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Contributors

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1900.

Medical Officer's Annual Report.

LIFFORD HOUSE,
DARTFORD,
March, 1900.

TO THE
CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
DARTFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1899.

Population. I estimate the total population at 15,817.

Births registered. There have been 477 births registered during the past year, being an increase of 21 on 1898. Of these 217 were males and 260 were females.

Births in Union Workhouse. There were 15 births in the Union Workhouse and 3 of these belonged to Dartford.

Birth rate. The gross birth rate would therefore be 30·15, and the corrected birth rate 29·39.

Births per quarter. In the following table I give the distribution of births per quarter.

	March quarter.	June quarter.	September quarter.	December quarter.	Total.
Males ...	52	55	66	44	217
Females ...	56	65	64	75	260
Total ...	108	120	130	119	477

Deaths registered. The entire number of deaths registered was 454, being an increase of 176 on last year, which was an increase of 24 on 1897.

The increase is derived from the following divisions of the parish:—

Parish of Dartford ...	...	51
Union Workhouse ...	...	29
Infectious Diseases Hospital ...	...	15
London County Asylum ...	...	79
Hospital Ships ...	...	3
Total ...		177

but there is a decrease in the Cottage Hospital of 1.

Death rate. This gives a gross death rate of 28·70.

By deducting 194 persons who were non-residents but whose deaths were registered in the Dartford district we get a death rate of 16·43.

This 16·43 therefore is the true death rate of the parish of Dartford.

Average birth and death rates for past seven years.

The average birth rate for the past seven years amounts to 31·71 per 1,000, and the death rate for the same period is 16·00.

From the following table which gives the birth and death rates per 1,000 for the past seven years it will be seen that last year we are considerably below the average for births and slightly above the average for deaths.

Year.	Birth rate per 1,000.	Death rate per 1,000.
1893	30·81	16·91
1894	30·00	13·54
1895	34·48	18·80
1896	32·82	16·08
1897	32·86	16·15
1898	30·34	14·13
1899	29·39	16·43

Deaths in public institutions.

The number of deaths in public institutions amounted to 240, being an increase of 125 on last year.

UNION WORKHOUSE.—There were 109 deaths registered from the Union Workhouse. Of these 73 were males and 36 females, also 24 were residents of Dartford, and 85 were from other parishes in the Dartford Union.

COTTAGE HOSPITAL.—From the Livingstone Cottage Hospital 7 deaths were registered, 1 resident and 6 non-residents of Dartford.

BOW ARROW ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—In this institution there were 41 deaths. Of these 21 were residents and 20 were non-residents. 170 patients were sent in from Dartford, being an increase of 128 on the previous year, and the following table gives the number of cases and the deaths in each disease.

	Diphtheria.		Scarlet Fever.		Typhoid Fever.		Totals.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Dartford ...	130	19	18	1	12	1	160	21
Union House ...	9	2	—	—	1	—	10	2
Total ...	139	21	18	1	13	1	170	23

Out of 130 cases of diphtheria removed to Bow Arrow Hospital, 19 patients died, as against 20 deaths out of 103 cases not removed from their homes, the percentage of deaths among the former being 14·61, while among the latter it was 19·41. This difference in death rate is yet more satisfactory than appears at first sight, as many of the cases when admitted to the Hospital were in an almost hopeless condition and some were only sent in as a last hope of saving the child's life. By far the milder cases were kept at home.

No deaths were reported from the St. Vincent's Industrial School. There were 3 from the Metropolitan Asylums Board Ships at Long Reach—Dr. Ricketts has kindly informed me that he had 11 cases under treatment at the Ships during the year, an increase of 6.

The new asylum at Baldwyns' Park belonging to the London County Council appears to be almost in full occupation and is responsible for 80 deaths. This makes our gross death rate much higher than last year.

Deaths in public institutions, residents and non-residents.

The following table gives the number of deaths in public institutions and shows the mortality of residents and non-residents of Dartford in each.

Registration district.	Residents.	Non-Residents.	Total.
Union Workhouse	24	85	109
London County Asylum ...	—	80	80
Bow Arrow Isolation Hospital	21	20	41
Cottage Hospital	1	6	7
Hospital Ships	—	3	3
Totals ...	46	194	240

The total number of deaths registered was 454. 242 males and 212 females, and by the last table we find that 194 were non-residents; therefore the remaining 260 constitute the real mortality of the town.

Deaths per quarter.

The following table gives the distribution of deaths per quarter :—

Quarter ending	31st March	30th June	30th Sep.	31st Dec.	Totals.
Dartford	44	35	72	63	214
Public Institutions	36	53	70	81	240
Totals ...	80	88	142	144	454

The large increase in the number of deaths in the 3rd quarter is due partly to the prevalence of diarrhoea among children, 17 deaths being registered from that disease.

Deaths of children under 1 year.

84 deaths of children under one year have been registered, as against 73 in 1898. Of these 84 cases, 17 were due to diarrhoea; 3 to diphtheria; 7 to bronchitis; 19 to debility from births; and 38 from other diseases general among infants.

The following table gives the infant mortality since 1891 :—

1891	60	1894	66	1897	72
1892	79	1895	85	1898	73
1893	84	1896	71	1899	84

The average infant mortality for the past nine years is 74·88.

Deaths from tuberculosis.

There were 24 deaths registered as due to tuberculosis.

I am glad to be able to report that your Building and Sanitary Committee have in contemplation steps to bring the causes of this disease under more direct control, and I trust by next year I shall be able to speak of considerable progress made in this direction. In the meantime I would like to repeat some of my observations on this matter from last year's report. "Tuberculosis is a disease which is due in a large measure to children sleeping in close and badly ventilated rooms and overcrowding, and is also caused by using for food the milk and flesh of animals affected by it. It might to a considerable extent be prevented by attention to the proper ventilation of bed-rooms, by boiling all milk directly it is received into the house and by the thorough cooking of all meat. Isolation also should be strictly carried out."

Deaths from malignant diseases.

16 deaths occurred from malignant diseases, the same number as last year.

Inquests.

The Coroner sat on 14 inquests and five deaths were registered where there was no medical attendant.

Infectious diseases notified.

Under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 558 cases of infectious disease were notified, as against 318 of last year, which is a very large increase.

The following table gives their distribution with the totals for 1897 and 1898 for comparison :—

Disease.	Dartford.	Union Workhouse	Total for 1899.	Total for 1898.	Total for 1897.
Diphtheria	234	8	242	42	27
Scarlet fever	44	1	45	22	19
Membranous Croup ...	—	—	—	1	2
Measles	212	2	214	206	118
Typhoid fever	23	2	25	10	11
Puerperal fever	—	2	2	—	2
Erysipelas	28	2	30	37	36
Total ..	541	17	558	318	215

Small-pox.

It with great pleasure I am able to report that no case of small-pox was notified from your district during the past year. I am equally pleased to

Vaccination.

report that the Vaccination Act, lately introduced, has been working most satisfactorily, a much larger number of children being vaccinated than under the old Act.

Diphtheria.

There has been a very large increase in the number of cases of diphtheria during the past year. 242 cases were notified, being 199 in excess of 1898. The following table gives the number of cases reported to me for each month :—

January ...	19	July ...	8
February ...	28	August ...	22
March ...	21	September ...	21
April ...	14	October ...	21
May ...	26	November ...	26
June ...	18	December ...	18
		Total	242

The following table gives the street list distinguishing between the higher and lower parts of the town :—

HIGHER GROUND.				LOWER GROUND.			
Brent ...	...	...	3	East Hill (Lower) ...	...	...	5
Fulwich Lane ...	...	...	2	Lowfield Street ...	...	...	10
Fulwich Road ...	...	...	22	Hadlow Place ...	...	...	7
East Hill (Upper) ...	...	...	8	Heath Street ...	...	...	4
St. Alban's Road ...	...	...	12	South Street ...	...	...	3
St. Martin's Road ...	...	...	3	High Street ...	...	...	9
Colney Road ...	...	...	4	Spital Street ...	...	...	3
Great Queen Street ...	...	...	9	Orchard Street ...	...	...	5
Little Queen Street ...	...	...	1	Kent Road ...	...	...	1
Gladstone Road ...	...	...	16	Spring Vale ...	...	...	5
Darenth Road ...	...	...	6	Overy Street ...	...	...	2
Mount Pleasant Road ...	...	...	5	Home Gardens ...	...	...	5
Dartford Road ...	...	...	23	Hythe Street ...	...	...	15
Blenheim Road ...	...	...	5	Gas Lane ..	...	...	1
Wellington Road ...	...	...	1	Creek Mill Cottages ...	...	...	3
West Hill ...	...	...	19				
Union House ...	...	...	8				
Tower Road ...	...	...	4				
Highfield Road ...	...	...	5				
Heath ...	...	...	2				
Oakfield Lane ...	...	...	3				
Shepherd's Lane ...	...	...	1				
Summerhill Road ...	...	...	2				
Total ...	...	...	164	Total ...	...	...	78

After a careful analysis of the various cases for the past and former years, I have come to the conclusion that the spread of the disease is due altogether to direct infection from patient to patient. To satisfactorily combat this, the efficient disinfecting of all clothing, &c., with which the patient has come in contact is in my opinion essential, and I am sure the disinfecting chamber about to be erected, and to which I refer later on, will greatly help to this end.

report that the Washington Ave. Hotel contained the most serious case of influenza, a much larger number of children being vaccinated than in the other hotels.

There has been a very large increase in the number of cases of influenza during the past week, and cases were reported from the various hotels. The following table shows the number of cases reported in the hotels in the city:

Hotel	Number of cases
Washington Ave. Hotel	15
Adams Hotel	10
Jefferson Hotel	8
Lincoln Hotel	5
Monroe Hotel	3
Franklin Hotel	2
Grand Hotel	1
Total	44

The following table shows the number of cases reported in the various hotels in the city during the past week:

Hotel	Number of cases
Washington Ave. Hotel	15
Adams Hotel	10
Jefferson Hotel	8
Lincoln Hotel	5
Monroe Hotel	3
Franklin Hotel	2
Grand Hotel	1
Total	44

It is a serious matter, and it is necessary to take prompt action to prevent the spread of the disease. It is necessary to isolate the patients and to keep them in the hospital. It is necessary to keep the patients in the hospital for a period of two weeks. It is necessary to keep the patients in the hospital for a period of two weeks. It is necessary to keep the patients in the hospital for a period of two weeks.

I might also here refer to the usual habit of slate cleaning in schools, which should be condemned, and would suggest that suitable sponges and water be provided for that purpose.

Contributory to the facility with which it is transmitted might be classed damp and insanitary dwellings; overcrowding and the keeping of pigeons, fowls and rabbits close to the house. I therefore think that if proper care is exercised it is a disease which should not be difficult to stamp out.

In its milder forms Diphtheria is not readily recognized; in fact in many cases it can only be detected by a careful bacteriological examination.

In several cases coming under my notice which presented only an inflamed throat I found the diphtheria bacillus present, and that consequently the patient was in a condition to spread the disease.

This to my mind accounts for the frequent outbreaks in the various schools.

I also found in cases presented to me for examination previous to admission to the schools, that, even weeks after being certified by the medical attendant as free from the disease, some still showed the diphtheria bacillus to be present.

This therefore is the difficulty. I should advise that a complete bacteriological examination be made in each case by the medical man in attendance and that no child be admitted to the schools without a certificate to that effect.

I would also suggest that the Council be prepared to make good to the medical men of the district the costs incurred by such bacteriological examination.

I was glad to have a visit from Dr. R. Deane Sweeting, Inspector of the Local Government Board, who amongst other things made a thorough enquiry into the subject of diphtheria, and his advice and assistance were most valuable.

Scarlet fever.

I am sorry to have to report 45 cases notified as suffering from scarlet fever, being an increase of 23 on last year. This was partly due to the fact that it appeared in conjunction with diphtheria in several cases and was not recognized at first, but when the children had gone back to school free from diphtheria they were discovered to be convalescent from scarlet fever. Thus the infection was spread. 18 cases were removed for isolation.

Typhoid fever.

Typhoid fever also shows a considerable increase, there being 25 cases notified as against 10 of last year.

Two occurred in the London County Asylum on Dartford Heath, 2 in a house which was considered unfit for habitation. In two instances it re-appeared in the same houses after some period had elapsed. In one house the drains were blocked, and one case was reported from the Union Workhouse. In the remaining cases I could find no sufficient cause, and except in the two above mentioned there did not seem to be any connection.

Measles.

There were 214 cases of measles notified during the year, an increase of 8 on last year. We began the year with a severe epidemic which had commenced in November of 1898, and persisted right through the whole year and again sprang into life in December.

The following table gives the number of cases of notifiable disease notified during each month of the year:—

Month.	Scarlet fever.	Diphtheria	Enteric fever.	Measles.	Erysipelas	Puerperal fever.	Total.
January ...	3	19	—	53	2	—	77
February	3	28	—	19	2	—	52
March ...	—	21	1	17	1	—	40
April ...	—	14	—	7	3	—	24
May ...	—	26	—	4	2	—	32
June ...	—	18	—	10	3	—	31
July ...	—	8	1	36	1	—	46
August ...	4	22	3	16	2	—	47
September	5	21	1	5	1	2	35
October ...	8	21	4	3	6	—	42
November	10	26	12	10	4	—	62
December	12	18	3	34	3	—	70
Totals ...	45	242	25	214	30	2	558

Summer diarrhoea.

17 deaths were registered as due to summer diarrhoea, being the same number as last year.

Disinfecting.

I have had all the drains belonging to houses in which diphtheria and typhoid fever occurred carefully examined and tested with the smoke test.

The dust bins were more frequently emptied and disinfecting powder freely used, and the houses fumigated with sulphur and in several cases lime-washed.

Disinfecting chamber

Owing to the impossibility of properly disinfecting clothing, &c., from infected houses by means of sulphur, and as many cases of re-appearance of diseases have been due to this cause alone, the Urban District Council in conjunction with the other parishes of the Dartford Union have decided to erect a proper disinfecting chamber, which will soon be accomplished.

Flushing of w.c.'s.

As it was found that the large number of hand flushed w. c.'s which existed in the town were not kept in a sanitary condition the Urban District Council obtained powers to compel owners to have water laid on for flushing purposes.

This is now being carried out in a systematic manner.

Dairies and
Cowsheds.

With Mr. Harston, the Inspector of Nuisances, I visited all the dairies and cow-sheds, which were with one exception in a fairly satisfactory state. Greater attention should be paid to cleanliness and the more frequent removal of manure. In one case we found that a number of pigs were kept. Owing to the growing tendency to import milk from a distance I consider more stringent regulations should exist, as this removal of milk from one district to another is a potent factor in the spread of disease, for which we have at present no adequate protection such as exists in the case of animals coming from infected districts. In my opinion this is a very important subject and, as I mentioned before, is having very serious attention: to a large extent child life is dependent on a healthy milk supply.

Slaughter Houses.

With Mr. Harston I also visited all the slaughter houses, which were in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Lodging Houses.

We also visited the various lodging houses.

Cranpit.

The work on the Cranpit has been successfully carried out. This removes a serious source of danger.

Water Supply.

The bacteriological and chemical reports of the Metropolitan Water Supply have been carefully followed.

Gipsy Vans.

The gipsy vans are still a source of danger to the town from the absence of sanitary conveniences.

Overcrowding.

Overcrowding still exists, but is steadily disappearing as an increasing number of new houses are being erected. All cases notified to me as dangerous to health have been visited, reported upon and remedied.

Inspector of
Nuisances' Report.

The following is the Sanitary Inspector's report for the year:—

“Notices have been served for the abatement of nuisances in 348 houses.

Flushing cisterns have been fitted to the w. c.'s of 466 houses.

Four houses have had the water laid on.

There have been cases of overcrowding in 9 houses.

109 houses have been connected to the main sewer, together with the drainage of 5 other large Institutions.”

I remain,

Gentlemen,

Yours truly,

J. HAMILTON.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	716	717	718	719	720	721	722	723	724	725	726	727	728	729	730	731	732	733	734	735	736	737	738	739	740	741	742	743	744	745	746	747	748	749	750	751	752	753	754	755	756	757	758	759	760	761	762	763	764	765	766	767	768	769	770	771	772	773	774	775	776	777	778	779	780	781	782	783	784	785	786	787	788	789	790	791	792	793	794	795	796	797	798	799	800	801	802	803	804	805	806	807	808	809	810	811	812	813	814	815	816	817	818	819	820	821	822	823	824	825	826	827	828	829	830	831	832	833	834	835	836	837	838	839	840	841	842	843	844	845	846	847	848	849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864	865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880	881	882	883	884	885	886	887	888	889	890	891	892	893	894	895	896	897	898	899	900	901	902	903	904	905	906	907	908	909	910	911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920	921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960	961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980	981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990	991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000	1001	1002	1003	1004	1005	1006	1007	1008	1009	1010	1011	1012	1013	1014	1015	1016	1017	1018	1019	1020	1021	1022	1023	1024	1025	1026	1027	1028	1029	1030	1031	1032	1033	1034	1035	1036	1037	1038	1039	1040	1041	1042	1043	1044	1045	1046	1047	1048	1049	1050	1051	1052	1053	1054	1055	1056	1057	1058	1059	1060	1061	1062	1063	1064	1065	1066	1067	1068	1069	1070	1071	1072	1073	1074	1075	1076	1077	1078	1079	1080	1081	1082	1083	1084	1085	1086	1087	1088	1089	1090	1091	1092	1093	1094	1095	1096	1097	1098	1099	1100	1101	1102	1103	1104	1105	1106	1107	1108	1109	1110	1111	1112	1113	1114	1115	1116	1117	1118	1119	1120	1121	1122	1123	1124	1125	1126	1127	1128	1129	1130	1131	1132	1133	1134	1135	1136	1137	1138	1139	1140	1141	1142	1143	1144	1145	1146	1147	1148	1149	1150	1151	1152	1153	1154	1155	1156	1157	1158	1159	1160	1161	1162	1163	1164	1165	1166	1167	1168	1169	1170	1171	1172	1173	1174	1175	1176	1177	1178	1179	1180	1181	1182	1183	1184	1185	1186	1187	1188	1189	1190	1191	1192	1193	1194	1195	1196	1197	1198	1199	1200	1201	1202	1203	1204	1205	1206	1207	1208	1209	1210	1211	1212	1213	1214	1215	1216	1217	1218	1219	1220	1221	12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Area and Population of the District or Division to which this Return relates.

Area in Acres 4,251·332.	General 29·39.	{ per 1,000 Population, esti-
Population (Last Census) 11,906.	Corrected 16·43	{ mated to middle of 1899.
„ (Estimated to middle of 1899) 15,817.	Infant (under one	{ per 1,000 Births Registered.
	year of age) 176·10	{

Death
Rates.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1899, in the Urban Sanitary District; classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate Localities.	Population at all ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New cases of sickness in each locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.						Number of such cases removed from their homes in the several Localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.			
	Last Census.	Estimated to middle of 1922.			Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Fevers.		Erysipelas.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid or Enteric Fever.	
							Enteric or Typhoid.	Puerperal.						
Parish of Dartford	11368	14250	462	Under 5. 5 upwards.	43	233	—	—	—	27	212	18	130	12
Union Workhouse	328	543	15	Under 5. 5 upwards.	1	8	2	2	2	2	2	—	9	1
London County Asylum	—	804	—	Under 5. 5 upwards.	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Livingstone Cottage Hospital	—	—	—	Under 5. 5 upwards.	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Bow Arrow Hospital	—	—	—	Under 5. 5 upwards.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Vincent's School	210	220	—	Under 5. 5 upwards.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	11906	15817	477	Under 5. 5 upwards.	45	242	25	2	214	30	18	139	13	

