

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Barking].

Contributors

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Urban District of Barking Town.

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES

For the Year 1914.

SUMMARY FOR 1914.

POPULATION.—Calculated to the middle of the year—34,685			
Increase during year	.. ..		1,134
Inhabitants per occupied house	.. ..		5·1
MARRIAGES	.. .. . . . . . . . .		221
Annual rate of persons married per 1,000 Population			6·3
BIRTHS	.. ..	Males .. 507 } Females .. 482 }	Total .. 989
Annual Rate per 1,000 Population..			28·4
DEATHS	.. ..	Males .. 234 } Females .. 170 }	Total .. 404
Annual Rate per 1,000 Population ..			11·65
Annual Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 born			106·4
Total Deaths from Zymotic Diseases..			39
Annual Rate from Zymotic Diseases..			1·12
Death Rate corrected for age and sex distribution			11·0
Real Death Rate	.. .. . . . . . . . .		17·14
Life expectancy at Birth (Brownlee's Method)			..58 years

Area of Urban District—3,803 acres land, 303 tidal waters.

Population per Acre—8·4.

Houses per Acre—1·68

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of
Barking Town, in the County of Essex.**

For the Year ending December 31st, 1914.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District of
Barking Town.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the Annual Report upon the sanitary conditions of your district during the year 1914.

A year in which the amenities of life were to a great extent overshadowed by the international crisis through which we were passing, and as a consequence, public works were directed so as to alleviate any distress that might arise from the sudden transition, from a state of peace to that of war. The adaption was remarkably facile, and it is with some gratification that it can be said that there was no distress of any serious moment, in fact, in many cases the financial position of the household was improved. It has yet to be seen for how long the community as a whole can stand the enormous wastage of life and treasure that is at present occurring.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

The physical features and general characters have been described in previous reports and need not be reiterated, though the fact that the district possesses a waterway suitable for barge traffic, and vacant land on which factories can be built, does not seem to have the influence on industrial growth that might have been expected.

The climatic conditions as indicated by the rainfall are as follows:—

	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
January .....	.71	1.44	1.07	3.16	2.48	.53
February .....	.74	2.26	.99	1.46	.59	2.5
March	2.77	.87	1.37	2.09	1.76	3.13
April	1.56	1.45	1.40	.05	1.99	.7
May	1.36	2.01	.80	.90	1.30	1.96
June	2.55	1.92	1.90	2.49	.33	1.52
July	2.94	2.37	.39	1.16	2.02	1.37
August	1.66	1.93	.62	3.88	1.94	.72
September	1.90	.82	1.39	2.01	1.33	.52
October	3.86	1.92	3.16	1.55	3.46	1.1
November .....	.84	3.00	3.03	1.43	2.49	1.38
December	2.58	2.77	3.47	2.19	1.66	4.85
Total	23.47	22.76	19.59	22.37	21.35	20.28

The mean temperature during the summer was above the average, though the main features of the year were the dry autumn and extremely wet December. The gross effect on the health of the Town was not unfavourable.

Population.

The population in March, 1911 (Census) was 31,294, and the mid-year population for 1914 was estimated at 34,685.

The occupations followed by the inhabitants are as follows:—

Males.

Occupied and Unoccupied	11,510
Retired and Unoccupied	2,016
Engaged in Occupations	9,494

OCCUPATIONS:—

General and Local Government	177
Defence of Country	27
Professional and Subordinate Service	187
Domestic Outdoor Service	20
Domestic Indoor Service	86
Merchants, Insurance and Banking	129
Business Clerks	427
Railway	230
Roads	300
Sea	185
Dock Labourers, Coalporters, &c.	277
Messengers and Watchmen	273
Others	74
Agriculture	344
Miners and Quarries	36
Engineers and Machine Making	391
Iron and Steel Manufacture	137
Electrical Apparatus	123
Ships and Boats	72
Cycles, &c.	54

OCCUPATIONS—*continued* :—

Precious Metals, Jewels, &c.	...	...	...	...	46
Building and Works of Construction	...	...	...	...	933
Wood Furniture and Fittings	...	...	...	...	177
Brick Makers	...	...	...	...	6
Earthenware, China and Glass	...	...	...	...	97
Chemicals, Explosives and India-rubber	...	...	...	...	1,213
Skins, Leather...	...	...	...	...	50
Printers	...	...	...	...	195
Paper Trades	...	...	...	...	54
Textile Manufactures	...	...	...	...	28
Tailors	...	...	...	...	37
Boots, &c., Makers	...	...	...	...	46
Other Workers in Dress	...	...	...	...	67
Drapers	...	...	...	...	85
Food, Drink and Lodging	...	...	...	...	733
General Labourers	...	...	...	...	537
Gas	...	...	...	...	953
Other Services...	...	...	...	...	688

In East Ham and Barking there were 3,856 persons employed in the manufacture of gas, of which 953 resided in Barking.

Females.

Retired or Unoccupied 8,464

Occupied :—

Unmarried	...	...	...	...	2,330
Married	...	...	...	...	415
Widowed	...	...	...	...	212

Occupations :—

Civil Service	19
Municipal, Hospital, &c.	12
Midwives, Nurses	46
Teaching	102
Professional	18
Domestic Indoor Service	494
Domestic Outdoor Service	144
Laundry and Washing	19
Others in Service	33
Clerks, Bank and Insurance... ..	114
Agriculture	96
Metal and Electrical Workers	98
Jewellery, Games, &c.	5
Furniture and Decorations	8
Chemicals, Soap, &c.	352
Skins and Leather	17
Hair and Feathers	7
Papers and Books	69
Textile	51
Drapers, &c.	83
Tailoresses	41
Milliners	50
Dressmakers	230
Seamstresses, &c.	103
Boots, Clogs, &c.	2
Others in Dress	16
Food Workers... ..	101
General Shopkeepers	197
Board and Lodging	173
Other Occupations	184

Proportion per 1,000 population engaged in occupations :—

Married	...	...	...	...	...	72
Unmarried	...	...	...	...	...	473
Widowed	...	...	...	...	...	283
Married and Widowed	...	...	...	...	...	97

Proportion of Domestic Indoor Servants per 1,000 families, 78.

The main occupations for males are Match, India-rubber, Gas, Building Trades and Transport.

The proportion of occupied women is high, being approximately 25 per cent. of these over 20 years.

The main occupations for females are match-making, domestic indoor service and dressmaking, in its various branches.

It is to be noted that in 93 per cent. of the families of the town, no indoor domestic help is obtained. The number of outdoor domestic workers is also small. The proportion of married workers is 7 per cent., a small figure when the type of district is borne in mind. The occupations followed are not specially prejudicial to health, and no deaths can be directly attributed to their injurious effects. The amount of poverty, as judged by the Poor Law Administration, has not been great.

The figures are as follows :—

	1913.			1914.		
Out-Relief	...	£1,973	6s. 7½d.	£2,206	15s. 1¼d.	
	Men.	Women.	Children.	Men.	Women.	Children.
Admissions to Infirmery	76	25	13	88	44	20
„ „ House	89	32	90	68	41	45
	<u>165</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>103</u>	<u>156</u>	<u>85</u>	<u>65</u>
Total	325.			306.		

In view of the events of the past year, the figures are most gratifying. The extent to which voluntary charities have been used cannot be definitely stated, as no returns can be obtained from the London hospitals.

Sanitary Circumstances.

WATER SUPPLY.—The town itself is supplied by the South Essex Water Company, and no complaint as to the quality of the supply has been made. The rural part of the district is supplied by wells. In two cases contamination was detected and a notice was served on the owner to provide a proper water supply. The matter is still pending.

RIVERS, &c.—Some complaint was made during the warm weather of offensive odours arising from the sediment left opposite the Town Quay, when exposed at low water. A more frequent cleansing of the basin seems desirable.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The question of drainage and sewage disposal has received attention. Information is being collected, and will be submitted at a suitable opportunity.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—The whole town is on the water carriage system with the exception of 61 cesspools, 19 pail closets, and 42 privies. The latter are in the rural parts of the district.

SCAVENGING.—The owners of property are required to supply and maintain a suitably covered receptacle for house refuse, which is collected once weekly by the Council's own workmen. The district is worked by two gangs, each under a working foreman.

Some help would be afforded if all house-holders could be persuaded to burn all perishable material before placing it in the covered receptacles provided. It would help to alleviate the fly nuisance which is apt to occur in the warmer months, and also assist materially should any difficulties arise in the sanitary services during the coming summer.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

PREMISES INSPECTED:—

House to House	...	...	...	...	772
Complaints	...	...	...	...	118
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	266
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	2,841
					—
Total number of premises inspected ...					3,997
					—

The chief defects discovered were dirty and defective walls and ceilings, defective water closet and connections, pans and flushing apparatus, defective roofs and spouting, defective yard paving, and dilapidated dustbins. To abate the defects and nuisances discovered, 951 preliminary and 146 statutory notices were served, all of which have been complied with.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS—OFFENSIVE TRADES—The offensive trades conducted within the district are:—Blood Drier, one; Fat Boiler, one; Gut Scraper, one; Marine Store Dealers, nine; of which four have been closed during the year; Piggeries, nine, of these two were closed during the year.

Proceedings were instituted against two firms under the Nuisance Section of the 1875 Act. The firms concerned admitted the offence, and the prosecution was conditionally withdrawn. The works required have in one case been satisfactorily carried out, but in the other certain work is still outstanding, and no action has been taken in the matter up to the end of the year.

The dust shoot at Creeksmouth was re-opened in November, and is receiving some 200 tons or more of refuse per day. This is to be regretted, and should it still continue, rigid bye-laws should be drawn up so as to lessen the nuisance that is inevitable. It is hardly possible to prevent the shoot from firing, and the fumes that will be given off are highly offensive. Some increase in the fly nuisance is to be expected.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—There are six licensed common lodging houses in the district, the accommodation provided is for 126 persons. There is no underground sleeping accommodation.

SCHOOLS.—The sanitary condition of the schools has been maintained. No schools were closed during the year on account of epidemic disease. Several cases of whooping cough occurred at the Castle School in July, the holidays supervened and no further cases were noted when the school re-opened. Subsequently the disease spread over the whole town and caused some disturbance in the attendance. After a period of low incidence, Scarlet Fever also become prevalent from September onwards. The disease was widely diffused, and no particular school could be selected as being a centre of spread.

Food.

MILK SUPPLY.—There are two small dairy farms within the district, the remaining supply comes from large central

depots in the City of London. Rather a larger proportion of condensed than fresh milk is consumed within the district.

The number of samples taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for the year ending December 31st, 1914, were:—

Milk, 62; Butter, 72; Other Samples, 3; Total, 137.

The results of legal proceedings were as follows:—

MILK ADULTERATION:—

1 person fined £10 and 9/- costs.

1 person fined £2 and 9/- costs.

1 person fined 10/- and 9/- costs.

1 person fined 10/- inclusive.

For assault one person fined £2 and 4/- costs.

1 person ordered to pay costs.

1 case was withdrawn.

OTHER FOODS.—156 inspections have been made to shops where food is exposed and prepared for sale. 166 inspections to slaughter-houses during slaughtering. No tubercular meat has been condemned.

The following articles were destroyed at the request of the owners:—Three cases of rabbits, a quantity of overripe fruit, one box of haddocks and one box of cod.

Housing.

The number of persons per family and size of tenement occupied as shown by the Census of 1911 are as follows:—

Number of Rooms per Tenement.	FAMILIES OF																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15 and upward.		
1	74	47	29	8	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	161	302
2	27	74	83	33	34	18	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	274	869
3	14	107	146	108	88	45	28	29	4	2	—	1	—	—	—	572	2,304
4	25	327	438	500	475	383	264	196	93	59	26	6	3	—	—	2,795	13,906
5	8	110	181	258	258	224	199	112	81	51	28	15	2	2	—	1,529	8,507
6	—	54	103	127	110	89	71	47	28	22	12	6	3	—	—	672	3,597
7	—	15	23	27	25	21	13	15	7	7	6	3	—	—	—	162	904
8	—	5	9	5	7	2	5	4	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	44	238
9	—	—	3	3	10	2	4	2	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	28	164
10 and upwards	—	—	2	3	2	1	1	4	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	18	136
—	148	739	1,017	1,072	1,012	785	590	409	219	147	72	32	9	4	—	6,255	30,927

The number of tenements with more than two occupants per room was in 1911, 398. These had a population of 3,348, giving the proportion per cent. to population in private families as 10·8 or in 10·8 of the families of the town, this standard of overcrowding had been exceeded. It is to be noted that the estimate of overcrowding given by ourselves was 122 houses in 1914.

The buildings comprising the town and the use to which they are put are as follows:—

1911.	Total, 1901.	Total, 1911.	Ordinary Dwelling Houses.	Blocks of Flats.	Shops.	Hotels and Public Houses.	Offices, Ware- houses and Fac- tories.	Insti- tutions.	Others.	Vessels. Sheds. Vag- rants.	Separate Flats in- cluded in fore- going.		
Number inhabited...	3,843	5,714	5,256	14	395	24	11	8	6	—	22	Places of Worship ...	16
Separate Occupiers...	4,260	6,291	5,757	22	412	25	11	31	6	27	22	Govt. and Municipal Buildings	5
Population	21,547	31,294	28,808	84	1,840	147	48	250	24	93	84	Shops	61
Uninhabited... ..	223	181	148	1	30	—	1	—	1	—	1	Offices	7
Being built	96	68	51	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	Warehouses, Work- shops, Factories ...	15
												Theatres and other places of amusement	2

Average number of persons per inhabited building :—

1901	...	...	...	...	...	5·61
1911	...	...	...	...	...	5·48

Average number of persons per family :—

1901 (All Dwellings)	5·06
1911 (Ordinary Dwelling-houses)	...	...	5·00
1911 (All Dwellings)	...	...	4·97

The following answers were forwarded to the Local Government Board concerning their enquiry relative to the Housing of the Working Classes :—

1. The estimated number of dwelling-houses in the District of the Local Authority 6,721
2. The estimated number of dwelling-houses within the limit of rent applicable to the District under Section 14 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909 2,900
3. The number of dwelling-houses which have been inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of that Act and the particulars required by the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, duly recorded:—
 - (a) Within the limit of rent applicable to the District under Section 14 1,484
 - (b) Above that limit 459
4. By what date can the inspection of dwelling-houses within the limit of rent above referred to be completed and the necessary records made? 2 years
5. (1) How many of the dwelling-houses inspected were found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation:—
 - (a) Within the limit of rent above referred to 93
 - (b) Above that limit 19

(2) And how many of those houses are still in that state:—

(a) Within the limit of rent referred to	6
(b) Above that limit	5

6. (1) How many of the dwelling-houses inspected, though not found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, were seriously defective from the point of view of danger to health or structural faults:—

(a) Within the limit of rent above referred to	1,129
(a) Above that limit	261

(2) And how many of those houses are still in such defective condition:—

(a) Within the limit of rent above referred to	95
(b) Above that limit	2

7. The number of vacant houses suitable for persons of the working classes and in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation nil

8. The number of houses which are overcrowded on the basis adopted in the Census Returns, viz., more than two persons to a room 122

9. Number of new houses which in The Council are now erecting the opinion of the Local Authority is required to provide any necessary accommodation for persons of the working classes in the District and the nature and extent of such accommodation, *e.g.*, separate houses, tenements, number of rooms. about 130 additional houses for the working classes. Further schemes for the erection of additional houses will shortly be submitted to the Board.

The work done by the sanitary staff under the Housing Acts is as follows:—

Number of dwelling-houses inspected under Section 17	...	...	...	...	682
Number of dwelling-houses dangerous or injurious to health	...	...	...	...	345
Number of representations made to the Authority	...	...	...	...	11
Number of Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	*11
Number of defects remedied without Clos- ing Order	...	...	...	...	334
Made fit after Closing Order	...	...	...	...	*11

* In abeyance.

General character of defects found were dilapidated condition of inside walls and ceilings; insufficient ventilation to room; damp walls owing to no damp course and no under floor ventilation; defective floors and woodwork.

It is to be noted that a shortage of house accommodation still exists, in spite of the number of houses built by the Council. The inevitable result is a rise in rentals as the following figures taken from the London County Council's report on new working-class accommodation show. Rentals in 1911 (census):—Three rooms, 4/6; four rooms, 5/10½; five rooms, 8/1; six rooms, 11/6; or an average rental of 1/6 per room. Rentals in 1913:—Three rooms, 5/6; four rooms, 8/6; five rooms, 9/4; or an average of 1/11¼ per room. This constitutes a rise of 5¼d. per room per week, or nearly 30 per cent. It is obvious that private enterprise is not meeting the demand, and a

situation is produced which justifies the action of the Council in building cottages to supply the obvious need. The alterations in the buildings are as follows:—

	1913.	1914.
Houses Erected	163	227
Houses Demolished	4	—
Shops Completed	5	7
Factories and Workshops	4	12
Alterations and Additions	31	5

This shows a substantial increase on the previous year. The houses erected by the Council under the powers given by the Housing Act are as follows:—

Situation.	No. of Houses.	Date of Occupation.	Accommodation.	Rental per week.	Frontage in feet.	Depth of land to each house.
Boundary Road	26	March, 1914	Hall, Parlour, Living Room, Scullery, W.C., 3 Bedrooms	7/6	ft. in. 17 6	ft. 90
Perth Road	26	July, 1914...	do.	7/6	17 6	90
Keith Road	36	Aug., 1914...	L.R., Scullery and W.C., 3 Bedrooms	5/6	12 9	90

In course of erection.

St. Paul's Road, 38 houses, 20 with 3 bedrooms.

18 „ 2 „

—
38
—

In other respects the same as Keith Road.

WOOD BLOCK PAVING.—Ripple Road from St. Paul's Road to Westbury Road, 3,670 surface yards.

Sanitary Administration of the District.

The work of the department has undergone some change during the year. The visiting relative to Tuberculosis was handed over to the County Authorities, the object being to prevent any overlapping in the spheres of influence. The Tuberculosis Officer has been appointed Assistant Medical Officer of Health for Tuberculosis by the Council.

STAFF.—The staff employed during the year was as follows:—

Medical Officer of Health.

R. J. Ewart, M.D., F.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer for Tuberculosis.

Vacant.

Medical Officer to the Maternity Centre.

A. W. G. Woodforde, M.B.

Sanitary Inspector.

H. Wood, Certified Sanitary Inspector, Meat and other Foods Inspector.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

W. Claydon, Certified Sanitary Inspector, Meat and other Foods Inspector.

Female Assistant Sanitary Inspector.

Miss M. Holman, Certified Sanitary Inspector and Midwife.

Matron Isolation Hospital.

Miss M. J. Chrystie.

The scope of the work undertaken by the male Inspectors includes the supervision of the sanitary arrangements of all premises, dust collection, lodging-houses, slaughter-houses, offensive trades, workrooms, van dwellers, and meat and other foods. The administration of the Foods and Drugs Act, is undertaken by the County Authorities. The female officer is mainly concerned with the sanitary arrangement of schools, the administration of the Notification of Births Act, and duties relative to the Maternity Centre.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The new administrative block was occupied at the beginning of the year and the Medical Officer of Health became resident at the Hospital in May. The accommodation provided has been increased from 50 to 65 beds or one to every 500 of the population, a figure that is in excess of requirements of the Central Authorities. From January to September the Lower Hospital was temporarily closed, as the accommodation at the Upper Hospital sufficed for all needs. The laundry unfortunately gave considerable trouble, and towards the end of the year its capabilities were severely taxed. The question of replacing this unsuitable building by one on more modern lines should be considered; certain improvements of an inexpensive nature might be made at the Lower Hospital so that the facilities for out-door exercise during inclement weather may be obtained. The staff has changed considerably during the year owing to an attempt to keep a reasonable balance between the numbers of patients and nurses. The number of patients and staff for the first half-year were approximately equal; for the second half there were two patients for every member of the staff including the Medical Officer. The hospital cannot be said to have been understaffed.

The cost of the hospital for the year was £2,122 16s. 6d., against £1,623 12s. 10d., or approximately an increase of

£500. This increase is dependent upon £178 for interest and repayment of loans, £75 for furniture, £50 for construction of discharge block and certain extra baths, £50 for making up the grounds, planting, etc., and £60 for alterations required for Medical Officer's residence, all of which constitute items involved in the erection of the new building. Excess of expenditure over original loan on the building and cost of fencing are not included.

THE COST OF FOOD was £413 2s. 0d., as against £383 6s. 4d. or an increase of £69, which can be accounted for by the all-round increase in prices of commodities, and also to the greater number of admissions and increased staff. The cost of food per day per patient and staff was 9½d. being the same as that for the year 1913. The cost per day per patient was calculated to be 5d. and per member of staff 1/4.

ADMISSIONS TO HOSPITAL.—The number of cases admitted and their nature were as follows:—

148 were suffering from Scarlet Fever; 35 Diphtheria; 10 Enteric Fever; and 14 Diarrhœa (infants) giving a total of 207.

The previous year the total number of admissions was 153 or 54 less. The discrepancy was mainly due to an increase of 35 cases of Scarlet Fever during the current year. There were 10 deaths in the Institution, two from Scarlet Fever, one Enteric Fever, one Pneumonia, and six Diarrhœa.

The average duration of stay in Hospital for each disease was as follows:—

		1914.	1913.	1912.	1911.
Scarlet Fever	...	37·26	37·1	39·5	52·44 days
Diphtheria	...	27·7	22·7	32·1	40·8 ,,
Enteric Fever	...	25·0	19·5	41·2	40·0 ,,

The mean number of occupied beds was 18 and staff 11. The corresponding figures for the previous five years were patients 18 and staff 10. Of the 148 cases of Scarlet Fever 12 were returned cases, and arose from six infecting cases or a leakage from the hospital of five per cent of all admissions.

The number of return cases in each family were four in one, three in two, two in two, and one in one instance, respectively. Five of the return cases were admitted within 14 days, and the rest within six weeks. The percentage is high, and is somewhat disappointing, as the precautions taken were very elaborate. In four of the cases there was no sign in the child discharged, that might possibly have been indicative of the existence of infection. The complications were 10 per cent. Ear discharge, four per cent. Nephritis, two per cent. Abscess of Cervical Glands, and in one Laryngeal Obstruction, which necessitated tracheotomy. In six per cent. the original diagnosis was incorrect, and one of these subsequently developed the disease. Two children admitted for Diphtheria also developed Scarlet Fever whilst in hospital. In 10 or 28 per cent. of the cases of Diphtheria the original diagnosis was incorrect. One case of Diphtheria required tracheotomy. There were no deaths.

Out of 10 cases of Enteric Fever six proved to be suffering from other diseases. One case died.

In accordance with the regulations passed by the Council in July last, 14 babes suffering from Marasmus and Diarrhœa were admitted, and out of these six died, or 43 per cent. It is extremely doubtful whether these infants were in any way improved by their stay in hospital.

LEGAL.—*The General and Adoptive Acts in force in the district are as follows:—*

- Public Health Act, 1875.
- Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (Parts II., III., & V.).
- Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.
- Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885.
- Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.
- Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.
- Factory and Workshops Acts.
- Tuberculosis Regulations, 1911, 1912 & 1914.
- Order of Local Government Board, making Tuberculosis compulsorily notifiable.
- Housing of the Working Classes, Acts 1890 to 1903.
- Housing and Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.
- Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899.
- Notification of Births Act, 1907.
- Baths and Wash-houses Acts.

BYE-LAWS RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

- Common Lodging-houses.
- Nuisances.
- Slaughter-houses.
- Management of a Mortuary.
- Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.
- Houses let in Lodgings.
- Removal of filth through streets, 1912.
- Fish Fryers, 1913.
- New Streets and Buildings, 1913.
- Public Baths.
- Offensive Trades.
- Bakehouses.
- Temporary Van Sheds and similar structures.

Application was made during the year for the renewal of a Knacker's Licence; the application was refused, and an appeal to Quarter Sessions was made, but was subsequently withdrawn.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Examinations of tubercular material is, in pursuance of the arrangement with the County, undertaken by them.

All doubtful cases of Diphtheria are examined for Bacilli, and also all cases before discharge from hospital. Twenty-five initial and 35 final examinations were made. Examination of contacts were undertaken, but in no instance was isolation considered necessary as a result of such examination.

Prevalence of and Control over Acute Infectious Diseases.

There were 586 notifications received during the year compared with 477 and 301 in 1913 and 1912, respectively.

The number consisted of 162 cases of Scarlet Fever, 46 Diphtheria, 11 Enteric Fever, 304 Tuberculosis.

The rates for 1913 and 1914 are:—

	1913.	1914.
Scarlet Fever	3·92	4·67
Diphtheria	1·04	1·32
Enteric Fever	·11	·32
Tuberculosis (all forms) ...	7·03	8·7

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—These include :—

Enteric Fever, 1; Scarlet Fever, 3; Diphtheria and
Croup, 3; Diarrhœa and Enteritis, 30; total, 37.

All the rates are larger than in previous year.

The distribution of the disease over the year was as follows :—

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter
Scarlet Fever	26	30	27	79
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup	6	5	11	24
Phthisis	76	89	60	79
Enteric	3	1	3	4
Erysipelas	15	5	9	18
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	3	6
Poliomyelitis and Meningitis	1	—	—	—

It is seen that the increase in Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria occurred during the last quarter of the year. A detailed inquiry was made into the circumstances influencing the spread of these diseases. The report is, however, too voluminous to include in the present statement. The procedure relative to the notification of these diseases is as follows :—On receipt of information a member of the Sanitary Staff or the Medical Officer himself calls and arranges for the removal of the patient, by this means 148 out of 162 cases of Scarlet Fever were removed. Inquiry is made relative to the health of all immediate contacts, and in cases of poverty, should any further illness supervene, the facilities of the Out-Patient Hospital are placed at their disposal. All bedding is disinfected, and if necessary the rooms occupied are stripped and re-decorated.

Antiseptic is supplied for purposes of washing linen and disinfecting drains, etc. Suitable instructions are given as to precautions necessary to prevent further spread through healthy contacts. The action taken relative to the non-notifiable diseases is narrative in the part dealing with the Medical Inspection of School Children.

VACCINATION.—The figures for the last three years are:—

	1912.	1913.	1914.
Successfully Vaccinated ...	420	360	309
Insusceptible	—	—	1
Conscientious Objections ...	343	394	417
Died Unvaccinated	71	75	66
Postponed	6	8	7
Removed to Places Unknown	53	40	40
To be dealt with (not six months old)	8	136	146

The percentages successfully vaccinated for the last six years are: 66·3, 59·6, 54·6, 46·6, 35·5, 30·4.

Comment on this shrinkage is needless. It is to be hoped that the inevitable chaos in the sanitary services of Europe will not lead to an outbreak, which would in course of time involve this country.

Prevalence of and Control over Tuberculosis.

There were 304 notifications of tuberculosis forwarded to the office, including 212 new cases. These consisted of 143

Pulmonary and 69 other forms. The rates being 8·7 per 1,000 inhabitants.

	Pulmonary.	Other.
Form A (Primary Notifications) ...	125	65
Form B (School Cases)	18	4
Form C (Admissions to Institutions)	45	2
Form C (Discharges from Institutions)	41	4

Taking the figures for last year and subtracting the number in institutions, the number dead, the number discharged from the dispensary, there are at least 330 persons or 10 per cent. of the population who are suffering from this disease, and who may be the source of further infection.

The age distribution was:—

	Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	Over 65	Total.
Phthisis	3	11	42	39	87	40	7	229
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	2	19	28	15	10	—	1	75

The total number of deaths was 55. The mean death-rate from Tuberculosis prior to compulsory notification was ·96 per 1,000, subsequent to notification it is 1·7 or nearly twice as great.

The following figures are extracted from the monthly returns made by the Tuberculosis Officer to the County Authorities, and in pursuance of his appointment by the District Council as Assistant Medical Officer for Tuberculosis are included in the present statement.

The dispensary was opened in April, and the following figures deal with the last nine months of the year:—

	Insured.	Uninsured.
Patients treated at the Dispensary	56	53
	Total, 109	

Discharged during the nine months:—

With working capacity restored	...	...	6
Worse and ordered Dom. Treatment	...	...	12
Sent to Sanatoria	...	...	12
Left District	...	...	7
Domiciliary Visits paid by Tuberculosis Officer	...	...	53
Domiciliary Visits paid by Nurse	...	...	317

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.—There were 55 deaths certified as due to some form of Tuberculosis, as against 28, 40, 30, 35, and 69 in the previous five years, the rates being 1.03, 0.86, 1.15, 0.81, and 1.9 respectively.

The details are as follows:—

	1914.	1913.	1912.
Phthisis	48	50	28
Tubercular Meningitis	6	13	1
Other Tubercular Diseases...	1	6	6

Investigation of Other Diseases.

The cause of death deserves a little comment: The number amongst males was 234, and females 170, a ratio which is usual. There were no deaths from Measles, as against 30 for the previous year. The same applies to Whooping Cough. The deaths from the other zymotic diseases show little variation, the rate being 1.1 (37) as against 1.98 (67). Diarrhœa and Enteritis accounted for 31, as against 30 for the previous year. The conditions of August, 1914, were very much more favourable to these diseases than that of 1913, and hence the figure may represent some improvement.

The experiment tried during July of addressing a personal letter to all mothers who are known to possess an infant from the 6th to 18th month does seem to have led to an amount of extra care and consequent benefit to the child. Pneumonia in all forms is low as compared with 1913, the figure being 29, as against 54.

The number of deaths arising from Congenital Malformations, etc., shows an improvement, the figure being 35, against 68. Much is due to a favourable year, but some at least is dependent on the sanitary administration.

Cancer or Malignant Disease was responsible for 16 deaths, which closely approximates to that for the previous year.

Out-Patient Dispensary.

The following table gives the nature of the ailments treated at the above. The number of children under school

age was more than double that of the previous year, namely, 525, against 235. Those over school age show a corresponding increase :—

OTHER THAN SCHOOL CHILDREN.

	Under School Age.	Over School Age.
Infectious Diseases	16	4
General Diseases	31	20
Skin Diseases (Non-Infectious) ...	63	18
Skin Diseases (Infectious)	15	4
Ear Diseases	21	9
Eye Diseases	25	16
Nose and Throat Diseases	32	15
Chest Diseases	28	5
Sores, &c.	80	29
Injuries	45	37
Deformities	3	—
Cyst, &c.	2	—
Digestive System	84	8
Circulative System	2	—
Nervous System	2	—
Cleanliness	1	—
Diseases of Breast	—	2
Tubercular (all forms)	8	1
Debility and Wasting... ..	28	4
Ill-defined	34	25
Nothing the matter	2	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	525	198
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Means for Preventing Mortality in Child-birth and in Infancy.

1. THE NEED FOR PRE-NATAL CLINICS.—The following figures speak for themselves. Of all “conceptions” 10 per cent. are lost through abortion or other accident before the sixth month of gestation and approximately 4 per cent. are still-born, that is, they had reached such a stage of development where independent life was possible, and 5 per cent. die within a few weeks of birth. Thus close on 20 per cent. or one in five are lost through errors and defects in the nutrition of the child during its developmental period. This mortality is unfortunately extremely heavy on the males. The ratio for all conceptions is 125 males per 100 females, whilst at birth it is only 106 to 100 females, a fact of great significance at the present time, when large numbers of our best manhood are being sacrificed for the sake of national honour.

2. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—Grants to the extent of 50 per cent. of actual expenditure will be refunded by the Local Government Board for such work as has been approved by them, and such as comes strictly under the scope of their circular of July, 1914. All grants, whether for expenditure incurred by the Authority or by voluntary agencies in the district will be paid through the Council.

3. WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH PLAISTOW MATERNITY CHARITY.—This will comprise the following:—

(a) PRE-NATAL.—The compilation of a register of expectant mothers, based on returns from the Certified Midwives in the district.

Each mother will be visited by one of the Council's servants or a voluntary worker, and advised to attend the Maternity Centre.

A medical practitioner of the district will attend once weekly at a convenient place and will examine and advise all those presenting themselves. He will correct errors of life and treat such abnormalities as are observed. In such cases where food is deficient certain charities are available whereby nourishment can be obtained.

The cost of this portion of the scheme will be:—

Medical Attendance one after- noon, per week	£52 per annum
Visiting	£15 ,,
Incidental Expenses	£5 ,,
Rent of Room	£25 ,,
	<hr/>
	£97 ,,

(b) PUERPERAL ABNORMALITIES OR DIFFICULTIES OF LABOUR.—All cases of complicated pregnancy, such as severe bleeding and difficulties of delivery, which cannot be treated at home, are to be removed to the Plaistow Maternity Centre by means of the ambulance already possessed by the Council. In such cases where midwives require medical assistance and the husband is unable to pay the necessary fee, application should be made to the Council for assistance, which may be paid in whole or part, according to the circumstances of the household. The following scale is suggested:—

	£	s.	d.
For delivery with Forceps or other operation requiring Chloroform and after treatment	2	2	0
Difficult Delivery and Attendance	1	1	0
Single Attendance at Night ...	0	5	0
Single Attendance during day ...	0	2	6

Leaving out of account cases treated by the Plaistow Maternity Centre, the probable cost to the Authority in granting this facility will be about £25-£30.

Complications, subsequent to delivery, such as Puerperal Fever and Ophthalmia Neonatorum are treated at your Isolation Hospital and expenditure in this direction will qualify for grant.

(c) INFANT AND CHILD WELFARE.—This portion of the scheme is already in operation, and grants will be obtained for work already done. Further developments and amplifications will be necessary in the future, but for the present the work in hand as far as it goes has been approved.

The estimated expenditure for the coming year should not exceed £150, half of which will be repaid.

WORK DONE BY THE HEALTH VISITORS.

There were 983 births notified during the year and 977 registered. As many as 88 per cent. of the number of births notified received a visit from the Health Visitors. Out of 983 cases 406 were attended by a general practitioner and 577 by midwives; of these 232 received their assistance from the local branch of the Plaistow Maternity Charity.

The following table gives the figures for the last four years:—

	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
Total number registered	1,005	964	1,009	977
Total number notified ...	885	908	934	983
Attended by doctors ...	—	382	412	406
Attended by midwives...	—	556	522	577
Number visited ...	779	936	971	857

In 320 cases revisits were necessary; the total number of revisits being 1,230, which included visits paid to children born in 1913. The reasons why further supervision was required were: 141 first children, 10 twins, 35 poverty, 14 cleanliness, 34 artificial feeding, and 42 other causes. At the time of the first visit out of 857, 695 were entirely breast fed, 25 mixed, 24 artificially fed. At about the third month 227 were entirely breast fed, 56 mixed, and 37 artificially. Thus, within a short period of birth 93·4 are fed entirely at the breast, and 70 per cent. after three months. This point is also exemplified by the statements made as to the length of time the previous child to the one under enquiry was suckled.

AGE AT WHICH LAST CHILD WAS WEANED, PER 100.

	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.
At one month ..	7·28%	7·22%	5·35%	11·5%
At two months ..	1·82%	2·97%	3·89%	1·1%
At three ,, ..	2·05%	3·61%	4·38%	3·7%
At four ,, ..	0·91%	1·91%	1·78%	1·1%
At five ,, ..	0·91%	2·55%	1·78%	1·1%
At six ,, ..	2·73%	2·76%	1·32%	6·1%
At seven ,, ..	1·59%	2·34%	1·30%	0·6%
At eight ,, ..	0·68%	3·61%	1·78%	1·7%
At nine ,, ..	13·44%	15·28%	15·23%	9·9%
Ten months and over	68·56%	57·74%	62·88%	68·1%
Total Number of En- quiries	439	471	617	619

It is seen that over 70 per cent. of our infants received the supply that is their right for an adequate period of time, and there is no evidence of any desire on the part of the mothers to shirk their duty.

The following figures give some idea as to the reason of death other than its immediate cause. The last column gives

the percentage dying in first year, based on the experience of the years 1912-1913:—

	Total Numbers		Numbers dying in first year 1914.	Percentage 1912 and 1913.	Percentage 1914.
	1913.	1914.			
Attended by Doctors ...	412	406			
Attended by Midwives ...	522	577			
Mother Defective or Delicate	35	32	5	65.9	12.4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	11	15	1	14.8	6.6
Breast Fed	695	815	66	6.9	8.1
Artificial Feeding	24	30	7	17.7	25.6
Mixed	25	12	1	7.9	8.4
Mother Employed	18	25	0	9.1	—
Cradle Used	149	216	8	6.37	3.5
Dirty Houses	16	49	5	15.6	7.1
Illegitimates	—	36	6	22.2	14.9

Comparing the district for the year 1912 with towns of a similar size throughout the Country, we find that in all cases the rates for the various causes of infantile mortality are lower:—

Thus:—

Death Rate, Age 0 to 1 month	10% lower
" 0 to 2 " 	6% "
" 3 to 6 " 	11% "
" 6 to 12 " 	15% "
Premature Birth and Congenital Defects	33% lower
Measles and Whooping Cough	30% "
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	9% "
Diarrhoea	4% "
All Ages, 0 to 1 year	9% "
One to 5 years	3% "

The district as regards this test of infant welfare is favourably placed.

Babies' Welcome.

This is carried on by the members of the Infant Care Association. Meetings are held from two to five on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at the School Clinic. The waiting room is used for general assembly purposes, and the consulting room for weighing and examination of infants. The weighing is performed by the Health Visitor in charge, and simple advice is given to the mothers on clothing, feeding, etc.; any infant whose progress is not satisfactory is examined by the Medical Officer of Health. A cup of tea is provided for each mother by the members of the Infant Care Association. The holding of an additional meeting on Thursday afternoons was commenced towards the end of last year, as some mothers found Tuesday, owing to domestic duties, an inconvenient day. This practice resulted in an increased attendance. In the year 1913 the average attendance per week was 18; in 1914 it had risen to 25; during the warm weather the weekly average was 30 to 35. The number of individual mothers who attended during the year was 244, of these 42 attended once only, the total number of attendances being 1,159, making an average attendance of four per mother. There are many who come regularly, either weekly or fortnightly, but the number should be larger. Regular attendance is most necessary, as far more can be done for such a child than for one who is only brought up when it begins to show signs of wasting. The most regular attendants are those with "first" babies.

Speaking generally these mothers seem greatly to appreciate the opportunity for obtaining advice with regard to feeding, clothing and so on. Great interest was shown in a model set of baby clothes (made in the workroom for unemployed women, from material supplied by the Council), and a "banana crate" cradle. Paper patterns of these garments are given to those who wish for them, and many mothers have availed themselves of this opportunity.

Infants' Milk Depot.

This depot has now been in existence for two years, having been opened under the auspices of the Infant Care Association in February, 1913. Since March, 1914, the milk has been given in dried form. This change has the following advantages, it does not turn sour, is practically free from germs, is not liable to contamination by flies, etc., and the exact quantity required for each feed can be made as required.

This food, "Lactos" is manufactured under the supervision and instruction of the Public Health Department, and is an exact imitation of human milk in dried form. It is sold at just over cost price. It is a great boon to the poorer mothers who could not afford similar foods, and who would otherwise feed their babies on condensed milk containing a low percentage of fat. A feeding depot is also a useful auxiliary to any infant care scheme as the child is under more constant supervision. With very few exceptions such infants are weighed at regular intervals. At the half-year the number of infants being fed on "Lactos" was 35 at the end of the year this number had increased to 51. The total number of infants who have received the food during the year is 135, with 10 deaths, a rate of 7.4 per cent. The following are particulars of some cases fed at the Milk Depot during the year:—

Number 26. (Illegitimate). Breast fed for three weeks then artificially feed; brought to Clinic when two months old, weighed only 6 lbs.; after having Lactos for three months gained 4 lb., and at one year was a fine child normal weight.

Number 122. Brought to Clinic when four months old, condition poor, fed on the breast and a patent food, food changed to Lactos; mother lost breast milk at five

Other details not included under previous Headings.

The history of the district since 1891 is as follows:—

Year.	Population calculated at mid-year.	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.	Birth Rate per 1,000 Women, 15 to 45 years.	Infantile Mortality. Deaths within one year per 1,000 births.	Deaths per 1,000 of Population.
1891	14,477	44·2	213	150	19·5
1892	15,900	41·0	209	151·8	17·7
1893	16,622	37·8	193	156·6	17·3
1894	17,352	39·9	205	122·4	11·9
1895	18,090	38·3	196	162·6	17·2
1896	18,835	37·1	191	148·9	13·3
1897	19,588	39·4	204	178	18·4
1898	20,349	35·6	185	178	15·8
1899	21,118	37·8	197	172	18·4
1900	21,730	36·0	187	203	17·7
1901	21,954	40·9	193	172	15·8
1902	22,855	35·7	168	134	14·7
1903	23,766	36·0	168	—	15·0
1904	24,686	36·3	169	143	15·6
1905	25,615	35·1	163	142	15·5
1906	26,555	32·9	152	162	13·6
1907	27,504	31·6	145	112	11·6
1908	28,463	32·5	149	117	13·2
1909	29,432	29·4	134	107	11·5
1910	30,410	29·6	135	97·7	10·7
1911	31,513	31·9	142	157	16·1
1912	32,521	29·6	130	95·1	10·0
1913	33,551	30·4	129	113·3	14·1
1914	34,685	28·5	120	106·4	11·6

The same trend is observed as has been commented on in previous reports. There is no doubt that some of the improvement in the death-rate can be attributed to the steady decline in the birth-rate.

Marriages and Births.

The conditions of the population as regards marriage in 1911 were as follows:—

	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Females 14-45 years.
Unmarried ...	18,745	9,627	9,118	2,919
Married ...	11,383	5,642	5,741	4,043
Widowed ...	1,166	417	749	110

There were 221 marriages, a figure practically the same as the previous year. The rates per 1,000 population for the last four years are 15·, 9·, 6·4 and 6·3 respectively. Out of the above number 188 were solemnised in the Church of England.

Births.

There were 977 births registered in the district and 12 were returned as of mothers ordinarily resident in the district and registered elsewhere, the total number being 989. Of these 36 were illegitimate. The percentage equals 3·7 of the total number of births, the figure for the previous year being 2·5.

The relative number of sexes was 507 males and 482 females, the rate per 1,000 of the population works out to 30·4. The relation of this figure with previous years is given in the table, page 44. If the rate per 1,000 women 15 to 45 years of age is considered, it is seen to be the lowest on record.

Peculiarities of the Areas of the District.

Areas of a town have often been taken as a means of indicating the influences of surroundings on life expectancy and social amenities. Such comparisons are often fallacious, for two reasons, firstly, because the districts vary in age distribution, that is, certain areas contain a larger proportion of young adults or good lives than others; and secondly, the environment may attract people of certain peculiarities, and

what is observed may be the outcome of this rather than a reflection of the effect of the surroundings. The first of these can be allowed for, the second cannot. Bearing these reservations in mind the following figures are of some interest.

Births and Populations.

When distributed in the various wards the figures are as follows:—

	North.	South.	East.	West.
Population	4,441	7,941	14,753	7,550
Number of Houses	883	1,513	3,023	1,367
Number of Inhabitants per house..	5·0	5·0	4·9	5·0
Number of School Children per				
1,000 population	267	361	306	323
Number of Births	119	270	298	290
Rate per 1,000 Population ..	26·79	34·0	20·19	38·41

Tuberculosis.

The distribution of the disease was as follows:—

	North.	South.	East.	West.	Totals.
Pulmonary	33	48	77	71	229
Other Tubercular Disease	8	24	24	19	75
Deaths	13	10	19	13	55
Death rate per 100 attacked	31·7	13·9	18·8	14·4	18·0
Rate per 1,000 population	2·92	1·26	1·29	1·76	

Deaths.

There were 234 males and 170 females, giving a total of 404.

The distribution was:—

	North.	South.	East.	West.	Not Known.	Total.
Number	62	82	138	119	3	404
Rate per 1,000 Population	13·96	10·33	9·35	15·76	—	11·65

(Infantile Mortality) Under 1 year.

There were 69 males and 35 females, giving a total of 104.

The distribution was:—

	North.	South.	East.	West.	Total.
Number	14	26	39	25	104
Total Births	119	270	298	290	977
Rate per 1,000 Births					
Registered	117·6	96·2	130·8	86·2	106·4

The figures do not justify any comment.

Your obedient servant,

R. J. EWART.

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1914 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NET DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncorrected number.	Net.		Number.	Rate.	Of Non-residents registered in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 net Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1909	29,432	864		29.4	339	11.1		50	93	107.7	389	11.5
1910	30,410	900		29.6	276	8.4		57	88	97.7	325	10.7
1911	31,513	992		31.9	420	13.3		91	158	157.7	508	16.1
1912	32,521	964		29.6	321	9.8		55	90	95.1	326	10.0
1913	33,551	1,009	1,023	30.4	376	13.6		98	116	113.3	474	14.1
1914	34,685	977	989	28.5	303	8.7		101	104	106.4	404	11.6

TABLE II.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1914.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE. 1	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				TOTAL CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL. 14
	At all Ages. 2	At Ages—Years.							North. 10	South. 11	East. 12	West. 13	
		Under 1. 3	1 and under 5. 4	5 and under 15. 5	15 and under 25. 6	25 and under 45. 7	45 and under 65. 8	65 and upwards. 9					
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	46	2	14	24	4	2	—	—	5	11	22	8	35
Erysipelas	47	2	2	1	6	14	16	6	7	17	15	8	—
Scarlet Fever	162	—	39	99	16	6	2	—	17	58	70	17	148
Enteric Fever	11	—	1	5	2	2	1	—	3	3	2	3	10
Poliomyelitis	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	15	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	3	6	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis... ..	229	3	11	42	39	87	40	7	33	48	77	71	—
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	75	2	19	28	15	10	—	1	8	24	24	19	—
Totals	586	25	86	199	82	121	59	14	75	165	213	133	193

TABLE III.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1914.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	NETT DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.									TOTAL DEATHS WHETHER OF "RESIDENTS" OR "NON-RESIDENTS" IN INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	ALL AGES.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and up- wards.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Enteric Fever... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever... ..	3	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Influenza	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...
Erysipelas	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	48	2	1	2	1	11	18	11	2	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	6	...	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Disease	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease... ..	16	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	7	...
Rheumatic Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Meningitis	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	52	...	...	...	1	4	9	20	18	...
Bronchitis	39	7	2	1	1	...	3	4	21	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	29	9	4	2	2	3	2	4	3	1
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	30	23	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...
Alcoholism	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	16	...	1	...	2	...	4	6	3	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	38	38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	11	1	...	1	2	3	...	4	...	...
Suicides	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...
Other Defined Diseases	92	20	...	3	3	4	14	14	34	...
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	404	104	20	12	12	29	57	79	91	10

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1914.

NETT DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.					Total Deaths under 1 year.
						4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	
All causes certified ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Abdominal Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Convulsions ...	1	1	...	...	2	4	1	...	...	7
Laryngitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ...	1	...	1	...	2	4	...	1	...	7
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	1	1	...	...	2	3	2	2	...	9
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	2	1	3	5	6	3	6	23
Enteritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gastritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis ...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Rickets ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suffocation (overlying) ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Injury at birth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atelectasis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Malformation) ...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Premature Birth ...	20	5	1	...	26	...	...	...	...	26
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ...	2	1	5	...	8	2	...	...	...	10
Other Causes ...	3	...	1	...	4	3	1	3	...	11
Totals ...	30	9	10	2	51	24	11	11	7	104

Nett Births { Legitimate, 953.
in the year { Illegitimate, 36.

Nett Deaths in { Legitimate Infants, 98.
the year of { Illegitimate Infants, 6.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
BARKING.

March, 1915.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Barking Town Urban
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report of the work carried out in the Public Health Department for the year ended December 31st, 1914.

Inspections.

The number of Inspections made during the year was 3,997. These include house to house inspections, houses in which infectious disease occurred, houses which have been subject to complaint, factories, workshops, etc., and miscellaneous inspections, to effect the remedying of defects, etc., it was necessary to serve 951 preliminary notices, and 146 statutory notices. In a large number of instances defects were remedied (without serving any notice) after personal interview with the owner concerned.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

The number of houses inspected was 772, and in most instances informal notices were subsequently served to remedy

defects and abate nuisances. Generally, the defects discovered were dirty and dilapidated walls and ceilings, defective roofs and spouting, insufficient supply of drinking water, and defective fittings to closets.

The following statement shows the action taken under the Act during the year:—

Representation to the Council of houses unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	11
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	4
New water closets built and old ones rebuilt					3
Separate water supply provided inside houses with sinks, waste pipes, etc.	...	...	...	...	6

House Drainage.

The number of drains tested with smoke and chemical was 71, and 55 were found defective. Notices were served to remedy same.

The main drain at the rear of premises was found in 69 cases to be choked; and on reporting to the Surveyor's Department, they were immediately cleared by the Council's workmen.

Common Lodging-houses.

The following are the registered Houses in the district:—

Situation of Premises.	No. of Rooms.	No. of Lodgers.
8 to 12, Fisher Street ...	...	13
29 ,, ...	...	7
18 ,, ...	...	2
15-17, Heath Street ...	...	8
	—	—
	30	126
	—	—

49 visits were made during the year, and the houses generally were kept in a satisfactory condition, the by-laws observed, the lime-washing and cleaning carried out in conformity with the by-laws.

No case of infectious disease occurred in any of the houses.

Complaints.

The number of complaints received and entered in the register are as follows:—

Main drains choked	37
W.C. and branch drains choked and defective	24
No water to closets	8
Roofs and gutters defective	8
Overcrowding	4
Offensive accumulations	4
Dirty, defective and damp premises...	10
Sundry	23

118

All were immediately investigated and steps taken to remedy or abate the nuisance discovered.

Infectious Disease.

During the year 266 cases of infectious disease were notified to the Medical Officer of Health. Each house was at once visited and inquiries made respecting the milk and water supply, schools attended; the sanitary arrangements, etc., inspected with a view to ascertaining the probable source of infection, and measures taken to remedy any insanitary condition discovered. All these particulars are entered on special forms,

After removal or recovery of the sick person, the room is fumigated and closed for six hours, and all bedding, clothing, etc., removed to the disinfecting chamber. Two hundred and seventy-four rooms have been fumigated, 340 lots of bedding, etc., disinfected.

The Head Teacher of Day Schools, Superintendent of Sunday Schools, and School Attendance Officers are notified of all cases occurring in houses in which scholars reside who are attending school, and requesting them not to allow children from infected houses to attend school for a stated period. Notice is also sent to the Public Library and pawnbrokers.

Mortuary.

The number of bodies received into the Mortuary was 31, 18 males, 13 females. Inquests were held on 28 of the bodies and three were admitted on sanitary grounds. Thirteen post-mortem examinations were made.

Petroleum.

The premises licensed by the Council for the storage of petroleum have all been visited. Eleven licences renewed, and three new ones granted.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are two cowsheds in the district; they have been frequently visited, and the cleansing and lime-washing regularly carried out.

There are 48 milksellers on the register. The majority are small dealers, and keep the milk in the shop. Particular attention has been given to the arrangements for storing the milk, the cleanliness of the utensils, and the protection of the milk from dust, flies, etc.

Bakehouses.

There are 17 bakehouses in the district. All have been systematically inspected and found on the whole to be kept in a satisfactory condition, and the cleansing required by the regulations properly carried out.

Slaughter-houses.

There are three slaughter-houses in the district, two of which are licensed by the Council, the other having been established prior to the passing of the Public Health Act, only requiring to be registered.

During the past year 166 visits of inspection have been made, generally at a time when slaughtering was in progress, the premises generally speaking are well kept, the provisions of the by-laws with regard to lime-washing, removal of offal, and humane slaughtering, etc., carried out.

Food Inspection.

During the year special attention was paid to the inspection of meat, fish, and other food stuffs exposed for sale.

The following articles were destroyed at the request of the owners:—

Three Cases of Rabbits.

Quantity of Fruit.

One Box of Haddock.

One Box of Cod.

Factory and Workshop Acts.

The number of Workshops and Workplaces, including Bakehouses, now on the Register is 87. All have been periodically inspected, and, as a rule, the general conditions of the Act are well observed.

Four notices were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories as to insufficient closet accommodation, overcrowding and dirty condition of workrooms and insufficient W.C. accommodation in a factory.

Outworkers.

Lists of outworkers residing in this district have been received in 44 instances from other authorities. A record is kept of their addresses, these lists are referred to upon receipt of a notification of infectious disease, in order to stop any work being sent to an infected house. No case of infectious disease occurred in the house of an outworker.

The names and addresses of 12 outworkers living outside the district have been forwarded to the authorities of the district in which they reside.

Van Dwellers.

A great deal of nuisance and trouble was caused by itinerant gipsies and van dwellers during the year under review, as many as 215 vans being removed (in many instances forcibly, with the assistance of the Police).

Removal of Refuse.

The number of loads of refuse removed during the year was 4,757. The total number of loads represent in weight about 6,578 tons.

Disinfectants.

For the convenience of the inhabitants, disinfectants are given out daily between the hours of nine and ten a.m. During the year five tons of carbolic powder and about 360 gallons of disinfecting fluid have been distributed.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. WOOD,

Sanitary Inspector.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES,
 AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTOR OF
 FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS
 OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories including Fac- tory Laundries) ..	24	3	..
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	213	4	..
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises including in Part 3 of this report)	12	2	..
Total ..	249	9	..

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN
 FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Insp'tor. (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	5	5	..	..
Want of ventilation .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Overcrowding	1	1	..	..
Want of drainage of floors .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Other nuisances .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Sanitary accom- modation	insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes	..	..	..
	
		3	3	..
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :</i>				
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouse (s.101) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake- houses (s.s. 97 to 100) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Other offences (Excluding offences re- lating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this report) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
Total	9	9	..	..

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 139) at the end of the year. (1)	Number. (2)
Workshops	58
Workplaces	12
Bakehouses	17
Total number of workshops on Register.. ..	
	87

5—OTHER MATTERS.

Class. (1)	Number. (2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 133, 1901)	1
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Acts (s. 5, 1901) {	4
Notified by H.M. Inspector	
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Insp'tr	4
Other .. .. .	..
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) in use at the end of the year .. .. .	..

