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BOROUGH OF CHATHAM.

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**MEDICAL OFFICER'S**  
AND  
**SANITARY INSPECTOR'S**  
**REPORTS**  
**1905.**

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CHATHAM :

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# Borough of Chatham.

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TO THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION.

GENTLEMEN,

The following is my Report on the Sanitary condition of your Borough during the year ending December 31st, 1905.

## Vital Statistics.

### SUMMARY.

Area in Acres	4444·298
Population (Census 1901)	37,057
Population (estimated)	40,938
Births registered	1,134
Birth rate per 1,000	27·7
Nett Deaths registered	578
Death rate per 1,000	14·1
Zymotic Death rate	0·8
Infantile mortality per 1,000	126
Annual rateable value	£145,779

The Borough of Chatham is situated on the southern bank of the Medway, and extends principally in a south easterly direction. The locality is hilly in character, and the geological formation is chalk with a varying depth of overlying soil. Much of the property in the older part of the Borough is of an unsatisfactory character, and very difficult to keep in good order. As time progresses this difficulty will be an increasing one, and the day must come when demolition and re-building will be the only satisfactory method of dealing with it.

The Population is chiefly of a working class character, the principal industry being the Dockyard. Besides this there are a large number of Naval and Military pensioners, and several clothing factories which give home employment to very many women.



The general health of the population has been very good during the year, and the low rate both of the Infantile and general mortality is a subject for congratulation. There has been no special prevalence of any form of disease, and the fact that there is little of interest to record is in itself the most gratifying feature of a document which is concerned with the health and welfare of the population.

**POPULATION.** One method of estimating the population is to assume that the rate of increase observed during the previous intercensal period has been maintained, another is that the average number of persons in each house remains the same, and in making my estimate of the population at the present time, I have preferred to adopt the latter plan. Calculated on this basis I estimate the population to be 40,938. Probably the large reductions which have taken place in the Dockyard have had the effect of retarding the normal increase of population, but in spite of this the number of inhabited houses is greater than during the previous year.

**BIRTHS.**—The total number of Births registered during 1905 was 1134. Of these 577 were males, and 557 females. There were 45 illegitimate births, 9 in St. Mary's, 10 in St. John's, and 26 in Luton Ward.

Birth Rate, 27·7 per 1,000.

The following table shows the natural increase of population — that is, the increase of Births over Deaths, in each division of the Borough during 1905.

	Births.	Deaths.	No. of Births over Deaths.
St. Mary's Ward . . . .	228	148	80
Luton Ward . . . .	609	228	381
St. John's Ward . . . .	297	125	172
	1134	508	633
Deaths in Institutions . .		77	77
	1134	578	556

The nett result is an increase of Births over Deaths of 556.

**Deaths.**—The nett total of Deaths registered during 1905 was 578. The actual figures supplied by the Registrar vary slightly from the above total, because certain corrections have to be made. These corrections consist in the elimination of those persons who have died in the Borough, but who belong to other localities, and the inclusion of such

persons as belong to Chatham, but whose deaths have occurred outside its boundaries. The former are classed as 'non-residents,' the latter as 'residents.' The deaths of the non-residents have occurred in the Medway Union Workhouse, and in Melville Hospital, whilst the deaths of residents have occurred in St. Bartholomew's, St. William's, and Fort Pitt Hospitals, all of which are in the Rochester Registration District. I may here note that the Royal Naval Hospital is no longer in the Chatham Registration District, its use being discontinued in June.

During the years 1901, 1902, 1903, 1904, the deaths were 646, 674, 574, and 630 respectively. The total number of deaths of residents occurring in the Public Institutions of the District were 70 in the Medway Union Infirmary, and 7 in Melville Hospital.

The rate of Mortality is 14·1 per 1,000.

The number of deaths during each quarter of the year was as follows :—

First Quarter . . . . .	165
Second Quarter . . . . .	131
Third Quarter . . . . .	153
Fourth Quarter . . . . .	129

The numbers during each month were :—

January, 52 ; February, 58 ; March, 55 ; April, 45 ; May, 51 ; June, 35 ; July, 29 ; August, 66 ; September, 58 ; October, 37 ; November, 43 ; December, 49.

The low mortality during the last quarter of the year was very striking, and was the result of the unusually slight amount of Diseases of the Respiratory Organs, generally so prevalent at that period.

The following table shows the mortality in England and Wales during 1905, in comparison with that of Chatham.

	Annual Rates per 1,000, living.			
	Births.	Deaths from all causes.	Deaths from seven chief Epidemic Diseases.	
England and Wales	27·2	15·2	1·52	128
76 Great Towns	28·2	15·7	1·88	140
141 Smaller Towns	26·9	14·4	1·50	132
Chatham . . . . .	27·7	14·1	0·8	126



The ages at which deaths occurred were as follows :—

Under 1 year .....	143
1 and under 5 years.....	54
5 and under 15 years .. ..	17
15 and under 25 years .....	20
25 and under 65 years .....	202
65 and upwards .....	142
<hr/>	
Total .....	578
<hr/>	

The number of deaths occurring in different parts of the Borough was as follows :—

St. Mary's Ward ...	148
Luton Ward ..	228
St. John's Ward .....	125
Medway Workhouse .....	70
Melville Hospital .....	7

I have ascertained the number of inhabited houses in each Ward, and have by this means formed an approximate estimate of their respective populations.

Calculated on this basis the rates of mortality in each Ward are as follows :—

St. Mary's Ward .....	15·3 per 1000
Luton Ward .....	11·9 „
St. John's Ward ... ..	10·3 „

These figures are given for their relative value only, but they do emphasize the oft repeated statement — that the highest mortality is always found in the poorest and most densely populated Districts.

**INFANTILE MORTALITY.**—The Infantile mortality or number of deaths under 1 year of age to every 1,000 births registered is 126 per 1,000 as compared with 178 during 1904.

One of the most deplorable features of our social life in the present day is the very excessive waste of infant life which goes on year after year, and which in the poorer and more crowded districts of large towns reaches constantly an alarmingly high figure. Sanitary science has of late years done much for the general welfare of the community. The



death rate from all causes has diminished, and notably a lowered mortality and a diminished prevalence has taken place in the case of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever, but as regards the infant mortality little or no reduction can be claimed. I do not think the causes are difficult to find — they are inseparably bound up with the want of air space, and the aggregation of foul matter inseparable from the development of large towns, and above all from the ignorance and stupidity manifested by a large number of mothers, whose great idea seems to be the discarding of feeding by the breast, and the substitution of some form of artificial food for their infants, which is more often than not imperfectly prepared and improperly administered.

This year the Local Government Board has issued a new table, which is appended, and which analyses the causes of Infantile Mortality. Facts of this kind collected from all parts of the country are of the utmost importance, and I look with confidence to the outcome of this inquiry, and to the application of measures which will in time remove or ameliorate this blot on our social life.

I venture to think that the true remedy will be educational in character, and the rising generation will have to receive a training at school, which will endeavour to supply what is neglected at home; in other words the school will have to step in, and accept the responsibility of the parent in regard to the domestic education of the child. In time the public will get a wider grasp of what sanitation really is, and will learn that the maintenance of health, and the prevention of disease is quite as much or more dependent on their moral and social habits, as on the efforts of a Sanitary Authority to keep its District in a clean and wholesome condition.

In Chatham, we have endeavoured, by getting early notification of registered births, and by giving mothers information respecting the management of their infants to do something towards the lessening of infantile mortality, but my experience leads me to think that the average parent of the poorer classes is a hopeless pupil, and that it is almost impossible to eradicate old superstitions and fixed ideas. But I cannot think that it would be so difficult to instil principles of decency and cleanliness, and a knowledge of the elementary laws of health into the receptive minds of young children. One constantly sees the disastrous effects of the apathy and neglect of parents towards their children and we all deplore it. It is very difficult to prove criminal neglect, but I should like to see the deaths of many infants made the subject of public inquiry, and followed by the censure or punishment of that class of parents, who in the present day are only too willing to shuffle their responsibilities on to some one else's shoulders.



A study of Table V. which deals with the causes of Infantile Mortality—the term Infant meaning a child under 12 months of age—reveals the striking fact that by far the largest proportion of deaths are due to what I may call defective power of assimilation. Premature birth which accounts for 30 deaths, spells defective vitality in all such infants, whilst Diarrhœa, Enteritis, Gastric Catarrh, Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus—all mean that in the majority of instances the digestive organs have proved incapable of assimilating the improperly prepared food with which they have been unfairly taxed. People who are not familiar with the habits of the poor, can hardly realise how ignorant and careless they are in all matters relating to health, and that this ignorance and carelessness are responsible for much disease and many deaths is an inconvertible truth, made much more prominent by the fact that occasionally one comes across parents living under precisely similar conditions to their neighbours, but who by dint of common sense and careful management succeed in rearing up their families without sacrificing victim after victim to a senseless idolatry of dirt, want of ventilation, and improper feeding. The heavy death toll is not the extent of the evil, because many children survive in spite of the obstacles which beset them, but they grow up stunted in stature, and enfeebled in body and mind. Physical deterioration, about which much is heard now-a-days is a real fact, and it is of national importance that it should be checked. It is not too much to say that the root of this physical deterioration is the improper feeding and neglect of children in their earliest years, killing many, and doing irreparable mischief to a large proportion of the survivors. Infants always will show a higher mortality than older persons, because their natural power of resistance is less, but the present rates of mortality in all towns are higher than they ought to be, and this high mortality amongst children is a sure sign that something is wrong. Briefly, the chief causes leading to the lowered vitality of town populations are—the tendency to aggregate into towns—which leads to an increase in the value of land, and to an increase in the rents of houses, with the result that overcrowding prevails, and people are bred up in streets and courts, where the outside atmosphere is only a degree less foul than that of the interior of the houses. Anyone frequenting the localities in question cannot fail to be struck by the large amount of unemployed leisure which these people seem to have, the utter absence of healthy recreation, and the constant presence of intemperance. The practice of hygiene amongst the well to do classes is as marked as its neglect amongst the lower classes, although the gospel of health is preached, and practised daily before their eyes by every Sanitary Authority in the Kingdom. If these modern social tendencies cannot be stopped, they may be guided, and, as I have said above, the most likely remedy lies in the education of the children. If the home will not teach, the school must, and if the laws of health and temperance, and the preventable character of much illness, and its dependence on dirt, inefficient ventilation, and improper food, be impressed upon them



in their early years, it is permissible to hope that a future generation will grow up less hardened in evil ways than many of those who have now attained maturity. Whether the teaching of Hygiene at school by capable teachers will be able to effectually counteract the influences of a dirty home is difficult to say, but, while the schoolmaster is a great educator, the law is a greater, and I am sure the results of such teaching at school would be infinitely better and more enduring if it were supplemented by the punishment of such parents as neglected to make their children conform to the rules of cleanliness and good conduct impressed upon them whilst at school. There has been and is far too much shirking of responsibility by parents themselves, and far too much misplaced charity, so that it really seems in the present day that people have only to neglect their communal duties in order to get someone else to step in and help, and all sorts of schemes are in the air—such as the establishment of Municipal Milk Depots, the provision of Creches, the feeding of school children, and even the clothing of them. All these may be of benefit, but I don't think any of them are good in the sense that they tend to establish a false position by placing on the shoulders of a community, burdens and responsibilities which belong to the individual parent.

It will now be well to discuss the mortality from various classes of disease.

**RESPIRATORY DISEASES.**—From diseases of this class, 93 deaths were registered, as compared with 86 during 1904, 77 during 1903, and 120 during 1902.

The prevalence of this class of disease is materially influenced by the character of the weather, and is always higher when the climatic conditions are unfavourable. Bronchitis caused 36 deaths, 24 of which were of persons over the age of 65. Pneumonia caused 53 deaths, more than half of which were of children under 5 years of age, and from other respiratory diseases 4 deaths were registered.

Influenza has not been very prevalent, and only one death was attributed to this cause.

**PHTHISIS OR PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS**—Caused 63 deaths, as compared with 75 during the previous year, whilst from Tubercular disease of other parts of the body 14 deaths were registered.

The infective character of this malady is now established beyond doubt, and, with a view of adopting some measures which would tend to limit the spread of disease, the principle of Voluntary Notification was adopted in this Borough during 1904.



The object of notification is that when the Sanitary Authority becomes aware of the fact that an individual is the subject of Phthisis, it may adopt one or more of the following courses:—

(1). Obtain information of the surroundings of the patient, with a view to remedying insanitary conditions if they exist.

(2). Leave a handbill containing advice as to the management of the illness.

(3). Supply disinfectants where necessary or advisable.

(4). Secure the cleansing and disinfection of rooms occupied by consumptive patients, when such occupation has ceased.

Further measures consist in the provision of Sanatoria in suitable places, but in the majority of Districts this is not practicable at present.

Again as the chief vehicle of infection is the sputum or phlegm, which contains myriads of Tubercle Bacilli, which remain active even in the dry state, when it can be disseminated in the form of dust. I think that some good might be done by the placing of notices warning people against the danger of spitting in public places.

I regret to say that only a limited number of notifications have been received, but additional information is obtained from the Registrar of Births and Deaths, who forwards immediate notice of any death from this cause, and in every case we endeavour to secure adequate cleansing and disinfection of rooms occupied by consumptives. In recent reports, I have dealt at length with the prevalence and causation of Tubercle, and need not now repeat my remarks. The Royal Commission on Tuberculosis is still prosecuting its inquiries, and one can only hope that the result of its labours will be to place our knowledge on a more secure footing, and that more light may be thrown, not only on its prevention, but on its treatment.

**HEART DISEASES**—caused 49 deaths as against 54 in 1904.

From Accidents there were 9 deaths, and 6 deaths were due to Suicide.

**CANCER** and other forms of malignant disease caused 32 deaths, whilst from the effects of Alcohol 16 deaths were registered.

**DISEASES OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM** were the cause of 67 deaths. The increase during late years in the mortality from this class of disease is very noticeable, and is the direct outcome of the hurry and restlessness which characterise modern life.



INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The following Table shows the mortality from diseases of this class and also from Enteritis, during 1904 and 1905.

	1904.		1905.		Increase or Decrease.
Measles	1	..	10	..	— 9
Whooping Cough	7	..	2	..	+ 5
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	2	..	2	..	
Enteric Fever	7	..	7	..	
Diarrhoea	23	..	69	..	— 46
Enteritis	26	..	24	..	+ 2

No deaths were registered from Small Pox or Scarlet Fever.

In addition to the diseases scheduled under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, there are certain others about which it is desirable to obtain early information, and a scheme has been devised whereby the head teachers in the various elementary schools forward once a week on an approved form the names and addresses of any children who are absent from school on account of Measles, Chicken Pox, Whooping Cough, or Mumps. By this means children from infected houses can be prohibited from attending school, and in the case of Measles printed directions respecting the management of the disease are supplied to the parents. As children under 5 years of age are gradually being eliminated from the schools, I venture to affirm that the necessity for school closure is much less likely to arise in the future than in the past, because the chief incidence of most infectious diseases is amongst children under 5 years of age.

In order to prevent the spread of infection by books supplied from the Free Library, it is customary to acquaint the librarian once a week with the names and addresses of such persons as are notified to be suffering from infectious disease, and no books are issued to such houses until they are free from infection. If books are already in use they are disinfected before being returned to the library.

SMALL POX.—Three cases were reported, and I am glad to say that owing to the measures adopted, the spread of the disease was checked.

The first case was notified on June 20 in the person of a vagrant who had been admitted into the Workhouse, and who had been sleeping at a common lodging house at 169, Brook. In connection with this a case had previously been reported at Sittingbourne, who gave a history of having slept at a Common Lodging House in Chatham, but who could not or would not give its address.



The second case was reported on July 9th, at 171, Brook—next door to the previous case. The rash had been out from July 4th.

The third case occurred on July 13th, at 173, Brook—in the case of a woman keeping a small general shop—frequented by the people living at 169—171 Brook. The methods adopted to check its further spread were—the re-vaccination of all persons discovered to have been in contact with the cases, the keeping of them under surveillance until the incubation period was past, the closure of the shop at 173, Brook, for a like period, and the thorough disinfection of all rooms, bedding and clothing.

SCARLET FEVER.—Of this disease 42 cases were notified, and 32 were removed to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. No death was registered.

The following Table gives details of Scarlet Fever in the Borough during the past ten years:—

Year.	Population.	Total No. of Cases Notified.	No. under 5 Years.	Deaths Registered.	Treated in Hosp.	Attack Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Mortality per 1,000	Percentage removed to Hospital.
1896	34503	134	34	3	111	3.9	.008	82
1897	34926	110	30	1	64	3.1	.002	58
1898	35499	173	53	5	107	4.8	.01	62
1899	35972	182	27	9	117	5.	.01	64
1900	36425	101	28	4	72	2.8	.01	71
1901	37057	41	10	—	23	1.1	—	56
1902	37732	74	31	1	50	1.9	.002	67
1903	38407	115	55	3	84	2.9	.008	73
1904	39179	61	21	1	47	1.5	.003	77
1905	40938	42	8	—	32	1.02	—	71

WHOOPING COUGH caused 7 deaths, as against 2 during 1904.

MEASLES.—There was only one death from this cause, and the Borough was practically exempt from this disease during the year.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANEOUS CROUP.—These diseases are essentially the same, the only difference being in the part of the air passages affected. 25 cases were notified, and there were 2 deaths. 19 cases were removed to Hospital. The number of cases in separate localities was as follows:—

St. Mary's Ward	7
Luton Ward	13
St. John's Ward	4
Medway Workhouse	1



The numbers affected at different ages were :—

1 and under 5 years .....	8
5 and under 15 years ... ..	8
15 and under 25 years.....	5
25 years and upwards .....	4

The following Table shows the number of cases and the deaths from Diphtheria during the past ten years :—

Year.	No. of Cases.	Deaths.
1896 ... ..	214	58
1897 ... ..	121	15
1898 ... ..	129	19
1899 ... ..	97	8
1900 ... ..	55	8
1901 ... ..	80	9
1902 ... ..	35	7
1903 ... ..	23	3
1904 ... ..	26	2
1905 ... ..	25	2

ENTERIC AND CONTINUED FEVER.—There were 26 cases of Enteric, and 1 of Continued Fever notified during 1905.

Twenty of these cases were removed to Hospital, and 7 deaths were registered. All the cases have been of a sporadic character, and at no period of the year has there been any epidemic prevalence of this disease.

DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS.—These diseases are classified together because they are alike in one respect, both being affections of the Intestinal Tract, and as a rule when the mortality from Diarrhœa—or Epidemic Enteritis as it is sometimes called—begins to increase—there is also an increase in the mortality from simple Enteritis, and from the point of view of the Sanitarian they may be considered as one and the same disease.

During 1905 there were 23 deaths from Diarrhœa, as against 69 during 1904. From Enteritis 26 deaths were registered, as against 24 during 1904.

It will be noticed that in Table V. issued by the Local Government Board, Enteritis and Gastro—Intestinal Catarrh are grouped under the head of Diarrhœal diseases, whilst in Table IV, this class of disease falls under two heads viz., Diarrhœa and Enteritis.

The majority of these deaths occurred as usual during the months of August and September, and their lessened number as compared with 1904 is probably due to the fact that the general temperature was lower



than during the previous summer, and that the rainfall during June and July was much above the average. The high temperature *per se* is not the cause of the usual outbreak, but it increases the activity of some micro-organism which flourishes most in dirty surroundings, and in houses where cleanliness is the exception rather than the rule, and which contaminates the food of young children. In my Report for 1904 I reviewed the various circumstances and causes affecting Diarrhoeal Mortality, and I have in some measure traversed the ground when discussing the general Infantile Mortality, but the importance of the subject necessitates constant reference and reiteration, and as I have intimated before, the efforts of a Sanitary Authority to secure good housing with ample space for sunlight and ventilation, pure water, good drainage, and efficient removal of refuse from the vicinity of dwellings, need to be seconded by a resolution in the habits, the character, the inclinations, and the general mode of life of the poorer classes—in order that satisfactory results may be attained, and I am convinced that the practice of personal and domestic cleanliness, and I may add temperance, would at once diminish the mortality both from this class of disease, and many others.

ERYSIPELAS. 20 cases were notified and 1 death occurred.

The total number of certificates received under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act was 117, which is by far the lowest number received for several years. This is a matter for congratulation, not only because of the freedom of your Borough from this class of disease, but because of the considerable saving to the ratepayers by the lessened cost of maintenance at the Isolation Hospital. The following Table shows the number of certificates received during the past six years.

Year.	No. of Certificates.
1900.....	241
1901.....	248
1902.....	276
1903.....	235
1904.....	160
1905.....	117

In Table II. is shown the distribution of Infectious Disease in each Ward.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION. The total number of cases removed to the Hospital was 72, and as Erysipelas cases are not admitted, it means that 25 were treated at home. This is very satisfactory, because early removal to Hospital tends to check the spread of disease, and it also shows that the public have learned to appreciate the benefits of Hospital treatment and are not slow to avail themselves of it.



DISINFECTION is another important adjunct in combating infectious disease, and we endeavour to carry it out thoroughly in every case. The steam disinfecting apparatus continues to work very satisfactorily, and in addition to the disinfection of bedding, blankets, and garments by this apparatus—all rooms are fumigated by the vapour of Formic Aldehyde, and cleansed.

HOUSING.—The building of new houses has not proceeded with such rapidity as of late years, and the large reductions in the Dockyard have materially affected the progress of your District in this as in many other respects. Much of the older class of property in the Borough is increasingly difficult to keep in good order, and as the result of systematic inspections, I have reported a large number of houses under Sec. 30, Housing of the Working Classes Act.

The numbers reported as unfit for human habitation were 25, and notices to put them in a habitable condition were issued, together with a specification of the work required in each case. Most of the houses that have been reported were capable of being made fit for habitation, but in two instances proceedings were taken under the Amending Act of 1903, whereby power is given to apply for a closing order forthwith in cases where the property is in too bad a condition to permit of repair. This is obviously a very difficult matter to prove, and a house must be almost falling down before one can say that it is impossible to repair it.

One of the difficulties of Sanitary administration in the poorer quarters of the town is in connection with the keeping clean of courts and alleys, which are in common use by several houses, and I would suggest the regular enforcement of Section 27 of the Public Health Act, 1890, which reads as follows, and which might with advantage be posted up in these places.

“(1). Where any court or any passageway leading to the back of several buildings in separate occupations, and not being a highway repairable by the inhabitants at large, is not regularly and effectually swept, and kept clean and free from rubbish, or other accumulation to the satisfaction of the Urban Authority, the Urban Authority may, if they think fit, cause to be swept and cleaned such court or passage.

(2). The expenses thereby incurred shall be apportioned between the occupiers of the buildings situated in the court or to the back of which the passage leads in such shares as may be determined by the Surveyor of the Urban Authority, or (in case of dispute) by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction, and in default of payment any share so apportioned may be recovered summarily from the occupier on whom it is apportioned.”



Notices under Sec. 21 of the same Act relating to the Sanitary conveniences used in common might well be conjoined with the above. This Section reads as follows :—

“ With respect to the Sanitary convenience, or anything used in common by the occupiers of two or more separate dwelling houses, or by other persons, the following provisions shall have effect :—

(1). If any person injures or improperly fouls any such Sanitary convenience, or anything used in connection therewith, he shall for every such offence be liable to a penalty not exceeding 10s.

(2). If any Sanitary convenience, or the approaches thereto, or the walls, floors, seats, or fittings thereof, is or are in the opinion of the Urban Authority, or of the Inspector of Nuisances, or Medical Officer of Health of such Authority, in such a state or condition as to be a nuisance or annoyance to any inhabitant of the district, for want of the proper cleansing thereof, such of the persons having the use thereof in common as aforesaid, as may be in default, or in the absence of proof satisfactory to the court, as to which of the persons having the use thereof in common is in default, each of those persons shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding 10s., and to a daily penalty not exceeding 5s. ”

Before leaving this subject of Housing, which is one of the most important that you have to deal with, I should like to point out some of the general difficulties which beset such Sanitary Authorities as are unfortunately possessed of areas of slum property, and which many social reformers call upon them to sweep away—as though such a transformation were easy of attainment. I quite agree that slum property is undesirable—that it is bad both for the moral and physical welfare of its denizens, and that it would be a splendid thing if it could be done away with, but my opinion is that sanitary progress in this direction is arrested until local authorities possess more drastic powers for dealing with it than they do at present. When it can be acquired at “ slum value,” then it will be possible for districts which are already overburdened with rates to approach the question with the assurance that valuable improvements may be effected without appreciably increasing the ratepayers’ load ; but so far all experience has shown that exorbitant prices have had to be paid by those authorities who have entered upon large clearance schemes, and that compensation for licenses, compensation for loss of trade, etc., together with the necessity of making provision for dispossessed tenants, so swell up the bill of costs, that it is practically impossible for the majority of local authorities to take action, and they must perforce be content to make the best of existing conditions until such time as the legislature endows them with powers to deal with slum property in the only way it deserves to be dealt with.



**BYE-LAWS.**—I have in previous reports referred to the desirability of revising and adding to the existing Bye Laws, and I would specially indicate the necessity of fresh Bye Laws for new buildings, for the removal of house refuse, and for the regulation of offensive trades.

**SLAUGHTER HOUSES.**—There are 17 of these places in the Borough, the majority of which are situated in or near the main business thoroughfare of the town. They are periodically inspected, and in 4 instances notices to cleanse have been served. The fact that so little complaint is made is a tribute to the way in which they are managed. That a public abattoir is much more desirable in the interests of the public than a large number of small, and in some cases ill-adapted, private slaughter houses, is my opinion, and the general arguments in favour of such an establishment may be thus summarised. The effect would be for the good of the whole trade, the business would be carried on in the light of day, and the supervision exercised should bring a relief of anxiety to butchers and consumers alike. There would be a strict control over the meat supply, the best machines and appliances would be used, the structure and arrangements of the buildings would be of the most approved character, and, given a suitable site, the general air pollution which must arise from private slaughter houses would be removed. The animals would be inspected by properly qualified officials before slaughter, which could be done in the most humane manner possible. The hindrance to traffic from driving animals through the streets would be avoided, and I should say that the house property existing in the vicinity of the present slaughter houses would increase in value. The most desirable site would be on the outskirts of the Borough, but, in the interests of the butchers, not too far away. I think that this question, in conjunction with that of the provision of public markets, is ripe for discussion.

**COMMON LODGING HOUSES.**—There are 13 of these places in your District. During the year, one has been taken off the register, and an additional one has been registered. Two notices for cleansing have been issued, and three notices for structural defects. They are all the subject of regular inspections, and it is very seldom that any serious cause for complaint is discovered, and as a rule they are kept in a clean and wholesome condition.

#### DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.—

No. of registered Cowkeepers .. .. .	9
No. of registered Dairymen and Purveyors of Milk .. .	34

Notices served :—

(a) Want of cleanliness .. .	6
(b) Non-removal of manure .. .	3
(c) Structural defect .. .	1



The regulations made by the Local Government Board in connection with the above, are for prescribing and regulating the lighting, ventilation, cleansing, drainage and water supply of Cowsheds and Dairies, and for securing the cleanliness of milk stores, milk shops, and milk vessels used for containing milk for sale by persons following the trade of cowkeepers or dairymen, and for prescribing precautions to be taken by purveyors of milk, and persons selling milk by retail, against infection or contamination.

Everybody is interested in the purity of the milk supply, which is the staple food of infants and invalids throughout the country, but few take any trouble or pains to verify for themselves the source of their milk; and I fear that this apathy on the part of the consumer re-acts on the cowkeeper, who, as a rule, is not nearly so careful as he ought to be respecting the way in which his cowshed and its inmates are kept. Animals standing in, and bespattered with, manure, and men milking with filthy hands are the rule, and I venture to say that the purveyor of milk who would shake off the mistaken ideas and superstitions which cling round the cowsheds of this country, and would exercise reasonable care and supervision over his business, would soon reap the reward of a justly increased connection. In addition to the periodical visits which are paid by myself and the Sanitary Inspector, your Council, during 1904, appointed a Veterinary Inspector, whose duty it is to visit and examine the animals in all the cowsheds throughout the Borough, and to make a monthly report of the results of such inspection. So much has been written of late years about the necessity of a pure milk supply, that neither the farmer, nor the purveyor, nor even the consumer, can any longer claim that ignorance of what ought to be done in regard to keeping milk pure is other than wilful. The consumer has really the matter in his own hands, and if he would only insist on knowing the condition of the cowsheds from which the shops are supplied, he would no longer be beguiled by the white tiled shops where milk is retailed. These are admirable in themselves, but if the milk they retail emanates from dirty and undesirable surroundings, the selling of it under attractive conditions cannot render it pure. No great outlay on the part of a cowkeeper or dairyman is required in order to convert and keep his shed in a clean and wholesome condition, and that his animals and milkers should also be kept clean. I do not recollect ever to have seen provision for washing the hands with soap and water, nor have I seen any attempt to wash and cleanse the udders of the cows before they are milked. These small details, together with the wearing of a clean washable overall by the milker, are matters which every cowkeeper should insist on being carried out.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—The Borough of Chatham is fortunate in possessing a pure and abundant supply of water, which, in spite of its hardness, is an excellent drinking water. The Company are, I believe,



fully alive to their responsibilities, both as to the preservation of the purity of the water, and to the necessity of maintaining an adequate supply both for the present and future needs of the community. The present consumption is likely to be considerably increased in the near future, both by the normal increase of population and by the inauguration of a water carriage system of sewerage.

When the Company's new reservoir is completed, they will have a storage capacity of about 9,000,000 gallons, or double that at present available.

**SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.**—This subject has been invariably commented on in my Annual Reports, and I have little more to add. Cesspool drainage, and often privies, still exist, and I can only once more express the hope that a scheme of main drainage will ere long be commenced. The last thing to delay the scheme has been the negotiations with the neighbouring City of Rochester, respecting a joint undertaking with respect to sewage disposal, but I believe there is now little hope of that result, and, pending the decision as to a site for the outfall works, there is no reason why Chatham should not proceed with its own drainage.

**HOUSE REFUSE.**—Probably very few people are aware of the elaborate organisation required in order that this refuse may be expeditiously removed from the vicinity of their dwellings, and it is not too much to ask householders to second the efforts of the Sanitary Authority by every means in their power. In the first place, properly covered receptacles should be used instead of the heterogeneous variety seen in our streets every morning. Then much of the animal and vegetable refuse might with advantage be burned, and in business houses, where there is a large amount of wastepaper, it would entail but little trouble, and would be much more tidy, especially on windy days, if the paper were stuffed into a small bag or sack, or, better still, if it were burnt with other refuse. There is very great need for new Bye Laws respecting the collection of house refuse, which is now carried out on an entirely different system to that in vogue a few years ago.

**MIDWIVES' ACT.**—The object of this Act is to secure the better training and registration of Midwives and to ensure proper supervision of their mode of practice.

The Act states that after April 1st, 1905, no woman shall take the title of Midwife, nor practice Midwifery, unless she is certified under this Act, and that no woman shall be certified until she has complied with the rules and regulations set forth in the Act. These rules necessitate a course of training, an examination, and subsequent certification, and



for the carrying out of this plan a Central Midwives' Board has been formed. Prior to the above mentioned date a certain number of women, who were able to produce certificates of character, and of having been in *bona fide* practice as midwives for at least twelve months, were placed on the Register. Certain specific duties in connection with this Act are to be carried out by Borough Councils, and they are briefly as follows :—

(1). To exercise general supervision over all the Midwives practising within their area.

(2). To investigate charges of malpractice, negligence, or misconduct on the part of any Midwife practising within their area, and if a *prima facie* case be established, to report the same to the Central Midwives' Board.

(3). To suspend any Midwife from practice, in accordance with the rules under the Act, if such suspension appears necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

(4). To report at once the name of any Midwife, practising in their area, convicted of an offence.

(5). During the month of January in each year, to supply the Secretary of the Central Midwives' Board, with the names and addresses of all Midwives practising within their area, and to keep a current copy of the roll of Midwives, accessible at all reasonable times for public inspection.

(6). To report deaths and changes of address of any Midwives.

(7). To give due notice of the effect of this Act.

Under Section 10 of the Act, any woman certified under the Act must give due notice to the Supervising Authority of her intention to practice, and must renew the notice in the month of January of every year.

During the year I have made periodical inspections of the case books, appliances, residences, and mode of practice of each Midwife in the District.

**EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN ACT, 1903.**—This Act came into force in January, 1904, and is the outcome of an inquiry by a committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department. Its main recommendation was that overworking of children in such occupations as are still unregulated by law should be prevented by giving



power to County and Borough Councils. These powers are very ample but it is essential that they should be judiciously administered, otherwise there is a danger that a too stringent enforcement might make the Act a dead letter. For instance, it would be a hardship to deprive a poor widow with several young children of the earnings that some of them may bring to the maintenance of the household.

The case for the total prohibition of employment for children under a certain age would be much stronger but for the fact that regular light employment is much better for them than the alternative of playing in the streets, and of witnessing and emulating the pursuits of the hooligans, which is all many of them have to do out of school hours.

Town Council have adopted Bye Laws regulating street trading by children, but as the Council does not possess any police of its own to enforce them, they are of little use.

**FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.**—Section 132 of this Act makes it incumbent on every Medical Officer of Health to report specifically on the Administration of this Act in Workshops and Workplaces in his District, and to include his observations thereon in his Annual Report. The Home Office has issued a table, which I have filled in and appended, and which contains such particulars respecting the Act as lend themselves to statistical treatment.

The following are the chief points on which I have to report :—

(1). Sanitary condition of Workshops and Workplaces, including :—

- (a) Cleanliness.
- (b) Air space.
- (c) Ventilation.
- (d) Drainage of floors on which wet processes are carried on.
- (e) Provision of suitable and sufficient Sanitary conveniences.

(2). Special Sanitary provisions for Bakehouses.

(3). Home Work. The prevention of home work being carried on in dwellings which are injurious or dangerous to the health of the workers through overcrowding, want of ventilation, or other Sanitary defects, or in dwellings in which notifiable infectious disease exists.

(4). The keeping of lists of outworkers in certain branches of industry, which are furnished by employers, and the transmission of the name and place of any such outworker, who does not reside in the District, to the Council of the District for which he works.

(5). The keeping of a Register of Workshops.



The Home Office Table, which is attached, gives particulars of a general nature respecting the number of Inspections made and the defects found and remedied, but the following supplementary particulars respecting the various industries carried on in the Borough will be of interest.

The total number of Workshops in the District and on the Register is 368, including :—

Tenement Workshops	..	none
Domestic	..	49
Retail Bakehouses	..	25
Laundries	..	13
Other Workshops	..	281

The total number of Non-Textile Factories on the Register is 30, of Workshops employing men only 77, and of Workplaces 74.

The subjoined list is entirely concerned with male employment.

NON-TEXTILE FACTORIES.—Bakehouses, 2 ; Bookbinders, 1 ; Electrical Works, 1 ; Mineral Water Works, 6 ; Joinery and Saw Works, 6 ; Printing, 5 ; Tobacco, 1 ; Flour, 2 ; Engineering, 1 ; Soap Melting, 1 ; Laundries, 3 ; Sausage Making, 1.

WORKSHOPS.—Cabinet Makers, 8 ; Upholsterers, 6 ; Polishers, 7 ; Brass Finishers and Pewterers, 2 ; Plumbers, 7 ; Painters, 12 ; Modellers, 1 ; Saddlers, 8 ; Sweet Makers, 5 ; Rag Merchants, 2 ; Cycle Works, 4 ; Tailors, 17 ; Bootmakers, 29 ; Undertakers, 2 ; Carpenters and Joiners, 32 ; Coopers, 2 ; Hoopmakers, 2 ; Ornamental Masons, 2 ; Blind Makers, 2 ; Smiths, 8 ; Coach Makers and Wheelwrights, 6 ; Picture Frame Makers, 8 ; Clay Pipe Maker, 1 ; Tin Smiths, 2 ; Printers, 2.

WORKPLACES.—Stables, 10 ; Bottling, 6 ; Gate Making, etc., 3 ; Hair Cutting, 48 ; Wharves, 7.

The number of Inspections made in connection with the above have been—of Factories and Laundries 38, Workshops 432, Workplaces 47.

Notices issued respecting defects 27.

The following defects were dealt with—Want of cleanliness 8, want of ventilation 1, overcrowding 6, other nuisances 3, defective Sanitary accommodation 2, and under Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, Section 22: no separate accommodation 1.



The following particulars relate specially to female labour, of which there is a very large amount in the District, the number of outworkers having considerably increased, owing to the lack of employment amongst men.

The total number of out-workers is 760, and of employers of such 12. They are entirely occupied in the manufacture of wearing apparel.

The following list of women employed in various trades will be of interest. It is exclusive of those employed as outworkers.

	Women.	Young Persons.
Tailors ..	112	
Clothiers ..	417	
Dressmakers ..	121	41
Milliners ..	36	23
Shirtmakers ..	23	
Laundresses ..	63	
Outfitters ..	32	
Bookbinders ..	15	2
Other minor employments ..	15	
	<hr/> 834	<hr/> 66
Total ..	<hr/> 900 <hr/>	

I may here explain that the term "young person" means one who is over 14 years of age and under 18.

The following work in regard to places employing female labour has been carried out:—

Factories and Workshops inspected ..	104
Factories and Workshops re-inspected ..	12
Homes of Outworkers inspected and re-inspected ..	944
Total ..	<hr/> 1060

The following statement of work done in connection with female labour is supplementary to the figures set out in the Home Office table.

#### Contraventions of Factory and Workshop Act.

No Abstract of Act ..	2
Overcrowding ..	6
Want of Cleanliness ..	8
Work taken from Outworkers on account of insanitary state of dwellings ..	2
Want of Ventilation ..	1
Lavatory defective ..	2
No separate accommodation for sexes ..	1



## Number of Firms employing Chatham women as Outworkers :—

Borough of Chatham .. ..	12
City of Rochester .. ..	8
City of London .. ..	2

## Number of Chatham Firms employing women in other Boroughs :—

City of Rochester .. ..	6
Borough of Gillingham .. ..	2

During 1905—825 women were employed as indoor hands, as compared with 781 during 1904, and 79 men working in women's work rooms as compared with 69 during the previous year.

With respect to the question of Sanitary Accommodation in Factories and Workshops, the special sections of the Act dealing with this matter are inoperative here, and all offences are dealt with under Section 22, Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, and under this Section, the Borough Surveyor is the official specially charged with dealing with the special provisions of the Section in regard to sufficiency and suitability. The number of cases referred to him will be found in the Home Office Table.

A New Home Work Order—dated August 15th, 1905—has been issued, which revokes previous orders, and which extends the requirements as to list of Outworkers.

**BAKEHOUSES.**—The total number of Bakehouses on the Register is 25, of which 10 are underground. These places are the subject of special sanitary regulations set out in Sections 97 to 102 of the Factory and Workshop Act. Under these regulations, Closets must not communicate directly with, nor must there be any drains opening in bakehouses, and the cistern supplying water to a bakehouse must be separate and distinct from the w.c. cistern. The inside walls and ceilings of bakehouses must be limewashed or painted with oil and varnished, and the limewashing and cleansing of paint must be done every six months. No sleeping place is permitted on the same floor as a bakehouse unless constructed according to the requirements of the Act.

The underground bakehouses were in use before the passing of the Act, but it was enjoined under Sec. 101 that no underground bakehouse should be used after January 1st, 1904, unless certain stipulations with regard to construction, light, and ventilation were carried out. In future no new underground bakehouses will be permitted.



The whole of the Bakehouses are regularly inspected, and the following notices have been served during the year:—

Want of cleanliness 6, structural defect 1.

The question of re-arrangement of your Sanitary Department is one that may well be attended to here. A perusal of this Report will show that a large amount of systematic inspection is required in a Borough of this description, and in order to do this satisfactorily an efficient staff is necessary. The prevalence of cesspools which require constant emptying takes up a very large portion of an Inspector's time—in addition to which there is the work in connection with Infectious cases and disinfection, the routine inspections of Cowsheds, Slaughter Houses, Lodging Houses, etc., the necessity for continuous inspection and re-inspection of houses, and the very large amount of work now required in connection with the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act. The Office work is also very considerable in connection with the keeping of Registers and Journals with all particulars of work carried out, the issuing of Statutory Notices, and routine correspondence. With every desire to avoid unnecessary expense I would respectfully suggest to you that if the Sanitary work of this Borough is to be carried out in a proper manner—a more efficient Staff is requisite.

I have again to thank Mr. Coles Finch, of Luton, for supplying me with Statistics of Rainfall during the year, and my thanks are also due to the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee for the kind consideration they have always shown to such recommendations and reports as I have placed before them.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. HOLROYDE, F.R.C.S.E., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Chatham,

February 24th, 1906.

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Appended are Tables I., II., III., IV., and V., issued by the Local Government Board.

Home Office Table for returns under the Factory and Workshop Act.

Statistics of Rainfall.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.



TABLE I. CHATHAM.—For Whole District.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	No. of Births.	Birth Rate.*	Deaths under 1 Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births Registered.	Total Deaths at all ages.	Total Death Rate.*	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	Deaths at all Ages. Nett.	Death Rate* at all Ages, Nett.
1895 ..	33880	979	28.9	144	148	580	17.1	156	36	48	592	17.5
1896 ..	34503	1000	29.30	123	123	549	16.8	135	35	68	582	17.
1897 ...	34926	1023	29.3	158	155	604	17.2	135	40	32	596	17.1
1898 ..	35499	1038	29.	176	168	638	19.7	185	53	66	711	20.05
1899 ..	35972	1062	29.5	193	180	731	20.3	173	38	45	738	20.04
1900 ..	36495	1065	29.02	168	165	702	19.4	188	50	63	715	19.5
1901 ..	37057	1022	27.9	157	154	648	17.4	149	45	37	638	17.2
1902 ..	37732	1066	28.2	174	163	676	17.9	163	53	51	674	17.8
1903 ..	38407	1112	28.9	143	129	583	15.	155	40	31	574	14.9
1904 ..	39179	1172	29.9	209	178	659	16.8	175	71	29	630	16.
Averages for year 1895 to 1904.	36365	1054	28.9	164	156	643	17.7	161	46	47	645	17.7
1905 ...	40938	1134	27.7	143	126	615	14.4	77		27	578	14.1

\*Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.	Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.
Medway Union Infirmary.	St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester.
Melville Hospital, Naval (now discontinued).	St. William's Fever Hospital, Rochester.
	Fort Pitt Military Hospital, Rochester.
	Royal Naval Hospital, Gillingham.



## NOTES TO TABLE I.

The Deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The Deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10, and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The "Public institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness and infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 4444.298. Total population at all ages, 37,057. Number of inhabited houses, 7,242. Average number of persons per house, 5.1. At Census of 1901.



# CHATHAM URBAN DISTRICT.

TABLE II.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	WHOLE DISTRICT.				ST. MARY'S WARD.				LUTON WARD.				ST. JOHN'S WARD.				WORKHOUSE.		MEL. HOS.
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	
1895 ..	33880	979	580	144	10435		158	54	13120		159	46	10325		107	36	127	9	29
1896 ..	34503	1000	549	123	10367		144	40	13571		163	47	10465		107	32	104	3	31
1897 ..	34926	1023	604	158	10365		159	54	13865		182	61	10696		128	38	113	3	22
1898 ..	35499	1038	698	176	10459		176	50	14074		210	72	10916		127	46	151	1	34
1899 ..	35972	1062	731	193	10310		197	63	14590		207	77	11072		154	48	133	6	40
1900 ..	36495	1065	702	168	10027		176	55	15107		199	57	11361		139	50	158	6	30
1901 ..	37057	1022	648	157	11706		176	63	15125		204	60	10226		152	31	82	3	24
1902 ..	37732	1066	676	174	10190	248	174	56	15310	531	209	62	12232	208	171	48	96	8	24
1903 ..	38407	1112	583	143	9555	246	137	42	17312	565	178	54	11572	301	144	41	88	6	27
1904 ..	39179	1172	659	209	9552	247	153	59	18000	615	214	88	11878	310	159	54	138	8	37
Averages of Years 1895 to 1904.	36365	10539	643	164	9296		165	53	15007		192	62	11074		139	42	119	5	29
1905 ..	40938	1134	578	143	9784	228	148	43	18850	609	228	70	12304	297	125	27	70	3	7



## NOTES TO TABLE II.

- (a) The separate localities adopted for this Table should be areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts. Block 1 may, if desired, be used for the whole district, and blocks 2, 3, &c., for the several localities. In small districts without recognised divisions of known population, this Table need not be filled up.
- (b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are to be included in sub-columns *c* of this table, and those of non-residents registered in public institutions in the district excluded. (See note on Table I. as to meaning of terms "resident" and "non-resident.")
- (c) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased.
- (d) Care should be taken that the gross totals of the several columns in this Table respectively equal the corresponding totals for the whole districts in Tables I. and IV.; thus the totals of sub-columns *a*, *b*, and *c* should agree with the figures for the year in the columns 2, 3, and 12, respectively, of Table I.; the gross total of the sub-columns *c* should agree with the total of column 2 in Table IV., and the gross total of sub-columns *d* with the total of column 3 in Table IV.



TABLE III.

## CHATHAM URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1905.

Notifiable Diseases.	Cases Notified in Whole District.						Total Cases Notified in each Locality.				No. of Cases removed to Hospital.				
	At all Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	ST. MARY'S WARD.	LUTON WARD.	ST. JOHN'S WARD.	MEDWAY WORKHOUSE.	ST. MARY'S WARD.	LUTON WARD.	ST. JOHN'S WARD.	MEDWAY WORKHOUSE.
Small-pox ..	3				1	2		2			1	2			1
Cholera ..	0					4		7	13	4	1	6	11	1	1
Diphtheria ..	25		8	8	5										
Membranous Croup..	0														
Erysipelas ..	20	1		1	3	13	2	5	9	4	2				
Scarlet Fever ..	42		8	27	6	1		5	26	11		3	21	7	1
Typhus Fever..	0														
Enteric Fever..	26		1	11	5	9		12	12	1	1	7	11	1	
Relapsing Fever ..	0														
Continued Fever ..	1					1		1				1			
Puerperal Fever ..	0														
Plague ..	0														
Totals ..	117	1	17	47	20	30	2	32	60	20	5	19	43	9	3



## NOTES TO TABLE III.

The localities adopted for this table should be the same as those in Tables II. and IV.

State in space below the name of the isolation hospital, if any, to which residents in the district, suffering from infectious disease are usually sent. Mark (H) the locality in which it is situated, or if not within the district, state where it is situated, and in what district. The name of the authority by whom the hospital is provided should also be given. Mark (W) the locality in which a workhouse is situated.

\*This space may be used for record of other disease the notification (compulsory or voluntary) of which is in force in the district.

†These age columns for notifications should be filled up in all cases where the Medical Officer of Health, by inquiry or otherwise, has obtained the necessary information.

Isolation Hospital—Joint Hospital, situated in Rochester.



TABLE IV. **CHATHAM DISTRICT.**  
*Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1905.*

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at Sub-joined Ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all Ages).					Total Deaths in Public Institutions
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5 Years.	5 and under 15 Years.	15 and under 25 Years.	25 and under 65 Years.	65 and upwards.	St. Mary's Ward.	Luton Ward.	St. John's Ward.	Medway Workhouse.	Melville Hospital.	
Measles .. ..	1		1					1					
Whooping-Cough.. ..	7	3	4					1	5	1			
Diphtheria and membranous croup .. ..	2		1	1					1	1			
Fever, Enteric	7			2	1	4		6			1		1
Epidemic influenza .. ..	1					1			1				
Diarrhoea ..	23	17	4			1	1	7	12	4			1
Enteritis.. ..	26	20	2			3	1	7	15	3	1		1
Erysipelas ..	1	1							1				
Other Septic Diseases ..	11	2			1	3	5	2	4	1	4		6
Phthisis .. ..	63		1	5	7	49	1	11	18	15	19		27
Other Tubercular diseases	14	1	8	1	1	3		5	6	3			2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	32					20	12	9	12	7	4		8
Bronchitis ..	36	5	2	1		4	24	10	11	9	6		11
Pneumonia ..	53	12	15			17	9	13	22	16		2	7
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	4	1	1			2		1	2	1			
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of Liver.. ..	16					14	2	6	2	5	3		3
Venereal Diseases .. ..	10	7			1	2		3	1	2	4		8
Premature birth	30	30						6	17	7			1
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition..	7	1			1	5		2	5				1
Heart Diseases	49	2		2	2	24	19	11	24	12	1	1	7
Accidents ..	9	2	2	1	1	3		3	3	3			2
Suicides .. ..	6					5	1	2	2	1		1	3
Nervous System	66	13	10	4		23	17	14	34	11	7		11
Urinary Diseases	18				2	11	4	4	5	5	4		7
All other causes	86	26	2		2	10	46	24	25	18	16	3	34
All Causes ..	578	143	53	17	19	204	142	148	228	125	70	7	141



## NOTES TO TABLE IV.

- (a) In this Table all deaths of "Residents" occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be *included* with the other deaths in the columns for the several age groups (columns 2-8). They are also, in columns 9-15, to be *included* among the deaths in their respective "Localities" according to the previous addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars. Deaths of "Non-residents" occurring in public institutions in the district, are in a like manner to be *excluded* from columns 2-8 and 9-15 of this Table.
- (b) See notes on Table I as to the meaning of "Residents" and "Non-residents," and as to the "Public Institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables. The "Localities" should be the same as those in Tables II. and III.
- (c) All deaths occurring in public institutions situated within the district, whether of "Residents" or "Non-residents," are, in addition to being dealt with as in note (a), to be entered in the last column of this Table. The total number in this column should equal the figures for the year in column 9, Table I.
- (d) The total deaths in the several "Localities" in columns 9-15, of this Table should equal those for the year in the same localities in Table II, sub-columns c. The total deaths at all ages in column 2 of this Table should equal the gross totals of columns 9-15, and the figures for the year in column 12 of Table I.
- (e) Under the heading of "Diarrhœa" are to be included deaths certified as from diarrhœa, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from  
 Epidemic enteritis;  
 Zymotic enteritis;  
 Epidemic diarrhœa. Summer diarrhœa;  
 Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhœa;  
 Choleraic diarrhœa, cholera, cholera nostras  
 (in the absence of Asiatic cholera).

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are to be included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis, Muco-enteritis, and Gastro catarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term "Diarrhœa." Deaths from diarrhœa secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.

Under the heading of "Cancer" and "Puerperal Fever" should be included all registered deaths from causes comprised within these general terms.

In according the facts under the various headings of Tables I, II, III and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.



TABLE V.

## CHATHAM DISTRICT.

*Infantile Mortality during the year 1905.*

Cause of Death.		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes.	Certified ..																
	Uncertified ..																
	Small-pox ..																
	Chicken-pox ..																
Common Infectious Diseases.	Measles ..																
	Scarlet Fever ..																
	Diphtheria : ..																
	Croup ..																
	Whooping-cough ..								1				1			1	3
	Diarrhoea, ..																
	all forms ..					2	1		1	2	2	2	1		3		14
Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Enteritis (not Tuberculous) ..					1	2			3	3	1	5		1	1	17
	Gastritis, Gastrointestinal ..																
	Catarrh ..		1			2	1	2		1							7
	Premature Birth ..	24	5	1													30
Wasting Diseases.	Congenital Defects ..	1															1
	Injury at Birth ..																
	Want of Breast-milk ..																
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ..	2	5	4	5	3	1		2							1	23
Tuberculous Diseases.	Tuberculous Peritonitis : ..																
	Tabes ..																
	Mesenterica ..				1												1
	Other Tuberculous Diseases ..																
	Erysipelas ..										1						1
	Syphilis ..		1			4	1				1						7
	Rickets ..													1			1
	Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ..						1										1
	Convulsions ..	2			1	1	2			2		2			1	1	12
	Bronchitis ..					3	1	1	1						1		7
	Laryngitis ..		1														1
	Pneumonia ..		2			1	1				1	1	1	1	1	1	10
	Suffocation, Overlaying ..		1					1									2
	Other causes ..		1	1	1		1			1							5
All Causes ..		29	17	1	8	19	14	5	3	11	8	6	8	2	7	5	145

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

The Whole District. Population, estimated to middle of 1905, 40,938.

Births in the year : Legitimate, 1,089 ; Illegitimate, 45.

Deaths from all Causes at all ages 578.



# **FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORK-PLACES AND HOMEWORK.**

## **BOROUGH OF CHATHAM.**

### **1. INSPECTION.**

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR  
INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	38	4	
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	432	16	
Workplaces ... ..	47	3	
Home-workers' Premises ... ..	1294	4	
Total ... ..	1811	27	

### **2,—DEFECTS FOUND.**

Particulars.	No. of Defects.			
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Number of Prosecutions.
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness ... ..	8	8		
Want of ventilation ... ..	1	1		
Overcrowding... ..	6	6		
Want of drainage of floors ... ..				
Other nuisances ... ..	3	3		
Sanitary Accomodat'ns { insufficient, unsuitable or de- fective	2	2		
not sep'te for sexes	1	1		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshops Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse	0	0		
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses ... ..	0	0		
Failure as regards lists of outworkers... ..	0	0		
Giving out work to be done { unwholesome... ..	2	2		
in premises which are { infected ... ..	1	1		
Allowing wearing apparel to be made in premises infected by Scarlet Fever or Small Pox ... ..	0	0		
Other offences... ..	0	0		
Total ... ..	24	24		



## 3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.		Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—		
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Work-		2
shop Act ... ..		
Action taken in matters referred	Notified by H.M. In-	
by H.M. Inspectors as remed-	spectors.	
iable under the Public Health	Reports (of action taken)	
Acts, but not under the Fac-	sent to H.M. Inspec-	
tory Act (S. 5).	tors.	
Other ... ..		
Underground Bakehouses:—		
Certificates granted during the year		0
In use at the end of the year		10
Homework:—		Number of
<i>Lists of Outworkers:—</i>		Lists. Outworkers.
Lists received	...	19 760
Addresses of out workers	forwarded to other Authorities	6 113
	received from other Authorities	6 38
<i>Homework in unwholesome or infected premises:—</i>		Wea'g appar'l Other.
Notices prohibiting homework in un-		2
wholesome premises		
Cases of infectious disease notified in		1
homeworkers' premises		
Orders prohibiting homework in infected		1
premises		
Workshops on the Register at the end of the		368
the year		
Total number of workshops on Register		368



# RAINFALL DURING 1905.

Taken at Luton by Mr. Coles Finch.

					DEPTH IN INCHES.
January	..	..	..	..	·66
February	..	..	..	..	·68
March	..	..	..	..	2·13
April	..	..	..	..	2·31
May	..	..	..	..	·96
June	..	..	..	..	5·34
July	..	..	..	..	·50
August	..	..	..	..	1·96
September	..	..	..	..	1·62
October	..	..	..	..	1·13
November	..	..	..	..	2·83
December	..	..	..	..	·54

Total fall for twelve months, 20·66 inches.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF  
NUISANCES FOR 1905.

Sanitary and Health Department, No. 1.

Town Hall, Chatham.

GENTLEMEN.

I beg to submit to you my Sixth Annual Report in connection with the various Sanitary matters carried out in the Borough during the year 1905.

The different branches of the work I have dealt with in as concise a manner as possible under their respective heads.

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**—During the year 117 cases of Infectious Disease have been notified to the Medical Officer of Health as against 160 in 1904. These were subsequently referred to the Inspector of Nuisances for entry of detail. Full enquiries were made concerning each case, and particulars, such as conditions of drainage, water supply, milk supply, school attendance (if any), occupation, etc., entered for future reference. Each case of Infectious Disease is visited as quickly as possible, and arrangements made for removal to Hospital, if desired.

Seventy-five cases of Infectious Disease were removed by the Assistant Inspector of Nuisances to the Hospital, all infected houses disinfected, and 115 loads of bedding treated in the steam disinfector.

Again during the year no damage has been done to any single article disinfected, there being no claim for compensation.

The Boiler Inspector at the conclusion of his inspection declared the boiler to be in 'good' condition.

Three cases of Small Pox occurred on the Brook, and were removed to the Small Pox Hospital. These cases occurred at three adjoining houses, and by prompt action no spread of the disease occurred. Monetary allowances were made in connection with two cases. The houses and all bedding were thoroughly disinfected.

**REMOVAL OF DEAD BODIES.**—The Medical Officer of Health has been called upon to grant certificates for the removal of 11 dead bodies as against 9 last year. A Magistrate subsequently made an order for burial within forty-eight hours in each case. Neither of these cases died of an infectious disease.



**SLAUGHTER HOUSES.**—The number of Slaughter Houses registered in the District is 17. Visits were constantly made, and only one complaint received from the outside public. Four notices were served for want of cleanliness of premises which were subsequently complied with.

**OBNOXIOUS TRADES.**—Premises where offensive trades are carried on in the District number two.

Gut Scraping	..	..	1
Fat Melting	..	..	1

During the year one gut scraping establishment was burnt down, and owing to the development of the surrounding estate the permission to resume the business was refused.

The remaining gut scraping establishment being situated well in the country district is well managed, no complaints being received either of the premises or the collection of the offal from the various slaughter houses.

**COMMON LODGING HOUSES.**—The registered Common Lodging Houses number thirteen, 11 are situated on the Brook, one in Queen Street, and one in Fair Row.

During the year two notices were served for lack of cleanliness, and three for structural alterations. Ten visits were made between the hours of 10 and 11 p.m. to various houses, but no matters arose for report. No cases of infectious disease occurred at these houses during the year. One house was struck off the Register, and one re-registered.

**COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.**—All cowsheds in the District have been periodically visited.

The number of cowsheds is 9 and the milkshops 34, and increase of the latter by 5 as compared with last year.

The following notices were served in connection with the cowsheds.

Cleanliness	..	..	..	..	6
Removal of Manure	..	..	..	..	3
Structural Alterations	..	..	..	..	1

**CESSPOOL WORK.**—The work under this heading has been somewhat difficult, many cesspools in connection with houses that have only been built seven or eight years requiring emptying.



During the year, 1,674 applications were received to empty cesspools. Of this number 72 were not required, in 46 cases the drains were found only choked, and were subsequently cleared.

During the latter half of the year three day gangs and three night gangs of men have been employed, and as many cesspools as possible emptied entirely.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT.—No cases of Infectious Disease occurred amongst Animals during the year.

BAKEHOUSES.—The Bakehouses in the District have been visited both with and without the Medical Officer of Health.

The number of Bakehouses on the Register is 25 above ground, and 10 underground.

Six Notices were served for lack of cleanliness, and 1 for structural alterations.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—Full details of the work and particulars under the Factory and Workshop Act will be found in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

It will be seen that two non-textile Factories, have been added to the Register, and 162 Workshops. The total number of Workshops being 368 against 206 last year.

Since the absence of the Woman Inspector, the whole of the out-workers' homes have been visited by the Assistant Inspector of Nuisances.

FISH OFFAL COLLECTION.—The work of collecting the Fish Offal in the District is still carried on without complaint.

The amount paid per week by Fishmongers amounts to an average of 17s. 6d. per week.

The cost of Collection is	£	s.	d.	
Labour	1	2	0	per week.
Horse hire	15	0		„
Total	£1	17	0	

The contractor pays 3s. 10d. per week for the fish offal, so that the actual cost of collection is 15s. 8d. per week. The amount of fish offal collected from the 20 shops on the list amounts to an average of 5 tons per week.



POLICE COURT PROCEEDINGS. (1). Plot of ground at Gipsy encampment, Beacon. No privy accommodation. Allowed 14 days.

(2). Meat unfit for human food in slaughter house. Case dismissed. Defence that meat was used only for dogs.

(3). Keeper of a house used as a Common Lodging House. Case dismissed. Permanent lodgers.

DRAINAGE WORK. A considerable amount of drainage alteration and amendment has been carried out in connection with Watts's Charity property in Military Road, Globe Lane, and Watts's Place thereby greatly improving the sanitary condition of the district.

In conclusion I beg to thank you for your kind consideration during the year, and trust to further merit your confidence.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. JOELS.



THE POLISH COURT CHRONICLE  
 1800-1801

THE POLISH COURT CHRONICLE  
 1800-1801

THE POLISH COURT CHRONICLE  
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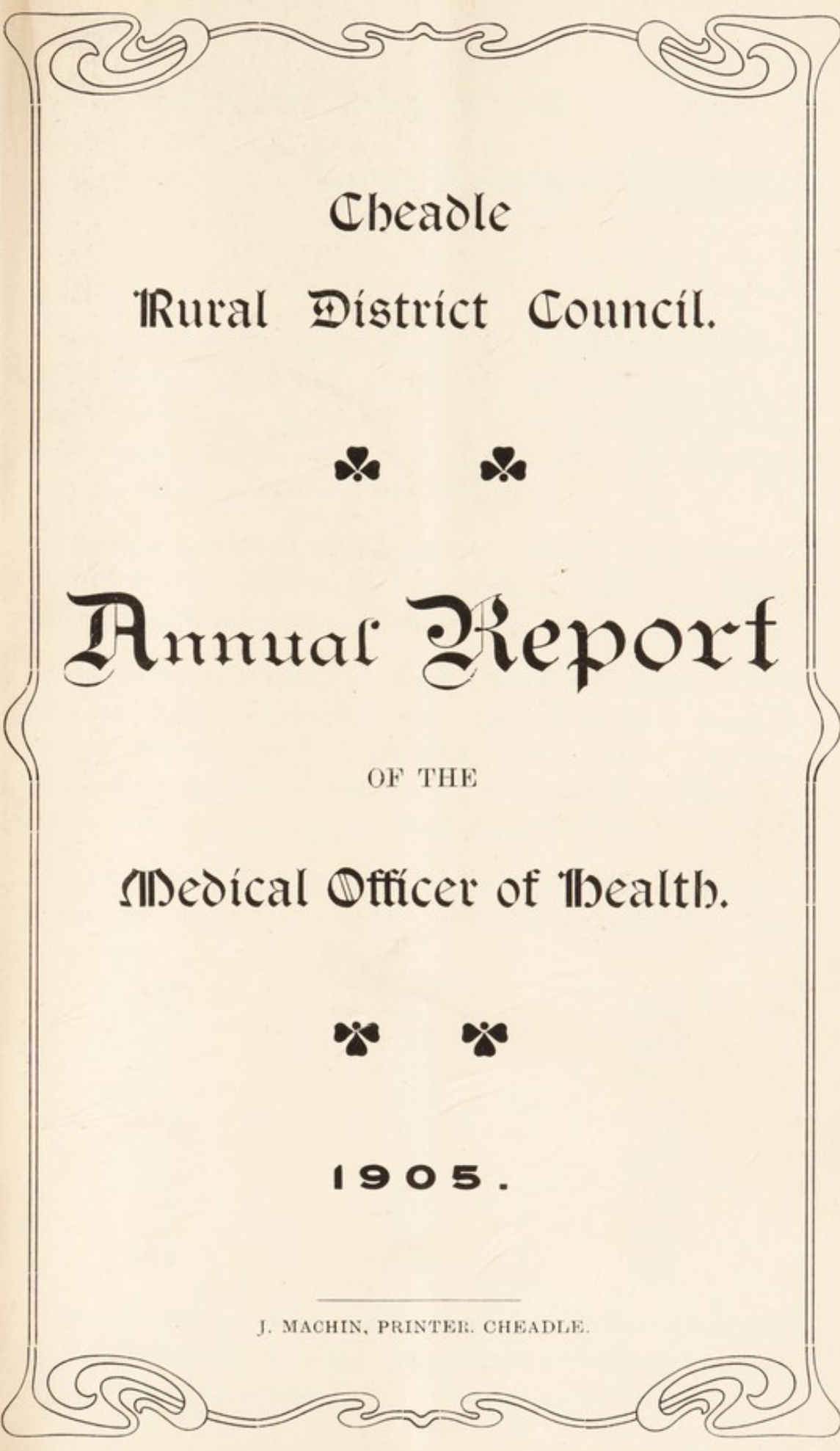
THE POLISH COURT CHRONICLE  
 1800-1801

THE POLISH COURT CHRONICLE  
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THE POLISH COURT CHRONICLE  
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THE POLISH COURT CHRONICLE  
 1800-1801

THE POLISH COURT CHRONICLE  
 1800-1801



Cheadle  
Rural District Council.



# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.



1905.

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J. MACHIN, PRINTER. CHEADLE.





# To the Chairman of the . . . . . . Rural District Council.

SIR,

In presenting this Annual Report it is necessary to point out that a certain amount of repetition of matters dealt with in former Reports will be found, on account of the Report having to be submitted to various bodies, some of whom are unfamiliar with the Sanitary history of the District.

The total number of deaths registered in this Rural Sanitary District for the year ending 31st December, 1905, was 399, as compared with 467 in the preceding year.

The deaths under one year of age amount to 74, equal to 18·5 per cent. of the total deaths; and those over 65 years of age to 102 (or 25·5 per cent.), compared to 128 in 1904. It will be seen from these figures that the infant mortality continues to shew a low rate, which is a very satisfactory feature.

The following table shews the total number of deaths for each of the last ten years, together with the corresponding rate per 1000 :—

Year		Deaths		Rate per 1000
1896	..	341	...	15·2
1897	...	376	...	16·3
1898	...	414	...	18
1899	...	394	...	17·1
1900	...	432	...	17·2
1901	...	423	...	17·1
1902	...	438	...	17·7
1903	...	414	...	16·7
1904	...	467	...	18·9
1905	...	399	...	16·1

From the above table it will be seen that the death-rate per 1000 of the population is 16·1, which is the lowest rate recorded during the last nine years.



## Births.

The total number of births registered was 689, a decrease of 100 from the previous year. This gives an annual birth-rate of 27·9 per 1000 of the population.

The percentage of deaths occurring under one year of age, as compared to the recorded births, is 10·7.

The following table shews the number of births recorded during the last ten years, and the rate per 1000 :—

Year		Births		Rate per 1000
1896	...	752	...	33·6
1897	...	708	...	30·7
1898	...	743	...	32·3
1899	...	737	...	31·6
1900	...	750	...	30
1901	...	735	...	29·8
1902	...	797	...	32·3
1903	...	733	...	29·7
1904	...	789	...	31·9
1905	...	689	...	27·9

## MORTALITY FROM DIFFERENT DISEASES.

### Respiratory System.

The total number of deaths from diseases of the respiratory system was 89, as compared with 99 in 1904.

Included in this number are 24 deaths from Tuberculous Phthisis, giving a percentage mortality of 6 ; 26 from Pneumonia ; 20 from Bronchitis ; 17 from Influenza ; and 2 from other diseases of the Respiratory System.

The following table shews the comparative number of deaths from each disease of the Respiratory System for the last five years :—

	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
Phthisis .. .. .	36	42	25	33	24
Pneumonia .. .. .	21	29	33	23	26
Bronchitis .. .. .	31	10	17	32	20
Influenza .. .. .	4	5	7	5	17
Pleurisy .. .. .	2	2	0	1	2
Other Respiratory Diseases ..	—	—	—	5	—
Total .. .. .	94	88	82	99	89
Percentage .. .. .	22	19.9	19.8	21.1	22.3

It is satisfactory to note that the number of deaths from Tuberculous Phthisis shews a diminution compared with the figures of any of the four preceding years.

Influenza has been prevalent more or less throughout the whole year, and some of the cases were of a very virulent type.

### Heart Disease.

The number of deaths from Heart Disease was 56, as compared with 70 in 1904, and 63 in 1903.

The percentage mortality is 14 of the total deaths.

### Infectious Diseases.

There were 15 deaths from Infectious Diseases, as compared with 18 in the previous year.



The following table gives the number of deaths from Infectious Diseases for the last eight years :—

	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
Scarlet Fever ..	1	7	6	4	1	2	5	6
Diphtheria ..	18	6	5	8	4	6	3	3
Measles ..	15	0	18	0	4	1	0	1
Whooping Cough	0	11	1	7	3	9	7	4
Enteric Fever ..	1	1	2	3	4	1	1	1
Small Pox ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	0
Total ..	35	25	32	22	16	19	18	15
Percentage ..	8·4	6·3	7·4	5·2	3·6	4·5	3·8	3·7

The death-rate from Infectious Diseases compares very favourably with previous years, and it will be noticed that the rate has been considerably lower during the last three years than formerly.

### Uncertified Deaths.

The following are the figures for the last five years :

Year	Number
1901	32
1902	4
1903	3
1904	37
1905	1

### Notifiable Diseases.

During the year, 162 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, as compared with 230 in 1904, thus shewing a decrease of 68 from the previous year, and giving a rate of 6·5 per 1000 of the population.

The following table gives the number of notifications of each disease for the last five years :—

	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
Scarlet Fever .. ..	116	66	25	170	93
Diphtheria .. ..	102	48	17	32	42
Erysipelas .. ..	7	7	8	11	15
Enteric Fever .. ..	10	23	10	9	7
Puerperal Fever .. ..	5	3	2	2	2
Small Pox .. ..	0	4	6	6	3
Total .. ..	240	151	68	230	162

The following table shews the number of cases and the disease notified in each of the four Districts—Cheadle, Alton, Ipstones, and Dilhorne :—

	Cheadle	Alton	Ipstones	Dilhorne
Small Pox .. ..	0	0	3	0
Diphtheria .. ..	22	4	8	8
Erysipelas .. ..	1	5	6	3
Scarlet Fever .. ..	18	9	44	22
Enteric Fever .. ..	3	0	2	2
Puerperal Fever.. ..	0	0	1	1
Total .. ..	44	18	64	36

### Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year was 93, being a decrease of 77 from the previous year. The chief increase is accounted for by Kingsley, where the disease



lasted on and off for several months, and necessitated the Schools being closed for several weeks in July. The epidemic in Kingsley on more than one occasion originated in the Schools, and in one case it was found that some children were attending School while Scarlet Fever existed at their home and had not been notified, although several of the family were desquamating freely. Another such instance came to light in August, in Cheadle, where a child was reported to be running about while suffering from the disease. The child in this case was playing about in the streets while peeling; this case was notified and sent to the Isolation Hospital, and the matter was brought to the notice of your Council, who however decided not to prosecute in the circumstances.

### **Enteric Fever.**

Only seven cases of Enteric Fever were reported during the year, viz.: three in Cheadle, two in Ipstones, and two in Dilhorne. This is the lowest number recorded during the last five years. Of the seven cases reported, only one ended fatally.

### **Diphtheria.**

Forty-two cases of the disease were notified (an increase of ten over the preceding year), of whom three died, giving a percentage mortality of .75. It is noteworthy that the mortality of this disease has fallen very considerably since the use of the Antitoxine Serum became general, although it appears probable that the disease is of a milder type than formerly. The District Council might very properly supply the Serum free of charge for use in Diphtheria, as is now done by many of the Sanitary Authorities in other Districts. It is of great importance that the Serum should be used early in the disease, and many of the poorer people are not in a position to pay for it.

The Medical men in the District continue to make free use of the opportunity of having the aid of bacteriological examination of doubtful cases of Diphtheria, &c., which is carried on at Mason's College, Birmingham, by arrangement with the Staffordshire County Council.

### **Small-Pox.**

Three cases of Small-Pox were notified in 1905, two at Werrington and one at Winkhill, all of which were removed to the Small-Pox Hospital at Bagnall, and they all recovered.

The first case occurred at Armshead Farm, near Werrington. It appears that the farmer's daughter was a nurse at the Small-Pox Hospital at Bagnall, and she evidently brought the infection while on a visit to her parents. Later, another case occurred in this house.

The house was disinfected, and the infected bedding and clothing was destroyed by fire. The other inmates of the house were re-vaccinated, and kept in quarantine for fourteen days. The District Council made suitable compensation for the articles which had to be destroyed. No further spread occurred.

The next case was notified by telegram on the 21st February, and was removed the same day to Bagnall Small-Pox Hospital. This case originated in Holtam's hut, on the New Light Railway Works at Winkhill, and the patient was a navvy employed on the railway. The hut was thoroughly disinfected, and all infected bedding and clothing was destroyed, for which the District Council made compensation. In this hut, there were four other men, a woman, and two children. All the inmates were re-vaccinated and kept isolated, and arrangements were made by the Sanitary Authority for providing them with food. The Railway Contractors deserve great praise for the manner in which they co-operated with the Sanitary Authority in their endeavours to stamp out the disease, and they also very considerately allowed the tenants of the hut in question to live rent free while they were in quarantine for fourteen days. As



there were close on 480 men employed on the railway works, all more or less coming into close contact with each other, it was evident that there was grave risk of a serious out-break, especially seeing that many of the men were mere "birds-of-passage,"—doing a day's work and then going on the tramp to look for work elsewhere.

Careful investigations were made into the origin of this case, from which it appears that after a few days' illness, the rash appeared on George Hastings, on the 20th February. It was ascertained that George Hastings and his father were the latest arrivals at Holtam's hut, having taken up their residence there about Christmas, 1904. On the 12th of February, Hastings' father left the hut and went to live at Mrs. Davies' at Cauldon, in order he stated "to be nearer his work."

On questioning Hastings senior, he admitted having been taken ill early in January, with pains in his back, severe headache, and a rash all over his body, "just like his son's rash," and there can be no doubt, both from his history and also as a result of examining him, that he also had recently suffered from Small-Pox. No one else in the hut showed any signs of the disease, or of having recently had it. Mrs. Davies' house at Cauldon was also visited, but no other suspicious case was found. Enquiries were also made in Waterhouses, without result however.

Before coming to Winkhill, at Christmas, 1904, Hastings senior, had been in Birmingham and many other places, and no doubt he brought the disease with him, as he was taken ill soon after his arrival. He then infected his son, as described above. Fortunately, no further spread of the disease occurred.

As in previous years, the District Council continues the arrangement with the North Staffordshire Joint Small-Pox Hospital Committee, whereby they are enabled to send all their cases of Small-Pox to the Bagnall Hospital for Small-Pox. This arrangement has proved a great boon to the Districts which participate in it.

## **Other Infectious Diseases.**

(NOT NOTIFIABLE).

### **Measles.**

This disease has been epidemic at different times during the year. In April, it was epidemic in Tean, Blyth Marsh, and Forsbrook, and the schools at each of these places had to be closed for a time in consequence. In May, there were a large number of cases among the children at Freehay, and the schools were closed for some weeks, as well as the Roman Catholic schools at Tean. During the month of December, an extensive epidemic of Measles occurred at Adderley Green, necessitating the closure of the schools there for some weeks.

### **Whooping Cough.**

During the past year, Whooping Cough has proved very troublesome among the children in several Districts. In January and February, the Kingsley schools had to be closed, owing to a severe epidemic. In April, the Ipstones and Whiston schools were closed from the same cause. As in the case of Measles, compulsory notification of Whooping Cough would be useful, as it would enable the Sanitary Authority to deal with the first cases of the disease.

### **Chicken-Pox.**

An outbreak of Chicken-Pox occurred in the Infants' school at Oakamoor, in October, and it was necessary to close the school in consequence. The disease was also epidemic at Caverswall in December, and the schools there had to be closed.

### **Mumps.**

This disease was widely distributed in the Whiston District in December. The schools had to be closed for some weeks. A rather unusual feature of the epidemic in Whiston, was the large number of adults who were attacked by the disease.



## Other Diseases.

An epidemic of Catarrh, associated with sore throat, broke out amongst the children attending the 'Teian Infants' school, in November. As the epidemic was very infectious and involved a large number of the children, it was deemed advisable to close the Infants' school for fourteen days.

## Isolation Hospital.

This Hospital was opened in May, 1904, and is situated at Moss Lane, about one mile from Cheadle. There is accommodation for sixteen patients suffering from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever. The Hospital has the usual administrative block, laundry, disinfecting room, and mortuary. The Hospital is in telephonic communication with the town of Cheadle, and the water supply comes from Cheadle.

During the year, 73 cases have been admitted to the Hospital. Four patients died in the Hospital (all of Scarlet Fever).

The following table shews the number of cases notified of each of the three diseases (Scarlatina, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever) together with the number admitted into the Hospital during 1905 :—

	Number Notified	Number Admitted
Diphtheria .. .. .	42	10
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	93	60
Enteric Fever .. .. .	7	3
Total .. .. .	142	73

The following table shews the number of cases notified and number admitted to Hospital, for each of the four (Registration) Districts during the year :—

		Cheadle	Alton	Ipstones	Dilhorne
Diphtheria ..	{ Notified	22	4	8	8
	{ Admitted	6	0	3	1
Scarlet Fever	{ Notified	18	9	44	22
	{ Admitted	17	5	30	8
Enteric Fever	{ Notified	3	0	2	2
	{ Admitted	1	0	1	1

The District Council made an application to the Staffordshire County Council for an annual grant towards the maintenance of the Hospital, and in December, Dr. Reid, the County Medical Officer of Health, came over and made a detailed examination of the Hospital, with a view to reporting to the County Council. Dr. Reid's report has already been laid before your Council. Briefly stated, Dr. Reid recommends that in order to bring the Hospital up to the standard required by the County Council, in order to enable them to give the grant applied for, the following alterations and additions should be carried out at the Hospital :—

- (1) An efficient Disinfecting Apparatus should be provided:
- (2) A new Mortuary to be built: (3) A Discharge Block to be erected: and (4) Certain alterations to be made to the present Ambulance.

The District Council having considered the matter, it was resolved to carry out Dr. Reid's suggestions; and the Council's Surveyor has drawn up plans of the various alterations and additions required, and these have been submitted to and approved of by Dr. Reid. It is proposed to utilise the present Mortuary and Disinfecting Room for erecting the Disinfecting Room, and a new Mortuary will be erected further away from the present buildings.



The grant from the County Council would be about £200 per annum, viz.: one third of the annual cost of maintenance of the Hospital.

### **Sanitary Work.**

As noted in another part of the Report, the District Council have plans under consideration for carrying out various alterations at the Isolation Hospital, including a new Discharge Block, and the provision of an efficient Disinfecting Apparatus.

Three cases of over-crowding were brought to the notice of the Sanitary Authority. In one of these cases there was only one bedroom with a cubic capacity of 978 feet. In this room were two beds, occupied by man, wife and four children. A formal notice was served by the Sanitary Authority, and the nuisance was abated. In another case a house containing two bedrooms was also found over-crowded. One of the bedrooms with a cubic capacity of 847 feet was occupied by man, wife and child. The other bedroom had a capacity of only 288 cubic feet, and was occupied by three children. After notice from the Sanitary Authority, the over-crowding was remedied. In the third case the over-crowding was abated without having to serve notice.

Structural defects were found in seven cases in dwelling-houses, and these were all remedied after notice from the Sanitary Authority.

The Inspector made inspections of ten Lodging-houses during the year, and these were found in a satisfactory condition.

Five Dairies and Milk-shops were inspected during the year, and in one case some improvements suggested by the Inspector were carried out.

One hundred and two Cow-sheds were inspected, and with regard to one of these, of which a complaint had been received from the Sanitary Authorities in Manchester, it was found that

the milk had been contaminated inadvertently by the nature of the material which was being used for bedding, and on representations being made by the Inspector, this was rectified.

Twenty-seven Slaughter-houses were inspected during the year, all of which were found in a good sanitary condition.

Forty-seven Canal Boats were inspected, and in connection with these, six formal notices were served by the Sanitary Authority, and in five cases the nuisance was abated after notice.

The night-soil is removed by contract in Cheadle, and 7704 ash-pits and privies were cleansed by the Sanitary Authority's scavenger during the year, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. Some complaints have been made regarding the night-soil being removed during the day time, and it certainly would be much better if it were arranged that the removal should be carried out at night, as the day-removal creates more or less of a nuisance. Two notices were served in connection with the deposit of refuse and manure, and these were both abated.

Twenty-three inspections of w.c.'s were made.

In connection with house-drainage, the Inspector reports having made thirty-two inspections, and nuisances being found in connection with all of these, formal notice was served and the nuisance in each case was abated. Forty-three other faults in connection with house-drainage were found.

Two inspections of Pig-sties resulted in the serving of notice in each case.

In two cases animals were found improperly kept, and the nuisance was abated after notice.

Forty-one other nuisances were dealt with during the year.

A carcase of a pig was seized by the Sanitary Inspector at Cookshill, on the 31st March. The carcase was condemned and destroyed on a Magistrate's order, and proceedings were taken



against the butcher in the Police Court by the Sanitary Authority. After evidence had been given shewing that the carcase was tuberculous and unfit for human food, each of the two defendants was convicted and fined thirty shillings and costs, amounting to £7 15s. 6d. in all.

Sewers have been improved, extended and cleansed at the Meir, Adderley Green and Cheadle.

Referring to the proposed Sewage scheme for Oakamoor, several communications have been received regarding this matter from the County Council. During the year, a deputation from the District Council met the Sanitary Committee of the County Council at Stafford, and gave evidence concerning the existing sanitary condition of Oakamoor.

As the matter stands at present, the County Council have arranged to send a deputation to Oakamoor to inspect the sanitary arrangements, and they have asked the District Council to meet them there and confer with them.

The District Council have had under consideration the advisability of purchasing some land situated at the Ropewalk, Cheadle, with a view to making provision for the future treatment of the Cheadle Sewage. The Committee appointed by the District Council inspected the land in question, and unanimously decided to recommend the Council to acquire the land. After consideration, the Council resolved to do so, and they have applied to the Local Government for a loan.

## Water Supplies.

The town of Cheadle is supplied with water by the Cheadle Waterworks, which obtains its supply from the red-sandstone formation, which is porous, and acts as an excellent filter, so that the water is both good and abundant. The geological formation of the Cheadle District lends itself to a good and plentiful supply to its different localities. The water-bearing

strata are made up chiefly of limestone and the red sandstone. The more Rural parts of the District derive their supply from deep wells, and in places, from shallow wells.

Caverswall, Blyth Bridge, Adderley Green, Forsbrook and District, obtain their supply from the Staffordshire Potteries Waterworks.

Kingsley and Froghall have an excellent supply, derived from natural springs at Shirley Hollow, near Whiston.

Several public wells have been inspected and put in repair during the year.

A number of nuisances arising in connection with water supplies were dealt with by the Sanitary Authority, and were abated after notice.

Over twenty samples of drinking water have been analysed during the year, four of which were found unfit for domestic use, and formal notices were served by the Sanitary Authority to provide a proper supply.

## **Workshops and Factories.**

There are 119 Workshops, Factories, Bakehouses, &c., on the Register in this District, as compared with 115 in 1904, and 104 in 1903. The Register is kept by the Sanitary Inspector.

Five inspections of Factories were made, all of which were found satisfactory.

Ninety-four inspections of Workshops were made, three of Workplaces, and four of Homeworkers' premises. The total number of inspections made was 106, and it is satisfactory to note that no notices had to be served this year, which shews a distinct improvement on the preceding year.



A systematic inspection of the Bakehouses in the District was begun last year, and in continuation of this, forty-one were visited during the present year. Taken as a whole, the result of the inspections was satisfactory, but in a few instances there was room for considerable improvement in the way of general cleanliness. All the Bakehouses visited had been lime-washed within the period prescribed by the Act.

Tables of Statistics are appended.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. R. GIBSON, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

*Cheadle, February, 1906.*





