

## **[Report 1906] / Medical Officer of Health, Sawbridgeworth U.D.C.**

### **Contributors**

Sawbridgeworth (England). Urban District Council.

### **Publication/Creation**

1906

### **Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/vustd56h>

### **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](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

**Medical Officer of Health**

TO THE

URBAN DISTRICT OF

SAWBRIDGEWORTH.

FOR 1906.



BISHOP'S STORTFORD

MARDON BROS, "OBSERVER" PRINTING WORKS, NORTH STREET.

1907.



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

THE RED HOUSE,  
SAWBRIDGEWORTH.

*February 25th, 1907.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report on the Health of your Town.

The subject especially commended to your consideration is drainage and disposal of sewage.

This matter has become urgent, and no exaggeration is necessary to impress upon you that every effort should be employed to push forward the excellent scheme which has already been approved by your Council.

The Death Rate is on the whole satisfactory.

The very high Infant Mortality Rate has been explained in my notes, and should not be viewed with alarm.

The Birth Rate is much below the normal, and is most unsatisfactory.

No death has been caused by pulmonary tuberculosis. This fact will tend to emphasize the opinion I expressed, that under existing circumstances for a small district such as yours *per se*, voluntary notification of Phthisis is unnecessary.

I offer my thanks to the members of your Council, to Mr. Morris and to Mr. Watts, for kindness invariably shown me, and for valuable assistance given me in the performance of my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ETHELBERT COLLINS.

## SAWBRIDGEWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1906.

GENTLEMEN,

I have now the pleasure of presenting to you my Annual Report on the Health of your Town.

### CHIEF STATISTICS.

	1901.	1906.
Population (1901 by census) ...	2085	2340
Acreage (exclusive of water) ...	2660	2660
Number of inhabited houses ...	481	520
Average density of population per house	4·5	4·5

  

	1904.	1905.	1906.
Birth Rate (per 1,000 of population)...	26·1	21·6	18·8
Total Deaths in District ... ..	19	30	29
Corrections ... ..	+4	+1	+3
Net Death Rate ... ..	10·3	13·9	13·6
Epidemic Death Rate... ..	Nil	·45	1·2
Death Rate from Diarrhœa ... ..	·45	·45	·4 <sup>2</sup>
"    "    "    Phthisis ... ..	·9	·9	Nil.
"    "    "    Cancer ... ..	1·8	2·25	1·2
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 births) ...	34·5	41·6	20·4·5
Total Deaths over 65 years of age ...	9	17	12

It is gratifying to note a steady increase in the population of the District—an average increase of 51 per annum since 1901, when the Urban District was formed. An increasing population is indicative of prosperity.

The low Birth Rate recorded for the past year is regrettable, it is at least 25 per cent. lower than it should be, and can only be attributed to the employment of means for the prevention of conception.

The very high infant mortality rate requires some explanation. There were nine deaths occurring in infants under one year of age. Of these 9 deaths, 4 were due to premature birth and 1 to an accidental cause. The actual infantile mortality rate from disease would then be 90·9. Only one death occurred from Diarrhœal Diseases.

The Death Rate compares favourably with that of other Urban Districts. The Death Rate of deaths which occurred in the district is 10·2, which is lower than that of any previous year. I am glad to be able to state that not a single death was caused by Phthisis.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

#### DEATHS.

			1904.	1905.	1906.
Whooping Cough	...	...	0	0	2
Enteric Fever	...	...	0	1	1
Diarrhoea	...	...	1	1	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	0	0	1
Erysipelas	...	...	0	0	1
Tubercular Diseases	...	...	4	3	1
Total	...	...	5	5	7

#### NOTIFICATIONS.

(Removals to Hospital in brackets.)

Diphtheria	...	...	2 (1)	0	2 (2)
Erysipelas	...	...	0	3	3
Scarlet Fever	...	...	4 (2)	3 (2)	10 (10)
Enteric Fever	...	...	1	1	0
Total	...	...	7	7	15

Isolation—Hospital at Bishop's Stortford.

Disinfection—Steam disinfector at Hospital.

The two cases of diphtheria occurred in different parts of the district ; both cases were of a mild type.

In the month of February two cases of scarlet fever were notified ; the cases were those of two children belonging to the same family. The source of infection could not be traced.

No other case was notified until the month of September, when 2 children, members of another family, were reported to be suffering from scarlet fever. I made a thorough and systematic inspection of the Schools, and also of several families with whom the children were accustomed to associate, and discovered a family of children, one of which was suffering from

scarlet fever in the acute stage, another in the desquamative stage. The two children above mentioned contracted the disease from this family, and I attribute four other cases as having been infected, directly or indirectly, from the same source.

The 10 cases of scarlet fever notified during the year were all treated in the Isolation Hospital.

Disinfection was carried out, and every precaution was taken to prevent the disease becoming epidemic.

#### **WATER SUPPLY.**

Chiefly from the mains of the Herts and Essex Water Company. A constant supply is now provided, which is not only a great convenience to the consumer, but also one of the most important factors in the maintenance of health.

The Company's mains have now been extended for the supply of Clay Lane.

Your District has now a supply of water sufficient for all purposes.

The water supplied by the Company still maintains its high standard of purity and quality.

#### **DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.**

I must again call the attention of your Council to the extremely unsatisfactory condition of the Drainage of your District, and also of the treatment and disposal of Sewage. I consider that the inhabitants of the South part of the District are living under conditions which jeopardize their lives. The cesspools which receive their Sewage have frequently to be emptied and are very often overflowing, discharging their contents into the public road. The ground is saturated with sewage, and the atmosphere is laden with sewage effluvia. A more insanitary and deplorable state of things can hardly be conceived. It is of vital importance that this state of affairs should be remedied.

The District as a whole requires a more modern and adequate system of sewerage.

The Sewage Farm is not sufficiently large for the proper treatment of about half the quantity of Sewage of the whole District which is now carried there by gravitation, and complaints are constantly being lodged by the Authorities of the Lee Conservancy on account of the effluent not reaching that standard of purity required of an effluent which passes into a running stream from which water used for drinking purposes is drawn.

I cannot too strongly urge your Council to employ every effort and means at your command whereby the comprehensive drainage and sewage disposal scheme prepared by Mr. Anson in 1904 can be carried into effect.

#### SCAVENGING.

House refuse is removed twice a week by the public scavenger. No complaints are heard of, and the work is properly and satisfactorily performed.

#### HOUSING.

A considerable number of cottages have been built by private enterprise—all are occupied. Others are to be built in the near future. There is now no dearth of suitable dwellings for the Working Classes.

#### NUISANCES.

Thirty-two nuisances were detected and abated.

Nuisances caused by cesspools overflowing cannot be dealt with until there is a new system of drainage.

#### INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

A systematic inspection of the District has been made by myself and the Sanitary Officer.

#### PREMISES UNDER SUPERVISION.

*Dairies and Cowsheds*—Are kept clean and satisfactory.

*Slaughter-Houses*—One, which is satisfactory.

*Bakehouses*—Four ; all are clean and in a sanitary condition.

*Workshops and Work-places*—Twenty-nine, sanitary and satisfactory.

# Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1906 and Previous Years.

## Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NET DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.		
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.				Number.	Rate*	
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1901	2085	56	26.8	8	142.8	21	10.07	9	10	8	29	13.9
1902	2085	59	28.24	4	67.79	21	10.07	9	10	1	22	10.5
1903	2085	53	25.24	7	132.07	22	10.5	9	10	4	26	12.4
1904	2215	58	26.1	2	34.4	19	8.5	9	10	4	23	10.3
1905	2220	48	21.6	2	41.6	30	13.5	9	10	1	31	13.9
1906	2340	44	18.8	9	204.5	29	10.2	9	10	3	32	13.6

\*Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—Bishop's Stortford Union Workhouse and Infirmary.

Total population at all ages...	...	2085
Number of inhabited houses	...	461
Average number of persons per house	...	4.5

At Census of 1901.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—2660.

## Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1906.

## Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the district.						
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Whooping Cough ...	2	2					
Enteric Fever ... ..	1					1	
Diarrhœa ... ..	1	1					
Puerperal Fever... ..	1					1	
Erysipelas ... ..	1						1
Other Tubercular diseases	1					1	
Cancer, malignant disease	3					3	
Bronchitis ... ..	1	1					
Pneumonia ... ..	1					1	
Premature Birth... ..	4	4					
Heart Diseases ... ..	3						3
Accidents ... ..	2	1				1	
All other causes... ..	11		1			2	8
All causes ... ..	32	9	1			10	12

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified during the year 1906.

Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						Number of Cases Removed to Hospital from the District.	
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.		65 and upwards.
Diphtheria ... ..	2		1			1		2
Erysipelas ... ..	3					1	2	
Scarlet Fever... ..	10		2	8				10
Totals ... ..	15		3	8		2	2	12

## Sawbridgeworth Urban District.

### Infantile Mortality during the Year 1906.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 Week.	1 to 2 Weeks.	2 to 3 Weeks.	Total under 1 month.	2 to 3 Months.	8 to 9 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
ALL CAUSES { Certified .. .. .	4	2	1	7		1	8
ALL CAUSES { Uncertified .. .. .					1		1
Whooping Cough ...	1			1		1	2
Diarrhoea, all forms ...		1		1			1
Premature Birth ... ..	3		1	4			4
Bronchitis ... .. .		1		1			1
Suffocation, overlying...					1		1
	4	2	1	7	1	1	9

Population (estimated to middle of 1906)—2,340.

Births in the year { <table style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">legitimate</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">43</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">illegitimate</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">1</td> </tr> </table>	legitimate	43	illegitimate	1	Deaths in the year { <table style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">legitimate</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">illegitimate</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">nil</td> </tr> </table>	legitimate	9	illegitimate	nil
legitimate	43								
illegitimate	1								
legitimate	9								
illegitimate	nil								

Deaths from all causes at all ages—32.

Summary of work done by A. T. Watts in the Sawbridgeworth  
Urban District during the Year ending December 31st, 1906.

PARTICULARS.	Total number for the Year.	Result of Inspection, and other Remarks.
Nuisances detected ... ..	32	
Nuisances abated ... ..	32	
Notices served ... ..	1	
Cottages inspected ... ..	150	
Slaughter-houses inspected ...	1	
Bakehouses inspected ... ..	4	
Workshops inspected ... ..	18	
Cottages closed ... ..	—	
Cowsheds inspected ... ..	2	
Overcrowding abated ... ..	1	
Houses placed in habitable repair ... ..	1	
Houses erected or re-built ...	9	7 on the Sayesbury Road Estate. 2 Bell Mead. Fire Station erected by the Urban District Council. Houses supplied by Essex Water Co.
Wells sunk or improved supplies of water afforded		
Wells closed ... ..	—	
Pumps repaired ... ..	1	Pump at Spellbrook.
Earth, pail or improved Privies constructed or existing Privies altered ... ..	2	
Samples of water taken for analysis ... ..	—	
Houses disinfected ... ..	8	
Schools disinfected ... ..	—	
Barges ... ..	12	Inspections.

Signed,

A. T. WATTS.

## **SAWBRIDGEWORTH URBAN DISTRICT.**

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the Administration of the Factory and Workshops Act for 1906.**

There are thirty-four workshops in the District which are subject to the provisions of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, viz. :—

Workshops 13.  
Factories 0.  
Work places 16.  
Bakehouses 5.

### **SANITARY CONDITION.**

The sanitary condition of all the workshops is generally satisfactory. Cleanliness is, as a rule, strictly observed. There is ample air space in all the workshops, ventilation is sufficient, and sanitary conveniences are provided. No "wet processes" are carried on in any of the workshops.

### **SPECIAL SANITARY REGULATIONS FOR BAKEHOUSES.**

The Bakehouses are perfectly clean and sanitary. The special regulations of the Act are carried out.

### **HOME WORK.**

The dwellings in which Home work is being carried on are suitable for the purpose. Ventilation and sanitary arrangements are good. There is no overcrowding.

There are no out-workers in the district.

A Register of Workshops is kept.

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1906, for the Urban  
District of Sawbridgeworth.

**Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.**

I.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
<b>Factories</b> ... ..			
(Including Factory Laundries).			
<b>Workshops</b> ... ..			
(Including Workshop Laundries).			
<b>Workplaces</b> ... ..	10	None.	None.
<b>Total</b> ... ..	10		

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.		Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied. Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—*</i>			
Want of cleanliness ... ..	None.		
Want of ventilation ... ..	None.		
Overcrowding ... ..	None.		
Want of drainage of floors ... ..	None.		
Other nuisances ... ..	None.		
+ Sanitary accommodation	None.		
insufficient ... ..	None.		
unsuitable or defective	None.		
not separate for sexes	None.		
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:—</i>			
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	None.		
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake-	None.		
houses (s.s. 97 to 100) ... ..	None.		
Other offences (excluding offences relating to out-	None.		
work which are included in Part 3 of this Report)	None.		
Total ... ..	None.		

\* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, of the Factory and Workshop Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

† For districts not in London state here whether section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, has been adopted by the District Council; and if so what standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops has been enforced.

## 3.—HOME WORK.

None.

## 4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.		Number.
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bake-houses, may be enumerated here.	Workshops ... ..	13
	Workplaces ... ..	16
	Bakehouses ... ..	4
Total number of Workshops on Register ...		33

## 5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133) ... ..	None.
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 5).	
Notified by H.M. Inspector ... ..	None.
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ... ..	None.
Other ... ..	None.
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year ... ..	None.
In use at the end of the year ... ..	None.

ETHELBERT COLLINS,

*February 21st, 1906.**Medical Officer of Health.*