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BUCKHURST HILL  
Urban District Council.

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THE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
For 1919.

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BUCKHURST HILL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

*For the Year ending December 31st, 1919.*

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POPULATION.

Census (1911) ... ..	4,887
Estimated (1919) Death Rate ...	5,072
"    "    Birth Rate ...	5,284
Area : 873 acres (land).	
Average number of persons per acre : 5·8.	
Deaths registered in District ...	67
Corrections : Additions ...	14
Deductions ...	17
Latitude : 51 deg. 37 min. 30 sec. N.	
Longitude : 0 deg. 2 min. 5 sec. E.	

RAINFALL.

	1919.	1918.
January ...	3·44 inches.	2·74 inches.
February ...	2·91 "	'96 "
March ...	2·79 "	'97 "
April ...	3·10 "	3·18 "
May ...	'28 "	2·31 "
June ...	1·48 "	'93 "
July ...	2·16 "	6·10 "
August ...	3·53 "	1·71 "
September ...	1·06 "	4·38 "
October ...	'57 "	1·41 "
November ...	1·65 "	2·18 "
December ...	3·49 "	2·31 "
Total ...	26·46 "	29·18 "

## PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

The District is situated on the ridge of land between the valleys of the Rivers Roding and Ching, the greater portion facing the valley of the Roding.

The subsoil is principally stiff clay, with here and there pockets of gravel of varying size, a large bed of gravel in the Roding valley providing a supply for keeping the roads in the District in repair.

The area of the District is about 873 acres (exclusive of areas covered by water and including about 150 acres of Forest land and roads).

The highest point of the District is 271 feet, and the lowest about 45 feet above sea level.

The District is principally a residential one.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

### WATER.

All houses in the District obtain their water supply from the Metropolitan Water Board. The water is hard, being obtained from deep artesian wells at Waltham Abbey and Chingford Mill, but the supply is constant and adequate and no complaints have been received.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

One complaint was received from the County Council during the year as to pollution of the River.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

All drainage and sewerage is dealt with by the Council, and all houses are connected, and provided with satisfactory closet accommodation and flushing apparatus.

The Council's Sewage Works are situated on the Eastern border of the District, on the banks of the River Roding, where all sewerage from the Eastern slope is dealt with. The sewerage from the Western slope being treated at the Woodford Western Works.

The Council's Works consist of two settling tanks, primary and secondary, sprinkler filter beds, a storm overflow bed, and about 14 acres for treating resultant effluent.

There have been no complaints of smells.

The filter beds are being overhauled and cleaned.

#### SCAVENGING AND HOUSE REFUSE.

The collection of house refuse is done by contract, and is collected once a week. This arrangement works satisfactorily. The majority of the houses have suitable dust-bins, and every endeavour is made to keep these in good condition.

During the year 2,338 yards, at a total cost of £380 10s. 9d., has been collected.

The refuse is dumped on waste ground on the Eastern side of the District. The refuse from Woodford is being also shot here, and no attempt made to lessen the heap in any way. This refuse consequently affords an ideal home for rats, flies, etc.

One complaint has been received regarding this.

#### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

No. of complaints received	...	16		
Total No. of inspections	...	671		
Informal notices served	...	42	complied with	34
Statutory notices served	...	8	" "	3
Total number of nuisances				
on hand January 1st, 1919	0		at close of 1919	6
Total number of nuisances reported	79		abated	...
				73

Two closing orders were obliged to be made and were complied with.

One Fried Fish Shop was opened during the year, being the only offensive trade in the District.

The ponds, etc., were sprayed with paraffin during the breeding season, to destroy mosquitoes.

The Forest Pond, in High Road, should be cleaned out at an early date.

## FOOD.

## MILK SUPPLY.

The majority of the houses are supplied by the two local retailers, who obtain their supply out of the District. The supply is adequate and of fair quality. There are two cowkeepers having an approximate total of milch cows of 40.

The premises are periodically inspected, and the general condition satisfactory, although by no means ideal, more care is required to minimise the risk of contamination during milking.

During the year 138 rabbits have been condemned and destroyed. These rabbits were of Australian origin, purchased in a frozen state; which, on thawing, decomposed rapidly and became unfit for human consumption.

The five bakehouses and two slaughterhouses are periodically inspected and the general condition satisfactory.

No tuberculous cattle has been detected in the slaughterhouses and no meat or carcass seized on account of tubercle.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These have been periodically inspected and found satisfactory.

FACTORIES.	WORKSHOPS.	DOMESTIC WORK-PLACES.
1 Printer.	4 Builders.	4 Cobblers.
1 Baker.	1 Stonemason.	1 Tailor.
1 Blacksmith.	1 Blacksmith.	
	3 Cycle Makers.	
	1 Harness Maker.	
	1 Upholsterer.	
	6 Dressmakers.	
	3 Laundries.	
	1 Shoemaker.	
BAKEHOUSES.	SLAUGHTERHOUSES.	DAIRIES AND COWKEEPERS.
5.	2	4.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

52 cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year: 20 cases of Diphtheria, 11 of Scarlet Fever, 2 of German Measles, 3 of Measles, 1 of Erysipelas, 1 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 1 other form of Tuberculosis, 1 of Malaria, 6 of Pneumonia, and 6 of Influenza and Pneumonia.

Showing an average per 1000 inhabitants of 10.2.

15 Diphtheria and 11 Scarlet Fever cases were removed to the Waltham Joint Hospital, the remaining five Diphtheria cases being nursed at home (24 occurring on eastern slope and 7 on western slope).

During January and November most cases occurred, eight and six respectively.

Precautions are taken to prevent the disease from spreading; all bedding, clothing, &c., is removed and disinfected in a steam disinfector, and the room or rooms sprayed with Formalin.

Any other children are kept from school, teachers and the milk suppliers notified.

No return cases have been noted from the Hospital.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

One case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one of Tubercular Peritonitis were notified.

#### SMALL POX.

Nil.

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A combined appointment of Maternity Nurse and Health Visitor made in 1918 worked well, attendances at the Child Welfare Centre started early in the year were gradually creeping up when unfortunately the continuity of the work was broken by the Nurse leaving to take a more important post. A fresh appointment was made and I am pleased to be able to say that the work of the Clinic increased rapidly as shown by the accompanying figures:—

September	6	attendances	on an	average	per	week.
October	7	"	"	"	"	"
November	17	"	"	"	"	"
December	26	"	"	"	"	"

Expectant Mothers, September to December, 8.

Ante-natal visits to houses, Sept. to Dec. 35.

Three Lectures given by Health Visitor on general care and feeding of infants.

The Maternity Nurse states that the ante-natal part of the Clinic work is chiefly carried out in the homes, as she finds she gets in closer touch and is able to give more individual advice to the mothers than she can do at a Clinic.

## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

### STAFF.

Part-time Medical Officer of Health, and one part-time Sanitary Inspector.

### HOSPITAL.

Waltham Joint Hospital for Infectious Diseases.

### LOCAL ACTS.

Apart from the general Acts, the following Acts have been adopted :

Public Health Act (Amendment) Act, 1890, Part 3.		
Do.	Do.	1907, Part 2 (Except Section 25).
Do.	Do.	1907, Part 3, 4 (Except Section 66).
Do.	Do.	1907, Part 8, 9.

### BY-LAWS.

New Streets and Buildings.  
 Respecting Nuisances.  
 Do. Slaughterhouses.  
 Do. Telegraph, etc., Wires.  
 Dairy Regulations and  
 Dairy Cow Sheds and Milk Shops Order of 1885.

### CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK DURING 1919.

Swabs and specimens of Sputum were examined for Diphtheria and Tubercle.

### OTHER SERVICES.

Endeavours are being made to exterminate Rats and bigger efforts will be made during 1920.

## HOUSING.

The number of houses in the District is 1090. Of these 492 are working class houses.

Practically every house in the District is occupied, and houses are urgently needed to meet the existing demands. No new houses have been erected for several years. The Council are considering a scheme whereby a number of suitable houses will be provided to ease the scarcity.

## OVERCROWDING.

Although there is no actual overcrowding, in a few instances the conditions under which families are obliged to exist are most unsatisfactory, and need immediate attention to remedy the house shortage.

## FITNESS OF HOUSES.

The general standard of working class houses in the District is fair.

The principal defects are: Damp walls, defective ceilings caused by defective gutters and roofs, and defective floors and general lack of repairs.

During the year 31 houses have been inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Acts, in 20 of these defects were found and remedied, and 2 closed as unfit and dangerous dwelling places.

Great difficulty is experienced in getting the landlords to do repairs, owing to the high cost and scarcity of labour and material.

Mr. Newdick, the Sanitary Inspector, has carried out his duties in a thoroughly efficient manner.

A summary of the work done by the Sanitary Inspector, together with Tables of Statement required by the Ministry of Health, are appended.

CHAS. R. DYKES, M.R.C.S., and L.R.C.P.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT  
DURING 1919 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Of Non-residents registered in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1914	4910	87	89	18.1	57	11.6	8	9	9	101	58	11.8
1915	4770	104	110	23	59	12.3	5	7	4	36.3	61	12.7
1916	4770	108	110	21.9	51	10.7	6	16	14	127.2	61	13.2
	Birth R. 4822											
1917	4326	74	—	—	44	10.2	5	9	9	121.6	48	11.1
	Birth R. 4988											
1918	4452	95	73	14.6	67	15	6	8	7	96	71	15.9
	Birth R. 5284											
1919	5072	113	87	16.4	67	13.2	17	14	5	57.4	64	12.6
	Death R.											

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1919.

Notifiable Diseases.	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards	Total cases removed to Hospital.
Diphtheria ... ..	20	—	4	14	—	2	—	—	15
Scarlet Fever ... ..	11	—	—	10	—	1	—	—	11
Erysipelas ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	6	—	—	—	1	2	2	1	—
Influenza and Pneumonia	6	—	—	—	1	4	1	—	—
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Ditto other forms	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
German Measles ... ..	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>26</b>

*Isolation Hospital*—Waltham Joint Hospital, Waltham Abbey.

Total available beds, 40.

Number of Diseases that can be treated concurrently, 3.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1919.

Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards.	Deaths in Public Institutions.
Scarlet Fever ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria ... ..	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Influenza ... ..	7	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	2
Other Form ditto ...	3	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cancer ... ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	1
Heart Disease ... ..	7	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	2	—
Bronchitis ... ..	8	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Pneumonia ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Nephritis ... ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Congenital Debility ...	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Defined Diseases ...	18	—	1	—	—	1	3	3	10	6
Violence ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
<b>Total all Causes ...</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>12</b>

Death Rate ... 12.6 per 1000.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1919.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All causes certified ...	1	1	2	1	1	1	—	5
Bronchitis ... ..	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Influenza ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Premature ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marasmus ... ..	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

Infantile Mortality Rate ... 57.4 per 1000.

Births during the year ...	{	Legitimate ... ..	Boys.	45	Girls.	34	} 87
		Illegitimate ... ..	4	4			
Deaths during the year...	{	Legitimate infants ...	Boys.	3	Girls.	2	} 5
		Illegitimate infants ...	—	—			

