

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

Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH
FOR THE
ROMFORD URBAN DISTRICT
For the Year 1902.

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WILSON AND WHITWORTH LTD., STEAM PRINTERS.

ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Romford Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the Health of the Romford Urban District, for the year ending December 31st, 1902.

172 deaths were registered as having occurred in the Urban District of Romford, during the year; I do not include amongst this number those deaths which took place amongst the inmates of the Union Workhouse, except the deaths of actual residents of the district who have died there. 88 deaths were registered as having occurred at that Institution, mainly of aged people, most of whom came from those parts of the Romford Union beyond the limits of the Urban District. Eliminating these and including the deaths of town residents removed to the Union Workhouse, the

deaths for the district were 172. The population of the district was estimated to be 14,000. The death-rate would therefore be 12·2 per 1,000 of the population. The number of births registered during the year was 414, the birth-rate being 29·5 per 1,000.

The following table shows the birth-rate and death-rate for the last five years.

ROMFORD.	BIRTH-RATE.	DEATH-RATE.
1898	28·5	15·2
1899	30·0	13·05
1900	28·9	13·1
1901	28·9	11·1
1902	29·5	12·2

I think the Council will be satisfied that Romford maintained its reputation for a low mortality.

*I.—Summary of Action taken for preventing the
spread of Disease.*

No.	Date.	Locality.	Disease.	Source of Disease. Action taken.	Result.
1	Jan. 5	Market Place	Smallpox	One case. Contracted at Grays. Removed to Dagenham Smallpox Hospital. Inmates of house re-vaccinated. Premises, bedding, &c., disinfected.	No further case.
2	„ 5	High Street	Smallpox	This patient was a servant in one of the inns, and used to serve in the bar, a woman from an infectious house was known to have gone into this inn. The case was removed to Hospital, and the room she occupied disinfected, the bedding being burnt.	No other case.
3	„ 6	Mawney Road	Smallpox	A mild case. Clergyman who had baptized a child suffering with this disease. Isolated at home, being an extremely mild case, there being only half-a-dozen pustules over the whole body. House disinfected and bedding burnt.	No other case.
4	„ 7	Marks Road	Smallpox	One case. A relation of a family in Poplar Street, infected in December. Removed. Inmates re-vaccinated. Contact kept secluded and under observation for ten days.	No further case.
5	„ 9	Marks Road	Smallpox	One case. Origin obscure. Same precaution as in No. 4.	No further case.
6	„ 10	North Street	Smallpox	One case. A man engaged in the burial of smallpox cases. Removed.	See No. 5.
7	„ 10	Collier Row	Smallpox	One case. Presumably arising from infection introduced by the woman mentioned in No. 2. Removed.	No other case.

No.	Date.	Locality.	Disease.	Source of Disease. Action Taken.	Result.
8	„ 13	Queen Street	Smallpox	Two cases. Mother and child. Infection probably brought by husband from Stratford. Removed.	No other case.
9	„ 19	Market Place	Smallpox	One case. A woman whose husband had been removed suffering from smallpox, and who refused to be re-vaccinated. Removed.	No other case.
10	„ 23	Mildmay Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. Origin obscure. Declined to be removed. Premises disinfected.	No other case.
11	„ 23	St. Andrew's Road	Scarlet Fever	Ditto	No other case.
12	„ 24	Marks Road	Smallpox	One case. Origin obscure. Removed.	No other case.
13	„ 26	St. Andrew's Road	Smallpox	Ditto	No other case.
14	„ 27	London Road	Smallpox	One Case. Contracted in Dartford. Removed.	No other case.
15	„ 27	North Street	Smallpox	A case in same house as the No. 6 case. Would not be re-vaccinated when the rest of the family were done. Removed. Fatal.	No other case.
16	„ 27	Marks Road	Diphtheria	One case.	No other case.
17	Feb. 1	London Road	Diphtheria	Two cases in one house. Local sanitary defect.	No other case.
18	„ 7	Waterloo Road	Smallpox	One case. Removed.	No other case.
19	„ 7	St. Andrew's Road	Diphtheria	One case. Local sanitary defect.	No other case.
20	„ 23	North Street	Scarlet Fever	One case. Isolated at home. Premises and clothing, &c., disinfected on recovery of patient.	No other case.
21	„ 23	Old Church	Smallpox	One case. Contracted at Dartford. Removed.	No other case.

No.	Date.	Locality.	Disease.	Source of Disease. Action taken.	Result.
22	Mar. 2	Queen Street	Scarlet Fever	Two cases. Origin obscure. Removed to hospital.	No other case.
23	" 3	Market Place	Diphtheria	One case. Removed to hospital.	No other case.
24	" 4	London Road	Scarlet Fever	Ditto	No other case.
25	" 14	Cotleigh Road	Scarlet Fever	Ditto	No other case.
26	" 14	Grosvenor Road	Diphtheria	One case.	
27	" 14	London Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed.	No other case.
28	" 15	Rush Green	Smallpox	One case. Removed. Evidently contracted in London.	
29	" 24	Marlboro' Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed.	No other case.
30	" 24	Hainault Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. Isolation at home.	See No. 32 and 34.
31	" 25	Marks Road	Smallpox	One case. Origin obscure. Removed.	No other case.
32	" 26	Hainault Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. In same house as No. 30.	
33	" 27	Marlboro' Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. In same house as No. 29. Removed.	No other case.
34	" 28	Hainault Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. In same house as No. 30.	
35	Apl. 4	Vine Street	Smallpox	One Case. Removed.	
36	" 6	Willow Street	Smallpox	Ditto.	
37	" 7	Willow Street	Smallpox	One case. Infection at Stratford. Removed.	No other case.
38	" 8	Albert Road	Smallpox	One case. Origin uncertain. Removed.	No other case.
39	" 8	Albert Road	Smallpox	Ditto	No other case.
40	" 10	Queen Street	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed.	No other case.
41	" 11	Shaftesbury Road	Scarlet Fever	Ditto	No other case.

No.	Date.	Locality.	Disease.	Source of Disease. Action taken.	Result.
42	„ 19	Como Street	- Diphtheria	- One case.	No other case.
43	„ 20	Birkbeck Road	- Smallpox	- Two cases. Infection by a relative. Removed. One other case here. See No.	
44	„ 23	Church Lane	- Smallpox	- One case. Infection by a relative. Removed. One other case here. See No.	
45	May 2	Marlboro' Road	- Enteric Fever	- One case. Imported. Instructions, &c.	No other case.
46	„ 2	Church Lane	- Smallpox	- One case in same house as No. 41.	No other case
47	„ 2	Birkbeck Road	- Smallpox	- One case in same house as No. 43. Very Slight.	No other case.
48	„ 3	Marks Road	- Smallpox	- One case. Removed.	
49	„ 8	Queen Street	- Scarlet Fever	- Ditto	No other case.
50	„ 9	Shaftesbury Road	- Smallpox	- Ditto	See No.
51	„ 10	Queen Street	- Diphtheria	- One case.	No other case.
52	„ 15	Queen Street	- Diphtheria	- Ditto	
53	„ 17	George Street	- Scarlet Fever	- Two cases. Removed.	No other case.
54	„ 18	London Road	- Smallpox	- One case. Contraction at Dartford.	No other case.
55	„ 19	Shaftesbury Road	- Smallpox	- One case. Father of children previously infected (No. 50). This man refused to be re-vaccinated with the rest of the family on the first case occurring. He died in Hospital.	
56	„ 21	Victoria Road	- Diphtheria	- One case. Local Sanitary defect.	No other case.
57	„ 21	George Street	- Scarlet Fever	- Three cases removed.	No other case.
58	„ 27	Palm Road	- Scarlet Fever	- One case.	
59	June 7 „ 8 „ 12		- Diphtheria	- Six cases. Infected by a case outside the district, attending school.	

No.	Date.	Locality.	Disease.	Source of Disease. Action taken.	Result.
60	July 28	Waterloo Road	Diphtheria	One case.	No other case.
61	„ 28	St. Andrews Road	Diphtheria	Ditto	No other case.
62	Aug. 7	George Street	Diphtheria	Ditto	No other case.
63	„ 7	Waterloo Road	Diphtheria	Ditto	No other case.
64	„ 11	Factory Terrace	Diphtheria	One case. Local Sanitary defect.	
65	„ 11	Salisbury Road	Enteric Fever	One case. Local Sanitary defect. Removed.	No other case.
66	„ 12 „ 14	Albert Road	Scarlet Fever	Two cases. Removed.	
67	„ 28	George Street	Enteric Fever	One case. Removed.	No other case.
68	„ 29 Sept. 8	Salisbury Road	Enteric Fever	Two cases from same house as No. 65. Removed.	No other case.
69	„ 9	Old Church	Diphtheria	One case.	No other case.
70	„ 9	Victoria Road	Scarlet Fever	Ditto	No other case.
71	Oct. 1	Old Church	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed.	No other case.
72	„ 9	Albert Road	Enteric Fever	Ditto	No other case.
73	„ 14	Hamilton Road	Diphtheria	One case.	No other case.
74	„ 14	London Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed.	No other case.
75	„ 23	Queen Street	Scarlet Fever	Ditto	No other case.
76	„ 23	Waterloo Road	Enteric Fever	Ditto	No other case.
77	„ 23	Mawney Road	Enteric Fever	One case.	
78	„ 24	Birkbeck Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed.	No other case.
79	Nov. 6	Marks Road	Enteric Fever	Two cases.	
80	„ 12	London Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed.	No other case.

No.	Date.	Locality.	Disease.	Source of Disease. action taken.	Result.
81	„ 12	George Street	- Diphtheria	- One case.	No other case.
82	Dec. 6	Market Place	- Scarlet Fever	- Ditto	No other case.
83	„ 12	Birkbeck Road	- Scarlet Fever	- One case. Removed.	No other case.
84	„ 16	Marks Road	- Scarlet Fever	- Two cases.	
85	„ 30	Collier Row	- Enteric Fever	- One case.	

Smallpox was very prevalent in the neighbourhood, and Romford suffered commensurately with other localities. The Council willingly adopted every suggestion made by me in regard to steps necessary to prevent the spread of the disease. Luckily we had not, like some districts, to make hurried arrangements for the reception of cases of smallpox, the Council's agreement with the West Ham Smallpox Hospital at Dagenham enabling it to send all our cases there as soon as notified, and all cases occurring in the district (with the exception of two extremely slight cases) were at once removed. Persons who had been in contact with the disease were re-vaccinated, with very few exceptions, and all contacts were isolated (most being kept at the Council's expense) for a period of fourteen days. With regard to re-vaccination, it is interesting to note that not one person who had been in contact with the disease, and was subsequently re-vaccinated, became infected, whereas two persons who obstinately refused to be re-vaccinated contracted the disease and died. The Council distributed handbills advising re-vaccination, and this was very generally adopted. I consider that the epidemic was kept well in hand, for although no less than 43 cases occurred in the district, there were only one or two instances where other persons became infected by the disease in the same house, practically all the cases having been contracted in London or in other infected localities.

Scarlet Fever was unusually prevalent during the year, but large as the number of cases (48) was, it at no time assumed an epidemic form. 24 of these cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Diphtheria. 37 cases were notified, few of a severe type. Only one, which was a very bad one, was removed to the Hospital.

Enteric Fever. 14 cases of this disease occurred, some of them traceable to local insanitary conditions, which were subsequently remedied. Six cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Zymotic disease caused 13 deaths.

Smallpox	8
Measles	2
Diphtheria	2
Enteric Fever	1

The death-rate from this class of disease (unusually large owing to the smallpox epidemic which prevailed in the neighbourhood) was 0·5 per 1,000 of the population. This is, notwithstanding the increased Zymotic mortality mentioned above, is very satisfactory; the rate for the last five years being 0·8, 0·2, 0·8, 0·2, and 0·5.

The following represent the total number of infectious disease notified during the year.

Smallpox	..	..	..	.	43
Scarlet Fever		..	..	..	48
Diphtheria	..	..	:	..	37
Enteric Fever		..	..	..	14
Erysipelas	..	:	..	.	20
Puerperal Fever		..	..	..	4
Total	..	..			<hr/>163 <hr/>

Every case of Infectious disease notified to me is reported to the Sanitary Inspector, who visits and reports to me in all cases which I do not personally investigate, and who also supplies disinfectants, sees to the patient's removal to the Isolation Hospital, when such a course is adopted, and disinfects the premises, bedding, clothing, &c.

At the end of the year the district was in a healthy condition, few cases of Infectious disease having been notified.

Periodical inspections of the various parts of the district have been made, a few samples of drinking water, whose purity was suspected, have been analysed by me, and when found to be impure the South Essex Company's water has been laid on. Insanitary conditions have in certain instances been remedied by the intervention of the Sanitary Inspector.

Every case of Infectious disease notified to me is visited by the Sanitary Inspector or by myself. Disinfectants are supplied where required, and the patient's removal to the Isolation Hospital effected in those cases which are advised or sanctioned by the Medical Attendant. The bedding, clothing, &c., are subsequently disinfected by the Inspector.

The various bake-houses and slaughter-houses have been inspected and found in a satisfactory condition.

Tables of mortality and of sickness, compiled in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board's instructions, are appended to this report.

In the last Annual Report I drew the Council's attention to certain necessary improvements required in the Sanitary condition of the district.

(1) The provision of a system for the Collier Row and part of the Harold Wood wards; and

(2) The curbing, channeling, and making-up of those roads where houses have been extensively erected.

The first of these is now in course of construction. The second still remain a very desirable feature in the sanitary improvement of the district.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALFRED WRIGHT,

Medical Officer of Health.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The following cases were admitted into the Isolation Hospital from the Urban District during the year. This includes two persons who were sent from the Union Infirmary, not belonging to the Urban District.

			Recovered.		Died.
Scarlet Fever	35	..	35	..	—
Diphtheria	5	..	5	..	—
Enteric Fever	17	..	16	..	1

The nursing and general treatment of the patients in the Hospital has been most satisfactory, and I am able to assure the Council that they possess a most valuable help in fighting Infectious disease in the existence of such a well-appointed Hospital. In every case the patient's friends have expressed themselves as most grateful for the treatment received in that Institution.

TABLE 1.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1902 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 yr. 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
1892.												
1893.												
1894.												
1895.												
1896.												
1897.												
1898.												
1899.												
1900.	13,500	398	28.7	42	3.1	226	16.7	66	55		171	12.6
1901.	13,655	335	28.9	55	4.02	232	16.9	96	80	16	152	11.1
Aver- ages for years 1892- 1901												
1902.	14,000	414	29.5	42	3.0	251	17.9	88	79	4	172	12.2

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 5,629.

Total population at all ages, 13,656.....	} At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses, 2,805	
Average number of persons per house, 4.8 ..	

1 Institutions within the District receiving Sick and Infirm persons from outside the District.	2 Institutions outside the District receiving Sick and Infirm persons from the District.
Romford Union Workhouse. Romford Cottage Hospital.	Small-Pox Hospital, Dagenham. Isolation Hospital.

TABLE II.
ROMFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	ROMFORD WARDS.				COLLIER ROW WARD.				HAROLD WOOD WARD											
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
YEAR.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.
1892 ...																				
1893 ...																				
1894 ...																				
1895 ...	8,060	292	134	40																
1896 ...	9,200	330	109	40																
1897 ...	9,500	313	127	37																
1898 ..	10,000	326	132	31																
1899 ...	10,500	324	141	32																
1900 ...	11,000	318	161	36																
1901* ...	13,656	395	152	55																
Averages of Years 1892 to 1901.																				
1902 ...	14,000	414	172	42																

*Part of Rural District incorporated.

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1902, IN THE ROMFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL.						
	At all Ages.	AT AGES—YEARS.						1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.							
Small-pox	43	1	2	11	16	13	...							
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	37	7	20	10	...	...	...				
Membranous Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	20	...	...	...	3	17	...							
Scarlet Fever	48	...	31	12	5	...	...					
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	14	...	...	2	12	...	...					
Relapsing Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	4	...	...	...	...	4	...							
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	166	8	53	35	36	34	...							

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1902, ROMFORD.
URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN DISTRICT.
	All Ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.	
Small-Pox	8	2	1	5	...	UNION WORKHOUSE.
Measles	2	1	1	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup ...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
{ Other contin'd ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza ...	3	1	...	...	...	2	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	5	3	2	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis... ..	13	...	...	1	1	11	...
Other tubercular Dis- eases	10	3	3	3	...	1	...	
Cancer, Malignant Disease	17	...	...	...	...	7	10
Bronchitis	9	1	1	...	...	2	5
Pneumonia	14	3	4	...	1	4	2	
Pleurisy... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Res- piratory Organs ..	3	1	1	...	...	1	...
Alcoholism ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Venereal Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth ...	14	14	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases ...	16	...	...	1	1	7	7
Accidents	3	...	...	...	1	2	...
Suicides ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Senile Decay	9	...	...	...	...	...	9
All other Causes ...	29	9	3	1	1	6	9	
All Causes	163	42	15	8	7	49	42	88

