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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Urban District of Chingford.



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ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Chingford Urban
District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

The District.

The Urban District of Chingford may be divided into two parts, the North lying on a plateau from 60 to 200 feet above sea-level, the South in a valley which forms part of the Lea Valley. In this valley, to the West of Chingford, the Metropolitan Water Board have completed two large reservoirs for storing water. The soil is clay, and as there is a considerable slope towards the West and South, the water is continuously drained away.

The inhabitants consist of Professional and business men, engaged locally and in London and suburbs, and a large working-class population. There is comparatively little overcrowding amongst the latter.

Area and Population.

Area of District	...	...	...	...	...	acres	2807
Population taken mid-year census, 1911	...	...	...	...	...		8186
„ estimated „	„	„	1913	...	...	...	9265
Estimated increase of population since 1912	...	...	...	...	...		585
Number of houses occupied mid-year 1912	...	...	...	...	...		1736
„ „ „ „	„	„	1913	...	...		1853

Births.

Males, 93.	Females, 100.	Total	...	...	193
Rate per thousand	...	...	...	...	20.8
Average rate previous 5 years...	...	...	...	...	21.6

Deaths.

Total for the whole district, including Walthamstow Isolation Hospital, with deaths of residents outside area	...	...	...	...	102
Deaths of non-residents in that hospital	...	...	...	...	16
Nett deaths of residents	...	...	...	...	86
Death-rate of whole number	...	...	...	...	11.0
„ of the 86 residents	...	...	...	...	9.2

Seasonal Mortality.

				Residents.	Non-Residents.
During First Quarter	...	...	...	30	8
„ Second „	...	...	...	14	2
„ Third „	...	...	...	20	1
„ Fourth „	...	...	...	22	5
				<hr/> 86	<hr/> 16

Mortality at different Ages.

				Residents.	Non-Residents.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	15	2
1 to 5 years	...	...	...	3	2
5 to 15 years	...	...	...	2	2
15 to 25 years	...	...	...	1	4
25 to 65 years	...	...	...	24	6
65 years and upwards...	...	...	...	17	8
				<hr/> 62	<hr/> 24

Infantile Mortality.

Rate per thousand births 88.0

Zymotic Sickness.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES	NOTIFICATIONS.	SEASONAL INCIDENCE.	SENT TO HOSPITAL.	DEATHS
Diphtheria ...	33	Quar. I 2 3 4 I 8 13 11	17	1
Scarlet Fever ..	16	6 0 2 8	11	0
Erysipelas ...	2	1 0 1 0	0	0
Enteric Fever ...	1	0 0 0 1	1	0
Tuberculosis ..	20	7 6 3 4	2 to Sanatoria 7 Hospital	7
Total ...	72	15 14 19 24	38	8

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water Supply. A hard and perfectly pure water is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board from wells sunk in the Lea Valley.

Drainage and Sewerage. The Drainage and Sewerage are satisfactory. About a dozen houses drain into cesspools; the remainder are connected with the main sewer.

Closet Accomodation. With the exception of half-a-dozen, all closets have proper flushing cisterns.

Scavenging. A weekly collection of house refuse is made,

Moveable ash-bins with proper coverings are provided; and contents are destroyed by burning.

Sanitary Inspection of District. From the appended report of the Sanitary Inspector it will be seen there were 67 complaints received, 305 nuisances detected without complaint, 335 nuisances abated, and 13 formal notices served. There are no lodging houses in the district. Offensive trades, two in number, are situated on the outskirts of the District.

Schools. The Public Elementary Schools in North and South Chingford are well ventilated and drained, and have water supplies laid on. The temporary building used as an Infants School in South Chingford has been replaced by a modern brick building. The children are examined during the year by the School Medical Officer.

Milk Supply. The milk supply is provided mainly by local farms, and is of good quality. Eight samples of milk were examined, resulting in one milk purveyor being summoned, and two purveyors cautioned.

Dairies and Milkshops, 16 in number, have been frequently inspected, and found satisfactory.

Cowsheds, 9 in number, have been periodically visited; and with one or two exceptions, found clean and well-ventilated.

Other Foods. Bakehouses and Slaughter-houses have been frequently inspected with satisfactory results.

Two seizures of unsound meat were made during the year. No carcasses have been condemned for Tuberculosis.

Housing. Under the Housing and Town Planning Act, there were 219 cottages inspected under section 17. No houses were closed, defects were remedied without the making of closing orders in 140, and 5 were demolished—the owners having defaulted under orders made by the Council in August, 1912.

On the Northern portion of Chingford there were built during the year 41 houses, and on the Southern portion, 8 houses.

The accommodation is adequate for the needs of the district.

Sanitary Administration of the District.

The Sanitary work of the district is done by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself.

Hospital Accommodation. The Waltham Joint Hospital Board at their hospital at Waltham Abbey admits patients from this district suffering from infectious diseases. During the year 17 cases of Diphtheria and 11 of Scarlet Fever were treated there. Bacteriological examination of swabs, sputum etc., was made at the County Laboratory at Chelmsford, the Council paying the fees in necessitous cases.

Prevalence of and Control over Acute Infectious Diseases.

During the year there were notified 16 cases of Scarlet Fever of which 6 occurred in North Chingford, 8 in South Chingford and 2 at the Hatch: 33 cases of Diphtheria of which 4 occurred in North Chingford, 28 in South Chingford and 1 at the Hatch: 1

case of Enteric Fever in South Chingford : 2 cases of Erysipelas, one in North and one in South Chingford.

The large proportion of the cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, 10 and 24 respectively, occurring between the ages of 5 and 15 years, as shown by Table 2, points to personal contact at school being responsible for the spread of the diseases.

Thirteen cases of Diphtheria occurred in a home for girls in South Chingford. The disease was prevented from extending by finding amongst them a "carrier" who had suffered from the disease two years previously.

Directly this girl was isolated, no further trouble was experienced.

One could have no better illustration of the importance of knowing the medical history of all children committed to one's charge.

I feel it my duty to again criticise the medical inspection of the school children ; it is too intermittent. Only a constant supervision, especially when an infectious disease makes its appearance, can be of any real utility. The appointment of a local medical man is the proper solution of the problem, and I feel certain much ill-health would be prevented, and money saved to the Educational and Local Authorities.

My thanks are due to the heads of the schools for the prompt notification of absentees.

The source of the contagion from the single case of Typhoid could not be traced, and the disease was without doubt contracted outside the district.

Antitoxin is provided by the Council, and freely used by the Medical Practitioners in the neighbourhood.

Prevalence and control over Tuberculosis.

Fourteen cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, of which eight occurred in North Chingford, and six in South Chingford. Of these six died, and of the remainder two were sent to Sanatoria, two were treated at Hospitals, and three attended Tuberculosis dispensaries.

Six cases of non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified, of which three occurred in North Chingford, two in South Chingford, and one at the Hatch. One case died,

On receipt of notification domiciliary visits are made by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and instructions given patient as to mode of life, &c., and subsequently to see how far suggestions are carried out. Where possible the services of the Tuberculosis Officer are utilised.

On removal of patient from the house, or death, a thorough disinfection is made of the occupied room or rooms.

Investigation of other Diseases.

The general health of the District has not been threatened by any particular disease.

The continued neglect of vaccination is, in my opinion, to be deplored.

A Crusade against the summer plague of Mosquitoes was initiated, and a Conference of interested authorities was held in London, when a suggested plan of campaign was outlined and endorsed by the delegates present.

Means for preventing Mortality in Child-birth and in Infancy.

The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council.

The Notification of Births Act, 1907, is not locally adopted. If the various interested Authorities would combine to support a District Nurse, the local adoption of the Act would be of great benefit.

Although our infantile death-rate is not high when non-preventable causes are eliminated, it is by no means a criterion of the care and management young children receive. The advice that a qualified nurse would give would be of great assistance to many mothers in the up-bringing of their young, and would reflect favourably on their health in after life.

Vital Statistics of the District.

The birth-rate of 20·6 is slightly lower than the average for the last 5 years (21·6).

The Infantile Mortality rate of 88 per thousand births is higher than that of last year (86·5), and is accounted for by the proportionately large number of cases (9) dying under three weeks, five out of the nine being premature births.

The death-rate of 9·2 per thousand compares favourably with the average rate (8·4) for the preceding quinquennial period.

My thanks are due to Mr. BOWEN, Clerk, Mr. GRIFFIN, Surveyor, and Mr. WILKINS, Sanitary Inspector, for their constant help.

T. STANBURY BROOK,
M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.),

March 16th. 1914.

Medical Officer of Health.

— TABLE I. —

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913, and previous years in the CHINGFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

Year.	Popula- tion estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett deaths belonging to the district.			
		Number	Rate.	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 per 1,000 nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1908	6710	164	24.4	74	11.0	23	13	8	49	64	9.5
1909	7710	154	22.5	71	10.58	16	9	6	40	64	8.3
1910	8310	176	20.1	57	6.86	15	10	11	62.5	57	6.86
1911	8520	176	20	98	11.5	30	15	10	57	73	8.33
1912	8680	185	21.3	71	8.1	16	27	16	86.5	82	9.4
1913	9265	193	20.8	79	8.5	16	23	17	88	86	9.2

Area of District in acres } 2,807
(land and inland }
water)

Total population at all ages ... } 8186
Number of inhabited houses ... } 1647
Average number of persons per house ... } 5.0

— TABLE 2. —

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1913, in the CHINGFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases notified.						Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	1 to 5 years	5 to 15 years	15 to 25 years	25 to 45 years	45 to 65 years		65 and upwards
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group) ...	33	7	24	2	...	...	17
Erysipelas ...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...
Scarlet Fever ...	16	2	10	4	...	...	11
Enteric Fever ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	14	...	2	1	8	2	2 to Sana'm 2 to Hosp'l
Other forms of Tuberculosis	6	...	4	2	...	...	5 to Hosp'l
Totals ...	72	9	40	9	10	2	2

Isolation Hospital (Name and Situation)—Waltham Joint Isolation Hospital,

— TABLE 3. —

Causes of, and Ages at, During Year, 1913, in the CHINGFORD URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the District.										Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs.	65 and upwards.		
All cases certified & Uncertified	86	17	1	4	4	6	15	14	25	16	
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria and Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	6	...	...	...	...	...	5	1	...	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	2	...
Organic Heart Disease	14	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	10	...
Bronchitis	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	8	1	1	2	1	...	3	...	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	3	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Nephritis & Bright's Disease	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...
Congenital Defects	9	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, exclud. Suicide	4	1	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
Suicide	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other Defined Diseases	25	3	...	1	...	2	4	4	11	...	
Totals	86	17	1	4	4	6	15	14	25	16	

— TABLE 4. —

INFANTILE MORTALITY during the Year 1913, in the Chingford Urban District.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 wk.	1-2 Weeks	2-3 weeks	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Convulsions ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2
Premature Birth	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	6
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus ... ..	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	3
Other Causes	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	3
	7	1	1	2	2	3	1	17

CHINGFORD URBAN DISTRICT

Births in the year—legitimate **191.**

" " illegitimate **2.**

Deaths in the year—legitimate infants **17.**

" " illegitimate **0.**

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report.

Summary of work done through the Sanitary Inspector and under the H.W.C. Acts, in the Urban District of Chingford, during the year ending December 31st, 1913.

	Total No. for year.	Notes.
Complaints received	67	
Nuisances detected without complaint	305	
Nuisances abated... ..	335	
Nuisances remaining unabated... ..	19	
Formal notices served	13	
Summonses issued	1	
Convictions obtained	Wk.done	
No. of cottages inspected ..	219	
No. of cottages in which defects were remedied without a Closing Order	140	
No. of cottages demolished by Order	5	
No. of Slaughter Houses in District	3	
Frequency of Inspection ...	Frequent	
No. of Bakehouses in District ...	3	
Frequency of Inspection ...	Quar'ly	
No. of Dairies and Milkshops ...	16	
Frequency of Inspection ...	Quar'ly	
No. of Cowkeepers	11	
Frequency of Inspection ...	Quar'ly	
No. of samples of milk taken for examination for cleanliness, etc.	8	
Filthy houses cleansed and portions of houses cleansed ...	35	
Houses disinfected	49	
Cases of overcrowding abated ...	17	
Privies. No. in district	2	
No. abolished during the year	0	
Animals improperly kept removed	7	
Seizures of unsound food ...	2	

(Signed) W. R. WILKINS.