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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE
ROCHFORD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

For the year 1905.

ROCHFORD.

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RURAL DISTRICT OF ROCHFORD.

Annual Report for 1905.

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health.

Localities.	Area in Acres.	Population in 1901.	Estimated Population in 1905.
Rayleigh (10 parishes)	25,837	8,401	8,402
Rochford (8 parishes)	15,293	3,939	3,939
Wakering (5 parishes)	15,538	3,339	3,339
Totals	56,668	15,679	15,680

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

The Sanitary Record of the year 1905, presents little of striking interest, it is what may be called an average year, and in most respects may be termed a gratifying one.

Before mentioning statistics I must premise that the Localities have been retained as in previous years, rendering comparison an easy task. The population of the district, owing to the constant removals of new-comers is difficult to gauge. I estimate it is about stationary—not withstanding the natural increase, and the fact of so many new houses being built as in many parts of the district, from

various causes, many houses are unoccupied, notably at S. Benfleet, Hadleigh and Hockley, whilst at S. Fambridge, owing to the closing of the Electric Engineering Works there, some score of workmen's houses are vacant.

BIRTHS.

The number of births occurring in the district during the year was 421, a decrease of 20 compared with 1904, but exceeding the average (399.3) of the last 8 years by 21.7. Taking the population as 15680, this gives a Birth Rate of 26.8 per thousand, compared with 28.12 of last year and is below the average of the last 8 years by .45. It is identically the same rate as in 1903, compared however with the rate of 34.1 of 1895 there is a marked decrease of 7.3 per thousand.

DEATHS.

The deaths numbered 219 and range from a life of 10 minutes to one of 95 years. Taking the population as above (15680) we have a gross Death Rate of 13.9 and subtracting the 29 Non-Residents who died in the Public Institutions in this district, and adding one Resident who died in a Public Institution away, we have 191 Nett Deaths and a corrected rate of 12.1, again, as in the case of the Births, identical with the corrected rate for 1903.

There were 14 deaths from Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis), 3 from other Tubercular Diseases, and 7 from cancer in its various forms.

There were 64 deaths of persons over 65, the two oldest being 92 and 95.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The Infantile Death-Rate was slightly higher than in the previous year, but seeing that children of the tender age of 10 mins. and 1 hr. are concerned, I think too much importance may be attached to the figures unless Table V (a new one this year) is somewhat carefully studied.

In that table there are to be found the causes of the deaths of children aged 10 mins. and several of a few hours and days—infants presumably who never had a chance of life, and whose deaths could under no conceivable circumstances or conditions have been prevented. Taking the case of children who have arrived at the age of say 3-4 months and where physique and well-being can be immensely influenced by their environment, we find that only 14 died at over 3 months and under 1 year.

Thirteen died under one week; the causes of death as certified were: Premature Birth, 3; Congenital Defects, 2; and 8 from Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus.

I think that the apparently high Infantile Death-Rate of recent years, is probably due to the fact that more care is taken in the registration of Births than formerly; *i.e.* that cases are registered now both in the Births and Deaths List, which formerly were not registered at all, but were simply buried as still-born.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The total number of certificates received under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act was 84, three less than in the previous year, again comparing very favourably with the 117 of 1903. The deaths from these Zymotic Diseases number 7—Enteric 4; Scarlet Fever 1; Diarrhoea 2;—giving a rate per 1000 individuals of 1.33 and a case rate of 8.3 (corrected rate of 1.14).

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Small Pox ...	1	6	0	0	0
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup ... }	4	3	3	3	0
Typhoid Fever ...	2	1	8	7	4
Puerperal Fever ...	0	1	1	2	0
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0	0	1
Erysipelas ...	0	1	0	1	0
Measles ...	0	1	1	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	10	4	2	3	0
Diarrhoea ...	4	3	2	12	2
Totals...	21	20	17	28	7

SCARLET FEVER.

The most frequent of these diseases was Scarlet Fever. These were widely disseminated and in no instance did the disease assume epidemic proportions. The cases were mostly of a very mild nature, and the disease did not spread to neighbouring families. Five cases occurred in one family and were notified upon two occasions. Owing to the notification being wrongly addressed a considerable delay occurred before the patients were removed to Hospital.

In one family 3 cases, the original one being imported, and in two families 2 cases occurred, one arising within a few days after the return home of a convalescent from the Hospital, and one case unfortunately in the Hospital whilst convalescent from Typhoid.

Upon one occasion 2 children (2 and 4 years) members of a family visiting at a school, were attacked, they were removed to the Hospital, the premises and the other members of the family immediately disinfected, and no further cases occurred.

In another case a School Mistress was found peeling after a slight illness (no medical attendant having been called in), she was isolated, and the usual precautions taken, with the result that there was no further extension of the disease.

There were 38 cases of this disease in the district, with 1 death, which occurred in the Hospital.

SMALL POX.

There have been no cases reported in the district during the past year.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were 4 cases only notified in the last 12 months. One developed in a boy sent down by the Fresh Air Fund, but as he lived in a cottage adjoining one immediately outside your district (a few yards only separating them) in

which a case had occurred a short while before, it is of course possible that he contracted the disease whilst on his visit. He had already been treated with the Diphtheria Anti-Toxin Serum when I saw him, and there was no membrane visible in his throat, but upon the assurance repeated in response to my enquiry by telegram, the doctor in attendance replied that he had satisfied himself the case really was one of Diphtheria. I had him removed to the Hospital. It was however a very mild case, the lad made an excellent recovery, and no further cases resulted. There were no deaths from this disease within the district during the year.

ERYSIPELAS.

There were 16 cases reported, they were of a mild type, and no deaths occurred. The cases arose upon insanitary premises.

ENTERIC FEVER.

There were 26 cases only of this disease certified, comparing most favourably with 36 in 1904 and 62 in 1903.

There were 4 deaths, all taking place in the Hospital—one of whom was the caretaker, a man aged 50, who contracted the disease in the performance of his duty. His wife, who also suffered, recovered after a severe illness. One case was notified as contracted in the Hospital whilst convalescent after Scarlet Fever.

The diminution in the number of cases is due partly to the better water supply in the Western District, as I find that with the exception of 3 cases, removed to the Isolation Hospital from the Union Infirmary, and one case which was developed after contact with a case which was removed to the Hospital no case occurred in any house in the district receiving water either from the Council's well at Benfleet or any public company.

Another factor causing a fewer number of cases, is, I think, the greater care taken in the preparation of Cockles and other Shell-Fish by boiling or steaming them previous to offering them for sale.

In all houses where this disease occurred, either insanitary conditions or an unsatisfactory water supply existed.

The Manlove Alliott & Co's Disinfector which had done much good work since the opening of the Hospital, broke down towards the end of the year, and is to be replaced by a Thresh's Disinfector.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILK SHOPS.

During the past year I have visited 37 of these premises and found the greater number of the larger and more recently constructed ones to be in a fairly satisfactory condition. Of the smaller ones, mostly consisting of converted farm buildings, I can hardly say so much—they all lacked something. I pointed out the necessity of keeping the premises and utensils used in the business in a cleanly manner and am hoping that the New Regulations when distributed will educate and stimulate the occupiers to attain a higher pitch of excellence.

The provision made for cleansing the utensils and cans was generally good, as the necessity was recognized that they must be kept scrupulously clean.

I have to suggest that the New Regulations be distributed at as early a date as possible.

WATER SUPPLY.

In July a Local Government Board enquiry re loan for the water supply of Gt. Wakering was held, and I am happy to know that the pipes are now being laid for the purpose of connecting with the Southend Waterworks Company's Mains.

A good supply of pure water for this parish has been greatly required for some years and has been frequently brought to your notice by my predecessors.

In February Dr. Thresh (the County Medical Officer of Health) wrote asking for detailed information as to the

water supply in the various parishes in your district, and after much labour in conjunction with the Sanitary Inspector a statement was sent in.

I notice that in his report to the County Council some erroneous matter was inadvertently included, more especially as to the supply to the parishes of Hockley and Thundersley. Unfortunately there was no means of knowing that an error had been made until a copy of the report was sent to us, and of course we were then unable to do more than draw his attention to it.

I understand that it is contemplated that reservoirs in connection with the Western District Water Mains are to be constructed—covered (“roofed in”) at South Benfleet and also near Potash Hill. These must add to the efficiency of of the system, and indirectly promote the health of the community.

DRAINS AND SEWERS.

The most interesting feature in this respect has been the proceedings with regard to the South Benfleet Sewerage Scheme. I understand that pressure is being put upon the Council to provide a scheme of sewerage for S. Benfleet, and in consequence of certain events a Local Government Board enquiry has been held for the purpose of obtaining compulsory powers for the purchase of land for the necessary works. In this connection I have to say that never in my knowledge of S. Benfleet, extending over some 30 years, has this parish been so free from any disease, especially the notifiable Infectious Diseases.

It is a matter of satisfaction to me to notice that a commencement has been made with regard to the sewerage of Rochford. Similar works are required at Hadleigh, Rayleigh and Great Wakering, a fact which I, as well as my predecessors have brought before your notice in previous reports.

SCHOOLS.

Non-notifiable Infectious Disease has been more than usually prevalent this year and Scarlatina cases have occurred at two of the school houses in the district. The Eastwood School was closed for a week on account of the prevalence of mumps in the parish, and the schools at Hockley and Ashingdon for a month each, because of measles.

GIPSIES.

There is no notable remark to be made about these people; there have been one or two prosecutions upon sanitary grounds which have resulted in small fines, but they do not cause so much nuisance here as they did a few years ago. A large number have migrated into a neighbouring district.

BRICKFIELDS.

There have been no complaints this year.

DISINFECTANTS.

As, in the course of the year, a man committed suicide by drinking Carbolic Acid, which had been supplied to him for sanitary purposes, I would suggest that the various Cyllin (Jeyes) preparations be used instead of Carbolic. They are as efficient and economical, less poisonous, and are largely used by other authorities.

BOARDING STATIONS.

In November last I, accompanied by Mr. Judd, had an interview with Mr. Elliott, the Inspector of the Customs Water Guard at Gravesend, respecting the Boarding Stations for foreign vessels arriving in your district. After due consideration it was decided that the present arrangements should continue as before. The Boarding Station now is

opposite the coast guard vessel in the Crouch. No vessels from abroad have arrived there during my period of office—the last one I believe came from Dunkirk and was laden with pipes for the Western District Waterworks.

Appended are the various Statistical Tables. One—Table V is a new one this year relating to Infantile Mortality, and reference has already been made to it. I would point out my inability to give all the information required as regards the Births, which can only be obtained from the Registrar. I should be glad if you would authorise him to supply it, as he already does the Death List.

In Table I, I am also unable to state the number of inhabited houses—information which I think can be obtained from the Rate Collectors or perhaps the Surveyor, and it would be satisfactory if they were authorised to supply it.

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector is attached.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. DORRELL GRAYSON.

January 29th, 1906.

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1905 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
		Number.	Rate.	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.		
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number	Rate.	
1896	15,114	491	32.4	No record		255	16.1	11
1897	11,951	380	31.8	42	110.5	197	14.7	21
1898	14,524	383	26.3	50	130	269	16.5	29
1899	14,889	383	25.7	49	127	274	16.5	28
1900	15,487	383	24.7	39	101.82	238	12.8	43
1901	14,457	397	27.46	49	123.42	251	14.9	35
1902	15,250	414	27.14	30	72.46	241	15.8	66
1903	15,444	414	26.80	32	77.29	214	13.8	52
1904	15,679	441	28.12	49	111.1	250	15.9	63
1905	15,680	421	26.84	50	118.7	219	13.96	59

Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District ... 29

Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District ... 1

Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District, 191; rate, 12.18.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 56,658. Total population at all ages, 14,457

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District—1, Union Workhouse,

Rochford. 2, Isolation Hospital, Sutton Ford Bridge. 3, Small Pox Hospital, Nobles Green, Eastwood.

TABLE II.
VITAL STATISTICS OF SEPARATE LOCALITIES IN 1905 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Names of Localities.	ROCHFORD.				RAYLEIGH.				WAKERING.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1897	3688	112	88	15	5053	161	76	11	3210	107	28	16
1898	}	No record	No record	—	—	No record	No record	—	—	No record	No record	—
1899												
1900	3044	83	...	...	8015	209	...	...	3528	91	...	...
1901	3790	101	51	...	7554	201	124	...	3113	75	41	...
1902	3877	100	115	9	8108	234	102	16	3265	80	24	5
1903	3917	91	91	12	8242	235	92	12	3285	88	31	8
1904	3939	94	47	9	8401	242	123	30	3339	105	48	10
1905	3939	85	68	15	8402	257	83	22	3339	79	40	13

TABLE III.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1905.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from each Locality.		
	At Ages.—Years.						Rochford (W.)	Rayleigh. (H.)	Wakering.	Rochford.	Rayleigh.	Wakering.
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.						
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	4	1	1	1	...	1	1	3	...	1	1	...
Membranous Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	16	1	...	3	1	9	7	8	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	38	...	6	26	3	3	9	26	3	4	18	...
Typhus Fever... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever... ..	26	...	1	5	6	14	5	15	6	6	8	...
Relapsing Fever... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	84	2	8	35	10	27	22	52	10	11	27	...

Isolation Hospitals—Sutton Ford, Eastwood, and Nobles Green, Eastwood (Small Pox).

TABLE IV.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.							DEATHS AT ALL AGES OF "RESI- DENTS" BELONGING TO LOCALITIES, WHETHER OCCUR- RING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.			TOTAL DEATHS WHETHER OF RESIDENTS OR NON "RESIDENTS" IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Rochford.	Rayleigh.	Wakering.	
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough ...	5	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	...
Diphtheria and Memb. Croup }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric ...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	2	...	4
Other continued ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Enteritis ...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Phthisis ...	14	...	...	...	2	12	...	4	10	...	7
Other Tubercular Diseases ... }	3	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	2	1	1
Cancer, Malignant Disease ... }	7	...	...	...	...	6	1	4	3	...	3
Bronchitis ...	13	6	1	...	...	3	3	2	8	3	1
Pneumonia ...	17	5	2	1	...	4	5	5	6	6	1
Pleurisy ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Or- gans ... }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism, Cir- rhosis of Liver ... }	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	2
Venereal Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth ...	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	...
Diseases and Acci- dents of Parturi- tion ... }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases ...	32	...	...	...	...	13	19	9	19	4	10
Accidents ...	6	...	...	1	2	3	...	...	4	2	...
Suicides ...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	2	1	1
Infantile Wasting Disease ... }	21	20	1	...	...	...	...	9	8	4	1
Rickets ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Convulsions ...	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...
All Other Causes ...	47	3	...	1	1	8	34	16	21	10	25
All Causes...	191	50	6	3	6	62	64	57	97	37	59

TABLE V.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1905.

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 1 YEAR.
Small-pox
Chicken-pox
Measles
Scarlet Fever
Diphtheria: Croup
Whooping Cough	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	4
Diarrhœa, all forms	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Enteritis, <i>not Tuberculous</i>	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth	...	3	1	1	1	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Congenital Defects	...	1	...	1	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Injury at Birth
Want of Breast-milk
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	7	...	2	1	10	1	3	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	16
Tuberculous Meningitis
Tuberculous Peritonitis
Tabes Mesenterica
Other Tuberculous Diseases
Erysipelas
Syphilis
Rickets	1	...	...	...	...	1
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)
Convulsions	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Bronchitis	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6
Laryngitis
Pneumonia	1	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	5
Suffocation, overlaying
Other Causes	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
	13	1	5	2	21	7	8	1	4	1	1	2	2	...	...	3	50

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE THROUGH THE INSPECTOR OF
NUISANCES, OR THE SURVEYOR, DURING THE YEAR 1905.

	TOTAL NUMBER FOR YEAR.
1. Complaints received	41
2. Nuisances detected without complaint	51
3. Nuisances abated	56
4. Notices served	56
5. Summonses taken out	20
6. Convictions	17
7. Cottages inspected	97
8. Lodging-houses inspected	—
9. Slaughter-houses inspected	5
10. Bakehouses inspected	6
11. Dairies and Milk Shops inspected	14
12. Cowsheds inspected	20
13. Workshops inspected	3
14. Filthy houses cleansed, sec. 46 Public Health Act, 1875 ...	—
15. Houses disinfected	47
16. Overcrowding abated	2
17. Houses placed in habitable repair	—
18. Houses closed... ..	4
19. Houses erected or re-built for which Water "Certificates" were applied	111
20. "Certificates" granted	109
21. "Certificates" deferred	2
22. Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded ...	—
23. Wells cleansed or repaired	1
24. Wells closed	—
25. Houses connected with sewers	—
26. Houses connected with water mains	154
27. Earth, pail, or improved Privies constructed or existing Privies altered	6
28. Privies and W.C.'s repaired; W.C.'s supplied with water	5
29. Cisterns cleansed, repaired, or covered	—
30. Animals improperly kept, removed... ..	—
31. Samples of water taken for Analysis	3
32. Compensation paid for destruction of infected bedding ...	—
33. Seizures of unsound Meat, &c.	—

