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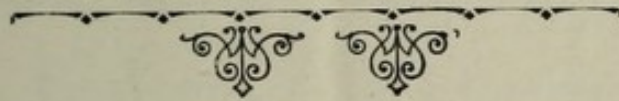
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= ILMINSTER =  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



# The Annual Report

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health,**

FOR THE

ILMINSTER URBAN DISTRICT,

**For the Year ending Dec. 31st, 1909.**

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MEMBERS OF THE  
ILMINSTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

(FOR 1909.)

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Mr. John Taylor, (*Chairman.*)

„ J. Grabham, (*Vice-Chairman.*)

„ F. T. Adams.

„ R. Coombes.

„ T. B. Edmonds.

„ H. M. Hext.

„ J. R. Paull.

„ A. Poole.

„ S. Rowe.

„ J. F. Sanders.

„ H. H. Shepherd.

„ R. P. Wheadon.

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„ J. Duke, *Solicitor, Clerk.*

„ G. W. Warry, *Surveyor and  
Sanitary Inspector.*

Dr. Maidlow, *Medical Officer of Health.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present you with the eleventh Annual Report of the sanitary condition and vital statistics of your district for the year ending December 31st, 1909.

	Census 1901.	End of 1909.
<b>ESTIMATED POPULATION,</b>	<b>2,287.</b>	<b>2,304.</b>
<b>NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES,</b>	<b>542.</b>	<b>591.</b>
<b>Average Number of Persons per house</b>	<b>4.20.</b>	<b>3.89.</b>
<b>ACRES</b>	<b>529.</b>	<b>529.</b>

OCCUPATION. A market town with some shirt and collar factories.

GEOLOGY. Except at Winterhay, where there is water-borne gravel in the bed of the Ile, Ilminster is situate on the Lias, chiefly : Upper behind the building on the N. side of West Street, and at the foot of the hill Lower predominates.

The Lias Formation consists of bands of limestone with intervening clay which throws out the water-springs.

The chief increase of the town is on the pervious Midford Sands of the Oolite, as far as Beacon Hill.

**\*TABLE I.**

Year.	Population. Estim'd to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths reg. in Dist.				Deaths of residents reg't'ed in public instit'ns beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate per 1000 of estimated population.	Under 1 year.		At all ages.			Number.	Rate per 1000 est. pop'tion.
				Number.	Rate per 1000 births registered.	Number.	Rate per 1000 estim'd population.			
1899	†2282	56	24.5	8	142.8	34	14.8			
1900	2284	54	23.6	5	92.5	31	13.5			
§1901	2287	48	20.9	8	166.6	40	17.4			
1902	2289	48	20.9	6	125.0	29	12.9	1	30 13.9	
1903	2291	53	23.1	2	37.7	32	13.9			
1904	2293	52	22.6	4	76.9	22	9.5			
1905	2295	47	20.9	5	106.3	35	10.8			
1906	2297	48	20.8	2	41.6	19	8.2	1	20 8.7	
1907	2300	40	17.3	2	50.0	26	11.3	1	27 11.7	
1908	†2302	49	21.2	5	102.2	29	12.5			
1909	2304	41	17.8	5	121.9	30	13.2		30 13.2	
Averages for years 1899-1908.	2292.0	49.5	21.6	4.7	94.2	29.7	12.7	1	25.7 11.4	

\*Tables I to V after form required by Local Government Board.

†Year of formation of Ilminster Urban District Council.

‡For method of getting these figures see previous Reports.

§Last Census.

**TABLE II.****Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1909  
and previous years.**

Not filled up, this being a small district without recognised divisions.

**TABLE III.****(Act of 1889). Cases of Notifiable Diseases.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	At all ages.	Under 1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—65	65 and upw'ds
Diphtheria ..	1		1				
Erysipelas ..	4					4	
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>1</b>			<b>4</b>	

**TABLE IV.****Causes of, Ages at, Death during the Year.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in the whole District at subjoined ages.						
	At all ages.	Under 1	1—5	5—15	15—25	25—65	65 and upw'ds
Gastritis ..	1					1	
Phthisis ..	1				1		
Other tuber- culous diseases }	1					1	
Cancer ..	4				1		3
Bronchitis ..	4	2					2
Pneumonia ..	1						1
Other diseases of respiratory organs }	1					1	
Heart diseases ..	4					1	3
Senile decay ..	6						6
All other causes	7	3				2	2
<b>All Causes</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>

**TABLE V.**

**Giving the Causes of Death of Children under 1 Year,  
i.e.—the “Infantile Mortality.”**

Debility,	..	..	1	aged 1 month.
Convulsions	..	..	1	„ 3 weeks.
Bronchitis	..	..	2	„ 3 weeks and 7 months.
Overlying	..	..	1	„ 1 month.

**A Rate of 121.9 per 1000 births registered,  
calculated from 41 births in an estimated population  
of 2,304.**

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**Zymotic Death Rate for “7 chief epidemic diseases”=0.**

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**Report of the Sanitary Inspector of List of Nuisances  
Remedied during 1909.**

Defective Drainage.	New Gullies.	Cesspools Over- flowing.	Choked Drains and W.C's	Deposit of Refuse.	<b>TOTAL</b>
6	18	4	4	1	<b>33</b>

GEO. W. WARRY,

Sanitary Inspector.

## **Vital Statistics.**

The 30 deaths were distributed between 9 males and 21 females; the 41 births between 18 males and 23 females. Of the 30 deaths, 6 were due to senile decay, 4 to some form of cancer and 2 to tuberculos diseases.

Next year the decennial census will take place and it will be interesting to see at what figure our population stands. My plan of calculating the population by the annual addition of 2 (i.e. about one-tenth of the last intercensal increase of 21, viz. 2267 for 1891 and 2287 in 1901), tallies remarkably with more exact calculations. As will be noticed the various rates compare hardly favourably with the averages for the last ten years.

## **Infectious and Contagious Diseases.**

From these we have been remarkably free. Erysipelas, the preponderating one notified, rarely depends upon any very obvious insanitary condition, being usually an inoculation into an abraded surface by the specific microbe. In one of the houses, however, the sanitary conditions were by no means satisfactory and they may have predisposed the patient to an attack.

Probably the chief importance of erysipelas is its contagiousness where there are open wounds. Hence the importance of its notification to those watching midwives. One case of pulmonary tuberculosis has been notified. At present our action in such cases consists in furnishing a list of rules and suggestions (which will be found at the end of this Report) which the physician in charge and district visitors aid in carrying out; and in disinfecting at the termination of the case, as in other notifiable diseases.

### **Mid-wives Act.**

Those women who act as Mid-wives now without having their names on the Roll will not be permitted to continue the practice after 31 March, 1910, and will be liable to penalties if they do, but not if it be proved that they only render assistance in cases of emergency.

Every woman whose name is on the Roll is, and will be, at liberty to practice as long as she complies with the rules of the Central Mid-wives Board.

### **Water Supply.**

The Council has considered the question of a water scheme. A good gravitation scheme would be a means of promoting the health and welfare of the town to a very great extent.

### **Dairies and Cow Sheds.**

These have been fairly well kept and leave nothing much to be complained of. Generally only structural alterations are necessary to bring most of the cow sheds up to the required standard of efficiency.

During the coming year the provisions of the Dairies and Cow Sheds Act will probably be more liable to be enforced.

### **Disposal of Refuse.**

There have been complaints of the temporary depôt at Cross. Here the Contractor deposits and screens, removing offensive matter subsequently. Delay in removing or screening would cause some nuisance. His attention was called to the matter and an improvement effected.

It is not advisable to have any deposit whatever near cottages or public highways.

The disposal of refuse is frequently a difficult question, not only at Ilminster. A depôt is difficult to find outside a town.

I still hope to see the collecting dust-carts so constructed that in dry windy weather the microbe-laden dust (especially apt to cause summer diarrhœa and possibly consumption) shall not be scattered, broadcast, at the points of collection.

### **Sewage Farm.**

No complaints have been received during the year and it is evident that few can arise when the farm is properly worked. A thorough cleaning out of the carriers, constant changing of the sewage from point to point over the farm are the two essentials to satisfactory management.

### **Factories and Workshops Act.**

There are 7 factories within the meaning of the Act, 28 workshops and 6 work-places, all of which are periodically inspected. The houses of most of the out-workers are kept under observation by Mr. Warry and me. No written notices have had to be issued. Three oral recommendations were made and acted upon.

### **Meteorology.**

I am indebted to Mr. Beckwith for the following figures :-

Total Rainfall for the year has been 30·57 in. against 24·01 in. in 1908. 4·94 in. fell in December the wettest month. May was the driest with ·42 in.

## Miscellaneous.

The sanitary year has been somewhat uneventful. A new departure has occurred in the notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. At present there is a mild outbreak of whooping cough, and influenza is present in a mild sporadic form. In the summer there was an outbreak of what seemed to be ptomaine poisoning, happily attended by no mortality. Attempts have been made to mitigate the motor-dust nuisance by "tarring" certain roads in the town. The question of a public recreation ground has been discussed. As I anticipated in previous Reports (e.g. that for 1907) the Medical Inspection of Children is having far reaching consequences for good. The Notification of Births Act has not been in force. There is probably an increase in the number of conscientious objectors to vaccination.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. H. MAIDLOW, M.D.,

*Ilminster,*

*(Medical Officer of Health).*

*January, 1910.*

## Consumption or Tuberculosis.

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### RULES FOR ITS PREVENTION AND CURE.

*Your Medical Adviser will give direction regarding the management peculiar to your own case. These are general Rules which apply to all.*

**Consumption is catching.** It is more especially prone to attack those living in the same room or house with the patient; *but, with care, the risk is small.*

The common means of conveyance are (1) the expectoration (2) the air in the house; (3) milk; (4) states of health.

(1.) **The Expectoration.** Patients should spit into a **special cup**, containing a disinfectant, or into rag which should be burnt soon. Never spit **anywhere else**. Empty the cup into a W.C. or fire, then boil it. Do not swallow the expectoration. Avoid kissing. The baby should not be suckled. The bed must be occupied by none but the patient. Articles used by the patient should be washed with soap and boiling water before being used by another person. In cases of confinement to bed the stool should be passed into a disinfectant and the bed pan well washed after use.

(2.) **The Air. Admit all the air and sunshine possible.** The wider the window be open the less the draught. Do not close the register. There must be no overcrowding.

**Cleanse the rooms frequently.** Do not brush, but wipe with **wet dusters**, which should be subsequently boiled.

(3.) **Milk.** Milk may bring poison germs from the cow or may be contaminated in the house. The poison is destroyed by 10 minutes boiling. Do not let any food which is to be used by the other members of the household stand in the sick room.

(4.) **States of Health.** The following conditions predispose to consumption, and the opposite help to prevent and cure:—

1. Badly ventilated rooms with closed windows, absence of sunshine and overcrowding.
2. Intemperance of all kinds, especially alcoholic.
3. The offspring of marriage with a consumptive.
4. Insufficient food.

These rules with a little trouble will be found to be quite easy to carry out, and are sufficient to prevent spread. Treatment at a Sanatorium, when possible, is advised, inasmuch as the rules for cure and prevention are more easily learnt and carried out therein.

