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Contributors

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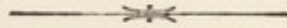
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SEAHAM HARBOUR

Urban District Council.



Annual Report

FOR 1905,

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



SEAHAM HARBOUR :

W. J. Young, Printer and Stationer, North Railway Street.

1906.



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To the Members of the Seaham Harbour Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for 1905.

POPULATION, &c., AT CENSUS 1901.

Population—10,163
Increase between 1891 and 1901—1,119
Percentage of Increase—12·3
Area in Acres—1,101
Number of Persons per Acre—9·2
Number of Inhabited Houses—1313
Number of Persons per House—7·7

Since 1901 the following houses have been built and are now occupied:—38 for three tenants, 36 for two tenants, and 28 for one tenant. Total number of tenements, 214.

The population estimated to June, 1905 was 11,000.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered during the year was 465, which is six more than in 1904; of these births 243 were male and 222 female. The birth rate was 42·2.

DEATHS.

234 deaths of persons belonging to this district occurred, 122 males and 112 females, which gives a mortality rate of 21·2 as compared with 19·0 in 1903, and 21·5 the average for the preceding ten years. The male death rate was 11·0 and the female 10·1. The number of deaths of persons over three years of age was 101, equal to a mortality rate of 9·2, while the deaths of persons under three years numbered 133, equal to a rate of 12·0. 8 persons belonging to this district died in Sunderland Infirmary, 2 in Easington Workhouse, and 2 in Sedgfield Asylum.

The death rate from phthisis was 1·7 and other tubercular diseases caused 19 deaths, equal to a rate of 1·7, therefore the deaths from all tubercular diseases numbered 38, giving a rate of 3·4 as compared with 3·7 in 1904.

Persons suffering from consumption require plenty of light and fresh air. They should invariably spit in a special bottle, a rag, or a vessel containing sawdust, and great care should be taken to see that the expectoration is subsequently burned. Children suffering from consumption should not be sent to school.

Bronchitis and pneumonia caused 62 deaths, equal to a death rate of 5·6; 42 of these deaths were infants under three years of age.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The following deaths from zymotic diseases occurred:—measles 10, whooping cough 2, diarrhoea 18, enteritis 6, erysipelas 1, a total of 37, which gives a death rate of 3·3 as compared with 1·89 in 1904 and 3·6 in 1903. With three exceptions, 1 of diarrhoea, 1 of measles, and 1 of erysipelas, all these deaths were of children under three years of age.

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	Total	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	Total	
	1 Week	Weeks	Weeks	Weeks	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Deaths under 1 Year	Yrs.	Yrs.	Yrs.	Yrs.	Deaths under 5 Years	
Common Infectious Diseases																			
Smallpox ..										1				1	5	3	1		10
Chicken-pox ..																			
Measles ..																			
Scarlet Fever ..																			
Diphtheria: Croup ..																			
Whooping Cough ..							2			3				2	4	1		2	
Diarrhoea, all forms ..										1				12	1			17	
Enteritis (not Tuberculous)														1	1			2	
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ..												1		3	1			4	
Premature Birth ..	4													5				5	
Congenital Defects ..	2	1												3				3	
Injury at Birth ..																			
Want of Breast-milk ..																			
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ..	2	2												12				12	
Tuberculous Meningitis ..														2				4	
Tuberculous Peritonitis:										1									
Tabes Mesenterica ..														8				15	
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..										1				1				3	
Erysipelas ..																			
Syphilis ..										1				2				3	
Rickets ..										1				1				1	
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)														3				3	
Convulsions ..														1				3	
Bronchitis ..														14				27	
Laryngitis ..														9				27	
Pneumonia ..														6				17	
Suffocation, overlaying ..														8				17	
Other Causes ..														2				5	
	8	2	2	16	28	3	4	4	3	9	2	2	79	43	11	1	2	136	

INFANT MORTALITY.

79 deaths of children under one year of age occurred, equal to a mortality rate of 169 per 1000 births as against 126 in the previous year.

I give a table shewing the ages and causes of death of all children under five years of age.

It is shocking to see that 133 infants died before reaching the age of three years, more especially so when we consider that a large number succumbed to preventable diseases, such as measles, diarrhœa, and tuberculosis.

Bronchitis and pneumonia caused the deaths of 37 infants under two years of age. Knowing the district as I do I should not be surprised if this number were even larger, as I frequently see infants in the streets and yards during the prevalence of cold winds with practically no clothing on, or with their clothes fastened up so that their legs are quite uncovered. There is unfortunately an erroneous idea that this will "harden" the child, but in many cases parental neglect is the only explanation.

Infantile diarrhœa and enteritis were severely epidemic during the month of September and caused the deaths of 14 children under three years of age.

All these deaths were therefore due to insanitary surroundings, improper food, and improper feeders.

Milk purchased in the afternoon and kept all night in a hot stuffy kitchen, especially in warm weather, is not proper food for an infant next morning.

The sale of the feeder with the long rubber tube should be prohibited. I consider this sort of feeder a veritable death trap, as I have frequently found the tube lined with sour evil-smelling curd, a fruitful source of infantile diarrhœa.

I fear it is useless to attempt to educate the mothers of the present generation, who are so easily influenced by the ignorant ideas of every so-called "knowledgeable aud body" who chooses to give her advice. Our only hope lies in properly instructing the future mothers of the race in the laws of health and "infant hygiene."

In the following table the chief vital statistics of this district for 1904 and 1905 are compared with those for the Administrative County of Durham.

	Seaham Harbour		Administrative County	
	1905	1904	1905	1904
Birth rate	42·2	43·4	34·4	35·6
Death rate	21·2	19·0	17·4	18·3
Zymotic Death rate	3·3	1·89	2·37	2·59
Infant mortality rate.. .. .	169	126	159	162
Phthisis	1·7	1·89	1·00	1·07
Other tubercular diseases	1·7	1·89	0·74	0·92
Respiratory diseases	5·6	3·41	3·16	2·92

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

26 cases of infectious diseases were notified as against 43 in 1904; and I have much pleasure in reporting that there was not a case of infectious disease notified in the district during the last six months of the year.

This is most satisfactory and cannot have been a mere accident, but is, in my opinion, attributable to the sanitary improvements which you have carried out in the district.

The following table shews the number of cases of infectious disease notified in each year since 1894.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during 1905 and previous years.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905
Small-pox ..	1											
Cholera.. ..												
Diphtheria ..		2		2			2	9	18	42	7	
Membranous Croup)		1					1	1				
Erysipelas ..	16	11	14	10	12	7	11	8	3	6	21	13
Scarlet Fever ..	147	77	86	40	36	12	25	84	43	56	13	12
Typhus Fever..												
Enteric Fever..	12	20	14	11	20	27	30	28	14	5	2	1
Relapsing Fever												
Continued Fever		3										
Puerperal Fever												
Plague												
Totals ..	176	114	114	63	68	46	69	130	78	109	43	26

12 cases of scarlatina were notified. It was of a mild type and no death occurred.

There was only one case of enteric fever, and the patient contracted the disease outside the district.

No case of smallpox occurred, but the hospital is always kept in readiness so that any case which may occur can be promptly isolated.

No case of typhus, puerperal fever, continued fever, or diphtheria occurred.

During the months of September, October, and November, measles of an unusually severe type was epidemic, and caused 10 deaths. I did not recommend the closing of any of the schools, which I consider to be a useless proceeding in a densely populated district like this. I find that it is customary to close schools with the object of preventing an epidemic which already exists; but the closing of schools as a preventative measure should be done as soon as the first case of measles occurs. I fear, however, that a recommendation to this effect would not find favour with the Education Authority. Not only children from infected houses but all "contacts" should be rigidly excluded from school. All persons should be prosecuted who wilfully expose their children to infection under the erroneous impression that every child must have measles, and that the sooner they get it over the better.

2 cases of scarlatina and 3 of measles were treated in the isolation hospital during the year.

GENERAL SANITATION.

The water supply is pumped from the magnesian limestone, and as usual has been satisfactory in every respect.

115 middens have been removed during the year, 39 having been replaced by W.Cs. and 76 by ash closets with movable bins. This makes a total of 461 insanitary middens which have been removed during the last four years.

The Sanitary Committee, the Surveyor, and myself visited 97 houses in various parts of the town, and in every case recommended the Council to order the removal of insanitary middens. Notices to this effect were served and much of the work has been carried out.

21 imperfectly paved yards have been cemented, 18 asphalted, and 21 repaired.

The scavenging is done by the Council's employees between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., and has been carried out satisfactorily. Part of the refuse is used as manure and the remainder tipped into the sea.

The system of sewerage is under the consideration of the Council. A new sewer has been laid from Foundry Road to the sea banks and carried out to low water mark, and plans for a new sewer at the back of Church Street have been passed.

There are 3 common lodging houses in the district affording accommodation for 69 lodgers, with an average of 312 cubic feet of air space per head. They have been frequently inspected and found clean and in good order. No case of infectious disease occurred in any of the lodging houses during the year.

There are 2 dairy farms which have been regularly inspected and found in good order. The cow sheds are well kept, and 853 cubic feet of air space allowed for each animal.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are in the district 4 factories, 22 workshops, 18 milkshops, and 47 bakehouses. They have been frequently inspected and found in a satisfactory condition, with the exception of some sanitary defects which have been remedied. There are no outworkers in the district.

The Surveyor has, as usual, been most zealous in the discharge of his duties.

Through the kindness of Mr. Aird, I am able to append a report on the weather during the year.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.

Removal of all middens.

Cementing or asphaltting of all improperly paved yards.

Improvement of present sewerage system.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LUKE GERALD DILLON, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

BIRTHS.

Months	Male	Female	Monthly Totals
January	18	19	37
February	21	15	36
March	25	24	49
April	28	18	46
May	23	24	47
June.. ..	11	22	33
July	23	19	42
August	23	13	36
September	21	18	39
October	18	18	36
November	12	17	29
December	20	15	35
YEARLY TOTALS ..	243	222	465

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING THE YEAR.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in Whole District at Subjoined Ages							Deaths in Public Institutions
	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox								
Measles	10	1	9					
Scarlet Fever								
Whooping Cough	2	2						
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup								
Croup								
Fever { Typhus								
{ Enteric								
{ Other continued								
Epidemic Influenza								
Cholera								
Plague								
Diarrhœa	18	12	5			1		
Enteritis	6	4	2					
Puerperal Fever								
Erysipelas	1					1		
Other Septic Diseases								
Phthisis	19	1	2	2	4	10		2
Other Tubercular Diseases	19	10	9					
Cancer, malignant disease	9			1		4	4	
Bronchitis	36	14	13		1	3	5	
Pneumonia	26	6	11	2	1	5	1	1
Pleurisy								
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs								
Alcoholism								
Cirrhosis of Liver								
Venereal diseases	3	2	1					
Premature Birth	5	5						
Diseases and accidents of parturition	2					2		
Heart diseases	14	1		2	3	8		1
Accidents	9		2	1	1	4	1	3
Suicides								
All other causes	56	21	3	1	1	13	17	6
All causes	235	79	57	9	11	51	28	13

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	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT	
		Num-ber	Rate	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages					Num-ber	Rate
				Number	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number	Rate					
1895	9503	408	42.9	75	183	209	21.9	4	213	22.2		
1896	9614	478	44.5	91	212	207	21.5	8	215	22.3		
1897	9728	397	40.8	85	214	205	21.0	19	224	23.0		
1898	9842	378	38.4	70	185	191	19.4	12	203	20.6		
1899	9957	420	42.1	75	178	196	19.6	10	206	20.6		
1900	10074	424	42.0	74	174	213	21.1	14	227	22.5		
1901	10192	446	43.7	82	183	243	23.8	12	255	25.0		
1902	10312	481	47.6	75	155	195	18.9	11	205	19.8		
1903	10433	465	44.5	69	148	213	20.4	5	218	20.8		
1904	10556	459	43.4	58	126	187	17.7	1	201	19.0		
Averages for years 1895-1904	10021	435	42.9	75	175	205	20.5	11	216	21.5		
1905	11000	465	42.2	79	169	223	20.2	1	234	21.2		

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1905.

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

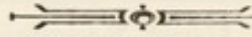
CAUSE OF DEATH	Under	1-2	2-3	3-4	Weeks	1-2	2-3	3-4	Weeks	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-11	11-12	Total
	1 Week	Weeks	Weeks	Weeks	1 Month	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months	Deaths under 1 Year
Common Infectious Diseases	Smallpox ..																	1			1
	Chicken-pox ..																				
	Measles ..																				
	Scarlet Fever ..																				
Diarrhoeal Diseases	Diphtheria: Croup																				
	Whooping Cough ..																				
	Diarrhoea, all forms																				
	Enteritis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)																				
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh																				
	Premature Birth ..																				
	Congenital Defects																				
	Injury at Birth ..																				
	Want of Breast-milk																				
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ..																				
Tuberculous Diseases	Tuberculous Meningitis ..																				
	Tuberculous Peritonitis:																				
	Tabes Mesenterica ..																				
	Other Tuberculous Diseases ..																				
	Erysipelas ..																				
	Syphilis ..																				
	Rickets ..																				
	Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)																				
	Convulsions ..																				
	Other Causes	Bronchitis ..																			
Laryngitis ..																					
Pneumonia ..																					
Suffocation, overlaying ..																					
Other Causes ..																					
	8	2	2	2	16	28	4	4	5	7	9	3	3	3	9	2	2	2	2	2	79

District (or sub-division) of SEAHAM HARBOUR. Population, estimated to middle of 1905, 11,000. Births in the year: legitimate, 459; illegitimate, 6. Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 235.

**Cases of Infectious Disease Notified
during the Year 1905.**

Notifiable Disease	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT						No. of Cases Removed to Hospital
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years					
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65		65 and upwards
Small-pox .. .							
Cholera							
Diphtheria							
Membranous Croup..							
Erysipelas	13		1	2	1	9	
Scarlet Fever .. .	12		4	6	1	1	2
Typhus Fever .. .							
Enteric Fever .. .	1				1		
Relapsing Fever ..							
Continued Fever ..							
Puerperal Fever ..							
Plague							
TOTALS	26		5	8	3	10	2

INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.



CASES NOTIFIED EACH MONTH.

Months	Number of Cases Notified	CAUSES											
		Smallpox	Cholera	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	FEVERS			Puerperal		
								Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Relapsing		Continued	
January ..	3					2	1						
February ..	2					1	1						
March ..	9					5	3	1					
April ..	5					1	4						
May ..	6					4	2						
June ..	1						1						
July ..													
August ..													
September													
October ..													
November													
December													
YEARLY TOTALS	26					13	12	1					

**SUMMARY of Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances'
Department during the Year 1905.**

1. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.				Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dwelling-houses and Schools	{	Foul Conditions ..		9		9
		Structural Defects		8		8
		Overcrowding ..		28		28
Lodging-houses			4		4	
Dairies and Milkshops			6		6	
Cowsheds			1		1	
Bakehouses			8		8	
Slaughter-houses			6		6	
* Ashpits and Privies			25	74	99	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ..			10		10	
Waterclosets			17		17	
Defective Yard Paving			29	28	57	
House Drainage	{	Defective Traps		7	8	15
		No Disconnection from Sewers		7		7
		Other Faults		18		18
Water Supply						
Pigsties			4		4	
Animals Improperly Kept			8		8	
Offensive Trades						
Smoke Nuisances						
Other Nuisances			17		17	
Totals				212	100	312

*39 privies have been replaced by waterclosets, and 76 by ashclosets with movable bins; 21 yards have been cemented, 18 asphalted, and 21 repaired.

	Number
2. Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.	
Formal Notices served	4
Dwellings dealt with.. .. .	3
Dwellings made habitable after formal notice	5
Closing Orders applied for	
Closing Orders granted by Magistrates	
Dwellings permanently closed	
3. Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.	
Action taken, Notices served, &c.	7
4. Water, Food and Drugs.	
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	
" " condemned as unfit for use	
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis	
" " found Adulterated	
5. Precautions against Infectious Disease.	
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	18
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	24
Schools	
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things	
Convictions	

JAMES BURRELL, Inspector of Nuisances,

January 3rd, 1906.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ..	16		
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	348	7	
Workplaces			
Homeworkers' Premises			
TOTAL	364	7	

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	7	7		
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors ..				
Other nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation { insufficient unsuitable or defective not separate for sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouses (s. 101)				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)				
Failure as regards list of outworkers (s. 107)				
Giving out work to be done in premises which are				
Unwholesome (s 108)				
Infected (s. 110)				
Allowing wearing apparel to be made in premises infected by scarlet fever or smallpox (s. 109)				
Other offences				
TOTAL	7	7		

Weather at Seaham Harbour for the Year 1905.

WIND.

The direction is taken twice daily, viz. : 9 a.m. and 9 p.m.
The 730 observations thus taken were in the following proportions :

W..	..	..	176
SW	..	..	126
NW	..	..	70
N ..	..	..	62
S ..	..	..	59
SE	..	..	59
NE	..	..	46
E ..	..	..	36
Calm	..	..	96
			730

TEMPERATURE.

Month	Average Maximum	Average Minimum	Mean
January	45·1	35·2	40·1
February	46·2	35·9	41·0
March	50·4	37·0	43·7
April	48·7	37·3	43·0
May	56·7	42·5	49·6
June	61·6	48·7	55·1
July	69·9	54·2	62·0
August	63·8	51·2	57·5
September	59·8	48·5	54·1
October	50·2	39·8	45·0
November	44·8	37·3	41·0
December	45·7	38·3	42·0
MEANS	53·5	42·1	47·8

Highest, 81·4, July 14th ; Lowest, 25·4, February 12th.

RAINFALL.

Month	Total	Greatest fall in 24 hours	No. of Days
January .. ..	.237	.090 on 23rd	6
February .. ..	.685	.175 12th	10
March	1.280	.405 25th	15
April	2.632	.380 22nd	19
May.. ..	.644	.380 2nd	10
June .. ..	.725	.525 18th	6
July.. ..	1.262	.270 22nd	8
August	2.635	.662 3rd	16
September	2.116	.455 9th	16
October	2.455	.640 14th	16
November	4.667	.590 1st	19
December .. ..	.406	.196 28th	7
	19.744		148

Average for the years 1865 to 1871 inclusive—26.014 inches

Total for the year 1872 —41.620 inches

Average for the years 1873 1905 inclusive—26.245

„ Number of days on which rain fell—185

The year 1900 was the wettest in 38 years (except 1872), viz. 33.836.

The following were the next wettest :—

{	1876	30.083
{	1877	32.094
{	1881	31.391
{	1882	30.494
	1903	32.394

One inch of rain is equal to 1 gallon of water spread over 2 square feet, or 101 tons on an acre of land.

G. H. AIRD.