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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Epping Urban District

For the Year 1907.

EPPING :

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ANNUAL REPORT



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ANNUAL REPORT,

1907.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report upon the Epping Urban District for the year 1907, which is the Eleventh Annual Report it has been my pleasure to make to your Council.

THE AREA OF THE DISTRICT is 1956 acres, with a population as shown by the census of 1901 of 3789, and estimated to the middle of 1907 as 4247.

THE TOWN OF EPPING, situated in the centre of the district, stands at an altitude of 360 ft. above the sea level, the land on either side sloping away to the north-west and south-east. The soil is a loam and gravel overlying the London clay.

THE OCCUPATIONS OF THE INHABITANTS are varied, the better houses being occupied for the most part by persons who are daily engaged in London or elsewhere, while the smaller are the dwellings of tradespeople, artisans, and other work-people. There are also a considerable number of people living in the district who are engaged in the pursuit of agriculture.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION is, upon the whole, satisfactory, that more particularly for the working-classes has been much improved in recent years, although there are still many old and defective cottages which are the cause of a certain amount of overcrowding, some of these are deficient in the amount of open space, which tends to uncleanness of the surroundings.

No action has been taken during the year under the **HOUSING OF THE WORKING-CLASSES ACT**, for the reason chiefly that there are at present no means of re-housing the people if their present dwellings should be condemned.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE for all parts of the district is good. Four separate outfalls are provided, three for the north side and one for the south side. The sewers are regularly flushed and properly ventilated. The house drains have been supervised and kept in good order. The sewage outfalls are provided with septic or precipitation tanks, or with both, and are worked on the broad irrigation system. Improvements have been carried out where they have been called for, and the effluents are now discharged into the different brooks or water-courses in an innocuous condition.

THERE ARE NO RIVERS OR STREAMS of importance in the district, and such watercourses as there are, are practically free from pollution.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL is by means of house drains connected with the sewers and sewerage systems, and is for the most parts satisfactory. It would be an improvement if short hopper-pans were substituted for the long hoppers so commonly in use, and if the old method of hand-flushing were replaced by flushing cisterns.

HOUSE REFUSE is removed fortnightly by contract, and your Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Willson) has instituted a good system whereby the houses are mapped out into districts, and a regular record is kept of the visits of the dustman. This has done away with complaints which were formerly rather frequent. **WATER** is provided for the whole district by the Herts and Essex Waterworks Company, whose supply comes from deep borings into the chalk at Sawbridgeworth, some eight miles to the north of Epping. The works are situated at a spot where there is practically no possibility of contamination. The water is of great purity, and except for its hardness, due to a large admixture of carbonate of calcium, it would be wholly irreproachable. The supply is not on the "constant" system, but it has been abundant during the past year, and no complaints of shortage have been made.

THERE ARE NO COMMON LODGING-HOUSES in the district, nor are any offensive trades carried on, the slaughter-houses, dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops, bakeries, factories, and workshops have been inspected, and found to be in a satisfactory state.

THE PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS have also been inspected, the sanitary condition of which has generally been found to be good, but more frequent cleansing of the floors is desirable. The

Company's water is provided at each school. Notices are now sent to the Managers for the exclusion of children from infected houses, and the Head Teachers regularly inform the Medical Officer of Health of children who have been excluded either because they are known to be suffering from infectious disease or have shown suspicious symptoms. This arrangement materially helps to prevent the spread of disease amongst the scholars. Section 13 of the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act, 1907, which has now come into operation makes it the duty of the Local Education Authority to provide for the medical inspection of children attending all elementary schools, and gives it the power to make arrangements, to be sanctioned by the Board of Education, for attending to the health and physical condition of the children. It is to be expected, therefore, that such arrangements will shortly be made for the schools of this district, the general object being to prevent, or to a large extent ameliorate the high degree of physical unfitness in the rising generation.

BUILDING BYELAWS have been in operation in the district for some time, and are fully enforced. It is very desirable that certain of the provisions contained in the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, should be adopted for this district. This can be done by the simple process of an order of the Local Government Board on the application of the local authority. Certain sections of Part III, dealing with sanitary provisions, and of Part IV, dealing with infectious diseases, would prove especially useful. **NUISANCES**, whenever they are complained of or detected, have been attended to, and steps have been taken to have them abated, but these steps would be considerably facilitated, and these nuisances would be of less frequent occurrence if advantage were taken of the powers conferred by the Act. There is still a considerable amount of overcrowding and defective ventilation in the houses of the working-classes, such evils are now, however, almost confined to the old houses still remaining in the district, but which are gradually being superseded by others of a better description.

ALL INFECTIOUS DISEASES under the Act, 1889 have to be notified in this district, but neither measles, chickenpox, nor tuberculosis are included in the definition. It would be an advantage if a system of voluntary notification of cases of tuberculosis by the Medical Practitioners were adopted, something might then be done to prevent the spread of infection, a point that is not uncommonly ignored by the people.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, as soon as they are notified, are enquired into as to their possible source, the sanitary conditions of the houses and premises are examined, printed instructions and disinfectants are supplied according to circumstances, and if the case is one for removal, the patient is taken to the Epping Rural Isolation

Hospital, in accordance with a special contract with the Rural Council. This arrangement is convenient, and so long as there is sufficient accommodation at this Hospital it works satisfactorily. After removal of the patient, the room previously occupied and articles therein are disinfected with "Sulphume," which is found to give satisfactory results.

During the year the following cases of infectious diseases were notified, viz.: Scarlet Fever, 6; Diphtheria, 1; Puerperal Fever, 1; Erysipelas, 2; total, 10. Of these, four Scarlet Fever cases were removed to Hospital. In no instance, either among those isolated in the Hospital or in their own homes, was there any further spread of the disease.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.—There are 16 registered Workshops in the district, all of which have been inspected, and in only one instance was a nuisance discovered. This has since been remedied. A copy of the "table," which has to be sent to the Secretary of State, is appended to this Report.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—The births registered in the district were 90, or equal to a birth-rate of 21·1 per thousand per annum.

Deaths.—The nett deaths of persons belonging to the district were 47, or equal to a corrected death-rate of 11·0 per 1000 per annum.

Infant Mortality.—The deaths under one year of age were 10, which, measured by the proportion of deaths under one year to births registered, was equal to the rate of 111·1 per 1000 per annum.

Zymotic Deaths.—From the seven principal zymotic diseases only one death occurred, which was caused by diarrhœa. This gives the remarkably low death-rate of 0·2 per 1000 per annum.

The summary of the work done by Mr. Edgar F. Willson, Sanitary Inspector, together with the several tables of statistics, are appended to this Report.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

TREVOR FOWLER,

L.R.C.P. & S.I., D.P.H., Cantab.

Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE EPPING URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Epping, February 22nd, 1908.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S STATEMENT.

The following is a summary of the work done through the Sanitary Inspector during the year :—

Number of complaints received	20
" " nuisances detected without complaint	66
" " nuisances abated	74
" " notices served	6
" " cottages inspected	179
" " slaughter-houses inspected	4
" " bakehouses inspected	5
" " dairies and milk shops inspected	5
" " cowsheds inspected	4
" " workshops inspected	16
" " houses disinfected	7
" " overcrowding abated	1
" " houses placed in habitable repair	2
" " "Certificates" granted	10
" " houses connected with sewers (7 new, 25 old, 6 without district, 30 Southern, 5 Railfield, 3 Bolt Cellar)	38
" " houses connected with water mains... ..	10
" " earth, pail, or improved privies constructed or existing privies altered or abolished	8
" " privies and W.C's. repaired	14
" " W.C's supplied with water	31
" " cisterns cleansed	1
" " " repaired	4
" " " covered	14
" " samples of water taken for analysis	4
" " drains tested	48
" " defective drains of existing premises relaid	19
" " bell traps abolished	5
" " low vent shafts raised	3

(Signed) EDGAR F. WILLSON,

Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.—For Whole District.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.		Births.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions.			Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.		Deaths of Residents beyond the District.		Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
	Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents beyond the District.	Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*		
1897	84	24.8	7	106.0	82	24.2	23	18	7	71	21.0						
1898	93	27.3	9	96.6	66	19.2	25	22	1	45	12.9						
1899	102	29.9	14	137.2	75	21.9	28	27	...	48	14.0						
1900	94	27.4	9	95.7	70	20.4	32	15	1	56	16.3						
1901	89	23.4	10	112.3	82	21.6	32	29	...	53	13.9						
1902	96	24.6	10	104.1	87	21.8	35	31	...	56	14.6						
1903	75	19.1	10	133.3	59	15.0	30	25	1	36	8.9						
1904	96	23.6	10	104.1	68	16.0	28	22	1	46	11.7						
1905	90	22.0	8	88.8	77	18.8	29	25	1	53	12.9						
1906	91	21.9	13	142.8	100	25.8	49	42	...	58	13.9						
Averages for years 1897-1906	91	24.4	10	112.0	76.6	20.4	31	25.6	1.2	52	14.0						
1907	90	21.1	10	111.1	75	17.6	33	28	...	47	11.0						

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

TABLE II.

Names of Localities.	Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
Small District, without recognised divisions of known population.					

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.						No. of Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.		65 & upwards.
Small-Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...
Scarlet Fever ...	6	...	1	5	...	...	4
Typhus Fever.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	10	...	2	5	...	3	4

TABLE IV.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1907.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	
Small-pox... ..	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Measles	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Scarlet Fever	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Whooping Cough	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Diphtheria and membranous croup	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Croup	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Fever { Typhus	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
{ Enteric	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
{ Other continued	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Epidemic Influenza	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Cholera	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Plague	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Diarrhœa	1	1	::	::	::	::	::	::
Enteritis	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Puerperal fever	1	::	::	::	::	1	::	::
Erysipelas	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Other septic diseases	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	3	::	::	::	::	3	::	2
Other tubercular diseases	1	::	::	::	::	1	::	1
Cancer, malignant disease	3	::	::	::	::	1	2	2
Bronchitis... ..	8	2	::	::	::	2	4	2
Pneumonia	2	1	::	::	::	::	1	1
Pleurisy	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of liver	1	::	::	::	::	1	::	::
Venereal diseases	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Premature birth	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Diseases and accidents of parturition	::	::	::	::	::	::	::	::
Heart diseases	3	::	::	1	::	1	1	3
Accidents	2	::	::	::	::	::	2	1
Suicides	1	::	::	::	::	1	::	::
Meningitis	2	1	1	::	::	::	::	::
Marasmus... ..	1	1	::	::	::	::	::	1
Convulsions	2	2	::	::	::	::	::	::
Deficient vitality	1	1	::	::	::	::	::	::
All other causes	15	1	::	::	::	3	11	19
All causes	47	10	1	1	::	14	21	32

TABLE V.
 Infantile Mortality During the Year 1907.
 Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH. (ALL CAUSES.)	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
	Certified	5	...	1	1	7	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	10
Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria: Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa, all forms	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital Defects	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Inanition	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculous Peritonitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Causes { Convulsions	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
{ Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
{ Pneumonia	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	5	...	1	1	7	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	10

Deaths from all causes at all ages, 47.
 Population estimated to middle of 1907, 4247.

TABLE VI.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ... ..	...	...	...
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	16	...	...
Workplaces ... ..	...	...	...
Homeworkers' Premises ... ..	...	...	...
Total	16	...	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Other Nuisances... ..	1	1	..	...
Total	1	1	...	...

Workshops on the Register—

Bakehouses ...	5
Saddlers' ...	1
Printers' ...	1
Carpenters' ...	1
Laundries ...	2
Dressmakers' ...	5
Blacksmiths' ...	1
	—
	16