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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Borough of



Rotherham

FOR THE YEAR 1896,

BY

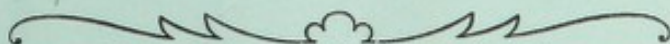
ALFRED ROBINSON, M.D.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Mem. Roy. Coll. Surg., Eng.

Licent. San. Science.

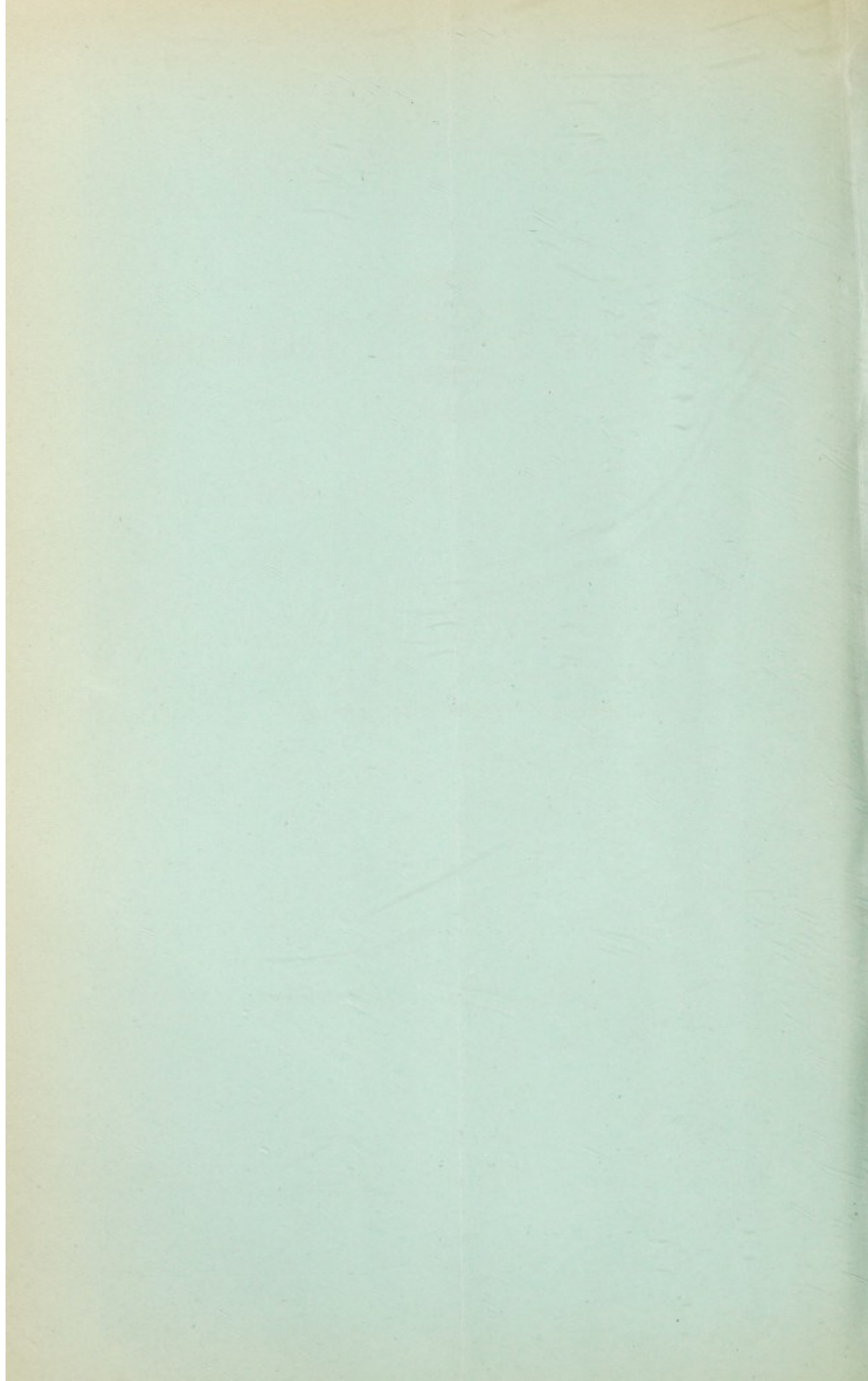
Fellow Soc. Med. Off. of Health, &c.



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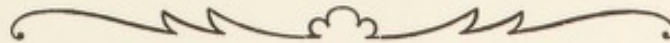
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ANNUAL REPORT, 1896.

MR. MAYOR, MR. CHAIRMAN, AND GENTLEMEN,

My report for the year 1896 is, I consider, very satisfactory, the death rate from all causes being 15·00 per 1000, against 16·66 for the year 1895. This, I may add, is the lowest death rate ever recorded, and shows that the sanitary condition of the town is improving.

The death rate is considerably below the averages for the 30 large towns in England, and also below that of England and Wales, which is 17·1 per 1000.

The total number of deaths was 751, of which 410 were males, and 341 females.

Classified according to age, the following are the figures :—

Under 1 year	...	...	256 deaths
Between 1 and 5 years	..	..	95
Between 5 and 15 years	...	...	34
Between 15 and 25 years	...	...	31
Between 25 and 60 years	...	...	155
Over 60 years	...	...	180
Total	...	...	<u>751</u>

The number under one year appears large, being nearly one-third of the whole; but some allowance must be made for the very high birth rate. There can be no doubt that a large number of the deaths can and ought to be prevented, being due in great measure to the want of knowledge in the feeding of infants.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The rate of mortality from the principal zymotic diseases was 1·40 per 1,000, against 1·97 for 1895. Included in this list are 9 deaths from Measles, 4 from Scarlet Fever, 11 from Enteric Fever, and 2 from Diphtheria.

During the year 5 cases of Modified Small Pox were reported; all these cases were promptly isolated, and in some instances the families in addition; the consequence being that the disease was stamped out, and no second case occurred in

any instance. If the same course was adopted with regard to Scarlet Fever and Typhoid Fever—when there is no proper accommodation at home—I am of opinion that the death rate of the town would be even more satisfactory than it is.

BIRTH RATE.

The number of births was 1718, of which 864 were males, and 854 females. This gives a birth rate of 34·36 per 1000, and an excess of births over deaths of nearly 1000. The population of the Borough is now estimated at 50,000, and this is probably under, rather than over, the actual number.

The number of illegitimate births during the year was 65, against 79 in 1895; 36 of these were in Rotherham, and 29 in Kimberworth. This gives a rate of 1 to every 26 children born in wedlock—a rather improved condition of things compared with that of previous years.

VACCINATION.

During the year 1241 children were successfully vaccinated, 734 in Kimberworth and 507 in Rotherham, leaving 477 not accounted for.

Of these many have died, and some may have left the town; at the same time the number cannot be considered satisfactory, and shows that there are a large number of children unprotected in the event of an outbreak of small pox.

WATER SUPPLY.

This probably will be greatly improved during the year owing to the supply from Sheffield, and I shall hope with confidence to find in future years a large diminution in cases of, and deaths due to, enteric fever.

I attribute the continued improvement in the death rate, in some degree, to the abandonment of the Wellgate Spring as a source of domestic supply. Whether this is so or not, the deaths due to diarrhœa and fevers have been yearly diminishing since that supply was permanently cut off.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

There can be no question as to the wretched condition of much of the old property in the Borough.

Up to the present time the Health Authorities have been chary of taking any steps owing to the overcrowded state of the Borough and the impossibility of getting houses elsewhere; but I am now empowered to state that they intend to let the owners of insanitary cottages know that they (the landlords) have some other duty than that of collecting rents.

The houses that are unfit for human habitation are well known to the Authorities, and the owners may as well take the hint now, as they (the Health Authorities) are determined to take up a strong position. During the past year plans for nearly 300 dwelling-houses—mostly for the working classes—have been passed by the Improvements Committee, so that it is obvious that there are now sufficient new houses to accommodate those tenants who may be displaced.

In the course of the past year 75 houses have been condemned as unfit for human occupation, a list of which is subjoined.

The following houses have been visited and reported unfit for human habitation :—

				Houses.
Bradgate	...	...	...	5
"	...	...	...	4 Repaired.
1 Ct. Victoria Street	..	...	...	4 Do.
3 Ct. Brinsworth Lane	...	...	...	6 Do.
13 Ct. Wellgate	...	..	..	3 Demolished.
2 Ct. Millgate	...	...	...	4 Repaired.
6 Ct. Westgate	...	..	..	3 Demolished.
"	"	...	...	6 Repaired.
5 Ct.	"	...	...	15
17 Ct.	"	...	...	1 Closed.
27 Ct.	"	...	...	5
9 Ct. Wellgate	...	...	...	13 Closing order made
Lodging-house, Doncaster Gate				1
17 and 69 Wellgate	..	...	...	2
24 and 25 Coke Lane	...	...	...	2
Total				<u>75</u>

In conclusion, I should like to pay a tribute to the unremitting energy and interest of Mr. Councillor F. Mason, Chairman of the Health Committee, in the affairs connected with the health of the Borough.

I am also indebted to the Borough Surveyor, Mr. George Jennings, and the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. C. E. Parkin, for much of the valuable information contained in this report.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED ROBINSON, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC ANALYST'S LABORATORY,

67, SURREY STREET, SHEFFIELD.

Report on a Sample of Drinking Water received from the Rotherham Corporation, on March 5th, 1897. Sample Mark :—" Town Supply, No. 88."

Physical Characters :—

SUSPENDED MATTER, trace.

APPEARANCE of a Column two feet long, clear and colourless.

TASTE, normal. ODOUR, none.

On Analysis, the sample gave the following results :—

Grains per gallon.	}	TOTAL SOLID MATTER, 25·56; which lost on IGNITION, 4·20 g.
		CHLORINE, 1·75 ; equal to SODIUM CHLORIDE, 2·88 grs.
		NITROGEN in oxidised forms, 0·40 ; equal to NITRIC ACID (anhydrous), 1·54.
		POISONOUS METALS (Lead, &c.), none.

DEGREES OF HARDNESS, 15·0. [Each degree of hardness represents a soap-destroying power equivalent to one grain of chalk per gallon.]

Parts per million.	}	REDUCING POWER, 0·03. [Representing the Oxygen absorbed by the organic and other oxidisable matters in one million parts of water.]
		FREE and UREAL AMMONIA, 0·05 parts per million.
		ALBUMINOID AMMONIA, 0·08 parts per million.

These results show the water to be satisfactorily free from readily changeable organic matter. The presence of oxydised compounds of nitrogen is probably attributable to the water receiving the drainage from cultivated land.

ALFRED H. ALLEN.

March 12th, 1897.

Table I.—Population, Inhabited Houses, Births, and Deaths.
(Gross Numbers.)

	No. of Inhabited Houses in the Borough.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths in Workhouse and Rotherham Hospital.	Estimated Population.
1896	9711	1718	751	75	50,000
1895	9241	1737	800	68	48,000
1894	9006	1514	776	66	47,000
1893	8721	1718	870	71	46,000
1892	8400	1577	786	61	44,000
1891	8177	1656	972	102	43,000
1890	8177	1463	798	106	37,907
1889	7992	1421	834	91	36,182
1888	7865	1343	655	64	36,000
1887	7865	1340	732	97	35,892
Average of 10 years, 1887 to 1896.					

Table II.—Annual Rate of Mortality, Death Rate amongst Children, &c.

	Annual Rate of Mortality per 1000 living.	Per cent. of Deaths to total Births.	Deaths of Inf'ts under 1 year, per cent. to total Deaths.	Per cent'ge of Deaths of Infants to Registered Births.	Deaths of Children und'r 5 years per cent to total Deaths.	Per Centage of Deaths in Workhouse and Rotherham Hospital.
1896	15·00	43·88	34·08	14·82	46·73	9·98
1895	16·66	46·05	33·62	22·67	47·22	8·00
1894	16·51	54·24	30·67	16·83	48·96	8·50
1893	18·70	50·29	34·37	17·28	51·27	6·13
1892	17·86	49·84	31·67	15·15	45·10	8·65
1891	24·93	58·69	30·87	18·12	44·41	10·49
1890	20·83	54·54	28·44	23·85	43·73	13·40
1889	22·65	57·98	36·09	29·69	50·71	9·77
1888	18·10	46·69	26·10	12·73	49·92	12·30
1887	20·23	54·55	28·55	15·58	39·07	4·29
Average of Ten years 1887 to 1896	19·14	51·67	31·44	18·17	46·71	9·21

Table IV.—Shewing the Death Rate per 1000 for the five Classes of Diseases combined in Table IIIa for five years.

	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
I. Zymotics (Principal)	1.97	2.86	2.08	1.97	1.40
II. Constitutional	1.27	2.28	1.93	1.52	1.78
III. Local	11.09	8.43	8.97	9.06	9.52
IV. Developmental	2.90	.69	2.78	2.75	2.94
V. Violent	0.75	0.87	0.78	.89	.76

TABLE V.

Shewing MORTALITY from certain classes of Diseases in the Several Wards, and PROPORTION TO POPULATION, and to 1000 Deaths, 1896.

	East Ward	South Ward	West Ward	North Ward	Masbrough Ward	Kimberworth Ward	Workhouse and Rotherham Hospital	TOTAL	Rate per 1000 Living	Proportion of Deaths to 1000
1. Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases	8	4	11	19	20	9	1	72	1.44	95.87
2. Pulmonary Diseases ... (other than Phthisis)	31	24	16	29	32	31	9	172	3.44	227.69
3. Tubercular Diseases ...	15	6	3	6	11	5	3	49	.98	65.24
4. Wasting Diseases of Infants ...	13	12	3	13	19	11	1	72	1.44	95.87
5. Convulsive Diseases of Children	12	9	8	29	22	12	1	93	1.86	123.82

1.—Includes Small Pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Fever, and Diarrhœa.

2.—Includes Phthisis, Scrofula, Rickets, and Tabes.

4.—Includes Marasmus, Atrophy; Debility, Want of Breast Milk, and Premature Birth.

5.—Includes Hydrocephalus, Infantile Meningitis, Convulsions, and Teething.

TABLE VII.

Return of the number of cases of Infectious Diseases reported to the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1896, and of the deaths from the diseases notified:—

	Cases notified in 1896.	Deaths registered in 1896.
Scarlet Fever.....	259	4
Diphtheria	22	2
Enteric Fever	82	11
Puerperal Fever	12	2
Membranous Croup	7	3
Small-pox	5	0

TABLE VIII.

Shewing the NUMBER OF DEATHS in the Several Wards and Public Institutions, from Zymotic Diseases and All Causes; also Births each Month in 1896, compared with those of the previous Year 1895.

	ZYMOTIC DISEASES.										ALL CAUSES.									
	East Ward.	South Ward.	West Ward.	North Ward.	Masbrough Ward.	Kimberworth Ward.	Wirkhouse & Rham Hospital.	Totl Totl	East Ward.	South Ward.	West Ward.	North Ward.	Masbrough Ward.	Kimberworth Ward.	Wirkhouse & Rham Hospital.	Deaths.	Births.			
								1896								1896	1895	1896	1895	
January.....	1	...	...	2	..	1	..	4	5	11	6	1	15	14	7	69	146	175
February,...	...	...	...	1	2	..	..	3	7	6	3	5	10	6	7	51	135	115
March	1	1	...	1	2	..	..	5	8	14	10	5	9	9	4	67	129	184
April .....	...	...	2	..	..	..	..	2	4	8	6	8	2	3	10	49	133	146
May	1	...	...	1	3	..	..	5	11	16	4	4	11	10	5	61	172	176
June	1	1	2	..	..	1	..	5	11	10	7	6	5	5	3	44	124	106
July	1	...	1	3	4	..	..	9	6	16	1	4	13	8	8	63	155	149
August .....	...	...	1	6	5	..	14	22	6	9	6	6	19	9	3	65	120	158
September ..	1	1	4	2	3	..	11	25	6	6	6	12	16	0	8	65	162	118		
October ..	1	1	..	2	1	..	7	11	18	18	12	10	14	21	5	86	163	115		
November...	...	...	1	..	..	..	2	7	7	13	8	3	9	10	5	59	136	177
December...	1	...	...	1	..	2	5	7	7	10	8	5	17	6	11	74	148	117
Total....	8	4	11	19	20	9	1	72	124	137	77	69	144	152	98	753	800	1718	1737	

K 2 3.—TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1896, in the Urban Sanitary District of Rotherham, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Mortality from all causes, at subjoined Ages.								Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under 5 years of age																		
	At all Ages	Under 1 year				65 and upwards				Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranus Croup	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarthæa and Dysentery	Rheumatic Fever	Ague	Phthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	Heart Disease	Injuries	All other Diseases	Total
		Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards																				
Borough	676	256	91	31	29	123	146	Under 5 upwds	2	1	3	..	..	..	1	8	18	28	..	..	2	96	..	..	8	180	347
Workhouse	65	..	..	..	1	30	34	Under 5 upwds	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40	73	..	..	..	20	196
Hospital	10	..	4	3	1	2	..	Under 5 upwds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	65	
Totals	751	256	95	34	31	155	130	Under 5 upwds	2	1	3	..	..	..	1	8	18	28	..	..	2	96	..	..	12	180	351

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	Under 5 upwds	5 upwds	7
14	1	1	1
12	..	..	..
2	..	..	..

K 2 11.—TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1896, in the Urban Sanitary District of Rotherham; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these statistics; Public Institutions being shewn as separate localities.	Population at all ages.		Registered Births	New cases of sickness in each locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.								Number of such cases removed from their Homes in the several localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.		
	Census 1891	Estim'd to middle of 1896		Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membran's Croup.	Typhus Fever	Enteric or Typhoid	Cholera	Diarrhoea	Smallpox	Cholera	
Borough	42,050	49,000	1718	1	92	6	1	...	14	...	...	...	1	...
Public Institutions	...	...	...	4	164	16	...	...	61	...	...	...	4	...
			
				...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...				1	92	6	5	...	14	...	...	...	1	...
				4	167	16	...	...	61	...	...	...	4	...

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT FOR YEAR 1896.

—:O:—

During the year the Department has been fully engaged in carrying out the various duties imposed upon it by the Public Health, Housing of the Working Classes, Canal Boats Notification, Infectious Diseases Preventive, Factory and Workshops, Explosives, and Diseases of Animals Acts and Orders. During the early part of the year the Board of Agriculture (owing to the prevalence of Swine Fever in the District) closed the market for the sale of Swine, and only re-opened it on the understanding that the Local Authority made a Regulation to the effect that the owners sending Swine into the Market should make a declaration that the Swine were in no way affected with Fever, and that they have been in their possession twenty-eight clear days, and not been in contact with any other swine during that period. 700 declarations have been taken before swine were admitted, over 500 visits have been made to infected houses, 39 canal boats have been inspected, and a visit to the water way almost daily. 330 visits have been made to the public slaughter-houses. The lodging houses have considerably improved during the year, and have been visited in the night and day time by the assistant inspector and myself, 3,800 inspections have been made to other properties, &c., during the year.

House drains cleansed, relaid, trapped, venti- lated, or new provided	132
Privies and water closets reported	67
New water closets and privies provided.....	45
Ashpits repaired, removed, reconstructed, or new provided	68
Surface drainages repaired and paved	15
Stagnant water or sewage removed.....	13
Houses without proper water supply	2
Houses unfit for human habitation reported ...	75
Houses overcrowded	1
Manure and offensive accumulations removed ...	16
Fowls, pigeons, and rabbits kept in dwelling- houses	8
Pigs so kept.....	14
Smoke Nuisances	3
Urinals provided.....	4

458

The following Table shews the number of Privies and Ashpits cleaned, the number of loads of soil and ashes taken therefrom, and the number of loads of refuse collected and the disposal of the same :—

No. of Ashpits emptied	10750
„ of privies emptied	21246
„ of loads of soil removed from ashpits and privies	12068
„ of loads of refuse collected	3448
	————— 15506

DISPOSAL.

No. of Loads burned at the Destructor	9706
„ „ disposed of to Farmers ...	2806
„ „ „ by Canal Boats...	87
„ „ tipped	2917
	————— 15506

The following table shews the work done by the Destructor during the year :—

	Loads burned.
Refuse from Ashpits	6464
„ collected	3242
Offal and other refuse.....	86
	————— 9792

Mattresses burned	315
Pillows „	83
Beds „	46
Carcases „ Beef.....	10
„ Sheep	46
„ Calves	25
„ Goats	2
„ Pigs	87
„ Dogs	111

Table X.—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

No.	Nature of Samples.	Pure.	Adulterated.	Summonses issued.	Convictions.	Penalties and Costs.	Remarks.
20	MILK	19	1	1	absconded		Nature acknowledged on wrapper.
1	COFFEE .....	...	1	...	...
4	BUTTER	4	...	...	...
25		23	2	...	...

Table IX.

Provisions Seized and Destroyed during the year as compared with the preceding year.

Provisions.	No.		Lbs.		Sum'n'ses issued.	Convicts	Penalties and Costs.	
	1896	1895	1896	1895				
Lambs	2	5	68	170				
Sheep	29	27	1411	1410				
Pigs.....	8	3	1308	336				
Calves	12	10	816	634				
Beasts	9	14	4368	4368				
Beasts Heads	8	13						
„ Livers	10	12						
„ Hearts	8	13						
Sheep Plucks	22	15						
„ Heads	1	3						
Goats	2		75					
Rabbits	19							
	130	115	8046	8926				



Table C. 1896.

 ROTHERHAM URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health, ALF. ROBINSON, M.D., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector, CHARLES E. PARKIN.

WATER SUPPLY—

Quantity—Adequate except in summer weather.

Average daily consumption per head? 18 gallons.

Quality—Good.

Action on Lead? Nil.

Any extensions or change during 1896? Temporary supply from Sheffield.

SEWERAGE—

System—Single or Dual? Both.

Ventilation by { Lampholes? Yes.
 Manholes? Yes.
 Special Shafts? Yes.

Special flushing arrangements? None.

Extensions or improvements during 1896? 700 yards extension.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL—

Treatment adopted? Under consideration.

SCAVENGING—

Are the privy middens, &c., cleansed by sanitary staff, by contractors, or by tenants? Sanitary staff.

Is the present system satisfactory? Yes.

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS, AND REGULATIONS—

Infectious Disease Notification Act, 1889 — ^{Date of adoption} Private Act, 1879.

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890— ,, 1891.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890— ,, 1891.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	Number		General Condition.
	Regis-tered	In-sp'ct'd	
Common Lodging Houses	11	...	Not a Registration Authority
Canal Boats .....	...	39	
Slaughter Houses	32	400	
Bakehouses	9	...	
Dairies	68	...	
Cowsheds			
Milkshops			
Offensive Trades	7	...	1 Candle Manufacturer 6 Tripe Boilers
(Please specify nature.)			

BIRTHS—

(a) Number of each sex :—Males 864, Females 854.

(b) Number Illegitimate, included in the above, 65.

(c) Any information as to Still-Births? None.

DEATHS—

- (a) Number of each sex :—Males 410, Females 341 = 751.
 (b) Number Uncertified, included in the above—No return.

DEATH RETURNS—

What correction (if any) is made for non-residents dying within the District? None.

Are any Returns obtained of deaths of residents occurring in public institutions (Workhouses, Hospitals, &c) outside the District? Deducted.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL—

Any action during 1896? Under consideration.

SANITARY WORK—

Number of Houses built during 1896—272.

House to House Inspection during 1896—not necessary.

Total number of Nuisances in hand at close of 1895—20, at close of 1896—25; reported during 1896—483; abated during 1896—458.

Total number of Summonses or other legal proceedings, none.

House Drainage: Number of Sinks disconnected and trapped during 1896—25.

CLOSETS—

Number constructed during 1896—45; kinds, 31 w.c.'s, 14 privies.

What action has been taken in regard to the following matters?

Houses unfit for habitation, 75 reported.

Seizure of Unsound Food, see Report.

Prosecutions, none.

Samples under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 23.

Prosecutions, 1.

River Pollution, under consideration.

Smoke Abatement, 3

Workshops—2 reported for insufficient ventilation, 1
insufficient closet accommodation.



BOROUGH OF ROTHERHAM.

NEW BUILDINGS, &c.

The number of plans submitted and approved by the Health Committee for the year 1896 is 98. Comprising plans for 425 dwelling-houses—the largest number ever approved before in one year—10 shops, 4 workshops, 1 chapel, and several plans for additions and alterations to existing premises.

Plans for 3 new streets were also approved.

The new dwelling-houses erected and certified during the year is 272.

Classified into Wards they are as follow :—

East Ward.....	104
South Ward	31
West Ward	11
North Ward	53
Masbro'	45
Kimberworth	28
—	272

Estimated population being at the end of the year, 49,407.

PRIVATE STREETS put into proper repair and dedicated during the year :—

Whiston Grove.
 Dixon Street.
 Spring Street.
 Godstone Road.
 Warwick Street.

Square Yard, Masbro' Street, has also been put into satisfactory condition.

Streets still in hand :—

Pitt Street.
 Lyme Street.
 Field Place.
 Monk Street.

SEWERAGE.

New Sewers have been laid to drain new property in Meadow Street, Salisbury Street, Clifton Avenue, Badsley Moor Lane, and Queen Street.

NEW STREET IMPROVEMENT.

NEW STREET is being laid out and will shortly be opened between Rawmarsh Road and Greasbro' Road—in line of Drummond Street—which will improve and shorten the route to Greasbro'.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the Summer we were very short of water and were obliged to curtail the supply to only 14 hours per day for several months---temporary supply of water was received from Sheffield--which only produced about 60,000 gallons per day.

The total quantity of water pumped into the Mains during the year is 389,274,427 gallons. The quantity received from Sheffield being 7,118,450 gallons, making the total quantity available for supply for the year 396,392,877 gallons. The quantity supplied works out at 17 gallons per head for all purposes.

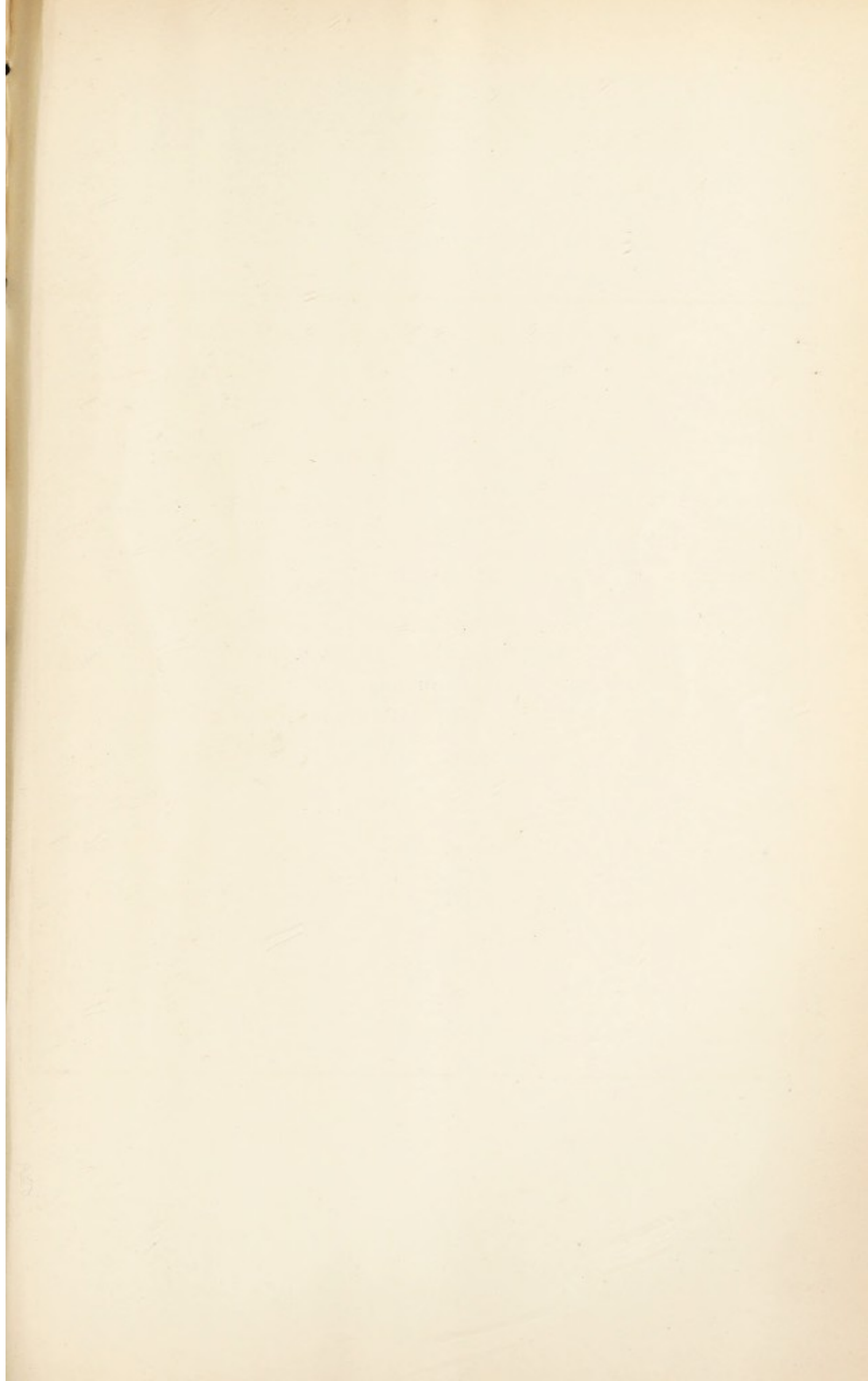
The quantity used for Manufacturing purposes being equal to $2\frac{1}{2}$ gallons per head, which is included in the above.

GEO. JENNINGS.



RAINFALL, 1896—AT ULLEY RESERVOIR.

Months.	No. of days.	Rainfall	Thermometer.			Barometer.	
			Mean.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.
January	...	... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
February	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
March	15	1·810	46·80	74·0	21·0	30·17	28·60
April	10	0·858	43·65	75·0	23·0	30·13	29·52
May	3	0·523	51·76	85·0	24·0	30·56	29·78
June	12	2·700	56·80	92·0	38·0	30·12	29·48
July	7	0·960	61·05	95·0	36·0	30·22	29·57
August	6	1·416	58·96	82·0	35·0	30·15	29·50
September	19	3·150	59·67	78·0	31·0	30·30	29·20
October	21	2·884	57·20	70·0	22·0	30·30	29·06
November	6	0·968	46·80	78·0	18·0	30·40	29·17
December	18	2·862	44·50	71·0	22·0	30·14	28·69



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