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DISTRICT OF
TEDDINGTON.

Annual Report

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,

TO BE PRESENTED TO
THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF
TEDDINGTON.

1901.

TEDDINGTON :

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ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE
URBAN DISTRICT OF TEDDINGTON,
For the year 1900.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to place before you my Annual Report on the Mortality, Health and Sanitary Condition of your District for the year 1900.

The total number of deaths which occurred and were registered was 213 and included—

7	from	Measles
8	„	Whooping Cough
5	„	Diphtheria & Membranous Croup
1	„	Croup
1	„	Enteric Fever
21	„	Epidemic Influenza
14	„	Diarrhœa
6	„	Enteritis
1	„	Puerperal Fever
8	„	Phthisis
7	„	Other Tubercular Diseases
12	„	Cancer

15	„	Bronchitis
6	„	Pneumonia
1	„	Pleurisy
4	„	Other Diseases of the Respiratory Organs
1	„	Alcoholism
7	„	Heart Disease
3	„	Diseases of Parturition
19	„	Diseases of the Nervous System
4	„	Diseases of the Liver
4	„	Diseases of the Kidneys
7	„	Premature Birth
14	„	Debility from Birth
11	„	Old Age
5	„	Accidents
21	„	Various Causes

213

108 were males and 105 females.

53 were under 1 year of age and 42 over 65.

The last year being the most remote from the last census it is difficult to estimate the present population. The great number of newly-built cottages were quickly inhabited, but many of the tenants were not new comers but old inhabitants who removed from old cottages to new, and therefore did not add to the population of the District. According to the statement of the rate-collector there are 2800 inhabited houses in Teddington, and he estimated the population between 14,500 and 15,000. Taking the smaller figure as approximately correct by deducting 2 deaths of non-residents the mortality from all causes is at the average annual rate of 14·55 for every 1000 persons living. The average mortality for the last 10 years is 12·94, and the rate for 1900 is therefore 1·61 in

excess of the average and this is caused by the large number of deaths from influenza in January.

The death-rate from the principal zymotic diseases (including diarrhœa) is 1.72 and from scheduled notifiable diseases 0.48.

The number of births was 353, of which 185 were males and 168 females. The birth-rate was 24.35, and the infant mortality 150 per 1000 births.

Comparing these figures with the averages for the last 10 years we find that the death-rate of 1900 is 1.61 higher, the birth-rate 0.31 lower, and the infant mortality 14 higher.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

I.—NOT NOTIFIABLE.

Measles. Isolated cases occurred during the whole year, but most of them during July and September. Of the 7 fatal cases all except one were children under 5 years, when the disease is most fatal. The danger is often intensified by the neglect of the parents to provide suitable warmth and nourishment for the sufferer from a disease which they consider of little moment.

Whooping Cough. 8 cases proved fatal, which were children under 5 years. Epidemics of whooping cough occur chiefly in winter and spring, but like measles most of the fatal cases occurred in this District during the summer months. The disease is highly infectious. The infection clings to the expectorated mucus and is probably disseminated after becoming dry in the form of dust. Recent investigations have shown that the expectoration from cases of whooping cough is swarming with a minute bacillus which, in so far as experiments have been carried out, leads to the conclusion that the cause of the infection has been found. A careful collection and destruction of all

expectoration in whooping cough and the observance of the strictest cleanliness must lead to a diminution of the spread of the disease which now claims more victims than scarlet-fever or diphtheria, and is the most fatal of all the infectious complaints of childhood under the age of 5 years.

Diarrhœa. 14 deaths were registered during the year from diarrhœa and they occurred during the summer months—2 in July, 7 in August and 5 in September. All were children under 3 years of age. It is very probable that by greater care in the dieting of children just in those months when the weather is warmest a good many of those lives might have been saved. These attacks of Infantile Diarrhœa are due to some changes produced by micro-organisms in the milk or other food on which the children are fed, changes set up or favoured by the prevailing high temperature. The measures indicated to prevent this mortality are in the direction of more careful storage of food (especially milk) during the hot weather, and the immediate removal and destruction of decomposing matter in and around dwelling-houses, whether it be food that has become tainted, or other house-refuse. Milk is particularly liable to become dangerously contaminated by proximity to decomposing or offensive matter of any kind. All milk for infants ought to be boiled during hot weather.

Influenza. This disease appeared at the end of December, 1899, in an epidemic form and spread rapidly in January, 1900, exhausting itself at the end of February and during March. 21 deaths are attributable to it, nearly all were complicated with diseases of the respiratory organs. This large number of deaths increased the year's death-rate by 1.5 per 1000 inhabitants.

II.—NOTIFIABLE.

Scarlatina. 30 cases were notified against 48 the previous year. They were all of a very mild type and occurred at all times during the year. They were not confined to any particular locality. In several cases the parents did not think it necessary to call in medical advice having been ignorant of the nature of the illness, and they were only notified after desquamation had set in. From the table at the end of this report it will be seen that scarlet fever is at the present time and in our District not a very dangerous disease, only one death having been registered during the last six years, and the disease claims far less victims than measles or whooping cough.

Diphtheria. 11 cases of Diphtheria and one of Membranous Croup were notified, the same number as the previous year. Nearly all were children of poor people, in whose houses isolation was impossible, and most of them occurred in August. Three cases were in one household, but there could hardly have been any connection between any of the other cases. In all instances the usual means taken to prevent the spread proved successful. 5 cases proved fatal and I cannot help thinking that this high mortality might have been reduced if the anti-diphtheric serum treatment were in the early stages more frequently resorted to.

Enteric Fever. 6 cases were notified. The first case was imported from a neighbouring district where the man was employed and partially resident. The second case came from Maidstone where the patient was suffering for some time from an ill-defined disease. He came to Teddington for a change and stayed with a relation, and eight days

after his arrival he was notified as suffering from enteric fever. The only fatal case was a girl of 17, who had been for several years in a bad state of health. On inspection of the houses and premises of the patients no sanitary defects could be found, there was nothing wrong in the drainage, water or milk supply.

Puerperal Fever. One case of this disease was reported which proved fatal.

Erysipelas. 17 cases notified. No death.

Plague. With reference to the regulations issued by the Local Government Board on September 19th, 1900, with respect to the Plague, I sent a notice to all medical practitioners in the District, informing them that Plague is now included in the list of Notifiable Diseases.

INSPECTIONS AND OTHER SANITARY WORK.

A systematic Inspection of the District was made in October and November in conjunction with the Inspector of Nuisances. I have great pleasure in taking this opportunity to recognise his valuable services. The work of inspection is greatly facilitated by his intimate knowledge of the sanitary condition of localities and houses. In many instances his position is one of great difficulties as he stands between the working man tenant and the landlord. By his ability, tact and impartiality he generally finds a way to reconcile the interests of both parties.

At the inspection the usual sanitary defects were found, such as leaky roofs, defective drainage of yards, collection of rubbish in back gardens,

stopped drains, dilapidated dust-bins, closets out of order, accumulation of manure, etc. Many cases came under notice, where too many fowls, pigeons, rabbits and ducks were kept in small back gardens. In all cases verbal notice was given to keep such places in a cleaner condition, and to reduce the number of the animals where the space is too confined, but nothing is more open to popular disapproval than a threat of a notice for the removal of their live stock. Since the cottages of the working classes are now mostly fitted with water-closets and flushing cisterns there is greater need of frequent inspections of them, owing to their getting out of repair. At the inspection we took notice of these defects, and they were dealt with either by verbal or statutory order. The sanitary arrangements of all the schools were carefully examined and they were found in a very satisfactory condition. The Island and River Camps were inspected during the summer season and found very clean, special care appeared to be taken by the owners to prevent nuisances, and a supply of good water can be obtained for the camps by crossing the creek. In September I inspected the Candle Factory where I found foul privies and contaminated well-water. A statutory notice was served and the nuisance was abated and water laid on from the Company's main. In November I made a Special Report on the sanitary condition of Nos. 5, 6 and 7 Middle Lane. These cottages were largely constructed of wood, which was in many places rotten. The drainage was very defective, no provision being made for carrying off the roof-water, which soaked into the foundations and caused dampness. Besides many other sanitary defects specified in my Report, there are 3 old privies built of wood in a very dilapidated condition, which caused a serious nuisance, of which the neighbours complained. A notice was served

on the owner to put the cottages into habitable repair within a specified time as they were not fit for human habitation in their present condition. Before the time expired, the owner removed the tenants and the cottages are now empty. All the notices which were served during the year were complied with, only in the following instance further steps for compliance with the notice had to be taken. A seven days' notice was served on the owner of a house in Albert Road to abate a nuisance arising from a very damp party wall owing to defective guttering. The notice was not complied with and proceedings were taken against the owner. The case was heard before the Justices with the result that an order was made for the necessary work to be done to abate the nuisance.

BAKEHOUSES.

The Bakehouses were periodically inspected and found in a satisfactory condition. In some cases white-washing was neglected and this was done by verbal notice.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The Slaughter-houses have generally been kept in good order, in one instance the paving of the premises required repair, and the work was carried out upon your Inspector calling the owner's attention to its defective condition.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

These have been periodically inspected and the following defects were remedied upon verbal notice being given.

2 cases arising from accumulation of manure ;
one case from dirty premises, full cess-pool and

defective drainage, and one from unclean ceiling and walls. With those exceptions the Dairies and Cowsheds have been kept in good order.

The places for keeping the milk and the appliances for cleansing the milk-vessels were found satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY.

Several samples of well water were analysed and 4 were found contaminated with organic matter and unfit for culinary and drinking purposes. Notices were served and in all cases complied with.

The water supply from the Grand Junction Water Company has been satisfactory. The present time seems very opportune to remind the Council of my remarks in former years' reports concerning the insufficiency of the Water Company's regulations relating to the size of flushing cisterns, for I hear that an enquiry is to be held by the Local Government Board concerning the proposed regulations of the London Water Companies.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

These works have been managed throughout the year without a single complaint, and very satisfactory reports have been received from the Thames Conservancy Board in relation to the effluent.

DUST AND HOUSE REFUSE.

Applications were made from residents asking the Council to empty the dustbins more frequently than once a fortnight, but the Council are not inclined to alter existing arrangements, but instructed the Surveyor to give attention to complaints.

SCAVENGING.

The Scavenging and Watering the Roads was satisfactorily done and very few complaints have been received.

The heavy falls of snow which took place in February were promptly removed and with as little inconvenience as possible to the public.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Owing to the condition of the law in relation to the construction of house-drains the Council have found themselves more frequently called upon to unstop what have been for years regarded as private drains, and I have little doubt that the blockages are often caused through the insufficiency of the flushing power provided in connection with the w.c.'s.

The extension of the sewers in Langham Road and Park Road and the laying in of a sewer in Cornelius Road have formed important additions to the Sewerage System of the District.

58 old houses and 215 new houses have been connected with the main sewers and 38 cess-pools have been closed.

VENTILATION OF SEWERS.

Several complaints have again been received about offensive smells arising from the street ventilators, and such nuisances have generally been remedied by a thorough flushing of the sewers in question. In many instances the mica flap ventilators have been found broken or missing, which accounted for the complaints.

PRIVATE ROADS.

The reconstruction of many of the private roads have been in hand during the year and it is

to be hoped that the roads mentioned in my last Report will shortly receive attention.

OVER CROWDING.

Several cases of reported over-crowding were enquired into, with the result that it was doubtful whether sufficient grounds existed for the interference of your Authority.

HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES.

In March, 1899, the Committee appointed to enquire into the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, made a Report, in which they recommended the Council to take the necessary steps for the adoption of Part III. of the Act, and to empower the Committee to negotiate for a suitable site for the erection of workmen's dwellings. The Committee met on several occasions, and in January, 1900, recommended the Council to advertise for land suitable for the erection of 50 dwellings. Few replies were received and your Council considered the land offered unsuitable for the purpose.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Communications are still taking place with the Hampton and Hampton Wick District Councils with the view to erect a Joint Isolation Hospital for the three Districts, but at present the negotiations have led to no result.

I remain,

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

TH. GÜNTHER, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

INQUESTS DURING 1900.

Date.		Age.	Verdict.
Feb.	3 ...	23 years ...	Pleurisy following Nephritis.
March	29 ...	10 years ...	Congenital Heart Disease.
March	27 ...	11 months...	Apoplexy
April	10 ...	20 years ...	Accidentally Drowned.
April	20 ...	41 years ...	Embolism of Heart.
April	23 ...	57 years ...	Syncope.
May	17 ...	77 years ...	Syncope.
June	26 ...	4 years ...	Suffocation and burns caused by being in a house whilst on fire.
June	26 .	22 months...	Injuries received by falling with his mother from a burning house.
July	29 ...	57 years ...	Syncope from over-distended stomach.
Aug.	7 ...	29 years ...	Result of accidental fall from cab.

Sanitary Work done by the Inspector of Nuisances during 1900.

Complaints Received...	....	....	....	28
Total number of Houses Inspected and re-				
Inspected (about)	....	...	...	1500
Letters written	....	....	....	59
Cautionary Notices Given	....	....	....	9
Statutory Orders Issued	....	...	....	15
Houses, Premises, etc. cleansed and repaired				20
Periodical Inspections of Schools	....	....		18
Periodical Inspections of Slaughter Houses				20
Houses Demolished	....	....	....	0
Periodical Inspections of Cow Sheds			....	40
Contraventions of Bye-laws	....	....		3
Periodical Inspections of Dairies and Milk				
Shops	....	....	....	36
New Cisterns provided	....	....	....	28
Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered, etc.	....			36
Water Closets :—				
New constructed	....	....	....	3
New apparatus provided		....	....	11
Repaired, cleansed, etc.		....	....	21
Supplied with water, or supply rendered				
efficient	....	....	....	41
Ventilated	....	....	....	11
Drains examined, tested, exposed, etc,			....	0
,, unstopped, repaired, trapped			....	147
Waste Pipes, Rain-water Pipes, etc., dis-				
connected	....	....	....

Soil Pipes and Drains ventilated	....	....	21
Cesspools emptied, cleansed, etc.	....	...	18
Foul privies	....	... ..	6
Rooms fumigated	....	....	29
Rooms stripped and cleansed	....	....	29
Dust-bins repaired	....	....	20
New Dust-bins provided	....	...	48
Roofs of Houses repaired	....	....	29
Guttering and Rain Pipes repaired....	....	....	20
Accumulation of Refuse	....	....	27
Stagnant water	....	....	2
Foul pigs and other animals....	....	....	15
Other nuisances	...	....	10

The Nuisances and Sanitary defects were remedied, and only in the case mentioned in the Report has it been found necessary to take legal proceedings.



TABLE OF NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS
DISEASES WHICH OCCURRED IN THE
VARIOUS MONTHS.

	Scarla- tina.	Diph- theria.	Mem- branous Croup.	Enteric Fever.	Puer- peral Fever.	Erysi- pelas.
Jan.		1				1
Feb.	6			2		1
March	3			1		2
April	2					1
May	5	1	1			2
June						1
July	2	1				3
Aug.	1	7				
Sept.	2	1		2	1	1
Oct.	2					1
Nov.	4					2
Dec.	3			1		2
	30	11	1	6		17

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE LAST 10 YEARS.

	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria & Membran- ous Croup.	Measles	Whooping- Cough.	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Influenza.	Erysipelas.
1890	1			2	2		5	
1891				10			6	
1892	1	2	5				9	
1893	4	8	1	6			7	
1894	1	2	5	3			5	
1895		9				2	9	
1896		3		3	1		2	
1897		3	11	6	3	2	1	
1898		4		2			2	
1899	1	2	1	1			5	
Total	8	33	23	33	6	4	51	0
1900		5	7	8	1	1	21	

TABLE I. For Whole District.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number.	Rate*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1890	10,000	244	24.4	27	110	144	14.4				144	14.4
1891	10,025	260	25.93	28	107	135	13.46		1		134	13.36
1892	10,525	223	27.90	25	85	140	13.33				140	13.33
1893	11,000	277	25.18	47	169	163	14.81				163	14.81
1894	11,000	298	27.09	41	137	140	12.72		2		138	12.55
1895	11,187	269	24.05	55	204.6	178	16				178	16
1896	12,100	260	21.48	34	130	136	11.24				136	11.24
1897	13,000	294	22.6	42	143	156	12				156	12
1898	14,000	287	20.28	41	144	149	10.66		2		147	10.5
1899	14,425	351	27.7	45	128	167	11.65		4		163	11.29
Averages for years 1890-1899	11,726	283	24.66	38.5	136	151	13.02				150	12.94
1900	14,500	353	24.35	53	150	213	14.7		2		211	14.55

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of illness, and dying there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of illness, and have died elsewhere.

Area of District in Acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... 1,120 | Number of inhabited houses (at Census of 1891)

Total population at all ages (at Census of 1891) 10,025 | Average number of persons per house "

TABLE III. Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1900.
in Teddington District.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							Total Cases Notified in Each Locality.	No. of Cases Removed to Hospital from Each Locality.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards		
Small Pox...
Cholera
Diphtheria
Membranous Croup
Erysipelas
Scarlet Fever
Typhus Fever
Enteric Fever
Relapsing Fever
Continued Fever
Puerperal Fever
Plague
Totals

No Isolation Hospital in this District.

TABLE IV.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1900.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES.)	DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 & under 5.	5 & under 15.	15 & under 25.	25 & under 65.	65 & upwards.		
Small-pox	7	2	4	1					
Measles	8	4	4						
Scarlet fever	5		3	1		1			
Whooping-cough	1		1						
Diphtheria & membranous croup									
Croup									
Fever :—									
Typhus	1				1				
Enteric									
Other continued									
Epidemic Influenza	21		1	2	7	6	5		
Cholera									
Plague	14	8	6						
Diarrhœa	6	6							
Enteritis	1					1			
Puerperal Fever									
Erysipelas									
Other septic diseases									
Phthisis	8				3	4	1		
Other tubercular diseases	7	1	2	3	1				
Cancer, malignant disease	12					7	5		
Bronchitis	15	5	2			4	4		
Pneumonia	6		2		1	2	1		
Pleurisy	1				1				
Other diseases of respiratory organs	4			1			3		
Alcoholism	1					1			
Cirrhosis of liver									
Venereal diseases	7	7							
Premature birth									
Diseases & accidents of parturition	3					3			
Heart diseases	7			1		3	3		
Accidents	5	1	2		1	1			
Suicides									
All other causes	73	19	3	6	3	22	20		
All causes	213	53	30	15	18	55	42		



