

**[Report 1919] / Medical Officer of Health, Brentwood U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Brentwood (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1919

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ak4s9d9s>

**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](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

**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 1919.

---

BRENTWOOD:  
PRINTED BY BURGESS & CO., HIGH STREET.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28948142>

# 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 1919.

---

---

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,  
GENTLEMAN,—

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition and administration of the District for the year 1919, and I believe it will be found to contain all the information required by the Ministry of Health and the County Council.

The Report being primarily intended for the information of the Ministry of Health and County Council, the method of compilation will be found to be in accordance with the most recent instructions of the Ministry of Health and the desired information is arranged under certain headings which have been specified in a memorandum on the preparation of Annual Reports.

### Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

The Urban Authority was constituted in April, 1899, and the District consists of the old Parish of Brentwood with an area of 460 acres.

POPULATION.—The following table shows the population for the years 1901, 1911, and last year:—

	1901.	1911.	1919.
Population, including Institutions	4,932	6,923	6,288
"    excluding    "	4,014	5,525	5,388
Average number of persons per house including Institutions	5·4	4·9	4·3
Average number of persons per occupied dwelling excluding Institutions	4·4	4·0	3·8

**The population of the Institutions is made up as follows:**

Hackney Branch Institutions	...	...	...	312
Highwood Schools (average for year)	...	...	...	80
St. Charles Schools	...	...	...	237
Ursuline Schools	...	...	...	128
Convent of Mercy	...	...	...	58
Jewish Homes	...	...	...	24
Grammar Schools	...	...	...	50
Convalescent Home	...	...	...	11
				900.

**Physical Features and General Character of the District.**

Brentwood is situated on an elevated position on the main road between London and Colchester, six miles from Romford and eleven from Chelmsford, and is bounded by the parishes of South Weald, Shenfield and Great Warley. The parts of South Weald and Shenfield which immediately adjoin Brentwood are of an Urban character, and for the purpose of drainage have been formed into a Special Drainage District and connected with the Brentwood system.

At the time of the formation of the Urban Authority in 1899, it was contemplated to include in the district the thickly populated parts adjoining Brentwood, but owing to a diversity of opinion amongst the promoters, the scheme was not carried out, the result being the present anomaly of having a town practically divided into two parts, one part being administered as an Urban Authority and the other part being controlled by two Rural Authorities six or seven miles away.

The County Council held an inquiry in the year 1915 with the object of altering this anomalous position, but the proposal, made at the time, to increase the Urban Area so as to include that part of the town situated in Rural Districts was rejected by the Committee of Inquiry. No reason, as far as I know, has been given why the proposal was not favourably entertained. However Brentwood paid the costs of the enquiry, I believe, and is obliged to put up with the anomalous situation and the unsatisfactory conditions depending thereon.

The nature of the soil is somewhat varied, the Western and Northern parts being principally clay and the remainder for the most part, sand and gravel. The town is situated on the edge of the London Basin, and as a result of this, water appears as springs at some of the most elevated points. The whole district drains into the Inghelbourne Brook. The upper part of High Street is 357 feet above Ordnance datum and the lowest point is near Kavanagh Bridge where the ground level is 202 feet above Ordnance datum.

A large number of the residents have their occupations in London, and the remainder are employed chiefly in the different places of business and workshops in and surrounding the District. There are no large manufactories or works in the District, the principal industries being brewing, manufacture of Agricultural implements and brickmaking. There is no trade carried on which can be said to have a deleterious effect upon the Public Health or upon the health of the individual engaged therein.

#### Vital Statistics.

Birth rate.—There were 112 children born whose parents belong to the district, sixty-seven were boys and forty-five girls. Of these four boys and one girl were illegitimate. The population for the purpose of estimating the Birth-rate (as given by the Registrar General), being 6,288 the birth-rate per 1,000 of the population is therefore 17·8.

This is with the exception of 1916 (when it was 18) the highest birth-rate since 1911, when it was 20·3.

The birth-rate for England and Wales was, however, 18·5. I set out below, the birth-rates for the past ten years:—

1910	...	...	16·6	1915	...	...	17·5
1911	...	...	20·3	1916	...	...	18·
1912	...	...	16·2	1917	...	...	17·5
1913	...	...	17·	1918	...	...	14·1
1914	...	...	16·7	1919	...	...	17·8

Death-rate.—There were sixty-one deaths registered in the District during the year, but twenty were persons not belonging to the District. There were, however, seventeen deaths of persons belonging to the District but who died outside it. Fifty-eight is therefore the correct number for statistical purposes and is equivalent to a death-rate of 9·6 per 1,000 persons living. Twenty-three were males and thirty-five females. This death-rate is remarkably low the figure for England and Wales being 13·8. In fact it is the lowest death-rate for the District since 1914.

The death-rates for the last ten years is given below:—

1910	...	...	9·0	1915	...	...	13·4
1911	...	...	12·0	1916	...	...	12·3
1912	...	...	6·18	1917	...	...	16·6
1913	...	...	9·5	1918	...	...	15·8
1914	...	...	7·4	1919	...	...	9·6

#### Infant Mortality.

There were five deaths of children under one year of age which occurred and were registered in the District. These deaths occurred in different parts of the District and were not confined to any particular class. There were also three deaths of infants outside the District whose parents belong to the District, making altogether eight deaths of children under one year of age belonging to the District. The

number of births being 112, the Infant Mortality would be therefore at the rate of 71 per 1,000 births. This is higher than the previous year but is less than the figures for England and Wales which is 89.

The following table shows the nett deaths from Stated Causes at various ages under one year of age:—

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week.	1 to 4 weeks.	1 to 3 months.	3 to 6 months.	6 to 9 months.	Total Deaths.
Congenital Debility...	2	1	1	—	—	4
Cellulitis (perineum)	—	—	1	—	—	1
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	1	—	1
Intussusception ...	—	—	—	1	—	1
Dentition ...	—	—	—	—	1	1
Totals ...	2	1	2	2	1	8

Based on the Registrar General's returns for the year 1919 the death, birth and Pulmonary Tubercle rates and Infant Mortality were as follows:—

Birth-rate 17·8

Phthisis 15

Death-rate 9·6

Infant Mortality 71

There is Mortuary accommodation in cases of necessity for two bodies at the Council's Depot.

There is no Institution in the District where gratuitous Medical relief can be obtained.

The average number of persons per occupied dwelling-house is under four, and as there are very few houses with less than four rooms, obviously there cannot be any serious overcrowding.

The Adopted Acts are:—

The Infectious Diseases (Preventive of) Act 1890.

The Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890, Part III.

The Private Street Works Act, 1892.

The Bye-laws are:—

Keeping of Animals, Removals of Refuse, &c.

Lodging-Houses.

New Streets and Buildings.

Slaughter-houses.

Regulations under Dairies and Cowsheds Order.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, &c.

Public Conveniences.

#### **Sanitary Circumstances of the District.**

The District Council consists of 12 members, with Mr. J. J. Crowe as Chairman, in which capacity Mr. Crowe has acted since the

formation of the Urban Authority in 1899. The Council meets on the first Wednesday of each month, and there are several Committees dealing with Public Health matters, but the principal committee for the consideration of business connected with Sanitary administration, is the Sanitary and Plans Committee which meets on the Monday immediately preceding the Council Meetings.

The reports of the different committees are presented at the next meeting of the Council.

The Sanitary officials are the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector who also acts as Surveyor.

The Outfall Sewers and the Sewerage Disposal Works are under the absolute control of the Joint Committee, which is composed of nine members; six representing Brentwood and three representing Billericay Rural District Council.

There is no Isolation Hospital in the District but there is an arrangement with the Billericay Authority whereby infectious cases are removed to the Isolation Hospital at Billericay.

*Water Supply.*—The town has a constant supply of water from the South Essex Waterworks Company and there have been no complaints during the year. Samples are taken periodically and examined by the County Medical Officer of Health. Practically in all cases deriving the supply from the Waterworks Company the water for drinking purposes is taken direct from the main. Altogether there are seventeen houses in which the water is obtained from other sources. Of these seventeen, three are supplied from two springs and the others from nine wells. These water supplies are kept under observation and so far no complaint has been made and no evidence of the possibility of contamination has been detected. There are no public wells in use in the District, no new wells have been sunk and none closed. There were fourteen water cisterns cleansed, fourteen repaired, one covered and one abolished.

*Rivers and Streams.*—There are none in the district.

*Drainage and Sewerage.*—As stated above the Outfall Sewers and Sewerage Disposal Works are under the absolute control of a Joint Committee and must remain so, I suppose, as long as the powers that be object to any alteration in the present boundaries of the Urban District. At present the system is not under supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

The surface water for the most part is discharged into a small brook running between Brentwood and the parishes of Shenfield and South Weald and which eventually discharges into the Inglebourne Brook.

The town sewers are all stoneware pipe and are in a satisfactory condition. As far as drainage and sewerage is concerned the District is adequately served.



*Closet Accommodation.*—Water closets with flushing apparatus are supplied in the large majority of the houses in the district. There are 1290 with proper flushing cisterns and 354 are hand flushed, that is, there are about 21 per cent. hand flushed water closets for the whole District. Thirty-two flushing cisterns have been repaired and three renewed. Five additional new water closets have been constructed and nine (erected for war purposes) have been abolished. There have also been four new pans or traps put in. There are four pail closets for private houses, and two privies in the District. Both privies are connected with manure pits, well over 100 yards from any dwelling, and are used only for the accommodation of occasional workmen. Pail closets were provided for use of troops in 1914. Of these six have been abolished. Nine are still being used at the Railway Goods Station but steps are being taken to have them removed.

*Scavenging.*—The present arrangement for removal of house refuse is working very satisfactorily.

A contractor has engaged to remove the refuse once a week and take it clear out of the District finding his own dumping ground. The Council provide covered vans for the removal and disinfecting powder for sprinkling in the dust-bins. No large accumulation of house refuse is ever found and sanitary dust-bins have been generally provided. About twenty tons of house refuse have been removed outside the District every week. There are no cesspools in the District.

*Sanitary Inspection of District.*—General inspection is carried out throughout the year and the Inspector makes detailed notes of every defect found. The following table prepared by the Inspector gives the information desired by the Ministry of Health.

**WATER SUPPLY.—**

No. of Public Wells, None in use. No. of New Public Wells sunk, or new supplies afforded,—None.

No. of Wells cleansed or repaired, None (Public). No. of Wells closed—None. Any extension of water-mains (give particulars)? No.

Any insufficiency, and where? No.

Any unsatisfactory quality and where?,—No. No. of samples of water analysed, None.

Water cisterns:—No. cleansed, 14. No. repaired, 14. No. covered, 1. No. abolished, 1.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

Any developments during 1919? No.

Developments still needed as to (a) Want of sewers, None.

(b) Improvement of defective sewers, None.

Any inadequacy of Sewerage Disposal Works or complaints as to smells? These works are under control of Joint Committee (Brentwood and Billericay).

Are there any sink wastes still needing disconnection? No.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.**

No. of Privies with open manure pits, 2. No. of Pail Closets, 4.

No. of Privies with covered middens, None. No. of waste-water closets, None.

No. of Water Closets, with flushing cisterns, 1290. Without flushing cisterns, 354.

No. of Privies reconstructed during 1919—(a) w.c.'s, None, (b) other; None.

No. of additional Closets provided for old property in 1919—(a) w.c.'s, 5, (b) other, None.

No. of Closets constructed in 1919 for new houses (a) w.c.'s, 1, (b) other, None.

#### SCAVENGING.

Is Scavenging undertaken by Authority? If so, state whether by contract, or otherwise, Contract.

How is refuse disposed of (a) Destructor—(b) Tips outside district. (c) Farmers—Total annual cost £420 plus £6 8s. for repairs to Dustpans, Disinfectant powder, etc.

Is there any inadequacy, and where? No.

#### NUISANCE INSPECTIONS.

Total No. of Inspections made in 1919, 473. No. of complaints received, 9.

Informal Notices served, 10. Complied with, 10.

Statutory Notices served, 21. Complied with, 21.

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1918, 3. At close of 1919, 7.

Total No. of Nuisances reported during 1919, 235. Abated during 1919, 231.

Total No. of Summonses or other legal proceedings, 1.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	No. in District.	No. on Register.	Total No. of Inspections made.	General Conditions	Legal Proceedings. (if any).
Common Lodging Houses	3	3	6	Clean.	None
Bakehouses .. ..	9	9	29	Fair (2 underground and 2 others not in use.	None
Canal Boats ... ..	None	—	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses .. ..	5	5	23	Clean (2 old and 3 new)	1
Knackers Yards ... ..	None	—	—	—	—
Offensive Trades ... ..	None	—	—	—	—

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades, *e.g.*, Fish-frying, Maggot-breeding, etc.? Please give particulars. No.

#### MILK SUPPLY.—

No. of samples taken by Officers of E.C.C. for analysis under F. & D. Acts, 23. No. adulterated, 1.

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for bacteriological examination, None.

No. of samples taken by Officers of E.C.C. for dirt contamination, 1 for S.A. and 22 for E.C.C.

What arrangement for Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows? None.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1919? No.

No. of Cowkeepers in district, 1. No. registered, 1.

No. of Milk Sellers who are also Cowkeepers, 1. No. who are Purveyors only, 5. Total No. Registered, 6.

Total No. of Cowsheds, 1. No. of Inspections in 1919, Periodically. General Condition, Good.

Approximate No. of Milch Cows in District, 2. Any insufficiency in Milk Supply, No.

Legal proceedings under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders, None.

Any Inspection or other action by Districts to which Milk is sent? None.

## OTHER FOOD—

No. of samples (other than Milk) taken by Officer of E.C.C. for examination under the Food and Drugs Act, 47. No. adulterated None.

S.A. No. of surrender of unsound food, 9. Kind, Bacon; quantity 9 cwt. 2 qrs. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs. Rabbits, 39. No. of prosecutions, None.

E.C.C. No. of prosecutions (a) Foods and Drugs 1, (b) Unsound Food, none.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—

Any Smoke nuisance, and where? None.

## SUMMARY OF HOUSING WORK DURING 1919.

No. of Houses inspected under Sec. 17 of 1909 Act, 59. No. found unfit for habitation c 3, d 31, and e 25.

No. of representations made with a view to making Closing Orders, None. No. of Closing Orders made, none.

No. of Houses with defects remedied without Closing Orders, None.

No. of Houses made fit after Closing Orders were made, None.

General character of defects found. General delapidations, floors, roofs, yard paving, want of air space, ventilation, etc.

Any regulations made in respect of underground sleeping rooms under Sec. 17 (7)? No such rooms in district.

Any action in respect of such rooms?

Any scarcity of houses, if so, where? Yes, in Urban District.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses, and where. Yes, in small houses accommodating friends.

No. of cases of overcrowding dealt with during 1919, 3.

No. of houses erected during 1919, 1. Kind, Workman's dwelling.

No. of Houses required during next three years, 100. recommended by Housing Commissioners and adopted by Council.

No. of Houses to be provided, 100. Kind, parlour type, 33, non-parlour type, 67.

Approximate acreage of land to be acquired, 12. Approximate No. of houses per acre, 8.

Approximate localities in which land is to be acquired, Urban District of Brentwood.

*Town Planning*:—Any scheme prepared during 1919? If so, give details, No.

The majority of nuisances are abated after the service of an informal notice. If not abated, each case is brought before the Sanitary Committee for instructions, which usually are, to serve formal notice. If the nuisance is not then abated the Clerk is requested to write to the owner, agent or tenant, as the case may be, and this almost invariably produces the desired result. The Sanitary Committee report to the Council who have always supported the action of the Committee.

During the year there were nine complaints of nuisances received, chiefly of a minor nature.

There were 235 nuisances detected during the year and three remaining from the previous year making in all 238 nuisances to receive attention. Of this number 231 have been abated and the remaining seven are being attended to.

Thirty-one notices were served involving thirty-three houses and premises as follows:—

P.H. Act, 1875, Sect.	49	...	4	notices for 4	houses or premises.
"	"	50	...	4	" 4 "
"	"	94	...	12	" 15 "

## Factory and Workshops'

Act, 1901. Sect. 9 ... 1 notices for 1 houses or premises  
 Informal Notices ,, ... 10 ,, 12 ,,

One summons was taken out. A conviction was obtained and a fine of ten shillings and costs imposed.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS  
 OR REGULATIONS.

There are no cellar dwellings, no offensive trades and only one cowshed in the district. There are 3 Common Lodging Houses, 9 Bakehouses (of which four are not in use), 5 Slaughterhouses, 5 Dairies and Milkshops, 77 Factories, Workshops, and other Workplaces on the Register. All these have been periodically inspected and found satisfactory.

The following table gives the information required under the provisions of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901 :—

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for the year 1919, for the Urban District of Brentwood, Essex, on the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with  
 FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

**1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.**

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR  
 INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of	
	Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	24	1
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	122	4
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	7	—
Total	153	5

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.		
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H. M. Inspector.
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:</i>			
Want of Cleanliness ...	6	6	
Other Nuisances ...	15	15	
Sanitary Accommodation—			
Insufficient ...	1	1	1
Defective ...	2	2	
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:</i>			
Breach of Special Sanitary Requirements for Bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100) ...	1	1	
Total ...	25	25	1

## 3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS.		
	Lists received from Employers once in the year.		
	Lists.	Outworkers.	
Contractors.		Workmen.	
Wearing Apparel—			
Making, &c. ...	1		1
Brush Making ...	2		3
Total	3		4

## 4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
There are twelve Factories of which one is a Laundry. ... ..	12
There are nine Bakehouses of which four are not in use.... ..	9
There are forty-nine Workshops and seven workplaces. ... ..	56
None of the above have forty employees.	
Total number of Workshops on Register	77

## 5.—OTHER MATTERS.

CLASS.	NUMBER.
Notified by H.M. Inspector ... ..	2
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ... ..	3

S. FRAZER,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

March 25th, 1920.

*Schools.*—The Schools are visited as a matter of routine during inspection. The water supply is taken from the Waterworks Company and is satisfactory. Some of the Schools are provided with Closets of the trough type, flushed by Automatic tanks. The others are the washdown pedestal type with proper flushing apparatus.

Provided the closets are kept clean, the sanitary arrangements and water supply are satisfactory. The Medical Inspection of the children is undertaken by officials appointed by the County Council. When there is any prevalence of infectious disease in the District the schools are visited to ascertain the names of the children who are absent, and every suspicious case is visited and any necessary advice tendered.

The homes of children suspected of coming from dirty houses are promptly visited when such cases are reported to me. If a school has been closed on account of the prevalence of any infectious disorder, the Inspector sees to the thorough disinfection of the

premises, &c., directly it is closed, so that they may be well cleaned and aired before being opened. The arrangement about school closure in this county is that the School Medical Officer closes schools for non-notifiable infectious diseases, and the Sanitary Authority for notifiable ones.

#### Food.

(a) *Milk Supply*—No applications for milk under the provision of the Milk Order 1918 have been received.

There are no dairy farms in the District and the milk is supplied principally from the three Dairies which are regularly inspected.

There has been no evidence of dirty milk or of dirty or untidy milkmen.

(b) *Other Foods*.—Inspection of other foods exhibited for sale is made, and when slaughter-houses are visited, any carcasses or parts thereof in the slaughter-houses or in the shop are examined. Cleaning up after slaughtering and prompt removal of offensive matters are, on the whole, satisfactory. Altogether slaughter-houses are fairly well maintained and the Bye-laws complied with. In only one case (keeping pigs in the pound) was legal proceedings necessary. There is no public abattoir in the District. Bacon and hams amounting to the weight of 9 cwt. 2 qrs. 7 $\frac{3}{4}$  lbs., and thirty-nine frozen rabbits were surrendered and condemned.

The Bakehouses are kept in a fairly good condition, and cleansing and whitewashing are regularly and efficiently carried out.

The provisions of the "Sale of Foods and Drugs Act" are carried out by the County Council, whose Inspector is Mr. Arthur Horsnell, to whom I am indebted for the following particulars.

Samples of foodstuffs taken in Brentwood during the year were:—Milk, 23; Butter, 10; Lard, 10; Margarine, 10; Custard Powder, 4; Coffee, 3; Cocoa, 3; Epsom Salts, 2; Baking Powder, 3.

Prosecutions: one, adulterated Milk.

#### Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

During the year there were seventy-five cases of infectious diseases notified, namely:—Scarlet Fever, 5; Diphtheria, 14; Measles, 37; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 8; other Tuberculous diseases, 1; Pneumonia, 2; Malaria, 7; and 1 of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Of these, the five cases of Scarlet Fever, thirteen of Diphtheria, and one of measles were removed to Hospital. Five of the Tuberculous cases were sent for sanatorium treatment and all other cases were treated at their own homes.

The number of Scarlet Fever Cases is the lowest since the year 1915, the figures since that year being as follows:—

1916	...	...	16 cases	1918	...	...	16 cases
1917	...	...	8 „	1919	...	...	5 „

Of these five cases the source of infection in the first case could not be detected and all the others were imported.

The number of Diphtheria cases is one of the highest for the last five years. The figures for the last five years were as follows :—

1915	...	...	21 cases	1918	...	...	9 cases
1916	...	...	14 „	1919	...	...	14 „
1917	...	...	4 „				

With regard to the source of infection in these cases every possible enquiry was made with the following result :—

Contacts	...	...	...	5 cases.
Imported	...	...	...	2 „
Unknown	...	...	...	7 „

Bacteriological specimens were sent in practically all the cases by the Medical Attendants for examination. The new arrangement of establishing a County Laboratory which comes into force on 1st January, 1920 will prove, I am sure, of great benefit in obtaining with the least possible delay, a true diagnosis of each case.

Antitoxin is supplied free by the Council on application by the Medical Attendant.

No cases of Influenza were notified during the year, but two deaths registered in district were attributed to Influenza and one of a person, belonging to the district who died outside it.

The Medical Practitioners as a rule notify promptly and give me every assistance.

When a case is notified the house is visited at once by either the Inspector or myself, and should the patient be removed to the Isolation Hospital the premises are immediately cleansed and disinfected. In the case of a patient remaining under treatment at home the premises are disinfected on notification from the Medical Attendant of the patient's convalescence. Disinfection of houses is carried out by means of a spray apparatus and alformant lamps, whilst infected articles are subjected to disinfection by means of Thresh's Portable Disinfector.

There is no hospital or other provision made in the district for Phthisis cases but this matter is dealt with by the County Council.

#### **Maternity and Child Welfare.**

No work has been carried out under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act during the year 1919 pending the launching of a scheme by the County Council.

I understand that there will shortly be a conference between the Urban District Council and the County Council when it is hoped that a workable scheme will be evolved for this district. The scheme will probably take the form of a combination of Child Welfare and School Medical Inspection.

The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council. On the whole, lying-in women are well attended and the great majority



of mothers suckle their infants. During very hot dry weather enquiries are made throughout the district concerning the prevalence of Infantile diarrhoea and if necessary, the danger incident to hot dry weather is made known through the medium of the press or otherwise, and the importance of clean fresh milk, the prevention of the accumulations of filth, and the disease bearing nature of flies, are especially emphasised.

No action has been taken by any local association and no health visitors are employed.

### Housing.

The housing question of any District is at the present time one which affords ample food for reflection. In this District the housing of the people is a subject which has always received the most careful consideration of the Council. In reporting on this important matter I do not think I can do better than give the details of the housing scheme as submitted in the Survey Form of housing needs, in October 1919.

But I may be permitted to mention two or three points which have struck me forcibly as applying to this District particularly.

1st.—At the present time there is not a single unoccupied habitable dwelling house in the District but it is only fair to point out also, that the average persons per house is only 3·8 so obviously there cannot be much overcrowding.

2nd.—There are no *large* factories or industries in the District requiring manual labour so that a good number of the working-class at present living in Brentwood have their occupations outside it because of the difficulty of getting houses near their work. Now if the building of houses for the working-class in the different districts is to be general, then those who live in Brentwood only because of the scarcity of houses in the Districts in which their work is, will move into those Districts and as there are not the industries in this District to employ a large amount of labour it necessarily follows that working-class houses will not be required to anything like the extent they are at present.

3rd. Nevertheless, I am of opinion that there is a demand for the class of house it is proposed to erect under the housing scheme not however, for the working-class as generally understood, but for persons whose occupations are in London, and who are able and willing to pay a fair rent without being subsidised.

### FORM OF SURVEY OF HOUSING NEEDS.

#### SECTION 1. POPULATION.

Pre-war Population (1914)	...	...	...	7028
Average annual increase of population for the five years				
before the war	...	...	...	36
Estimated present population	...	...	...	6330

Anticipated increase or decrease of working-class population due to industrial changes ... .. None

EXISTING HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

Number of dwelling-houses in the district... .. 1403  
 Number of working-class houses of the types given in the reply to question 15 ... .. 927  
 Average number of working-class houses built annually during the five years before the war ... .. 2'2  
 Number of working-class houses built between January 1st, 1915 and December 31st, 1918 ... .. None  
 Number of empty buildings which might be (a) made suitable, by repairs or alterations, for housing the working-classes; or (b) converted into flats for the working-classes ... .. (a) None  
 ... .. (b) None

OVERCROWDING.

Tenements with more than two occupants per room :—  
 Number of Tenements ... .. None  
 Number of houses intended for one family only which are now occupied (without having being specially adapted) by two or more families ... .. None

NOTE.—The number of working-class houses built for the five years 1905-09 was 187 an average of 37'4.

RENTS.

15.—Particulars of prevailing rents of the various types of working-class houses in the district.

TYPE OF HOUSE.	WEEKLY RENT.
(a) Houses with living room, Scullery and two bedrooms ... ..	3/- to 4/6
(b) Living room, scullery and three bedrooms	5/- to 5/6
(c) Parlour living room, scullery and two bedrooms ... ..	4/- to 6/6
(d) Parlour, living room, scullery and three bedrooms ... ..	5/- to 10/-
(e) Parlour, living room, scullery and four bedrooms ... ..	7/6 to 10/-
(f) Tenements in block buildings ... ..	None
(g) Others working-class dwellings (specifying)	
Combined living and sleeping room ... ..	1/6
Living room and one bedroom ... ..	2/2 to 3/9
Living room scullery and one bedroom	3/- to 3/6

## SECTION II. ESTIMATE OF HOUSING NEEDS.

		No. of Houses
1. Working-class houses required during the next three years to:—		
(a)	Meet the unsatisfied demand for houses (taking account of growth of population, overcrowding, etc.) ... ..	50
(b)	Re-house persons to be displaced by the clearance of unhealthy areas ... ..	None
(c)	Replace other dwellings which are unfit for human habitation and cannot be made fit ...	9
(d)	Replace obstructive or other buildings (now inhabited and not included under heading (c) which should be demolished ...	49
(e)	Replace other houses which although they cannot as present be regarded as unfit for human habitation, fall definitely below a reasonable standard ... ..	33
(f)	Meet anticipated deficiencies, e.g., arising from new industrial development ... ..	None
Total .. ..		141
2. DEDUCT.		
(a)	Working-class houses which it is anticipated will be set free during the next three years as the results of any probable decrease in the population ... ..	None
(b)	Working-class houses likely to be built during the next three years by persons other than the Local Authority, E.C.C. ... ..	8
Total ... ..		8
Net Estimate of number of houses required		133

## SECTION VI.—Scheme of the Brentwood Urban District Council for the provision of New Houses under Section I. of the Housing, Town Planning, &amp;c. Act, 1919.

1. Approximate number of new houses to be provided:—		
(a)	Houses with living room, scullery and two bed-rooms	20
(b)	Living-room, scullery and three bedrooms ...	47
(c)	Parlour, living room, scullery and two bedrooms ...	—
(d)	“ “ “ three “ ...	28
(e)	“ “ “ four “ ...	5
(f)	Block dwellings, number ... ..	—
	Number of separate tenements ... ..	—
(g)	Other dwellings (specifying type) ... ..	—
Total number of houses and separate tenements ...		100

2.	Approximate number of existing empty houses to be acquired and :—	
	(i) Made suitable for housing the working-classes	... —
	(ii) Converted into flats for the working-classes	... —
	Approximate number of families to be housed under (i) and (ii)	... .. —
3.	Approximate acreage of land to be acquired (First Scheme)	... .. 4'557
4.	Average number of houses per acre (including land for road widening)	... .. 7'24
	Average number of houses per acre (excluding land for road widening)	... .. 8'01

The above scheme for 33 houses was adopted by the Council at a Meeting of the Council held on the 5th November, 1919, and amended to 100 houses at a Meeting of the Council held on the 7th January, 1920.

The above resumé of the year's work and the mortality and sickness statistics are on the whole satisfactory but circumstances over which we have no control may occur any year and cause excessive mortality from many diseases. However sanitation has been advancing slowly but surely, and the increased knowledge, especially of the part played by bacteria in the causation of disease has shown that many diseases, not of an infectious nature in the popular acceptation of the term, are due to these minute organisms invading the system. So long as the body remains in a perfectly healthy condition, the bacteria are to a large extent harmless, and infection is resisted. Bacteria thrive best in the absence of light and in the presence of dirt. Everything therefore which promotes cleanliness, and lets in the sunlight and fresh air, tends to produce conditions which not only diminish the number of bacteria, but also favour bodily health and vigour, and renders the whole system more capable of resisting infection.

Finally, I have to thank Mr. Meeson for his assistance at all times and especially in the preparation of this report, and you, gentlemen, the Chairman and Members of the Council, for the courtesy which I invariably receive from you, in the discharge of my duties.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

SAMUEL FRAZER,

Medical Officer of Health,

U.D.C., Brentwood.

March, 1920.

