[Report 1907] / Medical Officer of Health, Beeston U.D.C.

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BEESTON

Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year 1907.

BEESTON "WEEKLY POST" OFFICE,
PRINTERS.

ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1907.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In compliance with the general order of the Local Government Board I have to present you with the following report on the vital statistics and sanitary condition of the district during the past year. At the outset I am glad to say that this, my 15th Annual Report, presents features of improvement on its immediate predecessors, and that so far as our vital statistics show, Beeston is a very healthy place to live in.

The year has been one of considerable prosperity, most of the staple trades being in a flourishing condition. This has led to many new buildings being erected and a large influx of new-comers to the parish.

In my last Report I gave a full resumé of the nature and scope of these Annual Reports as laid down by the Local Government Board, so I need not take up your time by repeating them. Suffice it to say that much steady and good work has been done at your Council meetings by your Sanitary Officials and the Staff in general.

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.—Believing as I do that the weather at different seasons of the year has a very marked influence upon the health of the community, I shall, as usual, preface my Report by giving a brief summary of the meteorological conditions as supplied to me by the courtesy of G. Fellows, Esq., of Beeston Fields, a full table of which will be found in the appendix. The characteristic feature of the weather in the year under review, viz., 1907, was the cold and cheerless summer months—June, July, and August—thus differing greatly from the previous year when great heat for the same months was the outstanding feature. This, though hard on holiday-makers and others seeking outdoor recreation, had the most remarkable effect on the pulbic health, reducing the number of cases of diarrhœa almost to a negligable quantity. Further reference will be made regarding this in dealing with the subject of Diarrhœa. The rainfall was over 2 inches above the average, the largest monthly falls being in May and October. This does not sound much, perhaps, but when one considers that it means 200 tons more water per acre, and that there are 1586 acres in the parish, it gives us the huge total of 317,200 tons of extra water to contend with. Fortunately the rain was pretty evenly distributed throughout the year (September being the

only month with less than 1 inch) so we escaped the calamity of a serious flood. The extra fall must also have influenced the public health by keeping the sewers in a thoroughly flushed condition, and by allaying the dust which in these days of motor traction is a serious and growing evil. The highest reading of the thermometer occurred on May 12th, when 81 degrees F. was registered, and the lowest was on January 25th, viz., 12 degrees F.

POPULATION.—I am again indebted to Mr. Kirkland for the information that on August 1st, 1907, there were 2751 houses in Beeston, 2677 being inhabited, while 74 were tenantless. Thus 188 new houses were erected during the year, though there were 74 unoccupied, as against 50 in the previous year.

Taking, as in other years, 4½ inhabitants to each house (the average shown at the Census of 1901) this gives us a population of 12,046, which is the figure upon which I base my vital statistics for the year. The natural increase of population for the year, i.e., excess of births over deaths, is 182, so that there must have been some considerable amount of immigration to bring the number to 513, which is the actual increase upon the previous year. That this figure is only approximate is due to the fact that the further we get from the last Census, the more open to error our figures become, and it would be highly desirable in the interest of greater accuracy if a quinquennial Census could be taken.

During the year there have been :—

323	births	and	141	deaths	as against
278	,,	,,	118	,,	in 1906
286	,,	,,	116	,,	,, 1905
300	,,	,,	155	,,	,, 1904
278	,,	,,	112	,,	,, 1903
267	,,	,,	97	,,	,, 1902
278	,,	,,	118	,,	,, 1901
243	,,	,,	99	,,	,, 1900
256	,,	,,	133	,,	,, 1899
280	,,	,,	119	,,	,, 1898

This gives a Birth-rate of	and a Death-rate of	
26.8	11.7	per 1000 per annum for 1907
24.1	10.2	,, ,, ,, ,, 1906
26.4	10.7	,, ,, ,, ,, 1905
28.	14.4	,, ,, ,, ,, 1904
26.7	10.7	,, ,, ,, ,, 1903
27.4	10.	,, ,, ,, ,, 1902
31.	13.1	,, ,, ,, ,, 1901
23.8	9.7	,, ,, ,, ,, 1900
25.6	13.3	,, ,, ,, ,, 1899
28.8	11.8	,, ,, ,, ,, 1898

Births.—323 births were registered during the year 1907, of which 169 were males and 154 females. Seven of these were illegitimate—2 males and 5 females—a proportion of 1 to 26 legitimate births. In my last Report I had to refer to the falling birth-rate, which for that year was the lowest I had to record. I am glad, therefore, to see that for the year under review, viz., 1907, our birth-rate has increased to 26.8, and it is within a fraction of the average for the last 10 years. As to the desirability or otherwise of curtailing the number of children, this is perhaps not the place to enter, but it is generally supposed that a falling birth-rate is a sign of the decadence of a nation, and if this be true it must be a source of gratification to us to see our birth-rate on the upward grade once more.

Deaths.—The number of deaths for the year, viz., 141, is in excess of our usual number, though, owing to our increased population, the death-rate is only 11.7 per 1000 per annum. Of these deaths 74 were males and 67 females. On four of these an inquest was necessary, and 4 were certified by the Coroner as due to natural causes. In addition to the 141 deaths of residents within the district we have now to add the deaths of residents occurring in Public Institutions beyond the district; of these there were 18, viz., 8 in Basford Workhouse, 7 in Nottingham General Hospital, and 3 in the County Asylum. These extra 18 deaths make up a total of 159 with a death-rate of 13.7. Of the total deaths:—

36	occurred	during	the	1st	Quarter
43	,,	,,	,,	2nd	,,
27	,,	,,	,,	3rd	,,
35	,,	,,	,,	4th	,,

The deaths are classed under the following heads:—

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898
Small-pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	16	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	1	4
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	1	0
Diphtheria	6	3	9	12	0	2	1	0	0	0
Croup	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
Typhoid Fever	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Erysipelas	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	3	0	0	3	0	4	5	0	3	1
Diarrhœa and Dysentry	3	20	2	16	5	3	9	6	18	16
Rheumatic Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phthisis	9	6	14	17	15	11	6	8	10	8
Bronchitis, Pleurisy, and Pneumonia	16	17	24	23	24	12	14	35	36	17
Heart Disease	12	8	6	8	13	11	5	4	8	10
Cancer	11	6	4	5	3	8	5	2	2	7
Injuries and Suicides	3	3	4	3	2	3	4	1	5	2
All other causes	61	53	53	66	48	41	51	39	59	54
	141	118	116	155	112	97	118	99	133	119

Zymotic Death-rate.—No less than 29 of these deaths were due to what are known as zymotic or epidemic diseases, viz.: Measles 16, Diphtheria 6, Erysipelas 1, Whooping Cough 3, and Diarrhœa or Epidemic Enteritis 3. This is a somewhat heavier proportion than we are accustomed to, and represents a zymotic death-rate of 2.05 per 1000 per annum, as compared with 2.1 in 1906, 1.01 in 1905, 3.08 in 1904, 0.67 in 1903, 1.1 in 1902, 3.6 in 1901, 0.98 in 1900, 1.3 in 1899, 2.1 in 1898.

The deaths may be tabulated as follows:—

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898
Under 1 year	27	41	30	47	23	25	38	23	34	48
1 year and under 5	24	16	15	17	5	9	19	14	22	9
5 ,, ,, ,, 15	11	4	5	12	6	5	6	5	3	3
15 ,, ,, ,, 25	4	4	5	7	6	5	2	10	7	4
25 ,, ,, ,, 65 ...	38	30	31	35	41	28	32	19	36	31
65 and upwards	37	23	30	37	31	25	21	28	31	24
	141	118	116	155	112	97	118	99	133	119

Of the 37 deaths occurring in persons over 65 years of age, 6 were between 65 and 70, 21 between 70 and 80, 9 between 80 and 90, while one was over 90 at the time of death. This speaks well for the longevity of the inhabitants, and should be taken note of when comparing the death-rate of Beeston with other places, such as West Bridgford for instance, which is mainly populated with, comparatively speaking, young people.

Infantile Mortality.—It is satisfactory to note that the number of deaths of Infants under 1 year of age has again fallen below normal limits. Twenty-seven were reported under 1 year of age, giving an Infantile Mortality rate of 83.5 per 1000 births registered. That is to say, if 1000 children had been born in Beeston during the year, 83 would have died during the first year of their existence. This compares very favourably with the previous year, when the rate was 147.4. The average for the last 10 years is 124, or in other words, we have a saving of 41 lives during the year under review over the average for the past 10 years. Nor is this all, for as Dr. Handford has pointed out in his last Report, "excessive infant mortality is almost inevitably associated with deteriorated health of the survivors. In order to lessen infantile mortality it might be desirable for your Council to adopt the Notification of Births Act, by which it is incumbent upon the father, or failing him, the person in attendance at the birth, to notify the birth of every child to the Medical Officer of Health within 36 hours. The adoption of the Act is optional upon Sanitary Authorities, and is for the purpose of saving infant life. If you are prepared to appoint a Lady Inspector to give instruction in the rearing and feeding of children you might adopt the Act with advantage, otherwise it seems superfluous to do so.

Following my usual plan, I give in tabular form the causes of death in infants, and compare them with the previous 10 years.

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898
Premature birth	5	8	8	11	5	5	4	2	4	8
Debility from birth	5	3	2	1	4	6	8	4	4	4
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	2	5	6	7	5	0	8	10	9	6
Convulsions	3	3	2	4	2	3	3	1	3	3
Constitutional Syphilis ...	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Tuberculosis	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
Diarrhœa	2	16	2	16	5	2	5	4	6	14
Rickets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tubercular Meningitis ...	1	0	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	2
Measles	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Natural Causes (Coroner's enquiry) ...	2	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	2	2
Whooping Cough...	2	0	0	1	0	3	3	0	3	1
Other Causes	2	4	4	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
	27	41	30	47	23	25	38	23	34	48

Excluding the first 10 deaths, viz., 5 each from Premature birth and Debility from birth, which may be called unavoidable deaths, our infantile mortality assumes an even more favourable aspect. In a community such as ours, where many young married women are obliged to help their husbands to earn a living by working in factories, the deaths of infants from these two causes must of necessity be large. In order to lessen them one can only suggest a little extra care during the later months of pregnancy, abstinence, or very sparing use of alcohol, and to urge all mothers to nurse their offspring in the natural way, whenever that is possible; nor is it difficult to understand that 80 per cent. of infantile deaths occur in bottle-fed babies when one realizes how difficult it is to get pure milk, to preserve it sweet and wholesome during hot weather, and to keep bottles clean. While on this subject I should wish to reiterate the remarks I made in my last Report as to the absolute necessity of boiling milk as soon as it arrives night and morning, and of keeping it in covered jars in a cool place.

Notifications.—It is with great satisfaction I have to report that the number of cases of diseases notified is reduced to normal limits. For the previous 3 years, 1904, 1905, 1906, it had been my painful duty to report a large increase in the number of such diseases, viz., 103, 114, and 119, and it is, therefore, a source of gratification to find that this year the number is reduced to 57. Tabulated and compared with the previous ten years :—

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898
Small-pox	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	13	53	22	31	24	45	10	79	95	1
Diphtheria	33	57	81	60	4	7	4	1	2	5
Croup	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Typhoid Fever	2	3	1	3	4	6	6	10	6	2
Erysipelas	9	6	10	7	4	1	0	1	10	4
Continued Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	57	119	114	103	36	61	21	91	113	12

In every case I have made a personal visit to the infected house, investigated the sanitary arrangements, inquired into the milk supply, and given directions for the best means of carrying out isolation. In every case, too (excepting the cases of Erysipelas) on the recovery of the patient your Council has disinfected the house by means of sulphurous acid gas.

Small-pox.—No case of this disease has again been notified during the year. The Isolation Hospital for Small-pox situated at Hucknall Torkard, which we share with three or four other Urban Authorities, is kept in a state of preparedness for any emergency, and can be ready for use in a few hours. Our share of the expense of maintaining the Hospital for the year is £41 6s. 9d.

Scarlet Fever.—The number of cases of this disease has fallen considerably, only 13 having been notified as compared with 53 the previous year. They were all of a very mild type, and no deaths resulted. One of the cases occurred in a child who was suffering at the time from burns for which she was being treated in the Nottingham General Hospital. She was at once transferred to the Bagthorpe Isolation Hospital, and attended there at our expense.

Diphtheria.—I am glad to be able to report that the epidemic of this disease, which has been a source of great anxiety to us for the last four years, shows signs of gradually subsiding. For the year under review (1907) 33 cases were notified, as compared with 57, 81, and 60 for the previous three years. This number is still sadly too high, and is somewhat disconcerting to your Sanitary Officials after all the trouble and precautions they have adopted to stamp it out. Although the cases were of a mild type no less than 6 deaths resutled from the disease, giving a case mortality of 18 per cent., which is considerably in excess of the average. In every instance death was due to cardiac paralysis, which is one of the great dangers of this disease. In no case could the disease be traced to insanitary defects in the patient's surroundings, nor to milk or food infection, but was directly attributable to close personal contact at school. In every instance before the patient or any other children from the same house were allowed to return to school some of the secretion from the throat was sent to the Nottingham Laboratory for bactiorological examination at your Council's expense. To show the need of this precaution I may say that in many instances, although the throat looked perfectly normal, and free from disease, the examination showed that the specific organism was still present, and that in consequence such a child would be still a source of danger to others coming in contact with him. In such cases a second "swab" is sent after another interval of three weeks, and in two instances a third examination was necessary before the throat could be declared free from contagion. I would wish here to urge your Council to go a step further, and allow any of the resident medical men to send a swab for diagnostic purposes in such cases where the nature of the disease is doubtful. The dividing line between a badly ulcerated throat and true diphtheria is so fine that without such an examination a

positive diagnosis cannot be made, and the small expense incurred would be amply compensated for by the detection and efficient isolation of some such mild cases which would otherwise escape notice. Your Council supply gratuitously antitoxin to such people who cannot afford to pay for it. I still hope that with a continuance of these precautions the disease may finally be stamped out.

Typhoid Fever.—That only two cases of this disease were notified during the year speaks well for our efficient sanitation. In neither case could any sanitary defect be found in the patient's surroundings, but in one of these the patient had been on a visit to Sheffield fifteen days previously, and was ill on her arrival home. In all probability she contracted it there. Both patients were sent to the Nottingham General Hospital, and both recovered.

Dr. Handford, the County Medical Officer, in his Report for 1906, in dealing with the epidemic of typhoid fever at Mansfield, Sutton-in-Ashfield, and Mansfield Woodhouse, gives a very concise resumé of the causes and steps taken to check the spread of that disease. In view of a possible outbreak of this disease in Beeston I think it desirable to place on record in this Report the conclusions he arrived at—

1. The danger of heaps of refuse, such as privy middens or sanitary tubs in the neighbourhood of houses.
2. The danger of shallow wells.
3. The danger of allowing any suspected infectious disease on the premises of a milk-distributing business.

In this locality we need only consider the 1st and 3rd items, because fortunately we have very few wells in this district, and our water supply from Nottingham is above suspicion. With regard to the 1st, while we have so many examples of that very unwholesome and obsolete method of excretion disposal, the privy midden and sanitary tubs in our midst, we are in a parlous state should Typhoid fever once get hold of the district. In the later stages of the disease, after notification has been given, we supply hermetically-sealed receptacles for the excreta, but by that time the mischief has been done if they are placed in the midden or tub, because they are infectious from the earliest stage of the disease, before even it can be diagnosed. Hence the natural corollorary that the water carriage system of excrement disposal is the only reasonable and safe method to adopt. This, I am glad to say, is now compulsory in all new buildings throughout your district.

With regard to the 3rd conclusion, the danger is obvious of allowing the sale of milk from the premises where a case of Typhoid fever exists. In such cases Dr. Handford suggests the advisability of the Local Authority coming to an arrangement with the milk seller by which he will at once withdraw the suspected milk from sale for a short period on receiving compensation. In all cases of this disease the necessity of removing the patient to hospital is a most important step.

Erysipelas.—The nine cases of this disease, which in private life is in no sense of the word an infectious disease, and which, therefore, it seems superfluous to put on the list of notifiable diseases, helped considerably to swell the number of cases under the heading of notifications. In no instance could they be ascribed to insanitary defects, and in one only, an old man of 87, did death result.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Whooping Cough.—The epidemic of whooping cough which I mentioned in my last Report as occurring at the end of the year 1906, continued during the earlier months of 1907, and led to three deaths.

Measles.—In the spring of the year we had what I may say our triennial epidemic of measles, which spread very rapidly and led to no fewer than 16 deaths. I cannot do better than include here the Report I sent to the Local Government Board, which is compulsory whenever in my opinion it becomes necessary to close the public elementary schools.

BEESTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

In compliance with the request of the Local Government Board, I beg to lay the following facts regarding the epidemic of measles which prevailed in the Beeston Urban District during the months of April, May and June, and which I regret to say led directly or indirectly to fourteen deaths. During the spring from March onwards measles became very prevalent in the City of Nottingham, and in almost every township and parish in the County, neecssitating the closure of every Infant School in the City and 62 elementary schools in the County. From the fact that the notification of measles is not compulsory in Beeston it is difficult to give the exact date when the disease began in the locality, but, as far as I can judge as a general practitioner I should say it did not assume epidemic character until the beginning of May, and that it did not become alarming until the middle of that month. At first the epidemic was almost entirely confined to the lower part of the town, and chiefly affected the Infant department of the Nether-street Schools. In consequence I thought it desirable to close those schools from April 30th to the end of May. By the middle of May it had spread to the upper part of the town, and the Church-street Schools were involved, so I advised the Education Committee to prolong the Whitsuntide holidays, which extended from May 17th to 24th to the end of that month.

These measures had a salutary effect, the epidemic subsiding almost as suddenly as it began.

I find on referring to the monthly returns of deaths notified to the Registrar that Measles was responsible directly or indirectly for :—

0	deaths	in	April
11	,,	,,	May
3	,,	,,	June
1	,,	,,	July

To summarize, I should say that the disease began suddenly, spread very rapidly, attacked a large majority of children of school age, and subsided on prolonging the holidays of the children attending the elementary schools with equal suddenness.

I should have added that all the Sunday Schools throughout the district were closed at my request throughout May and part of June.

Influenza.—We had the usual epidemic of this disease in the early part of the year, but the cases were, so far as I can judge, less numerous and less severe.

Diarrhœa.—In my introductory remarks I referred to the immunity we had from this disease during the summer months, and ascribed it as due to the cool and wet weather we experienced during July, August, and September. This not only flushed out the sewers and checked those fermentative changes in milk due to bacterial agency, but also, and what is perhaps more important, reduced the number of house flies, which are now recognised as one of the most potent agencies in spreading infective diseases. When it is realised that under a powerful microscope over 100,000 bacteria have been counted on the legs and mouth of a single fly, and that during an ordinary summer twelve generations of flies are hatched, the sexes being about equally divided, and that each female will lay about 1000 eggs, we can easily see what a power of evil these pests may become. The only hope we may have of reducing their number is to prevent any heaps of manure or garbage from accumulating in the neighbourhood of houses in which they may breed, and to kill by means of traps and poisonous papers the mature insect. A still more important thing is to keep all food in cool, dark larders, and protected by fly screens.

Phthisis or Consumption still claims its toll of victims, no less than nine having died from this disease, while four have succumbed to other tubercular affections. With the exception of the previous year, 1906, when only 6 died, this is a much smaller number than has occurred for many years, even in spite of our increased population, and is of good augury that improved sanitation and hygienic surroundings, and less dread of fresh air, especially at night, are beginning to lessen this scourge of modern life. Now that it is recognised as an infectious disease, the infection being conveyed by means of the sputum or spit, it cannot be too widely known how important it is to prevent other people, especially young people, sleeping in the same room as a consumptive, and how necessary it is to receive the sputum into specially-constructed spit mugs containing some powerful antiseptic. By these means, and by the sppply of unlimited air both day and night, with subsequent disinfection and cleansing of the room after death has taken place, we may hope to see the mortality of this dread disease still further reduced.

Milk Supply.—Now that the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis has definitely decided that the specific organism which causes the disease in human beings and cows is identically the same, and that therefore the disease can be spread by means of the milk of the latter to the former, it

becomes more imperative than ever for all Sanitary Authorities to take any and every precaution to exclude all cows suffering from that disease, especially when it affects the udder. In places where systematic inspection has taken place it has been found that from one to three cows in every thousand have been suffering from tuberculous disease of the udder sufficiently advanced to be detected. The milk of one cow so diseased may contain many millions of tubercle bacilli at each milking, and where the milk is mixed with that from healthy cows very many gallons of milk may become implicated. Three cows in a thousand are capable of doing much injury, but their destruction would not involve any serious financial loss. As a Sanitary Authority we are doing all in our power to put this important industry on a proper footing, and I could only wish the cow-keepers could appreciate their responsibilities in safeguarding the milk from all outside impurities by washing their hands before milking, by wearing a clean smock during the operaton, and by keeping the cows as free from dirt contamination as possible. Now that every cowkeeper, dairyman, and purveyor of milk is registered, it rests with us to see that they carry on their all-important work with due care and cleanliness. The only other thing I could suggest is that we appoint a Veterinary Surgeon to inspect all cows in the district twice a year for the detection of tuberculous disease of the udder. The time is not far distant when the care of the milk supply will become a national instead of a local matter, and undertaken by a Board of Agriculture. A beginning might be made by the Board appointing a number of inspectors who would be responsible for all the dairy farms in their respective districts, and who would have the power of withdrawing licences to supply milk from those who in any way contravened the bye-laws of the district. During the year, in company with your Surveyor, I have inspected all the cow-sheds in the parish, and while I cannot say they comply with all the conditions I laid down in my last Report as desirable, they are kept fairly clean, afford a sufficiency of air space, and are fairly well lighted. In one instance the site is a bad one, being built in a hollow where damp reigns and drainage is a matter of difficulty. I invited the Sanitary Committee to inspect it, but no steps were deemed necessary in view of the fact that the man's tenancy expires this June.

The dairies and retailers' premises have also been inspected by us, and seem in a satisfactory condition. In the majority of cases the milk is delivered by the farmer direct to the retailer, often in the streets, and is at once taken to the consumer, no milk being stored in the retailer's premises at all.

Sewage Farm.—The ever-increasing quantity of liquid sewage poured upon the farm is taxing, and will continue to tax, it to its fullest extent. Owing to the rapid extension of the water carriage system your Farm Committee must realise the necessity of utilising the farm more and more for its legitimate purpose of treating the sewage, and be satisfied with securing less profit from the growing of crops. In my opinion every inch of the 30 acres should be treated with sewage during the year in order to keep the ground in a sufficiently porous and wholesome condition to

filter the sewage and render the effluent pure enough to enter the Trent. Another difficulty we have to contend with in connection with the increased quantity of liquid sewage is to keep the sewers empty. Twelve hours pumping a day is not sufficient to do this, and I would suggest that a double shift of 10 hours each would be desirable. This, of course, will entail additional expense, but it is justifiable and necessary. One great improvement made at the farm during the year is the making of a good and well-ballasted road from the railway to the nightsoil tip, instead of the apology for one that previously existed. This will not only be a great saving to your own horses and carts, but what is of more importance to us as a Sanitary Authority, will facilitate the disposal of the nightsoil to neighbouring farmers. Since its completion about 1,000 loads have been so disposed of, but much remains, and is a public nuisance, particularly in hot weather.

In addition to the liquid sewage 2,200 tubs are taken down to the farm, where they are emptied, cleansed, disinfected, and then returned. This work is done between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. by your Sanitary Staff, and, considering the nature of the work, is well done. In some few instances where the tubs become too full, particularly of liquid, complaints are made of the material being slopped about the yard, but under the circumstances this is difficult to avoid, and can only be prevented by supplying such houses with a second receptacle for ashes or by emptying the tubs twice weekly. For the last three years no plans of buildings with tub closet accommodation have been passed where a public sewer exists, and we shall therefore be spared any additional expense to the heavy outlay already incurred in dealing with this objectionable and obsolete method of refuse disposal. That it is expensive is shown by the fact that in addition to the labour of emptying the tubs their upkeep necessitates the buying of 350 new ones yearly at 3s. 6d. each, besides repairs to 200 others. During the year 55 wet ashpits have been emptied, in addition to a weekly collection of ash-bins supplied to all new houses, and their contents taken to the farm to add to the unsightly heap already there. I regret that only 6 of the unhygienic and insanitary middens have been converted during the year. This is slow progress in a much-needed reform. While on the subject of sewage disposal I would wish to call your attention to the additional cesspools necessitated by the erection of houses on what is known as the Silver Hill estate. At present this is the only method of dealing with the problem, but it is a costly business, and unless attended to very carefully and emptied very regularly they may become a nuisance. This matter is receiving the very careful consideration of your Sanitary Committee. A report has been presented by your Surveyor on the drainage of this locality, and expert opinion has been taken, so I hope some scheme may soon be devised and carried out by which we shall overcome the difficulty.

During the year plans for 161 houses have been submitted to the Council for approval, of which 108 have been certified as fit for habitation. Thirty-seven of these have been erected north of the High Road, including 15 in Marlborough Road, and 71 south of High Road, which includes

eighteen in streets south of the Railway, thirteen in Queen's Road, four in Fletcher Road, and nine at Silver Hill. All houses passed for erection in Fletcher Road have now been built, and before any more are approved the road levels and drainage should be carefully gone into, as this road will ultimately be connected to Silver Hill. In addition to the above-mentioned, the following plans have been submitted for approval: Two factories, three workshops (including one bakehouse), seventeen alterations and additions to premises, and three new streets off Queen's Road. The drains of all new houses are subjected to the water test before being certified as sound.

Owing to the generosity of a large employer of labour in Beeston, H. J. Pearson, Esq., a sum of £1,000 was offered to the Council for the purpose of providing a recreation ground for the children of Beeston. The offer was gratefully accepted by your Council, and the General Purposes Committee have been at much trouble to select a suitable piece of land for the purpose. This has now been done, a field of nearly 5 acres in Dovecote Lane having been secured, and though it is not quite so central as one could wish, it was the best available. It has now been drained, levelled, planted with shrubs, and fenced at a total cost of £2207. This sum is made up as follows:—

Cost of land (4 and three-fifths acres)	£1750
Levelling and draining	£207
Fencing footpaths and planting	£250

It will, I am sure, be a great boon to the children as well as an additional source of attraction to the township.

The Medical Inspection of Schools and School Children Act, which came into force in January of this year is one of great national importance, and if efficiently carried out should have far-reaching results in improving the physique and mental condition of the rising generation. How the provisions of the Act should be carried out is still under consideration of the various Sanitary Authorities. So far as Beeston is concerned the Act will be administered by the County Council, but whether they will appoint a Medical Officer or Officers, who will devote their whole time to inspecting the children throughout the County, or one of the general practitioners in each district to inspect the school or schools therein, is not yet decided.

The duties of the School Medical Officer will be to concern himself with all matters affecting, or tending to affect, the health of those who work in the schools. Special attention will be paid to the eyes, ears, nose, throat and teeth of the children, and the parents will be notified and advised to obtain suitable medical treatment where any disease or ailment is present. The height, weight, nutrition, cleanliness, clothing, and general mental and physical condition will be noted and registered. It is not merely a question of the discovery and supervision of ailments and defects already existing, but rather that these ailments and defects may be prevented from occurring.

Another Act of great importance also came into force on January 1st of this year, viz.: The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907. This is a consolidation of several previous Public Health Acts, and is very comprehensive, dealing as it does fully with:—(1) General matters; (2) Streets and Buildings; (3) Sanitary provisions; (4) Infectious diseases; (5) Common lodging-houses; (6) Recreation grounds; (7) Police; (8) Fire Brigade; (9) Sky signs; and (10) Miscellaneous matters. I would suggest that your Council adopt this Act in its entirety.

Together with your Surveyor I have investigated during the year complaints as to 12 defective drains, one case of impure water, one instance of diseased meat, six insanitary ashpits or middens, ten instances of insufficient ashpit accommodation, two defective yard-paving, two offensive manure pits, and four cases of offensive trade refuse, the latter being allowed to accumulate on the premises instead of being regularly removed to the sewage farm. The practice of depositing offensive refuse on the nearest vacant land and near dwellings is becoming more frequent, and our attention is being constantly called to this nuisance particularly during the summer months. There are several places regularly used for this purpose, and I would suggest that the Council cause a notice to be put up on each of these sites warning persons against the depositing of offensive refuse.

Pigstyes.—Two of these have been closed during the year owing to their close proximity to dwelling-houses.

Smoke Nuisance.—Seven complaints have been made with respect to the smoke from factory chimneys. In some instances this is due to faulty stoking, but in three cases the chimneys are altogether too small, both as regards height and flue area, and in these instances the nuisance is likely to recur so long as these conditions remain.

Factories and Workshops and Outworkers.—The systematic inspection of these entails much work upon us. Twice during the year we have visited every factory, workshop, and work-place in the parish, and in many instances have found defects, which have always been willingly removed on our calling the attention of the owners to them.

Factories.—Twenty-seven of these exist in the parish, and it is incumbent upon us to see (1) that the Sanitary accommodation is sufficient, and in good working order, and (2) that adequate means of escape exist in case of fire. The Britsh L. M. Ericsson Company have made extensive additions to their works during the past year, the building being modern in every respect. Humber's new Workshops and Foundry have been completed and provided with additional closet accommodation.

Anglo-Scotian Mills.—At the present time these works are being divided for the accommodation of separate occupiers. The sanitary requirements are consequently being rearranged and additional ones provided for both sexes. The Draycott Wing is now a separate factory, and as such, is being made to comply with the Factory and Workshops Act. New W.C.'s have been built, and an additional fire exit provided. A new one-storey factory on Chilwell Road is now in course of erection.

Workshops.—These include all premises in which several people work, but in which no mechanical power is used. Forty of these are now on the list, and have been inspected by us during the year, with, in the majority of cases, very little cause for complaint. A timely hint as to whitewashing or a general clean-up is occasionally necessary, and is always attended to. The sixteen bakehouses and eight slaughter-houses have received our special attention, and I am glad to say they are conducted on cleanly and sanitary principles. In only one of the slaughter-houses could we find cause for complaint, the yard round it being badly paved, and very dirty. This has since been remedied. There are no underground bakehouses in the parish, and no drains communicate with any of the others.

Outworkers.—Our principle concern with regard to these is to see that no work is done in a house where any infectious disease s known to exist. This can easily be done in the notifiable diseases, but is difficult in the case of measles or whooping cough, which are not on the list of such diseases, and therefore do not always come under my notice.

I append the usual Local Government Board Tables, and, in conclusion, I would like to thank the members of the Council and my fellow officers for their unvarying kindness and consideration to my reports and suggestions. To your Surveyor, Mr. E .A. Bush, I am deeply indebted for much help in the preparation of this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

FRANK ROTHERA, M.D.

TABLE 1. Vital Statistics of whole District during 1907 and Previous Years.

BEESTON (NOTTS.) URBAN.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents r'gistered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents r'gistered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.		Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.
				Under 1 year of age.		At all Ages.								
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.				Number.	Rate.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		
1897	9,750	293	30·	36	122·8	108	11·						None.	Nottingham General Hospital. Nottingham County Asylum. Basford Workhouse.
1898	10,065	280	28·8	48	171·4	119	11·8							
1899	10,000	256	25·6	34	132·8	133	13·3							
1900	10,185	243	23·8	23	94·6	99	9·7							
1901	8,950	278	31·	38	136·	118	13·1							
1902	9,729	267	27·4	25	93·6	97	10·							
1903	10,377	278	26·7	23	82·7	112	10·7							
1904	10,692	300	28·	47	156·6	155	14·4							
1905	10,800	286	26·4	30	104·8	116	10·7			14	130	12·		
1906	11,533	278	24·1	41	147·4	118	10·2			13	131	11·3		
Avrages for yars. 1897-1906.	10,208	275	27·1	34	124·2	117	11·4							
1907.	12,046	323	26·8	27	83·5	141	11·7			18	159	13·7		

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) { 1,586.

The Union Workhouse is not in the District.

Total Population at all Ages ... 8,950
Number of inhabited houses ... 1,978 } At Census of 1901.
Average No. of persons per house 4·5

TABLE II. Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1907 and Previous Years.

BEESTON (NOTTS.) URBAN.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year. *a.*	Births Registered. *b.*	Deaths at all Ages. *c.*	Deaths under 1 year. *d.*
1897	9,750	293	108	36
1898	10,065	280	119	48
1899	10,000	256	133	34
1900	10,185	243	99	23
1901	8,950	278	118	38
1902	9,729	267	97	25
1903	10,377	278	112	23
1904	10,692	300	155	47
1905	10,800	286	116	30
1906	11,533	278	118	41
Averages of Years 1897 to 1906.	10,208	275	117	34
1907	12,046	323	141	27

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1907.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Ages at which Notified.						
	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.
Small Pox	0						
Cholera	0						
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	33		4	25	3	1	
Erysipelas... ...	9				3	5	1
Scarlet Fever ...	13		3	7	3		
Typhus Fever ...	0						
Enteric Fever ...	2				2		
Relapsing Fever ...	0						
Continued Fever ...	0						
Puerperal Fever ..	0						
Plague	0						
Totals ...	57		7	32	11	6	1

Number of Cases removed to Hospital from each locality:—

To Bagthorpe Isolation Hospital (Nottingham) 1.

To Nottingham General Hospital 2.

Small Pox Isolation Hospital at Hucknall Torkard.

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1907.

BEESTON (NOTTS.) URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.						
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Small Pox	0						
Measles	16	2	12	2			
Scarlet Fever	0						
Whooping-cough	3	2	1				
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	6			6			
Croup	0						
Fever — Typhus	0						
Fever — Enteric	0						
Fever — Other continued ...	0						
Epidemic influenza	0						
Cholera	0						
Plague	0						
Diarrhœa	3	2	1				
Enteritis	1					1	
Puerperal Fever	0						
Erysipelas	1						1
Other septic diseases ...	1	1					
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	9			1	1	7	
Other tubercular diseases ...	4	1	2		1		
Cancer, malignant disease ...	11					4	7
Bronchitis	5	1				1	3
Pneumonia	11	1	5	1		1	3
Pleurisy	0						
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	1	1					
Alcoholism							
Cirrhosis of liver	3					2	1
Venereal diseases	1	1					
Premature birth	5	5					
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1					1	
Heart diseases	12					8	4
Accidents	2				1	1	
Suicides	1					1	
Debility from birth ...	4	4					
Convulsions	7	5	2				
Apoplexy	11				1	4	6
Senile Decay	8						8
All other causes	14	1	1	1		7	4
All causes	141	27	24	11	4	38	37

TABLE IV.—Continued.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1907.

BEESTON (NOTTS.) URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging to localities, ~~whether occuring in or~~ beyond the District.					
	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Small Pox						
Measles						
Scarlet Fever						
Whooping-cough						
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...						
Croup						
Fever (Typhus ... ...)						
Fever (Enteric ... ...)						
Fever (Other continued ...)						
Epidemic influenza						
Cholera						
Plague						
Diarrhœa						
Enteritis					1	
Puerperal Fever						
Erysipelas						
Other septic diseases ...			1			
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)					2	
Other tubercular diseases ...						
Cancer, malignant disease ...					4	1
Bronchitis						2
Pneumonia						
Pleurisy						
Other diseases of Respiratory organs						
Alcoholism						
Cirrhosis of liver						
Venereal diseases						
Premature birth						
Diseases and accidents of parturition						
Heart diseases					2	
Accidents						
Suicides						
Debility from birth ...						
Convulsions						
Apoplexy						1
Senile Decay						
All other causes	1				3	
All causes	1		1		12	4

~~Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Public Institutions in the District, 18.~~

No Public Institutions in the District.

TABLE V.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1907.

BEESTON (NOTTS.) URBAN DISTRICT.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Causes of Death.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Ttl. under 1 mth	1-2 months.	2-3 months.	3-4 months.	4-5 months.	5-6 months.	6-7 months.	7-8 months.	8-9 months.	9-10 months.	10-11 months.	11-12 months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes,	Certified	2	1	3	2	8	1	4	2	1	2	2	2	2	0	0	1	25
„	Uncertified	1				1	1											2
Common Infectious Diseases	Small Pox																	
	Chicken Pox ...																	
	Measles												1	1				2
	Scarlet Fever ...																	
	Whooping Cough...							1			1							2
Diarrhœal Diseases	Diarrhœa, all forms													1			1	2
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis																	
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh																	
Wasting Diseases	Premature Birth ...	2		2	1	5												5
	Congenital Defects			1		1												1
	Injury at Birth . .																	
	Want of Breast Milk, Starvation																	
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmas ...						1	1	1	1								4
Tuberculous Diseases	Tubercculous Meningitis ...										1							1
	Other Tubercculous Diseases ...																	
Other Causes.	Erysipelas																	
	Syphilis				1	1												1
	Rickets																	
	Meningitis *(Not Tuberculous)*																	
	Convulsions	1				1	1	1				1	1					5
	Bronchitis											1						1
	Laryngitis								1									1
	Pneumonia							1										1
	Suffocation, overlying ...																	
	Other Causes		1			1												1
		3	1	3	2	9	2	4	2	1	2	2	2	2	0	0	1	27

District (or sub-division) of Beeston.

Births in the Year: Legitimate, 316; Illegitimate, 7.

Deaths in the Year: Legitimate Infants, 27; Illegitimate Infants, 0.

Population: Estimated to middle of 1907, 12,046.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 141.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1907, for the Urban District of Beeston (Notts),

On the Administration of the Factory and Workshops Acts. 1901, in connection with

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework.

INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Writen Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES ... ... (Including Factory Laundries.)	27	6	0
WORKSHOPS ... ... (Including Workshop Laundries.) ...	40	2	0
WORKPLACES ... ... (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	27	0	0
Total	94	8	0

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			
	Found	Remedied.	Ref'r'd to H.M Insp'tr	Prosecutions.
Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness	6	6		
Want of Ventilation	0			
Overcrowding	0			
Want of Drainage of Floors	0			
Other Nuisances	0			
Sanitary accommodation — Insufficient ...	2	2	1	
Sanitary accommodation — Defective ...	2	1		
Sanitary accommodation — Not separate for sexes	1	1		
Factory Act, 1901 :—				
Illegal occupation of Underground Bakehouse (s. 101.)	0			
Breach of Special Sanitary requirements for Bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100,)	0			
Other Offences ... ... (Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report	0			
Total	11	10	1	0

OTHER MATTERS.

Particulars.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories ...	1
Failure to affix Abstract of Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	None
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5.) — Notified by H.M. Inspector ...	1
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5.) — Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ...	1
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101.)	None
Certificates granted during the year	None
In use at the end of the year	None

Homework :—	Number of Outworkers. Lists.	Contractors.	Workmen.
Lists received from Employers — Once in the year ...	1	10	
Lists received from Employers — Lace and Lace Nets...	3	15	
Lists received from Employers — Twice in the year ...	8	110	

	Lace.	Other.
Addresses of outworkers received from other Councils ...	29	1
Addresses of outworkers forwarded to other Councils ...	2	
Inspections of outworkers' premises	44	1 10
Notices prohibiting outwork in unwholesome premises (s. 108)		

Workshops on Register end of 1907, including ...	
Bakehouses	16
Slaughter Houses	8
Tailors' Shops	2
Dressmakers'	5
Plumbers'	5
Various	6
Total Workshops on Register	42

FRANK ROTHERA, M.D.,

February, 1st, 1908. Medical Officer of Health.

THE WEATHER OF 1907.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS

AT

BEESTON FIELDS, NOTTINGHAM.

206 feet above the sea level. Readings at 9 a.m. daily.

	TEMPERATURE.		RAINFALL.				
	Mean.	Above or below Mean.	Total Fall.	Above or below Average	Most in 24 hours	Date.	No of Rainy Days
January ...	37·6	+ ·1	1·08	— ·86	·39	2	8
February ...	36·6	— ·2	1·70	— ·06	·43	12	14
March ...	42·7	+ 1·2	1·40	— ·44	·68	19	12
April ...	45·9	— ·2	2·29	+ ·61	·27	27	22
May ...	51·4	— ·4	3·57	+ 1·53	·77	14	18
June ...	54·9	— 3·2	2·84	+ ·80	·47	24	21
July ...	57·	— 4·7	2·37	·00	·59	21	18
August ...	58·3	— 1·4	2·95	+ ·16	·94	14	13
September	56·6	+ ·7	·79	— 1·11	·35	4	8
October ...	49·2	+ 1·1	3·83	+ 1·11	·90	16	21
November	42·9	+ ·4	1·95	— ·12	·43	24	21
December ...	39.3	+ 1·1	2·98	+ ·62	·45	13	17
Mean ...	47·7		27·75				193
Mean of Yrs.	48·3	Average fall	25·51				

TEMPERATURE.

The highest reading of the Thermometer in the screen at 4 feet occured on May 12 ... ... 81·3

The lowest on January 25 ... ... 12·1

The number of readings below 32·° were 66

Although the number of frosts are not excessive, 1907 yields the lowest Mean Temperature since 1895 (47·6), in February of which year the very severe frost occurred.

The deficiency in the Temperature during the Summer months is conspicuous.

RAINFALL.

The number of days on which rain fell is rather in excess of the average.

The largest fall was ·94 inches on August 14.

REMARKS.

Fruit, except plums and pears, scarce and flavourless.

Very few butterflies.

GEORGE FELLOWS.