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KIRKHAM

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

KIRKHAM URBAN DISTRICT,

FOR THE YEAR 1905.

BY

WILLIAM BENSON.

Medical Officer of Health to the Kirkham Urban Sanitary
Authority.

KIRKHAM:

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1906.

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KIRKHAM URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1905.

To the Chairman and Members of the Kirkham Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Second Annual Report upon the Sanitary Condition and Vital Statistics of your district. I am sorry to say that it is not so favourable as that of the preceding year. Our deaths from all causes have been 75, against 66. We have during the year been visited by epidemics of Measles, Whooping Cough and Scarlet Fever; these do not necessarily imply any sanitary defect, as no doubt they have been imported from surrounding towns that have been similarly affected; and having once got a start, they have spread in many cases through direct contact at school and at home. The theory of home contact is strengthened by cases being multiple in the same houses, and the greatest number of cases being found at the upper part of Preston Street. The sanitary condition of the National Schools is poor, and requires immediate attention. We have also had an

increased number of cases of Typhoid and Diarrhœa; these denote that there is room for improvement in sanitation. A great many of our houses are certainly below the requirements of modern times, both as regards room and air-space; and there is no doubt that a certain amount of overcrowding exists in some of the cottages. This is a very difficult matter to remedy, owing to the scarcity of new houses, for the building trade in the district has been in a state of complete stagnation. This I am afraid will continue unless some persons of capital and enterprise can be induced to find increased employment. Very few sanitary improvements have taken place during the past year, a few privies being replaced by water-closets. Whilst speaking of privies, I must say that they are one of the greatest drawbacks to a sound Hygienic status. They are not only the almost universal system adopted here; but in very many cases they are in too close proximity to the dwellings, some of them being only two or three yards from the back-doors. We have also too many unpaved backyards, in which are thrown vegetable and other refuse; this rots, and is washed by the rain into the soil, where myriads of bacteria are bred, which only await a suitable opening into the human system to set up specific diseases. If these defects are to be remedied it means a steady crusade on your part and that of the officials against many of the property owners. With the exception of these zymotic diseases, the general health has been fairly good, especially when we consider the amount of wet and unseasonable weather that we have lately experienced. I shall now take the infectious diseases seriatim.

SMALL-POX.—Though this most loathsome disease has been prevalent in many adjoining towns, we have enjoyed entire immunity for the last two years.

DIPHTHERIA.—Two cases were notified in May; one was due to defective drainage, which was remedied; the other was unaccountable. One was removed to hospital. Both recovered.

ERYSIPELAS.—One case was reported in November, due to bad surroundings; successfully treated at home.

SCARLET FEVER.—Forty-three cases were notified. The first case appeared in June, and sporadic cases were met with until November, when it assumed an epidemic character. It has been of a very mild type, some of the children never being off their food or Two of the first cases had never been under confined to bed. medical treatment. When I saw them they had been for a week's holiday to Penrith, whilst in the stage of desquamation, so that we need not be much surprised at the disease spreading. epidemic of 1902, fifty-six cases were notified, but as these were all treated at home, we did not hear so much talk about them. During the present epidemic there is no doubt that the appearance in the streets of the ambulance removing patients to Hospital has caused some people to get into a state of nervous excitement. Twenty-nine cases have been treated in Hospital and the remainder isolated at home. I am glad to say that the epidemic appears to have left us, and is travelling westward. As it has been the cause of considerable but unnecessary unpleasantness, I hope that it may find a resting place at the bottom of the Irish Sea. Two cases succumbed to the sequelæ of the fever; one in Hospital, aged 3; the other at home, aged 2.

TYPHUS.—Nil. Never scarcely met with in this County, owing to improved sanitation.

ENTERIC.—Six cases. One was the case of a boy aged 6, residing at the top of Moor Street, in a newly-built house, where everything is modern; the origin of this is unexplained. Two cases in Clegg Street were due to the privies and defective drains; these were remedied, the water carriage system being adopted. One in Marsden Street was due to bad surroundings. One was in the Union Workhouse, and admits of no explanation. The remaining one in Station Road was thought to have been contracted whilst away; this was the only fatal case. All except the boy were treated in Hospital.

Measles.—This epidemic was most prevalent in March and April. As it is not notifiable, I cannot give number of cases. I can

only say that there were a great many. This disease, though not of itself often fatal, is one of the most troublesome that the Authorities have to deal with, owing to the illogical reasoning of parents, who remark, "Well, they have to have it. This is a mild kind, so sooner they get it done with and better;" consequently they take no precautions to keep their children away from the infection. Six deaths were due to this disease and its complications.

Whooping Cough.—This is not notifiable. Many cases have occurred during the last few months. There is no wonder at it spreading, as the children are allowed to run free, and it has been quite common to see vomited matter lying about on the footpaths.

Table showing Diseases Notified during past 10 years.

	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	Total
Small-pox							1	1			2
Scarlet Fever	23	1		2	1	1	56.	1	3	43	131
Diphtheria				1	1		2	1		2	7
Typhus Fever											
Relapsing Fever.											
Cholera				1	1						2
Membranous											
Croup			1								1
Typhoid Fever	2	4	8	2	3	1	1	1	1	6	29
Continued Fever											
Erysipelas	2			1	1			1	4	1	10
Puerperal Fever.			1			1	1				3
MAN HERVI	27	5	10	7	7	3	61	5	8	52	185

KIRKHAM, acreage 857, is both hilly and sandy, affording good facilities for drainage, and an abundant supply of fresh air, which is nature's finest disinfectant.

POPULATION at last census was 3,693; last year I calculated it at 3,711, and if to this I add the excess of births over deaths, our population at the end of 1905 would be 3,736. I do not think this will be far wrong, as very little change has taken place. All the rates in statistics will be reckoned accordingly.

WATER.—As supplied by the Fylde Water Board, cannot be excelled in Great Britain. The supply is ample, and is at the present time being augmented; whilst the quality is particularly good.

MILK.—Our supply of this most essential article of diet is very good, partly from resident cowkeepers and partly from neighbouring farmers. Though no samples have been submitted to bacteriological examination, I think they would be found quite satisfactory. An Act relating to cow-sheds has been adopted, but in such a modified form that we have practically no jurisdiction with those at present existing. Dairies, 12 in number, have been duly inspected and found satisfactory.

Food—There have been no complaints about it; nor has any been condemned.

SEWAGE.—Our system is quite satisfactory. It runs to settling tanks at Freckleton in conjunction with that from Wesham, and then into River Ribble. Through the street improvements, some of the gullies have had to be altered.

Scavenging is satisfactorily carried out under the supervision of Inspector.

NIGHTSOIL.—This is disposed of by tipping. This is one of our most troublesome questions. Complaints are numerous about the irregularity of emptying; these have been more common since many privies were made less and cemented. I do not not consider them a success, as they not only require emptying about every three weeks, but retain all the fluid, and as in the course of emptying most of them have to be wheeled out and tipped into the streets, the liquid filth saturates the ground, and our thoroughfares become not only obnoxious, but positively injurious to the Public Health. This matter requires far more attention. In the removal of nightsoil, I consider that a properly constructed cart with a movable top should be used, so that both liquid and effluvia would be practically sealed up; and then the nasal organs would not so frequently be assailed by the stench emanating from "privies on wheels." I also recommend that all nightsoil be removed from the streets not later than mid-day.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—Three in number, have been regularly visited and found satisfactory. They are kept well limewashed, and

are well supplied with water, so that they are constantly cleansed.

All refuse is immediately removed.

Offensive Trades.—One a rag and bone store; the other tripe boiling. Visited regularly, but no complaints.

GAS WORKS.—These are situated too near the centre of the town. I have had several complaints about the obnoxious sulphurous fumes; but though they are certainly very offensive, I cannot say they are injurious to health; nor can I recommend a suitable remedy.

Lodging-houses.—There are two registered; they have been frequently visited and found clean and well conducted, and no overcrowding; they have not been the source of any trouble. One lodging-house, for not being registered, was convicted.

Factories.—These are under the supervision of the Government Factory Inspector. We have never received any complaints, either from him or the employees.

Workshops.—These are very small, but everything is satisfactory. In the clothing line there are: Shoemakers, 4; Cloggers, 5; Tailors, 3; Dressmakers, 5; Milliners, 2. Food—Bakers and Confectioners, 6; Building Trade—Joiners, 2; Plumbers and Painters, 3; Workplaces, 2; Outworkers, 24.

Bake-houses are six in number. They have been regularly inspected and found in very good condition; they are large, clean, and well ventilated. There are none under ground.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Marriages.—The following were solemnized:—Parish Church, 20; Roman Catholic, 3; Congregational Chapel, 3; Wesleyan Chapel, 1; Registrar's Office, 97; total, 124.

BIRTHS.—100 were registered in the district, being 3 in excess of 1904, giving a birth-rate of 26.7. There were 60 boys and 40 girls, or an average of 3 to 2; this is most unusual, but if

it continues it will help to more equally balance the sexes. There were 15 births in the Workhouse, many of which are illegitimate, coming from surrounding districts. Total illegitimate, 14.

Our birth-rate, though better than many towns, still keeps very low, no doubt largely due to many wives shirking the responsibilities of motherhood.

Deaths.—115 were registered in your district, 75 of which were residents; this gives a death-rate of 20 per 1,000. Of these 7 took place at the Union Workhouse. The greatest number of deaths took place in the months of September and December, when there were 10 in each; the smallest in May, when there was only 1. 18 deaths took place under 1 year, and the same number at 65 and over. The greatest age was 94. The most satisfactory item in our deaths is the reduction in those due to Tubercle and Cancer, the former accounting for 6 as against 9 in last year, and the latter 3 against 7. There were 3 inquests, 1 suicide and 2 accidents.

Infantile Mortality.—18 deaths took place under 1 year; this is very unsatisfactory, being a rate of 180 out of every 1,000 children born; for particulars see newly added table V.

The most notable increases are those due to Diarrhœa and Debility; a great deal of this is no doubt due to injudicious feeding, natural feeding becoming more rare each year. Too many infants are fed with the bottle, supplemented with a concoction of boiled bread, milk and sugar—which they cannot digest—and then Diarrhœa and wasting ensues. In many cases here, like other manufacturing towns, the mother is partially or wholly the bread-winner, and has to put her children out to nurse. As regards Diarrhœa, I am surprised there are not more deaths. As illustrations of outrageous feeding, I will mention two instances that came under my notice. One was a case where a child of 12 months was indulging in boiled ham and marrowfat peas; the other, aged 14 months, was apparently enjoying boiled bacon and cabbage. Another noxious habit is giving them chip potatoes. Can anything be more ridiculous or injurious? If children were fed less on solids until nature in the

appearance of a full set of the first teeth shewed their adaptability to receive even semi-solids, there would be less trouble both for the parents and children.

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE.—There were 14 deaths under this heading; 6 due to Measles; 2 to Scarlet Fever; 1 Enteric; and 5 to Diarrhœa. This makes a death-rate of 3.7, the heaviest for many years, and shews that most energetic steps are necessary to find a remedy. Two of these deaths took place in Moss Side Hospital.

Table shewing Deaths per Quarter for past 10 years.

Year	1s	t Quarter	2n	d Quarter	3r	d Quarter	4t	h Quarter.
1896		19		14		16		20
1897		16		21		5		21
1898		14		14		13		16
1899		11		11		12		16
1900		22		25		14		11
1901		11		15		18		16
1902		19		19		13		12
1903		16		16		16		11
1904		23		10		19		14
1905		16		17		22		20

Table shewing Birth, Death, Zymotic and Infantile Death-rate for past 10 years.

Year	Birth-rate	Death-rate	Zymotic Death-rate	Infantile Death-rate
1896	 29.0	 15.8	 1.4	 183
1897	 30.1	 12.9	 Nil	 153
1898	 29.0	 16.0	 .9	 114
1899	 23.5	 14.0	 •4	 112
1900	 29.0	 18.0	 1.4	 138
1901	 30.0	 18.0	 ·1	 192
1902	 30.0	 18.4	 2.4	 166
1903	 31.0	 17.0	 .8	 76
1904	 26.1	 17.7	 •5	 103
1905	 26.7	 20.0	 3.7	 180

KIRKHAM URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Summary of Sanitary work done, and Report, for the year ending December 31st, 1905.

Public Health Act, 1875.

Number of Rooms Disinfected		72
Number of Notices given by Inspector		81
Notices to limewash and cleanse		24
Drains opened out, cleansed, and defects made good		34
Slopstone pipes disconnected from drains and made	to	
discharge over gullies		9
Privies improved and raised		29
Privies converted into water closets		1
Nuisances arising from pigsties		3
Filthy backyards cleansed under notice		103
Nuisances from overcrowding		1
EMPTYING OF ASH-PITS.		
Closets and ash-pits emptied and disinfected		512
BAKE-HOUSES.		
Inspected regularly. No complaints.		
COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.		
		1
Prosecuted for not being registered	•••	0
Notices to limewash	•••	
Number registered		2
Inspected at different times. Not overcrowded.		

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

Kept clean and well limewashed. Offal and refuse removed at once-

DARIES', COW-SHEDS' AND MILK-SHOPS' ORDER.

Inspected regularly. Notice to limewash.

FYLDE UNION WORKHOUSE.

-11-

Fifteen Births took place in this institution, chiefly non-residents.

During the same period 47 Deaths took place, divided amongst the following districts:—Blackpool 25, St. Annes 4, Lytham 1, Fleetwood 5, Thornton 2, Fylde Rural 3, and Kirkham 7. We have had 5 deaths less than last year.

I must now conclude, with thanks to the officials, and to you, gentlemen, for your kindness and ready assistance during the past year.

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM BENSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Kirkham, 13th February, 1906.

NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO Rate* 13 16 20 5825488877 THE DISTRICT VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT during 1905 and previous years. Number 12 8881888311 89 10 Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District 04 Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District 40 10 29 Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District 47 6 37 TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT Rate* 30 500 8 Ages At all Number 115 848333188888 95 1 Rate per 1,000 Births registered Under One Year of age 888811148888 12888811488888 180 187 8 Number 202242123200 10 18 8 Rate* 4 88888888888 26 82 BIRTHS Number 928252841487 116 100 00 4,067 4,085 4,094 4,094 4,125 3,693 3,693 3,693 3,693 3,711 3,941 8,736 to middle of each year 01 Population estimated 1896 1897 1898 1899 1900 1901 1903 for years 1895-1904 Averages YEAR 1905...

 $\binom{3,693}{784}$ At Census of 1901. Number of inhabited houses Total population at all ages..... Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population. Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water).

Institution within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—Fylde Union Workhouse, Kirkham.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Isolation Hospital, Moss Side; Small-pox Isolation Hospital,

Elswick, near Great Eccleston.

(III.) CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1905.

Notificable Disease At all Ages At all Ages At all Ages At all Ages Under 1 1 to 5 5 to 15 15 to 25 25 to 65 upwards			0	ASES NOTIF.	пер им Мис	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT			No. of Cases
Ages Under 1 1 to 5 5 to 15 15 to 25 25 to 65 2 2 2 1 7 34 11 2 3 3 52 1 7 37 37 2 5 52 1 7 37 37 2 5	Notifiable Disease	At all			At Ages	-Years			TO HOSPITAL FROM
6		Ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	DISTRICT
52									
2 1 43 1 6	Small-pox	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
6 1	Cholera	:6	:	:	:6	:	:	:	:-
$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	002	:	: :	: :	:	: :	: :	: :	1:
6 1 2 3 3	Erysipelas	1 43	:-		. 60	: :		: :	: 63
52 1 7 37 5	Typhus Fever	:9	: :		:-	:0	: 00	: :	:30
52 1 7 37 2 5	Relapsing Fever	:	: :		:	:	:	: :	· :
52 1 37 5	Continued Fever	:	:	:	:	: :	: :	:	:
52 1 7 37 2	Plague	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :	: :
52 1 7 37 2							//		
52 1 7 37 2									
	:	52	1	7	37	5	5	1	35

Isolation Hospital, Moss Side, Lytham. Elswick for Small-pox

(IV.) CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH during year 1905.

	1 1 1 119 1								Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belong- ing to Localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District					
Causes of Death	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards						Total Deaths whether of Residents or non "Residents" in Public Institutions in the District	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Small-pox		4										-		
Measles Scarlet Fever	6 2	1	4 2	1										
Whooping Cough				::	::				::	::		::		
Diphtheria and Membranous														
Croup	'n			ï										
Croup		**	**					1		**			1	
Fever Enteric	1					1								
Other Continued														
Epidemic Influenza			**											
Cholera	**	::						11				::	11	
Diarrhoea	5	4		1									1	
Enteritis	1	1												
Puerperal Fever												.,		
Erysipelas	***					**								
Other Septic Diseases Phthisis, Pulm. Tuberculosis	2				i		i	1 ::					10	
Other Tubercular Diseases	4	i	2	i				1						
Cancer, Malignant Disease	3					1	2						6	
Bronchitis	1					1							2	
Pneumonia	6	2	2	1		1							4	
Pleurisy					- 5.5				**			**		
tory Organs	1						1						1	
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of											1000			
Liver														
Venereal Diseases													5.5	
Premature Birth Diseases and Accidents of	3	3											-3	
Parturition														
Heart Diseases	10					8	2						3	
Accidents	2					1	1							
SuicidesOld Age	1 10		110		**		10			**			ii	
Diseases of Nervous System	8	2	2		::	4	10	1		::		::	6	
Debility	4	4											1	
Diseases of Kidneys	1					1								
All other causes	3			1	1	1							2	
				-		-	-					-		

(V.) INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks

CAUSE OF DEATH		Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month
				-		
Common Infectious Diseases—	- 3					
Small-pox						
Chicken-pox						
Measles						
Scarlet Fever						
Diphtheria : Croup						
Whooping Cough						
Diarrheal Diseases—				-		
Diarrhœa, all forms						
Enteritis (not Tuberculous)						
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh						
Wasting Diseases—						
Premature Birth		2	1			3
Congenital Defects						
Injury at Birth						
Want of Breast-milk						
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus			1			1
Tuberculous Diseases—						1
Tuberculous Meningitis						
Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Me	sen-	1000				
terica						
Other Tuberculous Diseases						
Erysipelas						
Syphilis						
Rickets						
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)						
Convulsions			1			1
Bronchitis						
Laryngitis						
Pneumonia						
Suffocation, overlaying						
Other Causes						
		19238				
		2	0			
		2	3			5

District of Kirkham Urban. Population Births in the year—legitimate, 86; illegitimate, 14.

during the year 1905.

and Months under One Year of Age.

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 1 Year
						··· i ··· ···					 1
	::	2		:::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::		2	::	·· ·· ··	::		4 1 3
2					1				··· i		1
	··· ··· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·· ·					··· ·· ·· ·· ·· i					··· ··· ··· 2 ··· ··· 2
2	1	2			1	4		1	2	.:	18

(estimated to middle of 1905) 3,736.

Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 75.

