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**Contributors**

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# Borough of Marlborough

## REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

1902.

GENTLEMEN.—In accordance with the instructions of the Local Government Board, I beg to present my annual report for 1902.

The population of the borough is estimated at 4123, and this year, for the first time, the vital statistics are calculated on this basis. The death rate is exceptionally low, and this is only partially accounted for by the increased area, as the death rate of the new portion is only a little below that of the old borough. Population, 4123; persons per acre, 6.8; area in acres, 601; birth rate, 18.5; death rate, 8.48; infant mortality, 64.9 (average for 10 years, 118.1); zymotic death rate, 0.97—all due to measles; phthisis death rate, 0.97.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.—No advantage has been taken of the land in Blowhorn Street which may be let for building. But 29 new houses have been completed in the borough and five old cottages have been pulled down and rebuilt.

DRAINAGE.—The outfall sewerage works had been progressing well, until an accident of a serious nature occurred to the collecting tank, the greater part of which is below the water level, resulting in the fracture of several plates, and of course meaning a delay in the work. A sewer is needed for the work-house, which at present has to dispose of its own sewage. A sewer should also be provided for the new houses above Cardigan road. It will be a great mistake if this portion of the borough is not properly drained while the rest of the work is in hand.

SCAVENGING.—Refuse is removed from the houses once a week. In the hot summer weather I think it ought to be done more frequently. In small cottages it is difficult to get decomposable matter destroyed and it must become a nuisance in small back yards. Portable galvanised and covered dust-bins ought to be more generally used.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water continues to be good, both in quality and quantity.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—The new Act imposes on the Council the duty of making a register of all factories, workshops, and work-places in the district. This has been done by the Sanitary Inspector, entailing a large amount of work. The number is 49, besides 8 bake-houses. The register includes:—Factories, i.e., where mechanical power is used, workshops and work-places, each of which is defined by the Act in the widest possible sense, so that practically all places where persons meet to carry on work by way of trade now come under the supervision of the sanitary authority. The sanitary authority are chiefly concerned with the sanitation in the way of cleanliness, air space, ventilation, and drainage; as regards bakehouses, the lime washing and general cleanliness. After January, 1904, no underground bakehouse can be used without a certificate from the sanitary authority. Lists of outworkers must be kept, and persons giving out work must send a list to the council on February 1st and August 1st, and the District Council must keep the lists for the inspection of H.M. inspectors. After a general inspection of all these places, very little fault has been found. All have sufficient or more than sufficient cubic air space, are ventilated and clean. In some the sanitary conveniences are bad, but cannot be altered satisfactorily till the new drainage is in working order. A special report is added, a copy of which is sent to the Local Government Board, the Home Office and the County Council.

COWSHEDS (5 in number).—These have all been inspected and have all now had water laid on and are kept clean. It is a pity that there should have been so much delay in passing the regulations, a copy of which I received a year ago.

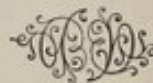
SLAUGHTER HOUSES (6 in number), are frequently inspected, and are kept in fairly good condition, so far as unsuitable sites and construction will allow.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—The total number of cases of infectious disease notified during 1902 is fifteen. Nine cases of scarlet fever, of which seven were removed to the isolation hospital. The circumstances in the case of the other two patients made perfect isolation possible at home. The diphtheria cases were all treated at home and there were no deaths. Anti-diphtheritic serum was used in all, and when necessary prophylactic doses were given also. The ordinary precautions were taken in all cases to prevent school attendance by members of an infected family. The phthisis mortality ('97) is higher than the average for the last five years ('76), but one year with such small numbers is not very instructive. Nevertheless, it should be remembered that it is a preventable disease, and that every possible means should be taken to check its dissemination. One of the best means is the provision throughout the country of sanatoria, where a patient not only receives the best chance of recovery, but also is instructed in the proper methods for preventing the spread of the disease. Many councils have decided to contribute towards these sanatoria, but as the Marlborough Council have decided against this, it is hoped that private contributions will take the place of municipal assistance. The new block for the joint isolation hospital has been finished during this year. The arrangement for getting hot water for baths is bad. As I pointed out before the block was built, the pipe from the geyser is needlessly long and opens over the bath in the open air, so that in very cold weather it is impossible to get a warm bath from this source. An iron hospital for small-pox has been erected at a short distance for the town, well apart from inhabited houses. Fortunately no case has yet occurred.

The usual tables of vital statistics, as well as the report on factories and workshops, are appended to this report.

I remain, gentlemen, yours faithfully,

T. H. HAYDON.



MAR-1897

