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MARYPORT URBAN DISTRICT.

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ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1903

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

JAMES LITTLE, Esq., M.D.

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DISTRICT

# ANNUAL REPORT

1964

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

JAMES H. HAYES, M.D.

## URBAN DISTRICT OF MARYPORT.

# Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, For the Year 1903.

TO THE

MARYPORT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1903. It has not been a year to be enthusiastic about in any sense. Trade has been in a declining way, especially during the last half of the year; and the weather during practically the whole of the year has been such, in this district at any rate, as the traditional oldest inhabitant cannot recall. The rainfall has been excessive, not only in this district but over all the whole country, with disastrous results to the crops in many districts, and general depression of spirits all round. But bad as the effects of the wet weather have been in many respects the same cannot be said of its effect on the health of the people generally. Statistics show that the year just passed has been the healthiest on record. We have had lower death rates locally than the present one, but the death rate for the kingdom creates a record, as the following figures show:—

### ENGLAND AND WALES (1903).

Birth-rate	... ..	28·4	per 1,000 living.
Death-rate	... ..	15·4	„ „ „
Do. Seven chief Epidemic Diseases	1·46	„ „ „	
Infant Mortality	... ..	132	per 1,000 births registered.

Besides the wet weather the cold has been quite abnormal, being many degrees below the average. In fact it may be said that we had no summer. Such summers, in my experience, have always been healthy, especially the summer of 1879, which was very cold and wet. The winter being left behind the weather has never been hot enough to develop the usual summer diseases.

**Birth Rate.** The total number of births registered during the year amounts to 376, of which 144 belong to the North Ward, 104 to the South, and 128 to the East Ward. The rates therefore are as follows:—

North Ward	... ..	34·93	per 1,000 of the population.
South Ward	... ..	24·52	„ „ „ „
East Ward	... ..	36·22	„ „ „ „
Whole District	... ..	31·6	„ „ „ „

This is a very little higher than the average of the previous eight years, which was 31·06. It is very considerably higher than the average of England and Wales, which, as has been stated, was 28·4. There is the usual diversity of rates in the various wards, the East being, as usual, the highest, closely followed on this occasion by the North Ward, whilst the South falls a long way behind.

**Death Rate.** The total number of deaths registered during the year was 190, of these 75 occurred in the North Ward ; 63 in the South Ward ; and 52 in the East Ward. Two deaths of *residents* occurred at the Victoria Cottage Hospital ; one *non-resident* died in the same institution ; whilst one *resident* died in a hospital outside the district, thus leaving the balance even. We thus have the following death rates :—

North Ward	...	...	18.19	per 1,000
South Ward	...	...	14.85	" "
East Ward	...	...	14.71	" "
Whole District	...	...	15.97	" "

This is somewhat lower than the average of the last eight years, which was 16.27 ; whilst it is higher than that of 1902, which was 14.96 ; and is slightly higher than the average of England and Wales—15.4. The death rate on the whole is satisfactory, but there is one unwelcome feature, and that is the high percentage of infant mortality, to which I shall again refer. Still the birth rate is nearly double the death rate and this must be considered satisfactory. The North Ward has the highest mortality, and the East has the lowest, whilst the South is only a fraction above the East. Table IV. shows the causes of deaths, classified according to ages and localities. To summarize, there were from Measles 1 death ; Scarlet Fever 3 ; Diphtheria 5 ; Influenza 1 ; Diarrhoea 10 ; Phthisis 9 ; other Tubercular Diseases 4 ; Cancer 6 ; Bronchitis 13 ; Pneumonia 9 ; Pleurisy 2 ; other diseases of respiratory organs 3 ; Alcoholism 2 ; Congenital Syphilis 3 ; Premature Birth 7 ; Heart Diseases 23 ; Accidents 12 ; Suicide 1 ; and all other causes 76.

**Infant Mortality.** Under this heading are included deaths of all children under one year of age. The result is unsatisfactory ; 63 deaths being registered with a death rate of 167.5 per 1,000 births registered. This is much above the average of the last eight years, which was 145.6, and is higher than that of England and Wales generally, which was 132. Of these 63 deaths 1 was due to Diphtheria ; 8 to Diarrhoea ; 3 to Tubercular Diseases other than Phthisis ; 5 to Bronchitis ; 1 to Pneumonia ; 2 to Atelectasis ; 3 to Congenital Syphilis ; 7 to Premature Birth ; all other diseases 34.

The number of premature births is again noticeably large, and helps materially to increase the death rate.

**Zymotic Death Rate.** The number of deaths from the seven principal epidemic diseases amounts to 19, which is equivalent to 1.59 per 1,000 of the population. Measles was the primary cause of death in 1 case ; Scarlet Fever 3 ; Diphtheria 5 ; and Diarrhoea 10.

**Phthisis** was the cause of death in 9 cases, which is equivalent to a death rate of 0.75 per 1,000 of the population.

**Other forms of Tuberculosis.** 4 deaths come under this heading, and if to these be added the 9 cases of Phthisis, we get a rate of 1.09 for all forms of Tuberculous Disease.

**Cancer** accounted for 6 cases, equivalent to a rate of 0.5 per 1,000.

**Respiratory Diseases**, as usual, are a large factor in the death rate. 13 cases were due to Bronchitis ; 9 to Pnuemonia ; 2 to Pleurisy ; and 3 to other diseases of the Respiratory organs. One death was due to Influenza.

**Notification of Infectious Diseases.** The number of cases notified in 1903 was largely in excess of the previous two years. 130 cases were notified altogether, of which 25 occurred in the North Ward ; 65 in the South ; and 40 in the East Ward. Table III. shows these cases classified according to ages and localities. From this it will be seen that there were notified 3 cases of Small-pox ; 14 of Diphtheria ; 15 of Erysipelas ; 94 of Scarlet Fever ; 1 of Enteric Fever ; and 3 of Puerperal Fever. I shall notice the *Small-pox* cases later on in a special paragraph.

The **Diphtheria** cases have declined in number from the previous year, in spite of the increase of Scarlatina cases, which form such a suitable ground for the development of Diphtheria. Personal contagion seems to have been the cause in most of the cases.

**Scarlet Fever** has been very prevalent, especially in the South and East Wards. It has been of mild type, but 3 deaths were recorded from it.

**Enteric Fever.** Only one case of this disease occurred, and this was traced to eating a large quantity of infected Whitstable oysters. A year like last is not favourable to the generation of *Enteric Fever*, but it is, nevertheless, very satisfactory that no case was due to sanitary defects, as the prevalence or absence of this disease is to a certain extent the test of the competency of sanitary arrangements.

**Water Supply.** The annual visit to the sources of the water supply was made on the 16th June. The day was not very favourable, but a fair amount of work was got through. The service reservoir at Hayborough ; the filter beds at Belle Vue ; and the pumping station at the Goat were visited, and everything found in good working order. The Keswick sewerage works were visited, but, unfortunately for us, the tanks were being cleaned out. Instead of having two separate tanks, one of which can be always in use, there is one large tank partly separated into two, with the result that when the tank is being cleaned out there is no subsidence, and the sewage is turned into the ditches and channels in its unpurified state.

There should be two tanks, so that when one is being cleaned out the other can be utilised.

The Portinscale sewerage works were also visited and the condition of things there was found satisfactory.

**Factory and Workshops Act.** The Inspector reports that all workshops in the district were inspected several times during the year, and were found in a clean and sanitary condition. They have all been lime-washed and purified since last report. A case of overcrowding was found at the workshop of Mrs. Elizabeth Jane Dixon, Wood Street, who was also guilty of the same offence last year. The matter was reported to the Council, and the Clerk communicated with the offender and informed her of the consequences which would follow another offence.

**Bakehouses.** All bakehouses have been cleaned and purified during the year. A bakehouse was constructed by Mr. Evans Jones, Senhouse Street, in the cellar under his shop, but the council refused to register it as it did not comply with Sec. 101 of the Act of 1901. It has since been removed to a more suitable place in the yard with plenty of light and ventilation.

Twelve workshops and four bakehouses have been registered during the year.

**Sanitation.** No systematic inspections were made last year, but the condition of the streets, yards, and courts were kept under observation in the ordinary course of work. The rainfall was so plentiful that the drains were always kept well flushed, and no disease attributable to filth occurred during the year.

On **February 4th** I made an inspection of the new slaughter house built by Mr. Greenhow at Ellenborough, and made a special report to your Council thereon. My observations were not favourable to the building of a second slaughter house in the district, but your Council decided by a small majority to grant the licence.

On **February 6th** I inspected the Globe Inn yard and found it in an unsatisfactory condition. The urinal was only a few feet from Mr. Hardy's back door, and was in any case too near it. But what was worse was that those who should have made use of the urinal did not limit themselves to that, but made use of the whole yard, and even of the back doors of the houses on occasion. The urinal was covered in, and access was made to the urinal from the house.

On **February 9th** I inspected a stable at the concrete houses, Ellenborough Place, in the occupation of Mr. Hayton. There was neither ventilation nor drainage, and it was altogether unfit for the purposes of a stable, and it was condemned accordingly.

On **February 12th**, in consequence of a complaint by Mr. Barnes, I examined the state of affairs at the foot of the brow just above Ann Place, Nelson Street. A number of bens were kept within a few feet of the doors of the houses facing the brow. Against the wall bounding the head of Ann Place was a collection of refuse three or four feet deep, composed principally of ashes, pots, pans, and other refuse, affording an admirable breeding ground for flies and other unpleasant organisms. The rooms in the house adjoining the wall were rendered so damp thereby as to be unfit for occupation. The refuse was removed by your Council, and a hole made through the wall to drain it into Ann Place.

On **March 16th** I made a special report on the prevalence of Measles in part of the North Ward, and more especially in Ellenborough, where 91 out of the 115 children were reported as absent from school. It was recommended that the Infant School, at Ellenborough, should be closed for a month, and with regard to the other schools that all children suffering from the disease, and all children from infected houses who had not already had the disease, should be excluded from school for a period of not less than three weeks from the commencement of the illness. Those who had already had the disease were allowed to continue. The disease was of mild type, and only one death resulted.

On **July 6th**, at the instance of the Agent of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, I visited No. 1 Wood's Yard, Strand Street, and examined the house and its occupants. The house was extremely filthy and infested by bugs. The sashes of the windows were fixed so as to exclude the air. The wife and children and their clothes were in an extremely filthy and verminous condition. I gave evidence in the prosecution which followed, and the husband was sentenced to two months' imprisonment.

The other houses in the yard were found to have the same sanitary defects, which the agent promised to remedy. This has since been done.

**Isolation Hospital.** On Sept. 14th I attended a meeting of the Sanitary Committee, to discuss the nursing question at the Isolation Hospital, and the method of admission to and discharge therefrom. After some discussion it was decided not to make any change in the system of procuring nurses, but a resolution was passed that the medical practitioners of the town, before procuring the removal of any infectious case, should be requested to send notice in writing to the Medical Officer of Health of the necessity of such removal.

**Small-pox.** The most outstanding feature of the year was the introduction into most of the towns in the County of cases of Small-pox, mostly amongst the tramp population, and the measures that were adopted for preventing the spread of the disease.

On **Jan. 8th** I received the notification of a case of Small-pox on board the s.s. "Illyd," then lying in the roads. She arrived at the Quarantine Station in the Senhouse Dock on Jan. 12th, but owing to the difficulty in procuring nurses the man was not removed to the Isolation Hospital till the following day. The usual precautions were taken to cleanse the ship; the patient's clothing and bedding burnt, and the men's clothing disinfected, and no further cases occurred. A special report was furnished on this case and the one in December of the previous year.

On **Sept 21st** I attended a meeting of the Council to confer upon the measures to be adopted with a view to the medical inspection of all vagrants at the registered lodging houses in the district. It was decided that a medical inspection of all vagrants arriving at the various lodging houses should be made daily. Also a committee was appointed to look out for a site for a temporary Small-pox hospital. Arrangements for visiting the lodging houses were accordingly made forthwith. These houses are three in number, viz :

Moore's, on the Brewery Steps, registered for 12.

Hunter's, Nelson Street, registered for 37.

Savage's, Well Lane, registered for 26.

Great difficulty was at first experienced in seeing all the vagrants in consequence of the want of a regular time for closing the houses at night. Savage's closed at 10, but at the other two there was no regular time, and it was 11 o'clock and often 11-30 before they were all housed, so that in spite of two and sometimes three visits a day, some of the men at first escaped inspection. It was arranged, however, to close all

the houses at 10 o'clock, and if any arrived after that hour to send them up to the Medical Officer for inspection before admission. This worked well, and made the work much easier. As a result there were examined in the three months---

At Moore's .....	117
At Hunter's .....	288
At Savage's .....	186

Total.....591

This does not include the regular lodgers, who were also inspected from time to time.

On **October 3rd** I received a letter from Dr. Briggs, of Aspatria, informing me that a tramp who had spent the night in Hunter's lodgings, at Maryport, two days previously, had turned up in Aspatria with symptoms of Small-pox. He had spent the previous night in a field. Hunter was in consequence instructed to admit no more lodgers until further notice. The bed and bedding on which the man had slept were burnt, and the whole place disinfected. All the inmates were re-vaccinated except three who refused, and on the 7th October the house was re-opened, and no further cases occurred there.

On **Oct. 19th** a permanent lodger at Savage's was found to be suffering from Small-pox. He was a pedlar, and may have been in contact with the previous case, as no other source of infection could be traced. He was removed in the course of the day to the Isolation Hospital. The infected bedding was burnt, and the house and the men's clothing disinfected. The inmates were all re-vaccinated except three who refused, and all the men quarantined, except one who had already been quarantined at Workington, and showed good marks of recent re-vaccination.

On **Nov. 3rd**, one of the men who had refused re-vaccination began to show symptoms of Small-pox and was removed to the Isolation Hospital. It was also decided to remove the other two men who had refused vaccination, and had already been in contact with the disease, to the spare ward at the hospital as an alternative to the further quarantining of the house. They were detained for 16 days, and as they showed no signs of Small-pox were then allowed to leave. Disinfection of the house and the men's clothes was again carried out as before. One of the Small-pox patients was discharged on Dec. 10th, but the other was detained for a considerable time longer, owing to the difficulty of removing the scales from the thickened skin of the feet.

On **Dec. 26th** I was called by a Customs official to visit the Norwegian s.s. "Ramin," on which four men were reported sick. There were no signs of Small pox or of any other disease requiring the interference of the Sanitary Authority.

I have the honour to be,  
Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES LITTLE, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Maryport,

Feb. 1st, 1904.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903 and previous years.  
*Maryport Urban District.*

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.			Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.		
		Number	Rate *	Under 1 year of Age.	At all Ages.	Number				Rate *	Number	Rate *
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1895	11,500	378	32.87	65	172	221	19.21	—	—	—	221	19.21
1896	"	366	31.82	51	139	184	16.00	—	—	—	184	16.00
1897	"	370	32.17	42	113.5	163	14.17	—	—	—	163	14.17
1898	11,800	356	30.16	57	160.1	189	16.01	—	—	—	189	16.01
1899	"	361	30.59	38	105.2	178	15.08	—	—	—	178	15.08
1900	11,850	329	28.66	62	182.8	210	17.72	—	—	—	210	17.72
1901	11,896	376	31.6	66	175.5	203	17.06	2	—	—	203	17.06
1902	"	378	31.77	48	126.9	178	14.96	2	1	—	177	14.87
Averages for years 1893-1902	11,717	364	31.06	53	145.6	190.7	16.27	---	---	---	190.6	16.26
1903	11,896	376	31.6	63	167.5	190	15.97	2	1	1	190	15.97

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

Total population at all ages at Census of 1901,.....11,896  
 Number of inhabited houses do. .... 2,416  
 Average number of persons per house do. .... 4.82

Area of District in acres (exclusive of } 1528  
 area covered by water)

- I. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District ..... } Isolation Hospital.  
 Victoria Cottage Hospital.
- II. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District..... } Union Workhouse Hospital.
- III. Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District ..... } Leeds Infirmary.

The Union Workhouse is not within the District.

TABLE II.  
Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1903 and previous years.  
*Maryport Urban District.*

Names of Localities	1. Whole District.				2. North Ward.				3. South Ward.				4. East Ward.			
	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.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
Year.	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d
1895	11,500	378	221	65												
1896	"	366	184	51												
1897	"	370	163	42												
1898	11,800	356	189	57												
1899	"	361	178	38												
1900	11,850	329	210	62												
1901	11,896	376	203	66	4,122	138	80	30	4,241	118	83	23	3,533	120	40	13
1902	"	378	177	48	"	113	51	15	"	127	81	19	"	138	45	14
Averages of Years 1893 to 1902.	11,717	364	190.6	53	4,122	125.5	65.5	22.5	4,241	122.5	82	21	3,533	129	42.5	135
1903	11,896	376	190	63	4,122	144	75	28	4,241	104	63	17	3,533	128	52	18

TABLE III.  
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1903.  
*Maryport Urban District.*

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	At Ages—Years.						North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.	North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.
		Under 1'	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards.						
Small-pox .....	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	3	—	—	3	—
Cholera .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria .. .....	14	1	6	6	1	—	—	6	8	—	2	1	—
Membranous } croup } .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas .....	15	—	—	—	—	14	1	7	5	3	—	—	—
Scarlet fever .....	94	2	34	54	4	—	—	11	46	37	—	—	—
Typhus fever.. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric fever.....	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Relapsing fever...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal fever...	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	—
Plague .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	130	3	40	60	6	19	2	25	65	40	2	4	—

Isolation Hospital in East Ward, Maryport Urban District.

TABLE IV.  
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.  
*Maryport Urban District.*

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.						Deaths in or belonging to localities (at all ages)			Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	North Ward	South Ward		East Ward
Small-pox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Scarlet fever ... ..	3	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Whooping-cough ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria & membranous croup...	5	1	4	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	1
Croup ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fever { Typhus ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Enteric ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Other continued ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Epidemic influenza ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Cholera ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa ... ..	10	8	—	—	—	—	2	6	3	1	—
Enteritis ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other septic diseases ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis ... ..	9	—	—	—	2	6	1	5	2	2	—
Other tubercular diseases ... ..	4	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	*1
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	6	—	—	—	—	6	—	2	1	3	—
Bronchitis ... ..	13	5	2	—	—	2	4	5	5	3	—
Pneumonia ... ..	9	1	3	—	1	3	1	4	2	3	—
Pleurisy ... ..	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Other diseases of respiratory organs	3	2	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—
Venereal diseases ... ..	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Premature birth ... ..	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	—	—
Diseases & accidents of parturition	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heart diseases... ..	23	—	—	2	—	10	11	9	9	5	—
Accidents ... ..	12	—	1	2	2	6	1	6	3	3	—
Suicides ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
All other causes ... ..	76	34	3	3	3	17	16	24	25	27	—
All causes ... ..	190	64	15	10	8	56	37	74	63	53	2

\* One Non-resident.