

## **Minutes of the Dundee Police Commissioners, 1870**

### IV REPORTS AND SMALL-POX HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

The Monthly reports of the Inspector of Nuisances and the Inspector of Markets were read.

The Monthly Report of Dr Pirie, Medical Officer, for the month of September last was also read, and is as follow:-

During the month of September there were 260 deaths against 240 for the corresponding month, 1870, showing a death rate of 25.15 per 1000 per annum, or 1 in every 478 individuals.

Zymotic diseases produced 97 deaths, viz. – typhus fever, 4; typhoid fever, 7; Relapsing fever, 5; scarlet fever, 3; small-pox, 30; diarrhoea, 38; hooping cough, croup, &c., 13.

This gives an increase of 10 deaths from zymotic diseases over the return for the preceding month, from which amounted to 30 against 14 in August. Of these, 28 deaths occurred in the three districts of St Andrews, St Clements, and St Mary's, and only 2 in St Peter's. There were no deaths in Lochee.

One of the measures on which we rely to arrest the spread of small-pox is revaccination, and this has been in active operation during the month. By the several medical practitioners appointed lately for this duty 657 individuals have been vaccinated, and of these 92 proved to have been unvaccinated in early life. With such a proportion of individuals in our midst quite unprotected against small-pox, there is no wonder that the malady continues to spread. It is therefore highly necessary that those who may still be unprotected should see to immediate vaccination, while

others should avail themselves of the ample protection afforded by revaccination.

Diseases of the Chest caused 63 deaths, viz. – Consumption, 30; bronchitis, 25; asphyxia, 1; heart disease, 7.

Relapsing fever has prevailed very extensively during the month. Of this and other fevers, including small-pox, 173 cases were admitted into the Infirmary, of whom 79 were sent in the name of the Police Commissioners.

Of the total deaths 126, or 48 per cent, were of children under five years of age.

GEO. C. PIRIE, M.D., Medical Officer of Health.

The Convener reported that the Lochee Hospital was now ready for receiving Small-pox patients.

The Medical Officer was authorised to receive patients accordingly.

The Committee were also of opinion that some further provision should be made for providing additional temporary accommodation, and that such accommodation should be put up in the Infirmary grounds at the cost of the Local Authority, provided the Infirmary Directors agreed to manage it as part of their Institution, they in return also receiving from the Local Authority and others the same charges for patients therein as in the Infirmary itself.

The Clerk was instructed to communicate this proposal to the Directors of the Infirmary and to solicit an early answer.

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MINUTE of MEETING of the SANITARY COMMITTEE, held on Sixth October,  
Eighteen hundred and seventy-one, -

Present -

Bailie COX.

Mr T. BUCHAN.

Bailie ALLAN.

Mr FRANK HENDERSON.

Mr J. H. MACKAY.

Mr WILLIAM CHALMERS.

Mr MACKAY, Preses.

SMALL-POX HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The Committee record that they, along with Deputations from the Parochial Boards of Dundee and Liff and Benvie, met in conference to-day with the Directors of the Infirmary, when the present state of the Infirmary was explained, and the propriety of providing additional temporary accommodation from Small-Pox patients was considered.

The proposal made by this Committee, as stated in their Minute of the 4<sup>th</sup> current, was also discussed.

After the representatives of the Parochial Boards had been heard, it was stated, on the part of the Directors of the Infirmary, that they might agree to the proposal of the Committee on the conditions (1) that no part of the expense of erecting or managing the additional building should fall upon the ordinary funds of the Infirmary; (2) that the Directors should have management of the additional accommodation; and (3) that, as they considered the present rate of payment by the Police Commissioners for patients inadequate, the Commissioners should pay any additional expense incurred by the Directors in treating patients in the proposed building.

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But the Directors also intimated that they would meet at the close of the conference to consider the said proposal and would thereafter communicate their determination thereon to the Commissioners. The Clerk was instructed, on receiving such communication, to call this Committee again together.

J. H. MACKAY, Preses.