

**[Report 1904] / Medical Officer of Health, Southborough U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Southborough (Kent, England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1904.

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/dmtbxkw8>

**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](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

ANNUAL REPORT  
ON  
THE HEALTH  
OF THE  
SOUTHBOROUGH  
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT,  
FOR THE YEAR  
**1904.**

CENSUS, 1891.			CENSUS, 1901		
No. of Acres	...	1,678*	No of Acres	...	1,600
Inhabited Houses...	1,102		Inhabited Houses...	1,539	
Population	...	5,418	Population	...	6,977

\* 78 Acres transferred to Tunbridge Wells in  
November, 1894.



**T**HE **Population** of Southborough estimated to the middle of 1904, was **7,578** showing an increase of 601 since the census of 1901, and of 190 on the estimated population of 1903.

The registered Births amounted to 167, consisting of 83 of males and 84 of females, and giving a **Birth-rate** of **22·0** per 1,000 of population, as compared with 25·8 in 1903.

Eighty-six deaths were returned, consisting of 38 of males and 48 of females. To these must be added 11 deaths of residents which occurred outside the district, viz., 6 in Tonbridge Union Workhouse, 4 at the General Hospital, Tunbridge Wells, and 1 in Public Street at Tunbridge Wells, and these are taken into account in calculating the death-rate.

The **Death-rate** was **12·8** per 1,000 of population, as compared with 14·2 in 1903, and 13·3 in 1902.

The principal **Epidemic Diseases** include Small-Pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping-Cough, Fever (including the three principal forms, Typhus, Enteric or Typhoid Fever, and Pyrexia of uncertain origin), and Diarrhœa.

Of the total 97 deaths, 3 were caused by one or other of these diseases, viz., 1 from Whooping-Cough, and 2 from Diarrhœa.

The **Epidemic Disease Death-rate** was **0·3** per 1,000 of the population, as against 1·7 in the previous year, and 0·5 in 1902.

The **Infant Mortality**, *i.e.*, the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per each 1,000 registered births was **71**, as compared with 125 in the previous year, and 104 in 1902.

For England and Wales, taken as a whole, the birth-rate for 1904 was 27·9 (which is the lowest rate on record), the general death-rate 16·2, and the epidemic disease death-rate 1·94 per 1,000 of population; the rate of mortality among infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births was 146.

It will be seen from the above that the vital statistics are of a very satisfactory character, the general death-rate, epidemic

disease death-rate, and infant mortality being respectively, 3·4, 1·64 and 75 below those of the country generally.

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Under the provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Acts, 1889 and 1899, the following diseases are notifiable in the district, viz., Small-pox, Cholera, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Erysipelas, the disease known as Scarlatina or Scarlet Fever, and the Fevers known by any of the following names: Typhus, Typhoid or Enteric, Relapsing, Continued, and Puerperal.

Thirty-two cases were reported, as compared with 23 cases in 1903, and 33 cases in 1902.

They consisted of 2 cases of Diphtheria, 2 of Erysipelas, 25 of Scarlet Fever, and 3 of Enteric Fever.

**Small-pox.**—It is satisfactory to note that no cases of this disease occurred throughout the year; as compared with 6 cases in 1903.

**Scarlet Fever.**—Twenty-five cases were reported, as against 8 in the previous year, and were notified as follows:

January ... ..	12 cases.
March ... ..	2 „
May ... ..	2 „
July ... ..	4 „
August ... ..	1 „
September ... ..	1 „
October ... ..	2 „
November ... ..	1 „
Total ... ..	25 cases.

No deaths occurred.

Nineteen of the cases were notified from the locality of High Brooms, 4 from Springfield Road, and 2 from Bedford Road, Southborough, at the following age-periods:

Under 1 year.	1-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>3</u>	= 25 cases.

**Diphtheria.**—Two cases only occurred—one in March in Springfield Road, and one in April in London Road—both were children, aged respectively 4 and 6 years, were nursed at home and recovered.

**Enteric Fever.**—Three non-fatal cases occurred, as against 1 in 1903, and arose 1 in September at Argyle Road, Southborough, and 2 in October at High Brooms.

No insanitary conditions sufficient to account for the presence of the disease were found at the houses.

**Erysipelas.**—Only two cases were notified—1 in October from Great Brooms Road, and 1 in December from Pennington Road, the latter being fatal. Both patients were adult females.

#### NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

**Measles** and **Influenza** caused no deaths during the whole of the year.

**Whooping-Cough** was responsible for only one death, that of a child aged 2 years at Colebrook Road in July.

**Diarrhoea.**—Two deaths of infants under one year of age resulted from this disease, 1 at London Road and the other at Nursery Road, both in September.

#### HOSPITAL ISOLATION.

Twenty-four of the 25 cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to and treated at the Isolation Hospital, Vauxhall Lane, as follows :

In January	...	...	...	11 cases.
March	...	...	...	2 „
May	...	...	...	2 „
July	...	...	...	4 „
August	...	...	...	1 „
September	...	...	...	1 „
October	...	...	...	2 „
November	...	...	...	1 „
Total	...	...	...	24 cases.

The wards of the Hospital have been painted and varnished throughout during the year.

The system of sewage disposal which was reconstructed in 1902, and now consists of septic tank with filter beds, is working well.

I have inspected the Hospital throughout on several occasions during the year, and on each visit found the conditions satisfactory.

### INSPECTIONS.

In addition to numerous inspections in reference to cases of infectious disease I have had occasion to make special inspections of factories and workshops, several of the dairies and cowsheds, the Isolation Hospital, and the Elementary Schools.

There are no registered **Common Lodging-houses** in the district.

**Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.**—Regulations under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1886, and the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order of 1885, were adopted by the Local Board on September 26th, 1888. These regulations are being revised and will be placed before the Council for adoption during the ensuing year.

The number of persons on the register connected with the Milk business is 7 Cowkeepers, 6 Cowkeepers and Dairymen, and 7 who are Purveyors of Milk only—total 20.

I advised, after inspection, alterations in two dairies—in one structural alterations were required, and in the other the water supply was not above suspicion.

**Slaughter-houses.**—There are no registered Slaughter-houses, but licenses are granted by the Council annually. The same number of licenses (5) were granted as during 1903, and the condition of all the Slaughter-houses has been satisfactory.

**Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.**—There are on the register 5 factories and 17 workshops and workplaces.

The factories include two steam laundries and a carriage factory, at each of which structural alterations have been made in the sanitary conveniences during the past year.

I have accompanied Mr. Harmer on several visits of inspection in reference to these matters, and the table recently issued by the Home Office is appended to this report.

**Refuse Removal** is carried out directly by the local authority.

Sewers are available for **Excretal Disposal** with the exception of a few outlying farms and some half-dozen premises which are not in positions capable of being connected with the sewers, these latter having cesspools which are periodically emptied by the Council's own men.

No public **Drainage** work has been carried out during the past year, but four vent shafts, each twenty-five feet high, have been erected for the better ventilation of the main sewer. One was erected at High Brooms, and three between Holden Road and the sewage tank.

**Water Supply.**—The yield of water from the new supply coming from the deep boring at Hayesden has been up to expectation in quantity during the year. Samples are chemically analysed every month and the reports have been uniformly satisfactory. The following is the one for the month of December, 1904.

Total solids ... ..	17.2
Loss on ignition ... ..	1.2
Chlorine ... ..	2.0
Nitrogen as Nitrates ... ..	.00
Free ammonia ... ..	.00
Albuminoid ammonia ... ..	.02
Oxygen absorbed in $\frac{1}{4}$ -hour ...	.009
"      "      4 hours ...	.018
Hardness total ... ..	5.6
"      permanent ... ..	2.8
Appearance in 2ft. tube ... ..	clear pale green.
Smell ... ..	none.
Phosphoric Acid ... ..	trace.

"Uniform in character with previous samples from this supply, and good quality organically and satisfactory throughout the analysis."

**Elementary School Closure.**—It was considered necessary to advise the closure of the following Elementary Schools for the

periods, and on account of the prevalence of the infectious disease set opposite each :

Girls' National Schools, High Brooms.—May 20th to June 24th (both inclusive), Measles.

Council Schools, Powder Mill Lane (Boys and Infants).—June 3rd to June 24th (both inclusive), Measles.

I inspected the schools throughout ; the buildings are recent, excellent in construction, and adequate.

**Adoptive Acts.**—The following Acts are in force in the Urban District of Southborough :

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890, which was adopted on December 31st, 1890, and came into force on February 9th, 1891 ; the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, adopted and came into force on same date as preceding ; and the Private Streets Works Act, 1892, adopted on March 29th, 1899.

It has not been found necessary to take any action under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts.

**Midwives Act, 1902.**—The preliminary steps for the administration of this Act have been taken, viz., public notices have been posted and special notices sent to each midwife who was known to be practicing in the district. Three midwives are so far on the local Register.

It has not been found necessary to take any **Legal Proceedings** with respect to public health matters during the year.

At the end of the year the health of the District was satisfactory, and the only infectious disease notified during the two last months of the year was one case of Scarlet Fever in November, and one case of Erysipelas in December.

Mr. Harmer's report of the sanitary work carried out by him during the year, the statistical tables required by the Local Government Board, and the table provided by the Secretary of State for recording action taken under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, are appended.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES SCOTT TEW.

*March 29th, 1905.*

## SOUTHBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Nuisances dealt with by Sanitary Inspector during the year  
ending 31st December, 1904.

Insanitary Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Manure accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Defective traps to house drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Impure water supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Defective waste water preventers to w.c's	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sewer ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Insanitary dis-used pit (filled up)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Additional w.c. accommodation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
New stone sinks and pipes in sculleries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Brick dust bins repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dangerous wells domed over...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Insanitary dwellings throughout	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Insanitary dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Cowsheds, drains, pavings, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sanitary dust bins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Fowl nuisances removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Insanitary pavings back courts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Premises structurally dangerous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
New drainage to premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Down pipes from roofs defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Eaves guttering defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cesspools emptied and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Houses fumigated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30

In addition to the above a number of minor nuisances were  
dealt with verbally.

WILLIAM HARMER,

*Inspector of Nuisances.*

**TABLE 1.**  
**SOUTHBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT.**  
**VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE WHOLE DISTRICT.**

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year	Births.		Deaths under 1 year.		Deaths at all ages. Total.		Total Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	Nett Deaths at all ages.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births reg'd	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1898.	6679	184	27.5		184	98	14.6	8		7	105	15.7
1899.	6875	206	29.9	24	116	109	15.8	7		6	115	16.7
1900.	7077	182	25.7	18	98	79	11.1	9		9	88	12.4
1901.	6977	190	27.2	26	136	117	16.7	4		4	121	17.3
1902.	7202	173	24.0	19	104	93	12.9	3		3	96	13.3
1903.	7388	191	25.8	24	125	97	13.1			8	105	14.2
Averages for years 1898-1903.	7033	187	26.6	22	127	98	14.0	6		6	105	14.9
1904.	7578	167	22.0	12	71	86	11.3			11	97	12.8

\* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The "Public institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table.

At Census of 1901.

Area of District in acres  
(exclusive of area  
covered by water) 1595

Total population at all ages ..... 6,977.  
Number of inhabited houses ..... 1,539.  
Average number of persons per house, 4.

Institutions in District receiving sick and infirm per- sons from outside the District.	Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm per- sons from the District.
	Union Workhouse. (Tonbridge Rural District). Small-Pox Hospital, Capel. (Tonbridge Rural District). General Hospital (Tonbridge Wells Borough).

Union Workhouse not in District.

**TABLE 2.**  
SOUTHBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT.

Name of Locality.	Year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
Southborough ...	1898	6679	184	105	—
	1899	6875	206	115	24
	1900	7077	182	88	18
	1901	6977	190	121	26
	1902	7202	173	96	19
	1903	7388	191	105	24
	Averages of Years 1898 to 1903	7033	187	105	22
	1904	7578	167	97	12

TABLE 3.

SOUTHBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT.

**CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE notified  
during the Year, 1904.**

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE 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 up- wards.	
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria... ..	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Membranous croup	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	2	..	...	...	...	1	1	...
Scarlet fever ... ..	25	1	3	18	3	...	...	24
Typhus fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever ... ..	3	...	...	2	...	...	1	...
Relapsing fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ... ..	32	1	4	21	3	1	2	24

Isolation Hospitals, Southborough (in Urban District), and  
Small-pox Joint, Dislingbury (Tonbridge Rural).

TABLE 4.

SOUTHBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and ages at, Death during year 1904.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE 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.	
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic influenza ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough ... ..	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria, membranous croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Other continued ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea, Dysentery ... ..	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Other septic diseases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Meninges ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of Lungs ... ..	6	...	...	1	1	4	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	8	4	1	1	...	2	...	...
Cancer ... ..	12	...	...	...	...	6	6	...
Premature Birth ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Developmental diseases ... ..	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Old Age ... ..	14	...	...	...	...	...	14	...
Meningitis ... ..	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Diseases of Heart ... ..	9	...	...	...	1	3	5	...
Acute Bronchitis ... ..	5	...	...	...	...	1	4	...
Chronic Bronchitis ... ..	7	...	...	...	...	...	7	...
Lobar (Croupous) Pneumonia ... ..	2	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Lobular (Broncho) Pneumonia ... ..	4	...	...	...	...	2	2	...
Cirrhosis of liver ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Accidents and diseases of parturition ... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths by Accidents or Negligence ... ..	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Deaths by Suicide ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Deaths from Ill-defined Causes ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
All other causes ... ..	16	2	2	...	...	7	5	...
All causes ... ..	97	12	7	3	2	28	45	...

*ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of  
Health for 1904, for the Urban District of  
Southborough.*

**Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces  
and Homework.**

1.—INSPECTION.				
Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.				
Premises.	Inspec- tions.	Written notices.	Prosecu- tions.	
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	12	3	...	
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	25	4	...	
Homeworkers' Premises     ...     ...     ...     ...	6	...	...	
Total     ...     ...     ...     ...	43	7	...	

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.				
Particulars.	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Number of Prosecu- tions.
Want of cleanliness...     ...     ...	several	yes	nil	nil
Want of ventilation...     ...     ...	nil	nil	..	..
Overcrowding     ...     ...     ...	..	..	..	..
Want of drainage of floors	..	..	..	..
Other nuisances     ...     ...	several	yes	..	..
Sanitary accommodations:				
Insufficient     ...     ...     ...				
Unsuitable or defective	3	2	3	
Not separate for sexes				

3.—OTHER MATTERS.		
Class.	Number	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act ... ..	nil.	
Notified by H.M. Inspector ... ..	"	
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors	"	
Other ... ..	"	
Underground Bakehouses—		
In use during 1903 ... ..	1	
Certificates granted } in 1903 ... ..	1	
} in 1904 ... ..		
In use at the end of 1904 ... ..	1	
Homework:—	Number of	
List of Outworkers—	Lists	Outworkers
Lists received ... ..	nil	6
Addresses of } forwarded to other Authorities		nil.
outworkers } received from other Authorities		"
Homework in unwholesome or infected premises—	Wearing Apparel.	Other
Notices prohibiting homework in unwholesome premises ... ..	nil	nil.
Cases of infectious disease notified in homeworkers' premises ... ..	"	"
Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises ... ..	"	"
Workshops on the Register at the end of 1904—		
Dressmakers ... ..	4	
Tailors ... ..	3	
Others ... ..	10	
Total number of workshops on Register	17	

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III. and IV. attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

J. S. TEW, *Medical Officer of Health.*

March 29th, 1905.

