

To the Chairman & Members of the Knighton
Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1894.

The number of deaths during the year is 47.

The population at the census of 1891 was 1650.

Owing to the increase in population due to the importation of men working for the Birmingham Corporation & their families, I have computed the population of the District at present as 1450. I think this is a moderate estimate, although there are no means of ascertaining exactly the amount of increase. This gave a death rate for the year of 26.8 per 1000, on the face of it this seems a very high rate indeed for a District such as ours; in fact for any District in an Agricultural County, but I shall endeavour to show the real rate, that is the rate of preventable deaths, is much lower.

From the gross death rate, if I may call it so, must be deducted the Deaths at the Workhouse. There were 14, a large majority of which were of very old people, and one death is registered of a person who did not belong to the District, and also 7 deaths were of children under one week old. These of necessity were registered, & consequently must be counted, but at the same time these seven deaths in particular cannot in any way have been caused by any Insanitary condition in our District, so that I think in estimating the death rate for the District proper, I shall be justified in eliminating these 22 deaths viz: - 14 in the Workhouse, one not belonging to the District, & the seven prematurely born children. This brings our rate down to 14.4 per 1000.



Of the 47 deaths, 15 were over the age of 65, seven of these were over 80, & one of these over 90.

At the opposite end or rather beginning of life, 21 were under one year, & of these seven were under one week, these latter (seven) were all prematurely born.

As regards the cause of death:-

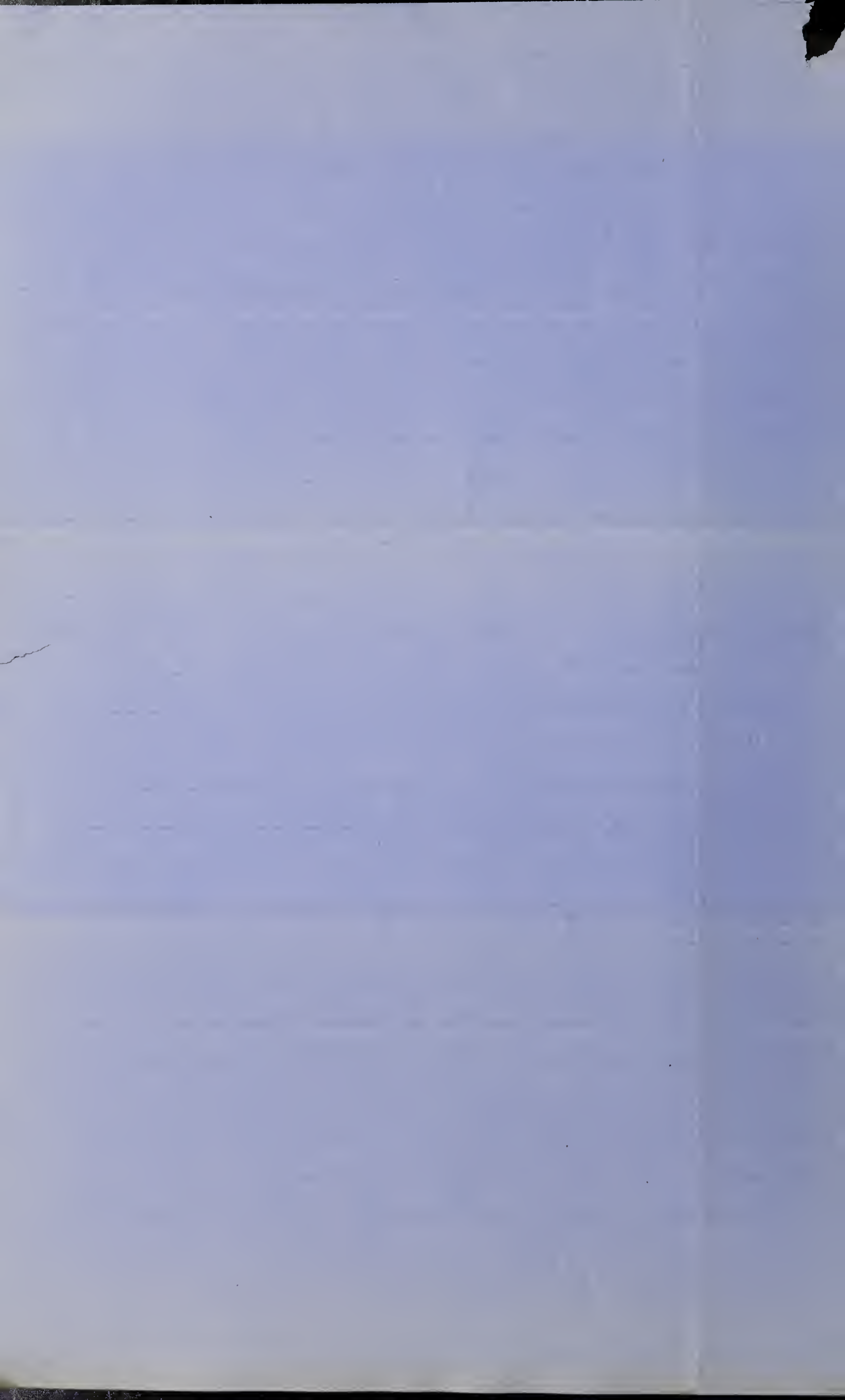
I have referred to the death of 7 children, viz:- premature birth; Two others were but two days old & very weakly, and of the other causes as scheduled & which were not due to old age, pulmonary troubles, as is usual in this neighbourhood, have a large share.

The causes Scheduled by the Local Government Board are:-

Phthisis	4 cases
Bronchitis	3 "
Pneumonia	2 "
Heart Disease	2 "

of the other causes, not scheduled:-

Different forms of Brain disease	7 cases
Convulsions	2 "
Influenza & Pneumonia	1 case
Diseases of Urinary Organs	1 "
Senile decay	4 cases
Laryngitis	1 case
Inanition	8 cases
Premature birth	7 "
Ententis	1 case
Syphilis	1 "
Cancer	4 cases



I am happy in being able to congratulate the Board on the absolute immunity from Notifiable Infectious Disease in the District per se. There certainly was one case of Scarlatina, but the history of importation was quite clear. There were a few cases of Influenza in the early Spring, but not approaching the nature of an epidemic. One death was certified as from Pneumonia following Influenza. In the Scarlatina case above referred to Disinfection & Isolation were carried out & there was no spread.

I would once again suggest the advisability of scheduling Phthisis as Infectious. There is no doubt as to the communicability of it.

The water supply has been good during the year. I think it would be well to warn householders about the waste that goes on by their allowing the taps to be constantly running in the present frosty weather.

The slaughter houses are all clean & well kept. I have received no complaint of any of them. The dairies also are in good order.

There is one abominable nuisance to which I should like to refer. It is in Childs' alley, the house in the occupation of Harriet Smith. In the early part of the year, I reported upon this woman's case. The nuisance was ordered to be abated, & was abated for a time. Now she has taken a house in Childs' alley, & the stench from it is unbearable. It is due as before to the excretions of dogs & cats which she keeps on the premises, & which are, I most strongly assert, a real & grave danger to the



neighbours. The best course would be to approach the
landlord & get her evicted from there. I do not think
anything else is of any permanent use. If evicted, she
might go to the workhouse, where she will be clean.
I do not know if a personal matter comes within the scope
of an official report, but if it does, I should like to
refer to the very great loss your Board, the whole District,
& I, have sustained in the death of the late Mr. W^m Jones,
our Sanitary Inspector. Perhaps I had better means of
knowing him & his work than others; I think I had, and
a more honest & straightforward man, & one more thorough
in all he undertook, I never knew. His loss is greatly
felt by me, especially knowing as I do how difficult it
will be to replace him, and I am sure your Board will
be with me, in recording how deeply we feel his loss.

I am, Gentlemen,

your Obedient Servant,

J. W. Graves,
Medical Officer of Health

Feb 9th 1895.

