

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Wembley UDC 1909].

Contributors

Wembley (London, England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1910.

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Wembley Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT


OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR, 1909.

LONDON :

PRINTED BY LEVERIDGE & Co. (T.U.),
ST. THOMAS' ROAD, HARLESDEN, N.W.



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

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the fifteenth Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary condition of the Wembley Urban District for the year 1909.

The population for the whole District is estimated at 10,570.

In Wembley (including Wembley Hill and					
Wembley Park)	...	...	...	...	6610
„ Sudbury	...	...	...	...	1610
„ Alperton	...	...	...	...	1116
„ Preston and Kenton	...	...	...	...	150
„ East Lane	...	...	...	...	1084
					10,570

From these figures it will be noticed that the population has doubled in five years, as in 1904 it was 5200.

The following is a list of the—

	<i>Houses occupied.</i>	<i>Unoccupied.</i>	<i>In course of erection.</i>
Wembley	1216	159	117
Sudbury	300	21	19
Alperton	206	0	15
East Lane	200	12	1
Kenton and Preston	30	0	0
	1952	192	152

These figures necessarily vary in this growing District almost from day to day.

AREA of the District is 4564 acres. Still there are only two persons to the acre.

BIRTH RATE FOR 1909.—The Registrar of Births has sent to me lists of 252 births occurring in the Wembley District—127 boys, 125 girls—showing again how nearly equal are the sexes. Of this number only one child was born out of wedlock. The birthrate per 1000 was 23·8, slightly lower than in 1908.

THE DEATH RATE.—Eighty-three deaths were registered in the Wembley District in 1909, but *five* of these were of non-residents, and their names have been sent to their respective localities. On the other hand, no less than 20 residents died outside the District, and the county Medical Officer has obtained particulars of each and forwarded to me, and of course they are included and accounted for. Our death rate therefore is somewhat higher—viz., 9·2 per 1000, or 98 deaths in a population of 10,570—still, not by any means a high mortality rate. Quite a number of the aged died in 1909, not from climate, disease or any specially unfavourable conditions, but they could not apparently hold out any longer—one at 95, another at 92, 91, 87, 86, 82, 81, and eleven septuagenarians.

Heart disease accounted for ten deaths, a causation not likely to decrease, owing to the stress of life.

Malignant disease	...	...	...	...	9
Premature birth	...	...	...	...	9
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	8
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	5
Bronchitis and whooping cough (each)	...	...	...	...	4
Accidents and Suicides (together)	...	...	...	...	5

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Twenty-five infants died before completing their first year, or an infantile mortality of 99·2 per 1000 births. Of these 13 died within the first month. This mortality rate is, of course, too high—slightly higher than it has been for five years.

Many died from prematurity—a cause difficult to control or influence. When the District is large enough to employ the services of a female Health Visitor, special attention could be given to women about to become mothers, with a view to less hard work being undertaken in the later months and improvement in the environment of the poor generally.

Besides this, to some extent preventable, loss of infant life, we note that twelve children were certified as stillborn.

NOTIFIABLE AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year 1909, twenty-one cases of infectious disease were notified; fourteen of these were scarlatina.

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	3
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	3
Typhoid	...	...	...	...	1

Two cases proved fatal—one diphtheria, one scarlatina.

No case was removed to the Isolation Cottage at Alperton, because those who could not be satisfactorily isolated at home were removed to the Willesden Isolation Hospital and one to the London Fever Hospital.

Several scarlet cases convalesced at the Mary Wardell Hospital at Stanmore.

In 1905 there were 43 infectious cases

„ 1906	„	„	26	„	„
„ 1907	„	„	27	„	„
„ 1908	„	„	4	„	„
„ 1909	„	„	21	„	„

The average for the five years is twenty-four per annum.

Now this number, though insufficient to need the provision of a fully equipped isolation hospital immediately, should warn us that one will be required at no distant date. At any rate, I can do no less than urge you to seek a suitable site for such a hospital whilst land can be obtained at a reasonable figure.

We are very careful to thoroughly disinfect after all cases of infectious disease and after *cancer* and especially of *phthisis*, using formalin by fumigation and a spray, and Thresh's apparatus for fabrics.

SANATORIUM FOR MIDDLESEX.

I made last year a long reference to the need of a few beds in a Sanatorium for Middlesex for Consumption.

I need only remind you of the facts there stated, especially that a few lives can be saved annually by early treatment, and of the important fact that if all Districts could isolate and treat these cases, much suffering and large sums of money could be saved to the nation by preventing and curing all forms of tuberculosis.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

Though not directly concerned with this matter, I would like to take the opportunity of acknowledging that much valuable work is being done, especially in the direction of warning parents that neglect of certain defects in their children may prove serious drawbacks in after life.

ALPERTON.

I am really concerned for the future of Alperton. With quite a nice residential property gradually increasing, is to be found the same rural insanitary conditions that have come to be considered indigenous to that district. Piggeries, mountains of filth accumulation, and other abominations abound on the Alperton borders. Now we have an enormous accumulation of so-called "rough dust" dumped on the canal side in a few hours, and unless the Greenford Urban District Council are successful in stopping it at once and having the deposit covered up, Eagle Road, Thurlby Road and Swinderby Road in a dry summer will be almost uninhabitable by reason of a plague of flies. I feel sure you will not hesitate, cost what it may, to proceed by injunction, if necessary, to avert so great a calamity.

I am very anxious, too, that you should find a solution to the making up of the roads at Mount Pleasant. Only the poor residents there know what misery it has been to live there during wet winters. In dry weather the paths and roads are passable, but in bad weather indescribable. Clifford Road and Brewery Lane are in similar case.

SEWAGE OUTFALL WORKS.

During the year 1909 considerable improvements have been designed and carried out by your Engineer, Mr. Cecil Chapman. Two concrete stand-by tanks of 100,000 gallons combined capacity have been constructed, as well as two Detritus tanks of 12,000 gallons. An efficient mechanical screening and raking apparatus has been erected, and additional pumping machinery for lifting the sludge from the various tanks.

The work recently carried out is primarily for the better treatment of storm water, and complies with the most up-to-date methods set forth in the last Report of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal.

Since your Engineer introduced the biological system of sewage treatment some nine years ago, the effluent has given exceedingly satisfactory results, and we have practically been free from any complaints from the Thames Conservancy.

CONCERNING THE ESTIMATES.

Your Sanitary Officers have just been consulted as to what sum would be required for Hospital and other purposes during 1910. It is a matter for satisfaction that the expenditure last year did not nearly reach the estimate. This arose mainly because the Isolation Cottage was not used during that period, provision having been made elsewhere at a less cost.

A question which is well worthy of your consideration is whether the *house refuse* could not be more expeditiously and economically removed by *contract* than by the present method.

COWSHEDS.

I regret, gentlemen, that I am not able to give you so good a Report of our cowsheds as usual.

It is true that some of them, both as regards the condition of the premises and the cleanliness of the cows, leave little to be desired, but the others are kept frequently in exceedingly bad condition.

Your Sanitary Officers have come to the conclusion that the policy of kindly and persuasive treatment is a mistake, and that as the ratepayers have a right to demand a cleaner and purer milk supply than is often obtainable, they recommend that stronger measures be used than heretofore to bring the defaulters into line.

They suggest that in future a *letter* be written in the first place, pointing out defects. Then, if necessary, a *Statutory notice* be sent, to be followed on non-compliance by a *summons* immediately the notice has expired.

It may be difficult, it may be nearly impossible, as is often asserted, to produce milk profitably in Middlesex, because of the labour required; but that is no concern of ours. We have to see that if the attempt is made it shall not result in the purveying of a dust-laden, germ-swarming fluid that may at any time induce an epidemic in our midst.

Men will often groom their horses twice a day, and yet very few cowkeepers will clean their beasts twice a year. Recently we have found that, when our backs were turned, that some of them were not ashamed, in filthy clothes, to milk their cows with dirty hands. In two of the sheds we often found the cows' hindquarters covered

with dung, the hardened accumulations of many weeks, teats dirty and the stalls filthy, and this in spite of our frequent inspection. We are the more disappointed, because we have frequently been able, after reporting to you, to get the sheds in passable condition, only to find in a few weeks a reversion to the methods of ten or fifteen years ago.

In future, no feelings of consideration will cause delay in seeking your assistance in obtaining a marked alteration in these slovenly, badly-kept yards.

THE SLAUGHTER HOUSES

have been usually found in good order. The new one will certainly be a great improvement on the one displaced.

THE DAIRIES, MILKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES

have been regularly inspected and found in satisfactory condition. You will find the list in the registers of the Sanitary Inspector.

OVERCROWDING.

Several cases of overcrowding have occurred during 1909, but we have been able to deal with them satisfactorily and without suggesting proceedings.

HOUSING, TOWN PLANNING. &c., ACT, 1909.

One section of the Act is certainly of much importance to the Sanitary Department, especially that relating to houses unfit for habitation, and the regular system of house to house inspection.

It has not only been the custom to inspect every house in the smaller streets, but new property as well. But if the inspections are in future to be extended to the larger property, they can only be done to a certain extent at the expense of the smaller.

The L.G.B. will now require your officers to comply with such regulations and to keep such registers and records as they may prescribe. This has, of course, been the case with the ordinary work of the Sanitary Officers for many years past.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

At the end of the Report, in tabular form, you will find the list of visits and inspections made under this Act.

You will also notice the *Infantile Mortality Table*, with causes of death in all cases up to twelve months of age.

Table III. deals with the *Infectious Disease* during 1909, classified according to age.

The Vital Statistics of the whole District for 1910 and for the previous ten years will be found in Table I.

And a complete list of Inspections by your Sanitary Inspector.

ADVOCATING THE FORMATION OF A SEPARATE SANITARY COMMITTEE.

I should like to take this opportunity of making a suggestion, and I do so with very great respect, and that is to ask whether the time has not arrived to form from the Council a separate Sanitary Committee for the consideration of all matters relating to the Public Health and the special Sanitary needs of the District.

There are certainly many disadvantages in the present coalition system.

I do not suggest that our Department has been ignored or in any way neglected. On the contrary, I have always during the last fifteen years gratefully acknowledged that the fullest and best consideration has been given by the members of the Works Committee to every sanitary detail brought before them. But the work is not identical, is rapidly increasing and might well be treated now by separate expert Committees.

I feel confident that if these Committees could meet concurrently, much time would be saved for the members and for the officers.

NEW OFFICE ROOM FOR SANITARY OFFICERS.

We desire to thank you for providing a separate office for the Health Department.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I feel I need hardly refer to the excellent work done by my colleague in the Sanitary Department, Mr. Fearn, but I like to place on record my own appreciation of his valuable help and co-operation during the past year.

And for their kind courtesy and consideration my thanks are also due to Mr. Rodd and to Mr. Cecil Chapman and their staff, and will you allow me to add lastly, but by no means least, to every member of the Council.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES E. GODDARD.

March 16th, 1910.

TABLE I.
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1909 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 year of age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.					
1899	4,350	123	24.0	17	138.0	57	13.1					
1900	4,500	111	24.6	8	72.0	45	10.0					
1901	4,600	104	22.8	9	86.0	39	8.5					
1902	4,700	117	22.4	9	77.0	47	9.7					
1903	5,000	141	26.0	9	64.0	47	9.4					
1904	5,200	144	27.6	18	125.0	59	11.2					
1905	5,895	156	26.4	21	132.0	46	9.5					
1906	6,000	172	28.4	14	81.0	46	7.6					
1907	8,303	167	20.1	15	89.7	74	8.9					
1908	9,606	234	24.3	21	89.7	65	6.7					
Averages for years 1899-1908	5815.4	146.0	24.6	14.1	95.44	52.5	9.46					
1909	10,570	252	23.8	25	99.2	83	7.85				98	9.27

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 4,564. At the Census of 1901 :—Total population at all ages, 4,519. Number of inhabited houses, 833. Average number of persons per house, 5.42.

NOTE.—The Union Workhouse is outside the District.

TABLE III.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1909.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in whole District.					Total Cases notified in each locality.	No. of Cases removed to Hospital.
	At Ages—Years.						
	At all Ages.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65		
Diphtheria ...	3	1	1	1			
Erysipelas ...	3			1	2		
Scarlet Fever...	14		9	4	1		6
Enteric Fever	1				1		
TOTALS ...	21	1	10	6	4		6

Isolation Hospital, Cottage and Ward, Alpertown. Total 6 Beds. Number of diseases that can be conveniently treated, 1.
Arrangements with Willesden Urban, and Hendon Rural District Councils to take patients when they have available room.

TABLE IV.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING
YEAR, 1909.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total deaths whether of "Residents" or "non-Residents" in Public Institutions in the District.
	All Ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
Measles			1					
Scarlet Fever				1				
Whooping-cough ...	4	4						
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)...	1			1				
Epidemic Influenza ...	2					2		
Enteritis	1	1						
Gastritis	1						1	
Phthisis	5				2	3		
Other tuberculous diseases	1		1					
Cancer, malignant disease... ..	9					6	3	
Bronchitis	4		2				2	
Pneumonia	8	1	1			4	2	
Other diseases of respiratory organs ...	1			1				
Premature birth ...	9	9						
Diseases and accidents of parturition... ..	2	2						
Heart disease	10			1		3	6	
Accidents	2		1			1		
All other causes ...	31	8	1	2	1	7	17	
All causes	98	25	7	6	3	26	31	

TABLE V.
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1909.

Cause of Death.	Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.												Total Deaths under One Year.
	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	8-9 Months.	11-12 Months.	
Artificial	5	2	4	2	13	2	4	1	1		2	1	25
Uncertified... ..													
Chicken-pox													
Measles													
Scarlet Fever													
Diphtheria: Croup													
Whooping Cough...							2				1	1	4
Diarrhœa, all forms													
Enteritis, Muco-en-						1							1
teritis, Gastro-en-													
teritis													
Stritis, Gastro-in-													
testinal Catarrh...													
Immature Birth ...	2	2	4		8								9
Congenital Defects				1	1						1		2
Injury at Birth ...													
Want of Breast Milk													
Rhachitis, Debility,													
Marasmus	2				2			2	1				5
Tuberculous Men-													
ingitis													
Tuberculous Perito-													
nitis: Tabes Me-													
nterica													
Other Tuberculous													
Diseases													
Meningitis (not													
tuberculous) ...				1	1		1						2
Convulsions													
Otitis													
Rhinitis													
Pneumonia						1							
Asphyxiation, over-													1
feeding													
Other Causes ...	1				1								
	5	2	4	2	13	2	4	2	1		2	1	25

Births in the year: legitimate, 251; illegitimate, 1.

Deaths from all Causes at all ages, 98.

Population (estimated to middle of 1909), 10,570.

Deaths in the year: legitimate, 25; illegitimate, 0.

NOTE.—Columns in which no deaths have occurred have been omitted.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspectors.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	10	—	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	18	—	—
Workplaces	1	—	—
Total	29	Nil.	Nil.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	Nil.	Nil.
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Other Nuisances				
Sanitary accommodation. { insufficient { unsuitable or defective { not separate for sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (S. 101)...	Nil.			
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)...				
Other offences				
Total	4	4		

3.—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.						OUTWORK IN UNWHOLE-SOME PREMISES, SECTION 108.			
	Lists received from Employers.			Numbers of Addresses of Out-workers received from other Councils.	Numbers of Addresses of Out-workers forwarded to other Councils.	Number of Inspections of Out-workers' premises.	Instances	Notices served.	Prosecutions.	
	Twice in the year.		Once in the year.							
	Lists.	Out-workers.	Lists.							Out-workers.
Wearing Apparel— (1) making, &c. ...					2					
Brush Making ...					1					
Total ...					3			3		

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of 1909.						Number.
Important classes of work- shops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enu- merated here.	Dressmakers and Milliners					
	Tailors					
	Workshop Laundries					4
	Bakehouses					6
	Cycle Makers, Carpenters, &c.					
	Workplaces					
Total number of Workshops on Register						17

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act, (S. 133)	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Act (S. 5)	Notified by H.M. Inspector... Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors,
Other	
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year	
In use at the end of the year	Nil.

REGISTERED WORKS

Author of the work in the title of the

Author and Title

Title

Year of publication

Place of publication

Country

Language

Right holder of the work in the title of the

OTHER MATTERS

Author

Title

Author of the work in the title of the

Author of the work in the title of the

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Author of the work in the title of the

[c. 1.]

SANITARY WORK. 1909

[illegible]

Canal Boats used as Dwellings.		Movable Dwellings, Caravans, Tents, &c.		Bakehouses.	Slaughter-houses.		Cow-sheds.		Dairies and Milk-Shops.		Un-sound Food.	Offensive Trades.		Water Supply and Water Service.															
Number Registered under the Acts.	Number of Contraventions of Regulations.	Number observed during the Year.	Number of Nuisances therefrom abated.	Number Removed from District.	Number in District.	Contraventions of Factory Acts.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections made and frequency of inspection.	Contraventions of Regulations.	Number of Milch Cows in District.	Number on Register.	Number of Inspections made and frequency of inspection.	Contraventions of Regulations.	Articles or Parcels surrendered.	Number of Premises in District.	Number of Inspections made.	Contraventions of Bye-laws.	Wells.		Percentage of Houses supplied from Public Water Service.	Cisterns.		Draw-Taps placed on Mains.	Percentage of Houses supplied on constant system.	Number of Samples obtained for analysis from Public Supply.				
																		New Sunk.	Cleansed, Repaired, &c.		Closed as Polluted.	New, Provided.				Cleansed, Repaired, Covered, &c.			
—	—	Eight Caravans were removed with aid of Police.			6	1	7	At times of killing when possible, and where in frequent use, fortnightly.	—		7	29	7	About 200.	16	70	2	1 box of fish and 2 parcels of fruit.	1	1	None in force.	—	—	All but five.	1 closed to abate nuisance.	—	—	All.	—

Drainage and Sewerage of existing Buildings.														Disinfection.		Dust.		Sundry Nuisances Abated.								
Water Closets.		Percentage of Houses provided with Water Closets.	Drains.					Cesspools.		Percentage of Houses Draining into Sewers.																
Number of Water Closets substituted for Dry Receptacles.	Repaired, Supplied, with Water or otherwise Improved.		Examined, Tested, Exposed, &c.	Unstopped, Repaired, Trapped, &c.	Waste Pipes, Rain Water Pipes, Disconnected, Repaired, &c.	New Soil Pipes or Ventilating Shafts Fixed.	Existing Soil Pipes or Ventilating Shafts repaired.	Disconnecting Traps or Chambers Inserted.	Reconstructed.		Rendered Impervious, Empty, Cleansed, &c.	Abolished, and Drain connected to Sewer.	Rooms Disinfected (a) Ordinary infectious diseases, (b) Phthisis.	Rooms Stripped and Cleaned.	Articles Disinfected or Destroyed, (a) Ordinary infectious Diseases (b) Phthisis.	New bins provided.	How frequently is dust removed from each house.	Number of complaints of non-removal received.	Method of disposal (a) Destructor (b) by Tipping, (c) Other, state method.	Overcrowding.	Smoke.	Accumulation of refuse.	Foul ditches, ponds, &c., and stagnant water.	Foul pigs and other animals.	Dampness.	Yards repaved or required.	Other nuisances.
—	15	99%	4	40	19	3	6	4	3	All emptied in the ordinary course.	—	—	—	—	36	Weekly.	7	Tipping and burning.	2	5	8	3	3	14	21	35

