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Contributors

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To the Urban District Council of the City of Winchester.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1896.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with the Regulations of the Local Government Board I submit the following as my Report for the Year 1896.

The rate of mortality somewhat exceeds that of the previous year consequent on a number of fatal cases of Measles and Whooping Cough, and amounts to 15·5 per 1000, and including the deaths of those inhabitants of the District who have resorted for treatment to the Hospitals just outside, is 16·6

There is also appended a record of the work done in Mr. Piper's department, and a statement is added of the proceedings and expenditure at the Victoria Hospital.

The Population of the District which was estimated in 1895 at 18,216 is considered to have increased to 18,419 caused by the erection of new houses in the Parish of Weeke situated in the area of Group I and by an increase in the average strength at the Barracks during the year.

Tables A and B are appended and are similar to those of previous years.

The deaths in 1896 amounted to 288. Of these deaths 6 were at the Barracks and 29 at the Union Workhouse; 16 of the latter belong to the Urban and 13 to other Districts. During the year, 18 occurred at the County Hospital and 2 at the Victoria Hospital of persons belonging to this District which are not included in the Tables; both these Institutions being situated within the Area of the Rural Sanitary District.

Taking the grouping of Table A the deaths in the District occurred at the following ages:—

Deaths under 1 year of age	...	...	55	} 111
" over " " and under 5 years	...	...	56	
" " 5 " " 15 "	...	...	10	} 177
" " 15 " " 25 "	...	...	6	
" " 25 " " 65 "	...	...	77	
" " 65 "	...	...	84	

Measles, Whooping Cough, and Diseases of the Respiratory Organs occasioned the increased mortality among young children. Of the 84 deaths of persons over 65 years of age, 21 a quarter of that number occurred at ages over 80.

The Registered Births were 449, being 5 in excess of the previous year.

The following Table shows how the Population, Births, and Deaths, and Deaths from Zymotic Diseases were distributed in 1896.

LOCALITY	GROUP I*	GROUP II†	GROUP III‡	BARRACKS	WORKHOUSE	THE WHOLE DISTRICT	
						A.	R.
Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	1043	2
Population—Census, 1891	5850	6388	5619	1216	Included in Group I	19073	
" Estimated for 1896	5870	6493	5659	397	"	18419	
Persons to Acre	...	...	...	...	...	17·64	
Total Deaths	72	94	87	6	29	288	
Deaths from 7 principal } Zymotic Diseases }	12	16	17	1	..	46	
Total Births	134	163	133	19	Included in Group I.	449	

* GROUP I.—The Parishes of St. Thomas, Weeke, and part of Chilcombe.

† GROUP II.—The Parishes of St. Bartholomew Hyde, St. Peter Cheesehill, Milland, St. Faith, St. John, and Winnall.

‡ GROUP III.—The Parishes of St. Maurice, St. Mary Kalendre, St. Lawrence, St. Swithun, St. Michael, and St. Peter Colebrook.

The following Table shows the comparative mortality of the whole District, and as divided into three almost equal Groups of Parishes and also of the component Parishes of Group II, together with the Birth Rate in these Localities.

LOCALITY	GROUP I*	GROUP II	GROUP III	THE WHOLE DISTRICT	COMPONENT PARISHES OF GROUP II			
					St. Bartholomew Hyde.	St. Peter Cheeschill & Milland	St. Faith	St. John and Winnall
Deaths per 1000 ...	12	14	15	15.5	14	16	9	18
" " including Deaths in County and Victoria Hospitals of persons belonging to the District	...	...	...	16.6	...	...	...	...
Percentage of Deaths of Children under 5 years }	41	40	47	38.5	29	52	15	58
Births per 1000 ..	22	25	23	24	18	30	15	40
Percentage of Deaths of Children under 1 year to Births }	12.6	11.6	13	12.2	3.2	26	3.1	12
Deaths per 1000 from Zymotic Diseases }	...	...	...	2.4	...	...	...	...

* The numbers in this Column are affected by the Population, and the Births at the Workhouse situated within the area of Group I being included. The Deaths in the Workhouse are omitted from this Table.

The unsatisfactory high rate of mortality of children under 5 years is brought into undue prominence by the lessened number of deaths of aged persons.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES seriously affected the District during 1896.

SMALL POX.—During the first six months of the year 6 cases of this disease were notified. One, a Casual Case, was treated in the Workhouse, the others were removed to the Victoria Hospital. Four were in common lodging houses. One was brought to a private house late at night in a hired carriage from another District. Of these one was an infant who died, the only unvaccinated member of a family of five persons; but with the terrible lesson taught by Gloucester not yet forgotten, it ought to be superfluous to direct attention to a solitary instance of the protecting power of Vaccination, the only real safeguard against this much dreaded disease. A few more re-vaccinations than usual were resorted to and the disease did not spread.

SCARLATINA.—There was a considerable epidemic of Scarlatina in 1896. One hundred and seventy-two cases were notified, two were at the Barracks and the rest pretty evenly distributed through all parts of the District.

The number of cases in each month was:—

Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1	8	9	1	...	6	16	28	21	43	25	14

Twenty-five of these cases were at the College or at College Houses, seventeen occurring in the first half, and eight in the fourth quarter of the year; they were isolated in their own Sanatorium. The Epidemic did not assume serious proportions till July. Apart from the 27 patients at Barracks and College, of the remaining one hundred and forty-five, 71 were males and 76 females; fifteen were young adults, the rest mostly young children, one only three weeks old; the latter and a child of sixteen months were the only fatal cases, one died at Victoria Hospital, the other at its own home. The type of disease was very mild.

The cases were distributed in 112 houses as follows:

No of Houses	91	13	5	2	1
No. of Cases	1	2	3	4	5

The inhabitants of the District showed great readiness to submit to efficient isolation, and gave every assistance in preventing the spread of infection by willingly adopting as far as possible the suggestions offered them. One hundred and fifteen went to Victoria Hospital; of the remaining 30, eleven were effectually isolated in their own homes, no second case occurring in either; at one house where isolation was attempted and failed the whole family of five children contracted the disease; for various reasons seven had to be left at their own houses, and in seven more it was doubtful if the disease really existed. All the cases were promptly visited and advice and assistance given according to their individual needs. Much fumigation and disinfection were resorted to; suggestions were offered as how best to continue employment without spreading infection, and as to length of absence from school. In November a circular was sent to School Managers pointing out the benefits which were elsewhere attributed to more thorough cleansing and disinfection of school premises as a means of preventing the spread of disease among scholars. This was favourably received and for the most part acted on, and probably has had some effect in controlling the progress of the Epidemic. At the end of the year it was evident that the outbreak was abating and that the efforts which had been made to arrest it were likely soon to succeed.

DIPHTHERIA.—Twenty cases of Diphtheria were notified in the year and three of Membranous Croup; the latter must be regarded as Diphtheria obstructing the air passages. A more serious outbreak was probably checked by the timely isolation in Hospital of six cases in January. The other cases occurred from time to time all through the year in localities mostly distant from each other and no connection was ascertained to exist between them; there were four deaths attributed to these causes. At the homes of several of these patients inspections led to the discovery of insanitary conditions which have since been remedied.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Only one case notified, that of a nurse who had recently been attending on patients suffering from this disease in an isolation hospital in a distant county. She was treated at the Victoria Hospital and recovered.

MEASLES.—There was a very severe Epidemic of this disease commencing about June and becoming very general towards the end of the year, resulting in twenty-eight deaths at the subjoined ages:

Ages	UNDER 1 YEAR	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8
Deaths from Measles	5	11	5	3	1	2	0	1

Two-thirds of the fatal cases being under three years it is desirable that it be better understood how fatal is this complaint in the early years of life. Parents should avoid as far as possible the exposure of young children to its infection. This very fatal disease is too little feared and guarded against. Some efforts were made to prevent infected children and those from houses where the disease existed, attending school, but very little control could be gained over the Epidemic.

WHOOPING COUGH.—This disease was prevalent in the early months of the year, and caused nine deaths of children under five years of age.

DIARRHOEA.—It is fortunate that there was less Diarrhoea than usual during the year. Of the five deaths recorded three were young children.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—No case was notified.

ERYSIPELAS.—Thirty cases notified, some of a very trivial nature. One infant of a month old died but the disease was not notified.

Numerous inspections have been made in various parts of the District. In January there was a systematic inspection of St. John's Road containing 43 recently built houses, complaints having been received of the insanitary condition of some of them. It was found by alterations made since their erection that most of the sinkgullies and w.c.'s had become enclosed, polluting the houses from want of sufficient ventilation. Moreover, besides various defective joints, it was ascertained that the sewer had so sunk at its upper end that the fall was insufficient to carry off its contents. The orders made by your Authority to remedy these defects have produced a great improvement in the condition of this locality.

One case of overcrowding was reported where twelve persons slept in two small rooms in an ill ventilated place; an order was made to discontinue it.

Many other Nuisances injurious to health were discovered during inspections called for by complaints, notifications of diseases, &c., and dealt with as their circumstances required.

The Steam Disinfector was used 47 times during the year.

Certificates were given that nine houses were no longer fit for human habitation; at two of them repairs have been executed which render them habitable for a time, the remaining seven are being pulled down.

In concluding this Report I must again thank you for the cordial support and assistance which you have always offered me in the performance of my duties.

THOS. C. LANGDON, F.R.C.S.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

February 27th, 1897.

[A] TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1896 in the Urban Sanitary District of Winc

[illegible]

[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 1896, in the Urban Sanitary District of Winchester, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purposes of these Statistics; Public Institutions 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 Hospitals																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																												
	Census 1891	Estimated middle of 1896	(b)			(c)	(d)	(e)	FEVERS						Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Group	Typhus						Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Intermittent	Cholera	Krysipelas																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																														
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Notification of Infectious Diseases became compulsory on February 1st, 1890.

No Diseases other than those included in the "Infectious Diseases Notification Act" are notifiable in the District.

The Isolation Hospital belongs to the Sanitary Authority, and is situated on high ground surrounded by breezy Downs in the Rural Sanitary District of Winchester over a mile from the City. Cases of Infectious Sickness at Winchester College, Barracks, and Workhouse are treated in their own Hospitals.

VICTORIA HOSPITAL.

REPORT of the MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT for the Year 1896.

The Hospital has done a great deal of useful work for the District during the past year, and was empty for ten days only, in February. There were three Patients remaining on January 1st, and 132 fresh cases were admitted during the year, 19 remaining on December 31st.

Only 19 Patients were admitted during the first half of the year, but the isolation afforded, probably prevented the spread of Small-Pox, Diphtheria, and Scarlatina throughout that period.

In the second half of the year the Hospital was wholly occupied by Scarlatina Patients, and its limited accommodation taxed to its utmost, especially during the height of the Epidemic in October and November. The overcrowding which had to be resorted to would not have been possible in a less elevated and breezy situation.

The Permanent Staff of three persons had to be increased to twelve, and the want of any rooms for Nurses was much felt, especially when the weather became too cold to allow of beds being placed in the Verandah.

The work was rendered extra arduous by so many of the patients being very young children, one an infant of nine months. Despite all difficulties and discomforts everyone worked on cheerfully and industriously, the patients being attended to in a most satisfactory manner.

The new Matron shewed herself quite equal to the emergency but could not have borne such a strain much longer. Some idea of the severity of the work will be gained when it is mentioned that in addition to the Matron's many duties in providing for these large numbers and supervising every one she superintended and personally assisted in the cooking of all the food, while interrupted in the last three months of the year alone by 604 interviews at the front door.

Two deaths of infants occurred, one from Small-Pox, the other from Scarlatina.

The following Table shows the number of Persons with their Diseases who have been admitted since the Hospital has been opened, together with the number of days in each year on which it has been in use.

	Small-Pox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas	No. of days in which the Hospital was in use
1887	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
1888	...	1	5	1	2	...	...	144
1889	...	6	5	3	1	1	...	240
1890	1	2	3	1	2	...	...	158
1891	...	6	8	...	...	...	...	165
1892	...	10	3	...	1	...	...	297
1893	17	118	2	3	2	...	...	327
1894	...	45	...	...	...	...	1	320
1895	...	26	9	...	...	...	...	363
1896	6	117	8	1	...	...	...	355

For urgent reasons two Patients suffering from Scarlatina, not belonging to the District, were admitted during the year.

During the dry Summer the existing water supply became insufficient, and by Lord Northbrook's kind permission a supply was obtained from his Water Works on the Hill.

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for 1896.

RECEIPTS.			PAYMENTS.		
	£	s d		£	s d
Paid by Patients ...	27	14 7	STRUCTURAL EXPENSES.		
Sale of Grass ...	7	6	Additional Bedding & Furniture	9	9 3
			Linen, &c. ...	7	4 9
				16	14 0
			ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES.		
			Salaries to Medical Superin-		
			tendent and for Medical		
			Attendance ; to Matron,		
			Nurses, Laundresses, and		
			other Servants ...	543	12 1
			Repairs, Carpenters Upholster-		
			ers and Ironmongers Work,		
			and Household Articles ...	29	4 7
			Painting and Colouring Walls	27	16 6
			Cleaning Tank ...	3	1 3
			Cleaning Filters ...	2	3 0
			Sweeping Chimneys	1	0 0
			Hauling Water ...	2	12 6
			Conveyance of Nurses	3	12 6
			Servants' Registry Office	15	6
			Stationery and Stamps	1	0 4
			Rates, Taxes and Insurance ...	4	1 6
				618	19 9
			PATIENTS' EXPENSES.		
			Horse Hire for Ambulance ...	4	15 6
			Grocer ...	80	7 5
			Butcher ...	76	0 5
			Baker ...	22	5 0
			Milk ...	33	4 11
			Alc ...	7	17 6
			Wine and Spirits	1	12 0
			Coals and Firewood	40	5 5
			Petroleum ...	2	10 4
			Drugs and other Sundries	5	6 4
			Plants and Seeds	19	6
			Hauling Manure...	18	0
			Ward Charts ...	8	0
			Ice ...	4	2
			Funeral Expenses	1	18 0
			Sundries ...	7	0
Balance out of Rates ...	886	11 2		278	19 6
	£914	13 3		£914	13 3

The above figures show that the cost per patient was £6 16s., and was at the rate of £1 6s 5d a week.

The kindness of friends in sending gifts to the Hospital is gratefully acknowledged :

Winchester College Sanatorium, Books and Clothing ; Mrs. Coke Burnell, Clothing and Toys ; Mrs. Margerison, Clothing ; Mrs. Cheeseman, (2 donations) Papers and Toys ; Miss Drake, Books ; Miss Pamplin, Books and Papers ; Miss Moody, Papers ; Mrs. Hunt, Headbourne Worthy House, Books and Papers ; Mrs. Langdon, Toys ; Mr. C. Tanner, Papers ; Mr. Edwards, Muffins (three times) ; Mr. Batchelor, Case of Oranges, Sweets, and Chocolates ; Mr. Reg. Harris, Christmas Tree and Presents for Nurses and Staff ; Mr. Langdon, 7 loads of Manure. Some other friends kindly contributed as usual towards the provision of suitable Christmas fare.

THOS. C. LANGDON, F.R.C.S.,

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

February 27th, 1897

To the Winchester Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the following Report for the Year ending December 31st, 1896.

Removal of Nuisances.

Notices served to remedy defective w.c. Fittings, Drains & other Sanitary arrangements	...	...	...	106
To remove accumulations of House Refuse	...	...	...	24
To remove accumulations of Manure	...	...	...	20
To cleanse and disinfect Fowl Pens	...	...	...	6
To cleanse Pig Styes and remove Pigs when found within the prescribed distance	...	...	...	11
To abate Smoke Nuisance	...	...	...	1
To abate Nuisances arising from Fish Shops and Fish Barrows	...	...	...	11
Overcrowding	...	...	...	1

A large number of Notices have been served during the year, upon various Occupiers of Premises to discontinue sending dirty water into the public gutters and open streams.

Inspections of various parts of the City have been made, and many notices of a verbal character given to remedy minor defects.

Common Lodging Houses.

The five Registered Common Lodging Houses have been periodically inspected, and notices served to cleanse and limewash where found necessary. The number of Lodgers accommodated during the year was as follows:

No. 1	5627
" 2	6829
" 3	4219
" 4	2684
" 5	5796
Total	<u>25155</u>

Dairies, Cow Sheds and Milk Shops.

Frequent inspections of the registered Cow Sheds, Dairies, and Milkshops have been made, and notices served where necessary to cleanse, limewash and remove manure, &c.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 11 registered Slaughter Houses within the City: these have been many times inspected, and notices served to cleanse and limewash, &c.

Observations during the year have been kept upon the Butchers, Fish Shops, Fish Stalls, and Greengrocers' Shops.

Factory and Workshops Act.

Several inspections have been made and notices served to cleanse and limewash where found necessary.

The Regulations for testing House Drains, &c., under water pressure are still being carried out with good results. During the year drains for 62 new premises have been tested, and remedied where leaky or unsound joints were discovered.

During the summer months special attention was given to the Flushing and Disinfection of the Public Sewers, and Open Passages.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBT. J. PIPER,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

February 16th, 1897.