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Contributors

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LEATHERHEAD URBAN DISTRICT.

AREA, 3541 ACRES.

POPULATION	}	At Census, 1881	-	-	3533.
		At Census, 1891	-	-	4305.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health, with regard to the Year, 1897.

I.—Vital Statistics: Births and Deaths.

1. Assuming that it has increased at the same rate since the census 1891 as it did during the preceding decade, the POPULATION of the district, in the middle of the year, may be estimated at 4850 persons.

2. The number of BIRTHS registered in the district during the year was 101, (as against 81 in the previous year,) which represents a BIRTH-RATE of 20·8 per 1000 of the estimated population. (See also Table C, at the end of the report.)

3. The number of DEATHS registered in the district during the year was 41, to which must be added ten deaths in the Epsom Workhouse, in the Cheam Isolation Hospital, and in the County Asylum, of persons belonging to the district. This total of 51 deaths represents an ANNUAL DEATH-RATE of 10·5 per thousand of the estimated population.

4. As to the INFANT MORTALITY. The deaths during the year, of INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR, were nine in number, and were at the rate of 89 per 1000 births registered.

5. The deaths from PULMONARY CONSUMPTION (5 in number), were at the rate of about 1 per 1000 of the population.

6. The deaths from OTHER LUNG DISEASES (pleurisy, pneumonia and bronchitis), were 6 in number, and were at the rate of 1·2 per 1000 of the population. (See also Tables A. and C).

II.—Summary of Sickness and Mortality, during the year, from the seven Principal Zymotic Diseases, and from certain other diseases which have to be notified under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, and of the Action taken for preventing their spread.

1.—SMALL POX,—No case of this disease was reported.

2.—WHOOPIING COUGH caused no death.

3.—MEASLES caused no death.

4.—SCARLET FEVER, (otherwise called SCARLATINA), was rather prevalent during the greater part of the year, 42 cases having been notified in 26 houses. Thirty-three of the sick were removed for treatment to the Epsom Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital at Cheam, and one was removed from the Cottage Hospital to the Croydon Borough Isolation Hospital, from which she was transferred to the Joint Isolation Hospital on Cuddington Downs. One of the illnesses ended fatally at home. In some families as many as four cases occurred, and in some the earliest cases were so mild that their nature was not at first recognised and the disease spread in consequence to others in the house and to those in other houses. In May all the Public Elementary Schools, except those on the Common, were closed for three weeks, by the advice of the Deputy Medical Officer of Health, as a precaution against the further spread of the disease. Ten of the infected houses were at or near the Fairfield. Into one house the disease was probably imported by some children who had been sent there for safety from an infected house at Clapham. (See also Table B. at the end of the Report.)

5.—Of DIPHTHERIA, there were six cases in five houses, particulars of which are shewn in the following table. No connection could be established between the cases which occurred in the earlier part of the year.

Situation of Premises.	Persons attacked	Dates of Attack	Probable source of infection.	Remarks.
Gravel Hill	Boy, aged 7.	Jan. 11	Not traceable.	Patient removed to Hospital on January 14.
Givon's Grove Cottages	Girl, aged 14.	Jan. 13	An unrecognised case which occurred in December.	Patient removed to Hospital on January 20 and died there on January 22.
Givon's Grove Cottages	Girl, aged 8.	Jan. 24	Her sister aged 14.	Patient removed January 25.
Magazine Place	Girl, aged 8.	Jan. 24	Not traceable.	Diagnosis confirmed by bacteriological examination; drain found blocked.
Fairfield	Girl, aged 10 mths	Feb. 26	Not traceable.	Patient removed to Hospital on February 28.
Givon's Grove	Woman, aged 28.	Sept. 22	Out of the district.	The patient returned, on September 21, from a village near Godalming where she had been staying for a fortnight.

6.—ENTERIC, (otherwise called TYPHOID) FEVER. On February 24th, a woman was admitted into the Cottage Hospital from a house at Mickleham, suffering from what was supposed to be Influenza, but which was found to be Enteric Fever.

On May 4th, a girl living in Worple Road, was found to be suffering from Enteric Fever, which she had probably contracted in London, where she had stayed from April 20th to 25th. On May 6th, she was removed to the Cottage Hospital.

On September 9th, a gentleman residing in Church Street, took to his bed with what proved to be Enteric Fever, from which he died on September 17th. He had gone daily to London and had eaten oysters there on September 4th.

No other cases were heard of.

7.—DIARRHŒA caused five deaths, three of which were among young children.

The total DEATHS from these seven Zymotic Diseases were 8, and were at the rate of 1.6 per 1000 of the population. (See also Table D. at the end of the Report).

As regards the other Infectious Diseases to which the above-mentioned Act applies:—

Of ERYSIPELAS, no case was notified.

Of PUERPERAL FEVER, no case was notified.

Of MEMBRANOUS CROUP, no case was notified.

Of CONTINUED FEVER, no case was notified.

The following further action was taken for preventing the spread of some of these diseases:—The houses infected with Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, or Enteric Fever, were visited and were supplied, in most instances, with disinfectants for daily use during illness; isolation of the sick was inculcated and was assisted by the removal of thirty-eight to an Isolation Hospital; a sanitary inspection of the premises was made, and all nuisances and defects, that were discovered, were remedied as far as was practicable; the well-water, when suspected, was analysed; and, after the recovery or removal of the sick, the infected rooms and their contents were cleansed and disinfected, in most instances after service of notice by the Inspector. Infected articles were removed from the houses of the poor, and were disinfected at the expense of the District Council, or were destroyed and compensation was given.

The *Joint Isolation Hospital* for the use of persons residing in this district and in the Epsom Rural, the Sutton Urban, and the Carshalton Urban, Districts, was opened for the reception of patients on October 25th, and two Scarlet Fever patients were afterwards removed into it from this district.

The Council were invited by the Croydon Town Council to join with them, and with other District Councils, in the provision of a Joint Small-Pox Hospital, but, after much consideration, decided not to do so.

Summary of other proceedings which were taken during the year under the Sanitary Acts, &c.

1.—As to the BYELAWS RELATING TO NEW BUILDINGS.—The following figures have been furnished me by the Surveyors who were then in office.

	In 1883	In 1884	In 1885	In 1886	In 1887	In 1888	In 1889	In 1890	In 1891	In 1892	In 1893	In 1894	In 1895	In 1896	In 1897
Number of new buildings for which plans were submitted for approval under the Byelaws	6	22	10	5	8	10	7	6	4	6	10	No return	17	23	30
Number of times that legal proceedings were taken for breach of the Byelaws	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none	none		none	none	none

2.—The District Council undertook the REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE, as in previous years, by their own staff of men.

3.—The District Council contracted for the weekly CLEANSING OF TUB CLOSETS of which there were 417 in use at the end of the year, or 3 more than there were at the commencement of the year. They also experimented on a small number of these closets with the Congleton system of putting compressed peat, acidulated with Sulphuric Acid, into the tubs before replacing them under the seats, and were so pleased with the result that they decided to adopt it for all the tubs and to themselves undertake, instead of contracting for, the weekly cleansing of the tubs.

4.—As to the proposed WORKS OF SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL. During the year, the Local Government Board, after holding a public enquiry on two days, issued their Provisional Order giving the Council power to acquire compulsorily the land which had been selected by their Engineer for the disposal of the sewage, and the Order was afterwards confirmed by Parliament without further opposition. The price to be paid for the purchase of the land has now to be settled by arbitration.

5.—As to NUISANCES. The Sanitary Inspector's statement of the nuisances which were discovered, (many of them in the course of a house-to-house inspection by Dr. Williamson, Deputy M.O.H.) and which were dealt with during the year, is given on page 6. Among others which engaged special attention was the effluvia which arose from the mud from the Bradmore Pond, which had been deposited on its banks, and which was stated to have given Intermittent Fever to one of the inmates of a house situated at a distance of 800 feet from the pond.

6.—As to WATER SUPPLY. Eight samples of water, which were sent me from wells in the district, were examined, with the result shewn in the following table.

When the Samples were sent. 1897.	Source of the Samples.	The Water was found to be	Action taken.
Feb. 4	Well, Magazine Place	Impure	Water laid on.
Mar. 9	Well, Church Lane	Of rather doubtful quality	
May 13	Well, on the Fairfield	Very suspicious quality	Water laid on.
May 13	Well, on the Common	Fairly good	
July 31	Well, on the Fairfield	Polluted	The well was cleaned out.
Sept. 3	Same well	Rather better	
Nov. 11	Same well	Unfit for domestic use	Water about to be laid on.
Nov. 9	Well at Water works	Of excellent quality	

The Council drew the attention of the Water Company to the desirability of their arranging for the periodical examination of the water supplied to their customers, with a view to the early detection of any signs of the contamination of the water.

7.—The Inspector informs me that the SLAUGHTER-HOUSES and the premises of the registered COWKEEPERS AND PURVEYORS OF MILK were regularly inspected, during the year.

E. L. JACOB.

8, *Altenburg Gardens,*
New Wandsworth,
January, 1898.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the Year ending December 31st, 1897.

Number of Complaints received in writing	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of Premises inspected under Section 92 of the Public Health Act, 1875	...	...	...	...	...	250
Number of Nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	...	98
Ditto remedied without being reported	...	...	...	...	...	98
Ditto reported to the Sanitary Authority	...	...	...	...	...	0
Ditto remedied after report	..	...	...	...	...	0
Number of Notices served for the Abatement of Nuisances, under Section 94	...	...	...	...	...	44

Particulars of work done by owners or occupiers, for the abatement of Nuisances, in compliance with notice:—

Number of privies, cesspools, ditches, pools, watercourses, urinals, ashpits, and drains, cleansed, and number of deposits removed.	...	...	...	...	...	34
Number of old privies re-constructed, as water-closets	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of old privies re-constructed, with small watertight vaults or with pails	...	...	...	...	...	5
Number of Premises at which the drains were re-constructed, ventilated, trapped, or disconnected from the house-pipes or rain-water pipes	...	...	...	...	...	18
Number of Premises at which new drains or cesspools were provided under Sec. 23 or Sec. 94	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of Premises from which animals, improperly kept, were removed	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number of Houses which were provided with efficient ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	24
Number of Houses at which injurious overcrowding was abated	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of damp unwholesome Houses which were repaired	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of filthy Houses which were cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	25
Legal proceedings taken, under Sec. 96, for abatement of nuisances (number of times)	...	...	...	...	...	—
Houses condemned by the Justices as unfit for human habitation under Section 97	...	...	...	...	...	—

Number of Samples of Water sent to the Medical Officer of Health for Analysis	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ Wells permanently or temporarily closed, after notice, under Section 70 of the Public Health Act, 1875, as unfit for drinking or domestic purposes	...	...	...	...	...	—
„ Houses to which water was supplied by owners of premises after notice under Section 62 of that Act	...	...	...	...	...	25

APPENDIX.

TABLE A.

TABLE OF DEATHS in the District during the year 1897, classified according to DISEASES and AGES ; and shewing also the POPULATION of the District and the BIRTHS therein during the year.

Population at all ages.		REGISTERED BIRTHS.	MORTALITY from all causes at subjoined ages.						Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Persons under 5 years of age.																							
At Census 1891.	At middle of 1897.		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.	Under 5	Small Pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Fevers.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typh'd.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea & Dysent'y.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.
4305	4850		101	41	9	3	0	3	20	6	5 upwards						1									3			1	1		6	12

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account, in judging of the mortality of the District.

Deaths occurring outside the District among persons belonging thereto.	10	1	1	4	4	Under 5	1																											
						5 upwards																												

Table B.—Shewing the number of houses invaded, and of persons attacked in the district, (exclusive of Public Institutions) by the undermentioned Zymotic Diseases, in each month of the year 1897, and in the seven preceding years.

MONTHS.	Small Pox.			Scarlet Fever.			Diphtheria.			Typhoid Fever.			Continued Fever.		Membranous Croup.		Erysipelas.		Puerperal Fever.
	Cases.	Houses Invaded.	Removed to Hospital.	Cases.	Houses Invaded.	Removed to Hospital.	Cases.	Houses Invaded.	Removed to Hospital.	Cases.	Houses Invaded.	Removed to Hospital.	Cases.	Houses Invaded.	Cases.	Houses Invaded.	Cases.	Houses Invaded.	Cases.
January				2	2	2	4	3	2										
February				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								
March				5	1	5													
April				4	2	4													
May				2	6	9				1	1								
June				2	2	1													
July				6	4	3													
August				8	4	7													
September							1	1		1	1								
October				5	4	2													
November																			
December																			
Total in 1897.				42	26	31	6	5	4	3	3								
Total in 1896.				19	14	12	12	10	3	3	3								
Total in 1895.				3	3	2	9	6									2	2	
Total in 1894.				1	1		3	3		3	2						3	3	
Total in 1893.				8	6	4	4	3	2	3	2				1	1			
Total in 1892.				30	19	7	6	5							3	3	2	2	
Total in 1891.				1	1		7	4	4								1	1	
Total in 1890.							2	2		1	1								

NOTE.—The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, has been in force in the parish since 1890.

TABLE C.

Shewing the estimated population, the Annual Birth-rate, and certain Death-rates, for each of the seventeen years, 1881-97.

Years.	POPULATION estimated to middle of each year.	REGISTERED BIRTHS.		DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES.		Deaths of Infants under 1 year.		Deaths from Pulmonary Consumption.		Deaths from other Lung Diseases.	
		Num-ber.	Rate per 1000 of the population.	Num-ber.	Rate per 1000 of the population.	Num-ber.	Rate per 1000 Regd. Births.	Num-ber.	Rate per 1000 of the population.	Num-ber.	Rate per 1000 of the population.
1881	3550	121	34.0	62	17.5	13	10.7	5	1.4	11	3.0
1882	3630	103	28.1	60	16.5	8	7.8	4	1.1	13	3.6
1883	3710	117	31.5	46	12.4	4	3.4	2	.5	13	3.5
1884	3790	124	32.7	70	18.5	18	14.5	5	1.3	13	3.1
1885	3870	131	33.8	63	16.2	6	4.6	4	1.0	11	2.8
1886	3950	128	32.4	76	19.2	19	14.8	4	1.0	13	3.2
1887	4030	116	28.7	60	14.9	13	11.2	7	1.7	17	4.2
1888	4110	105	25.5	62	15.0	16	15.2	4	1.0	7	1.7
1889	4190	117	28.0	54	12.9	13	11.1	6	1.4	10	2.4
1890	4270	87	20.4	57	13.3	8	9.2	5	1.1	14	3.2
Average of 10 years.			29.5		15.6		10.2		1.2		3.0
1891	4350	117	26.9	59	13.5	9	7.7	5	1.1	11	2.5
1892	4430	97	21.9	60	13.5	8	8.2	4	.9	15	3.4
1893	4510	107	23.7	54	12.0	18	16.8	3	.7	10	2.2
1894	4600	95	20.7	57	12.4	17	17.9	3	.6	9	2.0
1895	4680	104	22.2	51	10.9	7	6.7	7	1.5	13	2.7
1896	4750	81	17.0	49	10.3	12	14.8	3	0.63	8	1.7
1897	4850	101	20.8	51	10.5	9	8.9	5	1.0	6	1.2

NOTE.—The deaths of parishioners in the Epsom Workhouse are included in this table.

TABLE D.—Shewing the number of Deaths in the District from the Seven Principal Zymotic diseases, during the twenty-four years, 1874-1897.

Years.	Small-Pox	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough.	CONTINUED FEVER.				Diarrhoea	Total.	
						Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Other kinds.			Number.	Rate per 1000 of the population.
1874	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	5	1.8	
1875	5	...	...	...	...	...	3	8	2.8	
1876	2	...	1	...	1	...	4	8	2.7	
1877	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	5	1.6	
1878	5	4	...	...	...	4	13	4.1	
1879	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	.6	
1880	...	5	1	1	2	...	...	1	...	10	3.0	
1881	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	3	.8	
1882	...	6	1	1	2	...	2	...	1	13	3.6	
1883	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	.5	
1884	1	...	1	...	...	...	3	5	1.3	
1885	2	...	...	2	...	1	5	1.3	
1886	2	...	1	...	2	5	1.3	
1887	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	.7	
1888	...	3	1	...	7	...	...	...	1	12	3.0	
1889	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	.5	
1890	1	...	...	...	...	1	.2	
1891	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	.7	
1892	1	...	...	...	...	1	0.2	
1893	...	3	...	1	7	...	...	...	...	11	2.4	
1894	...	1	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	4	0.9	
1895	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	0.43	
1896	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	6	1.3	
1897	1	1	...	...	1	...	5	8	1.6	