

[Report 1897] / Medical Officer of Health, Sudbury U.D.C. or Borough.

Contributors

Sudbury (Suffolk, England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1897

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/nk98m3wm>

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>

SUDBURY URBAN DISTRICT

OR

BOROUGH OF SUDBURY,

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health FOR 1897.

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

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

Acreeage 2,093. Rateable value £19,428.

Geological formation, Chalk, covered with brick earth or drift sands and gravels, superficially alluvium.

I. BIRTHS.

There were 129 births registered during the year, equivalent to a birth-rate of 18.2 per thousand of the population. The births and birth-rates in the borough during the past seven years were

	1891.		1892.		1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.
Births	184	..	159	..	192	..	170	..	180	..	177	..	129
Birth-rate	26.0	..	22.5	..	27.0	..	24.0	..	25.4	..	25.2	..	18.2

II. DEATHS.

The number of deaths from all causes registered in the district was 120, from which 24 deaths in the Workhouse and St. Leonard's Hospital from the rural parishes have to be subtracted, leaving the actual deaths as 96, equivalent to a death-rate of 13.5 per thousand of the population. The deaths and death-rates during the past seven years were

	1891.		1892.		1893.		1894.		1895.		1896.		1897.
Deaths registered	126	..	172	..	142	..	156	..	143	..	150	..	120
Deaths belonging to the District	103	..	130	..	122	..	137	..	111	..	125	..	96
Death-rate	14.5	..	18.4	..	17.2	..	19.3	..	15.7	..	17.7	..	13.5

INFANT MORTALITY.

The deaths among infants under one year of age were 9, this is equivalent to the proportion of 69.7 deaths to a thousand births. For all England the proportion was 156.0.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES

Caused 7 deaths, equal to a death-rate of 0.9 per thousand of the population. The causes of these deaths were Scarlet Fever 1, Typhoid Fever 1, Whooping Cough 1, Diarrhoea 1, Puerperal Fever 2, Diphtheria 1.

DEATHS FROM OTHER CAUSES

Belonging to the district were 89: these included the following causes; Phthisis 12, Bronchitis and Pneumonia 17, Heart Diseases 10, Cancer 4, Injuries 6.

The vital statistics recorded above show considerable variation from preceding years. It is difficult to account for the marked decrease in the birth-rate of 25 per cent.

The number of deaths is also much below the average; this may be accounted for by the absence of any serious epidemic and the small death-rate therefrom.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act has been in operation during the year, and has facilitated the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases. The total number of cases notified were 48, equal to 6.7 per thousand of the population. The cases notified were, Scarlet Fever 31, Diphtheria 1, Erysipelas 11, Typhoid Fever 3, Puerperal Fever 2. The following are some particulars in respect of these diseases.

SCARLET FEVER OR SCARLATINA.

At the close of the preceding year this disease was rather prevalent in the district, and most of the cases notified occurred in January and February in consequence of this existing infection: this chiefly arose from children attending school, who had unnoticed mild attacks. One fatal case occurred, though the type of the disease was very mild. The usual precautionary measures were taken in each family affected, and the North Street School I had closed for three days for the purpose of cleansing and disinfecting.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Two of the cases which occurred were of a very mild character, and no insanitary condition existed on either of the premises. The third case occurred shortly after child-birth and proved fatal. The water supply in this case was from a well, situated within a few yards of a cesspool, though the water on analysis showed no contamination, yet the soil being porous rendered the well liable to it. I therefore advised the closing of the well, and the town water substituted. The bedding from this case had to be burned before the house could be properly disinfected.

Of other infectious diseases, one case of Diphtheria occurred which proved fatal in a child aged two years. Chicken-pox was rather prevalent during the Autumn, and a few cases of Measles showed, but did not spread.

The Isolation Hospital was not used during the year. It is kept in readiness if required.

WATER SUPPLY—ITS SUFFICIENCY.

The Borough Waterworks have maintained an efficient supply during the year, though frequently during the summer months it was necessary to shut the water off from the mains during the night, in order to keep the reservoir from failing, the supply not being able to keep up with the outflow. This intermittency of supply causes much complaint, and is unsafe owing to the possibility of fires occurring. It is not due to any deficiency in the quantity of water pumped into the reservoir, which is more than ample for all the constant requirements of the town, but is due to the waste of water through the various causes of leakage, fully one half of the water pumped up being lost in this way. Active steps are now being taken to test sections of the town, and to detect and to prevent this constant and serious waste.

ITS PURITY.

Owing to the serious outbreaks of Enteric Fever during the past year, public attention is specially directed to the purity of the water supply.

The Sudbury Water is derived from a depth of 300 feet in the chalk, so that it is quite impossible that its source could get in any way contaminated. The reservoir, which is capable of containing 300,000 gallons, is so situated and constructed that it is also beyond suspicion. A good test of this occurred during the autumn, when the reservoir was cleaned out for the first time. I examined the sediment which was removed, both chemically and microscopically, and found it to be absolutely free of organic matter, consisting only of carbonate of lime and a little sand.

The last quantitative analysis of the water that was made was five years ago by Dr. Thresh, at his laboratory, Chelmsford, and was as follows:—

“Physical properties—Clear, colourless, saline residue not affected by heat.

Total Solids	37.0 grains per gallon.
Nitrogen .. .. .	.30
„ corresponding to Nitric Acid	1.37
Chlorine	3.4
„ corresponding with Common Salt	5.6
Hardness	20.9
Alkalinity—Carbonate of Lime and Soda	21.7
Lead, Iron, Phosphates	none
Free Ammonia .. .. .	.00 parts per million.
Organic Ammonia .. .. .	.02
Nitrites (as Nitrogen)	none
Oxygen used in 4 hours .. .. .	.07

This is a water of great organic purity.

JOHN C. THRESH, Essex County Medical Officer of Health.”

That the town water still maintains this high character of purity I can verify, as in my numerous qualitative analysis of samples of water from my rural districts, I use the town water as the standard of comparison, and any deviation would be noticed.

Other sources of water supply in the town are from private wells. About 90 wells are still in use.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE.

The outlet of the main sewer in Friars Meadow was cleaned out, and the collected silt removed by the dredger. The Melford Road Sewer had to be repaired in several places owing to blockage; this sewer being only 6-inch pipes is now quite inadequate for the sewage requirements of the largely increased number of houses which have been erected in this part of the town.

The sewers have been flushed when storm water was long absent.

The pail system of sewage collection continues to increase, and adds much to the work of the staff employed. Sixteen new tubs were added, making now 466 tubs in use. No steps have yet been taken to cover in the places of deposit on the Waldingfield Road and Ballingdon, so as to prevent them being a nuisance in wet weather. This ought to be done.

The systematic removal of refuse heaps and ashes from the yards and rear of houses, is of great benefit to the health of the town.

HOUSES.

There were 18 new houses erected and inspected during the year. Several old houses have been patched up by notice, and others are unoccupied and becoming unfit for human habitation.

Overcrowding in one case came under notice and was remedied by diminishing the number of inmates.

FACTORIES AND TRADES.

The Factories in the district, viz., 4 Silk-weaving, 2 Stay-making, 1 Mat-weaving, 1 Soap and Candle Works, have been conducted without offence or complaint in their trade processes.

No notices were received from the Inspector of Factories and Workshops.

Systematic as well as Special Inspections have been made during the year, including Slaughter Houses, Bake Offices and Cowsheds, and any defects observed were remedied.

The following is the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

" Number of Nuisances removed by written or verbal notice	..	..	98
" abated requiring structural alterations	..	..	23
" .. additional tubs provided	..	..	16
" .. houses or premises supplied with water	..	..	19
" .. new houses erected and inspected	..	..	18
" .. cases of overcrowding abated	..	..	1
" .. houses disinfected	..	..	9

Numerous Nuisances were removed in the form of ashes and refuse heaps.

THOS. W. A. HAYWARD, C.E.,

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor."

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

Tabular statements according to the forms required by the Local Government Board and the West Suffolk County Council are appended to the Official Copies of this report.

J. SINCLAIR HOLDEN, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.



THE

SUDBURY URBAN DISTRICT

OR

Borough of Sudbury.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR 1897.

MARTEN, STEAM PRINTER, SUDBURY.
