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Contributors

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Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1908.

TO THE
MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE
LYDD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Eleventh Annual Report upon the general health statistics and sanitation of this Borough during the twelve months ending 31st December, 1908. The calculations have been based upon the same population as shewn in my last Annual Report, viz.: 2,800.

Deaths.

The Annual Death Rate of persons belonging to this Borough was 4·2 per 1,000, which, upon reference to the Table tabulated below, is less than one-half of the Death Rate of last year, and is the lowest which I have had the privilege to record during my tenour of this office.

The rate for England and Wales during the same period was 14·7 per 1,000.

The total number of Deaths registered in Lydd during 1908 was 12.

8 Deaths occurred amongst Females.

4 " " " Males.

1	Death	occurred	under 1 year of age.
3	Deaths	"	between 1 and 5 years of age.
1	Death	"	" 30 and 40 "
1	"	"	" 40 and 50 "
1	"	"	" 60 and 70 "
4	Deaths	"	" 70 and 80 "
1	Death	"	over 80 years of age.

Substracting the Deaths under 5 years of age, the average life is 65·6.

PERIOD OF DEATHS, 1908.

January	... 0	April	... 3	} 6	July	... 1	October	... 3	} 6
February	.. 2	May	... 1		August	... 1	November	... 0	
March	... 0	June	... 0		September	... 0	December	... 1	

Of the causes of Death, 1 died from	Phthisis.
3 " "	Whooping Cough.
1 " "	Bronchitis.
1 " "	Heart Disease.
2 " "	Senile Decay.
1 " "	Cancer.
1 " "	Femoral Hernia Operation.
1 " "	Convulsions.
1 " "	Cerebral Hemorrhage.

Births.

The Birth Rate for the past year was 20 per thousand; that for England and Wales during the same period being 26·5 per thousand.

The Births during this period numbered 56 :

32 were Males ;

24 were Females ;

Of this number, 1 was illegitimate.

TABLE SHOWING BIRTH RATE AND DEATH RATE FOR TEN YEARS, FROM 1899 TO 1908.

	Births.	Rate for Lydd.	Rate for England and Wales.	Deaths.	Rate for Lydd.	Rate for England and Wales.
1899 ...	51	22·3	29·2	25	10·9	18·3
1900 ...	59	25·5	29·6	30	13	19·4
1901 ...	77	29·4	28·5	31	11·4	16
1902 ..	61	22·9	27·4	21	7·9	15·3
1903 ...	62	23	28·4	29	10·7	15·4
1904 ...	63	23·3	27·9	20	7·4	16·2
1905 ...	70	25·4	27·2	21	7·6	15·2
1906 ...	60	21·8	26·3	13	4·7	15
1907 ...	69	24·6	26·3	25	8·9	15
1908 ...	56	21	26·5	12	4·2	14·7
Average for years 1899 to 1908. ...	62	23·8	27·7	22	8·4	16

The rate of Infantile Mortality (that is to say, the number of children who died under 1 year of age) was 17 per 1,000 births, whilst that for England and Wales was 121 per 1,000 births. The only case of death under 1 year was that of a child aged 9 months. A much more satisfactory condition to that of last year, when a high Infantile Mortality Rate was shown owing to four deaths from Premature Birth, this year no such deaths have been recorded.

Infectious Diseases.

During the past year, 8 cases under the Infectious Diseases' Notification Act have been reported.

2 Cases of Erysipelas.

6 " " Scarlet Fever.

The first case of Scarlet Fever reported was on December 21st, followed by another on December 24th, and a third on December 30th, which was found to be in a somewhat advanced stage, and was evidently the initial cause of the outbreak. On December 31st, three cases in one family were reported. All these occurred in children attending the Infant School, and evidently had infected one another by direct contact. Measures for the protection of the population were at once taken, and what on first appearances threatened to be a general outbreak, fortunately became an outbreak of small dimensions, but of sufficiently threatening a nature to necessitate the serious consideration of what steps it is advisable to take in the future for the adequate isolation of patients attacked by this or any other of the Infectious Diseases which might quickly become rampant and uncontrollable for want of efficient means of isolation, and thus inflict upon many young lives consequences which it is impossible to prevent. I therefore strongly urge this Council to adopt some measures—either in conjunction with other Sanitary Authorities or under their own control—for the adequate and immediate isolation of any cases that may occur in the future. Outbreaks of this kind can only be satisfactorily dealt with by energetic measures, and it is only by a coincidence of favourable circumstances and co-operation of the Civil, Military, and Clerical Authorities, that this outbreak has been checked.

Water Supply.

During the past year, waters of Mackett's Pump and Stoney Hole Pump have been again examined in consequence of water for drinking purposes having been drawn from these contaminated supplies. The report shewed the waters to be increasingly contaminated since April, 1907, and my recommendation of that date to close these supplies entirely, has now been carried out.

The gathering grounds of the Littlestone Water Company have now been fenced in, and the water now is further safeguarded from contamination.

The Milk Supply has been consistently good, and so far as I have been able to ascertain, no milk is imported into this District. The Dairies, Cow-Sheds, and Milk Shops have been periodically inspected, and the requirements of the Act, both as regards Ventilation, Lime-Washing, Cleanliness, and Registration, have been enforced.

The Public Elementary Schools are now in a satisfactory sanitary condition, ample accommodation having been supplied by the erection of new sanitary conveniences.

Bakehouse Regulation Act.

The various Bakehouses in the town have been inspected and found to be satisfactory with but one exception, where water is not laid on.

Factory and Workshops' Act.

The Factories, Workshops, and Dwelling Houses affected by this Act have all been inspected, and have been found in a satisfactory condition.

The disposal of excrement is a matter which I would again draw your attention to, as in my inspections I frequently find the cesspits in a most insanitary condition; and under the present system of occupiers being responsible for the emptying of the same, great difficulty arises in enforcing the existing Bye-Laws, and serious danger exists to the community for want of more modern sanitation. With regard to removal and disposal of house refuse, the same remarks apply as to emptying of cesspits.

The Borough still maintains a very high position as regards health, as is shown, not only by the exceptionally low Death Rate of the year under consideration, but also by the low Infantile Mortality Rate. On the averages of the last ten years, it will be seen the Death Rate for Lydd is practically one-half of the average for England and Wales.

Although the Sanitation of the Borough is still far from what it might be even under the present system, yet great improvement has been made in the past two years, and with an increasing number of householders availing themselves of the Water Supply, it is to be hoped Sanitation may yet become in this town a matter seriously considered, recognised, and appreciated by all.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HERBERT S. OLIVER,

Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Lydd.

SKINNER HOUSE, LYDD,

1st February, 1909.

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