

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

Contributors

Erith (London, England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

[1905]

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URBAN DISTRICT OF ERITH.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, FOR THE YEAR, 1904.

ERITH, KENT,

March 9, 1905.

TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ERITH.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report in accordance with the Regulations of the Local Government Board.

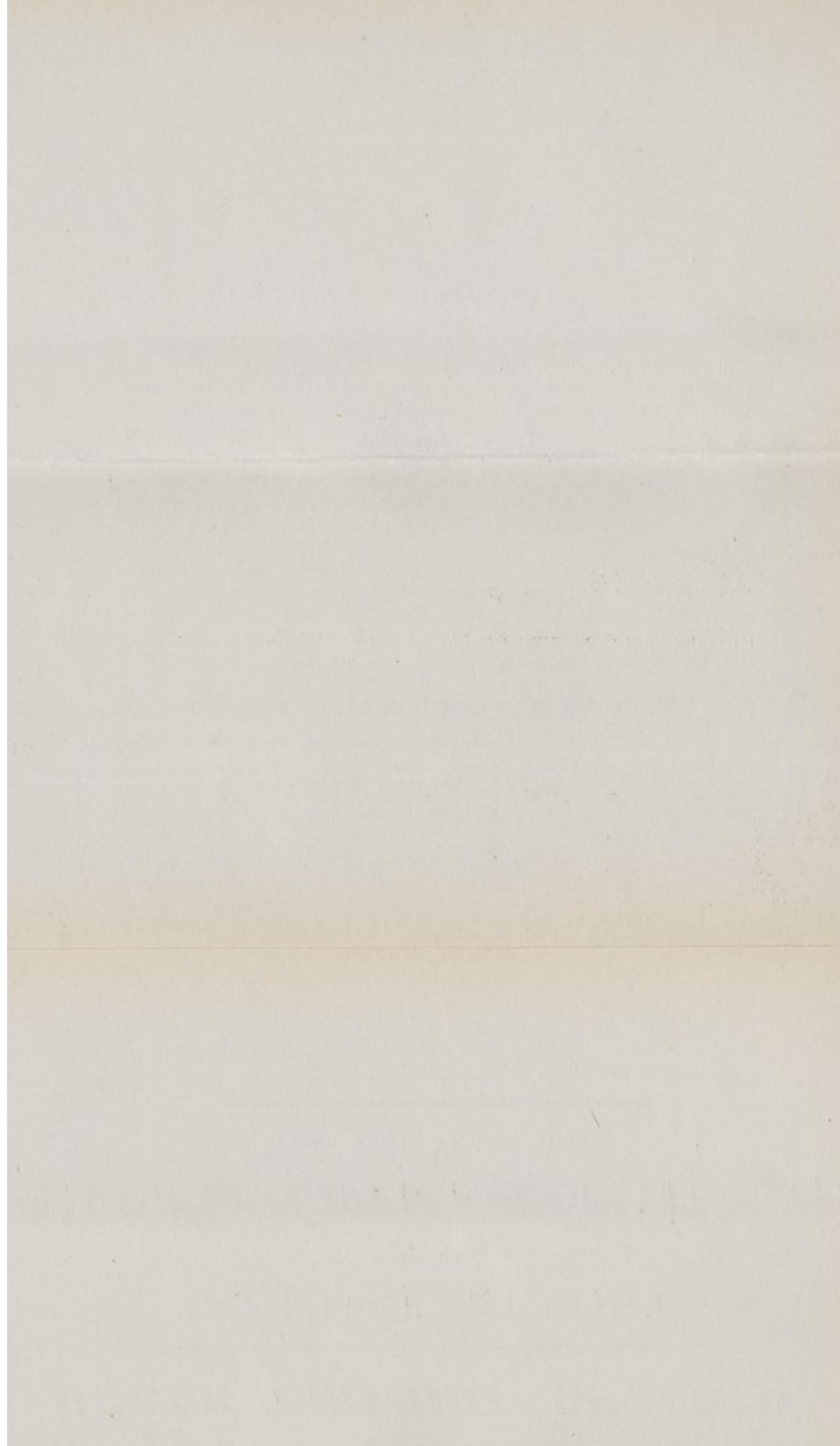
In writing this Report I have had to rely, with regard to the first half of the year, on the periodical reports to the Council of your late Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Rogers, and his successor pro. tem., Dr. Good, and the assistance of the Inspector of Nuisances.

Population and Physical Features of the District,

It is difficult to correctly estimate the population of the district, as it is somewhat migratory; formerly the majority belonged to the Residential or City Class, but these are rapidly dying out or removing, and now the large majority belong to the Manufacturing Class, with a few belonging to the Agricultural Class.

The Census returns for 1901 showed the population to be 25,296, with 4291 inhabited houses. Since then 1182 new houses have been built, 133 of them during the past year, making a total of 5,473. At the time the Census was taken every house was fully occupied, employment being plentiful. At the present time quite 500 houses are empty, and many others, let out in flats, are only half-occupied. One large factory, the oldest in the district, employing 652 hands when the Census was taken, has been closed, and many of the men working there have removed from the district with their families.

After deducting the deaths from the births in the district I estimate that the population at the middle of the year was 27,582.



Births.

There were 916 births registered during the year, viz: 463 males and 453 females, giving a birth-rate of 33.21 per 1,000 of the population. There is a decrease of 131 as compared with last year, and a decrease of 5.72 in the birth-rate.

Deaths.

There were 326 deaths registered during the year, an increase of 40 as compared with the previous year, giving a death-rate of 11.81 per thousand. If we deduct from these 10 deaths of Non-Residents which occurred in public institutions in the district, 18 Accidents and two suicides, a total of 30, the number of deaths would be reduced to 296, giving a death rate of 10.73 per 1,000 of the population. Four of the deaths registered were not certified by medical men.

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths of children under 1 year of age was 121, and above 1 year and under 5 years, 36, a total of 157; so that it will be seen that nearly one half the deaths in the district are those of children under five years of age. The previous year the numbers were respectively 98 and 44, a total of 142. The increase in the number of deaths of children under one year of age was due to the prevalence of Diarrhœa in the months of July and August. The death-rate of children under one year per 1,000 births registered is 132.09, the rate for 1903 being 93.6, and the average for the past 10 years 132.8 per 1,000, so that the rate for 1904, though high, is practically the same as the average.

Inquests.

There were 30 inquests held during the year.

Deaths registered each Month, viz. :—

January	...	...	...	31
February	...	...	...	19
March	...	...	...	26
April	...	...	...	39
May	...	...	...	22
June	...	...	...	16
July	...	...	...	25
August	...	...	...	53
September	...	...	...	18
October	...	...	...	26
November	...	...	...	27
December	...	...	...	24

Total 326

Infectious Disease.

There were 199 cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year, an increase of 59 on the previous year. There was one case of Small-pox, which was at once removed to the Metropolitan Asylums Board Hospitals, Dartford, and the house was thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. It was impossible to trace the source of infection.

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DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY
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There has been a considerable increase in the number of Scarlet Fever cases notified, and this increase has been spread over the whole year, and not confined to any particular portion of it, or to any particular quarter of the district.

Comparative Returns of Infectious Diseases notified during the past seven years, viz. :—

	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Small-pox				92	228	1	1
Diphtheria	125	76	71	29	62	38	52
Membranous Croup	3		2	1		2	
Erysipelas	9	21	18	24	26	25	33
Scarlet Fever	48	65	67	41	57	53	98
Enteric Fever	23	15	28	48	34	13	13
Puerperal Fever			2		1		2
Chicken-pox					187	8	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	208	177	188	235	595	140	199

Sanatorium.

This Hospital is for the admission of Cases of Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, and Diphtheria. There are 25 beds. During the year 122 cases were treated, of which 74 were Scarlet Fever, 39 Diphtheria, and 9 Enteric Fever. Two of the cases of Enteric Fever died during the year, but all the Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria cases recovered.

Two tables are attached, one showing the number of patients treated during the year, and the second giving the comparative returns of admissions for the past four years.

	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Diphtheria.	Total.
In Hospital, January 1st, 1904	2		2	4
Admitted during year	74	9	39	122
Discharged during year	64	7	33	104
Died during year		2		2
In Hospital, December 31st, 1904	12		8	20

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Scarlet Fever	28	38	33	74
Enteric Fever	23	23	6	9
Diphtheria	14	35	20	39
	—	—	—	—
Total	65	96	59	122

Disinfection.

There has been no change in the methods of disinfection during the past year. All houses are fumigated, and bedding and wearing apparel disinfected in the Hot Air Apparatus attached to the Sanatorium.

Drainage.

The system of Drainage is by Sewers. The houses which drain into the old Sewers are gradually being connected with the new Sewers.

Water Supply.

The Water Supply for the District is obtained from the Metropolitan Water Board, which has taken over the Kent Water Company.

House Refuse Removal.

All house refuse is removed twice a week by the Council. It is placed in pails, etc., in the forecourts of the houses, or on the kerb, by the occupiers. During the year 5,329 loads were thus removed, and were deposited in a gravel pit, or on the marsh land. In the near future some **fresh arrangement** should be made for the disposal of this material, as the available places for this are rapidly being filled up.

Cow Sheds and Milk Shops.

There are 8 Cowsheds, about 90 Cows, and 21 Dairymen and Purveyors of Milk in the district. The Cowsheds and Milk Stores have been under constant inspection and found clean.

Slaughter Houses.

There are only four registered Slaughter-houses in the district, these have been regularly inspected and found clean.

Bakehouses.

There are 14 Bakehouses in the District, all of them above ground. They have been regularly inspected and found clean.

Housing of the Working Classes Acts.

The four houses referred to by the late Medical Officer of Health, in his report for 1903, as having been condemned by him, were finally closed during March, 1904, under closing orders obtained at the Dartford Petty Sessions on March 4th.

Factories and Workshops Act, 1901.

The Factories and Workshops in the district have been inspected during the year and found in Sanitary condition.

Factories—Offensive Trades.

The various Factories, viz.:— Fish Guano, Chemical Manure, Fat Extraction, Viscoid, have been regularly inspected and found in Sanitary condition.

I submit herewith synopsis of work done by the Inspector of Nuisances.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A. E. JERMAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

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Work done by, and under the supervision of the Inspector of Nuisances.

Inspections made					Constant
Notices served to abate Nuisances	...	...	...	...	120
Letters written <i>re</i> Nuisances, etc.	...	...	...	...	59
Notices to lay water on w.c.'s	...	...	...	...	34
No. of Houses at which work done	...	...	...	...	91
Reports made to Council and Committee	...	...	...	...	12

House to House Inspection.

No. of Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	17
„ „ where defects were found and owners communi- cated with	...	...	...	...	16
Houses Closed during the year	...	...	...	...	4

Other Inspections.

Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	Frequently
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	do.
Factories and Noxious Vapours	do.

Fish.

No. of Boxes of Fish condemned and destroyed	12
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Infectious Disease.

No. of Cases enquired into	199
„ „ removed to Hospital	123
„ Houses disinfected after Disease	135

House Refuse Removal.

No. of Loads removed	5,329
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Cesspool Emptying.

No. of Cesspools emptied	486
„ „ Loads of Sewage removed	2,489

A. SAUNDERS.

Inspector of Nuisances.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number	Rate*	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1894	14,511	473	32.59	51	107.82	168	11.57	7			161	11.09
1895	16,000	506	31.62	64	126.48	197	12.31	11			186	11.62
1896	16,500	531	31.18	77	145	211	12.78	13			198	12.00
1897	17,000	554	32.58	70	126.35	218	12.82	9			209	12.3
1898	19,824	673	32.95	135	200.59	369	18.61	7			362	18.26
1899	20,887	782	37.43	110	140.66	320	15.33	13			307	14.69
1900	24,166	851	35.21	120	141.01	339	14.03	9			330	13.65
1901	25,296	992	39.26	141	141.12	348	13.7	14			334	13.2
1902	25,296	943	37.27	98	103.92	306	12.09	11	11		326	12.88
1903	26,895	1047	38.93	98	93.60	286	10.63	8	8		278	10.33
Averages for years 1894-1903.	20,637.5	735.2	35.67	96.4	132.2	276.2	13.38	10.2			269.1	13.12
1904	27,582	916	33.21	121	132.09	326	11.81	18	10		316	11.45

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total population at all ages ...	...	...	...	...	25,296
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	4,291
Average number of Persons per House ...	...	...	...	...	5.89
Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ...	...	...	...	...	3,859.513

I.	II.	III.
Institutions within the District receiving Sick and Infirm Persons from outside the District.	Institutions outside the District receiving Sick and Infirm Persons from the District.	Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.
Royal Alfred Institution for Aged Seamen (Merchant). Erith Cottage Hospital.	Metropolitan Asylums Board Hospitals, Dartford. Dartford Union Infirmary. London Hospitals.	Erith Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases.

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TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1904 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1894	14,511	473	168	51
1895	16,000	506	197	64
1896	16,500	531	211	77
1897	17,000	554	218	70
1898	19,824	673	369	135
1899	20,887	782	320	110
1900	24,166	851	339	120
1901	25,296	992	348	141
1902	25,296	943	306	98
1903	26,895	1,047	286	98
Averages of Years 1894 to 1903.	20,637.5	735.2	276.2	96.4
1904	27,582	910	326	121

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1904.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in whole District.							No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality.
	At all Ages,	At Ages. Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox ...	1					1		1
Diphtheria ...	52	3	8	31	8	2		39
Erysipelas ...	33	1	2	1	4	24	1	
Scarlet Fever ...	98	1	40	50	6	1		74
Enteric Fever ...	13			7	1	5		9
Puerperal Fever ...	2					2		
Totals ...	199	5	50	89	19	35	1	123

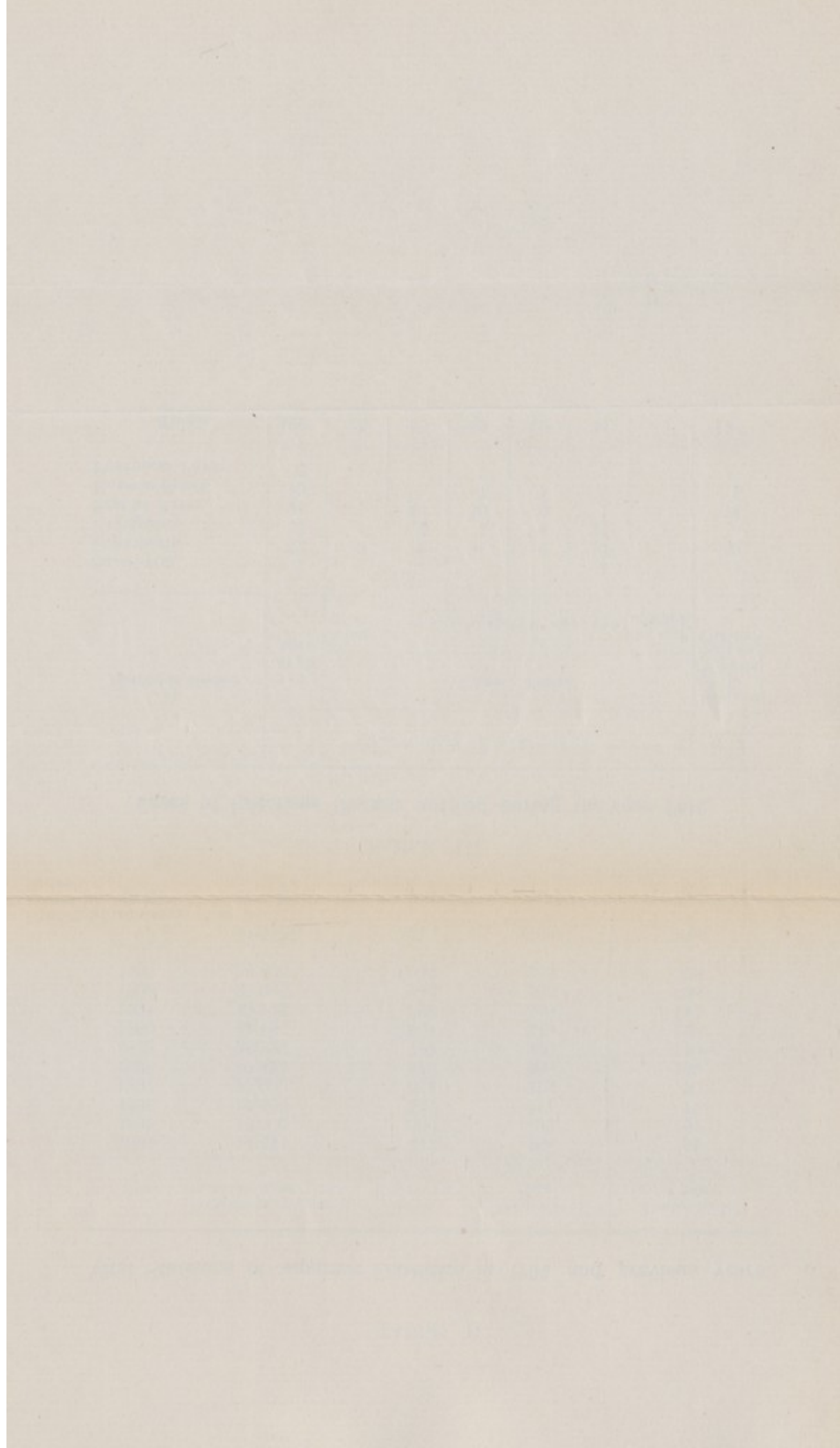


TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.

Cause of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Measles	2		1	1				
Scarlet Fever	1		1					
Whooping-cough	11	5	6					
Diphtheria and membranous croup	4	1	2	1				
Croup	1		1					
Enteric Fever	4				1	3		2
Epidemic Influenza	1					1		
Diarrhœa	39	33	4	1			1	
Enteritis	4	2	1			1		
Puerperal Fever	1					1		
Other septic diseases	2					1	1	3
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	20			1	4	14	1	
Other tubercular diseases	12	7	3	2				
Cancer, malignant disease	16					12	4	
Bronchitis	18	6	4			2	6	
Pneumonia	20	5	5	1		4	5	2
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	2	2						
Alcoholism								
Cirrhosis of Liver	1					1		
Premature birth	19	19						
Diseases and accidents of parturition	2				1	1		1
Heart diseases	29	1			2	18	8	3
Accidents	16	3	3		2	7	1	3
Suicides	2					1	1	
All other causes	89	37	5	5	4	15	23	4
Totals, all causes	316	121	36	12	14	82	51	18

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URBAN DISTRICT OF ERITH.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1904.

ERITH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Offices:—BEXLEY ROAD,

ERITH, KENT.