

[Report 1895] / Medical Officer of Health, Portland U.D.C.

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Publication/Creation

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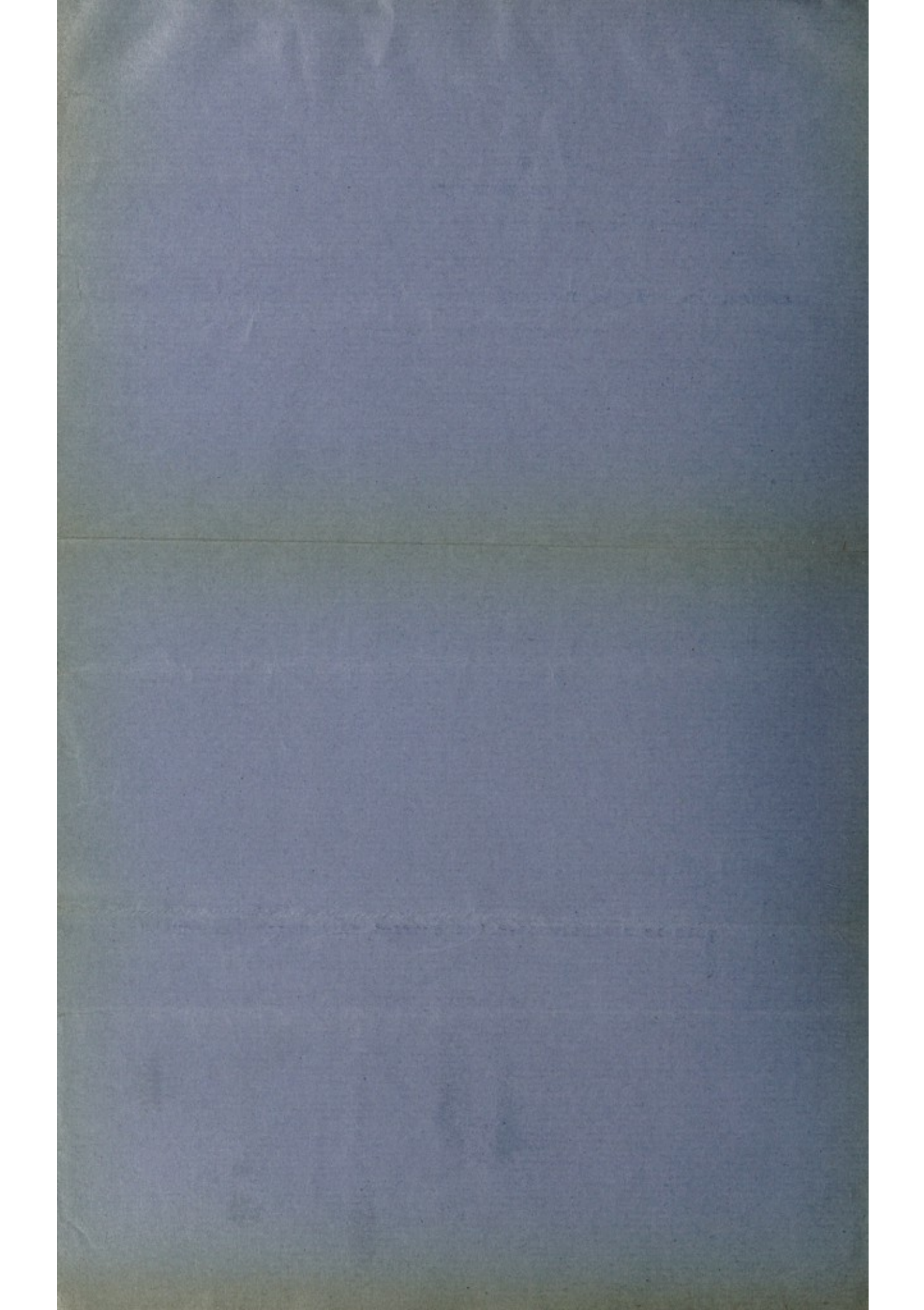


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City of Portland Urban District

Medical Officer's Report

for 1895



Portland District Council.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1895.

P O R T L A N D,

10th February 1896.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1895.

Meteorology

The weather was exceptionally severe during the early part of the year. The death-rate was unusually high in the first and second quarters, probably to some extent as a result of the severe winter and spring. The close of 1895 was characterised by mild damp weather, the rainfall in November being high, as is usual in this month. A note of the rainfall for the whole of the year is annexed:

January	....	3.39	inches
February	....	.02	,,
March	....	2.41	,,
April	....	2.20	,,
May	....	.32	,,
June	....	1.90	,,
July	....	3.17	,,
August	....	2.13	,,
September	....	.23	,,
October	....	3.11	,,
November	....	5.87	,,
December	....	3.11	,,

Total for the year 27.86 inches

=====

this is slightly over the average fall which is about 25 inches

(For the figures given above I am indebted to the Rev. W. R.

Waugh, F.R.A.S. The Observatory, Portland.)

Population.

The population in the middle of 1895 was probably about 9,800 and this number we have taken for a basis for our calculations.

Births. The number of births registered during the year was as follows:-

Report of the United States Fish Commission
for the year 1900.
1901, February 1901.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your report for the year 1900.

The report was very interesting and gave me much information. The data was very valuable and I am sure it will be of great use to the Commission. The report was very well written and I am sure it will be of great use to the Commission.

1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403	2404	2405	2406	2407	2408	2409	2410	2411	2412	2413	2414	2415	2416	2417	2418	2419	2420	2421	2422	2423	2424	2425	2426	2427	2428	2429	2430	2431	2432	2433	2434	2435	2436	2437	2438	2439	2440	2441	2442	2443	2444	2445	2446	2447	2448	2449	2450	2451	2452	2453	2454	2455	2456	2457	2458	2459	2460	2461	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467	2468	2469	2470	2471	2472	2473	2474	2475	2476	2477	2478	2479	2480	2481	2482	2483	2484	2485	2486	2487	2488	2489	2490	2491	2492	2493	2494	2495	2496	2497	2498	2499	2500	2501	2502	2503	2504	2505	2506	2507	2508	2509	2510	2511	2512	2513	2514	2515	2516	2517	2518	2519	2520	2521	2522	2523	2524	2525	2526	2527	2528	2529	2530	2531	2532	2533	2534	2535	2536	2537	2538	2539	2540	2541	2542	2543	2544	2545	2546	2547	2548	2549	2550	2551	2552	2553	2554	2555	2556	2557	2558	2559	2560	2561	2562	2563	2564	2565	2566	2567	2568	2569	2570	2571	2572	2573	2574	2575	2576	2577	2578	2579	2580	2581	2582	2583	2584	2585	2586	2587	2588	2589	2590	2591	2592	2593	2594	2595	2596	2597	2598	2599	2600	2601	2602	2603	2604	2605	2606	2607	2608	2609	2610	2611	2612	2613	2614	2615	2616	2617	2618	2619	2620	2621	2622	2623	2624	2625	2626	2627	2628	2629	2630	2631	2632	2633	2634	2635	2636	2637	2638	2639	2640	2641	2642	2643	2644	2645	2646	2647	2648	2649	2650	2651	2652	2653	2654	2655	2656	2657	2658	2659	2660	2661	2662	2663	2664	2665	2666	2667	2668	2669	2670	2671	2672	2673	2674	2675	2676	2677	2678	2679	2680	2681	2682	2683	2684	2685	2686	2687	2688	2689	2690	2691	2692	2693	2694	2695	2696	2697	2698	2699	2700	2701	2702	2703	2704	2705	2706	2707	2708	2709	2710	2711	2712	2713	2714	2715	2716	2717	2718	2719	2720	2721	2722	2723	2724	2725	2726	2727	2728	2729	2730	2731	2732	2733	2734	2735	2736	2737	2738	2739	2740	2741	2742	2743	2744	2745	2746	2747	2748	2749	2750	2751	2752	2753	2754	2755	2756	2757	2758	2759	2760	2761	2762	2763	2764	2765	2766	2767	2768	2769	2770	2771	2772	2773	2774	2775	2776	2777	2778	2779	2780	2781	2782	2783	2784	2785	2786	2787	2788	2789	2790	2791	2792	2793	2794	2795	2796	2797	2798	2799	2800	2801	2802	2803	2804	2805	2806	2807	2808	2809	2810	2811	2812	2813	2814	2815	2816	2817	2818	2819	2820	2821	2822	2823	2824	2825	2826	2827	2828	2829	2830	2831	2832	2833	2834	2835	2836	2837	2838	2839	2840	2841	2842	2843	2844	2845	2846	2847	2848	2849	2850	2851	2852	2853	2854	2855	2856	2857	2858	2859	2860	2861	2862	2863	2864	2865	2866	2867	2868	2869	2870	2871	2872	2873	2874	2875	2876	2877	2878	2879	2880	2881	2882	2883	2884	2885	2886	2887	2888	2889	2890	2891	2892	2893	2894	2895	2896	2897	2898	2899	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January	17	61 in 1st quarter
February	22	
March	22	
April	15	45 in 2nd quarter
May	12	
June	18	
July	21	59 in 3rd quarter
August	24	
September	14	
October	22	56 in 4th quarter
November	21	
December	13	

Total for the year 221
===

Of the total number 121 were males and 100 were females.
This gives a birth-rate of 22.551 per 1,000 per annum.

Deaths.

The following is a list of the deaths during the year:-

January	16	49 in 1st quarter
February	15	
March	18	
April	15	45 in 2nd quarter
May	12	
June	18	
July	9	27 in 3rd quarter
August	8	
September	10	
October	13	29 in 4th quarter
November	7	
December	9	

Total for the year 150
===

Fourteen deaths of non residents are to be deducted from this total. One death has to be added on, being that of a man who lived in Portland, who went to London to be operated on for cancer and died in hospital there. This leaves us a total of 137 deaths to

Table with multiple columns and rows, containing various numerical and textual data. The text is mirrored and difficult to read.

Of the total number of cases, 100 were reported. This figure is a minimum estimate of the total number of cases.

The following table shows the distribution of cases by age group and sex. The figures are based on the data collected during the study.

Table with multiple columns and rows, containing various numerical and textual data. The text is mirrored and difficult to read.

Approximately 10-15% of the population are affected by this disease. The disease is characterized by its high mortality rate and its ability to spread rapidly.

The following table shows the distribution of cases by age group and sex. The figures are based on the data collected during the study.

Table with multiple columns and rows, containing various numerical and textual data. The text is mirrored and difficult to read.

calculate the death-rate from. The death-rate will be found to be equal to 13.979 per 1,000 per annum.

The causes of death are shown in the next table.-

Scarlatina....	....	....	2
Enteric Fever.	....	....	7
Erysipelas....	....	....	1
Whooping cough.	....	....	3
Diarrhoea etc.	....	....	3
Phthisis ....	....	....	12
Bronchitis, Pneumonia etc.	....	....	30
Heart diseases	....	....	21
Injuries ....	....	....	4
All other diseases	....	....	<u>68</u>

Total, including London case referred to above..... 151.
 ===

The mortality from all causes at the different ages was as follows:-

Under 1 year	25
1 years & under 5 years	13
5 ,, " " 15 ,,	5
15 ,, " " 25 ,,,	26
25 ,, " " 65 ,,	52
65 years and upwards	<u>30</u>
Total	151

Deducting one ^{non-resident} resident from those dying under one year old, we get twenty four deaths. This, in conjunction with the total number of births, enables us to calculate the infant mortality; by this term is meant the number of children dying under a year old for each thousand live births. The infant-mortality rate is 108.597. This is considerably below the infant mortality rate of England and Wales which is from 140 to 145.

estimated the death-rate from the death-rate will be found to be
 equal to 1.00 for 1,000 per annum.

The number of deaths in the year 1900

Deaths from	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910
Smallpox	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Scarlet fever	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diphtheria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whooping cough	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Measles	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diarrhoea etc.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Tuberculosis	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Consumption, pneumonia etc.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Heart disease	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Stroke	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Alcoholism	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
At other diseases	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Following table shows the number of deaths in the year 1900

Under 1 year	1
1 year to 5 years	1
5 years to 10 years	1
10 years to 15 years	1
15 years to 20 years	1
20 years and over	1
Total	1

Subtracting the number of deaths from those dying under one year old, we
 get the number of deaths from those dying over one year old. This is
 of birth statistics as to estimate the infant mortality rate. It is found
 is about the number of children dying under a year old for each
 thousand live births. The infant-mortality rate is 10.000. This
 is considerably above the infant mortality rate of England and Wales
 which is from 10 to 12.

It is found that the number of deaths from those dying under one year old is
 about 10.000 per 1,000 live births. This is considerably above the infant
 mortality rate of England and Wales which is from 10 to 12.

Zymotic Diseases.

The Zymotic death-rate is calculated from the total number of deaths caused by the following diseases, viz:- small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, ~~diphtheria~~^{diphtheria}, whooping cough, fever and diarrhoeas. We find that after deducting two cases of enteric fever which were imported into the island, we have remaining a total of 13 deaths from this class of diseases. This gives us a zymotic death-rate of 1.326 per 1,000 per annum. The zymotic death rate for England & Wales in the decennium 1881-90 was 2.34.

Enteric fever.

A number of cases of enteric fever occurred among the soldiers belonging to the King's Shropshire Light Infantry in January, the first soldier affected having been admitted to hospital on 27th Dec. 1894 as mentioned in last year's report. In all thirteen cases were admitted to the station hospital in January 1895. Five cases were seen among the civil population in the top-hill district during the same month. These cases were all in houses previously affected. Another case (in all probability imported, as the patient was taken ill within two days of his arrival in Portland) was first seen on 15th February, at Victoria Buildings, under hill district. This case terminated fatally on the 9th March. A special report on the presence of enteric fever was made to the Local Government Board on the 15th January. On the 26th August a case came under treatment at Prospect Place, and between that date and the 17th October seven cases in all were notified in the under-hill district. These were almost entirely confined to Sea View Terrace and Albert Terrace. One case appeared in Gaston (top-hill district) in November. Seven deaths were registered from this disease, but two of them were imported cases.

Scarlatina. A considerable number of cases of scarlatina have been notified; twenty two cases are known to have occurred with two deaths. There is some reason to believe that several children have suffered from this disease without the fact having been notified

Erysipelas. No less than fifteen cases of erysipelas have come to our knowledge during the year, in various parts of the island.

One proved fatal and several were of a very severe type. About half the total number of cases were in the first four months of the year. One case, at least, was distinctly traceable to direct infection.

Mumps. An extensive epidemic of mumps broke out during the autumn months in the under-hill district. The vast majority of the cases were very mild, and had no medical attendance.

Whooping Cough. This has been very prevalent, especially in the top-hill district, for the last three months of the year. Three deaths have been registered from this disease.

Water Supply.

Since my last annual report was submitted the Southwell water scheme has been finally abandoned, owing to the analysis of the water showing such an excess of chlorine as to leave no room for doubt that water from the sea was percolating into the beds supplying water to the shaft! The Council were then placed in the unpleasant position of having to re-consider the whole question of water supply for the island. In this state of affairs a valuable and suggestive report was drawn up by Mr. Elford, the Councils' Surveyor, showing the probable cost of three alternative schemes, viz:- one to obtain the water from the Weymouth Water Co., another to sink a well in the valley below the Hardy Monument, near Portesham, and another to take advantage of the Portesham spring. He recommended either of the two last mentioned schemes as being preferable to the first on the ground of economy, the Portesham scheme being the best in this respect. On consideration, certain difficulties were found to stand in the way of all these schemes, and whilst the Council were considering what should be done in the matter, another scheme was unexpectedly brought to their notice. Captain Gould, an Estate owner at Upwey wrote to the Council offering to sink a shaft at

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Upwey, at his own expense, and, should a sufficiency of water be found, to hand over the works and supply to the Portland District Council at a fixed price agreed upon beforehand. The Council are now considering this proposal and there is every hope that it will be accepted and that the scheme will prove a successful one. From the nature of the strata (chalk) where the proposed shaft is to be sunk, the character of the water is likely to be of great organic purity, and although it is certain to be a hard water, a large amount of the hardness will be a removeable hardness. Of course a careful analysis of the water will have to be made before a definite opinion can be expressed, and naturally the Council will protect themselves in regard to the quality of the water in any agreement which may be made. It would also be well to have a bacteriological as well as a chemical report upon the water before finally deciding to take it.

Drainage.

A proper system of drainage is still needed, and as soon as a water supply has been obtained, the question of drainage must claim the attention of the District Council.

Insanitary Houses.

The house at 31, Southwell, mentioned in last year's report has been closed as unfit for human habitation.

Nuisances.

A considerable number of nuisances have been reported to the Council during the year and most of them have been promptly abated.

Acts Adopted. The Infectious Diseases Notification Act 1889, and The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act of 1890 were adopted by the Council on 13th March 1895 and came into operation on the 1st of May.

The Public Health Amendment Act of 1890 and the Private Streets Works Act were adopted on the 24th July, and came into operation on the 1st September.

Recommendations. While the Council are to be congratulated on their adoption of the Acts for the notification and taking the best means for ensuring the prevention of infectious diseases, we wish to point

point out that in order to obtain the full effect of these acts, they must be rigidly enforced. Any breach of them which may come under our notice will be reported to the Council and should be promptly punished. In the body of this report notice has been taken of the fact that there is reason to suppose that some cases of scarlatina have not been notified. Sufficient evidence to secure conviction of the offending parties has not, so far, been obtained.

To get the full benefit of the various enactments for the prevention of infectious diseases it is desirable that better provision for hospital isolation of these case should be made. A striking example of the evil effects resulting from the home nursing of these cases occurred during the autumn. A young girl in service was taken ill with enteric fever and immediately removed to the house occupied by her uncle and aunt. Her aunt nursed her and after about a fortnight was taken ill of the same disease. The uncle followed a little later and the three cases were all under treatment at once. The aunt died, while the girl, the original source of infection, recovered. Owing to the large number of labourers who have been recently employed on the Admiralty works etc. a great many lodgers have been added to the regular population, and there is reason to believe that overcrowding has sometimes resulted. This might be avoided without much difficulty, if the Council were to issue bye-laws with reference to houses let in lodgings. The Public Health Act of 1875 section 90 authorises them to do this, for the purpose of regulating the number of persons and separation of the sexes in a house or part of a house let in lodgings, or occupied by members of more than one family etc. It is often difficult to say exactly what constitutes overcrowding, so that the existence of byelaws specifying the exact amount of cubic space to be allowed as a minimum etc. would be of the greatest use.

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