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Contributors

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183 Euston Road
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BOROUGH OF RYE.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health, for the Year 1898.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rye Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have again the honor of presenting to you my Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Rye for the year 1898; and a Summary of the precautions taken against the occurrence and spread of disease.

Birth Rate.

The number of Births registered was 107—32 more than last year—of which 48 were boys, and 59 girls; giving a birth rate of 27·3 per 1,000.

Death Rate.

The number of Deaths registered was 76—40 males, and 36 females—which, calculated upon a population of 3,900, gives a death rate of 19·4 per 1,000. The principle causes of death were:—Heart Disease, 10; Influenza, 8; Cancer, 6; Phthisis, 9 (five of which cases came into the town suffering from the disease); Decay of Nature, 6. Death rate from Respiratory Diseases, 3·6 per 1,000.

„ „ „ Zymotic Diseases, ·2 per 1,000.

„ „ among persons over 65 years of age, per centage of total deaths, 34·1.

„ „ of children under 1 year, 21; making the infant Death rate 197 per 1,000.

PREVALENCE OF DISEASE.

Influenza.

Though more or less present throughout the year, was more particularly prevalent from the end of January to the middle of March. About 180 cases in all, were under treatment. Eight deaths were ascribed to the disease, at an average age of 50 years.

Measles.

A considerable epidemic was present during the first six weeks of the year. I calculate that not less than 140 school children were affected; though only one child died. The Schools were closed for a month, in consequence of the epidemic.

Erysipelas.

Five cases in all—one in April, two in July, and two in October. In four instances the face was affected, and in the remaining one, the leg—secondary to a small wound.

BOROUGH OF RYE.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health, for the Year 1898

A short statement of the progress of the work of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1898, and a summary of the results of the various measures taken for the improvement of the public health.

The number of deaths registered was 107, or 1.7 per 1,000 of the population, and the number of births registered was 1,107, or 17.7 per 1,000 of the population.

The number of deaths from infectious diseases was 41, or 0.67 per 1,000 of the population, and the number of deaths from non-infectious diseases was 66, or 1.03 per 1,000 of the population. The number of deaths from zoonotic diseases was 1, or 0.016 per 1,000 of the population. The number of deaths from causes classified as "other" was 5, or 0.08 per 1,000 of the population.

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PREVENTION OF DISEASE.

The work of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1898, and a summary of the results of the various measures taken for the improvement of the public health.

The number of deaths registered was 107, or 1.7 per 1,000 of the population, and the number of births registered was 1,107, or 17.7 per 1,000 of the population.

EPIDEMIOL.

The number of deaths registered was 107, or 1.7 per 1,000 of the population, and the number of births registered was 1,107, or 17.7 per 1,000 of the population.

Diphtheria.

During the last seven years, Diphtheria has fortunately been steadily on the decrease, and during the past year not a single case was notified.

Scarlet Fever.

An epidemic began in the Infant School in October, and from that time to the end of the year, 27 cases were notified, in 17 different families. At no time has it taken a severe enough form to justify the closure of the Schools. Home isolation and disinfection have been carried out as far as practicable, by gratuitous distribution of disinfectants, and fumigating of houses; there being at present no Isolation Hospital in the District. At the end of the year, the epidemic was decidedly abating; no deaths occurred.

Water Supply.

The new boring at Cadborough Hill, has, during the past year, given to the Town an abundant supply of water, the purity of which Analysts declare to be absolutely irreproachable.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

This is on the Water-Carriage principle, and has worked well on the South side of the Town. But the northern system with its out-fall into the Tillingham river is still unsatisfactory, from the fact that the contents of the sewer can only be discharged at low water. If the outlet of this large level drain could be made in the river Rother, then the waters from the Tillingham held up by the Sluice Gates, could be used for flushing it twice daily, if required.

Dairies, Bake-houses, and Slaughter-houses

Have been frequently visited, and I have no complaints to make on the way in which they are conducted.

Sanitation.

I have made many house-to-house inspections, with the result of discovering several imperfect systems in house-drainage, but have always experienced great readiness on the part of owners of property to have the defects remedied.

In the removal of refuse, the Scavenger still performs his work satisfactorily.

In spite of the adverse meteorological conditions of the past year, with its mild and damp winter, and extremely dry summer, the average health of the town was well maintained.

I have the honour, to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

ALBERT E. VIDLER.

MINT HOUSE, RYE.

28th February, 1899.

Epidemiology

During the last season some epidemics have been observed in the
winter and during the last year and a half others have

Seasonal Fever

An epidemic began in the infant school in October and from that time to
the end of the year 27 cases were notified in 17 different families. At no time
was it taken a serious enough form to justify the closure of the school. There
was a slight epidemic in the winter of 1891-2 and in the winter of 1892-3
but it was not so serious as the epidemic of 1890-1. At the end of the year the epidemic was
notified in the following manner:

Winter Epidemic

The winter of 1893-4 was a very dry one and during the last week of the
year a number of cases of winter fever were notified in the following manner:

Summer and Winter Epidemics

This is one of the most common forms of epidemic and has occurred well on the
whole about the year. In the summer season with the exception of 1890-1
and 1892-3 and 1893-4, there has been no epidemic of the summer type but
in 1890-1 and 1892-3 and 1893-4 there have been epidemics of the summer type.
In the winter of 1890-1 there was an epidemic of the winter type and in 1892-3
and 1893-4 there was an epidemic of the winter type.

Summer, Winter, and Epidemic Diseases

There have been epidemics of winter fever and I have no complaint to make of the way
in which they are conducted.

Sanitation

I have made many suggestions for improvement, with the result of the
most important suggestions in the following manner, but have always experienced great
difficulty on the part of the authorities to carry out the suggestions.
In the summer of 1893 the sanitary conditions were very bad and
the result was a very bad epidemic.

The winter of 1893-4 was a very dry one and during the last week of the
year a number of cases of winter fever were notified in the following manner:
The winter of 1893-4 was a very dry one and during the last week of the
year a number of cases of winter fever were notified in the following manner:

I have the honor to remain, Sir, your obedient servant.

Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR E. VIDLER

Sanitary Officer

Sanitary Officer