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HUNTINGDON  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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**REPORT**

UPON THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

**BOROUGH OF HUNTINGDON**

FOR THE YEAR 1910,

BY

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


**Medical Officer of Health.**

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HUNTINGDON:

Alfred Wood, Printer, 59 & 60, High Street.

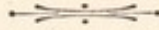
1911.



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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 which will soon be dealt with under the Town Planning Act;—10 Cottages have already been pulled down.

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 Great Stukeley. 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 the public supply is almost universally used.

No sample of 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. I do not think there is any Tubercular disease amongst Cows in this neighbourhood.

## Food Supply.

No Tubercular or Diseased Meat has been condemned during the Year.

## Places over which the Council has Supervision.

There is no registered lodging house in the Borough. *Factories, Workshops, Slaughter Houses, Bakehouses all above ground, 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 82 children were registered during the year, 41 boys and 41 girls. Three of these births occurred in the Union Workhouse and one in the Borough, the children not belonging to the district, making a total of 78—a birth-rate of 18.3 per 1000 persons living.

The deaths of 86 persons were registered in the district, and of 2 residents outside the district, making a total of 88. Of these 34 were non-residents, making the total number of deaths of residents 54, a rate of 12.6 per 1000 persons.

### **Infantile Mortality.**

Six deaths occurred under one year of age but one of these did not belong to the district, making the total for Huntingdon five.

*Notifications* of Births Act is not in force.

### **Prevalence of Zymotic Disease.**

Thirty cases of infectious disease were notified during the year. Scarlet Fever, twenty-seven; Diphtheria, three.

### **Diphtheria.**

Three cases of Diphtheria occurred, one proved fatal—in one case insanitary conditions existed, and were rectified.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

Twenty-seven cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. All of these, with one exception, were treated at the Isolation Hospital. Scarlet Fever prevailed till the late Autumn, and no case has now been notified for three months. The cases were equally distributed throughout the Town and could not be traced to any common cause.

### **Whooping Cough.**

Whooping Cough was prevalent during the early Spring and Summer, and was fatal in one case.



## **Small Pox and Vaccination.**

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

## **Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.**

Four deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia occurred, making an average of '96 per 1000 persons living.

## **Phthisis.**

Nine deaths from Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases were registered during the year, making an average of 2'0 per 1000 persons living.

I regret to say that the notification of Tubercular Diseases is not in force. It is most important that the early symptoms of Tubercular Diseases may be notified, so that precautions may be taken to prevent the spread of the Disease to all persons.

## **Cancer.**

Six deaths from Cancer occurred, an average of 1'4 per 1000 persons living.

## **Food and Drug Adulteration.**

One sample of Milk, one of Beer, two of Gin, and twelve of Rice were analyzed. All these samples were found to be genuine with the exception of one sample of Rice, which was considered questionable.

## **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, 1911.

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## Sanitary Inspector's Report, 1910.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to forward my Report for Year ended 31st December, 1910, as follows:—

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

The Bakehouses, Dairies, and Cowsheds have been frequently inspected by me, and I have found them to be well kept, and Utensils in use clean.

Several Drains have been found blocked during my visits, and the Owners or their Agents have had same attended to forthwith upon Notice given. Several new drains have been put in.

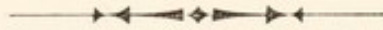
I am, Gentlemen,  
Yours obediently,

FRED BROWN,  
*Sanitary Inspector.*

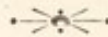
HUNTINGDON,  
February 11th, 1911.

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

Drains unstopped and repaired...	...	18
Manure and refuse removed	... ..	5
Closets unstopped and repaired...	...	14
Slaughter Houses inspected	... ..	8
Dairies and Cowsheds inspected...	...	6
Bakehouses inspected	... ..	10
Insanitary Cottages demolished...	...	10



## Waterworks.



GENTLEMEN,

I beg to report that I have made periodical inspections of the Water Supply in the Borough, and occasionally found water running to waste, but this is generally caused by children. New taps and washers have been provided when necessary.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

FRED BROWN,

*Inspector.*

HUNTINGDON,

*February 11th, 1911.*

## Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for the year 1910, for the Borough of Huntingdon.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework.

### 1.—Inspections.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecu- tions.
Factories ..... (Including Factory Laundries)	2	.....	.....
Workshops ..... (Including Workshop Laundries)	2	.....	.....
Workplaces ..... .....	.....	.....	.....
Homeworkers' Premises ..... .....	.....	.....	.....
Total .....	4	.....	.....

2. Defects Found—Nil.

3. Home Work—Nil.

4. Registered Workshops—30.

5. Other Matters—Nil.

TABLE I.—HUNTINGDON URBAN DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered 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.*	At all Ages.		Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.			Number.	Rate #		
				Number.	Rate.*							
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
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
1908	4261	84	19.7	7	83.3	90	21.1	54	36	2	56	13.1
1909	4261	71	16.8	9	126.7	100	23.4	58	42	0	56	13.1
Averages for years 1900—1909.	4289.5	89.5	20.76	9.5	105.81	88.5	20.57	42.6	30.4	.7	57.3	13.32
1910	4261	78	18.3	5	65.8	86	20.1	42	34	2	54	12.6

\* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated Population.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of Area covered by water.)	} 976	Total population at all ages ...	4261.
		Number of Inhabited Houses ...	1025.
		Average number of persons per house ...	4.1.

At Census of 1901.

Institutions within the District receiving sick & 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. Three Counties Asylum, Arlesey. Small Pox Hospital, Hartford.

**TABLE III.—HUNTINGDON URBAN DISTRICT.**  
*Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1910.*

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						HOSPITAL.
	At Ages †—Years.						
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	
Small Pox .....							
Cholera .....							
Diphtheria .....	3		1	1		1	3
Membranous Croup							
Erysipelas .....							
Scarlet Fever .....	27		5	19	2	1	26
Typhus Fever .....							
Enteric Fever .....							
Relapsing Fever .....							
Continued Fever.....							
Puerperal Fever .....							
Plague .....							
Totals .....	30		6	20	2	2	29

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Near Cemetery within the District.  
 Total available bed, 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 the Year 1910.*

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 ...								
Whooping Cough .....	1		1					
Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases	9				2	6	1	4
Other Septic Diseases								
Diphtheria... ..	1		1					1
Croup .....								
Diarrhœa .....								1
Measles .....								
Cancer, Malignant Disease .....	6					3	3	5
Bronchitis .....	3	1					2	
Pneumonia .....	1					1		2
Heart Diseases .....	7			1		1	5	5
Alcoholism .....								
Pleurisy .....								1
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition .....								
Premature Birth .....	1	1						1
Venereal Diseases.....								
Suicides .....	3				1	1	1	1
Accidents .....	1	1						
All other causes.....	21	2		1		3	15	21
All Causes.....	54	5	2	2	3	15	27	42

**TABLE V.—BOROUGH OF HUNTINGDON DISTRICT.**

Infantile Mortality during the Year 1910.

*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.
	<b>All Causes.</b>	1			1	2				1	1	1	1				
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...				1	1						1						2
Diarrhoea ...																	1
Premature Birth ...	1				1												1
Congenital Defects ...																	1
Bronchitis ...										1							1
Other Tubercular Diseases ...																	1
Pneumonia ...																	1
Other Causes ...																	1
	1			1	2					1	1	1					5

District (or Sub-division) of Huntingdon. Rate calculated at per 1,000 of Estimated Population ... 4,261.

Births in the year ... { Legitimate ... 73. Deaths in the year ... { Legitimate Infants, 3.  
 Illegitimate ... 5. Illegitimate " 2.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 54.



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

Year.	Cancer.	Phthisis and Tubercular Disease.
1901	4	9
1902	7	10
1903	10	5
1904	5	3
1905	2	4
1906	10	8
1907	2	4
1908	4	6
1909	4	4
1910	6	9
	54	62