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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

The Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Inspector of Nuisances

FOR THE

BOROUGH OF NEW WINDSOR

FOR THE YEAR 1893,

BY

EDWARD CASEY, M.D., B.S. (LOND.),

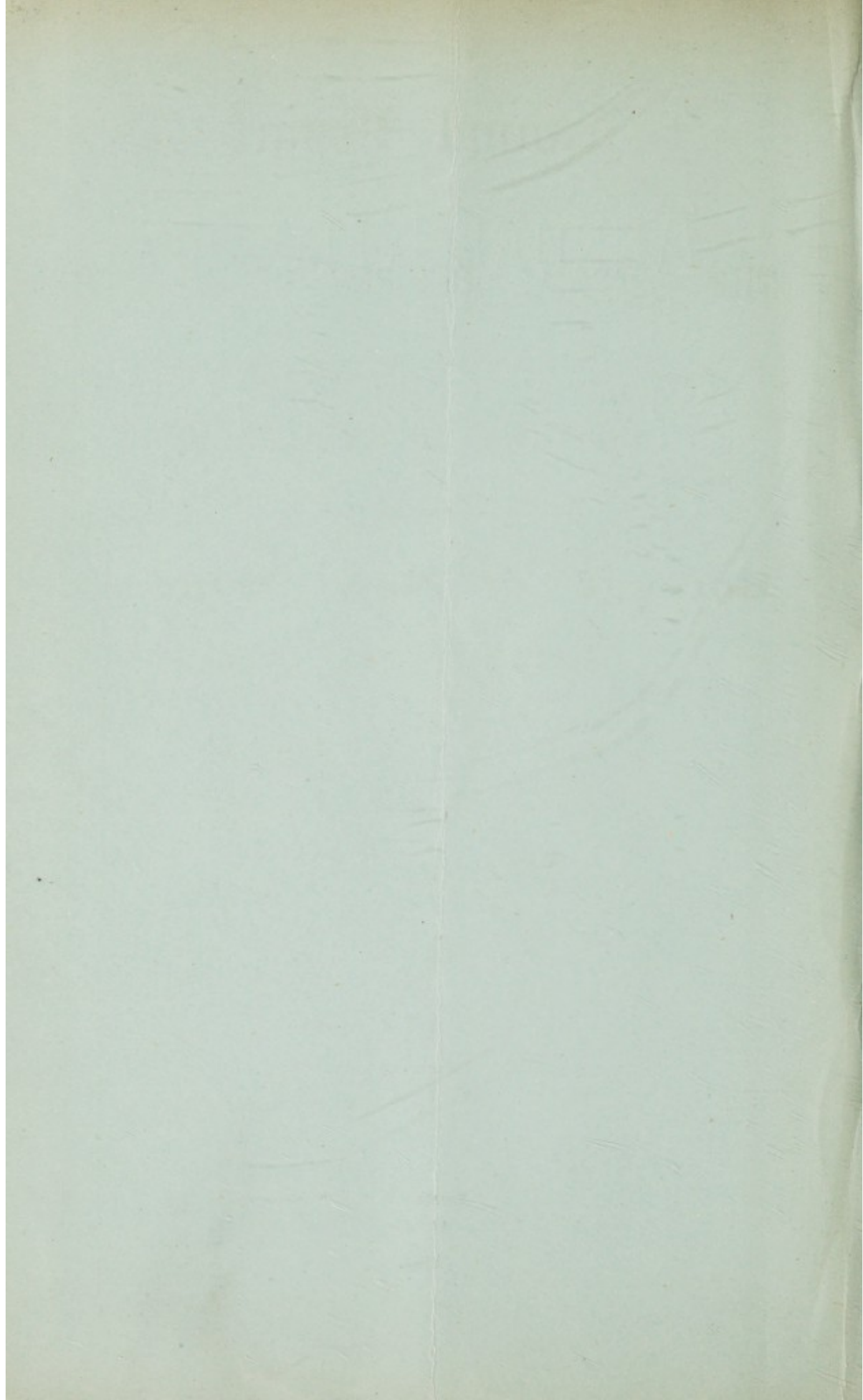
AND

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S Annual Report for the Year 1893.

TO THE NEW WINDSOR URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

GENTLEMEN,—

The population of the Borough of Windsor in the middle of the year 1893 may be estimated at 12,585. Population.

The number of Births registered during the year was 306. This number is greater than had been recorded during either of the preceding five years, but is 1·5 below the ten years' mean. It gives a rate of 24·3 per 1,000 persons living; the rate for the whole of England and Wales being 30·8, for the same period. Births.

The number of Deaths, corrected, as usual, in respect of deaths which occurred in public institutions, was 194; that being 1 below the mean for the preceding ten years, and giving a rate of 15·4 per 1,000 persons living, against 19·2, which was the rate prevailing in the whole country. But, in comparing these rates, allowance should be made for differences as regards age distribution, and, so corrected, the rate of mortality in Windsor will be found to bear to that which prevailed generally in England and Wales the proportion of 86 to 100. Deaths.

Table II shows the death-rate at several periods of life. It will be observed that, while it was high for the period of childhood, (that being owing to the prevalence of zymotic diseases,) it was very low at the more advanced ages. Deaths at
Several Ages.

Of the children born 40, or 13·1 per cent., died before completing their first year. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 15·9 per cent. Deaths of
Infants.

Age at Death. The mean age at death was 34 years 5 months.

Deaths from
Zymotic
Diseases.

To the principal zymotic diseases 26 deaths were attributed, that number being 11 above the mean for the preceding ten years in Windsor. But the rate was still considerably lower than the corresponding rate for the whole country.

The number of deaths due to *phthisis*, to *other respiratory diseases*, and to *diseases of the heart*, all show a notable decline upon the previous average.

The twenty-six deaths attributed to the seven principal zymotic diseases include 2 from *small pox*, 3 from *diphtheria*, 10 from *measles*, 2 from *scarlet fever*, and 8 from *diarrhœa*,

Small-pox
Epidemic.

The year was remarkable for the epidemic prevalence in turn of small-pox, measles, and scarlet fever.

Small-pox, which had been absent from the town for nearly seven years, was introduced into Windsor in the last week in March by boys from St. Augustine's Home at Clewer, the first cases being those of three children who had been in association with the boys at the National School. Between that date and the end of July, 38 cases within the Borough were reported. In ten of these it was pretty clear that the infection was derived directly from sources outside the Borough, and the fact is significant, as showing of how little use an isolation hospital would be, if its use were restricted to residents within the Urban district.

Isolation
Hospital.

As soon as it became evident that the disease had obtained a footing in the town, it was resolved to establish a hospital in the Ham fields, at Old Windsor, and within about three weeks the building was ready and occupied. The hospital is an iron building with two wards, giving ample accommodation for twelve

patients, with nurse's room and kitchen, and with out-buildings for use as mortuary and wash-house. It was erected by Messrs. Humphrey, and proved to be in every respect convenient and satisfactory. The cost of it, including the expense of fencing and preparing the site, and of furnishing it, was about £650.

A second outbreak of small-pox occurred in the middle of October, infection having been brought (as it seemed probable) from London by a convalescent patient who was supposed to have been suffering from chicken-pox. But this time only two households were attacked, and the "Sanatorium," which had been in use from the 11th of May, with a short interval, was finally closed on December 23rd. From first to last 38 patients were received, of whom one, only, died. The working expenses, including medical attendance, ambulance expenses, and repairs, amounted to about £427. The following figures show the effect of vaccination in mitigating the disease :

	No. of Cases.	No. severe.	Duration of Case.
Unvaccinated (<i>i.e.</i> , no marks) -	7	6	50
Vaccinated after infection -	6	3	36
Vaccinated insufficiently* -	6	3	42
Well vaccinated† - - -	18	‡1	26
Had previous attack of small-pox	1	1	42

* Having one or two scars.

† Having three or more scars.

‡ This fatal case was in a young woman said to be well-vaccinated, but the marks were obscured by the eruption.

It is also to be noted that of the great number of persons who were re-vaccinated not one afterwards caught

the disease. And it is an instructive consideration that the foolish neglect of the means of protection freely offered has cost the Borough some £1,200 in money, besides indirect losses of probably considerable amount.

Measles.

The epidemic of measles, which attained its greatest intensity in the month of June, was the most fatal that has visited the town since 1885. Sanitary science has as yet suggested no means of combating this disease. No doubt the public elementary schools afford conditions greatly conducive to the rapid and general spread of the contagion; but I think that little good would be done by closing the schools after the disease has obtained such a degree of prevalence as would be held to justify such action.

Scarlet Fever.

Scarlet fever was present during the greater part of the year, and was epidemic from August to November. Altogether, 63 cases were reported, amongst which there were only two deaths. All available means were taken to isolate each case as it occurred, and with so much success that in the forty houses affected, in not more than five instances did a second case occur after the first had been notified, though in most cases there were other children who escaped infection. In what manner the disease was propagated is not evident. It was certainly not through the milk supply, nor was any particular school especially affected. Perhaps the chief agents in disseminating the infection were children who had the complaint in so mild a form that its presence was not recognised. However it was, it does not seem probable that the possession of a fever hospital would have helped us much to limit the epidemic. The cost incurred in paying compensation to those whom it was necessary to restrain from following their employment was under £40.

Diphtheria.

Diphtheria was notified in nine instances. In two of these cases the infection was imported from without

the district; in one there was found to be an escape of sewer gas on the premises; in two, nuisances were complained of from refuse or stable manure on neighbouring premises; and in the other five no cause could be found. It did not seem possible that any one of the seven cases the contagion could have been conveyed by personal intercourse, and in none was any other member of the household attacked.

Of enteric fever there were only two cases. In one of these the disease was most likely imported, but in the other instance gross sanitary defects were discovered at the house where it occurred.

Enteric Fever.

Diarrhœa was more than usually mortal, owing, no doubt, to the heat and drought of the summer.

Diarrhœa.

Influenza was prevalent during the early months and re-appeared in November and December. The disease has, however, lost much of its former virulence.

Influenza.

The sanitary work done during the year will be found recorded in detail in the accompanying report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

Sanitary Work.

Three dwelling houses were reported on under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, as being unfit for habitation.

Houses Condemned.

Three samples of drinking water were submitted to me for analysis. One was found to be bad, and the well was closed.

Well-Water

New regulations have been made for the more strict enforcement of the Bye-law which provides that no new house may be occupied until the drains have been tested and certified to be good.

Active measures were taken to put an end to the existence of water-closets without proper flushing appa-

tus, and it may be hoped that by the end of the current year all nuisances of that class will have been abolished.

No legal proceedings in respect of *unsound food*, or of *over-crowding*, or any other *nuisance* were found necessary.

New Houses. Twenty-one new dwelling-houses were erected within the Borough during the year. The supply of houses has increased of late years faster than the population, but decent cottages, or tenements, suitable for the class of labourers are still very much wanted.

The Isolation Hospital, or "Sanatorium," above spoken of, remains as a permanent institution, but it is not intended to use it for the treatment of other diseases than that for which it was established.

The usual tables are appended.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD CASEY, M.D.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

PARK STREET, WINDSOR,
March 8th, 1894.

TABLE I.

Showing the Number and Rates of Births and of Deaths from all causes and from several causes, in the year 1893, and during the ten preceding years.

	Year 1893.	Mean 1884-93
Population (estimated)	12585	
Births, Number (M. 154; F. 152)	306	307.5
„ Rate per 1000 persons living	24.3	24.8
Deaths from all causes, Number	194	195.2
„ „ Rate per 1000 persons	15.4	15.8
Deaths of Infants under one year, Number	40	33.8
„ „ „ Rate per 1000 births	131	110
Deaths from Principal Zymotic Diseases, Number	26	15.1
„ „ „ Rate per 1000 persons	2.1	1.2
Deaths from Phthisis, Number	19	21.3
„ „ Rate per 1000 persons	1.5	1.7
Deaths from other Pulmonary Diseases, Number	31	39.2
„ „ „ Rate per 1000 persons	2.5	3.2
Deaths from Diseases of Heart, Number	9	15.6
„ „ „ Rate per 1000 persons	0.7	1.3
Mean Age at Death.	34Y. 5M.	30Y. 5M.

TABLE II.

Showing the Number of Deaths and the Rates of Mortality at several Life-periods.

AGES.	Number of Deaths.		Death Rate per 1000 living.
	1883-1892. Mean.	Year 1893.	
0-5 Years.....	55.4	66	55.
5-25 Years	19.4	23	4.4
25-65 Years.....	64.3	58	10.1
65 Years and upwards	55.5	47	74.7

TABLE III.

Showing Number of Cases of Sickness and of Deaths from the principal Zymotic Diseases in the year 1893 and the preceding ten years.

	1893.		1883—93.
	Cases.	Deaths.	Deaths.
Small Pox	46	2	1
Diphtheria	9	3	14
Croup (Membranous) ..	0	1	13
Measles .....	...	10	25
Whooping Cough .....	...	0	38
Scarlet Fever.....	63	2	3
Enteric Fever	3	0	9
Diarrhœa .....	...	8	56
Erysipelas	18	0	9
Puerperal Fever	2	1	6

TABLE IV.

Showing the Number of Deaths during each months of the year 1893, and of the preceding ten years.

	1893.	Mean 1883—92.
January	11	23.5
February	19	16.1
March	15	20.9
April.....	16	17
May	13	15.6
June	26	15.8
July	18	15.4
August	17	15.3
September	16	11.9
October.....	14	12.7
November.....	20	14.4
December	16	18.4

A general inspection has been made each month of the courts and poor localities.

The dairies and milkshops have been inspected, and found clean.

The bakehouses have been inspected, and found clean and well kept. The annual limewhiting has been done.

The common lodging houses have been frequently visited. They were found clean and not over-crowded.

The slaughter-houses have been frequently inspected. They were found clean and well kept.

The market and shops have been kept under supervision, No bad meat, fish, fruit or any article of food unfit for human consumption has been found exposed for sale.

The past year has shown a very satisfactory advance in sanitation within your district, both as to improvements in existing house drains and water closets. Upwards of a hundred water closets have been supplied with an apparatus and water for flushing and cleaning purposes, while upwards of two hundred others are in hand or under notice to provide a supply of water and flushing apparatus to the w.c.'s.

All cases of infectious diseases notified to me within your district have had immediate attention, smallpox cases taken to your hospital, and fever patients isolated as far as possible in their own homes. Every possible precaution was taken to prevent the spread of the disease by a liberal use of disinfectant, burning infected bedding and clothing,* and cleansing and limewhiting.

Letters written calling attention to nuisances	...	120
Informations as to nuisances	... ..	4
Reports as to insufficient water closets	... ..	61

In no case has it been found necessary to take legal proceedings.

Your obedient servant,

S. W. MELLOWS, C.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.

