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Contributors

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WHITSTABLE,

February 3rd, 1903.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Whitstable Urban
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have to report that the Births registered within the Urban District during the year 1902, amounted to 168, of which 68 were Males, and 100 Females; the Deaths amounted to 104, of which

16	were under 1 year of age.
10	„ upwards of 1 and under 5 years.
10	„ „ 5 „ „ 15 „
43	„ „ 25 „ „ 65 „
25	„ „ 65 years of age.

Of the latter 1 was 89; 2, 83; 1, 82; 3, 81; and 1, 80; 1 Child died from a Scald, 2 Strangers were found drowned, 1 Inhabitant died from shock, consequent upon an accidental fall into the Harbour; there was 1 fatal case of Small-Pox, 2 of Whooping Cough, 4 of Diphtheria and Membranous Croup, 1 of Enteric Fever in the Isolation Hospital, and 1 in the Town, 3 of Influenza, 1 of Erysipelas, 16 of Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases, 7 of Cancer, 5 of Heart Disease, 2 of Premature Birth; 12 persons belonging to the District died in the Blean Union Infirmary and 1 man at the Convalescent Home, at Tankerton.

In the total number were included 19 deaths of non-residents: the Nett Deaths therefore belonging to the District were 98.

The Birth Rate was 23'4.

The Death Rate was 13'6 per 1000.

The Mortality of Infants under 1 year 95'2 per 1000 births registered.

6 cases of Diphtheric and Membranous Croup were reported, 2 of Erysipelas, 2 of Scarlet Fever and 13 of Enteric Fever, 5 of the latter and 1 of Diphtheria were removed to the Isolation Hospital, 2 cases of Small-Pox were also reported, when the first case of this disease occurred and application for its removal was made, it came as a surprise that the Blean Rural District Council would refuse to take such cases they being under an agreement with the Urban Council to receive all their infectious cases at the Isolation Hospital at Herne; in the emergency, therefore, it was deemed advisable to procure a nurse to attend on the patient in his home and to remove the wife and nine children to an Isolated Cottage about 2 miles distant, two of these subsequently developed mild attacks and one other case occurring in the town was also removed to the same cottage, the members of the family who had been in contact with this case being kept in quarantine.

The Council, fearful of an increased outbreak of the disease, and having to meet the difficulty, proceeded as quickly as possible to acquire a suitable site and to erect thereon an Isolation Hospital, happily up to the present no further cases have occurred.

The district is generally flat towards the Sea on the West, rising gradually towards the North and bounded on other sides by elevated land; the soil is of clay.



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The Houses for the working classes are, with a few exceptions, fairly well-built, and fit for habitation, the greater number having gardens at the back, giving a considerable amount of open space, they are mostly clean and tidy. The Council exercise supervision over the erection of new houses.

The Council towards the close of the year obtained Parliamentary power to take over the whole system of Sewerage from the Commissioners of the East Kent Sewers, which body had previously had absolute control of the same ; at present the whole of the Sewage is discharged by an outfall into the Sea ; the Council, however, looking at the growth of the town, the shallowness of the water and the consequent danger to persons Bathing, to the shipping in the Harbour, to the Inhabitants generally, and also to the Oyster and other Shell Fisheries, have had for some time under their consideration the desirability of treating the Sewage before its discharge into the Sea.

The present system of excrement disposal is by water closets : the removal of house refuse is expeditiously effected by the Council in covered vans, the refuse being carried into the country at a distance from any dwellings.

The Water Supply is principally derived from the Company's mains, is periodically analysed and is satisfactory : some houses are still supplied from Wells, which are carefully watched in the event of any suspicious illness arising : recently Two cases of Diphtheria were believed to have been caused by drinking water from a polluted well, which was promptly condemned.

There has been a marked improvement in the condition of Slaughterhouses and Cowsheds, the Dairies and Milkshops continue to be satisfactory.

Few complaints of nuisances have been made during the past year, and where such have been found, they have been promptly dealt with.

Infectious Diseases, where the patients cannot be isolated and properly nursed in their homes are removed to the Isolation Hospital at Herne, with the exception of Small-Pox cases, which, as has been previously mentioned, would be removed to the Council's own Isolation Hospital. The Notification of Diseases Act was adopted by the Council in December, 1894.

All houses where Infectious Diseases have occurred are afterwards disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector and his Assistant.

The Workshops, Workplaces, Bakehouses and Laundries have all been visited and found satisfactory in respect to cleanliness, air space, ventilation and provision of suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences with two exceptions, viz :—

One Millinery establishment where seven young women were employed in a workroom which had sufficient air space for five only.

One Bakehouse where the occupier had neglected the periodical lime washing : due notices were served. There are no Textile or other Factories or underground Bakehouses in the district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

Jno. W. Hayward

Medical Officer of Health.

