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Contributors

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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CATERHAM.

THE PRIORY,

CATERHAM VALLEY,

December, 1904.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st, 1904, of the District over which you preside.

Area, Statistics and Population.

The area comprises 2438 acres with a population of :—

| | | |
|--------------|-----|-------|
| For Caterham | ... | 7762 |
| For Asylum | ... | 2108 |
| For Barracks | ... | 1100 |
| | | --- |
| TOTAL | ... | 10970 |

With the above estimated population there have been 201 Births, and 75 Deaths during the past year, giving respectively a birth-rate of 25.8 and a death-rate of 9.6 per 1000 of the population. The death-rate is as usual, much below the average death-rate for the United Kingdom.

The population of the Asylum and Barracks has been excluded in estimating the above rates.

Zymotic and Infectious Diseases.

During the year 28 cases of infectious diseases have come under my notice viz. 13 Cases of Scarlet Fever, 9 of Diphtheria and 6 of Erysipelas.

Two cases of Scarlet Fever and 8 cases of Diphtheria have been sent to the Isolation Hospital; the remainder were treated in their respective homes, and all with three exceptions have recovered. The three cases which have terminated fatally were those of young children, two of whom were suffering from Scarlet Fever and the other fatal case was one of Diphtheria which was dying before medical aid was sought.

Infant Life Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants in Caterham under one year of age was 24 representing a death-rate of 114.2 per 1000 births. This infantile death-rate is higher than usual but can be accounted for, because 11 of the deaths were infants who were prematurely born.

General Hygienic Proceedings.

The Sanitary defects remedied during the year are as follows:—

| | | | |
|--|-----|------|-------|
| Drainage Defects | ... | ... | 133 |
| Defective Roofs and Windows and Walls | | | 14 |
| Nuisances from Poultry, Pigs, and Manure | | | 11 |
| Defective Cowhouses and Dairies | .. | | 3 |
| Defective Earth Closets | ... | | 2 |
| Smoke Nuisances | ... | ... | 4 |
| House Refuse Nuisances | | ... | 10 |
| Overcrowding. | ... | ... | 2 |
| | | | ----- |
| | | | 179 |
| | | | ===== |

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order.

There are 12 Cowkeepers and 8 Registered Dairy-men and Purveyors of Milk in the District.

Examinations prove that the Milk Supply has been good during the year, and therefore calls for no comment. The Cattle Sheds, Dairies and Milkshops comply with the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order as also the Bye-laws of the District.

Slaughter Houses.

The five slaughter-houses continue to be well kept.

Water Supply.

The periodical Water Analyses have been highly satisfactory.

Sewage Disposal.

During the past year 4,845,400 gallons of sewage have been removed at a cost of about £2,000.

The Earth Closets are well cleansed twice a week.

Sewerage.

In accordance with a resolution passed by the Council on the 16th June, 1904, Messrs. Taylor Sons, and Santo Crimp, Sanitary Engineers, have made a survey and submitted a report as to the best means of draining the District.

The Engineers' Report will be considered early in the year by the Sanitary Committee and in due course laid before the Council.

Removal of House Refuse.

The Council have caused to be removed 2549 loads of house refuse from the dwellings of residents. This work moves smoothly and with satisfaction.

Midwifery Act, 1902.

By application of the Surrey County Council dated 18th August, 1904, and a further County Council letter of the 11th October, 1904, and with the instructions of this Council, I communicated with the Clerk to the County Council with a view to the arrangement of details for the carrying out of the work under this Act.

The chief provisions which materially affect the legal position of all Midwives are the following :—

- 1.—After the 1st April, 1905, no woman may call herself a midwife unless certified as the Act provides.
- 2.—After the 1st April, 1910, no woman may practice (i.e. habitually and for gain attend women in childbirth otherwise than under the direction of a qualified medical practitioner) unless certified as the Act provides.

Small-Pox Hospital Provision.

The Chairman of the Council and Members of the Sanitary Committee together with the Clerk and myself attended a County Council Inquiry at Reigate on the 7th June last, as to the provision of an Isolation Hospital for the reception and treatment of Small-Pox patients from certain districts, including the Urban District of Caterham, and represented the views of this Council.

A further meeting concerning this matter has been arranged to take place at the Headquarters of the County Council on the 4th January next.

Inspection of Infectious Hospital at Beddington.

Acting under the instructions of the Council I have made an inspection of this Hospital and found everything satisfactory. The Patients appear to be comfortable and well-cared for and a state of thorough cleanliness prevails.

Overcrowding.

Two cases of overcrowding have been successfully dealt with during the year.

Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.

There are no dwellings in the Parish coming within the scope of this Act, and no necessity for the Council to establish or acquire lodging houses for the working classes, there being ample accommodation for the population at present.

I have not discovered an unhealthy area or a house unfit for habitation.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875, 1879 and 1899.

A prosecution has been effected for the sale of Milk, deficient in Milk Fat 61 per cent. The magistrates imposed a fine of £3 including costs.

The County Official has frequently visited the District, and made his inspections of the Food Supply and the Verification of Weights and Measures.

Nothing irregular has been notified to me, and I have no fault to find with the quality of the provisions retailed. No cases of ptomaine poisoning have occurred and there has been nothing to excite my apprehension regarding the Food Supply.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

During the past year my frequent inspections of Bakehouses, Laundries and Workshops have shewn that the provisions of this Act have not been infringed. The premises in all cases were found to be adequate and suited to the purposes for which they have been used and sanitation has been observed in a marked degree.

There is no factory in the District.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

No private street work has been undertaken during the year although there remain several roads in the Parish which might to advantage be made up and taken over by the Council to the benefit of the Public Health.

Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts 1894 and 1896.

Unfortunately, I have to report a case of Glanders which has but recently occurred. The horse having shewn the chief symptoms of the disease, the County Inspector was immediately notified, and acted promptly. Locally every possible precaution has been taken to prevent the spread of the disease.

It would be well if the Cattle drinking-troughs in the Streets could be permanently abolished and standpipes erected in their stead.

Throughout the year the District has been otherwise exempt from any contagious animal disease.

Tree Lopping and Thinning and Hedge Cutting.

Again, I would draw the attention of the Residents to the necessity of Tree lopping, tree thinning and hedge cutting in the District, as much unnecessary and unpleasant humidity is caused by neglect of this simple measure.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

SAMUEL DAVEY, M.R.C.S., D.P.H. Lond.

Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Caterham.





