

**[Report 1895] / Medical Officer of Health, Guildford U.D.C. / Borough.**

**Contributors**

Guildford (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1895

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/w4589nhn>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

1895.

---

**GUILDFORD**

*Urban Sanitary Authority.*

---

**MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT**

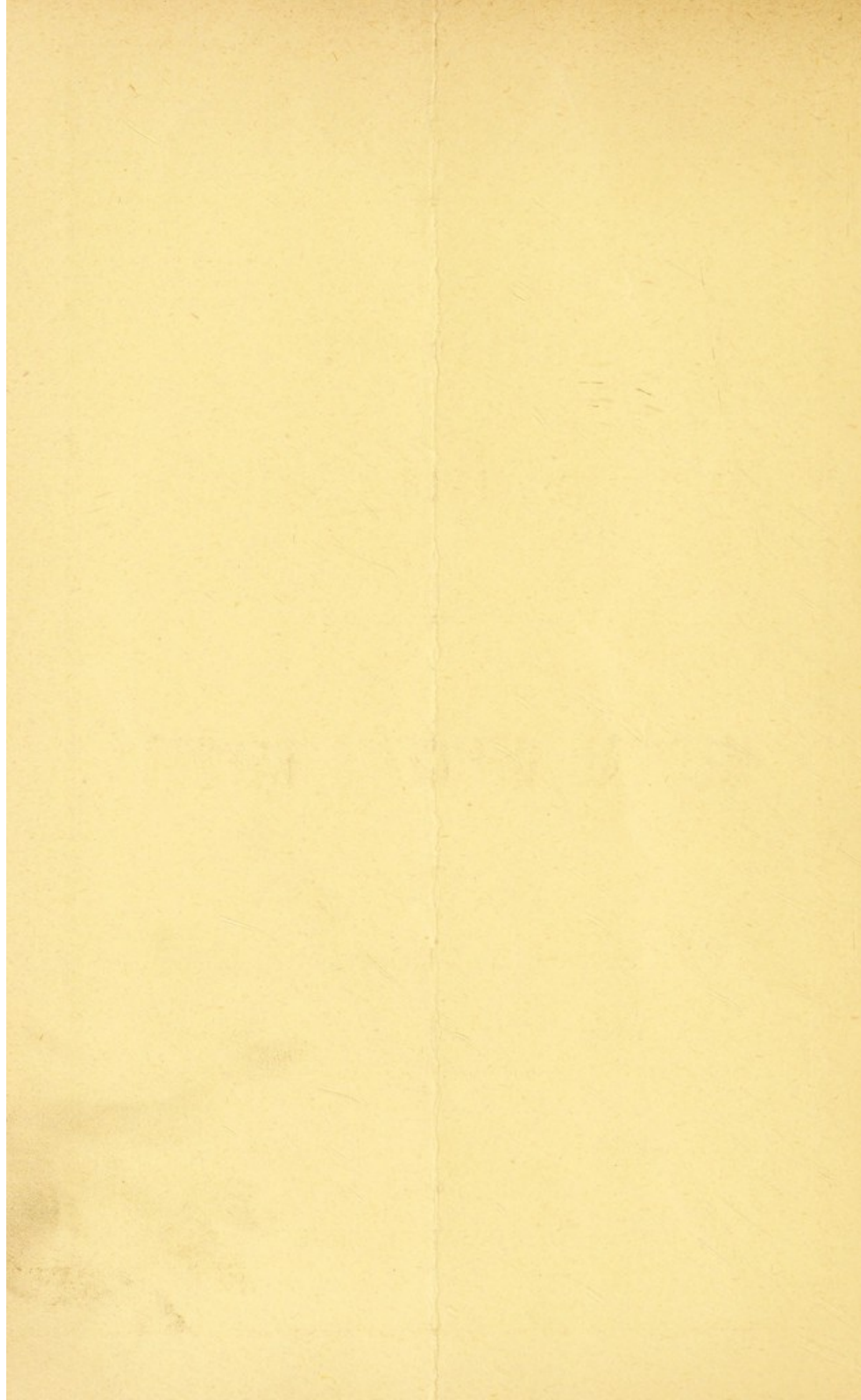
FOR THE

Year ending 31st December, 1895.

---

GUILDFORD :

W. MATTHEWS, PRINTER, 111, HIGH STREET.



1895.

---

**GUILDFORD**

*Urban Sanitary Authority.*

---

**MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT**

FOR THE

Year ending 31st December, 1895.

---

GUILDFORD :

W. MATTHEWS, PRINTER, 111, HIGH STREET.

Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29270339>

# Guildford Urban Sanitary District.

---

## MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1895.

---

TO THE GUILDFORD URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

*March 30th, 1896.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the vital statistics, and on the conditions affecting the Urban Sanitary District of Guildford.

The population of the District at the Census of 1891 was 14,316, and the estimated population to the middle of 1895 was 15,936.

The number of inhabited houses was 3,089, and of these 3,063 were supplied with water from the Public Waterworks.

The total rateable value of the District is £76,970.

The area of the Borough is 607 acres, and the mileage of the roads about twelve.

The number of Births registered in the District was 381, and the birth-rate per 1,000 of the population was 23·9.

The total number of Deaths was 282, including 89 occurring in the District but not belonging to it. The annual death-rate for the District, therefore, was 12.11, the lowest death-rate for the District for more than twenty-five years.

The Infant Mortality for the past eight years under five years of age was :—

1888	...	...	...	...	41
1889	...	...	...	...	62
1890	...	...	...	...	75
1891	...	...	...	...	59
1892	...	...	...	...	59
1893	...	...	...	...	78
1894	...	...	...	...	66
1895	...	...	...	...	66

There were only six deaths from zymotic diseases in the District, namely, Diphtheria 2, Enteric Fever 2, Puerperal Fever 2. The Enteric Fever cases were at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, and occurred in persons brought into the District from the outside.

#### SICKNESS DURING THE YEAR FROM THE SEVEN PRINCIPAL ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The total number of cases of zymotic disease reported during the year was as follows :—Scarlet Fever 20, Diphtheria 25, Erysipelas 7, Enteric Fever 6, Puerperal Fever 2.

The number of cases of zymotic disease has been much fewer than in previous years.

## SMALLPOX.

No case reported.

## DIPHTHERIA.

The number of these cases has been smaller than in any year since 1888, and were for the most part of a mild type; only two died.

The most usual, I might almost say the invariable, accompaniment of a case of diphtheria was a full cesspool, a broken drain, or an unventilated cesspool.

The cases were distributed by months as follows:—

January	...	...	...	—
February	...	...	...	4
March	...	...	...	1
April	...	...	...	3
May	...	...	...	3
June	...	...	...	3
July	...	...	...	7
August	...	...	...	1
September	...	...	...	1
October	...	...	...	2
November	...	...	...	—
December	...	...	...	—

Thirteen of these cases occurred in the low-lying portions of Guildford, and for the most part in Stoke parish.

The part of District most visited by diphtheria has hitherto been the Hop Garden Estate, namely, Eagle, Finch, and Falcon Roads. The houses in these roads have now been connected with the new

sewerage system, since which time there has been a marked falling off in the cases of diphtheria.

#### SCARLET FEVER.

There were 20 cases of Scarlet Fever. Of these 15 were sent to the Isolation Hospital. Of these cases, 9 occurred in January, 3 in February, 2 in March, 4 in September, 1 in November, and 2 in December.

The two cases in December were infected by cases which occurred in September, and were treated in the Isolation Hospital.

The infection seems to have been received immediately on the return of the patient from the Hospital.

#### ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER.

Six cases were notified during the year :—

1. In March a case was reported in Wheeler's Row, in a youth who had been employed sifting ashes and rubbish imported from Aldershot to the Guildford Park Brickyard.

2. On June 19th a case was admitted into the Royal Surrey County Hospital from Church Lane, Farnham.

3. On July 15th a case was reported at Hill Place, Charlottetown. This man had worked at Maybury, Woking, where there were cases of Enteric Fever.

4. On September 18th a case was notified at Norfolk Cottages, Bright Hill.

5. On November 3rd a case was admitted into the County Hospital from Meadow Cottages, Chilworth.

6. On December 13th a case was reported in a new house in Walnut Tree Close. The patient was taken ill after a visit away at a funeral on December 4th.

#### ERYSIPELAS.

There were 7 cases reported, 2 were in the Royal Surrey County Hospital, and 1 in the Workhouse.

#### PUERPERAL FEVER.

Two cases were reported, one in February and one in October. Both were fatal.

---

The following table shows the number of Deaths in the District from the principal Zymotic Diseases since 1882.

	<i>Smallpox.</i>	<i>Measles.</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>	<i>Diphtheria.</i>	<i>Whooping Cough.</i>	<i>Continued Fever.</i>			<i>Diarrhœa.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
						<i>Typhus.</i>	<i>Typhoid or Enteric.</i>	<i>Other sorts.</i>		
1882 .....	...	2	...	2	4	...	...	...	...	8
1883 .....	2	1	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	8
1884 .....	...	8	1	2	4	...	2	...	...	17
1885 .....	...	...	1	2	2	...	...	...	...	5
1886 .....	...	...	...	11	8	...	1	...	...	20
1887 .....	...	4	3	2	1	...	3	...	...	13
1888 .....	...	...	...	1	1	...	3	...	...	5
1889 .....	...	...	1	1	12	...	...	...	...	14
1890 .....	...	26	...	5	2	...	...	...	...	33
1891 .....	...	2	1	5	13	...	1	...	...	22
1892 .....	...	4	...	12	1	...	1	...	...	18
1893 .....	...	2	...	19	...	...	2	...	...	23
1894 .....	...	...	2	5	6	...	...	...	...	13
1895 .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	4

The Rainfall for 1895 was considerably below that of 1894, amounting to 25.59 inches, whereas that of 1894 was 33.26 inches, and was distributed as follows:—

January	...	...	...	2.47 inches
February	...	...	...	.18 „
March	...	...	...	1.52 „
April	...	...	...	1.93 „
May	...	...	...	.42 „
June	...	...	...	.42 „
July	...	...	...	5.34 „
August	...	...	...	2.48 „
September	...	...	...	.83 „
October	...	...	...	3.30 „
November	...	...	...	4.08 „
December	...	...	...	2.62 „

---

25.59 inches

The greatest fall on any day of the year was July 18th, when 1.30 inches fell.

Rain fell on 164 days.

## ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

### SCARLET FEVER.

All cases have been visited, and all houses or rooms, and articles of clothing used by the patient, have been cleansed and disinfected. Children from infected families were kept from school. The majority of cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital for treatment, thus lessening very materially the chance of the disease infecting large areas in the district. Seventeen cases were treated in the Isolation Hospital, of which none were fatal.

### ENTERIC FEVER.

With the exception of the two cases treated at the County Hospital and one at the Isolation Hospital, all the others were treated at their own homes, and there appears not to have been any spread of the disease by infection or contact.

## THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The Isolation Hospital, belonging to the Joint Hospital Board, has again been of great service in preventing the spread of zymotic disease.

At the end of last year there were remaining in the hospital two cases of diphtheria. During the course of the year 1895 the following cases were admitted from this district:—Diphtheria 4, Scarlet Fever 17, Enteric Fever 1. Total under treatment during the

year 1895 :—Diphtheria 6, Scarlet Fever 17, Enteric Fever 1. Remaining in the hospital Dec. 31, 1895, Scarlet Fever, 2 cases.

---

The New Building and Model Byelaws have not yet been adopted, and we are still working upon the old imperfect ones of Dec. 12, 1865.

The Common Lodging Houses, Bakehouses, Slaughter - houses, Factories, &c., have been conducted according to law, and with as little nuisance as possible.

A very large amount of work has been done by Mr. Tribe, the Sanitary Inspector, in the removal of nuisances and emptying and filling of cesspools, a detailed report of which is attached to this report.

The Sanitary Committee has continued to work with the officers of the Authority, and it has been of great use in furthering necessary improvements.

### THE NEW SEWERAGE WORKS.

These were practically completed on May 29, 1895, and were, on certificate from Mr. Lailey, the Engineer, taken over formally by the Mayor and Corporation.

Since the above date 790 houses have been con-

nected—419 on the low level sewer and 371 on the high level sewer.

Mr. Lailey, in his report dated April 17, 1895, describes the works carried out under the following heads :—

- 1.—Outfall Works.
- 2.—Pumping Station.
- 3.—High Level Sewers.
- 4.—Low Level Sewers.

1. *The Outfall Works* are situated at Bell Fields, and there are twenty acres of land, the greater part of which is available for surface irrigation of the effluent. On this land are constructed a series of precipitation tanks and filter beds, a building, and machinery for dealing with and pressing the sludge, and a cottage for the attendant to reside in.

2. *The Pumping Station*.—A capacious pumping station has been erected in Drummond Road, and sewage reservoir, so as to contain the sewage from the whole of the low level sewer.

3. *The High Level System*.—This system commences at the site of the outfall, at the precipitation tanks, and is constructed from thence to the Nightingale Road by means of a cast iron sewer, and on its way it crosses under the Wey Navigation near to Stoke Mill and over the back water, then diverges into the Stoke Road, where, at its head, is fixed a proper straining grating. At this point a stoneware sewer begins and travels along as far as the Markenfield Road, then down that road and turning

in a southerly direction is laid along the road southwards towards North Street, up Tuns Gate and ending in South Hill. The whole of the system of high level sewers gravitates to this intercepting main. The mileage of the high level system is 8 miles or thereabouts.

4. *The Low Level Sewers.*—This system all gravitates to the reservoir at the pumping station in Drummond Road, and receives the whole of the sewers below the line of the high level intercepting sewer before described. For the information of your Corporation, I may state that the total mileage of the low level system is 6 miles or thereabouts, and the total leakage into the reservoirs in the Drummond Road is 31,125 gallons per 24 hours.

The total cost of the works has been £39,723.

The sewerage works, though not thoroughly complete as regards the outfall works, have so far worked in a most satisfactory manner, and, if it is possible to judge from the great diminution in the number of such diseases as diphtheria, it has already had a marked effect in improving the health of the town.

Difficulties were experienced in using the Works at the commencement, owing to the frequency with which the sewers were used for the reception of cess-pool matter. However, complaints are much less frequent of this nuisance.

*Process through which the Sewage passes.* — The sewage, on arriving at the outfall, is strained, and then

mixes with a precipitant known as "Ferrozone" and a small quantity of permanganate of potash and lime. These act as a precipitant and deodorant. It then passes into the precipitating tanks, where the sludge is precipitated.

Upon the completion of the precipitation process, the top water, or tank effluent, is discharged on to the filter bed. The effluent then soaks away through the filters, and passes out by land drainage pipes, which are laid in the bottom of the filter tanks, and thence into the river Wey. The effluent is bright, clear, and odourless.

The sludge from the precipitation tanks is drained into a sludge well, and afterwards pressed into dry cakes. The pressed sludge, it is believed, will be a valuable manurial product, but up to the present date none has been placed on the market.

## THE WATER SUPPLY.

This has been good in quality, but owing to the great drought some anxiety was felt as regards the power of the pumping plant. This was consequently supplemented by an engine placed over the well, and no further difficulty was experienced.

The quantity of water supplied per head per day in the Borough is twenty gallons or thereabouts.

The question of increasing both the water supply and the means of raising the water has been under

the consideration of the Authority throughout the year.

A plan has been accepted by the Authority by which all the water wheels in the old Mill can be used for raising the water to the reservoirs, and it is confidently believed that this will suffice for the next ten years or thereabouts.

### THE PUBLIC BATHS.

These are as popular as hitherto, and were used as follows :—

Swimming Baths, males	...	13,419
„ „ females	...	1,885
Warm Baths	... ..	3,340
Total number	... ..	<hr/> 18,644

The sum taken was £227 4s. 4d.

The Schools regularly attending the Baths were Allen House, Miss Wenham's, Grammar School, Union Workhouse children.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN MORTON,

*Medical Officer of Health,*

*Guildford Urban Sanitary Authority.*

(A)

TABLE (C)

During the Year 1895, in the Guildford Urban Sanitary

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the pur- pose of these Statis- tics; public institu- tions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM			
	At all ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards		Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	1	2	3
County Hospital ....	43	3	3	6	7	19	5	Under 5.. 5 upwds.	.....	.....	2 .....
Union Workhouse ..	57	1		1	1	15	39	Under 5.. 5 upwds.	.....	.....	.....
Urban District .....	182	45	14		10	53	60	Under 5.. 5 upwds.	.....	.....	.....
TOTALS ..	282	49	17	7	18	87	104	Under 5.. 5 upwds.	.....	.....	2 .....

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken in

Deaths occurring outside the District among per- sons belonging thereto.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Under 5.. 5 upwds.	.....	.....	.....
Deaths occurring within the district among per- sons not belonging thereto.	89	3	3	7	7	29	40	Under 5.. 5 upwds.	.....	.....	1 .....

Area and Population of the 1

Area in Acres .....

Population (1891)...

March 30th, 1896.

# DEATHS

istrict, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

Fevers.																	
Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy	Heart Disease		Injuries	All other Diseases	TOTAL	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
2					1					3	2	3		1 6	2 21	6 37	
										5	9	10			32	56	
					1	1	1	5 1	.... 1	2 16	11 16	.... 15	.... ....	.... 5	38 67	59 123	
2			2		2	1	1	5 1	.... 1	2 24	11 27	.... 28	.... ....	1 11	41 120	66 216	

ount in judging of the above records of mortality.

2					1					7	11	11		1	4	7	
														2	49	82	

ct to which this Return relates.

..... 607  
 ..... 14,316

JOHN MORTON, *Medical Officer of Health.*

(B)

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the Guildford Urban Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the pur- pose of these Statis- tics; Public Institu- tions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.			Registered Births	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.											Number of such cases removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.										
	Census, 1891	Estimated to middle of 1895.	(c)			(d)	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria	Membranous Group.	FEVERS.					Erysipelas.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	FEVERS.					Erysipelas.	
											Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.						Cholera.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.		Puerperal.
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
County Hospital ..	.....	.....	.....	Under 5.. 5 upwards	..	....	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Urban District ....	.....	.....	.....	Under 5.. 5 upwards	..	1 19	4 15	..	..	4 ..	..	..	2	..	3	..	1 14	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	
Union Workhouse	.....	.....	.....	Under 5.. 5 upwards	..	....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
TOTALS.....	.....	.....	.....	Under 5.. 5 upwards	..	1 19	6 19	..	..	6 ..	..	..	2	..	6	..	1 14	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	

## APPENDIX.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR  
Year ending December 31st, 1895.

*To the Guildford Urban Sanitary Authority.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my first Annual Report of the Sanitary Works executed under your Authority during the year ending December 31st, 1895.

Complaints received and attended to .. ..	113
Preliminary Notices served (referring to 203 houses) ..	130
Formal Notices .. .. .	1
Letters served pointing out and requiring the abatement of nuisances .. .. .	228
Cesspools emptied .. .. .	80
Accumulations of manure removed .. ..	19
Urinals repaired and cleansed .. ..	11
House drains cleared .. .. .	46
Offensive accumulations removed .. ..	13
Receptacles built for the deposit of stable manure ..	1
Leaky roofs made sound and watertight .. ..	4
Defective guttering and downpipes made good ..	6
Receptacles provided and repaired for house refuse ..	25
Privies repaired. . . . .	2
Nuisances abated caused by the improper keeping of animals .. .. .	30

Sink wastes disconnected from drains and gully traps fitted, &c. . . . .	15
Brick and cement sinks replaced by impervious sinks ..	6
Unwholesome premises cleansed and limewashed ..	13
Houses supplied with water from mains where previously supplied from wells .. .. .	5
Cases of overcrowding abated .. .. .	4
Visits to Schools .. .. .	15
Premises disinfected after infectious diseases ..	37
Number of houses where bedding, clothing, &c., has been removed to be disinfected by the apparatus at the Isolation Hospital .. .. .	9
Visits to bakehouses, slaughterhouses, cowsheds, and milk shops .. .. .	139

Formal action has been taken in two cases of exposing for sale unsound food, one meat (salt beef), the other fish (lobsters). A conviction was obtained in one case, and warrants issued for the arrest of the offenders in the other case.

Formal action has also been taken in five cases for unlawfully depositing on unoccupied ground and fouling the public roads with sewage. Convictions were obtained in each case.

## REPORT OF THE PROGRESS OF HOUSE CONNECTIONS TO THE NEW SEWERS.

---

As my duties are combined as Sanitary and House Connection Inspector, it has given me an opportunity of remedying a great many sanitary defects which it would have been difficult to have dealt with satisfactorily otherwise.

As the sewers have now been open for house connections six months, good progress has been made with the same.

The number of houses and premises with connections, 790.

Of this number 481 are completed, the remaining 309 being in progress.

Of this number (790) there are 419 on the Low Level Sewer, and 371 on the High Level Sewer.

There has been 332 foul drains disconnected from the street surface water drains.

383 cesspools have been emptied and filled in.

1,696 inspections have been made.

As it may be interesting to you to know some of the matters that have been remedied, they are as follows :—

Fifty-two open and dilapidated privies have been pulled down, re-built, and fitted with modern appliances.

Twelve houses previously supplied with water from wells are now supplied from the mains.

A number of drains from privies and sinks without traps were found to be connected direct to cesspools.

Several cases where cesspools were under the floor of privies attached to the houses, the liquid matter was found to have percolated under the foundations leading to the main buildings.

Bell traps have been replaced by stoneware gully traps where the new system of drainage has been carried out.

It may be ascertained by the foregoing list, referring to nuisances and house connections to the sewers and surface-water drains, that there has been a great amount of work done during the year, and yet I am pleased to report there has been very few cases of friction between this department and the persons called upon to comply with the orders made.

Both owners and occupiers take more kindly to my inspections, and see the importance of their premises being put in a thorough sanitary condition, and in accordance with the Byelaws without incurring unnecessary expense.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. C. TRIBE,

Assoc. Sanitary Inst.

