

[Report 1898] / Medical Officer of Health, Aylesbury U.D.C.

Contributors

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Publication/Creation

1898

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1898.

AYLESBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL—I.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Population last Census.....	8,916
Estimated to middle of 1898	9,756

During the year there have been registered :—

	M.	F.	Total.	Annual rate per 1000 living.
Births	103	107	210	or 21·5252
Deaths	69	53	122	„ 12·5050
Excess of births .	34	54	88	„ 9·0202

Corrected death rate, 106, or 10·8651 per 1,000 living. Sixteen deaths occurred of persons not belonging to Aylesbury—

In the Union House.....	12	Extra parochial...	8
Royal Bucks Hospital	12	„ „	6
The Town.....	98	„ „	2
	122		16

The deaths are 40 less than last year ; under average of 10 years by 26. The births are 44 less than last year ; under average of 10 years by 26. Last year the births were 16 above average, and deaths 2·4 below. Last year the death rate was greater than previous four years, but this year's record is the lowest I have known. The average for the past six years gives an annual rate of 12·8032 per 1,000, against 16·4312 for the six preceding, or 3·6280 less per 1,000. Thus we have a most satisfactory result in comparing the two periods. The deaths and births are both 26 under average for the ten years.

I append tables of births and deaths for this and previous ten years. In this table the extra parochial deaths are deducted, showing the corrected death rate ; all those that follow are calculated from the gross death rate returned by registrar :—

	Per 1,000.	Per 1,000 living.
1888 Births, 252 or 30·230	Deaths, 149 or 17·874	
1889 „ 251 „ 29·813	„ 122 „ 14·847	
1890 „ 217 „ 25·523	„ 138 „ 15·231	
1891 „ 253 „ 28·375	„ 151 „ 17·823	
1892 „ 252 „ 27·885	„ 143 „ 15·823	
1893 „ 232 „ 25·2283.....	„ 129 „ 14·0278	
1894 „ 214 „ 22·9909.....	„ 121 „ 13·0004	
1895 „ 210 „ 22·2929.....	„ 120 „ 12·739	
1896 „ 225 „ 23·6005.....	„ 121 „ 12·694	
1897 „ 254 „ 26·4205.....	„ 131 „ 13·5834	
1898 „ 210 „ 21·5252.....	„ 106 „ 10·8651	
Average 236 „ 24·292	Average 132·5 „ 13·581	

As regards sex, the births and deaths for this and previous ten years are :—

	1898.	1897.	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1891.	1890.	1889.	1888.
M.	103	122	120	96	114	118	139	124	112	122	126
F.	107	132	105	114	100	114	113	129	105	129	126
Tot.	210	254	225	210	214	232	252	253	217	251	252

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 FROM 1776 TO 1888

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES
 FROM 1776 TO 1888
 BY
 JOHN P. FENNER
 OF THE
 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
 AND
 OF THE
 CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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DEATHS.

	1898.	1897.	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1891.	1890.	1889.	1888.
M.	69	83	84	65	79	90	86	85	78	74	98
F.	53	79	65	75	62	70	74	90	83	61	75
Tot.	122	162	149	140	141	160	160	175	161	135	173

	1898.	1897.	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
Excess of male births	—	—	15	—	14	4	26
Excess of male deaths	16	4	19	—	17	20	12
Excess of female births	4	10	—	18	—	—	—
Excess of female deaths	—	—	—	10	—	—	—

The female birth rate is higher than males; it is usually the other way; the deaths of males are about the average excess over females.

The deaths from zymotic affections were 17, or 1·7423 per 1,000 living, were attributed to diphtheria 3, croup membranous 1, enteric fever 1, erysipelas 1, measles 4, diarrhoea 7.

Notified under Infectious Diseases Act, 36—

Scarlet Fever.....	6	No fatality.
Diphtheria.....	21	3 fatal.
Erysipelas	7	1 fatal.
Puerperal Fever	1	Recovered.
Enteric „	1	Fatal.

As will be seen by table below, the zymotic death-rate is slightly below the average of ten years; last year it was only half the average.

1888.....	22	or 2·639 per 1,000 living.
1889.....	19	„ 2·256 „
1890.....	19	„ 2·230 „
1891.....	16	„ 1·794 „
1892.....	18	„ 1·9918 „
1893.....	18	„ 1·9573 „
1894.....	22	„ 2·3628 „
1895.....	10	„ 1·0615 „
1896.....	27	„ 2·8346 „
1897.....	9	„ ·9342 „
1898.....	17	„ 1·741 „
Average of ten years ...	18	„ 1·845 „

Table of Causes of Deaths from principal Zymotic Diseases for this and previous ten years.

	1898.	'97.	'96.	'95.	'94.	'93.	'92.	'91.	'90.	'89.	'88.	10 yrs. Average
Measles	4	0	14	0	0	1	11	0	0	4	0	3
Diphtheria	3	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	6	1·2
Whooping Cough	0	0	3	0	14	0	0	4	5	1	5	3·2
Croup	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	3	1
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	7	6	3	3	2	7	2	2	3	7	3	3·8
Rheumatic Fever	0	1	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	·9
Erysipelas	1	0	0	5	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	·9
Enteric Fever	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	2	1·1
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	·5
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	2	·7
Pyæmia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	·0
Influenza	0	0	0	0	3	2	4	7	0	0	0	1·6

Table of Deaths from Pneumonia, Pleurisy, and Bronchitis for this and previous ten years.

1888.....	28 or 3·359 per 1,000 living.
1889.....	19 „ 2·216 „
1890.....	26 „ 3·058 „
1891.....	30 „ 3·363 „
1892.....	31 „ 3·430 „
1893.....	25 „ 2·7185 „
1894.....	35 „ 3·7623 „
1895.....	25 „ 2·759 „
1896.....	19 „ 1·993 „
1897.....	28 „ 2·801 „
1898.....	19 „ 1·948 „
Average of 10 years ...	26·6 „ 2·726 „

This year is below average, and nearly one-third lower than last year.

Deaths at different ages for this and previous ten years.

	1898.	'97.	'96.	'95.	'94.	'93.	'92.	'91.	'90.	'89.	'88.	Average.
Under 1 year..	22	28	34	19	39	26	32	34	29	23	40	... 30·4
1 & under 5...	16	9	15	5	14	16	15	11	14	11	17	... 12·7
5 „ 15...	5	6	6	1	5	12	6	5	7	7	7	... 6·2
15 „ 25...	5	13	16	8	7	4	10	11	8	4	8	... 8·9
25 „ 65...	31	50	39	50	38	49	39	37	36	38	36	... 41·2
65 & upwards.	43	56	39	57	38	53	58	77	65	52	65	... 56·0
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	122	162	149	140	141	160	160	175	159	135	173	

The Death-rate under one year is 6 less than last year and 8·4 below average. Four died in first week (3 from premature birth and one diarrhoea), 4 from diarrhoea, 1 erysipelas, measles 1, tuberculosis 2, overlaying 2 (on these and one other child inquests were held), bronchitis 4, appendicitis 1, measles 1, convulsions 1. *One and under five*: Are 3·3 above the average of 10 years are attributed to bronchitis 5, croup 2, diphtheria 2, tubercle 3, measles 3, inquest 1 (natural causes). *Five and under fifteen*: Deaths 1·2 below average are attributed to tubercle 3, diphtheria 1, pleuro pneumonia (tapping), 1. *Fifteen to twenty-five*: 3·9 below average eight less than last year, attributed to tubercle 3, pneumonia and influenza 1, epilepsy 1. *Twenty-five to sixty-five*: 10·2 below average, 19 less than last year, due to phthisis 9, bronchitis and pneumonia 7, cardiac 3, cancer 3, inquest 2 (broken neck, post mortem, hæmorrhage), diabetes 1, tuberculosis, perforating ulcer of ilium 1, typhoid 1, stricture 1, 1, influenza 1, bronchitis 1. *Sixty-five and upwards*: Deaths are 13 less than last year and 13 less than average of 10 years, are attributed to old age 10 (two of these had gangrene), cardiac 11, bronchitis 5, apoplexy and paralysis 9, hepatic 3, phthisis 2, peritonitis 1, stricture of pylorus 1, cut throat 1, three inquests—one accidental, one sudden, one self inflicted. Every period shows a low death-rate, except 1 and under 5, which is above average. The rise is caused by measles, diphtheria, and croup, 7 deaths being attributed to these affections; in the earliest period there is a very low mortality, and the two later periods of life also show the same. The whole year gives an exceptionally low one, the corrected rate being only 10·865 per 1,000 living.

Table of the

1850	100
1851	105
1852	110
1853	115
1854	120
1855	125
1856	130
1857	135
1858	140
1859	145
1860	150
1861	155
1862	160
1863	165
1864	170
1865	175
1866	180
1867	185
1868	190
1869	195
1870	200

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The following Table gives deaths for this and previous ten years at ages of:—

	1898.	'97.	'96.	'95.	'94.	'93.	'92.	'91.	'90.	'89.	'88.	Average.
60 to 70	7	20	12	19	18	17	18	15	24	20	25	18.7
70 to 80	21	23	22	31	16	23	26	40	30	18	32	26.1
80 & upwards	11	22	9	20	9	13	14	22	11	14	8	14.3
	39	65	43	70	43	53	58	77	65	52	65	59.1

The first decade is 3 less than last year, only 0.8 less than average; the 2nd is two less than previous year, 5 under average; the 3rd eleven less than preceeding year, 2.2 less than average; one attained age of 98, one 93.

Of those born (210) 13 died within the year, 6 males and 7 females—6.19 per cent. of the births; last year the percentage was 11.1. Average of ten years 21.7 or 9.596 per cent.

1898	13 or 6.19 per cent. of births.
1897	23 „ 11.1 „
1896	20 „ 8.888 „
1895	14 „ 6.66 „
1894	24 „ 11.30 „
1893	21 „ 9.515 „
1892	25 „ 9.92 „
1891	28 „ 11.067 „
1890	20 „ 10.85 „
1889	12 „ 4.78 „
1888	30 „ 11.9 „

The births and deaths for several quarters of the year are:—

	BIRTHS.				DEATHS.			
	M.	F.	Total.	Per 1,000 living.	M.	F.	Total.	Per 1,000 living.
1st Quarter	15	25	40 or 16.1	.....	19	12	31 or 12.6	.....
2nd „	28	25	53 „ 21.730	.....	17	11	28 „ 11.48	.....
3rd „	29	31	60 „ 24.60	.....	15	12	27 „ 11.0656	.....
4th „	31	26	57 „ 23.3747	.....	18	18	36 „ 15.1700	.....

The births highest in 3rd quarter, the deaths in 4th.


OUTDOOR RELIEF BOOK.

The return of new cases of sickness from District Medical Officer's Relief Book for year ending 31st December, 1898. Forty-four cases are returned, comprising influenza 4, measles 1, varicellia 1, mumps 2, bronchial catarrh 2, diarrhoea 2, gastric 2, fits 3, hepatic 2, plasenta pravia 1, injuries 5, debility 3, dropsy 1, sore throat 2, mental 1, rheumatic fever 1, psoriasis 1.

Measles prevalent in Walton in May and June; schools closed; was about in autumn, just before the holidays; these intervening prevented a more general outbreak. Mumps were present in latter part of the year. Influenza has not been prevalent, but a few cases have from time to time occurred. Whooping cough has also prevailed during the year, but no fatality.

UNION WORKHOUSE.

The total number of inmates in the House, January, 1898	99
„ „ „ December 31st, 1898...	102
Weekly average	95
Number admitted	140
„ discharged	135
Deaths—4 Aylesbury, 7 Rural, 1 Vagrant	12
Births	4



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UNION INFIRMARY.

Number of patients January 1st, 1898	24
„ December 31st, 1898	25
Admitted—25 males, 18 females	43

The 12 deaths are returned as due to senile decay 4, heart disease 2, hepatic dropsy 1, apoplexy 1, broncho-pneumonia 1, phthisis 1, paralysis agitans (bed sores) 1, mumps followed by pleurisy empyæmia resection of rib 1. Ten were males, 2 females—8 were 70 and upwards, oldest 98, the ages of others 5, 41, 45, 65. Three cases of scarlet fever occurred in the house were treated in Isolation Hospital. One might have taken the infection at school; the other was an inmate, and had no communication with outsiders; it is a mystery how she contracted the disease. Cases of new sickness from Medical Officer's book, 35, include bronchitis and pneumonia 6, debility 3, scarlet fever 3, phthisis 2, chicken pox 1, mumps 1, delirium tremens 1, abscess 1, heart disease (including gangrene and dropsy) 3, cancer 1, senility 1, mental 1, gastric 1, apoplexy and paralysis 2, neuralgia 1.

THE ROYAL BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HOSPITAL.

The number of patients treated at this Institution during the year was 273 in-patients; 1,491 out.

There were 26 in-patients in the house, January 1st, 1898.	
„ 32 „ „ December 31st, 1898.	
„ 321 admitted during the year, 168 by ticket, 150 urgency (accidents), and 23 renewals.	
„ 236 discharged cured.	
„ 56 „ „ relieved.	
„ 8 „ „ unrelieved.	
„ 1 made out-patient.	
„ 13 died.	
„ 162 out-patients on the books January 1st, 1898.	
„ 307 casualties.	
„ 343 dental cases.	
„ 1061 admissions by ticket.	
1873	

A weekly average of 13·846 males, 12·346 females: 26 192 in-patients.

Thirteen deaths occurred among in-patients: seven from surrounding district and six from Aylesbury. The causes of death were 1 cut throat (suicidal), 1 dislocation of neck, 1 peritonitis from perforating ulcer of ilium, phthisis 2, bronchitis 2 (one of these, aged 3½ years, had laryngitis also, tracheotomy was performed), 1 operation for nœvus on neck (five weeks old), diphtheria 1, enteric fever 1, urethral stricture 1, malarial asthenia 1, sarcoma 1. Diphtheria case was sent in for operation from the town, but the child's condition was considered to be hopeless, and it died in a few hours. The enteric fever case was a Militiaman who had tramped from South Wales to join the 3rd Oxfordshire Battalion of Light Infantry in training here; being late he was made a prisoner, and fell ill the next day; his symptoms were obscure, and he was admitted before fever was diagnosed. Two inquests were held. No case of infectious disease reported as occurring in the house during the year.

The cases treated consisted of:—

343 Dental cases.
437 Casualties—130 taken into house, 307 treated out include cases of accident and emergency.
89 General debility.
119 Renewals of tickets.
174 Stomach and bowels, dyspepsia principally, 3 cases of appendicitis included in them.
79 Skin diseases.
94 Anæmia.
55 Bronchial and lung affection.
61 Phthisis 27, strumous affections, glands, bones, and joints 34.
58 Rheumatic affections.
34 Cardiac affections, dropsy, &c.
55 Gernito urinary, uterine, kidney, bladder, &c.

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- 52 Ulcer, varicose veins, &c.
 29 Abscesses.
 74 Nervous diseases, 14 chorea, epilepsy, neuralgia 2.
 12 Goitre.
 22 Throat and mouth.
 32 Ruptures, operation for strangulated, radical cure, and trusses supplied.
 56 Eye.
 12 Ear.
 22 Cancerous.
 11 Deformities (4 spinal, 12 growths).
 4 Liver, 6 intestinal worms.
 3 Blood poisoning, 3 venereal, 3 ague.
 8 Influenza, 1 diphtheria, 1 whooping cough.
 3 Sunstroke, 1 senile demented.

The Hospital was partially closed for cleaning during autumn

GENERAL REMARKS.

Under Infectious Diseases Notification Act, which has been in force since February, 1890, 36 cases have been notified. I append table for this and previous eight years.

	1878.	1897.	1896.	1895.	1894	1893.	1892	1891.	1890.	Average
Typhoid	1	5	3	5	2	4	2	2	5	3.75
Puerperal	1	0	0	4	0	1	1	1	1	1.
Erysipelas	7	2	3	8	15	10	12	5	3	7.25
Scarlet fever	6	20	9	14	45	165	4	7	23	35.85
Small-pox	0	0	2	3	0	3	0	0	0	1
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	$\frac{1}{8}$
Diphtheria	21	0	1	1	6	7	0	3	5	2.65

The Typhoid Fever case was a Militiaman who had tramped from South Wales and failed directly he had reported himself at training. He died in Hospital.

Erysipelas.—One case occurred in Union, six in the town, all idiopathic: no connection between any of them. One case of an infant, where the disease affected the vulva, proved fatal. The cases were distributed in various parts of the town; 2 occurred in April, 1 in May, 1 August, 1 September, 1 November, 1 December. The cases were just below average of previous eight years.

Puerperal Fever.—No fatality. One case, just the average of previous eight years.

Scarlet Fever.—Six cases, average 35.85, no death. Four occurred in January, 1 in March, 1 in October; three in Union, others were distributed among different families, only one in a house. Two boys went to Barnum's, one developed scarlet fever, the other measles.

Cholera, Small-pox, and Typhus.—No case of either.

Diphtheria.—Twenty-one cases, average of previous 8 years, 2.85; 3 fatal. On November 14th I reported to the Local Government Board that 10 cases had been notified since 15th of October, and nine cases in the nine months previous, six of which occurred in August and September, and three in the first three months, the intervening four months being exempt. There were two more cases in November and one in December. Three cases occurred in two houses, and two in other two houses; all others only a single case. Fifteen families were affected, details of state of premises were given at the time, and nuisances detrimental to health remedied. Although the disease may not be due to neglect of drains and general sanitary conditions, in several cases sewer gas was admitted into the dwelling, and in houses where several cases occurred this was more especially the case. It is my belief that the disease is kept up through personal infection from mild cases overlooked or not recognised. I saw a child convalescent from measles with marked diphtheritic paralysis, and on expressing an opinion to that effect was told the child had a special discharge from nose, and the medical attendant had said if it had not just recovered from measles he should have thought it diphtheritic. Another child died after tracheotomy for laryngitis with broncho-pneumonia no tonsillar affection. Shortly afterwards a child in same family had diphtheria. Many mild cases get well without treatment, and not being notified the disease is spread. St. Mary's Boys' School was closed on account of the disease in Headmaster's house.

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general
discussion of the problem. It is shown that the
problem is of great importance and that it has
not been completely solved. The author then
presents a new method for solving the problem.
2. In the second part, the author applies the
method to a specific case. It is shown that the
method is very effective and that it can be used
to solve a wide range of problems. The author
also discusses the advantages and disadvantages of
the method.

Diarrhoea and Dysentery.—Seven deaths are registered under this head, 3·2 above average of ten years, all were under five years old. Four occurred in the 4th quarter of the year.

Measles.—Four deaths, three of these were in second quarter of the year. On May 6th, the attendance at Walton Schools were reported as short on account of measles. It appears that a fortnight before one child was kept at home having measles. On the 5th, 35 scholars were absent; on the 6th, 65 on account of measles. These cases were distributed among 28 families. I advised the closing of the school; they were closed for a month. This was reported to the Local Government Board. The district was confined to the Walton district and not distributed generally through the town. It was of a mild, general character. Three deaths were registered in children under 3 in May, complicated with bronchitis. Cases occurred later in other parts of the town up to school holidays when they seemed to cease. One child one year old died in December, apparently an isolated case. The average death-rate was not exceeded.

Whooping Cough was prevalent, but no fatality. Average of ten years, 3·2.

Rheumatic Fever.—No death. Average mortality, '9.

Influenza.—No death attributed directly to this disease, but three are entered as complicated with it. There was no epidemic.

Croup.—One infant registered as dying from membranous croup.

Infectious Diseases Hospital has not been in use during the year. It is in the same state as last reported on. Its isolation and want of accommodation render it comparatively useless. The want of proper accommodation for isolation of infectious cases is often felt both in urban and rural districts, and it is very much to be regretted that a joint hospital cannot be instituted.

Slaughter Houses—All these have been visited during the year and found to be fairly well kept. The attention of the Inspector was called to a carcass of a cow in non-licensed premises in Upper Hundreds on February 7th. The animal was killed at Aston Clinton, not being able to travel further. The quarters, which were not jointed, were found in a building where it was stated sausages were manufactured and meat sold. The meat was viewed late at night and orders given that it should not be dealt with or removed except under supervision of officers, but it was removed at 7 a.m., and Andrews was prosecuted and fined for obstructing officers in execution of duty. The quarters were removed to Wall's and boiled down for pigs, and it was stated that this was intended destination of carcass from the first. Another carcass was condemned as unfit for human food, which was found in a slaughter house in New Street. It was deposited there without knowledge of occupier, and was to be fetched away next morning. The animal had broken its leg and an abscess followed. The farmer sold it at offal price, and it was stated to be intended for boiling down for dogs, and if the purchaser of the carcass could have satisfied the officers that this was done they were willing to let it go; but it appeared he had parted with half to someone else, so it was seized, condemned, and buried. There was also seized in Market a lot of bacon which was bad. This was condemned and owner prosecuted and fined. The necessity of having a knacker's yard, or place of the kind under supervision, is exemplified by two of these prosecutions. If there had been a proper place to dispose of the carcasses there would be no excuse for sending them to licensed premises or other place where they would be suspected of being prepared for human food. The establishment of a public *abattoir* would be the only means of keeping the trade under due supervision. The registration of licensed premises was considered by the Board and a fresh register provided, but the bye-law relating to removal of offal in non-absorbent vessels is not enforced.

Bakehouses were found in fair condition. One new bakehouse was erected, and brought into use during the year in the place of one of the worst old bakehouses. The furnace is out of the house, so all coals, ashes, &c., are kept outside and the place can be kept clean. It is a very creditable place now; orders were given for necessary cleansing and repairs were required.

Dairy and Cowsheds.—No provision made for inspection, *i.e.*, no Inspector appointed. At the request of the Council, I visited, with the Inspector of Nuisances, the premises occupied by some of those principally engaged in supplying town with milk. We found almost all

the cows were allowed to be out, except in very rough weather. The sheds in many cases would be condemned, as not affording desirable accommodation for keeping cows stalled, but being used only for milking in we could not make orders for improvement. A great deal of milk is derived from out of town farmers. One dairy was on point of being erected. In one some milk was set in cellar in which was a drain connecting with sewer, coal kept, and used as household larder. At the shops utensils were found clean and places well kept.

Elementary Schools have been visited, and found in satisfactory condition generally. New floor was found to be necessary in St. Mary's Boys' School, and play-yard required repairing.

Lodging Houses have been visited and found to be respectably kept. The numbering of rooms and revising air space allotted to each bed, with re-issue of cards, as recommended in my two previous reports, has not been carried out.

Disinfection Chamber has not been provided.

Scavenging has been carried out satisfactorily. The street ventilators have been complained of, and I represented to the Council the necessity for regular flushing of drains, which had been neglected all through the hot dry summer and cleaning the sewers, which had also been neglected; arrangements were made for this to be carried out. The advisability of insisting on an adequate flush to all closets was discussed, but no order was made that this should be done.

I append report kindly furnished me by Surveyor as what has been done in regard to buildings, sewers, sewage works, and other matters coming under his supervision.

In presenting this report I may congratulate the Council, not only on the low death rate for this year, but on the fact that the comparison of the last six years with the six years preceding gives a reduction of 3·6280 per 1,000 in the death rate. The death rate of England and Wales was 17·6; ours 10·86 per 1,000 for 1898.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES HOOPER,

Medical Officer of Health, Urban Sanitary Authority.

Surveyor's Office, Aylesbury.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT OF SANITARY WORK FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1898.

Sewers.—The 12in. and 9in. glazed stoneware pipe sewers have been extended in the Tring and Berton Roads to meet the requirements of the new buildings and building sites of the district, at a cost of about £430.

A portion of the old brick sewer running from Walton Street across some private gardens in the direction of the Metropolitan Railway, has been removed as far as the accommodation road off Brook Street.

Traps and Ventilating Shafts.—House drains have again been re-laid, trapped, and ventilated throughout the district where found defective; and instructions have been given for ventilating shafts to be erected on the main sewers, wherever any complaint is made about the offensive surface gratings.

Water Supply.—The Chiltern Hills water has been supplied to 61 new premises during the year.

Buildings.—Plans of the following New Street buildings or alterations were approved, viz. :—

Dwelling houses	61
Hotel	1
Shop	1
Warehouses and Stables... ..	5
Various alterations, additions, and bay windows	112
Open sheds and tool houses	5

Street Works.—The construction of St. John's Road, Cambridge Street, referred to in last year's report, have been carried out by the Council, without the aid of a contractor, and the road has now been taken over by the Council as a public highway.

A large area of Croft Adamant Paving has been laid on the footpaths in the Oxford Road, from Whitehill to Rickford's Hill, and on the south side of Walton Street from the Brewery stream to Court Close.

The Park Street bridges, which were proposed to be re-built last year, have not yet been commenced, but it is intended to obtain the consent of the Local Government Board to carry out the work, at an estimated cost of £1,500, the County Council having agreed to contribute one-third of the cost.

A great improvement has been effected in the construction of the retaining wall and channelling in the Buckingham Road, and the metalling of the space from the channel to the footpath, extending from New Street to the last house on the east side.

Sewage Works.—After careful consideration and much discussion upon the Reports of Messrs. Dibdin and Thudichum, on the experiments with the coarse bacteria bed at the Sewage Works, and recommending dispensing with chemical treatment, it was finally decided to carry out the scheme as sanctioned by the Local Government Board, and accordingly detailed plans, specifications, and quantities were prepared and tenders invited for the construction of the works, and fourteen tenders were received, varying from £10,816 2s. 4d. to £15,300 0s. 0d.

The lowest tender being considered too high by the Council, instructions were given for certain reductions to be made, and the accompanying Report was duly submitted:—

To the Chairman and Members of the Aylesbury Urban District Council,

Surveyor's Offices, Aylesbury, December 29th, 1898.

Gentlemen,—

SURVEYOR'S REPORT OF CONTRACTS FOR SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

In accordance with instructions given at your special meeting on the 19th inst., I have carefully gone through the plans, specifications, and quantities, and beg to report as follows:—

I have taken the two lowest tenders, which, as you are aware, are from Messrs. Merredew and Wort, of Stevenage, for £10,816 2s. 4d., and Mr. G. H. Gibson, of High Wycombe, for £10,982, upon which to make the necessary reductions in order to come within the amount sanctioned by the Local Government Board.

The most important alterations will be in Contracts No. 4, 5, and 6, whereby the omissions of the greater part of the irrigation field, the extension of buildings, and the erection of the chimney shaft, the contracts will be curtailed by the sum of £3,583 14s. 3d. with Messrs. Merredew and Wort, and £3,516 8s. 7d. with Mr. G. H. Gibson.

Further reductions could be also made to the extent of £666, or £673 respectively, from Contracts Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 7, by omitting the following:—

All the white glazed brickwork, and substituting local bricks for certain brindle bricks.

A portion of the concrete backing to pump, well, and tank.

Ordinary instead of patent joints to effluent main.

The stone kerb, railing, and Staffordshire paving to pump room.

A portion of the boundary fencing to Works.

Road-making across irrigation field.

The amended tenders would then stand as follows:—

Messrs. Merredew and Wort.

			£	s.	d.
Total amount of contract	...	...	10,816	2	4
Deduct Contract No. 1	...	£292	14	0	
" " " 2	...	219	5	0	
" " " 4	...	100	3	9	
" " " 5	...	1820	10	9	
" " " 6	...	758	13	0	
" " " 7	...	1004	10	6	
		124	3	9	
			4,250	0	9
			£6,566	1	7

Mr. H. G. Gibson.

			£	s.	d.
Total amount of contract	...	...	10,982	0	0
Deduct Contract No. 1	...	£156	0	10	
" " " 2	...	302	0	0	
" " " 4	...	109	11	7	
" " " 5	...	1909	10	1	
" " " 6	...	701	16	8	
" " " 7	...	905	1	10	
		105	17	5	
			4,189	18	5
			£6,792	1	7

The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the car was the cold, crisp air. It was a relief after the warm, stuffy interior. I looked around, taking in the sights and sounds of the city. The streets were busy with people and cars, and the buildings were tall and modern. I felt like I had entered a new world.

I walked down the sidewalk, feeling the pavement under my feet. The sun was shining brightly, and the shadows of the buildings were cast long and dark. I felt a sense of freedom and adventure. I was alone in a strange city, but I was also free to explore and discover.

I turned a corner and found myself in a park. The trees were tall and leafy, and the grass was green and soft. I sat down on a bench and looked up at the sky. The birds were singing, and the wind was blowing gently. I felt a sense of peace and tranquility. I was in a beautiful place, and I was alone.

I stood up and walked towards the water. The waves were crashing against the shore, and the sun was setting. The sky was a mix of orange, red, and purple. I felt a sense of awe and wonder. I was in a magical place, and I was alone.

I walked along the beach, feeling the sand under my feet. The waves were crashing against the shore, and the sun was setting. The sky was a mix of orange, red, and purple. I felt a sense of awe and wonder. I was in a magical place, and I was alone.

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Or, the corrected amount of each tender to be accepted would be thus :—

	Messrs.			Mr.		
	Merredew & Wort.			G. H. Gibson.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
General conditions...				470	0	0
Contract No. 1—Pump Well ...	1305	8	6	1172	19	2
" " 2—Precipitating tank ...	769	18	2	771	0	0
" " 3—Filter beds ...	3140	10	11	3042	0	0
" " 4—Irrigation field ...	396	1	3	410	16	6
" " 5—Engine beds ...	142	12	9	108	3	4
" " 6—Chimney shaft ...						
" " 7—Pipes, valves, &c. ...	811	10	0	767	2	7
" Printing and other expenses...				50	0	0
	£6,566	1	7	£6,792	1	6

I have written to each Contractor, thanking them for their tenders, and stating the question was adjourned until the 29th inst., when the result will be made known, and a list of tenders supplied; but, probably, considerable correspondence will take place with the Contractor whose tender is accepted, when he knows the extent of the reduction; with the result that the matter may be referred to the Council again, for the approval of some minor alteration in the above figures.

In making the foregoing deductions, I have endeavoured to arrive at the lowest figure without interfering with the effectual working of the proposed scheme. The large reduction in the irrigation field is in accordance with your own special resolution. The omission of the buildings and chimney shaft can reasonably be made in face of the fact that similar expenditure will in due time be necessary, in connection with the proposed Electrical Installation, which must be in the centre of the town, and where the House Refuse could be consumed more economically than at the Sewage Works, and oil engines could be erected in the existing Pump Room, and more easily dealt with in the event of Electric Motors being adopted at any time, as already suggested in the scheme, for which application is now being made for Provisional Order.

The smaller items including the glazed and brindled brickwork, guard rails, ornamental tile paving, etc., while presenting a better appearance and making more satisfactory work, are not absolutely necessary, and their omission assists in reducing the total amount of the contracts. The boundary fencing and road making, now omitted, could at any time be performed by the Council out of current expenditure, and the latter possibly in a more convenient manner, than by contract.

With regard to the necessary machinery, I find the amount sanctioned by the Local Government Board was £1,692, but instead of any figures being published, I would suggest that as soon as lithographed plans and particulars have been prepared, Tenders be invited, under three contracts for oil engines, pumps, and air compressors capable of performing the required work.

In conclusion I might point out that although the filters are to be placed on the existing Works as suggested by the Local Government Board, no amended plans have been submitted. I should therefore be glad to know if you wish a general plan and section to be sent up, with a request for permission to substitute oil engines for steam power?

I have the honour to remain,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. H. BRADFORD,

Surveyor.

Eventually the Tender of Messrs. MERRIDEW & WORT, contractors, of Stevenage, was accepted for work to the extent of £6,566 1s. 7d., and the work has at last been commenced.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF THE SANITARY WORK COMPLETED IN THE YEAR 1898.

Complaints received during the year ...	6
Houses, Premises, &c., inspected...	110
Reinspections of Houses, Premises, &c. ...	271
Results of Inspection :—	
Orders, Notices, and Letters issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses and Premises ...	41
Houses, Premises, &c., Cleansed, Repaired, Whitewashed, &c. ...	5
Houses Disinfected after illness of an infectious character ...	13
House Drains :—	
Repaired, Cleansed, Trapped, &c. ...	43
Ventilated ...	3
Water Supply :—	
New Services, Taps, or Cisterns erected ...	61
Miscellaneous :—	
Lodging Houses registered under 35th section of the "Sanitary Act, 1866," or 90th section of "Public Health Act, 1875." ...	3
Dust Removal—Communications received and attended to ...	2
Removal of accumulations of Dung, Stagnant Water, Animal and other Refuse ...	10
Animals Removed, being improperly kept ...	1
Regularly Inspected :—	
Bakehouses ...	24
Licensed Cowsheds ...	8
Licensed Slaughter-houses ...	10
Legal Proceedings: i.e., Summonses ...	3

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of

List of names	
1. John A. Smith	2. James B. Jones
3. William C. Brown	4. Robert D. White
5. Thomas E. Green	6. Charles F. Black
7. Henry G. Gray	8. George H. Hall
9. Isaac I. Hill	10. Jacob J. Hunt
11. John K. King	12. Lewis L. Lamb
13. Michael M. Martin	14. Nathaniel N. Nash
15. Philip O. Oliver	16. Quincy P. Parker
17. Samuel Q. Quinn	18. Theodore R. Reed
19. Uriah S. Scott	20. Walter T. Taylor
21. Vernon U. Underhill	22. William V. Vance
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