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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT
 ON
 THE HEALTH
 OF THE
 SOUTHBOROUGH
 URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT,
 IN
 1898.

CENSUS, 1881.	CENSUS, 1891.
No. of Acres 1,660	No. of Acres 1,678*
Inhabited Houses ... 838	Inhabited Houses ... 1,102
Population 4,059	Population 5,418

* 78 Acres transferred to Tunbridge Wells in
 November, 1894.

THE **Population** of Southborough was estimated by the method adopted by the Registrar General to be **6,679** at the middle of 1898, showing an increase of 190 since the middle of 1897.

One hundred and eighty-four births were registered during the year, including 87 of males and 97 of females.

The **Birth-rate** was **27·5** per 1,000 of population as against 25·5 in the previous year.

Ninety-eight deaths were returned, which included 43 of males and 55 of females. In addition to these seven deaths occurred outside the district (at the Tonbridge Union Workhouse) among persons belonging to it.

The **Death-rate** was **15·7** per 1,000 of population as against 13·4 in 1897, and 15 in 1896.

Of the total ninety-eight deaths 15 were caused by one or other of the seven principal Zymotic diseases, viz., 3 by Diphtheria, 4 by Whooping Cough, and 8 by Diarrhœa.

The **Zymotic Death-rate** was **2·2** per 1,000 of population as compared with 1·0 in 1897, and 3·1 in 1896.

The **Infant Mortality**, *i.e.*, the deaths of Infants under one year of age per each 1,000 registered births was **184** as against 132 and 192 in the two previous years.

For England and Wales, taken as a whole, the birth-rate during 1898 was 29·4; the general death-rate 17·6; and the Zymotic death-rate 2·2 per 1,000 of population.

The rate of mortality among infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births was 161.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Under the provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, 25 cases were reported, as against 21 in 1897 and 66 in 1896, including 22 of Diphtheria, 1 of Enteric Fever, and 2 of Erysipelas.

Scarlet Fever. It is very satisfactory to note that not a single case of this disease occurred during the year.

Diphtheria was fairly prevalent throughout the year, 22 cases having come to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health. The first case was reported on April 5th, and the last on November 14th. They occurred two in April, one in May, one in June, one in July, twelve in August, three in September, and two in November, at the following age-periods:—

0-1 year	1-5 years	5-15 years	15-25 years	25-65 years	
1	5	12	1	3	= 22 cases.

Three of the cases ended fatally,—two in August, and one in September. The ages of the patients being 5, 2, and 11 years respectively.

The cases were principally confined to the locality of High Brooms, where the disease was evidently spread by personal infection, and I had to advise the closure of the High Brooms School from August 9th to August 19th. Children from this locality attending other schools in the district were excluded from attendance, and every measure was taken to arrest the further spread of the disease.

The Diphtheria death-rate was 0·4 per 1,000 of population, and the case of mortality 13·6 per cent.

Enteric Fever. One case was notified, that of a boy aged 15 years, in October. No local conditions were found calculated to favour the disease, and the boy made a good recovery.

Erysipelas. Two cases, which both recovered, were reported—one in August and the other in December, the patients being adults.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Whooping Cough caused four deaths,—one in January and one in each of the months of October, November and December, the patients being all children under five years of age. In consequence of the prevalence of this disease I recommended the closure of the Christ Church School from December 7th to December 23rd.

Diarrhœa was responsible for 8 deaths, five of which occurred in the third, and three in the fourth quarter of the year. These fatalities were among infants under one year of age.

Influenza caused 3 deaths, one in each of the months of January, February, and March, and included persons all of whom were over 65 years of age.

GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

Seven separate inspections have been made by me during the year in addition to those connected with cases of notified infectious disease.

The Bakehouses in the district are in an exceptionally satisfactory condition, the sanitation being as good as can be desired.

There are no Common Lodging Houses.

There are in the district ten persons registered under the Dairies and Cowsheds Order; of these, five keep cows and have milk-shops; two keep cows only, and three have milk-shops only. These have been duly inspected. There have been no applications for fresh registration under the Order during the year.

The four Slaughterhouses are all licensed, the licenses so far having been renewed by the Council annually.

There are no factories within the Southborough Urban District. The large brickworks, situated at High Brooms employ a considerable number of workmen, and the enlargement of these has led to a considerable amount of building in this locality.

The only workshops of importance are those used for the manufacture of cricket balls. These are under good supervision.

In December I inspected, at the request of your Council, the refuse disposal works of the Tunbridge Wells Corporation, situated at High Brooms. Although I could not positively state that the accumulations found would spread actual disease, I thought it desirable to advise your Council to take steps to prevent the deposition of such material in the close vicinity of dwellings, which are situated in a thickly populated and increasing part of the district.

DRAINAGE.

The large majority of the houses are very well drained. The main part of the sewage goes to a farm of 24 acres on the Speldhurst side, and a small portion is received on to an area of about 2 acres, and treated in each case by broad irrigation.

The sewage from High Brooms passes into the Tunbridge Wells system.

Three cesspools, receiving sewage which could not be discharged by gravitation into the sewers are emptied at the expense of the District Council every month.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Waterworks, under the Council's own control, continue to supply the District with water of good quality. The quantity is, however, not considered to be equal to the needs of the district, and boring operations are in progress at Haysden (in the direction of the adjoining village of Bidborough) with a view of obtaining a supplementary supply.

Meanwhile, for some months past, a minimum quantity of 25,000 gallons per day is pumped up from the Tonbridge Waterworks, situated some $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant.

HOSPITAL ISOLATION.

During the year 16 cases of Diphtheria were treated in the Isolation Hospital.

They were admitted as follows:—

One in April.

„ „ May.

„ „ June.

„ „ July.

Nine in August.

One in September.

Two in November.

One case ended fatally after 3 days' treatment at the Hospital, that of a boy aged 5 years.

Several cases of a very severe type were under the care of the Honorary Medical Officer (Dr. Llewellyn) for some weeks, but the above was the only one which succumbed.

I inspected the Isolation Hospital on several occasions during the year, and considered that it was in a very satisfactory condition and well managed.

It is a building constructed during 1895-6 on modern principles, with efficient high pressure steam disinfecting apparatus, mortuary, good laundry, and other needful accessories, and is situated in an isolated position, though not more than about a mile from the centre of Southborough.

OVERCROWDING.

Three houses were considered to be over-crowded, but verbal instructions remedied the conditions in each case.

It has not been found necessary to take any action as regards the Housing of Working Classes, private enterprise having so far fairly met the requirements of the district.

SCHOOL CLOSURE.

The High Brooms School (August 9th to 19th), and Christ Church School (December 7th to 23rd)—the former as previously stated, on account of Diphtheria, the latter on account of Whooping Cough.

The general sanitary condition of the District at the end of the year 1898 was very satisfactory, and it was not found necessary to take any legal proceedings under the Public Health Act during the year.

Mr. Harmer's report of work done during the year and the customary tables of vital statistics are appended.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES SCOTT TEW.

February 13th, 1899.

SOUTHBOROUGH,

February, 1899.

SOUTHBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Nuisances dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector during the
year ending Christmas, 1898.

House, over-crowding	1
Remove offensive accumulations ..	3
Houses, defective drainage and traps ...	4
„ defective pavings... ..	6
„ defective drains from scullery sinks ...	4
„ unstop and cleanse drains	2
„ defective drainage and paving... ..	4
„ defective w.c. pan and trap	1
„ dangerous well dome over	1
„ renew drains and put disconnecting traps ...	6
„ unsanitary generally	1
„ provide sanitary dustbins	22
„ manure accumulation... ..	3
„ unsanitary w.c. accommodation	1
„ insufficient water supply	19
„ re-arrange rain water pipes	1
„ defective ventilating pipe	1
„ new traps and pans to w.c.	2
„ impure water supply	19
„ disinfection after infectious cases	24
Slaughter house cleansed	1

In addition to the above, a large number of minor nuisances
dealt with verbally.

WILLIAM HARMER,

Sanitary Inspector.