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*To the Chairman and Members of the Brentford District Council,  
Annual Report, 1897.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report upon the health and sanitary condition of the Brentford Urban Sanitary District for the year, 1897.

POPULATION.—For the middle of the year, 1897, I estimate the population of Brentford at 14,806, which is the same increase as in 1896, viz. 168, and of the several ecclesiastical districts into which it is divided, my estimate is as follows—St. George's with St. James's, 4995. St Paul's 7782. New Brentford 2029.

BIRTHS.—The number of births during the year has been 576, of which 282 were males and 294 females. The birth rate is 38·9 per thousand which is the highest for the last 10 years, and 3 higher than the average of the last 10 years.

DEATHS.—The number of deaths during the year is 231, of which 120 were males and 111 females. In St. George's, 89, St. Paul's, 107, New Brentford, 35. The death rate is 15·6 per thousand, which is lower than any year except 1894 and 2·3 lower than the average of the last 10 years. As I have remarked in former reports, the mortality is highest in the month of August. This year the death rate being due to Infantile Diarrhœa.

The principal causes of death have been from—

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy ...	...	33
Phthisis .. .. .	...	28
Heart Disease ... ..	...	17

There have been 8 Inquests held. Death resulted from natural causes in 1 case, 2 were run over, 1 died from a fall, 1 from suffocation, 2 committed suicide and 1 was murdered. The number of Inquests held in the district is steadily decreasing, for many years the number was over 20. This year is the lowest recorded. In 1896, the number held was 18 which is the average of last ten years. 13 deaths have been returned as "not certified," 3 of which were newly born infants. The number of not certified deaths has much increased of late years and this year the number has greatly increased. In 1896 it was 7, 5 of which were infants. The following table epitomises the ages at which the deaths occurred—

Deaths under 1 year ... ..	83	} 117 under 5 years old.
„ from 1 to under 5 years ..	34	
„ „ 5 „ 15 „ ..	6	} 114 over 5 years old.
„ „ 15 „ 25 „ ..	12	
„ „ 25 „ 65 „ ..	62	
„ over 65 ... ..	34	

8 of these deaths occurred in persons between 80 and 90 and 1 was over 90 years.

The next table shows the distribution of the mortality in the three districts of the town during the last ten years.

	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	Average for 10 Years.
St. George's...	18.1	16.7	19.8	18.3	22.1	16.2	16.1	17.7	21.3	17.8	18.4
St. Paul's .....	17.4	18.8	18.1	17.2	20.3	18.9	14.4	15	16.9	13.7	17
New Brentford	20	14	22.5	22.2	21.3	22.8	17.5	17.1	21.1	17.2	19.5



INFANT MORTALITY.—The rate of this mortality or the proportion of deaths under 1 year of age to every 1000 births is 144. The following table shows the mortality and average for the last ten years, and it gives me great satisfaction to prove that the efforts which have been made for some years to reduce the abnormally high infant death rate of this district have this year been very successful being 20·8 above the average of the last 10 years.

1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	Average for 10 years
155·6	134·9	152·3	178·1	197·1	184·8	162·4	154·5	184·9	144·	164·8

The following are the deaths from the 8 principal Zymotic Diseases:—

SMALL POX.—There has been no case of this disease, and it is over 10 years since there was a death from it.

MEASLES.—There has been no death from Measles this year. Usually it is a very fruitful source of infant mortality.

SCARLET FEVER.—There is only 1 death to record from this disease which occurred in July in St. Paul's district.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP—These diseases have caused 3 deaths, all in children.

WHOOPING COUGH.—There have been only 2 deaths from this disease, both in young children.

TYPHOID FEVER.—This disease has caused 2 deaths, one of which occurred at the Isolation Hospital. The immunity of the town from this disease is very gratifying and shows that drains, water, etc. are in good condition.

TYPHUS FEVER.—I have one death to record of this (to Brentford) rare disease. A little girl on board a canal boat was found to be suffering from Typhus. She was promptly removed to the Isolation Hospital where she died a few hours afterwards. The greatest precautions were taken and the disease did not spread.

DIARRHŒA.—This disease has caused 29 deaths, all in children under 5 years old, and nearly all the deaths occurred in the month of August. There is always a heavy mortality from diarrhœa in this town and I am afraid proper precautions are not used by parents in hot weather. The milk the infants are fed upon is sour and bottles and tubes are not properly cleaned immediately after use.

The number of deaths from these 8 diseases has been 38, and the Zymotic death rate is 2·5 per thousand, which is .4 below the average of the last 10 years.

The following table shows the number of births and deaths and the various birth and death rates for the last 10 years:—



	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	Average of 10 Years.
Number of Births.....	437	504	512	494	492	503	474	537	492	576	502.1
Birth rate per 1000 ...	33.8	38.5	38.7	35.9	35.2	35.5	31.1	37.1	33.6	38.9	35.8
Deaths from all causes	234	227	256	253	294	263	221	235	278	231	249.2
Death rate per 1000...	18.1	17.5	19.3	18.3	21	18.6	15.4	16.2	18.9	15.6	17.8
Deaths from Small Pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
„ Measles .....	0	8	5	1	19	13	11	0	30	0	8.7
„ Scarlet Fever	2	2	13	5	2	7	1	0	2	1	3.5
„ Diphtheria ...	3	8	5	3	2	2	3	3	6	3	3.8
„ Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.2
„ Whooping Cough	10	3	7	14	4	4	6	4	12	2	6.6
„ Typhoid Fever	1	3	5	0	1	1	2	3	2	2	2
„ Diarrhoea ...	10	6	21	14	18	30	11	15	16	29	17
„ 8 chief zymotic diseases...	26	30	56	37	46	58	34	25	68	38	41.8
Death rate of 8 chief zymotic diseases...	2.08	2.29	4.2	2.6	3.4	4.1	2.3	1.7	4.6	2.5	2.9

BAKEHOUSES AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—The 22 Bakehouses and 8 slaughterhouses in the district have been regularly inspected, and care has been taken that they are kept clean.

LODGING HOUSES.—Constant supervision has been exercised over the 7 Common Lodging Houses in the town, and there has not been one case of Infectious Disease in them during the year. They have been well conducted and the lodgers well behaved.

OTHER SANITARY WORK.—Following the precedent of previous years, the sanitary improvement of the town is steadily progressing. Good well-built houses for the working classes with proper drainage and good water supply have been opened during the year, and many old and dilapidated houses have either been pulled down or re-constructed to meet modern requirements. I would again call the Council's attention to the necessity of having a register kept of all houses let in lodgings, it would materially assist in preventing overcrowding, which, with the ever increasing rise in rents, is a difficult problem to solve.

PREVENTION OF PHTHISIS.—On page 1, I gave the number of deaths from this disease as 28; 7 under 5 years and 21 over that age. There is no doubt that Phthisis is an infectious and therefore preventable disease. The infection is usually spread through the expectoration. It is therefore of the utmost importance that the expectoration should be collected in a proper vessel containing a small quantity of disinfectant, which should be emptied frequently, or if a cloth or handkerchief is used, it should be burnt. Persons suffering from this disease should always sleep alone. The room occupied should be well ventilated, and when the person is removed, should be disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—The Hospital has never shewn its usefulness more than during the year 1897. Every month patients suffering from Scarlet Fever have been admitted, and only in the month of November was I obliged to refuse to take patients because the Hospital was full. In June, July and August there was a sharp epidemic and again in October and November. Whenever I have been able to trace the cause of an outbreak, I have invariably found that a parent has neglected to notify the disease, and sent the child to school in a peeling state. I am glad to say that punishment has followed rapidly on detection, and that the masters and mistresses of various schools are always ready, as in previous years, to render me every assistance. So large and continuous a number of patients has thrown an enormous amount of



work on the Hospital staff, but Nurse Ward, by her constant care and attention and by her energy and devotion to duty, has successfully coped with it, and it speaks volumes in her favour, that of 131 cases of Scarlet Fever admitted during the year there has *not* been one death. I may add that Nurse Ward has not been able this year to take her usual holiday. I have much pleasure in recommending her to the favourable consideration of the Council. Seeing that nearly every case of Scarlet Fever which occurs in the town is sent to the Isolation Hospital, I would suggest that the Council make it a free Institution, and abolish all charges to ratepayers and their families. This I am sure would be a great boon to all classes

Number of cases admitted during the year 131.

<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>	<i>Typhoid Fever.</i>	<i>Typhus Fever.</i>
129	1	1
Patients under treatment December 31st, 1896	...	...
„ discharged cured	...	...
„ died	...	...
„ under treatment December 31st, 1897	...	...
		7
		105
		2
		31

The cases of Typhus and Typhoid Fever died.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT.—Under this Act I have received 183 certificates, representing 181 separate cases of disease.

<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>	<i>Typhoid Fever.</i>	<i>Typhus Fever.</i>	<i>Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.</i>
145	6	1	12
	<i>Erysipelas.</i>	<i>Puerperal Fever.</i>	
	15	2	

Although there have been many cases of Scarlet Fever during the year, the health of the town has been very good. The birth rate is higher and the death rate lower than for some years, and I think some of the credit for this satisfactory state is due to the excellent work which has been carried on by the Cottage Hospital and District Nurses for some time past. Many severe cases would have undoubtedly died, but for the excellent nursing they received from that Institution. It is supported entirely by voluntary contribution, and I hope the inhabitants of Brentford will support it liberally, so that it may carry on its good work

Mr. Abbott, Sanitary Inspector, has supplied me with the following particulars—

*Summary of Nuisances dealt with during the year ending December 31st, 1897.*

TABLE I.

Number of houses and premises inspected including 380 house to house inspections					
	...	...	...	...	1065
„ visits to Courts and Alleys within the District	...	...	...	...	642
„ special complaints received and attended to	...	...	...	...	22
„ reinspections after service of notice	...	...	...	...	575
„ nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	750
„ „ outstanding December 31st, 1896	...	...	...	...	10
„ „ abated	...	...	...	...	745
„ „ outstanding December 31st, 1897	...	...	...	...	15
„ preliminary notices issued	...	...	...	...	349
„ statutory	„	„	...	...	45
„ summonses taken out	...	...	...	...	5
„ convictions or orders obtained	...	...	...	...	5

Of the summonses taken out 1 was for overcrowding, 2 for wilful exposure of infected persons and 2 for the recovery of Hospital accounts.

TABLE II.

*Description of Nuisances dealt with.*

Accumulations of offensive matter, &c. removed	..	...	..	48
Animals, &c. kept so as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	8
Cisterns in houses cleansed and repaired, covered, &c.	...	...	...	49
"    "    new provided	...	...	...	1
"    "    overflow pipes disconnected from drains	...	...	...	2
Dead bodies removed to mortuary	...	...	...	1
Drains examined, tested, &c.	...	...	...	19
"    unstopped, trapped, repaired, &c.	...	...	...	127
"    waste pipes, rainwater, &c. disconnected	...	...	...	2
"    soil pipes and drains ventilated	...	...	...	9
"    disconnecting traps provided	...	...	...	2
"    reconstructed	...	...	...	4
Dust bins, new, provided	...	...	...	38
"    repaired, etc.	...	...	...	15
Dampness, roofs repaired	...	...	...	66
"    gutters and downspouts cleared and repaired	...	...	...	34
"    yards, etc. repaired	...	...	...	5
"    ventilation provided below floors	...	...	...	4
Houses supplied with water	...	...	...	2
"    cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	80
"    overcrowded	...	...	...	8
"    closed, unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	3
"    re-opened after undergoing repairs	...	...	...	3
Water Closets, new, provided	...	...	...	5
"    repaired	...	...	...	29
"    new apparatus provided	...	...	...	5
"    supplied with water	...	...	...	135
"    ventilated	...	...	...	2
"    new flushing cisterns provided	...	...	...	15
Unsound food, seizure of fish	...	...	...	1

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—The whole of the Common Lodging Houses within the district have been regularly visited by day, and night inspections have been made. The periodical cleansing and limewashing of the premises has been attended to, and during the inspections the houses generally were found to be kept in a fairly clean and satisfactory condition.

Number of houses on Register	...	...	...	7
"    lodgers registered for	...	...	...	87
"    visits by day 95, by night 7	...	...	...	102

DAIRIES, MILKSHOPS, &c.—These have been frequently inspected and found in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Number of premises registered Jan. 1st, 1897	...	...	...	23
"    applications to register	...	...	...	2
"    inspections made	...	...	...	frequent



BAKEHOUSES, SLAUGHTERHOUSES, &c.—During the year 22 Bakehouses within the District have been frequently visited, and the periodical cleansing of the walls and ceilings attended to. The Slaughterhouses (8 in number) have also been periodically inspected and found to be complying with the byelaws.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, SCHOOLS, &c.—The Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Schools, &c., have received attention during the year and found to be kept in a satisfactory condition.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—

Number of houses inspected on occurrence of infectious disease	...	159
"    "    disinfected	...	122
"    "    stripped and cleansed	...	49
"    articles of clothing, bedding, &c. disinfected in steam disinfectant	...	323
"    patients removed to Isolation Hospital	...	137

CANAL BOATS ACT 1877 & 1884.—On the 1st of January, 1897, 242 Canal Boats were on the register at Brentford, and during the year 8 applications have been received to register Canal Boats as dwellings. Of these 1 is a new boat and 7 registered on account of change of ownership, and as each complied with the requirements of the Acts and Regulations the applications were granted.

332 inspections have been made at uncertain times, and during the inspections the occupants of the boats at all times were ready to afford every facility for inspection, and the cabins kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

The number of contraventions of the Acts and regulations met with during the inspections has been 48. Complaint notes have been forwarded to the owners in 34 cases and verbal cautions have been given in the remaining 14 instances.

The following is a list of the contraventions met with:

Absence of Certificate	...	8
Certificate not identifying	...	6
Not properly marked	...	12
Separation of the sexes	...	3
Cabins found in dirty condition	...	7
Cabins requiring painting	...	4
No proper water vessel	...	8

During the year there have been 2 cases of infectious disease on board the canal boats and 3 cabins have been fumigated.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

HENRY BOTT,

Medical Officer of Health.

Brentford, March 30th, 1898.