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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. Fellow of
the Royal Institute of Public Health).

FOR THE YEAR 1905.

JANUARY, 1906.

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Brentwood Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(SAMUEL FRAZER, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., &c. Fellow
of the Royal Institute of Public Health).

FOR THE YEAR, 1905.

TO THE CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the past year, 1905, in accordance with my statutory duty.

It has not been considered expedient in any way to depart from the pre-existing manner of compilation, therefore the several sections will be found to treat of the same subjects, and in the same order as on previous occasions, the reason assigned being that the summarising of the whole of the District Reports for the County of Essex by the

County Medical Officer is facilitated and the Officers of the Local Government Board and Home Office find ready reference to matters appertaining to their respective departments

A special report treating in detail of the inspection of work carried out under the Factories and Workshops Act of 1901, and a summary of the work effected by the Sanitary Inspector will be found at the end of the Report.

The usual tables of statistical information supplied for the use of the Local Government Board are similar to those furnished in previous years, and are five in number.

Table I. exhibits the vital statistics of the whole District during 1905, as well as the six previous years with the averages of the same. The Public Institutions receiving patients are also enumerated.

Table II is disregarded, being inapplicable to your District.

Table III is occupied by cases of infectious diseases notified during the year 1905, and the number removed to Hospital.

Table IV deals with causes of and ages at death during the year.

Table V relates to infantile mortality.

1.—Physical features and general character of the District.

The Urban District of Brentwood is situated on an elevated position on the London and Colchester main road and is comprised of the old Parish of Brentwood. The total area of the District is 354 acres, and the number of houses inhabited is 1185. It is bounded by the Parishes of South Weald, Shenfield and Gt. Warley. The parts of these parishes which immediately adjoin Brentwood are of an urban character, and ought properly to belong to the Urban District. The majority of the people living in these adjoining districts are I believe in favour of becoming attached to Brentwood, but as no one seems to care to act as their spokesman, the matter remains in abeyance. In my opinion it would certainly be to the interest of the general sanitary condition of the District if these adjoining portions of the neighbouring Parishes were joined to Brentwood for the present arrangement with regard to drainage is so complicated that it is impossible to make a

satisfactory report on the sanitary condition of the District. The control of the sewage and drainage system is vested in a joint Committee whose reports are not permitted to be criticised or discussed, thus constituting this Committee, to all intents and purposes, an independent authority.

There is a small brook running between Brentwood and the Parishes of Shenfield and South Weald, which takes most of the surface drainage of the District and which eventually discharges into the Ingrebourne Brook.

2.—House Accommodation, especially for the Working Classes ; its adequacy and fitness for habitation.

This subject has for years past occupied a prominent position in the yearly Reports, and justly so, because the population of Brentwood largely consists of the working class. The cottages which were built under the provisions of the Housing of the Working Class Act have proved a decided success, and the general sanitary condition of the existing dwellings comprising method of construction, air space, light, size of rooms, water supply, draining, cleanliness, number of tenants, with other details has been periodically placed before you by the Officers of the Council in order that existing defects capable of immediate remedy should receive attention. A very large amount of such work has been carried out during the past few years, and it is an incontrovertible fact that the cottagers' environment of to-day is greatly superior to his lot some years ago. The type of cottages erected within recent years fulfils in every respect the requirements of mechanics, artisans, and skilled labourers, and the principal fault has been the insufficiency of their numbers.

Notwithstanding all these facts, it cannot be denied that there are still to be found some cottages scarcely fit for human habitation. In October last I drew the attention of the Council to the insanitary condition of the property situated in North Street, round Western Road to Weald Lane which in my opinion constituted an unhealthy area, and recommended an improvement scheme for the re-arrangement and re-construction of the streets and houses as the only remedy

I would strongly recommend the Council to seriously consider the advisability of carrying out some scheme of improvement in the case of this property and so remove the darkest spot in the sanitary arrangements of the cottage property in Brentwood.

As private enterprise is no longer dormant and a firm of builders have in hand the erection of twenty-nine cottages near North Road Avenue, it is manifestly an opportune time for bringing such a scheme to a successful issue.

There were 49 houses erected during the year and there are at present 20 unoccupied.

Only one case of overcrowding occurred, which was speedily remedied.

3.—Sewerage and Drainage.

Very little can be added upon this subject to the already existing statements which have appeared annually for the last four or five years. The system is under the absolute control of a joint committee, consisting of nine members : six representing Brentwood Urban District Council and three representing Billericay Rural District Council. To my mind the arrangement is anomalous, complicated and unsatisfactory.

4.—Excrement disposal ; System in vogue.

Water closets with flushing apparatus are in general use in the better class houses, but in 80 per cent of the cottage property the closets are hand flushed, and the pans are consequently found in a more or less filthy condition.

5.—Removal and disposal of house refuse.

This work is carried out by a firm of contractors who are employed to remove the refuse once a week from the backs of houses, and find their own dumping ground. This system has not been altogether satisfactory so that it would be gratifying to learn that the Council had definitely determined to carry out this work with their own employees. In this case it would become necessary to provide a destructor for destroying the refuse, under the direct supervision of the Surveyor.

6.—*Water Supply.*

The South Essex Water Works Company supply the town with water. For some years there was a scarcity of water, owing to want of pressure, in the higher parts of town, but the Company have erected a water tower which has effectually remedied this defect.

7.—*Places over which the Council have supervision, e.g., Lodging-houses, Bake-houses, and Slaughter-houses.*

No offensive trades are carried on in the District, and there is now no common lodging-house.

The Bake-houses and Slaughter-houses are kept in a satisfactory condition and the bye-laws with regard to Dairies are very fairly complied with.

The Workshops are also kept in a satisfactory condition. A special report on these are appended at the end of this Report.

8.—*Nuisances.*

The Inspector's Summary shows that very few complaints of of nuisances were received; and the number of nuisances detected, during the course of inspection, shows a great decrease on the previous year's work. The prolonged illness and lamented death of Mr. Fothergill (the late Inspector) naturally interfered with the usual course of systematic inspection. However, Mr. Meeson, who commenced his duties in September has worked most energetically, so that this important work has received considerable attention. During 1904, there were 485 nuisances detected and abated, and during last year there were 183 detected.

9.—*Bye-laws.*

The bye-laws with respect to new houses are very fairly enforced and there are very few plans sent in which do not conform to their requirements.

10.—*Method of dealing with Infectious Disease.*

There is no Isolation Hospital in the District, but there is an arrangement with the Billericay Rural Authority for sending cases of infectious disease to the Billericay Isolation Hospital.

Infected articles are disinfected by means of a Thresh's Portable Disinfector, and disinfection of houses is carried out by using a spray apparatus with which the walls, ceilings, &c. are impregnated with a disinfecting solution.

11.—*Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.*

There has been no serious outbreak of disease during the year.

The total number of notifications was twenty-eight, viz.:—

Scarlet Fever	17
Diphtheria	5
Erysipelas	3
Enteric Fever	3

The numbers notified in the five previous years are shown in the following table :

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Small Pox	Enteric Fever	*Chicken Pox	Total.
1900	7	5	7	—	2	—	21
1901	3	18	2	—	3	—	26
1902	15	2	2	1	1	10	31
1903	5	2	7	—	2	—	16
1904	7	29	2	—	1	—	39

*Chicken Pox was a notifiable disease for the year 1902 only.

Of the seventeen cases of scarlet fever notified last year, fifteen occurred at the Hackney Training Schools, and as a result of enquiry I came to the conclusion that the disease had in the first instance undoubtedly been imported from London. The School Authorities took every precaution to prevent the spread of the disease, and heartily endorsed the efforts made by your Officers to stamp out every trace of the disease.

12.—*Vital Statistics.*

There were forty-six deaths registered in the District, and there were nine deaths of persons belonging to the District but occurring outside it, making a total of fifty-five deaths, which on an estimated population of 6243, gives a death-rate of 8.8 per 1000 persons living. This is the lowest death-rate since the formation of the Urban Authority in 1899. There were 18 deaths of persons above 70 years, 8 above 80, and 3 above 90, the oldest being 93.

13.—*Zymotic Death-rate.*

There were only two deaths from diseases classified as Specific Febrile or Zymotic; both being caused by diarrhoea. This is equivalent to a Zymotic Death-rate of .32 per 1000.

The following are the figures for the last five years :—

1901	.44
1902	.38
1903	1.06
1904	.49
1905	.32
Average for 5 years	.54

14.—*Infantile Mortality.*

Ten children under one year of age died during the year, and as 108 births were registered, the mortality was at the rate of 92.6 per 1000 births. This rate for the last five years was as follows :—

1901	121.9
1902	131.8
1903	84.9
1904	78.4
1905	92.6
Average for the five years,	101.9

15.—*Birth-rate.*

There were 108 births registered during the year, which is equivalent to a birth-rate of 17.3 per 1000 of the whole population. In order, however, to calculate the birth-rate correctly, it is necessary to allow for an average of 950 children living at the Highwood, St. Charles, and Hackney Training Schools. Reckoning on these data we get a corrected birth-rate of 20.3.

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

Population, census of 1901	...	...	4,932
Population, estimated to middle of 1905			6,243
Deaths registered in the District			46
Corrections	...	...	+9
Corrected death-rate	...	...	8.8
Birth-rate on whole population		...	17.3
*Corrected birth-rate	...	...	20.3
Infant Mortality	...	...	92.6

*After deducting the number of children living at the Hackney, St. Charles, and Highwood Schools from the whole population.

The above résumé of the year's work is on the whole very satisfactory. Several improvements have been effected and others are nearing completion. Amongst the latter may be mentioned the widening of King's Road, which, it is generally conceded will prove a lasting boon to the town.

I have the honour, Gentlemen to remain,

Your obedient servant,

SAMUEL FRAZER,

Medical Officer of Health.

*Lansdowne House,
Brentwood.*

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and previous Years.

Year.	Popula- tion estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District.		Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.		
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age		At all ages.			Institu- tions in the District.	Institu- tions in the District.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1899	5270	84	15.9	13	154.7	57	10.8	4	4	7	60	11.3	
1900	5355	135	27.9	12	88.8	62	11.5	1	1	8	69	13.05	
1901	4957	82	16.5	10	121.9	48	9.63	0	0	5	53	10.69	
1902	5157	91	17.6	12	131.8	44	8.5	0	0	12	56	10.8	
1903	5657	106	18.7	9	84.9	53	9.3	4	4	5	54	9.56	
1904	6098	102	16.7	8	78.4	58	9.5	1	1	10	68	11.1	
Averages for years 1899-1903	5415	100	18.8	10.6	104.4	53.6	9.8	1.6	1.6	7.8	60	11.08	
1905	6243	108	17.3	10	92.6	46	7.3	0	0	9	60	8.8	

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere (workhouse).

The "Public Institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made is given at foot of this Table.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)...354.

Total population at all ages.....4932
 Number of inhabited houses.....916
 Average number of persons per house...5.5 }
 At Census of 1901.

TABLE III.

**Cases of Infectious Disease notified during
the Year 1905.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.								No. of cases removed to Hospital.
	At Ages— Years.								
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwds.		
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Diphtheria	5	...	2	3	...	...	...	1	
Membranous croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Erysipelas	3	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	
Scarlet fever	17	...	2	13	1	1	...	15	
Typhus fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Enteric fever	3	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	
Relapsing fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Continued fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Totals	28	1	4	17	2	4	...	17	

Isolation Hospital, near Billericay, belonging to Billericay R. D. Council.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH. 1	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							Total deaths in pub- lic in- stituti- ons in Distct. 16
	All ages. 2	Under 1 year. 3	1 and under 5 4	5 and under 15 5	15 and under 25 6	25 and under 65 7	65 and up- wards. 8	
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and membranous croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	4	...	...	...	1	3	...	...
Other tubercular diseases	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Bronchitis	4	...	1	...	...	1	2	...
Pneumonia	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of respiratory organs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Venereal diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases	9	...	...	...	...	7	2	...
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicides	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Old Age	11	...	...	...	...	...	11	...
Apoplexy	3	...	...	...	...	1	2	...
All other causes	14	6	1	1	1	3	2	...
All causes	55	10	4	1	2	15	23	

TABLE V.

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1905.

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

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	2-3 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	2-3 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes (certified) ...	5	1	6	1	1	1	1	10
Chicken-pox ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Premature Birth ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Atrophy, Debility ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Other Causes ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...

Factories and Workshops Act, 1901.

REPORT FOR 1905.

FEBRUARY, 1906.

Inspections and re-visits have been made to some of the factories and workshops in the district, under the above Act during the few months I have held office.

I trust to make a complete inspection of all premises required by the Act during the present year and report more fully thereon next January.

During the past year a new and up to date factory laundry has been opened in Ongar Road, and it is a pleasure to see that everything that can be done for the convenience and comfort of the workpeople has been carried out.

Appended is the Home Office form, filled in, which relates to the number of inspection defects found and remedied, etc.

A. JAMES MEESON, *Asso. R. San. Inst.*

Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES, &c.

Thirteen Workshops and Factories were inspected during 1905 ; Four defects were found, three remedied.

There are 9 Bakehouses, 2 of which are underground, for which certificates were granted. There are 2 Factory Laundries.

The Urban District of Brentwood.

FEBRUARY, 1906.

Sir,

I have the honour of submitting to you for your consideration my first report on works executed and duties performed in sanitary and other matters for the above District as required by the Public Health Act and the Local Government Board, also the Inspector of Nuisance's Report Form filled in as requested for the Essex County Council for the year ending December 31st, 1905.

As you are aware, I was only appointed to the post of Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances to the above Authority last September, and that it takes several months to get to know the requirements of a District, therefore you will quite understand that no great beneficial results can be shown in so short a period, but I am pleased to say that what little has been done, has been to the satisfaction of the owners and without any friction, and I trust meets with the approval of yourself and the Council.

I was pleased to see the deep interest you take in the periodical inspection of bakehouses, slaughterhouses, workshops, dairies, etc. which are kept in a clean condition.

With regard to the Stone Yard area, which I reported upon to the Council a few months ago, it would be a great benefit to the owners, occupiers, and ratepayers generally if this insanitary block was cleared.

For in addition to the sanitary defects the brickwork, etc. is decayed and falling to pieces, therefore it does not warrant the owners spending large sums of money every two or three years to keep them in anything like order, in other words the property has had its day for I understand that when these cottages were erected, something like sixty years ago, the material used came from other buildings which were being demolished.

The ratepayers would benefit by the removal of an insanitary and overcrowded area, the widening of Weald Road, the opening out and development of Western Road and the surrounding District, and an improvement to the Town generally.

Apart from the question of tenement dwellings, which should be avoided, if possible, if only on account of overcrowding a given area, I would suggest four-roomed cottages, as follows: Ground floor—kitchen or living-room not less than fourteen feet square, with sink and copper, a hood being fixed over the copper with a pipe to conduct the waste steam into chimney flue or external air; then the other room could be used as a bedroom or parlour according to the number of inmates, and two bedrooms on the first floor. Against this, some one will say, that a working man will have a parlour, but my experience is that the class of people whom the cottages should be for, neither require nor desire a parlour, in fact, I know of cases where the kitchen and even the scullery are used for sleeping rooms in this town, though in Scotland the kitchen is counted upon as a bedroom in this class of property, as it is the warmest room for a bed, therefore there can be no reasonable objection to using the front room as such, for there are plenty of people for whom a three and even two room cottage would be acceptable.

Out of twenty-nine cottages being erected by private enterprise, I am pleased to see that eight are on somewhat similar lines to the above and I trust more will follow.

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

A. JAMES MEESON, *Asso. R. San. Ins.*

Sanitary Inspector.

Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector.

In the Urban Sanitary District of Brentwood during the year ending
December 31st, 1905.

	<i>Total Number for Year</i>	<i>Notes, Results of Inspection, &c.</i>
1 Complaints received	16	
2 Nuisances detected without complaint	183	Of which 133 were detected since September
3 Nuisances abated	79	72 of those which remain unabated relate to an insanitary area, and notices have been served since Dec. 31, '05, and will either be abated forthwith or the area cleared for an improvement scheme. The latter preferred.
4 Notices served	8	
5 Cottages inspected	95	
6 Lodging-houses inspected ...		There are none at present
7 Slaughter-houses inspected ...	8	Visited periodically
8 Bakehouses inspected	9	do do 2 are underground
9 Dairies & Milk Shops inspected	3	do do
10 Cowsheds inspected	2	do do
11 Workshop inspections	13	
12 Houses disinfected	19	
13 Overcrowding abated	1	
14 Houses placed in habitable repair	2	
15 Houses erected or rebuilt for which Water "Certificates" were applied... ..	49	
16 "Certificates granted	49	
17 Houses connected with sewers	49	
18 ,, ,, with water mains	69	Some of these were in connection with existing buildings i.e. where a stand pipe had been common to several cottages, now each got a separate supply.
19 Earth, pail, or improved Privies constructed or existing Privies altered	4	Altered to W.C.'s
20 Privies and W.C.'s supplied with water	8	
21 Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered	15	
22 Animals improperly kept re- moved	2	

(Signed) A. JAMES MEESON,

Associate the Royal Sanitary Institute.

N.B. I commenced my duties as Inspector of Nuisances for this District on
September 4th, 1905.