

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

**Contributors**

Romford (London, England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

[1910?]

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/q86t48ns>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

### ROMFORD URBAN DISTRICT,

For the Year 1909.



ROMFORD:

WILSON AND WHITWORTH LTD., PRINTERS, HIGH STREET.

# ANNUAL REPORT.

---

*To the Romford Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to put before you my Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Romford Urban District for the year 1909.

In accordance with the plan adopted by Medical Officers of Health, this Report is arranged in the following divisions:—

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

II.—An account of the sanitary condition of the district generally.

III.—Statement of enquiries made into the conditions injurious to health and proceedings thereon.

IV.—Tables of Sickness and Mortality.

V.—Proceedings, &c., under the Factories and Workshops Act.

## Summary of Action taken to prevent the spread of Disease.

No.	Date.	Locality.	Disease.	Source of Disease. Action taken.	Result.
1	Jan. 1	Rush Green ..	Diphtheria ..	One case. Foul drains. Removed	No other case
2	„ 9	Union Workhouse	Scarlet Fever	Two cases. Infection pre- sumed to be from visitors. Removed	„
3	„ 14	Waterloo Road ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Infected by a neighbouring case. Re- moved	„
4	„ 11	Collier Row ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Infection im- ported. Not removed	See Nos. 5, 8 & 13
5	„ 18	Collier Row ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Infected by No. 4	
6	„ 22	Albert Road ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed	No other case
7	„ 22	Wolsley Road ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed	„
8	„ 22	Collier Row ..	Scarlet Fever	Another case in same family as No. 4	
9	„ 15	Salisbury Road ..	Scarlet Fever	Two cases. - Removed	„
10	Feb. 3	Collier Row ..	Diphtheria ..	Two cases. Local sanitary defects	„
11	„ 7	Como Street ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Infection im- ported. Removed	„
12	„ 11	Margaret Road ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Infection im- ported. Removed	„
13	„ 11	Collier Row ..	Scarlet Fever	Another case in same house as No. 4	
14	„ 11	North Street ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed	„
15	„ 8	Western Road ..	Diphtheria ..	One case	
16	„ 14	Stockland Road ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. A "return" case. Removed	See No. 18
17	„ 14	Well Yard ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed	No other case



No.	Date.	Locality.	Disease.	Source of Disease. Action taken.	Result.
18	Feb. 14	Stockland Road ..	Scarlet Fever	One case in same family as No. 16. Removed	No other case
19	„ 23	Squirrels Heath ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed	„
20	Mar. 1	Squirrels Heath ..	Scarlet Fever	Two cases in School hours. Infection supposed to be taken from No. 19. Removed	„
21	„ 10	George Street ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed	„
22	„ 15	Shaftesbury Road..	Diphtheria ..	One case. Removed	„
23	„ 23	Victoria Road ..	Diphtheria ..	One case. Removed	„
24	„ 24	Union Workhouse	Diphtheria ...	One case. ( <i>See footnote</i> )	„
25	„ 5	Squirrels Heath ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Infected at School by No. 19. Removed	„
26	„ 12	Market Place ..	Diphtheria ...	One case. Removed	„
27	„ 5	Squirrels Heath ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Infected by No. 19. Removed	„
28	April 6	Brentwood Road ..	Diphtheria ..	One case. Removed	„
29	„ 13	Boarded-out Home, Heath Park ..	Scarlet Fever	Three cases. Supposed to be infected by a visitor. Removed. Home closed for a time	„
30	May 3	Albert Road ..	Diphtheria ..	One case. Mother a nurse at Isolation Hospital. Removed	„
31	„ 6	Rush Green ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Infection imported. Removed	„
32	„ 12	Shaftesbury Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. Infection imported. Removed	„
33	„ 13	Squirrels Heath ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed	„

One case, followed by five other cases amongst children in the Infants' Home, these cases occurring at intervals up to May 3rd. On investigating the premises I found there was a foul pond (on the Railway property) adjoining the grounds where the children were in the habit of frequenting, very offensive at some distance away. Special report to Council. The pond was filled in. There was also a piggery close by which was not drained in a sufficiently sanitary sense. This was remedied after some time by the Guardians. No cases occurred after the pond was filled in. All the children were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

No.	Date.	Locality.	Disease.	Source of Disease. Action taken.	Result.
34	May 20	Western Road ..	Enteric Fever	One case. Supposed to have been contracted away. Instructions, &c.	No other case
35	„ 25	Gladstone Road ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed	„
36	„ 26	Willow Street ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed	„
37	„ 26	Squirrels Heath ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Boy attending Brentwood School. A good deal of Scarlet Fever in Brentwood at this time. Removed	„
38	June 7	Honiton Road ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Source of infection obscure. Removed	See No. 43
39	„ 7	Pretoria Road ..	Scarlet Fever	Ditto ditto	No other case
40	„ 12	London Road ..	Scarlet Fever	Ditto ditto	„
41	„ 13	Gladstone Road ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Infected by No. 38. Removed	„
42	„ 28	Catherine Road ..	Diphtheria ..	One case. Removed	„
43	„ 29	London Road ..	Diphtheria ..	Two cases. Sanitary defects	„
44	„ 29	St. Andrew's Road	Diphtheria ..	One case. Sanitary defects. Removed	„
45	„ 30	Catherine Road ..	Diphtheria ..	Ditto ditto	„
46	July 9	Sherrington Av'nue	Scarlet Fever	One case. Not removed	See Nos. 47, 48 & 52
47	„ 10	Kensington Road..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Infected by No. 46	„
48	„ 12	Kensington Road...	Scarlet Fever	One case. Infected by No. 46	„
49	„ 18, 20 & 21	Margaret Road ..	Diphtheria ..	Six cases. First case attended School with sore throat. Bacteriological Examination showed Diphtheria Bacilli. Removed	See Nos. 50, 51, 52, & 57
50	„ 18, 20 & 21	Albert Road ..	Diphtheria ..	One case. Child attending same School as No. 49. Removed	„
51	„ 22	Milton Road ..	Diphtheria ..	Ditto ditto	„
52	„ 23	Sherrington Av'nue	Scarlet Fever	Another case of infection by No. 46	„



No.	Date.	Locality.	Disease.	Source of Disease. Action taken.	Result.
53	July 23	Milton Road	.. Diphtheria ..	A child attending same School as No. 49. Removed	No other case
54	„ 27	Como Street	.. Scarlet Fever	One case. Infection imported from beyond district. Removed	See No, 61
55	„ 27	Havering Road	.. Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed	No other case
56	„ 27	Honiton Road	.. Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed	„
57	„ 27	Kensington Road	.. Scarlet Fever	One case. Infected by No. 46	„
58	„ 27	Vine Street	.. Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed	„
59	„ 27	Queen Street	.. Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed	„
60	„ 30	Victoria Road	.. Diphtheria ..	One case. Origin obscure. Removed	„
61	„ 31	Como Street	..		
62	Aug. 3	London Road	..		
63	„ 6	Hainault Road	..		
64	„ 7	Hainault Road	..		
65	„ 10	Hainault Road	.. Scarlet Fever	Five cases. Children attending Mawney Road School. Suspicion of an unrecognised case attending School. Removed	No other case
66	„ 8	Honiton Road	.. Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed	„
67	„ 10	Marlboro Road	.. Scarlet Fever	One case. Mawney Road School. Removed	„
68	„ 11	Hainault Road	.. Scarlet Fever	One case. Living next door to a case which had not been removed for a week after the disease had occurred. Removed	„
69	„ 12	Como Street	.. Scarlet Fever	Ditto. Ditto	„
70	„ 30	Marks Road	.. Scarlet Fever	Three cases. First case ill 3 weeks unrecognised, and attended Mawney Road School before attacked. The other two cases infected by the first case. Removed	„

No.	Date.	Locality.	Disease.	Source of Disease. Action taken.	Result.
71	Sept. 20	Lawrence Road ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed	No other case
72	„ 20 & 23	Queen Street ..	Scarlet Fever	Two cases. Removed	„
73	„ 20	Brentwood Road ..	Diphtheria ..	One case. Origin obscure	„
74	„ 24 & 25	Shakespeare Road	Scarlet Fever	Two cases in contiguous houses. One of several days' duration. Removed	See No. 76
75	„ 21	Squirrels Heath ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed	No other case
76	„ 29	Shakespeare Road	Scarlet Fever	One case. Infected by No. 74. Removed	„
77	Oct. 6	Hainault Road ..	Diphtheria ..	One case. An adult infected by a friend whom he had visited. Removed	„
78	„ 7	Shaftesbury Road	Scarlet Fever		
79	„ 9	Richmond Road ..	Scarlet Fever		
80	„	Richmond Road ..	Scarlet Fever		
81	„ 10	Richmond Road ..	Scarlet Fever		
82	„ 12	Hamilton Road ..	Scarlet Fever	Five cases. Presumably infected by an unrecognised case in a neighbouring house. Removed	„
83	„ 13	Como Street ..	Scarlet Fever	One case in same house where a child had returned from Isolation Hospital three weeks previously. Query a "return case." Removed	„
84	„ 14	George Street ..	Scarlet Fever		
85	„ 16	Milton Road ..	Scarlet Fever		
86	„ 19	Shakespeare Road	Scarlet Fever	Three cases. Presumably infected by same source as No. 79. Removed	„
87	„ 22	Willow Street ..	Enteric Fever	One case. A child had been ill a month in the same house, presumably from the same disease. Removed	„



No.	Date.	Locality.	Disease.	Source of Disease. Action taken.	Result.
88	Oct. 27	Honiton Road ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Origin obscure. Removed.	No other case
89	„ 27	Mawneys Road ..	Diphtheria ..	Ditto ditto	
90	Nov. 1	Kings Road ..	Scarlet Fever	Ditto ditto	
91	„ 4	London Road ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Child had visited house where an unrecog- nised case of Scarlet Fever was found by me to exist. See No. Removed	„
92	„ 5	Catherine Road ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Child had visited a house in the Rural district where Scarlet Fever existed. Removed	„
93	„ 5	Squirrels Heath ..	Scarlet Fever	Ditto ditto	„
94	„ 5	Hamilton Road ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Infection caught away from home. Removed	„
95	„ 5	Albert Road ..	Scarlet Fever	A case similar to No. 87	„
96	„ 5	George Street ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Presumably in- fected by a visitor, Re- moved	„
97	Dec. 7	Squirrels Heath ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Origin obscure. Removed	„
98	„ 12	Union Workhouse	Enteric Fever	One case. Admitted to the Union Infirmary from Ilford. Removed	„
99	„ 18	Milton Road ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Origin obscure. Removed	„
100	„ 18	Drummond Road..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Infection imported from a distance. Removed	„
101	„ 26	George Street ..	Scarlet Fever	One case. Removed	„

## *II.—An account of the sanitary condition of the district generally.*

The following represents the sanitary condition of the district as far as relates to the prevalence of zymotic disease, &c.

Scarlet Fever.—90 cases of this disease were notified during the year. The disease occurred in more or less an isolated manner, not assuming the character of an epidemic. Attendance at school of unrecognised cases was the means of spreading the disease to a considerable extent.

Nearly all cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and to this I attribute the fact that the disease was kept fairly within bounds. The disease was mainly of a non-severe type, but few cases giving cause for anxiety by reason of severity, two only being fatal.

The steps taken to prevent the spread of Scarlet Fever are as under:—If the case is removed to the Hospital, the Sanitary Inspector at once disinfects the rooms, bedding, &c., and when the wall and ceiling are especially dirty, notice is served on the owner to re-paper and whitewash. When the case is not removed, the disinfection is done after the patient has ceased to be infectious, and in these instances, the bedding, &c., which has necessarily become more infectious than when the patient is removed in the early stages of the disease, is taken to the Hospital disinfector. That these steps for checking the spread of the disease are successful is shown by the fact that it is very rare for a second case to occur in the same family, except where the disease has been simultaneously caused by exposure to the same source of infection as the first case removed.

Diphtheria.—42 cases of this disease were notified several of which were not confirmed by a bacteriological examination. The disease did not assume an epidemic form, and was, in most instances, connected with local sanitary defects which were remedied on notice being served by the Sanitary Inspector.



29 of these cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Of these some were of a very severe character, four terminating fatally.

Enteric Fever.—Three cases of this disease were notified, one contracted away from the district, one removed from the Union Workhouse, where it had been admitted from another part of the Romford Union, and one contracted from a previous case in the same house, and which had not been recognized, None were fatal.

Measles prevailed to a fairly considerable extent, in the early part of the year, but only one death was caused by this disease.

Disease of this type (zymotic disease) caused 7 deaths, as shown in the annexed table. The death-rate from this class of disease was 0.4 per 1,000.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	2
Diphtheria	...	...	4
Measles	...	...	1
			—
			7
			—

The death-rate from this class of disease for the past five years has been 0.2, 0.4, 0.4, 0.7, 0.4.

The following table represents the total number of infectious diseases notified during the year, 105 of which were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	90
Diphtheria	...	...	42
Erysipelas	...	...	22
Enteric Fever	...	...	3
Purpureal Fever	...	...	1
			—
Total	...	...	158
			—



The number of cases of infectious disease notified during the past three years was respectively, 138, 170, and 158.

Infantile Diarrhœa, which, during the summer months is frequently very prevalent, was unusually absent, only one death having been caused by it.

Every case of infectious disease notified to me is reported by me to the Sanitary Inspector, who visits and reports to me all cases which I do not personally investigate, supplies disinfectants and disinfects the room, bedding, &c., and in cases of those diseases usually associated with insanitary surroundings (Diphtheria, &c.) he makes an exhaustive examination of the sanitary arrangements and causes any defect found to be remedied. He also, in such cases, when the drinking water is from a private source, brings me a sample of it for analysis.

Phthisis.—This disease, which has recently become notifiable, in the case of paupers, has not been very prevalent in the district. The usual practice in the cases which are brought under official notice, is to disinfect the house, &c., when the disease has been fatal, or when the patient has been removed elsewhere.

The sanitary condition of the district at the end of the year was satisfactory, and but few cases of infectious disease were notified, a condition which has been continued up to the period of making this report, Feb. 28th, 1910.

### *III.—Statement of enquiries made into the conditions injurious to the public health and proceedings thereon.*

The following are the instances in which my action as Medical Officer of Health was required, by your instructions, or by the request of the Sanitary Inspector.

Jan. 2nd. 2 and 3, Archer's Cottages, Rush Green. A sample of the water from the well on these premises was submitted to me for analysis, and found to be bad. A supply of water from the South Essex Water Company's main has been provided and the well closed.

Jan. 11th. Hare Hall Cottages, Hare Hall Lane. A sample of the water from the well supplying this cottage was submitted to me for analysis and found to be fit for potable purposes. The well has been thoroughly cleansed.

Jan. 25th. Tuberculosis Cow. Information was wired to the Inspector that a cow with a Tuberculosis udder had been purchased in Chelmsford Market by a dairyman of Albert Road, Romford. I at once visited the premises, and was shown the cow. A veterinary surgeon was called in, who certified that it was Tuberculous. The beast was at once removed from the premises, and eventually sold. The name and address of the purchaser, and the destination of the beast was ascertained, and the Authorities into whose district it would be taken, were notified. Notification of its arrival was received by the Inspector.

Feb. 19th. Pigstyes, Marlborough Road. Notice to abate a nuisance arising from the defective construction of paving and drainage of these pigstyes had been served on the owner, Mr. Whiffen. The owner failed to comply with the notice, and at the request of the Inspector I visited the premises, confirmed the requirements of the notice, and reported to the Council, who ordered a summons to be issued.

Mar. 29th. 1 and 2, Douglas Villas, Birkbeck Road. A sample of water from the well supplying these premises was submitted to me for analysis. I was unable to certify that it was bad, and requested the Inspector to furnish me with another sample in about a month.

April 8th. Disused gravel pit adjoining Playing Field of Infants of Romford Union. A sample of the water in this pit



was submitted to me for examination, complaint of the smell from the water having been made by the Union Master. I found the sample to be purely pond water, from which no nuisance emanated. The pit has, however, since been filled in.

April 16th. 1 and 2, Douglas Villas, Birkbeck Road. As requested, the Inspector furnished me with another sample of water from the well on these premises for analysis, and I found it to be fit for potable purposes.

April 23rd. Children's Hall, Romford Union. A case of Diphtheria having occurred at this Hall, I requested the Inspector to test the drains. The test disclosed one defective joint on the drain; this was made good, the drain again tested, and approved.

April 30th. Further cases of Diphtheria having occurred, I made an inspection of the Hall and of the drain. I found the Hall well appointed and the sanitary arrangements satisfactory. The Inspector, however, suggested that owing to the great length and the quantity of sewage flowing through the main drain of the Union, to which the drain of the Hall was directly connected, at a manhole, and into which manhole all the washings from the Laundry discharged, that it would be advisable to place an interceptor on the drain of the Hall. This suggestion was at once carried out.

April 30th. Pigstyes, Romford Union. The Inspector not being satisfied with the drainage of these styes, which are at no great distance from the Infants' Hall, and were drained into an open brick pit about 30ft. by 18ft. by 4ft. deep, the pit also receiving all the dung, garbage, and offal from the Union, and a very offensive odour emanating, the contents always being in a state of putrefaction. At his request I inspected the styes, and recommended in my report to the Council that they should be drained into the main drain, and that the pit be filled in. This recommendation was conveyed to the Guardians, and ultimately carried out.



May 4th. Gulley, Mildmay Road. Complaint was made by residents that sewer gas issued from this gulley. The gulley was examined, and found connected to the surface drain in the road. It has since been trapped. A sample of the water from the gulley was submitted to me, and I found it to be stagnant road water.

May 21st. Pigstyes, &c., Marlborough Road. Visited these premises and examined the works which had been carried out by Mr. Whiffen, the owner, who had been summoned for not complying with a notice, and reported to the Council that they had been satisfactorily performed.

June 28th. Ditch near Thorpe Villas, Havering Road. Complaint was made by a resident that sewage matter was flowing along this ditch. A sample of the water was submitted to me, and I found it to be natural ditch water.

Nov. 12th. No. 76 and Nos. 1 to 6, Victoria Row, Queen Street. A sample of the water from the well supplying these cottages was submitted to me for analysis, and found to be bad. A supply from the South Essex Water Company's mains has been provided.

Nov. 15th. 46, George Street. A sample of the water from the well supplying this house was submitted to me for analysis. I was unable to say that it was bad, and requested the Inspector to furnish me with another sample in about a month.

Nov. 18th. Two Cottages, Sungate, Collier Row. At the request of the Inspector I visited these premises to ascertain their habitable condition, and in consequence of the defective roof, their damp and dilapidated condition, I reported to the Council that in their present state they were not fit for habitation. Notices have been served on the owner to make them fit for habitation. Both are at present unoccupied.

Nov. 18th. Park Farm House, London Road. At the request of the Inspector I visited this house to ascertain its habitable condition, and in consequence of the dilapidated condition of the back portion of the house, I reported to the Council that that portion was unfit for habitation. Notice has been served on the owner to make it habitable. At present it is unoccupied.

Dec. 11th. 46, George Street. A further sample of water from the well supplying this house was submitted to me for analysis, and found to be bad. A supply from the South Essex Water Company's main has been provided.

Dec. 29th. The Sanitary Inspector having been informed that a girl had come from Brentwood into service in this district, whom the Billericay Sanitary Inspector suspected to have had Scarlet Fever, brought the case to my notice. Having examined the girl, I found no reason to confirm such suspicion, and the Billericay Inspector was so informed.

SEWERS.—There has been no extension of the sewers in the district during the year.

RIVER ROM.—This River north of the town has been cleansed partly by private enterprise and partly by the Council.

PRIVATE STREET IMPROVEMENTS.—The following streets which were in a very insanitary condition, are now being repaired under the Private Street Works Act, viz. :—Drummond, Marshalls, Brooklands, Medora and King Edward Road.

Sanction for the loan has been received for the repair of the following streets under the above Act, viz. :—Oak Street and part of Mildmay Road, but the work has not yet been commenced.

The whole of these roads were sewered and surface water drained when laid out.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.—The house refuse is removed fortnightly by the Council's own men, horses, and vans. Some



of the refuse is carted to a brickfield, and some to a large disused gravel pit.

During the summer months there are a few complaints, and some desire a more frequent removal.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—The town is principally supplied with water by the South Essex Water Company, and no complaint has been made as to its quality. It is a constant supply.

The Company's mains have been extended in the following roads, viz.:—Brooklands, Medora, Heath Park Road, part of Essex Road, Mawneys Road, and Oak Street.

There are, however, a number of wells in use in the district, but these are gradually being disused, and a supply from the main is obtained. In some cases voluntarily, and where the water on analysis is found to be bad.

#### **PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL HAVE SUPERVISION.—**

There are no offensive trades in the district.

There are two common lodging houses, and these have been regularly inspected, and always found to be well kept.

The workshops (including Bakehouses) and Workplaces have been regularly inspected, and generally found in a sanitary condition.

Six notices only having to be served, three of these were for want of cleanliness and three for structural defects, which were remedied.

The sanitary accommodation at the various Factories has also been regularly inspected, and found in good condition.



Two notices only have had to be served, one for cleansing and one for insufficient accommodation, which were duly attended to.

The slaughter-houses have been regularly inspected, and found to be kept in a cleanly state.

Slight complaint has been made about one, and this is situate in South Street, in almost its narrowest part, and it is almost hemmed in by buildings.

Periodical inspection of the various parts of the district have been made, and all sanitary conditions discovered remedied by notices served by the Sanitary Inspector, whose intervention is recorded in the tabular list below, my aid being called upon by him, when required.

Nuisances abated	...	331
Notices served	...	316
Summonses taken out	...	9
Convictions	...	3
Houses disinfected	...	155
Overcrowding abated	...	4
Improved water supply	...	4
Wells closed	...	2
Cisterns repaired, &c.	...	5
Animals improperly kept	...	7
Samples of water analyzed		5

The various Bake-houses, Slaughter-houses, Dairies and Workshops have been inspected, and any defects found remedied on notice served by the Sanitary Inspector.

In nine cases it was necessary to issue summonses to compel compliance with the notices, and of these six were dismissed on the application of the Inspector, on payment of the costs incurred, the necessary works having been carried out. In

the remainder the defaulters were fined a nominal fine, and ordered to pay the costs.

The Inspector attends at each Market, viz., Wednesday and Saturday, and examines the food and provisions exposed for sale and during the year nothing liable to seizure has been exposed for sale.

He is also in attendance during the holding of the Cattle Market, for the purpose of enforcing the Bye-Laws with respect to the overstocking of milch cows, and has on numerous occasions compelled the owner of cattle to cause their cows to be milked to relieve undue or painful distension of the udder.

He also in cases where diseased, poor or emanciated cattle are exposed for sale, obtains the name and address of the purchaser, and the destination of the beast, and acquaints the Local Authorities of the district into which the beasts are taken.

Acknowledgments of the arrival, &c., of the beasts have been received from the respective Local Authorities.

VAN AND TENT DWELLERS.—Considerable trouble is experienced by the Inspector in dealing with Van and Tent Dwellers, who, at all times during the year, encamp on the various unenclosed lands in the district.

Notices under the Bye-Laws made under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, are served upon them; they leave at the expiration of the time specified in the notices, and as soon as they are gone, fresh batches take their place.

Further stringent measures should be adopted by the legislature to deal with them, as they are a source of considerable annoyance and nuisance where encamped, on account of their filthy habits, and the insanitary conditions under which they live.



Only in three instances has it been possible to summon such offenders, in all of which cases a conviction was obtained.

**PUBLIC STREET IMPROVEMENT.**—During the year the following public street improvement has been carried out, viz. :— A footpath on the South side of London Road, from Bury House to the New Infants' School, a distance of  $444\frac{2}{3}$  yards has been formed, paved with Victoria Stone, and Kerbed and Channelled, and all road crossings paved with granite cubes.

Tables of Mortality and of Sickness, compiled in accordance with the requirement 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.

ROMFORD,

February 25th, 1909.

---

---

### ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

This Hospital is controlled by the "Joint Hospital Board," a body composed of Members of the Urban and Rural District Councils, to whom I beg to express my warmest thanks for the readiness with which all suggestions from the matron and myself, for the well-being of the hospital and its patients, are responded to. The hospital continues to work satisfactorily, many grave cases having been successfully treated, which could not possibly have resulted favourably in their own homes, thus saving much human life and suffering. The number of cases admitted during the year was 268. Of these 200 were cases of Scarlet Fever, 66 of Diphtheria, and 2 of Enteric Fever (Typhoid). Not all of them came from the Romford Urban



and Rural Districts, as 35 were admitted from Brentwood and neighbourhood, the Isolation Hospital for that District being, at that time, full. 16 cases came from the Romford Union Workhouse and its Boarded-out Homes. The cases of Scarlet Fever were, for the most part, of a mild type, but many of the Diphtheria cases were extremely severe, necessitating the operation of Tracheotomy in 11 instances. Of the Enteric Fever cases, one was severe and one mild. Eight deaths were caused by Diphtheria and three by Scarlet Fever. I should like here to say a few words about "Return Cases," i.e., instances where, after the return of a child to its home, another member of the family has been attacked, apparently infected by the case just returned from hospital. This only applies to Scarlet Fever, no instance of a "Return Case" in Diphtheria having occurred. These occurrences have caused some uneasiness in the public mind, and I have, on several occasions, been called upon to give an explanation of what has been unjustly assumed to be the fault of the hospital staff. I have, on these occasions, pointed out to the Hospital Board how impossible it is in **all** cases of Scarlet Fever, to say when infection is over. The greatest precautions are taken not to discharge a patient from hospital until the risk of infection is past. When cases are convalescent, and apparently no longer infectious, they are removed to the "Discharge Block," and kept there for about a week; a separate Nurse attends to them, and there is no communication between this block and the infectious wards. In some cases, however, infective germs lurk in the intricate channels of the "Naso-Pharynx" (back of nose and throat), which, supposing the child to take cold when leaving hospital, and get nasal discharge, at once renders it infectious to others in close contact with it. This is the rationale of "Return Cases," and no amount of care will prevent such cases occasionally occurring. It happens in **all** Scarlet Fever Hospitals, and I am happy to say that in our own hospital the percentage of "Return Cases" is less than in most Isolation Hospitals. During the past year it was about 3 per cent.

**TABLE I.**  
**VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1909 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
1899.												
1900.	11,500	398	28.7	42	105	226	16.5	66	55	0	171	12.6
1901.	13,650	395	28.9	58	113	232	16.9	96	80	10	152	11.1
1902.	14,000	414	29.5	42	101	251	17.9	85	79	4	172	12.2
1903.	14,400	424	29.4	42	99	241	16.7	99	73	1	168	11.6
1904.	14,700	418	28.4	49	117	203	13.8	104	79	4	148	10.06
1905.	15,000	412	26.1	53	129	296	19.7	114	91	1	187	12.4
1906.	15,500	371	22.9	53	142	305	20.8	98	82	2	226	13.2
1907.	50,780	467	29.6	42	89	266	16.8	104	90	0	176	11.1
1908.	16,300	418	25.9	38	10	285	17.5	140	108	11	188	11.5
Aver- ages for years 1899- 1908												
1909.	16,600	418	25.1	35	78	291	17.8	139	111	6	186	10.3

\* Rates in columns 4, 8, and 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, 2805 .....  
Average number of persons per house, 4.8 ..

} At Census of 1901.



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.
Union Infirmary.  Romford Hospital.	Isolation Hospital.	



TABLE II.

VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE  
LOCALITIES IN 1909 AND PREVIOUS  
YEARS.

## ROMFORD URBAN DISTRICT

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.					
YEAR.		Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
		a.	b.	c.	d.
1899	...				
1900	..	11,500	398	226	42
1901	...	13,650	395	232	58
1902	...	14,000	414	251	42
1903	...	14,400	424	241	42
1904	...	14,700	418	203	49
1905	...	15,000	412	296	53
1906	...	15,600	371	305	53
1907	...	15,780	476	266	42
1908	...	16,300	418	258	31
Averages of Years 1899 to 1908.					
1909	...	16,600	418	186	35

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1909, IN THE ROMFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.							NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.						
	At all Ages.	AT AGES—YEARS.																			Total cases removed to Hospital.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.														
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	42	...	12	26	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	22	...	...	4	3	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	90	...	21	65	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	73	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ... ..	3	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
• ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ... ..	158	...	33	97	11	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	103	...	...	...	...	...	...

Isolation Hospital—Romford Joint Hospital, Rush Green, Romford. Total available beds—40.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1909. ROMFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT							DEATHS AT ALL AGES OF "RESIDENTS" BELONGING TO LOCALITIES, 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.								
Small-Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	4	...	2	2	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other contin'd ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza ... ..	3	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ... ..	10	...	...	1	...	8	1	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Other tubercular Diseases ... ..	9	2	2	2	1	1	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	21	...	...	...	...	12	9	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Bronchitis ... ..	13	2	1	...	...	2	8	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ... ..	14	2	3	...	...	7	2	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver { ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Venereal Diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth ... ..	13	13	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases ... ..	24	2	...	...	...	13	9	24	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Accidents ... ..	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Suicides... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Senile Decay ... ..	21	...	...	...	...	...	21	21	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Al' other causes ... ..	45	10	3	1	...	7	24	45	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
All Causes ... ..	186	35	13	6	1	55	76	186	...	...	...	...	...	...	139



**TABLE V.**  
**INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1909.**  
**DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.**

CAUSE OF DEATH.			Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
<b>All Causes</b>	{ Certified ..	10	4	4	1	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	34
	{ Uncertified ..	1														1
Common Infectious Diseases.	{ Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Chicken-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Scarlet Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
	{ Diphtheria: Croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	{ Diarrhoea, all forms ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	{ Enteritis, Muco-enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Gastro-enteritis ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	{ Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wasting Diseases.	{ Premature Birth ..	8	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
	{ Congenital Defects ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
	{ Injury at Birth ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Want of Breast-milk ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Starvation ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Diseases.	{ Atrophy, Debility, } ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Marasmus ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
	{ Tuberculous Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
	{ Tuberculous Peritonitis; Tabes Mesenterica ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other Causes.	{ Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
	{ Erysipelas ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Syphilis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Rickets ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
	{ Convulsions ..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	5
	{ Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	{ Laryngitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	{ Pneumonia ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
	{ Suffocation, cverlaying ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
	{ Other Causes ..	..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	5
			11	4	4	1	4	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	35

Population estimated to middle of 1909, 16,600.  
 Births in the year, legitimate, 401; illegitimate, 17.  
 Deaths in the year, legitimate, 34; illegitimate, 4.  
 Death from all causes at all ages, 186.

# ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector in the Urban Sanitary District of Romford during the year ending December 31st, 1909.

(To be sent to the Clerk to the County Council with the *Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report*).

	Total Number for year.	Notes, Results of Inspection, &c.
1 Complaints received ..	39	
2 Nuisances detected without complaint	310	
3 Nuisances abated ..	331	
4 Notices served ..	316	
5 Summonses taken out ..	9	
6 Convictions ..	3	
7 Cottages inspected ..	398	
8 Lodging-houses inspected	2	
9 Slaughter-houses inspected	8	
10 Bakehouses inspected ..	15	
11 Dairies and Milk Shops inspected	26	
12 Cowsheds inspected ..	16	
13 Workshops inspected ..	9	
14 Filthy houses cleansed, sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875	5	
15 Houses disinfected ..	131	
16 Overcrowding abated ..	4	
17 Houses placed in habitable repair		
18 Houses closed ..		
19 Houses erected or re-built for which Water "Certificates" were applied		
20 "Certificates" granted		
21 " " deferred ..		
22 Wells sunk or improved supplies of Water afforded	3	
23 Wells cleansed or repaired	1	



# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT—Continued.

	Total Number for year.	Notes, Results of Inspection, &c.
24 Wells closed ..	2	
25 Houses connected with sewers ..		
26 Houses connected with water mains ..	3	
27 Earth, pail, or improved Privies constructed or existing Privies altered	Nil.	
28 Privies and W.C.'s re- paired ; W.C.'s supplied with water	Nil.	
29 Cisterns cleansed, repair- ed, or covered	5	
30 Animals improperly kept, removed	7	
31 Samples of water taken for Analysis	5	
32 Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding	Nil.	
33 Seizures of unsound Meat, &c.	Nil.	

(Signed) GEO. R. BAILEY,  
*Inspector of Nuisances.*



ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for  
the year 1909, for the Urban District of Romford, on the  
administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901,  
in connection with FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES,  
AND HOMEWORK.

**1—Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and  
Workplaces.**

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS  
OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices.	Prosecu- tions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries) ..	20	2	
Workshops (including Work- shop Laundries) ..	306	4	
Workplaces .. ..	12		
Total ..	338	6	

**2.—DEFECTS FOUND.**

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:</i>				
Want of Cleanliness ..	4	4		
Want of Cowl to Brazing Hearth ..	1	1		
Defective floor to Bake- house.. ..	1	1		
New Roof and Door to Bakehouse ..	1	1		
Insufficient Sanitary Ac- commodation.. ..	1	1		
Total ..	8	8		

### 3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS.				
	Lists received from Employers twice in the year.			Addresses of Outworkers.	
	Lists.	Outworkers.		Received from other Councils.	Inspection of Outworkers' premises
		Contractors.	Workmen.	Forwarded to other Councils.	
Wearing Apparel— Making, &c. . .	14			4	32
Brush Making . .				1	2
Total . .	14			5	34

### 4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
Workshops and Bakehouses . .	99
Workshop Bakehouse . .	15
	114
Total number of workshops on Register . .	114

### 5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matter notified by H. M. Inspector of Factories:—	2

ALFRED WRIGHT,

February 24th, 1910.

Medical Officer of Health.