

**[Report 1909] / Medical Officer of Health, Maldon Borough.**

**Contributors**

Maldon (England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1909

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/apdyet9h>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

BOROUGH OF MALDON.

---

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR

❧ 1909, ❧

BY

H. REYNOLDS BROWN, M.A., M.D., C.M.


---

MALDON :

Printed by Gowers, Ltd., 57, High Street.

---

MCMX.

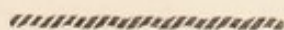


Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2017 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b3001203x>



# Borough of Maldon.



**To the Mayor, the Aldermen and the Burgesses of the  
Borough of Maldon.**

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the pleasure of submitting to you the following Report on the Sanitary condition of the Borough of Maldon, during the year 1909.

Maldon is a town of about 5,700 inhabitants. While the total area of the Borough is 3028 acres, a large part of this is rural in character, and most of the population inhabits an area of some 600 acres, situated chiefly on the crest and slopes of a ridge overlooking the river Blackwater, near its highest navigable part.

The special industries of the inhabitants are work at the Maldon and Heybridge Ironworks, at a large timber yard and some flour mills. A certain number are engaged in fishing, and in the coasting trade, and a few in agriculture.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION is fair. The average number of persons per house is 4.28. There are some old houses in the town with insufficient airspace both within and around them, but when new houses are built the bye-laws, where complied with, provide for satisfactory conditions. I must express the hope that the Sanitary Authority will not yield any further to a tendency to permitting temporary wooden sheds to be erected for the convenience of inhabitants within the area of open space prescribed by the bye-laws.

No action under Parts I. and III. of the Housing of the Working Classes Act has been taken. A threat of action under Part II. is having the effect of inducing a landlord to make some needed improvements in his property.

**WATER SUPPLY.**—The Water Supply is obtained from two deep wells at 120 and 220 feet respectively below ordinance datum. The water comes from below the London Clay, is of perfect purity, fairly soft, and with no excessive plumbo solvent action. About 70 to 80,000 gallons per day are available—or 14 gallons per inhabitant. It is supplied on the intermittent system. The Water Works are in the hands of the Corporation.

**DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS** are registered and are inspected from time to time. The model bye-laws of the Local Government Board have been adopted. The cows are kept as a rule under fair hygienic conditions.

**OTHER FOOD SUPPLIES.** No action under the Food and Drugs Act has been found necessary.

There are four registered slaughter houses in the district which are inspected from time to time, but no special arrangements have been made to inspect at the time of slaughtering. There is no Inspector with a special certificate in meat inspection, and no tuberculous carcasses were found.

**SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.** The greater part of the sewage of the town is water born, and is discharged on the ebb into the tidal estuary of the Blackwater, about a mile below the town.

In one district, Fullbridge and the Causeway, which lies too low for sewage to be got rid of by gravitation, pail closets are being recommended in place of privies, and are emptied weekly by the Sanitary Authority. Part III. of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act has not been adopted in the district.



HOUSE REFUSE is removed by the public scavengers. Sanitary dustbins which are emptied weekly, are being largely adopted.

NUISANCES. No legal proceedings were found necessary, but 41 notices were served and in 69 cases nuisances were abated.

SCHOOLS. There are four Public Elementary Schools in the Borough. As accommodation is insufficient another is about to be built by the County Council. The existing buildings are satisfactory on the whole. The nuisance arising from privies at the St. Mary's Infant School, to which attention has been drawn in my last two reports, remains unabated in the girls department.

The Medical inspection of the school children is carried out by the County Medical Inspectors.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year, exclusive of Phthisis has been 28. This compares favourably with the average for the preceding ten years, which was 60. They consisted of

Diphtheria	...	3
Scarlet Fever	...	10
Enteric Fever	...	8
Erysipelas	...	6
Puerperal Fever	...	1

Three of the cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in one house, but otherwise none of these diseases assumed epidemic form. In three of the cases of Enteric Fever there was a history pointing to the eating of shellfish as a possible cause of the illness.

ISOLATION is provided by the Maldon Joint Hospital Board, at Heybridge, about a mile outside the Borough. Ten beds are available, and two diseases can be treated simultaneously. Nine out of the ten cases of Scarlet Fever, three out of the six of Enteric, and two out of the three of Diphtheria were removed to the Hospital. There were no return cases.

The Board has a separate Isolation Station at Little Totham, about three miles off, for use in case of Small Pox. There is a permanent iron building for use as a kitchen, in which tents and bedding are stored ready for use on a few hours' notice.

DISINFECTION of premises was carried out by Formaline spray—a system that continues to give uniformly satisfactory results, and is very much less troublesome than other less efficient methods.

Bedding and clothes are disinfected at the Hospital by a Thresh's steam disinfecter.

TUBERCULOSIS. The deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis continue at about the same level as in former years. Of the six which occurred three at least were of patients who certainly contracted the disease outside the district.

There is no system of notification of Phthisis in force except in the case of Paupers. Eight cases were notified by the Poor Law Medical Officers. In these cases the Medical Officer of Health calls at the house and endeavours to enforce precautions against the infection of other inmates. Disinfectants are provided, and in case of all deaths from Phthisis the premises are disinfected free of charge by the Sanitary Authority.

There is a special tubercular ward at the Union Infirmary, but no patients were willing to be removed to it. There is no Sanatorium available for non-pauper cases.



**OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.** There were a large number of cases of Whooping Cough during the year, and unfortunately six deaths occurred, caused by this disease, one fourteenth of the total deaths in the district, and one third of the deaths under the age of one year.

Whooping Cough and Measles remain the most serious danger to infant life in this as in other districts. It is difficult to see how this can be prevented. It is certain that these diseases will continue to take this toll of lives so long as parents continue to regard them as a necessary incident in the life of every child.

In my opinion it would be worth while for the Sanitary Authority, with the sanction of the Local Government Board, to add Whooping Cough to the list of notifiable diseases. It is true that the infectious stage begins before the disease is certainly recognisable, and that consequently notification and isolation cannot be expected to have such a strikingly beneficial effect as in the case of Scarlet Fever. Still, the mere fact of compulsory notification will tend to make parents take a more serious view of the disease and would entail a visit from a sanitary official who would offer advice as to precautions against the spread of the disease in houses where no medical man has been called in.

**DIARRHŒA.**—Only one death from epidemic diarrhœa was notified during the year.

**VITAL STATISTICS.**—With regard to the ages of death it is satisfactory to note that the infant mortality is still very low—70 per 1000 births—the average throughout the country being 109. About one half of the deaths occurred over the age of 65, and one quarter over 75. The Notification of Births Act, 1907, has not been adopted.



The general death rate, corrected so as to include deaths of non-residents in the district, and to include deaths of residents occurring beyond the district was 14·5—the average for the preceding 10 years being 14·7. This death rate happens to coincide exactly with that throughout the kingdom. But it is probable that the average age of the population of Maldon is somewhat higher than that of the country generally.

The birth rate for the year is 22·6 per 1000. This is below the average for the last 10 years (23·8) and also below the average for the country (25·6).

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. The factories and workshops in the Borough are few in number. Their sanitary condition is as a rule excellent and when defects have been found they have been remedied without legal action. There are no underground bakehouses in the district. The sanitary accommodation in the Factories and Workshops of the district complies with the standard of the Sanitary Accommodation Order of 4th February, 1903.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HENRY REYNOLDS BROWN, M.D.

FIG. I.

Death-rate per 1,000 inhabitants for successive decennial periods.

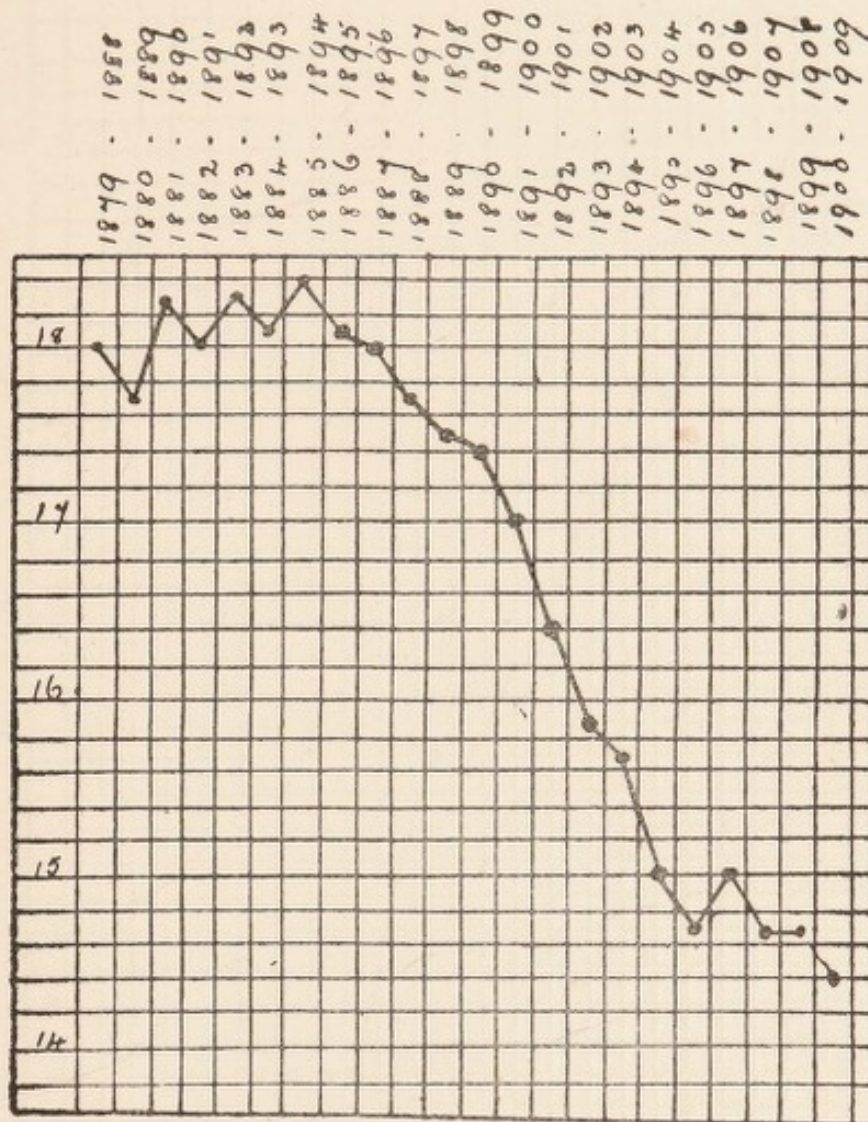




FIG. II.

Birth-rates per 1,000 inhabitants for successive decennial periods.

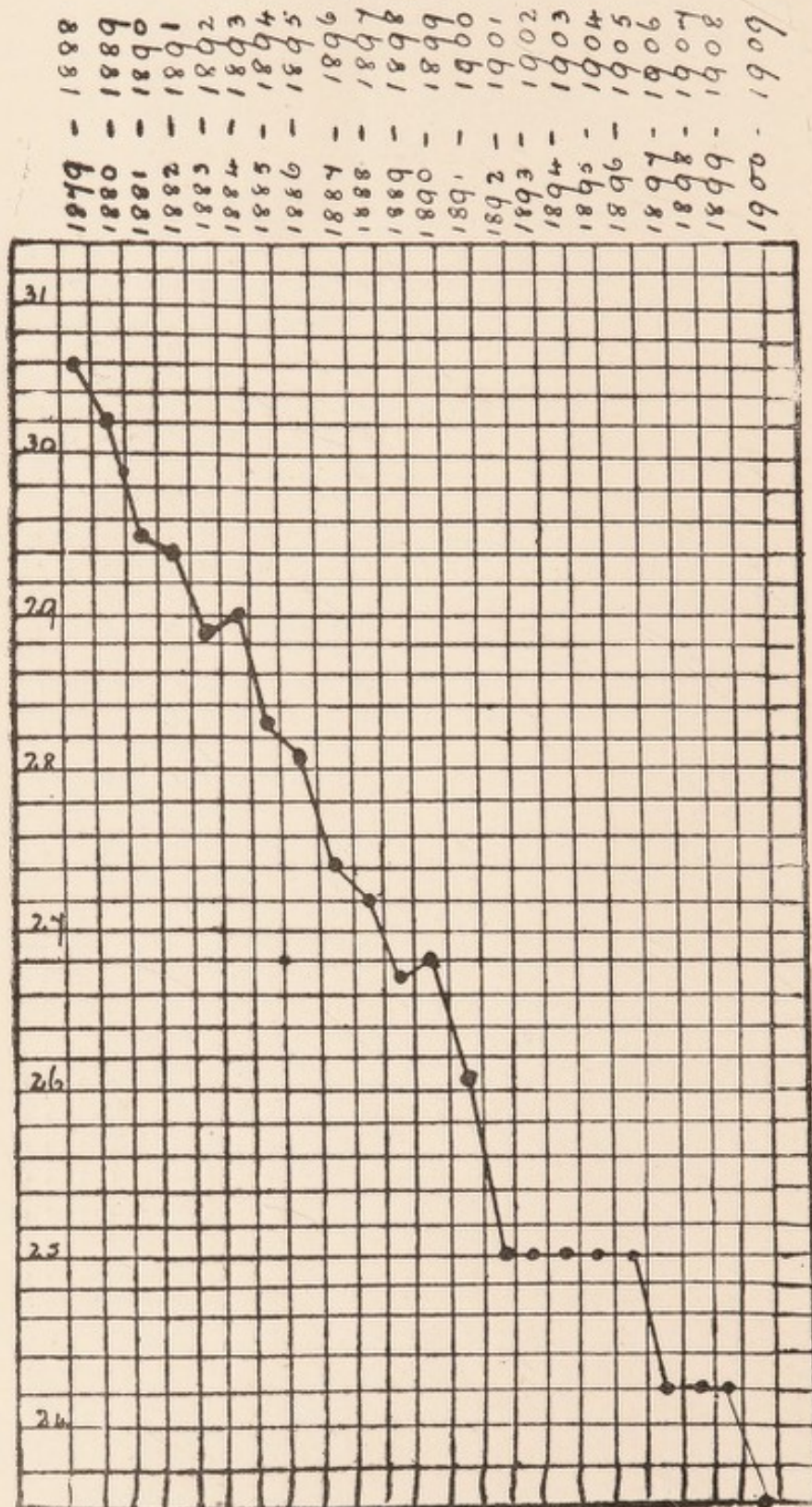




FIG. III.

Infant Mortality per 1,000 births for successive decennial periods.

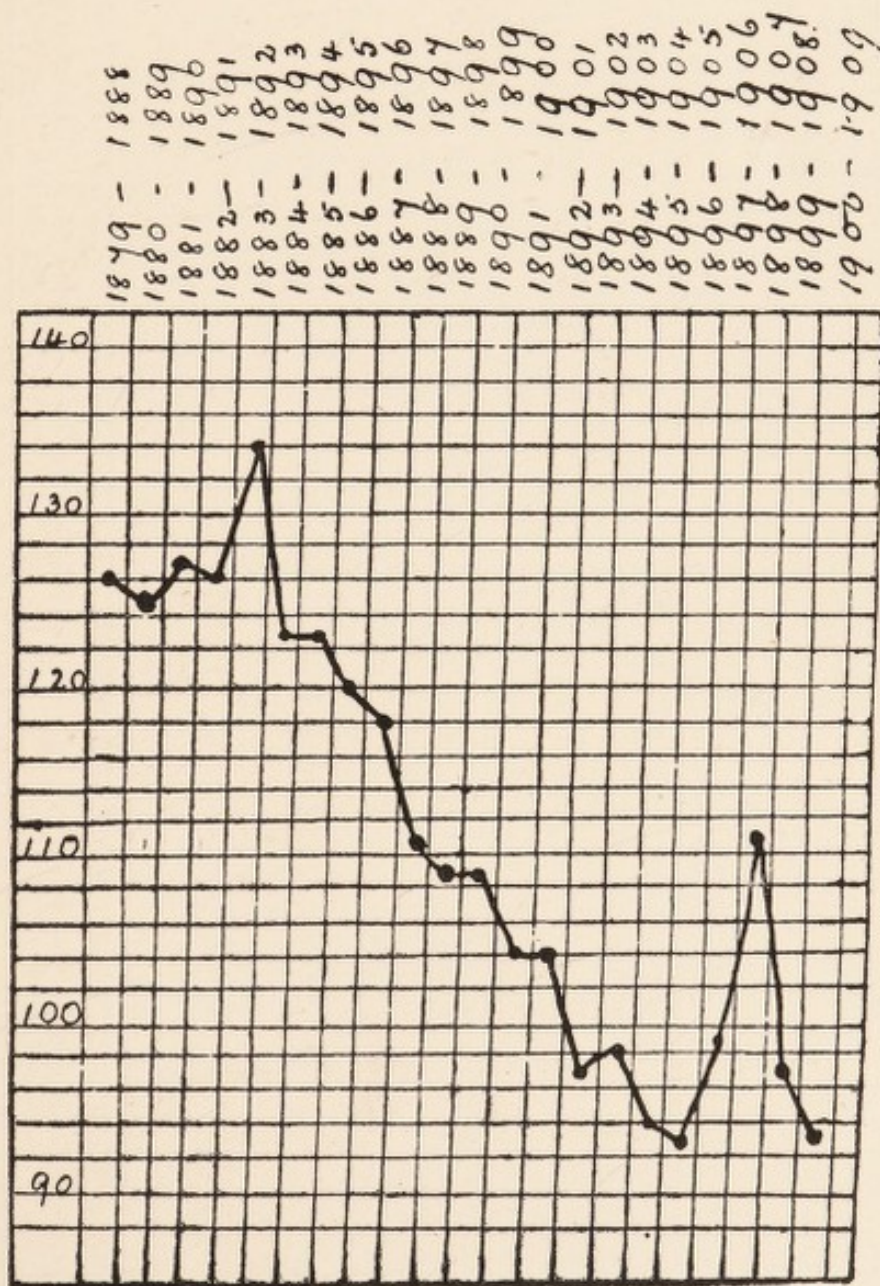




TABLE I.—BOROUGH OF MALDON.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES.		DEATHS AT ALL TOTAL.		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of residents registered beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES.		DEATHS AT ALL NETT.
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 births registered	Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
1899	5,530	153	27.6	16	104	98	17.7	15	8	...	90	16.2			
1900	5,549	126	22.0	11	87	116	20.9	23	16	...	100	18			
1901	5,568	120	21.3	11	91	82	13.1	14	9	...	73	13.1			
1902	5,587	140	25.0	12	86	100	17.9	34	24	...	76	13.6			
1903	5,606	157	28.0	12	77	104	18.4	37	30	...	74	13.2			
1904	5,625	144	25.6	12	83	106	18.9	32	27	...	79	14			
1905	5,644	148	26.2	14	94	108	19.2	34	23	...	83	15			
1906	5,663	97	17.2	17	175	126	22.3	43	35	2	93	16.2			
1907	5,682	131	23.0	16	122	96	16.9	34	31	2	67	11.8			
1908	5,701	140	24.6	7	50	126	21.0	51	37	3	89	15.6			
Averages for years 1899-1908.	5,615	136	23.8	13	97	106	18.7	32	24	1	82	14.7			
1909	5,720	129	22.6	9	70	117	20.5	46	37	3	83	14.5			

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

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) { 3,028      Total population at all ages, 5,565.      Number of inhabited houses 1,324 { At Census of 1901.

I. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.

II. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.

Maldon Union Infirmary. Maldon Hall Sanatorium.

Heybridge Isolation Hospital.



**TABLE II.—BOROUGH OF MALDON.**  
Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1909 and previous years.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.		1.—All Saints'				2.—St. Peter's.				3.—St. Mary's.			
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.
1899	...	1037	15	15	3	3208	96	48	9	1286	37	20	4
1900	...	1034	15	20	1	3233	84	70	8	1281	27	11	2
1901	...	1032	12	13	2	3258	75	47	6	1276	25	13	2
1902	...	1029	14	10	0	3283	84	43	6	1271	38	23	6
1903	...	1026	10	9	0	3308	108	43	9	1266	39	22	3
1904	...	1023	11	13	1	3333	96	53	6	1261	37	13	4
1905	...	1020	17	12	0	3358	88	52	10	1256	43	21	4
1906	...	1017	6	12	1	3383	64	56	9	1251	27	23	7
1907	...	1014	10	9	1	3408	89	40	8	1246	32	18	4
1908	...	1012	15	14	0	3433	86	54	5	1241	39	21	2
Averages of years 1899 to 1908	...	1025	12	13	1	3320	87	51	8	1263	34	18	4
1909	...	1009	12	5	0	3458	83	52	3	1236	34	26	4

NOTES.—(a) The separate localities adopted for this table are areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, namely—parishes.

(b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are included in sub-columns c of this table.



TABLE III.—BOROUGH OF MALDON.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1909.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH PARISH.				NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.				
	At all Ages.	Years.					All Saints.	St. Peter's.	St. Mary's.	Union House.	All Saints.	St. Peter's.	St. Mary's.	Union House.	Total Cases removed to Hospital.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.									
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	3	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Erysipelas	6	...	1	6	3	4	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	10	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	...	1	...	...	10
Typhus fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	8	...	2	...	4	2	...	...	4	3	...	1	3	...	4
Relapsing fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	28	1	9	9	9	8	1	3	20	3	2	1	11	4	17

NOT 8.—The localities adopted for this table are the same as those in Tables II. and IV.  
*Isolation Hospital—Name and Situation, Maldon Joint Hospital, Broad Street Green, Heybridge.*  
*Total available beds, 10.*  
*Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 2.*



**TABLE IV.—BOROUGH OF MALDON.**  
**Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1909.**

Causes of Death	Deaths in Whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths in Localities at all 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.	All Saints'.	St. Peter's.	St. Mary's	
Small pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever ... ..	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Whooping cough ... ..	6	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	4	2	...
Diphtheria and Membranous croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric ... ..	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...
{ Other continued ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza ... ..	4	...	1	...	...	1	2	...	3	1	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa ... ..	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...
Enteritis ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
Gastritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	6	...	...	...	3	2	1	2	4	...	1
Other tuberculous diseases...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	9	...	...	...	...	4	5	...	4	5	...
Bronchitis ... ..	8	1	3	...	...	1	3	...	7	1	3
Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ... ..	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	...
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Venereal diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature birth ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases ... ..	13	...	...	...	...	4	9	2	6	5	7
Accidents ... ..	4	1	...	2	...	...	1	...	3	1	2
Suicides ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
All other causes ... ..	21	1	...	...	1	3	16	...	14	7	28
All causes ... ..	83	8	8	4	5	18	40	5	53	25	46



**TABLE V.—BOROUGH OF MALDON.**  
**INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1909.**  
 Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	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 One Year.
i. Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Chicken-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
ii. Diarrhoeal Diseases.	Diphtheria: Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	3
	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Diarrhoea, all forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
iii. Wasting Diseases.	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Congenital defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Injury at birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
iv. Tuberculous Diseases.	Want of Breast-milk, Starvation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
v. Other Causes	Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Convulsions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Laryngitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Suffocation, overlying	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Other causes...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	1	...	1	9

Births in the year—legitimate 118, illegitimate 11.

Deaths in the year of—legitimate infants 7, illegitimate infants 2.  
 Deaths from all causes at all ages, 117.

TABLE VI.

Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector in the Urban Sanitary District of Maldon during the year ending 31st December, 1909.

	Total No. for Year.
1 Complaints received ... ..	12
2 Nuisances detected without complaint ...	57
3 Nuisances abated ... ..	69
4 Notices served ... ..	41
5 Summonses taken out ... ..	—
6 Convictions ... ..	—
7 Cottages inspected .. ...	600
8 Lodging-houses inspected ... ..	2
9 Slaughter-houses inspected ... ..	4
10 Bake-houses inspected ... ..	9
11 Dairies and milk shops inspected ... }	11
12 Cowsheds inspected... .. }	
13 Workshops inspected ( <i>vide</i> M. O. H. Report) ... ..	—
14 Filthy houses cleansed, sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875 ... ..	—
15 Houses disinfected ... ..	14
16 Overcrowding abated ... ..	—
17 Houses placed in habitable repair ...	—
18 Houses closed ... ..	—
19 Houses erected or re-built ... ..	—
20 "Certificates" granted ... ..	—
21 " " deferred ... ..	—
22 Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded ... ..	—
23 Wells cleansed or repaired ... ..	—
24 Wells closed ... ..	1
25 Houses connected with sewers ...	12
26 " " with water mains ...	12
27 Earth, pail, or improved privies constructed or existing privies altered ...	7
28 Privies and W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water ... ..	—
29 Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered ...	1
30 Animals improperly kept removed ...	—
31 Samples of water taken for analysis ...	—
32 Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding ... ..	—
33 Seizures of unsound meat, etc. ... ..	—

(Signed) THOS. R. SWALES.



**TABLE VII.—BOROUGH OF MALDON.**

On the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with  
**FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.**

**1.—INSPECTION.**

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
<b>Factories</b> ... (Including Factory Laundries.) ...	4	—	—
<b>Workshops</b> ... (Including Workshop Laundries.) ...	17	—	—
<b>Workplaces</b> ... (Other than Outworkers' premises.) ...	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b> ...	21	—	—

**DEFECTS FOUND.**—Two Nuisances under the Public Health Acts were detected ; both were remedied without legal action.

**REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.**—There are 34 in the district.

**OUTWORKERS.**—8 lists, relating to 17 outworkers premises were received.

