

[Report 1900] / Medical Officer of Health, Mirfield U.D.C.

Contributors

Mirfield (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1900

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/mr8rgyxj>

License and attribution

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

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

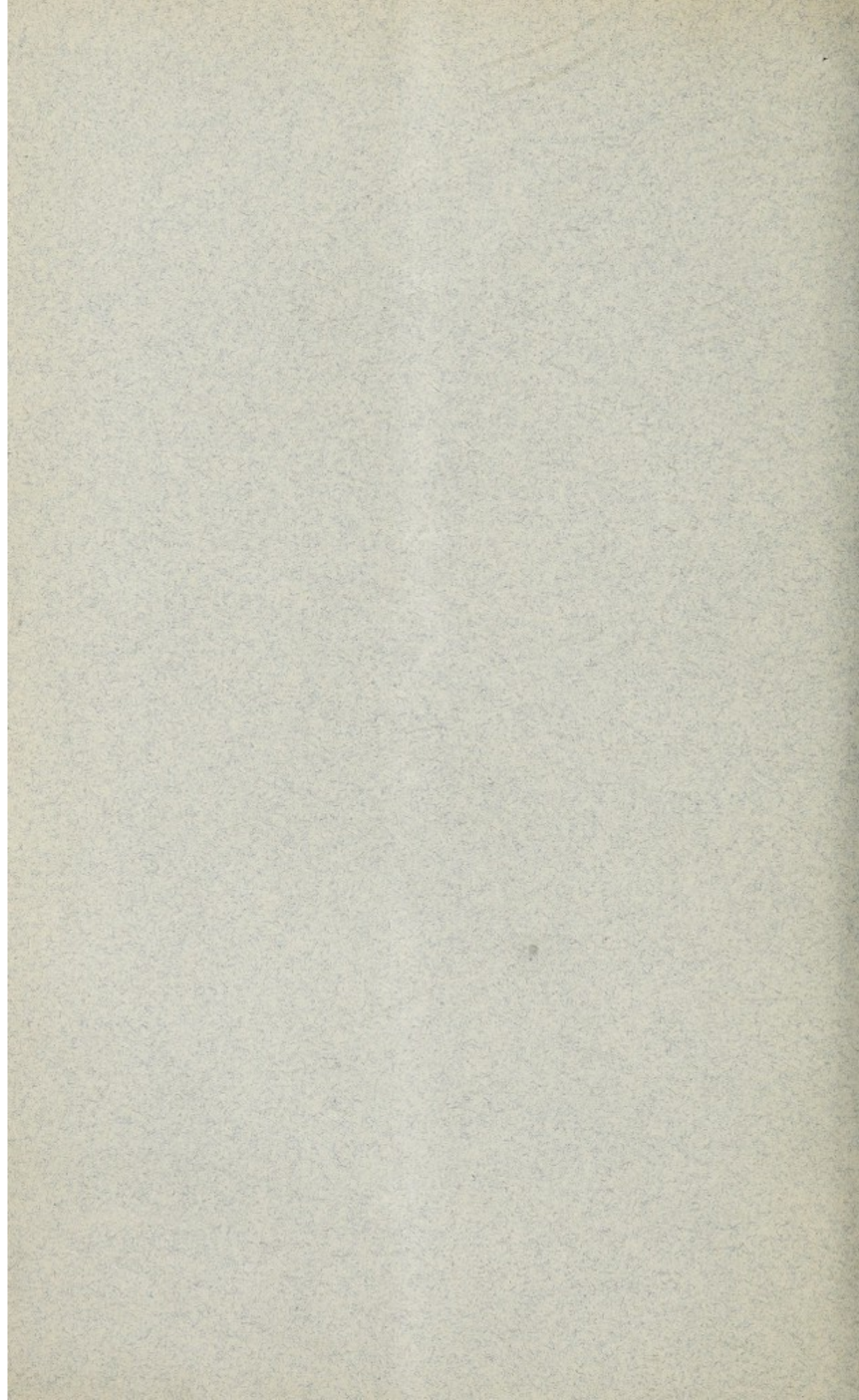
Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



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

Mirfield
Urban District Council.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1900.



Annual Report for 1900.

GENTLEMEN,

The Report for 1900 will not appear to differ very much from previous ones. The tabulated lists are worked out on rather fresh lines, time will prove whether they are quite sufficient for scientific investigation ; they are a great improvement on the old ones.

Sanitary work has been going on very satisfactorily during the year. Sometimes nuisances are only abated after great delay, a little more speed would not do any harm. The enlargement of the Isolation Hospital at Crossley, so as to admit Typhoid Fever patients, has been the great work of the year.

Population.—I am calculating the population to the end of June, 1900, as 12,413, an increase of 97, that being the excess of births over deaths. The number of empty houses, I am informed, is about 200, much the same as last year.

Births.—During the year 301 births (157 males, 144 females) have been registered—


83	in the	1st	quarter
76	„	2nd	„
69	„	3rd	„
73	„	4th	„

The birthrate for the year is at the rate of 24.24 (for England and Wales it is 28.9). The births are 15 above the average of the last 10 years.

Number of births for the last 10 years :—

In 1891	-	261	In 1896	-	239
" 1892	-	263	" 1897	-	317
" 1893	-	308	" 1898	-	314
" 1894	-	256	" 1899	-	268
" 1895	-	262	" 1900	-	301

Deaths.—During the year 196 deaths have been registered as having taken place, of which 116 were males and 80



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30050601>

females. 8 of these were deaths of non-residents—3 belonging to Liversedge, 2 to Ravensthorpe, 1 each to Thornhill, Kirkheaton, and Robert-town; these bring the numbers down to 188. On the other hand 3 residents have died in the Asylum, raising the number to 191. I should like to propose that in January in each year every public Institution send a return of the number of deaths in that Institution to the Medical Officer of Health informing him of any deaths out of his district that have occurred in their Institution: it is absolutely required if we are to keep a correct account, and in the case of the Workhouses, births should also be given.

The deathrate for the year is 15.78, with corrections 15.38 (for England and Wales it is 18.3).

71 deaths occurred in the 1st quarter

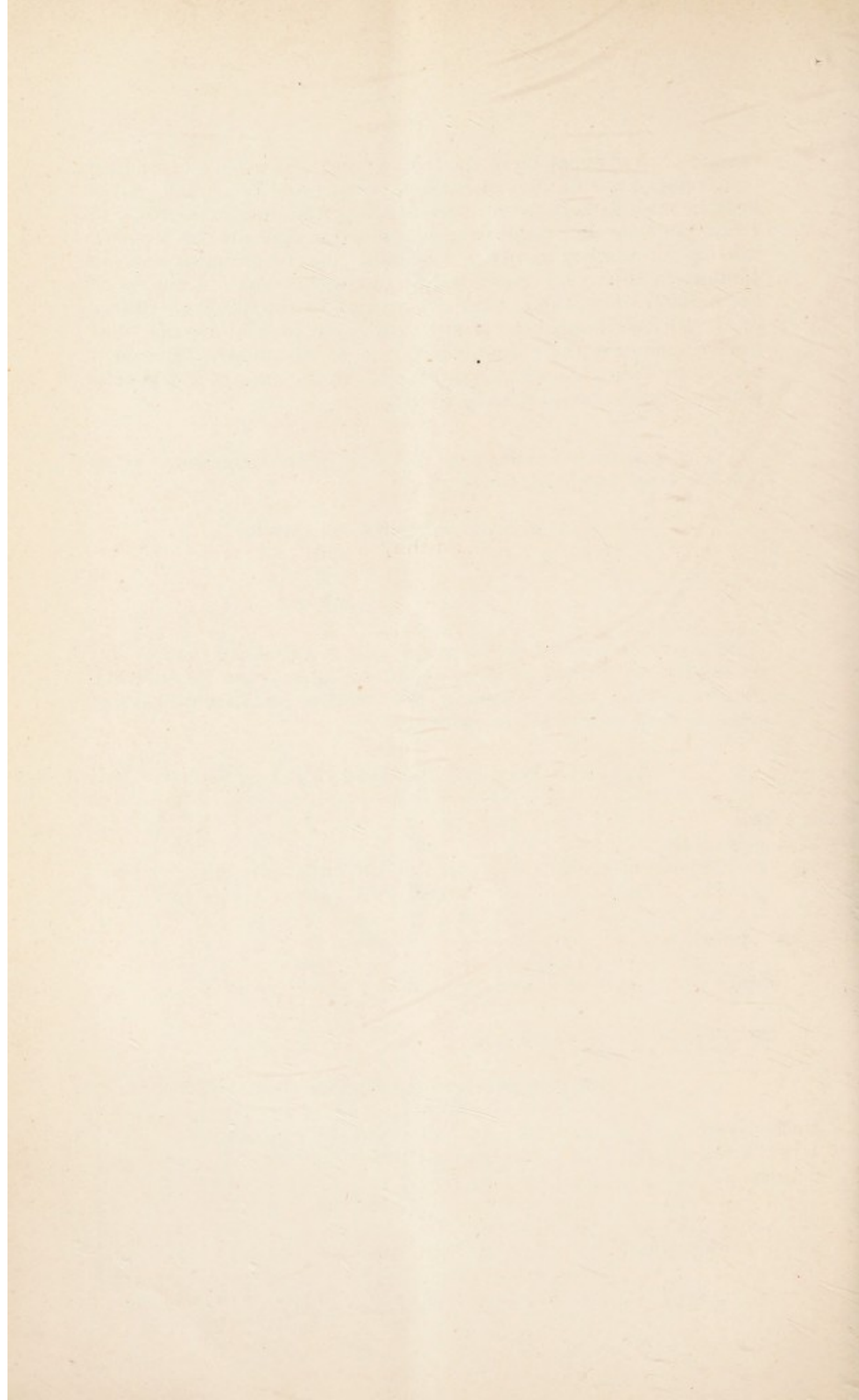
42	"	"	2nd	"
39	"	"	3rd	"
43	"	"	4th	"

In former years I have given you a tabulated list of the deaths for 10 years, I propose to do so again, but in addition give you also a table showing the number of deaths taking place in each month at the same age:—

	Jan.	Feb	Mar	Apl	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	T'tls
Under 1 year ...	6	7	4	5	5	2	2	7	1	3	2	3	47
1 year & under 5 yrs.	5	4	3	1	nil	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	23
5 years " 15 "	nil	nil	1	1	1	nil	nil	nil	nil	1	nil	1	5
15 " " 25 "	nil	2	2	1	nil	nil	nil	1	1	nil	nil	2	9
25 " " 65 "	9	8	7	8	7	4	6	7	4	4	4	4	72
65 " and upwards.	5	7	1	1	6	nil	2	4	1	4	3	6	40
Total ...	25	28	18	17	19	7	11	20	8	13	12	18	196

Also yearly for 10 years:—

	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	T'tls
Under 1 year ...	42	66	43	41	38	44	39	42	31	47	433
1 year & under 5 yrs.	39	15	20	24	26	39	23	15	19	23	243
5 years " 15 "	15	7	13	10	11	17	5	12	7	5	102
15 " " 25 "	13	15	15	21	8	18	5	12	7	9	123
25 " " 65 "	78	49	64	61	72	61	52	82	74	72	663
65 " and upwards...	72	64	47	38	45	50	42	55	51	40	504
Total ..	259	216	202	195	200	229	166	218	189	196	2070



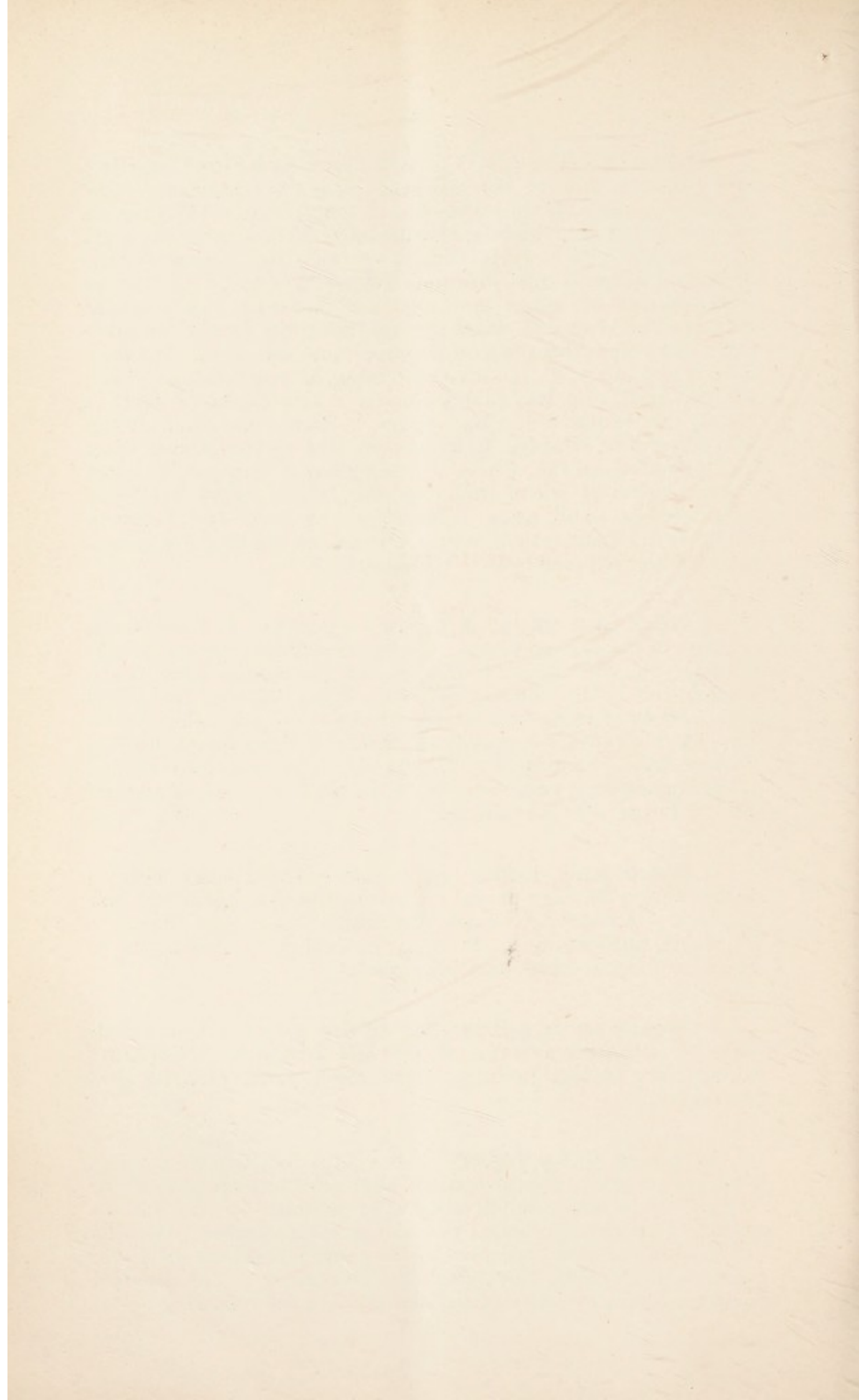
Infants.—The deaths of 47 infants under one year is 4 above the average of the last 10 years, this does not show progress; 1899 for Mirfield was a more favourable year as regards infant life, the infant deathrate for that year was 2.51, for 1900 it is 3.78. It is not always easy to account for the difference between one year and another in infant life, for the usual causes of infant mortality are more or less constant between one year and another; on referring to the monthly table you will notice the deaths were more numerous in Jany., Feby., and August, the two extremes of temperature; then March, April, and May follow closely. The cause of death is mainly due to the following causes:—Premature birth, Inanition or want of vitality, Convulsions—due to injudicious feeding, Affections of the Chest, Pneumonia and Bronchitis—often due to neglect of warm underclothing, stuffy bedrooms: this latter applies to all ages, it is surprising how few bedroom windows are ever opened, and the fireplaces are in many houses boarded and papered over. 3 Inquests.

1 year and under 5 years.—23 deaths, or 1 below the average of the last 10 years. On again referring to the monthly table you will notice that most of the deaths have taken place in the colder months of Jan., Feb., March, Nov., and Dec. Many of these deaths might have been prevented. e.g.—Measles 3, Scarlet Fever 4, (1 for Mirfield) Whooping Cough 2, Pneumonia 4, Bronchitis 1, Diphtheria 1, Fire 1, Convulsions 4, the remaining 3 could scarcely have been avoided, Endocarditis 1, Purpura 1, Enteritis 1.

5 years and under 15 years.—There have been 5 deaths during this age period; 5 below the average of the last 10 years. Causes of death—Bronchitis 1, Scarlet Fever 1 (Mirfield), Diphtheria 1, Heart 1, Embolism 1, Meningitis 1. The first 3 might have been prevented.

15 years to 25 years.—During this period 9 deaths took place; 3 below the average of the last 10 years. No deaths taking place during January, April, May, June, October, and November.

25 years to 65 years.—This age period, which, though it covers 40 years, should scarcely have such a death roll of 72; 2 less than in 1899, and 6 above the average of the last 10 years. You will also notice that the greater number of deaths occurred in the first 5 months of the year, the fewest in June, September, October, November, and December. The diseases that caused the majority of the deaths were the following:—



Phthisis Pulmonalis 9
 Acute diseases of of Respiration 14
 Heart disease and of the circulation 12
 Malignant disease 8
 Disease of Kidney 5
 Influenza with complications 4
 Rheumatism 3
 Typhoid Fever 2,

65 years and upwards.—40 deaths in this class; 11 fewer than in 1899, and 10 below the average of the last 10 years.

I will now pass on from the classification of ages &c. to some of the different diseases.

Phthisis Pulmonalis.—10 deaths; 5 less than in 1899, and 6 less than the average of the last 10 years. I hope we shall soon be able to have a Sanatorium where our West Riding cases can go to be cured.

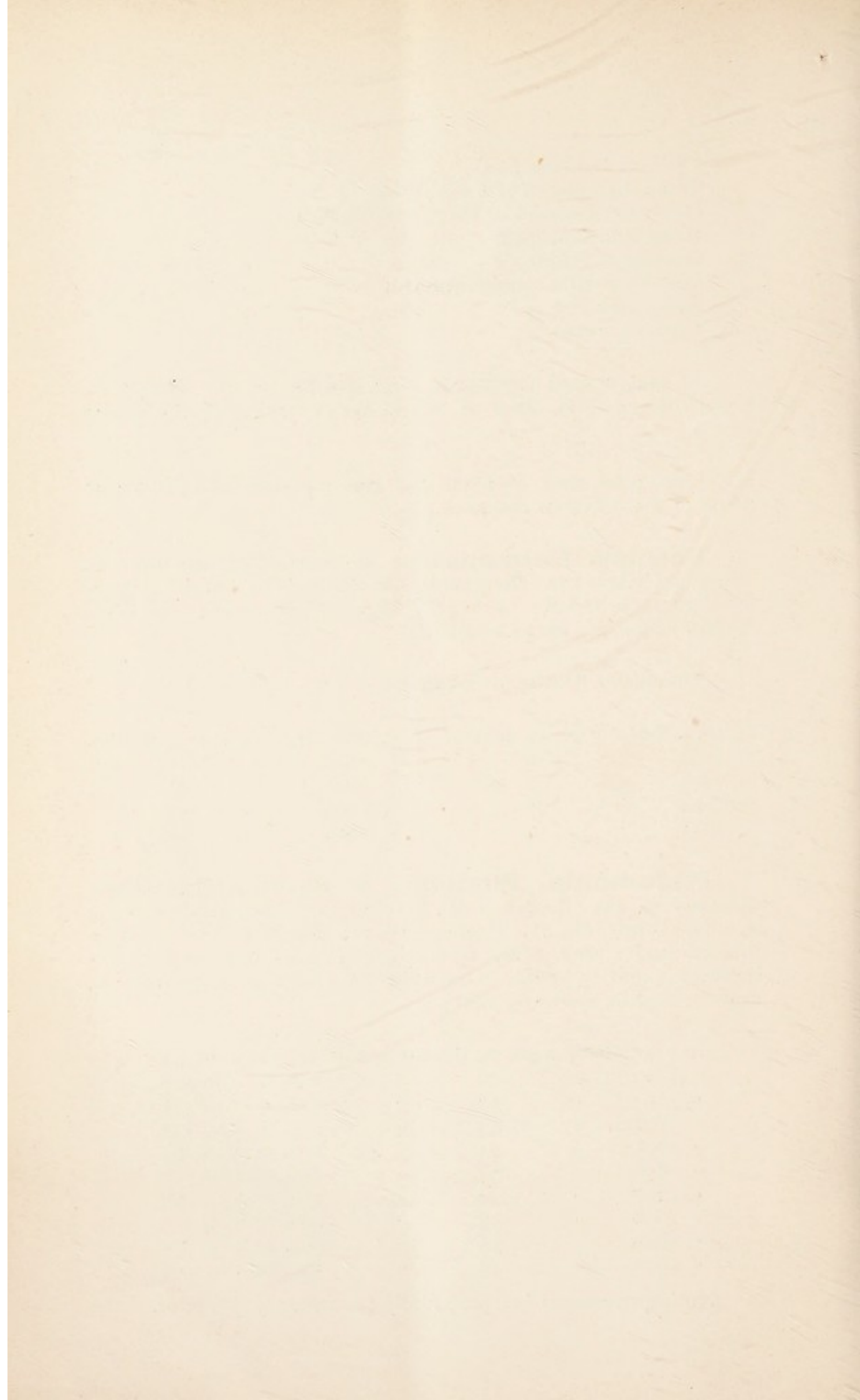
Number of deaths for 10 years :—

In 1891 there were 15 deaths.				In 1896 there were 14 deaths.			
" 1892	"	16	"	" 1897	"	11	"
" 1893	"	20	"	" 1898	"	18	"
" 1894	"	27	"	" 1899	"	15	"
" 1895	"	19	"	" 1900	"	10	"

Pneumonia, Pleurisy, & Bronchitis.—These diseases of the Respiratory system are responsible for 44 deaths—Bronchitis 21, Pneumonia 21, Pleurisy 2. 11 were infants under one year, 6 between 1 year and under 5, 1 between 5 and 15 years, 1 between 15 and 25, 14 between 25 and 65, and 10 above 65 years.

In 1891 there were 79 deaths out of 250, or 1 in 3.2			
" 1892	"	56	" 216, or 1 in 3.8
" 1893	"	52	" 202, or 1 in 3.6
" 1894	"	43	" 195, or 1 in 4.5
" 1895	"	44	" 200, or 1 in 4.5
" 1896	"	34	" 229, or 1 in 6.7
" 1897	"	34	" 166, or 1 in 4.8
" 1898	"	39	" 218, or 1 in 5.5
" 1899	"	34	" 189, or 1 in 5.5
" 1900	"	44	" 196, or 1 in 4.4

No improvement in 1900, really the other way about.



Deaths not certified.—None. Inquests have in all cases been held where no certificates could be obtained.

Cancer.—In 1900 12 deaths have been caused by malignant disease. In 1899 the number was 21. 1 died between the ages of 15 and 25, 8—and probably a 9th—between the ages of 25 and 65, and 2 above 65. 7 were females, 5 males.

Inquests.—There have been 19 Inquests held during the year. In 1897 there were 15, in 1898—12, in 1899—15. Of these 19, 15 were males, and 4 females. 2 were killed on the Railway, 1 in a Colliery. 1 poisoned himself when intoxicated. 1 fell into the Canal in the dark. 1 died from exhaustion in a field during a fog. 1 died by fire. The remainder apparently died from heart disease, and in the case of young children, convulsions.

I now come to the illnesses and deaths more particularly under the Zymotic class. The number for the year is 18.

Scarlet Fever.—2 deaths—1 between 1 year and 5 years, 1 between 5 and 15.

Whooping Cough.—2 deaths—both between the ages of 1 and 5.

Diphtheria.—2 deaths—both between the ages of 1 to 5.

Measles.—4 deaths—1 under 1 year, 3 between 1 year and under 5.

On the 7th March you will remember the Lower Hopton Infant School was closed in consequence of an outbreak of this disease amongst the children in the Infant class; the School was closed for 3 weeks, the result of which completely stopped the epidemic. Also that another outbreak of this disease broke out at Knowle, (S. Peter's Infant School) just about the time of the summer holidays, the epidemic had not quite died down during the holidays, that the Managers by my advice gave the children another week. The disease did not make much headway at the Wesleyan School, it was therefore not closed; but at the Lee Green Infant School we were once more obliged to resort to closing. The disease was not of a severe character. I often find that in the summer months the disease is much less fatal, and consequently there is a disposition to keep the



Schools open; at the same time very little persuasion was required on my part, the Managers complying at once. I also wish here to thank the School Attendance Officer (Mr. France) for his willing and ready assistance to me. The earlier intimation of the occurrence of Measles at Lower Hopton enabled us to check the disease much sooner than was the case at Knowl and Lee Green.

Croup.—1 death, under 1 year—spasmodic.

Enteric Fever.—2 deaths, between the ages of 25 and 65.

Diarrhœa.—3 deaths. 1 under 1 year, 2 over 65—due to old age.

Puerperal Fever.—1 death, between 25 and 65.

Erysipelas.—2 deaths. 1 under 1 year, the other between 25 and 65.

	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	1900	T'tl.
Smallpox ...	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Scarlet Fever ...	2	1	3	0	1	13	2	2	1	2	27
Measles ...	11	0	0	0	10	15	0	2	1	4	43
Typhoid Fever ...	4	0	2	0	0	2	1	2	1	2	14
Continued " ...	3	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7
Diarrhœa ...	2	3	7	4	4	2	8	9	2	3	44
Diphtheria ...	6	0	0	3	2	4	2	0	1	2	20
Membranous Croup...	2	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	8
Erysipelas ...	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	9
Puerperal Fever ...	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	7
Whooping Cough ...	3	5	4	6	0	8	7	2	1	2	38
Total ..	37	17	17	16	18	47	22	19	8	18	219

The Zymotic deathrate is 1.45 per 1000, in 1899 it was 0.65. For England and Wales it is 2.00.



Scarlet Fever.—24 cases of this Fever during the year—19 were removed to Hospital, 5 remained at home. There were 2 deaths, 1 at home, the other at the Hospital.

In 1899 there were 58 cases and 1 death.

In 1898 " 75 " 2 deaths.

Of these, 1 was under 1 year of age
5 between the ages of 1 and 5 years.

14	"	"	5	"	15	"
3	"	"	15	"	25	"
1	"	"	25	"	65	"

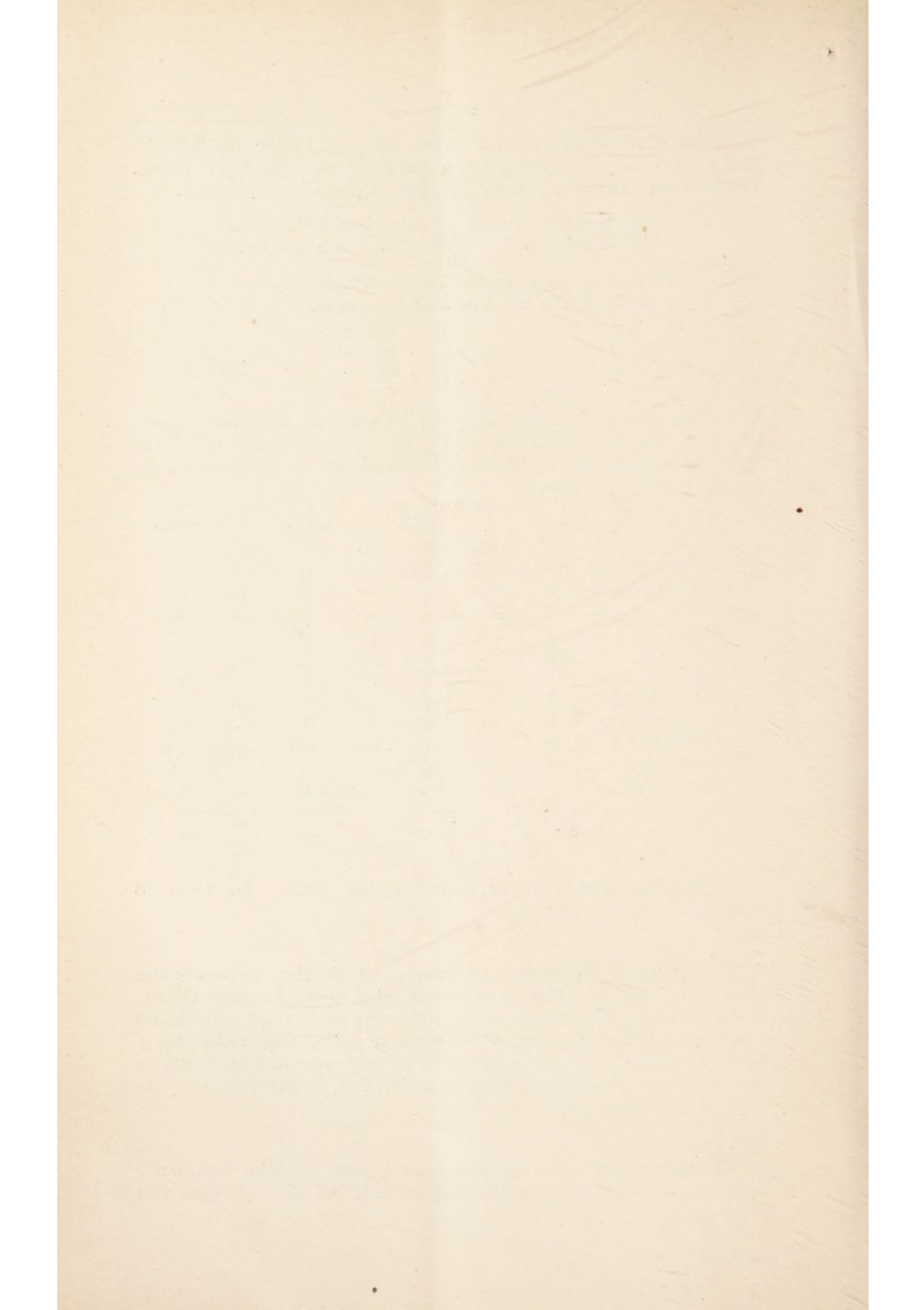
They occurred in the different Wards as follows :—East-thorpe 3, Hopton 10 (Lower 9, Upper 1), Battysford 7, Northorpe 4, and occurred in the months as shewn in the table below for the last four years :—

	1897		1898		1899		1900
January	... 13	...	1	...	7	...	2
February	... nil	...	17	...	9	...	2
March	... 6	...	5	...	8	...	1
April	... 7	...	4	...	9	...	nil
May	... 1	...	5	...	6	...	3
June	... nil	...	5	...	5	...	1
July	... 1	...	2	...	5	...	3
August	... 2	...	4	...	1	...	3
September	... 9	...	7	...	1	...	2
October	... 9	...	9	...	nil	...	3
November	... 11	...	5	...	5	...	1
December	... 7	...	10	...	2	...	3
	66		74		58		24

Erysipelas.—11 cases during the year. In 1899—8 cases. In 1898—15 cases.

Typhoid Fever.—11 cases. 2 deaths, between the ages of 25 and 65. The cases occurred 6 in the Hopton Ward, 1 Battysford, 4 Northorpe, and at the age periods of 1 between 1 year and under 5 years, 2 between 5 years and under 15, 4 between 15 and 25, and 4 between 25 and 65 ; and occurred in the following months—February 5, April 1, September 1, October 3, December 1.

Drainage.—During the year Upper Hopton has been drained ; a great boon to the inhabitants of that part of the district.



Water.—The Towns Water has been very abundant during the year. The colour has not by any means been as clear as might be, the Corporation laying the blame to stormy weather, which I have no doubt is partly true, but I think a great deal of it is also due to the want of regular and systematic flushing of the mains. This discoloration is supposed not to be injurious, but it certainly is not inviting to drink until after filtration. The Water does not appear now to have much action upon lead, but I hope the Council will still advise all service pipes to be iron, and never lead; this will not release householders from the duty of filtering the water before used for drinking.

Infectious Notification Act.

During the year 53 cases have been notified, as against 72 in 1899, and 106 in 1898. On the last page you will see the number of cases notified, also the number of deaths since your adoption of the Act on Feb. 1st, 1890.

I will again tabulate the number of deaths to cases as in former years :—

In 1890	14 deaths in 41 $\frac{1}{2}$ cases	1 in 2.95
" 1891	20 " 79 "	1 in 3.95
" 1892	7 " 60 "	1 in 8.57
" 1893	6 " 55 "	1 in 9.16
" 1894	5 " 34 "	1 in 6.98
" 1895	4 " 68 "	1 in 17
" 1896	22 " 394 "	1 in 17.9
" 1897	7 " 95 "	1 in 13.4
" 1898	6 " 106 "	1 in 17
" 1899	4 " 72 "	1 in 18
" 1900	9 " 53 "	1 in 5.8

I cannot explain how it is the last few years the percentage of deaths to cases was improving.

Crossley Hospital.

You all know why this Hospital was enlarged, also the reasons for and against a permanent building. It is unnecessary for me to say anything beyond the fact that the enlarged Hospital is now an accomplished fact, and has been completed in a very efficient manner, and if the Typhoid cases do as well as the Scarlet Fever, you may indeed be proud of the work.



The Hospital will now provide accommodation for 30 patients, 12 beds in female and children's Scarlet Fever Ward, 6 in the male Scarlet ward, 6 male Typhoid beds, and 6 female Typhoid beds, together with ample maintenance blocks for nurses and servants.

I think the general public do not recognise the fact that they may have their clothes and bedding disinfected, the only cost attached to it is the taking the things and removing them.

I also wish to thank your Sanitary Inspector for his willing help, he is always ready to render me valuable help, often at some inconvenience to himself.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. B. FAIRCLOUGH,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

May 24th, 1900.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
LIBRARY

Table of Cases of Infectious Diseases.

	1890		1891		1892		1893		1894		1895		1896		1897		1898		1899		1900	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Smallpox	0	0	0	0	11	1	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	10	0	41	2	23	1	39	3	13	0	32	1	339	13	66	2	75	2	58	1	24	2
Diphtheria	8	4	16	6	5	0	0	0	6	3	8	2	26	4	10	2	8	0	3	1	4	2
Membranous Croup	6	5	3	2	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	4	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
Typhoid Fever	13	4	4	4	2	0	3	2	3	0	17	0	14	2	5	1	6	2	2	1	11	2
Continued Fever	0	0	3	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	3	2	1	1	0	0	2	1
Erysipelas	4	1	11	3	16	3	4	0	10	0	0	0	10	0	9	0	15	0	8	0	11	2
Cholera	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	41	14	79	20	60	7	55	6	34	5	68	4	394	22	95	7	106	6	72	4	53	9





