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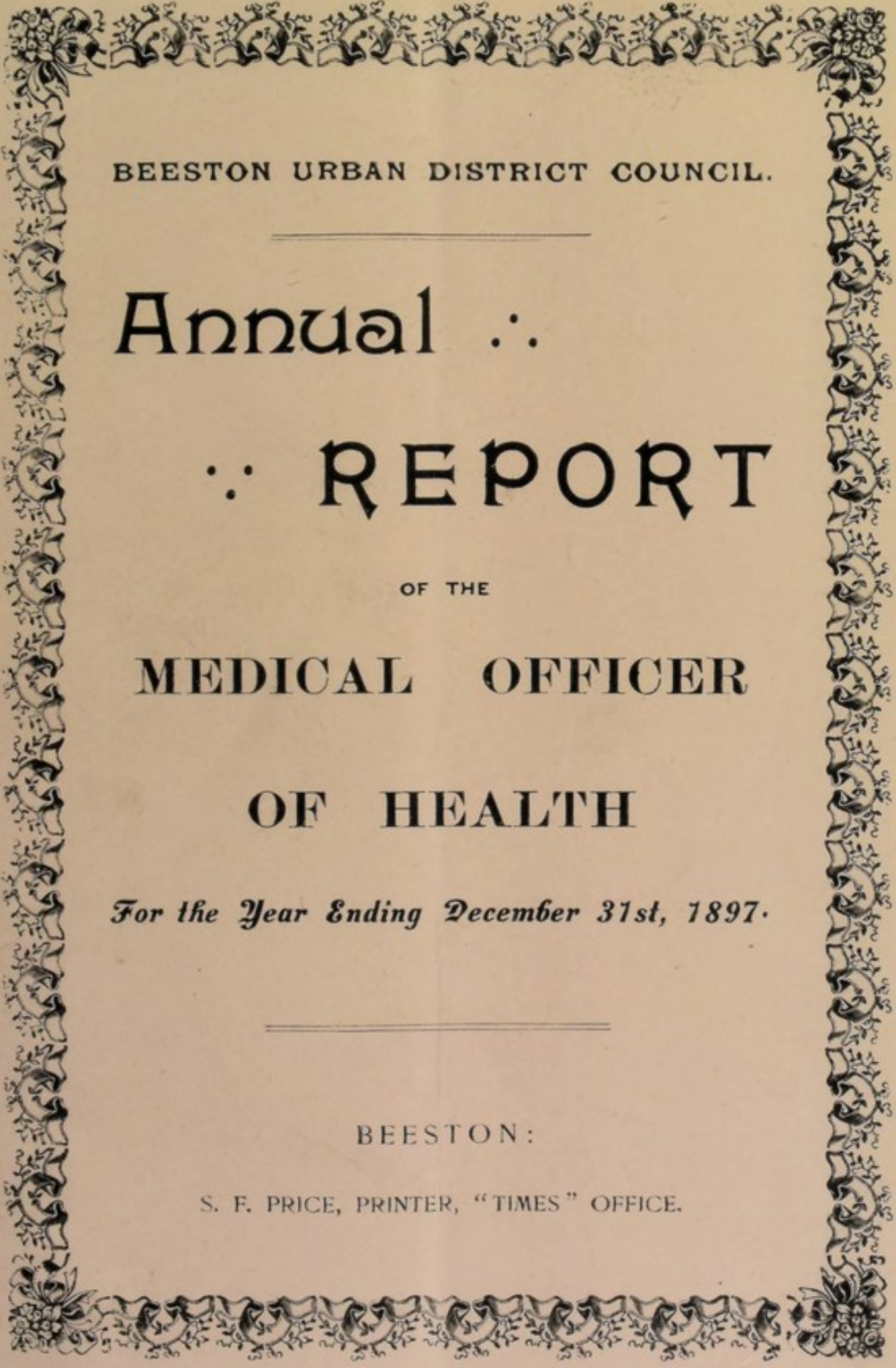
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BEESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Annual ∴

∴ REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER


OF HEALTH

*For the Year Ending December 31st, 1897.*

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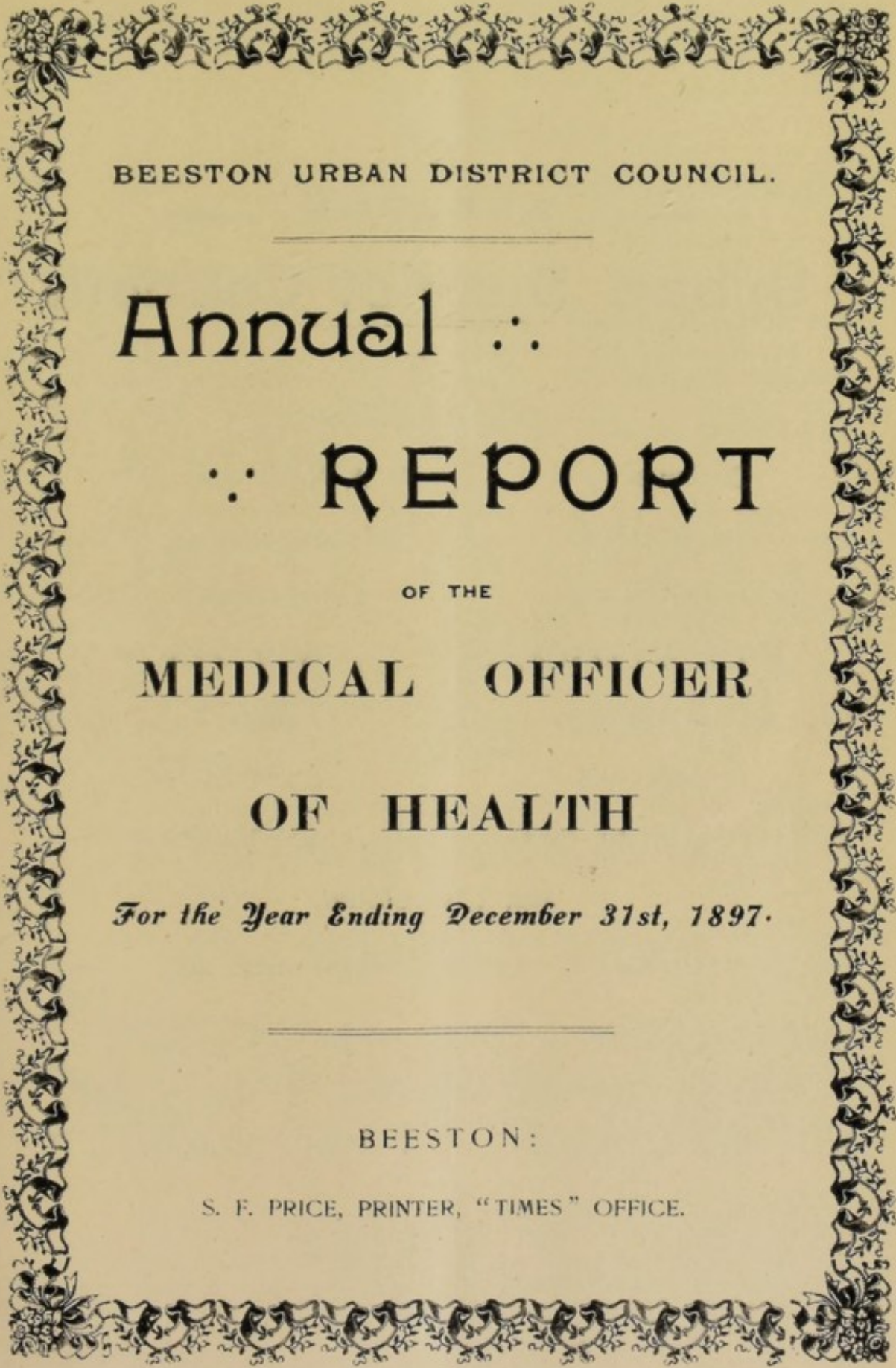
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— B E E S T O N —

Urban District Council,

1897.

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VICE-CHAIRMAN - G. FELLOWS, ESQ., J.P.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - DR. FRANK ROTHERA.

SURVEYOR AND SANITARY INSPECTOR - MR. WM. WALKER.

RATE COLLECTOR - - MR. A. KIRKLAND.

BEESTON, NOTTS.,

FEBRUARY 1ST, 1898.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present you with the following Report for the year ending December 31st, 1897, being my Fifth Annual Report on the health of Beeston. The chief causes of sickness and mortality in the district have not shown much variation during recent years, and, from a sanitary point of view, this year does not present any very remarkable features.

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.—From the table which I append at the end of this Report (kindly supplied by G. Fellows, Esq., of Beeston Fields), it will be seen that both as regards temperature and rainfall the results for the year vary but slightly from those of 1896. The mean temperature is normal and almost identical with that in the previous year. In each year eight months were above and four below their respective means, but in 1896 the warmth occurred during the early part of the year, whereas in 1897 it was more uniformly spread over the twelve months, the last three months having been very mild and open.

The number of frosts is again few, and none were of any great severity. There were 49 registered at 4 feet above the ground, and 104 on the grass, January having the greatest number, viz., 17 and 23 respectively.

The rainfall is slightly below the average again, viz., 25.61 inches. This makes the sixth year in succession with a deficient rainfall.

It will thus be seen that owing to the uniformity of the meteorological conditions the public health has not been materially affected thereby, thus differing from some years in which severe frosts or intense heat give rise respectively to respiratory diseases or diarrhœa.

I estimate the population on August 1st, 1897, to have been 9,750, this being a fraction under 5 per house for the 2,017 houses now existing in the parish. This, in my opinion, is not too high an average to take when one considers the large families that obtain in Beeston and the numbers of lodgers residing here.

During the year there have been :—

293	births and	108	deaths as against
259	"	113	" in 1896
245	"	113	" " 1895
244	"	100	" " 1894
221	"	108	" " 1893
224	"	106	" " 1892

(of the births there were 159 males and 134 females). This gives a Birth-rate of and a death-rate of

30'05	11'07	per 1,000	per annum	for 1897
28' 7	12' 5	"	"	" 1896
29' 6	13' 6	"	"	" 1895
30' 5	12' 5	"	"	" 1894
29' 1	14' 2	"	"	" 1893
Average 29' 5	12' 7	for 5 years.		

Of the 108 deaths, 7 necessitated an inquest and 2 were uncertified by any medical man, but no enquiry was deemed necessary. Of the total deaths

33	occurred in the 1st quarter
31	" " " 2nd "
28	" " " 3rd "
16	" " " 4th "

It is interesting to note that though the number of deaths is five less than in 1896 the population is 750 more, and also that the number of births to the number of deaths is very nearly in the proportion of 3 to 1.

The deaths are classed under the following heads :—

	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893
Small-pox.....	0	0	0	0	0
Measles .....	0	8	0	9	0
Scarlatina.....	0	1	0	0	0
Diphtheria .....	0	1	1	1	1
Croup .....	0	3	1	0	0
Typhus Fever.....	0	0	0	0	0
Typhoid Fever .....	0	1	0	1	0
Continued Fever ...	0	0	0	1	1
Puerperal Fever ...	0	0	0	2	0
Erysipelas .....	0	0	0	1	0
Whooping Cough ...	1	0	0	0	7
Diarrhœa & Dysentery	10	2	14	4	10
Rheumatic Fever ...	1	1	0	0	0
Phthisis .....	12	8	12	14	11
Bronchitis, Pleurisy, and Pneumonia	14	13	18	13	16
Heart Disease.....	8	10	8	12	13
Cancer.....	3	7	Not recorded.		
Injuries .....	3	2	1	0	0
All other Diseases ...	56	58	58	42	48
	—	—	—	—	—
	108	113	113	100	108

The deaths may be tabulated as follows :—

Under 1 year .....	36	...	31	...	41	...	20	..	39
1 year & under 5 years	16	...	12	...	14	...	17	...	11
5 " " 15 "	1	...	5	...	6	...	7	...	4
15 " " 25 "	1	...	8	...	5	...	2	...	5
25 " " 65 "	31	...	27	...	30	...	33	...	25
65 and upwards	23	...	30	...	17	...	21	...	24
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
	108		113		113		100		108

You will observe that the mortality in children under 1 year is somewhat higher than in 1896, though lower than in 1895. On the other hand there have been 34 more births in 1897 than in 1896, so that the infant mortality per 1,000 births registered is 122·8 in 1897 as compared with 119 in 1896, and 167 in 1895.

Tabulated and compared with the two previous years the causes of deaths in infants under 1 year are as follows :—

	1897	1896	1895
Premature Birth .....	8	...	5
Bronchitis & Pneumonia	3	...	4
Debility from Birth .....	5	...	5
Convulsions .....	7	...	6
Constitutional Syphilis...	1	...	0
General Tuberculosis.....	0	...	1
Diarrhœa.. .....	10	...	1
Suppression of Urine.....	0	...	0
Rickets .....	0	...	1
Tubercular Meningitis ...	2	..	1
Measles .....	0	..	3
Tabes Mesenterica .....	0	...	1
Intussusception of Bowel	0	...	0
Hæmophilia .....	0	...	0
Enteritis .....	0	...	2
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	36	31	41

In analysing the above table it may be pointed out that 13 deaths, viz., 8 from premature birth and 5 from debility from birth, may be looked upon as unavoidable, the majority dying when a few hours old. The most serious item is that 10 deaths occurred from diarrhœa as compared with 1 in 1896 and 11 in 1895. Of these 10 deaths 9 took place in August and September, when we had a most serious outbreak of the disease. The atmospheric conditions during those months were most conducive to the onset and spread of this particular disease, being hot and at the same time damp, the two conditions most favourable to the growth and development of the microbic organisms which cause diarrhœa. I might here emphasize the fact that while at all times it is most desirable to boil the milk used for infant feeding as soon as received night and morning, it becomes most imperative to do so during the summer months.

Reverting to the deaths at all ages table I would like to draw attention to the fact that out of the 23 deaths that took place in people over 65 years of age two were over 90, one at 87, and sixteen between 70 and 80.

In the classification of diseases table it is most satisfactory to notice that apart from the 10 deaths from diarrhoea and 1 from whooping cough there has been no fatal case from any of the other zymotic diseases. These eleven cases give a zymotic death-rate of 1.1 per 1,000 per annum as compared with 1.4 in 1896, 1.4 in 1895, and 2.0 in 1894.

Twenty cases of infectious diseases have been notified during the year, viz. :—

	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893
Small-pox.....	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0
Scarlatina.....	2 ...	9	17	3	3
Diphtheria .....	6 ...	6 ...	4 ...	10	15
Croup .....	1 ..	4	2	1	1
Typhoid Fever ...	5 ...	2	7	9	1
Erysipelas .....	6 ...	3	4	2	11
Continued Fever..	0 ...	0	0	1	0
Puerperal Fever ...	0 ...	0	0	4	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	20	24	34	30	31

This record compares very favourably with the previous four years, and affords a good index of our general sanitary excellence. I should like especially to draw your attention to the fact that no single death has arisen from any of the above specific fevers.

**SMALL-POX.**—It has been a great pleasure to me since I became your medical officer of health to be able to say that this dreaded disease has been entirely absent. Parents, however, cannot be too strict in adhering to the vaccination laws, nor medical men too careful to avoid performing it in a perfunctory manner in deference to the wishes of parents who do not believe in the efficacy of vaccination. I have of late frequently had my attention drawn to children having but one small vaccination scar. This, though complying with the law, is no permanent protection against small-pox, and it will be these children and those who escape vaccination altogether who will in the future be a source of danger to the whole community. I would like to add for the reputation of my professional colleagues here in Beeston that this particular laxness is not to be attributed to any of them, but to one special medical man in Nottingham who is making himself conspicuous by it.

**SCARLATINA.**—Our immunity from Scarlatina is remarkable. The only two cases reported during the year occurred in one house, the second having evidently contracted it from the first. They were both of a mild type, and made excellent recoveries. Your Surveyor in my presence thoroughly disinfected the house, and, I am glad to say, no further case has arisen in the neighbourhood.

**DIPHTHERIA.** Of the six cases of Diphtheria notified three were undeniably due to sanitary defects in the patients' surroundings—defects which have since been effectually remedied. The other three cases could not be accounted for, and were of a very mild type. All six recovered.

**CROUP.**—Only one case, the result of cold.

**TYPHOID FEVER.**—Typhoid sickness during the year, although it has been more with us as compared with 1896, has not been unduly so when we consider its prevalence throughout the country. Of the five cases reported, one contracted the disease at a seaside resort where the water is notoriously bad, and the remaining four cases could not be ascribed to any sanitary defects. They all made an uninterrupted recovery.

**ERYSIPELAS.**—The six cases of Erysipelas call for no comment. It is amusing to note that three of them occurred in one patient—a patient, I may add, who must be a source of revenue to her medical attendant in the way of notification fees.

From the other infectious diseases which are not notifiable we have also had a remarkable immunity.

**MEASLES.**—There have been only a few cases of Measles so far as I can judge this year, which compares favourably with 1896, when it became so prevalent that the closing of the schools was under consideration.

**WHOOPIING COUGH** cases have not been very numerous, though never entirely absent during the year. The case that died was complicated with pneumonia. I might here perhaps be allowed to draw the attention of parents to the great necessity of taking the utmost care of children suffering from Measles and the early stages of Whooping Cough. They are both apt to be complicated by Bronchitis and Pneumonia unless care be taken to keep the patients in a uniformly warm temperature. It is these complications which lead to nearly every case of fatal termination, and they can both be avoided, or at any rate rendered less serious by exercising reasonable care in the early stages of both diseases.

I referred in my last Report to the probable reasons for our immunity from serious outbreaks of disease, and ascribed it to :—

(a) Our gravel foundation.

(b) Excellent water supply.

(c) Efficiency of our drainage and scavenging systems. With regard to the last-named I might add that complaints are still made to me of the bad smells issuing from the man-holes, and would suggest that still more ventilating shafts be erected, particularly in situations where man-holes exist near level crossings. I might indicate the following places as being in the most pressing need of ventilating shafts :—

(1) Below the Station, in Meadow Road, to ventilate the junction of Brewery sewer with main sewer.

(2) Somewhere in the neighbourhood of the Cross.

(3) In Post Office Square, to replace the one removed from the present site of the new Council buildings.

(4) At the top of Wollaton Road.

(5) Top of St. John's Grove.

(6) At east end of Broadgate, near the dead end of main sewer. The one erected during the year in the Imperial Road has, I believe, remedied a long-felt want, and should be an inducement to us to add to their number.

Another important sanitary question that faces us is the abolition of all privies (*i.e.*, combined ashpit and closet) that exist in the near neighbourhood of tenement houses. There are many instances of these—notably in Chapel Street, Pleasant Row, and William Street, which are at all times offensive, and, when being emptied, are positively a source of danger to those living near.

In consequence of my repeated complaints about the insanitary and dilapidated condition of houses in Regent Street, Queen's Road, and Windsor Street, the members of the Sanitary Committee, accompanied by our Surveyor and myself, made a house to house visitation in June. The state of affairs disclosed was deplorable, and the owner of the property—through his representative—gave us his positive assurance that the property in question should be attended to without delay. Repairs have been in progress ever since, but there is still much to be done before they can be considered satisfactory.

In company with your Surveyor (Mr. Walker) I have twice during the year inspected all the slaughterhouses, bakehouses, cow-sheds, and piggeries, and am glad to be able to report upon their general cleanliness.

Many other matters of minor importance have been brought to my notice and promptly rectified. Details of these, as well as visits paid in consequence of notifications of infectious diseases will be found in the Medical Officer's Report Book.

I may say in conclusion, Gentlemen, that of all the favourable Reports I have laid before you, this is distinctly the most satisfactory. There are few places—even health resorts—that can show such a clean bill of health as we possess; but, while this is a subject of congratulation to all of us, we must not lose sight of the fact that an epidemic might arise at any time and find us without any provision to cope with it. I refer, of course, to the need of an Isolation Hospital and Disinfecting Apparatus, and can only trust that the new Council, to be elected in April, will give these matters their early consideration.

Allow me to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the Sanitary Committee, the District Council, and my fellow-officers for their unflinching courtesy and kindly consideration to my reports and suggestions.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

**FRANK ROTHERA, M.D.**



## THE WEATHER DURING 1897.

*From Observations taken at Beeston Fields, Notts.*

			TEMPERATURE.		RAINFALL.		
			Mean in Shade.	Above or below Mean.	Total Inches.	Above or below Average.	Number of days rain fell.
January...	...	...	33.6	—2.9	2.46	+ .37	22
February	...	...	41.2	+2.6	3.21	+1.51	13
March	...	..	44.	+3.1	2.19	+ .57	18
April ...	...	...	44.9	—1.0	2.02	+ .35	17
May ...	...	...	50.7	—1.4	1.40	— .84	13
June ...	...	...	60.	+2.0	2.76	+ .74	13
July ...	...	...	61.8	+1.3	.58	—2.18	8
August ...	...	...	61.7	+1.9	2.50	— .05	16
September	...	..	53.9	—2.1	2.30	+ .25	15
October...	...	...	48.8	+1.1	1.06	—1.89	12
November	..	...	44.3	+1.1	1.71	— .60	19
December	...	...	39.7	+2.2	3.42	+ 1.19	18

Mean temperature for the year, 48.7.

Average mean temperature for 15 years, 48.1.

Highest 86.8 on 5th August.

Lowest 20.9 on 24th December.

Total rain fall during the year, 25.61 inches.

Average rain fall during 15 years, 26.09 inches.

Greatest fall in 24 hours, 9.6 inches on 5th February.

Rain was measured on 184 days.

SANITARY LAWS  
OF THE  
BEESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

CAUTION.

Occupiers of tenements are cautioned against throwing Chamber or other slops into Pails, Privies, or Ashpits, whereby a nuisance is created, and great difficulty caused to the men employed by the Council in its removal.

All slops should be emptied into Sewer Grates in the yard, and immediately afterwards the grates flushed with water to prevent offensive smells arising therefrom.

All other refuse, such as waste paper, straw, vegetable refuse, and pieces of stick should be burnt, and all old tins, wire, broken pots and glass, and the like, should be put on one side for the **Refuse Removal Cart**, which calls round on the **first Friday in each month.**

Every person who throws or lays any dirt, litter, ashes, or nightsoil, or any carrion, fish, offal, or rubbish on any street, or causes any offensive matter to run from any Brewery, Manufactory, Butcher's shop, Slaughterhouse, or Dunghill, into any street is liable to a penalty of Forty Shillings.

Provided always that any person may lay sand or other materials in any street in time of frost to prevent accidents, or litter or other suitable materials to prevent the freezing of water in pipes, or in case of sickness to prevent noise, if the person laying such things causes them to be removed as soon as the occasion for them ceases.

CHAS. STROUD,

*Clerk*

