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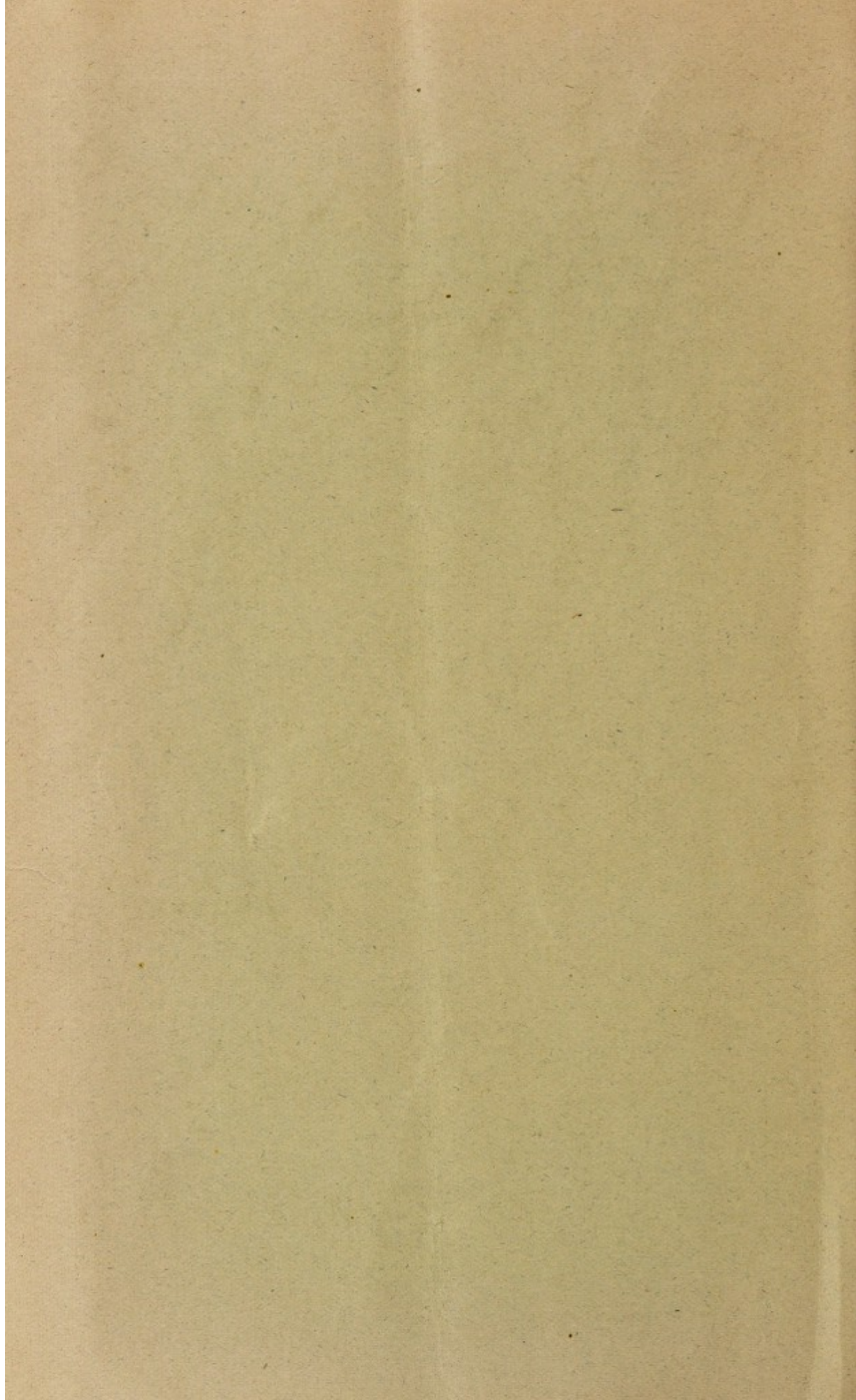
THE  
ANNUAL REPORTS  
OF THE  
**Medical Officer of Health**  
AND OF THE  
**Sanitary Inspector**  
FOR THE  
PAIGNTON URBAN DISTRICT.

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PAIGNTON :

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# THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ending December 31st, 1897.

*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Paignton  
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting this my Seventh Annual Report it gives me great pleasure to be able to inform you that during the past year the general health of the town has been good, and to report the lowest death rate for the last ten years, viz., 11·8 per 1000 per annum.

It is with great satisfaction I can draw your attention to the fact of the small death rate from zymotic disease, and also infant mortality. Throughout the year there has not been a death registered as due to any of the notifiable diseases, and the zymotic death rate for the year of 0·26 per 1000 per annum is caused by 2 deaths from diarrhoea. The number of deaths from infectious disease and the infant mortality are infallible indications of the sanitary condition of the town. The following table gives the zymotic and infant death rates for the last five years, and I would ask you to note that the year 1897 is the lowest :—

	Zymotic Disease.	Infant Mortality.
1893	0·9	82·2
1894	0·4	105·8
1895	0·95	102·4
1896	0·5	66·4
1897	0·26	55·5

The Isolation Hospital provided has proved most useful. The hospital consists of two wards with two beds and a cot in each ward, together with a separate cottage for the nurse. An ambulance has been provided. Power to borrow money for the erection of a disinfectory has been given by the Local Government Board, and this work will no doubt be pushed on as rapidly as possible.

In some respects the bye-laws have been more strictly adhered to, but with regard to air space the maximum demanded by your bye-laws is so small, having regard to present day knowledge of the vital importance of fresh air around the dwelling house, that under no pretence whatever should this be curtailed; and owners opening up building sites should be asked to deal more liberally in this



respect. By your decision to abolish fowls from the back yards having only the amount of air space required by the bye-laws I consider you have dealt with a very serious nuisance and established a useful precedent. The bye-laws under the Amendment Act of 1890 should receive your serious attention at an early date.

The working of the Private Street Works Act has proved most disappointing so far, but with the experience gained I trust that serious delay may be avoided in the future, and the taking over of private streets expedited.

Preston.

A considerable number of houses have been connected with the new main drainage and the remaining ones should be connected as soon as possible.

Water.

Much disappointment has been felt and expressed about our water supply, but with reasonable care we should be perfectly safe for a few years. The defect in the new storage reservoir is being dealt with, and with a safe storage of twelve million gallons there should be no anxiety; but as the town is growing by leaps and bounds the Council is doing well in considering a scheme for a further water supply. The house to house inspection has proved that there is gross carelessness on the part of many consumers, and the notices to amend household fittings have had a good effect. There cannot be a legitimate use of 45 gallons per day per head, and as this is the amount used when the water is on all day there must be a fearful waste. It is proposed to place water waste detectors, and it is desirable that the consumption should be reduced to 25 gallons per head. If this be attained we have water in abundance for present needs.

Births.

There were 180 births registered during the year, boys 88, girls 92, giving a birth rate on an estimated population of 7500 to the middle of the year of 24 per 1000 per annum, and is an increase on last year. The natural increase of the population for the year was 91.

Deaths.

The deaths registered during the year were 89; of these 40 were males and 49 females, giving a death rate of 11·8 per 1000 per annum, and the lowest recorded for many years. The following table shews the number of deaths at the various ages:—

Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	10
1 year and under 5	...	...	...	4
5 " " 15	...	...	...	7
15 " " 25	...	...	...	3
25 " " 65	...	...	...	28
65 and upwards	...	...	...	37
				<hr/>
				89



Of the 37 deaths 16 were over 70 years, 12 over 80, and 4 over 90

The following is a summary of the causes of death registered during the year, viz.:—

Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	2
Rheumatic fever	...	..	...	...	1
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	3
Disease of the organs of respiration	...				14
Disease of the organs of circulation	...				14
Injuries	...	...	...	...	2
Other diseases	...	...	...	...	53
					—
					89

The deaths registered as due to zymotic disease were 2 (diarrhœa), giving a zymotic death rate of 0·26 per 1000 per annum. No death was registered as due to any of the notifiable diseases.

The infant mortality was 10, and measured by the proportion of 1 year of age and under to the number of births registered was 55·5 per 1000, and is again a decrease on last year when it was 66·4 per 1000.

The deaths from Phthisis were 3, a decrease of 9 on last year, giving a rate of 0·4 as against 1·6 per 1000 last year. This is most satisfactory.

The following notifications were received during the year, viz.:—

Scarlet fever	..	...	...	...	21
Enteric fever	...	...	...	...	2
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	11
Erysipilis	...	...	...	...	2
					—
					36

In June notification was received of two cases of scarlet fever in one house; both severe cases. These were immediately removed to the Isolation Hospital where they made an excellent recovery. No other notification was received till the autumn, when several cases occurred, all of a mild type. The first case was traced to a relative having visited a house outside the town where there was a case of scarlet fever. Then other cases cropped up, and on making enquiries I found all the cases were of children attending one school. I visited the school and examined all the scholars present and took the names of all absentees so that I might visit them also. I discovered two cases where no medical man had been called in, in fact they were concealed. The younger child had been at school the previous day and the elder one who was in the peeling stage had been allowed to run about. No effort had been made to isolate the first case, and the sister was no doubt

Infant  
Mortality.

Phthisis.

Notification  
Act.

Scarlet  
Fever.



the cause of other cases. These two children were immediately removed to the Isolation Hospital and all absentees from school were kept carefully under observation till the period of incubation was passed and no fresh case arose. Six cases of scarlet fever were treated at the Isolation Hospital and thereby probably a serious outbreak was prevented.

Diphtheria.

There were 11 cases of diphtheria notified, but in no case would the parents consent to removal to the Isolation Hospital. So far as I could learn most of the cases were of a mild type, and in no instance did the disease spread to other occupants of the household. The Council's arrangement with the Clinical Research Association has proved most useful in clearing up cases of doubt. In all cases investigation was made unto the sanitary condition of the premises, and wherever defects were found these were made good, and at the end of each case the premises were disinfected. I consider that it is in this disease especially that the bye-laws under the 1890 Amendment Act would prove useful.

Enteric  
Fever.

Two cases were notified, both in detached old thatched houses. In neither case was there any connection with the drains inside the house. The surrounding of one case seemed all that could be desired and I am persuaded the illness was not due to anything connected with house sanitation, but in the second case the occupants of the cottage seemed to have taken no pains to keep their surroundings in a clean state.

Vaccination.

The following is the report of Mr. Revell, the Vaccination Officer:—

Births registered in Paignton in 1897—180.

Successfully vaccinated	...	...	...	152
Died unvaccinated	...	...	...	8
Postponed by Medical Certificate	...	...	...	2
Removed out of district	...	...	...	2
Unvaccinated, most of them not three months old	...	...	...	16

180

Workshops.

I have made visits to all the workshops in the town that I know of, and did not find overcrowding in any case, nor discover any unsanitary condition.

Bakehouse,  
Slaughter-  
houses, and  
Dairies.

These will be dealt with in the report of Mr. Crathorn, the Sanitary Inspector, as well as other matters not touched upon by me.

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant,

C. W. VICKERS, D.P.H., LOND.,

March 21st, 1898.

Medical Officer of Health.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1897.

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*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Paignton  
Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my third Annual Report, by which you will see that the town is making satisfactory progress, both as regards new buildings and its better sanitary condition.

It has been necessary in some instances to serve preliminary notices to abate nuisances, and to carry out the necessary works for the better condition of houses and premises. In only a few cases has it been necessary to bring matters before the Council to ask for legal notices to be served to get the works advised carried out. Notices.

One serious nuisance of overcrowding, which I repeatedly endeavoured to get abated, I was compelled to bring before the Council, who, after consideration of the same, instructed me to take out a summons, but after being served the nuisance was abated, and the expenses having been paid, it was thought advisable not to take the case before the magistrates.

Upon application I have examined and tested the drains of a good number of houses with the smoke and water tests, and in all cases where defects have been found I have communicated with the various owners, and the same have been remedied. In cases where the drains have been choked or slightly defective, notice has been given to the owners, and they have been attended to, but in many instances the drains have been in such bad condition, either through being badly laid, or being interfered with from time to time by inexperienced workmen and never put in order, it has been found necessary to have them taken up and relaid, and in others I found they were only land drain pipes, and old stone drains in some cases going through houses and having no interceptor between the main sewer Drains.



had to be taken up and replaced with proper stoneware pipes and interceptor traps. In other cases, though Mason's traps were put in, the tongues had been broken away so as to save the trouble of cleaning, at the same time forgetting or not caring to what danger they exposed the occupiers of the houses. The Council having provided new sewers, I have been enabled to prevail upon some owners to connect their properties to it by providing new drains for the same, thereby enabling them to abate a serious nuisance by closing several cesspools, and hope shortly to get all the properties on the line of the new sewers connected.

Water  
Closets.

Several new water closets have been built. I am happy to say that a great improvement has been made in the sanitary arrangements of some of the houses, especially those usually let in apartments to visitors. A good number of pan-container and long-hoppers have been taken out and replaced with others of more modern type, all of the washdown pattern. All defective soil pipes found in the wall have been destroyed, and new ones carried outside. I have had water waste preventers put to forty-six water closets which had no proper supply, but there still remains a large number that have not been done. I am proceeding with the work, and hope in time to have them fitted in all cases.

Water.

I have requested the owners of thirty-seven cottages to take in a supply of town water, thirty-one of which have complied, and I hope to have the others supplied shortly. Notwithstanding the urgent request in my Report of last year, I have found several instances in which the water supply to the W.C.'s have been in direct communication with the drinking water cistern, also cisterns left uncovered and in a very dirty condition. There are still scullery, waste, bath, and rain-water pipes carried direct into the drains, causing the houses where the drains are not properly ventilated and trapped to become the receptacle of foul gases from the same. I would again urge upon all occupiers to look to these matters, and where in doubt have the premises properly examined. Several samples of well water have been taken and handed to the Medical Officer for analysis. In one case it was declared unfit for human consumption on account of sewage contamination, and the well was closed.

Scavenging.

The scavenging of house refuse is being carried on by the Council's men, but complaints having been made, and as the building of the town keeps increasing, I am of opinion that further provision will be necessary shortly to have the work carried out effectually. I should again beg



to call the attention of the great necessity of having covered carts for the removal of the same, so as to minimise as far as possible the annoyance caused to the public.

I have periodically inspected all the dairies, milkshops, and cowhouses in the district which are registered, the two former are kept in fairly clean condition, but some of the latter are in a very dilapidated condition and need considerable alteration. Several persons are carrying on the business without being registered, and, therefore, not under supervision; but as it is proposed to revise the register this year, I would not advise any action being taken until that is completed. Dairies.

The bakehouses have been visited several times during the year, and on the whole I find no cause of complaint. Bakehouses.

The slaughterhouses generally are kept in clean condition, but I have had to make several complaints: 1st, that the garbage and manure was not removed as often as necessary; 2nd, that several occasions upon visiting I found dogs kept upon the premises. I would call the attention of the public generally that any person using any place for slaughtering animals other than a licensed slaughterhouse, are liable to a penalty not exceeding £5. Slaughterhouses.

I have examined and tested the drains of all new houses that have been completed, and am glad to report that my suggestion of last year, in reference to inspection chambers has been carried out in many instances. New Houses.

I herewith enclose tabulated report of some of the works carried out during the year.

Complaints received and attended to	...	12
Houses inspected	... ..	182
Preliminary notices	... ..	30
Legal	... ..	4
Houses disinfected	... ..	22
„ cleansed	... ..	19
Interceptor in place of Mason's trap	...	22
Gullies in place of bell and D trap...	...	66
Drains choked	... ..	15
„ defective repaired	... ..	34
„ taken up and relaid	... ..	32
„ tested	... ..	38
Waste water preventers fitted to W.C.'s	...	46
Pan-containers taken out and replaced with wash-downs	... ..	16
Long hoppers	ditto ditto	24
Soil pipes repaired	... ..	18
„ carried outside	... ..	14
Ashpits repaired	... ..	4



Galvanised bins	...	...	...	...	8
Overflow and rain-water pipes taken out of drains	...	...	...	...	22
Removal of offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	7
Notice to remove animals	...	...	...	...	11
New town water supplied to old houses	...	...	...	...	31
New covers to water cisterns	...	...	...	...	3
New W.C.'s built	...	...	...	...	6
Houses overcrowded	...	...	...	...	1
Infectious disease cases visited	...	...	...	...	27
Removed to hospital...	...	...	...	...	6
Interceptors put in where drains not trapped	...	...	...	...	21
New system of drains	...	...	...	...	6
Drains from cesspool to sewer	...	...	...	...	11
Wells closed	...	...	...	...	1
Samples of water taken	...	...	...	...	4
Contaminated with sewage	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughterhouse cleaned—notice	...	...	...	...	2
Cowhouses	„	„	...	...	3
New houses	...	...	...	...	35
Letters and reports	...	...	...	...	140

In conclusion, I would like to call your attention to the very dirty and uneven condition of many of the back roads, and would suggest that as the private street works are proceeding so slowly, that notice be given to the owners to put the worst of them in better condition. I have during the year had complaints of nuisances arising from the removal of offensive matter through the public streets during the daytime, and I would again urge upon the Council the necessity of making bye-laws under the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, to deal with these; also for the better cleansing and paving of back yards, the supply of water to W.C.'s, the alteration of drainage to old buildings, for providing secondary access to new buildings for the purpose of removing the refuse, and other matters requiring improvement.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. CRATHORN, C.S.I.,

*Sanitary Inspector.*

*March, 1898.*