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Contributors

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1902.

THE
Annual Reports
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
AND OF THE
Sanitary Inspector
FOR THE
Paignton Urban District.

PAIGNTON :

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The Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

For the Year ended December 31st, 1902.

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

GENTLEMEN,

It is again my privilege to present to you my Annual Report, being the twelfth, and to be able to say that Paignton continues to increase in size, and that the public health during the year has been excellent, as shewn by the statistics following. The calculations are based upon an estimated population to the middle of the year of 8,500. It is gratifying to find that in the Report issued by the Devon County Council that Paignton is considered to hold the "premier position" in South Devon. Referring to my report of last year with regard to the crowding in of buildings in back gardens and yards, it is a great pleasure to congratulate you on the adopting of new bye-laws to prevent

this, and thus setting at rest a very knotty subject. Be assured that in the near future no person taking any thought for his health will occupy any premises unless there be a sufficient amount of air space about the dwelling, so as to assure a free circulation of air, and free admission of sunlight.

Paignton is fortunate in being a growing town, and with plenty of land to be built upon, and it is for you to enforce the strict carrying out of your bye-laws and a model town will be the result.

Deaths.

The deaths registered during the year were 122; of these 60 were males and 62 females, giving a death rate of 14·3 per 1000 per annum, and is only 0·4 above the average of the last ten years, which, with an increasing population, may be considered very satisfactory, and especially so as Paignton is becoming more and more a favourite place of residence for people in advanced life.

The following table shows the number of deaths at the various ages, viz. :—

Under 1 year of age	14
1 year and under 5 years	6
5 years and under 15 years	1
15 years and under 25 years	11
25 years and under 65 years	43
65 years and over	47
	122

There were 19 deaths of persons over 70.

There were 16 deaths of persons over 80,
and 3 deaths of persons over 90.

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

TABLE IV.

PAIGNTON URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1902.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED 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 and upwards.	
Small-pox								
Measles								
Scarlet Fever	1			1				
Whooping-cough								
Diphtheria and membranous croup								
Croup								
Fever } Typhus	2				1	1		
} Enteric								
} Other cont'd								
Epidemic influenza	3					1	2	
Cholera								
Plague								
Diarrhoea	1	1						
Enteritis	1	1						
Puerperal fever								
Erysipelas								
Other septic diseases	2		1			1		
Phthisis	14				6	7	1	
Other tubercular diseases	4	2				1	1	
Cancer, Malignant disease	13					8	5	
Bronchitis	18	2	3			4	9	
Pneumonia	5				1	2	2	
Pleurisy								
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	1		1					
Alcoholism								
Cirrhosis of Liver								
Venereal diseases								
Premature birth	1	1						
Diseases and accidents of Parturition								
Heart diseases	12	1				5	6	
Accidents	4	2	1			1		
Suicides								
All other causes	40	4			3	12	21	
All causes	122	14	6	1	11	43	47	

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1902 & PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGIS- TERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-resi- dents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES NETT.	
		Number.	Rate*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate*
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number	Rate*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1892	7060	149	21.1	11	73.8	100	14.1					
1893	7100	158	22.1	13	82.8	113	15.8					
1894	7230	170	23.4	18	105.8	94	13					
1895	7350	166	22.5	17	102.4	105	14.2					
1896	7420	166	22.2	11	66.4	106	14.2					
1897	7500	180	24.2	10	55.5	89	11.8					
1898	7700	161	20.9	19	118	95	12.3					
1899	7900	145	18.3	13	89.6	98	12.4	No General Hospital or Workhouse in the District, so that the pre- vious figures may be taken as nett.				
1900	8150	166	20.3	21	126	141	17.1					
1901	8400	178	21.2	11	61.8	119	14.1					
Averages for years 1892-1901.	7531	163.9	21.6	14.4	88.3	106	13.9					
1902	8500	169	19.8	14	84	122	14.3					

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

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be 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 the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The "Public Institutions" to be taken into account for the purpose of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ...	...	5,177.5	
Total population at all ages ...	...	8,385	} At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses ...	...	1,785	
Average number of persons per house ...	...	4.7	

The infant mortality was 14, and measured by the proportion of deaths under one year of age to the number of births registered is 82·8 per 1000, and is very satisfactory. The average for the last ten years is 88·3, and much below that of Rural England and Wales, which is 119.

There were 169 births registered; boys 95, girls 74, giving a birth rate of 19·8 per 1000 per annum, and is below the average of the last ten years, which is 21·6. The natural increase—excess of births over deaths—is only 47.

The following table will no doubt be of interest to you:

VITAL STATISTICS OF ENGLAND AND WALES FOR 1902.

	Annual Rate per 1,000 Living.			
	Births.	Deaths from all causes.	Deaths from 7 chief Epidemic Diseases.	Infant Mortality—Annual death rate of Infants under 1 year of age to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales ...	28·6	16·3	1·64	133
Rural England and Wales	27·4	15·3	1·14	119
76 Great Towns ...	30·0	17·4	2·12	145
103 Smaller Towns ...	27·3	15·3	1·53	135
Paignton ...	19·8	14·3	0·58	82·8

Thus Paignton has a good record, except for its low birth rate.

There were 29 notifications received under the Infectious Diseases Act, including 2 of Chicken-pox, which was added to the list with the consent of the Local Government Board :

Scarlet Fever	...	...	12
Enteric Fever	...	...	6
Diphtheria	...	...	6
Erysipelas	...	...	3
Chicken Pox	...	...	2

TABLE III.

PAIGNTON URBAN DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1902.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.							No. of Cases Re- moved to Isolation Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards	
Small Pox ...								
Cholera ...								
Diphtheria ...	6		1	3	1	1		1
Membranous croup								
Erysipelas ...	3					3		
Scarlet Fever ...	12		1	7	3	1		8
Typhus Fever ...								
Enteric Fever ...	6			4	1	1		1
Relapsing Fever								
Continued Fever								
Puerperal Fever								
Plague ...								
Varicella ...	2	1	1					
Totals ...	29	1	3	14	5	6		10

Zymotic
Disease.

The number of deaths registered as due to the seven chief epidemic diseases named in the Notification Act were 5, viz: Scarlet Fever, 1; Enteric Fever, 2; Diarrhoea 2, giving a death rate of 0.58 per 1000 per annum. Last year as small-pox was present in London I advised that Chicken pox should be made notifiable, as cases of Modified Small-pox were apt to be mistaken for this disease and as Small-pox is now spreading in the country it is advisable to again ask the Local Government Board to allow this disease to remain in the list of notifiable diseases for another year.

Phthisis.

The deaths registered as due to this disease were 14; of these 7 were males and 7 females, giving a death rate of 1.6 per 1000 per annum. This is an increase on last year, but 7

of the cases were visitors and died in one or the other of the private nursing institutions in the neighbourhood. It is very disappointing to find that our efforts to protect the health of people who occupy premises where a death from Phthisis takes place, are not appreciated, and although a circular letter, on receipt of the notification of death, is sent to the occupiers, it is only in a small percentage of cases that advantage is taken of the offer to disinfect. This to me is very extraordinary, for it has been shown over and over again that more deaths occur from Phthisis than all the other well known infectious diseases put together, and last year nearly three times as many deaths were registered in Paignton as due to Phthisis than to all the other infectious diseases. Under the circumstances I am inclined to recommend that advantage should be taken of Sec. 46 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and a cleansing order should be issued.

The Scarlet Fever cases with one exception were of a mild type and 12 cases were notified. On two occasions this disease was introduced into the town by visitors, but by prompt removal to the isolation hospital no spreading took place.

Scarlet
Fever.

We had 6 cases notified, but in only one case was it deemed necessary to remove the patient to the isolation hospital. Two of the cases were certainly imported, and in three of the cases the house surroundings were proved on inspection to be defective. On the recovery of the patient sanitary defects were remedied under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. In the last case I was not able to trace the source of the infection.

Enteric
Fever.

Here I will again refer to my report of last year where I stated that "I doubted if the best were made of our present system of sewers." During the last year much more attention has been given to the long sewers where the fall is necessarily very slight, and with the result that there has not been any serious flooding at all, and I am persuaded that by the constant dragging of these sewers we may yet go on safely for some time. Several more ventilators have been provided and advantage is being taken of suitable places to erect these shafts.

Drainage.

Scavenging. This is done by employees of the Council, and on the whole satisfactorily. The covers provided for the dust-carts are most useful.

Water. As the year has been a wet one no shortage of water has been experienced. The new water-works at Holne Moor are progressing, perhaps not so rapidly as one would wish; still, I hope that we shall obtain some supply if necessary within the time specified for carrying out of the contracts. Several miles of the pipe line are completed, the filter beds at Holne Moor are in a forward state, and it is only for the Home reservoir to be pushed forward and we should soon have Dartmoor water in Paignton.

Slaughter-Houses, Dairies, Bakehouses and Milkshops. I have paid many visits to these various premises independently of the visits of the Sanitary Inspector, who will report more fully.

Workshops. All the workshops on the register sent by H. M. Factory Inspector have been visited, but on going through the town we found that a considerable number more were in existence, and a list of these will be duly sent on to Plymouth; further we believe we have not yet found all the workshops in the district. Take them altogether there is little to find fault with, although in many instances it would have been to the advantage of the workpeople had many of these back additions not been built but the ground left open as air space; adapted buildings are seldom satisfactory. The Workshops Act seems to be appreciated much more by the workmen than by the workwomen, for they seem to look upon it as an interference with the liberty of the subject, and are contented to work under conditions most unsuitable, and in many cases resent our efforts on their behalf, even going so far as to deliberately try to mislead us. So far as the laundries are concerned I found it was no use to go alone, as the workwomen were deliberately sent out of the way, and now the Sanitary Inspector accompanies me and we enter the premises back and front at the same time. In only one instance has any overcrowding been discovered in the workshops and the owner was cautioned, but it is difficult to get at the true

number of workers in laundries, and constant supervision will be necessary.

The Isolation Hospital has again proved its usefulness. As before stated on two occasions visitors arrived suffering from Scarlet Fever and they were at once removed with the result that no spreading took place. We had too an example of what it meant to the town to be without suitable isolation when the wards were under repair. A case of Scarlet Fever was notified and it could not be admitted, with the result that three cases occurred in this household. Ten cases only have been admitted during the year, viz: one each of Diphtheria and Enteric Fever and eight of Scarlet Fever.

We are gradually getting new bye-laws under the Public Health Amendment Act, 1890, but it is a pity that this piecemeal way of legislation is adopted; still, instalments are received with gratitude.

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

Births registered in Paignton, 169						
Successfully vaccinated	...	...	...	...	...	135
Died unvaccinated	...	...	...	...	...	7
Postponed by Medical Certificate	...	...	...	...	...	3
Conscientious Objectors	...	...	...	...	...	2
Removed from Paignton	...	...	...	...	...	2
Not yet vaccinated, but most of which are under						
age	...	...	...	...	...	20
						169

This I consider very satisfactory, and again there has been much revaccination. Mr. Crathorn, the Sanitary Inspector, will give full details of the routine work done during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

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

February 16th, 1903.

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 1902.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I have again the pleasure of presenting to you my Annual Report, being the Eighth, from which you may gather the progress made during the year in sanitary matters.

Drains.

Upon the application of the smoke and water test, many of the drains were found defective, in some instances so bad were they that it was found necessary to take up and relay a large part of them, and in some of the older properties it was found advisable to either take up the old or disregard the same by breaking down and filling up, and to arrange a new system of drainage altogether. Amongst masons' traps I found the tongues occasionally broken away, in others the drains were carried direct into the main sewer. These defects were remedied by placing Interceptors. On many premises I have found that the fresh air inlets to the drains have been covered over and therefore rendered useless, and occupiers would do well to pre-

vent this foolish procedure. Where Certificates have been asked for for old house drains during the year, I have been careful to see that the drains and sanitary arrangements have conformed as far as possible to the Bye-laws, and where the drains have been carried under the house they have been made thoroughly water-tight and covered in concrete.

Complaints received and attended to	...	6
Houses inspected	... ..	484
Notices, preliminary	... ..	10
Notices, legal	... ..	9
Drains choked	... ..	18
Drains tested	... ..	77
Drains defective	... ..	46
Drains taken up and re-laid	... ..	20
Drains, new system	... ..	9
Inspection Chamber to old premises	...	13
Interceptors fitted	... ..	21
Gullies in place of defective D and bell traps		41
Washdown W.C.'s in place of pan container and long hopper	... ..	31
Water waste preventers fitted	... ..	10
Water waste preventers repaired	... ..	24
Soil pipes in wall destroyed	... ..	10
Soil pipes repaired	... ..	14
Ashbins provided	... ..	16
Offensive accumulations removed	... ..	3
Animals removed	... ..	6
New W.C. built	... ..	9
Town water laid on to old premises	...	5
Infectious cases visited	... ..	24
Infectious cases removed to Hospital	...	9
Houses disinfected	... ..	30
Houses cleansed	... ..	10
Cesspools closed and houses connected to Main sewer	... ..	4
Samples of well water	... ..	3
Samples taken and forwarded to Analyst	...	9

Samples Adulterated	...	...	...	2
Workshops and laundries visited	...	...	...	106
New houses	...	...	...	75

Scavenging. The removal of house refuse is still carried out by the Council's staff, but I am sorry to say that many complaints have been received during the year about the cleansing of ashpits, but on inquiry I find that the men have as a rule a reasonable excuse, as so many bins have water in the them, and this runs through the maunds, making their work more disagreeable than is necessary. Householders should see that a proper use is made of their receptacles. The deposit tip is a long way off and I am of opinion that the matter should be considered at an early date.

Water. Several samples of well water have been taken and handed over to the Medical Officer of Health for analysis. In one case it was suggested that a case of Enteric Fever was caused by drinking well water, but on examination this well was considered not to be the cause. No serious complaints have been received during the year about the supply of water. Consumers should, as soon as possible, see that their water cisterns are cleaned out, and that they are properly covered.

Infectious Diseases. The Town has been fairly free from Infectious disease during the latter part of the year. When notified I have visited the premises, supplied or offered disinfectants, and on the removal or recovery of the patient, I have examined the sanitary arrangements, and where found defective the necessary work has been ordered and carried out. Houses have been disinfected, and where found advisable cleansing orders have been served upon the owners and the work done, and in several cases the bedding, &c., has been removed and disinfected.

I am sorry to say that very few persons avail themselves of the offer of the Council, to disinfect the premises after cases of Phthisis, although the circulars have been sent, and personal application made in nearly every case.

Premises registered under these regulations have been visited periodically and inspected. The Dairies and Milkshops are kept in good and clean condition generally, but some of the cowhouses are not kept in as clean a condition as one would like to see. There are still several persons selling milk who are not registered. This is illegal, and I would ask that they be prosecuted or stopped.

Dairies,
Cowsheds,
&c.

These have been visited and inspected and generally there is little cause of complaint. I would here remind the Council, also the Bakers, that after this year no underground bakehouses will be allowed unless certified by the Council as a fit and proper place for carrying on the trade.

Bakehouses.

In company with the Medical Officer of Health I have visited and inspected a number of workshops and laundries. (See Medical Officer's Report.)

Workshops.

These have been periodically inspected, and I am pleased to report that an improvement has been made.

Slaughter-
Houses.

A number of samples of milk were taken and forwarded to the County Analyst. He reported that two samples were deficient of fat, consequently proceedings were taken against the persons selling the same, and a conviction with ten shillings and costs was obtained in each case, also our expenses.

Foods and
Drugs Act.

The drains of all new houses have been examined and tested. In future all persons before letting or occupying a new house must obtain a certificate that the same is in fit state for human habitation. I am pleased to report an increase of over fifty per cent. in the number of new houses built over last year.

New Houses.

I would again respectfully call your attention to the bad state of many of the back roads, which are a nuisance. I would call your attention to the powers conferred upon you by

Back Roads.

sec. 27, sub-sec. 1 and 2 of the Public Healths Act Amendment Act, 1890, and ask that the same may be seriously considered, so that some improvement may be made.

Sanitary
Conveniences

I would again impress upon you the necessity of providing, at a very early date, more sanitary accomodation in the shape of Urinals, &c., about the town, for the accomodation of the public, as several are very much needed in different parts of the Town.

Notices.

Notices have been served when necessary for the abatement of nuisances, removal of animals and offensive accumulations, sanitary defects, &c., and the several works have been carried out satisfactorily.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH CRATHORN, A.S.I.,

Cert. Sanitary Inspector.