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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Epping Rural District

For the Year 1919.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

### EPPING RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1919.

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#### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

##### Population.

Census (1911),	13,988.
Estimated (1919) for Birth Rate,	15,674.
„ „ for Death Rate,	15,047.

#### PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The subsoil of the District is Clay, above which in many places are more or less extensive layers of gravel and boulder clay. The surface throughout is a fertile loam or marl. The District for the most part is undulating and moderately wooded, and available for most agricultural purposes. Dairy farming is largely carried on, the milk being chiefly disposed of in London. The area of the whole including the small portion covered by water is 36,705 acres. The occupation of the inhabitants is largely agricultural. Offensive trades or other occupations prejudicial to health are almost negligible. Engineering works at Burnt Mill is the only Factory of importance.



Rainfall for the year was as follows:—

January	...	...	3'64.
February	...	...	3'20.
March	...	...	2'84.
April	...	...	3'10.
May	...	...	0'47.
June	...	...	1'43.
July	...	...	2'83.
August	...	...	2'64.
September	...	...	1'04.
October	...	...	0'47.
November	...	...	1'69.
December	...	...	3'43.
			<hr/>
			26'78.
			<hr/>

During the year the number of children born was 207. This equals a Birth Rate of 13'20 per thousand of the total population. Of this number (207), 104 were male children and 103 female. There were 14 illegitimate births included in the figure 207.

The number of deaths of children under 1 year old was 15 (7 male and 8 female). This equals an infantile mortality rate of 72'46. There were no deaths amongst the 14 illegitimate children.

The total number of deaths from all causes was 176, which equals a death rate of 11'7 per thousand.

The following is a table of the causes of death:—

	Males.	Females.
Diphtheria and Croup ... ..	1	...
Influenza ... ..	12	9
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	4	1
Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	1	2
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	...	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	14	7
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	...	1
Organic Heart Disease ... ..	13	6
Bronchitis ... ..	5	4
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	7	5
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	1	1
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ... ..	3	1
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ... ..	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	1	...
Nephritis and Brights Disease ... ..	5	5
Congenital Debility, etc. ... ..	2	4
Violence, apart from Suicide ... ..	1	...
Suicide ... ..	1	...
Other Defined Diseases ... ..	30	27
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	101	75

For the purposes of comparison the following table is of interest:—

	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality Rate.
England and Wales ... ..	18·5	13·8	89
96 Great Towns, including London ...	19·0	13·8	93
148 Smaller Towns... ..	18·3	12·6	90
London ... ..	18·3	13·4	85
Epping Rural District ... ..	13·20	11·7	72·46

The corresponding figures for the Epping Rural District in 1918 were:—

14·01      16·12      73·6

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

**Water.**—The water supply is sufficient and of good quality except in the Epping Green portion of Epping Upland Parish and the Matching Green portion of Matching Parish. It is generally derived from Companies' Water (Herts and Essex Waterworks Company and Metropolitan Water Board). This supply is constant. The water from the Public Wells in Epping Upland has been analysed on various occasions, and reported on unfavourably.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—With the exception of three small areas (Sheering: Woodside, North Weald: Grange Hill, Chigwell), there are sewerage works in all parts of the District where they are required. Generally speaking the arrangements for drainage and sewage disposal are adequate.

### Closet Accommodation.

Number of Privies with open or covered middens ...	554.
„ Pail or Tub Closets ... ..	1056.
„ Water Closets with flushing cisterns ...	1462.
„ „ „ without „ „ ...	463.
„ Privies constructed during the year ...	4.
„ Additional Closets provided for old property during the year ... ..	2.
„ Closets constructed during the year for new houses ... ..	8.



**Scavenging.**—In two areas (Harlow and Chigwell), the removal of house refuse is done satisfactorily by contract. The Council does not undertake the cleansing of Earth Closets, Privies, Ashbins, etc. There are few, if any, fixed receptacles.

### Sanitary Inspection of the District.

Number of Inspections made	...	...	...	...	3168.
" Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	160.
" " " complied with	...	...	...	...	124.
" Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	3.
" " " complied with	...	...	...	...	3.
Drains repaired or unstopped	...	...	...	...	20.
Defective Closets repaired	...	...	...	...	11.
Walls, Floors, Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	25.
Defective Flushing Pipes and Cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	17.
New Drains laid	...	...	...	...	5.
New Water Closets provided	...	...	...	...	3.
Privies abolished	...	...	...	...	6.
Earth Closets provided	...	...	...	...	5.
Flushing Cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	3.
Dirty Houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	12.
Defective Gutters repaired	...	...	...	...	5.
Water supplies improved	...	...	...	...	12.
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	1.
Ditches cleansed	...	...	...	...	2.
Yards paved	...	...	...	...	2.

There are no houses let in lodgings, and no offensive trades in the District.

### Schools.

Name.	Kind of Closets.	Water Sup.
Fawbert & Barnard, Harlow	... Trough Water Closets	... Company's.
Churchgate Street	" " "	" "
Harlow Common	" Earth Closets	" "
Sheering	" " "	" "
Matching	" " "	Well.
Netteswell	... Pedestal Water Closets.	... Company's.
Great Parndon	... Earth Closets.	... Well.
Roydon	... Pedestal Water Closets.	... Company's.
Nazeing Church School	... Earth Closets	... "
" Council	" " "	" "
Epping Green	" " "	... Public Pump.
North Weald, Girls'	... Trough Water Closets	... Company's.
" " Boys'	... Earth Closets	... "
Theydon Garnon	... Pedestal Water Closets	... "
Theydon Bois	" " "	" "
Chigwell, Boys'	... Trough Water Closets	... "
" Girls'	" " "	" "
Chigwell Row School	" " "	" "

The premises generally were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

Theydon Bois School was closed from February 25th to March 19th on account of Diphtheria.

## FOOD.

**Milk Supply.**—The milk supply is adequate and generally speaking good. The number of milch cows is approximately 1,700. There are 61 Registered Cowkeepers, of whom 23 are milk sellers. In addition there are three persons who are purveyors only.

During the year 194 inspections were made, and two cowsheds found unsuitable were closed.

**Milk (Mothers' and Children) Order, 1918.**—The Council considered this Order, and authorised the Medical Officer of Health to communicate with all Nurses practising in the District. They were asked to notify him of any cases that came under their notice where, owing to poverty, expectant or nursing mothers, or young children, were not obtaining a sufficiency. The Medical Officer was further authorised to deal with the matter.

**Other Foods.**—There are 15 Bakehouses and seven Slaughterhouses in the District. With one exception they have been kept in a satisfactory manner during the year. One of the Bakehouses is not satisfactory. The premises are in a poor state of repair, too small, and deficient in light, and there is no proper storage for flour or bread. In this case, to make the premises satisfactory, extensive alterations or a new Bakehouse is required.

There is no Public Abattoir in the District. The Slaughterhouses are generally in a fair condition, and kept so. Frequent inspections are made at the time of slaughtering.

No action has been taken under Section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Four whole carcasses and two parts of carcasses of cows were condemned for tuberculosis.



## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

127 cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year.

They were as follows:—

	All Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65	Age Un- known	Removed to Isolation Hospital
Puerperal Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Diphtheria ...	22	—	—	17	3	1	—	—	1	20
Chicken Pox ...	15	2	4	8	—	—	—	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever ...	11	—	1	9	—	1	—	—	—	8
Pneumonia ...	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Influenza Broncho-Pneumonia,	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
Pulmonary Tuber- culosis ...	11	—	—	—	1	3	5	1	1	—
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria ...	14	—	—	—	4	9	—	—	1	—
Dysentry ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Paratyphoid ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	41	—	10	21	5	2	—	—	3	—
Totals ...	127	2	16	57	13	19	8	2	10	28

No return cases of Scarlet Fever were noted.

Whooping Cough was prevalent towards the end of the year.

The Death Rate from Influenza was 1.39 per thousand.

As far as can be ascertained all cases of Tuberculosis occurring in the District are promptly notified by the Medical Practitioners.

## SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Staff consists of a Medical Officer of Health, Chief Sanitary Inspector, and Assistant Sanitary Inspector. The two latter also carry out inspections under the Housing Acts. The Chief Inspector acts as Surveyor under the Building Bye-Laws for No. 2 portion of the District.

There is an Isolation Hospital conveniently situated in the District. It contains adequate accommodation for cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever. There is also a Small Pox Hospital which can be put into commission on 24 hours notice.

## HOUSING.

Number of houses (approximate)	...	3535.
Number erected during 1919	...	7.
Population	... ..	15674 (estimated).

There is a shortage of houses all over the District, and a number of Schemes have been got out to remedy the shortage in various Parishes.

The following Table gives the number of the new houses proposed :—

Harlow	...	...	...	46.
Matching	...	...	...	12.
Sheering	...	...	...	20.
Netteswell	...	...	...	20.
Roydon	...	...	...	20.
Nazeing	...	...	...	20.
Epping Upland	...	...	...	4.
North Weald	...	...	...	20.
Theydon Garnon	...	...	...	4.
Theydon Bois	...	...	...	20.
Chigwell	...	...	...	24.
Great Parndon	...	...	...	6.

The following are in course of erection :—

Harlow	...	...	...	16.
North Weald	...	...	...	10.
Theydon Garnon	...	...	...	4.
Theydon Bois	...	...	...	20.

Tenders have been accepted for a further 50.

Overcrowding exists owing to the shortage of houses. On account of this it has not been possible to deal with the matter. It is hoped that it will be remedied when the new houses are provided.

The standard of housing in the more rural parts of the District is low.



The general character of the defects are :—

Dampness of walls and floors.  
Inadequate drainage.  
No pantry.  
General dilapidations.

The difficulties in remedying unfitness are :—

Shortage of labour.  
Excessive cost.  
Inability to raise rent to cover cost.

If the Rent Restriction Acts were removed, even old houses ought to bring in an economic rent if made in all respects reasonably fit for habitation.

## COMPLAINTS, CLOSING ORDERS, &c.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which complaints were made that they were unfit for human habitation :—

(a)	By householders	...	...	...	...	None
(b)	By Parish Councils	...	...	...	...	None

(2) Action under Section 17 of the Housing Act of 1909 :—

(a)	Number of houses inspected for the purposes of the Section	...	...	...	653
(b)	Number considered unfit for habitation	...	...	...	25
(c)	Number of houses the defects in which were remedied without making Closing Orders	...	...	...	None

(3) Action under Section 28 of the Housing Act, 1919.

(a)	Number of Orders for repairs issued	...	15
(b)	Number in which repairs were carried out by the Local Authority	...	None
(c)	Number of Houses voluntarily closed on notice by Owner that they could not be made fit without reconstruction	...	None

(4) Closing Orders :—

No representations with a view to the making of Closing Orders were made.



## (5) Demolition Orders :—

No demolition Orders were issued.

(6) Number of Dwelling Houses voluntarily demolished ... .. None

(7) No reports were made respecting obstructive buildings.

(8) The Chief Sanitary Inspector and Assistant carry out the inspections under the Housing Acts, and re-inspect when the work is in progress.

Mr. Beard, Chief Sanitary Inspector, has, as can be seen from the above Report, carried out his duties in a very energetic and efficient manner, and I have to thank him for very valuable assistance in the preparation of this Report.

In previous years Mr. Beard's Report was printed as a separate statement, but this year the various items have been embodied under their respective headings in the Medical Officer of Health's Report.

W. F. ERSKINE,

M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

(*Medical Officer of Health*).

