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Contributors

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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 1908 amounted to 170—91 males and 79 females—7 were illegitimate; the Deaths were 102, of which—

15 were under 1 year of age.			
4 were upwards of 1 and under 5.			
3	"	5	15.
5	"	15	25.
28	"	25	65.
47	67 years of age and upwards.		

in the latter number were included 12 of persons upwards of 80 and 1 of 91.

Three Inquests were held—2 on aged persons whose deaths were accelerated by Accidental Falls, and 1 on a visitor who had arrived by an excursion train and died suddenly from Heart Disease—1 death occurred from Whooping Cough, 1 from Diphtheria, 1 from Enteritis, 9 from Phthisis, 4 from other Tuberculous Diseases, 5 from Pneumonia, 2 from other diseases of the Respiratory Organs, 2 from Cirrhosis of Liver, 2 from Premature Birth, 12 from Heart Diseases, 10 from Cancer, and 37 from all other causes.

It is noteworthy that 2 of the deaths from Phthisis and 1 from other Tuberculous Disease, were of persons who had been in the district for a short time only and had advanced disease previously: 2 cases of Heart Disease were in non-residents, and of the Cancer cases 3 were of non-residents, and 4 others were of persons who had resided in the district for a short time only: 3 residents died in the Blean Union Infirmary, and a sailor belonging to the district was drowned at Folkestone.

Seventeen deaths of non-residents were included in the total number registered; the nett number therefore being 89.

The Birth Rate was 21.6 (the lowest recorded).

The Death Rate was 11.3 per 1000.

The Mortality of Infants under 1 year of age 88.2 per 1000 Births registered.

Of Infectious Diseases notified, 1 was of Diphtheria, 8 were of Scarlet Fever, and 10 of Enteric Fever, 4 of the latter being removed to the Isolation Hospital.

The year was remarkable for its general healthiness: the origin of the Scarlet Fever cases could not be traced: of the Enteric Fever cases 6 occurred in 2 houses—3 in each house—in one instance the house and premises were in a very dirty and neglected condition, there being also a leakage of a drain in the garden adjoining, and in the other instance a disused and very foul rain water tank was found, the front room also being used for the storage of fruit and



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vegetables which attracted swarms of flies, the latter probably being the medium of the infection; the premises have since been thoroughly disinfected and put into a sanitary condition.

Thirty-one new Houses were built during the year.

The district is generally flat towards the sea, on the East, South and West of the Town are elevations forming a semi-circle of high ground; the soil consisting generally of London Clay covered in parts by Shingle or Alluvium.

A large proportion of the Inhabitants are engaged in the Oyster and other Fisheries; many are employed in Sailing Vessels and Barges with the work at the Harbour incidental thereto; some are engaged in the Building Trade; being mostly occupied in out-door work, the male population is generally healthy.

The house accommodation for the working-classes is generally good, the greater portion having a considerable amount of back garden, and the surroundings are mostly clean. The Council exercise supervision over the erection of all new Houses. They have not found it necessary to take any action under Parts I, II, and III, of the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

The Water Supply is principally derived from the Water Company's Mains, into which it is pumped from two Artesian Wells; it is periodically analysed and has been found satisfactory.

Some Houses are still supplied from Wells which are carefully noted in the event of any suspicious illness arising among any persons using such water, and if found contaminated are condemned.

There is an abundant Milk Supply, samples of which are frequently taken by the Constabulary under the Sale of Food and Drug's Act; the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops are regularly inspected, and have been found to comply with the rules.

No cases of illness attributable to Tuberculous Milk have arisen.

The Slaughterhouses are periodically visited and have been found clean. No action under Section 117 of the Public Health Act 1875 has been necessary.

The Council have the full control of the Sewerage and Drainage which is discharged by outfalls into the Sea.

The system of Excrement Disposal is by Water Closets and is generally satisfactory.

The removal of House Refuse is regularly effected in covered vans, and is conveyed to waste land at a distance from the town.

No proceedings for the abatement of Nuisances have been found necessary during the past year.

There are no Lodging Houses, Offensive Trades, Textile Factories or Underground Bakehouses.



The Public Elementary Schools are comparatively Modern, and those which are of more ancient construction have been improved and brought up to the requirements of the Educational Authority: the Sanitary condition and Water Supply are satisfactory: in the event of illness or suspicion of Infectious Disease the teachers at once apprise a medical man of the fact.

The Notification of Diseases Act was adopted by the Council in December, 1894, and cases when necessary are removed to the Hospital at Herne, where the accommodation has been found sufficient. The Council have a disinfecting Chamber and an Isolation Hospital for Small Pox cases about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the town, but since its erection no case has occurred in the district: all houses where infectious diseases have occurred are afterwards disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector.

No system of Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been adopted nor has the Notification of Births Act 1907.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

Geo. W. Hayward

Medical Officer of Health.

