

Reports of the medical officer of health, inspector of nuisances, and surveyor, for the year ending December 31st, 1912.

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REPORTS

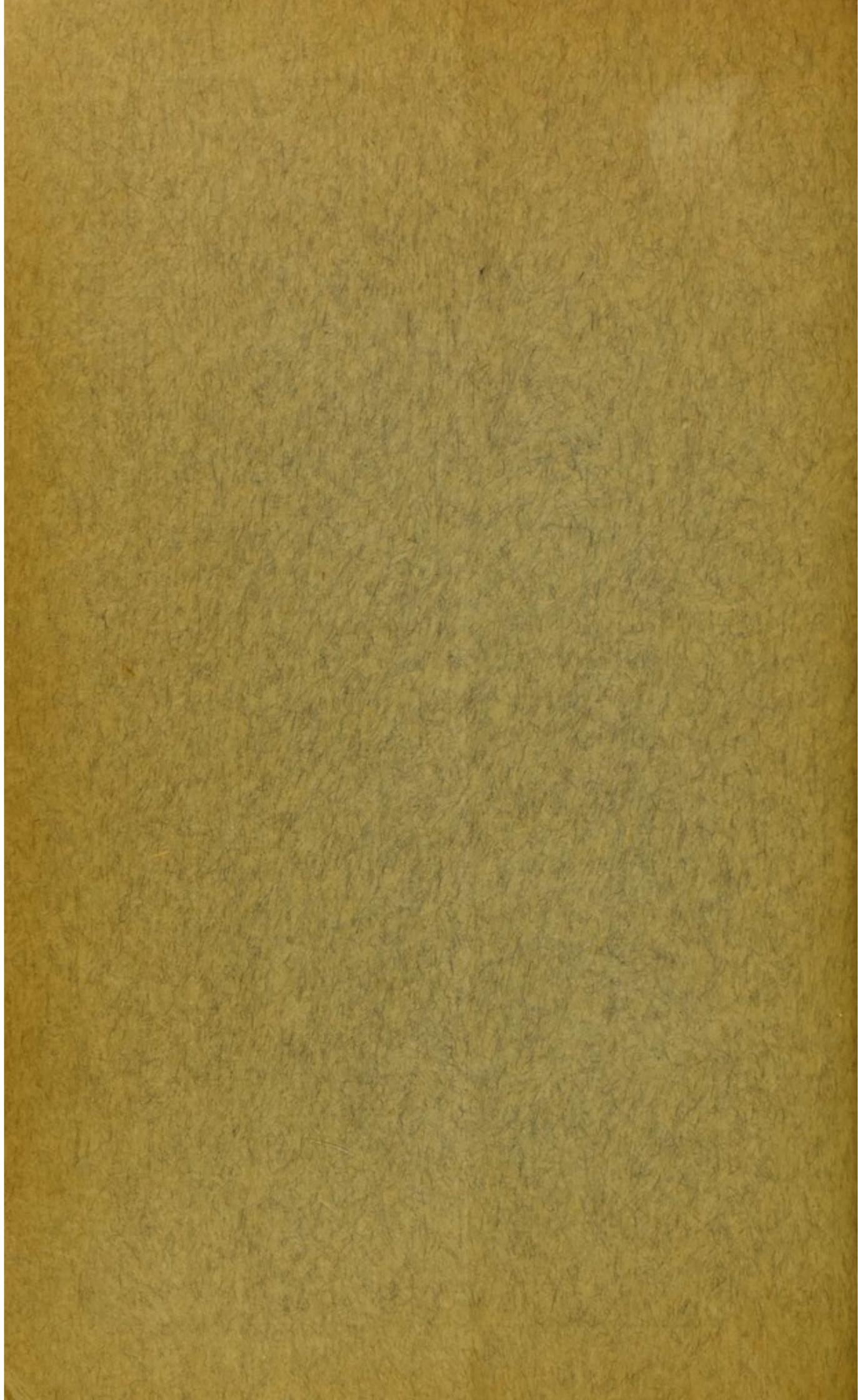
OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,
Inspector of Nuisances,
and Surveyor,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1912.

BUCKHURST HILL:

PRINTED BY JOHN W. PHELP, QUEEN'S ROAD.



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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

JANUARY, 1913.

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

GENTLEMEN,

THE DISTRICT.

Your District is situated in a hilly neighbourhood, the low-lying portions being well drained. There are only three cottages in proximity to the Roding river. The subsoil is clay, with the exception of pockets of gravel on several of the hills. The locality is, with the exception of Epping Forest, moderately timbered. A large portion of the district lying round the inhabited area is grazing land, rented by dairy farmers. The total area is 3,961 acres.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. It is derived from deep wells sunk in the chalk of the Lea valley. From these it is pumped to a covered reservoir at High Beech. It is hard and free from any organic or bacterial contamination.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

The river Roding flows through an outlying and uninhabited part of the district. It receives the effluent from the district sewage works, but does not suffer any pollution thereby.

A small brook comes out of the Forest through the village. It gathers only a certain amount of surface water, and suffers no pollution.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The sewerage and drainage of the district is particularly satisfactory.

The house drains are for the most part satisfactory, but where defects are detected, repairs are at once effected. Considerable progress has been made in this respect under the new powers furnished by the Housing and Town Planning Act.

At the sewage disposal works, the system of bacterial purification is carried out by means of sprinklers rotating over coke beds. The effluent is finally cleared from carbonaceous matter by being passed through washed sand filters, and is exceptionally pure. Inasmuch as the main portion of the storm water is dealt with separately the sewage is not of large bulk or high dilution, this system lends itself admirably for the purpose of purification in this instance.

**CLOSET
ACCOMMO-
DATION.**

With the exception of about 8 houses situated in outlying parts of the district, the whole are provided with water closets connected to the sewer. Those not connected are provided with earth closets, or privies connected with cesspools. These are periodically inspected, and care is taken that they are emptied from time to time. No illness has arisen from these.

**SCAVENG-
ING.**

The weekly collection of dust has proved to be economical as well as conducing to an improvement in the general sanitary condition of the District.

**SANITARY
INSPECTION
OF THE
DISTRICT.**

During the year the Inspector of Nuisances paid 856 visits with reference to nuisances, dustbins, to workshops, workplaces, and factories, dairies and slaughter houses. Of these 24 were made in company with the Medical Officer of Health under section 17 Housing and Town Planning Act, and 35 similarly under section 15 of the same Act.

The total number of nuisances abated amounted to 21.

266 inspections were made upon premises used for the supply of food, and workshops. Full details are given in the appended table of the summary of the work done by the Inspector of Nuisances during the year.

THE INHABITANTS.

Of the inhabitants the well-to-do are chiefly occupied in business in London; a small section are engaged in local trade; and a large working class population are occupied in farming, domestic service, the building trades, and on the railway. There are no workmen's trains, and this class are nearly all employed in the district. There is no large factory, and no particular occupation which is detrimental to health.

SCHOOLS.

SCHOOLS.

The Elementary Schools are all modern buildings, with efficient ventilation, water supply, and drainage. The new girls' school, mentioned in my report of last year, contains a special kitchen for the teaching of cooking, and is proving of great utility as regards practical instruction.

The scholars are inspected by the School Medical Officer for the County, and I have ascertained that his recommendations are for the most part acted on by the parents. I have personally inspected the schools, and certain of the classes, whenever a case of infection has occurred. In the latter instance the head teachers are informed of any case of infection in their schools.

The large secondary High School for girls, built a few years ago by the County Authority, is in excellent condition as regards its sanitary arrangements, and the health of the scholars.

FOOD.

**(A)—MILK
SUPPLY.**

The bulk of the milk sold in the district is obtained from dairy farms situated within the area controlled by this Council. It is on the whole of good quality. The testing of cows by tuberculin is not carried out, nor do I think that this is likely to obtain until new legislation is introduced to enforce it, coupled with some method of compensation for the destruction of tuberculous cattle.

In view of the evidence afforded in the final report of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, coupled with my own clinical experience of tuberculosis in children, such legislation is urgently needed.

No action has been taken as regards tuberculous milk. The dairies, cow-sheds, and milk shops have been regularly inspected, and the regulations regarding them have been carried out. Sterilisation of milk receptacles is carried out by most milk vendors.

**(B)—OTHER
FOODS.**

No unsound food has been seized during the year. The sanitary condition of premises where foods are prepared, stored, or exposed for sale, has been found to be satisfactory. It has been found necessary to order the repair of the floors of certain bake-houses, otherwise these premises are satisfactory. No diseased meat has been reported or seized, and the slaughter-houses are kept clean. No action under section 117, Public Health Act, 1875, has been taken. No carcasses have been seized and condemned for tuberculosis.

**(C)—SALE OF
FOOD AND
DRUGS ACT.**

This Act is administered by the County Council, with the Officers of which the District Council communicates when necessary.

HOUSING.

The improvement of the cottage property in the District is most marked. In my report last year, I noted that 58% of the older cottages had no flushing tanks to the W.C., and that 24% had no sinks for the purpose of washing up.

The provision of these necessary items for health and cleanliness has been insisted on, whenever they have been found wanting; in inspections undertaken under the particular sections of the Housing and Town Planning Act

A detailed table giving the work done under this Act is appended.

TABLE OF WORK DONE UNDER SECTIONS 15 AND 17
HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	11
Notices served under Section 15	...	...	...	...	...	30
Notices served under Section 17	...	...	...	...	...	12
Cottages Inspected under Section 17	...	...	...	...	...	24
Cottages Inspected under Section 15	...	...	...	...	...	35
Dwelling house unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	1
House closed by owner	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without the making of closing orders	...	...	...	...	...	44

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE
DISTRICT.

The whole of the Sanitary work in this District is done by the Medical Officer of Health and the Inspector of Nuisances. Of these, the former is the Inspecting Officer appointed by the Council under Sections 15 and 17, of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

The dairy farms, milk shops, &c., were inspected from time to time by myself, and at more frequent intervals by the Inspector of Nuisances.

The work done by the Inspector is presented in tabular form, and has been most satisfactory.

**ISOLATION
HOSPITAL.**

Under an arrangement with the Walthamstow Council, a certain number of beds are permanently reserved for this District.

**ADOPTIVE
ACTS.**

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Part 3.
" " " " " 1907, Part 2, 3, 4,
8, and 9.

**CHEMICAL
AND
BACTERIO-
LOGICAL
WORK.**

The bacteriological examination of swabs, sputum, &c., is carried out in the private laboratory of the Medical Officer of Health.

Several chemical analyses of the sewage effluent have been made, as well as samples of drinking water. The effluent has been found to be most satisfactory on all occasions; and the drinking water, though hard, is of exceptional purity.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Three cases only of Acute Infectious Disease were notified. Two cases of scarlet fever only were notified, one of which was certainly contracted out of the District.

Facilities are afforded for supplying diphtheria anti-toxin.

There is no loss of time incurred in sending away pathological material for bacteriological examination; but this is carried out by your Medical Officer of Health. Sterilized swabs are supplied to the medical men in the District free of charge, and the examinations are made at the expense of the Council. Contact cases are watched, and when necessary, swabs are taken for examination. There was however no diphtheria in the District, and since the abolition of piggeries about eight years ago, it has ceased to be either epidemic or endemic. Enteric seldom occurs, and in the one case notified this year, the disease was contracted in London.

With regard to the non-notifiable diseases, that of measles is most prevalent; since, however, the Schools have notified your Medical Officer of Health of such cases, this disease has been brought under better control.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

10 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year, of these, five have died, of the remainder one is cured, one is enjoying fair health and is able to work, and three are undergoing sanatorium treatment in various institutions.

The Epping Infirmary has been rebuilt, and good accommodation is now provided for paupers suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. This should amply satisfy the needs of this District with respect to Poor-law patents.

INVESTIGATION OF OTHER DISEASES.

An examination of the records of deaths in the District does not reveal any particular influence acting detrimentally to the health of the inhabitants. It does not appear that a damp clay soil is any more unhealthy than a well drained gravel one.

MEANS FOR PREVENTING MORTALITY IN CHILD-BIRTH AND INFANCY.

Midwives are practically not employed, and the Notification of Births Act is not in force in this district.

It does not appear necessary to take any steps towards putting into force the Notification of Births Act. Of ten deaths of infants under one year, there were none under the age of one month.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE DISTRICT. TABLES 1—4.

The death rates for the last two years appear to be rather higher than for the previous years; this is due to the inclusion of all those persons belonging to the District, who have died outside it. Owing to the improved method of obtaining records of these transferable deaths, there is a smaller error in statistical leakage from this source.

The birthrate is slightly higher, whilst the nett death rate is nearly one per 1,000 lower than in 1911.

Infant mortality has diminished by one third. This rate fluctuates from year to year very considerably, a good year being usually succeeded by a bad one. In such small numbers, two or three deaths of infants prematurely born, will raise the rate out of all proportion to the actual mortality of infants born normally.

A. BUTLER HARRIS,

M.A., M.B., B.Ch., Oxon,

Medical Officer of Health,

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1912 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year		Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
	2	3	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Uncorrected Number.	Number.					Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5*	6	7*	8	9	10	11	12	13*
1907	5150	109			50	9.7	-2	+5			53	10.2
1908	5220	103			44	8.4	-2	+1			43	8.2
1909	5290	115			48	9.0	-1	+8			55	10.8
1910	5360	117			39	7.4	-4	+5	7	60.3	40	7.5
1911	5433	99	101	18.58	49	9.2	-2	+12	10	99.9	59	11.3
1912	5500	102	105	19.	50	9.	-2	+11	7	66.6	59	10.7

* Rates in Columns 5 and 7 and 13, calculated per 1,000 of the estimated gross population.

Total Population at all ages at Census of 1911, 5,433. Area of District in acres (inland and land water) 3,961.

Number of Inhabited Houses at Census of 1911, 1,087

Average number of Persons per House, 5

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1912.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							
	At All Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Total cases removed to Hospital
		1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and up- wards	
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10	—	—	1	6	3	—	3
Totals	13	—	1	3	6	3	—	6

Isolation Hospital :—Walthamstow Isolation Hospital, Hale End.
 Total available beds :—5 retained and as many more as may be required.
 Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated :—4.

Walthamstow Isolation Hospital (Scarlet 2), London Hospital (Enteric 1), Frimley Sanatorium (1), and Walthamstow Isolation Hospital (Tuberculosis Wing) (1), Mundsley Sanatorium (1),

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at, Deaths during the Year 1912.

Causes of Death. I	Nett Deaths of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District. II
	2 All Ages.	3 Under 1 year	4 1 and under 2	5 2 and under 5	6 5 and under 15	7 15 and under 25	8 25 and under 45	9 45 and under 65	10 65 and upwards	
Influenza	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	—
Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Organic Heart Disease ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	2	—
Bronchitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	4	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1*
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ...	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Suicide	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Other defined Diseases ...	8	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	2	1*
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—
All causes	59	7	0	2	0	3	14	13	20	*2

*Non-Residents.

Sub-Entry included in above figures, Lobar Pneumonia, 25 and under 45, 2 ;
45 and under 65, 2.

TABLE IV.

*Infantile Mortality during the Year 1912.**Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year.*

Cause of Death.	Under 1 wk.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 mths.	3 months and under 6 mths	6 months and under 9 mths.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes (Certified) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ (Uncertified) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Diarrhœa	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	2
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature birth	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	2
Other causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	7

Nett Births in the Year, legitimate, 101, illegitimate, 4.

Nett Deaths in the Year of legitimate infants, 6, illegitimate, 1.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SURVEYOR.

LOUGHTON,

JANUARY, 1913.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I have great pleasure in presenting to you the thirteenth Annual Report of the work done by the Council under my supervision during the past year.

This work throughout has been one of continued improvement and betterment of our District without any large or special item to record.

The Sanitary Committee, upon whom falls the duty of examining plans for all new houses built in the District, have examined during the year 28 sets of plans deposited for approval, and of these five were disapproved. Of those approved, 15 were for new dwelling houses, the Lincoln Hall, and the conversion of an old shop and premises into a Cinematograph Theatre, the remainder consisted of additions to existing buildings, sheds, etc.

This number of 28 compares unfavourably with 37 sets of plans examined in 1911, and 28 in 1910, and with the average for the past eight years of 32 sets per annum.

During the year several buildings were reported to the Committee as having been built without the Council's sanction first being obtained, or plans deposited, and these the Sanitary Committee dealt with.

The cause of this decrease is difficult to account for, because, on the whole, work has not been scarce, but it is hoped that a revival in the building trade will take place during the present year, for there is still plenty of building land available in the District, and all who have the welfare of Loughton at heart wish to see it increase along the right lines.

The Sanitary Committee also undertook the work of connecting the sewer at the rear of the houses in Staples Road to the sewer in The Drive at a cost of £100, which was a decided step in the improvement of the sanitation of the District.

The Outfall Works have again given splendid results, shewing that the money expended there has been expended wisely and well, for no complaint is now ever received from the Essex County Council, or the Landowners as to the pollution of the Roding, and during the end of the year the County Medical Officer sent to the works for a sample of the effluent after an absence of 18 months, which sample he describes as "very good indeed."

The crop sown on the field was again mangold-wurzel and was the best crop that has ever been grown, but, owing to the wet season experienced last summer, feed and roots were abundant, so the price received, although good, was not a record one.

The road to the Outfall Works is still in a bad condition during wet weather, and should be taken in hand by the Committee and thoroughly repaired as soon as it is possible to do it.

Turning to the work done by the Highway Committee, which includes the repair, upkeep and lighting of all the roads under the jurisdiction of the Council, which however does not include the High Road or the Epping New Road, it is found that owing to the work at the Outfall Works being finished the Committee were enabled to place more material upon the Highways for their repair than hitherto, and when deciding upon this the Committee agreed to thoroughly repair the Station Road and Forest Road which should now stand for many years.

To effect this, and also the repairs of the other roads, 1000 tons of granite and 300 yards of gravel were put upon the roads and rolled in, but owing to the length of our roads and the bad state in which they were when the Council came into existence, and the heavy motor traffic of the present day, there is much more to be done to bring them up to a good condition, and although all this material has been used many of them are still in a bad state.

In order to assist the gravel and granite being rolled in 150 yards of hoggin have been dug from the Forest pit during the past summer, and this has proved invaluable.

The Committee in their endeavour to improve the roads by means other than placing material upon the roads, carried out the work of laying a large storm drain up York Hill, from the bottom to the junction of Queen's Road and Staples Road, at a cost of £70, as the old one was not large enough to take the water, and it was continually washing down the road, cutting up the surface.

A drain was also put in at the top of Uplands Park Avenue to carry off the surface water from Blind Lane.

Two great improvements were effected during the year when the sharp corners of England's Lane and Rectory Lane were taken off and eased, the former having the hedge cut down and the road widened, enabling persons driving round the corner to see further ahead, and probably avoid a nasty accident. A much needed improvement was also effected in Meadow Road, the path on the North side was kerbed and made up ready for tarring, whilst the bottom of Alger's Road was also kerbed, and a new path made at the top of Smart's Lane, and two awkward corners acquired to enable this to be properly done.

Although the weather during the summer was very wet and unfavourable for tarring, the channels in Pump Hill, Upper Park, and Queen's Road were tarred, and the paths in Meadow Road, Staples Road, and York Hill similarly treated, whilst part of the path in Forest Road was tarpaved.

Amongst sundry work done must be included the re-making of the paths on Alderton Hill and York Hill, whilst many of the grass triangles, which are at the junctions of three roads,

and which had grown high and dangerous, were either taken away or lowered so that a vehicle could run on them without any danger from overturning.

Various new gullies were put in and connected to the storm drains, and the concrete posts made by the Council's men were erected in various roads to keep vehicles from cutting down the banks on the sides of the roads.

With regard to the street lighting in the District, the Council for the first time continued the whole of the lighting throughout the summer months, and they also during the year erected lamps in Smart's Lane, High Road and High Beech Road.

The greatest event in connection with this department of the Council's work was an agreement entered into with the Gas Light and Coke Company, by which the Company took over the whole of the lighting and maintenance of the lamps for a period of seven years, at a cost of £2 14s. per ordinary lamp per annum, the lighting to be throughout the whole year, and the Company to fix new inverted lanterns in place of the old ones of which many had fallen into bad repair, and the new lamps to become the property of the Council at the end of the agreement.

The agreement also provides for its earlier termination by the Council under certain conditions, and includes conditions as to extra lamps, etc., and I consider that under this agreement the Council have already proved by the better light obtained that it was the best policy to adopt.

In conclusion I would again like to point out that with all these extra improvements the ratepayers have only been called upon to pay the same rate as before, viz: 3/- in the £ per annum, and I therefore think the Council have every right to congratulate themselves upon the past year's work.

Your obedient servant,

HORACE WHITE, F.R.I.B.A.,

Surveyor to the Council.







