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Brentwood
Urban District Council.

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

(SAMUEL FRAZER, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., &c.)

For the Year 1899.

JANUARY, 1900.

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✠ FOR THE YEAR 1899. ✠

JANUARY, 1900.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit my report on the sanitary condition of Brentwood for the year 1899.

Although I have only held the office of Medical Officer of Health from May last, I have endeavoured as far as possible to make the report for the whole year.

**Population
and Extent of
Union.**

The Urban District of Brentwood consists of the old Parish of Brentwood, with an area of 354 acres, and a population, according to the Census of 1891, of 4,949.

Deaths.

There have been 57 deaths registered in the District during the year.

Of these deaths, 4 occurred amongst persons not belonging to the district, viz., 3 in the Hackney School, and one in St. Charles's School. These 4 deaths must be deducted from the total number registered; and 7 deaths of persons belonging to, but occurring outside the District, viz., 1 at the Isolation Hospital, and 6 at the Workhouse, Billericay, must be added to form a proper estimate of the mortality of the town itself.

The total number of deaths during the year was therefore 60, giving a death-rate for the year of 11.3 per 1000 persons, my estimate of the population now being 5,270

Births.

The number of births registered during the year was 84—42 boys and 42 girls.

**Infant
Mortality.**

Of the total deaths 13 were infants under one year, and 44 persons above five years.

The infant mortality is therefore 154.7 per 1000 births.

Twenty-six of the total deaths were males, and 31 females.

Of deaths at advanced age, there were 10 above 75, the oldest being 84.

The following table shows the ages at which death occurred and the diseases causing death :—

CAUSE OF DEATH.	AGES.										Total Number under 5 years.	Total 5 years and upwards	Grand Total at all Ages.
	Under 1 year	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 to 75	75 to 85	85 upwards		
Apoplexy ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	4	4
Appendicitis ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Asthma ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
Cancer ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Congenital Debility ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diabetes Mellitus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Diarrhoea ...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	6
Dyspepsia ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gastric Ulcer ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	2	2
Heart Disease...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	2	2	3	...	7	7
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Intestinal Disease	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Lymphadenoma ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Marasmus ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Nephritis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	2
Old Age ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	4	...	6	6
Pernicious Anæmia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Premature Birth ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Suicide ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Villous Growth (Bladder)	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Whooping Cough ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Phthisis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1

The deaths from all causes during the year include 5 from Diarrhoea, and 3 from Whooping Cough; in all 8 deaths from diseases classified as specific febrile or zymotic. This is equivalent to a zymotic death-rate of 1.5 per 1000.

The following table shows at a glance the death, birth, and zymotic rates, and infant mortality:—

Population, 1891	...	...	...	4,949
Population, 1899	...	...	...	5,270
Deaths registered in the district...	...	...	...	57
Corrections	...	...	...	—4 + 7
Corrected death-rate	...	...	...	11.3
Zymotic death-rate	...	...	...	1.5
Infantile mortality	...	...	...	154.7
Birth-rate	...	...	...	15.9

Inquests. There was one; suicide by shooting.

Infectious Diseases. The Notification Act was adopted on the 21st June. Since that date 9 cases of infectious diseases have been notified to me, viz. :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	5
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	3

Of these the Scarlet Fever case only was removed to the Infectious Hospital at Billericay.

The Notification of Infectious Diseases works well and without friction.

Two houses have been disinfected after infectious diseases, and a number of articles destroyed in consequence of infection, for which compensation has been paid.

**Infectious
Hospital.**

There is no Isolation Hospital or Disinfecting Apparatus. There is an arrangement for sending cases of Infectious Disease to the Billericay Isolation Hospital, and this arrangement works satisfactorily at present.

**Inspection of
Premises.**

Systematic inspection has been carried on as effectually and unobtrusively as possible, and was as a rule much appreciated by the occupiers.

As a result of inspection 282 nuisances were detected, of which only 56 have been abated. Altogether there have been 30 notices served for abatement. Of these 30 notices 29 were at once complied with. In one case a summons was taken out, a conviction obtained, and an order made by the magistrates, "that water be laid on, with proper flushing apparatus, to w.c.'s, ash receptacles of impervious material be provided, and the house drains be properly trapped and ventilated." With regard to the large number of nuisances which have not been abated, I would suggest that notices of abatement be sent out at once, milder measures having failed to remedy the evil.

I would draw your attention more especially to the following nuisances as calling for such action as would necessitate an early abatement:—

1. DEFECTIVE W.C.'s.—Proper flushing arrangements wanting; pans defective and filthy; floors in many cases defective, and in some instances no floor at all.

2. Suitable Ash Receptacles are scarcely to be found in any part of the town.

3. The rain-water gutters to the roofs of the cottage property generally are defective or wanting, and as a result the water runs down the walls, or falling to the ground direct from the roofs, splashes up the walls, thus causing dampness to the houses.

4. The back yards and approaches thereto are frequently to be found without proper means of drainage; impervious paving scarcely ever found; the drainage of the poorer houses very defective; bell-traps still exist in the majority of houses of this class, and the main drains are not trapped off from the sewers, nor are they ventilated.

**House
Accommoda-
tion.**

House Accommodation for the working classes is very much needed indeed.

Overcrowding

Only two cases of overcrowding have come to my notice.

**Water
Supply.**

The town is generally supplied by the South Essex Waterworks Company. Some few wells still exist, but these are receiving attention. The water from two wells was found on analysis to be unfit for drinking purposes, and were closed in consequence. The supply from several other wells having failed, the water from the Water Company has been laid on. Several houses have been found without any water supply, and notices have in these cases been served to provide a proper supply.

**Disposal of
Sewage.**

The sewage system is the joint property of the Brentwood Urban District Council and the Billericay Rural District Council. About 5,000 persons in Brentwood, 3,000 in South Weald and Shenfield, and 2,000 in the County Asylum drain into the sewers. There are two main sewers. An old one laid 40 years ago, 10 inches in diameter, takes the sewage of about 7,000 persons. The new sewer, laid two years ago, runs parallel with the old one to the sewage farm on the Upminster Road, about two miles south of Brentwood. There is a good fall and no pumping is required. The average daily dry-weather flow of sewage is 180,000 gallons, but this may be doubled in wet weather. At the works it is treated with alumino-ferric and lime, and after settling in tanks the effluent is passed over a small area of

land. The farm is $35\frac{1}{2}$ acres in extent, and is somewhat heavy land. Only about 7 acres are underdrained or used for purifying the sewage. It has been proposed to put down a septic tank system to treat a portion of the sewage, and an application was made to the Local Government Board for permission to borrow £1,300 for the purpose. An enquiry was held in October, but the Inspector said it was not probable that the Local Government Board would sanction this or any other scheme until the farm is properly laid out. The more or less purified effluent is discharged into the Ingrebourne Brook.

So far as the sewers of Brentwood are concerned, there is no ventilation whatever, except one shaft which has recently been put up in Honeypot Lane.

With the exception of the automatic flushing tank in Waterloo Road, no means exist for properly flushing the sewers. Works are, however, in the hands of the Surveyor for flushing three other sewers. Also a flushing cart has been procured, which is another step in the right direction; so that I look forward to the present means of flushing being greatly improved, and in a short time I hope to see all the sewers effectually flushed.

There is much room for improvement in the way
Scavenging. this is carried out. At present the collection and removal of domestic refuse is given to a contractor. The occupiers are expected to place the refuse out in the street for collection at fixed hours, thrice weekly. This does not work well. A great deal of the refuse is not taken out from the back, and thus being allowed to collect forms a nucleus for generating disease. Then again, much inconvenience and annoyance is caused by the receptacles being upset and the contents scattered about by dogs.

I would suggest as a remedy, that the refuse should be collected regularly from the place of deposit.

Burial Grounds. In this respect the town is well provided for, a cemetery having been recently formed in an eligible position. I may point out here that the town is without a Public Mortuary.

District Inspection. Bakehouses, slaughterhouses, common lodging-houses, dairies, cowsheds, etc., are now being supervised. I hope to see a great improvement effected as soon as the new Bye-laws are confirmed by the Local Government Board.

The only industries carried on in the town calling for special attention are brewing and the manufacture of agricultural machinery.

Disinfection of Clothes, &c. Before closing my report I should like to point out that there are no means provided for the disinfection of clothes, bedding, etc., after an infectious case. This I consider a serious drawback, as in cases of some infectious diseases, it is otherwise impossible to disinfect clothes and fabrics, unless they are destroyed—a proceeding which would entail considerable cost. With regard to the disinfection and cleansing of houses, it is most important that this should be done thoroughly. In a case of Scarlet Fever which was not removed to the Infectious Hospital until after desquamation had begun, I certified that “the cleansing and disinfection of the house would tend to prevent or check disease,” and recommended that the bed and bedding, and all fabrics should be subjected to disinfection by fumigating with a disinfecting gas, and then exposed to an air current for twenty-four hours. All woodwork to be scrubbed with a disinfectant solution and afterwards washed with soft soap and water; and that the ceilings and walls should be scraped and washed with a mixture of hot lime and carbolic acid. To show how necessary it is that these recommendations be carried out to the letter, I might point to three instances which came under my own observation during the last few years.

A case of scarlet fever was treated at a house in South Weald, and after convalescence the house was disinfected by fumigation with sulphur fumes. Six years after, the occupier left. The house was then taken by a gentleman who had a family of four children. Within a month after being in the house, all the children were down with scarlet fever.

A similar case happened in Brentwood after a lapse of three years from the time of fumigation, and one at Shenfield after one year.

I think the necessity for thorough cleansing and disinfection of houses after infectious disease, especially after scarlet fever and small pox should be impressed on the minds of the people generally.

Tables of mortality and of sickness compiled in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board's instructions are appended to this report

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL FRAZER,

Medical Officer of Health U.D.C.

Lansdowne House,
Brentwood.

A case of ... in ... at ...
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TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1899, in the Brentwood Urban District, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

[illegible]

TABLE B.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1899, in the Brentwood Urban District; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.										
	Last Census. B	Estimated to middle of 1899. C			Small-pox. I	Scarlatina. 2	Diphtheria. 3	Membranous Group. 4	FEVERS.					Cholera. 10	Erysipelas. 11
									Typhus. 5	Enteric or Typhoid. 6	Continued. 7	Relapsing. 8	Puerperal. 9		
BRENTWOOD	4949	5270	84	Under 5 5 upw'ds.	...	...	...	...	...	1 2	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	4949	5270	84	Under 5 5 upw'ds.	...	...	...	...	...	1 2	...	...	...	...	...