
A new city experience

> Pork Pie Poisoning

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James Cope- Pork Butcher

A shop selling pork pies was operational at No. 36 Irongate during 1901.

On September 4th 1901 it was reported that customers having purchased pork pies from this shop had beco

The matter was reported to Dr. William Howarth, Medical Officer of Health, and it was found that up to Se
were reported suffering more or less severely after eating pork pie with 90 more cases reported outside of

All the pies were purchased between the morning of Tuesday September 2nd and midday on Friday Septem
September 10th.

he symptoms were: profuse perspiration, diarrhoea, sickness and acute abdominal pain.

The property was long and narrow with a slaughterhouse and privies at the back. A bakery, chopping house
areas were all close by. The sanitation in the building was inadequate in that all manner of waste ran down
sewer in Irongate. A passageway gave access to people and animals to pass through from the street.

The meat was sorted, and cuts were sent for mincing, then left in a bowl to stand uncovered awaiting the |
After jelly making was carried out this was also left uncovered on the floor, almost certainly resulting in cc
and/or insects.

Dr Howarth presented a report to the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee: 4 deaths were re
pie with no ill effect. In one instance freedom from illness was attributed to large consumption of alcoholic

Example: Mrs F's maid purchased a pork pie. A portion was eaten at supper by Mr F and Mrs H, a visitor, Mr
remained well. Next day Mrs H complained of acute pain and diarrhoea. Mr F also became ill with severe sy

Dr Howarth concluded that the outbreak namely Ptomaine poisoning (bacillus enteritidis) seemed to point
being the cause and tests carried out by Sheridan Delepine, Professor of Pathology confirmed this.

A point of interest arose on discovery of a report of food poisoning during 1921 resulting from the consump
deaths occurred.

Derby City Council

