

**[Report 1909] / Medical Officer of Health, Caterham U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Caterham (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1909

**Persistent URL**

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# THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CATERHAM.

## Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

THE PRIORY,  
CATERHAM VALLEY,  
FEBRUARY, 1910.

To the Chairman and Members of

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CATERHAM.

GENTLEMEN,

As Medical Officer of Health I have the honour to present you with my Annual Report for the year 1909 for the District over which you preside.

### Area, Statistics and Population.

The area comprises 2438 acres, with a population of

For Caterham (estimated)	...	10494
Asylum (actual)	...	2129
Barracks ..	...	885
TOTAL	...	13508

During the year there have been 220 births and 74 deaths, giving respectively a birth rate of 20.9 and a death rate of 7.05 per 1000 of the population. In estimating the above rates the populations of the Barracks and the Asylum have been excluded. There have been 18 deaths of Infants i.e. Children under one year of age. An analysis of these deaths is as follows :—Nine have been certified as due to Premature, one due to Congenital defects and three due to injury at birth, leaving five to be accounted for from other causes, viz :—One from epidemic diarrhoea, one from whooping cough, one from pneumonia, one from bronchitis and one from intestinal obstruction.

From the above it will be seen that only one death was due to epidemic diarrhoea, a satisfactory comment, I think, on the improved management of infants and their feeding. The wet year was also probably favourable to the non prevalence of this disease. I would also point out the very low death rate viz.:—7.05 per thousand.

The Notification of Births Act 1907 has not been adopted in this District.

### Infectious Diseases.

During the year there have been notified 46 cases of Infectious disease, viz.:—Two of Diphtheria, 26 of Erysipelas and 18 of Scarlet Fever. Of the above cases, 19 of the notifications of Erysipelas and one case of Scarlet Fever have been received from the Metropolitan Asylum, and therefore do not really belong to the District. The remainder viz.:—7 cases of Erysipelas and 17 of Scarlet Fever also the two cases of Diphtheria have been notified from Caterham itself.

Sixteen of the cases of Scarlet Fever and one of Diphtheria were removed to the Isolation Hospital. All the cases fortunately terminated in recovery. No case of puerperal fever has been reported during the year, nor has there been any death from childbirth.

Happy progress continues to be made in the management of lying-in-women; as above stated, no case of puerperal fever was reported during the year.

### General Hygienic Proceedings.

The Main Drainage of the Hill portion of the District has worked very satisfactorily during the year, the number of gallons passing through the disposal works being 29,235,000. A first-class effluent has been obtained at all times, and the whole of the works are in excellent order. It was found necessary during the year to enlarge the sludge beds in consequence of the highly concentrated sewage derived from the Barracks. The general works have shown themselves to be ample to efficiently treat and purify the whole of the liquid portions of the sewage. Mr. J. F. Firth, the Works Manager, has very ably carried out his duties.

The number of cesspools emptied in the Valley portion of the District during the year has been 939. The contents have been removed (after being deodorised) in closed vans to the sewage sites.

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

Drainage defects and stoppages	-	153
Defective dustbins	-	17
Manure and offal nuisances	-	4
Defective walls and roofs	-	22
Insanitary dwellings	-	4
Smoke nuisance	-	1
Sundry sanitary defects	-	2

Systematic inspection of the District has been carried out and the general sanitary condition is very satisfactory. One case of overcrowding has been dealt with, and four cottages condemned as being unfit for human habitation in consequence of their dilapidated condition. Much nuisance has been caused in the past by the carting of London manure from Caterham Station to the Mushroom Beds at Godstone. Investigation made by your Sanitary Committee and legal opinion obtained by them has not prevented the carting of the manure, but the nuisance has been somewhat abated by the insistence of having the carts conveying the manure covered and by not allowing the manure to remain in the trucks at the station.

#### **House Refuse.**

The Council have removed 3168 loads of House Refuse during the year. The refuse is either burnt at the local brickworks or on sites rented by the Council on farm land at a distance from inhabited houses.

#### **Private Street Works Act, 1892.**

One road has been made up, metalled, kerbed and channelled during the year, and the Council are now applying for a loan to make up and take over ten other roads on the Hill that are in an insanitary condition. There are still two private roads in the Valley that require attention, viz.:—Commonwealth and Highfield Roads. When these are made up and taken over there will be little cause for complaint as to convenient access for residents in every part of the district.

#### **Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1907.**

Application has been made to the Local Government Board to adopt sections 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, and it is hoped that the necessary order will be received shortly. The sections proposed to be adopted deal with Streets and Buildings, Sanitary Provisions, Infectious Diseases, Common Lodging houses and Recreation Grounds.

#### **Houses, Overcrowding, etc.**

The housing of the working classes is ample; only one case of overcrowding has been dealt with during the year; 4 houses have been condemned as unfit for habitation.

#### **Elementary Schools.**

As Medical Officer of Health the Schools have been frequently inspected during the year, and concerted action has been taken where necessary with the Medical Officer appointed by the Surrey County Council, which in this District is the Local Education Authority. The Medical inspection of children in the elementary Schools is carried out by the County Council.

### **Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, Foods, etc.**

There are 8 Cowkeepers and 12 Dairymen and purveyors of milk in the District. Examinations prove that the milk, foods and drugs sold in the District are exceptionally good. No prosecutions have been necessary during the year.

The Cattle sheds and milkshops comply with the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order as also the Bye Laws of the District.

The Dairies and Cowsheds of the District have been repeatedly visited and are as a rule carefully kept.

### **Slaughter Houses.**

The five slaughter houses in the District are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

### **Water Supply.**

The periodical Water Analyses have been very satisfactory, and prove its purity and freedom from pollution.

### **Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.**

There are 4 Factories and 45 Workshops in the District. These are in compliance with the Act, and are well suited to their several purposes. Only one underground bake-house exists in the District.

In conclusion I would again add my indebtedness to Mr. H. R. Martin, our Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

**S. DAVEY,**

*Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Caterham.*