

Sickness & mortality of Chatteris / [Thos. Tusting].

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SICKNESS & MORTALITY

OF

CHATTERIS.

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THE
SICKNESS AND MORTALITY,
OF
CHATTERIS.

Having been called upon in my official capacity as Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the North Witchford Union, to furnish lists under the second regulation lately issued by the General Board of Health, of all places in this

Union, "where Cholera, Diarrhœa, Typhus Fever, or any Epidemic or Endemic Disease may have been heretofore most commonly found;" I was struck in preparing such list for the parish of Chatteris, where 24 deaths from Typhus Fever and 6 from Diarrhœa had taken place in the twelve months ending the 29th September, with the frequent occurrence of *the same locality* being described by the Medical Officers in their weekly reports of these cases. From this, I was induced to make a more careful investigation of the circumstances, and with the assistance of Mr. Saunders the Relieving Officer, who has a thorough knowledge of the parish, I undertook to ascertain the locality of every case of sickness, which had been attended by the Union Medical Officers in the parish of Chatteris, for the year ending the 29th September last, and the following tables will shew the localities, and the classification of the pauper sickness for the year.

MR. DEANE'S MEDICAL DISTRICT.

	Ty- phus.	Ague.	Diar- rhœa.	Total.	All other sick- ness.	Total.
North of Slade Lode Bridge, the Gault and Chapman's Yard	9	12	6	27	24	51
South of Slade Lode Bridge, Skeels's Yard and Lane, Cole's Yard and old Work-house Lane,.....	9	8	5	22	26	48
Slade End north of the Bank, including Palmer's Yard, Clark's Yard, Por- ter's Yard and Moxon's Yard.....	8	1	3	12	11	23
	26	21	14	61	61	122
Back Lane including Negus's and Cropley's Yards	10	1	1	12	3	15
High-street near Brooks' Corner, &c.....	1	1	1	3	1	4
New Road.....	9	3	1	13	4	17
Horseway.....	5	1	..	6	1	7
Total for the year.....	51	27	17	95	70	165

MR. WRIGHT'S MEDICAL DISTRICT.

	Ty- phus 47. Fever 29.	Ague.	Diar- rhœa.	Total.	All other sick- ness.	Total.
Hive End including the Dark Lane, Drake's Yard, Garrett's Yard and Gas- coyne's Yard.....	48	26	1	75	26	101
Mill End.....	3	1	2	6	6	12
Curtis's Rows	20	..	1	21	4	25
Station Street	2	..	..	2	..	2
Stuck's Yard and the Lane.....	3	..	..	3	1	4
Rayments Lane.....	..	..	..	..	1	1
Smarts Lane.....	..	..	1	1	2	3
Wenny End.....,.....	..	..	..	..	1	1
Wood Street.....	..	..	..	..	1	1
Old Halves, Stocking Drove & Railway Station	..	..	..	..	3	3
Total for the Year.....	76	27	5	108	45	153

The first striking feature in the above tables, appears to me to be the great disproportion of the cases of a Zymotic character to the number of cases of "all other sickness." In Mr. Deane's district, there appears to be 95 of that character to 70 of all other sickness, whilst in Mr. Wright's district, there are 108 of the former to only 45 of the latter.

From this it would seem that nearly two thirds of all the pauper sickness in Chatteris is of a nature *likely to be influenced by local causes.*

A still more striking feature in the tables is, that which points plainly to the localization of disease. Taking Mr. Deane's district and making Slade Lode Bridge a centre with a radius of 200 yards, it will embrace nearly two thirds of all the cases of Typhus, Ague, and Diarrhœa, and six sevenths of all the cases in the column "all other sickness." In Mr. Wright's district again, taking a radius of 200 yards with a centre at the Plough corner in Hive End, the same proportion of Zymotic disease will be included as in the former case, two thirds

of the whole, and it will also embrace three fifths of "all other sickness."

I apprehend there will be no question as to the want of Sanitary attention to these two localities, and that they in every way correspond to the ascertained truths of Sanitary Statistics, that filth, bad drainage and over crowding, are side by side with Typhus, Ague and Diarrhœa, that these diseases are Endemical to the Neighbourhoods. The other places indicated in the foregoing tables are I believe generally in a state requiring considerable attention in the way of Sanitary improvements. One or two places however appear to be of a special character, viz. Curtis's Rows and the New Road, but close investigation would doubtless lay open existing evils in some contiguous nuisance, or bad construction of the drains and soil-pits surrounding.

In reference to the mortality of Chatteris, the following are the deaths which have occurred for the last 14 years ending at Michaelmas.

1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1953	total
100	127	210	75	123	115	103	102	115	119	135	102	79	97	1602

Population 1841,—4813. 1851,—5138.

The point of excess in deaths fixed by the Board of Health Act, as that which calls for public enquiry by a Superintending Inspector of the General Board of Health, is 23 to 1000 of the population taken on an average of seven years. Taking the first seven years of the above series, the mortality of Chatteris was extreme, being 24,5 to a thousand of the population. From that period to 1850, it was respectively for each year, 24,3—23,8—21,1—22,6. For 1851, it was 22,0 and although the deaths in the subsequent two years have considerably diminished, if a proper correction be made for emigration which has taken place to a great extent from Chatteris—as is indicated by the

number of empty houses, stated by those competent to give an opinion at not less than 130—the average mortality for the last seven years, cannot be less than 22,0, a number verging on the very point of excess.

It is stated upon authority that there are many Registration districts the mortality of which does not exceed 16 to 1000, and it has been ascertained beyond doubt that the *inevitable* mortality is only about 11 to 1000, the excess above that ratio may therefore be said to be *preventible* by improved Sanitary and social arrangements.

The following table shews the rate per Cent of the deaths in Chatteris at different ages, taken on an average of the last three years mortality, and a comparison with the deaths at the same ages for all England, taken from the last annual report of the Registrar General.

				Chatteris.	All England
Deaths under one year				29,1	20,9
From	1	to	5	13,3	15,6
	5	....	10	4,6	8,0
	10	....	15	2,6	3,3
	15	....	20	6,1	4,1
	20	....	25	6,0	4,1
	25	....	30	3,2	3,7
	30	....	35	2,2	3,7
	35	....	40	2,6	3,6
	40	....	45	2,6	3,6
	45	....	50	2,2	3,4
	50	....	55	3,6	3,6
	55	....	60	4,6	4,2
	60	....	65	2,6	4,2
	65	....	70	2,8	4,5
	70	....	75	4,3	4,2
	75 & upwards			7,6	5,3
				100	100

The first line in the above table presents a startling comparison and shews clearly some cause existing inimical to early life.

Mr. Saunders the Relieving Officer, at some pains has ascertained what has been the extra cost in Chatteris for relief in the last year occasioned by Typhus, Ague and Diarrhœa cases alone; the amount is £103. 12s. 5d. nearly one seventh of the whole expenditure for Out Relief for that parish. It is true a portion of this amount is borne by the "Common Fund" for irremovable poor, but it still leaves the parish of Chatteris to pay £87. 8s. 3d. an annual sum which would go far to meet the interest of an outlay for works of a permanent Sanitary nature.

I feel it would be next to a dereliction of duty to withhold these facts and figures, which so clearly point the way towards relieving the sufferings and increasing the comforts of the poor, and as a necessary consequence diminish the expenditure of the rates.

THOS. TUSTING,

To

The Board of Guardians of
North Witchford Union.

March, 20th Nov. 1853.

Chatteris.





