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# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

## SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

## BOROUGH OF YEOVIL

FOR THE YEAR 1904.

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BY


H. PAGE, D.P.H.Camb., M.D.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health.

Member of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Examiner to St. John's Ambulance Association.



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# BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.

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## ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT FOR 1904.

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*To the TOWN COUNCIL  
of the BOROUGH of YEOVIL.*

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you (as required by the Regulations of the Local Government Board and Sec. 19 of the Local Government Act, 1888, to the County Council) the Annual Report on the sanitary condition and health of your Borough in 1904.

As these Reports are for the information of the Local Government Board and the County Council, as well as the local Sanitary Authority, it is necessary to give a statement of various local circumstances and sanitary matters—which have not, as far as I have been able to discover, been noticed in former Annual Reports—which, although they are probably familiar to you and may therefore seem superfluous, may be needed and useful to the Central and County Authorities.



## PHYSICAL FEATURES and GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS of the District.

YEOVIL [O.F. "*vil*" town, near the river Yeo (or Ivel); O.S. *Gyvele* ; Celtic Gy ; possibly from the Aryan root *Gar*, to bend or wind about, in allusion to the river] a very ancient town and Borough (modern incorporation, 1853) is nearly at the centre of the extreme south border of the County of Somerset, on and amid hilly but beautiful and diversified scenery, geologically upon the Upper and Middle Lias formations and the local "Yeovil sands." The Borough covers an area of 852 acres. The centre of the town (Town Hall) is 173ft. above Ordnance datum. Other leading points and elevations are :

- On the North.—The Yeovil and District Hospital, 208ft. ; Mudford Road (highest point) 337ft.
- On the South.—Pen Mill, 237ft. ; Great Western Railway Station, 105ft. ; Summerhouse Hill (with public water service reservoir), 353ft. ; Hendford Hill, 269ft.
- On the East.—Wymondham Hill, 180ft. ; Sherborne Road (highest point), 173ft. ; one mile eastward is the Isolation Hospital, 120ft., and the Sewage Disposal Works, 105ft.
- On the West.—The Union Workhouse, 198ft. ; Preston Road (highest point), 223ft.

In consequence of the antiquity of the town, many of the older streets are narrow and irregular, and the dwellings of varying elevation. There is a fair proportion of residential and better-class houses scattered in many parts of the town as well as on its outskirts. There are 77 streets, 26 of which are modern or new. In the centre of the town there is a considerable number of good-class business premises, occupying the main thoroughfares. The factories (glove) are for the most part beyond these streets. In the other streets, as a large proportion of the population is engaged in the staple industry—glove-

making—a considerable number of the houses are of the “ industrial ” class, built in red brick ; others are of the “ cottage ” type ; but in the recently-extended area (November, 1903), mainly on the east and west boundaries of the town, the houses are new, of the better “ industrial ” class, in red brick and of modern construction ; while in the new and developing streets, dwellings of a similar and some of a better kind, are being erected, the streets are wider, and the buildings regular. The streets are for the most part well-paved, clean, well-lighted—the Gas Works being municipal property—and are well-scavenged. Great improvements have evidently been effected in the town in comparatively recent years. In November, 1904, the extended borough was divided into four wards of approximately similar population.

Briefly, the town has acquired commercial fame and success as one of the seats of English glove manufacture, and its municipal and sanitary progress is indicated by the following approximate expenditure :—

Gas Works (1899), £100,000 ; Public Water Supply (began in 1872), £57,000 ; Isolation Hospital (1893), £650 ; Sewage Disposal (Bacterial) Works (1903), £32,000 ; total, £189,650.

By this sanitary, municipal, and educational administration, the borough has attained a position distinctly beyond that of many places of similar size, which its public spirit bids fair to maintain and further advance.

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## GENERAL VITAL STATISTICS.

*(Details of these data will be found in the several Tables appended).*

### BIRTHS.

During the year, 329 births (159 males, 170 females) were registered in the borough, equivalent to a birth-rate of 29·74 per 1,000 living, compared with 25·41 for 1902. The rate for England and Wales was 27·9. Of the births 13 (8 males, 5 females) were illegitimate, equivalent to a rate of 1·1, compared with 1·4 for last year. The birth-rate is the highest since 1895. From figures I have compiled for comparative purposes this may be compared with the mean



for the decennium 1893-1902, which was 25·12, and for the decennium 1894-1903, of 24·76. A high birth-rate is a subject for congratulation in the face of the serious matter of the general decline of this rate.

### **DEATHS.**

The number of deaths registered was 170 (84 males, 86 females), equivalent to a death-rate of 15·36 per 1,000 living; compared with 15·04 for 1903. Of the deaths 22 occurred in public institutions, and 10 of these were those of non-residents in the district. This leaves the nett death-rate as 14·48 per 1,000 living, compared with 13·21 for the previous year. The mean death-rate for the decennium 1893-1902 was 15·31, and, for the decennium 1894-1903, 15·10. The rate for England and Wales for 1904 is 16·2, for Rural England and Wales 15·3.

The health of the Borough during the past year has therefore been satisfactory.

#### **Principal Zymotic Diseases' Deathrate.**

Under this heading 9 deaths have occurred, all due to Whooping Cough and in children under 3 years of age. Whooping Cough is a much more serious and fatal disease than is commonly recognised, serious on account of the permanent damage frequently done to the lungs and heart, and often fatal from exhaustion or pulmonary complications. The zymotic rate is 0·8 compared with 0·0 for 1903. The rate for England and Wales was 1·9 for 1904.

#### **Infantile Mortality.**

Under 1 year of age, 43 deaths have occurred, giving a rate of 133·7 per 1,000 births registered, compared with 106·1 for last year, and for England and Wales 146, and for Rural England and Wales 125. Measured by these figures, the local position, especially for a manufacturing town, does not compare unfavourably. On the other hand, as nearly one-fourth of these deaths are attributed to "premature birth" and "inanition," it would seem that in the amelioration and removal of conditions associated with these causes of infantile death lies the hope of improvement.

#### **Child Mortality.**

Between 1 and 5 years of age 11 deaths have been registered,



equivalent to a death-rate of 0.9 per 1,000 living, compared with 10 deaths and a rate of 1.0 for 1903.

#### **Phthisis Mortality.**

Twenty deaths are attributable to Phthisis, equivalent to a rate of 1.8. Ten deaths were due to tubercular diseases in other organs than the lungs, making the total tubercular death rate 2.7. With respect to lung tuberculosis—Phthisis or Consumption—the chief insanitary condition associated with its dissemination is impure air. As far as I have been able to observe there is fortunately little “dust,” at least inorganic, produced in the processes of the staple local industry, but a common source of defilement of the air is imperfect ventilation of rooms—specially important in the case of sleeping rooms—and overcrowding, to which I allude in connection with house accommodation.

#### **Cancer Mortality.**

One cannot fail to note that among the causes of death, 15, which is equivalent to a rate of 1.3, are attributed to Cancer. A similar high proportion has been officially noticed in other parts of the County and I would suggest a conference of Medical Officers of the County, with a view to future systematic investigation, the Somerset cancer rate being the highest in the kingdom.

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### **PREVALENT ZYMOTIC DISEASES or NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

Realising the importance of early information of cases of zymotic sickness your late Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Garland, arranged in 1886 with his medical confreres for voluntary notification of these cases and on the enactment of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, welcomed its adoption by your Council, while none regretted, more than he did, its falling into abeyance in the next year through a technical informality and its non-revival until it became compulsory in 1900. I have compiled Table V. to show the incidence of zymotic sickness in the Borough from 1900 to 1904. From this it will be seen that the minimum number of cases in any year has been 12, the maximum 103, the mean number 48, and the mean sickness rate 3.4, per



1,000 population. As is usually the case, Scarlet Fever has been the chief contributor, its main achievements being a continuous epidemic through the years 1903 and 1904. Although neither epidemic, in the study of it, presents any special etiological interest (the means of diffusion in both instances being direct infection), there are, however, several points and data which I may on some future occasion embody in a special report.

With reference to the epidemic of scarlet fever of this year, as soon as I became Medical Officer of Health (April, 1904,) I directed my efforts to stamp out the disease as quickly as might be by prompt and effective isolation of the cases at the Isolation Hospital, and efficient disinfection of the rooms, persons and things which had been exposed to infection. To establish effective communication with the Public Elementary Schools I formulated a scheme of notification (by prepaid postcard) between the head Teachers and myself and the Attendance Officer and myself, they on the one hand informing me, after careful enquiry, of any suspicious cases in their schools, and myself notifying to them the scholars in their respective schools certified to me as suffering from the disease. I also notified the names of children and the period for which they were withdrawn from school on account of exposure to infection. They were also acquainted with the date of the discharge of any scholar from the Isolation Hospital and when he might return to school. I sought an interview with and was courteously received by the Education Committee, who at once saw the object of and adopted the scheme. I interviewed and explained its advantages to the teachers, who promised their support. The working of this school certification has materially hastened the suppression of the epidemic, I believe, and I hereby beg to thank the Education Committee and the teachers for their courtesy and hearty co-operation.

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### PREVALENT ZYMOTIC DISEASE and SCARLET FEVER EPIDEMIC.

Briefly the statistics of notifiable infectious diseases were as under :—

Scarlet Fever...	...	...	99
Erysipelas ...	..	...	3
Diphtheria ...	...	...	1
Total ...			103 (in 69 houses).

PREVALENT ZYMOTIC DISEASE & SCARLET FEVER EPIDEMIC—*Continued*

## THE SCARLET FEVER CASES.

Admitted to the Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	96
				(or 96·9 per cent. of total cases).
Number of Infected Houses	...	...	...	62
Number Discharged from the Isolation Hospital (including remainder of cases from 1903)	...	...	...	94
Remaining at the end of 1904	...	...	...	3
Deaths	...	...	...	0
"Unrecognised" Cases discovered and isolated at the Hospital	...	...	...	18
"Return" Cases	...	...	...	0
Average increment of weight at the Hospital	...	...	...	5·1 lbs.
	Maximum increment	..	..	13lbs.
	Minimum increment	...	...	2·15lbs.
Average Direct Cost per Patient	...	...	...	£3 : 13 : 6
Average Direct Cost per Bed	...	...	...	£22 : 1 : 2
Saving to the Borough on a most moderate computation	...	...	...	£2,985 : 0 : 0
COMPARED WITH 1903 EPIDEMIC.—Average direct cost per patient, £1 4s 10d; Average direct cost per bed, £23 8s 6d. Saving to the Borough computed, £2,450.				
Average stay at the Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	45·3 days
Average stay in 1903	...	...	...	45·5 days
Number of Children (under 14 years)	...	...	...	82
Number of Adults	...	...	...	14

The type of the cases was mild. No death occurred, but several of the cases at the Hospital were of a severer nature and a few had complications of the usual kinds, which speaks well for the efficiency of the nursing. The maximum incidence of the disease occurred in July with 18 cases. In June there were 14, and the pressure in nursing had become so great that an assistant nurse was procured, and remained till the end of the year. After July the number of cases began to rapidly decline; in November they



were reduced to 3, and during December only 1. After 11th June (with one exception) all the cases were isolated at the Hospital. As at no time was 2 per cent. of the school-going population affected, although the distribution of the cases was general in the Borough, I did not deem it necessary to interfere with the work of the schools. As the prompt isolation of the cases was the only differentiating factor as far as I am aware, other outside conditions remaining the same, it is to this, together with prompt and thorough disinfection of rooms, persons and things, that we owe the "stamping-out" in December of the scarlet fever epidemic which had been running on since November of 1902. No "recurrent" cases occurred. The Isolation Hospital thus practically and forcibly demonstrates its value and economy to the community. By notification we are forewarned; by the Hospital (staffed and ever ready for immediate use) we are fore-armed. To maintain this position I suggested to your Council to permanently retain the services of the Nurse at the Isolation Hospital (which can be done, I have ascertained, at a fixed salary of about £65 per annum.) An important step in the prevention of disease, of effective preparedness to combat it at any time; which has been repeatedly proved to be the only true economy, will thus have been taken.

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### ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The Isolation Hospital, a red brick building, situated  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the centre of the town at its extreme east boundary; is 500ft. distant from the road and from any dwelling. It was erected in 1893 at a cost of about £400. It contains in its two wards 8 beds; a Laundry, Ambulance and Mortuary block was added in 1903 at a cost of £142; total cost, £542. Under pressure of the scarlet fever epidemic of 1903 two decagonal "Berthon Huts," of wood and canvas, each accommodating 3 beds, and having a central stove, were provided at a cost of £105. The total isolation provision was therefore brought up to 14 beds, at a cost of £647. Again, under pressure of the scarlet fever epidemic of this year (1904), by re-arrangement of



the administration block, the accommodation was further increased by 4 beds, giving a total of 18 beds. This arrangement can, however, be regarded as only temporary. As the Berthon Huts are bespoken to provide accommodation for small-pox, should that disease unfortunately—as it has occasionally done in the past—make its appearance in the Borough, it will become necessary to provide permanent accommodation, on the lines of modern construction, at the Isolation Hospital preferably for at least 12 beds. Isolation accommodation is provided for scarlet fever alone at present. An efficient Ambulance has been recently provided.

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### **SMALL-POX HOSPITAL.**

Unfortunate experience of the past has, I am glad to record, determined your Council to provide isolation accommodation for small-pox. A suitable site has been acquired at Whistle Bridge, three miles from the borough, convenient of access, drainage, and water supply from the town public supply. On the highest point of this site a concrete platform is about to be constructed for the Berthon Huts (now at the Isolation Hospital), and a small administration block. The huts will be at a distance of 61ft. at their nearest point from the public road, and there is no dwelling within half-a-mile. I congratulate your Council on the provision of this additional safety to the public health. Standard vaccination and re-vaccination are the real and effective defences against small-pox. Given these, and the additional protection of this isolation accommodation, neither the inhabitants nor the trade of the borough need fear injury from small-pox.

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### **DISINFECTION and DISINFECTOR.**

Formalin Vapour and Carbolic Acid are the agents used, supplemented by stripping of the walls and limewashing. Disinfection is also practised where death has occurred from Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Consumption). A carbolic preparation is also distributed for use in the bath and other purposes where there has



been personal exposure, in the houses. The following will indicate the work done in this direction :—

Rooms Disinfected	...	..	...	...	124	In connection with Scarlet Fever.
Persons	..	...	...	...	192	
Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	
Rooms Disinfected after Death from Tuberculosis	..	...	..	..	16	
Sets of Clothing or Articles Exposed to Infection	..	...	...	...	120	
<b>453</b>						

At my suggestion, to facilitate the disinfection of bedding and clothing on the spot, a metallic chamber for use with Formalin Vapour has been erected at the Isolation Hospital and been very serviceable. The old " Hot Air " Disinfector, placed in the Town Yard in 1902, does not fulfil modern requirements. It is deficient in penetrative power, the available temperatures are variable, and many things are liable to scorch. There is also lacking that very essential requirement, complete separation of infected from disinfected articles—in other words, liability of reinfection. I am glad to record here that in conjunction with the estimate for the provision of an extension of the Isolation Hospital, provision has been made for an efficient modern steam disinfector, to be located on the Isolation Hospital premises.

## PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

As at present in use these are 4 in number. Accommodating 1,950 scholars.

- 1.—" Huish " school, the oldest existing one, date 1845, accommodation 280 children.
- 2.—" Hendford " school (South Street), date 1862, accommodation 563.

These are both on very limited sites, and present the irremediable structural defects common to the circumstances and dates of the schools. Since becoming the property and being under the control of the Education Committee they have been improved as much as possible.

- 3.—" Reckleford " school was the first " Board School " and dates about 1876 ; enlarged 1890. It accommodates 557 scholars.

Though fairly coming up to the sanitary scholastic requirements of the period, the original building necessarily falls short of present date aims,

It has been considerably enlarged in recent years, and this portion leaves little to be desired.

4.—“ Pen Mill ” School, erected 1894, to meet the requirement of the larger, newly added and developing portion of the Borough. Accommodates 550 scholars.

5.—A fifth, “ Huish New School,” near the old one, is in course of erection, and will accommodate 550 scholars.

Total accommodation will then be provided for 2,500 scholars.

In these last two schools, all reasonable modern requirements in school hygiene exist. For the others I propose a careful sanitary inspection and report on such improvement as may be found necessary.

## SYSTEMATIC INSPECTION.

In connection with this subject I have pleasure in annexing the Report of the Sanitary Inspector (Mr. C. H. Sunderland, Assoc. Royal San. Inst.,) on the work of his department. Mr. Sunderland has supervised this work for a considerable time. From personal observation and information, I am sure much detail of sanitary improvement is due to his careful inspection and sanitary activity. Owing to occupation in other directions of sanitary work, I have not personally done much “ systematic inspection,” but in connection with the epidemic of scarlet fever and other causes I have made some acquaintance with the subject.

Premises inspected in connection with scarlet fever	...	...	82
Overcrowding	...	...	15
Inspections indirectly necessitated	...	...	28
Inspections of new workrooms as “ workshops ”	...	...	3

### *Special Inspections.*

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	9
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	17
Dairies and milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	14
Factories (gloving)	...	...	...	...	...	12
“ Workshops ”	...	...	...	...	...	9
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...	5
Total	..	...	...	...	...	194



### FACTORIES and WORKSHOPS.

The sanitary requirements of the Factory Act have, generally speaking, been observed, and their condition is satisfactory. A careful systematic examination and registration of sanitary defects I think would be well, with a view to their removal. I beg to thank the manufacturers for the courtesy in affording me facilities for examining and understanding the different processes connected with the staple trade of the town. They are very interesting, and involve some biological problems, relative to microbial action associated with the treatment of skins, and the elucidation and the application of the knowledge acquired might have important trade and possibly sanitary bearings.

An important requirement of the Factory Act is the provision of means of ready escape from fire. Some provision in this behalf, by means of wooden stairways, exist in some factories, but only in one instance did I observe an iron landing running the length of the building. H.M. Inspector of Factories for the district is naturally anxious in this matter, and specially in the case of some "workshops" in confined situations, at the rear of shops, one cannot but recognise the danger. I think the remedy would be simplified if your Council would approve some suitable forms of fire escape, one for ordinary conditions of space about workplaces, and the other for confined situations, so as to obtain something like uniformity of method and requirement, where special conditions did not require special treatment.

From the returns made to me I am able to tabulate, for the first time I believe, some interesting information, though admittedly incomplete and open to improvement another year.

NUMBER OF FACTORIES, 12 ; NUMBER OF "WORKSHOPS," 52 ; TOTAL, 64.

		"OUTWORKERS"		Total
	Hands employed in the Factory.	In the Borough	Beyond the Borough.	
12 Glove Factories...	797	869	632	2298
9 "Workshops" ...	320	...	...	320
5 Laundries ...	51	...	...	51
Totals ...	1168	869	632	2669

One workshop, as being prejudicial to health, has been closed,



## HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

The number of houses in the Borough now is 2,741. The average number of inhabitants is 4.0. It has for other periods been quoted variously as between 5.0 and 4.3. Adequacy and fitness of house accommodation, especially for the working classes, has important bearings on the public health. As a large proportion of the population is "industrial," a similar proportion of the dwellings, especially in the older parts of the town, are of the "industrial" and "cottage" class, and in many, owing to position, construction and age, defects of surrounding space and defects of ventilation are present. In the newer class of "industrial" houses, where the sanitary supervision in the past has had effective influence, the conditions, generally speaking, are satisfactory. In the recently-built and newly-added areas, specially on the east side of the Borough, though the dwellings are mainly of the better "industrial" and "cottage" types, defect of structure and ventilation are not common. The rentals of some of the older cottage property are low. Of many of the other "industrial" class of houses I should regard it as high. From observation and knowledge there is a considerable amount of "overcrowding," even on the low scale of 300 cub. ft. per head. I am also of opinion there is a want of accommodation of the good "cottage" class at a reasonably low rental. This inadequacy of accommodation is probably one of the causes of high rental. Unfortunately, any official attempt to effect needful radical improvement or alterations, either of structural defects or for overcrowding, in the case of these older properties—at all events in the case of the smaller urban and rural districts—is almost impracticable, and prohibitive on account of the unreasonable financial and other difficulties created for the sanitary authorities, and the cumbrous machinery of the law respecting such "property," which thus continues indefinitely to seriously affect the public health.

Careful supervision is maintained over the erection of all new houses.

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## SEWERAGE and DRAINAGE.

There are about 10 miles of streets and 5 miles of main roads; total, 15 miles. In the 26 newer streets and in a few of the older ones, modern pipe sewers and drains exist, but in the more ancient



parts of the town, as is almost invariably the case, stone and brick sewers of the obsolete type remain. After the drainage of the recently-added areas is carried out and connection made with the new Sewage Disposal Works, the gradual systematic replacement of these obsolete sewers and drains by ones of modern construction should (as your Council is aware) be taken in hand. A secondary advantage which will accrue is that by the exclusion of a considerable proportion of the sub-soil water which now finds its way into them, the volume of sewage to be dealt with will be reduced, while possibly the old sewers might be utilised for sub-soil drainage alone.

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### DISPOSAL of SEWAGE.

This is effected by the bacterial method, and the results are satisfactory. However, in addition,  $15\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land are utilised before the effluent is discharged into the river. The works were opened in November, 1903, and have cost about £32,000. Briefly, they consist of five covered "septic" tanks, with a capacity of about 690,000 gallons, and two sets of 12 filters each for intermittent downward filtration alone, having a total area of 10,670 square yards. They are capable of dealing with three times the dry-weather flow of sewage. Between the two sets of filters is an Aerating Pond for use when desired in connection with the high level set of filters. The works are automatic in action, there is no motor power, and two men suffice for the labour. There is also a Storm Water Filter provided. The works are situated at Pen Mill, at a distance of about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the town, and are designed to meet the prospective requirements of the population for 30 years.

The dry-weather flow of sewage is nearly 400,000 gallons a day. It is "strong" and very variable in composition, owing chiefly to the organic nature of the trade liquid wastes and the times they are discharged into the sewers. The volume of the sewage consists approximately of about one-fourth manufacturing liquid waste, the remainder being "domestic sewage," with the variable quantity of sub-soil water which finds its way into the sewers. From physical, qualitative, and occasional analytical examinations, the results attained are satisfactory. A rain gauge has just been set up at the works.

The average rainfall for the town is known to be 29.69 inches.



## EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

I congratulate the borough that this is effected by water carriage, as being immeasurably superior to any method of conservancy. It also has the merit of simplifying the disposal and rendering the dry house refuse comparatively innocuous. Unfortunately, flushing in the majority of cases is by hand, though cisterns are required to new buildings. A great sanitary advantage would be the substitution of cisterns in old closets.

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## REMOVAL and DISPOSAL of HOUSE REFUSE.

On account of the use of the water carriage system for the removal of excrement, it is a great sanitary advantage to the town that its house refuse is dry, and comparatively inoffensive. Also that it is regularly removed by public scavenging twice a week from every street. It is finally deposited, and covered with earth, on Corporation land at Pen Mill. In connection with this important matter two points deserve notice:—(1) The desirability of the substitution of a uniform sized receptacle (to facilitate scavenging) throughout the town for the heterogeneous array of every conceivable kind and dimension of boxes, pails, &c., used as containers; and (2) In reference to the disposal of house refuse, I am glad to note the provision of a Destructor has been mooted.

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## WATER SUPPLY.

The Borough is to be congratulated that it commenced to take steps to provide its own public water supply in 1872, with supplementary works in 1898, and secured an additional source of supply at Stockwood in 1904. Briefly, the supply is derived from four springs, at three different points—Stockwood being about three miles from the other sources—at Melbury,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the town. The water is derived from uplands on the Oolite and Lias rocks. The four springs are remote from habitations, and are:—

I.—“Spring Pond,” 500ft. above O.D., into which two springs flow directly. The pond is open, has rising ground on two sides, and is



surrounded by vegetation and trees. This openness constitutes a risk, at least of vegetable pollution.

II.—“Tunnel Spring,” from rocks pierced by the railway tunnel, about half-mile from Spring Pond.

III.—“Haydon Wood” Spring. Piped almost direct as it flows from the rock. These three springs, and the Pond, yield a supply equal to about 28 gals. per head of the population. About to be connected with the town is:—

IV.—“Stockwood” Spring, situated about three miles from Spring Pond. This spring is the most copious, and is also piped immediately on issuing from the rock.

The total yield of the springs will, it is estimated, equal about 45 gals. per head of the population. The water before passing into the main is filtered through sand to remove particles in suspension. From Melbury it reaches, by gravitation, two covered Service Reservoirs of 1,368,000 gals. capacity, on the top of Summerhouse Hill, near, and at an elevation of 275ft. above, the town. The service is constant high pressure, about 80lbs. in the centre of the town. The chemical composition of the water of the several springs and pond differ slightly, but the mean of my analyses gives the following, which may be taken to represent the average composition of the water supply of Yeovil.

#### MEAN OF ANALYSES OF THE SOURCES OF THE WATER SUPPLY.

GRAINS PER GALLON.					PARTS PER MILLION.			
Solids.	Cl.	T.Hdns.	P.Hdns.	T.Hdns.	Alk. as CaCO <sub>3</sub> .	Free NH <sub>3</sub> .	Alb. NH <sub>3</sub> .	O. in Moist Combustion.
16·2	1·6	18·9	12·3	6·6	11·2	·032	·104	2·0

I have ascertained there is no pollution in storage or distribution.

#### PLACES UNDER SANITARY SUPERVISION.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—These have already been alluded to.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—These are all “private.” Several require improvement in details of drainage, ventilation, and “fasting pens.”

BAKEHOUSES.—With one or two exceptions are satisfactory. In most of them the ovens are of a modern type, fitted with pyrometers.

One of the larger premises is new and has modern fittings throughout, leaving little to be desired.

**DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.**—"Milkshops" form the majority of these places. With one or two exceptions their sanitary conditions are satisfactory. In some, the sale of milk is subsidiary to that of confectionary, grocery or green-grocery. The use of the "cooler," "separator," "steriliser" and "preservatives" appears to be quite exceptional.

**LAUNDRIES.**—The general conditions met with are satisfactory; comparatively few "outworkers" are employed in them. One of the largest premises is new, has modern machinery throughout, and sanitary conditions are especially considered.

As the result of the joint inspection of these several classes of places under special supervision, by the Sanitary Inspector and myself; it is proposed to lay reports of details before your Council.

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## **INSTITUTIONS AFFECTING the PUBLIC HEALTH.**

1.—**THE UNION WORKHOUSE.**—Erected, 1837. Guardians, 60. Provides for 39 parishes and Yeovil (Urban). Accommodation for about 180.

2.—**THE YEOVIL AND DISTRICT HOSPITAL.**—Established 1858. Has 20 Beds and an Out-patient department.

3.—**INFANTS' HOME.**—Licensed under the Infant Life Protection Act, opened in 1897. From visitations and careful enquiries it appears to be satisfactorily conducted.

### **Common Lodging Houses.**

Technically, there does not seem to be any of these, but as, most probably, at least parts of houses are "let in lodgings" it would appear desirable that when the by-laws are re-considered, provision for the registration and inspection of such lodgings might be made under Sec. 90 Public Health Act, 1875.

### **Public Baths.**

These are situated in Felix Place, West Hendford, and were opened in October, 1884. The swimming bath is 28ft. x 95ft., depth from 2ft. to 6ft., and the building contains the usual suites of rooms, with five private baths. Its appreciation is shown by the sale of about one hundred books of tickets, some 920 private baths being



taken and 3,320 "swims" per year. Special facilities are given to school children.

#### **Public Gardens.**

The "Sidney Gardens," generously presented by Sidney Watts, Esq., in the late Queen's Jubilee year, 1897, is about three acres in extent, is well kept and much appreciated by the public.

#### **The Cemetery and Mortuary,**

Situated near the north-west boundary of the town, is about eight acres in extent, is properly laid out and well kept. May be taken as a model. The small building in it, intended as a mortuary, possesses no facilities for the performance of *post-mortem* examination. As, from the sanitary point of view, the chief object of a Mortuary is, in the case of death, to relieve the inevitable pressure on the limited sleeping accommodation in small houses and cottages of the poor, it would have been of much greater service had it been located in the town.

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### **ADOPTIVE ACTS.**

I am glad to be able to record the adoption in September, by your Council, of the important "Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890." It was passed to meet important sanitary points, arising out of omissions and interpretations of the original Act, the "Public Health Act, 1875." Thus you are now in a position to further protect the public health by its provisions.

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### **BY-LAWS.**

As the date of the present By-laws is 1885, and great alterations in theory and practice have taken place in the meanwhile in sanitary science, the consideration of the revision of the By-laws, where necessary, to bring them into harmony with present views and requirements, would seem desirable in the interest of the public health.

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### **VISITORS to the SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.**

It must be gratifying to your Council to know that the Sewage Disposal Works continue to attract scientific interest. With the permission of your Council, during the year visits of inspection have

been made by one of the sanitary engineers of the Indian Government; on October 13th by thirteen members of the West Somerset, Dorset, and West Hants branches of the British Medical Association, holding their meeting in the town, and on October 14th by Dr. Ernst Bodin, Medical Officer of Health for Upsala, Sweden. I had the pleasure of conducting these gentlemen over the Works, and all expressed their high appreciation of them.

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### RAINFALL.

In conclusion, through the courtesy of Mr. Edward Howell, Yeovil, I am able to record the monthly rainfall of the year, the total of which has been 29·45 in.; and I am further indebted to him for the information that the mean rainfall for the decennium 1895-1904 was 29·69 in.

#### RAINFALL IN YEOVIL, 1904.

Jan., 3·94 in.	April, 1·40 in.	July, 4·50 in.	Oct., 1·54 in.
Feb., 4·25 in.	May, 2·78 in.	Aug., 3·22 in.	Nov., 1·10 in.
Mar., 1·42 in.	June, 0·75 in.	Sept., 1·64 in.	Dec., 2·91 in.
Total, 29·45 in.			

H. PAGE, M.D., D.P.H.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

MUNICIPAL OFFICES, YEOVIL, JANUARY, 1905.



## SUMMARY of LEADING STATISTICS, YEOVIL.

### MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1904.

AREA.—Old area, 654 acres; recently added, 198 acres; Total, 852 acres.

POPULATION.—Old area, 9,838; present (estimated), 11,061. Number of inhabited houses, 2,741 (practically no "voids"). Average per house, 4.0.

NO. OF STREETS, 77; of which, newer streets, 26.

LENGTH OF STREETS ... about 10 miles

„ OF MAIN ROADS „ 5 miles—Total, 15 miles.

GEOLOGY.—Upper and Middle Lias, and Yeovil sands. Height above O.D., from 105 to 353 feet.

AVERAGE RAINFALL (1895-1904).—29.69 in.

RAINFALL FOR 1904.—29.45 in.

STAPLE INDUSTRY.—Glove making.

	1894	Decennium 1893-03	England & Wales, 1904
BIRTH RATE ... ..	29.74	24.76	27.9
DEATH RATE ... ..	15.45	15.1	16.2
Death-rate corrected for non-residents ...			13.3

Mean annual increment of population (by excess of births over deaths) decennium ... 1893-02—98

Mean annual increment of population (by excess of births over deaths) decennium ... 1894-03—96

Infant mortality per 1000 births, 133.7 (For England and Wales, 146; for Rural England and Wales, 125.)

Zymotic death rate ... 0.8 (For England & Wales, 1.9).

Zymotic sickness rate ... 9.3

Scarlet fever rate ... 8.9

Scarlet fever cases ... 99 (No deaths)

Admitted to Isolation Hospital ... 96

"Unrecognised" cases ... 18

Average stay in Hospital ... 45.3 days.

Cost per patient ... £3 13s 6d; per bed, £22 1s 2d.

Estimated saving to Borough ... £2,985

Phthisis death-rate ... 1.8 (For England and Wales, 1.4.)

Other Tubercular Diseases death-rate ... 0.9

Cancer death-rate ... 1.3

# ANNUAL REPORT

## OF THE

# SANITARY INSPECTOR

### FOR 1904.

*To the Town Council.*

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report in tabular form for the year 1904. Not only do the figures show greater activity in my department, but the actual work connected therewith has increased.

Many bad nuisances of various kinds have been remedied during the year, and several important sanitary amendments been effected. I am pleased to say I have met with comparatively little friction on the part of owners and others on whom notices have been served to abate nuisances or carry out sanitary improvements or amendments.

C. H. SUNDERLAND,

*Sanitary Inspector.*

NO. of COMPLAINTS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR	...	...	12
NO. of HOUSES, PREMISES, &c., INSPECTED	...	...	403
NO. of RE-INSPECTIONS of HOUSES, PREMISES, &c.	...	...	194

#### RESULTS of INSPECTIONS :

Houses & Premises.	Orders Issued for Sanitary Amendments	...	...	64
	Cleansed, Repaired, and Whitewashed	...	...	37
	Disinfected, Cleansed, and Whitewashed after Illness of Infectious Character—(Scarlet Fever, 86 ; Diphtheria, 1 ; Phthisis, 18)	...	...	105
		...	...	
House Drains.	Repaired, Cleansed, and Trapped	...	...	41
	Ventilated...	...	...	13
	Drainage to New Buildings Tested and Approved	...	...	47
		...	...	
Privies & Water-closets.	Privy Middens done away with	...	...	2
	Water Closets Repaired	...	...	10
	Closets Supplied with Water	...	...	3
	New W.C.'s Provided	...	...	14
Miscellaneous	Removal of Dung	...	...	6
	Animals Removed	...	...	3

#### STATUTORY INSPECTIONS :

Factories (Gloving)	...	...	...	12
Bakehouses	...	...	...	17
Dairies and Milk-shops	...	...	...	14
Slaughter-houses...	...	...	...	9

C. H. SUNDERLAND,

Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute,

*Inspector of Nuisances.*



TABLE I.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1904.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwds
Whooping Cough ...	9	5	4	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis (Pulmonary) ...	20	—	—	—	6	14	—
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	10	6	1	2	1	—	—
Cancer ...	15	—	1	—	—	10	4
Bronchitis ...	7	6	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia ...	8	1	3	1	—	3	—
Pleurisy ...	3	—	—	—	—	2	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs ...	3	1	—	—	1	—	1
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver ...	3	—	—	—	—	3	—
Premature Birth ...	10	10	—	—	—	—	—
Accidents of Parturition ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Heart Diseases ...	14	1	1	1	—	8	3
Accidents ...	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
Suicides ...	2	—	—	—	1	1	—
"Natural Causes" ...	3	—	1	—	1	—	1
Nephritis ...	5	—	—	—	—	3	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
"Senile Decay" ...	29	—	—	—	—	—	29
"Convulsions" ...	5	5	—	—	—	—	—
All Other Causes ...	13	7	—	1	1	—	4
All Causes ...	170	43	11	5	12	46	53





TABLE IV.

Mean Number of Births and Deaths in Yeovil for the  
Decennials 1893-1902, 1894-1903.

BIRTHS.			DEATHS.	
1893-1902	1894-1903		1893-1902	1894-1903
22	21	JAN.	16	16
18	18	FEB.	16	17
23	22	MARCH	17	16
20	20	APRIL	12	10
21	21	MAY	10	9
21	23	JUNE	10	9
22	21	JULY	11	11
22	21	AUG.	11	11
23	22	SEPT.	10	10
19	17	OCT.	10	10
19	19	NOV.	12	12
17	18	DEC.	13	13
25	24	—ANNUAL MEAN—		15

		<i>Zymotic.</i>	<i>Respiratory.</i>	<i>Phthisis.</i>	<i>All Causes.</i>
1893-1902	...	7.9	19.1	9.1	153.1
1894-1903	..	7.1	18.4	9.1	151.0

TABLE V.

Summary of Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified  
since the Act came into force (1900).

	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	Total 5 Yrs.	Mean Ann. No.
Cowpox ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	0.2
Scarlet Fever ...	5	14	2	79 a	99 b	199	39.6
Erysipelas ...	7	8	9	4	3	31	6.2
Typhoid Fever...	3	0	0	1	0	4	0.8
Diphtheria ...	3	2	0	2	1	8	1.6
Septicemia ...	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.2
	19	24	12	86	103	244	48.8

(a) Removed to Isolation Hospital 75 or 94.9 per cent. of all cases.

(b) Removed to Isolation Hospital 96 or 96.9 per cent. of all cases.

