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**Contributors**

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BOROUGH OF  
WEYMOUTH & MELCOMBE REGIS

URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1894.

SUBMITTED BY

B. BROWNING, M.D. D.P.H., Edin:

*Staff-Surgeon, R.N. ;*

*M.R.C.S., England ;*

*L.R.C.P., London ;*

*Fellow of the Chemical Society ;*

*Fellow of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain ;*

*Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health  
(on the Council, Southern Branch) ;*

*Admiralty Surgeon and Agent ;*

*Medical Inspector of Seamen to Board of Trade ;*

*Consulting Medical Officer to the Watch Committee of the Weymouth  
Town Council ;*

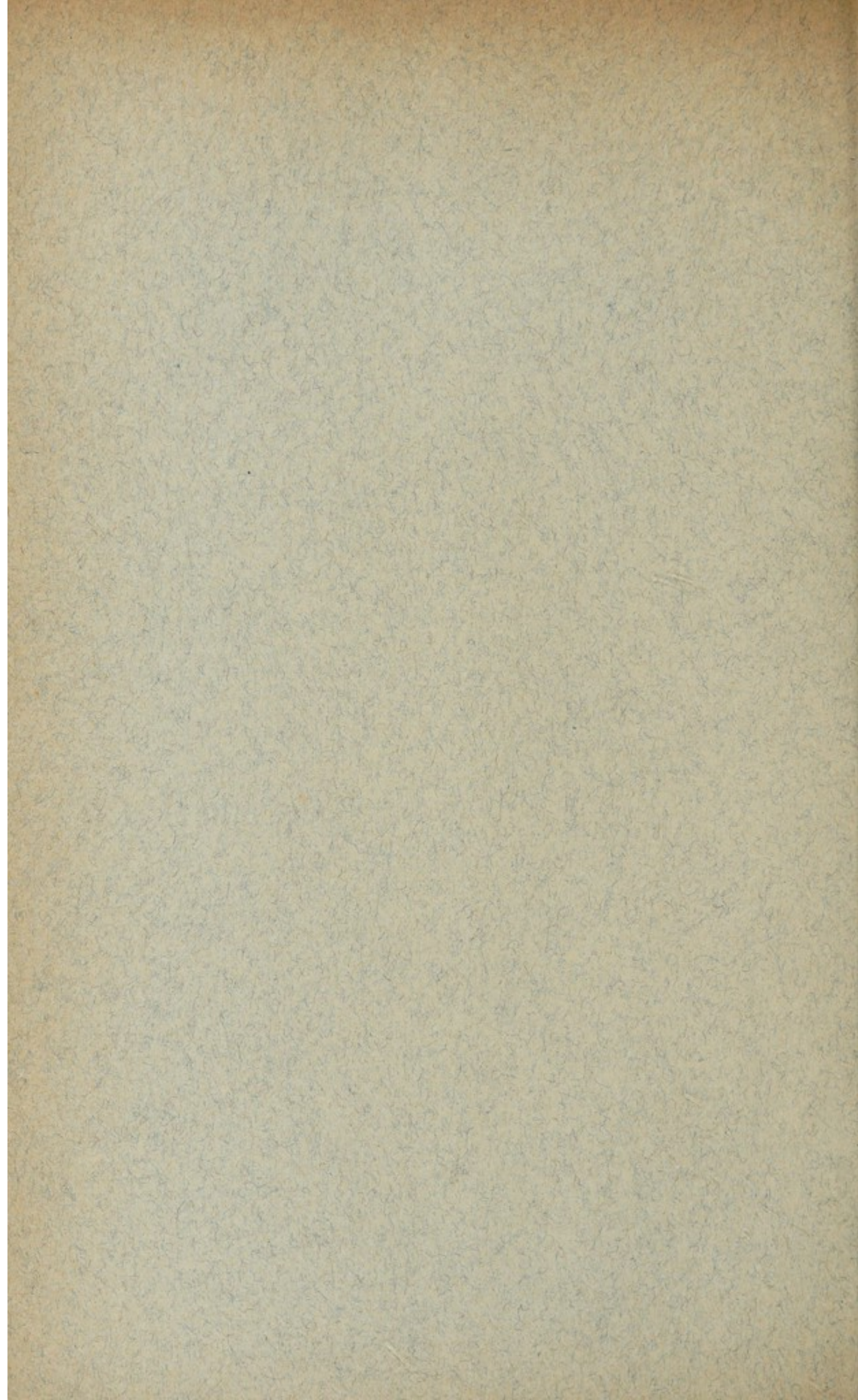
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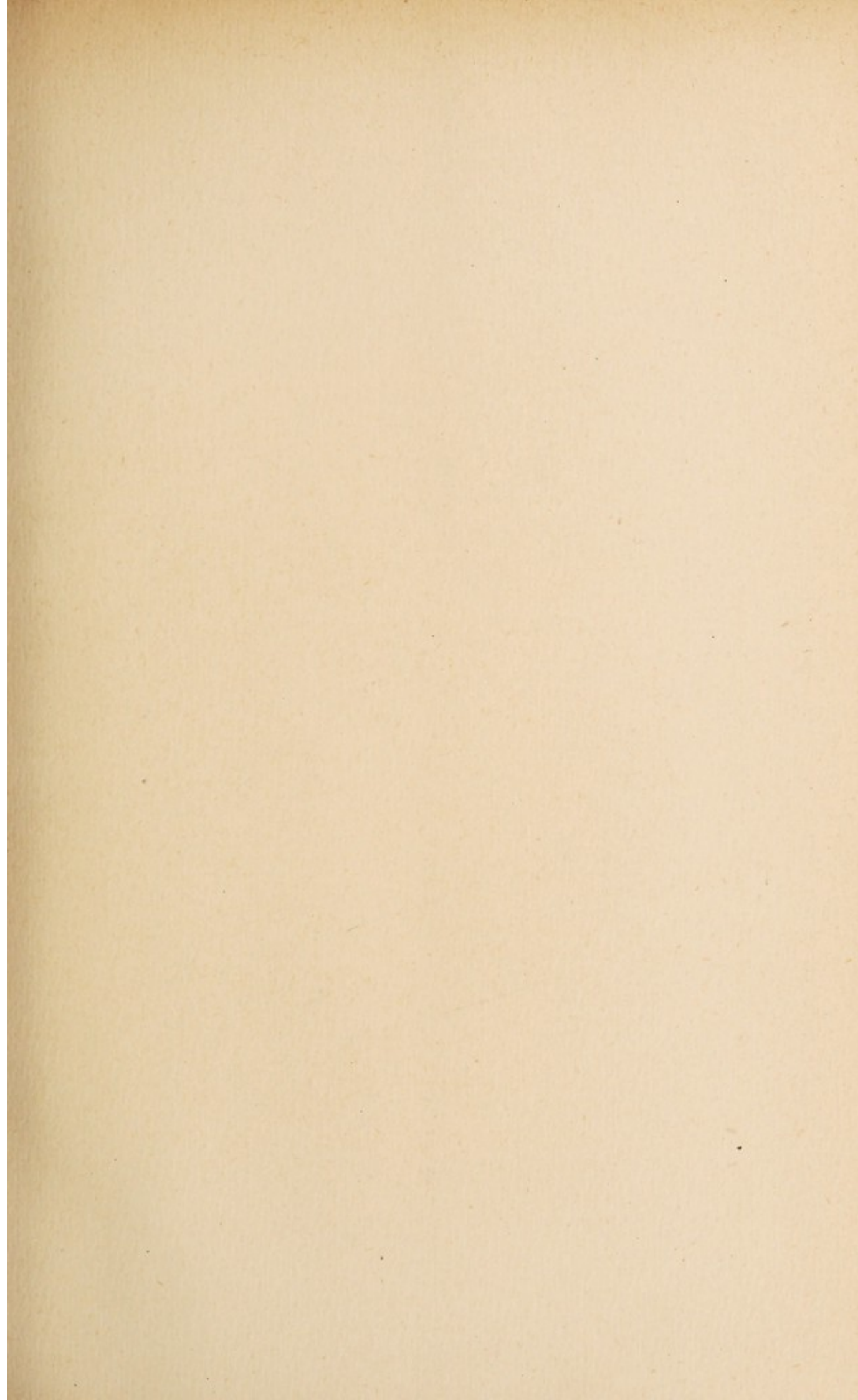
*Medical Officer of Health to the above Sanitary Authority.*

WEYMOUTH :


SHERREN AND SON, "MAIN" PRINTING WORKS.











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WEYMOUTH & MELCOMBE REGIS

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FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT  
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*and*

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WEYMOUTH :

SHERREN AND SON, "MAIN" PRINTING WORKS.



Following the directions of the Local Government Board Circular, I give you :—

1. The Borough Vital Statistics for 1894, with comparisons between them, those of all England, and those of some other sea-side health resorts.
2. The Sanitary Work of the year in Weymouth, with a précis demanded from me by the English Central Sanitary Authority.
3. A statement of certain matters to which your attention is directed.

#### (I.) VITAL STATISTICS.

*Number of Births and Deaths.*—From the first of January to the 31st December, 1894, 333 Births and 205 Deaths were registered ; the actual increase of population was therefore 128.

*Births and Deaths in Public Institutions.*—4 Births and 36 Deaths occurred in Public Institutions.

*Deaths of Weymouth Residents outside the Borough and non-residents here.*—These are respectively 1 and 29.

*Deaths of Octogenarians and Nonogenarians.*—I have to record 33 in all ; 27 between 80 and 90 years of age (18 women and 7 men), their average age being 83·51, the oldest 89 years ; and 6 persons (3 men and 3 women) between 90 and 95, their average age amounting to 91·6 years, the oldest being 94·8 years.

The chance of longevity in Weymouth is therefore as against for all England.

*Estimated Population to the Middle of 1894.*—On reckoning this by the Rules of the General Register Office, it is found to be 15,776. As I pointed out last year, this amount, without doubt, is greatly understated. I must repeat the remarks then made, as to the difficulty of eliminating from my statistics what might be deemed apparent errors, by persons who do not realise that there are three distinct Sanitary Authorities and a mixed Registration District in the neighbourhood popularly known as “Weymouth,” and I may add that in 1894, owing to the visits of the Yeomanry and Volunteers, our “Floating Population,” during the summer months, exceeded this estimate by quite 8,000 souls, though there was no proportionate rise of death-rate.



*Birth and Death Rates.*—The Birth-rate was 21·108 per 1,000, an increase of 2·008 per 1,000 on that of last year. This, I think, is due to a larger number of visitors coming to the town, especially during the Yeomanry and Volunteer epochs.

The Death-rate is below that of last Report, and is, I believe, the lowest Urban Rate recorded in Dorset for the year; it will bear favourable comparison with that of most watering places, the gross rate being 12·99 per 1,000, and the corrected Death-rate, calculated in accordance with the notes on Table A, 10·79 per 1,000, a decrease of 0·16 per 1,000 on that of last year, when we had the lowest Urban rate, both in Dorset, and all other Districts which I could ascertain.

For this year the Death-rate of

Bournemouth =		Lyme Regis =
Bridport =		Portland =
Brighton =		Portsmouth =
Cowes =		Poole =
Dorchester =		Southampton =
Dover =		Torquay =
Eastbourne =		Worthing =

I think, therefore, that we may claim as good a record as most of our rivals.

*English General Average for 1894 =*

*Infant Mortality.*—31 infants under one year old died. The rate of Infant Mortality is, therefore, a proportion of 93·93 to every 1,000 births, or if expressed as “a per centage of the total Deaths,” equals 14·419 per cent. The “All England” Mortality was to every 1,000 births, or per cent. if expressed as “per centage of Total Deaths.”

*Child Death Rate.*—I have calculated this by eliminating the “Infant Mortality” from the “Total Deaths under five years;” this gives a Child Death Rate of 0·697 per 1,000 of population.

I will again refer you to my remarks of 1893 on this point.

*Zymotic Death-rate.*—Eight deaths were registered from the principal Zymotic diseases, viz. :—Scarlet Fever, 1; Typhoid Fever, 1 (this appears to have been contracted outside the Borough); Whooping



Cough, 4; Diarrhœa, 2. Our Zymotic Death-rate is, therefore, 0·5 per 1,000 (0·133 less than that of last year), and is also lower than our average for the past Decenniad. The "All England 1894 Zymotic Rate" was per 1,000.

*Violent Deaths.*—Seven violent deaths were noted; one (in the case of a soldier), due to suicidal cut-throat, and the rest (civilians) to various accidents.

*Inquests.*—Twenty-six Inquests and Coroner's Enquiries "as to cause of Death" were held, in cases which would otherwise have been returned "Uncertified."

## (II.) SANITARY WORK OF THE YEAR, ETC.

The customary inspection of Bake-houses and Slaughter-houses was made by myself and the Inspector of Nuisances—the Bake-houses being all clean and kept to my satisfaction.

The requirements of the Factory Inspector as to the one which I mentioned last year, have since been carried out. It had previously received the approval of my predecessor and myself without these alterations, which I thought unnecessary.

I must repeat my last year's comment on the Slaughter-houses. Nos. are the best. Possibly, in the near future, a radical reform of *all* will be effected.

*Cow-houses.*—Of the two in the Borough, one is practically unused. Neither are in proper order, but when visited, were cleaner than previously, and I yet hope to see them improved.

*Dairies and Milk Shops.*—I have not much fault to find with these, pending the enforcement of the Acts referring to them. All are passable, and some very good.

*Offensive Trade Premises.*—Here are no alterations from last year. I left the greatest nuisance of this kind, a recurrent one, to the care of the Factory Inspector, but he seems to have been hardly so successful as your officers were, prior to his advent. Next summer may see some improvement.

*Common Lodging-houses.*—These are in "statu quo," pending the probable adoption of general Bye-laws, which are urgently required.



*Public and Private Schools.*—These have all been visited when necessary, and everywhere, my suggestions were complied with. In accordance with the wish of the Managers and my own judgment, I closed Trinity Day Schools in October for a fortnight, owing to several cases of mild Scarlatina in the District, which course appeared to check the further spread of that complaint.

*Legal Proceedings.*—Your Officers had no occasion to appear in any Court, with the exception of an enquiry as to the Extension of the Borough held by an Inspector of the Local Government Board, the result of which is not yet known, though this enlargement, in the interests of the Public Health, is most desirable.

I have now to report the performance of the various duties detailed in paragraphs Nos. 1 to 13 of my Instructions, in which I have been greatly assisted, as always heretofore, by the Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. Joseph Keeley.

These details are :—

Complaints received and attended to (excluding dust complaints)	82
Number of Houses and Premises inspected (including inspections under Factory Acts and 9 houses where Infectious Disease had occurred) ... ..	515
Orders for Sanitary Improvements issued ... ..	29
Orders not complied with ... ..	2
Houses or Premises cleansed, repaired or white-washed ... ..	27
Houses disinfected ... ..	30
Bedding, etc. disinfected ... .. (lots)	8
Bake-houses inspected frequently ... ..	12
Cow-houses inspected frequently ... ..	2
Slaughter-houses inspected frequently ... ..	13
Milkshops inspected frequently ... ..	37
Dairies inspected frequently... ..	2
Offensive Trades inspected frequently ... ..	4
Common Lodging-houses inspected frequently ... ..	3
Persons removed to Hospital (Port Sanitary) 5 for Scarlet Fever and 2 for Diphtheria	
Dust Complaints received and attended to ... ..	30
Putrid Fish condemned and destroyed ... .. (lots)	2
Letters received on various Sanitary Matters here and elsewhere	260
Written replies to same sent ... ..	235
Notices served under Factory Acts and attended to ... ..	20
“ “ “ “ and not attended to ... ..	2

We have both endeavoured always to interfere as little as possible with private sentiment, whilst, to the best of our judgments, carrying out our official instructions.



*Special Sanitary Work.*—Here, I am pleased to say, I have little to record, as the general health of the Borough throughout the year was so extremely good, that beyond co-operating with the Mayor and my colleagues, at the visits of the Yeomanry in May, and of the Volunteers in August, as well as during the trying flood of November, my special attention to anything in excess of my ordinary routine was not required.

*Questions referred to Committee last Year.*—You judged it best not to complete the consideration of these, in view of certain Municipal and other changes which were expected. I am now looking forward more hopefully to a settlement of them, as they are so urgent.

*Representations as to Insanitary Houses.*—I must refer you to my last Report about these, having observed no more since then. Those already mentioned will soon be either “ended or mended.” Some improvements have been made in the past year, but much yet remains to be done.

*Sanitary History of the Year.*—In spite of the extraordinarily large increase of population from May to September, we have fortunately had nearly a history of “no sickness at all.” Early in the year we had to regret the loss of a highly-esteemed young Advocate from Typhoid Fever, contracted out of the District, and somewhat later, the town was suddenly placed in general mourning by the unexpected decease, from non-preventable causes, of one of the best Officers who ever served you. But since then, beyond 23 cases of reputed Scarlet Fever (only one fatal), some imported from country districts, three more of Typhoid (all non-fatal), two probably due to country milk, and the other to defective drainage; two of Diphtheria, both imported, and one of continued fever, attributable to the Marsh—I have heard of no serious illness beyond that incidental to Senile Decay, from which 89 deaths, over 60 years old, occurred, 33 being marked into the eighties and nineties.

What more favourable results can be reasonably expected in the annual life history of any Health Resort?

*State of District, December 31st, 1894.*—At this date not a single case of Infectious Disease existed in the Borough, nor had any been recently reported.

The customary amount of sickness at this present time is greatly below par.

*New Sanitary Acts.*—I am as yet unaware of any New Sanitary Act coming into force this year.



*Outcome of my recommendations to you.*—For reasons already given, I have only to repeat what I said last year under this head. Some improvements have taken place, both as to scavenging and the condition of the Mortuary, though much more might be done to both, but a proper shelter is urgently needed for the Steam Disinfector, for want of which both it and the public are much injured.

*Comments on Tables A and B.*—These, as usual, involving a great deal of labour, have been carefully compiled, will be found fully trustworthy, and, I trust, satisfactory. The boon of an Infectious Hospital for this town was more than ever exemplified on one occasion during the height of the season.

### (III.) MATTERS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

1.—*Climatology of Weymouth.*—I draw your attention to the genial climate of Weymouth, as demonstrated by the following Meteorological Report as to the temperature, rainfall, winds, and sunshine, for which I am indebted to Mr. J. R. Eyles, F.R.Met.S. ; this would have been rather incomplete, had it not been for your liberality in providing a Sunshine Recorder for our use, and so enabling us to draw comparisons between Weymouth and some more vaunted watering-places, which show a strong balance of pure air, warmth, and sun-light in our favour :—

#### *Meteorological Readings at Weymouth for 1894.*

##### Averages for 1894 :—

Max. Temperature ...	...	...	...	...	56.1
Min. Temperature ...	...	...	...	...	46.3
Mean Temperature...	...	...	...	...	51.2
Mean Range ...	...	...	...	...	9.9
Total Rainfall in Inches ...	...	...	...	...	36.51
Average Monthly Rainfall ...	...	...	...	...	3.04
Number of days on which rain was recorded	...	...	...	...	187

Averages for the previous ten years, 1885 to 1894 inclusive—55.4, 44.8, 50.0, 10.4, 26.5, 2.21, 155.

The highest temperature reached was 73.8, on June 30th, the lowest 15.4 on January 6th. In January rain was recorded on 24 days, with 3.36 inches, whilst in November, on only 16 days, rain was recorded with the large amount of 7.82 inches fall, of which 4.50 inches fell during the four days ending 9 a.m., November 14th.



The Sunshine Recorder was erected on the Pier during August, and readings have been taken daily since the 1st September, giving for September, 155·25 ; October, 95·00 ; November, 89·00 ; December, 87·75 hours bright sunshine, a total for the four months of 427 hours, or a daily average of 3·50 hours.

Especial attention is drawn to the high Mean Temperature for the year—51·2, whilst the Mean Range is only 9·9, and the average Minimum Temperature is so high as 44·8.

Details of other watering places, *i.e.*, Brighton, Bournemouth, Eastbourne, Southsea, Torquay, and Worthing, will show how favourably we stand in comparison with those places ; and that the statements of the Weymouth climate lately published by Councillor Dr. Simpson and myself, as to the general warmth and salubrity of our air and its special benefit in the cure of “poitrinaires” during the winter, as well as the summer, spring, and autumn months, are nowise exaggerated.

2.—*Necessity of Greater Attention being paid by Rural Authorities generally to the Sources of Water Supply within their Districts.*—The recent frightful Epidemics of Typhoid Fever, both in Worthing and Newport, Isle of Wight, prove to demonstration the absolute necessity of all Urban Authorities seeing that their Rural Neighbours do their duty in this respect, since in each Borough their Epidemic was positively traced to an originally pure Water Supply, which a neighbouring Rural Authority had carelessly allowed to be contaminated by soakage from the usual village surroundings, and show, also, the desirability in any Borough, of their discontinuing the perilous practice of Flushing the Sewers by means of Hydrants from the Water Mains. This last danger you have laudably avoided, by using salt water for that purpose. As you know, our own Water Supply cannot be surpassed anywhere, either for purity, or in freedom from risk of contamination, but the above lessons are most valuable ones to Sanitary Authorities, one and all.

3.—*Ventilation of Sewers versus Sewage Disinfection.*—The method of Sewer Ventilation by the most recent type of Special Ventilating Shafts, such as may now be seen in a neighbouring Borough, is one which has many advocates, and many opponents. Personally, I must confess that, to my mind, the balance of evidence is decidedly against it, and this opinion seems to be held by several of the most eminent Sanitarians of the day. There are too many houses visible here, each fitted with a ventilator which is nothing but a nuisance, injurious to health, discharging sewer gas on to the immediate neighbourhood of its own and its neighbour's upper windows, to make you wish such structures increased.



It would seem that in lieu of sewers ventilating (*a*) into private houses, (*b*) into the streets, (*c*) round all the upper windows, and so, as has been proved in some late instances, actively spreading such diseases as typhoid, diphtheria, etc., amongst the population, a more rational procedure is to sterilize the sewage before it has time to decompose in the sewers, and thus prevent the deadly sewer gas poisons being ever generated.

How best to do this is a problem which is now being attempted in various ways, and the most suitable disinfectant has yet to be decided on. *Perfect efficacy* is the *first* desideratum, and the *truest economy* the next.

Portsmouth, Newport, I.W., and Norwich, are some of the present sites of these experiments, and the two processes which seem to be contending for the mastery in flushing sewers and rendering them innocuous, are the Hermitine fluid, and special chemical disinfection by means of mercuric perchloride, lime chloride, certain tar derivatives, etc. As a germicide and deodorant, the Hermitine fluid is by far the most rapid and complete, and its advocates claim it to be the *most economical*, on the ground that its cost is one-fourth of that of its rival disinfectants.

The objections urged against chemical treatment alluded to are (*a*) less complete sterilisation of sewage, (*b*) blocking up of sewers by the solid matters unavoidably introduced therein, and (*c*) the enormous proportionate increase in cost.

Portsmouth has not yet employed Hermitine; Norwich has done so, and finally adopted it.

Newport is still testing the Hermite plan, and is as yet undecided between it and that of lime chloride precipitation and subsequent filtration. So you will have ample opportunity, before long, of ascertaining from the experience of your neighbours, the best methods of getting rid of sewer gas and its evils, before committing yourselves to either innumerable gully-holes in the roads, a forest of vent pipes against the eaves, or the common sewer ventilators usually found in each kitchen.

4.—*In conclusion*, permit me to congratulate you on the happy results of the prompt action which the Mayor and yourselves displayed in dealing with the flood in the Park in November last. Its extent may be judged by the accompanying photographs, and the mischief it might have done, if unchecked, is beyond calculation.



In spite of all His Worship's unremitting and personal outlay of time and money, several streets were partially submerged for two or three days together, and the houses were filled with sewage water up to at least four steps of the staircases. Happily, no injury to life or to general health occurred, although necessarily much damage was done to property. The remedial means you adopted in getting rid of the water, and subsequently drying and ventilating the houses, succeeded in arresting the expected outbreak of disease ; indeed, I have only been able to trace three cases (two amongst your employés) of illness to this cause, where both I and others, had anticipated scores. I trust that certain Authorities, over which you have no control, will graciously permit you forthwith to protect yourselves against the recurrence of such an evil, by carrying out the admirable sewage scheme which you have recently decided to execute.

Once more thanking you for the confidence and support you have given me during the year just past,

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your very obedient Servant,

**B. BROWNING, M.D., D.P.H.,**

*16 Royal Terrace, Weymouth.*

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*January 7th, 1895.*



TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1894, in the Weymouth Urban Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

[illegible]

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

[illegible]

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables A and B, attention has been given to the notes endorsed on the Tables.

Area and Population of the District to which this Return relates.

Area in Acres ... .. 1873

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	1879
Population (1891)	..	...	...	...	...	15379

Population (1891) .. .. .	15575
Death \ General ...	10.79 per 1000 Population

Death Rates.	General ...	19.75 per 1000 Population
	Infant ...	79.2 per 1000 Births Registered

B. BROWNING, M.D., D.P.H.,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

Dated, January 9th, 1895.



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97	98	99	100

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K<sup>2</sup> 11.

(B)

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1894, in the Urban Sanitary District of Weymouth; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institu- tions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.													Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
	Census 1891.	Esti- mated middle of 1894.			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																					
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																				

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District (Yes). Since when? (*May, 1888*). Besides the above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated (*Port Sanitary Hospital, Wyke, within the District*).

E. BROWNING, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.



Table showing the results of the various experiments conducted during the year 1871.

No. of Experiment	Description of Experiment	Results of Experiment	
		First Trial	Second Trial
1	Experiment 1	100	100
2	Experiment 2	100	100
3	Experiment 3	100	100
4	Experiment 4	100	100
5	Experiment 5	100	100
6	Experiment 6	100	100
7	Experiment 7	100	100
8	Experiment 8	100	100
9	Experiment 9	100	100
10	Experiment 10	100	100
11	Experiment 11	100	100
12	Experiment 12	100	100
13	Experiment 13	100	100
14	Experiment 14	100	100
15	Experiment 15	100	100
16	Experiment 16	100	100
17	Experiment 17	100	100
18	Experiment 18	100	100
19	Experiment 19	100	100
20	Experiment 20	100	100
21	Experiment 21	100	100
22	Experiment 22	100	100
23	Experiment 23	100	100
24	Experiment 24	100	100
25	Experiment 25	100	100
26	Experiment 26	100	100
27	Experiment 27	100	100
28	Experiment 28	100	100
29	Experiment 29	100	100
30	Experiment 30	100	100
31	Experiment 31	100	100
32	Experiment 32	100	100
33	Experiment 33	100	100
34	Experiment 34	100	100
35	Experiment 35	100	100
36	Experiment 36	100	100
37	Experiment 37	100	100
38	Experiment 38	100	100
39	Experiment 39	100	100
40	Experiment 40	100	100
41	Experiment 41	100	100
42	Experiment 42	100	100
43	Experiment 43	100	100
44	Experiment 44	100	100
45	Experiment 45	100	100
46	Experiment 46	100	100
47	Experiment 47	100	100
48	Experiment 48	100	100
49	Experiment 49	100	100
50	Experiment 50	100	100
51	Experiment 51	100	100
52	Experiment 52	100	100
53	Experiment 53	100	100
54	Experiment 54	100	100
55	Experiment 55	100	100
56	Experiment 56	100	100
57	Experiment 57	100	100
58	Experiment 58	100	100
59	Experiment 59	100	100
60	Experiment 60	100	100
61	Experiment 61	100	100
62	Experiment 62	100	100
63	Experiment 63	100	100
64	Experiment 64	100	100
65	Experiment 65	100	100
66	Experiment 66	100	100
67	Experiment 67	100	100
68	Experiment 68	100	100
69	Experiment 69	100	100
70	Experiment 70	100	100
71	Experiment 71	100	100
72	Experiment 72	100	100
73	Experiment 73	100	100
74	Experiment 74	100	100
75	Experiment 75	100	100
76	Experiment 76	100	100
77	Experiment 77	100	100
78	Experiment 78	100	100
79	Experiment 79	100	100
80	Experiment 80	100	100
81	Experiment 81	100	100
82	Experiment 82	100	100
83	Experiment 83	100	100
84	Experiment 84	100	100
85	Experiment 85	100	100
86	Experiment 86	100	100
87	Experiment 87	100	100
88	Experiment 88	100	100
89	Experiment 89	100	100
90	Experiment 90	100	100
91	Experiment 91	100	100
92	Experiment 92	100	100
93	Experiment 93	100	100
94	Experiment 94	100	100
95	Experiment 95	100	100
96	Experiment 96	100	100
97	Experiment 97	100	100
98	Experiment 98	100	100
99	Experiment 99	100	100
100	Experiment 100	100	100

The results of the various experiments conducted during the year 1871, showing the results of the various experiments conducted during the year 1871.



