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Annual Report

ON

✻ **THE HEALTH** ✻

OF THE

BOROUGH OF DEAL,

FOR THE YEAR

1899,

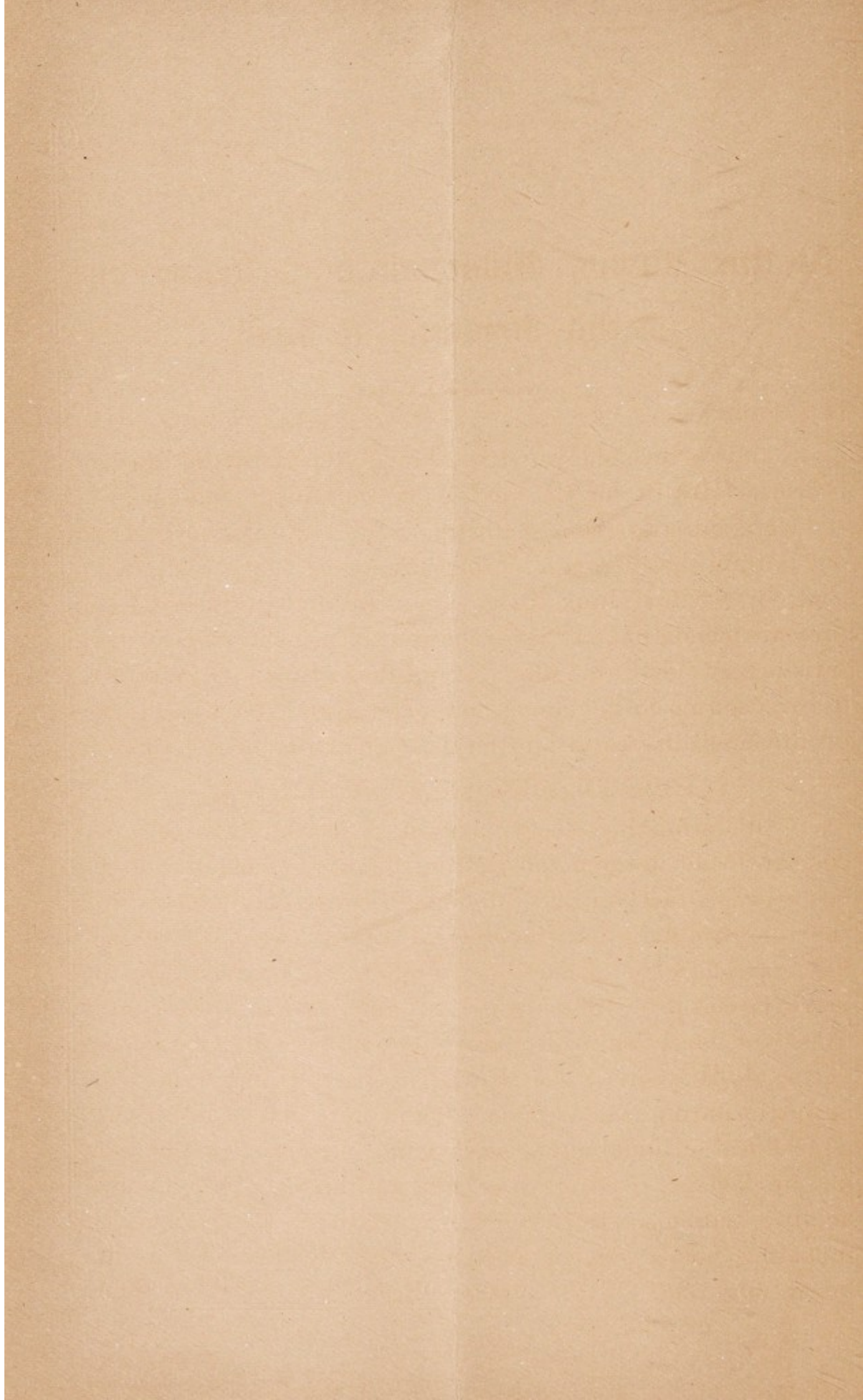


BY

RICHARD LYDDON,

Medical Officer of Health.

T. F. Pain, "Mercury" Commercial Printing Works, Deal.



To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Deal.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to hand you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1899, containing a statement of the vital statistics and a summary of the sanitary work carried out within the Borough during the year. You will observe that, by what I think to be a more accurate estimate of the present population, I have succeeded in obtaining a more satisfactory death-rate than in previous years. I would also draw attention to the low zymotic death-rate, and the absence of infectious disease within the Borough at the present time.

POPULATION AND AREA.

In estimating the population, it has hitherto been my custom to add to the number of inhabitants enumerated at the last census a tenth of the difference between that number and the number obtained at the previous census for each year that has elapsed. The population in 1891 was 8,891. At the previous census of 1881 it was 8,422, an increase of 47 yearly. This is obviously an inadequate representation of the increase during recent years. The natural increase by births in excess of deaths during last year was 86, and it is patent to all that a good deal of building has been going on during recent years in our midst. I have, therefore, on this occasion adopted another plan for estimating the population. The number of inhabited houses in the District when the last census was taken was 1,957. This number divided into the number of

inhabitants existing at that time gives an average of 4·5 inhabitants per house. At the mid-period of 1899, according to the assessment books, the number of inhabited houses was 2,444. Assuming that the class of property has remained the same, we may also assume that the number of inhabitants per house would be the same. By multiplying the number of inhabited houses by 4·5, the estimated population for July, 1899, is 10,998. These figures I have taken for statistical purposes. The area of the Borough is 1,124 acres.

BIRTHS

The number of births registered during the year was 249, of which 134 were males and 115 females. This is an increase of 35 on the previous year. The birth-rate was 22·6, and the natural increase of population by births in excess of deaths 86.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered as having occurred within the Borough during the year is 162. Of this number 9 were visitors. 10 deaths occurred in Eastry Union among inmates from the Deal District. By the addition of these, and the elimination of the visitors, the corrected number of deaths becomes 163, 78 being males and 85 females, giving a death-rate of 14·8 per 1000. As to the ages at which the deaths occurred, 29 were under 1 year, 10 between 1 and 5 years, 3 between 5 and 15, 8 between 15 and 25, 56 between 25 and 65, and 57 of 65 years and upwards. Of the various causes of death, 37 (including 20 from phthisis) were due to diseases of the lungs, 15 to heart disease, 10 to diseases of the nervous system, 8 to cancer, 2 to accident or misadventure, 26 to old age, and 52 to other causes. There were 13 deaths from zymotic diseases, viz., one from scarlet fever, two from enteric fever, and ten from diarrhoea. The zymotic death-rate was 1·18 per 1000.

The rate of infant mortality, *i.e.*, the proportion of deaths of infants under one year to births registered, was 116·4 per thousand.

In the following table, taken from the Registrar-General's return, the above statistics are compared with those of England and Wales.

Annual Death-rates per 1,000 from All Causes, and from Principal Zymotic Diseases, during the year 1899.

	All Causes.	Principal Zymotic Diseases.	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 Births.
England and Wales.....	18.3	2.21	163
33 great towns.....	20.2	2.81	181
67 other large towns.....	18.0	2.45	178
England and Wales, less the 100 towns*	17.1	1.71	124
Deal	14.8	1.18	116

* *That is, the Rural Districts.*

Under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 90 cases were notified to the Medical Officer during the year. These comprised 4 cases of erysipelas, 4 of diphtheria, 2 of typhoid, 2 of puerperal fever, and 78 of scarlet fever. The cases of diphtheria were mild, and did not occasion a death. In both instances the typhoid patients contracted their disease outside the district. The number of notifications of scarlet fever is large, and at one time the disease almost assumed the proportions of an epidemic. I did not think it advisable to make a special report to the Sanitary Authority on the subject, because I did not consider it a dangerous outbreak of infectious disease. The cases were all, or almost all, of the mildest character, and this fact seemed to account for the spread of the disease. It was often not recognised before the peeling stage, after the

children—for it occurred mostly among these—had been running about for some days with the disease upon them. Every care was taken to prevent children from infected houses attending school, and to see that the sick were kept isolated during the tedious peeling stage. This last most important step in the prevention of the spread of infectious disease is, in the absence of an Isolation Hospital, most difficult; and I would urgently advise the Sanitary Authority to consider the pressing need of such a building. The origin of this outbreak could not be traced, although every effort was made to do so. The disease disappeared with the advent of a strong easterly wind and frost, and at the time of writing I may say there is not to my knowledge one case of infectious disease in the Borough.

WATER.

Since my last report, several new mains have been laid, and the district has been furnished with a constant supply. According to the quarterly analyses which have been made, the excellent quality of the water is maintained. Appended is the report for the last quarter in the year:

REPORT

*on Examination of a Sample of Water received on
October 16th, 1899.*

The sample was marked—House Tap, District Council Yard, Walmer.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.—The water was clean and light, of good colour and free from odour.

ANALYTICAL DATA :—	Parts per 100,000
Suspended Matter	—
Dissolved Solids	32.55
Chlorine	2.55
Alkalinity, expressed as Calcium Carbonate	20.2
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.0015
Albumenoid Ammonia	0.0025
Nitrogen as Nitrites	none
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0.39

Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate at
80 deg. F.

(a) 15 minutes	...	...	—
(b) 4 hours	...	...	trace
Injurious Metals	...	...	none
Permanent Hardness expressed as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	4

REMARKS :—The sample is still remarkably free from organic matter, and contains rather less nitrogen as nitric acid than the last sample. It has all the chemical characteristics of a water of good quality.

(Signed) ARTHUR HARDEN, Ph.D., M.Sc.

*Report on Examination of Sample of Water received from Deal
on October 17th, 1899.*

The water was received not packed in ice.

The sample contained on an average 300 micro organisms per cubic centimetre capable of development on gelatin at a temperature of 22 deg. C.

The search for Proteus and Bacillus Coli did not result in any being found.

The results of the bacteriological examination are consistent with the water being of excellent quality.

(Signed) SIDNEY ROWLAND.

DRAINAGE.

The new drainage works are progressing satisfactorily, and should be completed during the present year.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK.

In this department the usual routine duties have been carried out. The slaughter-houses, common lodging-houses, dairies and cowsheds have been periodically inspected, and found to be in good order. The Steam Disinfecting Chamber has done excellent work during the year, in the disinfection of bedding and clothing of the infectious cases notified to the Medical Officer.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.


I conclude with a table of Mortality Statistics, which will show at a glance the details incorporated in my Report. The first portion of the table deals with the total number of births and deaths, and the deaths occurring at different periods of life. The second portion deals with the principal diseases and the number of persons dead of each disease. The third portion gives the general birth and death rates, the zymotic death-rate and the rate of infant mortality.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RICHARD LYDDON.

Deal, March 27th, 1900.



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