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**Contributors**

Sudbury (Suffolk, England). Urban District Council.

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# SUDBURY URBAN DISTRICT, OR BOROUGH OF SUDBURY.

In the Administrative County of West Suffolk.

## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health FOR 1896.

(Pursuant to the Regulations of the Local Government Board and of the West Suffolk County Council.)

Population 1881, 6,592.      Population 1891, 7,059.

Acreage 2,093      Rateable value £19,428.

Geological formation, Chalk, covered with brickearth or drift sands and Gravels, superficially alluvium.

### I. BIRTHS.

There were 177 births registered during the year equivalent to a birth-rate of 25.2 per thousand of the population. The births and birth-rates in the borough during the past seven years were

|             | 1890 | 1891 | 1892 | 1893 | 1894 | 1895 | 1896 |
|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Births.     | 175  | 184  | 159  | 192  | 170  | 180  | 177  |
| Birth-rate. | 26.5 | 26.0 | 22.5 | 27.0 | 24.0 | 25.4 | 25.2 |

### II. DEATHS.

The number of deaths from all causes registered in the district was 150, from which 25 deaths in the workhouse from the rural parishes have to be subtracted, leaving the actual deaths as 125 equivalent to a death rate of 17.7 per thousand of the population. The deaths and death-rates during the past seven years were

|                                   | 1890 | 1891 | 1892 | 1893 | 1894 | 1895 | 1896 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Deaths registered.                | 172  | 126  | 172  | 142  | 156  | 143  | 150  |
| Deaths belonging to the District. | 142  | 103  | 130  | 122  | 137  | 111  | 125  |
| Death-rate.                       | 21.5 | 14.5 | 18.4 | 17.2 | 19.3 | 15.7 | 17.7 |

### INFANT MORTALITY.

The deaths among infants under one year of age were 14 this is equivalent to the proportion of 79 deaths to a thousand births. For all England the proportion has 148.

### THE SEVEN PRINCIPAL ZYMOTIC DISEASES

Caused 9 deaths equal to a death-rate of 1.2 per thousand of the population. The deaths arose from Scarlet Fever 1, Typhoid Fever 3, Measles 1, Whooping Cough 2, Diarrhoea 2. The mean death-rate due Zymotic diseases in this district for the past seven years was 1.3 per thousand.

### DEATHS FROM ALL OTHER CAUSES

Belonging to the district were 116 in number, equal to 16.3 per thousand of the population. The following causes contributed to the general mortality. Phthisis 8, Bronchitis and Pneumonia 7, Heart disease 14, Influenza 2, Cancer 13, Injuries 3. The death-rate from Consumption during 1896 in this district was 1.2 per thousand of the population as against a mean of 1.7 in the previous six years.

### III. THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT

Came into operation for the first time on June 1st this year 1896. The total number of cases notified since then was 54, equal to 7.6 per 1000 of the population. The cases notified were Erysipilas 7, Typhoid Fever 5, Scarlet Fever 42.

### SMALL POX.

No cases occurred in this district during the year.

### SCARLET FEVER OR SCARLATINA.

In addition to the 42 cases notified since the first of June. 12 cases came to my knowledge earlier in the year, making a total of 54 cases which were spread over 30 families and occurred in all parts of the town. The largest number took place during the last three months. Three of the cases were introduced, two from London and one from a neighbouring parish, none of them however exhibited the disease until after they came into the district. The precautions taken were that notices were served at each infected house and the children from infected families were excluded from attending school, and the houses were afterwards disinfected by the Inspector or were certified as being disinfected by the medical attendant. Carbolic acid and disinfectants were distributed where necessary.



#### TYPHOID OR ENTERIC FEVER.

For many years the District has been free of this disease, yet 9 cases occurred during 1896. In Stour St. 2 cases in one family in the month of January. The first case introduced. In Gregory St. 2 cases, one fatal, the infection was here taken from first case, while assisting in the Nursing. In July, 5 cases, 2 fatal in one family in Harp Close Road. The origin of the infection was doubtful. A defective trapped drain leading to a cesspool was on the premises and may possibly have been the cause. The usual precautions were taken in every case to prevent any spread of the disease.

#### WHOOPING COUGH.

This disease was very prevalent during the Summer, causing the death of two Infants. The attendance at the North St. Infant School was so seriously affected that I advised the closing of the Infant School on the 20th, July, a fortnight prior to the August holidays.

#### MEASLES.

Only a few cases occurred during the year, the disease not becoming epidemic and there were no fatal cases.

#### THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Owing to five cases of Typhoid Fever occurring in a small house without adequate accommodation, the Isolation Hospital was opened on August 14th, for the reception of two of the cases and a trained nurse procured from Ipswich, both cases recovered and the hospital was closed on Sept. 18th.

As the Isolating Hospital had not been used for 12 years, it was found that some improvements and repairs were required, this necessary work was done during the Autumn and instead of remaining empty as heretofore, a man and his wife were appointed to live there as caretakers and the latter to act also as nurse. This step will now render the hospital at once available for the initial cases of infectious disease.

#### IV. WATER SUPPLY

The Borough Waterworks maintained an efficient supply during the year, averaging about 24 gallons per head daily. About 90 private wells are still in use in the district.

#### V. SEWERAGE.

No alterations or additions have been made to the Main Sewers of the district. During the long dry Summer it was necessary to systematically flush the sewers, so as to keep them free of offensive accumulations. This flushing of the Sewers, in the absence of storm water, is of essential help in maintaining the health of the town, and is preferable to any of the systems of ventilation which are generally inadequate and often dangerous.

The pail or tub system of collecting privy sewage is extensively in operation. It was introduced twenty years ago as a sanitary substitution for the offensive cesspool, which nuisance has ceased to exist. There are 450 tubs in constant use, which are collected and changed by the District Council; portion is deposited above the Allotment ground on the Waldingfield Road, and portion near the Allotment ground in Ballingdon. I have annually and by special report urged that these places of deposit should be covered in as in wet weather the pits become offensive sewage ponds, and their value as a manure much depreciated.

The health of the town has been materially benefited by the free and systematic removal of all refuse heaps, such as ashes and decaying vegetable matter, from the yards and rear of houses in the district.

#### VI. HOUSES.

There were 22 new houses erected during the year. Several old houses are unoccupied and have become unfit for human habitation.

Overcrowding occurred in 3 houses, these were abated in two cases by the removal of the families and in one by the landlord making structural alterations.

#### VII. FACTORIES AND TRADES.

The factories in the District consisting of 4 silkweaving, 2 staymaking, 1 Matweaving, and 1 Soap and Candle Works have been conducted without any offence or cause of complaint.

Six notices were received from the Inspector of Factories and Workshops, representing that 4 Bake Offices required White-washing, 1 Workshop required repairs to wall, and 1 Workshop had no closet accommodation. All these notices were attended to. In the last case it was found that rent was being paid for the use of a convenient closet in the adjoining yard, and as only males were employed in the Workshop this was considered as the best Sanitary arrangement.

There are 22 licensed slaughter houses in the district 12 of which are for pigs only, several of these are but little used. The cowsheds are 20 in number and are registered as fulfilling the conditions of the Dairy, Cowshed, and Milkshop order. There are 21 Bake offices which are kept in good condition. There are two common lodging houses licensed for 21 persons. No offensive trades exist in the district.

### VIII. SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

Systematic as well as special inspections have been made during the year, including Slaughter Houses, Bake offices, and Cowsheds and defects observed were remedied.

The following is the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

|   |     |     |    |
|---|-----|-----|----|
| Number of Nuisances removed by notice       | ... | ... | 18 |
| " " abated requiring structural alterations |     |     | 17 |
| " of additional tubs provided               | ... | ... | 4  |
| " " houses or premises supplied with water  |     |     | 28 |
| " of new houses erected and inspected       | ... | ... | 22 |
| " of cases of overcrowding abated           | ... | ... | 3  |
| " of houses disinfected                     | ... | ... | 4  |

Numerous nuisances were removed in the form of ashes and refuse heaps from backyards, &c.

F. CROSS, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

No legal proceedings were taken, nor any special reports made during the year.

Tabular statements according to the forms supplied by the Local Government Board of Sickness and Mortality within the district are appended to the official copies of this report. Also the tabular form required by the West Suffolk County Council.

J. SINCLAIR HOLDEN,

Medical Officer of Health.



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