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HUNTINGDON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

Borough of Huntingdon

FOR THE YEAR 1908.

BY


HERBERT LUCAS, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

Medical Officer of Health.

HUNTINGDON :

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TO THE HUNTINGDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

The Borough of Huntingdon is situate on the north bank of the river Ouse, and is composed of a long street a mile in length, running in a northerly direction at right angles to the river, several side streets turn off from the main street and there are many courts and alleys; the suburb of Newtown is about half-a-mile from the High Street in an easterly direction.

The Borough is more or less surrounded by Commons. The area in acres is 976, the soil is gravel.

House accommodation is of a mixed character, that for the working classes is yearly improving, the old thatched houses are disappearing and more modern ones are taking their places. There are still some dilapidated houses left but none that I could consider as unfit for human habitation.

There is plenty of air space around the dwelling-houses, the surroundings are fairly good. There is some improvement in the gravelling and paving of the yards, but many of them are still in an unsatisfactory condition.

Bye-laws relating to the erection of new dwelling-houses are in force and plans are submitted to your Surveyor.

Sewerage and Drainage.

There is a complete system of sewerage and drainage, the sewers discharging into the river. An intercepting tank is now in working order near the outlet of the sewer, and is doing good service. The drains are well ventilated, but inspection of the ventilators is a matter of great importance and should be well looked after. The drains are regularly flushed by means of a flushing cart. The old

brick sewers have been in many places removed and replaced by sanitary pipes. There is a separate system of drainage for Newtown which discharges into a small watercourse before reaching the river. An intercepting tank is now placed at the outlet of this drain and is working in a very satisfactory manner. The drains are flushed by the water flushing carts and are well ventilated.

Removal of Refuse.

House refuse is regularly removed by your Scavengers, and is carted out of the Borough to a field at Hartford. I should like to see sanitary dust bins in more general use, both for the good of the people and the saving of labour of your Scavengers. The receptacles for rubbish now used are most unsatisfactory, broken boxes and tins with jagged edges being in use. I am sorry to say there has been little or no advance in this matter since my last Report.

Water.

The Water Supply of the Borough is obtained from the gravel of the Ouse valley, and is collected by pipes laid in the gravel bed and conveyed into a well, from which it is pumped into a reservoir and distributed over the town by gravitation. There is also a high pressure service to supply some of the houses that stand on high levels. The supply to the town generally is constant.

The gathering ground in which the pipes are laid is far removed from any means of contamination from sewage pollution or from the soakage of manurial products.

A few wells remain in the town, but I hope they will soon all be done away with.

No sample of well water was sent for analysis during the year.

Milk Supply.

The supply of Milk to the Borough is good. Cow Sheds and Milk Shops are clean and well ventilated.

Places over which the Council has Supervision.

There is no registered lodging house in the Borough. *Factories, Workshops, Slaughter Houses, Bakehouses, Cow Sheds and Milk Shops* are all regularly inspected by your Inspector of Nuisances.

There is a *Carriage Manufactory* in the Borough, the sanitary arrangements of which are satisfactory.

The Schools are in good sanitary condition and water is supplied from the Town Water Supply.

The Medical Examination of School Children is carried out under my supervision.

Abatement of Nuisances.

Your Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. Brown, makes frequent inspections, and if nuisances are not abated he gets an order from your Council for their removal.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

Notification of Infectious diseases has been in force since the first passing of the Act.

Isolation Hospital.

There is an Isolation Hospital, which I regret to say is still shared by St. Ives Rural and Urban Districts. I should like to see a combination of the parishes of Hartford, Brampton and Great Stukeley in the Hunts. Rural District, so that we could protect our own immediate neighbourhood, instead of importing cases of Infectious Diseases from a distance.

As the Godmanchester Urban Council have taken no steps to provide an Isolation Hospital, I hope they may be induced to combine with Huntingdon and the Rural Districts.

The Small Pox Hospital is ready for use at a few hours notice.

Disinfection.

There is an excellent disinfecting apparatus at the Isolation Hospital, which can be used for the disinfection of clothes and bedding from the Borough. You also possess Alformant Lamps for the disinfection of houses with Formic Aldehyde vapour.

Inspections.

In December last I made a systematic inspection of the whole district accompanied by your Inspector of Nuisances. I have made frequent inspections of localities where infectious cases have arisen and where nuisances have existed, and in the latter case your Inspector has given orders for my instructions to be carried out.

Births and Deaths.

The births of 85 children were registered during the year, 47 boys and 38 girls. One of these births occurred in the Union Workhouse, the child not belonging to the district, making a total of 84—a birth-rate of 19·7 per 1000 persons living.

The deaths of 90 persons were registered in the district and of two persons outside the district, in the Three Counties Asylum, making a total of 92. Of these 36 were non-residents, making the total number of deaths of residents 56, a rate of 13·1 per 1000 persons living.

Prevalence of Zymotic Disease.

Ten cases of infectious disease were notified during the year. Erysipelas, five; Scalet Fever, five.

Diphtheria.

No case of Diphtheria was notified.

Erysipelas.

Five cases of Erysipelas were notified. One case followed an injury, in the other 4 no definite cause could be ascertained.

Scarlet Fever.

Five cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. Three of these cases occurred in one house the sanitary surroundings of which were not satisfactory. All five cases were treated in the Isolation Hospital.

Enteric Fever.

No case was notified.

Influenza.

Influenza was prevalent in March. One death occurred.

Small Pox and Vaccination.

No case of Small Pox was notified. Applications for Vaccination exemption orders are much on the increase and I fear nothing but an Outbreak of Small Pox will bring persons to recognise the necessity and advantage of this preventive measure. I should like to see re-vaccination, which is now utterly neglected, made compulsory.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.

Six deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia occurred, making an average of 1.4 per 1000 persons living.

Phthisis.

Six deaths from Phthisis and other tubercular diseases were registered during the year, making an average of 1.4 per 1000 persons living.

Cancer.

Four deaths from Cancer occurred, making an average of .91 per 1000 persons living.

Food and Drug Adulteration.

One sample of Margarine, three of New Milk, one Irish Whisky, one of Brandy, one of Gorgonzola Cheese, one of Dutch Cheese, one of White Pepper, one of Coffee and one of Cake, were analyzed and all found genuine.

Public Mortuary.

A Public Mortuary has been provided, and I hope the public may be advised as to the removal of bodies of persons dying of infectious and contagious diseases from their dwelling-houses to this most necessary institution.

I append Report of Factories and Workshops and the Report of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Brown.

Table 1. Vital Statistics.

- „ 3. Of Infectious Diseases Notified.
- „ 4. Of Mortality,
- „ 5. Infantile Mortality.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT LUCAS,

Medical Officer of Health,

Huntingdon Urban District Council.

HUNTINGDON,

February 11th, 1909.

Sanitary Inspector's Report, 1908.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report as follows :—

The Slaughter Houses in the Borough are well kept and regularly limewashed in accordance with the Bye-laws and instructions have been given that no Slaughtering of Animals or Dressing of their Carcases shall take place in view of the Public.

The Bakehouses, Dairies and Cowsheds are inspected from time to time and are found to be in good order and utensils in use clean.

I have found several Drains blocked during my visits and the Owners or their Agents have had same speedily remedied on their attention being called to same. Many Earthenware Gullies have been substituted for " D " Traps and there are but few of the latter now remaining in use in the Borough.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

FRED BROWN,

Sanitary Inspector.

HUNTINGDON,

January, 1909.

The following is a Summary of the work carried out :—

Drains unstopped and repaired	...	...	25
Manure and refuse removed	...	...	3
Closets unstopped and repaired	...	...	12
Slaughter Houses inspected	...	...	8
Dairies and Cowsheds inspected	...	...	5
Bakehouses inspected	...	...	10
Pigstyes and Yards unclean	...	...	3
Overcrowded houses	...	...	2
Keeping of Pigs prohibited	...	...	1

Waterworks.

GENTLEMEN,

I have to report that I have made periodical inspections of the Water Service in the Borough and occasionally found water running to waste principally caused by children.

New Taps and Washers have been provided when necessary.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

FRED BROWN,

Inspector.

HUNTINGDON,

January, 1909.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1908 for the Borough of Huntingdon.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, & Homework.

1.—INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notice.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	2	...	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	2	...	...
Workplaces ... ..	...	...	...
Homeworkers' Premises ...	...	
Total	4	...	...

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness ... ..	...	...
Overcrowding	1	1
Sanitary Accommodation } Insufficient ... }	...	...
Breach of special sanitary } requirements for bake- } houses }	1	1
Total	2	2

3. Home work.—Nil.

4. Registered Workshops.—30

5. Other Matters.—Nil.

TABLE I.—GODMANCHESTER URBAN DISTRICT.

YEAR.	1.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.					Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non- Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
			Number.	Rate*	Under 1 year of Age.			At all Ages.					Number.	Rate*
					Number.	Rate per 1000 Births Registered.	Number.	Rate*.						
									5.						6.	7.	8.
	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.		
1898	4546	113	24.8	13	115.0	85	18.7	30	22	0	63	13.8		
1899	4546	113	24.8	13	115.0	79	17.3	33	27	0	52	11.4		
1900	4546	101	22.2	13	128.7	88	19.3	35	26	0	62	13.6		
1901	4261	106	24.9	10	94.3	88	20.6	35	26	0	62	14.5		
1902	4261	100	23.4	11	111.1	101	23.7	42	26	1	75	17.8		
1903	4261	95	22.2	11	115.8	77	18.0	31	23	0	54	12.6		
1904	4261	98	23.2	11	112.2	94	22.0	44	24	0	60	14.0		
1905	4261	84	19.7	8	95.2	66	15.5	34	26	0	40	9.3		
1906	4261	80	18.7	10	125.0	94	22.0	39	30	2	66	15.4		
1907	4261	76	16.8	5	65.8	87	20.1	54	45	2	42	9.8		
Averages for years 1898-1907.	4346	96.6	22.07	10.5	107.81	85.9	19.72	37.7	27.4	.5	57.6	13.22		
1908	4261	84	19.7	7	83.3	90	21.1	54	36	2	56	13.1		

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated Population.

Area of District in Acres } Total population at all ages ... 4261
(exclusive of area } Number of Inhabited houses ... 1025
covered by water) } Average number of persons per house 4.1

At Census of 1901.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the outside District :—County Hospital, Union Workhouse, Isolation Hospital.

Institutions without the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District :—Addenbrooke Hospital, Cambridge.

TABLE III.—Huntingdon Urban District.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							HOSPITAL.
	At Ages $\frac{1}{2}$ —Years							
	At all Ages.	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and up- wards	
Small Pox								
Cholera								
Diphtheria								
Membranous Croup ...								
Erysipelas	5				1	2	2	
Scarlet Fever	5		2	2	1			5
Typhus Fever.....								
Enteric Fever.....								
Relapsing Fever.....								
Continued Fever								
Puerperal Fever.....								
Plague.....								
TOTALS.....	10		2	2	2	2	2	5

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Near Cemetery within the District.

Total available beds, 30.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 2.

SMALL POX HOSPITAL.—Hartford.

TABLE IV.—Huntingdon Urban District.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH. 1.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "residents" whether occurring in or beyond the district.							Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District. 9.
	All ages. 2	Under 1 Year 3	1 and under 5 4	5 and under 15 5	15 and under 25 6	25 and under 65 7	65 and up- wards 8	
Scarlet Fever								
Enteric Fever								
Epidemic Influenza	1					1		
Whooping Cough								
Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases	6					6		3
Other Septic Diseases ..								
Diphtheria								4
Croup								
Diarrhœa								
Measles								
Cancer, Malignant Disease	4					1	3	5
Bronchitis	2					1	1	1
Pneumonia	4		1			2	1	5
Heart Diseases	5			1		1	3	5
Alcoholism								
Pleurisy								1
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition ...	1					1		
Premature Birth	1	1						
Venereal Diseases								
Suicides						1		
Accidents								4
All other causes	32	6	1	1		6	26	26
All Causes	56	7	2	2	...	20	34	54

TABLE V.—BOROUGH OF HUNTINGDON DISTRICT.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1908.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under one year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		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.
All Causes	{ Certified ...	3		1	1	5		1	1									7
	{ Uncertified ...																	
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...		2		1	1	4		1										5
Diarrhœa ...																		
Premature Birth ...		1				1												1
Bronchitis ...																		
Other Tubercular Diseases ...																		
Pneumonia ...																		
Other Causes ...									1									1
		3		1	1	5		1	1									7

District (or Sub-division) of Huntingdon.

Births in the year. { Legitimate ... 80

{ Illegitimate ... 5

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 56.

Population Estimated in middle of 1907,

4261.

Deaths in the year ... { Legitimate Infants, 7

{ Illegitimate " 0

**Ten Years Table of Deaths from Cancer
and Tubercular Disease.**

Year.	Cancer.	Phthisis & Tubercular Disease.
1899	4	3
1900	2	9
1901	4	9
1902	7	10
1903	10	5
1904	5	3
1905	2	4
1906	10	8
1907	2	4
1908	4	6
	50	61