[Report 1908] / Medical Officer of Health, Beeston U.D.C.

Contributors

Beeston (Nottinghamshire, England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1908

Persistent URL

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/bsj3c74p

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.

Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
https://wellcomecollection.org

BEESTON

Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year 1908.

"WEEKLY POST" OFFICE,
BEESTON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1908.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my 16th Annual Report, which deals with the vital statistics and sanitary condition of the district during the year 1908. In spite of the somewhat depressing state of trade, and the consequent privation of many of the inhabitants, I am glad to say these influences have had no appreciable effect on the figures it is my pleasing duty to lay before you. Indeed, at the outset, I may say the death-rate is the lowest I have had to record, the birth-rate is normal, and the number of infectious diseases notified is materially less than for the last four years. All this is eminently satisfactory to your Medical Officer of Health and proves that much zealous work is done at your Council Meetings by your Sanitary Officials and the Staff in general.

Owing to the removal of Humbers Ltd. to Coventry, a large exodus of their employees followed, and at the present time a considerable number of empty houses exist in the neighbourhood of their works. This has occurred since August 1st, when, for the purposes of my statistics, I have to estimate the population, and although it has decreased on the figures of 1907, it is not so much affected as it would be at the present time. It is needless to say Humbers' removal was a blow to Beeston, and I am sure I am echoing all your wishes in hoping that these importants works may soon be tenanted and giving employment to the citizens of our township.

METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS.—The weather during the year under review has again had a marked and beneficial effect upon the public health. From the observations taken at Beeston Fields, and kindly supplied to me by G. Fellows, Esq., a full table of which will be found in the appendix, it will be seen, that taken as a whole there have been no extremes either of heat or cold, or of drought or execessive rainfall. As in the previous year (1907) the summer months of June, July, August, and September of 1908 were again cool and damp, leading to a marked diminution in the number of cases of diarrhœa in children. The absence of hard frosts during the winter months had also a good effect on the old people, reducing the number of respiratory diseases which are so fatal in people of advanced years. The total rainfall for the year was 25.54 inches, which is almost exactly the average. During the Autumn and Winter months it was below the average, but during the Spring and Summer months it was in excess of the mean. This helped to

keep our sewers flushed, and thereby contributed to the decreased amount of diarrhœa. June 1st was the wettest day, no less than 1½ inches falling during the 24 hours.

Population.—Mr. Kirkland, the Rate Collector, has kindly informed me that on August 1st there were 2,852 houses in Beeston, of which 2,632 were occupied, and 220 were empty. This shows an increase of 101 houses built during the year, though the number of tenantless houses has sadly increased upon that of the previous year, when only 74 were unoccupied. Taking as in other years 4½ inhabitants to each house (the average shown at the Census of 1901) this gives us a poplation of 11,844, which is the figure upon which I base my vital statistics for the year. This shows a decrease of 202 inhabitants upon the previous year, whereas the natural increase of population for the year, i.e., excess of births over deaths, is 206. I would again wish to draw your attention to the fact that now we are eight years from the last Census there is room for some uncertainty as to the correctness of these figures, and from a statistical point of view a quinquennial Census would be eminently desirable.

During the year there have been :—

317	births	and	111	deaths	as against
323	,,	,,	141	,,	in 1907
278	,,	,,	118	,,	,, 1906
286	,,	,,	116	,,	,, 1905
300	,,	,,	155	,,	,, 1904
278	,,	,,	112	,,	,, 1903
267	,,	,,	97	,,	,, 1902
278	,,	,,	118	,,	,, 1901
243	,,	,,	99	,,	,, 1900
256	,,	,,	133	,,	,, 1899

This gives a Birth-rate of	and a Death-rate of				
26.7	9.3	per	1000	per annum	for 1908
26.8	11.7	,,	,,	,,	,, 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

Births.—317 births were registered during the year 1908, of which 152 were males and 165 females. Five of them were illegitimate—1 male and 4 females—a proportion of 1 to 22 legitimate births. The births approximate very closely with the figures for 1907, only a difference of six existing in favour of the latter year. A birth-rate of 26.7 is very little below the normal for the whole country, and is practically up to the average for the last 10 years. I shall not here refer to the desirability or otherwise of a high birth-

rate, except to say that in hard times, such as we are now passing through, a large family must add materially to the distress both of the parents and the children themselves. It is also open to doubt whether small families of children brought up properly under better hygienic conditions than can prevail in the case of large families, and with suitable and abundant food, are not more likely to maintain the population of the country than would large numbers of insufficiently fed children living in crowded rooms, badly clad, and with imperfect attention on the part of harassed parents. At any rate there can be no shadow of doubt that in the former case the children are more likely to grow up into useful and efficient members of the community than would be the case in the children dragged up anyhow.

Deaths.—The number of deaths for the year, viz., 111, is a very satisfactory feature, especially when one considers what a very mixed population we have to deal with, and how indifferently many of them are housed. Of these deaths 52 were males and 59 females. On five of them an inquest was necessary—3 suicides and 2 accidents. In addition to these 111 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 19, viz., 10 in Basford Workhouse, 6 in the Nottingham General Hospital, and 3 in the County Asylum. These extra 19 deaths make up a total of 130, with a death-rate of 10.9 per 1000 per annum. Of the total deaths:—

37 occurred during the 1st Quarter
20 „ „ „ 2nd „
24 „ „ „ 3rd „
30 „ „ „ 4th „

The deaths are classed under the following heads:—

	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	5	16	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	1
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3	1
Diphtheria	1	6	3	9	12	0	2	1	0	0
Croup	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0
Typhoid Fever	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Erysipelas	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	3	3	0	0	3	0	4	5	0	3
Diarrhœa and Dysentry	3	3	20	2	16	5	3	9	6	18
Rheumatic Fever	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phthisis	7	9	6	14	17	15	11	6	8	10
Bronchitis, Pleurisy, and Pneumonia	19	16	17	24	23	24	12	14	35	36
Heart Disease	6	12	8	6	8	13	11	5	4	8
Cancer	13	11	6	4	5	3	8	5	2	2
Injuries and Suicides	5	3	3	4	3	2	3	4	1	5
All other causes	48	61	53	53	66	48	41	51	39	59
	111	141	118	116	155	112	97	118	99	133

Perhaps the most striking feature in this table is in the increase of deaths from Cancer and allied malignant growths. No less than 13 deaths occurred from this disease, which compares unfavourably with the average of 5.3 for the previous 10 years.

Zymotic or Epidemic Death-rate.—Only 12 deaths resulted from these diseases, viz.:—Measles 5, Whooping Cough 3, Diarrhœa or Epidemic Enteritis 3, and Diphtheria 1. This compares very favourably with previous years, and represents a zymotic death-rate of 1.01 per 1000 per annum, as compared with 2.05 in 1907, 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.

The deaths may be tabulated as follows:—

	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
Under 1 year	32	27	41	30	47	23	25	38	23	34
1 year and under 5	9	24	16	15	17	5	9	19	14	22
5 years and under 15	1	11	4	5	12	6	5	6	5	3
15 „ „ „ 25	6	4	4	5	7	6	5	2	10	7
25 „ „ „ 65	31	38	30	31	35	41	28	32	19	36
65 and upwards	32	37	23	30	37	31	25	21	28	31
	111	141	118	116	155	112	97	118	99	133

Of the 32 deaths occurring in persons over 65 years of age, 9 were between 65 and 70, 15 between 70 and 80, 7 between 80 and 90, while 1 was over 90 at the time of death. This speaks well for the longevity of the inhabitants and helps to make our figures even more remarkable.

Infantile Mortality.—Thirty-two children died under 1 year of age during the year. This is not quite so good as the previous year, when only 27 such deaths occurred, but is below the average for the previous ten years, viz., 33. These 32 deaths give us an Infantile Mortality rate of exactly 10.0 per 1000 births registered—that is to say, if 1000 children had been born in Beeston during the year, 100 would have died during the first year of their existence. The average for the previous ten years was 120.3, or in other words we have a saving of 20 lives during the year under review over the average for the past 10 years, nor must we lose sight of the fact that excessive infant mortality is almost invariably associated with deteriorated health of the survivors. In districts where the Notification of Births Act had been adopted (this at present is not compulsory) a great saving of infant life has been effected, but, as I stated in my last Report, it is useless unless a Lady Inspector is appointed to follow up the notifications of births, and where neeessary to give instructions to young and inexperienced mothers as to the proper method of feeding and rearing their offspring. In a district such as ours, where girls as soon as they leave school are sent out to work, there is little scope for them to learn the most elementary principles of house-keeping and the rearing of children, and it is for this class that rational and systematic instruction by a competent, tactful and sympathetic lady might be of such inestimable service.

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

	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
Premature birth	4	5	8	8	11	5	5	4	2	4
Debility from birth	3	5	3	2	1	4	6	8	4	4
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	5	2	5	6	7	5	0	8	10	9
Convulsions	2	3	3	2	4	2	3	3	1	3
Constitutional Syphilis	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
General Tuberculosis	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	2
Diarrhœa	7	2	16	2	16	5	2	5	4	6
Rickets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tubercular Meningitis	1	1	0	2	3	2	3	2	2	1
Measles	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Natural Causes (Coroner's enquiry)	1	2	2	0	1	0	2	2	0	2
Whooping Cough	3	2	0	0	1	0	3	3	0	3
Other Causes	2	2	4	4	1	0	1	0	0	0
	32	27	41	30	47	23	25	38	23	34

Excluding the first seven deaths, viz., 4 from Premature birth and 3 from Debility from birth, which may be called unavoidable deaths, our infantile mortality assumes an even more favourable aspect.

Notifications.—It is with much gratification I have to report a further drop in the number of infectious diseases notified during the year. Tabulated and compared with the previous ten years :—

	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
Small-pox	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	5	13	53	22	31	24	45	10	79	95
Diphtheria	19	33	57	81	60	4	7	4	1	2
Croup	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Typhoid Fever	1	2	3	1	3	4	6	6	10	6
Erysipelas	7	9	6	10	7	4	1	0	1	10
Continued Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	33	57	119	114	103	36	61	21	91	113

Excluding the seven cases of erysipelas, which in private life is not an infectious disease, our figures show an even better aspect.

In every case of notification 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 order to facilitate the carrying out of these directions your Council at my suggestion have had printed a leaflet containing full particulars and details for preventing the spread of infectious diseases, the length of time isolation should be insisted upon, and the penalties imposed for contravening any of of the laws under the Acts 38, 39, 53 and 54 Vict. One of these leaflets is now

given to the person in charge of every case notified. In every case too (excepting Erysipelas) on the recovery or death of the patient your Council has disinfected the house by means of compressed sulphurous acid gas. Efficient disinfection, however, cannot be carried out in the absence of a disinfecting chamber to treat the clothing, bedding, etc., by heat. I still hope that in the no distant future such provision may be provided.

Small-pox.—No case of this disease has occurred in Beeston since 1904. In view, however, of the loophole afforded to conscientious objectors to the vaccination laws I fear for the future, and find much consolation in the fact that we have a share in the Isolation Hospital for Small-pox, situated at Hucknall Torkard, which is kept in a state of preparedness for any emergency. Our share of the expense of maintaining this Hospital for the year is £40 8s. 3d.

Scarlet Fever.—Only five of these cases have been notified during the year. They were all of a mild type, and no deaths resulted. In spite of the difficulties of affording perfect isolation in the case of small houses, no secondary case arose.

Diphtheria.—In spite of all the precautions against the spread of this disease inaugurated in 1904 and religiously carried out since, 19 cases of this disease have been notified during the year. That the number of cases is still steadily declining is shown by referring to the previous table, from which we see that in 1907 there were 33 cases, in 1906 57, in 1905 81, and in 1904 60. The cases now are of a very mild type, and only one resulted in death—a child 2 years of age. Before allowing the patient or any of the brothers or sisters to return to school, positive evidence that the throat is free from infection is obtained by sending some of the secretion from the throat to the Nottingham Laboratory to be examined for the specific organism or bacillus, which causes the disease. If still present, a further interval of three weeks is allowed to elapse before another examination is made. The expense of these examinations is bourne by your Council, as is also the supply for 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 or Enteric Fever.—That only one case of this disease was notified during the year speaks well for our sanitation. No cause for disease could be found in the patient's surroundings; the house he lived in was a new one, the drains appeared to be all right, Nottingham water was laid on, but he was a great watercress eater, and it is possible that this may have been growing in contaminated water. He made an excellent recovery, and no secondary case arose from it. The cool damp summer no doubt lessened the risk of enteric fever, and other intestinal troubles by diminishing dust, and by lessening the number of flies, but I must again reiterate the warning contained in my last Report, that 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 dangerous state should enteric fever once get hold of the district.

ERYSIPELAS.—The seven cases of this disease notified call for no special comment. In no instance could they be ascribed to insanitary defects, and no death resulted.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—The one case of this disease notified occurred in the practice of a midwife. According to requirements of the County Council I made a full report to Dr. Handford—the County Medical Officer of Health—and meantime suspended the midwife from attending confinements for three weeks, and gave instructions for her to efficiently disinfect herself and clothing. Thanks to these precautions, no other case occurred in her work.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

WHOOPING COUGH.—A few cases of this disease occurred in the spring and early summer months, and led to 3 deaths in very young children, under one year of age.

MEASLES.—A smart epidemic of this disease took place in December, and led to 5 deaths. The mortality from this disease far exceeds the total deaths from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever put together, and yet the majority of parents think very lightly of it. In December it assumed such proportions that I seriously thought of advising the Education Committee to close the infant department of the schools. The near approach of the Christmas holidays, however, deterred me, and I am glad to say the " break " had the desired effect. Measles is one of the most infectious diseases known, and so lnog as numbers of young children are congregated together in schools, we must expect these periodic visitations.

DIARRHŒA.—In my last Report I explained how, and why, a cool and wet summer reduced this disease to an almost negligable amount. The same conditions apply to the summer under review, and with the same happy result, very few cases of this fatal disease coming under my observation, and only 3 deaths resulting therefrom. The crusade against the ordinary house-fly, which I referred to in my last Report, has gained ground, and many articles have appeared in the lay and medical press during the year. There seems no shadow of doubt that these hitherto supposed innocuous insects are the carriers of all sorts of diseased germs, which they deposit on any exposed articles of food or drink. Hence the natural thing to do is to keep all such articles of food, and particularly milk, in cool dark larders, and protected by fly screens.

PHTHISIS OR CONSUMPTION.—Seven deaths from this—the white man's plague—took place during the year, while eight deaths occurred from other tubercular affections. From the fact that consumption is not yet on the list of notifiable diseases I cannot say how many cases of this disease exist in Beeston, but it has been estimated, that for every death there are six other cases which have not yet terminated. This would give us the number of 90 persons suffering from tuberculosis. In several of my previous Reports I have explained how Consumption is caused by the invasion of a micro-organism—the tubercle bacillus—which gains entrance to our bodies either through our lungs by inhaling particles of infected dust or through our

alimentary canal by partaking of infected food—principally in the form of milk, derived from cows suffering from tuberculosis. The sooner people can be made to realise the contagiousness of this disease, and the methods that should be adopted to lessen that risk of infection, the sooner can we expect to see our death returns reduced, and this will be further facilitated by a closer supervision by your Sanitary Authority on the cowsheds, and the compulsory exclusion of diseased cows. Observations extending over a prolonged period prove that the mortality from this dread disease is diminishing, but finality in this direction is not yet reached. Further education in the advantages of fresh air, both by day and night, improved sanitation, the abolition of slums, and back to back houses, the provision of open spaces, isolation of the patient, avoidance of expectorating in the streets and public places, and subsequent disinfection of the patient's room, will do much to further reduce the number of cases of this scourge of modern life. In connection with the last item I would again wish to draw my Colleagues' attention to the fact that we are always willing, even anxious, to disinfect the room in which a consumptive has died. Without their co-operation in notifying me of such a death, the opportunity is lost. With the commencement of this year (1909) a further responsibility in connection with the prevention of this disease has been imposed upon us as a Sanitary Authority by an extension of the Public Health Act, known as the "Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908." By this Act it is incumbent upon every Medical Officer of a Poor Law Institution, or upon any district Medical Officer to notify to the Medical Officer of Health within 48 hours after he has first recognised the symptoms of pulmonary tuberculosis every case occurring in such an Institution or of a person in receipt of outdoor relief. Further, all changes of address of such a consumptive must be sent to the Medical Officer of Health of the district to which the patient.is going to reside. The remuneration for such notification is 1s. per case, and is payable by the Council of the Sanitary district for which the Medical Officer of Health acts.* The object of the Act is for the Sanitary Authority on the advice of its Medical Officer of Health to utilise its powers for the purpose of preventing the spread of infection from pulmonary tuberculosis. This is a step in the right direction, and is the prelude I hope to universal notification of pulmonary tuberculosis.

* No mention is made in the Act as to the remuneration due to the Medical Officer of Health, for the extra work thrown upon him in carrying out the provisions of the Act.

Milk Supply.—As the subject of a pure milk supply touches so closely upon that of Tuberculosis, I deem it desirable to deal with it now, rather than defer it to a later part of my Report. Now that it is a recognised and proved fact that bovine tuberculosis can be communicated to human beings, especially when the disease affects the udder of the cow, it becomes more imperative upon all Sanitary Authorities to keep a rigid supervision over the milking cows and their surroundings. Since your Council adopted the "Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-shops Orders" we have inspected all the cowsheds, dairies, and milk-shops twice yearly, and I regret to say that very

few of the first-named come up to the standard laid down as desirable in my Report of 1906. To say that the cowsheds and their surroundings are quite satisfactory would be an exaggeration. Heaps of manure are usually in too close proximity to the byres, and these with pools of liquid manure are not only unsightly, but are apt to contaminate the clothes of the milkers, the flanks of the animals themselves, and the utensils for the reception of the milk. Taking them on the whole, farmers are perhaps the most conservative of all people, and I fear the principle of "what was good enough for their forefathers is good enough for them" is hard to eradicate. I still hope, however, that by constantly dinning it into them we may in time effect an improvement in their antiquated methods. Presupposing healthy cows, in clean, airy, well-drained sheds, the three desiderata we ought to instil into the minds of cowkeepers are (1) to wash their hands before milking, (2) to wear a clean smock during the operation, and (3) to keep the cows (especially the udder) as free from dirt contamination as possible.

I think it would also be desirable on the part of your Council if your Veterinary Surgeon came over to inspect all the cows in the district twice a year, for the detection of tuberculous disease of the udder.

The dairies and retailers' premises have also been inspected by us, and seem in a satisfactory condition. Very little milk is stored in the retailers' premises at all, but is delivered direct by the farmer to the retailer, and by him to the consumer.

Sewage Farm.—It is with some diffidence I approach this subject because of the divergence of view held by myself as your Medical Officer of Health and your Farm Committee in the management of the farm. I, who have only the public safety to consider, deem it desirable that more land should be devoted to its proper use in purifying the liquid sewage poured upon it, while your Farm Committee with the very laudable object of growing crops to make it pay its way, and thereby save the rates, are indisposed to grant us the amount of land we consider necessary. While admitting that more plots have been placed at our disposal during the past year, I still consider that in consequence of the small area under irrigation, the crude sewage is allowed to remain too long on the plots. By so doing the land becomes sewage sick, a thick slimy deposit settles on the soil which prevents further infiltration, and as a consequence the effluent is not so pure as it might be. The proper way of utilising a sewage farm is to allow the liquid sewage to run on to a plot for one week only, or until it is just covered, and then to divert it to another plot, allowing the first one to soak through, dry up, and then be ploughed. In this way the land is kept in a porous condition, is aerated and sweetened by exposure to the air during and after the ploughing, and is ready again to take its quota of sewage in the course of a month or six weeks. To do this, however, would require the use of practically the whole of the 30 acres at our disposal, allowing only "catch" crops of rapid growth such as rye grass, vetches, etc., to be grown. This will become more and more imperative as time goes on in consequence of the natural growth of population, and the rapid extension of the water carriage system, and the

consequent increase in the volume of sewage to be treated. I would also wish again to refer to the difficulty we have had in keeping the sewers empty. To do this either both pumps must be kept at work until noon, by which time the accumulation has been overcome, when one pump would be sufficient to cope with the work; or that a double shift of nine hours each with the single pump be carried out. Personally, I think the latter plan would be preferable, as by that means we should prevent the sewers filling in the lower parts of the town, and giving rise to offensive smells.

For the last 4 years no plans of new houses with tub closet accommodation have been passed where a public sewer exists, and in consequence the number of tubs that have to be taken down to the farm remains about stationary. 2,200 of these are removed weekly to the farm by your Sanitary Staff between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., where they are emptied, cleansed, disinfected, and then returned. This material soon loses any manurial value it may have, and we have an increasing difficulty in disposing of it gratis to the neighbouring farmers. In consequence of this 1,500 loads have had to be buried on the farm during this winter. This may serve as a temporary expedient, but it cannot go on indefinitely. I still maintain that the removal of so much filth by fire is the only rational and sanitary method of dealing with it.

Before leaving this subject of the sewage farm I might mention that the crops grown thereon realised, after deducting expenses of sale, £102 13s. 6d. In addition to this crops to the value of £112 6s. 6d. have been grown and been consumed by your own horses.

The increasing number of houses on the Silver Hill Estate will very soon necessitate your Council devising some method of disposing of their sewage. At present there are 38 houses, and they all drain into cess-pits, which require frequent emptying, and which are liable to become a nuisance at any time. This cannot be tolerated indefinitely, and its remedy is, I understand, under consideration of your Council.

It is gratifying to find that 22 of the disgusting and insanitary middens have been converted during the year, leaving only the same number still existent in the parish. On referring back I find that as recently as 1901 there were no less than 81 of these in our midst, so that we are making headway in abolishing this mediævel method of excreta disposal. I can only hope that by the end of the present year the remaining 22 will have been abolished.

Complaints are still made, especially during the summer months, of the smells arising from the manholes or grates in the streets. While these smells are not so dangerous to health as popularly supposed, they are decidedly unpleasant, and I would suggest that more ventilating shafts be erected, especially in the higher parts of the town, to carry off the gases above the level of people's heads.

During the year plans for 82 houses have been submitted to the Council for approval, and 114 have been certified as being fit for occupation. In addition to dwelling houses, the following buildings have also been approved

during the year : 2 lock-up shops, 9 conversions of dwelling houses into shops, 1 addition to factory, 16 alterations and additions to houses and other premises. The drains of all new houses are subjected to the water test before being certified as sound.

New Streets.—Plans for 11 new streets have been approved during the year, viz. :—Abbey Road, Muriel Road, and part of the Marlborough Road, all on the Lenton Abbey Estate, off Wollaton Road; Ellis Grove and Farndon Avenue off Chilwell Road. Those on the Lenton Abbey Estate are now being built upon, the roads having been properly sewered and partially paved. The new streets off Chilwell Road are also in course of construction. Plans also of several new streets off Hassock's Lane and Queen's Road have been approved by the Council, but none of these have been commenced as yet.

The Local Government Board have sanctioned during this year a new Bye-law limiting the width of backyards and passages to all dwelling houses to four feet in the narrowest part. During the year I have exercised a general supervision over the sanitary candition of the parish, and have been constantly associated with your Sanitary Inspector in the abatement and removal of sanitary defects and nuisances. Our attention has been called to complaints of ten defective drains, one case of impure well water, twenty-two insanitary middens, six instances of insufficient ashpit accommodation, one defective yard paving, one defective manure pit, and three cases of offensive trade refuse, the latter in each case being fish offal allowed to accumulate on the premises instead of being regularly removed to the sewage farm. The practice of depositing offensive refuse in the streets or on vacant land near dwellings has been very frequent during the past year. Notices have been posted dealing with this, and also warning persons against sweeping out business premises on to the public footway. It is to be hoped that the notices will have the desired effect, or drastic measures will have to be taken with the offenders.

Pigstyes.—Complaints as to four of these have been received, and with one exception were all disused on notices being given to the owners. In that case they were removed, but returned after a short interval. They were, however, permanently removed on compulsory notice being again given.

Smoke Nuisance.—Fewer complaints have been made with respect to pollution of the air by smoke from factory chimneys during the past year. Probably this is due to the fact that more frequent warnings have been given to those responsible for the management of the furnaces. In these days of mechanical science it is quite consistent to so perfectly consume the fuel that a minimum of smoke results, and this without any loss of economy. In fact, in the great majority of instances smoking chimneys are the result of improper stoking, and are wasteful of energy. While dealing with this subject I may say that my attention has been called to several instances where trade refuse was being burnt on the premises, more particularly in the backyard. Action will certainly have to be taken in this matter unless the practice be discontinued.

In my lase Report I mentioned that, thanks to the generosity of H. J. Pearson, Esq., who gave £1,000 towards the provision by your Council of a Public Recreation Ground, five acres of land situated in Dovecote Lane had been bought. After paying all expenses of levelling, draining, fencing and planting of shrubs, the total cost has been £2,207. It was declared open by the Hon. J. E. Ellis, M.P., on July 7th, 1908, and the occasion was celebrated as a public holiday in the parish. That it is a great boon, both to the children for whom it is intended and also for those of mature age, there can be no doubt.

Other important acquisitions by the Council during the year under review are (1) a thoroughly up-to-date steam fire engine, made by Merryweather, costing with new hose, etc., £470, (2) a steam roller costing £495, (3) the provision of a public convenience on the High Road costing £90. The situation of the last-named gave rise to some opposition, but it was the best that could be obtained, and, at any rate, has the advantage of being very central.

Medical Inspection of Schools and School Children's Act.—This I referred to in my last Report. The County Council has appointed whole time Medical Officers to carry out the work, and I understand the children in Beeston have been examined, but, as no Report on the work done is forthcoming up-to-date, I can form no opinion of the benefits that have accrued from it. If the best results are to be obtained, however, there will have to be designed some form of systematized treatment of the children who are found by inspection to require it. In the great majority of cases I fear it is not sufficient to point out to the parents defects in their children unless some provision is made for remedying these defects. Whether this can best be achieved by establishing school clinics, or by subsidizing existing hospitals or public dispensaries, or in some other way, is now under consideration, and cannot be decided off hand.

"The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907." Part I. of this Act is already in force, and the adoption of the remainder is under consideration by your Council, and negotiations are being carried on regarding it with the Local Government Board.

Factories, Workshops and Outworkers.—Much work has been thrown upon us in connection with the systematic inspection of these. Reference to the table dealing with this subject will be found in the appendix.

Factories.—Our only concern with these is to see (1) that the sanitary accommodation is sufficient and in good working order, (2) that separate provision of such is made for the sexes, (3) that adequate means of escape exist in case of fire. In connection with the last we are now trying to induce the owners of the different fatcories in their own interests to provide an underground tank connected direct with the water mains to enable our new engine to do its work efficiently. To connect with the main direct is not sufficient.

Workshops.—These include all premises in which several people work, but in which no mechanical power is used. Forty-one 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. Special attention is given to the sixteen bakehouses, and eight slaughter-houses, and I am glad to say they are conducted on cleanly and sanitary principles.

Outworkers.—Our chief concern with regard to these is to see that no work is done in a house where any infectious disease is known to exist. In consequence of the falling off of lists from local employers, a circular has been sent to each one reminding them of the requirements of the Factory and Workshops Act. As will be seen from the table only four lists containing in all twelve names have been received during the year from Beeston Manufacturers. During the same period thirty addresses have been received from Nottingham and other districts.

Appended are the usual Local Government Tables.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I must congratulate you on the excellent results of your past and present endeavours to make our township so desirable and healthy a place to live in. Much of this result is due to the indefatigable zeal of your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector—Mr. E. A. Bush—who is tireless in his efforts to maintain our high standard of sanitary excellence, and to whom I, personally, am much indebted for his invaluable help and advice. I have also to thank the Members of the Sanitary Committee, and indeed all the Members of the Council for their unvarying kindness and courtesy to me, and their earnest endeavours to carry out any suggestions made by me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

FRANK ROTHERA, M.D., Etc.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I. Vital Statistics of whole District during 1908 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		
1898	10,065	280	28·8	48	171·4	119	11·8	*None.*	*None.*				None.	Nottingham General Hospital. Nottingham County Asylum. Basford Workhouse.
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		
1907	12,046	323	26·8	27	83·5	141	11·7			18	159	13·7		
Avrages for yars. 1898, 1907.	10,437	278	26·8	33	120·3	120	11·5							
1908.	11,844	317	26·7	32	100·	111	9·3			19	130	10·9		

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
Average No. of persons per house 4·5
At Census of 1901.

TABLE II. Vital Statistics of Separate Localities in 1908 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.*
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
1907	12,046	323	141	27
Averages of Years 1898 to 1907.	10,437	278	120	33
1908	11,844	317	111	32

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1908.

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							
Cholera							
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	19		6	10	2	1	
Erysipelas.. ...	7			1	2	3	1
Scarlet Fever ...	5		2	3			
Typhus Fever ...							
Enteric Fever ...	1					1	
Relapsing Fever ...							
Continued Fever ...							
Puerperal Fever ..	1					1	
Plague							
Totals ...	33	0	8	14	4	6	1

Number of Cases removed to Hospital—None.

Small Pox Isolation Hospital at Hucknall Torkard.

Total available Beds, 12 to 20.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, Small Pox only.

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1908.

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							
Measles	5	3	2				
Scarlet Fever							
Whooping-cough	3	3					
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	1		1				
Croup							
Fever { Typhus							
Fever { Enteric							
Fever { Other continued ...							
Epidemic influenza	1						1
Cholera							
Plague							
Diarrhœa	4	4					
Enteritis	4	4					
Puerperal Fever							
Erysipelas							
Other septic diseases ...							
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	7				2	4	1
Other tuberculous diseases ...	8	2	3		1	2	
Cancer, malignant disease ...	13					7	6
Bronchitis	11	3				1	7
Pneumonia	8	2	2			3	1
Pleurisy							
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	2		1		1		
Alcoholism }	2					1	1
Cirrhosis of liver }							
Venereal diseases							
Premature birth	4	4					
Diseases and accidents of parturition							
Heart diseases	6				1	4	1
Accidents	2	1		1			
Suicides	3					2	1
Debility from birth	3	3					
Convulsions	2	2					
Apoplexy	4					1	3
Senile Decay	6						6
All other causes	12	1	0		1	6	4
All causes	111	32	9	1	6	31	32

TABLE IV.—Continued.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1908.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging to localities, 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							
Measles							
Scarlet Fever							
Whooping-cough							
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...							
Croup							
Fever { Typhus							
Fever { Enteric							
Fever { Other continued ...							
Epidemic influenza							
Cholera							
Plague							
Diarrhœa							
Enteritis							
Puerperal Fever							
Erysipelas	1					1	
Other septic diseases ...							
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	1					1	
Other tuberculous diseases ...							
Cancer, malignant disease ...	1						1
Bronchitis	1					1	
Pneumonia	2	1				1	
Pleurisy							
Other diseases of Respiratory organs							
Alcoholism }							
Cirrhosis of liver }							
Venereal diseases							
Premature birth							
Diseases and accidents of parturition							
Heart diseases	4					2	2
Accidents	2			1		1	
Suicides							
Debility from birth							
Convulsions							
Apoplexy	3					1	2
Senile Decay							
All other causes	4					3	1
All causes	19	1	0	1	0	11	6

TABLE V.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.

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

Cause 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	4	2	0	1	7	3	2	2	2	0	7	1	2	3	2	1	32
,, Uncertified																	
Common Infectious Diseases — Small Pox																	
Common Infectious Diseases — Chicken Pox ...																	
Common Infectious Diseases — Measles											1			1	1		3
Common Infectious Diseases — Scarlet Fever ...																	
Common Infectious Diseases — Whooping Cough...						1					1			1			3
Diarrhœal Diseases — Diarrhœa, all forms		1			1				1		2						4
Diarrhœal Diseases — Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis								1									1
Diarrhœal Diseases — Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh		1			1		1						1				3
Wasting Diseases — Premature Birth ...	4				4												4
Wasting Diseases — Congenital Defects																	
Wasting Diseases — Injury at Birth . .																	
Wasting Diseases — Want of Breast Milk, Starvation																	
Wasting Diseases — Atrophy, Debility, Marasmas ...						1	1	1									3
Tuberculous Diseases — Tubercular Meningitis ...													1			1	2
Tuberculous Diseases — Other Tubercular Diseases ...																	
Other Causes. — Erysipelas																	
Other Causes. — Syphilis																	
Other Causes. — Rickets																	
Other Causes. — Meningitis *(Not Tuberculous)*																	
Other Causes. — Convulsions											1				1		2
Other Causes. — Bronchitis						1					1			1			3
Other Causes. — Laryngitis												1					1
Other Causes. — Pneumonia									1		1						2
Other Causes. — Suffocation, overlying ...																	
Other Causes. — Other Causes				1	1												1
	4	2	0	1	7	3	2	2	2	0	7	1	2	3	2	1	32

District (or sub-division) of Beeston.

Population, estimated to middle of 1908, 11,844.

Births in the year: Legitimate 312; Illegitimate 5. Deaths in the year of Legitimate Infants 32; Illegitimate Infants 0. Deaths from all causes at all Ages, 111.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1908, for the Urban District of Beeston (Notts.),

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

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.

INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Number of			
	On Register.	Inspections	Writ'n Notice	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES ... ... (Including Factory Laundries.)		24	4	0
WORKSHOPS ... ... (Including Workshop Laundries.) ...		41	6	0
WORKPLACES ... ... (Other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)		21	0	0
Total		86	10	0

DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			
	Found	Remedied.	Ref'r'd to H.M Insp'tr	Prosecutions.
Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness	8	8		
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of Drainage of Floors				
Other Nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation (Insufficient ... / Defective ... / Not separate for sexes)	2	2		
Factory Act, 1901 :—				
Illegal occupation of Underground Bakehouse (s. 101.)				
Breach of Special Sanitary requirements for Bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100.)				
Other Offences ... ... (Excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report				
Total	10	10	0	0

OTHER MATTERS.

Particulars.		Number.		
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories ...		None		
Failure to affix Abstract of Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)		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.)	Notified by H.M. Inspector	None		
	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ...	None		
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101.)		None		
Certificates granted during the year		None		
In use at the end of the year		None		
		Number of Outworkers.		
Homework :—		Lists.	Contractors.	Workmen.
Lace, lace curtains and nets,				
Lists received from Employers	Once in the year ...	0	0	0
	Twice in the year ...	6	0	12
		6	0	12
Addresses of Outworkers, received from other Councils ...		30		
" forwarded to other Councils ...				
Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending Lists : A printed Circular has been posted to all Factory Owners and Occupiers in Beeston.				
Number of Inspections of outworker's premises ...		60		
Notices served for prohibiting homework in unwholesome premises				
Cases of infectious disease in homeworker's premises ...				
Orders prohibiting homework in infectious premises ...				
Registered Workshops :—				
Workshops on Register end of 1908, including ...				
Bakehouses		16		
Slaughter Houses		8		
Tailors' Shops				
Dressmakers'				
Plumbers'				
Various		17		
Total Workshops on Register		41		

FRANK ROTHERA, M.D.,

February, 1909. Medical Officer of Health.

THE WEATHER OF 1908.

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 ...	35·6	— 1·9	1·22	— ·72	·28	6	14
February ...	41·3	+ 2·7	1·51	— ·25	·29	16	14
March ...	39·4	— 2·1	3·05	+ 1·21	·70	25	21
April ...	42·8	— 3·3	2·33	+ ·65	·70	28	18
May ...	55·3	+ 3·5	2·33	+ ·29	·44	6	16
June ...	57·7	— ·4	2·49	+ ·45	1·57	1	10
July ...	60·9	— ·8	2·92	+ ·55	·65	12	11
August ...	58·	— 1·7	3·44	+ ·65	·64	20	14
September	55·	— ·9	1·66	— ·24	·42	18	16
October ...	53·1	+ 5·	1·43	— 1·29	·59	20	17
November	44·9	+ 2·3	1·49	— ·58	·51	12	13
December ...	38·1	— ·1	1·67	— ·69	·28	15	21
Mean ...	48·5	Total	25·54				185

TEMPERATURE.

The highest reading of the Thermometer in the screen at 4 feet occured on July 2 ... ... 82·9

The lowest on December 30 ... ... 9·6

The number of readings below 32·° were 64

The first nine months of the year yielded a Mean Temperature below the average: the warmth of February and May being counteracted by the cold of March and April. The warmth of October and November was conspicuous. The sudden frost on December 30 furnished the lowest reading, viz: 9·6, recorded since the great frost in February, 1895.

RAINFALL.

Six months yielded a fall above and six below the average, the excesses being in the Spring and Summer. The total fall was almost exactly the Average.

GEORGE FELLOWS.