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SWADLINCOTE DISTRICT
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.


ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR
THE YEAR 1903.

JOHN HAMILTON, M.D.

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SWADLINCOTE
DISTRICT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT
FOR 1903.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I beg leave to submit my Annual Report for 1903, which is the 27th I have made for the Swadlincote Urban District, and the 10th since the amalgamation of the Gresley and Newhall Wards.

The estimated population of the District up to the middle of last year was 18,675. The number of deaths in the District was 194, viz.: 98 males and 96 females, giving a death-rate for the year of 10·38. Eleven deaths of persons belonging to the District but whose deaths took place outside brings the total deaths up to 205, giving a death-rate of 10·97 per 1,000.

| | | | | |
|---------------------|--------|------|-------------|-------|
| Death-rate for 1899 | ... | 15·0 | } per 1,000 | |
| „ | „ 1900 | ... | | 13·2 |
| „ | „ 1901 | ... | | 14·46 |
| „ | „ 1902 | ... | | 16·5 |

The number of deaths from a zymotic cause notified was 17, giving a death-rate of ·91 per 1,000. The total number from zymotic causes was 21, giving a death-rate of 1·12 per 1,000.

The death-rate from zymotic causes was in

| | | | |
|------|-----|------|-------------|
| 1899 | ... | 2·23 | } per 1,000 |
| 1900 | ... | 2·49 | |
| 1901 | ... | 2·87 | |
| 1902 | ... | 2·8 | |

The total number of births registered was 669, viz.: 366 males and 303 females. The birth-rate for the year was 35·82 per 1,000, as compared with

| | | | |
|------|-----|-------|-------------|
| 1899 | ... | 36·94 | } per 1,000 |
| 1900 | ... | 36·47 | |
| 1901 | ... | 36·20 | |
| 1902 | ... | 35·98 | |

This equals a nett increase during the year of 268 males and 207 females.

COMPARATIVE TABLE as required by the Local Government Board.

| Year. | Population estimated to Middle of each year. | Births. | | Total Deaths Registered in the District. | | | Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District. | Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District. | Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District. | Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District. | | |
|------------------------------|--|---------|--------|--|-----------------------------------|---------|--|--|--|--|---------|--------|
| | | Number. | Rate.* | At all Ages. | | Number. | | | | Rate.* | Number. | Rate.* |
| | | | | Under 1 Year of Age. | Rate per 1,000 Births Registered. | | | | | | | |
| I | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 1893 | 14,670 | 548 | 37.35 | 99 | 180.65 | 246 | 16.7 | | | | 246 | 16.7 |
| 1894 | 15,080 | 596 | 39.52 | 80 | 134.22 | 222 | 14.7 | | | | 222 | 14.7 |
| 1895 | 15,530 | 610 | 39.27 | 81 | 132.8 | 199 | 12.8 | | | | 199 | 12.8 |
| 1896 | 15,990 | 584 | 36.52 | 72 | 123.28 | 198 | 12.3 | | | | 198 | 12.3 |
| 1897 | 16,470 | 566 | 34.30 | 93 | 164.31 | 224 | 13.6 | | | | 224 | 13.6 |
| 1898 | 16,960 | 631 | 37.20 | 106 | 167.98 | 281 | 16.5 | | | | 281 | 16.5 |
| 1899 | 17,460 | 645 | 36.94 | 97 | 150.38 | 262 | 15.0 | | | | 262 | 15.0 |
| 1900 | 17,602 | 642 | 36.47 | 88 | 137.07 | 233 | 13.2 | | | | 233 | 13.2 |
| 1901 | 18,117 | 656 | 36.20 | 82 | 125.0 | 254 | 14.01 | | | | 254 | 14.01 |
| 1902 | 18,450 | 664 | 35.98 | 94 | 141.56 | 292 | 15.8 | | 14 | | 306 | 16.5 |
| Averages for years 1893-1902 | 16,632.9 | 614.2 | 36.92 | 89.2 | 145.22 | 241.1 | 14.49 | Nil | Nil | Nil | 242.5 | 14.57 |
| 1903 | 18,675 | 669 | 35.82 | 63 | 94.17 | 194 | 10.38 | Nil | Nil | 11 | 205 | 10.97 |

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The "Public institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums.

The second part of my Report in the following Table deals with infectious diseases notified during the year. From this Table it will be seen that 63 cases were reported as compared with 216 in the previous year. They are as follows:—

| Notifiable Disease. | At all Ages. | | | | | | | 65 and upwards. |
|----------------------|---------------|---------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| | Under 1 year. | 1 to 5. | 5 to 15. | 15 to 25. | 25 to 65. | 65 and upwards. | | |
| Small-pox ... | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |
| Diphtheria ... | 8 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | |
| Membranous Croup ... | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Erysipelas ... | 16 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | |
| Scarlet Fever ... | 24 | 0 | 10 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |
| Enteric Fever ... | 8 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0 | |
| Pueperal Fever... | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | |
| | 63 | 1 | 16 | 25 | 7 | 12 | 2 | |

Small Pox.

One case unfortunately proving fatal from a secondary cause—pneumonia—occurred in the beginning of the year. This case was referred to in my last yearly report.

The other case admitted from Stanton Ward progressed favourably, and was discharged from the Hospital, as you are aware, at the end of the sixth week. The steps taken to isolate the case, proved, I am glad to say, successful. No further spread of the disease occurred. In this connection it may be mentioned that the patient no doubt caught the complaint from visiting a friend who was afterwards proved to be suffering from the disease in the Burton district. The suggestions made in my last Report as to the necessary repairs to the Small-pox Hospital have been carried out, and the place is now in a

proper state to receive patients.

I am glad to say that the Vaccination returns for the district are satisfactory. At no time in my remembrance has there been a greater percentage of children vaccinated.

- Scarlet Fever.** Twenty-four cases were notified to me during the year as compared with 160 in the previous twelve months. They were of a mild type; only one death was reported from this cause.
- Enteric Fever.** There has been again an unusual immunity from this disease. Eight cases were reported to me during the year, with two deaths.
- Erysipelas.** Sixteen cases were notified during the year.
- Measles.** This disease, I am glad to say, showed a very marked diminution during the last twelve months as compared with the previous year. Only one death was registered from this cause.
- Whooping Cough.** From this the district was entirely exempt. The deaths in the previous year numbered 18.
- Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.** Twenty-nine deaths occurred from these causes, as compared with fifty-nine in the previous year.
- Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases.** Twelve deaths were registered under these heads. As mentioned in my last report, the circulars of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption have not received that attention from the populace they deserve. No application was made for the disinfection of the premises of the deceased.
- Cancer and other Malignant Disease.** Twelve deaths were registered from these causes; the same number as in the previous year.

Diarrhoea and Enteritis. Only eight deaths were registered from these causes. The disease has shown a steady diminution for the last two years. The unprecedented and abnormal rainfall may, as I have remarked, in my previous Report, have a determining influence in their diminution.

Puerperal Fever Three cases were notified to me during the year, and one death was registered from this cause. The Midwives Act will, no doubt, tend to lessen the incidence of this disease.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup. Eleven cases were notified to me during the year with a mortality of four—all in children under five years.

In all the above cases I have been ably assisted by your Inspector in the means adopted to prevent the further spread of the disease.

In the case of Small-pox especially, the Inspector's aid and diligence in the discharge of his duties were marked.

Slaughter-houses and Food Establishments. A careful supervision has been kept over their sanitary condition, and they are, throughout the district, in a satisfactory state.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901. I have systematically visited the factories and workshops in the district, and find that in the matter of cleanliness, air space, ventilation, and other conditions specified under the Act, they are in a satisfactory state.

House Accommodation. No case of overcrowding was reported to me during the year, and as at my last Report, I am able to state that the house accommodation for the working classes is satisfactory, and houses can be obtained at a fairly low rental. Sufficiency of open spaces about houses has been well maintained. The too early occupancy of new houses, i.e., before the walls have

had time to dry is a matter which I have before brought under the notice of the Council, and one which should receive attention.

Water Supply. The water supply has been satisfactory in both quality and quantity.

Sewerage and Drainage. The sewerage system is working satisfactorily, and the scavenging equally so. My former suggestion as to the conversion of the privy system into a water-borne one, as far as possible, should not be lost sight of. I consider it somewhat of a disgrace to our district—the metropolis of the sanitary pipe trade—that so many midden privies are still in existence.

Infectious Diseases Hospital. No attempt, so far as I know, has been made to provide an Infectious Diseases Hospital, and as I have before pointed out without this means of isolation all other efforts for combating epidemic disease is more or less futile.

Inspection. I have made my usual periodic and systematic inspection of the district, including cowsheds and dairies, and have found them in a satisfactory condition; this likewise applies to bakehouses. I have by monthly reports and otherwise informed you as to the health of the district. No case of diseased meat or fish was offered for sale. No occasion arose to take proceedings under the Adulteration of Foods Act, or in the matter of offensive trades.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN HAMILTON.

TABLE A

Summary of SANITARY WORK done in the Inspector of Nuisances Department during the year 1903, in the Urban Sanitary District of Swadlincote, containing an area of 3,415 acres.

| DESCRIPTION OF NUISANCE. | Informal Notices served by Inspector. | Legal Notices served by Authority. | Nuisances abated. |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| No. disconnection of Waste Pipe ... | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| Defective Traps, Inlets, and Drains | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| Drains obstructed | 19 | 0 | 19 |
| Insanitary Privies and Ashpits ... | 21 | 8 | 21 |
| Insufficient Closet Accommodation | 24 | 8 | 24 |
| Conversion of Privies into W.C.s ... | 27 | 6 | 0 |
| Defective Water Closets | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Urinals defective | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Offensive Accumulations | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Pigsties | 6 | 4 | 4 |
| Totals ... | 113 | 28 | 84 |

All cases of Infectious Disease visited by Inspector, and when necessary by Medical Officer. Disinfecting done by Inspector. Materials supplied by Council. Regular inspection of meat, fish, fruit, &c., exposed for sale. No Canal Boats.

DWELLING-HOUSES.—ESTIMATED NUMBER, 3,700.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number inspected | ... | ... | ... | 245 |
| Informal Notices to Repair Houses | ... | | | 2 |
| Number of Houses repaired | ... | ... | | 12 |
| Number of Infected Houses | ... | ... | | 44 |
| Number disinfected | ... | ... | ... | 41 |

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number on Register | ... | ... | ... | 50 |
| Number of inspections | | ... | ... | 126 |

BAKEHOUSES.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number on Register | ... | ... | ... | 35 |
| Number of inspections | | ... | ... | 94 |

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Number on Register | ... | ... | ... | 34 |
| Number of inspections | | ... | ... | 86 |
| Number of Notices served for infringements of Bye-Laws | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

WORKSHOPS.

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number on Register | ... | ... | ... | 60 |
| Number of inspections | | ... | ... | 140 |

Total number of inspections made ... 691

JABEZ HARVEY,

Inspector of Nuisances.