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Godstone

ANNUAL REPORT

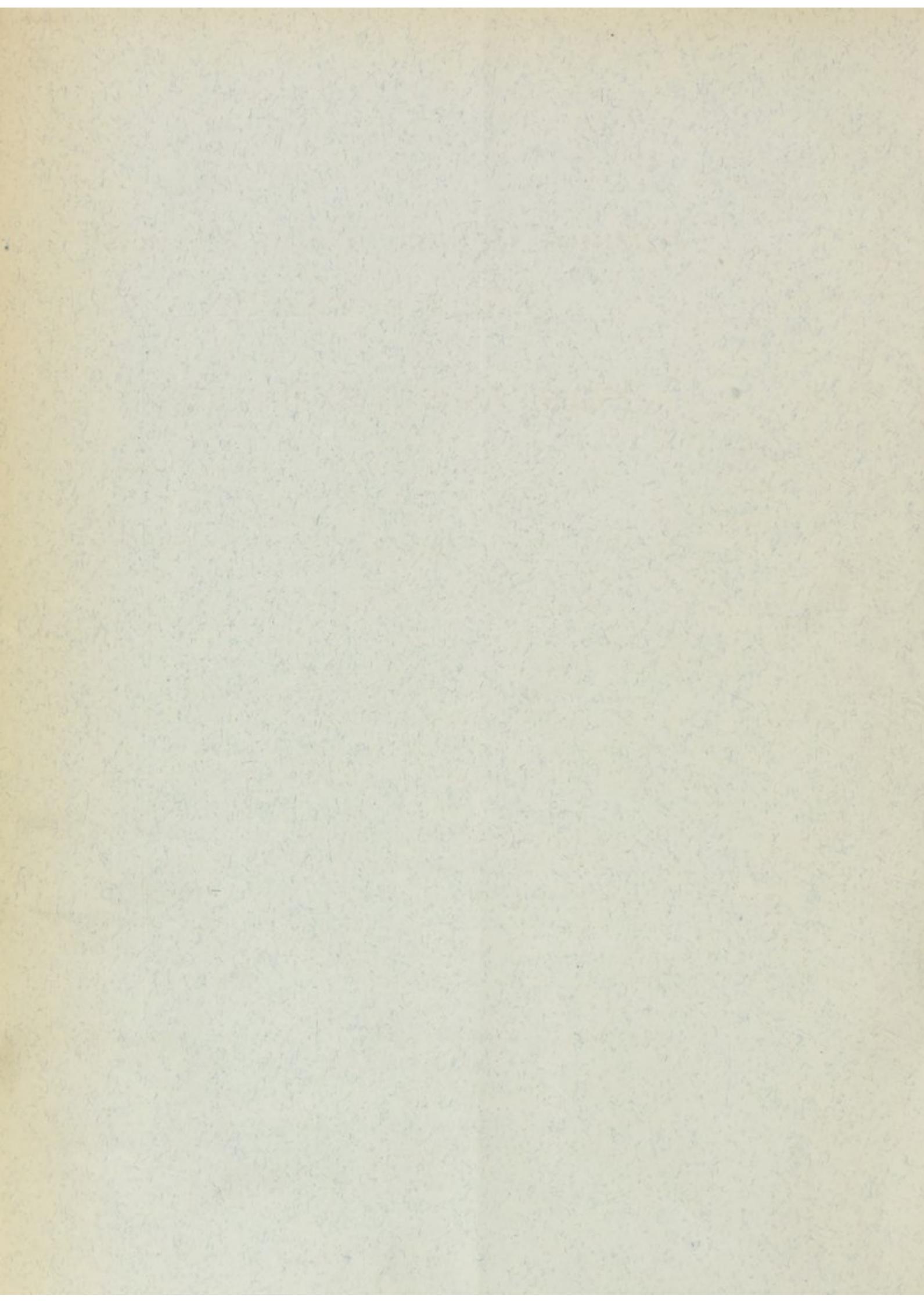
OF THE

*Medical Officer of Health*

For the year 1894.

—  
East Grinstead:

F. Maplesden, Printer, Grosvenor Works, High Street.



# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

**FOR THE YEAR 1894.**

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Godstone  
Rural District Council,*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my annual report as to the health of the district during the past year, together with conditions affecting the same and the various means which have been adopted with a view to their improvement.

**Introduction.**

In thus addressing you, I am reminded that a notable change in the Executive has been effected since the occasion of my last report being presented by the operation of the Local Government Act, 1894, whereby the Rural District Council takes the place of the former Sanitary Authority. This at first sight may be thought to be a change of name only, but in reality it is a distinct advance in sanitary administration, inasmuch as the subject has now been allocated to a foremost position in the business of the Council instead of as hitherto being merely subservient to that of the Poor Law and will in the future receive that undivided attention which is justified by its importance.

**Rainfall.**

Amongst the conditions affecting the health of a Community at various periods of the year, the one of Rainfall is an important one and may be influential for good or evil in proportion to its quantity. By the kindness of Mr. Moffat of the Priory Gardens, Nutfield, I am again enabled to give you a detailed account of the fall during the past year, together with a tabulated statement of the yearly average for the past ten years.

(For Register of Rainfall in 1894, see page 3.)

**TOTAL RAINFALL FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS.**

Year.	Total Depth	Number of wet days.
1885	27·09	165
1886	31·27	190
1887	21·82	137
1888	28·97	171
1889	25·91	171
1890	26·13	176
1891	33·10	175
1892	27·49	162
1893	22·27	153
1894	34·09	202
Total ...	278·13	

N.B.—A wet day means one upon which ·01 inch or more of rain has fallen.

Yielding an average of 27·81 inches.

# REGISTER OF RAINFALL IN 1894.

Kept at NUTFIELD PRIORY, in the County of Surrey, by J. MOFFAT.

*Time of Observation, 9 a.m.*

## RAIN GAUGE—

Diameter ... .. 8 inches  
 Height of top Ground ... .. ft. zin.  
 " " above Ground—Sea Level ... 468 feet

NOTE.—Full instructions respecting the measurement of rain are given in "Arrangements respecting the Systematic Observation and Record of the Rainfall of the British Isles," which is sent post-free on application to Mr. G. J. SYMONDS, 62, Camden Square, London, N.W.

Date	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	in. .06	in. .19	in. .07	in. .09	in. .16	in. .02	in. .04	in. .09	in. .20	in. .01	in. .13	in. .04
2	in. .18	in. .35	in. .02	in. .16	in. .05	in. .23	in. .07	in. .08	in. .05	in. .01	in. .03	in. .29
3	in. .02	in. .16	in. .23	in. .06	in. .12	in. .05	in. .06	in. .10	in. .02	in. .01	in. .04	in. .18
4	in. .05	in. .06	in. .11	in. .01	in. .13	in. .03	in. .25	in. .23	in. .03	in. .25	in. .20	in. .82
5	in. .02	in. .05	in. .01	in. .03	in. .12	in. .05	in. .14	in. .15	in. .05	in. .07	in. .01	in. .13
6	in. .16	in. .10	in. .27	in. .03	in. .30	in. .27	in. .04	in. .04	in. .02	in. .05	in. .01	in. .01
7	in. .03	in. .01	in. .04	in. .28	in. .02	in. .20	in. .03	in. .14	in. .01	in. .02	in. .05	in. .67
8	in. .19	in. .07	in. .15	in. .32	in. .07	in. .03	in. .07	in. .24	in. .03	in. .01	in. .11	in. .25
9	in. .13	in. .01	in. .08	in. .08	in. .07	in. .15	in. .05	in. .05	in. .03	in. .05	in. .19	in. .02
10	in. .14	in. .46	in. .01	in. .01	in. .01	in. .34	in. .19	in. .02	in. .03	in. .03	in. .03	in. .05
11	in. .03	in. .01	in. .01	in. .01	in. .01	in. .30	in. .12	in. .02	in. .05	in. .01	in. .01	in. .13
12	in. .19	in. .01										
13	in. .07	in. .01										
14	in. .01											
15	in. .01											
16	in. .01											
17	in. .01											
18	in. .01											
19	in. .01											
20	in. .01											
21	in. .01											
22	in. .01											
23	in. .01											
24	in. .01											
25	in. .01											
26	in. .01											
27	in. .01											
28	in. .01											
29	in. .01											
30	in. .01											
31	in. .01											
Totals	4'15	2'14	1'01	2'11	1'66	2'47	4'59	2'56	2'12	4'27	4'79	2'22
Total from Jan. 1	6'29	7'30	9'41	11'07	13'54	18'13	20'69	22'81	27'08	31'87	34'09	

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The following Table shews the fall for last year and the average temperatures also.

1894.

Month.	Total Depth.	Greatest fall in 24 hours.		No. of wet days.	Average Max.	Temp. Min.	Mean.
		Depth.	Date.				
Jan. ...	4.15	.55	25th	25	50	9	29
Feb. ...	2.14	.46	17th	18	52	24	38
March...	1.01	.27	7th	9	66	30	48
April ...	2.11	.73	24th	13	77	36	56
May ...	1.66	.30	14th	13	69	30	49
June ...	2.47	.67	5th	12	75	45	60
July ...	4.59	1.25	10th	18	82	48	65
Aug. ..	2.56	.85	23dr	18	76	43	59
Sept. ...	2.12	.58	23rd	14	68	36	52
Oct. ...	4.27	1.28	30th	23	60	32	46
Nov. ...	4.79	1.24	12th	20	61	34	47
Dec. ...	2.22	.67	14th	19	53	25	39
Total ...	34.09			202			

By these tables it will be seen that the total depth during the past year has exceeded the average by 6.28 inches and the number of wet days have been correspondingly numerous, indicating a very wet year and in marked contrast to 1893, whose total depth was 4.27 inches below the average. This deficiency of Rainfall I had reason to believe was influential in the causation of much illness during 1893,

having reference more particularly to affections of the throat and Infantile Diarrhoea, which were generally prevalent in consequence of the absence of its flushing effect, but this year such cases of illness have been much less frequent and possibly a reason may be found in this excess above the average ; roads, courts, pavements, gullies and drains having been frequently cleansed by this natural force and freed of their accumulations of dirt and decomposing refuse. Now that micro-organisms which abound under such conditions have been proved to be associated with diseases of that class, this frequent flushing and cleansing of our roads, whereby they are removed, is of real beneficial influence.

**Statistics.**

**Area & Population.**

The total area of the district consists of 43,944 areas, and has a population estimated up to the end of 1893 of 19,487 persons distributed amongst 14 Parishes or "Localities" as indicted in the following Table.

(See next page.)

Localities.	Population Corrected.	Acres.	Persons per acre.	Births.		Rate per 1000.	Total Deaths.	Rate per 1000.
				M.	F.			
Blechingley	1940	5620	·34	22	22	22·68	28	14·43
*Caterham ...	4716	2438	3·10	85	76	34·13	52	11·02
Chelsham ...	448	3356	·13	7	8	33·26	9	20·08
Crowhurst	247	2119	·11	2	...	8·09	5	20·24
Farleigh ...	114	1051	·10	...	1	8·77	1	8·77
Godstone ...	2539	6830	·37	29	28	22·44	25	9·88
Horne ...	734	4593	·15	13	11	32·69	9	12·26
Limpsfield	1504	4673	·32	20	16	23·28	17	11·30
Oxted ...	1531	3659	·41	21	25	30·04	15	9·79
Tandridge	598	3928	·15	12	8	33·44	9	15·05
Tatsfield ...	386	1303	·29	8	8	41·19	2	5·18
Titsey ...	229	1988	·11	2	3	21·39	2	8·73
Warlingham	1552	1703	·91	28	28	36·08	20	12·88
Woldingham	102	683	·14		4	68·62	...	...
Total ...	16640	43994	·44	252	238	29·44	194	11·57
				490				

\* Excluding Asylum, 2,152 and Barracks 695.

Deducting from this total of Population that of the Metropolitan Asylum and Barracks situated at Caterham, there remains a balance of 16640 for the District.

The total number of Births registered during the year was 490, composed of 252 males and 238 females, being 59

in excess of those registered last year and giving an annual rate of 29.44 per 1,000, which is also much higher than the average of the previous three years.

The total number of Deaths registered was 390, which, after deducting 190 as occurring in the Asylum and 6 in the Barracks at Caterham, leaves 194 for the District and represents a rate per 1,000 of 11.57. This is very much below the average of the previous three years.

The deaths of Infants under one year of age were 45, being more than last year and equivalent to 91 per 1,000 births, which, however, is below the average of the previous three years.

The deaths due to Phthisis numbered 22, and show a rate of 1.38 per 1,000, which is slightly higher than the average of the previous three years.

The deaths due to the principal zymotic diseases were 7, representing a rate of 0.30 per 1,000, which is considerably less than the average of the previous three years.

Of the total number of deaths, 31.5 per cent. were those of 65 years of age and upwards.

The next table shows similar statistics for the three years previous, together with the average drawn therefrom by which comparison may be easily made. From this it will be noticed that the past year is below the average under nearly every heading, and more particularly in the general death rate and that due to zymotic diseases, which may fairly be attributed to the progress made and improvements effected in sanitation throughout the district generally.

(For Statistics for previous three years, with Average see *next* Page 8).





### Statistics for previous three years with Average.

Years.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Deaths of Infants under one year to 1000 Births.	1—15	15—65	65 and upwards.	Principal Zymotic Diseases.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea.	Phtthisis.	Respiratory.
1891	26.8	14.6	83	4.7	6.8	7.2	0.89	0.19	...	0.13	0.51	0.06	1.08	2.92
1892	26.5	13.2	119	2.6	6.7	5.3	0.87	0.12	...	...	0.52	0.23	1.69	3.15
1893	26.26	12.36	88	1.8	4.2	4.3	2.07	0.2	0.06	0.9	0.3	0.2	1.03	1.2
Average	26.52	15.38	96	3.03	5.9	5.5	1.27	0.17	0.02	0.34	0.44	0.16	1.26	2.42
1894	29.44	11.57	91	1.1	3.9	3.7	0.30	0.06	0.06	0.12	0.06	...	1.38	1.92

Year	Month	Day	Time	Location	Remarks
1900	Jan	1	10:00	St. Paul	Arrived
1900	Jan	2	10:00	St. Paul	Left
1900	Jan	3	10:00	St. Paul	Arrived
1900	Jan	4	10:00	St. Paul	Left
1900	Jan	5	10:00	St. Paul	Arrived
1900	Jan	6	10:00	St. Paul	Left
1900	Jan	7	10:00	St. Paul	Arrived
1900	Jan	8	10:00	St. Paul	Left
1900	Jan	9	10:00	St. Paul	Arrived
1900	Jan	10	10:00	St. Paul	Left
1900	Jan	11	10:00	St. Paul	Arrived
1900	Jan	12	10:00	St. Paul	Left
1900	Jan	13	10:00	St. Paul	Arrived
1900	Jan	14	10:00	St. Paul	Left
1900	Jan	15	10:00	St. Paul	Arrived
1900	Jan	16	10:00	St. Paul	Left
1900	Jan	17	10:00	St. Paul	Arrived
1900	Jan	18	10:00	St. Paul	Left
1900	Jan	19	10:00	St. Paul	Arrived
1900	Jan	20	10:00	St. Paul	Left
1900	Jan	21	10:00	St. Paul	Arrived
1900	Jan	22	10:00	St. Paul	Left
1900	Jan	23	10:00	St. Paul	Arrived
1900	Jan	24	10:00	St. Paul	Left
1900	Jan	25	10:00	St. Paul	Arrived
1900	Jan	26	10:00	St. Paul	Left
1900	Jan	27	10:00	St. Paul	Arrived
1900	Jan	28	10:00	St. Paul	Left
1900	Jan	29	10:00	St. Paul	Arrived
1900	Jan	30	10:00	St. Paul	Left
1900	Jan	31	10:00	St. Paul	Arrived

Journal of the ...

The following Tables shew a more detailed analysis of the deaths and their causes, as tabulated for the past two years.

1893.

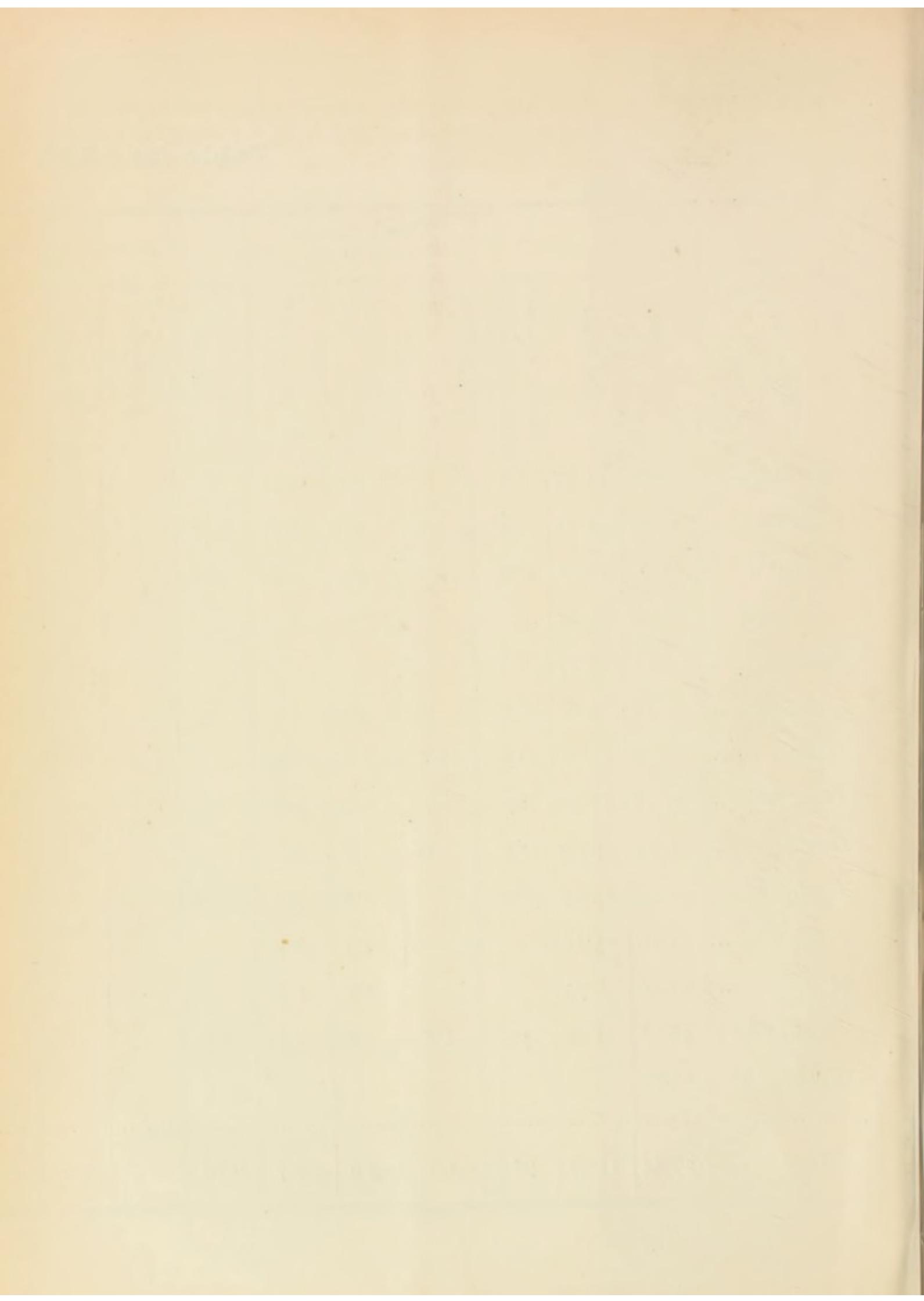
Localities.	Persons per acre.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Deaths of Infants under one year to 1000 Births.	Death Rate to 1000 living.			Death Rate to 1000 living at all ages.											
					1—15	15—65	65 and upwards.	Principal Zymotic Diseases.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Phthisis.	Respiratory Diseases.	Influenza.	
Bletchingley...	0·34	27·12	16·16	57	3·1	4·6	5·7	3·1		·5				1·5			2·5	1·04	1·5
Caterham ...	3·02	30·24	11·42	100	·6	3·6	4·1	1·08		·4	·2	·2			·2		1·2	1·2	·8
Chelsham ...	0·13	13·48	6·74		2·2	2·2	2·2												
Crowhurst ...	0·11	16·15	16·19	250	4	8		8											
Farleigh ...	0·10	26·78	8·92			8·9													
Godstone ...	0·36	23·8	13·13	66	1·5	4·3	5·5	1·1		·3				·6			·9	·9	·6
Horne ...	0·15	27·62	13·80	50	1·3	5·5	5·5								1·3				
Limpsfield ...	0·31	22·91	9·43	147		2·6	3·3											1·8	·6
Oxted ...	0·41	31·10	17·86	85	6·6		3·3	7·8				7·2			·6			·6	·6
Tandridge ...	0·15	20·27	11·82	166	1·6	1·6	3·3											1·6	
Tatsfield ...	0·29	28·94	13·15	90		2·6	7·8	2·6							2·6				2·6
Titsey ...	0·11	8·73	8·73		4·3	4·3		8·7				8·7							
Warlingham	0·89	25·54	9·16	76	1·9	1·9	3·2	1·3				1·3					1·3	1·3	
Woldingham	0·15	9·70	19·41			19·4													
Total ...	0·44	26·26	12·36	88	1·8	4·3	4·2	2·07		·2	0·06	0·9	0·3		0·2		1·03	1·2	0·7

For Table for 1894, see next page.



Table for 1894.

Localities.	Birth Rate.			Death Rate to 1000 living.			Death Rate to 1000 living at all ages.											
	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Deaths of Infants under one year to 1000 Births.	1—15	15—65	65 and upwards.	Principal Zymotic Diseases.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Phthisis.	Respiratory Diseases.	Influenza.	
Bletchingley...	22·68	14·43	68	·5	7·02	5·1												
Caterham ...	34·13	11·02	99	1·9	2·7	2·7	·2				·2				2·5	·5	1	
Chelsham ...	33·26	20·08	200	2·2	4·4	4·4	2·2						2·2		1·4	2·2	·2	
Crowhurst ...	8·09	20·24			12·1	8·0										2·2		
Farleigh ...	8·77	8·77														4		
Godstone ...	22·44	9·88	105	·3	3·3	2·1	·3			·3					·6	·9	·6	
Horne ...	32·69	12·26	115	1·3	2·6	3·9									1·3	2·6		
Limpsfield ...	23·28	11·30	27	1·2	1·2	7·2									·6	·6		
Oxted ...	30·04	9·79	173	·6	1·8	2·4						·6			1·2	1·8		
Tandridge ...	33·44	15·05	500		4·8	3·2	1·6				1·6				1·6	1·6	1·6	
Tatsfield ...	41·19	5·18			2·5	2·5											2·5	
Titsey ...	21·39	8·73			4·3	4·3												
Warlingham	36·08	12·88	53	1·8	4·8	2·4	1·2		·6				·6		2·4	3·6	·6	
Woldingham	68·62																	
Total ...	29·44	11·57	91	1·1	3·9	3·7	0·30		·06	·06	·12	·06	·12		1·38	1·9	·48	



Notification Act, 1889.

This Act having been adopted after much opposition, came into force on February 1st, 1894, after the usual notice to that effect had been duly advertised and made public. Its influence therefore has only extended over 11 months of the year, nevertheless it has been of much service in conveying early information of the occurrence of cases of infectious illness, and thereby made it possible to take prompt measures to arrest their spreading. The following Table shows that 96 cases of infectious diseases mentioned in the Act were notified during the period of 11 months, and that these occurred in 54 separate houses. Of these cases 16 terminated fatally, producing a rate of 16.6 per cent. of those notified, in which also are included those of Enteric fever which occurred at the Asylum, and to which special reference will be made later on.

(See next Page.)

Localities.	Cases of Infectious Disease Notified.							Deaths from Diseases Notified.		
	Number of houses.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric.	Continued.	Puerperal.	Erysipelas	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric.
Asylum ...	1	...	...	23	...	...	...	...	...	11
Blechingley	7	1	1	...	.	...	5	...	...	...
Caterham..	13	6	3	...	1	...	5	...	1	...
Chelsham..	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Farleigh ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Godstone ...	3	3	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Horne ...	2	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Limpsfield	2	1	2	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Oxted ...	8	10	3	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
Tandridge	4	...	3	1	...	1	...	...	1	...
Warlingham	10	7	4	2	...	...	...	...	1	1
Totals ...	54	31	25	27	1	1	11	1	3	13

**Zymotic Diseases.**

**Influenza.**

Influenza prevailed to a slight extent early in the year, and was the cause of 8 deaths by its influence, directly or indirectly, in 6 different localities, which is about half as many as last year.

**Small Pox.**

No case of Small Pox occurred in the district during the past year.

**Measle**

One death was registered as due to Measles at Warlingham, which was contracted in the adjoining parish outside this district where the disease was prevalent. The

disease also prevailed in Blechingly, Limpsfield, and Crowhurst; in the latter during December to such an extent as to involve the closing of the Elementary School, having been introduced by children who, although living in Crowhurst, attended the Limpsfield School, in which parish there had been numerous cases.

**Scarlatina.**

One death was registered as due to Scarlatina in Godstone, and although the disease at no time prevailed in epidemic form, still 31 cases were notified as occurring in 21 houses, situated in eight localities, of which Oxted had the largest number. Having no Isolation Hospital available to which first cases could be removed for treatment, great credit is due for the success of the measures adopted to prevent the disease spreading beyond the houses in which they first occurred.

**Diphtheria.**

Two deaths were registered as due to Diphtheria, which ranks next to Scarlatina in prevalence.

Twenty-five cases of this disease were notified as occurring in 19 houses, situated in eight localities, but there is no epidemic to be recorded such as occurred at Oxted last year, and in no case was any school closed in consequence of it.

In the case of Diphtheria, as of Scarlatina, an Isolation Hospital, to which first cases can be removed, is of special value in preventing spread of infection, more than in any other disease, and now that a suitable site has been obtained for the purpose, the erection of one should be no longer delayed. Had one been available, there is no doubt that the outbreak of Diphtheria at Horne would have been confined to the two first cases.

**Continued Fever and  
Puerperal Fever.**

One case of continued fever was notified at Caterham but did not prove fatal, and one case of Puerperal fever.

**Whooping Cough.**

Whooping Cough was the cause of one death at Oxted, but not being one of the diseases to which the Notification Act applies, no accurate estimate of its occurrence can be gathered.

**Erysipelas.**

Eleven cases of Erysipelas were notified as occurring at Caterham, Blechingley, and Godstone, none of which were fatal.

**Enteric, or Typhoid  
Fever.**

Excluding those deaths which occurred in the Asylum and Barracks, of which special notice will be taken, two were registered as due to this cause, one each in Chelsham and Warlingham, both of which however were considered to have been contracted from outside the district, and in neither instance could any local cause be assigned.

**The Asylum and  
Barracks.**

The following are the circumstances attending this outbreak. Notifications of two cases of Enteric fever were received on February 16th from the Medical Superintendent, and upon visiting the Asylum the further information was given to me that there had also been some cases at the Barracks, which, however, are specially exempt under Clause 15 of the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, 1889, from its obligations. During the next few days four more cases were notified, and enquiry showed that there had been more also at the Barracks; so that it was evident that a serious outbreak was in progress simultaneously in the two Institutions, which are adjacent to one another, and that possibly the source from which they arose might be a mutual one. The channels by which Enteric fever is generally conveyed being the water supply or food including milk, which has become contaminated with the specific germs of the disease, enquiries were at once directed to these; and as the outbreak appeared simultaneously in the two Institutions, which were apparently distinct, it could only be by some such means of communication common to both that such a combination of circumstances could be brought about. First

as regards the food supply, including milk, enquiry showed there to be nothing in common to the two Institutions in this respect, each having separate contractors for their food and milk; the Barracks obtaining the latter from a farm at Dorking, and the Asylum keeping their own cows, so that this did not suggest itself as a likely explanation.

The water supply, however, being common to both Institutions, indicated a possible source of the outbreak and the means whereby it was being perpetuated. This is derived from a well situated in the grounds of the Asylum, and sunk in the chalk for a depth of 462ft., the sides of which are faced with bricks set in cement for 100ft. from the surface, and furnished with two headings extending East and West, the latter 90ft. in length, from which the chief of the supply is derived. The water is pumped up into a well-protected tank situated in a tower, from which it is distributed to the different parts of the Asylum and Barracks by gravitation, and there stored in cisterns, the mains being turned off at night, providing an intermittent and not constant supply. The standard of purity of the water as shewn by frequent analysis is as follows:—

STANDARD FOR CATERHAM WELL (in grains per gallon).

From	·0000	Ammonia	...	...	to	·0000
„	·0007	Albuminoid Ammonia	„	„	·0010	
„	·0028	Oxygen consumed in				
		15 minutes	...	„	·0030	
„	·0056	Ditto in 4 hours	...	„	·0060	

On the appearance of the first cases a sample of the water was analysed by Dr. Muter, which showed good results as regards the presence of organic matter, but which on comparison with the standard, varied to the extent of the quantities of ammonia and albuminoid ammonia being double, which is to say the least, a suspicious circumstance.

ANALYSIS—FEB. 15th.

Ammonia	...	...	...	·0017
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	·0014
Oxygen consumed in 15 minutes	...	...	...	·0028
Ditto ditto in 4 hours	...	...	...	·0056

and was sufficient to indicate that there was, or had been, some pollution to account for it.

Further enquiry led to the information that the water in the well had been very low and that they had been pumping it dry daily for several weeks during December and beginning of January. The depth of the water in the well is measured every week, and an average taken for the month, of which a record is kept. This had been as follows :—

November	...	...	106 feet
December	...	...	106 „
January	...	...	112 „
February	...	...	144 „

giving an average of 117 feet, which, compared with the previous year during the same period

November	...	...	140 feet
December	...	...	168 „
January	...	...	200 „
February	...	...	178 „

an average of 165 feet, indicates a lower level of ground water by nearly 50 feet. This was doubtless due to the unusually dry summer preceding, whereby the ordinary rise of the “springs” had been delayed and is important as suggesting a possible source of contamination.

On March 13th I visited the Barracks at the invitation of Surgeon-Major Cross, the Medical Officer in charge, and

was supplied with every information as to the health of the troops. Influenza had been prevalent during January, complicated with Diarrhœa, and three cases had been pronounced to be Enteric Fever on February 8th and one on February 17th; which would be slightly in advance of those occurring in the Asylum, followed by others. They, suspecting the water to be at fault, obtained a supply from the East Surrey Company's mains, to be used for drinking purposes, on March 10th, which appeared to effect some diminution in the occurrence of cases, especially of Diarrhœa. At a subsequent visit on March 29th, I was informed that they had entirely discontinued using the water from the Asylum well on and after March 22nd, and that there had been no more cases since, having had up to that date 24 in all, with two deaths.

Nevertheless during this period notifications of fresh cases continued to come in from the Asylum, even up to May 14th, numbering 14 in all. The evidence therefore strongly pointed to the water supply as being the source and means of distribution of the disease.

Further confirmation of this view is to be found in the fact of a recurrence of cases, eight in all, taking place during October and November in the Asylum, where the same water supply was still in use, and the total absence of any in the Barracks, where it had been discontinued since March 22nd.

The circumstances also under which these fresh cases appeared were very similar to those of the earlier ones. The depth of the well during the four months, viz. :—

August	..	...	131 feet
September	...	...	119 „
October	...	...	114 „
November	...	...	122 „

shews an average of 121 feet, which, however, rapidly rose to 176 feet during the last week. This rise would indicate a

larger and greatly diluted volume of ground water, at which period also it is to be observed a cessation of cases again occurs.

From this evidence it is clear that the water has at certain periods become polluted, and that the specific germs of Enteric Fever have been conveyed by it, so that it becomes a matter of urgent importance to discover if possible the immediate source of contamination. With this object the Committee of the Asylum have instructed Mr. Baldwin Latham, an expert sanitary engineer, to examine the water supply and system of drainage, who is now engaged in the work.

Pending the result of his enquiries however, it will not be out of place to note the following facts as bearing upon the question and being suggestive of a possible cause of the outbreak.

FIRST it may be mentioned that there have been cases in previous years as follows :—

	Asylum	Barracks
1888	None	3
1889	None	5
1890	6	15
1891	None	1
1892	1	None
1893	None	1

SECONDLY.—Both Institutions dispose of their sewage by the system of broad irrigation, the Asylum making use of eighty-one acres and Barracks six-and-a-half acres for the purpose, upon soil overlying the chalk, which in places is very shallow and porous, although in others more clayey and retentive in character. Fissures are known to exist in the chalk and outside their boundaries there are several very deep cesspools which never require to be emptied.

THIRDLY.—The well is situated within fifty yards of the nearest point at which the sewage is distributed upon the land and has been thus disposed of since the Asylum was erected, about thirty years, the volume of which must necessarily be large, inasmuch as the daily consumption of water averages 80,000 gallons.

FOURTHLY.—Owing to the unusually dry season and diminished rainfall of 1893 the level of the ground water would be exceedingly low and therefore in order to meet the demands from the well a larger area than usual would be drawn upon. This might lead to making use of less favorable supplies from a distance, near possible sources of contamination which would vary with the rise and fall of the "Springs," of which the depth of water in the well would be the gauge.

Mr. Baldwin Latham's report, however, will be awaited with interest.

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Passing on to a more detailed statement as to each Locality and the sanitary measures adopted therein during the past year I have to report as follows :—

**Blechingley.**

BLECHINGLEY.—Population 1940. Births 44, Deaths 28; giving rates per 1000 living of 22.68 for the former and 14.43 for the latter, which are lower than last year.

**Diphtheria.**

One case of Diphtheria occurred at the extreme end of the Parish in a child attending the Outwood School, which is situated in the Reigate district. This school had been closed for a long period in consequence of the disease being prevalent among the children attending it, and it was in that way that this child contracted it. No other case arose in connection with this one. With this exception the Village has been free from any outbreak of infectious illness.

**Measles.**

A few cases of measles occurred, confined to one family, having been introduced by two of the members who failed after returning home from school where there had been several cases.

**Drainage.**

This important matter has been advanced a stage during the past year. The usual enquiry prior to the granting of a loan by the Local Government Board was held by Colonel Luard, one of their Inspectors, on July 12th, at which the Engineer, Mr. Fairbank, attended and explained his scheme and plans for carrying it out. Considerable delay was incurred by the matter being referred back with a view to the houses situated at Whitepost being included within the area for which the scheme was propounded. This addition has been effected and permission to obtain the loan has now been granted, so that tenders to carry out the work will be invited as soon as the specifications have been prepared.

**Supply.**

In consequence of cases of throat illness frequently occurring at Tilgate Cottages, samples of their water supply were taken for analysis on several occasions. Each time the result was unsatisfactory and upon the matter being pressed upon the attention of the owners, negotiations were entered upon by them with the East Surrey Company with a view to extending their mains. These have been successful and the work will be shortly commenced, which is all the more gratifying as the distance to be travelled is far beyond that to which the compulsory powers under the Public Health Act, 1875, would be applicable.

**Nuisances.**

Fifty-two nuisances have been abated in this locality during the past year.

**Caterham.**

CATERHAM.—Population, excluding the Asylum and Barracks, 4716. Births 161, Deaths 52 ; giving rates per 1000 of 34·13 for the former and 11·02 for the latter.

**Scarlatina.**

Six cases of Scarlatina occurred in four houses, two of which were at the Congregational School. The origin of these was not quite clear further than that having had several cases there previously they may be in some way connected through disinfection not having been complete. Occurring just prior to the School dispersing for the Midsummer holidays no further spread took place. Two cases were connected with exposure to infection in Great Ormonde Street Hospital for diseases of Children, and the remainder also contracted the disease outside the district.

**Diphtheria.**

Three cases of Diphtheria were notified, one of which proved fatal. Two of these occurred in Beechwood Road, and were associated with insanitary surroundings which have since been remedied. In one instance a sink with untrapped drain was found in the Larder whose only source of ventilation was by means of an opening through the wall into a washhouse where there was another sink in an offensive condition. Food kept under such conditions is not unlikely to be the means of favoring the development of Diphtheria. In both these instances also the closet was without flushing tank. The third case was that of one of the School teachers, who contracted the disease by having nursed one of these children on her knee not knowing that she was in an infectious condition.

**Enteric Fever.**

No cases of Enteric Fever occurred outside the Asylum and Barracks, the outbreak which has been previously alluded to having been confined entirely to the inmates of those Institutions.

**Parochial Committee.**

A Parochial Committee was formed on January 19th, for the purpose of taking into consideration the general sanitary conditions of the Locality and the best means to adopt with a view to improve them. Their attention was first of all directed to the question of cesspool emptying and removal of house refuse. Special reports on these points

were presented to the Committee by myself and the Sanitary Inspector, after close inspection of the Locality of a house to house character, with recommendations that contracts should be entered into for carrying out the work instead of leaving it to each occupier to do as best he could. After full discussion the Committee decided to adopt the suggestion and apply to the Sanitary Authority for sanction to advertise for tenders. This having been obtained a contract for the removal of ashes and house refuse was entered into with Mr. Whiffin and came into operation on August 1st. The work has been done satisfactorily and with decided benefit to the community. The further consideration as to a contract for emptying of cesspools has been deferred with a recommendation however to the Sanitary Authority to sanction the purchase of a suitable cart for immediate use and to be let on hire, which has been done.

In the absence of a proper system of drainage an efficient method of emptying cesspools is desirable, as such work left to occupiers to do as best they can is never well done and generally a source of much annoyance, if not actual nuisance to neighbours. This applies more particularly to the smaller houses where the practice has been to dig a hole as near the cesspool as possible and simply transfer the contents in the hopes that in time they would soak away. The Committee met in all seven times during which I was unavoidably absent on one occasion.

**Nuisances.**

Two hundred and seven nuisances have been abated in this Locality during the past year.

**Chelsham.**

CHELSHAM.—Population 448. Births 15, Deaths 9; giving rates per 1000 living of 33·26 for the former and 20·08 for the latter.

**Scarlatina.**

One case of Scarlatina was notified as occurring in this parish, but whose origin was not clear. No further spread of the disease occurred.

**Enteric Fever.**

One case of Enteric Fever was notified which on enquiry appeared to have been contracted elsewhere. It unfortunately terminated fatally, but no other cases occurred.

**Nuisances.**

Four nuisances were abated in this Locality during the year.

**Crowhurst.**

CROWHURST.—Population 247. Births 2, Deaths 5; giving rates per 1000 living of 8·09 for the former and 20·24 for the latter, which are higher than last year.

**Measles.**

Measles appeared in Epidemic Form during December having been conveyed by children attending an adjoining school, where the disease was prevalent, to other members of their families who were attending this school. The school was closed in consequence and the usual certificate granted to enable the managers to recover the grant.

**Water Supply.**

In consequence of the deficiency and inferiority of the Water Supply to houses situated near the Brick yard, negotiations were opened up with the East Surrey Water Co. with a view to inducing them to extend their mains from Tandridge; these I am pleased to say have been successful and the Company have promised to carry out the work, which will be a great boon to that portion of the Parish.

**Nuisances.**

Two nuisances have been abated in this Locality during the year.

**Farleigh.**

FARLEIGH.—Population 114. Births 1, Deaths 1; giving rates per 1000 living of 8·77, which is about the same as last year.

**Scarlatina.**

Two cases of Scarlatina were notified as occurring in this Parish in two separate houses and having no connection with each other. No further spread of the disease took place.

**Nuisances.** Five nuisances have been abated in this Locality during the year.

**Godstone.** GODSTONE.—Population 2539. Births 57, Deaths 25; giving rates per 1000 living of 22·44 for the former and 9·88, the latter, which is very much lower than last year.

**Scarlatina.** Three cases of Scarlatina were notified as occurring in this Parish, one of which proved fatal, in two separate houses having no connection with each other. No further spread of the disease occurred.

**Diphtheria.** One case of Diphtheria was notified as occurring at Blindley Heath of local origin, but no further extension took place.

**Drainage.** Special attention was called by means of a communication from the County Council to the present unsatisfactory system by which the sewage of a large portion of the Parish is disposed of and the condition of the settling tank on the Green. The offensive condition of the brook also into which the effluent ultimately discharges has been the cause of complaint with threats of legal proceedings being commenced in the event of no steps being taken to abate the nuisance. In consequence of these Mr. Fairbank was instructed to propound a scheme for the drainage of that portion of the Village which at present contributes to this system which creates the nuisance complained of.

A scheme was duly propounded and plans drawn for a system of sewage disposal by means of intermittent irrigation similar to that about to be applied to Blechingley, which would have the effect of doing away with the tanks on the Green and abating the nuisance at the Brook. This method was submitted to a meeting in Vestry but did not meet with the appreciation it deserved, and was finally shelved in consequence of a series of resolutions being carried postponing its further consideration until after the formation

of the Parish Council. The matter is still in abeyance, but must form the subject of serious consideration at the hands of the District Council during the coming year as being of pressing importance.

**Nuisances.**

Ninety-two nuisances have been abated in this Locality during the past year.

**Horne.**

HORNE.—Population 734. Births 24, Deaths 9 ; giving rates per 1,000 living of 32·69 for the former and 12·26 for the latter, which is lower than last year.

**Diphtheria.**

Eight cases of Diphtheria were notified as occurring in three separate houses. One at Harrowslea was probably contracted outside the district, the remaining cases were of local origin and due to the insanitary condition of the surroundings. In both cases cows were kept on the premises and the respective dairies in which the milk was stored were so situated as to permit of its exposure to emanations from accumulations of sewage and other refuse. In one instance the drain ventilated direct into the dairy. These defects have been remedied and no further spread of infection took place and none were fatal.

**Nuisances.**

Fifteen nuisances have been abated during the past year in this locality.

**Limpsfield.**

LIMPSFIELD.—Population 1504. Births 36, Deaths 17 ; giving rates per 1000 living of 23·28 for the former and 11·30 for the latter, which is slightly higher than last year.

**Scarlatina.**

One case of Scarlatina was notified as occurring at the Church Missionary Home which was contracted whilst the child was on a visit at Winchester in a house where there was a case. No spread of infection occurred.

**Diphtheria.**

Two cases of Diphtheria were notified as occurring, one in the Village and the other at the Church Missionary Home.

This latter was preceded by several instances of sore throats or tonsillitis amongst the children and as Diphtheria had been prevalent there on previous occasions it is rather to be expected that such simple cases will now and again take on a specific character and develop into true Diphtheria. Bacteriological analysis of the secretions from the throats of the first cases would be of assistance with a view to their early and immediate isolation and should be adopted by the Medical Officer of the Institution in which so many children of an age so susceptible to Diphtheria are congregated.

**Measles.**

An outbreak of Measles occurred in a private school for boys on the Common but did not extend beyond.

**Nuisances.**

Twenty-five nuisances have been abated in this Locality during the past year.

**Oxted.**

OXTED.—Population 1531. Births 46, Deaths 15; giving rates for 1000 living of 30·04 for the former and 9·79 for the latter, which is considerably lower than last year.

**Scarlatina.**

Ten cases of Scarlatina were notified as occurring in five separate houses during the past year. Early in the year, a child who was in the habit of visiting a farm house where there had been some cases during the late Autumn of the previous year fell ill, and the parents, not knowing the nature of the case, allowed it to attend school, by this means giving rise to four cases in other families, besides two more amongst members of her own. Disinfection in the first instance as regards the Farm house had evidently not been complete and delay had been incurred in the re-papering of some of the rooms. The Easter holidays, however, being very near were ante-dated a short time and the school was closed, with very satisfactory results, as no further extension of the disease occurred. The remaining cases occurred later in the year and were contracted outside the district.

#### Diphtheria.

Two cases of Diphtheria occurred in Harlings Row midst very insanitary surroundings. Sore throats are very prevalent amongst the tenants in this row of houses and Diphtheria occurred here during the previous year. The accommodation consists of Privies emptying into an open ditch in which the contents are allowed to accumulate for lengthened periods and into which the drains for carrying off the slop water also are laid. One of these drains was untrapped at the time of the occurrence of these cases of Diphtheria but has been remedied since. The whole system however, requires to be changed and it is to be regretted that the owner does not realize his responsibilities in the matter and voluntarily carry out the improvements which have been suggested to him, but which apparently there is no power to compel him to do, as the privy system is still a recognized one by the Authority.

#### Drainage.

The present system of emptying of cesspools by contract so far as Station Road is concerned has been the cause of many complaints from time to time and has received much consideration at the hands of the Authority and their officers. The difficulties which the Contractor has to contend with are by no means slight, as the cesspools are not so situated as to be easy of access during the work of emptying, and the rapidity with which they re-fill involves the operation being repeated so frequently that both plant and men are taxed to the utmost, and dissatisfaction with the way in which the work is done arises in consequence. It was chiefly in order to deal with this that a Parochial Committee was appointed as early in the year as January 19th, in conjunction with a similar one for Limpsfield and Tandridge. The subject of reference was to consider two schemes of drainage for the respective villages which had been prepared and report thereon. Dealing with that for Oxted the Committee rejected those presented to them and propounded a fresh one of their own which was to divide the area to be drained into three portions with separate machinery for each. Little progress however was made towards the adoption and actual carrying

out of any one of the three until near the close of the year when one was finally adopted to be applied to Station Road only. Plans and the necessary specifications were prepared but the matter is again in abeyance. The method proposed is that carried out by the International Water and Sewage Purification Company, which first precipitates the solids by the aid of a substance called Ferrozone in specially constructed tanks by means of a mixing wheel, and then filtering the effluent through a medium composed of a substance called Polarite. This effluent is then to be allowed to enter the brook. The objections to the system are that without the assistance of land irrigation the effluent will not be sufficiently pure as to satisfy the standard laid down by the Rivers Pollution Commissioners prior to its entering the Brook, and that in the absence of this additional method of purification no loan for carrying out the works would be granted by the Local Government Board, which would necessitate its being paid for out of current rate and become a heavy burden in consequence. The site selected for the tanks is near the Gas works, where no land is available for filtration purposes, which is absolutely essential after the chemical treatment, so that I am unable to approve of the method proposed. This Committee met in all nine times during which I was unavoidably absent on four occasions.

**Nuisances.**

Twenty-nine nuisances have been abated in this Locality during the past year.

**Tandridge.**

TANDRIDGE.—Population 598. Births 20, Deaths 9; giving rates per 1000 living of 33·44 for the former and 15·05 for the latter, which is higher than last year.

**Diphtheria.**

Three cases of Diphtheria were notified as occurring in two separate houses during the past year. One house near the Cage was the scene of two cases and due to insanitary surroundings which have been corrected. The third case, which unfortunately proved fatal, was that of a young girl who contracted it from a young man with whom she was

keeping company and living in another parish, who had recently suffered from the disease.

**Enteric Fever.**

One case of Enteric Fever was notified of a mild character whose origin was obscure and no other cases arose in connection with it.

**Drainage.**

A Parochial Committee was appointed to consider a scheme for the drainage of the Village by a system of intermittent downward filtration upon suitable land, propounded by Messrs. Fairbank, but which they rejected as not being required and the Committee afterwards dissolved.

**Nuisances.**

Ten nuisances have been abated in this Locality during the past year.

**Tatsfield.**

TATSFIELD.—Population 386. Births 16, Deaths 2; giving rates per 1000 living of 41·19 for the former and 5·18 for the latter which is very much lower than last year.

No cases of infectious illness were notified as occurring in this Parish during the past year.

**Nuisances.**

Nineteen nuisances have been abated in this Locality during the past year.

**Titsey.**

TITSEY.—Population 229. Births 5, Deaths 2; giving rates per 1000 living of 21·39 for the former and 8·73 for the latter which is the same as last year.

No cases of infectious illness were notified as occurring in this Parish during the past year.

**Nuisances.**

Four nuisances were abated in this Locality during the past year.

**Warlingham.**

WARLINGHAM.—Population 1·552. Births 56, Deaths 20; giving rates per 1000 living of 36·08 for the former and 12·88 for the latter, which is higher than last year.

**Scarlatina.**

Seven cases of Scarlatina were notified during the past year as occurring in five separate houses, one of which was a convalescent removed from Purley, which is outside the District. One other case was also contracted outside the district, having spent the night in a house where there had been a case just previously. The origin of the remainder is not very clear, but facilities are certainly afforded for the introduction of an infectious illness of this kind by the frequent visits of holiday makers from London during the summer months, who are in the habit of coming down to Batts Farm in great numbers, and principally children, to spend the day. Not being content to confine themselves to the precincts of the Farm, where all kinds of amusements and refreshments are provided for them, they are to be seen perambulating the village green and roads and may at any time come in contact with other children of the Parish, particularly about the time of the school being dismissed. Should any such children have come from any infectious houses in London or be themselves suffering, they might readily transmit the disease to others with whom they come in contact and create a fresh focus for its spread. The school was closed somewhat earlier than usual for the holidays in consequence of these cases, but not by any order of the Authority.

**Diphtheria.**

Four cases of Diphtheria were notified as occurring in this Parish during the past year and were associated with local defects of sanitation which have been remedied.

**Measles.**

Measles having been prevalent in an adjoining district, one case occurred in this Parish by the spread of the infection, which unfortunately proved fatal. No further extension of the disease took place.

**Enteric Fever.**

Two cases of Enteric fever were notified as occurring during the past year, one of which was contracted outside the District and unfortunately terminated fatally, the other, that of a boy, recovered, but its origin was not clear.

**Housing of the Working Classes Act.**

Proceedings were taken under this Act with a view to closing the house known as Brickfield Cottage as being unfit for human habitation, which after much delay and attendance before the Magistrates at Godstone were successful and the order was granted by them to carry out the same ; also Batts Cottage, on Batts Farm, belonging to the same owner.

**Nuisances.**

Fifty-four nuisances have been abated in this Locality during the past year.

**Woldingham.**

WOLDINGHAM.—Population 102. Birth 7, Deaths 1 ; giving a rate per 1,000 living of 68·62 for the former.

No cases of infectious illness were notified as occurring in this Parish during the past year and having the highest Birth rate of all the Parishes and no deaths recorded, renders it the healthiest one of the whole Union.

**Water Analysis.**

Twenty-three samples of water have been submitted to me for examination and analysis during the past year and certificates given in accordance with the results obtained. In sixteen instances of these a more wholesome supply has been provided in lieu of that shewn to be unfit for drinking and domestic purposes, the majority of which were in Godstone.

**Summary.**

A leading feature of the work of the year has been the formation of Parochial Committees as provided under the Public Health Act, 1875, for Caterham, Limpsfield, Oxted and Tandridge, and the delegation to them of certain specified subjects for their consideration. In the case of Caterham the method proved successful, and by means of the harmony of their proceedings and the unanimous desire to benefit the Locality much good work was done ; but as regards the Limpsfield and Oxted Joint Committee the same result can scarcely be ascribed to them. Two schemes for the drainage

of those two Localities propounded by experts engaged for the purpose by the Authority were submitted to them for consideration and selection; but which were at once cast aside and considered to be inapplicable. The condition of the drainage however of that portion of Oxted called Station Road and the unsatisfactory manner in which the work of emptying the cesspools was being carried out by the Contractor was of so pressing a character that their efforts were directed towards devising a method of dealing with it. The plan they selected however, that of the International Co., does not commend itself for several reasons. Being limited in its application to so small a portion of the Parish—22 cesspools only—when other parts are equally requiring to be dealt with; the want of a suitable site for the works and at a sufficient distance from existing dwellings as to avoid being a nuisance: the absence of any provision for the further filtration of the effluent after chemical treatment prior to its entering the brook either by land irrigation or otherwise, form the chief objections, besides involving an expenditure (£700) which is out of all proportion to the advantage to be gained by its adoption.

A remedy for the existing state of affairs is doubtless urgently needed and that could be provided temporarily by the District Council undertaking the work of emptying the cesspools in that portion of the Parish under the supervision of their own Sanitary Inspector, which would ensure the work being done more carefully than at present and with less cause for complaint. This would give time to enable a suitable scheme for the drainage of the whole Village to be considered and the necessary steps taken for its execution. This together with an improved system for Godstone and the provision of an Isolation Hospital upon the site already purchased for the purpose will form the principal works of the coming year.

**Godstone Union Rural Sanitary Authority.—Abstract of the Reports of  
the Inspector of Nuisances for the year 1894.**

Parish.	No. of premises inspected and re-inspected.	Preliminary notices served.	Statutory notices served.	Dirty houses cleansed	Offensive pools, ditches and watercourses.	Defective privies, E.C.'s, W.C.'s and ashpits.	Defective drainage.	Offensive accumulations.	Animals improperly kept.	Overcrowded houses.	Ashpits provided under Sec. 36.	Samples of water taken	Houses disinfected.	Wholesome supply of water provided.	Houses closed under H.W.C. Act.	Total of nuisances abated.
Blechingley ...	132	9	4		1	34	8	3				5	1			52
Caterham ...	415	36	13	3		21	23	9	4	3	137		7			207
Chelsham ...	22		1	1			1					1	1			4
Crowhurst ...	10						1									2
Farleigh ...	8	1	1		1	1	1					1	1			5
Godstone ...	246	14	10	6	8	40	11	3		1		5	7	12		92
Horne ...	37	6	2			6	1					2	5			15
Limpsfield ...	131	4	4			12	3	2		3		5				25
Oxted ...	205	8	8		2	4	9	2	1			1	10			29
Tandridge ...	45	4			2	3	1			1			3			10
Tatsfield ...	48		2	6		7	2			1		1	1	1		19
Titsey ...	8		1			1			1				1			4
Warlingham ...	167	12	9	4		21	2	3	1	4	6	2	6	3	2	54
Woldingham ...	3															
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>1477</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>518</b>

**REMARKS.—**

CATERHAM.—House refuse removed by the Authority after 1st August.

GODSTONE.—Cesspools in Station Road emptied by the Authority's Contractor. Nuisances removed by Contractor not included.



Appended are the Report of the Sanitary Inspector and the usual tables of mortality and sickness.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES E. OLDMAN.

M.D. Cantab.,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Grange,

Blechingley,

December 31st, 1894.

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COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1885.

No. of Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops on Register....	48
„ „ added in 1894.....	4
„ „ erased in 1894.....	5
„ of Inspections.....	270
„ Cleansed and limewhited after Notices.....	21

## SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT.

No. of new Buildings approved by the Authority in 1894.

Bletchingley.....	23
Caterham.....	31
Chelsham.....	2
Godstone.....	12
Limpfield.....	9
Oxted.....	18
Tatsfield.....	8
Warlingham.....	15
	—
Total.....	118

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No. of Inspections of new Buildings..... 242

No. of Certificates granted under Public

Health (Water) Act, 1878..... 34

THOS. C. BARRALET,

Assoc. San. Inst.,

Sanitary Inspector & Surveyor



