AT HOME
2. TILL 4.

SOUTHLEIGH,
FRINTON-ON-SEA.

With the Medical Officer
of Health's compliments

March 18th 04.

To the

PRINTON-ON-SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T.

For the Year 1903.

OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Gentlemen,

In submitting my first Annual Report for the year just ended, it will be a cause of satisfaction to the Council, to know that the district throughout has been in both a healthy and sanitary condition, as will be shown later on by actual features.

GENERAL FEATURES OF THE DISTRICT & ITS NEED.

In viewing the general features of the district, the Council is well aware of the nature of the soil, and one of the difficulties this year, has been to deal with the surface water, owing to the exceptionally heavy rainfall.

It is satisfactory to note that the Council have taken, and are still taking, steps to remedy this state of things, and to prevent its recurrence in the future. With the new roads made up, a great step has been taken towards providing a remedy: and I have no doubt that with the progress already achieved the time is not far distant when this cause of complaint will be no longer heard.

NEW BUILDINGS.

The district is a growing one essentially; many new houses are being erected in various parts and it is with much satisfaction that I note the Council intend adopting stricter bye-laws, and fully exercising their powers over all buildings during the process of erection. This can only tend to the benefit of the inhabitants, both now and in the future.

THE DRAINAGE.

The system of drainage is both satisfactory and efficient: the sewage is discharged into the sea: no complaints have been made of shore pollution. The drainage scheme has been rendered complete by disposing of the septic tank - which was only used as a temporary expedient - and by the construction of the new sewer in First Avenue. This is now completed, and the drainage from the houses in Whitton Wood Lane, Victoria Terrace, and Upper Fourth Avenue, now passes into the First Avenue sewer, instead of into the septic tank. The condition of the house drains is satisfactory; there was serious sewage overflow in the Whitton Wood Lane district arising from improper connection, and choking of the drain through a manhole imperfectly covered. The defect was made good without delay, and no complaints have been made since.

SCAVENGING.

The removal of house refuse is carried out satisfactorily by a Scavenging Contractor, moveable receptacles being used in nearly every instance, the Council having required its more frequent removal during the summer months.

THE WATER SUPPLY.

With the completion of the Reservoir and additional Mains, the water supply is now ample, and of good quality. There is storage capacity for about 50,000 gallons. There have been no complaints of short supply. I would recommend to the Council, that a periodical analytical and bacteriological examination be made.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades carried on in the district, the Bakehouses are in a sanitary condition.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

With the exception of an outbreak of Measles, confined almost entirely to the School-children, the district has been exceptionally free from infectious diseases. As the Council have this to be a notifiable disease, the majority of cases were brought under the notice of the Medical Officer of Health. It was found practically impossible in many instances to carry out satisfactorily, a system of isolation owing to insufficient accommodation where large families resided, with the result that five and six members of the same family were attacked. Another difficulty arose in obtaining in all cases, the necessary isolation period during convalescence. In consequence of this outbreak, the Schools were closed about ten days prior to the natural close of the term.

The type of disease was essentially a mild one, and it is satisfactory to note that there was neither a death nor complication in a single case.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In coming to the Vital Statistics, there is now an estimated population of 800; this number is largely increased during the summer months, when there is a population not far short of 3,000. The number of occupied houses is 290. We have therefore a moving population to consider, and this fact has materially influenced the death rate. Four deaths have occurred during the year; three of these deaths were imported cases, and of the four deaths, one only was due to disease; the other three occurred in infants who survived their birth five hours, three days, and ten days respectively; the two last named were twins and prematurely born.

The result is that including all deaths registered, we have the low death rate of 3·2 per 1,000; and the zymotic death rate 0·8 per 1,000. These are figures which speak for themselves, and no words of mine are needed to emphasize this satisfactory state of things. It speaks volumes for the salubrity of the Frinton climate.

Turning to the birth-rate, though not high, it is of the same satisfactory nature; there have been 18 births registered: this gives a rate of 22·5 per 1,000. And lastly, if we refer to the zymotic case rate, and reckon the seven generally notifiable diseases, we have the low average of 0·8 per 1,000.

In concluding my report, I trust the year just begun will be of the same highly satisfactory character as that which we have just passed through. In working for the general public good of the district, the Council have already done a very great deal;more however still remains to be done, but there is no reason why in the near future, Frinton as a health resort, should not stand second to none.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully,

(Signed) H. Wm. Godfrey, M.D.,M.R.C.S., & M.O.H.

Jan.13th.,1904.