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URMSTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1900.

BY

G. E. FRYER,

(MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH),


AND

WILLIAM BLAND,

(SANITARY INSPECTOR)

URMSTON:

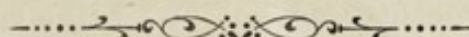
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The Medical Officer's Annual Report.



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URMSTON URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report as to the health
of the district for the year 1900.

POPULATION.

The increase in population on the previous year is
estimated at 250. Census returns for previous years are as
follows :—

1861.	1871.	1881.	1891.
740.	996.	2,244.	4,042.

and the estimated population in the year 1900 is 7,500 ;
equivalent to 7.56 persons per acre.

BIRTH RATE.

During the year 190 births were registered : 93 males and
97 females. This is equivalent to a birth-rate of 25.3 per
thousand, as compared with 20.68 per thousand for the
previous year.

DEATH RATE.

During the same period there were 82 deaths registered
from all causes (an equal number of either sex). These
figures give a death-rate of 10.9 per thousand, as compared
with 11.4 for the year 1899. With the exception of the year
1896, when the extremely low death-rate of 8.4 per thousand
was reached, the present is the lowest death-rate for this
district on record. Seven inquests were held during the year,
and the verdicts arrived at were as follow :—

Natural Causes	...	3
Drowning	...	3
Accidental Poisoning		1

The death-rate under five years of age was 3.7 per thousand, and 7.2 per thousand for all above that age.

The excess of births over deaths was 108, and the proportion of deaths under one year of age was 84.21 per thousand births, as compared with 133.3 per thousand for the previous year.

Out of 16 deaths of infants under one year, three were due to prematurity, five to respiratory diseases, four to general wasting, and only one to diarrhoea.

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

Five deaths were registered from notifiable infectious diseases, viz., diphtheria, 5; scarlet fever, 0; typhoid fever, 0; two were caused by diarrhoea; and one each by measles and whooping cough, thus making a total of 9 due to the "seven principal zymotic diseases," and being equivalent to a zymotic death-rate of 1.2 per thousand, as compared with 1.65 per thousand for the previous year.

The following table supplies statistical data of population and birth-rate, also uncorrected and nett death-rates, for the year 1900, and for the quinquennial period 1895—1899.

TABLE I.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES NETT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.
1895	5042	148	29.35	11	74.3	60	11.9	(Including 3 non-residents).	2	1	59	11.7
1896	5700	125	22.0	13	104	48	8.4		0	2	50	8.7
1897	6200	139	22.4	20	144	71	11.5		0	1	72	11.6
1898	6800	149	21.9	14	93.9	80	11.7		1	7	86	12.6
1899	7250	150	20.68	20	133.3	83	11.4		0	3	86	11.8
Averages for years 1895—99	6198.4	142.2	22.94	15.6	109.7	68.4	11.03		.6	2.8	70.6	11.09
1900	7500	190	25.3	16	84.21	82	10.9	4	5	8	85	11.3

* Rates calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

The following table shows the number of notified cases of infectious diseases during the year, classified according to ages and also the number of cases removed to hospital.

TABLE III.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in 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 upward
Small-pox	40		9	27	4		15
Cholera	1		1				1
Diphtheria ...	4		2	7	2	4	1
Membranous croup	11						1
Erysipelas ...							
Scarlet Fever ..							
Typhus fever ..							
Enteric fever ..	1			1			
Relapsing fever ..							
Continued fever ..							
Puerperal fever ..							
Plague							
Totals	57		12	35	6	4	17

SCARLET FEVER.

Eleven cases were reported during the year. They were mostly of a mild type, and there were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were 40 cases reported and one case of membranous croup, with a total mortality of 8. In three separate instances it attacked three members of a family simultaneously, and in this way swelled considerably the total number of cases. The disease was most prevalent during the month of March, and I

found it advisable at this time to remove seven cases to hospital in less than a week, in order to prevent further spreading, as there was great difficulty in providing sufficient isolation in the houses in which it occurred. From this time the disease steadily abated, and there were comparatively few cases during the latter half of the year.

ENTERIC FEVER.

I am pleased to be able to report that only one case of this disease has occurred in the district. It was thought advisable to isolate this in hospital, and the patient made a good recovery.

The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year was 57, as compared with 88 for the previous year.

The following table shows the deaths during the year, classified according to diseases and ages. The deaths of residents occurring beyond the limits of the district are included, and the deaths of non-residents occurring in the district are excluded; thus arriving at the nett (corrected) mortality, and differing from the un-corrected mortality (i.e., the whole number of deaths registered as having actually occurred within the district).

TABLE IV.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All ages	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Fever								
Measles	1		1					
Scarlet fever ..								
Whooping-cough	1		1					
Diphtheria and membranous croup	8		5	3				
Croup	1		1					
Diarrhoea	2	1	1					
Epidemic influenza	3			1		2		
Puerperal fever								
Erysipelas								
Other septic diseases								
Phthisis	7				1	5	1	
Other tubercular diseases	1					1		
Cancer, malignant disease... ..	7					5	2	
Bronchitis	6	2	1			2	1	
Pneumonia... ..	5	3				1	1	
Pleurisy								
Other diseases of Respiratory organs								
Alcoholism	5					5		
Cirrhosis of liver }								
Venereal diseases								
Premature birth	3	3						
Diseases and accidents of parturition								
Heart diseases ...	7	1				1	5	
Accidents	3		1			2		
Epilepsy	2					2		
All other causes	23	6	1	1		9	6	1
All causes	85	16	12	5	1	35	16	1

(included)

PHTHISIS.

There were seven deaths from this disease, including one of a resident dying away from home. This number is equivalent to an annual mortality of .93 per thousand, which is rather above our average (.6). After each case the rooms occupied were thoroughly disinfected.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES (Exclusive of Phthisis).

There were six deaths from bronchitis and five from pneumonia, giving a total of 11, compared with 13 for the previous year.

ALCOHOLISM.

There were five deaths due to excessive drinking. This is equivalent to about 6 per cent. of the total number of deaths from all causes occurring in the district. The above deaths do not include cases in which the abuse of alcohol formed merely a contributory cause, nor were they accelerated, so far as can be ascertained, by arsenical poisoning.

No cases of death from arsenical poisoning in connection with beer-drinking were registered during the year, though cases of disease arising therefrom have occurred in the district.

BACTERIOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS.

The contract with the Pathological Department of the Owens College for the examination of specimens taken from suspected cases of diphtheria and enteric fever has been continued. It is hoped that in obscure cases it may prove of value in permitting an early diagnosis.

DISINFECTION.

This is effected by means of Formaldehyde gas, set free by the 'Sanitary Formaldehyde Regenerator.' This system gives full satisfaction in the purifying of infected rooms, and it is worthy of record that no 'repeat cases' have occurred after its use during the year.

The bedding is disinfected by means of hot air.

NIGHT-SOIL REMOVAL.

This work is now done by the Sanitary Department, and is highly satisfactory. As will be seen from the Sanitary Inspector's report, the majority of ashpits are now emptied six times during the year, instead of four times, as heretofore.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

This department is under the control of the Urmston and Flixton Joint Drainage Committee. At the Farm the sewage first passes through screening-tanks, where the floating debris and heavy detritus are separated; the resulting sludge being used as land manure. It is then received into two large covered tanks, untreated by any chemicals, the effluent being afterwards taken, by means of half-pipe carriers, to the cinder-filters, upon each of which it is discharged intermittently, the final filtrate passing along an open channel

into the Manchester Ship Canal. Storm water and the night-flow of sewage are treated on 9 acres of land (under-drained), by downward intermittent filtration.

Two flushing chambers have been constructed in the district; one in Westbourne-road and the other in Moss-lane. Each is supplied with surface water, and discharges 3,000 gallons, three times a week, into the drains.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

Notices have been served upon all occupiers, calling upon them to carry out such alterations as will bring the shippens into line with the Council's regulations.

As regards lighting, ventilation, and paving, much improvement has already been effected, and in some instances the shippens have been altered so as to allow 800 cubic feet air-space per cow. In consequence, however, of an appeal to the Local Government Board on the question of air-space, by one of the owners, much work is still in abeyance pending their decision.

This appeal against your regulations is made in consequence of a circular letter issued by the Local Government Board, accompanying their suggested model regulations, issued in 1899. Therein it is stated that Section 8, fixing 800 feet air-space as a minimum per cow, does not apply to country shippens,—for which, in fact, no minimum has been suggested. It should be noticed, however, that your regulations (in which 800 cubic feet air space has been adopted as a minimum) have been sanctioned by the Local Government Board since the issue of their own model regulations, and are now in force.

In my opinion, any distinction as regards air-space in town and country shippens is likely to be injurious, inasmuch as country cattle, although turned out to grass in the warm months, are for a large portion of the year simply turned out to water for a brief period daily, and for the rest of the 24 hours are under exactly the same conditions as town cattle, and require the same breathing space to keep them in health.

Considering the subject with regard to its bearing on the question of tuberculosis, it should also be noted that although many large towns have now special Acts, by means of which they are able to promptly deal with tuberculous milk, we in the country are not yet so favourably situated in this respect, and it is therefore of special importance for us to safeguard ourselves in every way against all possible avenues of contamination.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND BAKE-HOUSES.

Slaughter-houses and bake-houses have been inspected and found satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water used in this district for drinking purposes is obtained almost entirely from the Manchester Corporation Works, and is of excellent quality.

MOSS SIDE SEWAGE FARM.

Numerous inspections have been made during the year, and two special visits paid by your Sanitary Sub-committee. On the last occasion, after an interview with the Chairman of the Moss Side Sewage Farm Committee, a distinct promise of amendment was demanded with regard to the unsatisfactory condition and defective management of the Farm. The reply being considered unsatisfactory, the final decision of your Committee was that on any recurrence of the nuisance complained of strong action should be taken, without further conference, to compel the Moss Side Authorities to abate the same.

EEA BROOK.

During the year the riparian owners have been approached with a view to carrying out a much-needed scheme for cleansing and deepening the water-course, the Council on their part offering to bear a portion of the expenses.

At the close of the year the matter was still under discussion.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

G. E. FRYER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
URMSTON,

FEBRUARY 26TH, 1901.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URMSTON URBAN
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

GAS, WATER, AND SANITARY COMMITTEE.

Mr. Councillor Hopwood, Chairman.

I beg to submit the following report on the sanitary work
dealt with during the year 1900 :—

TABLE I.

No. of houses visited and sanitary particulars reported upon	123
No. of notices served for the abatement of nuisances	17
No. of notices by letter in lieu of formal notices	57
No. of verbal notices	28
No. of drains cleansed and replaced	16
No. of drains repaired, trapped, and ventilated	28
No. of slopstone and other waste pipes repaired	2
No. of ashpit defects remedied	12
No. of ashpits removed and boxes provided	25
No. of privies converted into water closets	14
No. of defective inside water closets replaced with sanitary closets	5
No. of other nuisances dealt with	5
Total nuisances abated	107

The work of ashpit emptying and disposal of house refuse has received every attention; as stated in my last annual report this work is carried out by men employed by the Council, and team labour is supplied by contract. This contract was let for a second year to Mr. Sutton.

The following table shows the number of houses in the district at December 31st :—

	1899.	1900.
Houses with portable boxes	506	541
Houses with privies and ashpits	1089	1068
Total	1595	1609

The actual work done is as follows :—

No. of Houses.	No. of times Ashpit was emptied.	Total times of emptying.
10	2	20
2	3	6
27	4	108
189	5	945
649	6	3894
82	7	574
91	8	728
2	9	18
		<hr/>
		Total ...6293

In previous years 169 houses had their ashpits emptied six times each year, the remainder four times. It will be seen from the above that a much more frequent system has been carried out, resulting in a better sanitary condition of the district.

The ashpit depot has required considerable attention. More money has been spent upon it than was estimated, owing to the road being impassable.

This improved service has been kept as near the estimate as possible.

	Estimate.		Actual Cost.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Team labour	170 0 0	—	166 16 0
Manual labour	120 0 0	—	120 6 10
Disinfectants, depot rent, and repairs	25 0 0	—	33 10 6
Oils, tools, etc., including part payment for cart	10 0 0	—	36 12 6
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total ...	£325 0 0		357 5 10

This extra cost of £32 5s. 10d. is largely due to the payment of £24 0s. 0d. for a new cart, and £4 7s. 6d. for a tool shed in the town's yard.

Carr's Ditch has been cleansed several times during the year with good results. Many attempts have been made to get the several farmers to agree to a scheme of cleansing for Urmston Brook, and although the Council offered a considerable contribution towards the cost, no united action could be arrived at.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The licences held during the year have been renewed, the premises are kept in good structural repair, and are kept clean and free from complaint.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS ORDER, 1885.

Notices have been served in nine instances requiring alterations to shippens, to bring them in accordance with the regulations as to drainage, lighting and ventilation, and air space. In two cases the premises have been amended, and are now in compliance with the regulations; in another, the

drainage, lighting, and ventilation has been improved, but the question of air space is under dispute. An appeal to the Local Government Board has been made with a view to the Council's regulations being varied. This appeal has hindered progress in the remaining cases.

Two shippens have ceased to be occupied during the year.

The following are now on the register :—

Cowkeepers	...	...	...	10
Vendors resident in the district	...	...	...	6
Vendors resident outside the district	...	...	...	7
Total	...	...	...	23

Two samples of milk have been submitted to Professor Delepine for bacteriological examination.

GAME LICENCE.

The licence held by T. Irlam, 24, Station Road, was the only one granted during the year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT, 1889.

The total number of houses reported as containing one or more cases of infectious disease was as follow :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	9	last year	33
Diphtheria	...	...	33	"	14
Croup	...	...	1	"	0
Typhoid Fever	...	...	1	"	11
Erysipelas	...	...	4	"	5
Totals...	48				63

The following table gives the number of houses reported during each month of the year, with each disease,

Nature of Disease.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	2	1	1	...	9
Diphtheria	1	3	12	4	3	2	4	1	1	1	...	1	33
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Typhoid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Erysipelas	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	4
Total..	4	4	12	5	4	4	4	2	3	4	1	1	48

Fifteen cases of diphtheria, one of scarlet fever, and one of typhoid fever were removed to hospital.

Twenty-nine lots of bedding were taken to the Ladywell Sanatorium for disinfection ; 53 rooms have been fumigated after infectious disease ; six rooms and a large room at the Cottage Hospital in consequence of fatal cases of consumption. The formaldehyde regenerator being used in each case with satisfactory results.

Disinfectants have been freely used in all cases of disease reported. A large quantity is distributed free, for use in sick rooms. Carbolic powder for general use has been given out at a central station in the village.

HACKNEY CARRIAGES

The usual licensing day was held, each carriage being carefully examined. The licenses granted during the year are as follow :—

Carriages	...	...	22
Drivers	...	...	20

PUBLIC LIGHTING.

One new lamp has been erected near the Cottage Hospital, making a total of 197 lamps.

At the commencement of the lighting season it was decided to engage the services of an additional lamplighter.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM BLAND,

Asso. San. Inst.

