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Contributors

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WHICKHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 190²

Gateshead-on-Tyne :

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REPORT.

WHICKHAM,

January 20th, 1903.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1902.

The actual number of deaths registered during that period was 204, 109 less than last year. 8 persons belonging to the District died in public institutions, namely, 1 at Sedgefield County Lunatic Asylum, 1 at Harton Workhouse, and the remaining 6 at Gateshead Union Workhouse, bringing the total number of deaths to 212. These, calculated upon an estimated population of 13,752, give a death-rate of 15·41.

There were 96 deaths at Dunston, or 41 less than last year; 51 at Swalwell, or 27 less than last year; Whickham 46, 5 less than last year; and 22 at Marley Hill, or 20 less than last year, thus shewing a uniform decrease in each locality.

The births registered were 520, as against 524 last year, shewing a decrease of 4.

There were 68 deaths of children under one year of age, giving an infantile mortality rate of 13·07 per 1,000 births, as compared with 26·14 last year. This low death-rate is probably due to the fact that there has not been a single death from Epidemic Diarrhœa during 1902. Last year no less than 31 deaths were registered from this cause. The number of deaths due to Zymotic disease was 15, as against 47 last

year, giving a death-rate of 0·91. There were 7 Accidents and 1 Suicide. The number of death from Phthisis was 14; 9 of these occurred at Whickham, 1 at Swalwell, 2 at Marley Hill, and 7 at Dunston, giving a death-rate of 0·91. The deaths from Bronchitis, Pleurisy, and Pneumonia numbered 33, shewing a decrease of 8 since last year, and making the death-rate 0·41.

I received 173 Notifications. 163 were Scarlatina. Of the remainder, 5 were Erysipelas, 4 Enteric Fever, and 1 Relapsing Fever.

It will be convenient to take the Infectious Diseases in the order named in Table IV.

SMALL-POX.—Nil.

MEASLES was very prevalent at Dunston and Swalwell in the months of June and December, and caused 6 deaths,—1 at Whickham, 3 at Swalwell, and 2 at Dunston. These were all complicated with convulsions and broncho-pneumonia.

SCARLET FEVER.—Two deaths occurred at Dunston, although 163 cases were notified to me. These were spread pretty regularly all over the District. On notification, they were all visited by me, and also by the Inspector of Nuisances, and instructions given as to isolation, where possible. Disinfectants were freely distributed, and all other means used to prevent it spreading, but it did so in spite of all the precautions which were taken. I find it impossible to prevent people from visiting infected houses, although I give them strict injunctions not to do so. I have every reason to believe that there are a number of very mild cases which are never seen by a doctor, and the children are sent out and about and to school long before they are free from infection, thus spreading the fever.

WHOOPIING COUGH was prevalent at Swalwell and Dunston in the months of February, March, May, June, July,

and August. It caused 7 deaths—4 at Dunston and 3 at Swalwell,—exactly the same number of deaths as last year, and taking place in exactly the same localities.

DIPHTHERIA.—Nil.

CROUP.—Nil.

TYPHUS FEVER.—Nil.

ENTERIC FEVER.—4 cases were notified—3 at Swalwell and 1 at Dunston. These were all of the mildest possible type, and were all visited by me, and the usual precautions taken. There were no deaths.

CONTINUED FEVER.—1 case at Dunston, which terminated fatally.

ERYSIPELAS.—5 cases were notified, but there were no deaths.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—Nil.

EPIDEMIC DIARRHŒA, which was so prevalent and fatal during the summer months of last year, has been almost absent this year; and there have been no deaths registered, while last year there were 31. The decrease is no doubt due to the inclement weather during last summer, and the absence of the high temperature which we generally have.

SCAVENGING, with the exception of the Marley Hill district—which is now contracted for—is done by the men and carts of your own Council. I should recommend that the contents of the ashpits, etc., should be removed, as much as possible, through the night. The contents of the middens are sold to the farmers in the district, who use them as manure.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES are not yet registered in this district, although it is very essential that they should be, as I recommended in my last report.

COW-BYRES are registered, and periodically inspected by the Inspector of Nuisances, and instructions given by him to have them frequently lime-washed.

The WATER, as supplied to the district by the Newcastle and Gateshead and Consett Water Companies, has been abundant and of good quality. I have received no complaints, as I did last year, as to its colour and condition.

The ANNUAL INSPECTION of the district was made, as usual, by your Council, and all matters requiring attention were brought to your notice.

No prosecution has been found necessary under the Food and Drugs Act.

There has been a large number of, principally, cottages erected at Swalwell, Dunston, and Marley Hill; but as the plans for the erection of the same were approved by your Council, there is no necessity for any comment from me.

The drains and sewers in the district have been constantly attended to by your men, and have been kept in good working order, and flushed, etc., when required.

No further progress has been made in the matter of the erection of an Isolation Hospital, which is so much needed, and so frequently recommended by me.

Appended are the Tables of Sickness and Mortality required by the Local Government Board.

I remain,

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

A. W. ATTWATER.

TABLES.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1902.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.						Total Cases Notified in each Locality.			
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					Whickham.	Swalwell 2	Marley Hill 3	Dunston 4
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.					65 and upwds
Smallpox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Membranous Crovp .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	5	..	1	..	4	..	1	1	1	
Scarlet Fever. .	163	1	49	93	15	5	14	13	80	
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ..	4	..	2	2	..	..	..	3	1
Relapsing Fever ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Continued Fever .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals . .	173	1	49	96	17	10	15	18	83	

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1902.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths in or belonging to 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 65.	65 and upwards.	Whickham.	Swalwell	Marley Hill.	Dunston		
Small-pox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	6	1	5	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	2	..	..
Scarlet Fever	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Whooping Cough	7	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	4	..	..
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croup .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Enteric .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Other Continued	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Epidemic Influenza .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteritis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Septic Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis	14	..	..	1	4	9	..	4	1	2	7	..	..
Other Tubercular Diseases	18	8	9	..	1	..	..	2	4	4	8	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease	9	..	..	..	..	7	2	3	1	1	3	1	..
Bronchitis	26	9	4	1	1	5	6	3	8	..	12	3	..
Pneumonia	7	1	..	1	..	4	1	2	3	..	2	..	..
Pleurisy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
Alcoholism .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venereal Diseases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature Birth	17	17	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	2	9	..	..
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Diseases	22	..	..	..	..	13	9	6	6	3	7	..	..
Accidents	7	..	2	..	..	4	1	..	2	..	5	..	..
Suicides	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
All other causes	73	26	2	1	3	15	26	11	16	10	33	3	..
All causes	212	68	26	4	10	58	46	35	51	22	96	8	..

Vital Statistics for Whole District during 1902 and Previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under one year of age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.		Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents register'd in Public Institutions in the District.		Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births register'd	Number.	Rate.*		Deaths of Residents register'd in Public Institutions beyond District.	Number.	Rate.*	
1		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1892..	9335	355	38.02	56	15.77	171	18.31	3	3	..	174	18.63
1893..	9470	329	34.70	51	17.35	156	16.48	2	2	..	158	16.68
1894..	9600	349	36.35	44	12.60	143	14.89	1	1	..	144	14.89
1895..	9740	376	38.71	61	16.26	171	17.55	6	4	2	175	17.97
1896..	9870	390	39.51	76	19.5	179	18.13	3	3	..	182	18.41
1897..	10010	412	41.55	78	18.93	205	20.47	11	..	11	205	20.47
1898..	10150	351	35.19	71	16.99	209	20.59	7	..	7	209	20.59
1899..	10300	416	40.38	78	17.67	204	19.61	2	..	2	204	19.61
1900..	10440	446	42.72	73	16.36	232	22.22	2	..	2	232	22.22
1901..	12851	524	40.07	137	26.14	318	24.76	3	..	2	318	24.76
Averages for years 1892-1901												
1902..	13752	520	33.81	68	13.07	204	14.84	..	..	8	212	15.41

* Rates calculated per 1000 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.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—5,964.

Total Population at all ages 12,851 } At
 Number of inhabited houses 2,574 } Census of
 Average number of persons per house.....4½ } 1901.

