

Contributors

Beeston (Nottinghamshire, England). Urban District Council.

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BEESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

OF HEALTH,

For the Year Ending December 31, 1898.

BEESTON :

H. A. PRICE, PRINTER, "CAXTON HOUSE."

(Of the births there were 146 males and 134 females.) This gives a Birth-rate of and a Death-rate of

28.8	11.8	per	1000	per	annum	for	1898
30.05	11.07	„	„	„	„	„	1897
28.7	12.5	„	„	„	„	„	1896
29.6	13.6	„	„	„	„	„	1895
30.5	12.5	„	„	„	„	„	1894
29.1	14.2	„	„	„	„	„	1893

Of the 119 deaths, 2 necessitated an inquest, and 5 were uncertified by any medical man, but no enquiry was deemed necessary. Of the total deaths

26	occurred	in	the	1st	quarter
25	„	„	„	2nd	„
31	„	„	„	3rd	„
37	„	„	„	4th	„

The deaths are classed under the following heads:—

	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1993
Small-pox ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles ...	4	0	8	0	9	0
Scarlatina ...	0	0	1	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	1	1	1	1
Croup ...	0	0	3	1	0	0
Typhus Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Typhoid „ ...	0	0	1	0	1	0
Continued „ ...	0	0	0	0	1	1
Puerperal „ ...	0	0	0	0	2	0
Erysipelas ...	0	0	0	0	1	0
Whooping Cough	1	1	0	0	0	7
Diarrhœa and Dysentery }	16	10	2	14	4	10
Rheumatic Fever	0	1	1	0	0	0
Phthisis ...	8	12	8	12	14	11
Bronchitis, Pleurisy and Pneumonia }	17	14	13	18	13	16
Heart disease ...	10	8	10	8	12	13
Cancer ...	7	3	7	not recorded		
Injuries ...	2	3	2	1	0	0
All other causes	54	56	58	58	42	48
	119	108	113	113	100	108

The deaths may be tabulated as follows:—

	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893
Under 1 year ...	48	36	31	41	20	39
1 year & under 5 years	9	16	12	14	17	11
5 „ „ 15 „	3	1	5	6	7	4
15 „ „ 25 „	4	1	8	5	2	5
25 „ „ 65 „	31	31	27	30	33	24
65 „ and upwards	24	23	30	17	21	25
	119	108	113	113	100	108

Of the 24 deaths occurring in people over 65 years of age, 9 were over 80, and 8 over 70 years old.

The mortality in children under 1 year is this year higher than in any of the previous five years. The infant mortality for the year per 1,000 births registered is 171.4 as compared with 122.8 in 1897, 119 in 1896, and 167 in 1895. Tabulated and compared with the three previous years, the causes of death in infants under 1 year are as follows:—

	1898	1897	1896	1895
Premature birth ...	8	8	5	10
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	6	3	4	4
Debility from birth...	4	5	5	3
Convulsions	3	7	6	6
Constitutional Syphilis	0	1	0	1
General Tuberculosis	2	0	1	2
Diarrhœa ...	14	10	1	11
Suppression of Urine	0	0	0	1
Rickets	0	0	1	1
Tubercular Meningitis	2	2	1	1
Measles	3	0	3	0
Tabes Mesenterica	0	0	1	0
Intussusception of Bowel	0	0	1	0
Hæmophilia	0	0	0	1
Enteritis	0	0	2	0
Natural Causes				
(Coroner's enquiry)...	2	0	0	0
Spina Bifida	1	0	0	0
Hernia (operation)	1	0	0	0
Suppurative Peritonitis	1	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	1	0	0	0
	48	36	31	41

This tables does not compare favourably with the previous years. After deducting the 12 deaths from unavoidable causes, viz. : 8 from premature birth, and 4 from debility from birth, 36 remain to be accounted for. Of these Diarrhœa claims no less than 14, an increase of 4 over that of the previous year. No less than 9 of these

14 deaths took place in September, when Diarrhœa was most prevalent. This epidemic was largely due to atmospheric causes, the weather being very hot and close, conditions which, as I have previously pointed out, are very conducive to the fermentation of milk and consequent production of diarrhœa. This evil can be largely mitigated by boiling the milk as soon as received night and morning.

In the classification of diseases table it is most satisfactory to note that apart from the 16 deaths from diarrhœa, 4 from measles, and 1 from whooping cough, there has been no fatal case from any of the other zymotic diseases.

These 21 cases give a zymotic death rate of 2.1 per 1,000 per annum as compared with 1.1 in 1897; 1.4 in 1896; 1.4 in 1895, and 2.0 in 1894.

Only 12 cases of infectious diseases have been notified during the year, viz. :—

	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893
Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlatina	1	2	9	17	3	3
Diphtheria	5	6	6	4	10	15
Croup	0	1	4	2	1	1
Typhoid Fever	2	5	2	7	9	1
Erysipelas	4	6	3	4	2	11
Continued Fever	0	0	0	0	1	0
Puerperal	0	0	0	0	4	0
	12	20	24	34	30	31

This small number of cases notified constitutes a record since I have been medical officer of health, and proves beyond measure the the general excellence of our sanitary affairs. A still further cause for congratulation lies in the fact that no single death has arisen from any of the above specific fevers.

SMALL POX.—This is the sixth year in succession we have had no case of this dread disease to report. With the alteration in the vaccination laws, however, I fear we may not have the same immunity in the future, and it necessitates, therefore, our careful consideration to be not only on the watch, but also to be prepared to act promptly should a case arise.

I should wish here to point out that under the provisions of the new act parents have the right to insist on calf lymph being used for their children, even at the public vaccination stations. This does away with arm to arm vaccination and the possible risk of introducing other constitutional diseases, which I imagine was the principal cause for the odium into which vaccination has fallen.

SCARLET FEVER.—Last year I drew attention to the singular immunity we had from this disease. This year it has been still more remarkable, only one case having occurred during the 12 months. This was successfully isolated and the house was disinfected at your Council's expense.

DIPHTHERIA.—Of the five cases of this disease reported, two were due to sanitary defects in the patients' surroundings. One occurred in a patient dying from diabetes, and the remaining two could not be accounted for. All were of a mild type, and, with the exception of the diabetic case, made an excellent recovery.

CROUP.—No case of this disease was notified.

TYPHOID FEVER.—Of the 2 cases notified, one was contracted in Nottingham, where the patient was employed as tap-boy, only spending a few hours once a week in Beeston.

The 2nd case arose in Regent Street, in a house which was not by any means too clean and having a dirty back yard. It was a bad case, but made a good recovery, and no second case occurred in the house though occupied by several other children.

ERYSIPELAS.—Were it not for the four cases of Erysipelas, our record for the notification of infectious diseases would be almost unique. This disease does not necessarily imply sanitary defects, nor is it in the vast majority of cases infectious or contagious. In all four cases the disease was very mild and was probably caused by a chill, or sitting in a draught.

Of the other infectious diseases which are not notified, viz. whooping cough and measles, we have not altogether escaped though their ravages have not led to serious results.

WHOOPING COUGH.—Until the later months of the year, this disease was almost absent, but during November and December a number of cases—mostly of a mild type—occurred. One case in a baby which was complicated by Bronchitis, led to a fatal termination.

MEASLES.—This disease has been with us most of the year, but was most prevalent during the Spring (March and April) and in December. Three deaths were directly or indirectly attributable to this disease.

I referred in my last year's Report to the necessity of converting many of the existing middens into tub closets, and in consequence of this recommendation, the members of the Sanitary Committee, accompanied by the Surveyor and myself, devoted several afternoons to making a careful inspection of all those privies in the near neighbourhood of houses. We not only found that many of these

were in a very insanitary condition, but, also, that in frequent instances the closet accommodation was most inadequate. For these reasons we thought it desirable to make a compulsory order on thirteen landlords to convert existing privies into tub closets, and to build more closets so that in the future every house should have its own accommodation.

I am glad to be able to report that in the majority of cases this has already been done, or is in the hands of the builders.

While on this subject I should like to draw the attention of builders, landlords and architects to a new system of back yard scavenging by means of Dr. Quine's Sanitary Ashbins, particulars of which may be obtained from the Pendleton Sanitary Engineering Co., Pendleton, Manchester. Briefly described, this method consists of a metal bin fixed in a frame let into the back wall of the yard. When full, this bin is tipped up by the council's man and the contents fall into a barrow or other receptacle and removed to the cart. The advantages of this method are that it is tidy, children cannot play with the contents, *one* man can do the work without noise or lifting, can be emptied in a few seconds, a saving to the corporation or council of at least 1/- per house per annum.

THE PASTURE DYKE.—This perennial source of trouble to your Council has again been prominently before our notice. In August your Sanitary Committee inspected it from end to end, and in consequence of the objectionable state we found it in, it was decided to insist that the owners of adjoining land should thoroughly cleanse their portion, and that then the Council's men should make a monthly inspection and remove any rubbish thrown in that might impede its flow. We hope by this means to render it less unsightly than it has been in the past.

The ventilating shaft erected in Meadow Road, close to the station gates, seems to work well, and has certainly removed a frequent cause of complaint made of the bad odour arising from the man-hole in that neighbourhood.

Many complaints have been made to me during the summer months of smells arising from the various man-holes in the town. One of the objects of these man-holes, is to allow the escape of gases generated in the sewers, and were it not for this means of escape, these gases would be driven through the traps in our houses and pollute the air in our rooms, which would be far more dangerous than when escaping in the open. At the same time, it would be better, and certainly more pleasant, if these gases could be carried by means of ventilating shafts above the level of people's heads, and I should, therefore, be glad to see more of them erected.

During the year I have exercised a general supervision over the sanitary condition of the parish, and have been constantly associated with your sanitary inspector in the abatement and removal of sanitary defects and nuisances. Together we have on two occasions during the year inspected all the slaughter-houses, bake-houses, cowsheds and piggeries, with results that leave little to be desired. 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.

With regard to the Isolation Hospital, the need for which I have referred to in my previous Reports, I may say that your Sanitary Committee has discussed the matter fully, but, as yet, has come to no decision. In connection with this subject I wrote to Dr. Wray, the Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District Council of Basford, in whose jurisdiction the new Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases is situated, asking for particulars as to :—

- (a) Number of beds for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever respectively in the Hospital.
- (b) The total population of the area comprised in the Basford Rural District Council, and township adjacent thereto, having the privilege of sending patients to the Sanatorium.
- (c) Whether a vacancy or bed often occurs, and whether during the last year's working he had been obliged to refuse any case for admission.
- (d) If Small-pox cases were admitted into the Sanatorium.

His reply was as follows :—

“ I appreciate your present difficulty with regard to providing an Infectious Hospital. It is of course an absolute necessity, but very few councils recognise the fact.

“ You might remind your Council in support of your endeavour to procure one, that the Basford Sanatorium has only been thrown open to Urban Districts in the Union as a temporary matter, to give them an opportunity of isolating pending the erection of hospitals for themselves, and that in times of epidemics the Rural District has first claim on all the beds.

“ The following are answers to the questions you ask :—

- (1) Scarlet Fever, 12 beds and 4 cots
- Typhoid Fever, 6 ,, ,, 2 ,,
- Diphtheria 4 ,,
- Half the number for each sex.

(2)	Population 1891 census.				
	Rural District of Basford...	...	...	...	40,229
	Arnold	...	...	...	7,769
	Beeston	...	...	...	6,948
	West Bridgford	...	...	...	2,502
	Carlton	...	...	...	6,914
	Eastwood	...	...	...	4,363
	Heanor	...	...	...	9,779
	Hucknall Torkard	...	...	...	13,094
	Kirkby	...	...	...	6,533
					98 131

(Population for 1898 quite 125,000.)

(3) "I am only allowed 10 beds for the Urban Districts outside the Basford Rural District Council. On two occasions recently I have had to refuse admission, viz., two cases of Enteric Fever from Hucknall, and one of Scarlet Fever from Arnold.

(4) "We do not take cases of Small-pox into the Sanatorium. There is a temporary hospital (4 beds) kept for the purpose."

With these facts and figures before you, gentlemen, I leave the matter in your hands, and at the same time absolve myself from any blame should an epidemic arise and find us unprepared.

In concluding my Report, I beg to congratulate your Council and the town generally on the high standard of health maintained during the past year, and to express my gratitude to the members of the Council, the Sanitary Committee, and my fellow officers for their unvarying courtesy and consideration.

I AM, GENTLEMEN,

YOURS FAITHFULLY,

FRANK ROTHERA, M.D.

(A) TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1898, in the BEESTON (Notts.) Urban District, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.																						
NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (Columns for population and Births are in Table B.)																						
(a)																						
At all ages. (b)		Under 1 year. (c)	1 and under 5 (d)	5 and under 15 (e)	15 and under 25 (f)	25 and under 65 (g)	65 and upwards. (h)															
Beeston		119	48	9	3	4	31	24														
MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																						
(i)																						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21.	22	Total.
Smallpox.	Scarletina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever	Phtisis.	Bronchitis and Pneumonia.	Heart Disease.	Cancer.	Injuries	All other Diseases.		
				Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal														
Under 5											4	1	14		1	8					29	57
5 upwds.													2		7	9	10	7	2	25	62	

(B) **TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1898, in the BEESTON (Notts.) Urban District; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.**

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													
	Last Census.	Estim- ated to middle of 1898.		Aged Under 5 or over	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus	FEVERS.				Cholera	Erysipelas.		
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)													
Beeston (Notts.) ...	7115	10,065	280	Under 5 upwds		1	4			2				4			

THE WEATHER DURING 1898,

From Observations taken at Beeston Fields, Notts.

TEMPERATURE.

RAINFALL.

		Mean :	above or below average.	Total.	above or below average.	No. of days on which rain fell.
January	...	42.2	+ 5.7	1.00	— .99	11
February	...	39.8	+ 1.2	1.39	— .34	19
March	...	39.8	— 1.1	1.21	— .50	12
April	...	46.8	+ .9	2.10	+ .44	13
May	...	50.	— 2.1	2.36	+ .27	20
June	...	58.3	+ .3	2.28	+ .10	11
July	...	59.5	— 1.0	1.28	— 1.35	6
August	...	61.5	+ 1.7	2.27	— .24	18
September	...	59.7	+ 3.7	.33	— 1.81	5
October	...	52.5	+ 5.2	3.18	+ .35	20
November	...	43.8	+ .6	2.09	— .13	17
December	...	44.3	+ 6.8	1.82	— .41	12

Temperature.—Mean temperature of year, 49.9°

Approximate Mean Temp. of 17 years, 48.1

Maximum on 8th September, 85.2

Minimum on 21st February, 21.5

No. of Nights below 32°.—In air 44

Rainfall,—Total fall during the year, 21.31 inches

The average yearly fall in this district is 26.18 inches

Greatest fall in 24 hours on 26 June, 1.08 inches

No. of days on which .01 or more fell, 164

— REMARKS. —

The Mean Temperature of the past year is the highest but one during the last 17 years, the exception being 1893, the Mean Temperature for which year was half a degree higher.

January, October, and December were notably above their respective averages.

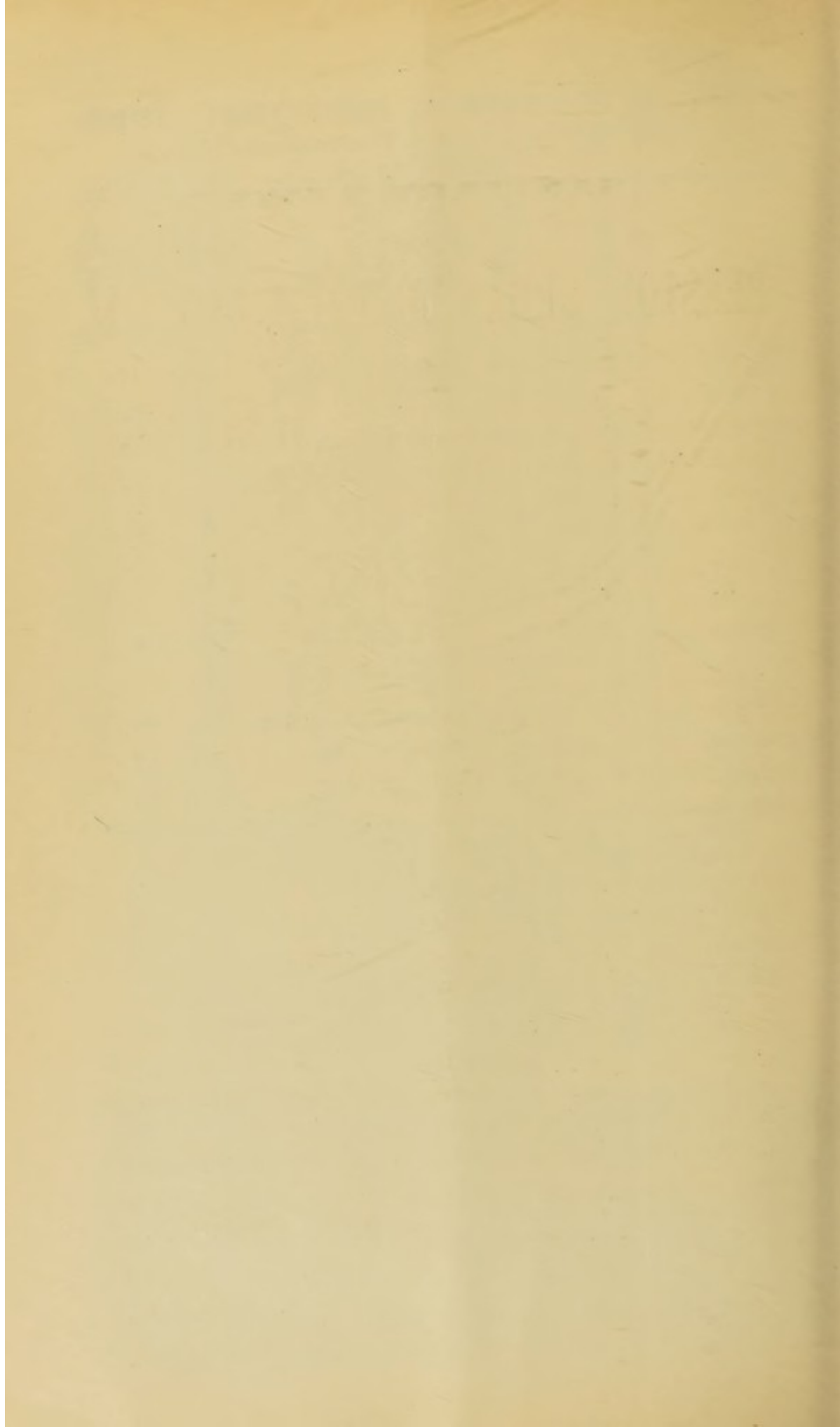
Frost on the grass were recorded in July and August, which is unprecedented during recent years.

The Rainfall is, for the seventh year in succession, again deficient, being no less than 4.87 inches below the average.

There have been 3 eclipses of the moon (one total) during the year, all more or less visible.

A large spot was visible on the Sun in September, resulting in a display of Northern Lights on 9th.

GEORGE FELLOWS.



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, Slaughter-house, 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.

