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Rural District Council  
OF  
CRANBROOK.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

BY

JAMES SCOTT TEW, M.D., D.P.H.

FOR

1904.



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# CRANBROOK RURAL DISTRICT.

## AREA AND POPULATION.

No. of Regn. Dist.	Area in Statute Acres.			Inhabited Houses.			Population.		
	Land and Inland Water.	Inland Water only.	Land only.	1881	1891	1901	1881	1891	1901
52	41,315	110	41,205	2,754	2,787	2,834	13,761	13,730	12,944

## SUB-REGISTRATION DISTRICTS.

		Population.				Population.	
		1891.	1901.			1891.	1901.
1.	<b>Cranbrook</b> ..	6616	6129	2.	<b>Hawkhurst</b> ..	7114	6815
	Benenden (1) ..	1596	1336		Goudhurst (3) ..	2734	2725
	Cranbrook (2) ..	4046	3949		Hawkhurst(4) ..	3274	3136
	Frittenden ..	974	844		Sandhurst (5) ..	1106	954

(1.) **Benenden** includes Iden Green.

(2.) **Cranbrook** includes Cranbrook Common, Hartley, Sissinghurst, and Willesley Green.

(3.) **Goudhurst** includes Curtisden Green, Iden Green and Kilndown.

(4.) **Hawkhurst** includes Highgate.

(5.) **Sandhurst** includes Sandhurst Cross.

The **Population** of the Cranbrook Rural District estimated to the middle of 1904 was 12,698 showing a decrease of 246 since the census of 1901, and of 75 on the estimated population of 1903.

The number of registered births amounted to 277, including 168 of males and 109 of females, and giving a **Birth-rate** of 21·8 per 1,000 of population as compared with 22·2 in the previous year, and 19·7 in 1902.

One hundred and fifty-one deaths were registered, consisting of 77 of males and 74 of females, and giving a **Death-rate** of 11·8 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 14·2 in 1903, and 14·6 in 1902.

The **Principal Epidemic Diseases** include Small-pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping-cough, Fever (including the three principal forms: Typhus, Enteric or Typhoid Fever, and Pyrexia of uncertain origin), and Diarrhœa.

Of the total 151 deaths, 5 were caused by one or other of these diseases, viz., 1 by Diphtheria, 1 by Whooping-cough, 1 by Enteric Fever, and 2 by Diarrhœa.

The **Epidemic Disease Death-rate** was 0·3 per 1,000 of the population as against ·7 in the two previous years.

The Infant Mortality, *i.e.*, the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births was 90, as compared with 116 in 1903, and 110 in 1902.

During the year 1904 the birth-rate throughout England and Wales, taken as a whole, was 27.9 (which is the lowest rate on record), the general death-rate 16.2, and the epidemic disease death-rate 1.94 per 1,000 of population. The case mortality among infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births was 146.

It will be seen from the above that the vital statistics are of an exceptionally satisfactory character, the death-rate, epidemic disease death-rate, and the infant mortality, being respectively 4.4, 1.64 and 56 below those of the country generally.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Under the provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Acts, 1889 and 1899, the following diseases are compulsorily notifiable in the District, *viz.*:—Small-pox, Cholera, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Erysipelas, the disease known as Scarlatina or Scarlet Fever, and the Fevers known by any of the following names:—Typhus, Typhoid or Enteric, Relapsing, Continued, and Puerperal.

Chicken-pox was temporarily added to the list on account of the prevalence of Small-pox in neighbouring Districts in 1902 and was notifiable up to 31st March, 1904.

Thirty-five cases of infectious disease were notified as compared with 75 in the previous year, and comprised 12 cases of Diphtheria, 9 of Erysipelas, 8 of Scarlet Fever, 5 of Enteric Fever, and 1 of Chicken-pox.

**Small-pox.**—It is satisfactory to note that not a single case of this disease occurred during the whole of the year.

**Diphtheria.**—Twelve cases were reported as against 29 in 1903 and were notified:—

In January .....	0 cases.	In September .....	1 case.
„ February .....	2 „	„ October .....	0 „
„ March .....	1 „	„ November .....	2 „
„ April .....	1 „	„ December .....	1 „
„ May .....	2 „		—
„ June .....	0 „	Total .....	12 cases.
„ July .....	0 „		—
„ August .....	2 „		

Locally they were reported from:—

Benenden .....	2 cases.
Cranbrook .....	3 „
Frittenden .....	2 „
Goudhurst .....	2 „
Sissinghurst .....	3 „
	—
Total .....	12 cases
	—

One of the cases ended fatally at Frittenden in May—an adult female.

The cases and death arose at the following age-periods:—

<u>1—5</u> years.	<u>5—15</u> years.	<u>15—25</u> years.	<u>25—65</u> years.	<u>65 and</u> upwards.
2	5	2	2	1 = 12 cases. 1 = 1 death.

Erysipelas fell from 13 cases in 1903 to 9 in 1904, and were notified 3 in January, 1 in February, 1 in June, 2 in July, and 2 in October. Two of the cases occurred at Hawkhurst, 3 at Goudhurst, 3 at Benenden, and 1 at Cranbrook, and occurred at the following age-periods:—

<u>5—15</u> years.	<u>25—65</u> years.	<u>65 and</u> upwards.
2	5	2 = 9 cases.

Scarlet Fever.—Eight cases occurred as compared with 18 cases in 1903 and were reported as follows:—

January .....	1 case.
August .....	5 „
September .....	1 „
December .....	1 „
Total.....	8 cases.

The district was entirely free from the disease during the remaining 8 months of the year.

Locally the cases arose:—

Hawkhurst .....	1 case.
Goudhurst .....	6 „
Cranbrook .....	1 „
Total.....	8 cases.

None of the cases proved fatal and occurred at the following age-periods:—

<u>1—5</u> years	<u>5—15</u> years	<u>15—25</u> years	<u>25—65</u> years
2	4	1	1 = 8 cases.

Two of these cases occurred among children sent from London on the Fresh Air Holiday Fund in August at Kilndown, and a child in the village contracted the disease by playing with them. Every precaution had apparently been taken and each child was supplied with a medical certificate stating that it was free from infectious disease. I, however, traced the case back and found that a case of Scarlet Fever had been removed to Hospital from a house in Holborn whence one of the boys came and who had without reasonable doubt brought the disease with him.

This is not the first time by any means that infection has been brought into this district by holiday children, and although I admit that it is an excellent thing for these children to come into the country for a time, yet it is very hard for districts to be invaded by infectious disease, and a very heavy responsibility rests on those who send them broadcast into villages where the accommodation is often quite insufficient for the ordinary occupiers, much less for an additional number of children.

**Enteric Fever.**—Five cases were reported as against 3 in the previous year, and were notified 1 in April from Benenden; 1 in May from Colliers Green, Cranbrook; 2 in August; 1 from Kilndown, Goudhurst, and 1 from Hawkhurst; and 1 in September from Benenden; the last mentioned case (an adult male) proving fatal.

The cases and death occurred at the following age-periods:—

5—15 years	15—25 years	25—65 years
2	2	1 = 5 cases. 1 = 1 death.

Two of the cases could not have contracted the disease in the District as they both fell ill only a day or two after arrival from distant places.

**Chicken Pox.**—Only one case was notified in February—a child from Sandhurst.

### NON NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

**Whooping Cough** was responsible for only one death at Hawkhurst in February—that of a child aged 2 years.

**Diarrhœa** was the cause of two deaths of infants—one in March at Benenden; and one in July at Kilndown, Goudhurst.

**Influenza.**—Five deaths resulted from this disease—one in January at Highgate, Hawkhurst; 1 in March at Goudhurst; 2 in May at Sandhurst; and 1 in December at the Union, Cranbrook. Four of the patients were over 77 years of age, and the remaining one an infant.

### HOSPITAL ISOLATION

Five cases of infectious disease were removed to and treated at the Isolation Hospital, consisting of 1 case of Enteric Fever, and 4 cases of Scarlet Fever. They were admitted as follows:—

In May .....	1 case (Enteric Fever).
„ August .....	3 „ (Scarlet Fever).
„ September .....	1 „ (Scarlet Fever).
Total.....	5 cases.

The want of some laundry accommodation at the Hospital being much felt I have advised the erection of a simple wood and iron one, and this proposition is receiving the favourable consideration of the Council.

**Inspections.**—In addition to numerous visits of inspection with reference to the occurrence of cases of infectious disease, my inspections during the past year have included those of sewage outfall at Frittenden; the Public Hall, Goudhurst; Laundry, Hawkhurst; Bakery, Sandhurst; Elementary School, Benenden; Slaughter-house, Cranbrook; several sets of Drainage, Cranbrook; Water Supply, Hawkhurst; Anthrax, Hawkhurst; Workhouse Drainage, &c.

There are no **Common Lodging Houses** in the District and those few beer shops which occasionally take in lodgers have been conducted in a manner which has called for no complaint.

The **Dairies, Cowsheds, and Slaughter-houses** have been inspected by Mr. Collins, whom I have accompanied on several occasions. A considerable improvement is still required in the cowsheds, and as I have remarked on former occasions the provision for the cleansing of milk utensils is frequently deficient.

**Factory and Workshops' Act, 1901.**—From details supplied by the Sanitary Inspector, I have compiled the following table giving the number of premises under observation in each of the parishes within the Council's area :—

PARISH.	FACTORIES.	WORKSHOPS.	WORKPLACES.
Cranbrook .....	2	29	16
Hawkhurst .....	2	37	17
Goudhurst .....	1	25	6
Sandhurst.....	—	8	3
Benenden .....	—	13	2
Frittenden .....	—	8	3
Totals ..	5	120	47

I have made several visits to laundries and bakehouses with the Sanitary Inspector and it will be seen by the appended table supplied by the Home Office, that numerous matters have been remedied in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

**Refuse Removal** is still carried out by private individuals in all the parishes in this District, and verbal or written notices for the removal of undesirable accumulations have led to the abatement of the nuisances without unreasonable delay.

The **Excretal Disposal** is principally by cesspools and the demand for the emptying of these by a cart provided by the Council continues to increase. The nuisance of emptying is reduced to a minimum by this means until the Council can see their way to adopt a main sewerage system.

**Water Supply.** I have examined a considerable number of samples of water and inspected a considerable number of supplies during the year—many of these are rendered unfit for domestic use by the bad construction of the wells—the main defects being (1) that the upper parts of the brickwork are pervious, not being cemented or puddled on the outside and thus allowing of surface filtration; (2) the brickwork stops too short not coming above the ground level, and (3) the wooden tops are often loose and rotten. Alteration in these matters will often improve the quality of a water 50 per cent.

**Elementary School Closures.**—It was found necessary to advise the closure of the following Elementary Schools for the periods and on account of the infectious disease set opposite each.

National School, Cranbrook.	January 4th to January 8th—Mumps.
	June 13th ,, July 8th—Measles.
The "School" Sissinghurst.	March 28th ,, April 8th—Mumps.
The School, Benenden.	April 11th ,, May 6th—Mumps.
National School, Frittenden.	July 4th ,, July 22nd—Mumps and Measles.

It has not been found necessary to take any action under the Housing of the Working Classes' Act, or the Private Streets' Works' Act, 1892.

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, and the Public Health Acts, Amendment Act, 1890, have not been adopted.

I have made thirteen Reports to the Council on different matters during the year, *viz.*: Sewage Tanks at Frittenden; Public Hall (with reference to fire) Goudhurst; Underground Bakehouse, Hawkhurst; Laundry, Hawkhurst; Bakehouse, Sandhurst; School Drainage, Benenden; Chicken-pox notification; Closure of Schools, Cranbrook; Slaughter-house, Cranbrook; Drainage, Cranbrook; Offensive Ditch, Hawkhurst; and on Registration of Births in the District.

It has not been found necessary to take any **Legal Proceedings** during the year in reference to matters connected with the public health.

At the end of the year the District was in a satisfactory condition as regards the public health, and only six cases of infectious disease were notified in the last quarter of the year.

Mr. Collins' Report of the Sanitary work carried out by him during the year, the Statistical Tables required by the Local Government Board, and the Table provided by the Secretary of State for recording action taken under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, are appended.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

March 31st, 1905.

J. S. TEW.

REPORT OF WORK CARRIED OUT BY  
SANITARY INSPECTOR DURING YEAR ENDING  
31st DECEMBER, 1904.

Main and Branch drains laid and repaired	..	..	86
Cesspool nuisances abated	..	..	96
Slaughter-houses inspected	..	..	16
Pig pound nuisances abated	..	..	20
Rubbish and open ditch nuisances abated	..	..	38
Privies repaired	..	..	31
Privies and water-closets built	..	..	48
Infected houses disinfected and cleansed ; also Hospital	..		38
Cowsheds and premises inspected at different times	..		22
Farmers' foreign hop-pickers' accommodation inspected	..		38
Notices served	..	..	22
Overcrowded houses attended to	..	..	5
Houses unfit for human habitation attended to	..	..	6

The Sanitary condition and Water Supply of the new houses built in 1904 are very satisfactory. The Company's water has been laid on to a great many houses in the Inspector's District.

WILLIAM COLLINS,

*Sanitary Inspector.*

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and previous Years.

YEAR.	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 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898	13708	291	21.2	19	65	180	13.1	..	..	..	180	13.1
1899	13705	285	20.7	..	129	252	18.3	..	..	..	252	18.3
1900	13701	274	19.9	..	102	181	13.2	..	..	..	181	13.2
1901	12944	238	18.3	18	75	164	12.6	21	..	..	164	12.6
1902	12848	254	19.7	28	110	188	14.6	23	..	..	188	14.6
1903	12773	284	22.2	32	116	183	14.3	26	1	..	182	14.2
Averages for years 1898-1903	13279	271	20.3	24	99	191	14.3	..	..	..	191	14.3
1904	12698	277	21.8	25	90	151	11.8	18	..	..	151	11.8

\*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) .. 41,205.

Total population at all ages .. at Census of 1901. .. 12,944.

Number of inhabited houses .. .. 2,834.

Average number of persons per house .. .. 4.

TABLE II

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1904 and previous years.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	CRANBROOK R.				(1) CRANBROOK SUB-REG. DISTRICT.				(2) HAWKHURST SUB-REG. DISTRICT.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1900	13701	274	181	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1901	12944	238	164	18	6129	108	95	9	6815	130	69	9
1902	12848	254	188	28	6070	112	82	16	6778	142	106	12
1903	12773	284	182	32	6024	131	105	19	6749	153	77	13
Averages of Years 1900 to 1903	13066	262	178	26	6074	117	94	14	6780	141	84	11
1904	12698	277	151	25	5978	114	51	8	6720	163	100	17

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1904.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.										Total Cases notified in each Locality.		No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each Locality.	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					65 and upwards.	Cranbrook.	Hawkhurst.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.				W.H.	W.H.			
Diphtheria ..	12	2	5	2	2	1	2	10	2	..	..	..	..	
Erysipelas ..	9	..	2	..	5	2	5	4	5	..	..	..	..	
Scarlet Fever ..	8	2	4	1	1	..	1	1	7	..	..	4	..	
Enteric Fever ..	5	..	2	2	1	..	1	3	2	1	..	..	..	
Chicken-pox ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	
<b>Totals ..</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	

Isolation Hospital, Swattenden Lane, Cranbrook.

## SCHEDULE B.

### Deaths in or belonging to the whole District at subjoined ages

Causes of Death.	All Ages.	Under 1.	1-5.	5-15.	15-25.	25-65.	65 and Upwards.	DEATHS IN LOCALITIES (SUB. REG. DISTRICT) AT ALL AGES.		Total deaths, whether of Residents or Non-residents in Public Institutions in the District.
								CRANBROOK.	HAWKHURST.	
Epidemic Influenza .....	5	1	..	..	..	..	4	..	5	1
Whooping-cough .....	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Diphtheria, Membranous Croup..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Enteric Fever .....	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Diarrhoea, Dysentery .....	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Enteritis .....	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Other septic diseases .....	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Tuberculosis of Meninges .....	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Tuberculosis of Lungs .....	7	..	..	..	2	4	1	3	4	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis .....	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	..
Cancer .....	12	..	..	..	..	6	6	5	7	1
Premature Birth .....	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	..
Developmental Diseases .....	9	8	1	..	..	..	..	2	7	1
Old Age .....	26	..	..	..	..	..	26	2	24	7
Meningitis .....	2	..	1	..	..	1	..	2	..	..
Organic Diseases of Heart .....	16	..	..	..	1	6	9	6	10	2
Acute Bronchitis .....	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..
Chronic Bronchitis .....	5	..	..	..	..	..	5	1	4	..
Lobar (Croupous) Pneumonia ..	3	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	3	1
Lobular (Broncho-) Pneumonia ..	6	2	..	..	..	3	1	1	5	..
Diseases of Stomach .....	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Obstruction of Intestines .....	3	..	..	..	..	2	1	2	1	..
Cirrhosis of Liver .....	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ..	6	..	..	..	..	2	4	1	5	1
Accidents & Diseases of Parturition	3	1	..	..	1	1	..	1	2	..
Deaths by Accident or Negligence	4	1	..	..	1	2	..	2	2	..
Deaths by Suicide .....	4	..	..	..	..	3	1	2	2	..
Deaths from Ill-defined Causes ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
All other Causes .....	18	1	1	..	..	9	7	10	8	1
<b>ALL CAUSES.....</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>18</b>

## RURAL DISTRICT OF CRANBROOK.

### Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

#### 1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries) ..	5	nil	nil
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	63	6	..
Workplaces .. .. .	9	nil	..
Homeworkers' Premises .. .. .	7	..	..
Total .. .. .	84	6	nil

#### 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H. M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness .. .. .	4	4	nil	nil
Want of ventilation .. .. .	2	2	..	..
Overcrowding .. .. .	nil	nil	..	..
Want of drainage of floors .. .. .	2	2	..	..
Other nuisances .. .. .	nil	nil	..	..
Total .. .. .	8	8	nil	nil

### 3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.	
<b>Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—</b>		
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133)	nil	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (S. 5)	{	Notified by H.M. Inspector ..
	}	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors..
Other .. .. .	nil	
Number of		
<b>Homework :—</b>		
<i>Lists of Outworkers (S. 107) :—</i>		
Lists received .. .. .	2	6
<b>Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of 1904.</b>		
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bake-houses, may be enumerated here. {	Bakers .. .. .	22
	Dressmakers .. .. .	16
	Laundries.. .. .	34
	Tailors .. .. .	11
	Various .. .. .	37
Total number of workshops on Register.. .. .		120

