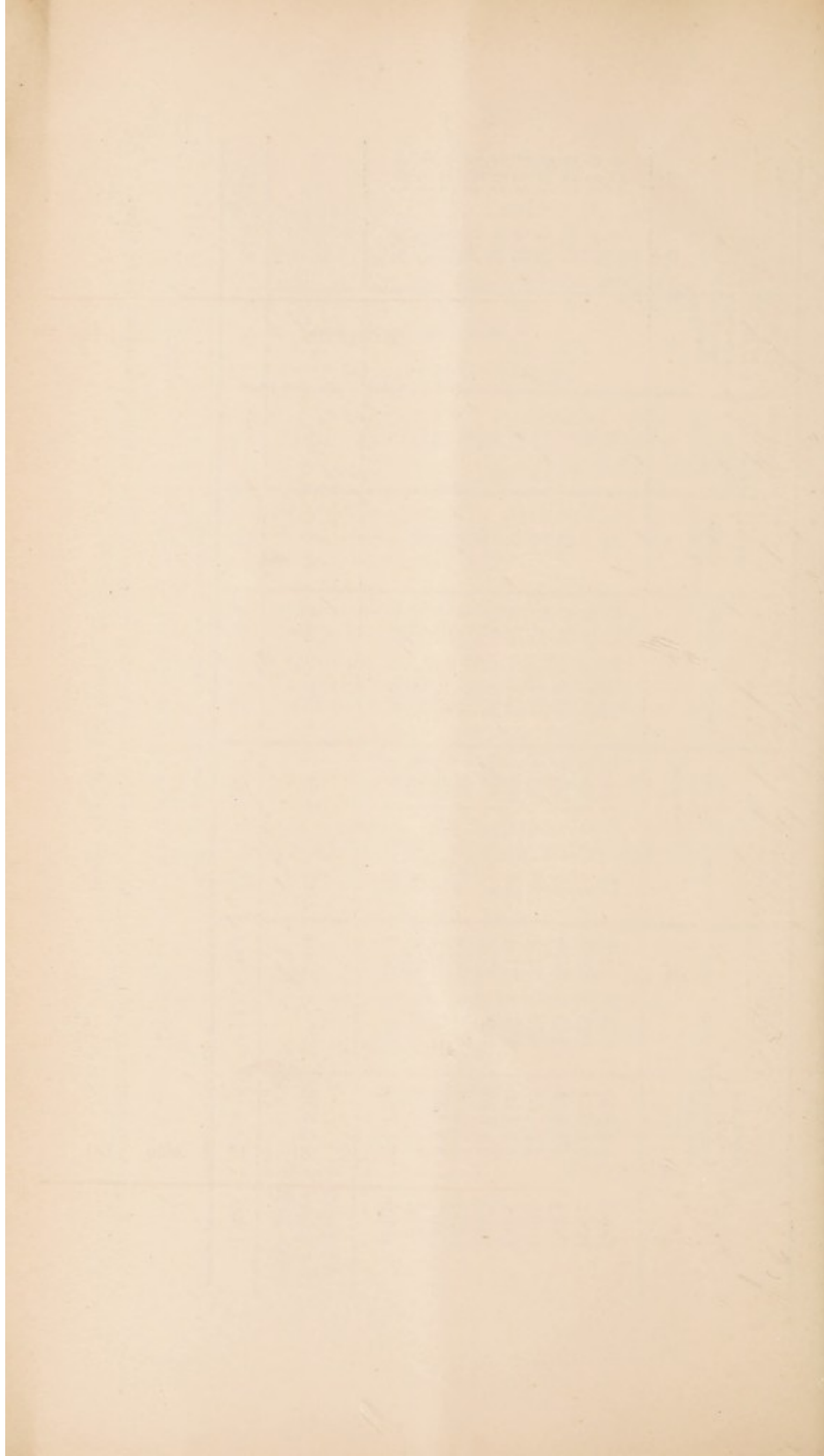


TABLE II.—STOCKTON RURAL DISTRICT.

Names of Localities	NORTON.				BILLINGHAM.				COWPEN.				WOLVISTON.				WHITTON.				EGGLESCLIFFE.				AGRICULTURAL			
	Year	Population estimated to middle of each Year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each Year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each Year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each Year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each Year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each Year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year	Population estimated to middle of each Year	Births registered	Deaths at all ages	Deaths under 1 year
1890 ...	5000	123	57	18	2150	86	58	16	1097	49	33	11	620	23	14	1	1000	46	18	8	740	24	13	...	2253	53	21	5
1891 ...	3789	123	63	18	2649	99	44	16	1051	43	27	6	585	12	14	1	1081	41	19	3	791	27	16	3	2018	60	28	4
1892 ...	3794	110	64	16	2669	89	42	17	1051	47	18	7	585	29	19	4	1081	24	5	1	820	25	16	3	2018	45	28	11
1893 ...	3850	114	55	10	2700	80	59	17	1051	50	24	3	585	19	10	...	1081	41	11	5	860	21	6	1	2038	57	27	2
1894 ...	3950	107	47	12	2770	98	29	9	1066	57	23	5	590	16	10	3	1091	39	15	2	920	24	8	2	2053	46	22	5
1895 ...	4025	98	62	15	2810	87	54	25	1066	40	23	6	590	16	13	1	1091	34	21	8	990	26	15	2	2068	44	22	4
1896 ...	4200	101	50	11	3000	103	46	20	1066	39	21	5	610	16	6	...	1091	28	12	3	1080	23	6	...	2153	46	19	4
1897 ...	4320	94	51	12	3190	116	37	19	1066	43	30	6	615	24	5	1	1091	30	11	3	1145	24	12	1	2253	54	23	5
1898 ...	4415	111	54	15	3365	95	40	12	1066	31	11	2	615	15	10	3	1091	33	18	8	1225	37	17	2	2468	61	23	6
1899 ...	4575	104	62	16	3510	115	45	12	1066	32	30	6	615	21	17	3	1161	36	19	3	1250	31	14	5	2543	49	28	1
Averages of Years (1899 to 1899)	4191	108.5	56.5	14.4	2881	96.8	45.4	16.3	1064	43.1	24.0	5.7	610	19.1	11.8	1.7	1085	35.4	14.9	4.4	982	26.2	12.3	1.9	2189	51.5	24.1	4.7
1900 ...	4915	126	61	15	3650	131	81	35	1066	32	25	3	620	18	12	4	1246	43	22	5	1305	31	10	1	2633	58	29	6

TABLE IV.—STOCKTON RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1900.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Deaths in Whole District at Subjoined Ages							Deaths in Localities (at all Ages)							Deaths in Public Institutions		
	All Ages	Under 1	1 and under 5		5 and under 15		15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and upwards	Norton	Billingham	Cowpen	Woburnton	Whitton		Egglescliffe	Agricultural
			Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25											
Measles	5	1	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	10	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	8	..	..	..	..	..	1
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	6	..	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	5	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Epidemic Influenza	9	..	..	..	3	6	..	..	..	3	3	1	..	..	1	1	..
Diarrhoea	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	1
Enteritis	3	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Other Septic Diseases	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis	15	..	..	2	3	10	..	..	..	3	7	1	..	2	..	2	1
Other Tubercular Diseases	4	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease	5	..	..	..	2	6	..	..	..	2	1	1	2	..	1	1	..
Bronchitis	10	1	2	..	4	3	..	..	..	1	4	2	..	2	1	..	..
Pneumonia	19	4	3	..	8	4	6	6	1	2	6	1	2	..	1	3	1
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver	5	..	..	..	4	1	2	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1
Veneral Diseases	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Preterm Birth	20	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	8	2	2	2	..	2	..
Diseases and accidents of parturition	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Diseases	19	..	..	..	..	12	7	12	1	3	..	1	1	1	1	1	1
Accidents	12	1	2	..	1	6	2	5	2	2	..	..	..	1	2	4	..
Suicides	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
All other causes	82	30	7	4	1	13	27	17	17	29	9	5	9	4	9	2	..
All causes	240	69	28	9	10	73	51	61	81	35	12	22	10	29	10	..	10

TABLE III.—STOCKTON RURAL DISTRICT.
CASES of INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the Year 1900.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Cases Notified in Whole District						Total Cases Notified in each Locality.						Number of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality							
	All ages	At Ages—Years					Norton	Billingham	Cowpen	Woburnton	Whitton	Egglescliffe	Agricultural	Norton	Billingham	Cowpen	Woburnton	Whitton	Egglescliffe	Agricultural
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65															65 and upwards
DIPHTHERIA	10	4	3	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	7	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	15
MEMBRANEOUS CROUP	3	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
ERYSIPELAS	4	..	1	1	1	1	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
SCARLET FEVER... .. .	43	6	31	5	1	..	..	2	1	..	9	31	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	20
ENTERIC FEVER... .. .	10	..	1	7	2	..	2	2	3	..	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Totals.. .. .	70	11	38	15	5	1	5	2	5	1	13	10	34	..	1	..	2	1	22	..

State the name of the isolation hospital, if any, used by the sick of the District—Stockton Sanitarium. Mark (H) the locality in which it is situated, or if not within the District, state where it is situated, and in what District—Stockton.

