

**[Report 1898] / Medical Officer of Health, Stratford-upon-Avon Borough,
Stratford-upon-Avon R.D.C., Marston Sicca R.D.C.**

Contributors

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1898.

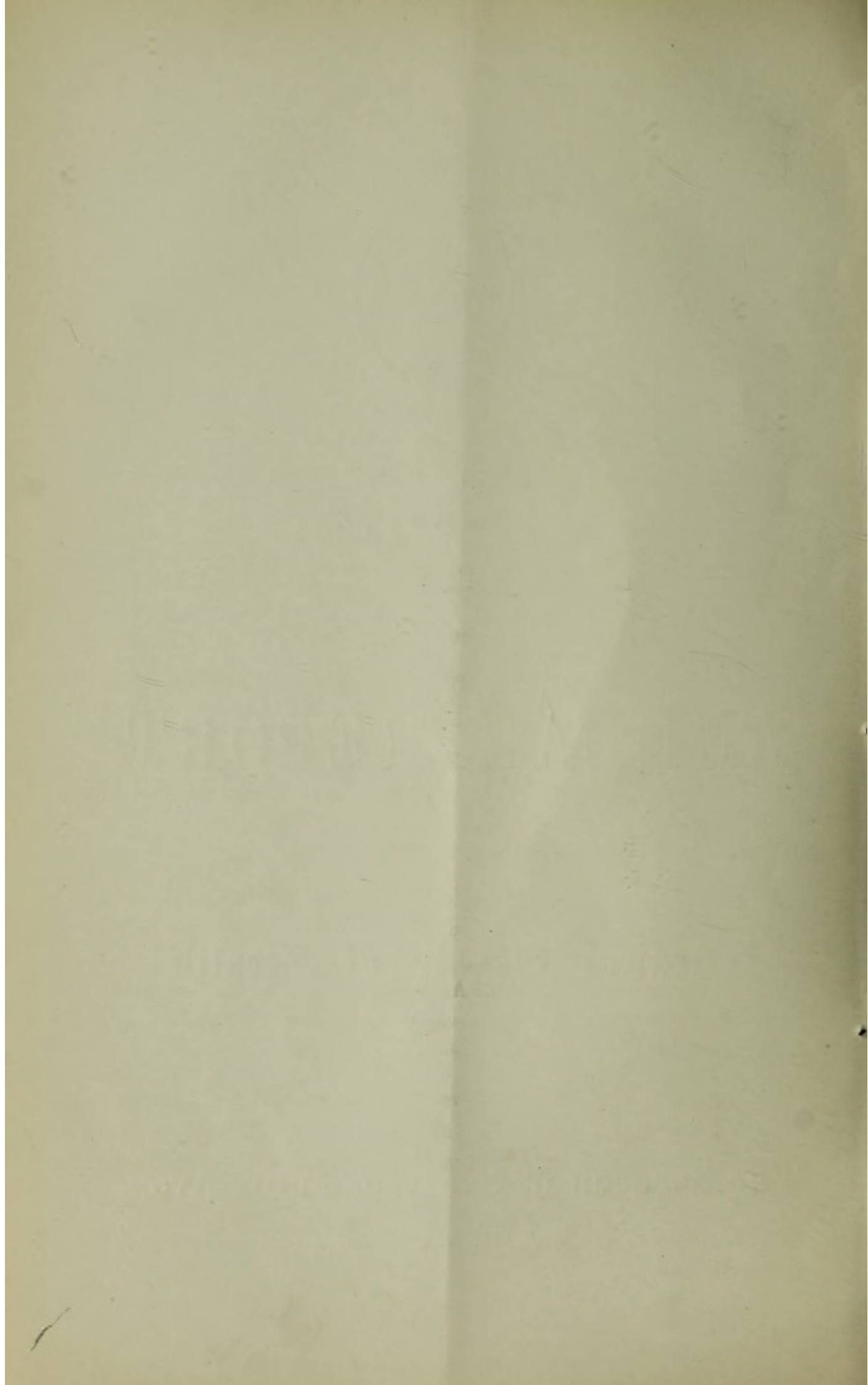
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

THE BOROUGH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.



STRATFORD-UPON-AVON,

JANUARY, 1899.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
THE BOROUGH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS OF
THE BOROUGH.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

In the following Report, which I have the honour to present, it is satisfactory to find that the Health of the Town maintains the standard of excellence which I was able to report for the year 1897. As a reference to Table A shows, there was but one death from the principal Zymotic Diseases (other than Diarrhoea and Dysentery), this being due to Measles.

The few cases of Scarlet Fever that were notified in the year were mild in type, and it has not been necessary to close any Schools during the past twelve months on account of Infectious Disease being prevalent.

The (corrected) Death-rate is 15·5 per 1000 inhabitants, and the Birth-rate 21·4.

The Infantile death-rate (*i.e.* the mortality among children under one year of age) is 140 per 1000 births registered.

The Zymotic death-rate is .7 per 1000.

The death-rate from diseases of the organs of respiration (Phthisis excluded) is 3 per 1000.

The death-rate from Phthisis is .9 per 1000. The "Cancer" death-rate is 1.2 per 1000.

One death was registered as due to Influenza.



REMARKS ON TABLE B.

SMALL-POX.—No case notified.

SCARLET FEVER.—Thirteen (13) cases were notified, of which twelve were promptly sent to Hospital. One case, that of a child under one year of age, was nursed at home.

At Shottery the disease was introduced by a visitor from Aston Manor, and the infection spread to three other cases in the place. All of the cases notified in the year have been mild in character, and most of them might easily have escaped notice. It is reasonable to suppose that without notification of the disease, and isolation of cases, this mild form of Scarlet Fever would constitute a continuous endemic among children.

DIPHTHERIA.—Five (5) cases were notified, two of which were isolated in Hospital. In one of the cases notified nuisance arising from pigs was presumably the cause of disease.

While on the subject of Infectious Disease, it may be mentioned that "recent prevalence of Infectious Disease" in a district authorises a Public Vaccinator to defer vaccination if he thinks fit to do so. This is a provision of the Act of 1898,

 SANITATION IN THE BOROUGH.

WATER SUPPLY.—I am informed by your Surveyor that there are now 643 connections and 1194 separate supplies from the water-mains of the town.

The Quarterly analyses of the Public Water Supply of the Borough, have shewn the water to be up to the standard of purity obtained in previous years, and notwithstanding the drought of the past summer, it was unnecessary to place any restrictions on the use of water from the mains—a measure which was requisite in many places elsewhere. From a health point of view this is worthy of note, since it is in the hot weather especially that an unstinted domestic water supply is most serviceable in keeping house-drains and sewers well flushed. And, at the same

time of year, it is least advisable that any change should be brought about in the water supply of the public, either by pumping well-water into the mains, or by private wells being brought into use to supplement a limited public water service.

VACCINATION.

Vaccination, as shown in the Returns appended to this Report, is efficiently carried out in the Borough, a state of affairs which, it is to be hoped, will not be adversely affected by recent legislation.

When one considers how infectious the disease, Small-pox, is, and how liable an infected person is to spread the disease to others before the nature of the illness is known, it is very clear that to attempt to stamp out Small-pox by trusting to isolation of cases alone, may not be successful. In fact, to arrest the spread of Small-pox among an unvaccinated population would be, to my mind, as difficult as it is to prevent the spread of Measles: and how the latter complaint runs riot occasionally is well known.

The two diseases—Small-pox and Measles—have more than one point of similarity in that they are both children's diseases, and have both a stage of invasion of several days before the distinctive rash shows. Lastly, they are readily transmitted by infection, and in neither case are healthy surroundings a preventive.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

During the past year I have gone into the question of dealing with the sewage of Shottery with your Surveyor, and it is probable that some form of 'Tank' Treatment is the only proper solution of the matter. As there are continual experiments going on in this method of sewage disposal, it is to be hoped that very soon some perfected system will obtain the unqualified approval of experts in sewage treatment. When this is arrived at, places like Shottery can readily be dealt with.

And in like manner, it may be possible to dispose of sewage from the town in excess of the amount which the farm is competent to purify.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

It is probable that further legislation on the subject of food adulteration will shortly ensue.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Recent investigation into the causation of Tuberculosis among cattle goes to show that the best preventive of the disease is that the animals shall be out of doors as much as possible, and it may be deduced from this that the better the ventilation of cowsheds is the healthier the stock will be. As a rule throughout the Borough and adjoining district, the housing of dairy cattle is not open to objection, and the cows spend much of their time out of doors. No infringement of "the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order" as regards 'contamination of milk' has come to my knowledge in 1898. I personally visit premises where any branch of the milk-trade is carried on, and infectious disease has been notified, and give instructions as to precautions necessary.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

In the past year a court in Meer Street has been entirely done away with, and as the cottages in it were unsatisfactory this is an advantage. There are two other courts in the town which it would be an advantage to have made to open widely to the street instead of communicating as they do now by means of a narrow covered passage. This would let air and light into them, thus improving their moral and physical atmosphere. While it has been said that the small cottages in these courts should not exist at all, since they possess at best only two small bedrooms, and

are invariably overcrowded, the remedy for this lies in many cases not in the provision of larger houses (which necessarily involves higher rents), but in the older children of the family finding work and living from home.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR THOMSON, M.B.





Supplemental Return for 1897.

RETURN to be made on or before the 8th February, 1899, by Mr. J. A. BEARD, Vaccination Officer of the whole District of the Stratford-on-Avon Union, respecting the Vaccination of Children, whose Births were registered in his District, from 1st January to 31st December, 1897, inclusive.

Registration Sub-Districts comprised in the Vaccination Officer's District.	Number of Births returned in the "Birth List Sheets" as registered from 1st January to 31st December, 1897.	Number of these Births duly entered by 31st January, 1899, in Columns 10, 11, and 13 of the "Vaccination Register" (Birth List Sheets), viz.:				Number of these Births which entered in the "Vaccination Register" on account (as shown by Report Book) of			Number of these Births remaining on 31st January, 1899, neither duly entered in the "Vaccination Register" (columns 3, 4, 5, and 6 of this Return) nor temporarily accounted for in the "Report Book" (columns 8, 9, and 10 of this Return).	
		Col. 10. "Successfully Vaccinated."	Col. 11. "Insusceptible of Vaccination." "Had Small Pox."	Col. 13. "Dead, unvaccinated."	Number in respect of whom Certificates of Conscientious Objections have been received.	Postponement by Medical Certificate	Removal to Districts the Vaccination Officer of which has been duly apprized.	Removal to Places unknown, or which cannot be reached; and Cases not having been found		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Stratford-on-Avon	272	215			20	12	1		7	17
Wootton Wawen ..	93	75			11		1	1	2	3
Wellesbourne ..	137	98			13	12		1	2	11
TOTAL	502	388			44	24	2	2	11	31

Dated 31st January, 1899.

(Signed) JOSH: A. BEARD, Vaccination Officer.

Return for the period January—June, 1898.

RETURN to be made on or before the 8th February, 1899, by Mr. J. A. BEARD, Vaccination Officer of the whole District of the Stratford-on-Avon Union, respecting the Vaccination of Children whose Births were registered in his District, from 1st January to 30th June, 1898, inclusive.

Registration Sub-Districts comprised in the Vaccination Officer's District.	Number of Births returned in the "Birth List Sheets" as registered from 1st January to 30th June, 1898.	Number of these Births duly entered by 31st January, 1899, in Columns 10, 11, and 13 of the "Vaccination Register" (Birth List Sheets), viz.:				Number of these Births which on 31st January, 1899, remained unentered in the "Vaccination Register" on account (as shown by Report Book) of			Number of these Births remaining on 31st January, 1899, neither duly entered in the "Vaccination Register" (columns 3, 4, 5, and 6 of this Return) nor temporarily accounted for in the "Report Book" (columns 8, 9, and 10 of this Return).	
		Col. 10. "Successfully Vaccinated."	Col. 11. "Insusceptible of Vaccination." "Had Small Pox."		Col. 13. "Dead, unvaccinated."	Number in respect of whom Certificates of Conscientious Objections have been received.	Postponement by Medical Certificate	Removal to Districts		Removal to Places
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Stratford-on-Avon	135	78		15	4	12	4		4	22
Wootton Wawen ..	43	27		5		2	1		3	5
Wellesbourne ..	55	33	1		2	5			1	13
TOTAL	233	138	1	22	19	5	8	5	8	40

Dated 31st January, 1899.

(Signed) JOSH: A. BEARD, Vaccination Officer.



(C.)

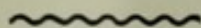
BOROUGH OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON.

NUISANCES ABATED.

				Inspections and Observations made.	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling Houses and Schools	{	Foul Conditions .. ..	..	6	5	6
		Structural Defects .. ..	..	21	8	21
		Overcrowding .. ..	..	3	3	3
		Unfit for Habitation .. ..	..	..	..	..
		Lodging Houses .. ..	..	} Regularly		
		Dairies and Milkshops .. ..	..		
		Cow Sheds .. ..	..		
		Bakehouses .. [See M.O.H. Report	..	} Regularly.		
		Slaughter-houses.. ..	..		
		Canal Boats .. ..	..	7	..	..
Ashpits and Privies .. ..	..	26	24	21		
Deposits of Refuse and Manure .. ..	..	8	8	8		
Water Closets .. ..	..	19	15	19		
House Drainage	{	Defective Traps .. ..	..	21	19	21
		No Disconnection.. ..	..	11	11	11
		Other Faults .. ..	..	12	15	12
		Water Supply .. ..	..	20	20	20
		Pigstyes .. ..	..	..	..	..
		Animals improperly kept .. ..	..	4	4	4
		Offensive Trades .. ..	..	..	..	..
		Smoke Nuisances .. ..	..	..	..	..
		Other Nuisances .. ..	..	14	13	14
TOTALS				172	145	160
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ..				11		
" " " condemned as unfit for use				8		



STRATFORD-UPON-AVON RURAL DISTRICT.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

FOR THE YEAR

1898.

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON RURAL DISTRICT.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Area (approximate) 58,000 acres. Population in 1891, 11,297.

PARISHES.	POPULATION (IN 1891).	INHABITED HOUSES (IN 1891).
†Alveston	954	206
Atherstone-on-Stour	115	23
Bearley	188	45
Beaudesert	141	33
Bickmarsh	130	22
Billesley	16	3
Binton	235	55
Charlecote	212	56
*Combroke	209	48
Compton Verney	86	14
Claverdon	550	128
Ettington	620	149
Fulbroke	59	16
Temple Grafton.. .. .	388	97
Hampton Lucy	395	90
*Kineton	1021	234
Langley	142	37
*Loxley	261	63
Luddington	109	25
Milcote	50	8
Moreton Morrell	252	63
Newbold Pacey and Ashorne	338	81
Old Stratford and Drayton	165	111
Preston Bagot	176	38
Snitterfield	790	200
Wellesbourne Hastings and Walton	672	160
Wellesbourne Mountford	673	170
Whitchurch	194	42
Wolverton	151	37
Wootton Wawen { *Ullenhall *Henley-in-Arden }	2005	468
Totals	11,297	2,722

Parishes marked * have public water supply from mains.

† Public water works in course of construction.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the accompanying Report on the health of the district for the year 1898.

The Birth-rate is 23·3 per 1,000 inhabitants. The average of this rate for the Rural Districts of Warwickshire last year was 28·81.

The Death-rate is 15·9 per 1,000 inhabitants. The average of this rate for the Rural Districts of Warwickshire last year was 14·9.

The Infantile death-rate is 140·6 per 1,000 births registered.

The average of this rate for the Rural Districts of Warwickshire last year was 120.

The Zymotic death-rate is ·90 per 1,000 inhabitants, the number of deaths comprised under this heading being ten. (Scarlet Fever, 1; Diphtheria, 2; Enteric Fever, 0; Diarrhœa and Dysentery, 7).

The average of this rate for the Rural Districts of Warwickshire last year was 1·00.

The death-rate from diseases of the Respiratory organs (Phthisis excluded) is 1·9 per 1,000.

The Phthisis death-rate is ·9 per 1,000.

The "Cancer" death-rate is ·9 per 1,000.

Influenza was a primary or secondary cause of death in four instances.

(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 Stratford-on-Avon Rural 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.	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 RECORDED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.																										
	Last Census	Estimated to middle of 1898			FEVERS.						FEVERS.							Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Typhus.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typ.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.																
					Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	M'bransous croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typ.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.												Diphtheria.	M'bransous croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typ.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.							
Registration Sub-district Stratford-on-Avon ..	1402		39	Under 5 5 upwds.	1	8	2															1	8	1									1	8	1									
Registration Sub-district Wellesbourne.. ..	5752		122	Under 5 5 upwds.	5	14	1																4	13	1																			
Registration Sub-district Wootton Wawen ..	4143		95	Under 5 5 upwds.	23	95	5	1															17	78	1	0									1	2								
Totals	11297	10992	256	Under 5 5 upwds.	29	117	8	1															22	99	3										2	2								

To estimate the significance of these statistics, it is necessary to take into consideration whether the proportion of young adults in the district is the same as that of the country in general, and as the last census showed that the population of the district had actually decreased since 1881, it is reasonable to assume that this decrease is due to young adults leaving the district. And as between the ages of 20 and 45 the mortality is least, it follows that a population deficient in individuals at these ages will have a mortality rate which does not express correctly the real mortality.

The same cause naturally gives rise to a low birth-rate.

The Infantile death-rate of the district for 1898 is unusually high, and if maintained at the same rate for a term of years, would indicate a very unsatisfactory condition of affairs. But this has not been the case, and in 1897 the rate was at the very low degree of 98 per 1,000 births registered.

The Zymotic death-rate for the year, while satisfactory, would be insignificant but for the fact that Diarrhoea and Dysentery are responsible for seventy per cent of the units from which it is made up. I am inclined to think that it is the exception for deaths from these two complaints to be due to Zymotic conditions in the rural districts, though common enough among crowded populations.

The "Phthisis" mortality previously recorded, is, I think, very nearly the average rate for the County.

As there has been much discussion in the country generally on the question of Tuberculosis, and on the means by which the spread of it may be checked, it may not be out of place here to quote the opinion of a leading authority, Sir Richard Thorne-Thorne, K.C.B., M.B., on the subject of compulsory notification of Tuberculosis in man

His opinion is that notification of the disease, without subsequent action on the part of the Sanitary Authorities, does not offer any advantage to justify the measure; and he holds that the notification of the disease, combined with subsequent action (such as the visiting of officials to suggest or carry out measures calculated to

prevent dissemination of the disease) on the part of Sanitary Authorities, would lead to disadvantages calculated to counter-balance the benefits thereby obtained.

TABLE B.

SCARLET FEVER.—This disease has been notified from almost all parts of the district during the year, and it is gratifying to find that in many instances the prompt notification and removal to Hospital of the earliest cases seemed to stop what threatened to be a wide spread epidemic. At Snitterfield, however, the disease had been widely spread at the end of 1887, and as a result cases were notified from that parish all through the first three quarters of the year. At Claverdon, Henley-in-Arden, Wootton Wawen, and Wellesbourne, the outbreaks that occurred were more or less successfully checked, and never became universal, and it is reasonable to ascribe this, not only to prompt isolation of cases, but also to the fact that public feeling in these places militated strongly against the dissemination of the disease. While it is too much to say that combined public action will always successfully ward off an epidemic of Scarlet Fever, on the other hand there is nothing more certain than that a *laissez faire* policy on the part of the parents of children will render any efforts to stop an epidemic of Scarlet Fever almost useless.

Two cases of exposure in public of patients suffering from Scarlet Fever occurred in the year, and in one instance the father of a child so exposed was cautioned by your Council. The child in this instance was brought by train to ascertain the nature of his illness, and there was no suspicion of *wilful* exposure.

DIPHTHERIA.—Nine cases were notified in the year, two of which terminated fatally, one at Henley-in-Arden and one at Snitterfield. Three were isolated in Hospital.

Of the nine cases four were at Henley-in-Arden (three in one house, well-water polluted), two were at Snitterfield, one was at Milcote, one at Kineton, one at Ardens Grafton.

In all cases the sanitary conditions of the premises occupied were examined, and the house disinfected.

ENTERIC FEVER. Four cases were notified, one of these was doubtfully Enteric in character. Two of the others came from the same house in Henley-in-Arden, the first having brought the infection from Birmingham, which was his home.

The fourth case lived at Wolverton, and I was unable to ascertain the probable source of infection, the difficulty of doing so being increased by the fact that he was not infrequently away from the parish.

PUERPERAL FEVER. One case was notified at Wolverton—source unknown.

THE SANITATION OF THE DISTRICT.

BYELAWS. These being now in force will bring about in time a marked advance in the Sanitation of the district.

VACCINATION. The returns of the Vaccination Officer, kindly furnished me, show a fairly satisfactory condition of affairs as regards Infantile Vaccination.

WATER SUPPLY. In Alveston Parish a pure and practically unlimited supply has been obtained by sinking an Artesian Well, and when the work is completed, as will be the case very shortly, it is to be hoped that the shallow polluted wells of the parish will be totally abandoned. The well is capable of suppling the parishes adjoining Alveston, should this be required later on.

Half-yearly analyses of the public water supplies of Henley-in-Arden, Ullenhall, Combroke, Loxley, Kineton, and Binton have been carried out, and these shown to be satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE. At the present time a scheme is being carried out for the purification of the sewage at Kineton.

In the past year I have reported to your Council on the pollution of the brooks at Wellesbourne and at Wootton Wawen

from discharge of crude sewage into them, and the latter is at present receiving consideration.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Two cottages were certified by me under this Act during the year.

A special Report which had reference to this subject was made by me on the condition of Wootton Wawen to the effect that while the village was fairly satisfactory there were exceptional cases where property was defective. These properties are receiving your attention.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

In no instance has spread of disease been traced to milk as a cause during the year. As regards Cowsheds it is doubtful if it is within the reach of practical cow-keeping to allow the amount of cubic space per animal that would ensure ideal ventilation. It would really appear, from recent research into bovine Tuberculosis, that cattle (like sheep) to ensure their health, should live in the open air or in open shedding.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR THOMSON, M.B.



(C.)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON RURAL DISTRICT.
NUISANCES ABATED.

				Inspections and Observations made.	Formal Notices by Authority.	Nuisances Abated after Notice.
Dwelling Houses and Schools	{	Foul Conditions .. ..	..	59	41	57
		Structural Defects .. ..	..	78	27	69
		Overcrowding .. ..	..	6	6	6
		Unfit for Habitation .. ..	..	..	..	..
	Lodging Houses		} Regularly			
	Dairies and Milkshops					
	Cow Sheds					
	Bakehouses .. [See M.O.H. Report					
	Slaughter-houses.. ..	..	..	Regularly.		
	Canal Boats .. ..	..	..	11	..	..
Ashpits and Privies .. ..	..	..	122	76	98	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure .. ..	..	..	11	11	11	
Water Closets .. ..	..	..	4	4	4	
House Drainage	{	Defective Traps .. ..	..	18	16	18
		No Disconnection.. ..	..	25	22	23
		Other Faults .. ..	..	69	58	63
	Water Supply .. ..	..	..	35	32	34
	Pigstyes .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
	Animals improperly kept .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
	Offensive Trades .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
	Smoke Nuisances .. ..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Nuisances .. ..	..	..	11	10	11	
TOTALS				449	303	383
Samples of Water taken for Analysis ..				33		
" " " condemned as unfit for use				10		



THE RURAL DISTRICT OF MARSTON SICCA.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1898.

THE RURAL DISTRICT OF MARSTON SICCA.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Area (approximate) 8,286 statute acres.

Rateable Value, £10,286.

Population in 1881, 1,808.

Population in 1891, 1,658.

PARISHES.

Clifford Chambers.

Dorsington.

Marston Sicca.

Preston-on-Stour.

Welford-on-Avon.

Weston-on-Avon.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MARSTON
SICCA DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In the past year the District has been free from Infectious sickness, apart from a few cases of Scarlet Fever, and a very limited outbreak of Diphtheria.

The Death-rate for 1898 is 13·8 per 1,000, which is very satisfactory.

The Birth-rate is 15·6 per 1,000, which is an excessively low rate. In the preceding year it was 23·9 per 1,000.

The Infantile Death-rate is 115·3 per 1,000 Births registered.

The Death-rate from Infectious Disease (Zymotic Death-rate) is 1·2 per 1,000.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE. As previously stated there has been little Infectious Disease to deal with. It is noticeable that in the last two years the only Diphtheria in the District has been in Clifford Chambers. There is every reason to believe that Scarlet Fever was introduced into Welford by summer visitors, and it is satisfactory to note that all cases of the disease were promptly sent to Hospital, and the spread of the complaint effectually checked.

WATER SUPPLY.

The village of Long Marston is still without anything of the nature of a proper water supply, a condition which is no doubt conducive to ill-health, and may at any time give rise to an epidemic. The only satisfactory plan of supplying the parish would appear to be to obtain water by extension of the mains of the "Villages Water Scheme," and it is to be hoped that opportunity of doing this will be afforded in the near future.

VACCINATION.

The proportion of 'conscientious objectors' in the District does not, so far, appear to constitute a public danger.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR THOMSON, M.B.

