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TOTNES
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

Mr. Henry Sandford Johnson,

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR 1898.





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TO THE TOTNES
Rural District Council.

*Annual Report on the Sanitary state of the District
for the year ending December 31st, 1898.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have again the pleasure of laying my Annual Report before you, and in it you will find as usual a resumé of the general health of the district, the number of cases of zymotic diseases reported, also the number of Births and Deaths, as well as the principal sanitary works carried out during the year 1898.

The district is as you are aware for sanitary purposes divided into two districts. No. 1 district comprises the parishes of Ashprington, Berry Pomeroy, Cornworthy, Churston Ferrers, Dittisham, Dartington, Halwell, Harberton, Morley, Marldon, Littlehempston, Kingswear, and Stoke Gabriel, since my last report that part of the parish of Dartington, close to the Totnes Station has been included in the Totnes borough, but as it was only included during part of the year, for the purposes of this report I have still retained it

as part of the Rural district. The population of the combined parishes according to the census of 1891 is 7,537 and the acreage 32,326 acres.

The No. 2 district comprises the parishes of Buckfastleigh West, Dean Prior, Diptford, Holne, Rattery, North Huish, Staverton, South Brent, and Ugborough, the population of which according to the census of 1891 is 5,904, and the acreage 44,750, the combined population being 13,461 and the combined acreage 77,076 acres.

During the year 1898 there were registered 198 deaths, which is 32 in excess of 1897, but the number of aged people is greater in 1898. Of the 198 deaths, 88 were males and 110 females. Out of the above deaths, 24 took place at the Plymouth Borough Asylum, Blackadon, Ugborough. These figures give a death-rate of 14.6 per 1,000 of the population, which is in excess of 1897, when the death-rate was only 12.1 per 1,000. Still I think we must congratulate ourselves on its lowness for the past year. The greatest number of deaths took place in the month of January, when 27 deaths were registered, and the smallest number in April. May and September, 10 being registered each month. Under one year 34 deaths were registered, from the 1st to the 5th year, 17; from the 5th to the 15th year, 4; from the 15th to the 25th, 11; from the 25th to the 65th year, 64; and above the 65th year, 68, of which number 18 exceeded, 80 years and one 90 years.

The deaths were classified as follows:—From the Respiratory Organs which includes Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy, 30; Phthisis Pneumonialis, 21; Heart Disease, 20; Diarrhoea, 1; Whooping Cough, 13; Typhoid Fever, 1; Injuries, 8; whilst from all other diseases 104 deaths were registered. It will thus be seen that only one death took place from any of the notifiable diseases. During the year 11 inquests were held.

There were registered during the year 1898 the birth of 124 boys and 107 girls, total 231, which compared with the deaths 198, gives a natural increase of 33. This is less than 1897 when the natural increase was 102.

Under the Notification of Infectious Disease Act there have been notified during the year 8 cases of Typhoid or Enteric Fever, 8 cases of Diphtheria, 5 cases of Scarlet Fever, and 3 cases of Erysipelas, total, 24 cases, which is by far the lowest number since the adoption of the Act, as last year 110 cases were reported and in 1896, 50 cases. Of the 8 cases of Typhoid Fever 3 occurred in the same house at Hill Mill, Harberton, the first case was believed to occur by the child drinking dirty water and the other two arose from it. Two cases at Sharpham Barton, Ashprington, from drinking water fouled by a sewer found to pass close to the well, but which has since been rectified, one case followed on blood poisoning, one case at Holne Park, Holne, from a defective drain, whilst the other case at Aish Farm, Stoke Gabriel, was clearly imported from Lustleigh and this case I regret to say terminated fatally. Of the 8 cases of Diphtheria, 5 occurred in the same house and one in the next house at Galmpton, the only cause for which was a defective drain at the back, one case at Kingswear was caused by inhaling a bad smell, whilst the case at Glazebrook, South Brent, was an imported case. The 5 cases of Scarlatina were very mild, two occurred at Marldon, possibly the remains of last years epidemic. Two at Wrangaton, Ugborough and one at South Brent I was unable to discover the cause.

It was found necessary during the year to close the schools at Landscope for one month in consequence of an Epidemic of Whooping Cough, at South Brent for two weeks in consequence of Whooping Cough, at Diptford for one week in consequence of Influenza, at Ashprington for two weeks in consequence of Whooping Cough, at Dittisham, for one week in consequence of Influenza.

During the year 1898 the water supply in the different Parishes held out fairly well, notwithstanding the extremely dry Autumn, and I have tested the supply in the different parishes.

I have visited and given instructions as to disinfectants in every case of Infectious Disease reported to me, tested the water supply and used every means to prevent the spread of the disease.

I have also, at stated intervals, in company with the Sanitary Inspectors visited every parish in the district and reported to the Council anything of importance which needed their attention.

The following improvements were carried out during the past year :—

No. 1 District.

DITTISHAM. New drainage tanks in Bulley's Orchard.

STOKE GABRIEL. Water Supply extended to Coombe Shute.

No. 2 District.

BUCKFASTLEIGH WEST. New drain to Bickford's Cottages.

DEAN PRIOR. New drains to houses at Bullers Arms, also at Dean Court.

DIPTFORD. New Sewer laid in village and old one done away with. This a very great improvement, as previously the condition of Village was unsatisfactory.

NORTH HUISH. New drains in Cunkamore Cottages, also at Yabsleys' premises.

RATTERY. New drains to Velwell Farm.

SOUTH BRENT. Several drains and closets which were in an insanitary condition have been reconstructed. At LUTTON. New drains to Boons' Cottages.

STAVERTON. New drains to Landscope Vicarage, also at Baskerville's, West's and Caunter's Cottages, Wolston Green, as well as at Memory's Shop, Wash and Fursdon Farms.

UGBOROUGH. Water supply from White House Hill improved.

In addition to the above several minor improvements, such as the doing away with insanitary closets and pits, removal of Pigs' houses when too close to dwelling houses,

erection of many new closets where required, substitution of Pumps for the old fashioned dipping wells, have been carried out.

All slaughter houses and dairies have been frequently visited and cleanliness and ventilation insisted on.

Several applications for the occupation of new houses have been received and the necessary certificates given, where the sanitary arrangements and water were satisfactory.

PROSECUTIONS. There were three cases of prosecutions during the year for overcrowding, in each case a conviction being obtained.

There was also a prosecution for an insanitary drain, in which case a conviction was also obtained. Several cases of overcrowding were abated in compliance with the usual notices.

As usual, during the year, disinfectants were distributed to the different parishes and I am very pleased to state they are used generally and appreciated.

The Sanitary Inspectors have carried out their duties in a very satisfactory manner.

In conclusion, I beg to thank the Council for the attention they give to Sanitary matters and for the assistance they give their officers in carrying out their duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY S. JOHNSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Buckfastleigh, February 22nd, 1899.

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This book is intended for the use of students in the Department of Mathematics, University of Toronto. It is the result of the author's experience in teaching the subject for many years. The book is written in a clear and concise style, and is intended to be a valuable resource for students and teachers alike. The author wishes to express his appreciation to the University of Toronto for the facilities and support provided during the preparation of this book.