

**[Report 1909] / Medical Officer of Health, Yeovil U.D.C. / Borough.**

**Contributors**

Yeovil (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1909

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*BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.*

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*Annual Health Report*

*FOR 1909.*

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

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Thirty-Seventh Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1909, for the information of your Council, the County Council, the Local Government Board and the Home Office. The report is arranged similarly to those of former years for facility of comparison. I regret that the health of the Borough has not been so satisfactory as in 1908, which was an exceptionally satisfactory year, the text of this report and the accompanying tables show the details of its health statistics.

**Incidental Notes.**

The population for the year was estimated at 11,788, the area of the Borough is 852 acres, the number of inhabited houses 3,002. Density per acre 13·8, per house 3·9. Rateable value £59,987.



## VITAL STATISTICS.

### BIRTHS.

The births registered have been 282—males 153, females 129, which is 22 below the mean of the five years since the extension of the area of the Borough and is only 2 above the mean of the last 10 years.

The crude birth-rate is 23·92, corrected by the deduction of births by mothers non-resident in the Borough the rate becomes 23·40. The factor for the chief statistical correction—that for the differential age distribution of the urban districts of the county now being available—applying this the true birth-rate 24·53 is still below the decennial mean.

The birth-rate for England and Wales for 1909 was 25·6. Of the births 19 were illegitimate—males 9, females 10. The illegitimate birth-rate corrected for non-resident mothers was ·92. The birth-rate compared with that of England and Wales shows a considerable depreciation, but compared with the mean one of those of the urban districts of the county shows only a small deficit—·37.

### DEATHS.

The deaths registered have been 183, males 84, females 99. Two blank returns were received during the year, one for the week ending June 26th, the other for the week ending July 31st. There were no deaths of non-residents. One death of a resident from small-pox occurred in the Borough small-pox hospital beyond the district and is included in the deaths proper to the district, it was notified for deduction as being a non-resident to the district in which it actually occurred. The crude death-rate has been 15·52. The year most nearly corresponding to this is 1907, when the rate was 15·98. The last decennial mean rate was 14·80. The rate for England and Wales for 1909 was 14·5. The local rate corrected by the factor for age-distribution, as furnished in the last annual summary of annual reports by the County Medical Officer of Health, becomes 14·38, which is 1·58 above the rate for the 22 urban districts in the county. Table IV. shows that diphtheria and diseases of the respiratory organs and phthisis have been the chief causes in the year's mortality. Other important statistical factors are set forth in Tables I., II., III., V., and the minor tables embodied in this report.



### **Infantile Mortality.**

This the most important factor in public health statistics represents the deaths of infants (under 1 year of age) proportionate to 1,000 births. The deaths of infants have been only 28, which gives the infantile mortality as only 99.29, and as 100 is the accepted standard for healthy English districts, this is very satisfactory, and more so as itself is as much as 1.71 below our local mean for the last decennium, and this in a manufacturing industrial community. The rate for England and Wales for 1909 was 109. Details of this local mortality will be found on Tables IV. and V. There it will be seen that premature birth, diseases of the respiratory organs and "wasting" diseases were the chief causes of infantile deaths.

The diffusion of knowledge for the prevention, or at least the avoidance by the expectant mother, during the greater part of the pre-natal period, of many influences tending to cause "premature birth" practically applied, would most probably lessen this unsatisfactory group of infantile deaths, and further maternal knowledge as to the dangers of undue exposure of infants, of insufficiency or errors in clothing and feeding, its principles and modifications, would diminish further our infant mortality. All this falls naturally within the work of an Association of Lady Health Missioners or Lady Health Visitors I suggested the formation of in my report for last year.

### **Seven principal Zymotic Diseases.**

The mortality under this group of preventible diseases has been 14, viz., small-pox 1, diphtheria 10, whooping cough 3. The mean number for the last decennium was 9.3. The number for the year is the lowest since 1905. The equivalent rate for the year is 0.9. The rate for England and Wales was 1.12. The death from small-pox (which was the only one out of 6 cases) occurred at the small-pox isolation hospital of the Borough at Whistle Bridge, of a male, aged 49 (said to have been vaccinated in infancy only), on the 11th day of the disease, which was of the malignant type. Of the deaths from diphtheria, 6 occurred under 5 years of age, which is the period of the maximum incidence of the malady, 3 between 3 and 13 years and 1 between 15 and 25 years of age. Antitoxin was used in nearly every case of the disease, but the mortality was undoubtedly



increased by the insidious commencement of the disease being as is commonly the case mistaken for a "cold," thus most valuable time is lost before "illness" is recognised and medical aid is sought, this most virulent malady has by then become established, and the efficiency of its antidote—antitoxin enormously depreciated, and the probability of fatality correspondingly increased. In no disease is delay more dangerous.

In the deaths from whooping cough, the fatal ending has as usual been complicated by respiratory disease.

I may here note, that in July arrangements were made whereby the Medical Officer of Health is able to avail himself of bacteriological examination of "suspicious" cases, which in the routine course of public health work might come under his notice which otherwise might remain unsuspected or unknown.

### **Tubercular Diseases.**

Phthisis, which is the chief of this group of diseases has caused 13 deaths, our last decennial mean number was 10. The equivalent rate for the year is 1.1, that for England and Wales is about 1.6. Tubercular diseases other than phthisis have caused 6 deaths, the total deaths have been 19, or a rate of 1.6. Under the notification of tuberculosis regulations, 4 certificates have been received from the Poor Law Medical Officer. As the Guardians under whose care these cases come, have plenary powers to efficiently treat them, no special action has been taken by the Council in this matter. Rooms in which death from phthisis has occurred are disinfected.

### **Respiratory Diseases.**

Respiratory diseases other than phthisis have caused 24 deaths. Sixteen from bronchitis, chiefly at both extremes of life; 5 from pneumonia and 3 from other forms of these diseases. Six occurred in infants and children (under 5 years of age) and 7 in "aged" persons (over 65 years of age).

### **Cancer.**

Cancer (or malignant disease) has caused 10 deaths, or 5.4 per cent. of the mortality from all causes. The mean number of deaths in the Borough from this disease during the past 15 years, has been 18.9. Making the statistical correction (which is now available for

the county) for the differential age-distribution of the population, our local figure becomes '012 lower than that for the other urban districts of the county, and '062 below that for England and Wales.

### Age.

The deaths in advanced years have been 34, of which 19 were attributed simply to senile decay. Nine of the deaths were over 85 years of age and 2 over 90. Such longevity is satisfactory from a public health point of view.

### Inquests.

Only 5, against 8 for last year have been held, all on residents as follows:—

		Sex.	Age.
April 25th.	Internal hæmorrhage from an accident ... ..	Male.	25 years.
May 24th.	Shock from fractured base of skull through a fall ...	Male.	80 years.
Sept. 2nd.	Suffocation from a goitre ...	Female.	15 years.
Oct. 4th.	Suicide by sulphuric acid ...	Male.	47 years.
Oct. 24th.	Fractured base of skull, run down by a lorry... ..	Male.	10 years.

The absence of such causes as "suffocation by overlying" and "burns" in infants and young children is gratifying to note.

### Notifiable Diseases.

These notifications have been 80, six more than last year and six less than in 1903. The subjoined table gives the details, ordinary age groupings and the numbers for previous years.

Disease.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-65	65 upwards.	Deaths.
Small-pox	6	—	—	3	2	1	—	1
Scarlet Fever	32	—	7	24	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria	37	1	13	21	1	1	—	10
Erysipelas	5	—	1	—	—	4	—	—
TOTALS	80	1	21	48	4	6	—	11
Phthisis under P.H. (Tuber.)								
Reg. ...	4	—	—	—	1	1	2	—

	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Total Notifications	19	24	11	86	103	224	185	141	74	80



### Small-pox.

The chief event in the sanitary history of the Borough during the past year has been an outbreak (fortunately limited in extent and fatality) of small-pox, which we had not seen since 1903. Prior to that as far as I can ascertain its history has been:—

#### LOCAL HISTORY OF SMALL-POX, 1871-1909.

	1871	1872	1873-1904	1905	1909	Male.	Female.	Total.
Deaths	58	31	0	0	1	47	43	90
	M <sub>3</sub> F <sub>23</sub>	M <sub>14</sub> F <sub>17</sub>			M <sub>1</sub>			
Cases	Unknown.		4	2	6	6	6	12
			M <sub>3</sub> F <sub>1</sub>	M <sub>2</sub>	M <sub>1</sub> F <sub>5</sub>			

The annexed Table puts on record the chief details of the epidemic of 1909:—

Case.	Date.	Sex.	Position.	Age.	Condition as to Vaccination.	Type of Small-pox.	Days in Hospital.
1.	Mar. 6.	M	Lodger	23	Infancy only.	Semi-confluent.	45
2.	„ 20.	F	Domestic service.	29	Infancy 3, good cicatrices.	Discrete.	39
3.	„ 20.	F	Ditto.	14	Infancy 3, poor cic.	Semi-confluent.	39
4.	„ 21.	M	Son of Case 5.	11	Not vaccinated.	Confluent.	30
5.	April 5.	M	Father of Cases 4 & 5.	49	Said to have been in Infancy.	Malignant, died 11th day.	9
6.	„ 5.	F	Daughter.	14½	Vaccinated 3 days only before removal to Hospital.	Confluent.	49

Cases 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6, resided in same house; case 3, day servant, slept elsewhere. The known “contacts” were M 11, F 28, Total 39. Duration of the epidemic, 77 days. Re-vaccination by Public Vaccinator, 74; by private practitioners, probably about 30. Total re-vaccinations, 104.

The cost of the epidemic may be summarised thus—

(Direct) By Patients £111 18s. od. (a) Per patient £18 13s. od.  
 (Indirect) Additional tent, fittings and extra appliances £101 14s. od.  
 Total £213 12s. od. (about 1d. Rate).

(a) Includes value of Mattresses, etc., burnt to ensure the absolute safety of the public, because we have no super heated steam disinfecter, and the hire and accessory expenses asked for one—the use of which we negotiated for—would have amounted to more than the value of the articles cremated.



Briefly, the history of the epidemic was:—A male (case 1) contracted the disease while on a short visit to Wick, near Bristol, returning to Yeovil on the fourth day. As a shop assistant, he attended business and went about much as usual for seven days developing the papular and vesticular stages of the disease, and on the evening of the sixth day (Sunday) attended service in a place of worship, it was not until the following morning that he presented himself for medical observation. The disease was at once diagnosed, reported and was forthwith removed to the hospital. The above table shows the sequence of events. Prompt action in tracing "contacts" and advising vaccination and re-vaccination was carried out, also isolation of the whole of the family forming the "second" centre of possible contagion from case No. 3. Fortunately the contagion was confined to the original centre of danger. With a history of such wide-spread exposure of the public as the above brief account shows, the Borough may be heartily congratulated on having escaped so lightly. Before dismissing this subject, one or two points seem suitable to record for future remembrance and warning. A special meeting of the Sanitary Committee was held on March 22nd, to consider the best method to deal with the situation and guard against a possible further extension by being forearmed. In this connection, seeing we had a fourth case, and knowing there were a considerable number of "contacts" and possibly still more unknown, I obtained the sanction of the Committee to engage an extra-local medical man to take sole charge of the cases. This I endeavoured to do, from London, Manchester and elsewhere, but after vain endeavours for a week was informed that it was quite impossible to get such a man, also that the fee would be a guinea a day and all expenses. Local medical practitioners could not of course, take such a post. As it was self evident that the cases *must* be attended to, with the sanction of the authorities concerned I gave up all ordinary public health work, and all public elementary school attendance, till matters assumed their normal conditions. Had the special medical attendant been obtainable the cost would have worked out very closely most probably as under—

	£	s.	d.
Fee 21s. per day (70 days) ...	73	10	0
Board (say) ...	15	0	0
Travelling expenses (say) ..	5	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£93	10	0

This sum was saved to the Borough.



Another difficulty was that as provisions from the town could not be obtained in the ordinary way, special arrangements had to be made. With respect to the cost per case, it may be here noted that it comes out at only a few shillings more than that of the two cases in 1905.

In accordance with the Regulations of the Local Government Board "requiring information of any outbreak of dangerous epidemic disease," I furnished a preliminary report of the outbreak on March 31st, and one with full detail and announcing the end of the epidemic on May 3rd. In the matter of vaccination and re-vaccination I regret to learn that the proportion of total exemptions granted, to the total births of the year 1908, amounted to 43·6 per cent., and that for 1909 to 53·8 per cent. The Borough therefore contains an abundance of suitable "culture" material for the proliferation of the specific organism of Small-pox whenever it may be imported into the community.

### Scarlet Fever.

The number of cases notified was 32 (out of 26 houses), this is the lowest since 1902. The equivalent rate calculated on the whole population is 2·7, calculated on the age groups (5-15) on which the incidence of the disease falls (the better statistical expression) is 9·3. All the cases—with one exception—were removed forthwith to the Isolation Hospital at Lyde Road.

The annexed Table gives details:—

Sex.	Under 3 years.	Under 4 years.	Under 5 years.	Under 10 years.	Under 15 years.	Under 17 years.	Total.
Males ...	—	1	1	4	3	1	10
Females ...	4	2	2	9	4	—	21
	4	3	3	13	7	1	31

Nature of the cases—

Severe	...	...	...	8
Marked	...	...	...	14
Simple	...	...	...	6
Desquamating on reception	...	...	...	1
Irregular	...	...	...	2

No complications developed in any of the cases, which proves the excellence of the nursing. The average duration of stay in the hospital was 43 days. The maximum increase of weight was



19lbs., the minimum 2lbs., the average 6lbs. 8ozs. The average cost per patient £6. Cost per occupied bed £9 6s. od. The hospital was empty from June 11th to September 5th, a period of 76 days.

### Diphtheria.

Notifications of this disease have been 37, under age-groups as below :—

(Under 1 year) 1; (1-3) 13; (5-15) 21; (15-20) 1; (25-65) 1. Total 37

The equivalent rate on the whole population is 3.1, calculated on the age-groups liable to the incidence of the disease (1-5) it is 31.4. Its antidote, antitoxin, was used in practically every case. That supplied to medical practitioners for cases entitled to it at the public expense numbered 17, at a cost of £4 5s. 5d.

Some of the mortality from this malady has, I am afraid been caused by the insidious commencement of the disease causing it to be mistaken for "an ordinary cold," hence delay (and loss of precious time) in calling in medical aid, by which time the malady has become well established and the efficiency of antitoxin enormously depreciated and the risk of death proportionately increased. No disease is more insidious in its onset, in none is delay more dangerous.

### Organisation of "District" Notification of Infectious Diseases by and to the County Council.

The great administrative defect of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, is that every "district" is treated as an isolated area or community and has no official knowledge or concern respecting infectious diseases of any other "district" or places. *greatly* The possibility of limiting—not to say prevention of "preventible diseases," an important aim of public hygiene. Thus the very object of the Act itself is immensely decreased, and danger to the public correspondingly increased. Realising this grave defect of omission, many energetic County Councils have inaugurated weekly notification returns of infectious diseases occurring in their "districts" to their County Medical Officer of Health. It is gratifying to note that the County Council of Somersetshire (which has recently appointed a County Medical Officer of Health) has adopted this necessary scheme, which embraces in response for the weekly return of local



information, a similar numerical return from head-quarters, showing the nature and distribution of infectious diseases throughout the county. The value to every Medical Officer of Health of such information cannot be over-estimated, especially in circumstances involving risk of an epidemic, and in possibly tracing cases of "obscure" origin. The sooner the statute itself is mended the better it will protect the public health, and probably it should be extended to include the notification, at least in the case of children attending the public elementary schools, measles, whooping cough, chicken pox, mumps, and (possibly) ringworm.

### **Public Elementary Schools.**

The work of the medical inspection of the children under the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act, 1907, during the year has resulted in 1,109 having been "inspected" and 1,870 "visits" made by the School Nurse. Through the generosity and public spirit of Mr. Henry Stiby (Mayor in 1904, and a member of the Education Authority), a commencement of the gratuitous dental treatment of "suitable" necessitous cases of defective teeth in children attending the public elementary schools of the Borough was initiated December 4th. Few persons, even parents, realise to what a large extent the health of a child depends upon the condition of the teeth. I believe few towns the size of Yeovil can record the honour of having such a benefactor to its public elementary schools, as well as to various public and other institutions.

Copies of the Annual School Medical Report will be furnished to your Council in due course.

### **Dairies, Milkshops, Bakehouses and Slaughterhouses.**

The usual inspection and supervision of these have been made. The cowsheds and slaughterhouses have received special attention. Special reports respecting the former have been presented to the Sanitary Committee by the sanitary inspector and myself. Notices to amend defects have been issued and are being carried out. Reports with respect to the "registered" and "licensed" slaughterhouses and other premises will be submitted to the Committee.

### **Meat Inspection and Slaughterhouses.**

In accordance with the desire expressed in a recent circular of the Local Government Board for precise information on these subjects, I would report that there are no special arrangements for



the inspection of meat in the Borough. The slaughterhouses number 3 "registered," 5 "licensed," total 8. Two of the butchers, by arrangement, use a slaughterhouse in common. There are four slaughterhouses beyond the Borough boundaries used by butchers having shops in the town. There is no special meat inspector, nor an officer holding a special certificate in meat inspection. Inspection devolves on the Sanitary Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health. Periodical and other visits are made to the slaughterhouses, sometimes when slaughtering is being or has just been done.

### Factory and Workshops Act, &c.

The sanitary condition of these generally speaking, is satisfactory, but structural sanitary defects in some of them cannot be satisfactorily dealt with nor remedied until the completion of the re-construction of the internal drainage of certain parts of the Borough, in the scheme sanctioned by the Local Government Board, is effected. Omissions to supply the lists of outworkers to the factories noted in the last annual report, have on intimation to the manufacturers been rectified this year. A summary of these lists from the 15 factories of the Borough gives—

Outworkers (in the town)	Males 33.	Females 1347.	Total 1380
Outworkers (beyond the town)	„ 0.	„ 575.	„ 575
	<u>Total 33</u>	<u>1922</u>	<u>1955</u>

Eight notices and two other official communications have been received from H.M. District Inspector of Factories, and the insanitary or other conditions noted therein have forthwith as far as possible been remedied.

### Disinfection.

This important work during the year may be summarised thus :—

Disinfection of rooms after infectious diseases ...	147
Personal disinfections about ... ..	258
Disinfection of rooms after death from Phthisis ...	10
Sets of clothing, articles, etc., disinfected ...	76
	<u>          </u>
Total	491
	<u>          </u>



### Systematic Inspection.

Subjoined is a summary of what has been effected by me during the year :—

Premises inspected in connection with notifiable diseases	..	...	...	...	72
Other Inspections	...	...	...	...	16
" Contacts " with Small-pox	...	...	...	...	39
Factories, Workshops, etc.	...	...	...	...	18
Special Inspections with the Sanitary Inspector...					30
Total					175

The lesser number compared with former years is due to the practical suspension of this work for eleven weeks on account of the small-pox epidemic.

### Improvement of Sewer Ventilation.

The question of sewer ventilation in connection with diphtheria having, in June been referred by the Sanitary Committee to the Borough Surveyor and myself, we reported in July, to the effect that for many years the method had been that of open gratings at the road surfaces, but there were isolated (5) instances of ventilation by columns. During a period of 30 years, (1874-1905) the deaths from diphtheria were 18, the number of cases unknown. Since notification although careful inquiry and investigations have been made, in no case has infection been indicated or proved to be due to sewer emanation. Negatively, diarrhœal disorders, particularly zymotic diarrhœa in infants, and diseases known to be associated with the respiration of sewer air are distinguished by their absence. On the other hand we have a gratifying low infantile mortality.

Open surface ventilation of sewers, pre-suppose self-cleansing sewers, which is not the case with our older sewers. We suggested the gradual adoption of the alternative system of vertical ventilation columns, placed at the most effective points, sufficiently lofty and so isolated as to harmlessly discharge all emanations from the sewers. The number of such columns needed for the whole Borough was estimated at 90. It was decided to apportion £100 per year, representing about 10 columns, to effect this object.

### Sanitary Inspector's Report.

I have pleasure in annexing a summary of Mr. Whalley's annual report. He was appointed in September. It will be seen that he has effected a large amount of sanitary work, his courtesy and tact has avoided friction, while the same satisfactory standard of work has been maintained.

### Prospective Sanitary Improvements.

These consist of carrying into effect the scheme sanctioned by the Local Government Board in June for the modification of the sewage disposal works, the separation of sewage from surface water, of laying modern pipe sewers where requisite, and the provision of a refuse destructor ; also certain street improvements.

### Rainfall.

As in former years, through the courtesy of Mr. E. Howell, manager of the Corporation Gas Works, I am able to give the rainfall of the Borough for 1909. It was 29·79 inches, with 187 "rainy" days. That at the Sewage Disposal Works was 31·71 inches, with 195 "rainy" days.

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

*Medical Officer of Health and  
School Medical Officer.*

Yeovil, Feb. 14th, 1910.



TABLE IV. CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1909.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
Small-pox .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
Whooping Cough .. ..	3	2	1	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria .. ..	10	..	6	3	1	..	..
Epidemic Influenza .. ..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..
Diarrhoea .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Enteritis .. ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis .. ..	2	1	..	..	..	..	1
Phthisis .. ..	13	..	..	1	3	7	2
Other Tubercular Diseases	6	1	3	..	1	1	..
Cancer .. ..	10	..	..	1	1	4	4
Bronchitis .. ..	16	5	1	..	..	3	7
Pneumonia .. ..	5	1	2	..	..	1	1
Pleurisy .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other Disease of Respiratory Organs .. ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2
Alcoholism .. ..	4	..	..	..	..	3	1
Premature Birth .. ..	6	6	..	..	..	..	..
Heart Disease .. ..	9	..	..	1	..	8	..
Accidents .. ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Suicides .. ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..
" Age " .. ..	34	..	..	..	..	..	34
Cerebral Lesions .. ..	13	..	..	..	..	4	9
Diabetes Mellitus .. ..	2	..	..	..	..	1	1
Rheumatism, Acute .. ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Nephritis, Chronic .. ..	5	..	..	..	..	1	4
All other causes .. ..	34	11	1	..	1	8	13
All Causes .. ..	183	28	15	7	8	44	81

Tables I., II. and III. of the Local Government Board are not reproduced as their substance is contained in the matter of the Report.

TABLE V. INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1909,  
IN THE BOROUGH OF YEovil.

Deaths from Stated causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-2 months.	2-3 months.	3-4 months.	4-5 months.	5-6 months.	6-7 months.	7-8 months.	8-9 months.	9-10 months.	10-11 months.	11-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All Causes { Certified Uncertified	All None.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Gastritis ..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Premature Births ..	5	1	..	..	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Atrophy (Debility) ..	..	..	1	..	1	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Peritonitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Bronchitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	5
Pneumonia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other Causes ..	2	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
TOTALS ..	7	2	2	1	12	2	4	1	1	5	..	2	1	..	..	..	28

Births { Legitimate 263 } 282      Deaths { Legitimate Infants 25 } 28  
in the Year. { Illegitimate 19 }      in the Year of { Illegitimate " 3 } 3

Population (est.) 11,788.

Deaths from all causes, 183.  
Infantile Mortality rate, 99.29.



SUMMARY OF LEADING VITAL STATISTICS  
AND  
PUBLIC HEALTH EVENTS  
OF THE  
BOROUGH OF YEOVIL.  
1909.

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**From the Medical Officer of Health's Report.**

AREA,—852 acres. Inhabited houses, 3002.

RATEABLE VALUE.—(Valuation Lists) £59,987.

POPULATION.—Census 1901, 9838. Area enlarged 1904, estimated population 1909, 11,788. Density per acre more 13·0; per house 3·9.

RAINFALL.—Decennial mean 29·99in. Town 1909, 29·89in. Rainy days 167. Sewage disposal works, 31·72in. Rainy days 195.

INDUSTRY.—(staple) Glove (leather) making. 15 Factories. Out-workers in the town 1380, beyond the Borough 575, total 1955.

MUNICIPAL WORKS.—Gas, Water, Sewage, Scavenging.

WATER SUPPLY.—About 30 Gallons per head, per day.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.—Municipal. For Scarlet Fever (20 beds) at Lyde Road. Emergency Small-pox (6 beds) at Whistle Bridge, 1909. Small-pox 6 cases, 1 death. Epidemic lasted 77 days, total (direct) cost £111 18s., per case £18 13s. cost

(indirectly) special appliances etc; extra £101 14s. Grand total cost £213 12s. Scarlet Fever 32 cases, 31 removed to Hospital, average stay 43 days. No death. Cost per case £6, per occupied bed £9 6s.

BIRTH RATE.—Decennium (1899-08), No. of Births 280, rate 26·07. England and Wales 25·6.

DEATH RATE.—Decennium (1899-08), No. of Deaths 188, rate 14·80. 1909, 183, rate (corrected) 14·58. England and Wales 14·5.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Decennium (1899-08) 101·9, 1909. No. 29. rate 99·2. England and Wales 109.

ZYMOTIC MORTALITY.—Decennial mean 9·3. 1909, 14, rate 0·9. England and Wales 1·12.

PHTHISTS.—Decennial mean 10, 1909. 15, rate 1·6.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.—1909, 80; rate 6·7.

SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH EVENTS OF THE YEAR.—Birth rate satisfactory, being only very slightly below the mean. Death-rate slightly above the mean, and 1·58 above the rate for the 22 Urban Districts of the County. The chief sanitary event of the year the epidemic of small-pox, limited to six cases with one death. Four years since any case and 37 since any death. For other details vide paragraph on Isolation Hospitals and the text of the full report.

Sanction in June of the Local Government Board to a loan of £27,000 for scheme of modification of sewage disposal works, separation of sewage from surface water, by modern pipe sewers in the older parts of the Borough; for certain street improvements, and for the provision of a refuse destructor.



EXTRACTS FROM THE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
Sanitary & Building Inspector  
for 1909.

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*To the Yeovil Town Council.*

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present herewith a brief Statistical Summary of the work of my department during the past year, and through the courtesy of my predecessor (Mr. A. J. Abbott) have been able to embody the whole of the works executed during that period.

For the purposes of Medical Officer of Health's Report, it is deemed sufficient to append the following table of works carried out, and I have adhered to the same form as used previously, for purposes of reference.

In supervising the various works, executed, the same sanitary standard has been maintained, and I am pleased to say that I have met with no difficulties in getting my requirements carried out by the different owners.

I also wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council, for the kind consideration shewn to me during my first period of office, and particularly the Chairman of the Sanitary Committee (Mr. Councillor Moffat), for valued information in connection with my duties.

Assuring the Council of my active endeavours for the promotion of the sanitary welfare of the Borough.

Your obedient servant,

F. WALLEY,

*Sanitary & Building Inspector.*

NO. of HOUSES AND PREMISES INSPECTED .. ..	412
NO. of RE-INSPECTIONS OF HOUSES AND PREMISES in connection with the abatement of nuisances .. ..	669
	<u>1081</u>

## RESULT OF INSPECTIONS:

Orders issued for Sanitary Amendments .. ..	60
Houses and Premises. { Cleansed, Repaired, Whitewashed, &c. .. ..	18
{ Disinfected, Cleansed, and Whitewashed after illness of Infectious Character—Scarlet Fever, 32; Diphtheria, 39, Small-pox, 74, Phthisis, 7, German Measles, 1 .. ..	153
{ Yards Repaved or Repaired.. ..	25
House. Drainage. { Repaired, Amended, Cleansed, Trapped and Ventilated .. ..	65
{ New Systems of Drainage Provided to existing Houses .. ..	37
{ Smoke Tests applied to Drains affecting 200 Dwellings .. ..	201
{ Defective Traps Condemned and Removed .. ..	67
{ New Stoneware Yard Gully Traps fixed .. ..	84
Privies and W.C.'s. { Privy Midden done away with .. ..	1
{ W.C.'s Repaired, Lighted and Ventilated .. ..	50
{ Closets Supplied with Flushing Cisterns .. ..	64
{ " " " New " Pedestal " Pans and Seats .. ..	75
{ (A Similar number of foul " Long Hopper " pans have been destroyed).	
{ New W.C.'s built complete .. ..	15
{ New Automatic Earth Closets	

## MISCELLANEOUS—

Removal of Filth .. ..	3
Insanitary Keeping of Animals, &c. .. ..	2
New Floors to Stables .. ..	1
New Urinals Erected .. ..	1
Choked Drains cleared .. ..	5

Statutory Inspections have also been made of the Factories, Workshops, Bakehouses, Dairies and Milkshops, Slaughterhouses, &c., and defects dealt with.



## Report of Building Inspector.

### 1909

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#### NEW BUILDINGS COMPLETED—

Dwelling Houses	...	...	...	64
Trades and other Buildings	...	...	...	3
				<hr/>
				67
				<hr/>

Number of Inspections of New Buildings during  
construction ... .. 522

Number of Drainage Tests applied in connection  
with New Buildings and New Public Sewers 69

Numerous cases of contraventions of the Building Bye-laws, including the erection of Buildings without submitting plans, and departures from plans approved, have been detected and remedied.

In one case only has it been necessary to resort to legal proceedings, viz., Messrs. J. Chapman & Co., who permitted a house to become occupied without first having obtained a Certificate of Habitation.

F. WHALLEY,

(Building Inspector).