Contributors

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Chelmsford.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(H. W. NEWTON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

FOR

1909.

CHELMSFORD :

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Fairfield,

Chelmsford,

February 16th, 1910.

TO THE MAYOR AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.

GENTLEMEN,

I have again the pleasure to present my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health dealing with the vital statistics and the general sanitary condition of the Borough. Speaking in general terms, I believe you will find this Report highly satisfactory in character except in one particular, *i.e.*, the Birth-rate.

The year 1909 in question, from a sanitary and medical point of view, has been a very favourable one. No epidemic of any Zymotic Disease has occurred, and those cases of Notifiable Diseases that have arisen have been very mild in character. Again the general Death-rate is abnormally lowlower, in point of fact, than it has ever been before in the Borough; also, the Infantile Death-rate has fallen to the lowest point yet recorded. The Zymotic Death-rate is again so low that the figure, 34 per 1,000 deaths, is very remarkable. Against these most satisfactory figures I have to record with much concern a Birth-rate of only 18.45 per 1,000. This rate, the lowest I can find recorded for the Borough, is, in my opinion, absolutely disastrous, and goes far to remove the good impression given by the exceedingly favourable Death returns. The Birth-rate had steadily increased during the preceding two years. I had hoped to be able to record another increase, yet it has fallen to an alarmingly low figure. The average Birthrate for the past ten years has been 23.8 per 1,000, which is a low return; yet this year it is only 18.45 per 1,000. I expect this will be the lowest Birth-rate recorded by any Urban District throughout England.

During the past year the following are the most important sanitary improvements accomplished :---

Duke Street partially widened.

Waterloo Lane, Angel Yard, School View Road made up under Private Street Works Act.

Waterhouse Estate drained and roads made up.

Public Conveniences erected in High Street.

Sewage Farm Underdrained.

New Covered Cow-shed to hold 84 Cows erected in the Market.

Scheme prepared for Housing of Working Classes, Lady Lane.

Population and Area.

The census population of the original Borough, taken in 1901, was 12,580. The estimated population in June, 1907, was 13,750.

The estimated population of the acquired parts of Springfield and Waterhouse Estate was given as 3,450. Again, taking these figures as correct, I estimate the population of the Borough of Chelmsford to be 17,590.

The area of the Borough (including inland water) is 3,015 acres.

The number of Inhabited Houses is probably about 3,700.

Births.

The total number of Births registered in the Borough during the year was 323. Of these, 154 were males and 169 females. This gives a Birth-rate of 18.45 per 1,000, and, as I have previously stated, is the lowest Birth-rate I 5

can find recorded, and for which I offer no explanation. Admitting the general depression of business that has been prevalent during the past year in the Borough, this alone cannot account for what I believe to be a disastrous return. For years past I regret I have had to call attention to a very low Birth-rate, which has not been easy of explanation. I can only emphasize the importance of realizing the ultimate effect of a Birth-rate of only 18.45 per 1,000 in what should be a vigorous and healthy Urban community. That it is possible for a Birth-rate to fall 5.4 per 1,000 below the average rate in one year calls for an explanation that I am unable to offer.

Deaths.

17 10

During the past year 181 Deaths from all causes have been registered in the Borough. Of this number, 40 were deaths of non-residents. This gives a total Death-rate of 10.34 per 1,000 and a corrected or nett Death-rate of 8.05 per 1,000.

It gives me great pleasure to call your especial attention to these figures. I should think that no lower Death-rate of any Urban District will be found throughout the whole of England. I admit that the Death-rate has been steadily falling for the past few years, but a nett Death-rate of 8.05 per 1,000 is a wonderfully low figure—one, I am afraid, it will be impossible to maintain. It certainly offers the best proof of the excellent health and good sanitary state of the Borough. This is more than confirmed by the very low Infantile and Zymotic Death-rates.

The ages at death of those resident in the Borough (excluding aliens) were :---

11	or	12 per	cent.	were u	nder 1	year	r of ag	ge.	
5	or	3.2	,,	were o	over 1	year	and u	inder 5	years of age.
4	or	2.9	,,	,,	5	year	s,	, 15	
6	or	4.3	"	29	15	,,	,	, 25	,,
49	or	35.2	,,	,,	25	,,	,	, 65	"
60	or	42	,,	,,	65	23	of age	э.	

In regard to Table IV. (Causes of Death) :--

- 6 or 3.32 per cent. of deaths were due to Zymotic Diseases.
- 18 or 9.94 per cent. of deaths were due to Tubercular Diseases.
- 17 or 9.39 per cent. of deaths were due to Bronchitis and Pneumonia.
- 23 or 12.15 per cent. of deaths were due to Cardiac Diseases.
- 13 or 7.17 per cent. of deaths were due to Cancer and all forms of Malignant Disease.
- 16 or 8.84 per cent. of deaths were due to Semile or Natural Decay.
- 32 or 17.1 per cent. of deaths were due to other forms of Disease not classified.

It will be seen that the percentage of deaths caused by the Zymotic Diseases is quite a low one, lower considerably than last year. The percentage of deaths due to Tubercular Diseases is slightly higher than last year. In this matter I should like to say that at times insufficient care is exhibited on the part of medical men in certifying the cause of death. I admit it is perhaps more satisfactory to the relatives to have the primary cause of death ascribed to Tuberculosis than, for instance, to Chronic Alcoholism. One case at least I know that bears on this point: yet the certificate of death must be accepted, and it gives an unfairly high Tubercular Death-rate. Thirteen cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were registered this year as having occurred in the Borough.

The deaths due to this disease during the past ten years are :--

	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
Deaths	13	9	12	11	9	13	11	10	16	16
Rate										
per 1,000	$\cdot 73$.44	·87	.81	·67	·98	·84	.76	1.27	1.30

At the commencement of the year 1909, under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908, the notification of patients in receipt of Parish Relief suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis became compulsory. Under these Regulations seven cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis have been notified. This number is probably in excess of the usual number of cases that will be notified annually.

In January last, referring to these Regulations, I reported to your Sanitary Committee as follows:—"Pulmonary tuberculosis, "by order of the Local Government Board, is from January 1st to "be notified to the Medical Officer of Health in cases of those "patients suffering from this disease who are in receipt of "Parochial relief. In my opinion the inclusion of pulmonary "tuberculosis among the list of notifiable infectious diseases is a "most important and necessary step. The Local Government "Board in making this order recognise officially the infectious "nature of pulmonary tuberculosis and thus in making the "notification of this disease compulsory in patients in receipt of "therefore suggest that pulmonary tuberculosis should be added "to those notifiable infectious diseases at present recognised in "the Borough."

In consequence of my suggestions the Council directed the Town Clerk to communicate with the Local Government Board in regard to this subject and adjourned further consideration until the Board's answer was received. The answer of the Local Government Board, dated 25th March, was as follows :—

> "I am directed by the Local Government Board "to advert to your letter of the 15th instant, enquiring "whether they would be prepared to consent to the "inclusion of pulmonary tuberculosis among the "diseases compulsorily notifiable in the Borough of "Chelmsford under the Infectious Disease (Notifi-"cation) Act, 1889.

"As the Council are aware, provision has already "been made in the Board's General Order of the 18th "December, 1908, for the notification to Medical "Officers of Health of Sanitary Authorities of cases of "pulmonary tuberculosis occurring amongst the "inmates of Poor Law Institutions, or amongst "persons under the care of District Medical Officers, "and for the taking of certain measures in such "cases. More recently the Board have forwarded to "the Town Council a Memorandum prepared by the "Board's Medical Officer setting out the administrative "action which can be taken under the Order.

"At the same time I am to state that many local "authorities have entered into an arrangement with "the local medical practitioners for the voluntary "notification to the Medical Officer of Health of cases "of pulmonary tuberculosis occurring in their "respective practices. Local Authorities have power "to do this without the Board's consent and to pay "a reasonable fee for each notification. The "Memorandum referred to above also indicates the "action which can be taken by local authorities for "the prevention of pulmonary tuberculosis in con-"nection with such a voluntary system of notification "of cases occurring outside the scope of the recent "General Order."

"It appears to the Board that judicious and "careful inquiry into cases notified under the Order "or under a voluntary arrangement affords great "scope for the taking of valuable measures for "preventing the spread of infection, whilst safeguard-"ing the interests of the consumptive patient; and "the Board suggest that the Town Council, before "further considering the question of the compulsory "notification of all cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, should follow the lines of administration open to them in the directions indicated above."

Upon the consideration of this letter I expressed my opinion that voluntary notification would be very unsatisfactory and practically valueless, and no further steps were taken in the matter.

I personally feel strongly that the most effectual method of dealing with Pulmonary Tuberculosis is to make it a Notifiable Disease. Having done so the first duty then of every Sanitary Authority would be to establish suitable Sanatoriums for the effective treatment of all those cases in which treatment at home is inadvisable. I feel convinced that this is the only way in which this disease will be held in check and ultimately reduced to a minimum.

Last year I gave in detail full information in regard to all deaths due to Tuberculosis in all forms. I feel that no good purpose is served in again publishing fully all this data. I receive prompt information of any death resulting from any Tubercular cause. Practically after each such death efficient cleansing and disinfection is enforced.

In regard to Cancer I am sorry to say that 15 deaths from Cancer in all forms have this year been registered, 2 of the persons were aliens. Careful watch is kept in regard to the houses in which Cancer cases have occurred, and now for 3 years I have not found that two Cancer cases have occurred in the same house. One might therefore say with some accuracy that no "Cancer Houses" have been discovered in the Borough. As in past years the majority of the cases of Cancer, in fact 8 out of 15, have been in connection with the Alimentary Canal, and of these the majority have occurred in connection with the Rectum. So far as I can ascertain only four out of the 15 cases were the subjects of operative treatment.

I again append details in full of the deaths caused by this disease :---

Date. 18/1/09	Sex. M.	Age. 78	Locality. Broomfield Rd.	Variety. Carcinoma Pelvic Glands	Remarks.
	1000				
24/1/09	F.	74	Roman Road	Carcinoma Rectum	
21/2/09	М.	63	Springfield	Carcinoma Stomach Intestinal Obstruction	
3/2/09	F.	54	Nursing Home	Carcinoma Peritonitis Exhaustion	
20/2/09	F.	31	Coval Lane	Carcinoma Stomach	Operation
23/2/09	м.	66	Springfield Rd.	Cancer of Neck. Exhaustion	Operation
6/4/09	F.	48	Vineyards	Cancer of Uterus	
1/5/09	F.	72	Anchor Street	Malignant Disease. Bladder	
6/5/09	F.	58	Coval Lane	Sarcoma of Mediastum Asphyxia	Operation
12/5/09	M.	65	Workhouse	Cancer of Rectum	
				Colotomy	Operation (alien)
19/5/09	F.	64	Ditto	Carcinoma of Liver Exhaustion	(anon)
25/6/09	F.	64	Roman Road	Cancer of Uterus	
7/8/09	М.	77	Workhouse	Cancer of Pylorus and Liver	(alien)
20/10/09	F.	41	Springfield	Carcinoma of Lung Exhaustion	
16/12/06	М.	67	Duke Street	Carcinoma of Colon Exhaustion	

Infantile Mortality.

This year 17 deaths have been registered of infants under one year of age.

This gives an Infantile Death-rate of 52.51 per 1,000 births. Twelve per cent. of all the deaths registered in the Borough during the past year were children under one year of age. In itself, this is a most remarkable record—it is far lower than any record for Infantile Mortality that I can find recorded in Chelmsford. This record, together with the remarkable total Death-rate, is, from a sanitary point, sufficient to make the past year one of much favourable notice.

Beyond the fact of the exceedingly low Infantile Mortality, if reference is made to Table V., it will be seen that eight out of the seventeen deaths are certified as "Premature Births." Granting this to be correct, this year's return is all the more remarkable, as it leaves only nine cases that may fairly be called "preventible." Of these, four are certified as due to Marasmus; of the remaining five, one each being due to Whooping Cough, Bronchitis and Pneumonia. Most fortunately Diarrhœa, as a factor of death, has been entirely absent. It is now some years since we have had much infantile diarrhœa in the Borough. I trust it may be possible, in future years, to be able to shew as good a return under the heading of Infantile Mortality as can be shewn this year.

Zymotic Diseases.

Seven deaths only this year from Zymotic Diseases have been registered, giving a Zymotic Death-rate of $\cdot 34$ per 1,000. This year, again, Whooping Cough has caused the greatest number of deaths.

The Zymotic Death-rate per 1,000 for the last ten years has been :--

1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900
.34	.44	1.18	.82	·84	1.61	·86	2.94	1.22	1.06

It will be seen that again the Zymotic Death-rate is this year lower than it has been for many years. Chelmsford has fortunately been exceptionally free during the past three years from Zymotic diseases. Again it is a remarkable fact that only one death from Measles has been registered in three years.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

The cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year are tabulated on Table III. In all, 46 cases have been notified this year; for the first time certain cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis are included.

The months in which these cases were notified I give below :---

		Scarlet				Typhoie	ł		P	ulmonary
		Fever.	D	iphther	ria.	Fever.	Ery	sipelas	. Tul	berculosis
January	••••	3		_		_		-		2
February		_		-						2
March		5		1		_				
April		-		-		_				_
May		2		1						1
June		1		-		_		1		_
July		6		_				-		_
August		2						_		
September				-				1		1
October		4				_		_		_
November		8		1		_		_		_
December		3		_		1		_		_
		_		_		_		_		
		34		3		1		2		6
		-								

I call attention this year to the unusually large number of cases in proportion (Table III.) that have been notified from the North Ward. Of the cases notified—46 in number—32 were removed to Hospital. Again this shews a very large proportion of cases removed, and also how greatly the Isolation Hospital is appreciated.

I should here like once more to point out that still no accommodation of any kind is afforded in the Borough for the reception of Typhoid Fever cases. I have drawn attention on many occasions to this fact, and I again point out how necessary it is that some accommodation should be provided for the reception of these cases. The Infectious Hospital was provided to afford accommodation for cases of Infectious Disease for, roughly, a population of about 40,000 people. At the present time no proper hospital treatment is available for a single case of Typhoid Fever, however urgent it may be. Personally, I consider this matter is an urgent one, and that immediate steps should be taken to provide accommodation in the Joint Isolation Hospital for the reception of such cases.

House Accommodation.

During the past year plans for 118 houses have been passed by you. I believe there is still an adequate supply of houses of all kinds in the Borough. The only complaint that I am aware of is in regard to the high rentals. The general sanitary condition of the houses still receives very careful and constant attention.

The Inspector of Nuisances has devoted more of his time to the work of house-to-house inspection, and reports that he has this year inspected a much larger number of houses than he has hitherto done. The general and sanitary condition of the houses in the courts and yards of the Borough has been carefully watched; and such nuisances as have been detected have been quickly remedied.

The Housing of the Working Classes Act has received attention at your hands. A scheme has been prepared by your Surveyor under this Act for building in Lady Lane. He also has submitted a complete report and scheme with reference to the purchase and utilization of land on the Waterhouse Estate for workmen's dwellings. This report has been circulated among your Members.

Sewerage and Drainage.

During the past year new Sewers have been laid to drain the Waterhouse Estate; also, new Sewers have been laid in Arbour Lane, Trinity Road, Nursery Road, Rainsford Road, and Burgess Well Road.

At the Sewage Farm 60 acres have been underdrained; and of the intermittent beds, about eight acres are being underdrained at the present time.

Some sewer ventilators have this year been erected. This work has now been in hand more than four years. I shall be glad indeed to report its completion. I have heard of no complaints this year regarding the discharge of suction gas water into the sewers.

I have every reason to believe that the Sewerage and Drainage throughout the Borough is in a very satisfactory condition.

The number of houses without proper water supply to the w.c.s is being very steadily reduced: in consequence, the nuisances formerly so frequent regarding the w.c.s attached to cottages are far fewer in number.

Removal and Disposal of House Refuse.

The same conditions exist exactly in this matter as in my previous reports made under this heading.

The removal is done in great part by the Council under the direction of the Borough Surveyor. From Springfield it is done by contract. I hear no complaints practically in regard to the way it is removed, but as I said last year I do not consider that house refuse should be allowed to remain from week to week awaiting removal. l quite well realize that with the limited amount of labour at his disposal, the Surveyor is unable to remove house refuse more frequently.

I am, however, of opinion, from a sanitary point of view, it is most undesirable that house refuse should not be removed more frequently than once a week, and I would ask, if possible, that this most necessary work should be done more frequently.

The same unsatisfactory means of the disposal of this refuse still goes on. The refuse is being tipped at the back of Widford Hall. I am glad to say that I believe fewer complaints than usual have been received regarding the present "tip." I hope it is a nuisance to no one. That, however, does not alter the fact that this means of disposing the house refuse of an Urban community is very undesirable.

I am sorry to say I hear no mention or suggestion of yet providing what I think to be most necessary—a Refuse Destructor.

Water Supply.

The water supply of the Borough is derived from the sources previously reported upon :

- (1) Deep Well, Mildmay Road.
- (2) Burgess Well.
- (3) Admiral's Park Well.

Springfield continues to be supplied from the Rural District Council's Well in Great Baddow.

The yield from the Borough Wells continues to be adequate in quantity, in point of fact the Borough Surveyor informs me that the yield from Burgess Well and from Admiral's Park Well has slightly increased. The daily supply available from the Borough Wells is about 250,000 gallons per day, which allows a daily supply of about 17 gallons per head. The question of providing a further supply has, I believe, not been even discussed. I am still of opinion it would be wise to have a reserve of water in the event of one of these Wells, for some unforseen reason, failing to yield the expected supply.

Very careful attention has again been given to the condition of the water fittings and the service pipes. The Borough Surveyor informs me that again a large number of leakages have been discovered and remedied, with the result that the South Ward is on a constant service. The North Ward, also, is on a constant service, with the exception of Broomfield Road and New Street, which are shut off at 3 o'clock p.m. I am indeed glad to be able to report, for the first time, that practically the whole of the Borough has now a constant water service. In this matter the Borough Surveyor is to be warmly congratulated.

I give here the results of the analyses of the Borough Water Supply, which goes far to shew the purity of the Borough water.

The results are given in grains per gallon :--

	Mildmay Road Deep Well.	Admiral's Park.	Burgess Well.
Total Solid Matter	79.00	30.08	29.09
Chlorides	23.81	2.00	2.10
Equal to Chloride of	Ē		
Sodium	. 39.22	3.29	3.46
Nitrates expressed as	3		
Nitrogen	None	·47	·62
Free Ammonia	·0133	·0008	.0023
Albuminoid Ammonia	·0012	.0022	$\cdot 0021$
Oxygen absorbed in			
15min. at 140° F	·0196	.0114	·0112
Appearance in 2ft. tub	e Clear pale green	Clear pale blue	Clear

	Mildmay Road Deep Well.	Admiral's Park.	Burgess Well.
Smell when heated to)		
100° F	. None	None	None
Metals	. None	None	None
Microscopic Examina	-		,
tion	. Slight	No deposit	Slight
	deposit of		deposit of
	earthy matte	er o	xide of iron

REMARKS re MILDMAY ROAD DEEP WELL.

Total Solid Matter and Chlorides rather high.

- Nitrates completely absent: Albuminoid Ammonia and Oxygen absorbed are both low, and show the absence of organic matter.
- I consider this water is unpolluted and fit for drinking purposes.

ADMIRAL'S PARK AND BURGESS WELLS.

- Total Solid Matter, Chlorides and Nitrates are low and satisfactory.
- Free and Albuminoid Ammonias and Oxygen absorbed are low, and shew the absence of organic matter.
- I consider these waters are unpolluted and fit for drinking purposes.

October, 1909.

Nuisances: Proceedings for Abatement.

There are two offensive trades carried on in the Borough, *i.e.* a Fellmonger and a Tallow-melter. Both are old established businesses and are carried on still in the same premises that have been used for the purpose for very many years. Both are well managed and carried on in such a manner as to give rise to

as little nuisance as possible. Both are frequently inspected and I have always found them in such a condition to give rise to no adverse comment. In regard to the tallow-melting business a petition was presented to you, signed by a number of inhabitants in High Street, and subsequently certificates signed by two Medical Practitioners and by ten inhabitants of the Borough were also presented to you, stating that this business was in itself so carried on that it was a nuisance and also injurious to health. Under Section 114, Public Health Act, 1875, the presentation of these certificates left you no option but to make complaint before a Justice of the Peace In consequence a summons was issued and the case was tried before the Justices at a Special Court held in December, A very thorough and exhaustive enquiry was held which lasted two days, a large number of witnesses was called on each side with the result that the case was dismissed. This business has been established and carried on on the same site since 1670. I quite agree that the situation of the premises is an unfortunate one, right in the centre of the town, about 25 yards off the High Street. Apart from the situation of the premises I do not know in what way or by what means the proprietor of this business could do more than he has done to mitigate what is by law an offensive trade. The premises are kept most scrupulously clean, they are well-ventilated, and the plant is of the most modern description. Fat is melted regularly twice or three times a week, and in order to avoid a nuisance as far as possible he always does the melting at night-time between the hours of 12 midnight and 4 a.m. He has within the past twelve months put in a condenser in order that the steam generated during the process of melting may be carried away and passed into the sewer, which is properly trapped. I was called as Medical Officer of Health by the defendant to give evidence as also was the Inspector of Nuisances. My opinion in this case was also corroborated by the Medical Officer of Health of Colchester. This case gave rise to considerable comment in the Borough at the time as there was naturally a great diversity of opinion expressed at the enquiry by the various witnesses on either side. As far as I could gather no proof of any injury to health was given by either of the Medical witnesses called.

In no other instance was it necessary to take legal proceedings for enforcing the abatement of any nuisance existing in the Borough.

Places over which the Council have Supervision.

LODGING HOUSES.

As before reported, there are two only in the Borough. These are frequently visited, and have at all times been found to be clean and well conducted.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

These have been regularly visited. The Inspector of Nuisances visits and reports to the Sanitary Committee each month. All have been found to be kept clean; all are well lighted, ventilated and drained. In reporting on these buildings, again I should welcome the fact of a Public Abattoir. In view of the fact now recognised of the great importance of preventing the sale of tubercular or otherwise diseased meat a Public Abattoir is, in my opinion, essential, so that all animals killed could be examined before being allowed to be cut up and the meat exposed for sale.

BAKEHOUSES.

These, also, are subject to regular and frequent visits. All are clean, well ventilated and well kept. There is still one underground bakehouse in the Borough.

FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.

All the factories and workshops in the Borough are regularly inspected. In two instances suggestions in regard to improvement of the ventilation of w.c.s received attention; otherwise all were in a good and efficient sanitary condition. The usual report of work done is appended.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS & MILKSHOPS.

This year again these have received very careful attention. All are regularly inspected by your Inspector of Nuisances who has instructions to report on their condition each month. Again this year all the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops in the Borough were visited and examined by a specially appointed Committee. The general result of this inspection was most satisfactory. No sanitary defect of any moment was discovered. The cows were generally in a very satisfactory condition, and much cleaner than on previous inspections. The cowsheds were more efficiently ventilated; and of the whole number, two only were found to want re-whitewashing. In each instance where a recommendation was made provision was very shortly made to have this carried out, and in a month's time all your recommendations had been complied with. I have every reason to believe that the condition of the dairies and cowsheds in the Borough is very satisfactory indeed. I should, personally, be glad to know, in the winter especially, that greater care was taken to keep the cows freer from fæcal matter on the udder and flanks, and that all men milking washed their hands before milking, taking care at the same time that the cow's udder was quite clean.

This year again samples of milk have been taken from every retailer of milk supplying milk in the Borough and submitted for special microscopical examination. As before, these samples were taken from the men actually delivering milk to consumers, placed in specially sterilized bottles, and sent to the Clinical Research Association for examination.

I think in all 30 samples were sent for examination, and all were satisfactory excelt three. In one sample blood and pus was found, in the other cases traces only of blood were detected. In the case where blood and pus were found the Veterinary Inspector visited and examined all the cows belonging to the dairy, the owner being most anxious that any cow shewing evidence of disease should be detected. Mr. Lewis found that one cow shewed distinct evidences of Tubercular Disease and Mastitis. This cow was at once exclude 1 from the dairy and shortly after destroyed. The milk was examined again in a week and found to be quite free from blood or pus. In the other cases where blood alone was found, in one instance, on examination, it was ascertained that one cow in this dairy had only recently calved and it was probable that the blood came from this cow which was promptly excluded from the dairy; the week following the milk from this dairy was again examined and shewed no sign of blood. In the remaining case, the milk came from a small farmer who kept a few cows outside the Borough. I at once informed the Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of the fact disclosed on examination, and he informed me he could find no evidence of disease either in the milk or in the cows from which the milk was derived.

The appointment of a Veterinary Inspector that I have advocated on so many occasions still remains in abeyance. I feel still very strongly that, until as a Sanitary Authority, we can be sure that the cows from which we derive our milk supply are healthy and free from Tuberculosis, we are not doing all we should or ought to do to free the inhabitants of the Borough of one of the chief causes of illness, *i.e.* Milk derived from a Tuberculous Cow.

THE MARKET.

The Chelmsford Cattle Market is, as I reported last year, regularly inspected by the Veterinary Surgeon appointed for

that purpose (Mr. Lewis). At the commencement of the year, in consequence of the complaints received from Lordon in regard to diseased animals that had been purchased in the Market and afterwards sent to London, presumably to be used for food, it was decided, after careful consideration, to issue notices in the local papers and to post notices printed in large type calling attention to the fact that animals affected with Tuberculosis would, if sent into the Market, be seized and slaughtered, after being examined by the M.O.H. and the Veterinary Inspector. During the year, five animals have been seized and destroyed. Post-mortem examinations were made in each case by Mr. Lewis and myself in order to verify the condition and extent of the disease. In each case extensive disease was found; and the flesh was absolutely unfit for human fcod; and the carcases were destroyed by the Inspector of Nuisances by a process of cremation. In three instances legal proceedings were taken against the owners for exposing animals for sale, which were so diseased as to render them unfit for human consumption.

The action taken by the Council in this matter has naturally given rise to much criticism on the part of the farmers and dealers. That the Council have acted rightly does not, in my opinion, admit of any doubt. The matter itself is one of immense importance — of national importance —and in my opinion can only be dealt with thoroughly and efficiently by a central authority such as the Board of Agriculture. I hope the time is not far distant when all animals intended, directly or indirectly, for human food shall be examined by a properly qualified and centrallyappointed Inspector, who, when he finds animals diseased or affected with Tuberculosis, shall order such animals to be destroyed, and the owner should receive then a certain amount of compensation.

Probably as the result of the action taken by the Council in this matter the quaity of the animals generally seen each Friday in the Market has improved and it is now some weeks since an animal affected with Tuberculosis has been noticed. But because they are not sent to this Market it is certain they are still disposed of privately and so sent to the London Markets. The danger still remains although, for the present, Chelmsford Market is not used so extensively as a centre for disposing of these so called "wasters," yet I am not sure if the danger is not all the greater. I feel personally that notwithstanding the great ultimate cost the only safe way of preventing these diseased animals being used for human consumption is to have them regularly and periodically examined by a specially appointed Inspector, and in cases where diseased animals are found a certain degree of compensation shall be allowed.

In order further to deal with the presence of diseased animals in the Market the following Bye-law was approved by you at the November Council Meeting, viz. :---

> "A person shall not, for the purpose of sale or of "exposure for sale, bring into or allow to remain upon "any part of the Market Place, an ox, cow, calf, sheep, "lamb, or pig belonging to him or in his charge which "(though not subject to exclusion in pursuance of any "order or regulation made and in force under and for "the purposes of the Diseases of Animals Acts, 1894 to "1909, or any Act amending the same) is in a state of "emaciation attributable to any such disease or to "any such physical defect as will cause the flesh of "the animal, after slaughter, to be unfit for human "consumption."

Methods of dealing with Infectious Diseases.

The methods of dealing with diseases of an infectious nature have been previously reported upon, and remain unchanged.

Isolation Hospitals.

The Isolation Hospitals available for the reception of cases are :---(1) Baddow Road. (2) Baker Lane, Galleywood.

The latter building was erected especially for reception of Small-pox cases—is used for convalescent Scarlet Fever patients.

No provision has been made—nor, as far as I can gather, is any provision likely to be made – for the reception of any cases of Typhoid Fever. I have, earlier in this Report, called attention to this fact. At the Baddow Road Hospital, I understand, 14 beds are available for Scarlet Fever patients and seven beds for Diphtheria patients. There is no adequate Discharge or Convalescent Block to this Hospital.

Inspector of Nuisances.

I append a statement of the work performed by the Inspector of Nuisances during the year under review.

Improvements in Progress or Required.

- (1) An additional and reserve Water Supply.
- (2) Refuse Destructor and the more frequent removal of House Refuse.
- (3) Completion of Sewer Ventilation.
- (4) Provision for the reception of cases of Enteric Fever.
- (5) Appointment of a Veterinary Inspector.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. W. NEWTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1909 FOR THE BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD,

On the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

1.-INSPECTION. Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

		Number of	
Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES	-	-	-
WORKSHOPS	186	6	_
WORK PLACES	_	-	_
Total	186	6	_

2.-DEFECTS FOUND.

	N	umber of Defe	cts.	Number				
Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	of Prosecutions				
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :								
Want of Cleanliness Want of Ventilation Overcrowding		6 2						
Want of drainage of floors	15	15						
Sanitary accomoda- tion. Insufficient Unsuitable or defective Not separate for sexes	11 1	11						
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :								
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)								
Total	35	34	-					

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	Dressmaking	 			14
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4.-REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

5.-OTHER MATTERS.

				Number	
Matters notified to H.M. In	spector of	Fuctories	:		
Failure to affix Abstract of	Factory a	and Works	hop Act (s.	. 133)	-
Action taken in matters a by H.M. Inspector as ren under Public Health A	cts, but				3
not under the Factory and shop Act (s. 5)	I WOIK- (sent to E	I.M. Inspe	ctor	3
Other	-				-
Underground Bakehouses (s	. 101) :			i	
Certificates granted during	the year				527.
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VHOLE			Rate per					38	36	18 27	1	17	ans 4, 8, and 13 overed by water	Institutions ou	sick and t	sick and t Chelmsford
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	-		YEAR.	1	1899 1900	1902	1903	1905	1906	1907	Averages for years 1899-1908	1909	Area of Dista	Institutions w sick and	out	outside t Chelmsford Hospital.

1.2

BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1909. BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.

TABLE III.

No. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSEIT
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TABLE IV.

BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.-CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1909.

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| Pleurisy Fr | Alcoholism | Cirrhosis of Liver | Venereal Diseases
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TABLE V.

BOROUGH OF CHELMSFORD.-INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1909.

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

Cause of Death.	I rabal	⁸³⁹⁹ W 2-	-3 Meeks	здээ W еек	bau letol I Month.	dtaoM S.	dinoM 8-	danold 4-1	dinola 6-1	utnold 8-6	utuoM 7-8	utuoIX 8-	dinold 8-8	tnoM 01-6	noM 11-01	Veatus under One Year.
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Small-pox	•	:				:	:	:	;	:	:	:	:		:	:
Chicken-pox	:			:			:	:		:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Measles				:			:		:	:	:		:	:	:	:
Scarlet Fever	:		:	:		:	:		:	:	:	:	:	:	:	
Diphtheria (in. Membranous Croup)	:	:				:	:	:		:	:			:	:	
Whooping Cough	:	:				::					::		-		:	
Diarrhoa, all forms				::										:	:	
Interitis, Muco and Gastro	:	:	::	:::	:			:							•	:
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarh			::	::							:				•	:•
Premature Birth	8									:::						:
ts		:				:		-				:	:			
		:	:	:		:	:		:			:	:		:	:
Want of Breast-milk, Starvation	:	:		-				:		:	:			:	•	:
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	1	-	::	:		-	:		:		:	1	1		-	+
Tuberculous Meningitis	:	:	:	:		:		÷		:	:		:	:	:	
Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes . }										::	::		:	:		
Mesenterica													-	-		-
Other Tuberculous Diseases	:	-		1					:	:		1	:	:	:	
Ery sipelas	:	:	:	:			::		::	:	:	:	:		:	:
Sy; hilis		•									:	:	:	:	:	
Rickets		:					***				:	:	:	:	:	:
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)		-		:				:			:	:	:		•	:
Convulsions		:				-				:		-	:			17
Bronchitis		:	:				•				-	:				T
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES

For the Year ended 31st December, 1909.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Thirty-two cases of infection have been removed to Hospital during the year, viz. :--

Scarlet Fever	 	28
Diphtheria	 	3
Typhoid Fever	 	1

The Typhoid Fever case and one of the Diphtheria cases were removed to the Chelmsford Hospital, London Road; the remainder of the cases were removed to the Joint Hospital, Baddow Road.

In all cases the infected bedding was sent to be disinfected and the infected rooms fumigated.

In addition to the above, bedding has also been sent to be disinfected from two houses where deaths from Cancer had occurred, from seven houses where deaths from Consumption took place, and four houses where patients, suffering from Scarlet Fever, had been isolated at home. Here, again, the infected rooms were also fumigated.

One of the cases of Scarlet Fever which was removed occurred at the house of a dairyman. The dairy was detached from the house. All proper precautions were immediately taken. HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTION.

921 Houses have been inspected during the year.

SAMPLES OF MILK.

I took 33 samples of Milk during the month of June for clinical examination.

FLUSHING APPARATUS FIXED TO WATER CLOSETS.

Year. 1903				Number. 56
1904				39
1905				55
1906				175
1907				197
1908			•••	48
		North & South Wards	Springfield Ward	
1909		132	66	198
Tot	al for th	ne last seven y	ears	768

ORMOND'S YARD, HIGH STREET.

This yard has now been properly drained and re-gravelled.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS,

The Dairies and Cowsheds have been frequently inspected. During September and October the Sub-Committee of the Sanitary Committee, with the Medical Officer of Health and myself, inspected all the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops in the Borough. Notices were served upon the occupiers of several premises, and the notices have been, or are being, complied with.

SAMPLES OF WATER.

Six samples of water have been taken for analysis, viz., two from Burgess Well, two from Admiral's Park, and two from the Bore Hole, Mildmay Yard. STABLES BACK OF PREMISES, MOULSHAM STREET.

No drainage was provided for these stables, which were adjoining a dwelling house. The nuisance was abated by discontinuing keeping of animals in this building.

PIG KEEPING.

In March last pigs were found being kept within 40 feet of a dwelling house contrary to the Bye-laws, and upon notice being given the keeping of pigs was discontinued.

FISH CONDEMNED.

In March my attention was called by the proprietor of a fish shop to the condition of a box of herrings sent to him from Billingsgate. I found the herrings to be in a putrid condition, and on my request they were forthwith buried. The Medical Officer of Health agreed to this procedure.

THE CATTLE MARKET.

I attended the Cattle Market each market day during the year (except when absent on holiday) in company with the Veterinary Surgeon (Mr. H. P. Lewis).

During the year we discovered in the Market 23 cows which were presumably suffering from Tuberculosis or other wasting disease, or otherwise unfit for the food of man. In the early cases notice was sent to the Authority of each district to which the animals were being dispatched. In five cases the animal was seized and destroyed under the order of a Justice, and in three cases proceedings were taken against the owners. One case was dismissed, and in the other two the owners were ordered to pay a fine and costs.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Particular attention has been given to the Factories and Workshops, especially as to the sanitary conveniences. The nuisances detected were forthwith attended to.

vs:					
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1	5	 20	 29		9
	5	 24	 3		6
2	0	 16	 9		6
8	0	 24	 3		4
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53	7	 12	 4		723
	7	 17	 3		132
2	4	 10	 6		2
	4	 46	 9		14
3	4	 3	 4		27
		 -	 	~	

The number of hands employed by the firms are as follows :---

These totals do not include the office staff.

On 21st July I reported that Mr. I. Bryman, 13, Duke Street, had opened a workshop and was employing both sexes, but no separate closet accommodation was provided. The Sanitary Committee directed the Borough Surveyor to report upon the matter, and after consideration of his report did not deem it needful, having regard to the circumstances of the case, to enforce the provision of extra closet accommodation.

CARAVANS.

Seventy-six Caravans have been inspected during the year. All were found clean. In one caravan a child was found to be suffering from bronchitis. No sanitary conveniences are provided for the occupants of the caravans on the Springfield Green whilst the pleasure fair is held there. No overcrowding was detected in any of these caravans.

KNACKER'S YARD.

In April last Mr. E. Palmer, Moulsham Street, was granted a licence for twelve months under the Knackers Acts to keep and use a slaughterhouse for the purpose of slaughtering or killing any horse or other animal which should not be killed for butcher's meat.

SUMMARY OF WORK

performed by the Inspector of Nuisances in the Borough of Chelmsford during the year ended 31st December, 1909.

Complaints received		 55
Nuisances detected without complaint		 789
Nuisances abated		 715
Notices served (Official)		 99
Houses inspected under the heading	of "Ho	
House Inspection "		 921
Common Lodging Houses (inspected wee	ekly)	 2
Bakehouses (inspected monthly)		 20
Dairies and Milkshops inspected		 12
Cowsheds inspected		 7
Workshops inspected		 91
Filthy houses cleansed (Sec. 46 Public Ho	ealth Act.	Nil
Houses disinfected		 37
Library books fumigated		 6
Library books destroyed		 1
Slaughterhouses (inspected weekly)		 9
Patients removed to Hospital :		
Scarlet Fever		 28
Diphtheria		 3
Typhoid Fever		 1
Overcrowding abated		 1
Houses placed in habitable repair		 Nil
Houses closed		 Nil
Houses erected or re-built for which Wa		-114
were applied		118
Certificates granted		118
Certificates deferred		Nil
Wells sunk or improved supplies of water		Nil
Wells cleansed or repaired		 1
Wells closed		Nil
		 -144

Houses connected with sewers			118
Houses connected with water mains			118
Earth closets or improved privies construct	eted or exi	sting-	
Privies altered			2
W.c.s repaired			47
W.c.s supplied with water (not inclu-	ding new	houses	
built during the year)			198
Cisterns cleaused, repaired or covered			37
Animals improperly kept removed		····	20
Samples of water taken for analysis			6
Compensation paid for destruction of infe	ected bed	ling	Nil

Seizure of unsound meat, etc. :--

(Five cows were seized in the Market suffering from Tuberculosis—see special report).

Drains tested		 41
Drains unblocked		 23
Soil pipes found defective		 6
Ashpits repaired		 5
Carcases removed from the river		 9
Galvanized iron sanitary dustbins provided	1	 26
Accumulations of manure removed		 31
Manure pits built or repaired		 4
Urinals cleansed or repaired		 11
Gutterings repaired or cleaned out		 17
Dilapidated paving of back yards repaired		 12
Samples of milk taken for clinical observat	tions	 33
Caravans inspected		 76

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITHIN THE BOROUGH, viz. :--

Victoria	Boys.	
,,	Girls.	
	Infants.	
Friars Council	Boys.	
	Girls.	
"	Infants.	

St. John's	Boys.	
	Girls.	
**	Infants.	
St. Peter's	Infants.	
Roman Catholic	Mixed.	
Springfield	Mixed.	
Trinity	Infants.	

The sanitary conveniences of these Schools are inspected monthly, and I make a report to the Education Committee respecting same each month. These School buildings have been fumigated during the year.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

11F

8

There are only two in the Borough, viz., Messrs. Dixon and Son and Mr. J. Budds. The premises are frequently inspected, and, for offensive trades, found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT :---

Workshops inspected		91
Filthy pans to w.c.s. cleansed		5
W.c.s limewashed	•••	
Flushing apparatus fixed to w.c.s	••	11
	••••	5
Sink waste pipes disconnected		1
Water supplied to flushing apparatus of w.c.		1
Windows of workroom made to open		2
Fumes from gas stove made to discharge into	the	
open air instead of into the workroom		1
Workrooms whitewashed		4

WM. KIRKHAM BAKER,

Cert. Royal Sanitary Institute,

Inspector of Nuisances.



