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THE  
**Urban District Council**

—OF—

**Lye and Wollescote.**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

**FOR 1903.**

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Lye :

E. MOORE, PRINTER AND STATIONER, HIGH STREET.

1904.



THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

—OF—

LYE AND WOLLESCOTE.

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**Chairman :**

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**Medical Officer of Health ;**

H. CHRISTOPHER DARBY, L.F.P.S., &c.

**Public County Analyst :**

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**Surveyor :**


MR. H. P. F. WEAVER.

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MR. WM. GREEN.

**Sanitary Inspector :**

MR. H. POOLE.



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LYE AND WOLLESCOTE

# Urban District Council

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## REPORT

OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

From January 1st, to December 31st, 1903.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Lye & Wollescote  
Urban District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN :

Upon the whole, the year's Report from the standpoint of Health will be found to be fairly satisfactory. The Death Rate is a little above that of last year, but 1902 was much the lowest rate recorded—so that in 7 years 1903 came second as regards the low Death Rate.

The Infectious Diseases showed a great decrease, there being only 31 cases as against 98 in the year previous.

**Births**

The number of Births registered during the year was as follows : 414 ; of these 217 were males, and 197 were females.

The Birth Rate being 37·06 per 1000, as compared with 34·0 in the year previous.

**Deaths**

The Deaths registered were as below :

90 males,  
76 females,

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166

The Death Rate being 14·8 per 1000, but with the addition of 11 deaths in Institutions outside the district, a nett Death Rate of 15·8 is produced as compared with a nett rate of 14·7 in the year 1902.

The ages as which the before mentioned Deaths took place are shown in the table below, and they are compared with former years.

	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897
Under 1 year ... ..	71	44	62	57	72	65	69
1 year & under 5 years	20	21	42	49	26	42	17
5 years " 15 "	9	11	8	8	6	8	7
15 " " 25 "	6	7	9	4	6	9	2
25 " " 65 "	37	36	36	45	46	44	42
65 " and upwards ...	34	32	29	37	37	32	36
Totals ..	177	151	186	200	192	200	173

Deaths of children under 1 year of age, per 1000 births registered.

1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897
171	116	161	150	181	170	178

The most common causes of death amongst children under one year were as follow. The deaths from these causes are compared with previous years.

	1903	1902	1901
Diarrhoea	8	3	7
Enteritis	6	5	5
Tubercular Diseases	1	8	2
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and other diseases of the respiratory organs	14	6	8
Premature Birth	14	7	11
Convulsions	5	3	7
Measles	3	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	1
Whooping Cough	4	0	7

There is a large increase in the deaths of children under one year. The numbers as shown above being 71 during 1903, as compared with 44 in 1902.

Upon inspection it would appear that the difference is largely accounted for by an increase in the deaths from Chest Diseases and Premature Births, and 3 deaths from Measles and 4 from Whooping Cough, and also an increase of 5 deaths from Diarrhoea over last year.

The reason for so many deaths from Chest Diseases and from Whooping Cough may be that last year was upon the whole very wet, and Whooping Cough was rather prevalent.

The Health Missioner has supplied me with particulars of her work as follows.

	No. of Cases.
Carried over to be visited in December, 1902	270
New cases visited until December, 1903 ...	417
	<hr/>
Total of children to be visited ...	687
Children just over 1 year of age Dec. 1903...	382
	<hr/>
Total of children remaining to be visited under 1 year of age ...	305
	<hr/>

Amongst the children visited, 32 deaths occurred from the following causes :

Convulsions ...	5
Dentition ...	1
Infantile Diarrhœa ...	3
Abscess, exhaustion ...	1
Bronchitis ...	2
Premature Birth ...	2
Pneumonia ...	2
Tabes Mesenterica ...	1
Enteritis ...	1
Zymotic Disease ...	1
Meningitis, Convulsions	1
Whooping Cough ...	1
Gastritis ...	1
Marasmus ...	3
Chronic Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ...	1
	<hr/>
	32
	<hr/>

There have been 6 removals.

Only 32 deaths are shown under 1 year amongst the children visited by the Health Missioner, but 71 deaths actually occurred at that age.

In explanation of this apparent discrepancy, it may be said that no doubt some of the children born cannot be found as there is no official intimation of the births given to the Health Missioner; and further, many of the children may belong to a class who do not require, or desire, the assistance of the Missioner, consequently the deaths of these children are not recorded as those of children upon her list.

**Infectious  
Diseases**

The deaths under this heading were as follows, and comparison is made with previous years.

	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897
Measles	5	2	0	27	0	25	1
Diarrhœa	10	4	11	7	29	24	18
Whooping Cough	5	0	8	1	1	8	1
Enteric Fever	0	1	6	2	5	3	1
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	0	2	7	2	3	3	1
Scarlet Fever	2	5	7	5	0	1	2

**Scarlet  
Fever**

There were 2 deaths amongst 16 cases notified. Most of the cases occurred in the early part or first half of the year, and were scattered, no common cause being assignable, though careful enquiry was made in every case as to possible means of infection, such as school, milk supply, or contact with other cases, &c.

Seven cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, of the 16 above named.

The year previous there were 81 cases notified, 51 removed to Hospital, and 7 deaths.

**Measles**

This disease was very prevalent, and a special Report was presented, dated Jan. 6th, advising the closing of Lye National Schools, (Infant Department) for 3 weeks.

Special Reports were also presented advising the closing

of Orchard Lane Schools, (Infant Department), and also a special Report advocating the closing of Cemetery Road Schools, (Infant Department).

Measles was the cause of 5 deaths. The disease became prevalent at the close of the previous year, and accounted for 2 deaths in that year.

**Whooping  
Cough**

This followed in the train of Measles as it so often does, and produced as many deaths as Measles, (*i. e.*) 5. There was no death from Whooping Cough in 1902.

**Erysipelas**

There were 12 cases, and no deaths.

1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898
12	5	11	12	18	20

I have tabulated the cases for 6 years, and have made careful enquiries in each case in order to discover, if possible, the most likely factor in the production of this disease, at present the facts collected are scarcely such as to warrant a definite assertion.

**Enteric Fever**

There was only 1 case, and no death. In the year previous there were 5 cases, and in the year before that 24 cases.

I think that in a few years time Enteric Fever should become extinct in this district, though it has been endemic.

Every effort is being made to stamp out Enteric.

Isolation is carried out.

Stools are disinfected with St. Bide.

Ashpits are disinfected with St. Bide whenever stools have been put into them.

Houses are disinfected.

In future there will be less likelihood of disturbing polluted soil, because Wc's are becoming more common, and in many cases Dust Bins are being substituted for Ash Pits, and defective privies are being rectified or substituted by Wc's.

**Diphtheria  
and  
Membranous  
Croup**

Only 2 cases notified, and no death ; as against 5 cases and 2 deaths in 1902, and 15 cases and 7 deaths in 1901.

One case of Diphtheria occurred in a house at the back of which was a nuisance arising from a drain which came from adjoining premises ; case reported to Council and nuisance abated.

The other case was one where there was an uncovered Ashpit in the yard, and a large heap of old manure. Ashpit was covered in, and nuisance removed.

Isolation and Disinfection were carried out in each case,

**Population  
estimated to  
middle of 1903**

—11171

**Houses  
erected**

—19. Previous year 38.

**Plans passed**

—37. „ 46.

**Works**

14 alterations and additions to Works have been made.

**House  
Connections**

The house connections were completed.

**Numbering  
of Houses**

You have decided to undertake this work at an early date, and I believe it will be a great boon to the inhabitants.

**Street Paving**

As far as the County Roads are concerned, is only partly done ; it has been decided to pave the footpaths throughout the district, other than those on County roads, from part of a loan which the Urban Council propose to raise.

**Factories and  
Workshops**

Some of these still have not sufficient privy accommodation for the two sexes. A register is kept and they are systematically inspected.

- Slaughter Houses**      There are still Slaughter Houses not in conformity with the Bye-laws. In some cases Licenses have been withheld on this point.
- Midwives Act**      The Midwives throughout the district were waited upon by the Sanitary Inspector, and advised to send in their names if they desired to register. I have reason to think, however, that very few have made any attempt to register.
- Bakehouses**      These are in good condition.
- Dairies and Cowsheds**      With one or two exceptions, where the drainage was bad in Cowsheds, these are in a fairly sanitary condition.
- Letter to Local Medical Practitioners**      In consequence of a letter received from the Joint Hospital Committee, the Urban Council requested the Clerk to draw up a letter to the Medical men within the district, asking them when notifying any infectious case to write upon the certificate "Not for Removal" whenever there was any doubt about the diagnosis, or where the case was too ill for removal.
- Influenza**      During the autumn there was a mild epidemic of Influenza, especially attacking the throat.
- Small Pox**      The Urban Council have arranged with a firm of Hospital Tent Makers, to hold a Tent in readiness in case one is required.



## DAY NURSERY.

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I should like to place on record the fact that a Day Nursery, or Crèche, was started in Lye during December, 1903. Many influential names were connected with the scheme, which it was hoped would be a boon and a blessing to poor mothers. Unfortunately in the light of subsequent events the scheme does not appear to have met with much appreciation by those whom it was intended to benefit. It was expected that there would be about 30 babies to enter at once, (according to statement of Health Missioner) whereas, in fact, the doors had been opened about a fortnight before anyone sent a baby. Later, one or two came, and after about 3 months the numbers varied from 3 to 5 per day.

One cannot refrain from a feeling of regret that the scheme has not met with greater support, but one has to take into account the fact that trade has been in a very depressed state throughout the district, and that as many mothers and fathers are out of work they cannot afford to send their children to the Crèche, and moreover, having nothing else to do, can, of course, attend to their children at home themselves.

The scheme was started on a purely undenominational, and unpolitical basis, and it has been well supported financially by subscriptions from ladies and gentlemen in Lye, Stourbridge and Hagley, and a great deal of time and thought has been expended by the Committees.

It is intended to give the movement an extended trial, and to retain it as a philanthropic movement, purely, and should it not be a success, I believe it will not be on account of lack of funds or work by the Committees, but because of lack of babies. Should trade speedily revive, and the district again assume its busy aspect, I think that the movement may yet do the work for which it was created.

There must always be some 600 to 700 children at least, in Lye, who might come within the age limit of the Crèche. If we take one quarter of those as belonging to poor parents, then one quarter of those again as belonging to poor parents going out to work, we may estimate the number we should have if there were fair trade, as 30 at least, but if we say again that one half were too far from the Crèche to avail themselves of it, there remain about 15, and that would be sufficient to ensure its success if trade were good; so that the parents might have occupation and a few coppers wherewith to pay for the keep of the children.

TABLE A.

## Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1903.

### URBAN DISTRICT OF LYE AND WOLLESCOTE.

Area in Acres—784.

Population 1891—10,165; 1901—10,972.

Increase 1891-1901—807.

Estimated Population 1903—11,171.

Name of Medical Officer of Health—HENRY CHRISTOPHER DARBY.

Mortality per 1,000 of Population living during the same period.

Birth Rate 37·06

Nett Death Rate 15·8

(a) Zymotic Death Rate 1·9

(b) Infant Mortality 171

Phthisis Death Rate ·53

(c) Resp. Death Rate 2·3

Small Pox Death Rate—Nil

Measles Death Rate ·44

Scarlatina Death Rate ·17

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup Death Rate—Nil

Whooping Cough Death Rate ·44

(d) Fever Death Rate—Nil

(e) Diarrhoea Death Rate ·89

(f) Enteritis Death Rate ·62

Cancer, Malignant Disease Death Rate ·62

	Small Pox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Fever	Erysipelas	Puerperal Fever
Cases ...	...	16	2		1	12	
Deaths...	..	2					
Hospital Cases	...	7			1		
" Deaths		1					

Diseases prevalent—Measles, Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough. Period—two former, first half of year; Whooping Cough during middle and latter part of year. Schools closed—Lye National, Orchard Lane, Cemetery Road.

TABLE A—*continued.*

- (a) Includes Smallpox, Measles, Scarletina, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Fever and Diarrhoea.
- (b) Estimated by measuring the proportion of deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 of the births registered during the same period.
- (c) Includes Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy.
- (d) Includes Typhus, Enteric Fever, and indefinite forms of continued Fevers.
- (e) Under the heading of "Diarrhoea" are to be included deaths certified from diarrhoea, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from
- Epidemic enteritis;
  - Zymotic enteritis;
  - Epidemic diarrhoea. Summer diarrhoea;
  - Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhoea;
  - Choleraic diarrhoea, cholera, cholera nostras (in the absence of Asiatic cholera).
- (f) Under the heading of "Enteritis" are to be included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis, Muco-enteritis and Gastric catarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term of "Diarrhoea."
- Deaths from diarrhoea secondary to some other well-defined disease shall be included under the latter.

TABLE I.

## Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903 and previous Years.

## URBAN DISTRICT OF LYE AND WOLLESCOTE.

Year	Popula- tion estimat'd to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT				Total Deaths in Public Instit- ions in the District	Deaths of non- regist'd in Public instit'ns in the District	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT		
		Num- ber	Rate*	Under 1 Year of Age	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number	Rate*				Number	Rate*	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1897	10649	386	36.2	69	178	173	16.2	No Public Institutions in the District.					
1898	10729	382	35.4	65	170	200	18.6						
1899	10810	396	36.6	72	181	193	17.8						
1900	10891	379	34.7	57	150	200	18.3			13			
1901	10972	384	34.9	62	161	186	16.9			5			
1902	11082	377	34.0	44	116	151	13.6		13				
Averages for years 1897-1902	10855	384	35.3	61	159	183	16.9						
1903	11171	414	37.06	71	171	166	14.8			11			
											177	15.8	

\*Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—784.

Total population at all ages, 10972; Number of inhabited houses, 2217; Average number of persons per house, 4.9—At Census of 1901.

## Table showing Deaths in Public Institutions

I. Institutions within the district receiving sick and infirm per- sons from outside the District.	II. Institutions outside the district receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.	III. Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.
None such	<p>Workhouse at Wordsley. 7 deaths occurred in this Institution of persons from this district.</p> <p>Fever Hospital for Lye, Stourbridge and Halesowen. 1 Death from this district.</p> <p>Corbett Hospital. 3 deaths of persons from this district.</p> <p>Making total of 11 persons from this district who died in Institutions out- side the district.</p>	

Is the Union Workhouse within the District?—No.

TABLE III.

**Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1903.**

## URBAN DISTRICT OF LYE AND WOLLESCOTE.

NOTIFABLE DISEASES	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.								No. of cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages	At Ages---Years							
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards		
Small Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	2	..	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Membranous Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	12	...	...	2	1	6	3	..	..
Scarlet Fever... ..	16	...	6	9	1	...	...	7	7
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ... ..	1	...	...	1	...	...	..	1	1
Relapsing Fever ... ..	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ... ..	31	...	7	12	2	7	3	8	8

*Isolation Hospital situated at Hayley Green, Joint Hospital for Halesowen, Lye and Stourbridge.*

TABLE IV.

## URBAN DISTRICT OF LYE AND WOLLESCOTE.

## Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903,

(SEE NOTES AT BACK).

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES						
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles .. .	5	3	2	...	..	..	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	2	...	2	...	..	..	..
Whooping-cough ... ..	5	4	1	...	...	...	..
Diphtheria and membranous croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup .. .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fevers } Typhus .. .	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
} Enteric ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
} Other continued ... ..	..	...	...	..	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza ... ..	6	...	...	...	1	4	1
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Plague ... ..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa (see notes) over page	10	8	2	...	...	..	...
Enteritis (see notes) ..	7	6	...	...	...	1	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Other septic diseases ..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis .. .	6	...	1	1	1	3	...
Other tubercular diseases ...	5	1	2	..	...	2	...
Cancer, malignant disease ..	7	...	..	...	...	4	3
Bronchitis ... ..	15	10	3	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia ... ..	11	3	1	1	...	3	3
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respira- tory organs ... ..	4	1	2	...	...	...	1
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Venereal diseases ... ..	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth ... ..	14	14	...	...	...	...	..
Diseases and accidents of parturition ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Heart diseases ... ..	9	...	...	1	1	2	5
Accidents ... ..	4	...	2	...	...	...	2
Suicides ... ..	2	...	...	...	...	2	...
Convulsions ... ..	5	5	...	...	...	...	...
All other causes ... ..	58	16	2	6	3	15	16
All causes ... ..	177	71	20	9	6	37	34

- NOTES—(a) The deaths of residents occurring beyond the limits of the district are to be included in this table, and deaths of non-residents occurring in the District are to be excluded. See note on Table I, as to meaning of "Residents" and "Non-residents."
- (b) Deaths of Residents occurring in public institutions are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars, and, in addition, to be classified under "Public Institutions."
- (c) Under the heading of "Diarrhœa" are to be included deaths certified as from diarrhœa, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from
- Epidemic enteritis;
  - Zymotic enteritis;
  - Epidemic diarrhœa. Summer diarrhœa;
  - Choleraic diarrhœa, cholera, cholera nostras  
(in the absence of Asiatic cholera)

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are to be included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis, Muco-enteritis, and Gastric catarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise the Medical Officer of Health, should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term "Diarrhœa."

Deaths from diarrhœa secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I, II, III, and IV, attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

HENRY C. DARBY,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*February 12th, 1904.*

# INSPECTOR'S REPORT

FOR

## Eye & Collescote Urban District Council.

*For the Year ending December 31st, 1903.*

No. of Cases of Infectious Disease enquired into	...	...	...	31
,, houses disinfected and cleansed	...	...	...	15
,, patients removed to Hospital	...	...	...	6
,, lots of bedding, clothing, &c., disinfected or destroyed	...	...	...	5
,, houses erected	...	...	...	19
,, cleansed and lime-washed	...	...	...	160
,, overcrowding cases abated	...	...	...	4
House connections completed				
No. of dumb wells rectified	...	...	...	2
,, privies and ashpits converted to W.C's or slop-closets	...	...	...	36
,, ,, ,, repaired	...	...	...	97
,, new dust receptacles provided	...	...	...	12
,, houses from which refuse removable	...	...	...	3704
,, privies and ashpits cleadsed	...	...	...	5514
,, loads of ashes and excrement removed	...	...	...	100
,, loads of ashes and refuse removed	...	...	...	5102
,, wells closed as polluted...	...	...	...	1
,, houses supplied from waterworks	...	...	...	6
,, slaughter houses registered or licensed	...	...	...	14
,, ,, ,, regularly inspected	...	...	...	14
,, ,, ,, cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	5
,, factories and Workshops under inspection	...	...	...	122
,, ,, ,, certified for lime-washing	...	...	...	
,, by Inspector	...	...	...	6
,, insanitary conditions dealt with as nuisances	...	...	...	7
,, persons engaged in milk trade now on register and	...	...	...	
,, under supervision	...	...	...	15
,, cases of removal on notice, of animals kept so as	...	...	...	
,, to be a nuisance	...	...	...	4
,, legal proceedings withdrawn or dismissed...	...	...	...	1
,, official letters written	...	...	...	20
,, notices served	...	...	...	100
,, notices complied with	...	...	...	95

H. POOLE,

Sanitary Inspector.

March 12th, 1904.

