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Contributors

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MALDON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1905,

BY

JOHN C. THRESH, D.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

WITH STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

MALDON:

Printed by Richard Poole, Bookseller and Stationer, High Street.

MDCCCVI.

Maldon Rural District Council.

Chairman :

OLIVER D. BELSHAM, Esq., Heybridge.

Vice-Chairman :

T. H. SOLLY, Esq., Mundon.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Elected until April, 1907.

Parishes.	Names of Councillors elected.	Residence.
Althorne.....	Mr. Thos. Fisher ..	Althorne
Asheldham	„ John Hurst	Asheldham
Bradwell-on-Sea	„ J. C. Chillingworth ..	Bradwell-on-Sea
Braxted, Great	„ Thos. Coleridge	„
Braxted, Little	„ C. H. C. DuCane.....	Great Braxted
Cold Norton	Vacant	vacant
Crixsea	Mr. Edwin Stevens..	Cold Norton
Dengie	Mr. W. Rome	Crixsea
Fambridge, North.....	Vacant	
Goldhanger	„ R. H. Chaproniere ..	North Fambridge
Hazeleigh	Rev F. T. Gardner.....	Goldhanger
Heybridge	Mr. Edward Arthur Fitch	Maldon
Langford	„ O. D. Belsham	Heybridge
Latchingdon	„ E. E. Bentall	Heybridge
Mayland	„ Fredk. Wakelin	Langford
Mundon	„ William Robert Laver	Latchingdon
Purleigh	„ G. E. Partridge	Mayland
Saint Lawrence	„ T. H. Solly.....	Mundon
Southminster	„ J. F. Boreham.....	Purleigh
Steeple	„ H. Stevens	Purleigh
Stow Maries	„ M. Turner..	Tillingham
Tillingham	„ Jabez Bishop	Southminster
Tollesbury	„ E. Pipe ..	Southminster
Tolleshunt D'Arcy	Rev. C. S. Morrell	Steeple
Tolleshunt Knights	Mr. E. D. Morgan.....	Stow Maries
Tolleshunt Major	„ Benjamin Dow	Tillingham
Totham, Great	„ J. R. Jackson	Tillingham
Totham, Little	Rev. William Basil Anstey	Tollesbury
Uting	Mr. Frederick C. Banyard	Tollesbury
Wickham Bishops	Rev. R. V. O. Graves	Tolleshunt D'Arcy
Woodham Mortimer	Mr. Frederick W. Blyth ..	Tolleshunt D'Arcy
Woodham Walter	„ William Barrett Cocks.	Tolleshunt Major
	„ John Cooper	Great Totham
	„ Joshua Gurton	Tolleshunt Major
	„ H. N. Falkner	Woodham Walter
	„ E. A. Fairhead	Wickham Bishops
	„ A. Stevens ..	Woodham Mortimer
	„ S. Ratcliff	Woodham Walter

COMMITTEES.

Highways Committee :

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, The Rev. R. V. O. Graves, and Messrs. F. C. Banyard, R. H. Chaproniere, W. B. Cocks, E. A. Fairhead, J. R. Jackson, W. R. Laver, S. Ratcliff, H. Stevens, and F. Wakelin

Finance Committee and Committee to consider Plans for New Works and New Buildings :

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, and The Rev. W. B. Anstey, The Rev. R. V. O. Graves, Messrs. F. C. Banyard, J. Bishop, F. W. Blyth, W. B. Cocks, E. A. Fairhead, W. R. Laver, H. Stevens, and F. Wakelin.

Water Committee :

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, and Messrs. E. E. Bentall, J. Bishop, F. W. Blyth, J. F. Boreham, R. H. Chaproniere, E. A. Fairhead, T. Fisher, E. A. Fitch, W. R. Laver, E. D. Morgan, G. E. Partridge, E. Pipe, S. Ratcliff, A. Stevens, E. Stevens, and H. Stevens.

Representatives on Maldon Joint Hospital Board :

The Chairman and Vice-Chairman, The Rev. W. B. Anstey, Messrs. E. E. Bentall, E. A. Fairhead, and S. Ratcliff.

Officers connected with the Service of the Rural District Council.

With Amount of Salary to each per Annum.

				£
Treasurer	..	..	C. W. Parker, Esq.	nil.
Clerk to Rural District Council		..	Mr. A. W. Freeman	150
Medical Officer of Health	..	..	Dr. Thresh	107
Surveyor of Highways	..	..	Mr. E. J. Ennals	200
Inspector of Nuisances and Surveyor		..	Mr. W. Almond	150
Inspector of Water Works	..	..	Mr. M. Philbrick	130

Water Rate Collectors—

Cold Norton and Stow Maries	..	..	Mr. E. T. Pond.
Hazeleigh, North Fambridge, Latchingdon	}		Mr. M. Cottee.
Purleigh, and W. Mortimer			
Althorne	..	..	Mr. H. E. Nicholas.
Southminster	..	..	Mr. A. S. Kemp.
Tolleshunt Knights	..	..	Mr. W. Hills.

The Collectors are paid a Commission of 15% except those for Purleigh, Tolleshunt Knights and Southminster who are paid 12½%, 7½% and 5% respectively.



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Net Balance brought forward ..	1271	17	5½	Waterworks ..	237	9	7
Amount of New Loans—				Housing of the Working Classes			
Waterworks ..	385	0	0	Act ..	1052	15	8
Fractions ..	0	0	0½	Net Balance ..	366	12	3
	£1656	17	6		£1656	17	6

Amount of Principal owing at commencement of Half-Year	21543 18 10	Amount of Principal owing at the end of the Half-Year, viz :	
Amount of New Loans	.. 385 0 0	31st March, 1905 ..	..21443 6 0
	21928 18 10		
Principal repaid ..	.. 485 12 10		
	£21443 6 0		£21443 6 0

Statement of Receipts and Payments of the Rural District Council of Maldon for the Half Year ended 30th September, 1905.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
Net Balance brought forward ..	660	9	11½
Contributions from Overseers—			
General Expenses ..	..2987	0	0
Special Expenses ..	..1078	13	11
Grant under the Agricultural Rates Act, 1896 —			
General Expenses ..	.. 318	10	4½
Special Expenses ..	.. 2	11	2½
Contribution from Essex County Council in respect of Salaries of Inspectors of Nuisances..	110	0	0
From Water Rates and Charges..	490	16	9½
From C. W. Parker, Esq.—			
Donation towards Woodham Mortimer Parish ...	.. 20	0	0
From Rents of Property ..	.. 4	10	0
From Fees and Licenses ..	.. 0	5	0
Hire of Tools ..	.. 2	0	0
From Steeple Loan—Repayment	39	10	0
	<u>£5714</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Highways—			
Maintenance and Repair of District Roads ..	..	1518	13 6½
Salaries ..	..	124	13 6
Establishment ..	..	20	1 4½
Principal repaid	42	4	5
Interest ..	31	4	8
		<u>73</u>	<u>9 1</u>
Public Health and Miscellaneous—			
Sewerage Works ..	..	130	17 11
Waterworks ..	..	502	10 3
Hospitals ..	..	61	17 9
Scavenging ..	..	67	5 0
Antitoxin ..	..	1	15 0
Under Housing of the Working Classes Act ..	..	4	11 6
Under Infectious Disease (Notification) Acts ..	..	1	13 6
Principal repaid ..	449	14	8
Interest ..	.. 307	17	2
		<u>757</u>	<u>11 10</u>
Salaries ..	... ..	134	13 6
Establishment ..	..	83	7 9½
Payment to Maldon Joint Hospital Board ..	..	240	7 0
Payment to Essex County Council for services of Medical Officer of Health ..	..	53	10 0
Election Expenses ..	..	0	12 1
Legal Expenses ..	..	5	14 1
Net Balance ..	... ..	1931	2 6½
		<u>£5714</u>	<u>7 3</u>

LOAN ACCOUNT.

LOAN ACCOUNT.							
Net Balance brought forward ..	366	12	3	Waterworks ..	..	347	15 2
Amount received under Auditor's Certificate ..	18	0	0	Housing of the Working Classes Act ..	..	280	18 0
Amount transferred from General Account ..	76	18	6				
Net Balance ...	167	2	5				
	£628	13	2			£628	13 2

LOANS—AMOUNT OWING.

LOANS—AMOUNT OWING.			
Amount of Principal owing at commencement of Half-Year	21443	6	0
Principal repaid	491	19	1
£20951	6	11	
Amount of Principal owing at the end of the Half-Year, 30th Sept., 1905, viz:—			
Tillingham	314	10	0
Tollesbury	1132	6	8
Southminster	1806	0	0
Tolleshunt D'Arcy	930	8	0
Steeple	271	13	4
Cold Norton	901	0	4
Althorne	1689	9	0
North Fambridge	794	7	0
Hazeleigh	472	10	0
Latchingdon	1819	13	0
Purleigh	3325	10	0
Stow Maries	665	8	4
Woodham Mortimer	1076	13	0
Heybridge	69	0	0
Goldhanger	110	0	0
Tolleshunt Knights	2060	16	0
Bradwell Housing	1421	0	0
Hospitals	380	0	0
Fambridge Ferry Road	1711	2	3
£20951	6	11	

MALDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SUB-REGISTRATION DISTRICTS.

				Population 1901 Census
TOLLESBURY	(11 Parishes)	...	...	7,121
SOUTHMINSTER	(10 „)	...	...	4,519
MALDON	(11 „)	...	...	2,993
				14,633

To the Chairman and Members of the Maldon Rural
District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have great pleasure in submitting to you my Seventeenth Annual Report on the Sanitary condition of the district and on the deaths and infectious diseases which have occurred during the past year. For convenience the information is given under different headings, and I have adopted those suggested by the Local Government Board. Where there is little or no change to report I have not repeated what has been said so often in previous reports.

1.—PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

A considerable area of land in the parish of Fambridge remains submerged on account of the breaches in the seawall not having been repaired. The reclamation of the land would find work for a few of the unemployed.

2.—THE CHIEF OCCUPATIONS OF THE INHABITANTS, AND THE INFLUENCE OF ANY PARTICULAR OCCUPATION ON PUBLIC HEALTH.

The majority of the inhabitants are dependent upon agriculture, but in and near Tollesbury many men are employed in the oyster fisheries or as yachtsmen. At Heybridge many are engaged making agricultural implements, nuts, bolts, etc. At Tollesbury a considerable number of women make clothes for clothing manufacturers of Colchester.

There is no manufacture carried on which can in any way prejudicially affect the health of the workpeople.

3.—HOUSE ACCOMMODATION, ETC.

This remains as before. Cottages are required in many parishes, but I think more especially in Little Totham. During the year Messrs. Chillingworth and Coleridge were appointed a Committee to manage the six cottages erected at Bradwell under the H. W. C. Act, and a rent collector was appointed at a salary of £1 per year. The rents are paid quarterly. An objection was raised to the local policeman occupying one of the cottages, but this was over-ruled. The overcrowding which previously existed in Bradwell has been entirely abated. Dilapidated cottages are occupied in many parishes, and several in Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Latchingdon, and Purleigh have been reported upon. Some have been repaired and it is hoped that the others will speedily receive the attention of the landlords. Unfortunately in these parishes there are no available houses into which the tenants could move were the cottages closed. Many cases of overcrowding have been reported, but the scarcity of houses with three bedrooms renders it difficult to deal therewith. A suggestion was made that the Small Dwellings Acquisition Act 1899 should be adopted, but it met with no support. This Act empowers local authorities to advance money for enabling persons to acquire the ownership of small houses in which they reside. Whether this can be done better by a Rural Authority than by the local Building Societies is a moot question.

There is a continuously changing population on Tiptree Heath and on Little Totham Plains residing in caravans and tents. The people give a good deal of trouble and though bye-laws have been adopted they do not appear to have much effect. Probably they

shorten the time the caravans stay in any one place, as after being visited by the Inspector they generally move on. A special inspection of the whole of them was made during the year and one or two legal notices served, but there was no opportunity of carrying the matter further as the people either disappeared or made some attempt to comply with our requirements.

The frequent inspections made and the supervision exercised over the erection of all new houses exercise a beneficial effect, the surroundings of the premises being kept in a more cleanly condition. Under the Bye-laws each house must have sufficiency of open space and the yards must be covered with some impervious material.

4.—SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

In Tollesbury the inadequacy of the water supply led to a serious block in one of the sewers, resulting in the flooding of a few back premises with sewage. The thick character of the sewage also rendered it impossible for the small bacteria beds to deal with it properly. An arrangement for carting water for sewer flushing has resulted in a great improvement, and the bacteria beds are now acting much more efficiently. The sewage works require enclosing, as they are near a much used road and are not concealed in any way. The Tolleshunt D'Arcy irrigation area has been better supervised recently and effectually disposes of the whole of the sewage of the village. No doubt they could be improved, but whilst they are giving satisfaction it is not desirable to incur additional expense. The Tillingham irrigation area has not been properly attended to and a fresh arrangement for its supervision is proposed.

The chief nuisances arising in the district are attributable to the discharge of sewage from the existing sewers or road drains into ditches. Such nuisances are especially prevalent in Latchingdon and Southminster. At Althorne and Tiptree more or less successful attempts have been made to abate these nuisances and prevent their recurrence. Latchingdon has received a great deal of attention and a scheme has been devised for bringing all the sewage to one point and raising it by means of a windmill pump and disposing of it by broad irrigation. As soon as the plans, etc. are complete, a loan will be applied for to carry out the work. Southminster is one of the most important and populous parishes in the district, and during recent years a large sum of money has been spent on its old sewers

and in extending them. There are no sewage disposal works and it would be a very expensive matter to bring all the sewage to any one point, but I am afraid the sanitary condition of the village will never be satisfactory until a proper sewerage scheme is undertaken. Meantime great attention should be paid to the sewer outfalls to prevent the accumulation of offensive matters.

5.—POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No pollution of a serious character takes place in any part of the district. The sewage referred to in the previous section discharges into land ditches, usually far away from any stream and the sewage disappears long before any stream is reached.

6.—EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

Pail closets are in general use, but public scavenging is only undertaken in Southminster, Tollesbury, and Heybridge Basin. As a rule the cottages have ample garden ground upon which to dispose of the filth.

7.—HOUSE REFUSE DISPOSAL.

In such a thinly populated district there is obviously little difficulty in disposing of house refuse, but the old method of digging a hole in the garden (the bumby hole) and filling it in with refuse sometimes gives rise to nuisance, especially in warm weather and after rain. This is due in some cases to the bumby holes being too near the houses, but more frequently to the neglect of the tenant who does not cover the matter deposited with a little earth. In the populous portions of Tollesbury and Southminster, scavengers remove the house refuse weekly.

8.—WATER SUPPLY.

The Tolleshunt Knights (Tiptree) Water Works are now completed, and after a year's trial appear to be a complete success. Early in the year a sample of water from every well in the parish was collected for examination, and where found to be impure, as was the case in nearly all instances, the owners were persuaded to lay on the water or standpipes were provided for the cottages. During the exceptionally dry summer there was more than sufficient water to supply all the houses and to permit of the jam factory taking as much as 15,000 gallons per day. The total cost has been about £2,600, and the water rents alone yield about £110, so that only a very small burden has been laid upon the rates. The windmill has

worked well, and on only 3 or 4 days it has been necessary to resort to the use of the horse gear. Extensions of the mains have been suggested, but it may be better to wait another season before seriously entertaining them.

The Southminster Waterworks continue to be satisfactory. The average amount used appears to be about 34,000 gallons, raised during 8 hours pumping. During the whole time of pumping, the water level in the reservoir over the springs only falls about 18 inches, and a few hours after pumping ceases, the reservoir overflows. I gauged the adjoining springs which rise on the Council's land in May, and found the flow was about 13,000 gallons per day. I am convinced that there is enough water here to supply Tillingham, about 3 miles away by road, and as this village is greatly in need of a better and more abundant water supply, the question of so supplying it is well worthy the consideration of your Council.

The Purleigh and other Parishes Waterworks are also most satisfactory. The yield of water at the springs is sufficient to supply twice the population. At the present time far more runs away than is used. In fact the daily supply only averages 21,694 gallons for the eight parishes. Extensions of the mains to supply the parish of Mayland, and the part of Purleigh called Hackman's Road is now contemplated and I hope will be carried into effect during the present year. An engineer has been consulted and his estimates are as under :—

To extend the mains from Althorne along the Green Lane to Grange Avenue, a distance of 2,034 yards and provide two standpipes, to extend along Althorne Road, Mayland Endway and County Road 1,908 yards and provide three standpipes, all pipes 3-in. diam. The cost would be £975.

To ensure a constant supply it is very desirable to duplicate the main from Baron's Lane, Purleigh, to the corner of Howe Green Road, at a cost of £175. If an elevated tank to hold 10,000 gallons is provided to still further ensure constancy of service, the additional cost would be for tank £150, for tower £250.

It is desirable if possible to lay a main along Hackman's Road and supply the houses along the route which are now being supplied by water carts at a cost of about £18 a year.

Mundon is another parish which might be supplied from the Purleigh system. During the year a good deal of attention has been given to the water supply of this parish, and I met a local committee to consider various schemes and obtained details of several local deep wells. The farms requiring water are so far apart that it is difficult to devise any scheme which could be carried out at a reasonable cost.

Tollesbury still remains dependent upon a few shallow wells yielding water of a very inferior quality. One well failed early in the year and the Parish Council sent a letter to your Council stating that they had passed a resolution that it was desirable that steps be taken to improve the water supply by means of a deep bore, but that for the purpose of tiding over the present difficulty a temporary well should be sunk near the East Well Pump. A well was accordingly sunk and a good supply of water obtained. The attention of the Council should be given to the preparation of a scheme for a public supply, and this without delay. This is necessary, not only for sanitary reasons, but also in the interest of the town. It is now the terminus of the light railway and will have two stations, one in the Town and the other at the Waterside, and it will greatly interfere with the development of the town if a proper water supply is not provided. Most unfortunately also several cases of Typhoid Fever have occurred there both last year and in 1904, and unless a pure and abundant supply of water is provided more serious outbreaks may be anticipated. This is the most urgent sanitary requirement in your district, and as the Parish Council have asked that a scheme should be considered a serious responsibility now rests on the District Council.

At Beckingham, an arrangement has been entered into with the New England Company, which will enable the spring behind their cottages being utilized for the supply of the houses near.

The public wells and springs in many parishes have been greatly improved, thanks to the energy of the new Inspector who has given this matter much attention.

The question of extending the mains of the Heybridge Iron Works so as to supply other parts of the village appears to have entirely dropped, and no complaints have been received from the parish, this year, about any scarcity of water.

9.—PLACES OVER WHICH THE COUNCIL EXERCISES SUPERVISION.

The general inspection of the district has been much more satisfactory than in previous years, since the new Inspector gives his whole time to sanitary work. At the systematic inspections, slaughter-houses, bake-houses, dairies, workplaces, etc. as well as cottages are examined, and at every monthly meeting of the Council the results of the inspection are reported.

(a) Common lodging houses. There is not one in the district.

(b) Slaughter-houses. Bye-laws were adopted in 1891 with respect to slaughter-houses in all the more populous parishes, and they are now well enforced. All the more recent erections are lined with smooth impervious material and have satisfactory flows, and some of the older ones have also been lined and improved. Now that they are more frequently visited they are kept in a more cleanly state and the offal is more expeditiously removed.

(c) Dairies and Cowsheds.—Many of these have been found which were not on the register. Some are well constructed and well kept, others are far from satisfactory, but a gradual improvement is being effected. One person gave up his premises upon finding that they could not be made suitable. At another place water from a filthy brook was used for washing cans and for general dairy purposes. An order has been served for a proper supply to be obtained. Where the watermains are laid the cowkeeper and dairy-men are supplied through meters, and they find the water thus laid on is of the greatest service. In a few instances cows are kept in the open all the year round, in which case they are usually brought into a straw yard for milking. Apparently we have no power to compel a cowkeeper to provide a shed or dairy.

(d) Bakehouses.—These are also better kept. All the ceilings have been lined and the accumulation of cobwebs no longer takes place. It is difficult to convince the owners, in many cases, that the bake-houses should not be used as a scullery, harness or lumber room.

(e) Workplaces and workshops.—These are visited during the systematic inspections.

(f) The only offensive trades are two knackers' yards. These are in out-of-way places and the businesses are carried on so as not to give rise to any nuisance.

Bye-laws.

The new Building Bye-laws permit of cottages being erected, under certain reasonable restrictions, of other than hard and incombustible material 9-in. thick. They have proved a great advantage, but complaints of unnecessary stringency occasionally arise, and are generally ill-founded. Usually it is some builder who for sake of saving a few shillings wishes to omit something which is really necessary if the building is to be in good sanitary condition. Forty-nine new houses have been erected during the year, and I am surprised to find that in no case has a water certificate been applied for or granted. My ignorance of this is due to the fact that there is a Water Committee which meets between the meetings of the Rural District Council, and such applications would be considered by that Committee. The Inspector having come from an Urban District where the Public Health Water Act had not been adopted, overlooked this requirement, and unfortunately I did not discover the omission until preparing this report. No doubt care will be taken in future to see that the law is complied with. The Bye-laws relating to Tent and Van dwellers, to Slaughter Houses, etc., have already been referred to. The Bye-laws relating to Nuisances, Removal of House Refuse, etc., are fairly well enforced. The Dairy and Cow Shed Regulations might with advantage be revised so as to insist upon the cows being kept cleaner and the milk produced under more cleanly conditions.

Nuisances—Proceedings for their Abatement.

Comparatively few complaints are received, the great majority of the nuisances reported by the Inspector are found when making systematic inspections. It has not been found necessary to take legal proceedings in a single instance, but great delays often occur in getting nuisances abated. Letters are written, unofficial notices and official notices are served, often the person responsible for the abatement is visited, and finally he is persuaded to do what is required. Possibly a little more firmness on the part of the Council would save the Inspector a vast amount of trouble. An occasional prosecution, if successful, has most beneficial effects. There are about 50 unabated nuisances on the books at the present time, and some of them were reported quite three months ago.

Methods of dealing with Infectious Diseases.

With reference to this subject there is nothing fresh to report beyond what may be found when the separate diseases are being considered. Very few cases have occurred which necessitated removal to Hospital, and so far as Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria are concerned, I never had reason to regret that the cases were not removed. Had every case been taken to the hospital I do not think there would have been a single case the less. Where a house is overcrowded or the patient cannot be retained at home without a real risk of other persons being infected, removal is insisted upon. Unfortunately the infectious disease which has been most prevalent, Typhoid Fever, could not be removed in the early part of the year as the Joint Hospital Board had decided that the Hospital should be used for Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria only. This resolution has since been rescinded. This disease, Typhoid Fever, is so frequently notified at a late stage that removal is impossible, the patient being too ill, hence the sufferer has to be kept at home and other persons in the house or the attendant of the patient are attacked. This occurred in more than one instance during the year.

An efficient disinfectant is provided at the Hospital, and when I deem it necessary, clothing, bedding, etc., from infected houses, are sent to the Hospital to be disinfected.

The Joint Hospital only serves the Borough of Maldon and the parishes in the northern part of the Rural District. About half the district has no hospital accommodation, and my experience of hospitals for Rural Districts is not sufficiently satisfactory to justify me in recommending the Council to provide another permanent, fully equipped hospital. The money can be spent in other ways to much greater advantage. If the Council would erect a few cottages in various parishes, and reserve one or two for isolation purposes, the advantage to the district would be far greater than would be the case were an expensive hospital erected at Southminster. I think we ought to have some accommodation for isolating a few patients, and I hope the Council will seriously consider my suggestion.

Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

The subjoined list shews the number of cases of infectious illness notified during the year together with the parishes in which they occurred.

Parish.	Small Pox.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Totals.
Southminster ...						
Steeple ...			1			1
Asheldham ...						
Bradwell ...						
Hazeleigh ...						
Langford ...						
Latchingdon ...						
Mundon ...			1			1
Purleigh ...		2			1	3
Ulting ...			2	2		4
Woodham Walter ...			1			1
Goldhanger ...						
Great Braxted ...				5		5
Great Totham ...	1			2		3
Heybridge ...		2	2	1	2	7
Little Totham ...		2				2
Tollesbury ...		1	2		3	6
Tolleshunt D'Arcy...		2	2		2	6
Tolleshunt Knights					1	1
Tolleshunt Major ...			5			5
Wickham Bishops ...				2		2
Althorne ...					1	1
Woodham Mortimer					1	1
Totals...	1	9	16	12	11	49

The past year has broken all records so far as infectious diseases are concerned. We have never had so few cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever notified, nor so many cases of Typhoid Fever. The total number of notified cases has been far below the average, but it does not follow that the district has been exceptionally free from infectious diseases. Measles has been widely prevalent especially in the Southern district, but fortunately not a single death resulted. Many cases of Chicken Pox have occurred, but most of the infectious cases were German Measles or some closely allied

disease. Whooping Cough has not been very prevalent, yet it caused 6 deaths. Four of these were in the Tollesbury district and two in the Maldon district. Four Schools only were closed during the year; all on account of Measles. Great Braxted School in January, Latchingdon School in June, and Tillingham and Bradwell Schools in October.

Small-Pox.

One case was notified in April. The patient, a woman who had been well vaccinated in infancy, had not been away from home for some time prior to being attacked. I saw the case several times and did not think it necessary to open the small-pox hospital for her reception. Had I thought there was the slightest risk of the disease spreading I should have asked the Joint Hospital Board to put in nurses, caretaker, etc., and take charge of the patient. Some of the District Councillors seemed to think that I should have done this, but when the patient had fully recovered and no other person was attacked my action was approved. Outbreaks of this disease are under ordinary conditions far more easy to cope with than those of almost any other of the more serious infectious diseases, but doubtless it is its more loathsome character which inspires such general terror.

Diphtheria.

Only 9 cases have been notified, and no death occurred. It is a curious fact that one or more cases of Diphtheria often occur in Tolleshunt D'Arcy soon after the spreading of London manure on fields near. I have frequently referred to this subject in previous reports. On April 21st and 22nd this manure was spread on some strawberry fields at D'Arcy and on April 26th a child living in a house near was found to be suffering from Diphtheria. The smell from the filth was most disgusting and led to many complaints being made. A second case occurred in this parish a month later but the source of the infection could not be traced. Two cases occurred in November in an insanitary shed at Little Totham occupied together with a caravan by a family who seem to be permanently settled there, and at the end of December two other cases occurred amongst some van dwellers who frequent the Plains but who were then stay-

ing at Purleigh. These are the only cases of infectious disease which I have had notified amongst tent and van dwellers, but I learn that other cases have occurred in another part of this county during the year. The van moved away from Purleigh before the owner received my permission but he was traced to Tiptree and the Inspector disinfected the van.

Scarlet Fever.

This disease has been prevalent in Great Braxted, Great Totham, and Wickham Bishops, adjacent Parishes. Twelve cases were notified and some of these were of a doubtful character. A large number of cases of illness occurred in these parishes of a scarlatinaform character, and an epidemic of Measles prevailed during a portion of the time. I saw a good many children who had been absent from school on account of a 'rash' which more nearly resembled that of Scarlet Fever than of Measles, but I very much doubt whether it was either. We had in this district at one and the same time, a few cases of undoubted Scarlet Fever, very many cases of Measles and a far larger number of some other infectious disorder. It is probable however that amongst the latter were a few cases of Scarlet Fever of so mild a type as to be unrecognizable. A similar epidemic occurred in the Chelmsford Rural District and as I saw a large number of cases there, it is referred to at greater length in my report to the Chelmsford Rural District Council.

Typhoid Fever.

The 16 cases recorded during the year occurred in 8 parishes, and no connection could be traced between the cases in one parish and those in another. The cases were notified as under—

February	...	4 in Beckingham.
March	...	1 in Tollesbury.
April	...	1 in Steeple.
June	...	1 in Beckingham.
July	...	1 in Tolleshunt D'Arcy, 1 in Heybridge.
August	...	1 in Tollesbury, 1 in Heybridge.
September	...	1 in Woodham Walter.
October	...	1 in Tolleshunt D'Arcy.
November	...	2 in Ulting.
December	...	1 in Mundon.

A special report was presented on the Beckingham cases. A Typhoid convalescent came to the village to stay with his parents in a very small cottage. He had a relapse; the disease was not diagnosed until February 7th, and the man died on the 17th. Meantime he had infected three other members of the family, and at a later date a woman who had done the washing was attacked.

The Tollesbury cases (2) occurred at a distant interval and in different houses. One patient was infected outside the district as he was taken ill directly after returning to his home at Tollesbury.

The Steeple case was a maid-servant who was taken ill six days after leaving a situation in Suffolk. She was almost certainly infected before entering the district.

The first D'Arcy case was imported, the man coming from Bow, E., on June 24th. He was so ill that he fainted in the train and he died on July 3rd. The second case may have been due to oysters, but inasmuch as the family drank water from a well which I had condemned as yielding polluted water this may have been the cause.

The first person attacked in Heybridge had drunk canal water when bathing, about the time when he would be infected. In the following month one of his children was attacked.

The Woodham Walter patient came from London on July 24th, and complained of feeling ill. He gradually got worse, and was notified to be suffering from Typhoid Fever on September 17th, and died on the 10th of October.

The two cases at Ulting occurred in a small cottage. The house was exceedingly dirty and the inmates drank water from the canal, instead of fetching it from a safer but more distant source.

The Mundon patient came home ill from an adjoining district about October 20th. She got worse and was notified to be suffering from Typhoid Fever on November 19th, the day on which she died.

It will be seen from the above brief account that six of the patients came into the district suffering from Typhoid Fever and infected four other people, leaving six cases only as having their immediate origin in the district.

Mortality Statistics.

The total number of deaths registered within the district was 211, but to these must be added 19 deaths which occurred in the Workhouse, making a total of 230. This is an unusually large number for this district giving a death-rate of 15·6 per 1000 persons, against an average for the previous seven years of 14·5. Curiously enough the excessive number of deaths occurred amongst persons in the prime of life, between 25 and 65 years of age. The deaths amongst the young were about the average, and amongst the aged less than the average. This is very unusual, and is entirely due to the excessive number of deaths from Typhoid Fever, Cancer, and Phthisis.

The birth-rate was the lowest on record 23·4.

The death-rate, the infantile mortality and birth-rate in the various sub-registration districts are given below.

	<i>Death-rate.</i>	<i>Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1000 Births.</i>	<i>Birth-rate.</i>
Southminster District	15·2	57	23·2
Maldon ,,	13·7	106	22·1
Tollesbury ,,	16·7	115	24·1

Cancer and Phthisis.

The deaths during recent years from these diseases are as under :—

		<i>Cancer.</i>		<i>Phthisis.</i>
1900	...	11	...	13
1901	...	11	...	12
1902	...	17	...	10
1903	...	16	...	11
1904	...	12	...	12
1905	...	19	...	20

It is disconcerting to find such a sudden rise in the mortality from these diseases. I hope that it is a mere accident, and that the next returns may shew such a low mortality as to restore the average. So far as Cancer is concerned we appear at present to be powerless, but Phthisis is in a great measure preventable. No one can wonder at the prevalence of this disease who is acquainted with the way in which many of the poor live. When a patient in an advanced stage of consumption lives in a small house containing a

large family and sleep in a small bedroom with other members of that family, he must spread the disease. The best preventives would be the provision of better cottages and the dissemination of information as to how the disease is spread and how it may be prevented. Leaflets bearing on the latter points are being circulated, and after death or removal of a patient disinfection of the premises is undertaken.

CONCLUSION.

Although the sickness and mortality statistics for the past year are not so favourable as usual, this cannot in any way be charged against the Council, or be attributable to any defects in the Sanitary Administration. The Council takes great interest in sanitary matters, few, if any, take a greater, as is proved by the improvements chronicled annually in my reports. I would however respectfully suggest that the Council give their attention to the following important matters.

The provision of a water supply for Tollesbury.

The extension of the water mains along Hackman's Road in connection with the proposed supply to Mayland.

The water supply to Tillingham.

The provision of cottages for the agricultural labourers in many Parishes.

The provision of one or more cottages for isolation purposes in the southern portion of the district.

I must again thank the Chairman, for so readily placing his advice at my disposal, and to the Vice-Chairman and Members for the courtesy with which you invariably listen to my proposals, my only regret is that you do not more promptly act upon some of them.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN C. THRESH.

TABLE I.—MALDON RURAL DISTRICT.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1905 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1895	17,700	438	24.1	47	107	250	13.8	0	0	20	270	14.9
1896	17,600	498	27.5	55	110	223	12.2	0	0	19	242	14.3
1897	17,500	435	23.8	41	89	219	11.9	0	0	28	247	13.5
1898	14,800	357	24.1	42	118	231	15.6	0	0	23	254	17.2
1899	14,700	362	24.6	41	113	214	14.6	0	0	9	223	15.2
1900	14,600	355	24.3	40	113	198	13.6	0	0	23	221	15.1
1901	14,630	380	26.0	34	89	171	11.7	0	0	13	184	12.6
1902	14,630	347	23.7	36	104	206	14.0	0	0	22	228	15.5
1903	14,630	359	24.5	25	70	154	10.5	0	0	28	182	12.4
1904	14,680	408	27.8	26	63.7	192	13.0	0	0	11	203	13.8
Averages for years 1898—1904.	14,667	367	25.0	35	95.8	195	13.2	0	0	18	213	14.5
1905	14,700	344	23.4	33	95.9	211	14.3	0	0	19	230	15.6

* Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11. By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in Public Institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere. The "Public Institutions" taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made is given below.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) } 81,860.

Total population at all ages, 14,630.

Average number of persons per house, 4.2

Number of inhabited houses, 3463. } At Census of 1901.

I.
Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.

The Isolation Hospital, Heybridge.

II.
Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.

The Maldon Union Workhouse.

TABLE II.—MALDON RURAL DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1905 and previous years.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.		1.—SOUTHMINSTER.					2.—MALDON.					3.—TOLLESBURY.				
YEAR.		Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.			
1898	...	a. 4600	b. 111	c. 95	d. 19	a. 3080	b. 84	c. 49	d. 9	a. 7200	b. 164	c. 109	d. 14			
1899	...	4570	104	71	13	3050	79	27	3	7170	179	125	25			
1900	...	4540	113	75	15	3030	64	48	10	7140	178	98	15			
1901	...	4518	107	67	13	2993	99	34	9	7120	174	83	12			
1902	...	4520	110	68	13	2990	70	56	9	7120	167	103	14			
1903	...	4520	110	50	9	2990	80	41	3	7120	169	91	13			
1904	...	4520	124	63	6	2990	87	46	9	7170	197	82	11			
Averages of years 1898 to 1904 ...		4541	111	69	12	3017	80	43	8	7148	175	98	14			
1905	...	4520	105	69	6	2990	66	41	7	7190	173	120	20			

NOTES.—(a) The separate localities adopted for this table are areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, namely—registration sub-districts.

(b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are included in sub-columns c of this table.

TABLE III.—MALDON RURAL DISTRICT.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1905.

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.	Years.						Tollesbury.	South-minster.	Maldon. H.	Tollesbury.	South-minster.	Maldon.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.						
Small-pox	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria	9	...	2	5	1	1	...	7	...	2	1	...	...
Membranous croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	11	1	1	...	1	7	1	8	1	2	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	12	...	2	8	2	...	...	10	...	2	1	...	...
Typhus fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	16	...	4	...	4	7	1	11	1	4	2	...	1
Relapsing fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	49	1	9	13	8	16	2	37	2	10	4	...	1

NOTES.—The localities adopted for this table are the same as those in Tables II. and IV.
The locality in which the Isolation Hospital is situated, is marked H.
Isolation Hospital in Heybridge Parish, opened in December, 1903.

TABLE IV.—MALDON RURAL DISTRICT.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES AT ALL AGES.			DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 & upwards.	Tollesbury.	Southminster.	Maldon.	
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping cough	6	2	4	...	...	...	...	4	...	2	...
Diphtheria and membranous croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	9	...	...	...	4	4	1	6	...	3	...
Other continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...
Enteritis	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Other septic diseases	3	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	20	...	...	...	7	13	...	6	9	5	...
Other tubercular diseases	4	...	1	...	...	1	2	2	1	1	...
Cancer, malignant disease	19	...	...	...	...	8	11	10	7	2	...
Bronchitis	10	1	1	...	1	...	7	6	3	1	...
Pneumonia	14	3	3	...	1	6	1	8	5	1	...
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver	4	...	...	...	...	3	1	2	2	...	...
Venereal diseases	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Premature birth	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	1	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Heart diseases	34	...	...	1	...	13	20	16	11	7	...
Accidents	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Suicides	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...
All other causes	85	12	1	3	1	14	54	47	23	15	...
All causes	230	33	13	4	14	67	99	120	69	41	...

TABLE V.

Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector in the Rural District of Maldon during the year ending 31st December, 1905.

			Total No. for Year.
1	Complaints received	.. ..	22
2	Nuisances detected without complaint		211
3	Nuisances abated ..	.. ..	169
4	Notices served ..	.. ..	215
5	Summonses taken out	.. ..	0
6	Convictions ..	.. ..	0
7	Cottages inspected	.. ..	1328
8	Lodging-houses inspected	.. ..	0
9	Slaughter-houses inspected	.. ..	34
10	Bake-houses inspected	.. ..	21
11	Dairies & milk shops inspected	.. ..	15
12	Cowsheds inspected	.. ..	40
13	Workshops inspected (<i>vide</i> M. O. H. Report)	.. ..	47
14	Filthy houses cleansed, sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875	.. ..	2
15	Houses disinfected	.. ..	24
16	Overcrowding abated	.. ..	19
17	Houses placed in habitable repair		17
18	Houses closed ..	.. ..	0
19	Houses erected or re-built	.. ..	0
20	"Certificates" granted	.. ..	0
21	" " deferred	.. ..	0
22	Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded	.. ..	3
23	Wells cleansed or repaired	.. ..	5
24	Wells closed ..	.. ..	0
25	Houses connected with sewers	.. ..	13
26	" " with water mains	.. ..	21
27	Earth, pail, or improved privies constructed or existing privies altered		74
28	Privies and W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water	.. ..	36
29	Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered		0
30	Animals improperly kept removed	.. ..	2
31	Samples of water taken for analysis	.. ..	41
32	Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding	.. ..	1
33	Seizures of unsound meat, &c.	.. ..	0
34	Number of houses erected and occupied during the year	.. ..	49

(Signed) Wm. ALMOND, A.R. San. Inst.,