

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

Contributors

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Kent

1913.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the URBAN DISTRICT OF BEXLEY in respect of the year 1913.

To The Chairmen and Members of the
BEXLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my Twenty-third Annual Sanitary Report, viz, that in respect of the year ended 31st December 1913.

A. NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

(1). Physical features and general character. There is little to comment upon under this heading. The making up of Broomfield Road has been completed and a locality occupied by good class residences thereby much improved. The continued activity of factories in the adjoining districts has created a good demand for small houses, and unemployment has been practically non-existent. The building of new houses, however, has been almost at a standstill.

(2). Population. I estimate the population at the middle of the year at 17,000 against 15,895, at the time of the last Census. Residents in the District may be divided into three principal classes, viz:-

- (a) Those engaged in Engineering works in adjoining Districts:
- (b) Those engaged in Market gardening, Fruit Growing and Agriculture in the District: and
- (c) Those who travel daily to business in town.

B. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water supply. With the exception of three houses the whole District is supplied with water from the mains of the Metropolitan Water Board. The water is derived from deep wells sunk into the chalk and the water, though hard, is of great purity.

Of the three houses supplied from other sources one has spring water laid on to the house, another has a well and the third used rain water.

Rivers and Streams. The practical completion of the sewerage of the whole District (except small out-lying areas) has caused an almost complete cessation of the pollution of streams, which was a very unsatisfactory feature of the district some years ago.

Drainage and Sewerage. With the exception of a low-lying area (one of those above mentioned) practically the whole of the District drains by gravitation to the valley of the River Cray, and a small tributary thereof.

In the valleys of these streams are laid the West Kent Main Sewer and the Cray Valley branch thereof, and the whole of the Council's sewers discharge into one or other of these main sewers, the sewage being disposed of by the West Kent Main Sewerage Board at their outfall works at Joyce Green, near Dartford.

The Council's sewers are of stoneware pipes, and are sufficient for the needs of the District.

The low lying area, which forms part of the East Wickham Ward, will not drain by gravitation into the Council's main system of sewers. This area, which lies in the watershed of a small stream flowing from the Bexley District through the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich and discharging into the River Thames, comprises about 200 acres. The population of this area is approximately 150 persons, and the dwellings are drained into cesspools.

The higher part of the water-shed is unpopulated at present, but as the area adjoins the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich future developments may be expected.

There are 110 cesspools in the District receiving sewage. The number is being gradually reduced as connections are made to the Council's sewers.

The Council undertake the cleansing of cesspools, and influence is constantly brought to bear on owners of property to connect their premises to the sewers.

Closest Accommodation. The water-carriage system is almost exclusively used in the District. A very few privies now exist.

Scavenging. The removal of house refuse is supervised by the Sanitary Inspector and the cleansing of cesspools, earth closets, and privies, by the Surveyor.

From time to time the Council have discussed the advisability of adopting a weekly in lieu of fortnightly collection of house refuse. The additional service involves considerable increased cost owing to difficulties in the matter of cartage of the refuse, but the Council carried out an experimental weekly collection in one of the Wards during the summer months of 1913 and upon the information thus obtained it is to be hoped that they will see their way to put into operation a weekly collection throughout the District all the year round.

The refuse is disposed of on arable land and ploughed in.

BEX 1

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE HEALTH DISTRICT OF BEXLEY IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1913.

To The Chairman and Members of the
BEXLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I have to submit to you my Twenty-third Annual Sanitary Report, viz. that in respect of the year ended 31st December 1913. A NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT (1) General features and general character. The making up of Woodfield Road has been completed and a locality occupied by good class residences thereby much improved. The continued activity of factories in the adjoining districts has created a good demand for small houses, and management has been practically non-existent. The building of new houses, however, has been almost at a standstill. I estimate the population at the middle of the year at 17,000 and at the time of the last Census, Residents in the District may be divided into three principal classes, viz:— (a) Those engaged in manufacturing, Fruit Growing and Agriculture in the District; and (b) Those who travel daily to business in town.

WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE

With the exception of three houses the whole District is supplied with water from the mains of the Metropolitan Water Board. The water is derived from deep wells sunk into the chalk and the water, though hard, is of great purity.

Of the three houses supplied from their own sources one has spring water laid on to the house, another has a well and the third uses rain water.

The practical completion of the sewerage of the whole District (except small outlying areas) has caused an almost complete cessation of the pollution of streams, which was a very unsatisfactory feature of the district some years ago.

Drainage and Sewerage. With the exception of a few-lyon areas (one of these above mentioned) practically the whole of the District drains by gravitation to the valley of the River Grey, and a small tributary stream.

In the valley of these streams are laid the West Kent Main Sewer and the Grey Valley branch thereof, and the whole of the Council's sewers discharge into one or other of these main sewers, the sewage being disposed of by the West Kent Main Sewerage Board at their outfall works at Teyse Green, near Detford.

The Council's sewers are of stoneware pipes, and are sufficient for the needs of the District.

The low lying areas, which form part of the West Wickham Ward, will not drain by gravitation into the Council's main system of sewers. This area, which lies in the watershed of a small stream flowing from the Hextley District through the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich and discharging into the River Thames, comprises about 300 acres. The population of this area is approximately 150 persons, and the dwellings are drained into cesspools. The higher part of the watershed is unpopulated at present, but as the area within the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich future developments may be expected.

There are 110 cesspools in the District receiving sewage. The number is being gradually reduced as connections are made to the Council's sewers.

The Council undertakes the cleaning of cesspools, and influence is constantly brought to bear on owners of property to connect their premises to the sewers.

Street Cleansing. The water-carriage system is almost exclusively used in the District. A very few privies now exist.

Refuse Disposal. The removal of house refuse is supervised by the Sanitary Inspector and the cleaning of cesspools, earth closets, and privies, by the Sanitary Inspector.

From time to time the Council have discussed the advisability of adopting a weekly or fortnightly collection of house refuse. The additional services involve considerable increased cost which is difficult to the effect of certain of the refuse, but the Council carried out an experimental weekly collection in one of the wards during the summer months of 1913 and from the information thus obtained it is to be hoped that they will find their way to put into operation a weekly collection throughout the District.

The Deposit of London Refuse in the District has been continued but there have been no complaints as to nuisances arising therefrom. The powers of control conferred on the Council under Bye-Laws approved by the Local Government Board have proved very effective, and I consider that it is in consequence of these powers having been put into force by the Council that complaints, which used to be so frequent, have now ceased.

A small quantity of London Refuse was brought by rail to a station in another part of the District during the early part of the year, but most of this refuse was taken outside the District. The small quantity deposited within the District was promptly ploughed into agricultural land. Sanitary Inspections of District. The Sanitary Inspector's statement as to his work during the year is as follows:-

No. of In- spections	Purpose and description.
6	To certify compliance with orders for cleansing and whitewashing.
39	To arrange for disinfection after infectious disease and to make enquiries as to source of infection.
2	Inspections of Common Lodging House.
24	Inspections of Cowsheds.
40	Inspections of Slaughterhouses.
4	Inspections of Fruit Pickers Lodgings.
66	Special Inspections of Workshops.
2	Special Inspections of Factory.
5	Inspections of premises of outworkers.
491	Premises inspected and records taken in course of House-to-House Inspection (See Note X below).
2	Other Sanitary Inspections. (See Note X below).
681	

X Detailed records of inspections necessary to advise us to compliance with notices served and to certify compliance therewith, are not kept, and such inspections are not included above. Notices served and work done in consequence of such visits are dealt with under the heading of Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910.

Schools. Towards the end of the year attention was called by the In-
spector for the insanitary condition of the paving of the sanitary offices of one of the public elementary schools in the District, and a communication was addressed to the School Managers on the subject with a request that the matter should receive their attention. Apart from this the sanitary condition of and water supply to public elementary schools in the District is satisfactory. The Public Elementary Schools in the District and the approximate number of children on the books are as follows:-

380	Bexley Church of England.
105	Bridgen Church of England.
610	Bexleyheath Church of England.
1070	Upland Council.
610	Welling Council.
320	Posters Endowed Schools, East Wickham.
3095	TOTAL.

With a view to obviating the spread of infectious disease among scholars, notice is sent by the Sanitary Inspector to the head master of the school attended by any child of school age residing in a house in which a case of infectious disease occurs, so that the child may be watched and any sign of illness detected at an early stage.

FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply. At the commencement of the year there were in the District 12 sheds registered for the keeping of cows for the supply of milk to the public. Cowkeeping in one of the sheds was discontinued during the year. All the cows in the registered sheds were inspected monthly by the Council's Veterinary Inspector. The number of animals inspected varied from 149 in January to 115 in December. In August a case of tuberculosis of the udder was detected and on the advice of the Veterinary Inspector was reported by the owner to the Council under the Diseases of Animals Acts (Tuberculosis Order of 1913). A microscopical examination of the milk was made and an Order for the slaughter of the animal issued by the County Council. A post-mortem examination con-

October. The premises were inspected twice and were limewashed in May and June. The number of animals inspected varied from 149 in January to 115 in December. In August a case of tuberculosis of the udder was detected and on the advice of the Veterinary Inspector was reported by the owner to the Council under the Diseases of Animals Acts (Tuberculosis Order of 1913). A microscopical examination of the milk was made and an Order for the slaughter of the animal issued by the County Council. A post-mortem examination con-

The Board of London Police in the District has been concerned but there have been no complaints as to nuisance arising therefrom. The Board of Control on the Council under Bye-Laws approved by the Local Government Board have proved very effective, and I consider that it is in consequence of these powers having been put into force by the Council that complaints which used to be so frequent have now ceased.

A small quantity of London refuse was brought by rail to a Station in another part of the District during the early part of the year, but most of this refuse was taken outside the District. The small quantity deposited within the District was promptly ploughed into agricultural land. The Sanitary Inspector's statement as to his work during the year is as follows:-

Purpose and description.	No. of Inspections
To certify compliance with orders for cleaning and whitewashing.	6
To arrange for disinfection after infectious disease and to make enquiries as to source of infection.	39
Inspections of Common Lodging Houses.	2
Inspections of Cowsheds.	24
Inspections of Slaughteries.	40
Inspections of Fruit Pickers Lodgings.	4
Special Inspections of Workshops.	88
Special Inspections of Factories.	3
Inspections of premises of outworkers.	5
Premises inspected and records taken in course of House-to-House Inspection (See Note X below).	491
Other Sanitary Inspections. (See Note X below).	2
	681

X Detailed records of inspections necessary to advise as to compliance with notices served and to certify compliance therewith, are not kept, and such inspections are not included above.

Notices served and work done in consequence of such visits are dealt with under the heading of Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1913.

Sanitary Towards the end of the year attention was called by the Inspector to the sanitary condition of the paving of the sanitary offices of one of the public elementary schools in the District, and a communication was addressed to the School Managers on the subject with a request that the matter should receive their attention.

Ascert from this the sanitary condition of and water supply to public elementary schools in the District is satisfactory. The Public Elementary Schools in the District and the approximate number of children on the books are as follows:-

380	Westminster School, West Wickham.
108	Wellington Council.
810	Wellington Council.
1020	Wellington Council.
810	Wellington Council.
280	Wellington Council.
3088	TOTAL.

With a view to preventing the spread of infectious disease among schools, notice is sent by the Sanitary Inspector to the head master of the school attended by any child of school age residing in a house in which a case of infectious disease occurs, so that the child may be watched and any sign of illness detected at an early stage.

3000.

(a) Milk Supply. At the commencement of the year there were in the District 12 sheds registered for the keeping of cows for the supply of milk to the public. Cowkeeping in one of the sheds was discontinued during the year. The premises were inspected twice and were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

October.

All the cows in the registered sheds were inspected monthly by the Council's Veterinary Inspector. The number of animals inspected varied from 148 in January to 118 in December.

In August a case of tuberculosis of the udder was detected and on the advice of the Veterinary Inspector was reported by the owner to the Council under the provisions of the Milk Act, 1908.

ducted by the officers of the Rent County Council showed that the animal was suffering from advanced tuberculosis. The carcass was condemned as unfit for food and was buried in lime.

With this exception all the animals inspected were found to be in healthy condition. A very large proportion of the milk consumed in the District is imported by rail from Wiltshire and elsewhere. In every case of infectious disease which occurs inquiry is made as to the source of the milk supply in use, but during the past year there has been nothing to indicate that any cases of disease could be attributed to unwholesome milk.

(b) Other Foods. No action has been taken or needed during the year with regard to unsound foods. The sanitary condition of premises where foods are prepared, stored or exposed for sale, is satisfactory.

There are 16 registered bakeries in the District, all of which are inspected at least twice in the year. They are limewashed every six months and their condition is satisfactory. None are underground. The Sanitary Inspector is not qualified for meat inspection, and no such inspection is made in the District. Practically the whole of the beef is slaughtered elsewhere and is subject to inspection before it reaches the District. Quarterly inspections of the 10 registered slaughterhouses in the District are made and they are periodically limewashed in a satisfactory manner. These slaughterhouses continue to be used only to a very limited extent.

(c) The Sale of Food and Drugs Act are administered in this District by the County Council.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACTS 1890 TO 1909.

Work under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910 has been continually carried on during the year, 491 houses having been systematically inspected under and for the purposes of Sec. 17 of the Housing, Town Planning etc. Act, 1909. In addition 3 houses in respect of which the Council took action in the year 1912 under Sec. 15 of the Act were re-inspected with a view to action under Sec. 17, the omission on the part of the owner to give the written notice prescribed by Sub-Sec. 8 of Sec. 15 of the Act having left the Council in doubt as to their legal position on the previous proceedings. A tabulated statement of action under Sec. 17 of the Housing, Town Planning etc. Act 1909, follows, viz:-

Number of houses inspected under and for the purposes of the Section. 494	4
Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	4
Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders.	4
Number of Closing Orders made.	4
Number of dwellinghouses the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders.	4
Number of dwellinghouses which after the making of Closing Orders were put into a fit state for human habitation.	1
Number of houses demolished after issue of Closing Orders.	1
Number of Closing Orders issued in December 1912 became operative and the premises were closed for human habitation in January 1913. They remained closed for several months, the owner taking no steps to render them fit for human habitation.	3
At my suggestion the Council in October considered the question of demolition of the property, due notice of such consideration being given to the owner, whose agent appeared before the Sanitary Committee and admitted that the owner recognised that it was not possible to make the premises fit for human habitation, but desired them to be left standing in order that they might at some future time be used for some other purposes. A motion to serve demolition orders was ultimately defeated by a vote of the Council.	3

The demolition of the property being in my opinion necessary, and the Council's decision in the matter according to the Act being wrong, I took steps to have the question of demolition reconsidered, and as a result the Council in December 1912 ordered fresh statutory notice of consideration of the question of demolition to be served on the owner. Three of the houses in respect of which Closing Orders were issued had been vacant for several months and were in a ruinous condition; the fourth was generally dilapidated, and was thoroughly restored before the Closing Order was determined.

...dusted by the officers of the West County Council showed that the animal was suffering from advanced tuberculosis. The carcass was condemned as unfit for food and was buried in lime.

With this exception all the animals inspected were found to be in healthy condition.

A very large proportion of the milk consumed in the District is imported by rail from Wiltshire and elsewhere.

In every case of infectious disease which occurs industry is made as to the source of the milk supply in use, but during the past year there has been nothing to indicate that any cases of disease could be attributed to unwholesome milk.

(c) Other Foods. No action has been taken or needed during the year with regard to unwholesome foods. The sanitary condition of premises where foods are prepared, stored or exposed for sale, is satisfactory.

There are 16 registered bakeries in the District, all of which are inspected at least twice in the year. They are inspected every six months and their condition is satisfactory.

The Sanitary Inspector is not qualified for meat inspection, and no such inspection is made in the District. Practically the whole of the beef and a very large proportion of the mutton and pork consumed in the District is slaughtered elsewhere and is subject to inspection before it reaches the District.

Quarterly inspections of the 10 registered slaughterhouses in the District are made and they are periodically licensed in a satisfactory manner. These slaughterhouses continue to be used only to a very limited extent.

(c) The Sale of Food and Drugs Act are administered in this District by the County Council.

Work under the Housing Regulations 1910 has been continuously carried on (inspector of District) Regulations 1910 has been continuously carried on during the year. 191 houses have been systematically inspected under and for the purpose of Sec. 17 of the Housing, Town Planning etc. Act, 1909.

In addition 5 houses in respect of which the Council took action in the year 1913 under Sec. 15 of the Act were re-inspected with a view to action under Sec. 17, the owner on the part of the owner to give the written notice prescribed by Sec. 15 of Sec. 15 of the Act having left the Council in doubt as to their legal position of the previous proceedings.

A tabulated statement of action under Sec. 17 of the Housing, Town Planning etc. Act 1909, follows, viz:-

Number of houses inspected under and for the purpose of the Section, 1913

Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.

Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders.

Number of Closing Orders made.

Number of dwellings in the houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders. (Representation made in the year 1913).

Number of dwellings which after the making of Closing Orders were put into a fit state for human habitation.

Number of houses demolished after issue of Closing Orders.

Five Closing Orders issued in December 1913 became operative and the premises were closed for human habitation in January 1914. They remained closed for several months, the owner taking no steps to render them fit for human habitation. At my suggestion the Council in October considered the question of demolition of the property, due notice of such consideration being given to the owner, whose agent appeared before the Sanitary Committee and admitted that the owner recognized that it was not possible to make the premises fit for human habitation, but desired them to be left standing in order that they might at some future time be used for some other purpose. A motion to serve demolition orders was ultimately defeated by a vote of the Council.

The demolition of the property being in my opinion necessary, and the Council's decision in the matter according to the Act being wrong, I took steps to have the question of demolition reconsidered, and as a result the Council in December 1913 ordered fresh statutory notice of consideration of the question of demolition to be served on the owner.

Three of the houses in respect of which Closing Orders were issued had been vacant for several months and were in a ruinous condition; the fourth was generally dilapidated, and was thoroughly restored before the

premises were closed for human habitation in January 1914. They remained closed for several months, the owner taking no steps to render them fit for human habitation. At my suggestion the Council in October considered the question of demolition of the property, due notice of such consideration being given to the owner, whose agent appeared before the Sanitary Committee and admitted that the owner recognized that it was not possible to make the premises fit for human habitation, but desired them to be left standing in order that they might at some future time be used for some other purpose. A motion to serve demolition orders was ultimately defeated by a vote of the Council.

The demolition of the property being in my opinion necessary, and the Council's decision in the matter according to the Act being wrong, I took steps to have the question of demolition reconsidered, and as a result the Council in December 1913 ordered fresh statutory notice of consideration of the question of demolition to be served on the owner.

Three of the houses in respect of which Closing Orders were issued had been vacant for several months and were in a ruinous condition; the fourth was generally dilapidated, and was thoroughly restored before the

premises were closed for human habitation in January 1914. They remained closed for several months, the owner taking no steps to render them fit for human habitation. At my suggestion the Council in October considered the question of demolition of the property, due notice of such consideration being given to the owner, whose agent appeared before the Sanitary Committee and admitted that the owner recognized that it was not possible to make the premises fit for human habitation, but desired them to be left standing in order that they might at some future time be used for some other purpose. A motion to serve demolition orders was ultimately defeated by a vote of the Council.

The demolition of the property being in my opinion necessary, and the Council's decision in the matter according to the Act being wrong, I took steps to have the question of demolition reconsidered, and as a result the Council in December 1913 ordered fresh statutory notice of consideration of the question of demolition to be served on the owner.

Three of the houses in respect of which Closing Orders were issued had been vacant for several months and were in a ruinous condition; the fourth was generally dilapidated, and was thoroughly restored before the

premises were closed for human habitation in January 1914. They remained closed for several months, the owner taking no steps to render them fit for human habitation. At my suggestion the Council in October considered the question of demolition of the property, due notice of such consideration being given to the owner, whose agent appeared before the Sanitary Committee and admitted that the owner recognized that it was not possible to make the premises fit for human habitation, but desired them to be left standing in order that they might at some future time be used for some other purpose. A motion to serve demolition orders was ultimately defeated by a vote of the Council.

Action under Sec 15 of the Housing, Town Planning etc Act, 1909, was taken during that year in respect of 4 houses. Four cases of overcrowding have been detected and abated during the year beside one case in respect of which notice was served towards the end of 1912.

The condition of houses intended for the accommodation of the working classes in the District may generally be described as satisfactory, although minor defects, usually capable of easy remedy, are constantly found in the course of the house-to-house inspection. The improved demand for houses of this class is responsible for a tendency towards increased rents, but it cannot be said that there is any shortage of such houses. During the year 6 new houses have been certified complete and 12 others were nearing completion at the end of December.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT 1901.

A list of the workshops in the District is as follows:-

1912.	1913.
16	16
6	7
11	11
9	9
9	10
4	3
20	20
75	76

66 inspections of workshops were made during the year. Notifications were received in respect of five outworkers living in the District. Their premises were inspected and found to be in satisfactory condition.

During the year attention was called by H.M. Inspector of factories to the fact that separate sanitary accommodation for female employees was not provided at a factory in the District. A notice was served requiring the occupier to make the necessary provision and temporary arrangements were made pending the expected removal of the factory to other premises. This removal has not yet taken place, but the occupier has ceased to employ females and no action has been taken to enforce compliance with the notice.

(C). SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

Staff. Mr. Edmund Reeve Boulter continues to hold office as Inspector of nuisances. The question of termination of his appointment on grounds of age has been under consideration by the Council on two occasions during the year and they have decided to take no action in the matter. I certainly think that taking into consideration his great age, viz, 84, and his 34 years service with this and the previous authority, that some arrangement should be come to whereby he could be relieved of some of his duties. I cannot say but that he has done a large amount of work during the past few years, and he has done it very well but it is not right that a man of his age should be called upon to carry out all the trying duties of a Sanitary Inspector, and I feel that should any serious outbreak of infectious disease occur he would be unable to deal with it satisfactorily. The Hospital Messenger and attendant engaged in December 1912 proved unsatisfactory and was dismissed in June, his place being filled by a person until recently engaged in a similar capacity at the East Ashford Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital, who has proved an efficient and satisfactory officer. The clerical assistance provided by the Sanitary Inspector from the staff of the Clerk's Department has been continued with good results. Hospital Accommodation. The accommodation available at the Isolation Hospital is the same as at the time of my last Annual Report. During the year the Local Government Board expressed the view that the site of the Hospital was not suitable for the isolation of cases of small-pox and for this I am, however, of opinion that there is no substantial objection to the site for the purpose named and that the Council should proceed with the alterations to the Pavilion so as to make it available for the use of diphtheria patients of both sexes in lieu of the Lower Hospital, or that the Lower Hospital now dilapidated should be demolished and another similar one erected. The accommodation at the Isolation Hospital was at all times during the year sufficient for the needs of the District.

Action under Sec 15 of the Housing, Town Planning etc Act, 1909.

was taken during the year in respect of 4 houses. Four cases of overcrowding have been detected and during the year besides one case in respect of which notice was served towards the end of 1912.

The condition of houses intended for the accommodation of the work- ing classes in the District may generally be described as satisfactory, al- though minor defects, usually capable of easy remedy, are occasionally found in the course of the house-to-house inspection. The improved demand for houses of this class is responsible for a tendency towards increased rents, but it cannot be said that there is any shortage of such houses.

During the year 9 new houses have been certified complete and 12 others were nearing completion at the end of December.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT 1901

A list of the workshops in the District is as follows:-

1912.	1913.		
18	18	...	Bakeryhouses.
8	7	...	Launderies.
11	11	...	Dressmakers and Milliners Workshops.
9	9	...	Shoemakers.
9	10	...	Blacksmiths and Wheelwrights.
4	3	...	Cycle makers.
20	20	...	Miscellaneous.
<u>78</u>	<u>78</u>		

66 inspections of workshops were made during the year. Notifications were received in respect of five outbreaks of typhoid in the District. Their premises were inspected and found to be in satis- factory condition.

During the year attention was called by H.M. Inspector of Factories to the fact that separate sanitary accommodation for female employees was not provided at a factory in the District.

A notice was served requiring the occupier to make the necessary provision and temporary arrangements were made pending the expected removal of the factory to other premises. This removal has not yet taken place, but the occupier has ceased to employ females and no action has been taken to enforce compliance with the notice.

(C) SALIARY CONTRIBUTION OF THE DISTRICT

Mr. Edward Heave has been appointed to hold office as Inspector of Factories. The question of termination of his appointment on grounds of ill-health has been under consideration by the Council on two occasions during the year and they have decided to take no action in the matter. I certainly think that taking into consideration his great age, viz. 84, and his 24 years service with this and the previous authority that some arrangement should be made to whereby he could be relieved of some of his duties.

I cannot say but that he has done a large amount of work during the past few years, and he has done it very well. It is not right that a man of his age should be called upon to carry out all the trying duties of a Sanitary Inspector, and I feel that should any serious outbreak of infectious disease occur he would be unable to deal with it satisfactorily.

The Hospital Manager and Assistant Manager in December 1912 proved unsatisfactory and was dismissed in June, his place being filled by a person until recently engaged in a similar capacity at the West Anford Rural Dis- trict Council's Isolation Hospital, who has proved an efficient and satis- factory officer.

The clerical assistance provided by the Sanitary Inspector from the staff of the District's Department has been continued with good results.

Hospital Accommodation

The accommodation available at the Isolation Hospital is the same as at the time of my last Annual Report. During the year the Local Government Board expressed the view that the site of the Hos- pital was not suitable for the isolation of cases of small-pox and for this and other reasons the proposed alterations to the Isolation have been deferred. I am, however, of opinion that there is no substantial objection to the site for the purpose named and that the Council should proceed with the alterations to the Isolation so as to make it available for the use of diphtheria patients of both sexes in lieu of the Lower Hospital, or that the Lower Hospital now designated should be demolished and another smaller one erected.

The accommodation at the Isolation Hospital was at all times during the year sufficient for the needs of the District.

The Lower Hospital, used for the isolation of diphtheria patients was closed during the following periods, viz:-

January 1st to 18th.
 February 8th to 11th.
 March 4th to May 20th.
 June 4th to December 8th.
 The Upper Hospital was also closed (So far as patients were concerned) as follows, viz:-

February 5th to 17th.
 April 16th to May 5th.
 June 7th to 12th.
 July 24th to August 1st.
 September 10th to 23rd.
 The approximate expenses of maintenance of the Hospital compared with the year 1912 were as follows:-

1912.	1913.
2	2
107	84
63	55
15	14
58	58
5	3
6	5
81	26
7	6
25	25
<u>£367</u>	<u>£276</u>

Provisions. ... 84
 Attendant & Petty Cash (including Temporary Nurses). ... 55
 Fuel. ... 14
 Nurses (excluding Temporary Nurses). ... 58
 Medical Sundries. ... 5
 Disinfectants. ... 6
 Miscellaneous and repairs. ... 26
 Telephone. ... 7
 Medical superintendent. ... 25

In consequence of the expression of opinion by the Local Government Board above mentioned, the Council communicated with the Metropolitan Asylum Board with a view to the withdrawal of their notice terminating the arrangement for isolation by the Board of cases of small-pox from the Council's area. The Board declined to renew the arrangement, but agreed to deal with one or two sporadic cases of the disease in case of need. Taking into consideration the fact that small-pox is little to be feared in this District except as a consequence of the proximity of the Metropolitan Asylum Board's Hospitals I do not advise the Council to be quite satisfied with this decision of the Board, more particularly as I am informed that the Board give facilities to an adjoining District, having no greater claim than Bexley, for isolation of all cases of small-pox.

During the year the Council decided to adopt the Notification of Births Act 1907, and to bring same into operation after 1st April 1914. At the end of the year arrangements for the appointment of a Female Health Visitor for the purposes of the Act were under consideration.

The following adoptive Acts are in force in the District:-
 Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890.
 Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 (except Sections, 50, 61, 66, 78 to 86, 92, 93 and 94).
 Infectious Disease Prevention Act 1890.

The Bacteriological Laboratory established by the Kent County Council was made use of on several occasions during the year for work in connection with Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, and other cases.

(D) PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASE. The following cases were notified under the Infectious Disease Notification Act 1889. The corresponding figures for 1912 are also given, viz:-

1912.	1913.
48	35
23	12
7	13
2	-
24	38
2	-
106	98

Scarlet fever.
 Diphtheria.
 Diphtheria.
 Kyaipeles.
 Puerperal fever.
 Tuberculosis.
 Poliomylitis.

20 deaths were caused by Zymotic diseases, viz:-

1912.	1913.
1	9
2	2
4	1
3	8
10	20

Measles.
 Diphtheria.
 Whooping Cough.
 Diarrhoea.

giving a Zymotic Death Rate of 1.17 per 1000 of the population. The corresponding figures for 1912 was .6

The correspond-

Scarlatina. During the summer months the district was remarkably free from this disease, only 7 cases being notified from the middle of April to the middle of September. In the closing months there was a small outbreak entirely among children of school age, but the patients were so widely scattered that the source of infection could not be traced to any particular school. 7 cases were clearly due to contact with earlier cases from the same houses (one particular family supplied 4 patients), and 4 cases were imported into the District, in some instances causing the infection of other members of the family.

No matter how exhaustive enquiries are made it is often impossible owing to the fact that the district is to such a large extent a dormitory for workers elsewhere, to trace conclusively the source of infection. 33 of the cases were treated at the Isolation Hospital and 2 at home. In January, the Council, acting under the powers conferred upon them by Sec. 67 of the Public Health Act Amendment Act 1907, provided nursing attendance at home for two cases of Diphtheria where the patients were unfit for removal to the Isolation Hospital. One of these cases proved fatal and the other made a good recovery. There was a second fatal case in February 1913.

Three of the cases notified were clearly imported, one of them, who had been in attendance at the London Hospital as a Clerk, having contracted the disease on his eye. 7 of the patients were treated at home, and 5 were removed to the Isolation Hospital. A child from the District on a visit to friends in the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich was taken ill with diphtheria, and as a precautionary measure the house was disinfected. The question of period of isolation of cases of Scarlatina and Diphtheria is interesting. Many hospitals keep patients suffering from scarlet fever under treatment for two or three months or even longer. In the Council's hospital a patient is seldom detained longer than five weeks and I think four weeks will eventually be found long enough. In cases of diphtheria it is in my opinion often impossible to obtain negative swabs until the patient has left the Hospital. As a rule I discontinue the patient in three weeks with instructions to abstain from close contact with other persons for a further period of a week. From a Blue Book issued by the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board it appears that the incidence of scarlet fever and diphtheria per 1,000 of the population in Bexley and the neighbouring Districts during the year 1913 was as follows:-

HEXLEY URBAN DISTRICT.	
Dartford Urban District.	3.0
Brith Urban District.	4.2
Roots Urban District.	3.3
Dartford Rural District.	2.7
Woolwich Borough.	5.3
Scarlet Fever. Diphtheria.	
Dartford Urban District.	2.2
Brith Urban District.	1.4
Roots Urban District.	2.3
Dartford Rural District.	1.7
Woolwich Borough.	3.3

Rules somewhat similar to those adopted here have been in operation at Southampton and Leicester for some years, without resulting in any increase of infections. In those places patients are discharged without regard to whether desquamation or peeling is complete. Shortening of time makes a great difference in the amount of accommodation required, and in the cost of maintenance. Owing to the prevalence of measles among the scholars, the Upland Council Schools (Infants Department) were closed from January 23rd to February 14th inclusive; the Bexley Heath Church of England Schools (Infants Department) from February 7th to 28th; and the Bexley Church of England Schools (Infants Department) from March 17th to April 6th, with a view to preventing the spread of disease.

This disease is not notifiable in the District, nor do I consider it necessary that it should be notifiable. There is in operation an arrangement with the head-masters of the Public Elementary Schools whereby cases of suspected illness among their scholars are reported to me. No orders for the cleansing and disinfecting of premises under the provisions of Section 5 of the above Act have been required or issued during the year.

Seven Orders for the cleansing and whitewashing of premises under Sec. 46 of the Public Health Act 1875 were made, and all but two (which were made in December) were completed with at the end of the year. A notice outstanding at the end of December 1912 was also complied with during the year.

(E) PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS. 38 cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, many of them several times over, from different sources.

These duplicate notifications are quite unnecessary, and are a source of confusion, but it is difficult to see how they can be avoided. A Tuberculosis Dispensary available for this District will shortly be opened at 41 Overy Street, Dartford, where treatment will be under the direction of the District Tuberculosis Officer. The admission of patients will be on the recommendation of Medical Practitioners only. Premises where deaths from tuberculosis have taken place are disinfectated at the cost of the Council.

(F) INVESTIGATION OF OTHER DISEASES. There is very little diphtheria, syphilis or gonorrhoea in the District, and acute rheumatism is almost unknown. The Midwives

(G) MEANS FOR PREVENTING MORTALITY IN CHILDBIRTH AND IN INFANCY. The Midwives Act 1902 is administered in this District by the Kent County Council. I have already referred to the fact that the Council have decided to adopt and administer the Notification of Births Act, 1907.

(H) VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT. 162 deaths occurred in the District during the year, 3 of which were transferable to other Districts, while 41 deaths which occurred elsewhere are transferable inward, giving 201 as the total number of deaths. On the estimated population of 17,000 this gives a total death rate of 11.82 per 1,000 living, compared with 12.1 for England and Wales less the 241 large towns. Omitting the 41 transferable inward deaths of persons whose connection with the District during life was in many cases remote, the death rate is 9.41. The corresponding figures for the District last year were 11.4 and 8.78.

79 Deaths occurred in persons of 65 years of age and upwards. 41 Children under one year of age died giving an infantile death rate of 109 per 1,000 births registered comparable with 96 per 1,000 for England and Wales less the towns above mentioned. 13 Deaths of newly born infants were due to prematurity or debility at birth. 180 male and 193 female children were born and registered during the year, giving a birth rate of 21.9 per 1,000 of the population compared with 22.2 for England and Wales less the towns already referred to. The rate for the Bexley Urban District in 1913 was 24.3. The births include 11 registered elsewhere, but transferable to this District. 16 illegitimate children were born.

I am, gentlemen,
Yours obediently,
O. SUNDRELAND. (SD)
Medical Officer of Health.
March 21st 1914.

APPENDIX NO. 1.
RETURN OF BIRTH-RATES AND DEATH-RATES IN ENGLAND AND WALES
IN THE YEAR 1913.

Deaths under one year to 1000 Births.	Annual rates per 1000 living.	
	Births.	Deaths.
109	23.9	13.7
116	25.1	14.3
112	23.9	12.8
96	22.2	13.1
104	24.8	14.2

The standardised death-rates (formerly called corrected death-rates) are the rates which would have been recorded had the sex and age constitution of the populations of the several areas been identical with that of England and Wales as enumerated in 1901. The foregoing schedule is extracted from a Return of the Registrar General.

(2) PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS. 38 cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, many of them several times over. From all sources these figures notifications are quite unnecessary, and are a source of confusion, but it is difficult to see how they can be avoided. A Tuberculosis Dispensary available for this District will shortly be opened at 41 Queen Street, Cardiff, where treatment will be under the direction of the District Tuberculosis Officer. The admission of patients will be on the recommendation of Medical Practitioners only.

Twelve deaths from tuberculosis have taken place one being noted at the cost of the Council.

(3) TESTIFICATION OF OTHER DISEASES. There is very little Syphilis or Gonorrhoea in the District, and Acute Rheumatism is almost unknown.

(4) MEANS FOR PREVENTING MORTALITY IN CHILDREN AND IN INFANTS. The Midwives Act 1902 is administered in this District by the Cardiff Council. I have already referred to the fact that the Council have decided to adopt and administer the Notification of Births Act, 1907.

(5) VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT. 101 Deaths occurred in the District during the year, 5 of which were transmissible to other Districts, while 41 deaths which occurred elsewhere are transmissible inward, giving 201 as the total number of deaths. On the estimated population of 17,000 this gives a total death rate of 11.82 per 1,000 living, compared with 12.1 for England and Wales less the 241 large towns.

Outstanding the 41 transmissible inward deaths of persons whose connection with the District during life was in many cases remote, the death rate is 9.41. The corresponding figures for the District last year were 11.4 and 8.78.

79 Deaths occurred in persons of 65 years of age and upwards. 41 Children under one year of age died giving an infantile death rate of 109 per 1,000 births registered comparable with 98 per 1,000 for England and Wales less the towns above mentioned.

13 Deaths of newly born infants were due to prematurity or debility at birth.

180 male and 193 female children were born and registered during the year giving a birth rate of 21.8 per 1,000 of the population compared with 22.3 for England and Wales less the towns already referred to. The rate for the Bexley Urban District in 1913 was 24.3.

The births include 11 registered elsewhere, but transmissible to this District. 18 illegitimate children were born.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,
O. SUTHERLAND (SD)
Medical Officer of Health.
March 21st 1914.

APPENDIX NO. 1.
RETURN OF BIRTH-RATES AND DEATH-RATES IN ENGLAND AND WALES IN THE YEAR 1913.

Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.	Annual rates per 1,000 living.		Births.	
	Deaths.	Gravels.		
109	13.4	13.7	23.9	England and Wales.
118	14.7	14.3	23.1	24 great towns, including London.
113	13.0	12.8	23.9	145 smaller towns.
98	12.1	13.1	22.2	England and Wales less the 241 towns.
104	14.8	14.2	24.6	LONDON.

The standardized death-rates (formerly called corrected death-rates) are the rates which would have been recorded had the sex and age constitution of the population of the several areas been identical with that of England and Wales as enumerated in 1901.

The foregoing Schedule is extracted from a Return of the Registrar General.

APPENDIX NO. 2.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTION: SUMMARY OF SANITARY AND OTHER NOTICES SERVED:
YEAR 1913.

Statute.	Section.	Work.	Notices.			
			Outstanding 31/12/12.	Served	Complied with.	Outstanding 31/12/13.
Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907.	25.	To pave yards.	34	117	114	37
Ditto.	49.	To provide sinks.	9	8	12	5
Ditto.	35.	To remedy nuisance from cisterns.	32	139	104	67
Ditto.	35.	To remedy nuisance from defective guttering.	6	40	34	12
Public Health Act 1875.	91.	To abate nuisance from overcrowding	1	4	5	-
Ditto.	36.	To provide sufficient W.Cs.	104	189	148	145
Ditto.	36.	To provide sanitary dustbin.	11	79	57	33
Ditto.	91 and Bye-Laws.	To provide manure receptacles.	2	7	5	4
Ditto.	44 and Bye-Laws.	To remedy nuisance from keeping of fowls.	-	1	1	-
Ditto.	91.	To limewash & cleanse a workplace (Contractor's stabling) and pro- vide sanitary accommodation thereat.	-	1	1	-
Ditto.	46.	To cleanse and whitewash.	1	7	6	2
Housing (Inspection of District) Reglnal 1910.	-	Direction to remedy defective conditions.	60	151	133	78
Housing, Town Planning etc Act 1909.	15.	To make fit for human habitation.	-	4	4	-
TOTALS.			260	747	624	383

DATE	DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT	BALANCE
1900	TO BANK		100	100
1901	TO BANK		100	200
1902	TO BANK		100	300
1903	TO BANK		100	400
1904	TO BANK		100	500
1905	TO BANK		100	600
1906	TO BANK		100	700
1907	TO BANK		100	800
1908	TO BANK		100	900
1909	TO BANK		100	1000
1910	TO BANK		100	1100
1911	TO BANK		100	1200
1912	TO BANK		100	1300
1913	TO BANK		100	1400
1914	TO BANK		100	1500
1915	TO BANK		100	1600
1916	TO BANK		100	1700
1917	TO BANK		100	1800
1918	TO BANK		100	1900
1919	TO BANK		100	2000
1920	TO BANK		100	2100
1921	TO BANK		100	2200
1922	TO BANK		100	2300
1923	TO BANK		100	2400
1924	TO BANK		100	2500
1925	TO BANK		100	2600
1926	TO BANK		100	2700
1927	TO BANK		100	2800
1928	TO BANK		100	2900
1929	TO BANK		100	3000
1930	TO BANK		100	3100
1931	TO BANK		100	3200
1932	TO BANK		100	3300
1933	TO BANK		100	3400
1934	TO BANK		100	3500
1935	TO BANK		100	3600
1936	TO BANK		100	3700
1937	TO BANK		100	3800
1938	TO BANK		100	3900
1939	TO BANK		100	4000
1940	TO BANK		100	4100
1941	TO BANK		100	4200
1942	TO BANK		100	4300
1943	TO BANK		100	4400
1944	TO BANK		100	4500
1945	TO BANK		100	4600
1946	TO BANK		100	4700
1947	TO BANK		100	4800
1948	TO BANK		100	4900
1949	TO BANK		100	5000
1950	TO BANK		100	5100
1951	TO BANK		100	5200
1952	TO BANK		100	5300
1953	TO BANK		100	5400
1954	TO BANK		100	5500
1955	TO BANK		100	5600
1956	TO BANK		100	5700
1957	TO BANK		100	5800
1958	TO BANK		100	5900
1959	TO BANK		100	6000
1960	TO BANK		100	6100
1961	TO BANK		100	6200
1962	TO BANK		100	6300
1963	TO BANK		100	6400
1964	TO BANK		100	6500
1965	TO BANK		100	6600
1966	TO BANK		100	6700
1967	TO BANK		100	6800
1968	TO BANK		100	6900
1969	TO BANK		100	7000
1970	TO BANK		100	7100
1971	TO BANK		100	7200
1972	TO BANK		100	7300
1973	TO BANK		100	7400
1974	TO BANK		100	7500
1975	TO BANK		100	7600
1976	TO BANK		100	7700
1977	TO BANK		100	7800
1978	TO BANK		100	7900
1979	TO BANK		100	8000
1980	TO BANK		100	8100
1981	TO BANK		100	8200
1982	TO BANK		100	8300
1983	TO BANK		100	8400
1984	TO BANK		100	8500
1985	TO BANK		100	8600
1986	TO BANK		100	8700
1987	TO BANK		100	8800
1988	TO BANK		100	8900
1989	TO BANK		100	9000
1990	TO BANK		100	9100
1991	TO BANK		100	9200
1992	TO BANK		100	9300
1993	TO BANK		100	9400
1994	TO BANK		100	9500
1995	TO BANK		100	9600
1996	TO BANK		100	9700
1997	TO BANK		100	9800
1998	TO BANK		100	9900
1999	TO BANK		100	10000

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF DALLAS
CITY OF DALLAS
I, the undersigned, being a duly qualified and sworn public accountant, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the books and records of the State of Texas, as the same appear in the office of the State Comptroller of Public Accounts, at the City of Dallas, Texas, on this 1st day of January, 1900.

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF DALLAS
CITY OF DALLAS
I, the undersigned, being a duly qualified and sworn public accountant, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the books and records of the State of Texas, as the same appear in the office of the State Comptroller of Public Accounts, at the City of Dallas, Texas, on this 1st day of January, 1900.