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Contributors

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THE
WIGAN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1900.

STANDISH,

18th March, 1901.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the past year.

I hope it will give you a clear idea of the sanitary condition of the district, and its needs.

Thanking you for your loyal support.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. H. WILSON, M.D.,

*Fellow of the Incorporated Society of
Medical Officers of Health.*

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council, Wigan.*

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1900.

TABLE I.

Shevington...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,728 Acres.
Wrightington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,916 „
Haigh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,135 „
Parbold	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,159 „
Dalton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,104 „
Worthington	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	659 „

TABLE II.

						<i>Population 1891.</i>			<i>Estimated Population July 1st, 1900.</i>
Shevington	...	...	...	...	...	1,629	...	...	1,706
Wrightington	...	...	...	...	...	1,550	...	...	1,636
Haigh	...	...	...	...	...	1,179	...	...	1,289
Parbold	...	...	...	...	...	598	...	...	662
Dalton	...	...	...	...	...	456	...	...	480
Worthington	...	...	...	...	...	288	...	...	319

TABLE III.

						<i>Total Registered Births.</i>			<i>Annual Birth Rate per 1000 of population.</i>
Shevington	...	...	...	...	...	51	...	...	29.89
Wrightington	...	...	...	...	...	65	...	...	39.73
Haigh	...	...	...	...	...	39	...	...	30.25
Parbold	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	...	25.68
Dalton	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	27.08
Worthington	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	34.48

TABLE IV.

						<i>Total Registered Deaths.</i>			<i>Annual Death Rate per 1000 of population.</i>
Shevington	...	...	...	...	...	34	...	...	19.92
Wrightington	...	...	...	...	...	35	...	...	21.39
Haigh	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	10.86
Parbold	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	13.59
Dalton	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	12.57
Worthington	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3.13

TABLE V.

MORTALITY FROM ALL AGES AT SUBJOINED AGES.

	<i>Under 1 year.</i>		<i>1 and under 5.</i>		<i>5 and under 15.</i>		<i>15 and under 25.</i>		<i>25 and under 65.</i>		<i>Over 65.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
Shevington ...	10	...	8	...	3	...	0	...	9	...	4	...	34
Wrightington	8	...	5	...	0	...	4	...	12	...	6	...	35
Haigh ...	2	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	5	...	5	...	13
Parbold ...	6	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	3	...	0	...	9
Dalton ...	0	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	0	...	3	...	6
Worthington ...	1	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1
Total	27	...	15	...	4	...	5	...	29	...	18	...	98

TABLE VI.

	<i>Infantile Deaths.</i>	<i>Infantile Death Rate per 1000 Births.</i>
Shevington ...	10	...
Wrightington ...	8	...
Haigh ...	2	...
Parbold ...	6	...
Dalton ...	0	...
Worthington ...	1	...

TABLE VII.

	<i>Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.</i>	<i>Annual Zymotic Death Rate per 1000 of population.</i>
Smallpox ...	0	0
Scarler Fever ...	1	0.16
Diphtheria ...	0	0
Typhus ...	0	0
Enteric ...	5	0.82
Continued ...	0	0
Puerperal ...	0	0
Measles ...	3	0.49
Whooping Cough ...	0	0
Diarrhoea ...	0	0
	<u>9</u>	<u>1.47</u>

TABLE VIII.

CAUSE OF DEATHS OTHER THAN ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Phthisis	4
Respiratory Diseases	29
Heart Disease	6
Injuries	8
Senile Decay	6
All other Diseases	33
	<hr/> 86 <hr/>

TABLE IX.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

	Diphtheria		Croup		Scarlet Fever		Enteric Fever		Continued Fever		Puerperal Fever		Erysipelas		Total		Deaths
Shevington ...	7	...	1	...	10	...	7	...	1	...	1	...	6	...	33	...	5
Wrightington ...	1	...	1	...	1	...	3	...	—	...	2	...	10	...	18	...	2
Haigh ...	—	...	2	...	6	...	—	...	1	...	—	...	3	...	12	...	1
Parbold ...	—	...	—	...	1	...	8	...	—	...	—	...	3	...	12	...	1
Dalton ...	1	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	1	...	2	...	—
Worthington ...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	—	...	2	...	2	...	—
	9	...	4	...	18	...	18	...	2	...	3	...	25	...	79	...	9

The greatest increase in population has been in the Wrightington district, and is to some extent accounted for by fresh families coming into the district for employment at the Linoleum Works.

The smallest increase is in Worthington.

The largest number of births are recorded in Wrightington, which, consequently has the largest birth rate (39·7); Parbold being the lowest with a rate of 27·0.

On looking at table iv. you will see that Wrightington has the most deaths and the largest death rate, the total deaths being 35 and the rate 21·39. With a district possessing such rural advantages this is largely in excess of what it should be. Worthington, as in the previous year, has the smallest number of deaths and the lowest rate, viz.: 1 death, which is equal to a rate of 3·1 per annum; and has also a Zymotic rate of *nil*, two cases of Erysipelas, with no death, being the only notifications received during the year.

Table IX. relating to infectious disease, shows that Shevington has had the greatest number of cases (33), Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever predominating. The majority of the two former diseases being in Crooke. Wrightington comes next with 18 cases. Erysipelas constituting the greatest number. Dalton, like Worthington, had only two cases, one of Diphtheria and one of Erysipelas. I am glad to say there has been no serious outbreak of infectious disease, though at one time Scarlet Fever threatened us seriously at Crooke, but fortunately we got the outbreak stayed, and there has been no recurrence. The Zymotic mortality rate for the whole district is 1·47, and the number of cases notified 72, is 36 more than in previous year, but with only one more death.

Hospital Accommodation is provided only for Smallpox cases. No case has occurred during the year.

Disinfection. This I consider to be one of the most important of the Nuisance Inspectors' duties, and I have asked them in future to personally undertake and supervise all cases requiring it. The method employed is by means of sulphur fumes generated by burning sulphur. Though perhaps not perfectly safe, I have always found it efficient when thoroughly carried out, and the fumes are given a sufficient length of time to effect their purpose.

House Accommodation. This is generally good. A considerable amount of new property is being erected in the Appley Bridge district, the portion of your district which I think is growing the most.

Water Supply. Haigh, Shevington, and Parbold have good and sufficient supplies. Wrightington, Worthington, and Dalton have no public supply, and though most of the farms and houses in these districts have wells, I find that most of the water is bad, by reason either of faulty construction of the wells, or from the nature of the surroundings; in fact it appears that any situation is considered right if there is water, and any hole good enough to store it in. This question is a serious one, and I shall have to keep this matter constantly under your notice. The Hill Dale portion of the Wrightington district is sadly in want of a supply, and being one of the mildest and prettiest portions of your district would in my opinion rapidly grow in favour, both as a residential part, and with those in search of health if there were a public water supply. There is undoubtedly plenty of water in the district, but it requires storing, and distributing. Worthington is also badly off in this respect, and what makes its position appear worse is the fact that the pipe track of the Thirlmere supply runs through the middle of the township and yet the inhabitants are not allowed to have the benefit of it. Dalton is not so badly off as Worthington and Wrightington; the population is small and very scattered, but they too feel the shortness of water after a period of drought.

Scavenging is carried out by contract in the greater portion of the district, and though fairly well done in most cases, I am of opinion that this portion of the Council's duties requires more supervision. Besides middens there are many cesspools, and these require periodical inspection, and emptying, otherwise they become a serious menace to health.

Refuse Disposal therefore is distributed on agricultural land, and if great care is not taken in its disposal it becomes a very great source of danger to the water in some of the districts where water has to be obtained from wells.

Sewage Disposal. There is no system of sewerage in the district, the sewage being collected in cesspools, the overflow running on the land or into open ditches. Plans were prepared and submitted for the sewerage of the greater portion of the districts, together with the treatment of the sewage, but unfortunately, they failed to obtain the sanction of the Local Government Board, and the matter is at present in abeyance, but I hope ultimately a better way out of the difficulty will be found.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops. I regret that the Council did not see its way to adopt the recent Act relative to these.

Slaughter House. There is only one, and it is clean and well kept.

TABLE I.

Name of District

Wigan Rural

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 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1890.												
1891.												
1892.												
1893.												
1894.												
1895.												
1896.												
1897.												
1898.												
1899.	<i>5944</i>	<i>181</i>	<i>30.44</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>138.12</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>16.99</i>	<i>0</i>				
Averages for years 189-1899.												
1900.	<i>6092</i>	<i>196</i>	<i>32.17</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>137.95</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>16.08</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>86</i>	<i>14.11</i>

* Rates 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 illness, and dying there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of illness, and have died elsewhere.

Area of District in acres
(exclusive of area covered by water). *11701*

Total population at all ages..... *5700*

Number of inhabited houses.....

Average number of persons per house.....

At Census of 1891.

TABLE II.
Wigan Rural

Name of District

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	1. <u>Warrington</u>				2. <u>Shevington</u>				3. <u>Balton</u>				4. <u>Larbold</u>				5. <u>Worthington</u>				6. <u>Haigh</u>			
	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 ...																								
1891 ...																								
1892 ...																								
1893 ...																								
1894 ...																								
1895 ...																								
1896 ...																								
1897 ...																								
1898 ...																								
1899 ...	1591	61	33	8	1680 1469	64	35	8	1580 1469	9	3	1	630	9	12	2	304	6	1	1	1250	39	17	5
Averages of Years 189 to 1899.																								
1900 ...	1636	63	35	8	1706	51	34	10	1480	13	6	0	662	17	9	6	319	11	1	1	1289	39	13	2

NOTES.—(a) The separate localities adopted for this table should be areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts. Block 1 may, if desired, be used for the whole district; and blocks 2, 3, &c., for the several localities. In small districts without recognised divisions of known population this Table need not be filled up.
(b) Deaths of residents occurring beyond the district are to be included in sub-columns c of this table, and those of non-residents registered in the district excluded. (See note on Table I.) as to meaning of terms "resident" and "non-resident."
(c) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions are to be allotted to the respective localities, according to addresses of the deceased.

TABLE III.

[See Instructions on page 3 of Memorandum as to Reports of Medical Officers of Health.]

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1900.

Wigan Rural District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.							No. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.						
	At all Ages.	At Age—Years.					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.														
Small-pox ...																				
Cholera ...																				
Diphtheria ...																				
Membranous croup ...	9																			
Erysipelas ...	4																			
Scarlet fever ...	35																			
Typhus fever ...	18																			
Enteric fever ...	18																			
Relapsing fever ...																				
Continued fever ...	2																			
Puerperal fever ...	3																			
Plague ...																				
Totals ...	79						18	33	2	12	2	12								

NOTES.—The localities adopted for this table should be the same as those in Tables II. and IV.

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

* This space may be used for record of other disease the notification (compulsory or voluntary) of which is in force in the district.

† These age columns for notifications should be filled up in all cases where the Medical Officer of Health, by inquiry or otherwise, has obtained the necessary information.

1. The first section of the report is a general statement of the work of the Commission during the year. It includes a list of the species of fish which have been introduced into the United States, and a description of the methods used in the investigation.

List of Fishes Introduced into the United States		Description of Methods Used	
No.	Species	No.	Method
1	Salmon	1	By the use of the net
2	Trout	2	By the use of the net
3	Brook Trout	3	By the use of the net
4	Perch	4	By the use of the net
5	Rock Bass	5	By the use of the net
6	White Perch	6	By the use of the net
7	Striped Bass	7	By the use of the net
8	Bluegill	8	By the use of the net
9	Golden Shiner	9	By the use of the net
10	Common Carp	10	By the use of the net
11	Channel Catfish	11	By the use of the net
12	Blackchin Shiner	12	By the use of the net
13	White Crayfish	13	By the use of the net
14	Common Frog	14	By the use of the net
15	Common Toad	15	By the use of the net
16	Common Salamander	16	By the use of the net
17	Common Snake	17	By the use of the net
18	Common Lizard	18	By the use of the net
19	Common Turtle	19	By the use of the net
20	Common Mole	20	By the use of the net

Report of the United States Fish Commission for the year 1897. The report contains a list of the species of fish which have been introduced into the United States, and a description of the methods used in the investigation.

Wigan Rural District.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1900.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SURJOINED 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 65.	65 and upwards.	<i>Wigan</i>	<i>Knights</i>	<i>Barton</i>	<i>Parbock</i>	<i>Worthington</i>	<i>Haigh</i>	
Small-pox ...														
Measles ...	3	1	2					3						
Scarlet fever ...	1			1				1						
Whooping-cough ...														
Diphtheria and membranous croup.	3		1	2				3						
Croup ...	2		2					1					1	
Typhus ...														
Fever Enteric ...	2				1	1		1			1			
Other continued														
Epidemic influenza ...														
Cholera ...														
Plague ...														
Diarrhoea. (See notes at back.)														
Enteritis. (See notes at back.)	2	2						1			1			
Puerperal fever ...														
Erysipelas ...	1	1						1						
Other septic diseases ...														
Phthisis ...	4				1	3		1	2	1				
Other tubercular diseases.	3	2			1			2			1			
Cancer, malignant disease.	1					1		1						
Bronchitis ...	16	4	3			4	5	3	7	1	2		3	
Pneumonia ...	12	4	2			5	1	4	2	1	1		4	
Pleurisy ...	1					1		1						
Other diseases of Respiratory organs.	1					1		1						
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of liver														
Venereal diseases ...														
Premature birth ...	4	4						1	1		2			
Diseases and accidents of parturition.	1					1		1						
Heart diseases ...	6	1				4	1	4	1				1	
Accidents ...	7		1	1	1	3	1	2	2	2			1	
Suicides ...	1					1		1						
<i>Senile decay</i> ...	6						6	3	1	1			1	
.....														
.....														
.....														
.....														
.....														
All other causes ...	31	9	3		1	5	3	9	8		1	1	2	
All causes ...	98	38	14	4	5	30	17	35	34	6	9	1	13	

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING YEAR 1900.

- NOTES.—(a) The deaths of residents occurring beyond the limits of the district are to be included in this table, and deaths of non-residents occurring in the district are to be excluded. See note on Table I. as to meaning of "Residents" and Non-residents."
- (b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars, and, in addition, to be classified under "Public Institutions."
- (c) Under the heading of "Diarrhoea" are to be included deaths certified as from diarrhoea, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from

Epidemic enteritis;
Zymotic enteritis;
Epidemic diarrhoea. Summer diarrhoea;
Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhoea;
Choleraic diarrhoea, cholera, cholera nostras (in the absence of Asiatic cholera).

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are to be included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis, Muco-enteritis and Gastric catarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term "Diarrhoea."

Deaths from diarrhoea secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III. and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

J. H. Wilson Medical Officer of Health.

Date *March* 1901.