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Contributors

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Annual Report

ON THE


HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Urban District of Cowes.

COWES:

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**THIS REPORT relates to the Twelve Months ended 31st
December, 1910.**

During 1910 the *Deaths* at all ages and from all causes recorded in the District were 91, giving a rate of 9·6. In 1909, 1908, and 1907 the figures respectively were 105, 102, and 83. There were in addition 10 deaths of residents dying outside the District, making a total of 101 in all, giving a rate of 10·6, as compared with a rate of 11·68 for the last 10 years.

The *Births* were 229, giving a rate of 23·9, the average rate for the last 10 years being 23·8. There were 118 boys and 111 girls. The Notification of Births Act is not in force in the District.

With regard to the Deaths 11 were those of children under 1 year, as compared with 25 for 1909 and 23 for 1908, and is the lowest in the records for the last 10 years. None of these 11 deaths were due to diarrhœal diseases, and only one the year before. This favourable result is probably due to the consistent wet weather largely preventing fly contamination of milk and food. In Table IV. will be seen also the age distribution of the various deaths above one year; about which there is nothing unusual. There were 6 deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Consumption) and 3 from other Tuberculous Diseases.

The compulsory notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis is desirable to enable the Sanitary Authority to supply disinfectant and efficiently disinfect the houses or rooms occupied by the poorer consumptives.

There were 5 deaths from Pneumonia and Bronchitis, 12 from Cancer and malignant disease, and 10 from Heart disease. There were no deaths from Zymotic or Infectious diseases as against 6 for 1909 and 12 for 1908.

There were 24 cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases reported during the year (*vide* Table III.), as compared with 44 in 1909. Of these 12 were Scarlet Fever, 6 Diphtheria, and 2 Enteric Fever. There were 3 cases of Erysipelas and one case of Consumption in a pauper was notified.

In 1909 there were 20 cases of Scarlet Fever, 14 of Diphtheria, and 10 of Enteric Fever.

In 1908 there were 7 cases of Scarlet Fever, 59 of Diphtheria, and 10 of Enteric Fever.

In times of Diphtheria Epidemic there are now facilities for providing the poorer people with Antidiphtheria serum.

One of the Typhoid Fever cases was clearly due to eating cockles obtained locally and not properly boiled. There are cockle beds in the River Medina and attention has been called in recent years to this source of infection. It is becoming more widely known that it is not safe to eat them unless well boiled. Enteric Fever cases can be admitted to the East Cowes Cottage Hospital under the order of the District Council.

With regard to the action taken during the year to prevent the spread of disease, the procedure of visiting each infected house when the disease has been notified is always carried out by myself and the Sanitary Inspector or the Deputy Inspector, and any defects discovered are brought to the notice of the owner of the property, and have invariably been remedied. The house is disinfected at the termination of the illness. Besides the inspections contingent on the cases of notifiable disease the Sanitary Inspector's Report shows that 26 complaints of nuisances were attended to and many inspections and re-inspections have been made. In all, defects have been remedied upon 80 different premises, including 33 defective drains made good, 16 new gullies provided, 13 rainwater and sink pipes disconnected, 26 old hopper and container closets replaced with wash down pans and traps, and 26 new flushing cisterns provided. Accumulations of refuse have also been dealt with and limewashing and cleaning of various premises. Smoke or water tests have been applied to drains on 13 occasions.

Various works have been undertaken to improve the sewers, particularly in the neighbourhood of the Parade and along Queen's Road.

The house refuse is removed from premises regularly and efficiently. The whole of the houses in the District (with the exception of one or two outlying premises) are provided with water closets connected with the sewerage and drainage system. The refuse is deposited along the river side in some disused clay pits outside the District and to the South of the Town.

No action has been taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act. A large number, probably a greater proportion than in any other town, of the working classes own the houses in which they live, and are well housed. A number of new cottages have been built, having proper sanitary accommodation.

With reference to the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act of 1909 it is desirable that a house to house inspection should be carried out in the older parts of the Town; and I would suggest Market Hill, Sun Hill, St. Mary's Road and the Point district. The chief defect appears to be dampness and bad paving of yards. A row of back to back houses exists in the Point district.

THOMAS ALFRED MAYO, M.B., F.R.C.S.,

Medical Officer of Health.

9th February, 1911.