

HEALTH REPORT FOR YEAR

Dr. Nesbitt Gave Summary of Work Done in His Department in 1912 - Council Well Pleased With Showing

A summary of the salient features of the work of the city health department for the year 1912 was contained in a report submitted to City Council yesterday morning by Dr. Chas. T. Nesbitt, the superintendent. His report was very gratifying to members of Council who, in receiving the document, gave him a vote of thanks for the achievements during the year.

Much of the statistical matter given in the report was published in The Star some days ago. The death rate is shown to have been 21.46 for 1912 as compared with 23.43 in 1911, a decrease of 7.97, which is due in a measure to the successful efforts of the health department.

The report in full follows: "To the Council of the City of Wilmington. Gentlemen: In addition to the regular monthly report for December, 1912, I desire to submit the data embodied in our compilation of statistics for the calendar year of 1912.

"In presenting this data I desire to disclaim any disposition on the part of the health department to appropriate to its credit an undue proportion of the reduction in death rates and amount of illness shown in the records of 1912 over 1911. It must be remembered that 1911 showed the highest death and morbidity rate in this city for a number of years past. It is a well-known fact that the illness and death rate varies in different years in respect of efforts at sanitary control.

"The total death rate for 1911 was 23.43. In 1912 it was 21.46. The death rate in 1911 for the white race was 19.94. In 1912 this rate was 14.99. The death rate for the colored race in 1911 was 34.78. In 1912 it was 28.85. A comparison of these death rates shows the influence of some change in conditions which operated alike on both races. It is at least reasonable to credit it to the generous effort at sanitation. The death rate from typhoid in 1911 was 100.98. In 1912 it was reduced to 35.64. From May 1st to December 31st, 1912, there were 310 cases of typhoid occurring in the city, 26 of which were black and 274 white, the proportion being about one black case to eight white cases. In 1912 there were but 82 cases of typhoid fever in this city between January 1st and December 31st. Twenty-one of these cases were among the colored race and 61 among the whites. The proportion, as can be plainly seen, was reduced to one black case to three whites. This great change indicates the greater effort among the white people to maintain sanitary protection against the disease.

stances are put into full effect and are rigidly enforced. Well in advance of any such probable epidemics the health department desires to eliminate and positively define the limits of its responsibility.

"One of the most important features of the work of the health department is the care of the indigent sick of the city. During 1912, 467 cases were sent from the city to the hospital in the James Walker Memorial Hospital maintained from the public funds. Two hundred and twenty-nine of these cases were sent from the First ward, 30 from the Second ward, 17 from the Third ward, 38 from the Fourth ward and 153 from the Fifth ward. But 13 of these cases were numbered, which was 4.07 per cent of the entire number. Of these cases sent to the James Walker Memorial Hospital 17 were cases of typhoid fever. Of these but two died. The percentage represented here, namely, 11.7, compares most favorably with the percentage of the other municipal hospitals in the United States. In fact, it is a little below the average.

"In the care of the indigent sick in their homes a most important and useful work has been performed by Dr. John Thames, the assistant superintendent of health. During the past year he has treated 763 cases. Of these the First ward furnished 72, the Second ward 17, the Third ward 9, the Fourth ward 22, and the Fifth ward 643. I desire to call your attention to the enormous preponderance of cases of illness among the indigent in the Fifth ward, and to offer these figures as further evidence that resistance to public health measures is always and everywhere paid for in human suffering. Upon those who encouraged and organized the opposition to public health work among the citizens of the Fifth ward must rest the full responsibility for this terrible loss in illness and death which our statistical data so conclusively shows.

"In connection with the professional work done by Dr. John Thames among the indigent of the city I desire to call the attention of your honorable body and the public at large to the gratifying result shown in the death rate among his patients. Out of a total of 763 patients treated by him during the past year there were but six deaths, three white and three colored. This represents a percentage of deaths to cases of 0.78 per cent. These cases included all medical, obstetrical and non-operative cases, which were sent to the James Walker Memorial Hospital. Many of these cases were seriously ill and could not be sent to the hospital either because of the rules of the hospital which excluded them or because of the widespread unwillingness among the white poor to avail themselves of hospital treatment. These results show a very high-grade of service rendered by Dr. Thames, who deserves the gratitude of this municipal government and of the public at large. Exclusive of Dr. Thames' salary which is totally disproportionate to the amount and quality of service he has rendered the treatment and care of these 763 cases has cost the city but \$186.27. The cost per patient was, therefore, about twenty-four and one-half cents.

"Much of Dr. Thames' success is dependent upon the arrangement in vogue for supplying medicines to the indigent. Prescriptions are written for any and all medicines needed by the individual patients irrespective of cost. The druggist renders the bill for medicines as furnished plus 15 per cent above actual cost. In this way the physician is in no way limited or restricted in his methods of treatment and the indigent are sure of receiving as high-grade medicines as any others. In the matter of smallpox control, Dr. Thames as quarantine officer, deserves especial credit. Smallpox continued as endemic until April, 1912. This was because of the fact that during the compulsory vaccination of 1910 a very large number of our citizens were allowed to remain unvaccinated under the excuse clause of the resolution, these were supplied by their family physicians with certificates alleging some cause or other why they should not be vaccinated. A very much larger number of the citizens remained exposed to smallpox infection because there was no effort during the period of compulsory vaccination to verify successful vaccination, immediately upon assuming the duties of quarantine officer Dr. Thames began the systematic vaccination of every unprotected person with whom he came in contact. In November, 1911, the Council reinstated quarantine against smallpox which had been abolished by statute on March 1st, 1911. The cases of smallpox occurring after this action of the Council were found to be for the most part among people who came from adjoining counties, together with a number of those who remained unprotected as described above. By the 1st of May, 1912, the epidemic condition of smallpox was definitely terminated. The pest house was closed on April 22nd and has not been in use by the city since that date. Since May 1st, 1912, but five cases of smallpox have occurred in the city. One case occurred in May, came to this town from Pender county. Two cases occurred in July contracted the disease while working in Brunswick county. One case in August contracted the disease from nursing one of the July cases. This woman was vaccinated as soon as it was known she had been exposed, but the disease developed before the vaccination could render protection. As is usual in such cases the attack was very light. One case occurred in September which was contracted in Brunswick county. No cases have occurred during the remainder of 1912. The results achieved by Dr. Thames in the control of smallpox proves conclusively that there can be no real control of this disease without the combined use of quarantine and vaccination.

The organization of the scavenger service for daylight work in cleaning the sanitary can closets was begun on December 11th, and has continued since that time with a minimum of offense and a maximum of economy. The plan upon which this work is performed is identical to that plan proposed to the Council in June of 1911, by the superintendent of health. Our experience with this plan has demonstrated that it cuts in two the expense of the scavenger service. Just half the number of men and teams are required to do the work under this plan as is required to do it during the night. If the sanitary closets had been installed throughout the entire city by September 1st, 1911, and this plan of scavenger service been installed at that time as anticipated by the sanitary closet ordinance passed on June 26th, 1911, the enormous waste of the public funds, which was the result of the non-enforcement of this law, would have been saved, and the citizens of the Fifth ward and of the other wards of the city would have been saved the great amount of illness and death which was preventable and unnecessary, which they have suffered since that time. If the continuation of this waste of public funds and human life and efficiency is to be stopped, definite steps must be taken at once by your honorable body toward carrying into effect these ordinances and plans, the value of which have been so positively demonstrated in the experience of your own administration.

"In concluding this report in which I shall not attempt to cover all features connected with the work of the health department, I desire to call your attention briefly to the financial aspect of the changed health conditions in Wilmington. Using the basis for the capitalization of human life and health devised by Prof. Irving Fisher, we find that the citizens of Wilmington sustained a loss of \$2,000 through typhoid fever alone in illness in the year of 1911. In 1912 the loss from this disease in sickness was but \$16,600. This shows a net saving to the citizens of \$45,400 in one disease alone. The loss sustained through death from typhoid fever alone in 1911 was \$39,000. In 1912 this loss was \$15,000. The net gain in this single instance was \$24,000. In the matter of total deaths there were 157 fewer deaths in 1912 than in 1911. Reduced to a financial equivalent this amounts to \$235,500. The saving on typhoid illness and deaths added to this sum gives a total saving on these three items of \$304,900. If but half of this saving had been credited to the work of the health department we feel that the money invested by the city in carrying forward our operations has brought a sufficiently gratifying return.

"Respectfully submitted, CHAS. T. NESBITT."

Theatrical.

At the Academy tomorrow night one of the most potent and delightful attractions of the season will be offered in the deliciously humorous farce, "Little Miss Brown," which comes here almost direct from a six months' run at the 48th Street Theatre, in New York.

"Little Miss Brown" is the latest work of Philip Bartholomew, who won fame over night two seasons ago with his first farce aptly called "Over Night." "Little Miss Brown," however, is conceded to be even a more amusing play than "Over Night." The scenes, three in number, are laid in a hotel, and the action of the three acts happens in twenty-four hours. A demure country miss visits the city and tries to secure accommodations at a hotel. She is mistaken for a married woman. She is shown to be one of the cleverest Italian songs ever written. The Grand orchestra will feature today a programme of Sam Fox Publishing Company's music including "The Amazon March," "Chills and Fever," "First Love," a waltz.



"LITTLE MISS BROWN." Scene From Big Comedy Attraction, Academy, Tomorrow Night.

other room of the suite. In the morning the real wife arrives, and the complications, which follow are said to be more amusing than any which have been presented in a farce in years. The title role is in the hands of Gladie O'lip, who was last seen here in "Polly of the Circus." As the demure little Miss Brown, Miss O'lip is the embodiment of good humor and spontaneous fun. From the moment she appears on the stage a close bond of sympathy is at once established between the two sides of the footlights. Another laugh-maker is William Bonnell, who plays the part of the husband. In this role he is seen at his best and his joviality and "bon homie" are irresistible. The play has been mounted on an elaborate scale, and the author, Mr. Bartholomew, personally directed the rehearsals. Seats are now on sale at Plummer's.

been prepared for the event by Henry W. Savage. "The Merry Widow" has not yet been superseded as the queen of the Viennese operettas. It was the first to come to this country and it immediately set new standards in the entire field of musical comedy production. It has no rival. In the past assembled for the new production, Mr. Savage has spared no expense and has succeeded in getting many of the originals together. Mabel Wilber will again sing Sonia. She has rested a season, after several arduous years in "The Merry Widow," and after studying several months is now better equipped than ever for the proper interpretation of the delightful Lehár music. Others of the originals who will be here are Charles Meakins, Oscar Pisman, Arthur Woolley, F. J. McCarthy. Then there will be new and attractive Maxim girls. As usual, Mr. Savage will have with the company, the special "Merry Widow" orchestra, selected from the grand opera organizations which he has trained for the past seasons.

Bunny at the Bijou. Four films today at the Bijou. Under the usual faultless Bijou conditions, too, and which are made up of new and merry music, the best method of presenting films and the solid comfort of the theatre. This solid comfort really one of the biggest features, and bids defiance to the bleakest kind of cold wave. In other words, it is always warm and cozy in the Bijou. And today's quartette of big photographs will be headed by another real Bunny film, the best one the enterprising Vitagraph people have yet turned out. It is called "Who Stole Bunny's Umbrella?" being the story of how this clever, fat comedian, John Bunny, loses his umbrella and suspects various people of having taken it. One of the best of all dramatics is also a headliner in Edison's "The Bank Cashier." In vivid, stirring manner is set forth the love of two young bank employes for the banker's daughter. One is honest and the other a crook. Two scenes especially are thrillers. In the second, another dramatic, one decidedly out of the ordinary is offered in "The New Squire." It tells of a handsome, rich young Englishman's love for a poor girl and how he won her. "At the Dog Show" is the fourth film star, and it is one of the best and most interesting of all. Ladies and children especially will delight in it.

Four Pictures at the Grand. Mr. Karp and special music by the Grand orchestra will make today one of the most brilliant of the week at Wilmington's favorite theatre. Not only is the patron ensured full value for his or her money in the pictures and music, but nowhere in the South is there a more comfortable and perfectly ventilated, which alone from a hygienic standpoint, is a big thing. Whether the mercury be up or down it is always comfortable and pleasant at the Grand. Mr. Karp is taking the town by storm and he will have for his song "Come-Back Marguerite," an Italian song that will be a great one. This is said to be one of the cleverest Italian songs ever written. The Grand orchestra will feature today a programme of Sam Fox Publishing Company's music including "The Amazon March," "Chills and Fever," "First Love," a waltz.

The pictures will include a great double bill, "The Lion Tonic," a freak picture that is ridiculously and refreshingly funny, and "Picturesque Italian Scenes," showing some of the most beautiful spots in Sunny Italy. Another great feature will be a Pathe, "The Doctor's Blind Child," being the dramatic story of two families and the final return of a daughter. The fourth picture will be equally as good and all the films will be put on with special effects.

JUDGE ARRAIGNED IN BITTER TERMS (Continued from Page One.) reasonable conclusion is that Judge Archibald, by reason of this assistance from Helm Bruce, was able to convince the court that their first decision was wrong and compelled them to reverse it.

"We are impelled to the conclusion that Judge Archibald was determined and I am inclined to think he was wrongfully determined to have that case decided in favor of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad."

Guest of Local Commandery. Mr. James C. Braslow, of White-Rockers, N. C., Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of North Carolina, Knights of Templar, was the guest last night of Plantagenet Commandery, No. 1, of this city. It was Mr. Braslow's twelfth visit and inspection of the local Commandery. One candidate was initiated, a supper was served in the banquet hall of the Masonic Temple and there were a number of musical selections during the evening.



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