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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

FOR THE

**Epping Rural District**


**FOR THE YEAR 1914.**



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# ANNUAL REPORT

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## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

### EPPING RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

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GENTLEMEN,

Having retired from the office of Medical Officer of Health for the Epping Rural District on the 29th of September last, a position which I had the privilege of holding since its creation in the year 1876: You are aware that the duty devolves upon me to prepare a Report for the period of the year during which I continued in office.

It scarcely seems necessary that I should on this occasion repeat the description of the District given in so many previous Annual Reports, and which applies in all material respects to the present time; I may however remind you that the total area of the District is 36,705 acres, and the population for the 1911 census was 13,959, which to the middle of the year 1914 is estimated to have increased to 14,475. The District for administrative purposes is sub-divided into those of Epping Rural, Chigwell, and Harlow.

**Water Supply.**—For Epping and Harlow sub-districts this is provided by the Herts and Essex Water Works Company, while Chigwell is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. Arrangements for the extension of the Herts and Essex Company's mains to Netteswell Cross and Burnt Mill were completed early in the year, and these were being proceeded with in the autumn.



Reports upon the need of a good water supply for Epping Green and Matching were made, but to the end of September these had not received the attention called for. Possibly the outbreak of war has hindered these necessary improvements.

**Sewerage and Drainage.**—The new scheme for Netteswell and Burnt Mill was proceeded with, and should by the present time have been completed. After this, the connecting of the houses will no doubt be taken in hand with as little delay as possible. This work, together with the new water supply should effect a great sanitary improvement in this part of the District.

**Scavenging.**—Much of this work is carried out by contract, and is satisfactory. No steps, however, were taken to arrange for dust collection at Theydon Bois, which already on several occasions has been advised.

**Bye-laws, Adoptive Acts and Regulations in force in the District** remain as stated in my Report for 1913, and are:—

- (1) Building Bye-laws for entire District.
- (2) Slaughter-house Bye-laws for entire District.
- (3) Public Health Amendment Act, 1890 (Part 3 only).
- (4) Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1890.
- (5) Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops Regulations.

**Schools.**—The important duty of supervising Elementary Schools is now undertaken by the County Education Authority, and has been carried out for some time past by Dr. Sinclair, as County School Medical Officer, with a staff of Assistants. Their work is so ably carried out, and so fully reported upon from year to year, that any detailed statement from the District Medical Officer of Health would appear to be superfluous.

**Foods : Milk Supply.**—All dairies and cowsheds have been inspected during the year. One very insanitary cowshed at Chigwell has been closed. Others throughout the District shewed a poorness of construction, and much room for improvement in regard to cleanliness. Upon the other hand, however, there are to be found in this District many dairy-farms provided with buildings of the best modern construction, well-cared for, well-managed, and which are in all respects a credit to their owners.



**Bake-houses and Slaughter-houses.**—These were all inspected from time to time, and were as a rule found to be satisfactory. Six seizures of unsound meat were made.

**Housing and Town Planning Act.**—Early in the year, under instructions issued by the Local Government Board, I was called upon in conjunction with Mr. Beard, Sanitary Inspector, to prepare a Special Report upon Housing conditions in the District. The terms of these instructions rendered it necessary that a house-to-house inspection of the particular class of houses to be dealt with should be made throughout the District, and as we were limited to a period of six weeks to accomplish this, it was found entirely impossible to get through the work entailed in so short a time. Numbers of similar inspections had been made and recorded during the previous two or three years, but reference to these did not supply anything like the whole of the new details asked for, and consequently they were to a great extent useless for the purposes of this special report. In the month of May, however, we were able to present a very full, and I hope, a complete report upon the subject. Our report showed a very serious want of houses in many parishes in the District, and should prove of great value, not only at the present time, but also for the purpose of future reference.

No. of Dwelling-houses inspected (apart from those in the special report referred to) ... ..	194
No. of Dwelling-houses in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	none
No. of closing orders made ... ..	none
No. of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to making closing orders ... ..	none
No. of closing orders made ... ..	none
No. of Dwelling-houses the defects of which were remedied without making closing orders ...	59

**General character of defects found to exist.**—Defective roofs and gutters, damp walls and floors.

One house for which a closing order was made in 1913 was made habitable, and the order was rescinded.

**Infectious Diseases.**—During the period to which this Report refers the following notifications of cases of infectious diseases including Tuberculosis, were received :—

Diphtheria	6
Erysipelas	9
Scarlet Fever	57
Enteric Fever	1
Puerperal Fever	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13
Other forms of Tuberculosis	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2
	—
Total	92

Measles and Chicken Pox were not notifiable, but Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis and Poliomyelitis were added to the Schedule.

**Scarlet Fever.**—As for so many years past, this was the prevailing disease, and was chiefly epidemic in the Harlow Sub-district, due apparently to the continued spread of an outbreak which occurred in the autumn of the previous year, and which had been traced to infection imported by certain holiday children from London. This epidemic resulted in circulars being sent to various Agencies in London, asking that the children should be medically examined before being sent into the District and that care should be taken in the selection of suitable houses, and especially that overcrowding should be avoided.

**Factory and Workshops Act.**—There are but few Factories, and no underground Bakehouses in the District. The former, and all Workshops and Workplaces, including Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses, have been duly inspected, and particulars respecting them were as stated in the special table at the end of this Report.

**Sanitary Inspector's Report.**—Owing to the outbreak of War, Mr. Beard was deprived of the services of Mr. Ellis as Assistant Inspector, during the later months of the year, and for the time being the whole of the work has devolved upon him. This has necessarily caused some curtailment of the less pressing duties, but his Statement which I have the pleasure of adding to this Report shows I think no falling off in his accustomed activity.



**Vital Statistics.**—It has been my custom in previous Annual Reports to give a summary of the Vital Statistics, but as this Report deals only with a part of the year I am not in a position to do so on the present occasion. I have, however, forwarded to Dr. Erskine (my successor in office) the usual "tables" completed to the end of September last.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

T. FOWLER,

*(Late M.O.H. Epping Rural District),*

*To the Epping Rural District Council.*

*April 19th, 1915.*

EPPING, ESSEX.

Gentlemen,

As you are aware I was appointed to the office of Medical Officer of Health for the Epping Rural District at the end of September.

During the last three months of the year nothing occurred to make it necessary for me to add anything to the foregoing Report of Dr. Fowler.

I am asked by Dr. Thresh, the County Medical Officer of Health, to refer to the Notification of Births' Act. I understand that you considered this some time ago and decided that its adoption was unnecessary.

I have brought the "tables" referred to in the last paragraph of Dr. Fowler's Report up to December 31st.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. F. ERSKINE,

M.A., M.D., D.P.H. (T.C.D.),

*April 27th, 1915.*

*(Medical Officer of Health).*



## Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year 1914.

Number of Inspections and Re-Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	1304
„ Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	206
„ Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	23
„ Bakehouses on Register	...	...	...	...	...	18
„ „ Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	33

## DWELLING HOUSES.

Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Privies abolished	...	...	...	...	...	21
Water Closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	15
New Pail Closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	18
Flushing Cisterns, provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	25
Houses Cleansed and Limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	29
Defective Roofs, Gutters and Spouting repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	...	51
Damp Walls attended to	...	...	...	...	...	12
Floors relaid and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	14
Dust Bins provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Animal Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	6

## DRAINAGE.

Houses connected to Sewers	...	...	...	...	...	3
New Drains laid	...	...	...	...	...	15
Drains repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	21

## WATER SUPPLY.

Wells and Pumps cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...	13
„ „ reported good	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ „ „ polluted	...	...	...	...	...	4
Wells Closed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water Certificates granted for New Houses	...	...	...	...	...	32
Number of Houses certified	...	...	...	...	...	51

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

On Register at end of Year	...	...	...	...	...	94
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	63
Premises Limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drain repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1

## COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	...	71
Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	140
Premises Cleansed and Limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	25
Manure removed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cowshed discontinued as unsuitable	...	...	...	...	...	1

## SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Number of Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
„ Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Offal and Refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Number of surrenders of unsound Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Water Supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

## HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.

Number of Dwelling Houses Inspected	...	...	...	...	194
Number of Dwelling Houses in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	None
Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	None
Number of Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	None
Number of Dwelling Houses the defects of which were remedied without making closing orders	...	...	...	...	59
General character of defects found to exist in the Dwelling Houses inspected :					

Defective Roofs, Gutters, Damp Walls and Floors.

One House for which a Closing Order was made in 1913 was made habitable and the Closing Order was rescinded.

WALTER BEARD, A.R.S.I.

TABLE I.—For Whole District.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.		Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Deaths Under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages.	
		Uncor. Number.	Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate.			Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.
1909	14236	273		19.1				20	15	54.9	162	12.0
1910	14538	294		20.2			..	23	19	64.6	167	11.4
1911	13988	276		20.0			..	27	18	64.0	141	10.0
(Census)												
1912	14138	268	272	19.2			..	44	13	44.7	169	11.9
1913	14288	318	323	22.6			4	29	16	49.8	160	11.1
1914	14475	253	255	17.6	126	8.7	1	44	22	86.2	169	11.7

At Census of 1911 : Total population at all ages, 13,988. Number of inhabited houses, 3899.

Average number of persons per house, 3.5. Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 36,705.



TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1914.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.								Total Cases notified in each locality of the District.			Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							Epping Sub-District.	Chigwell Sub-District.	Harlow Sub-District.	
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.				
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	6	...	3	3	...	...	...	...	2	...	4	6
Erysipelas ... ..	10	1	...	...	1	1	5	2	3	...	7	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	69	1	15	45	5	2	...	1	22	4	43	68
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1
Relapsing Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	13	...	...	2	1	5	5	...	2	7	4	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	3	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	...
Chicken Pox ... ..	22	2	3	17	...	...	...	...	18	2	2	...
Measles ... ..	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Totals ... ..	131	8	22	69	7	11	11	3	48	14	69	76

The following notified cases have been excluded from this Table upon a revision of diagnosis as a result of the further course of the disease, namely :—

Diphtheria .. ... 0 cases.  
 Scarlet Fever .. ... 0 „  
 Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... 0 „

—  
 0

TABLE III.  
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1914.

Causes of Death.			Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.								Deaths in Public Institutions.	
			All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65		65 and upwards.
All Causes	Certified	...	168	22	2	4	9	5	13	31	82	..
	Uncertified	...	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Enteric Fever ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small Pox ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough .. ..			1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup ...			1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Influenza ... ..			4	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..
Erysipelas ... ..			1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ... ..			5	..	..	..	1	..	2	2	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis ...			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases			1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease			12	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	8	..
Rheumatic Fever .. ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis ... ..			3	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	1
Organic Heart Disease ...			13	..	..	..	1	..	2	2	8	..
Bronchitis ... ..			9	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	6	..
Pneumonia (all forms) ...			16	1	1	..	..	..	..	2	12	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ... ..			6	1	..	..	1	..	..	4	..	..
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...			2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis and Typhlitis			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ... ..			5	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	..
Puerperal Fever ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ... ..			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...			9	8	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ... ..			7	..	..	2	1	2	1	1	..	..
Suicide ... ..			2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Other Defined Diseases ...			67	6	1	1	1	2	4	13	39	..
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ... ..			5	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	..
Totals ... ..			169	22	2	4	9	5	13	32	82	2



TABLE IV.  
INFANT MORTALITY.

1914. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages  
under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.				Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
<b>All Causes</b>	Certified	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	4
	Uncertified	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Congenital Malformations	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	3	1	...	...	...	4
Premature Birth	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	6
Other Causes	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	5	...	1	...	...	6
Totals				12	1	1	1	15	2	2	1	2	22

Nett Births in the year { legitimate 250  
illegitimate 5

Nett Deaths in the year of { legitimate infants 20  
illegitimate infants 2



TABLE V.

## Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework.

## 1.—INSPECTION.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ... ..	6	...	...
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ... ..	57	1	...
Workplaces ... ..			...
Total ... ..	63	1	...

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	5	5	...	...
Want of Ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ... ..	7	7	...	...
Sanitary Accommodation (insufficient) ... ..	...	...	...	...
(unsuitable or defective) ... ..	...	...	...	...
Total ... ..	12	12	...	...

## Workshops on the Register—

Bakehouses, 18 ; Other Workshops, 76 ; Total 94.

## Other matters—

Notified by H.M. Inspector, Nil.

Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector, Nil.

T. FOWLER.



