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Urban District of Erith.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1914,

BY

L. J. J. BARNES, M.D.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

ERITH.

May, 1915.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1914 in accordance with the Regulations of the Local Government Board.

Owing to the absence of your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. A. E. Jerman, on military duty in connection with the war, I have been asked to act as his deputy in the sanitary part of his work, and though I have given much time from my own private duties, it may be excused that this report is not so full as that of your regular Medical Officer of Health.

The School Work. Examinations of children, as well as attendance of patients at the Sanatorium, has been apportioned to other medical men in the district.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. J. J. BARNES.

Annual Report for 1914.

A.—Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

(1) Physical Features and General Character of the District.

The Urban District of Erith is situated on the south bank of the River Thames, immediately outside the County of London, which forms the western boundary; on the eastern side is the parish of Crayford, and south of it is the Urban District of Bexley. The District is one of the towns included in the "Outer Ring," which makes up "Greater London."

The northern portion of the District, which lies between the River Thames and the South Eastern and Chatham Railway line, is 1,689 acres in extent, and consists of marsh land, the level of which varies generally between 3 and 7 feet above ordnance datum, and is below that of high water in the river. The remainder of the District rises gradually towards the south to a height of approximately 200 feet above sea level.

(2) Population.

At the Census of 1911 the population was found to be 27,750, made up of 14,143 males and 13,607 females. The number of inhabited buildings was 5,129, and the number of separate occupiers, 5,897. The average number of persons per inhabited building was 5.41, as compared with 4.85 for all Urban Districts (excluding London, and the County Boroughs) and 5.05 for the whole of England and Wales. The average number of persons per family was 4.71 for all dwellings, and 4.65 for ordinary dwelling-houses, as compared with 4.55 and 4.43 for all Urban Districts, and 4.51 and 4.38 for the whole of England and Wales. The number of vessels lying in the River Thames in the District at the date of the Census was 30, with 153 inhabitants, and the number of persons enumerated in tents, vans, sheds, etc., was 100, viz.: 51 males and 49 females, occupying 23 such erections.

The following table is taken from Vol VI. of the Census Returns for 1911, and shows the number of buildings in the District, kind of buildings, and the number of inhabitants:—

		1901.		1911.										Buildings not used as Dwellings.					
				Buildings used as Dwellings.								Vessels, Sheds, &c.		Separate Flats included in Col. 5.		Kind of Building.		No.	
				Total. (cols. 4-11)	Ordinary Dwelling Houses.	Blocks of Flats.	Shops.	Hotels Inns & Public Houses	Offices, work'ps, fact'r's &c.	Institu- tions.	Others.								
Col. 1.		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14					
Number inhabited ...		4,291	5,129	4,654	46	357	38	8	10	16	—	102	Places of Worship ...	18					
Separate Occupiers ...		5,135	5,897	5,275	115	382	38	8	10	16	53	115	Govt. & Municipal Buildings ...	3					
Population ...		25,296	27,753	24,538	582	1671	210	35	417	44	253	582	Shops ... Offices ...	29					
Uninhabited ...		96	507	447	—	60	—	—	—	—	—	30	Warehouses, Work- shops & Factories...	6					
Being built ...		158	15	14	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	Theatres, and other places of amuse- ment ...	2					

In Vol. VII of the Census Returns are tables showing the number of persons enumerated at the Census for each year of age up to 20, and in quinquennial groups, and the numbers of persons married, single and widowed, and these have been inserted here for the information of those interested.

Table showing number of persons enumerated at each year of age up to 20, and in quinquennial groups, at Census of 1911:—

	Males.	Females		Males.	Females
Under 1 year.	305	341	Under 5 years.	1,701	1,659
1 year	309	309	5 and under 10	1,797	1,870
2 years	341	320	10 „ 15	1,658	1,564
3 „	361	343	15 „ 20	1,248	1,098
4 „	385	346	20 „ 25	976	919
5 „	364	357	25 „ 30	996	1,018
6 „	345	393	30 „ 35	1,083	1,032
7 „	367	368	35 „ 40	1,151	1,070
8 „	356	383	40 „ 45	927	886
9 „	365	369	45 „ 50	796	756
10 „	363	318	50 „ 55	562	508
11 „	357	339	55 „ 60	403	373
12 „	333	320	60 „ 65	291	296
13 „	312	296	65 „ 70	211	232
14 „	293	291	70 „ 75	170	159
15 „	267	247	75 „ 80	120	91
16 „	280	230	80 „ 85	39	48
17 „	224	226	85 „ 90	11	24
18 „	248	205	90 „ 95	3	4
19 „	229	190	95 and over	—	—
20 „	223	198	Total all ages	14,143	13,607

Table showing condition as to marriage of the population of the District at the Census in 1911:—

	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Females 15-45 yrs,
Unmarried ...	15,997	8,399	7,598	2,319
Married ...	10,653	5,312	5,341	3,610
Widowed ...	1,100	432	668	94

In 1914 I estimated the population at the middle of the year to be 30,562 persons, this figure being obtained by the Registrar General's method of calculation. At the time of the Census, there were 5,129 inhabited dwellings, and 507 uninhabited. Since that date 46 new houses have been certified as fit for human habitation up

to the end of 1914, and the majority of houses empty then have been occupied. If each of these had an average of 5.4 persons inhabiting it the population at the middle of the year would have been approximately 30,100, and believing this estimate to be much nearer the truth than the one mentioned above, I have taken it as the basis for the statistics for the year, whilst for 1914 I have calculated it to be 30,562.

The majority of the population in the district are employed at one or other of the Factories established here; these comprise factories in which are carried on: cable making, gun making, oil refining, manufacture of mining and other machinery, and manufacture of asbestos and cement slates and slabs. A small number are engaged in agricultural and horticultural pursuits.

B.—Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

(1) Water Supply.

This is obtained from the Metropolitan Water Board. The water is very hard, but otherwise of good quality, and the supply is ample for the requirements of the district.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

The main portion of the sewage of the District is carried by a sewer which was completed and opened in 1898.

This sewer consists of two portions; one taking the sewage from the low-lying part of the District, and running from the western boundary near Abbey Wood Railway Station to Erith. This portion is worked by the Shone Pneumatic System, the ejectors being situated about every half mile throughout its length, and being worked by compressed air from the Outfall Works at Anchor Bay.

The remaining portion of the sewer brings the sewage from the upper part of Belvedere and from Northumberland Heath; no ejectors are required on this section, as the fall is sufficient to maintain a good flow and keep the sewer clean.

The Sewage Outfall Works are situated at Anchor Bay, at the eastern end of the District, and here the sewage is treated by means of septic tanks, aeration beds and percolating filters, the effluent being discharged into the River Thames.

There are 4 contact beds and 5 percolating filters with revolving distributors, and during the year an additional one has been commenced, and is now approaching completion.

The plant at the Works consists of:—

- 1 50 h.p. gas engine, working air compressors.
- 2 45 h.p. electrically driven air compressors.
- 2 6in. and 1 4in. electrically driven centrifugal pumps for lifting the effluent from the septic tank to the filters.
- 1 4in. electrically driven portable pump for lifting sludge to lagoons constructed on new land.
- and "Pressure" gas producing plant in duplicate for working the gas engine.

The Port of London Authority periodically take samples of the effluent from these Works for the purpose of Analysis; but for many years past there has been no complaint made as to the quality of the effluent discharged into the River Thames.

There are still a few houses in Erith connected to an old brick sewer, which discharges direct into the River Thames. As opportunity arises, these houses are gradually being disconnected from this old sewer, and after reconstruction of the drainage, connected to the new sewer; 15 houses were so connected during 1914.

There are a number of houses situated on the Marshes where no sewer is available for their drainage, and these are, in the majority of cases, drained into cesspools. At the upper portion of Abbey Wood there are also a number of houses drained into cesspools owing to there being no sewer available. All these cesspools are emptied by the Council when necessary, on notice of the same being given by the tenant of the house.

During the winter and wet weather the cesspools on the Marshes are a constant source of trouble and nuisance. Not only does the condition of the Marshes render it extremely difficult, and sometimes almost impossible for the cesspool emptying vans to reach those spots where the cesspool matter may be deposited, but in many cases the cesspools are not water-tight, and when the marsh ground is waterlogged, the cesspools, after being emptied, rapidly fill again with marsh water through the cracks in the sides and bottoms of the cesspools.

During the year 20 houses were re-drained and connected to the new sewer, which before then had been drained into cesspools.

(3) Closet Accommodation.

The large majority of houses in the District are provided with water-closets of the wash-down type, the sewage passing either to the sewer or cesspools.

Eight houses in the District are provided with earth closets, six of these being on the Marshes, the other two being so situated that it was impossible to construct water-closets and connect them to the main sewer owing to the difference in level.

Some of the larger factories situated on the Marshes have a system of earth closets, and most of the smaller ones are similarly provided.

(4) Scavenging.

House refuse is collected by the Council throughout the District twice a week.

The Council's by-laws require that occupiers should place the refuse in proper sanitary dustbins, with covers, either on the kerb or in the forecourts of the houses, or in cases where there is at the backs of the houses a passage-way sufficiently wide to admit a cart, the receptacle may be placed near the door in the garden leading into the passage. The refuse is deposited on various shoots at Anchor Bay and on the Marshes, there being no dust destructor. A man is employed on these shoots to collect and burn all refuse which can be consumed in this manner, such as paper, etc.

During the year the number of loads of refuse removed was 6,660, as compared with 6,350 in 1913. A statement showing the number of houses found to be without proper sanitary dustbins will be found under the heading "Housing," and in the table attached.

(5) Sanitary Inspections of the District.

The following tables have been prepared by the Inspector of Nuisances, and summarise the matters dealt with during the year:—

Inspections made during the year.

Houses visited for the detection of nuisances	641
Houses inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Act.	1028
Slaughterhouses	86
Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops	57
Workshops	61
Outworkers' premises	6
Bakehouses	28
Offensive trades	56
Vans, tents and sheds used for human habitation...	75
Complaints enquired into	141

Result of above Inspections.

Nuisances detected	434
Preliminary notices served to abate nuisances	219
Statutory notices served to abate nuisances	54
Nuisances abated	324
Notices issued in respect of vans, tents and sheds ..	8
Notices complied with	8
Notices issued under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order	3
Notices complied with	3
Notices issued under the Factory and Workshops Act	2
Notices complied with	2
Notices issued to provide proper receptacles for house refuse	238
Notices complied with	197
Notices issued to properly pave and drain yards...	104
Notices complied with	78
Number of prosecutions	nil

Nuisances.

Showing the number and nature of the nuisances dealt with during the year by notices served under the Public Health Acts:—

Defective and choked drains	127
To repair damp and dilapidated dwellings	76
To pave yards	22
To provide and repair w.c. flushing cisterns	23
To provide water to w.c. cisterns	23
To repair rainwater guttering and downpipes	28

To remedy insanitary water cisterns for domestic use	27
To repair scullery sink wastes	53
To provide manure receptacles and drainage for stables	4
To cleanse and remedy insanitary urinals	4
To remove foul accumulations	18
To prevent overcrowding	4
Animals, fowls, etc., so kept as to be a nuisance ...	15
To cleanse dwelling houses	10
	<hr/>
	434
	<hr/>

Complaints.

141 complaints were received during the year, as compared with 162 in the previous year. Each complaint was investigated, and the list shows the nature of the nuisances found:—

Defective and choked drains	50
Cesspools overflowing	4
Insanitary urinals	3
Dirty houses	13
Damp and dilapidated premises	22
Re water supply	3
Overcrowding of premises	13
Back yards in bad state of repair	4
House refuse not collected	8
Accumulation of filth, fish offal, etc.	10
Animals improperly kept	4
Absence of stable drainage	2
Re caravan dwellers	4
	<hr/>
	141
	<hr/>

Infectious Disease.

Number of cases enquired into	499
Number of cases removed to Sanatorium	304
Number of cases removed to Bow Arrow Hospital	19
Number of houses disinfected	282

Food Inspection.

The following were surrendered to me as unfit for human consumption:—1 case of haddocks, 2 boxes of codfish, 1 box mixed fish, 2 cat fish, 1 barrel of haddocks, 3 boxes of whiting, 2 cod fish, and 1 bag of winkles. Meat: 8 lbs. of pickled pork.

No Tuberculous meat was detected during the year.

Cleansing.

Number of cesspools emptied	399
Number of loads of sewage removed	2369
Number of loads of house refuse removed	6660

Prosecutions.

There were no prosecutions during the year.

Overcrowding.

Four complaints were received during the year that houses were overcrowded. These were all investigated, and in the four instances overcrowding was found. Notices were served in each of these cases, and were complied with.

- (6) Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

There are a number of vans and sheds situated on the Marshes at Abbey Wood which are permanently occupied by persons carrying on the trade of hawkers. In former years the numbers of these have been augmented at various periods of the year by others, who are occupied in fruit and hop-picking during the summer and autumn. Complaints have been received from time to time as to the insanitary conditions under which these people exist, and steps have been taken to have them corrected.

During the past year these vans have been very frequently visited. The effect of the rigorous inspection carried out, and of the prosecutions in previous years, has caused a material improvement in the mode of life and the surroundings of those people permanently located at this place.

Factories, Offensive Trades.

In 1911, Section 51 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, was adopted in the District, and in July, 1912, the Council made an Order declaring each of the following trades and businesses to be an Offensive Trade, viz.:—Blood-drier, Tanner, Leather Dresser, Fat Melter or Fat Extractor, Glue Maker, Size Maker, Gut Scraper, Fish Frier, Manufacture of Manure from Fish, Fish Offal, Blood or other putrescible Animal Matter, and the Manufacture of Animal Charcoal.

The Bye-laws regulating the carrying on of these trades were revised, and afterwards received the consent of the Local Government Board, and these are now in force in the District.

The trades of this description at present carried on in the District are those of Fish Frier, Fat Melter, Fat Extractor, and the Manufacture of Manure from Fish and Fish Offal.

The various premises at which these trades are carried on have been periodically inspected during the year, and have been found satisfactory on each occasion, so that no notices of any kind whatever have been necessary.

(7) **Schools.**

See annual Report of School Medical Officer.

(8) **Food.** (a) *Milk Supply.*

There are 11 cowsheds in the occupation of 5 cow-keepers, and 24 dairymen and purveyors of milk registered in the District. There are about 70 cows, and these have been regularly inspected by the Veterinary Surgeon appointed by the Council. This gentleman furnishes a report quarterly to the Council, and during 1914 no case of tuberculosis was found among the cows.

During the year the cowsheds, dairies and milkshops have been regularly inspected, and have on the whole been found in satisfactory condition. Three notices were served under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order; one to limewash buildings, and repair the floor and open-channel; one to provide proper lighting and ventilation; and one to limewash buildings and provide drainage.

Samples of the milk sold in the District are taken by the Inspector of the Kent County Council, and out of 57 samples taken during the year, 9 were found to be slightly deficient in some way.

(b) *Slaughter Houses.*

There are 3 Slaughter Houses on the Register, these have been regularly inspected, and found in a clean and satisfactory condition. These inspections have been made both at times when slaughtering is in progress and at other times, but no tuberculous meat was found during the year. The animals slaughtered in the District have been in good condition, and have produced meat of good quality.

(c) *Bakehouses.*

There are 14 Bakehouses in the District, none of them being under ground. One has not been in use during the year. They have been kept under regular inspection, and with two exceptions have been found clean and satisfactory; in these cases notice was served to lime-wash walls and ceilings, and was complied with.

(d) *Other Foods and Meat.*

The following fish and meat were surrendered to the Inspector of Nuisances during the year as unfit for human consumption:—1 case of haddocks, 2 boxes of cod fish, 1 box mixed fish, 2 cat fish, 1 barrel of haddocks, 3 boxes of whiting, 2 cod fish, 1 bag of shell fish (winkles); 8 lbs. of pickled pork. No Tuberculous Meat was detected.

(e) *Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts.*

The Local Authority for the administration of these Acts is the Kent County Council.

I have obtained from the Clerk to the County Council a return showing the number of samples taken by their Inspector in this District during 1914, with the result of the examination of the samples, and any subsequent action taken in connection therewith. The return shows that 99 samples were taken, as compared with 116 the previous year.

Articles.	Number of Samples taken.	Number genuine.	Number doubtful.	Number adulterated.	Extent and form of adulteration.	No. of Vendors cautioned.	Cases dismissed.	Remarks.
New Milk	51	42	9		9 milk samples returned genuine but inferior.	9		19 milks on Sunday, 1 inferior.
Butter...	20	19		1	1 butter sample 3.40 per cent. excessive water.		1	Vendor produced War- ranty. Case dismissed.
Lard ...	4	4						
Whiskey ...	3	3						
Separated Milk...	4	4						
Margarine ...	2	2						
Gin ...	1	1						
Cornflour ...	1	1						
Tincture of Cinchona	1	1						
Camphoraied Oil	1	1						
Fine Oatmeal ...	1	1						
Raspberry Jam ...	1	1						
Malt Vinegar ...	1	1						
Corned Beef ...	1	1						
Black Currant Jam	1	1						
Flour ...	1	1						
Cocoa ...	1	1						
Brandy ...	1	1						
Baking Powder...	1	1						
Rum ...	1	1						
Cream...	1	1						
Totals	99	89	9	1		9	1	

(9) Housing.

The majority of the houses in the District are cottages containing 4 or 6 rooms, some built in terraces, some in flats of two stories, while others are detached or semi-detached. A very great number of these have been built in recent years in accordance with the bye-laws of the Council, and these have ample airspace both at back and front. Some of the older houses, however, are somewhat cramped at the backs.

In 1900 the works in the District were very busy, and practically every house in the District was occupied, while building proceeded rapidly to supply the demand for houses by the workmen who came to the District. Towards 1906, however, slackness of work, and labour troubles caused the emigration of a large number of workmen, and at one time about 750 of these cottages were empty.

At the time of the Census in 1911, there were 447 uninhabited houses, the large majority of them being cottages. Since then, however, there has been a revival of trade in the District, and at the middle of 1914 there can have been only a few houses empty.

Towards the end of the year, after the war had been in progress some months, there was a large influx of workmen, both English and Belgian, to satisfy the requirements of the ammunition factories and gun works of Messrs. Vickers. So that considerable difficulty was experienced in finding housing accommodation for so many. And although several large empty private houses were taken and let out in flats and apartments, there was much congestion, and some overcrowding. Still, this did not fully supply the demand, and many had to find residences in outlying districts, at some distance away, causing much inconvenience, but as this influx was recognised as only temporary, it was not considered advisable for the Council to undertake the great expense of building cottages to supply the deficiency. However, at the present time Messrs. Vickers, Ltd., are erecting a large number just outside the boundary, and in close proximity to the Erith Electric Trams, which ought in great measure to satisfy the demand,

During the year 1,028 houses were inspected; 230 were found to have some defect in the water supply, 166 in closet accommodation, 301 in drainage, 64 in ventilation; 201 had some evidence of dampness, 130 were dirty, in 266 the yard paving was in bad condition, in 132 there was some defect in the disposal of house refuse, while in 501 there was some defect other than those specified.

As the result of these inspections, preliminary notices were served in 781 cases, pointing out the defects noted at the time of inspection, and requesting the owner to have them remedied. In the majority of cases the work necessary was carried out. If, on re-inspection, it was found that no steps were being taken to remedy defects, where it was possible, statutory notices were served.

Wherever notices were served, re-inspection was carried out, some houses having to be visited on 3, 4 or even more occasions. The total number of visits of re-inspection made was 826.

The result of the notices was that 237 houses had had the defects remedied by the end of the year, 99 were in course of repair, while in 445 nothing had been done.

At the end of 1913 there were 504 houses which were inspected during that year, where nothing had been done to remedy the defects found. During 1914 these houses were re-inspected, and in 253 the necessary work was carried out. In the remaining 251 the defects were of quite a minor character, and such as not to constitute a nuisance, or to be in any way detrimental to the health of the tenants.

Number of houses inspected	1,028
Number of houses which were considered to be in such a state, or so dangerous, or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
Number of houses represented	5
Number of Closing Orders made.....	nil
Number of houses in which defects were remedied without a Closing Order	242
Number of houses which, after the making of a Closing Order, were put into a state fit for human habitation	nil
Number of Orders for Demolition made.....	nil
Number of Orders determining Closing Orders ...	nil

As a rule the owners of property in the District have proved quite ready and willing to do such work as is necessary to keep their houses in good condition. In a good many cases the dilapidations are due to the tenants' themselves, and houses which have been put into good condition have become in a short time almost as bad as before through the carelessness and dirtiness of the tenant; soap and water are cheap enough, but in many cases the use of them seems to be regarded as superfluous.

Five houses were represented by me as unfit for human habitation.

Houses Represented.	Whether C.O. made or not.	Result.
Electric Road, 5 Houses. ...	C.O. not made.	Houses thoroughly renovated.

In addition to the above houses a number of houses which were dilapidated have been put into good repair by the owners on their attention being called to the defects by letter. These were not considered to be unfit for habitation, but their condition was such as to be seriously detrimental to the health of the tenants, or to be a nuisance.

A table showing the Inspections made under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations of the Local Government Board is appended, which also shows the defects found and number of notices served.

Water Supply.

In 230 houses, some defect in this was found. In the large majority of these cases the drinking water was obtained from a cistern which had no proper cover to prevent the access of dust to the water; in many cases also the cistern was found to be fixed in an unsuitable position, such as in an outhouse communicating with a water closet, in the floor of a bedroom, or so close to the ceiling of a scullery that it was impossible to obtain access to it for the purpose of cleaning it out. The Metropolitan Water Board require every house supplied by them to be provided with a storage cistern, but it is always advisable for a house to have in addition, a tap supplying water direct from the main, so that drinking water, or water used in the preparation of food need not

pass through the cisterns. These cisterns should always be so fixed as to be easily accessible for cleaning, they should be cleaned out regularly and covered with a close-fitting dust-proof cover. Cases were noticed where a few loose boards were placed on the top of the cistern, and where there was a thick, dirty deposit in the cistern, which had not been cleaned out for months.

Closet Accommodation.

In 166 houses some defect was found in respect of closet accommodation. In the majority of cases the defect lay in the flushing apparatus, the flushing cistern being out of order in some cases, and in others there being a leaking joint between the flushing down pipe and the pan. In still other cases the pan was cracked and leaking, and in others again there was no flushing apparatus at all, the closets being flushed by hand. In a certain number of cases the building itself was in a dilapidated condition.

Drainage.

There was some defect in the drainage in 301 houses. In most cases the defect was of a minor character, such as the absence of the mica flap in the fresh-air inlet pipe. In some cases the top of the fresh-air inlet was broken off and the pipe filled up with rubbish; in a few cases the joints of the upcast ventilating shaft were not properly made, allowing escape of drain air, and in others the iron cover of the inspection chamber was broken.

In some cases the drain was choked, and sewage accumulated in the inspection chamber and the whole of the drains.

Ventilation.

In 64 houses there was some defect in the ventilation. In every case this defect was in the ventilation of the space under the ground floor. Some houses were found to have no means of ventilating this space, while in others the air-bricks or gratings were broken and blocked up with earth or rubbish.

Dampness.

There was dampness to some appreciable extent found in 201 houses. In some cases this was due to the porosity of the bricks used, the aspect of the outer walls, and the want of pointing. In other cases it was due to defective guttering and down pipes, which allowed the rain-water from the roof to run down the walls. Other cases again were caused by defective slates in the roof, while in some of the older houses the damp was due to absence of a proper damp-proof course above the foundations.

Condition of Yards, etc.

In 266 houses the yards at the back were found to be unpaved, or to have the paving broken and defective, or to be so laid as not to have a proper and sufficient fall to carry off the surface water. As the Council have adopted Section 25 of the P.H. Acts Amendment Act (1907), it was possible, when a preliminary notice failed to result in the defects being remedied, to serve a statutory notice under this section; 104 such notices were served, and by the end of the year 78 had been complied with.

Disposal of Refuse.

In each of the 132 cases where there was a defect in this matter, it was due to the absence of a proper sanitary dust-bin with cover. Various kinds of substitutes were in use, buckets, zinc baths, pails, and wooden boxes, none of them being provided with a properly fitting cover; 238 notices were served to provide proper dust-bins, and in 197 cases were complied with.

Other Matters.

In 501 houses some defect was found which could not be classified under any of the preceding heads. These were of various kinds; sink waste-pipes either not discharging into a proper gulley, or broken off at the point where they issued through the wall, and allowing the waste water to run down the wall; defective kerbs to gulleys; absence of rain-water guttering; defects in floors, wooden or paved; dilapidated walls, plaster, and ceilings; and broken or defective window frames and doors.

(10) Workshops, Workplaces, etc.

There are 91 workshops and workplaces on the Register, which is required to be kept by the Local Authority, but of these a number are "Domestic" workshops, i.e., only members of the family are employed.

These have been inspected during the year, and in 2 cases it was found necessary to serve notice to remedy some defect, namely, limewashing.

Six lists of "Outworkers" were received from other Local Authorities, but none from employers in the District; the premises occupied by these outworkers have been inspected, and found satisfactory in every case.

C.—Sanitary Administration of the District.

(1) Staff; Work of Inspector of Nuisances and other Officers engaged in Sanitary Work.

The Staff consists of myself as Medical Officer of Health, a Medical Officer in charge of the Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases (Dr. Simpson), and a School Medical Officer (Dr. Heygate); D. B. Davies, as Inspector of Nuisances, he holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Nuisances, and for the inspection of Meat and other foods; T. Vaughan as Assistant Sanitary Inspector, he holds the same certificates, and his duties have been chiefly the inspection of houses under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909; also a Lady Health Visitor, Mrs. Manley.

(2) Hospital Accommodation.

The Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases is situated at Little Heath, Belvedere, near the centre of the southern boundary of the District.

It consists of an administration block, one block of two wards (containing four beds each) for Diphtheria, and two wards (14 beds in each) for Scarlet Fever. These are all brick-built.

There is also an iron building containing 2 wards (for 8 beds each). Owing to the prevalence of Scarlet Fever during the year and the want of accommodation, many cases could not be admitted. It was therefore suggested that the building should be extended considerably, and has been accepted by your Council.

In addition there are a porter's lodge, laundry and drying room, steam disinfecter, mortuary and ambulance sheds.

Two ambulances are kept, and a van for removal of infected bedding. No horses are kept at the Sanatorium, but are hired from a local contractor as necessity arises.

The Staff at the Sanatorium consists of a Matron, a Sister, and 4 Nurses, with the necessary domestic staff, a laundress, and a porter, who resides in the porter's lodge.

On January 1st, 1914, there were in the Sanatorium 26 patients, viz., 22 Scarlet Fever and 4 Diphtheria; during the year there were admitted 231 cases of Scarlet Fever, 47 cases of Diphtheria, 4 Enteric, and there were discharged 205 cases of Scarlet Fever and 46 cases of Diphtheria, and 4 Enteric. One case of Scarlet Fever and one of Diphtheria died in the Sanatorium. On December 31st there were in hospital 46 patients, viz., 42 Scarlet Fever, and 4 diphtheria.

No patient who has been suffering from Diphtheria is discharged from the Sanatorium until a bacteriological examination of a swab taken from the throat, or from any discharge that may exist, shows that the *Bacillus* of Diphtheria is no longer present, at least two consecutive negative results being required.

Table showing the number of patients treated during the year.

	Enteric. Fever	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Total
In Hospital, January 1st, 1914 ...	—	22	4	26
Admitted during year ...	4	231	47	282
Discharged „ „ ...	4	205	46	255
Died „ „ ...	—	1	1	2
In Hospital, December 31st, 1914...	—	42	4	46

Table showing comparative returns of admissions during the past 11 years.

	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914
Scarlet Fever ...	74	107	90	102	107	122	84	78	50	105	231
Enteric Fever ...	9	1	16	2							4
Diphtheria ...	39	33	35	22	32	29	21	27	27	34	47
Total ..	122	141	141	126	139	151	105	105	77	139	282

(3) Administration of Local Acts or General Adoptive Acts in force in the District.

The following adoptive Acts or portions thereof are in force in the District:—

The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (Sections 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 31 and 33 in Part II., and Section 51 in Part III.).

(4) Chemical and Bacteriological Work during the Year.

No laboratory is attached to the Public Health Department, but the County Laboratory, established at Maidstone, carries out any necessary bacteriological examinations. Under present arrangements each medical man practising in the District is supplied by the County Medical Officer with the necessary apparatus for taking swabs or blood, and when taken these are forwarded to Maidstone for examination. Reports on the results found are forwarded both to the medical man concerned, and also to myself as Medical Officer of Health, and at the same time fresh apparatus is forwarded to the medical man to replace the one used.

During 1914 61 swabs were sent for examination for Diphtheria Bacilli, 6 of Enteric Fever blood, and 4 specimens for Ringworm.

During the same period 66 specimens of sputum were sent up for examination for the presence of the Tubercle Bacillus.

D.—Prevalence of and Control over Acute Infectious Diseases.

There were 441 cases of Infectious Disease (not including cases of Tuberculosis) notified during 1914, as

compared with 176 in 1913. Of these 307 were Scarlet Fever, 86 Diphtheria, 7 Erysipelas, 22 Enteric Fever, and 2 Puerperal Fever.

Comparative returns of Infectious Disease notified during the past 11 years:—

Disease.	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914
Smallpox ...	1	2									
Diphtheria...	52	59	106	44	60	45	32	35	42	38	86
Membranous Croup		1									
Erysipelas ...	33	29	35	19	14	18	20	19	21	11	7
Scarlet Fever ...	98	163	145	150	140	181	129	99	68	115	307
Enteric Fever ...	13	15	29	11	13	5	3	5	7	10	22
Continued Fever ...								1			
Puerperal Fever ...	2		1		2		1		2	2	2
Chicken-pox ...								52 6 mths.			
Poliomyelitis ...									1		
Cer'bro Spinal F'ver											1
	199	269	316	224	229	249	185	211	141	176	425

Scarlet Fever.

There were 307 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during 1914, as compared with 115 in 1913. Of these 186 occurred in children between 5 and 15 years of age, and 65 in children between 1 and 5.

The large majority of these cases were notified during the latter half of the year, the rise in the number of cases began in August, and kept increasing each month until November and December, when it began to decline. It became necessary to close the schools. Fortunately the disease was of a mild type, as may be judged from the low mortality.

The attack rate for the disease was 10.04 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 3.82 per 1,000 the previous year.

Out of the 307 cases which occurred, 231 were removed to the Isolation Hospital for treatment, a percentage of 75.2.

One death occurred from the disease, which gives a death rate of .09 per 1,000, and a case mortality of .97 per cent.

Return cases occurred in connection with several patients discharged from the Sanatorium. As stated in previous reports, it is impossible to eliminate these entirely. In an endeavour to prevent their being a source

of infection, a leaflet is given to the parents or relatives of each case discharged from the Hospital, pointing out that it is a potential source of infection, and advising such precautions as may obviate trouble.

Diphtheria.

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified during 1914 was 86, as compared with 38 in 1913. Of these 48 occurred in children between the ages of 5 and 15 years, and 17 in children between 1 and 5.

The attack rate for the disease was 2.8 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 1.26 the previous year.

The number of deaths was 3, which gives a death rate of .26 per 1,000, and a case mortality of 9.3 per cent.

Forty-seven of the cases notified were removed to the Sanatorium for treatment, a percentage of 54.6.

There were no return cases, a result due to the fact that before a case which has been suffering from Diphtheria is discharged from the Sanatorium the bacteriological examination of swabs taken from the throat must show a negative result on two consecutive occasions.

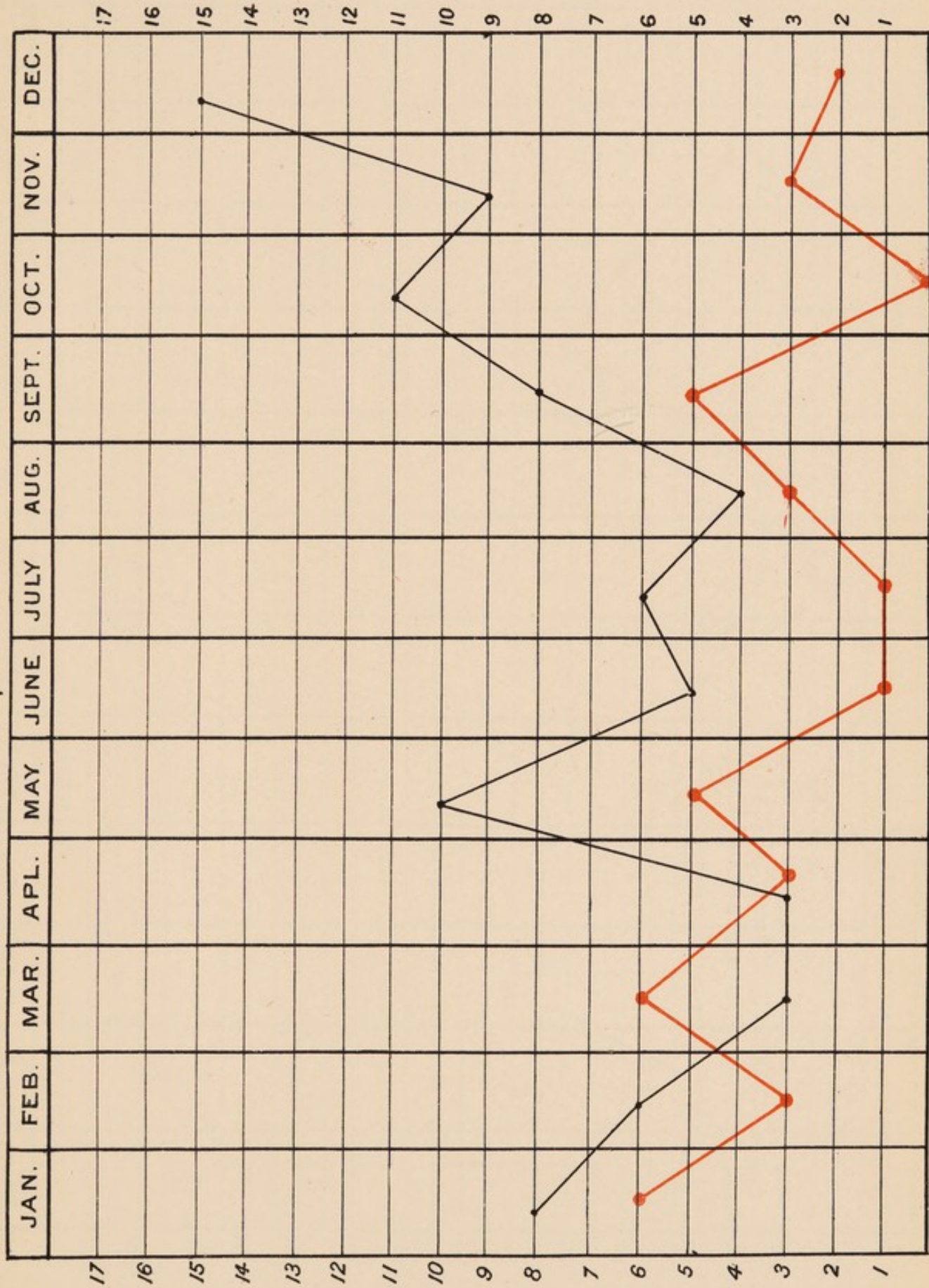
Table showing the number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria which have occurred in any particular school in 1914.

School,	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.
Crescent Road	6	1
Manor Road	3	1
Central	36	10
St. Augustine's Road	32	6
St. Fidelis'	3	3
Belvedere Boys'	10	2
All Saints'	22	6
Brook Street	49	10
Picardy	17	9
Crossness	4	—
Not attending any school		—
Totals	182	48

Enteric Fever.

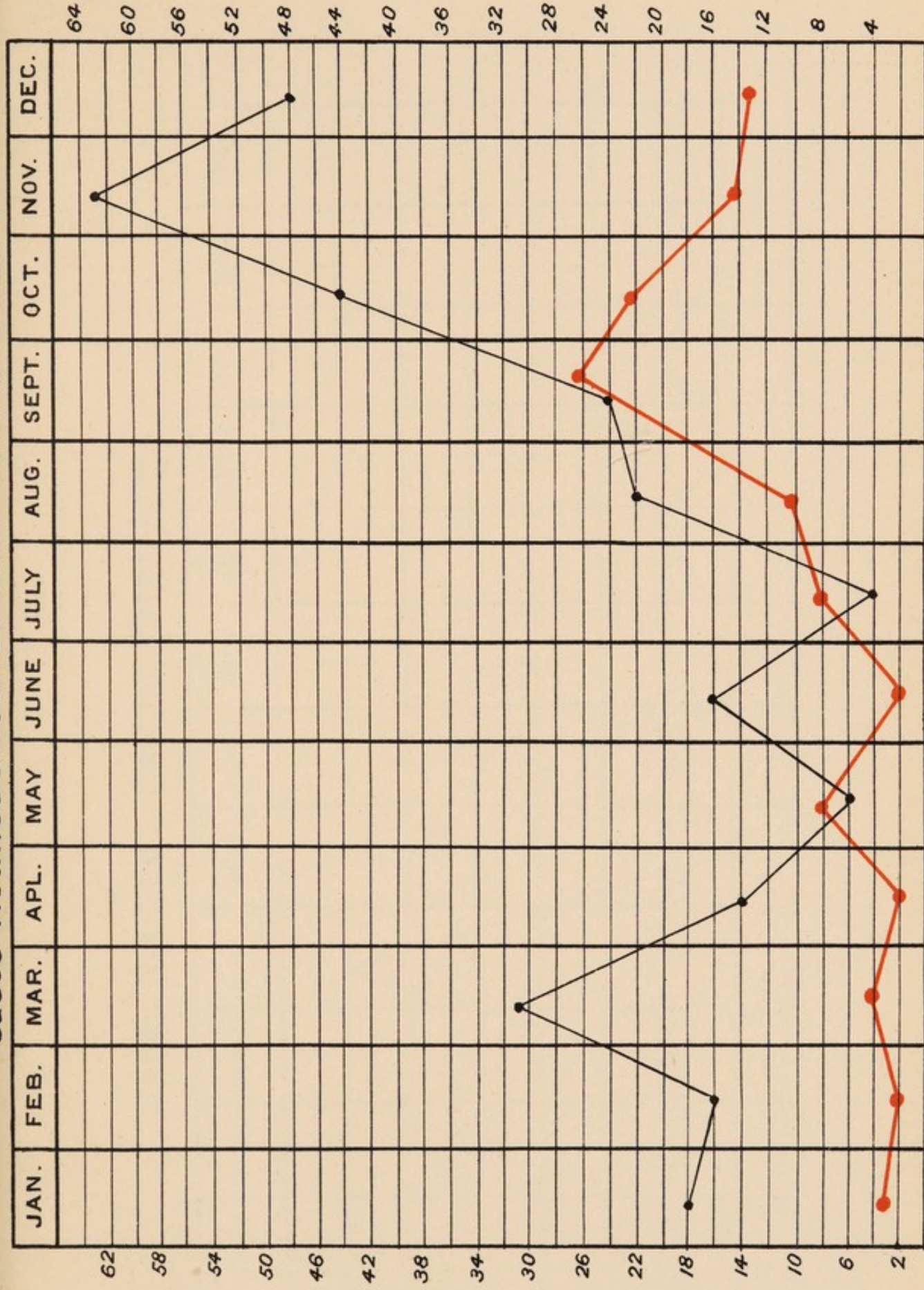
Twenty-two cases of Enteric Fever were notified during the year with 7 deaths. Four cases between the ages of 15 and 25, and 11 between the ages of 25 and 45, and 7 over 45 years.

Cases Notified - Diphtheria 1913 and 1914



Red Line 1913 Black Line 1914

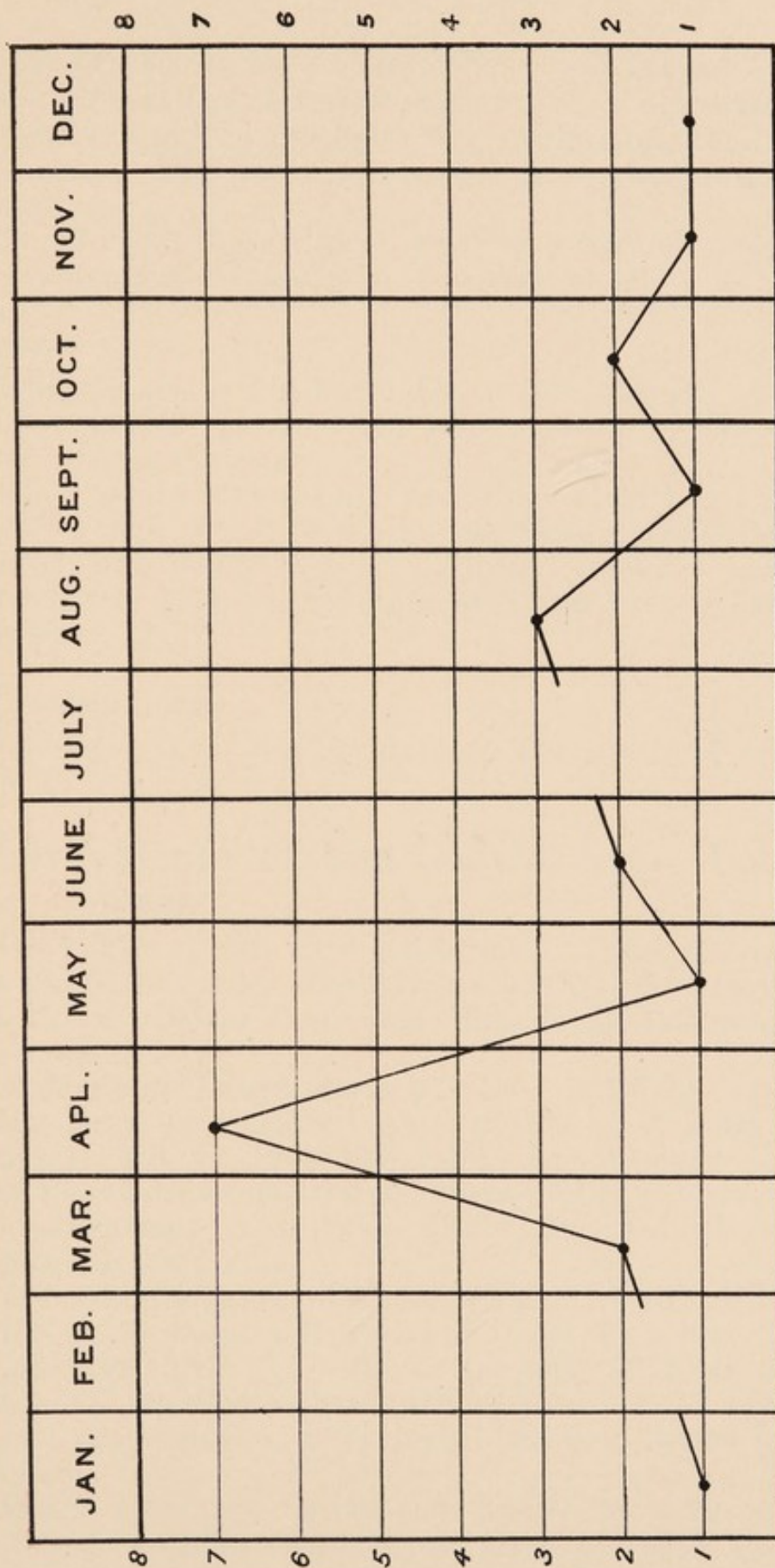
Cases Notified - Scarlet Fever 1913 and 1914.



Red Line 1913. Black Line 1914.



Cases Notified - Enteric Fever 1914.



The death rate from Enteric Fever was .22 per 1,000, 8 cases were connected with each other, 4 occurring in one family, and 4 in another living in the same road, two doors away. The latter family took in the washing from the first.

In 12 cases there was no trace of infection, and in 3 cases suspicious fish had been partaken of.

Measles.

This disease is not notifiable in the District, so that it is not possible to ascertain what number of cases occurred during the year.

The disease was slightly more prevalent during the year 1914 than it had been the year before, and 4 deaths occurred, one being that of an infant under 1 year of age, and two between the ages of 1 and 2 years, and 1 under 5.

Whooping Cough.

This disease is not notifiable. There were 4 deaths due to it.

E.—Prevalence of, and Control over, Tuberculosis.

On February 1st, 1913, all forms of Tuberculosis became notifiable under Regulations of the Local Government Board; before that, only Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notifiable.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been notifiable in this District since July, 1906. At first this notification was voluntary, but in 1908 the Local Government Board issued Regulations making all cases of Phthisis in Poor Law Institutions or receiving Poor Law Medical relief, compulsorily notifiable.

A further advance was made in 1911, when all cases of Phthisis attending a Hospital or Dispensary were made compulsorily notifiable, while in January, 1912, all cases of Phthisis, whether in institutions or under the care of medical practitioners in private practice, were made notifiable.

While voluntary notification was in force the number of cases notified was only very few, but after the introduction of compulsory notification, the number went up considerably.

The number of notifications during each year since the adoption of voluntary notification is as follows:—

1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914
10 6 months only.	16	12	14	24	43	59	63 Pulm. 17 other	52 Pulm. 10 other

A table showing classification of notifications received during 1914, according to sex, age, and organ affected by the disease is shown on page 32.

There were 36 deaths from various forms of Tuberculosis during 1914; of these, 30 were due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 6 to Tuberculous Meningitis and other forms. The death rate from all forms of Tuberculosis in 1914 was 1.17 per 1,000, as compared with .89 in 1913.

Tuberculosis.	MALES.									FEMALES.									Total M. & F. all Ages.
	0-1	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	Over 65	Total all Ages.	0-1	1-2	2-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	Over 65	Total all Ages.	
Pulmonary ...				3	4	22	9		38				4	12	9	1		26	64
General ...																			1
Meninges ...	1								1				1					1	1
Peritoneum, &c.																			1
Cervical Glands...				1		1			1				2					2	3
Spine ...												1						1	2
Arm ...				1					2									1	2
Eye and Chest ...														1				1	1
Totals ...	1			5	4	24	9		43				7	13	9	1		31	74

I give diagrams showing comparative returns of deaths from Tuberculosis during the past 11 years, distinguishing those due to Pulmonary Tuberculosis from those due to other forms of Tuberculosis.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited, and in the case of those suffering from the pulmonary form of the disease, disinfectants and pocket sputum cups are supplied, together with cards giving short directions as to the mode of life, and the precautions to be taken to prevent, as far as possible, the infection of other inmates of the house. Where deaths have occurred from Tuberculous disease, or on the removal of a person who has been suffering from such disease, the house is disinfected by the Sanitary Authority, and such disinfection is carried out at other times on request.

No Sanatorium or Tuberculosis Dispensary has been provided by the Sanitary Authority, but those persons who are entitled to benefit under the National Insurance Act, have received Sanatorium treatment in 16 cases, and domiciliary treatment in other cases. Other cases which were not entitled to benefit under the National Insurance Act, have received treatment either as in-patients or out-patients at one or other of the London Hospitals.

The facilities for treatment of persons suffering from Tuberculosis have been greatly augmented by the establishment of a Dispensary by the Kent County Council in the District, in January this year at which 106 Patients were treated and 1003 attendances given.

The educational value of a stay in a Sanatorium is already becoming evident; those cases who have had the advantage of such a stay, have learned by practical experience the best mode of life for themselves, and the measures best calculated to minimise the danger of their being a source of infection to other people, and they have, as far as possible, after their return home, put in practice the lessons learnt by them.

Tuberculosis of all kinds is a disease very closely associated with poverty, and its attendant conditions. Overcrowding, badly ventilated houses, intemperance, and want of proper nourishment, all tend to render persons living under such conditions more susceptible to the onset of the disease.

The disease itself is due to a bacillus, and it is infectious. Persons of all ages are liable to attack, but in young children the commonest sites of the disease are the

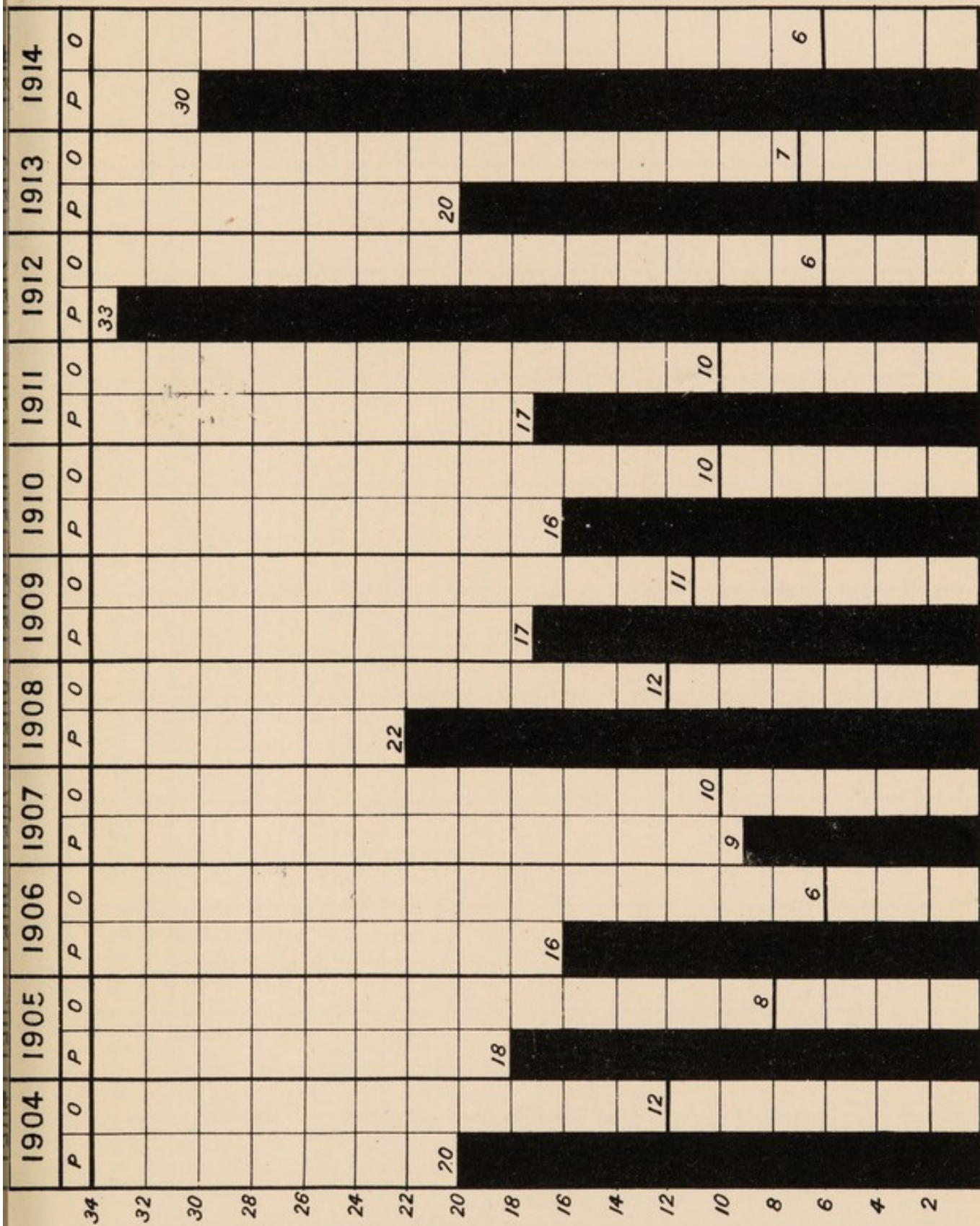
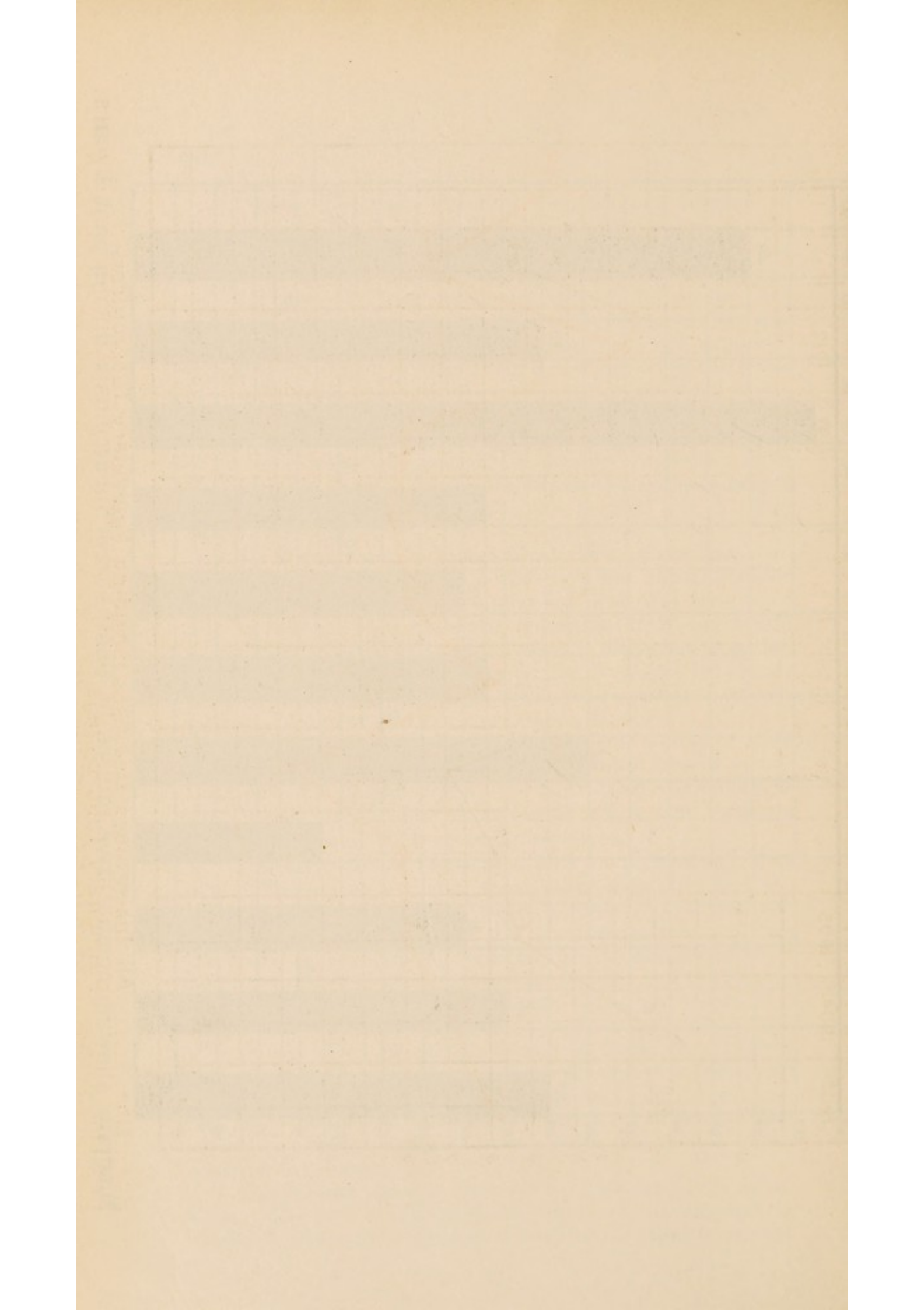
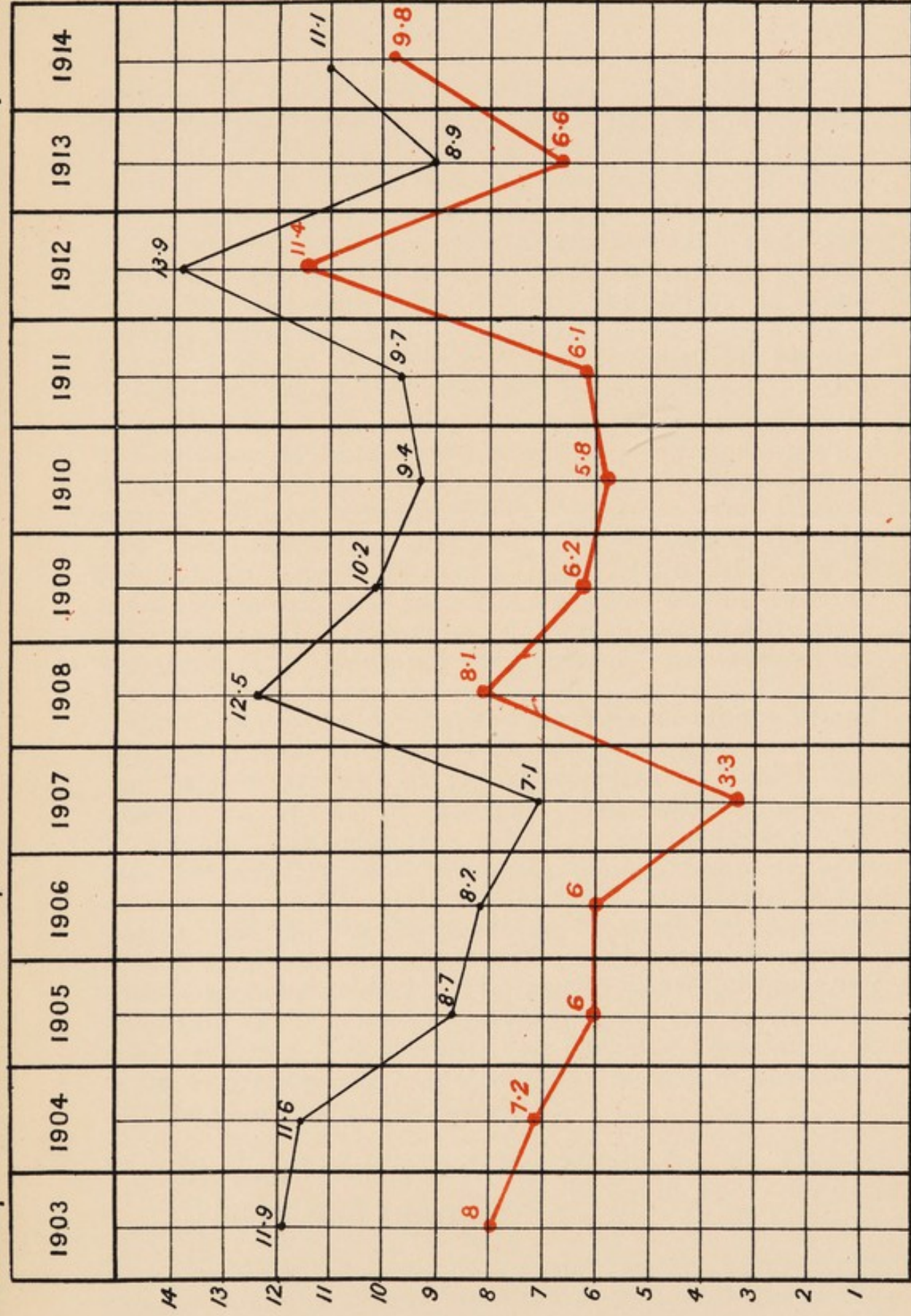


Diagram showing comparative returns of Deaths from Tuberculosis during past 11 years
P. Pulmonary Tuberculosis O. Other forms of Tuberculosis.



Death Rates per Ten Thousand Population from all Tuberculous Diseases and from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

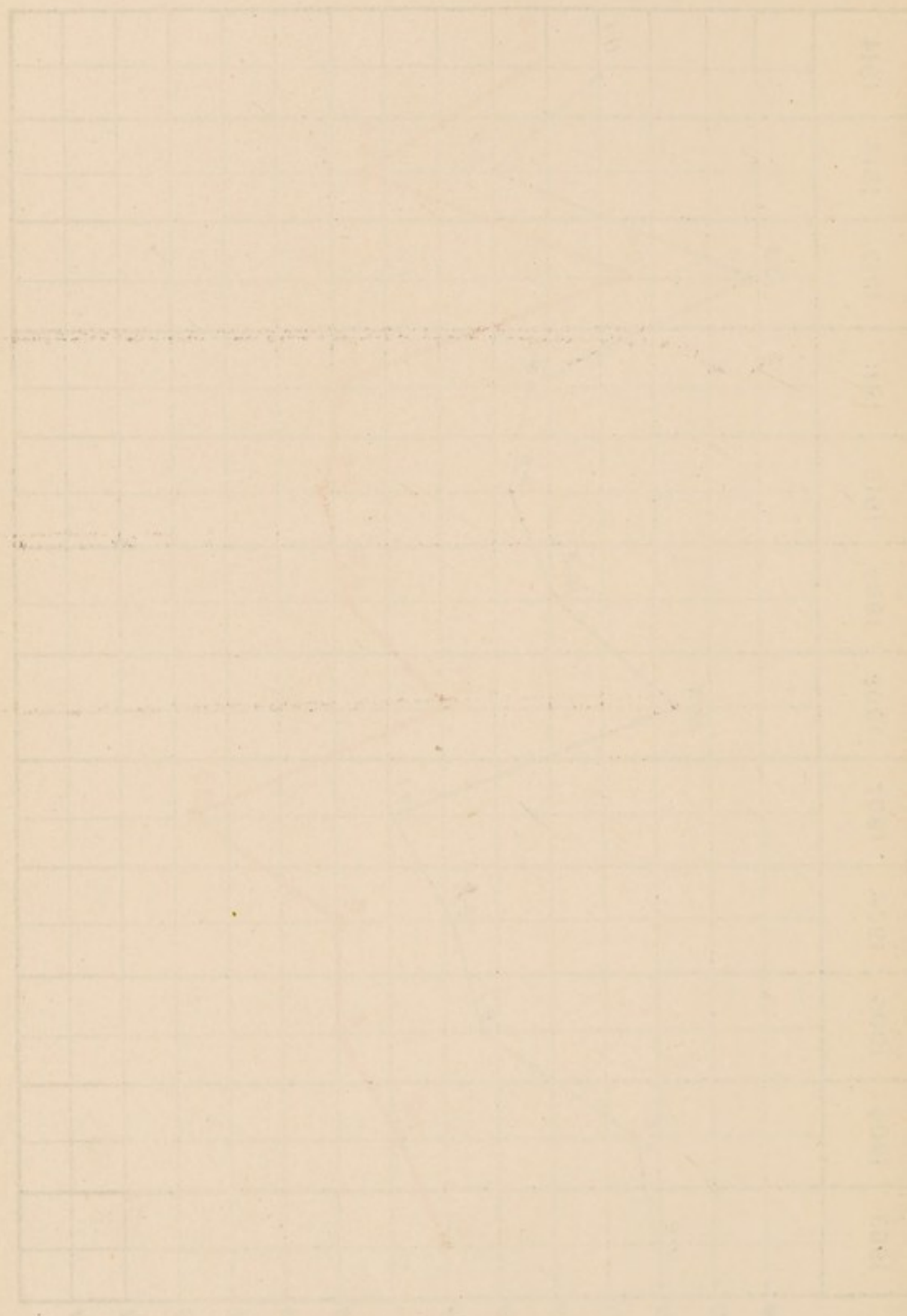


Black Line.....All Tuberculous Diseases including Pulmonary Tuberculosis
 Red Line.....Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Red line
Black line

Temperature
Pressure

Temperature
Pressure



glands, the joints, and the abdomen. In adults by far the commonest type of the disease is the pulmonary one, Phthisis, or Consumption. In these cases the organism causing the infection is very commonly present abundantly in the expectoration, and in the breath and spray driven out by coughing. If a person suffering from consumption spits on the floor or on the street, the spit in warm weather soon dries up, and the germs in it are carried about attached to particles of dust, and are a potential source of infection to any susceptible person. It is for this reason that consumptives are advised to carry pocket sputum cups, and to use them for the reception of the sputum, or to spit into pieces of paper or old linen, which can be burned in the fire. Open windows and an open-air life, as far as possible, abstention from alcohol, and good, nourishing food, all help to sustain the system against the attacks of the disease, which is usually of a chronic nature, and may last for years before carrying off the patient. It was at one time thought that Consumption was incurable, but greater knowledge has proved this to be erroneous, and many persons alive and well at the present day have at one time or other suffered from the disease; the earlier the disease is discovered, and the sufferer carries out the appropriate treatment, the greater the chance of recovery. The establishment of Tuberculosis Dispensaries, which is now in progress all over the country, will bring the most modern methods of diagnosis and treatment almost into the homes of the people, and the results produced by them by means of actual treatment of cases, and as educational centres, should soon be evident. The hearty and intelligent co-operation of the community at large, and especially of all sufferers from Tuberculosis, is, however, essential, in order to produce the best results in the way of diminishing the incidence of the disease.

F.—Means for Preventing Mortality in Child-birth and Infancy.

The Midwives Act, 1902, is administered by the Kent County Council. There are 5 midwives practising in the District, and they attend about one-half the number of confinements that occur.

During the latter part of the year 1913 the Council had under consideration the question of adopting the Noti-

fication of Births Act, 1907, and it was decided to adopt it, and to appoint a Health Visitor to carry out the work (and also to act as School Nurse). This has been done.

The necessary formalities for its adoption were in progress at the close of the year 1913, and the formal resolution of the Council was passed at a meeting held in January, 1914, the Act to come into force on April 1st, 1914.

G.—Vital Statistics.

Births.

During the year 1914 there were 816 births registered in the District, and notification was received that 18 births, occurring elsewhere, were transferable here, making a total of 834.

This gives a nett birth rate of 27.28 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 25.61 during 1913, and 23.9 for England and Wales in 1913.

Of these births 808 were legitimate, while 26 were illegitimate.

The birth rate for 1914 is a considerable improvement on that for 1913.

The natural increase of population, i.e., the excess of births over deaths, was 441.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the District during 1914 was 290, giving a death rate of 9.81 per 1,000. But to it must be added 103 deaths of residents who died in other districts, making a nett total of 393 deaths belonging to the District. This gives a nett death rate of 12.85 per 1,000, as compared with 9.83 for 1913.

In making comparisons of death rates of different districts allowance has to be made for the differences in sex and age distribution of the population, and to do this the Registrar-General has had worked out for each district what he calls a "Standardizing Factor," a figure by which the death rate as ascertained in the ordinary way has to be multiplied to give the "Standardized" death rate. The method by which this factor for correction is ascertained is described in the Twenty-fourth Annual Report of the Registrar-General (for the year 1911, on pp. xxvii-xxx).

The "Standardizing Factor" for this District is 1.0028, which gives a "Standardized" death rate of 12.85, a very slight increase.

Of the 103 deaths occurring outside the district which were transferred here, 51 took place in the Union Infirmary, Dartford, and various London Hospitals.

During the first quarter of 1914 there were 128 deaths, and 83, 83 and 96 during the second, third, and fourth quarters respectively, as compared with 87, 75, 68 and 66 during the corresponding quarters of 1913.

There were 20 deaths in Public Institutions in the District, all of them being those of residents.

Table showing ages and groups of ages at which deaths have occurred, compared with the previous year:—

Year.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 yrs.	2 and under 5 yrs.	5 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs.	65 yrs. and over.
1912	334	46	23	22	9	14	48	81	91
1913	256	59	15	10	19	8	41	56	89
1914	393	76	17	14	25	21	56	69	115

The chief causes of death during the year were:—

Organic heart disease	42
Pneumonia (all forms)	35
Cancer	38
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	30
Congenital Debility and Malformation (including Premature Birth)	26

Inquests.

There were 28 inquests held during the year. The causes of death were as shown in the following table:—

Natural Causes	11
Accidental Injury	7
Suicide, Drowning	—
„ Poison	—
„ Cut-throat	—
Accidental Drowning	6
Burns	4
Suffocation	—
	—
	28
	—

Deaths registered during each month:—

January	45
February	38
March	45
April	27
May	25
June	31
July	25
August	35
September	23
October	30
November	27
December	39
	<hr/>
	390
	<hr/>

Cancer.

The number of deaths due to Cancer during 1914 was 38. This is a disease which is almost entirely confined to persons who are of middle age and over; 5 deaths occurred between the ages of 25 and 45; 18 between 45 and 65; and 13 over 65 years of age.

Infantile Mortality.

During 1914 the number of deaths of children under one year of age was 76; between 1 year and 2 years, 17; and between 2 years and 5 years 14; as compared with 59, 15, and 10 during 1913.

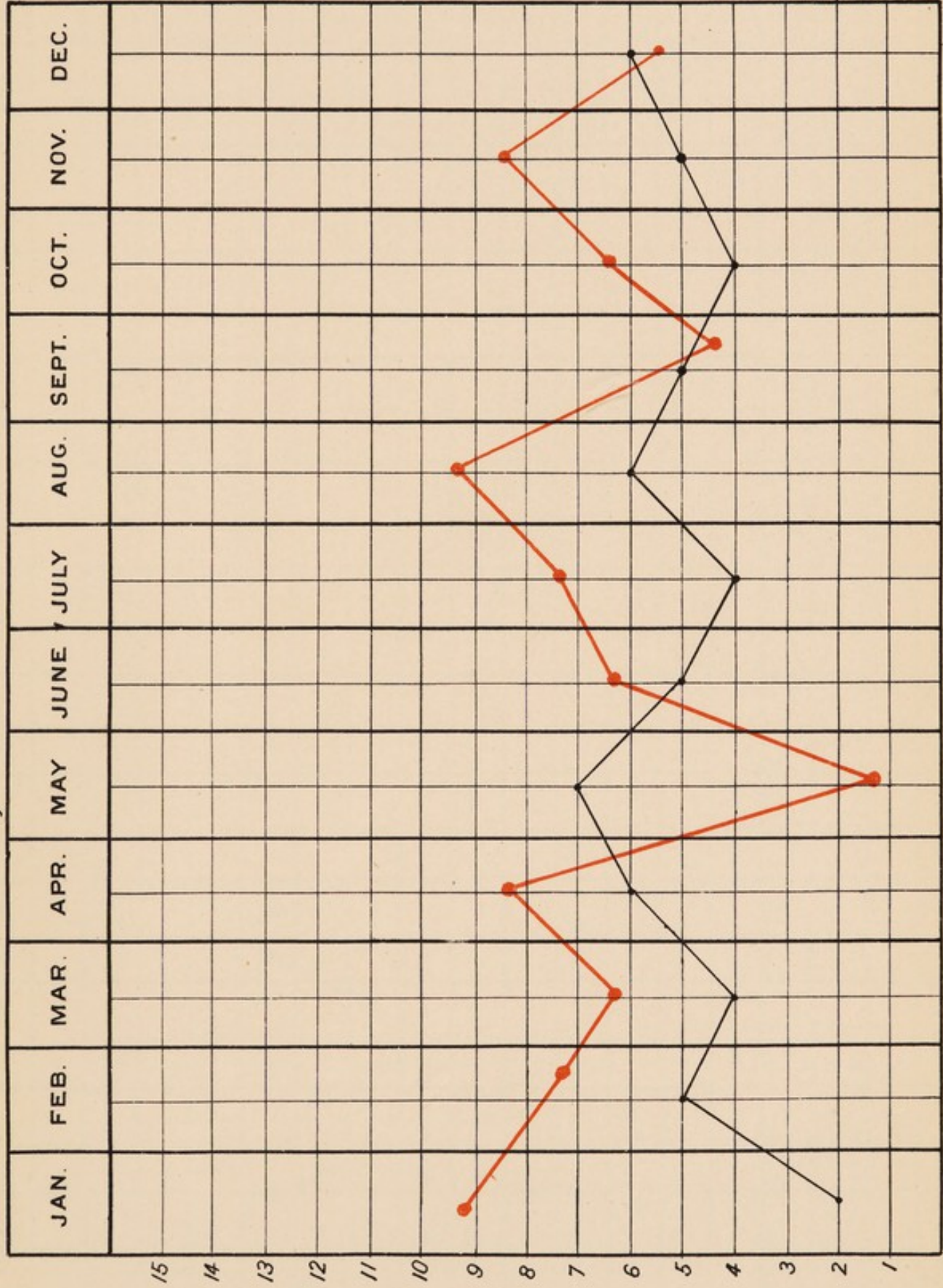
The death rate for children under 1 year per 1,000 births is 91.1, as compared with 76.52 for 1913.

If the infantile mortality rates of legitimate and illegitimate children are compared, it will be seen that the rate for illegitimate children is very much higher than that for legitimate children.

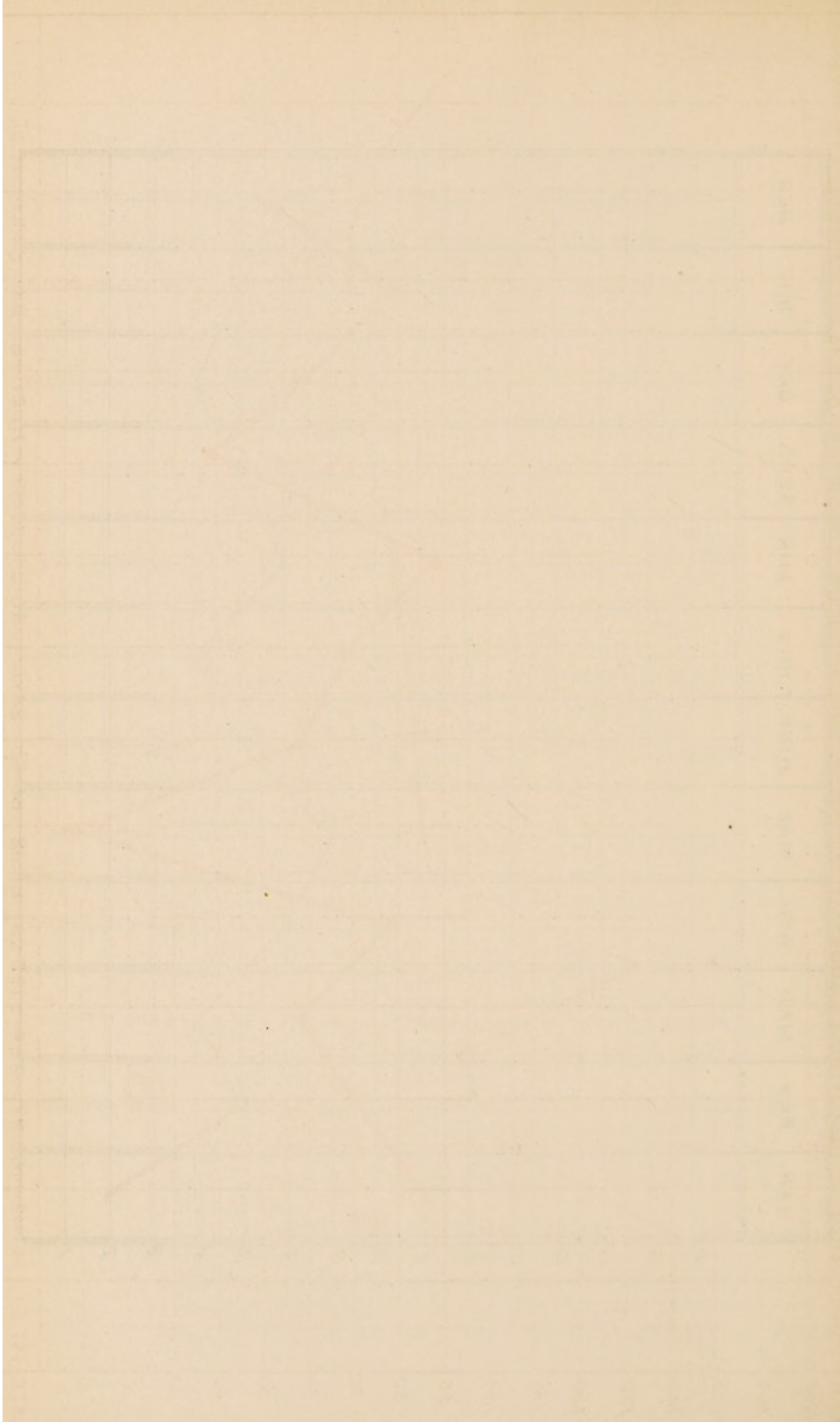
In this district there were 808 legitimate births during 1914, with 69 deaths, giving a rate of 85.6 per 1,000 births, while there were 26 illegitimate births and 7 deaths during the same period, giving a rate of 269.2 per 1,000 births.

In the latter part of 1913 a supplement to the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board for 1912-1913 was issued, containing a Report on Infantile Mortality in towns with a population of more than 20,000, during the years 1907-1910, and 1911. Dur-

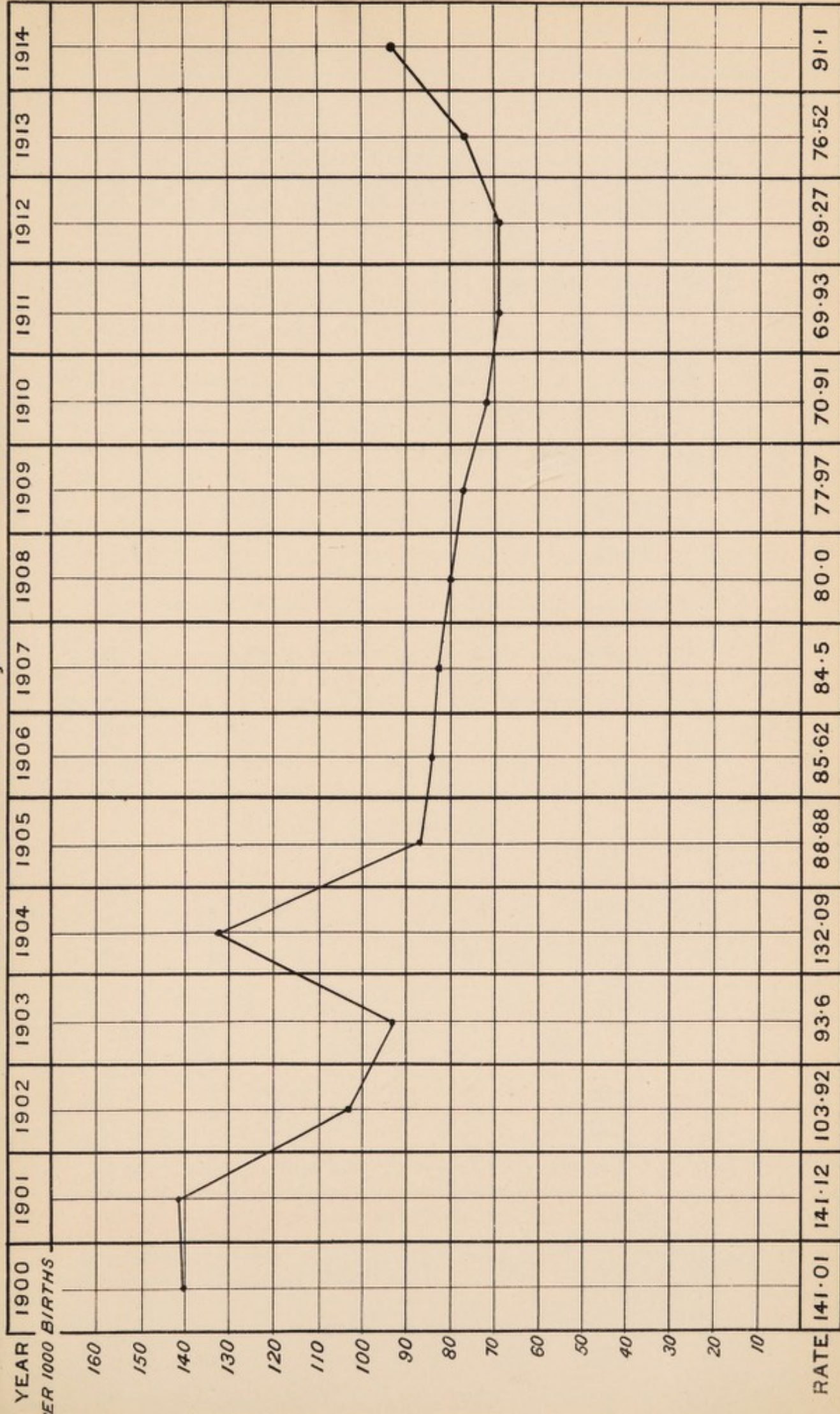
Diagram showing number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age during each month of 1913 and 1914.

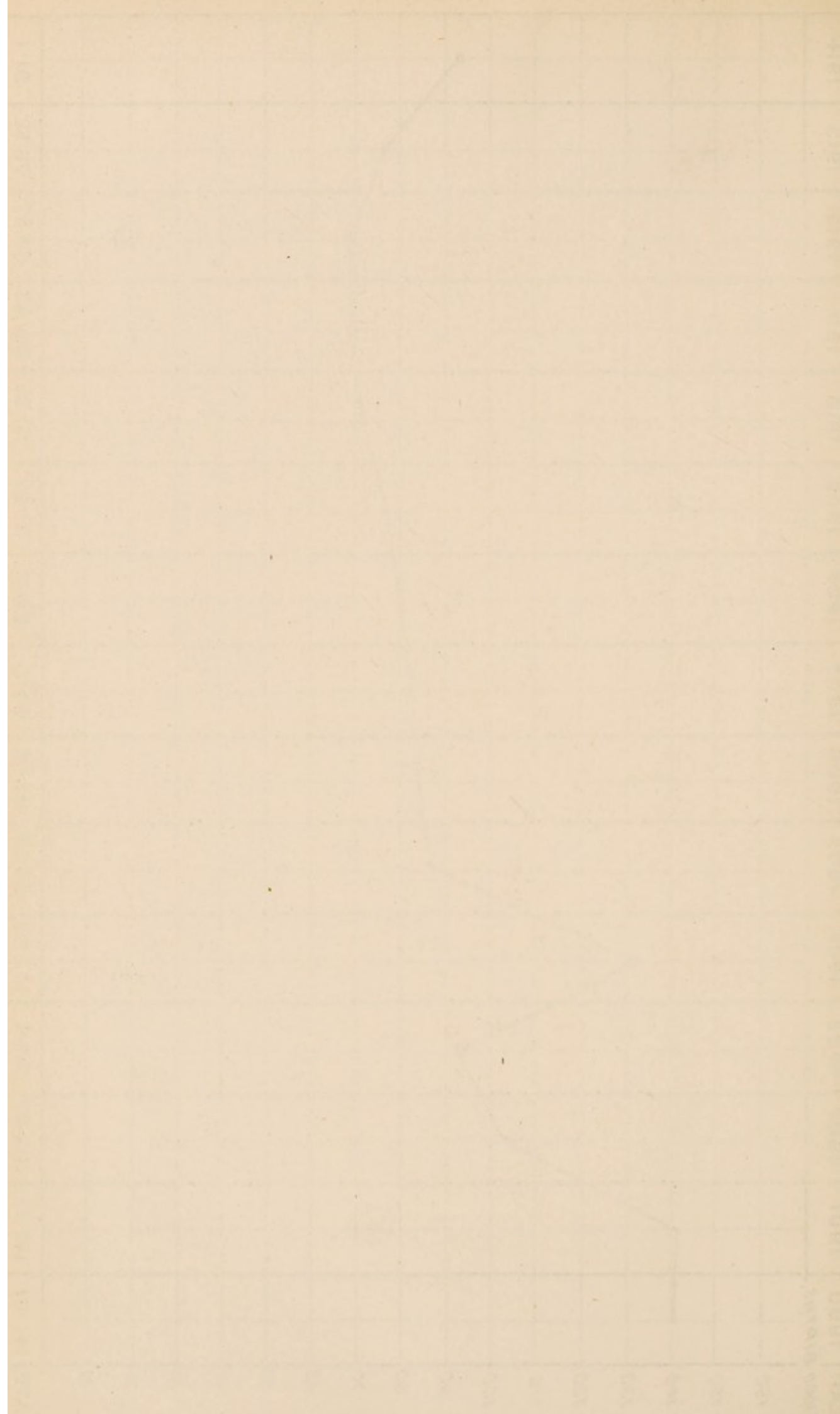


Red Line 1914 Black Line 1913



Infantile Mortality Rate. 1900-1914.





ing the 4 years 1911-1914, Erith's infantile mortality rate was 76.68, and there were only 16 towns with a lower rate out of the 241 towns included in the Report.

Table IV. shows the causes of deaths of children from birth to 1 year of age. Twenty-eight deaths, or over 36 per cent. took place during the first week of life, while 36, or 47.3 per cent. occurred during the first month.

Twenty-four deaths were due to premature birth, and of these 21 occurred in the first week, and 3 in the first month; 2 to Debility or Marasmus, of these all occurred during the first month of life.

Diarrhoea was the cause of 8 deaths, as compared with 5 in the previous year.

With the adoption of the Notification of Births Act, and the appointment of a Health Visitor, I hope that we shall find in future years a reduction of the infantile mortality rate.

The sanitary conditions of the District are all favourable, we have no slums, no back-to-back houses, plenty of open spaces and fresh air, there are no industries employing female labour to any large extent, and work being plentiful in the District, there is little or no poverty due to unemployment.

Table I.—Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Ttl. Deaths registrd. in the Distr't.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all Ages.	
			N'umber.	Rate.					No.	Rate per 1000 nett Births.	No.	Rate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	27,076	750			245	9.04	4		60			
1909	27,321	731			258	9.44	6		57			
1910	27,566	691			253	8.45	10		49			
1911	27,811	700	715	25.70	214	7.69	5	58	50	69.93	267	9.60
1912	28,073	653	664	23.65	266	9.47	8	76	46	69.27	334	11.89
1913	30,100	758	771	25.61	235	7.8	10	71	59	76.52	296	9.83
1914	30,562	816	834	27.28	290	9.81	—	103	76	91.1	393	12.85

Area of District in Acres (land and inland water)	3859.513	
Total Population at all Ages	30,562	At Census 1911.
Number of Inhabited Houses	5,129	
Average Number of Persons per House	5.41	

Table II.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1914.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs.	65 and upwards.	
Smallpox ...									
Cholera, Plague									
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup) ...	86	2	17	48	12	7			59
Erysipelas ...	7	1	1			2	2	1	
Scarlet Fever ...	307	6	65	186	34	13	3		232
Typhus Fever ...									
Enteric Fever ...	22				4	11	5	2	16
Relapsing Fever									
Continued Fever									
Puerperal Fever	2					2			
Poliomyelitis ...									
Opthal Neonatom	6	6							
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1			1					
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	52			4	15	25	8		
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	10	1	1	4	2	2			
Totals ...	493	16	84	243	67	62	18	3	307

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, Sanatoria, &c.

Erith Sanatorium for Infectious Diseases, Bow Arrow Hospital, Dartford, various London General Hospitals and Special Hospitals, Sanatoria at Bromley, &c. &c.

Table III.—Causes of, and Ages at Death during the year 1914.

Causes of Death.		Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of " Residents " whether occurring within or without the district.									Total deaths whether of " residents " or " non-residents " in Institutions in the District.
		All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs.	65 and up-wards.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All causes	Certified ... Uncertified	393	76	17	14	25	21	56	69	115	24
Enteric Fever ...		7				1	4	1	1		
Small-pox ...											
Measles ...		4	1	2	1						
Scarlet Fever ...		3		1	1			1			2
Whooping Cough ...		4	3		1						
Diphtheria & Croup		8	1	2	1	4					1
Influenza ...											
Erysipelas ...		1	1								
Phthisis(Pul'm'n'ry Tuberculosis) ...		30				1	7	14	8		
Tuberculous Meningitis		3	1	1		1					
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...		3	2			1					
Cancer, malignant disease ...		38					2	5	18	13	2
Rheumatic Fever ...											
Meningitis ...		3	1	1	1						
Organic Heart Disease		42			1	5		5	11	20	6
Bronchitis ...		16	1						3	12	2
Pneumonia (all forms)		35	10	3	3	2		5	7	5	1
Other diseases of respiratory organs		8	2	1		2			3		1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis		12	8	2	2						
Appendicitis and Typhlitis											
Cirrhosis of Liver ...		3						1		2	
Alcoholism ...		2						1	1		
Nephritis & Bright's Disease ...		9				1	1	2	1	4	
Puerperal Fever ...		1						1			
Other accidents & diseases of pregnancy and parturition											
Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth ...		26	26								
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...		25	1	2	2	3	4	7	3	3	5
Suicide ...		3							1	2	
Other Defined Diseases		106	18	2	1	3	3	13	12	54	4
Diseases, ill-defined or unknown											
		393	76	17	14	25	21	56	69	115	24

Table IV.—Infantile Mortality during the Year 1914.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

Causes of Death.		Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 wks. & under 3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes	{ Certified ... Uncertified ...	28	4	2	2	36	10	16	5	9	76
Small-pox	...										
Chicken-pox	...										
Measles	...										
Scarlet Fever	...										
Whooping Cough	...							2	1		3
Diphtheria & Croup	...						1				1
Erysipelas	...						1				1
Tuberculous Meningitis	...									1	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...						1	1			2
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...										
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...								1	1	2
Convulsions	...			1		1	1	1		2	5
Laryngitis	...										
Bronchitis	...		1			1					1
Pneumonia (all forms)	...							4	2	4	10
Diarrhœa	...						1	4			5
Enteritis	...							1	1		2
Gastritis	...										
Syphilis	...						1				1
Rickets	...										
Suffocation, overlying	...	1				1					1
Injury at birth	...										
Atelectasis	...	1	1			2					2
Congenital Malformations	...										
Premature birth	...	21	1	1	1	24					24
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...		1		1	2	3	1			6
Other causes	...	5				5	1	2		1	9
Totals	...	28	4	2	2	36	10	16	5	9	76

Nett Births in the year :—Legitimate, 808 ; Illegitimate, 26.

Nett Deaths in the year of :—Legitimate Infants, 69 ; Illegitimate Infants, 7.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901. Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances).

Premises. 1	Number of		
	Inspections. 2	Written Notices. 3	Prosecu- tions. 4
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	62	Nil.	
Workshops (including Work- shop Laundries)	67	2	
Workplaces (other than Out- workers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report) ...			
Total ...	129	2	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. 1	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions. 5
	Found. 2	Remedied. 3	Referred to H.M. Inspectors. 4	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts—				
Want of Cleanliness ...	2	2		
Want of Ventilation ...				
Overcrowding ...				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances ...				
Sanitary accommodation:				
Insufficient ...				
Unsuitable or defective				
Not separate for sexes...				
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:				
Illegal occupation of under- ground bakehouse ...				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake- houses ...				
Other offences (excluding offences relating to out- work which are included in Part 3 of this Report)				
Total ...	2	2		

3.—Home Work.

(Nil).

4.—Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the Year. 1	Number. 2
Bakehouses	12
Dressmaking	18
Boot Repairing	20
Others	41
Total number of Workshops on Register ...	91

5.—Other Matters.

Class. 1	Number. 2
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshops Acts	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act.	Notified by H.M. Inspector 2
Other	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector 2
Underground Bakehouses—	
Certificates granted during the year	None.
In use at the end of the year	None.

6.—Outworkers.

Lists received from other Local Authorities, and not from Employers within the Urban District of Erith.

Wearing Apparel	Ties	1
	Embroidery, Trimmings, &c.	1
	Shirt-making, &c.	3
	Tailoring, &c.	1
	Babies' Shoes, &c.	
Tennis Balls		
		—
		6
		—

Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

Summary of Work done under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations
1910, for period January 1st to December 31st, 1914.

Street.	Number of Houses Inspected.	Defects found in									No. of Preliminary Notices served.	Result of Notices.		
		Water Supply.	Closet Accomodation	Drainage.	Ventilation.	Cleanliness.	Condition of Yards.	Dampness.	Disposal of Refuse.	Other matters.		Work done.	Work in hand.	Work not done.
Upper Abbey Rd.	20	9	2	5	1	1	4	4	3	9	16	8	6	2
Picardy Road ...	45	12	5	18	3	3	14	7	10	23	35	9	7	19
Lyndon Road ...	51	18	4	13	3	5	15	7	3	19	29	10	4	15
Heron Hill ...	13	7	1	4		1	4	5	3	5	11	2		9
Napier Road ...	1													
Wellington Road	5								1	2	2	2		
Havelock Road...	14				2	1	1	2		2	4	2		2
Raglan Road ...	11	5	1	2	1			1	2	5	9	4		5
Nelson Road ...	30	16	5	5		2	4	2	6	10	24	7	5	12
West Street ...	4	4	4	1	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4		
Lower Park Road	19	6	2	4	7	1	3	7	7	11	17	4	4	9
Halt Robin Road	7	5	1	4	1		7	5	2	5	7			7
Bunkers Hill ...	2	2				1	1	1		2	2			2
Lower Road ...	35	1	1	1	4	1	1	4	2	9	14	7		7
Abbey Road ...	136	5	8	26	5	8	16	20	22	61	88	39	10	39
Florence Road ...	16	7	1	2	2	5	7	11	3	14	16	6	5	5
Overton Road ...	46		26	15	6	26	25	28	4	42	46			46
Sydney Road ...	29	1	7	5	2	9	5	11	5	15	19	11	2	6
Railway Road ...	26	3	3	7		14	6	12	5	14	25	16		9
Harrow Man'way	1													
Station Rd. (A.W)	18	1	11	4	1	1	7	5	6	17	18	2		16
Crossness ...	4		3	4	2	3	3	3		3	4	1		3
Battle Road ...	28	8	2	6	1		2		1	5	15	10		5
Bullbanks Road	16	1		6		1	2		1	5	10	3		7
Gloucester Road	8	4	3	4	1		5	2		5	7	4	2	1
Mayfield Road ...	54		4	26			11	3	7	12	37	22	3	12
Ashburnham Rd.	57		10	28	2	8	19	15	8	32	44	14	8	22
Gordon Road ...	49	10	16	20		3	19	7	6	17	38	12		26
Stanmore Road...	50	22	12	23	9	10	15	7	6	36	46	10	6	30
Upper Grove Rd.	22		2	6	1	2	22	3	2	3	22			22
Poplar Mount ...	40		1	14		2	4	4	2	19	30	14	11	5
Metheun Road ...	6		1	4						5	5	2		3
Thornton Road...	11		1	5		1	1	1		5	8	5		3
Brigstock Road...	10			4						6	9	3		6
Riverdale Road...	125	64	21	32	6	16	34	14	6	62	101	4	19	78
Holly Hill Road	19	19	8	8		1	5	6	5	17	19		7	12
	1028	230	166	306	64	130	266	201	132	501	781	237	99	445

Visits for Re-inspections, 1327.

