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Contributors

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THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1909.

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

GENTLEMEN,

It is again my duty to submit my Annual Report, which is the nineteenth of such reports.

Every year new duties are added for the sanitary officers, and in accordance with the circular recently sent by the Local Government Board the form of my report will be a little altered.

First I would refer to two recommendations I made last year, viz.: That the Isolation Hospital was quite inadequate for the population of Paignton, now estimated at 10,500, and that you should give this your serious consideration; and secondly, that a Refuse Destructor should be provided. A Destructor has been provided by the Electric Light Company, but has not been long enough in use for me to form an opinion as to its efficiency.

The statistics are based upon an estimated population of 10,000.

The births registered were 175, of these 89 were boys Births. and 86 girls, giving a birth-rate of 17·5 per 1000 per annum, and is below the average of the last ten years. The natural increase—excess of births over deaths—was only 30.

Deaths. The deaths registered were 145; of these, 63 were males and 82 females, and is above the average of the last ten years.

The death rate for the last ten years averages 14·2 per 1000 per annum, and the rate for 1909 is 14·5 per 1000 per annum.

It is a pleasure to again be able to report that no death during the year was registered as due to any notifiable disease. Further, 61 of the deaths were of persons over 65 years old.

The following table shows the deaths at the various ages :

Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	15
1 year and under 5	...	...	...	...	7
5 years and under 15	...	...	...	...	4
15 years and under 25	...	...	...	...	7
25 years and under 65	...	...	...	...	51
65 years and over	...	...	...	...	61
					145

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

TABLE IV.

PAIGNTON URBAN DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1909.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
	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	1	1					
Scarlet fever							
Whooping-cough	1		1				
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)							
Croup							
Fever { Typhus... ..							
{ Enteric... ..							
{ Other continued							
Epidemic influenza							
Cholera							
Plague							
Diarrhoea							
Enteritis	3	2	1				
Puerperal fever							
Erysipelas							
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuber- culosis)	13				4	9	
Other tuberculous diseases ...	3	1	2				
Cancer, malignant disease ...	12				1	5	6
Bronchitis	17		2	1	1	5	8
Pneumonia	7			1		4	2
Pleurisy							
Other diseases of Respiratory organs							
Alcoholism						5	2
Cirrhosis of liver }	7						
Venereal diseases							
Premature birth	4	4					
Diseases and accidents of par- turation							
Heart diseases	14			1		6	7
Accidents	5	1			1	1	2
Suicides							
All other causes	58	6	1	1		16	34
ALL CAUSES	145	15	7	4	7	51	61

TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1909
AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

PAIGNTON 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-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 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1899	7900	145	18.3	13	89.6	98	12.4					
1900	8150	166	20.3	21	126.0	114	17.1					
1901	8400	178	21.2	11	61.8	119	14.1					
1902	8500	169	19.8	14	82.8	122	14.3					
1903	8650	156	18.0	18	115.0	97	11.2					
1904	8800	176	20.0	21	119.0	140	15.9					
1905	9000	189	21.0	10	53.0	134	14.8					
1906	9150	176	19.2	22	125.0	120	13.1					
1907	9500	201	21.1	24	119.4	147	15.4	No General Hospital or Work- house in the District so that the previous figures may be taken as nett.				
1908	9750	206	21.1	20	97.0	136	13.9					
Aver- ages for years 1899- 1908	8780	176.2	20.0	17.4	98.5	122.7	14.2					
1909	10000	175	17.5	15	85.7	145	14.5					

*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.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)	...	5177.5	
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	

Isolation Hospital is in the District.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1909.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Wk.	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months	8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months	11-12 Months	Total deaths under 1 year
ALL CAUSES—Certified ...		6	1	2	1	3	1									1	15
Common Infectious Diseases	Small-pox ...																
	Chicken-pox ...																
	Measles ...					1											1
	Scarlet fever ...																
	Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)																
Diarrhoeal Diseases	Whooping Cough																
	Diarrhoea, all forms																
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis ...				1			1									2
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh																
Wasting Diseases	Premature Birth...	4															4
	Congenital Defects				1		1										2
	Injury at Birth ...	1															1
	Want of Breast Milk, Starvation																
Tuberculous Diseases	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus																
	Tuberculous Meningitis																
	Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica																
	Other Tuberculous Diseases						1										1
Other Causes	Erysipelas...																
	Syphilis ...																
	Rickets ...																
	Meningitis (not Tuberculous)																
	Convulsions ...			1													1
	Bronchitis ...																
	Laryngitis ...																
	Pneumonia ...																
	Suffocation, overlying					1											1
	Other causes ...	1													1		2
District of Paignton.																	
Births in the year		{ legitimate 168. illegitimate 7. Population estimated to middle of 1909, 10,000.															
Deaths in the year of legitimate infants 14 ; illegitimate infants, 1.																	
Deaths from ALL CAUSES AT ALL AGES 145.																	

Infant
Mortality.

The infant mortality was 15, and measured by the proportion of deaths under one year of age to the number of births registered was 85·7 per 1000, and is an improvement on last year, when it was 97 per 1000, and is again below the average of the last ten years. There were 7 illegitimate births registered and only one of these died, which is very satisfactory.

The following table shows the local statistics, together with those of all England:—

VITAL STATISTICS OF ENGLAND AND WALES
FOR THE YEAR 1909.

	Annual rate per 1000 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 1000 Births.
England and Wales	25·6	14·5	1·12	109
75 Great Towns ...	25·7	14·7	1·42	118
443 Smaller Towns	24·8	13·9	1·08	111
England and Wales less the 219 Towns	25·6	14·5	0·80	98
Paignton ...	17·5	14·5	Nil	85·7

Notifications The notifications received were 16, of these 7 were Erysipelas, 6 Scarlet fever and 3 Enteric.

TABLE III.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING
YEAR 1909.

PAIGNTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.							No. of Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up- wards.	
Small pox ...								5
Cholera ...								
Diphtheria (in- cluding Mem- branous croup)								
Erysipelas ...	7		1			6		
Scarlet Fever...	6		1	4		1		
Typhus Fever...								
Enteric Fever...	3		1	2				
Relapsing Fever								
Continued Fever								
Puerperal Fever								
Plague... ..								
Totals ...	16		3	6		7		5

The number of deaths due to zymotic disease were only two, viz., one measles and the other whooping cough, giving a zymotic death rate of 0.08 per 1000 per annum. As previously stated no death was registered as due to any notifiable disease.

There were 13 deaths registered from Phthisis, giving a Phthisis. death-rate of 1.2 per 1000 per annum, and higher than last year. In connection with the death-rate from Phthisis I must again emphasise the importance of air space about the dwelling house to provide for free circulation of air and the admission of sunlight into the house, and cannot but express regret that my representations on this matter are so persistently disregarded. Paignton bye-laws provide for a minimum consistent with health conditions, but these are not insisted upon, and illegal buildings are allowed to be erected without let or hindrance in back yards.

With regard to the occupation of the inhabitants of the town, we are fortunate in not having any that can be considered injurious to health.

House accommodation, especially for the working class, is ample, adequate and fit for habitation. Sufficiency of air space I have already commented upon, and I can speak well, generally, as to the cleanliness of household surroundings. In only one instance has it been necessary to report under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, and the case is now being dealt with.

Water.

Paignton has a most excellent supply of pure water. The houses on the high levels have Moorland water and all the other parts of the town are supplied with mixed Moorland and Westerland water. The Waterworks are the property of the Council and free from any chance of pollution. The Moorland water is specially treated so as to render it non-plumbosolvent. The mixed water is too hard to have any effect upon lead.

Milk.

The milk supply is ample, and of good character. The Dairies and Cowsheds are frequently visited, and any recommendations made are generally willingly carried out.

Other Foods.

It has not been necessary to take any action with regard to other foods. The meat supply is of good quality and the Slaughter Houses are regularly inspected.

**Sewerage
and
Drainage.**

Notwithstanding the phenomenal rain fall there has not been any serious flooding in the town and the sewers by constant attention are kept in good condition and silt removed. The sewers discharge into the sea. Outside the main drainage area, but within the water supply area, a great mistake has been made in allowing w.c.'s emptying into small cesspits with the inevitable result of a nuisance arising. No w.c.'s should be allowed in these cases unless each house has a sufficiency of ground attached to allow of a system of broad irrigation, and my advice is that earth or pail closets should be adopted, and the Council should do the scavenging.

There is not at present any serious pollution of streams in the district.

Within the main drainage area the disposal of excreta is by water carriage, and both sewers and house drains are well looked after.

Scavenging.

At present the removal of house refuse is done by the Council, but there is some inclination to return to this being done by contract. This would be a retrograde proceeding, as has been proved in previous years. *Efficiency* should be the watchword, and in the end, although it may cost a little more, it will be true economy.

No serious nuisances exist, but a list of what has been Nuisances.
done will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

No bye-laws exist as to houses letting lodgings, but house-holders are taking care to obtain a certificate that their houses are in good order. No offensive trades are carried on in the town, and there are not any common lodging houses.

There are five Public Elementary Schools in Paignton, Schools.
and one at Collaton. The sanitary condition of all the schools is good, and in only one instance does there appear any defect in the latrine accommodation, and this is, I am informed, being remedied. The drainage of the schools is systematically inspected, man-hole covers removed, &c. There is an ample supply of good water to all the schools. With regard to the spreading of infectious disease, notice is sent to the head teacher of the school in every case, as also to the School Medical Officer at Exeter. The County Medical Officer of Health has the arranging for the medical examination of the children, and he is assisted by two whole time officers.

Immediately on receipt of a notification the case is visited Isolation of
and if no means of isolation can be provided at home the Disease.
patient is removed to the Isolation Hospital. I have found that if a case be promptly removed to the Isolation Hospital that it is seldom followed by a second case, and in every case the room from which the patient has been removed is disinfected. In a previous part of this report I have stated that the Isolation Hospital is inadequate.

With regard to the notification of Phthisis this is only Tuberc-
done by the Poor Law Medical Officer. Three notifications culosis.
were received during the year; one case was removed to a Sanatorium and is doing well, and the other two are dead. There is no hospital accommodation for either early or advanced cases in this town. In only one case were we allowed to disinfect but on making representation to the Council I was instructed to use every power given by law to get the premises disinfected, so that in future a Magistrate's Order will be obtained if necessary.

During the past year we have been very free from Incidence of
notifiable disease. One of the cases of Typhoid was certainly Disease.
imported: the child was sent to Paignton as he was not well and the case was notified a few days after his arrival, a second case was that of a child just arrived from India and taken ill the same week she came on shore.

Infant Mortality. This has already been dealt with. The notification of Births Act has not been adopted, neither for this town do I deem it necessary to recommend its adoption. Deducting the four premature births leaves us with a very satisfactory record of 11 infants under one year of age and only 62·7 per thousand infants born.

Medical Inspection of School Children. The County Medical Officer of Health is the School Medical Officer and as previously stated has two assistants.

Factory and Workshops Act. A detailed account of the work done under this Act is appended to this report. As will be seen inspection has been well carried out. The only difficulty has been in obtaining the names of the outworkers, but a letter from the Clerk to the Council caused lists to be sent in. It has not been necessary in any case to resort to legal proceedings, and both Factories and Workshops have been kept in good condition. In all cases where both sexes are employed separate latrines are insisted upon.

Inspection of District. No house to house inspection has been made, but as will be seen by the details of work done by the Sanitary Inspector that good supervision has been carried out.

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

Births registered during the year	...	175
Successfully vaccinated		57
Conscientious objections received	...	79
Postponed by Medical certificate	...	1
Died unvaccinated		11
Removed—address unknown	...	1
Unvaccinated—under 6 months	...	23
Removed to District of which the Vaccination Officer has been apprised	...	3
		175

I can only express my regret that only 33% of the children born were vaccinated, as in future these children will supply material for great trouble should small-pox visit the town.

Slaughter-houses, Milk Shops, Dairies and Bakehouses. Numerous inspections have been made by me independently of the routine visits of the Sanitary Inspector.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

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

February 21st, 1910.

Medical Officer of Health.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year ending the 31st day of December, 1909.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year ending the 31st day of December, 1909, being my fifteenth.

A large number of drains have been tested during the year. Drains. A good number of the persons visiting here give greater attention to the condition and sanitary arrangement of the lodging houses than formerly; there are also a number of people who come here for a few years only, hence being anxious as to the condition of the sanitary arrangements of the houses they wish to occupy. Some of the houses are tested at an interval of a few years. In all cases where defects are found they are remedied, and where found necessary new drains are laid, and in some instances in the old property it has been found advisable to lay a new system of drainage. In several cases where inspections have been made I have found that the drains have been opened up for some reasons and have not been properly repaired, in fact in one instance no attempt had been made to repair the pipe which was left broken. Cases like this may cause serious damage to the health of the surrounding tenants and I would again strongly urge that Bye-laws be made under the Public Healths Act Amendment Act, so that no drain opened for repair should be covered over until inspected by the officers of the Local Authorities. In many cases where alterations of drains have taken place inspection chambers have been put in, greatly facilitating the future inspection and cleansing of the same. Where pan container, long hopper or washout-pans have been found these have been taken out and washdown-pans substituted, so that during the year a great improvement has been made in the drainage and sanitary arrangements of several of the older houses.

Scavenging.

The collection and scavenging arrangements are still carried out by the Council's own staff. Several complaints have been received, which is only natural, but often the complaints are caused by the men not being able to get into the premises on account of the gates being locked or bolted, and I would ask that occupiers of houses would assist the men by leaving open the doors so as to facilitate the work of the men and also reduce the number of complaints. I am pleased to report that we have got over the great difficulty of the disposal of the refuse since the Refuse Destructor has been at work, and hope that it will prove efficient for the disposal of all the refuse. A number of houses have been provided with galvanized ashbins and some old ashpits destroyed.

Infectious Diseases.

Several notifications have been received and patients removed to the Isolation Hospital. After removal the premises have been disinfected, and where considered necessary the walls have been stripped and cleaned. Where any doubts as to the drains or sanitary arrangements being defective the drains have been tested and the defects, if any, remedied. Disinfectants have been distributed to applicants. In nearly all cases where death has occurred from Consumption, disinfection has been carried out, and in future cases the Council have given directions for all premises to be disinfected and the rooms stripped, if considered necessary by the M.O.H.

Water.

Town water has been laid on to 13 old and 46 new houses during the year. Now that the main part of the distribution main has been completed, the Council are in a position to supply nearly the whole of the district with a constant supply of water, and hope during the coming year to have a supply of water provided to all water closets not at present supplied. Several samples of water have been handed to the M.O.H. for analysis, who reported the same to be of good quality.

Dairies,
Cow-houses,
and Milk
Shops.

These have been periodically inspected by me. Milk sellers are like the general people, some are very clean and pay great attention to the cleanliness of the utensils, &c., and some are the other way, and only kept up by inspection. Milk being one of the most important articles of food, especially for infants and invalids, it is of great importance that the consumer should receive it in a clean and pure state, hence it is very necessary that the cowkeepers should see that the cows are kept in perfect health and clean, also that the udders are kept clean, as well as the hands of the milker when milking, and that every precaution is taken to keep the dust and dirt from the milk before being delivered to the consumer. It has been proved without doubt that the fly is a carrier of disease and dirt, and every endeavour should be made to keep them

away from the milk. Great improvement has been made in the paving and draining of some of the cow-houses during the year, and better regularity as to the limewashing of the houses. I am of opinion that better legislation is required for the regulation of this trade, and that licenses should be granted for a limited period only.

Frequent visits have been made. All are private slaughter houses, but are kept in fairly good condition. I should like to see a public slaughter house, so that those in the town could be done away with.

Attached to the M.O.H.'s report is a detailed report of particulars required by the Secretary of State, by which will be seen that a large number of visits have been made to the workshops, bakehouses, laundries, &c. in the district. Several preliminary notices have been given for limewashing, &c., and the work has been carried out; several defects in the sanitary arrangements have been remedied.

I have again to report that some of the employers of outworkers have not complied with the Act, by sending in a list of outworkers twice during the year, notwithstanding the written requests from the Clerk to the Council.

The drains of all new houses have been examined and tested by me and reported to your surveyor. Here we find that a further reduction in the number has occurred, 46 against 62 last year.

In all cases where instructed by the Council or considered necessary for the abatement of nuisances, removal of offensive accumulations or animals, sanitary defects, house cleansing, or any other matter requiring them notices have been served, and the necessary work has been carried out, or is in hand to comply with the same.

I herewith append a tabulated list of some of the works carried out during the year :

Complaints received and attended to	...	...	17
Houses inspected	...	...	442
Preliminary notices	...	...	17
Legal notices	...	...	2
Drains found choked	...	...	18
Drains tested (not including new houses)	...	...	52
Drains defective	...	...	28
Drains repaired	...	...	16
Drains relaid	...	...	6
Drains—new system	...	...	15

Inspection chambers to old property ...	...	32
Interceptors (new) ...	...	17
Gullies ...	...	38
Washdown pans ...	...	30
Water waste preventers (new) ...	...	9
Water waste preventers repaired ...	...	10
Soil pipes carried outside wall ...	...	18
Soil pipes repaired ...	...	5
Rain and waste water pipes taken out of drain		3
Ashpits repaired... ..	...	1
Ashbins provided ...	...	12
Offensive accumulations removed ...	...	10
Animals removed ...	...	6
New W.C.'s built ...	...	3
Town water to old property ...	...	13
Infectious cases removed to Hospital ...	...	4
Infectious cases visited ...	...	28
Houses disinfected ...	...	22
Lots of clothing and bedding steam disinfected		6
Houses cleansed... ..	...	5
Workshops, including laundries, visited ...	...	109
Bakehouses visited ...	...	31
Slaughter houses visited ...	...	50
Dairies, cowhouses and milkshops ...	...	49
New house drains tested ...	...	46

In conclusion I am pleased that the Council have had completed the sanitary convenience at the Shelter, on the Sea Front, also that another is in course of erection at Victoria Park, and I trust that arrangements may be made for additional urinals in different parts of the town at an early date.

I wish to express my thanks to the Council and my fellow officers for their assistance given during the year.

I remain, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. CRATHORN, A.R.S.I.

Town Hall, March, 1910.

Sanitary Inspector.