

**[Report 1895] / Medical Officer of Health, Royal Leamington Spa Borough.**

**Contributors**

Leamington (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1895

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/gghvjmbg>

**License and attribution**

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

*With the Compliments  
of the Medical Officer of Health.*

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.

Urban Sanitary District.



# *Annual Report*

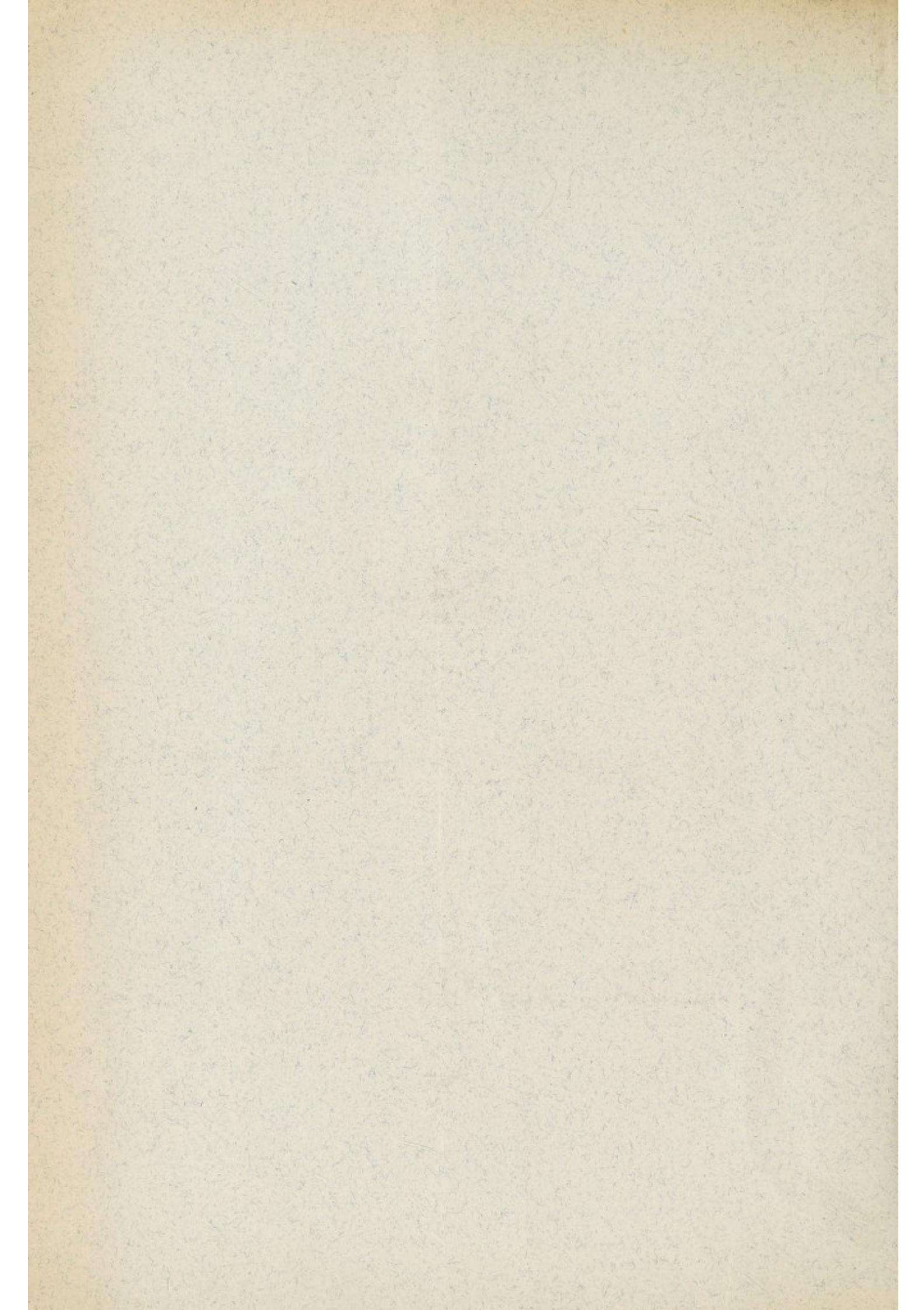
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1895.

Leamington Spa :

PRINTED BY BECK'S ADVERTISER LIMITED, PARADE, LEAMINGTON.



ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA.

---

Urban Sanitary District.

---



*Annual Report*

OF THE


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1895.

---

Leamington Spa :

PRINTED BY BECK'S ADVERTISER LIMITED, PARADE, LEAMINGTON.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29720345>

## HEALTH COMMITTEE.



MAJOR EDLMANN (CHAIRMAN).

THE MAYOR.

MR. ALDERMAN EARDLEY-WILMOT.

” ” MARSLAND.

” ” WACKRILL.

MR. COUNCILLOR BRIGHT.

” ” BARRETT.

” ” FELL.

” ” FORD.

” ” FRAZER.

” ” JEAFFRESON.

” ” MOLESWORTH.

SMITH.

# Sanitary Report

OF THE

## Borough of Royal Leamington Spa.

FOR THE YEAR 1895.

---

TOWN HALL, LEAMINGTON,

29th JANUARY, 1896.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honor to present you with the Annual Report on the  
Sanitary State of the Borough for the year 1895.

Acreage	...	...	...	...	...	2,760
Population (Census 1891)	...	...	...	...	...	26,930
Population estimated to middle of 1896	...	...	...	...	...	27,220
Population per square mile	...	...	...	...	...	6,280
Town Sewage, pumped to Heathcote Farm.						
Town Refuse, disposed of to Farmers.						
Height above Sea level...	...	...	...	...	195 feet.	
Geological Formation	...	...	...	...	New Red Sandstone.	
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	Artesian Well (depth 110 feet)	
on Campion Hill.						

## Births.

536 births (277 males, 259 females) were registered, showing an annual birth rate of 19·7, a fraction less than last year.

### BIRTHS BY WARDS AND QUARTERS.

TABLE I.

WARDS.	BIRTHS.	BIRTH RATE.	ESTIMATED POPULATION, 1895
North-East.....	154	22·6	7325
South-East... ..	190	27·9	8485
West.....	139	20·4	7490
Milverton and Lillington	53	7·7	3816
	536		27116

TABLE II.

QUARTERS.	MALES.	FEMALES.	TOTALS.	BIRTH RATE.
1st	77	63	140	20·6
2nd	65	66	131	19·2
3rd	66	62	128	18·9
4th	69	68	137	20·2
TOTALS	277	259	536	

## Mortality and Diseases.

450 deaths took place; an increase of 77 on last year's figures, showing an annual death rate of 16·5, which becomes 16·6 on adding 28 deaths of Leamington inhabitants who died in Warwick Union Workhouse, and deducting 25 deaths of persons not belonging to Leamington, who died in Hospital.

TABLE III.

MORTALITY FOR THE FOUR QUARTERS OF THE YEAR.

QUARTERS.	TOTAL MORTALITY.							ZYMOTIC DEATHS.			DEATH RATE.
	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5.	5 years and under 15.	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.	Totals.	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.	Totals.	
1st.	16	5	3	4	48	59	135	...	...	...	19.9
2nd.	16	1	8	8	42	50	125	2	1	3	18.4
3rd.	24	11	4	4	30	23	96	4	...	4	14.1
4th.	17	8	4	4	35	26	94	1	...	1	13.8
Totals	73	25	19	20	155	158	450	7	1	8	

Mortality at all ages was high, caused by the large number of deaths from Inflammatory Diseases of the Lungs during the 1st and 2nd Quarters. There was a return of Influenza in March, which disappeared in May.

Deaths under 1 year show a proportionate Infantile death rate of 136.0 per 1000 births.

24 children who died under 5 years were insured.

## CAUSES OF DEATHS UNDER 5 YEARS.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	18
Debility from Birth	...	...	...	...	14
Imperfect Development	...	...	...	...	12
Convulsions	...	...	...	...	10
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	8
Dentition	...	...	...	...	6
Marasmus	...	...	...	...	7
Tuberculosis, including Phthisis, Tabes-Mesenterica and Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	...	...	6
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	2
Gastro-Enteritis	...	...	...	...	8
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	1
Tonsillitis	...	...	...	...	1
Abdominal Tumor	...	...	...	...	1

Considerably more than half the mortality under 5 years appeared under the headings of Premature Birth, Debility from Birth, Imperfect Development, Convulsions, Marasmus, and Gastro-Enteritis. These point to weakly parents, early weaning, and unsuitable food in infancy.

The mortality due to Inflammatory Lung Diseases might be greatly lowered, if more care were shown by parents as regards exposure, clothing of infants, and ventilation of sleeping rooms. Exposure to all sorts of weather does not make children "hardy," but, to my mind, has a contrary effect; and close and "stuffy" sleeping rooms tend to lower vitality, and invite lung disease. Teachers in Board Schools and District Visitors might impress some of these facts upon those under their care.

#### ZYMOTIC DEATHS.

Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Enteric Fever (Typhoid)	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	..	...	...	...	...	...	2
							<hr/> 8

A very low figure, the Zymotic death rate being 0·2.

### Small Pox

Was not reported during the year, a fact worthy of notice.

Vaccination is so successfully carried out here, and the supervision of our police over common lodging-houses is so complete, I have no dread of Small Pox spreading in our midst.

### Scarlet Fever (Scarlatina)

Was prevalent throughout the entire year. All Wards, except Milverton and Lillington, seemed to suffer equally.

207 cases were reported, and 183 were removed to hospital. No death was reported in the Borough.

The disease was of mild type, and I have no doubt that on this account numerous cases were enabled to escape "notification." Hence the extreme difficulty in stamping out the malady. It is curious to notice how an outbreak in any locality immediately declines on closing the Schools; and also, how the disease reappears when the holidays have ceased. In October, I advised that Shrubland Street Schools and the Sunday Schools in that neighbourhood should be closed for a month. Scarlet Fever at once declined, but returned slightly when the Schools were re-opened.

I must repeat with emphasis my opinion stated in past reports that daily medical inspection of Board Schools is the best remedy against the spread of such Zymotic diseases as Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, and Measles.

### **Diphtheria.**

12 cases were reported as follows:—3 in North-East Ward, 5 in South-East Ward, 3 in West Ward, and 1 in Warneford Hospital.

2 cases died in South-East Ward in 2nd Quarter.

The “smoke test” was, as usual, applied to premises in 11 cases, and, with one exception, sanitary defects were found in all.

### **Enteric Fever (Typhoid).**

8 cases were brought to my notice, of which 4 were in Warneford Hospital and brought from a distance. Of the others, 1 occurred in North-East Ward, 1 in South-East Ward, and 2 in West Ward. The “smoke test” discovered sanitary defects in the premises of all the latter cases.

### **Measles**

Was prevalent in June and July; disappeared in middle of latter month, and again appeared in October and December.

Lillington School was closed in October with marked effect. The complaint was very mild, and only one death was reported in West Ward in 4th Quarter.

### **Whooping Cough.**

2 deaths were reported in North-East and West Wards in third Quarter. I fully expected that this fatal complaint might prevail after the occurrence of Measles. Such is frequently noticed. I am glad to say that I was disappointed.

### **Diarrhœa.**

2 deaths were reported in the 3rd Quarter.

### **Erysipelas.**

18 cases, mostly chronic, were reported. In one instance only might the disease have been caused by sanitary defects.

## General Sanitary Work—Improvements and Suggestions.

As occasion required during the year, I carried out the instructions issued to Medical Officers of Health by the Local Government Board.

1895 was characterised by an increase of work for both the Medical Officer of Health and the Inspector of Nuisances; a survey of the latter's report will prove this.

But for the prevalence of Scarlet Fever, the Borough would have had a very clean bill of health. As I have already stated, daily medical inspection of Board Schools would in all probability prevent such a condition in the future.

Mr. Anderson, your new Inspector of Nuisances, began duty on 27th February, and soon made himself familiar with the entire working of the Borough. He has proved himself a most capable and trustworthy sanitary officer.

In January, chiefly owing to the energy of our worthy Mayor (Dr. T. W. Thursfield), a "Street Smells" Sub-Committee was appointed, and, as a result, a resolution was passed before the General Council "That wherever there is a complaint of a sewer ventilator giving forth offensive smells, there should be an examination of the sewer in the vicinity of the open grid, and that if the state of the sewer is bad and can be remedied, it be so remedied at once; and that if applicable or well to do so, an upcast shaft be placed (upon a report to that effect from the Medical Officer of Health and Surveyor) by order of the Water and Sewage Committee. Also that dead ends of all sewers be ventilated or connected with another sewer wherever practicable."

In carrying out this resolution, six new shafts have been erected, and two dead ends of sewers have been properly connected.

During the year the Mayor was mainly instrumental in drafting a Bill "To make further and better provision in regard to the health, local government, and improvement of the Borough of Royal Leamington Spa, and other purposes."

In its provisions this is a most exhaustive Bill, and, if passed by Act of Parliament, will cause Leamington to take a foremost place amongst the best regulated towns of England.

I attended the meetings called during the preparation of this Bill, and all its provisions have my hearty support.

I wish to warn my medical brethren that section 29 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, in force from 1st January, 1896, obliges every medical practitioner to report any case of Anthrax, Lead, Phosphorus, or Arsenical poisoning, to the Chief Inspector of Factories, Home Office, London. The fee for so doing is half-a-crown, and that failure to so report renders a medical practitioner liable to a fine of forty shillings.

At the earliest opportunity, I shall request that notices may be issued, through the Town Clerk, so that the professional men in our Borough may without delay gain this information.

My professional brethren have helped me greatly in my work. Let me thank them for their cordial co-operation. Dr. Douglas acted for me on several occasions during my absence on leave or from sickness. He is so thorough and conscientious in his work, I always feel safe in asking him to act as my *locum tenens*.

The water supply has been of excellent quality. The daily average consumption per head was 21 gallons, rather more than the usual rate of consumption, due to waste during the severe winter and the long drought of summer. 3 private wells were closed, as the water was condemned as dangerous for domestic use.

The Report of the Inspector of Nuisances (Table IX) represents a great amount of work, and caused no friction with owners of property. It shows that 199 rooms, 8 entire houses, and 5 Schools were disinfected. 114 visits were paid to common lodging houses, 376 visits to slaughter-houses, and 132 visits to laundries; of the last-named visits 99 were ordered by the Home Office in the month of August, in order to classify those laundries which come under the New Factory and Workshop Act, 1895.

The "smoke test" was applied 166 times. The constant demand for this test by the inhabitants and their medical attendants has immensely increased the work of the Health Department.

About 920lbs of unsound meat, including beef, mutton, pork, ham, and fish, were condemned and destroyed, together with 30lbs of fruit.

9 prosecutions were carried out—2 for contravention of Common Lodging-House Bye-Laws, 2 for contravention of Public Health Act, 1875, 1 for exposure of unsound meat for sale, 3 for adulteration of milk, and 1 for adulteration of butter. Conviction was obtained in every case and a fine inflicted.

The last Annual Report of the Chairman of the Pump Room Committee (Dr. Eardley-Wilmot) shows that our Springs and Baths continue to sustain their long-established reputation as therapeutic agents, for which they are admirably fitted and adapted. The increased patronage of the Pump Room by visitors and residents is gratifying, and I trust that all will bear in mind that our Spa water is equal in quality to any British or Continental Spa water, as Dr. Eardley-Wilmot pointed out in his report.

The various Baths were kept in good working order, and have been more largely in demand than ever. The ventilation of our Turkish Bath is much better than one generally finds in such establishments. I can vouch for this from personal experience.

I look upon the Swimming Baths as a great attraction of our town, and I am constantly in correspondence with officials of other towns desirous of imitating the construction and working of these.

It would be a great boon if Leamington could have its own "Disinfecting Chamber." Much valuable time and much trouble would thereby be saved. In case of a severe and sudden outbreak of infectious disease, I do not believe it would be possible to trust to the present method of sending clothing and bedding to Heathcote Hospital.

I venture to hope that before long your Medical Officer of Health and your Inspector of Nuisances may have offices given them more suitable than such now in use. The present office at Old Town Hall is unsuitably situated, too small, badly lighted, and so "draughty" in winter, it is scarcely possible to work there for two hours without taking a chill.

Tables IV to VIII present the mortality at all ages, according to Wards and Public Institutions, and by Quarters.

### Meteorology.

Mr. Barnitt, to whom we are indebted from year to year for the Meteorological Observations, has again granted my request for information on these matters.

Mr. Barnitt remarks: "Referring to the Meteorological Table (XII) you will find the mean temperature is slightly below average. The months of May, June, and September, were unusually warm. In the latter month the shade temperature rose to over 80° on six days.

Humidity is 4° below average.

The rainfall is below average by about 4 inches, and the number of rainy days is correspondingly low.

Perhaps the especial features of the year were the two droughts, the earlier commencing 2nd February, ending 5th March, with a fall of rain amounting to .077 inches only; the latter drought commencing 28th April, ending 27th June, and the rainfall amounting to .616 inches.

Let me thank the Chairman and members of the Health Committee for their kindness and able assistance during the past year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

SAMUEL BROWNE, M.D., D.P.H.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

TABLE IV.

*NORTH-EAST WARD.*

Estimated Population—7,325.

Death Rate—15.1.

QUARTERS.	TOTAL MORTALITY.							ZYMOTIC DEATHS.		
	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5.	5 years and under 15.	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.	Totals.	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.	Totals.
1st.	8	3	...	...	11	11	33	...	...	...
2nd.	6	...	2	1	9	12	30	1	...	1
3rd.	10	3	2	1	7	5	28	1	...	1
4th.	2	4	...	...	9	5	20	...	...	...
Totals	26	10	4	2	36	33	111	2	...	2

TABLE V.

*SOUTH-EAST WARD.*

Estimated Population—8,485.

Death Rate—16.6.

QUARTERS.	TOTAL MORTALITY.							ZYMOTIC DEATHS.		
	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5.	5 years and under 15.	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.	Totals.	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.	Totals.
1st.	6	1	1	1	20	19	48	...	...	...
2nd.	5	...	1	3	13	15	37	1	1	2
3rd.	10	2	1	1	10	5	29	1	...	1
4th.	6	2	1	2	8	8	27	...	...	...
Totals	27	5	4	7	51	47	141	2	1	3

TABLE VI.

*WEST WARD.*

Estimated Population—7,490.

Death Rate—14.4.

QUARTERS.	TOTAL MORTALITY.							ZYMOTIC DEATHS.		
	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5.	5 years and under 15.	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.	Totals	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.	Totals.
1st.	..	..	1	..	8	19	28	..	..	..
2nd.	5	..	2	3	9	14	33	..	..	..
3rd.	1	4	..	1	8	6	20	2	..	2
4th.	5	2	1	..	13	6	27	1	..	1
Totals	11	6	4	4	38	45	108	3	..	3

TABLE VII.

*MILVERTON AND LILLINGTON WARD.*

Estimated Population—3,816.

Death Rate—11.7.

QUARTERS.	TOTAL MORTALITY.							ZYMOTIC DEATHS.		
	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5.	5 years and under 15.	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.	Totals.	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.	Totals.
1st.	1	..	..	1	4	8	14	..	..	..
2nd.	..	1	2	..	5	6	14	..	..	..
3rd.	2	..	..	..	..	5	7	..	..	..
4th.	4	..	1	..	2	3	10	..	..	..
Totals	7	1	3	1	11	22	45	..	..	..

TABLE VIII.

Warneford Hospital, Home for Incurables, River and Canal.

	QUARTERS.	TOTAL MORTALITY.							ZYMOTIC DEATHS.		
		Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5.	5 years and under 15.	15 years and under 25.	25 years and under 65.	65 years and upwards.	Totals.	Under 5 years.	5 years and upwards.	Totals.
Warneford Hospital.	1st.	1	1	..	2	2	1	7	...	...	...
	2nd.	...	...	1	1	5	...	7	...	...	...
	3rd.	1	2	1	1	4	...	9	...	...	...
	4th.	...	...	...	1	2	2	5	...	...	...
	Totals	2	3	2	5	13	3	28	...	...	...
Home for Incurables.	QUARTERS.										
	1st.	...	...	...	...	3	1	4	...	...	...
	2nd.	...	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	...
	3rd.	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	...	...	...
	4th.	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	...	...	...
	Totals	...	...	...	...	5	8	13	...	...	...
River and Canal.	QUARTERS.										
	1st.	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	2nd.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	3rd.	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...	...
	4th.	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Grand Totals		2	3	4	5	20	11	45	...	...	...



TABLE X.  
Table of Deaths during the Year 1895, in the Urban Sanitary District of Leamington Spa.  
Classified according to DISEASES, AGES and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																				
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	FEVERS.								Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.
								Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.																
North-East Ward ...	111	26	10	4	2	36	33	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	25	36	
South-East Ward.....	141	27	5	4	7	51	47	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	45	75	
West Ward .....	108	11	6	4	5	37	45	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	27	32	
Milverton & Lillington	45	7	1	3	1	11	22	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	...	...	58	109	
Warneford Hospital	28	2	3	2	5	13	3	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	11	17	
Home for Incurables	13	...	...	...	...	5	8	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	54	91	
River and Canal.....	4	...	...	2	...	2	...	Under 5 5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	7	8	
Totals .....	450	73	25	19	20	155	158	Under 5 5 upwards	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	2	...	...	...	29	18	...	4	73	352	
The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.																												
Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	28	2	...	...	...	9	17	5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	20	26	
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	
	25	1	...	1	2	14	7	5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	3	1	16	24	



# TABLE XII.

## METEOROLOGY OF LEAMINGTON, 1895.

Abstract of Meteorological Observations taken at 86, The Parade, during 1895, by J. BARNITT.

Latitude 52dg. 18 N. Longitude 1dg. 30 W. Height above sea level, 195 feet.

The Instruments have been verified at Kew and Greenwich, and the necessary corrections have been applied for index error, capillary action, temperature and diurnal range.

AIR TEMPERATURE.										Rainfall.	
Month.	Mean of Pressure, 9 a.m.	9 a.m.	Means of		Absolute Maximum and Minimum.			Relative Humidity 9 a.m.	Total Fall.	Number of Days.	
			Maximum	Minimum	Maximum	Date.	Minimum				Date.
	Inches.	°	°	°	°			%	Inches.		
January ...	29.693	32.9	36.9	27.5	45.0	19th	14.2	87	3.438	18	
February...	30.108	28.5	35.9	22.5	45.2	23th	7.0	66	.088	2	
March ...	29.696	41.7	50.6	35.7	62.1	17th	25.3	85	1.639	17	
April ...	29.860	46.6	57.5	40.4	64.5	19th	29.5	78	1.585	11	
May ...	30.087	53.9	67.9	45.6	82.2	30th	35.8	71	.363	3	
June ...	30.070	57.8	72.9	50.1	83.9	8th	40.2	69	.583	6	
July ...	29.813	58.9	70.3	54.0	80.8	8th	46.0	73	2.322	14	
August ...	29.881	59.8	70.8	54.0	80.3	22nd	44.9	77	2.763	16	
September.	30.138	59.9	74.4	51.4	83.2	27th	37.8	72	.693	5	
October ...	29.827	45.0	52.9	39.7	72.7	1st	25.8	79	2.698	14	
November .	29.864	46.3	51.8	41.6	62.3	16th	31.9	85	2.983	16	
December .	29.779	40.1	44.4	34.7	55.9	5th	24.5	85	1.661	15	
Totals. .	358.816	571.4	686.3	497.2				927	20.816	137	
Means...	29.901	47.6	57.2	41.4				77	1.735	11	





