

[Report 1895] / Medical Officer of Health, Wisbech U.D.C. / Borough.

Contributors

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To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Members of the
Woburn Corporation, acting as the Urban
District Council.

Gentlemen, I again have the pleasure and
honour to place before you my annual report for
the year ending Dec. 31st, 1895, and it is one
which enables me to again report to you that the
sanitary requirements of this town have been taken
a very prominent place in your minds, for, as a
result, they are carried out to a very thorough and
satisfactory manner. This town, with the excep-
tion of the small epidemic of scarlet fever, which I
shall again have to refer to—has been remarkably
free from disease of a contagious or epidemic nature.
Contrary to what one might expect, we have had
practically no cases of an infectious or contagious
character during the whole year, or only two cases
of typhoid fever and one case of diphtheria have
occurred to my knowledge. Infectious diseases were
prevalent during the first three months of the year
and were widespread. We shared it in common
with the whole surrounding district and neighbour-
ing towns, but taken as a whole, this disease
was not nearly so serious in character as in the last
epidemic. Worsening enough, which was no excep-
tion last year, this year was entirely absent. As
you are aware, this year you adopted the Notifica-
tion of Infectious Diseases Act, which enabled me
now to obtain a knowledge of every infectious
disease which occurs in the borough, and I think it
will prove of great value. Undoubtedly, it was
through this that we were able to keep so much in
check the epidemic of scarlet fever which occurred
during the last six months of the year. Although
serious, it was not of a severe nature. This
disease, as it remains existing for at least a period
after termination, it perhaps the one we have most
difficulty in dealing with, especially in crowded
streets or yards. The first case of this epidemic,
which came to my knowledge in June, occurred in
the Ryeland-street, and soon three other members of
the same family were attacked. In August, a case im-
ported from Brighton occurred, and soon after
several other cases sprang up, and during the
remaining months of the year it was a constant
source of anxiety, but so the cases were very mild
in type, only one death, fortunately, was caused
through it. It seems difficult to trace the origin of
the outbreak. Altogether 23 cases were reported,
and of these a large number were all times con-
fined to the Infectious Diseases Act, which enabled me
to be as possible. In each case disinfectants were
very liberally used, and in many cases personally
used by your Inspector, who at all times exerted
himself and took the most active and prompt pre-
cautions to stay the spread of the disease. Not
only was isolation as far as possible obtained, but
also any necessary condition was remedied that
was found to exist. The ultimate influence was
doubtless had some effect on the spread of the
disease. In the early part the weather was very
warm and damp, in October it became much colder,
and the disease nearly died out, whilst again in
December it became wet and foggy, and a few fresh
cases appeared. It is to be noted that the cases of
typhoid fever, one occurred in the town, and was
very serious, and was imported from Portsmouth.
The other was in the country, and was caused
through drinking stream water. In the case of
diphtheria, which was very mild, it was obtained
probably from polluted water in a neighbouring
village. The great advantage obtained through
many of the establishments using as freely the
chlorine water was the same, which is
marked, and it is to be noted again, especially
in the case of the water supply, as it
occurs to be seen and more used, and
year. During the year I have frequently visited
all parts of the town, which, taken as a whole,
is well kept, the condition of the slaughter houses,
public buildings, Corporation Arms park, &c., are
much improved. My chief source of anxiety now
being the continued bad state of the River stock
water. This is the more to be regretted as now
the sewer in general are acting in a very satisfactory
manner, whilst the main, which was so aban-
doned right through the Park to the pumping station is
now almost as close as when first put down, the
extent of drinking being largely benefited. Very
few complaints of nuisances have been made,
whilst such has received prompt attention and been
removed as soon as possible. I am glad to find
that nearly all road drains are now connected with
the town sewers. The number of births during the
year were 215, or 4 more than last year, of these
152 were males, 137 females, giving a birth
rate of 22.7 per 1000. The number of deaths
during the year were 210, being a much larger
number than last year, where the death
rate was so exceptionally low, of these, how-
ever, only 106 occurring in the town, 113 in the
Hospital, 49 in the Workhouse, giving a death rate
for the town of 21.1 per 1000. In connection with
the deaths, it is remarkable to notice the varying
ages at which persons have died. In the Work-
house, out of 46 deaths, 19 were over the age of 60
years, 11 over 70 years, 15 over 80 years, and one
over 90 years, whilst they died. The infantile death
rate is lower, when compared with last year, so
less than 40 children having died under the age of
one year, giving an infantile death rate of 4.7 per
1000. Deaths from pulmonary and heart affections
were unaccounted for, 50 of the deaths being
attributable to these causes, viz., phthisis 15,
bronchitis 15, pneumonia 12, pleurisy 11, heart
disease 10, in the Workhouse, phthisis 10, 1,
heart disease 1, and bronchitis 3 deaths. In
the town, the deaths under one year were 49;
over one year and under 12 years, 19;
13 years and under 25 years, 7; over 25 years
and under 40 years, 24; over 40 years, 28. In
the Workhouse, under 1 year, 7; over 12 years
and under 25 years, 1; over 25 years and under 40
years, 1; over 40 years, 40. In the Hospital, under 1
year, 1; over 12 years and under 25 years, 2; over
25 years and under 40 years, 2; over 40 years, 2.
Deaths I had to hand from the tabular statements
of births, sickness and mortality for this period—
I am, Gentlemen, faithfully yours,
HENRY GOSWOLD, R.A., M.D., &c.,
Jan. 18th, 1896. Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen, In drawing up my
report for the year 1895, I find there is but little to
complain. You have happily been put to no anxiety
nor expense as regards any threatening of cholera,
nor any part during the year. The hospital suffered
death during the season which had been caused over
the district during the year, but it has been
thoroughly repaired, and is ever ready to receive
any patients that may be justly brought to its doors.
I must draw your attention to the fact that
the boundary fence of the hospital is being largely
used as a brown-bag room, which I think
should not be allowed; had the hospital is entirely
without any form of bath for the patients; had
two beds out of the four are without any bedding,
but, one would be without a basin. I shall be giving
all of these various necessities be supplied. All
dishes, with one exception, coming to the post
during the year have been inspected, either by
myself or the Inspector of Nuisances, and found to
be in a satisfactory condition. In conclusion, I am
sure you of a continuance of a vigilant watch
being kept over the sanitary condition of your town
by your obedient servant,
E. HANCOCK, HULLINGTON, M.O.H.

THE RIBBELL-STREET SEWER.
A letter was read from the Local Government
Board as to the state of the Ribbell-street sewer
and it was advised that a reply should be sent to
the effect that the sewers had been elevated.
This concluded the business.

ELM.
TOWNSMEN CHURCH CLUB.—The annual meeting
was held on Tuesday evening last Feb. 11th, Mr. J.
J. Houghton presided, and there was a very good
attendance. The accounts for the past season were
presented and passed. Mr. A. Lacey was re-elected
captain. Mr. F. Bennett was appointed treasurer.
and Mr. H. Jordan (senior) hon. sec. Mr. W.
Goswold has kindly lent his hall for the use of the
club and with the small balance in hand (which it is
expected will be increased by the proceeds of an enter-
tainment to be given shortly), there is every pros-
pect of a successful season.

OUTWELL.
NARRATIVE REPORT.—The following is a copy of
H.M. Inspector's Report on these schools.—"I visited
these schools on the 12th inst. and found them in a
very satisfactory condition. The work appears to be good and thorough.
In the reading of the lower classes, a natural tone of
voice should be cultivated. Mental arithmetic
needs more attention. Tables too much drilled. Class
subjects grammar, composition and geography inter-
spersed and good. Much credit is due to Mr. Goswold
and his staff. The improvements that have been
made in the premises are very satisfactory. Defects
observed. Discipline very good and teaching thorough.
Mechanical methods notwithstanding are avoided.
Much of the work is, however, unoriginal. The
highest possible grade has been attained in both
religion, namely, 100. 60 per cent on the average
attendance in the mixed school and 65 per cent on
the infant school. Miss La Fite and Miss Lewis
(ET) have caused their commendatory very satis-
factorily, having an subject marked against them.
Miss Sophia Smith has passed the examination for a
candidate for probation. On the special recom-
mendation of Her Majesty's Inspector, the annual
examination due in January, 1896, will be omitted."

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Situations Vacant.

VACANCIES for APPRENTICES to the Military, Drummaking, and Showroom at C. E. ANDERSON'S.
PAIGE BOY WANTED.—Apply to Messrs. Fort and Brown, Surgeon Dentists, 5, Market-street, Walsobury.
WANTED, a well-educated Youth, as an APPRENTICE.—R. B. BULLMAN, 16, 17, and 18, Market-street.
WANTED, an able, SINGLE MAN, to do Shoe and Jobbing Work. Contact with Mr. T. E. KING, Red Cap Inn, Seaton, N. E.
WANTED, YOUNG MAN, used to House, to live in the house.—THOMAS STONE, Southsea Beach, St. Edmunds.
WANTED, a steady YOUNG MAN to plough and work.—Apply, T. WAINMAN, Walsobury.
WANTED, a HOUSEMAN, to live in house.—Apply, R. LINDLEY, South Beach.
WANTED, a Single Man as HOUSEMAN.—Apply to Mr. A. STROTHAM, Laveling-house.
WANTED, as soon, a Stationer, also an ADVERTISER, and need to all kinds of paper work also a Single Man as SECOND BOOKKEEPER.—Apply, S. JONES, New House, Bannock, Hants.
WANTED, Married Man as GARDENER and DRIVER. Outrage and Garden and good wages to a steady man.—Apply, JAMES HERRIN, Huggate, at Ship Hotel, Walsobury, on Market-day.
WANTED, by a firm of master carpenters, a TRAVELLER, with a thorough knowledge of Northamptonshire and Lincoln.—Address, "The Star," Grimsby Street, Grimsby.

Miscellaneous.

DRESS AND MANTLE MAKING.
MRS CLARKE, 6, Charles-street, will be glad to receive orders. Good fit and style at moderate charges.
COTTAGE WANTED, with LAND for gardening, near good Market Town.—Apply, by letter, "The," Advertising Office.
DANTRIE & CO., DYING and CLEANING in all its branches.—Mrs. S. K. CLARKE, Agent, 22, High-street, Walsobury.
FURNITURE WANTED on reasonable terms by HENRY MILLS, New Common Street, Walsobury.
WANTED, a HOUSE, just about £100 clear, for window and passage purposes.—E. T. LOTT, 5, Market-street, Walsobury.
WANTED, 4 to 5 Tons of GOOD HAY.—Apply, Messrs. Joseph Wills, Walsobury.



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13th, 1896.

This services which have been rendered in and out of Parliament by the Hon. Arthur Bland to the constituency of the Walsobury Division of Cambridgeshire will receive public recognition on Wednesday next, the 20th inst., when in the name of a large number of subscribers from all parts of the Division, Miss Alexandra Pickover, daughter of the Lord-Lieutenant of the County, will present the late member with a service of plate and an illuminated address. The time that has been suffered to elapse since the General Election must not be taken to indicate any hesitancy as to the desirability of such a recognition—in fact it was made, immediately afterwards, in view of Mr. and Mrs. Bland's energetic work in the Division since 1891, but it was decided that it would be well to allow political feeling to subside, no necessity being felt for precipitate action. Nevertheless, in due course, the unanimous feeling of Mr. Bland's supporters has found expression, and the response that has been made from all parts of the division, indicates a very general and cordial recognition of his services, not alone among his own political friends, but even with those who, whilst differing in politics, have felt that he took no narrow view of his position, but benefited and helped wherever his kindly interest and influence could be of service. This is not the first presentation that has been made to Mr. and Mrs. Bland, for, in political work, it is difficult to dissociate the member and his wife. The gift to Mrs. Bland of a diamond tiara and illuminated address, some time ago, was indubitably a recognition of Mr. Bland's services, as well as those of his wife. Thus, the presentation took place at Walsobury, but this time the gathering will be held at March, which will be central and more accessible from the remoter parts of the division. Although Mr. Bland will not this time, as he has many times before, come straight from the desks of the House of Commons to address his constituents, nevertheless, in receiving the mark of approval of his constituents, political conduct, he will be certain to give expression to his views of the political situation with which he is still in touch. It is many years, we venture to say, since the House of Parliament have not without a single representative of the Hampden family within its walls. The late Viscount Hampden's career was a long and honorable one, and when it terminated in the House of Commons, his connection with the Legislature as a member of the House of Lords still remained. His successor, the present Viscount Hampden, though a member of the House of Lords, is engaged in Colonial service as Governor of New South Wales. The Hon. A. Bland, after fighting four strenuous battles in as many years, has met with a temporary reverse, and his brother, the Hon. T. S. Bland, was also in a small minority in the Eastbourne Division of Sussex. Hence, there is no representative actually sitting in the present Parliament in either House, a break in a long and honorable Parliamentary record, belonging to an old family, which doubtless many will desire to see repaired ere long, and in part influence in the support of Liberal legislation in the councils of the nation, and again asserted. We believe that every section of politicians will recognize that Mr. Bland has discharged his duties as a Parliamentary representative, honorably, conscientiously, and diligently, and fully deserves the recognition which will be made to him when his friends again welcome him and Mrs. Bland to the division next week. There are not a few disappointments and drawbacks to those who undertake to "face the music" of a Parliamentary career, but not the least compensation that falls to a member or candidate, whether successful or not, is to feel that he has the confidence and goodwill of a large portion of the constituency, who through good report and ill report, are yet united in the defence of

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