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Erratum, Page 18, Line 8, for " Total " Hard-  
ness read " Temporary " Hardness.



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THIRD REPORT  
ON THE  
SANITARY CONDITION  
OF THE  
Urban District  
OF  
RICKMANSWORTH,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1900.

BY

MARK SHARMAN,

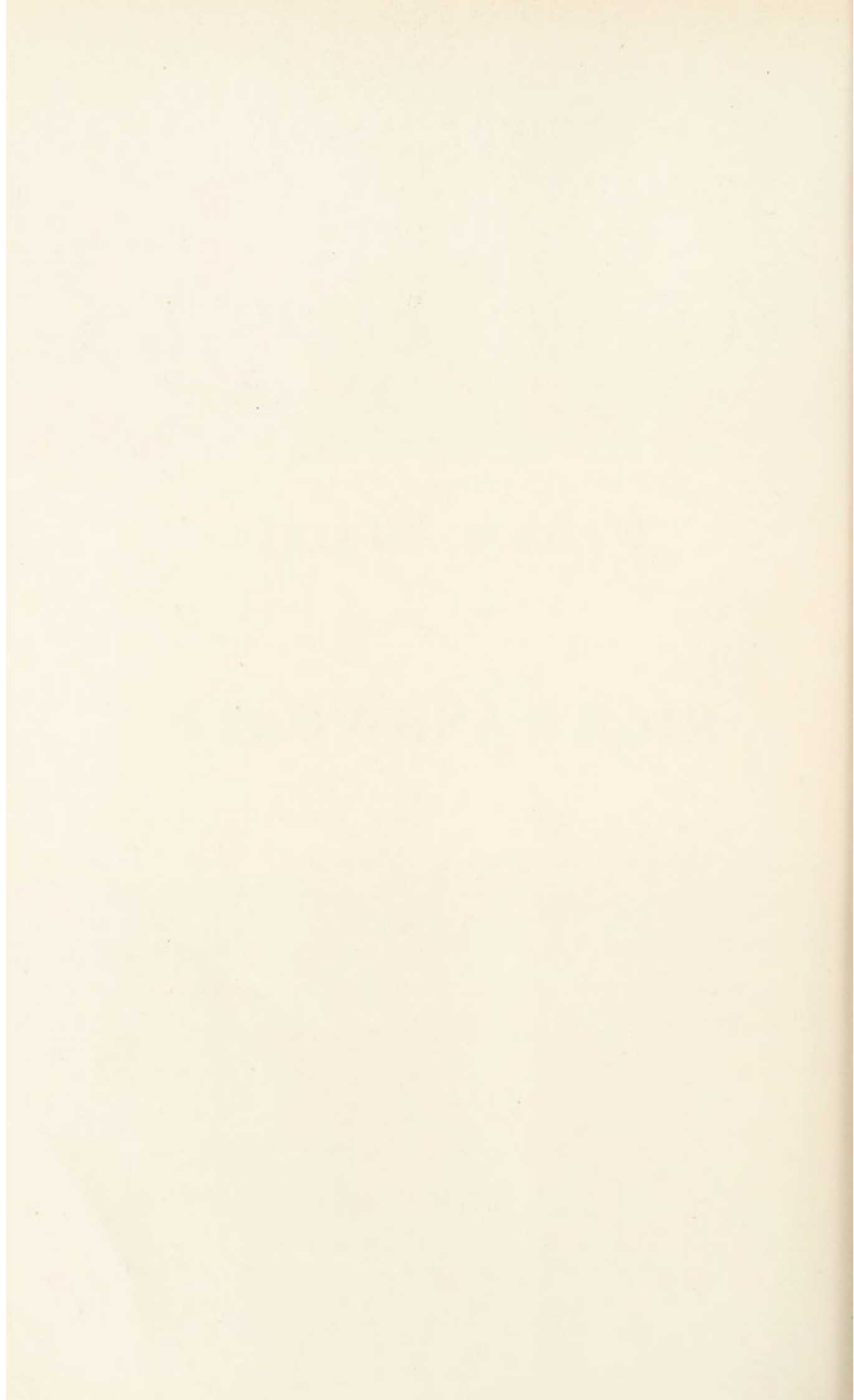
D.P.H. SCOT.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

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1901.

BROWN & SON, Printers, Rickmansworth.





## REPORT.

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THE RICKMANSWORTH URBAN DISTRICT began its existence in April, 1898. It has been carved out of the old civil Parish of Rickmansworth, which was one of the districts of the Watford Rural Sanitary Authority.

The District consists of the Town of Rickmansworth, the Hamlet of Batchworth, and the most populous parts of the villages of Croxley Green and Mill End.

For the purposes of this Report, the District is divided into three localities, viz.:—(1) Rickmansworth—including Batchworth, (2) Croxley Green, and (3) Mill End.

Rickmansworth is separated from Croxley Green on its East side by the River Chess, and on the West side from Mill End by the Old Belfry Lane, which runs into the Uxbridge Road opposite the "Half-Way-House" Inn, and by an imaginary line continued across to the Southern border of the District.

The part of Croxley Green included in the District, begins on the Eastern side of the junction of the Watford Road with Croxley New Road, and embraces the whole of the latter Road, all the premises on the East side of the Watford Road, Scots Hill, and part of the Copthorne Estate. The District then narrows itself into an irregular strip comprising the Town and Batchworth, Moor Park and

Rickmansworth Park being excluded. It then widens out so as to include the Cemetery and the cottages known as Bankside Downs on the North-West. From Rickmansworth the District extends on either side of the Uxbridge Road as far as Long Lane, including St. Peter's Vicarage and the Pumping Station of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company at Drayton Ford, and, of course, the thickly populated part of the village of Mill End.

The District comprises an area of 572 acres, (of which 16 acres are water), less than a square mile, and contains a population, as estimated to the middle of 1900 of 5550, ; giving an average of 9·6 persons to the acre, the average for England in 1892 being ·8 per acre. It will be observed that the area of the District and the estimated population vary somewhat from the figures contained in the first two Annual Reports owing to the fact that the data previously furnished to the Medical Officer of Health were not quite accurate.

Geologically the subsoil of the District is gravel upon chalk, Rickmansworth District being on the extensive tracts of gravel lying between St. Albans and Beaconsfield. This gravel is mostly from a few feet to 25 feet in thickness, seldom more; it varies in character from pebble gravel or shingle (largely made up of flint and quartz pebbles), to coarser gravel and sand. The chalk of part of the northern margin of the "London Basin" comes to the surface in the Rickmansworth District.

The elevation of the District varies from about 250



feet above sea-level at its highest point, in Croxley Green, to rather less than 150 at Batchworth and Mill End; the general fall taking place through Mill End to its most western boundary.

The District is drained through the Chess, the Colne, and the tributaries of the latter. Water in many of the low lying places is found at from 2 to 4 feet below the surface.

**WATER SUPPLY**—The District draws its water for drinking and domestic purposes from the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company's mains, deep wells with or without pumps and shallow wells, which are in some instances only 6 to 12 feet in depth.

The sources from which the inhabitants obtain their drinking water are certainly becoming purer, shallow wells and rain water supplies being gradually abolished.

The Company's water save for its hardness, is thoroughly good and absolutely free from organic pollution and it seems a pity that more householders do not avail themselves of its use.

On examining a report, made a few years ago, on the water supplies to premises in the District, many of which include 2 to 10 houses, it is found that out of 344 premises investigated—

227 draw their water from wells,

104 „ „ the Water Company,

13 only had rain water ;

of the wells only 39 are mentioned as having pumps or as being tube wells.



At the present time this state of affairs has been largely remedied, as evidenced by the fact that 105 and 78 new connections respectively were made during the years 1899 and 1900, with the Uxbridge Valley Water Company's mains. Most of these are to new houses, but several of the older houses and cottages have been supplied with the Company's water, owing to their well supply having been found impure. A great improvement has also been made by Lord Ebury at Frogmore, all his residential houses and cottages having now the benefit of the Company's water. This is a much better state of things than having to depend upon wells, many of which are almost certainly liable to some amount of pollution.

There is still before the Urban District Council of Rickmansworth, amongst other authorities, the very serious question of the fresh application of the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company for a further and much larger extension of their area of supply over and above that granted to them last year. In last year's Annual Report this matter was alluded to by the Medical Officer of Health but unfortunately no attempt was made to either oppose or amend the Bill then before Parliament. The three points to be considered are, the increased output of water from the District, the hardness of the water supplied to consumers and the increased price of the water, the last of these points does not come within the scope of this report. As regards the first point the Council should take every possible precaution against the shortening of the supply



to the inhabitants of the Rickmansworth Urban District. The second point demands great attention since the time to make a strong and united effort to obtain softening of the water will be when the Bill reaches the Committee stage in the House of Commons. The demand for this improvement is only reasonable and legitimate as the water is distinctly hard, as pointed out elsewhere. It is satisfactory to note that the Council are moving in the matter.

DISPOSAL OF EXCRETA AND SLOP-WATER.—This is dealt with by the following means :—Cesspools, Privy-Cesspits, Pail Closets and Earth Closets.

In the new houses for the most part the drainage is dealt with by means of water carriage to a cesspool, but the greater number of houses in the District are provided with Pail Closets, Privy-Cesspits or Earth Closets, which are emptied by the contractor to the Urban Council weekly, or oftener if necessary.

The slop water mainly flows into the surface drains or Town Ditch, but in a few cases it is thrown on the gardens and dug in.

The Urban Council are now fairly embarked upon a comprehensive sewerage scheme for the District. A very suitable disposal site has been selected and approved. On this particular question there has been difference of opinion, some thinking that the disposal site should have been chosen further down the valley beyond Maple Cross. The Medical Officer of Health for the District



has always thought that the Engineer's original choice of a site above Woodcock's Hill gave the greatest advantages for the following reasons, (1) less cost of carrying the sewage, (2) a site more remote and therefore less objectionable to the public, (3) soil most suitable for dealing with the sewage.

Objections have been raised that the scheme is extravagant and the expense to be incurred more than is justified by the requirements of the Thames Conservancy Board. It is suggested that only those parts of the District should be dealt with which are causing the pollution of the rivers and their tributaries. This undoubtedly refers to the localities of Rickmansworth and Mill End. To anyone conversant with the subject there are two reasons which make it impossible to exclude Croxley Green from any scheme for the drainage of the District:—Firstly, the Local Government Board as a rule set their face against sanctioning a partial scheme in an Urban District, and especially one with such a limited area as Rickmansworth; secondly, the sanitary requirements of the locality of Croxley Green necessitate a drainage system quite as much as do those of Rickmansworth and Mill End and the majority of the inhabitants are desirous of having it. Further, whether Croxley Green is sewered or not the ratepayers of that locality will have to pay just the same District Rate as the other two localities. It is absurd to suppose for one moment that a Special Drainage Area is likely to be created by the Local Government Board in a small Urban District of the size of Rickmansworth.



GENERAL STATISTICS.—During the year 1900 fifty-one deaths have been registered in the Urban District of Rickmansworth, to which must be added for statistical purposes one death which occurred at the Isolation Hospital after being removed from this District and two which took place in the Watford Union Infirmary (one from Croxley Green and one from Mill End). Including all cases, the death-rate for the year is 9·73 per thousand persons living. The inhabitants are to be heartily congratulated on this exceptionally low death-rate, it being a decided decrease from that of last year. The Urban Council may lay claim to have materially aided in bringing this about by the measures adopted during their short existence for the improvement and maintenance of the Public Health. From the report issued last year by the Medical Officer of Health for the County of Hertfordshire, we find that Rickmansworth had the lowest but one of the annual death-rates of the Urban Districts in the County, namely, 10·02; out of eighteen Borough and Urban Districts, only one District had a lower death-rate than Rickmansworth.

The age distribution was as follows :—

Under one year	....	....	....	16
At one year and under five	....	....	....	7
„ five years	„	fifteen	....	2
„ fifteen	„	twenty-five	....	1
„ twenty-five	„	sixty-five	....	14
„ sixty-five and upwards	....	....	....	14
				—
TOTAL				54



It will be seen that slightly less than 32% of the registered deaths occurred in children under one year of age, and 24% of persons at ages over 65 years, a very satisfactory record.

The deaths occurring in the three localities into which the District is divided for the purposes of this report, were as follows:—

Rickmansworth	....	....	....	30
Croxley Green	....	....	....	16
Mill End	....	....	....	8

The “yearly” death-rate per thousand being:—

Rickmansworth	....	....	....	10·0
Croxley Green	....	....	....	9·1
Mill End	....	....	....	10·0

BIRTHS —There were 171 births registered, giving the “yearly” birth-rate for the District as 30·8 per thousand, of these 91 were females and 80 males.

Taking the births in the three localities, the figures are:—

				Females.	Males.	Total.
Rickmansworth	....	....	....	46	41	87
Croxley Green	....	....	....	33	23	56
Mill End	....	....	....	12	16	28
Totals				91	80	171

The “yearly” birth-rates being 29·0, 32·0 and 35·0 per thousand, whilst the average birth-rate for England is 30 to 31 per thousand. There was only one

illegitimate birth, and that took place in the locality of Rickmansworth.

The deaths of infants under one year were in the proportion of 93·56 to a thousand registered births for the whole District. Dividing up the District into the various localities, the rates of infant mortality are :—

Rickmansworth	...	....	....	91·9
Croxley Green	....	....	....	71·4
Mill End	....	....	....	142·7

This death-rate is a distinct improvement upon last year, and one of the most important as an indication of advance in the preservation of life in a community.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—The seven principal Zymotic diseases caused 6 registered deaths. There was one case of Enteric Fever from the locality of Mill End, which was removed to the Isolation Hospital, and died the day after admission. This death should also be included. The “yearly” Zymotic death-rate was 1·2 per thousand.

The following table shows the deaths from the various Zymotic diseases :—

Small Pox	....	....	....	0
Measles	....	....	....	0
Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	0
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup				1
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	1
Fevers	{ Typhus	....	....	0
	{ Enteric	....	....	1
	{ Other or doubtful	....	....	0
Diarrhœa	....	....	....	4



The Zymotic death-rate is eminently satisfactory being practically half that of the previous year, showing a marked and steady decrease since the formation of the Urban District.

There is a satisfactory reduction during 1900 in the deaths from Diarrhœa as compared with the previous year. The deaths from Diarrhœa in 1898 were 11 as compared with 6 for 1899 and 4 for 1900. It is only fair to again state that the regular and efficient manner in which the street drains are flushed during the dry and summer months and the thorough cleansing of the ditches by the Inspector of Nuisances and his staff have probably contributed in no small measure to this happy result.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.—Since October, 1890 the District has been under the operation of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, and during the period over which this report extends 27 cases have been notified as follows.—

Small Pox	....	....	....	....	0
Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	4
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup					8
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	....	....	....	....	8
Puerperal Fever	....	....	....	....	0
Erysipelas	....	....	....	....	7
					<hr/>
					27

This gives a Notifiable Sickness-rate of 4·8 per thousand of the population.

It will be noted that the number of cases reported were only about one third of those notified in the previous year (1899). The inhabitants have every reason to be well pleased with the low "attack" rate of Notifiable Diseases in this District.

The Urban District Council still continue their arrangement with the Jenner Institute of Preventive Medicine to carry out the Bacteriological examination of any throat illness or cases suggestive of Typhoid Fever, so that the doctor in attendance may have additional help in coming to a correct conclusion as to the nature of the illness. During the year 1900 twenty-one investigations have been carried out by the Jenner Institute of Preventive Medicine by means of which the diagnosis has been confirmed in six cases of Diphtheria. This was of course a great help to their early and proper isolation. One would wish that the advantage given to Medical Practitioners by the Council was even more largely used, the Bacteriological examination being of immense value in slight or doubtful cases of throat illness.

There has been a marked absence of Diphtheria during the year just closed, and the cases observed have been of a mild type, less than a fourth of the number notified last year being certified. This fact needs no comment. Whilst referring to this disease, it is hoped that the Public will recognize the extreme value of the early administration of Antitoxin. The death-rate from Diphtheria in the District is now reduced to 12·5 in every hundred cases, whereas the average number used to be 30 per centum before the days of Antitoxin injection.



In the matter of Scarlet Fever, Rickmansworth Urban District has been extremely fortunate, four cases only having been notified. This is especially a matter for congratulation considering the prolonged epidemic which has occurred in Watford and other Districts.

Scarlet Fever is still in considerable evidence in parts of Watford and the neighbourhood, and yet Rickmansworth remains remarkably free considering its close proximity and the constant communication taking place between these towns.

It must be distinctly understood, if isolation in this disease is to be of real service to the community, it should be maintained for not less than eight weeks in every case. The poison is one of the most subtle and insidious with which Health Authorities have to deal.

Five deaths have occurred from Phthisis during the year, three in Rickmansworth, and two in Croxley Green, giving a "yearly" rate of  $\cdot 9$  per thousand for the whole District.

With regard to this disease, statistics show that it is "the cause of one tenth of the whole mortality in England."

It surely behoves the nation to use every endeavour to reduce this heavy mortality bill. The announcement that a British Congress on Tuberculosis for the prevention of Consumption is to be held in London during July, under the Patronage of His Most Gracious Majesty the King, shows that the country is awakening to the enormous issues at stake and the power of well directed



science to remedy the existing state of affairs. Consumption is now known to be infective, communicable from man to man, from man to the lower animals, and from the latter to man.

It has been proved beyond dispute that the disease is due to a germ, and it is the duty of the community to relentlessly follow up and destroy this ever present although "unseen foe" of mankind.

With regard to Cancer, two deaths have been registered, one in Rickmansworth, and one in Croxley Green. The death-rate from this disease is therefore  $\cdot 36$  per thousand living, the mean annual death-rate for England being  $\cdot 63$ . There seem many reasons for considering this to be an infective disease and associated with insanitary conditions. It is a mistake to imagine that the disease is largely restricted to low lying districts and valleys of this neighbourhood, and there is no valid reason to suppose, as some do, that Rickmansworth is more prone to Cancer than other places. On examining the Registrar General's Report in the decade 1881-1890, it is found that out of the forty-five Counties mentioned, twenty-five have a higher death-rate from Cancer than Hertfordshire; there is therefore no need for unreasoning alarm.

**HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.**—The District is well provided for in this direction, the Watford Joint District Isolation Hospital giving every facility for the removal and care of infectious cases. The Council is to be congratulated upon having such an Institution so near at



hand for dealing with infectious disease ; the staff of the Hospital still thoroughly deserve the confidence and thanks of the Urban Council for their hearty co-operation in preventing and dealing with the spread of the notifiable diseases in the Rickmansworth Urban District.

**DISINFECTION.**—Bedding and such other articles as cannot be safely and efficiently disinfected at the patients' homes, are removed by the Isolation Hospital Authorities, and dealt with by means of the Steam Disinfector, and then returned to the houses of the owners.

**ROADS AND STREETS.**—In last year's report serious attention was drawn to the very bad condition of the Uxbridge Road. Great attempts have now been made by the Hertfordshire County Council to deal with the matter, a large staff of men and two steam rollers having been at work for some time in repairing the road ; flints, slag and granite being used with a distinct improvement in its condition. Whether the road will stand for any length of time with the immense amount of heavy traffic passing over it remains to be proved. What has been done will, at any rate, be a distinct gain to the inhabitants in point of health and comfort.

Church Lane, Mill End and Shepherd's Lane as far as Shepherd's Farm are in a terrible condition owing to the heavy traffic in the shape of " gravel carting." New houses have been and are being erected here, and the mud in winter, and quantities of dust in summer must be very prejudicial to the health of the inhabitants of these houses.



Norfolk Road still requires proper paving for foot passengers, as was stated in the reports for 1898 and 1899, this has not yet been accomplished, and in bad weather the residents must experience great discomfort. Wharf Lane has been repaired by the owners, the condition of the road being much more satisfactory than formerly. Improvement is still needed in Croxley New Road and Dickinson Square.

FOOTPATHS.—The County Council and the Urban District Council have now completed their improvements of the footpaths along the main thoroughfares which were so much needed. The work of kerbing and channelling has certainly produced better accommodation for foot passengers throughout the District.

WATER ANALYSIS.—During the year twenty-eight samples of water were sent for analysis, of which twelve were good, eleven bad, and five doubtful.

The closer supervision of the water supplies of the district has certainly produced satisfactory results. Taking the last twelve months the number of samples showing pure waters have increased, with a corresponding reduction of impure specimens.

I have made an analysis of the water drawn from the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company's main passing through the High Street, carrying water from the well at Batchworth, which is now being used by the Company until their new well at Batchworth Mill has been made, with the following result:—



Colour	....	....	....	good.
Odour	....	....	...	none.
Turbidity	....	....	....	none.
Sediment	....	slight	white powder	(chalk).
Microscopic Examination	....	....	....	nothing definite.
Residue on Evaporation	....	....	....	white (chalk).
Chlorine	....	....	1.25	grains per gallon
Total Hardness	....	....	15	,, ,,
Permanent Hardness	....	....	4	,, ,,
Nitrites	....	....	....	absent.
Nitrates	....	....	....	a trace.
Oxygen absorbed	....	....	....	1 part per million.
Free Ammonia or Saline Ammonia	0.0049.			
Albuminoid	,,	,,	Organic	,, 0.013 parts per mil.

It is evident that this is a really good, pure water if it were not so hard. The question of hardness is more to be looked at from a domestic than a hygienic point of view, in that it is not likely to cause any waterborne or zymotic disorder, but the amount of "chalk" that the consumers have to try to digest is certainly not good for their constitutions. Hard water is distinctly bad for kettles and boilers, necessitating their constant cleaning and repair, which if postponed is liable to cause danger to householders by the possible bursting of the boiler. Every boiler in this District should be cleaned, that is the incrustation of lime should be removed at least once in every three months, if an effective heating of the water is desired. The crust which forms in boilers may be loose or hard, the former condition is the result of the deposit of salts causing temporary hardness, the latter

the result of salts causing permanent hardness. It is stated that one quarter of an inch of incrustation—which is a bad conductor of heat—produces waste of coal to the extent of 45 per cent. It has been calculated that 1 grain of chalk wastes 8 grains of soap, and hence arises the difficulty for washing purposes of the hard water such as is drawn from the deep chalk formations. Owing to the hardness much soap is needed for lathering.

**HARDNESS.**—In the last two annual reports prominent notice has been taken of this question. Again this year it is strongly commented upon.

It is probably productive of many minor ailments which in their cumulative effect may become serious.

There is every reason for regret, that in a matter so important for the well-being of the inhabitants of the District, there is no appeal to the Local Government Board or other superior Authority.

An immense benefit would be conferred on the community by the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company if they could see their way to mitigating the hardness of the water by some softening process, as is done in other parts of the country; it would add greatly to the popularity of the supply which is very pure, apart from its hardness. The present time, as has been strongly insisted upon in an earlier page of this report, seems opportune for the Rickmansworth Urban District and Neighbouring Districts to combine, and with the help of the residents in the neighbourhood, to agitate for some process to be adopted whereby the great hardness of the Company's Water could be lessened.



According to the Sixth Report of the River Pollution Commissioners this water comes under the tenth and last classification of waters as to their softness. Rain water comes first. Several complaints were received towards the end of the year of a brown sediment and discoloration in the Company's water. This after careful analysis of the several samples obtained, proved to be caused by iron in varying quantity. The water from the new well at Batchworth was carefully analysed, and a thorough examination made of the pumps and machinery, by means of which the water is drawn from the well. No trace of iron was found in the water, and no evidence of contamination of the pipes or machinery was discovered. On investigation, in every case where complaint was made, an iron service pipe carried the water from the Company's mains to the premises in question. Several samples of water drawn from lead service pipes supplying water from the same mains were analysed without finding a trace of iron. The conclusion which must be arrived at is, that the iron found in the samples of water complained of is derived from the iron service pipes which have corroded. The question also arises as to why this iron contamination was not noticed before the new pumping station was opened at Batchworth. The answer is probably to be found in the alteration in pressure and direction of flow caused by the new arrangement, which may reasonably account for the separation of flakes of oxide of iron from the interior of the service pipes.

VACCINATION.—Two years experience is now forthcoming in the working of the Vaccination Act of 1898, and the results all over the country are gratifying. In some Districts, amongst which Rickmansworth must be included, this is particularly so. There is no doubt that these results are largely due to the entire use of Calf Lymph and to “domicilliary” as distinguished from “stational” Vaccination. The following figures speak for themselves :—

Vaccination in Rickmansworth and Sarratt Districts  
during the last five years :—

In 1895 there were 124 successful Primary Vaccinations.

„ 1896	„	„	88	„	„	„
„ 1897	„	„	95	„	„	„
„*1898	„	„	71	„	„	„
„†1899	„	„	172	„	„	„
„‡1900	„	„	144	„	„	„

N.B.—\*The few cases of this year undoubtedly partly due to Boards of Guardians and individuals waiting for the New Act.

†New Vaccination Act of 1898 in force.

‡To the Primary Vaccinations for this year, three cases of Re-Vaccination should be added.

Satisfactory infant vaccination must not lull the public into the belief that its effect is everlasting.

Re-vaccination is required at least once again in youth or early adult life.

It is a regrettable state of affairs that some parents should deliberately in the face of all scientific knowledge and facts, neglect to protect their children against such a dreaded and loathsome disease as Small Pox.



HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—As was pointed out in the last Annual Report there is still a great need for Cottage accommodation in and around the District, the supply being unequal to the demand. To a large extent this is due to the fact that landowners in the neighbourhood will not sell land for this purpose, except in positions which cannot be considered from a health point of view as conducive to the well-being of the future inmates. In the near future one of the serious problems to be worked out by the Rickmansworth District Council in common with many other Local Authorities is the “Housing of the Working Classes”; Parliament at the present time is giving serious attention to the matter. As an investment the Council might find that a scheme of this kind would well repay the outlay, besides helping to give health and happiness to its tenants.

Before passing from this subject it is well to refer to the vexed question of “Drink” and the prevalence of Public Houses in this District, as elsewhere. “Drink” is undoubtedly the cause of a great deal of the misery and discomfort found in the home life, and perhaps especially that of the working classes. It is not too much to expect that the provision of well ventilated, well lighted and reasonably commodious cottages for the poorer class would largely help to stem the tide of Drunkenness and its attendant evils, by encouraging the occupiers to spend more of their leisure hours in healthy and comfortable homes rather than in the “Public House.”

The two cottages at Mill End, referred to in last year's Report as unfit for human habitation are still



inhabited, their demolition being postponed until more definite details are obtainable of the proposed Sewerage Scheme for the District.

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milk Shops and Bakehouses have been regularly inspected and no fault is to be found in the storage or purveyance of the articles of food kept in or conveyed from them.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—Some improvement is still needed in dealing with the offal. In consideration of the immense and increasing importance of the question of Consumption and the frequency with which the germs of this disease are found in meat, the value of Public Slaughter-houses being provided in every District must be again prominently brought forward. It is only by constant and thorough inspection of carcasses after slaughtering that the general public can be protected against having to consume in many instances meat thus diseased. It is evident that such supervision cannot be effectively carried out unless the numerous Slaughter-houses in the District are merged into one Public Abattoir.

The Rickmansworth Urban District Council are now provided with Bye-laws for the regulation of Slaughter-houses, and those interested in the matter can inform themselves thoroughly as to the requirements of the Council.

UN SOUND FOOD.—No complaints were received under this heading during the year.



ARSENICAL POISONING BY BEER.—Information was received by the Medical Officer of Health that a case of Peripheral Neuritis, caused by Arsenic in Beer had occurred in the District, careful investigation was made, and the illness was found to be due to other causes.

At the suggestion of the Medical Officer of Health the Council had under consideration an independent analysis of the brewing materials used in the District, but did not consider it necessary.

Referring to Table V, it will be noted with pleasure that under heading 5 no summonses have been taken out by the Council. Great credit is due to the Inspector of Nuisances for the care, trouble and tact which he has exercised in dealing with cases in which the Public Health Acts have been contravened.

The best thanks of the Medical Officer of Health are due to the Clerk, Inspector of Nuisances, Collector of Rates, and District Registrar of Births and Deaths, for their kindness and courtesy in furnishing information of value in the framing of this report.

TABLE I.

# Population, Births and Deaths for the Whole District—Rickmansworth Urban.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	Deaths at all Ages. Nett.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rates.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1891.	2915†	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Half-Year 1893.)	5780	91	31.4	12	131.8	36	12.10	—	1	—	35	12
1899.	5885	160	27.2	17	106.2	57	10.02	—	—	2	59	10.02
Averages for years 1893-9	5832.5	167.3	29.3	19.3	119.0	62	11.06	—	.6	1.3	62.6	11.01
1900.	5550	171	30.81	16	93.56	51	9.19	—	—	3	54	9.73

† No other data available.

\* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total population of all ages, 2915  
 Number of inhabited houses, 583  
 Average number of persons per house, 5 } At Census of 1891.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 556.

TABLE II.

# Population, Births and Deaths for the three Localities of the Rickmansworth Urban District

Names of Localities		Rickmansworth.				Croxley Green.				Mill End.			
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.	
1898 } Half-Year. } 1899.	3145	49	16	4	1850	34	15	6	785	8	4	2	
	3200	76	33	8	1895	56	20	6	790	28	6	3	
Averages of Years 1898 to 1899.	3172.5	83.3	32.6	8	1872.5	60	23.3	8	787.5	24	6.6	3.3	
1900.	3000	87	30	8	1750	56	16	4	800	23	8	4	



TABLE III.

**Rickmansworth Urban District.****Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1900.**

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.						Rickmansworth.	Croxley Green.	Mill End.	Rickmansworth.	Croxley Green.	Mill End.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.						
Small-pox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	8	—	2	2	2	2	—	5	3	—	—	3	—
Membranous croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	7	1	—	—	1	5	—	4	3	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ... ..	4	—	1	3	—	—	—	4	—	—	4	—	—
Typhus fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric fever ... ..	8	—	1	6	1	—	—	3	1	4	3	1	4
Relapsing fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ... ..	27	1	4	11	4	7	—	16	7	4	7	4	4

TABLE IV.

**Rickmansworth Urban District.  
Cause of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1900.**

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.	Rickmansworth.	Croxley Green.	Mill End	
Small-pox ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping-cough ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria and mem- branous croup ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Croup ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fever {	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Epidemic influenza ...	3	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	—	—	—
Cholera ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa ... ..	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—
Enteritis ... ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Puerperal fever ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other septic diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis ... ..	5	—	—	1	—	4	—	3	2	—	—
Other tubercular diseases	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Cancer, malignant disease	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—
Bronchitis ... ..	6	2	1	—	—	—	3	4	1	1	—
Pneumonia ... ..	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Pleurisy ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other diseases of Res- piratory organs ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of liver }	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Venereal diseases ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Premature birth ... ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Diseases and accidents of parturition ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Heart diseases ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—
Accidents ... ..	3	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	1	—	—
Suicides ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All other causes ... ..	16	4	1	—	—	3	8	8	5	3	—
All causes ... ..	54	16	7	2	1	14	14	30	16	8	—



## V.

## RICKMANSWORTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

OF THE

**Sanitary Work completed in the Year 1900.**

Total No. of Complaints received	...	...	...	173
„ „ Houses and premises visited	...	...	...	567
Houses cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	9
Notices served	...	...	...	44
New water closets erected	...	...	...	21
Privy or sink cesspools emptied	...	...	...	69
Privy Middens converted into pail closets	...	...	...	2
Accumulations of offensive matter removed...	...	...	...	14
House Drains—Repaired, cleansed, trapped, &c.	...	...	...	26
Ventilated	...	...	...	2
Smoke-test applied	...	...	...	4
Water supply—Samples for analysis	...	...	...	26
Wells closed	...	...	...	4
Houses connected with water mains	...	...	...	78
Night soil and house refuse removal—Complaints received and attended to	...	...	...	70
Infectious Disease—Patients removed to Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	15
Houses inspected	...	...	...	27
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	18
Bedding, &c., removed to steam disinfectors	...	...	...	15
Schools—Visits made	...	...	...	Frequent
Bakehouses—No. on Register	...	...	11	} Regularly inspected
Dairies and Cowsheds—No. on Register	...	...	7	
Slaughter Houses—No. on Register	...	...	7	
New Buildings—Plans passed	...	...	...	30
Canal Boats Acts 1877 and 1884—No. of boats inspected	...	...	...	15
No. of Contraventions	Absence of Certificate			1
	Manure boat without double bulk-head			1
	No proper water vessel			1
				3

NOTE.—1070 pail closets or privy cesspits are scavenged once or twice weekly as circumstances demand, and house refuse is removed by contract.

## VI.

## SUMMARY OF WORK.

Done through the Sanitary Inspector in the Urban Sanitary District of Rickmansworth during the year ended December 31st, 1900, as required by the Hertfordshire County Council.

	Total Number for year.	Result of Inspection, &c.
1. Complaints received ... ..	173	{ In 11 instances no nuisance was found to exist at the time of visit, or was outside the Urban District.
2. Nuisance detected without complaint	56	
3. Nuisances abated ... ..	218	
4. Notices served ... ..	44	
5. Summonses taken out ... ..	—	
6. Convictions ... ..	—	
7. Cottages inspected ... ..	18	
8. Lodging-houses inspected ... ..	—	
9. Slaughter-houses inspected ... ..	7	on Register
10. Bakehouses inspected ... ..	11	{ Frequent Inspections.
11. Dairies and Milk Shops inspected ... ..	6	
12. Cowsheds inspected ... ..	7	
13. Workshops inspected... ..	1	
14. Filthy houses cleansed, sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875 ... ..	5	
15. Houses disinfected ... ..	18	
16. Overcrowding abated ... ..	—	
17. Houses placed in habitable repair ... ..	—	
18. Houses closed ... ..	—	
19. Houses erected or re-built for which Water "Certificates" were applied	—	
20. "Certificates" granted ... ..	—	
21. " " deferred ... ..	—	
22. Wells sunk, or improved supplies of water afforded... ..	8	
23. Wells cleansed or repaired ... ..	4	
24. Wells closed ... ..	4	
25. Houses connected with sewers ... ..	—	
26. " " with water mains	78	
27. Earth, pail or improved Privies constructed or existing Privies altered	30	
28. Privies and W.C's repaired; W.C's supplied with water ... ..	—	
29. Cisterns cleansed, repaired or covered ... ..	—	
30. Animals improperly kept, removed	—	
31. Samples of water taken for Analysis	26	
32. Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding ... ..	—	
33. Seizure of unsound Meat, &c. ... ..	—	

(Signed) ALBERT FREEMAN.



