

**[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 1903.

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# ANNUAL REPORT.

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*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, 1903.

241 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. 95 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 168. The population of the district was estimated to be 14,400. The death-rate would therefore be 11·6 per 1,000 of the population. The number of births registered during the year was 424, the birth-rate being 29·4 per 1,000.

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

ROMFORD.	BIRTH-RATE.	DEATH-RATE.
1899	30·0	13·05
1900	28·9	13·1
1901	28·9	11·1
1902	29·5	12·2
1903	29·4	11·6

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



1.—*Summary of Action taken to prevent the spread  
of Disease.*

No.	Date.	Locality.	Disease.	Source of Disease. Action taken,	Result.
1	Jan. 2	Shaftesbury Road	Diphtheria	One case. Local nuisance. Remedied.	No other case
2	" 2	Victoria Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. Isolation at home. Instructions. Disinfection.	No other case
3	" 8	Waterloo Road	Enteric Fever	One case. Supposed to have been contracted away from home. Removed to Isolation Hos- pital.	No other case
4	" 23	High Street	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed to Isolation Hospital	See No. 19
5	" 23	Victoria Road	Diphtheria	One case. Origin obscure. In- structions. &c. Disinfection.	No other case
6	" 25	Western Road	Diphtheria	One case. Contracted at Brighton. Instructions, &c.	No other case
7	Feb. 1	Brentwood Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. Origin obscure. Re- moved to Isolation Hospital.	No other case
8	" 12	Willow Street	Diphtheria	One case. Local nuisance, been remedied. Case removed to Isolation Hospital.	See No. 21
9	" 12	St. Andrew's Road	Diphtheria	One case. Origin obscure.	No other case
10	" 21	Rush Green	Scarlet Fever	One case. Isolated at home. In- structions, &c. Disinfection.	See case No. 23
11	" 3	Willow Street	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed to Isolation Hospital,	} Both removed to Hospital See No. 13
12	" 5	Willow Street	Scarlet Fever	Another case in same family as last.	

No.	Date.	Locality.	Disease.	Source of Disease Action taken.	Result.
13	Feb. 7	Willow Street	Scarlet Fever	- Another case in adjoining house. Removed. Disinfected, &c.,	No other case
14	„ 22	George Street	Diphtheria	- One case.	No other case
15	„ 23	Union Workhouse	Scarlet Fever	- One case. Removed to Isolation Hospital.	See No. 17
16	Mar. 3	Havering Road	Scarlet Fever	- Ditto	No other case.
17	„ 18	Union Workhouse	Scarlet Fever	- Ditto	No other case
18	„ 23	Lodging House, Waterloo Road	Smallpox	- Four cases. Disease brought by a Tramp. Contacts re-vaccinated, and kept isolated for 10 days. Lodging House closed for same period. Disinfection of premises. Bedding and clothing burnt. Patient removed to Smallpox hospital.	No other case
19	„ 27	High Street	Scarlet Fever	- Two cases. Removed to Isolation Hospital. A case had occurred in the family two months ago.	No other case
20	„ 10	George Street	Scarlet Fever	- One case. Removed to Isolation Hospital.	No other case
21	„ 15	Willow Street	Diphtheria	- One case. Mother of case No. 8. Removed to Isolation Hospital.	No other case
22	„ 15	Market Place	Scarlet Fever	- One case. Contracted in London. Removed to Isolation Hospital.	See No. 24
23	„ 15	Rush Green	Scarlet Fever	- Two cases in one family. Disease evidently contracted from case No. 10, which I could not persuade to go into the Hospital. These were removed to the Isolation Hospital.	No other case
24	„ 18	Market Place	Scarlet Fever	- Another case in same house as No. 22. Removed.	No other case
25	„ 31	Union Workhouse	Smallpox	- One case. Brought in from neighbourhood by a tramp. Removed to small-pox Hospital.	No other case

No.	Date.	Locality.	Disease.	Source of Disease. Action taken.	Result.
26	April 1	Squirrels Heath	Diphtheria	One case. Local nuisance. Instructions, Disinfection.	No other case
27	" 14	Waterloo Road	Smallpox	One case. Origin obscure. Removed to Small-pox Hospital. Contact re-vaccinated and isolated for a fortnight.	No other case
28	May 9	Mildmay Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. Origin obscure. supposed to have been contracted away from home. Removed to Isolation Hospital.	No other case
29	" 11	Junction Road	Diphtheria	One case. Origin obscure. Removed to Isolation Hospital	No other case
30	July 8	Martin Terrace	Diphtherie	One case. Origin obscure Removed to Isolation Hospital.	See No. 38
31	" 8	Union Workhouse	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed to Isolation Hospital.	No other case
32	" 16	Western Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. Infection thought to have been brought from London. Isolated at home.	No other case
33	" 16	Eastern Road	Scarlet Fever	One case ditto	No other case
34	" 25	Union Workhouse	Diphtheria	One case. Removed to Isolation Hospital.	No other case
35	" 31	Martin's Terrace.	Diphtheria	One case in same house as No. 30. Removed.	No other case
36	Aug 6	Willow Street	Diphtheria	One case. Origin obscure.	No other case
37	" 6	Victoria Road	Diphtheria	Ditto.	No other case
38	" 19	Havering Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed to Isolation Hospital.	No other case
39	Sept. 15	Queen Street	Diphtheria	One case. Local nuisance.	No other case
40	" 15	Willow Street	Diphtheria	Ditto.	No other case
41	" 21	Victoria Road	Enteric Fever	One case. Disease believed to have been caused by eating Southend cockles. Removed to Isolation Hospital.	No other case



No.	Date.	Locality.	Disease.	Source of Disease. Action taken.	Result.
42	Sep. 24	Squirrels Heath	Diphtheria	Four cases. Local nuisance.	No other case
43	Oct. 1	London Road	Enteric Fever	One case. Origin obscure. Instructions, &c.	No other case
44	„ 27	Albert Road	Diphtheria	One case.	No other case
45	„ 8	George Street	Diphtheria	One case. Supposed to have been contracted away from home.	No other case
46	Nov. 6	London Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. Isolated at home. Instructions, &c.	No other case
47	„ 7	Rush Green	Scarlet Fever	Ditto	No other case
48	„ 28	Mildmay Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed.	No other case
49	Dec. 11	Richmond Street	Scarlet Fever	Ditto.	No other case
50	„ 17	Marks Road	Diphtheria	One case.	No other case



*Smallpox.* Five cases occurred in the town, all of them arising from infection brought by a tramp to one of the lodging houses. One other case was notified from the Union Workhouse, a person found wandering in the district who had come from beyond the district. All were promptly removed to the Dagenham Smallpox Hospital. Contacts were re-vaccinated and kept in quarantine for 10 days. No other cases occurred.

*Scarlet Fever.* 23 cases of this disease were notified. The disease occurred in isolated instances and nowhere assumed the character of an epidemic. The disease was of a mild type and no deaths resulted.

*Diphtheria.* 23 cases were notified. One death occurred.

*Enteric Fever* was unusually absent in this, as in other districts, during the year. One death was caused by it. Six cases were notified.

*Zymotic Disease* caused 3 deaths only.

Enteric Fever 1

Diphtheria 1

Measles 1

The death-rate from this class of disease was 0·2. This is a very satisfactorily small death-rate, the rate for this last five years being : 0·2, 0·8, 0·2, 0·8, and 0·2.

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

Smallpox	..	..	..	..	5
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	23
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	20
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	6
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	22
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	2
Total					78

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.

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.

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 four persons who were sent from the Union Infirmary, not belonging to the Urban District.

			Recovered,		Died.
Scarlet Fever	21	..	21	..	—
Diphtheria	12	..	11	..	1
Enteric Fever	3	..	3	..	—

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.

ROMFORD,

*March 9th, 1904.*

TABLE I.  
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1902 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.  
ROMFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

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 In- stitutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public In- stitutions 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
1893.												
1894.												
1895.												
1896.												
1897.												
1898.												
1899.												
1900.	13,500	398	28·7	42	105	226	16·7	66	55		171	12·6
1901.	13,656	395	28·9	55	438	232	16·9	96	80	16	152	11·1
1902.	14,000	414	29·5	42	101	251	17·9	88	79	4	172	12·2
Aver- ages for years 1893- 1902												
1903.	14,400	424	29·4	42	99	241	16·7	99	73	1	168	11·6

\* Rates in columns 4, 8, 13, calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

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

Total population at all ages, 13,656.....

Number of inhabited houses, 2,805 .....

Average number of persons per house, 4·8 ..

At Census of 1901.

1	2	3
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.
Union Workhouse.  Cottage Hospital.	Dagenham Small-Pox Hospital.	Various London Hospitals.



TABLE II.  
VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1903 AND PREVIOUS YEARS. ROMFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.						ROMFORD TOWNS.				COLLIER ROW WARD.				HAROLD WOOD WARD							
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.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	
	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	
1893 ...																					
1894 ...																					
1895 ...	8960	292	136	40																	
1896 ...	9200	330	109	40																	
1897 ...	9500	313	127	37																	
1898 ...	10,000	324	132	31																	
1899 ...	10,500	324	141	32																	
1900 ...	11,000	318	161	36																	
1901 ...	13,656	395	152	55	10,321	(cen sus)			984	(cen sus)			1,318	(cen sus)							
1902 ...	14,000	414	172	42																	
Averages of Years 1891 to 1901.																					
1903 ...	14,400	421	165	42	11,800	356	218	37	1,000	31	11	2	1,160	37	12	3					

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

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.						
	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.	Town Wards.	Collier Row Ward.	Harold Wood Ward.				
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	1	2	2	...	5	...	...				
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	15	6	2	...	...	20	...	3				
Membranous Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	3	19	...	22	...	...				
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	7	12	4	...	...	20	2	1				
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	2	4	...	6	...	...				
Relapsing Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Continued Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...				
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
Totals ... ..	...	...	22	19	13	27	...	75	2	3				

Isolation Hospital—Rush Green, Dagenham,

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.							DEATHS IN OR BE- LONGING TO LOCALI- TIES (AT ALL 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.	Town Wards.	Collier Row Ward.	Squirrels Heath Ward.	
Small-Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough ... ..	8	5	3	...	...	...	...	7	...	1	...
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup ... ..	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Croup ... ..	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric ... ..	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
{ Other contin'd ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa ... ..	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis... ..	16	...	...	...	1	15	...	16	...	...	8
Other tubercular Dis- eases ... ..	8	2	4	...	...	1	1	6	...	2	5
Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	10	...	...	...	...	6	4	8	1	1	5
Bronchitis ... ..	23	4	...	...	...	7	12	22	1	...	7
Pneumonia ... ..	10	4	2	...	...	3	1	8	1	1	...
Pleurisy... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Res- piratory Organs ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver { ... ..	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	3	...	...	3
Venereal Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth ... ..	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	1	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Heart Diseases ... ..	32	...	...	1	2	9	20	30	1	1	25
Accidents ... ..	4	...	...	2	...	2	...	4	...	...	...
Suicides... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other Causes ... ..	110	17	5	2	4	14	68	100	5	5	39
All Causes ... ..	241	42	18	5	9	61	106	218	11	12	09