

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

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WEMBLEY  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1919.

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HARROW :

Printed at the "Observer" Printing Works.



# WEMBLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

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## Annual Report, 1919.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Wembley Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to report upon the natural and social conditions and the sanitary circumstances of the District for the year 1919, being the 26th Annual Report issued since the formation of the Council.

The Wembley District, bounded on the *North* by Harrow and Wealdstone, *West* by Harrow, Greenford and Ealing, *South* by Ealing and Willesden, *East* by Kingsbury and Willesden, has an area of 4564 acres—is situated amidst pleasant undulating meadow lands, is capable by reason of unusual facilities for access to London (having four railways, eleven stations, and a tramway service) of attracting in the near future a much larger residential population.

Under favouring circumstances the potentiality for such increase will be more easily realised when it is considered that the District is 1000 acres larger than the borough of Ealing, has twice the area of Harrow, is actually greater in area than Willesden, and four times the size of Wealdstone.

In spite of the fact that the soil is London clay, the salubrity of the climate is well known—the air many times more bracing than London—the difference being very marked on returning from the Metropolis in the evening.

It is an undoubted fact, too, that children thrive to an extraordinary degree in every part of the district—whilst this is a fact, it should be remembered that no one should regard Wembley as a typically suitable resort for those suffering from gout, rheumatism or any form of tuberculosis. Even to these there have been many exceptions—particularly noticeable with those who have been careful to live in dry houses, wear warm clothing and live circumspectly.



## POPULATION.

The figures supplied by the Registrar General for the purpose of this Report are as follow :—

15,635 for the Birth Rate,  
15,009 for the Death Rate,  
the difference being accounted for by the enforced absence of men on service.

## BIRTH RATE.

The number of Births registered during 1919 was 237, giving a birth rate of 15.15. In 1918 there were 253 births. The illegitimate births were only four.

## DEATH RATE.

There were 129 deaths registered as belonging to the District, giving the quite satisfactory death-rate of 8.5.

Among the chief causes of death were :—

Malignant Disease	...	...	...	18
Heart Disease	...	...	...	16
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	12
Pneumonia	...	...	...	11
Influenza	...	...	...	10

Of the 129 deaths, only 20 reached the age of 75, six of whom were over 85, six over 80.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Twelve children died under twelve months old in 1919, giving an infantile mortality-rate of 50.6—just under the last six years' average, but too high, of course, for these more enlightened days. The previous year, 1918, the rate was low, 39.5.

## NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Of the 154 cases notified, 46 were *Measles*; *Diphtheria* 18; *Pneumonia*, 17; *Influenzal pneumonia*, 12; *Malaria*, 20; *Pulmonary tuberculosis*, 15; *others forms of Tuberculosis*, 5; *Scarlatina*, 14; *Erysipelas*, 4; *Ophthalmia Neonatorum*, 3.

*Measles* were very prevalent but not so marked as in 1918 (46 as against 252), and not of a fatal kind.

Twenty of the above infectious cases (diphtheria and scarlet) were removed to Acton Isolation Hospital. We are again very much indebted to this authority for the great care and kindness shown to our patients.

The necessity for using our own Isolation Hospital did not occur.

### CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.

The Child Welfare Centre has more than justified your expectation of its proving a useful work in the District.

The Committee, were, of course, fortunate in obtaining the efficient services of Dr. Granger Evans to superintend the work, and to her is mainly due the popularity and success of the Clinic. But there have been many ladies who have, from the first, voluntarily assisted and who, in no small degree, have contributed to this early success. With the great increase of work, we shall become anxious for the proper accommodation of the Centre.

May I take this opportunity of stating that the work undertaken by this Clinic consists in the regulation of the infants' clothing and diet and in weight taking, etc., but if treatment is required the child is referred at once to the respective medical attendant—indeed one's experience is that many cases from this clinic reach the doctors, that would otherwise have no treatment at all, or be too late for efficient help.

At this Clinic during 1919, there have been upwards of 4337 attendances.

### THE DENTAL CLINIC (Mr. Lafferty).

The Dental Surgeon reports that this Clinic opened in March, 1919, is doing good work. Attendances are fairly satisfactory, Sudbury and Alperton especially showing appreciation. Dentures were supplied to five cases—109 patients required extractions, 36 fillings.

### HEALTH VISITOR (Nurse Phillipson).

The report of the Health Visitor for the year ending December 31, 1919, is most satisfactory and shows a very considerable amount of useful "preventive" work. At the end of this Report you will find her different activities with lists of attendances in tabular form.



### MIDWIFE (Nurse Tubbs).

This new work also has proved successful—the nurse is most efficient, is very acceptable, and is now becoming fully engaged with new cases.

### THE DISTRICT NURSE (Miss Oliver)

continues to be full of work. There is no need to refer to her good services annually but it is well to acknowledge them occasionally, though so well known throughout the district for so many years. On one occasion recently you showed your appreciation of her work at a time of great stress, by a small grant.

### THE COPLAND VILLAGE HOSPITAL.

Miss Lucy Perkin, Hon. Clerk to the Trust, reports that during 1919 56 cases received *free medical attendance and medicine*. Thirteen patients were sent to *Convalescent Homes*, 11 patients received *complete dentures*, 3 patients received *spectacles*, others *surgical appliances*; others (carefully selected), received *milk* for emergencies and for short periods. In addition to these services the Trustees' contribution to the District Nurse Fund was increased to £50. Altogether it is considered that no small fund could be more wisely administered, but in spite of all the medical assistance rendered by the foregoing activities there is no question but that the District badly needs a little Hospital of its own for surgical and medical treatment of the inhabitants. Accidents are becoming more numerous and many cases are sent away that could and should be treated in a properly equipped Cottage Hospital.

If once the inhabitants could be convinced of this necessity, all classes would unite to found a suitable local Hospital for this increasing district.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The Wembley District is served by the Colne Valley Water Company, at Bushey, Watford, a constant supply. In the past examinations have shown it to have been a good drinking water, comparatively soft, palatable, bright and clean, but during the war, and especially noticeable here in 1919, many users found that the water on first being drawn

became milky and appeared full of lime, actually depositing a chalky sediment on being allowed to settle. We are requesting an explanation and hope to have a satisfactory statement that this matter will be remedied at an early date.

### OVERCROWDING.

I regret to report that there has been serious overcrowding for the past two years throughout the whole district. Directly and indirectly the health of the locality must be affected, but it is useless to complain until the housing scheme is completed. At present all we can do is to assist in re-arranging bedroom and apartments.

### SEWAGE OUTFALL WORKS.

It has not, unfortunately, been found possible during the war to carry out the comprehensive scheme of treatment referred to in my Report of 1914—prepared by the Council's Engineer and approved by the L.G.B.

Recently, however, the technical staff has returned and I understand that the scheme is being pressed forward as a matter of urgency—the estimates being brought up to date—with a view to applying to the Ministry for the sanction to borrow the necessary money. The pre-war estimate was £13,000, but this figure will now be seriously increased. Meanwhile every care is being exercised in dealing with the sewage with the limited capacity of the tanks and bacteria beds.

### REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

This is now being carried out in an efficient manner once in each week. It is a matter of great satisfaction that all your employees in this and other sanitary work have returned from the war safe and sound.

### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

*Fat melting and extracting* are carried on at two premises in the district.

*Fish frying* on one premises. Sanction has been given for fish frying near Alperton at another shop.



## COWSHEDS, DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

We are constantly making inspections of these premises. In 1919, they were found in a fairly satisfactory condition—a few farms gave trouble but cleared up just in time to avoid our recommending you to take legal proceedings.

The Bakehouses, Workshops and Slaughterhouses have been frequently and systematically inspected during 1919—and all defects remedied at once.

Food Inspection, in some form, has been undertaken almost daily, and better conditions have been frequently insisted on.

Every kind of nuisance has been dealt with and in all cases abatement has followed, by exhibition of firmness and tact without asking you to take legal proceedings during 1919.

The School premises have been periodically inspected—and several minor nuisances rectified.

At the end of this Report you will find all the tabular lists required by the Ministry.

As regards the war and its results on the health of the district, I cannot state that we have suffered to a greater degree than other localities. We have our share of pensioned men, and neurasthenics, but psycho-analysis and better forms of nerve treatment will improve and cure the latter, while time will cure all things!

## LIST OF ACTS ADOPTED IN WEMBLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

## BYE-LAWS IN FORCE.

Common Lodging Houses, Slaughterhouses, Nuisances, Cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies and Ashpits, Houses let in Lodgings, Pleasure Grounds and Open Spaces, Offensive Trades, New Streets and Buildings, Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures used for Human Habitation.

Regulations made under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885.

Before concluding I know you would wish me to express your thanks to the Deputy Medical Officers of Health (Dr. Dyson, Dr. Ambrose Goddard, and Dr. O'Connor), who so efficiently fulfilled their duties during the war—and may I take the opportunity of saying how greatly I have appreciated the courtesy and consideration I have received from every member of the Council—from every member of the staff, and especially from my very able and genial colleague, Mr. G. H. Fearn.

Gentlemen, I have the honour to be,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES E. GODDARD, M.D.

Fellow Royal Society Medical Officers of Health.

„ Royal Sanitary Institute.

„ Royal Institute of Public Health.



TABLE I.

## VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1919 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each year	Births			Total deaths regis- tered in the District		Transferable deaths		Nett deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un- corrected Number	Nett.		Number	Rate	of Non- residents registered in the District	of Resi- dents not registered in the District	Under 1 year of age		At all ages	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1000 nett Births	Number	Rate
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1914	13,249	324	327	24.7	90	6.8	5	29	15	45.9	114	8.6
1915	14,433	327	335	23.2	103	7	5	34	23	68.6	132	8.15
1916	14,611	346	350	22.01	97	8.55	5	33	19	54.3	125	8.55
1917	16,443	235	237	14.23	127	8.60	6	32	19	77.8	121	8.2
1918	For Birth Rate 16,464. For Death Rate 14,694.	253	253	15.3	130	8.8	7	36	10	39.5	159	10.8
1919	For Birth Rate 15,635. For Death Rate 15,009.	237	237	15.15	110	7.32	10	29	12	50.6	129	8.59

Area of district in acres (land and inland water), 4,564.

Total population at all ages...	0,696	} At Census 1911.
Total families or separate occupiers	2,434	

TABLE II.  
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED  
DURING THE YEAR 1919.

Notifiable Disease	Cases notified in the whole District.								Total cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1.	1 to 5	to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65.	65 and up w'ds	
Measles ...	46	1	12	24	6	3			
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	18		5	8	5				14
Erysipelas ...	4				1		3		
Scarlet fever ...	14	1		11	2				6
Pneumonia ...	17	1	3	5	3	4	1		
Influenzal Pneumonia ...	12		1	2	4	3	2		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	3	3							
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	15			1	5	8	1		
Other forms of Tuberculosis	5			1	1	2	1		
Malaria ...	20				4	15	1		
TOTALS ...	154	6	21	52	31	35	9	—	20



TABLE III.  
CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING YEAR  
1919.

Causes of Death	Deaths at the subjoined Ages of 'Residents' whether occurring within or without the District									Total deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
All Causes { Certified ... { Uncertified	129	12	1	5	5	6	18	34	48	
Diphtheria and Croup ...	1				1					
Influenza ... ..	10	2		1		2	3	1	1	
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	12					1	8	3		
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	1							1		
Cancer, malignant disease	18						1	8	9	
Organic Heart Disease ...	16			1			1	6	8	
Bronchitis ... ..	3							1	4	
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	11	1	1		1		1	4	3	
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ...	3					1			2	
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	2					1		1		
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ... ..	1								1	
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature birth ...	8	8								
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ... ..	5			2	1		1	1		
Suicide ... ..	1						1			
Other defined diseases ...	35	1		1	2	1	2	8	20	
Totals	129	12	1	5	5	6	18	34	48	

Cerebro Spinal Meningitis, 1. (included in above figures).

TABLE IV.  
INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1919.

Cause of Death	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes { Certified { Uncertified	7					3		1	1	12
Pneumonia (all forms)						1				1
Atelectasis ...	1				1					1
Congenital Malformations	4				4	1				5
Premature Birth...	2				2					2
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus						1				1
Influenza ...								1	1	2
									1	
Totals	7					3		1	1	12

Nett Births in the year : legitimate 233 ; illegitimate 12.

Nett Deaths in the year : legitimate 4 ; illegitimate 0.



## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Year's attendance at Welfare Centre	...	...	...	4337
Infants under one year	...	...	...	1728
Children under five years	...	...	...	932
Average weekly attendance	...	...	...	60-70
Actual Infants attending	...	...	...	300
Actual Children „	...	...	...	69
New Infants	...	...	...	109
Home visits paid to all children	...	...	...	6207
Number of visits to Infants	...	...	...	3904
Number of visits to Children	...	...	...	2303
No. of Infants Visited	...	...	...	615
No. of Children Visited...	...	...	...	171
Dental Clinic	...	...	...	129
Under 5 years	...	...	...	4
Children	...	...	...	110
Adults	...	...	...	15
Measles	...	...	...	25
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	47
Consumptives	...	...	...	36
Ringworms	...	...	...	36
Pregnant Mothers	...	...	...	32
Summer Diarrhœa	...	...	...	24
Milk Tickets	...	...	...	994
Number on Books	...	...	...	886
Number on Centre List	...	...	...	369

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Visits to Dairies	...	...	...	94
„ „ Cowsheds	...	...	...	84
„ „ Foodshop	...	...	...	418
„ „ Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	91
„ „ Bakehouses	...	...	...	25
„ „ Piggeries	...	...	...	70
„ „ Laundries	...	...	...	8
„ „ Factories and Workshops	...	...	...	20
„ „ Urinals	...	...	...	34
„ „ Ditches	...	...	...	42
„ „ Occupied Vans	...	...	...	3
„ „ House Refuse Shoots	...	...	...	36
„ „ Schools	...	...	...	38
Inspection under H. and T.P. Acts	...	...	...	222
Re-Inspections under H. and T.P. Acts	...	...	...	521
Other Inspections of Houses	...	...	...	311
Visits on Complaint	...	...	...	76
„ to cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	...	53

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 2,146

## SANITARY WORK EXECUTED.

Roofs Repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Eaves guttering repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Eaves guttering cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Stack pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Stack pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	59
Yards paved	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Floors repaired or relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Ventilation provided under floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Oversite provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Baluster rails fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Walls and ceilings cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	122
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Windows made to open	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
W.C. cistern regulated	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Water laid on to W.C. cistern	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sinks provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Sink waste trapped	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Sink gulley dished	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Drains relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Drains unstopped and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
Vent pipe repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Manhole cover repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Cesspools cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Urinals cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dirty Houses Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Accumulations of Refuse Removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Dustbins supplied	...	...	...	...	...	...	66



## UN SOUND FOOD DESTROYED.

Gammon	...	...	...	...	...	13lbs.
Collar	...	...	...	...	...	11 ,,
Fore-ends	...	...	...	...	...	69 ,,
Fore-hock	...	...	...	...	...	7 $\frac{1}{4}$ ,,
Sides of Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	90 ,,
Other Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	204 $\frac{3}{4}$ ,,
Beef	...	...	...	...	...	120 ,,
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	36 ,,
Dates	...	...	...	...	...	56 ,,
Apples	...	...	...	...	...	40 ,,
Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	...	2 ,,
Rabbits	...	...	...	...	...	22 ,,
Oxtails	...	...	...	...	...	4 ,,
Condensed Milk	...	...	...	...	...	8 tins