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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 1909 amounted to 172—95 males and 77 females—4 were illegitimate: the Deaths were 106, of which

15	were	under	1	year	of	age.
2	"	upwards	of	1	and	under 5.
2	"	"	"	5	"	" 15.
4	"	"	"	15	"	" 25.
33	"	"	"	25	"	" 65.
50	"	"	"	65	years	of age.

in the latter number were included 18 of persons upwards of 80 and 1 aged 94.

Seven Inquests were held—1 on an aged Sailor who sustained severe injury to his foot during a gale at sea, resulting in a breakdown of health; 1 on a Sailor who sustained a fractured skull from falling into the Harbour; 2 on cases of sudden death from Heart Disease—1 a resident and the other a visitor; 1 on a case of hemorrhage from a ruptured varicose vein; 1 on an aged man who died from shock after an operation, and 1 on an infant that died from congenital syphitis and neglect: there were 6 deaths from Influenza, 3 from Diarrhoea, 6 from Phthisis, 1 from other Tubercular Disease, 12 from Cancer, 5 from Bronchitis, 3 from Pneumonia, 1 from other disease of Respiratory Organs, 1, a non-resident, from Cirrhosis of Liver, 2 from Premature Birth, 18 from Heart Diseases, and 45 from various other causes. Four of the deaths from Heart Diseases were of non-residents also 1 case of Phthisis: 14 deaths altogether of non-residents were included in the registered total of 106, while of residents 7 died in the Blean Union Infirmary and 1 in the Kent and Canterbury Hospital, making the nett total of Deaths belonging to the District, 100.

The Birth Rate was 19'3, being lower than the previous year.

The Death Rate was 11'2 per 1000.

The Mortality of Infants under 1 year of age was 69'8 per 1000 Births registered.

Of Infectious Diseases notified, there were 4 of Diphtheria, 3 of Erysipelas, 19 of Scarlet Fever and 1 of Enteric Fever, the latter and 3 cases of Scarlet Fever only being removed to the Isolation Hospital. Happily the outbreak of Scarlet Fever which had an alarming aspect resulted in a comparatively small number of cases.

At the last census the total population was 7,086, and the number of inhabited Houses 1613; at the present time the number of habitable Houses is 2,100, of which 70 are empty, so that it is reasonable to estimate the population at not less than 8,900, there being, in addition to the increased number of houses, a large Industrial School for Boys and Girls.



The District is generally flat towards the Sea but rises gradually beyond the Harbour to an elevation of 71 feet, falling again to 57 feet above sea level; on the East, South and West of the Town are elevations forming a semi-circle of high ground: the soil consists 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; others as Shipwrights and in the Building Trade; the male population, leading for the most part an out-door life, 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. Action was taken under Part 2 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act in the case of two Cottages in an alley abutting on the Island Wall and a closing order obtained.

The District is principally supplied with Water from two Artesian Wells by the Water Company, and although periodically analysed and found to be organically pure, the turbid appearance which frequently took place, owing to the presence of Oxide of Iron and some Lime Salts, was a cause of complaint, this has now been remedied by the laying of new pipes, so that the whole of the supply is conveyed to the reservoir, then aërated and the deposit arrested by passing over layers of rough bricks from whence it passes through a filter bed.

There is an abundant Milk Supply, samples of which are frequently taken by the County Constabulary, under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act: the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops are frequently inspected, and have been found to comply with the rules. No cases attributable to Tuberculous Milk have arisen.

The Slaughterhouses are frequently inspected and have been found clean. No action under Section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875, has been required.

Owing to the increasing population, the Council have for some time been considering a satisfactory system of treating the Sewage, which has been up to the present discharged in its crude state into the sea at low water, and after many consultations with skilled Sanitary Engineers, purpose to adopt a System, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board, which provides for the erection of a pumping station and the conveyance of the whole of the Sewage to a distance from the Town into settling tanks and purification beds, the effluent being afterwards carried by pipes 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 conveyed to waste land at a distance from the Town.

Proceedings for the abatement of a Nuisance were found necessary in one case only during the year.

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

The Public Elementary Schools, with two exceptions, are comparatively modern, in the case of the latter some improvements require to be made, as shown in the report to the County Medical Officer, under whose supervision the Medical Inspection is conducted.

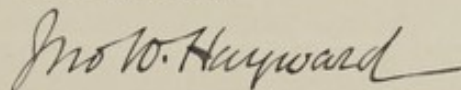
The Water Supply is satisfactory and the Sanitary condition also: in the event of a suspicion of Infectious Disease the Teachers at once refer to a Medical Man.

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 1½ miles from the Town: 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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Jno W. Hayward". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Medical Officer of Health.

The following table shows the results of the experiments conducted on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of June 1881. The results are given in the following table.

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