

Dundee Medical Officer of Health Reports, 1896-1905

Thus comprising the two years, we find there were notified in 1900 and 1901 respectively:-

	1900.	1901.
Smallpox	4	52
Scarlet Fever	233	317
Typhoid Fever	65	76
Typhus Fever	50	15
Puerperal Fever . . . . .	...	5
Diphtheria	116	143
Membranous Croup	6	2
Erysipelas	135	235

And of those not compulsorily notifiable:-

Measles	430	846
Whooping Cough	140	281
Chicken-Pox . . . . .	...	23

Zymotic Death-Rate

The following were the deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases:-

Smallpox	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Scarlet Fever	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
Typhoid Fever	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	10
Typhus Fever .	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
Diphtheria	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	18
Membranous Croup			.	.	.	.	.	—
Measles	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	92
Whooping Cough	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	156
Diarrhoea	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	124
								—
								TOTAL
								415
								—

This is equal to 12 per cent. of the total deaths, and represents a zymotic death-rate equal to 2.57 per 1000 of population.

For the previous year the corresponding deaths numbered 317, which was equal to 9 per cent. of the total mortality, and represented a zymotic death-rate of 1.89 per 1000 of population.

The increase during the past year is mainly attributed to the greater mortality from Whooping Cough, the deaths from which disease numbered 156, as against 38 in 1900.

Smallpox.

During the greater part of the year Smallpox was present in the city. There were in all 52 cases, but at no time did it assume the dimensions of an epidemic. The disease broke out on several occasions after an absence of some weeks (from four to eight), shewing that some fresh infection had been imported. In most cases this infection could be traced to Glasgow, where it prevailed in epidemic form, or to Govan.

The method adopted in dealing with this disease was as follows:- As soon as a case came to our knowledge it was at once removed to the Smallpox Hospital. The other inmates of the house were removed to the Reception House, and there bathed and examined for any traces of a mild form of the disease. Their clothing was also disinfected by steam.

The house in which the case occurred was sprayed with formalin and cleaned, and the bedding and body-clothing therein removed to the Hospital for disinfection. Re-vaccination was pressed on all in the neighbourhood, and a house-to-house visitation made daily for a fortnight and then at intervals for other ten days to discover any fresh cases. Any case of illness thus discovered, whatever its nature, was reported to me, and if it was at all of a doubtful nature I communicated with the medical man in attendance where there was one, and where there was no one in attendance I visited it myself.

The cases removed to the Reception House were re-vaccinated, and kept under observation for a fortnight.

On admission, any shewing signs of a recent attack of the disease in a mild form were at once removed to Hospital, and if during their residence, any signs of the onset of Smallpox began to appear in any of the contacts under observation, they were removed forthwith, before they were capable of conveying the infection to any of the others.

000-000-524-665-C

The success of this method of grappling with this disease was shewn by the fact, that in no instance throughout the whole outbreak, did we find a single case which had become infected from any centre, after its existence there had come to our knowledge, and the means described been adopted to suppress it.