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# The Urban District Council of Caterham.

## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

THE PRIORY,

CATERHAM VALLEY,

February, 1911.

*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 1910 for the District over which you preside :—

### Area, Statistics and Population.

The area comprises 2,438 acres, with a population of :—

Caterham (estimated)	...	10,718
Asylum (actual)	...	2,227
Barracks (actual)	...	879
		———
Total	..	13,824

During the year there have been 192 births and 65 deaths registered in the District, giving respectively a birth-rate of 17·9 and a death-rate of 6·06 per 1,000 of the population. In estimating the above rates the population of the Asylum and Barracks have been excluded. I regret to note that the birth-rate is the lowest recorded since Caterham has become an Urban District, and the falling birth of the whole Kingdom is particularly marked in this District. In opposition to this note you are to be complimented on the exceedingly low death-rate, viz., 6·06 per 1,000, which is also the lowest death-rate recorded in the District. Probably the rate is somewhat fallacious because the estimate of the population almost always becomes slightly in error towards the end of the census period. This, of course, will be remedied during the year, the census being taken in April in this year.

There have been 14 deaths of Infants, i.e., children under one year of age. An analysis of these deaths is as follows:—eight have been certified as being due to premature birth, leaving six to be accounted for from other causes, viz.:—one from diphtheria, one from whooping cough, one diarrhoea, two from tubercular disease, and one from bronchitis. You will note that only one death occurred from epidemic diarrhoea.

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

#### **Infectious Diseases during the Year.**

There have been notified 39 cases of Infectious Disease, viz.:—5 of Diphtheria, 12 of Erysipelas, 19 of Scarlet Fever, 2 of Enteric and one of Puerperal Fever. Of the above cases 12 of Erysipelas and the 2 Enteric Fever cases were notified from the Metropolitan Asylum, and therefore do not really belong to the District. The remainder, viz.: 5 cases of Diphtheria, 19 of Scarlet Fever, and the case of Puerperal Fever have been notified from Caterham itself.

Sixteen cases of Scarlet Fever and two cases of Diphtheria were removed to the Isolation Hospital. All the cases of Scarlet Fever fortunately recovered, but I regret to report that 2 cases of Diphtheria terminated fatally, and also the case of Puerperal Fever. Much progress has been made in the District towards educating the public to their responsibility in Infectious Disease, and with few exceptions they are keen to notify to and assist the Sanitary Authority in carrying out their work.

#### **General Hygienic Proceedings.**

The Main Drainage System of the Hill portion of the District continues to work satisfactorily.

Since the Sludge Beds have been increased in size no difficulty has been experienced with drying the sludge and disposing of same.

Several additions have been made during the year, a humus bed has been provided through which the effluent passes before entering the sand filters. Facilities are also now provided for washing the sand when necessary. A very pure effluent is obtained, and the sewers, beds, ejectors and works generally are in a most satisfactory condition. The number of gallons treated during the year has been 32,401,000.

The number of Cesspools emptied in the Valley portion of the District during the year has been 944. The contents after being deodorised have been removed in closed vans to the sewage site.

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

Drainage Defects and Stoppages	149
Defective Dust Bins	12
Manure and Offal Nuisance	2
Defective Walls and Roofs	6
Defective E.C.	1
Insanitary Dwellings	2
Defective Water Supply	4
Sundry Sanitary Defects	5
	—
Total	181

It has not been found necessary to take legal proceedings to enforce the compliance of notices during the year. Systematic inspection of the District has been carried out and the general sanitary condition is very satisfactory.

Notices have been issued as to the destruction of rats in view of the order of the Local Government Board, but the district is comparatively free from the vermin.

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

Two cases of overcrowding have been dealt with. Two cottages have been condemned as being unfit for human habitation in consequence of their dilapidated condition.

#### **House Refuse.**

The Council have removed 3,100 loads of House Refuse during the year. This is either burnt at the local brickworks or on sites at a distance from inhabited houses.

#### **Private Street Works.**

A loan was sanctioned by the Local Government Board for making up ten private roads in the district under the Private Street Works Act, 1892, and this work has now been carried out.

The order of the Local Government Board sanctioning the adoption of parts 2 to 6 of the Public Health Act Amendment Act 1907 has been received and three streets are being dealt with under Sec. 19.

### **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.

### **Slaughter Houses.**

There are only two slaughter houses in use in the district at the present time. Frequent inspection is made but no case of tuberculous meat has been detected. The slaughter houses are kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

### **Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, Foods, &c.**

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.

### **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 purpose.

Only one underground bakehouse exists in the District.

**S. DAVEY,**

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