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METROPOLIS LOCAL MANAGEMENT,

18 & 19 Vic., cap. 120.

VESTRY

OF THE

PARISH OF BERMONDSEY.

REPORTS

BY

JOHN CHALLICE, M.D.

OFFICER OF HEALTH.

From 4th May, 1857, to 7th June, 1858.

"PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE."

LONDON:

PRINTED BY ALFRED BOOT, DOCKHEAD, S.E.

1858.



BERMUDAS LOCAL MANAGEMENT

FESTRY

PARISH OF BERMONDSEY

REPORTS

JOHN CHALICE, M.D.

OFFICE OF HEALTH

From the 1st day of January 1900 to the 31st day of December 1900

Printed by the Government Printer, Bermuda

PRINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER, BERMUDA

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORTS.

May, 4, 1857.

Gentlemen,—On the 30th ult., I carefully inspected (pursuant to the order of the vestry), the premises of Mr. Burgess, in the Drummond Road. They are used, apparently, for bone-boiling, artificial manure mixing, and the preparation of glue pieces. I say apparently, for the foreman of the works very civilly informed me, that by direction of his master, I was to make my own observations, and not look to him for information. I saw no indications of any other trade or manufacturing process.

When within ten paces of the gates of the premises, I noticed a faint ammoniacal odour, not strong nor peculiarly offensive; within the premises, this odour was of a more decided character, and arose from several parcels of bones in a wet condition, which were, in fact, in a stinking and putrescent state. I was desirous of taking one of these bones as a sample, but the foreman objected.

There were about the yard, considerable heaps of comparatively dried bones, which were tolerably free from smell.

The bones are evidently intended for boiling; there is a boiler in the open air, which, from its appearance, is in occasional use, and there are large iron vessels in the covered shed, with pipes connected to the steam-engine, these are called digesters; I have no evidence as to their having been as yet used. From the condition of the wet bones before mentioned, there can be no doubt, that boiling them in the open air would cause a most sickening and offensive odour. I have no doubt that this is the occasion of the complaints by the surrounding neighbours. The large accumulation of bones is objectionable, for as the weather becomes warmer, gases and offensive odours will be engendered, likely to cause sickness, and a low state of health to those living in the vicinity.

The waste water from the steam-engine was running into an open ditch, at a high temperature, which is objectionable, but the water was not offensive, and I did not observe the presence of any animal matter.

The glue pieces were “limed,” and very little, if any, objection could, with justice, be made against them.

During my visit there was no offensive or injurious process in operation; in fact, it was merely the grinding of pebbles and coprolites to a fine powder. The extraction of fat from stale and stinking bones, by stewing in a boiler in the open air, with no precaution as to the escape of vapour, which of necessity must be of a most offensive character, is, in an inhabited neighbourhood, a foul and intolerable nuisance, which ought not to have been commenced, and should not be permitted to continue. I report thus decidedly, because I know well the odour given off by bone boiling. I must, however, in

fairness state, that although I have passed the premises of Mr. Burgess on many occasions during the last fortnight, I have not found this process going on; I am told that it is done at night. I have expressed my willingness to parties who complain that their health is injured, to come at any time, night or day, when they find the nuisance in active operation.

With ordinary care, with very little skill and contrivance, I feel convinced that the *cause* for the outcry against these premises might be remedied. There is evidently a strong feeling on the subject. I gathered this from "house to house" inquiries on the spot. Should fever, diarrhoea, or cholera, break out at this point, spread, and become prevalent, occasion loss of life, then great blame will rest somewhere.

I have again inspected the arches of the railway, used as an artificial manure manufactory, by Messrs. Hale & Co. The night-soil appears to be thoroughly deodorized. I have here a specimen for the opinion of the Vestry. As regards the fish refuse, I am of opinion, that it cannot be accumulated in quantities without danger to the health of the public, and ought not, under any circumstances, to be permitted during the summer months. There is a sample of the fish manure also for your inspection.

I have had my attention directed to Nos. 14 and 15, Mill Street which are in a condition as certain to produce disease, as the application of fire to gunpowder will produce explosion. At No. 15, the privy was within the house, and brim full, running over at the seat. The wife stated that her husband was compelled to resort to the public-house for his convenience, and obliged to spend his money in drink. At No. 14, they have lost one child, and one is just returned from the hospital. They complain of sickness, vomiting, and purging, and no wonder. The yards are impure, there are pools of stinking, stagnant green water, and the drainage is altogether inefficient. The people say, that at times they can hardly breathe.

My attention has also been drawn to what, unless remedied, will be a growing evil. The houses in Little London Street, which formerly stood partly on piles over the mill stream, have now under them a vacant space, which appears to be a receptacle for every imaginable abomination, rotten fish, flesh, and filth of every description. The space should be cleaned out, filled up with brick-rubbish, and then closed up.

Your Inspector directed my attention to the condition of an open ditch at the back of Elizabeth Place, it appears quite stagnant, and requires cleansing, it is in a very filthy and dangerous state.

Having ascertained that ague was prevalent in Foxlow Street, I directed your Inspector to find out the state of the inhabitants, and overcrowding to an enormous extent exists; I have had an interview with the Police Commissioners, and am promised their aid should be necessary to ascertain with exactitude (which can only be done at night) the real number who occupy the houses in this street.

During the month, the health of the parish has, with slight exceptions, been satisfactory. The mortality for the week ending

April 4th, was but 18; for the week ending the 11th, 29; for the week ending the 18th, 21; and for the week ending 25th, 19.

As we may now expect a rapid increase of temperature, I would suggest that redoubled vigilance should at once be exercised in removing dust and house refuse. I also recommend that the urinals of the parish should be lime-washed, and deodorizing be frequently employed. There are some spots in the parish where public urinals might with advantage be erected.

May 18, 1857.

Gentlemen,—In my last report, dated the 4th instant, I stated that I had inspected the arches of the South Eastern Railway, occupied by Messrs. Hale & Co., used as an artificial manure manufactory. I then gave an opinion that the conversion of stale fish into manure, could not be effected with safety in a neighbourhood where human beings dwelt, that public health was endangered, that it ought not to be permitted to continue, and that the approach of warmer weather rendered absolutely necessary legal steps for its prohibition. I have the satisfaction of reporting that the magistrate has issued his order for the discontinuance of this trade.

At the same time I reported, at some length, the premises of Mr. Burgess, in the Drummond Road. I mentioned that there was an accumulation of bones, and of glue pieces. I saw that there was provision or arrangements made for boiling these bones, for the extraction of fat; I saw also, means whereby the bones could be crushed and powdered; I saw, as well, a vast accumulation of "gas refuse;" and I did not fail to notice a quantity of glass vessels, used for storage of oil of vitriol. These facts confirmed in my mind the belief that a very injurious and offensive calling was here carried on, but at my visit all was in a state of repose, I could only report upon what I saw. At the meeting of this Board on the 11th instant, I then verbally reported that I had again visited the premises, that some improvement was apparent, inasmuch as a portion of the bones were removed, and some steps taken towards removing the boiler. I could not consistently or conscientiously then certify that I *witnessed* any process or manufacture injurious to health, however strong my conviction of the existence, at times, of a most aggravating, offensive, and pernicious nuisance. However, it now affords me satisfaction in presenting to this Vestry a certificate to the effect, that on these premises there is a trade or manufacture carried on most injurious to health. I say that it affords me satisfaction in presenting this certificate, because I entertain the hope, that it will afford a means for the prompt suppression of a nuisance of the worst description.

It was on the morning of May 12th, about 2 o'clock, that I witnessed the effects in the surrounding neighbourhood of the process here carried on. In the first place, there was the noise from the grinding of the stones, which could be heard at a considerable distance, and the entire district was enveloped in a dense suffocating and offensive vapour. I witnessed it nearly an hour, and it produced in me headache, nausea, and sickness,

June 15, 1857.

Gentlemen,—It is with extreme satisfaction that I have to report to you a very low rate of mortality in our district during the last six weeks. It is as follows:—For the week ending May 2nd, the deaths were 23; one from diarrhoea in an old lady of 77. For the week ending May 9th, the deaths were 15; one from scarlatina in Crosby Row. For the week ending May 16th, the deaths were 18; for the week ending May 23rd, the deaths were 19; for the week ending May 30th, the deaths were 19; one from typhoid fever, at Guy's Cottage. And for the week ending June 6th, the deaths were 17; one a case of diarrhoea, in Marigold Court, in a child two months old.

At a glance it will be seen that we are not only free from any epidemic disease, but that the district is in a healthy condition, almost unprecedented. It is worthy of record, and has been especially noticed by the Registrar General's Report, that in the week ending June 6th, the deaths for the entire metropolis were less than in any corresponding week for the last 11 years, with the exception of 1847 and 1850.

This is, of course, a gratifying fact to all, but it is a source of especial gratification to us, to find upon analysis, that this important diminution in the mortality is, in a great measure, due to the improved sanitary condition of the *southern metropolitan districts*. As, with a population at the last census of 616,635, the deaths for the week are but 209, the average in the last 10 years being 269; while in all the other districts, with a population of 1,745,601, the deaths are 659, the average being 709. In round numbers an improvement in the former case of 25 per cent.; in the latter, of about 7 per cent. The almost entire absence of fever (notwithstanding the temperature being 4 degrees above the average) in the whole southern district is most remarkable and satisfactory, only two deaths being registered, one at Woolwich and one in Lambeth. I have said before, that I look upon fever as a disease which will soon be rarely met with, provided we carry out with perseverance and constancy prudent sanitary precautions. Whooping cough continues to add to our mortality, and in almost all cases from the neglect of medical treatment in the earlier stages of the complaint.

I have inspected Bridge House, which is occupied by 7 families, there are three privies without water supply, one excessively offensive and choked up. Fever has been there lately.

Mrs. Ferguson, of Gilbert Court, complains of want of water, she states that it comes in at five o'clock in the morning from a stand pipe for half an hour only. There are 4 houses with this one and insufficient source.

In London Street there is but one privy for seven houses, from No. 1 to No. 7. Oposite Nos. 1 and 2 was a pool of stagnant filthy stinking water. In front of these houses there was house refuse, consisting of various abominations—stinking fish, and filth of almost every description.

There are two privies in another portion of London Street in a most disgraceful condition, in the public thoroughfare. They are

full, choked up, and the stench arising from them is suffocating, polluting the atmosphere around. Blame will rest somewhere if fever or diarrhoea should break out at this spot.

Somerset Cottages in Blue Anchor Lane, from Nos. 1 to 4, inclusive, are huts abutting on the open ditch. They each have one room only, and in their present condition are unfit for human habitation. There are two privies in a filthy state, and very offensive.

I regret to state that Foxlow Street, where ague has lately prevailed, is in a very disgraceful condition as regards several of the houses; open offensive privies, unpaved yards, with pools of stagnant, stinking water, absence of receptacles for house-refuse, which is left to be scattered in every direction; in one case, where a dust-bin is built, complaint was made that the ashes had not been removed for three weeks. Nos. 5, 6, and 7, have open and offensive privies. Complaint is made that the water is supplied only on alternate days, and as the butts are in almost every instance of a miserable description, small and leaky, they were mostly quite empty. Altogether I look upon Foxlow Street as entitled to the unenviable position of being one of the worst spots I know in our district, perhaps the very worst.

I have visited again the arches of the railway, occupied respectively by Messrs. Hale, and by Mr. Hickmott, at the former there was a baking process of the manure going on, very offensive and sickening. I remonstrated; Mr. Hale promised to discontinue the process at once in the day time, and stated that they were looking out for fresh premises. A considerable portion of the manufactured manure is removed.

The arches occupied by Mr. Hickmott were comparatively inoffensive. Still, the presence of carboys of sulphuric acid is indicative of a process carried on at times, which I know to be offensive and injurious to health.

On the complaint of Mr. Shepherd, I, accompanied with your Inspector of Nuisances, on the morning of the 4th instant, visited the premises of Mr. Burgess, and was by that gentleman shewn through his yard. I have made a note of what I then observed, but as legal proceedings are pending, deem it advisable to defer any report at present.

On the complaint of Mr. Martin, I accompanied him on the 12th instant to view an accumulation of mud and refuse by the side of a pond, at the Messrs. Bevington, adjoining his premises. I consider its removal advisable, as it is injurious to health.

At the request of Mr. Cowan, I have inspected the ditch at the rear of his premises (lately Mr. Curling's), and I consider it advisable, as soon as practicable, to remedy that which is certainly a serious nuisance.

July 6, 1857.

Gentlemen,—It is satisfactory for me to report that the health of the district is good, no epidemic disease prevailing, and the mortality considerably below the average.

In the week ending June 15th, the deaths for the entire Parish were 15, thus distributed:—6 in St. James's, 6 in St. Mary Magdalen's, and but 3 in the Leather Market, there being one an infant of seven days, another of a year, and another the wife of a journeyman tanner, aged 74 years. This, in a population of 15,000 at the last return, now probably of nearly 20,000, is worthy of record.

For the week ending the 20th of June, the deaths are 23. The increase is not occasioned by any apparent accession of any active or prevalent disease, but by accidental circumstances, three inquests having been held in the Leather Market district: one being a case of apoplexy, another suicide by hanging, and the third, accidental death from a fall. Of the five deaths registered in St. Mary Magdalen, three are from natural decay, of the respective ages of 76, 75, and 78 years, the remaining two being children.

In the week ending June 27th the temperature rose considerably, being $6\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ above the average for the last 43 years; the highest in the sun 116° , and in the shade $88\cdot5^{\circ}$.

I feared, and was prepared for, a considerable accession of disease and mortality, in consequence of this unusual high temperature; but I was mistaken, as our registered deaths are for the week again but 15, indicating a condition of the public health highly satisfactory.

These satisfactory results must not lull us into feelings of false security. It is very possible for influences of a highly dangerous character to be in operation, sapping the health of a community for a considerable period, before the immediate exciting cause of a prevalent disease comes into action; and then the constitutions of those already impaired or undermined by a polluted atmosphere, or by other causes, are altogether unable to withstand the attacks of disease, which under other circumstances, instead of destroying life, would probably pass away without producing any material mischief.

I am led to these remarks by what came under my notice on the morning of June 27th. At about half-past one, the weather being very hot, the atmosphere perfectly still, and the wind east, I was awoke by the entrance into my bed-room (the window being open) of a most abominable stench, and was compelled to close the window. I got up, and went out to ascertain the source of this pollution of the atmosphere. Along the Grange Road to the corner of the Spa Road, the stench was choking to oppressiveness; I went as far as Procter and Bevington's, and from their yard there proceeded a strong animal odour as of scutch. I recommend an inspection of their premises. From the yard of Mr. Young the same odour, but in a lesser degree, was perceptible; still in neither of these cases did I recognise the peculiar suffocating offensive stench which first attracted my attention.

Returning by the Spa Road, when by the Baths and Washhouses, the atmosphere again became like that over a cesspool, and at the corner by the Grange I met police constable 299, M, who told me, that he had been almost "knocked down by the stink," and he

thought it proceeded from a yard in Great George Street; I went with him to the cow-yard of Mr. Duckett, in Great George Street, where night-soil was being deposited by carts and wagons, and it was from this spot, and from this source, that the whole neighbourhood was tainted; I believe to such an extent, that had there been any tendency to diarrhœa or cholera, it would have occasioned one or other of these diseases, perhaps both, to a very considerable extent.

At the request of the Master of the workhouse, I have examined an open sewer or ditch at the rear of the building, it is unsightly and somewhat offensive, and as a possible cause, or aggravator of disease, I recommend its being covered. At the distance of about 100 yards nearer the church-yard it is more offensive, and there are open privies on the border. There is also a very dilapidated building, which appears to me in a very dangerous condition, and the felmonger's yard is most offensive, having accumulations of scutch and other decomposing animal matters, which ought to be removed.

Mr. Hodgkins also complains of, and I have frequently noticed the effluvia which proceeds from, the man hole just facing the door of the workhouse; it is a most unsuitable spot for the opening, as the tainted air from the sewer pervades almost the entire building.

Mr. Seaton of 198, Long Lane, has on several occasions complained of his next door neighbour causing an intolerable nuisance, by which himself, wife, and work-people were rendered sick, and ill. I have inspected on various occasions the premises of Mr. Garman, complained of. His business is offensive, and he has not adopted proper precautions for the prevention of a nuisance.

I have inspected the arches of the railway occupied by Messrs. Hales and Co., and by Mr. Hickmott; I cannot, at present, report definitively upon them.

I regret to state, that complaints are again more frequent of deficient water supply, especially in the neighbourhood of Bermondsey New Road, and the Folly, Dockhead.

July 20, 1857.

Gentlemen,—In the week ending June 27th, notwithstanding an average temperature, considerably greater than in any corresponding week for the last 43 years, the mortality, I am happy to state, of the parish was but 15, indicating a satisfactory healthy condition of the district. For the week terminating July 4th, the deaths are only 14; of these, one was from whooping cough, and one from scarlatina. In the Metropolis, the deaths from diarrhœa increased from 33 in the previous week to 65 in the first week of July. In our district we have had no deaths from this disease, although it has prevailed with us to some extent, but not in a severe or dangerous form hitherto. During the last week, however, some cases of a severe character have occurred; and this is the period when this disease is most to be apprehended. I would especially draw attention to the fearful condition of the Thames, as some cases of diarrhœa, with sickness approaching to cholera, have come under my notice from the stench arising from the river. I earnestly advise, that no one

should at present venture upon it, without a most pressing necessity. In connection with this subject, I have again with extreme regret to report, that the water supply is in some districts alarmingly inefficient. Our baths and wash-houses have also suffered from inadequate supply, and the Superintendent informs me that the water is not of good quality.

From enquiries made by your Inspector, and from complaints at the Office, there can be no doubt of the serious inconvenience to which the inhabitants generally are subjected in consequence of insufficient supply of water. I look upon this as a very alarming circumstance, calculated, not only to predispose our population to disease, should any epidemic arise, but as also very certain to produce injury to the public health. I have inspected the premises of Messrs. Procter and Bevington, and found a considerable accumulation of scutch, and also large heaps of horns, in a putrid and putrifying condition. I do not believe that they can remain there without risk to the neighbourhood, and I have certified accordingly. There is at times a gaseous, offensive and suffocating vapour, which proceeds from these premises, occasioning sickness, headache and nausea, to the inhabitants of the vicinity. It arises from the employment of muriatic acid. I consider that some means might be employed to diminish this cause of complaint.

At Mr. Young's premises the scutch was being removed. I suggest that the carts used for its removal should be covered, during the present hot weather, with a coating of charcoal or plaster of Paris and a tarpauling, as the effluvia from putrid animal matter is most offensive, and to many persons very injurious.

August 3, 1857.

Gentlemen,—The deaths registered in the week ending July 11th for this parish were 15, the average during the last 10 years being 24·2. For the week ending July 18th, the deaths registered were 14, the average for the last 10 years being 29·6; and for the week ending July 25th, the number registered is again 14, the average being 29·6.

This is a most satisfactory state of things, and is encouraging for us to continue with steadiness and perseverance in the path of sanitary reform. Considering the unusual temperature, which during the week ending the 25th ult. was 6·7 degrees above the average of the same week in the last 43 years, this result is beyond my most sanguine anticipations. The temperature of the week previous was nearly to the same degree in excess of the average. I attribute the diminished mortality in some degree to the very wholesome alarm which prevails when diarrhœa commences, and the consequent promptitude in resorting to medical advice, and to precautions in diet; for diarrhœa has been very prevalent, almost general, especially with children. One fatal case of cholera is registered in a child aged five years, after 23 hours' illness, still we are, at present, entirely exempt from this disease in an epidemic form; isolated

cases, however, of a severe character are occurring in various parts of the metropolis, sufficient not to create alarm, but to cause watchfulness, and some additional anxiety, to all in whom the deep responsibility is vested of taking all human precautions for the preservation of public health.

I certify to you that there is a most serious and dangerous nuisance to the neighbourhood at Mr. Garman's, 200, Long Lane. I have before reported on these premises as being unfitted for the trade here carried on. In the period since elapsed, no precautions have been adopted, but the nuisance has been in every way aggravated. There are heaps of putrid animal matters, offensive in the highest degree. Not an instant should be lost in insisting upon an immediate clearance. I regretted that I had no powers to remedy the very serious evil which presented itself to my notice on the 27th ult.

I have, pursuant to the order of the Vestry, inspected the premises of Mr. Petch of Dockhead. On the 24th ult., without entering the yard, I observed a dense smoke issuing from the roof and sides of the western end of the building, which continued for about ten minutes, enveloping the surrounding neighbourhood, and giving off an offensive sickening odour sensible to the taste; this smoke was succeeded by a lighter smoke or vapour, also very sickening, which lasted for nearly the same period.

On the morning of the 25th, at about 11 o'clock, I entered the premises. There was some smell from that portion of the building used for roasting chicory, but only to a very slight degree to what formerly existed. There is a manifest improvement in the mode for carrying off the vapour. At the western end, used for roasting malt, there was a little smoke issuing from the window and roof. I waited and watched the process going on, which is as follows:—There is an iron cylinder which is filled with grain, about 16 bushels, and then exposed to the action of heat. The cylinder revolves over a furnace by steam-power derived from Mr. Petch's factory; after about 45 minutes, smoke issues from the cylinder, more and more rapidly every minute, until the atmosphere around becomes quite suffocating. The cylinder is then withdrawn, and the charred grain is thrown on the stone floor beneath, and it is then that the lighter vapour is given off. The process is repeated six times daily, and thus for about three hours the neighbourhood is suffering.

From the description here attempted, it may appear to the Vestry that no very serious inconvenience can be felt from this process. But I have no doubt that the complaints by the neighbours are in no degree exaggerated. Their comfort must be most materially interfered with; if they open their windows, their houses and rooms are filled with the vapour. As I have before stated, in many instances health must be injured, and, considering that no means whatever are employed to diminish or check the grievance, I certify the malting process, or roasting of grain, to be a nuisance, and injurious to health.

I may here state that my attention was at the same time directed, by Mr. Petch, to smoke issuing from the chimney of an adjoining

cooperage, which gave off a very sickening odour of rancid oil. The chimney is low, and should be raised.

In consequence of a communication from the General Board of Health, I visited 24, Cherry Garden Street. There is an open offensive cesspool, into which, I am informed, ten other privies are emptied. The people in the house have sickness and bowel complaints. The houses from whence the privies are drained are in Brewer's Court, and the tenants of these complain most bitterly of having no water; there is none laid on. On enquiry, I found that some of the tenants fetch water from the Thames! others beg a little from their neighbours. I have certified them accordingly, and I urge upon the Vestry that the works necessary, be insisted on, and immediately carried out.

The inhabitants of the west side of Cherry Garden Street complain of a short supply of water; this complaint is not so general on the eastern side. It seems to me, that in this case therefore, the deficiency is owing to some imperfection in the pipes. I had complaint made to me by Mrs. Madden, of 24, Nelson Street, on the 1st instant, of having no water supplied. She stated that she and her neighbour Mrs. Goodrich had both complained to the turncock, and at the office of the Company, without effect. In Suffolk Place, Snow's Fields, complaints are also made of no water since Thursday week till to day.

I have this day inspected a house at 13, Lamb Alley, in consequence of a complaint made this morning, that a "dead body," had been deposited there for ten days, and had burst before its removal, and that the ceilings and walls were saturated with the contents from the body, thus rendering the house unfitted for habitation. The statement I found to be correct, but in the course of the day, the house had been cleansed and limewashed. The practice of keeping the dead unburied for long periods is much to be lamented.

Your Inspector reports, that the wet scutch is removed from Procter and Bevington's premises, and that the large heaps of horns are also removed, with the exception of about three tons, and that there is a great improvement in their premises.

August 19, 1857.

Gentlemen,—During the last fortnight our population has suffered from diarrhœa, to a considerable extent, in common with other Metropolitan districts. In the week ending August 1st, the total number of deaths were 24, being nine less than the average, and of these, seven were from diarrhœa, viz., four in Saint James's two in Saint Mary's, and one in the Leather Market district; the death in this district is a child of seven months, and after ten days sickness; in Saint Mary Magdalen, one of the two deaths from diarrhœa is a journeyman leather-dresser, aged 60, and the other a child of four months old. In Saint James's, of the four deaths, two are infants of ten weeks, one a child of five months, and the other one year. In the week ending August 8th, the deaths are 27, the average being 34. The mortality from diarrhœa is again seven, viz., one in

St. Mary Magdalen, two in the Leather Market, and four in St. James's, all children under one year of age, with one exception, a child of 19 months. The deaths from cholera in the metropolis, in the fortnight, have been 54. We have had no fatal case.

I beg strongly to urge upon the Vestry the propriety and necessity of improving the condition of John's Place, I know of no spot where paving is more required, for its effectual cleansing and purification.

Rose Court, Dockhead, requires immediate attention, the drainage is bad, and a most offensive effluvia rises from the gully, almost poisoning the inhabitants. Some most severe and dangerous cases of diarrhoea in adults have lately taken place at this spot.

Complaint was made to me of a very offensive smell from Messrs. Oastler and Palmer's, and on inspection I found the cause to be an accumulation of horns; these, on my recommendation, were promptly removed. On my visit, the workmen of Messrs. Oastler and Palmer, complained of a sickening stench, which appeared to come from Swan Mead, and which was of that intensity, that some of them had been seized suddenly with sickness and diarrhoea, and compelled to leave their work.

I had previously inspected Swan Mead, and very strongly urged upon the occupiers of some factories there the necessity for using precautions of more than ordinary stringency during this hot season. Their yards were not in a good condition. I am sorry to report that my friendly remonstrances have been ineffectual. At Mr. Cripps's glue and size manufactory, there was an accumulation of from 30 to 40 tons of scutch, and I have reason to believe that the process of boiling this putrid refuse for the purpose of extracting fat is here carried on. I certify the accumulation of scutch a nuisance and injurious to health. I have not the slightest doubt that it is the cause of sickness to the men at Oastler and Palmer's.

At Mr. Ness's there was a collection of filthy offensive bones, and stinking hoofs. The atmosphere at this spot was sickening and most oppressive, as adjoining these premises there is a farina manufactory, where a large accumulation of refuse from diseased potatoes was deposited.

Mr. Legg's premises offered a very favourable contrast, the yard was clean and well kept, and every endeavour was evidently used to prevent any legitimate cause of complaint.

I regret to state that Brewer's Yard is in a similar condition to Brewer's Court (which was brought to the notice of the Vestry at its last meeting). The inhabitants have not a drop of water; there is none laid on, either to the Yard or houses. The poor people complain very bitterly of the hardships and misery occasioned them by this privation. I have certified the houses, and I urge the carrying out of the necessary steps with promptitude.

September 21st, 1857.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—Four weeks have passed since I presented a report on the health and mortality of the district to

your consideration, for at the last meeting I was prevented doing so by severe indisposition.

In the above-mentioned period, we have had great cause for congratulation, for at one time it appeared as if we were on the verge of a serious epidemic, but the danger now seems passed, and we are happily free from any general disease.

In the week ending August 22nd, the deaths were 28, the average being 35; of these, however, four were drowned accidentally whilst bathing. There were also four deaths from diarrhoea, but three of these were children aged respectively six weeks, four months, and six months, and the other 75 years of age, with heart disease and natural decay. For the week terminating August 29th, the deaths registered are 22, the average being 29. Three deaths are recorded from diarrhoea; one, however, being 66 years of age, was infirm, had previous organic disease, natural decay being here also assigned as a cause of death. It is therefore evident, that in this as in the case registered the week previous, that diarrhoea was merely a symptom of disease already existing in each of these cases, and in no degree whatever an original or epidemic disease. I consider this a very important distinction. In this week in other metropolitan districts, diarrhoea prevailed somewhat severely, more especially in Marylebone, Deptford, and Plumstead. The week ending September 5th is indeed remarkable, the deaths being 17, whilst the average for the last 10 years is 45. We present for the districts of St. Mary Magdalen, and St. James a clear "bill of health," no death being registered for diarrhoea, fever, measles, or other zymotic disease in a population of 35,000. I record with pleasure these words appended to the return of Mr. Martin, the registrar, for the St. James's district, "In the last 33 days I have only registered the deaths of five adults from natural causes; I have not known this locality so healthy for the last 28 years." Here are reaped the fruits of sanitary improvements; who can doubt that the filling up the foul water-course called the Neckinger, which, as a huge open sewer, formerly disseminated the seeds of disease to the surrounding population, has contributed materially to this result. Jacobs Island is no longer a place to point the finger of scorn at. The poor people have now wholesome water. The drainage of Parker's Row has been very beneficial, the change in the condition of the surrounding atmosphere is most marked; formerly there was always a faint, sickening smell, often an abominable stench. Now the back yards and small gardens thereabouts are as fresh as in many a small country town. From this very cheering prospect, I must now turn to a dark spot in the Leather Market district, viz., King Street, Bermondsey New Road. There have been three deaths in one house from scarlet fever, I have visited and inspected narrowly the house and the neighbourhood. As regards the house, although small, and at a low rent, the sanitary arrangements are in a fair condition; the privy is panned and trapped, there is good water supply, no complaint by any of the neighbours, and the drainage appears to be good. The parents have left, and I believe were respectable, steady, and cleanly people, there was

no overcrowding; still the fever is in this neighbourhood, and I must remark that it is in the immediate vicinity of Swan Mead, of which I have been compelled to speak strongly against. Cross Street is also close by, and is in a most disgraceful and dangerous condition.

For the week ending September 12th, the deaths are 19, and the averaged 39; three are from diarrhoea, and one "infantile cholera," there is also one from want of breast milk, which too frequently happens, and is generally the fate of *illegitimate children*. Some special registration or supervision is certainly required for the preservation of the lives of these neglected, half-starved, ill-used, often wilfully-destroyed human beings.

I must say a few words relating to our water supply. On perusing a letter signed James Rosseter, and addressed to Sir James Emerson Tennant, the Secretary to the Board of Trade, in reply to a copy of my Report to this Vestry on a former occasion, I find these words, "The result with regard to the baths and wash-houses, was that it could not be ascertained that any complaint had been made to the Vestry either as to quantity or quality of the supply, on the contrary, entire satisfaction was expressed by the superintendent of that establishment."

The superintendent informs me that such is not the fact. He has complained to me of the quality as well as of the quantity, I did not report the former, as I considered it might be accidental and unavoidable, as the water is generally good. I reported the latter, because the deficient supply of water to our district was becoming serious, and I here repeat alarming.

The "distinct and unqualified contradiction of the Company," would, in an individual, be considered an untruth; but in a powerful corporation it is looked upon merely as the denial of a fact.

In Brewer's Court, and Brewer's Yard, where water has lately been laid on, I was, on Saturday last, informed by the inhabitants, that the supply was only on alternate days. On the same day at Somerset Cottages, where there is but one butt for the seven tenements, and not a quart of water in it, the poor people say that it comes on only every other day, and not on the Sunday. Yet in this letter, signed J. Rosseter, it is stated that, "a supply is furnished daily to every part of Bermondsey." Doubtless in some cases there is waste; for instance, at Star Corner, there are small houses, where the cisterns appear to be connected with the main, and the water is constantly running to waste; still not sufficient to account for, or at all justify the non-supply of other parts. I am not anxious for grounds of complaint against this Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company, if I had been so, the instances reported to your Vestry would have been largely multiplied. But believing as I do, that this district has heretofore suffered in health, life, and prosperity, to a great extent, in consequence of bad water supply, I shall certainly not be deterred by rude contradictions from reporting facts upon this most important subject to your Board.

On several occasions during the last week, more especially of an evening, the Grange Road has been enveloped in a most abominable

and sickening odour. It is of such a character, that I have no hesitation in advising the Board to take active measures for its prevention. I am not sufficiently positive as to its exact source, but I have very strong grounds for belief.

October 5, 1857.

Gentlemen,—The sanitary condition of Bermondsey for the week ending September 19th, is shown to be in the highest degree satisfactory, the deaths being only six, the average being 35 for the corresponding week of the last ten years; and the births numbered 36. In the Leather Market district, the deaths were none; in St. Mary Magdalen four, and in St. James's district two. Throughout the entire metropolitan district, with a few exceptions, the deaths were below the average; but in no other instance to anything like the same extent as with us. In the following week, ending 26th September, the deaths show a marked increase, they are in number 22; one is, however, a suicide, whose death took place in July; there are four from natural decay, at advanced ages; three from fever, one in Foxlow Court, where there was no medical attendant, from convulsions, and the others from ordinary diseases. Diarrhoea seems to have disappeared.

It is, however, right for me to apprise the Vestry, that this is the period when precautionary measures may safely be energetically adopted. Cholera of a very malignant form is at the present time prevalent in Hamburgh. I am anxious, therefore, with the concurrence of the Board to pursue, with some degree of System, the measures advisable for the ensurance of our future safety. I recommend that a house-to-house inspection should take place of one district after another; and from what I have witnessed to-day, I consider that the St. James's district should be first inspected and reported on.

In my last report I alluded to some fatal cases of Malignant Fever in the vicinity of Swan Mead. I had my attention again called to this spot yesterday by the Minister and congregation of Ebenezer Chapel. Complaint was made of a sickening odour, which compelled some of the seat-holders to leave and go home. I found the origin of this stench to be a heap of 400 tons of diseased potatoes in a state of steaming decomposition. I have certified them as a nuisance, and urge prompt measures for their removal.

I have had the carcase of a diseased bullock seized and condemned as unfit for human food—the owner summoned and fined for the offence. This will, I trust, be a salutary warning. The discovery is due to the activity and intelligence of your Inspector.

After repeated adjournments, the magistrate has dismissed the summons against Mr. O'Neal for a nuisance to the neighbourhood of Dockhead. Since the proceedings were first taken, very considerable efforts have been made by Mr. O'Neal to remove, or diminish, the cause of complaint against him, and a large expenditure of money has been made. I have reason to hope, that these efforts have tended to mitigate considerably the amount of vapour,

and I trust that there will be no further cause of complaint. These premises, and the proceedings connected with them, have occupied my attention and been to me a source of solicitude and anxiety for some time past.

October 19, 1857.

Gentlemen,—Up to the present date, the health of the population of our Parish is in a satisfactory condition. The deaths are considerably below the average, being, for the week ending October 3rd, 15, viz., two in St. Mary Magdalen, four in the Leather Market, and nine in St. James's district; the average for the last ten years is 29. There are two accidental deaths from drowning, and one from accidental suffocation of an infant in bed, increasing the number of deaths in St. James's district, where there was one fatal case of diarrhoea, and one from typhus; there is one death from bilious fever in the Leather Market district. For the week ending October 10th the deaths are 16, thus divided; seven in St. James's, six in St. Mary Magdalen, and three in the Leather Market districts; the births are in this week 52, and in the week ending October 3rd, 35: thus in the fortnight 87 were born, and 31 ded, a large balance in vital statistics in our favour, which with proper exertions on our parts, will, I trust be maintained. There are two fatal cases of diarrhoea registered in the district of St. Mary Magdalen; both however appear to have suffered from other disease, and were aged respectively 70, and 78 years. I am of opinion, that we are at the present moment happily free from diarrhoea in an *epidemic form*, I lay much stress upon this important fact, because in my last report, I mentioned for the information of this Board, the circumstance that Cholera in a very serious form prevailed to some extent at Hamburg. It is now my duty to report, that this disease has attacked an isolated spot on the borders of Essex and Middlesex with some severity. I have visited the place in company with Dr. Thomson, Officer of Health of St. Marylebone, Dr. Hellier, Officer of Health of St. Pancras, and Dr. Ansell, of Bow, there cannot be the slightest doubt of the character and nature of the disease. There were already seven deaths out of 15 attacks. I paid especial attention to the sanitary condition of the neighbourhood. There is a row of 17 houses facing the open country, which is a marsh, to the north-west; in the rear, these look upon an extensive silk-dyeing establishment, where from 500 to 600 persons are employed. On the north and north-east, there is a stream called the Merivale, at about 30 yards distant, and in the neighbourhood there are several open tidal ditches. Two of the houses had a cesspool in common, while the others all drained into one cesspool. The supply of water was from a pump over a land-spring, and the water although bright, was evidently impure. In the marshes there were cattle and sheep feeding, which had lately been landed from Hamburg. I mention these circumstances

in order that we may reflect upon, and profit by them. The dark polluted stream, the Merivale, which the proprietor of the Silk Mills says has of late been most peculiarly offensive, reminded me strongly of our Neckinger, now fortunately for this district, no longer in existence. In this respect we may congratulate ourselves; so also with regard to the improved water supply, progressive advancement in the abolition of cesspools, and in more perfect drainage. But in one respect we must look upon this outbreak as a timely and distinct warning. I allude to the open tidal ditches in our district; and having since inspected that very offensive one in the Blue Anchor Lane, the stench from which pervades a neighbourhood now rapidly becoming populated, I very strongly urge upon the vestry the necessity for promptly causing this large open sewer to be covered, because it is very evident that the great drainage scheme is far from any reasonable prospect of early completion.

I regret to state that fish refuse has again been brought to the arches of the railway so often complained of, in the occupation of Messrs. Hale and Co., and against whom proceedings on a former occasion were taken. I inspected these premises on the 16th instant, and certify them as having an offensive accumulation, calculated to be injurious to the health of the neighbourhood. I have certified also 18 houses in a court at Dockhead, the privies and drainage being in a most offensive and highly dangerous condition, and the houses are most of them in a very filthy state. The spot is most inappropriately named *Pleasant Place*. The houses in Virginia Row, adjoining, are only one degree better; I have also certified them. I advise notices to be served at once upon the owners of this property. There are also houses in George Row requiring prompt attention, the occupiers of 26 and 27 complain of a scanty supply of water, and Mr. Paulton at Dockhead, complains of the same deficiency. I have reason however for believing that the supply of late has been generally more liberal. There are several houses in Hickman's Folly with foul and offensive privies. Salisbury Lane I speak of with extreme satisfaction, the arrangements are in many cases, excellent, and appear to be valued by the tenants, and to be well cared for. As a substitute for the wooden, dilapidated, and dirty water-butts, there are in some of the yards zinc receptacles, which appear to me worthy of especial notice. The only complaint I have to make in Salisbury Lane, is of an open grating to a sewer, from whence an effluvia escapes at times.

An adjourned case against an owner of two houses at Star Corner, was decided on Friday by Mr. Coombe, I allude to it as one of some importance, and your Surveyor was kind enough to attend with a plan and sketch of the premises. The defendant (I believe a lawyer) contended that there was no clause or power in the Nuisance Removal Act, rendering it compulsory upon a landlord to provide pans, traps, and water supply, in lieu of the open privy and cesspool. The worthy Magistrate however, decided that the Act renders these sanitary improvements imperative when called for.

November 2, 1857.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—In the week ending October 19th, the deaths for Bermondsey are 21, viz., 12 in St. James's, six in St. Mary Magdalen, and three in the Leather Market districts. The average for the last 10 years being 25. There is no case requiring especial notice. For the week ending October 24th, the deaths are 19, the average number being 26·7; there were six in St. Mary Magdalen, six in St. James's, and seven in the Leather Market district. The Registrar General directed my especial attention to a case returned as "choleraic," in Aldred Street, a man aged 39, who died after three days' illness. I have enquired personally into the circumstances, and have no hesitation in saying that the death did not arise from any choleraic influence. I took occasion, however, to investigate the condition of the houses in this street, which, as a rule, are in a most unsatisfactory state, and I have accordingly certified them. Osborne's Buildings, which are in the rear of this street, require prompt attention, the privies and drains are in such an offensive condition, that many of the houses have in consequence, become unoccupied. In visiting and inspecting the houses in Great George Street, I regretted to find some of the better class requiring considerable amendment. A portion are in very excellent condition, in some however, the subterfuge has been adopted of placing pans over the cesspools, a most reprehensible practice, fraught with danger to the health and lives of the tenants. On the north side of Abbey Street, the houses are all, without exception, as regards the condition of the yards, the drainage, and cesspools, as bad as can be. The stench arising from the privies, caused by feculent fermentation, is so powerful, that the occupiers stated in almost every instance, that their comfort and health were most materially affected thereby. On the south side the condition is better, and many of the houses are in good order. I have certified in every case where nuisance existed. On the south side of Crucifix Lane there are some very ancient houses, wooden erections, scarcely fitted for human habitations; the sanitary arrangements are, however, much improved, all the houses having a good water supply, fair drainage, the cesspools abolished, and pans substituted. I attended at the police court on Monday last, to give evidence against the proprietors of railway arches in the Blue Anchor Lane, for carrying on an offensive manufactory of fish manure. The Magistrate ordered its discontinuance, but I regret to state that a fresh complaint was made to me on Saturday last by Mr. Sealey, of a repetition of the offence. I visited the premises at once, and finding that fish refuse was there, proceeded immediately to the Police Court, and took out a fresh summons, which will be heard tomorrow.

November 16, 1857.

Mr. Chairman and Gentleman.—In pursuance of your instructions I have inspected the premises of Mr. B. Young, and also those of Messrs Procter and Bevington, glue and size manufacturers. In

the yard of the latter gentlemen, I regretted to find a large accumulation of scutch, highly offensive, and in my opinion injurious to the health of the neighbourhood. I have certified as to the existence of this nuisance, this is the second occurrence when this step has been necessary, and I trust that there will be no further repetition. Mr. Young has lately erected six coppers in a shed closely approximating to Wright's Buildings, these, when in operation, give off a vapour which penetrates the houses near, and diffuses a faint, sickening odour throughout the neighbourhood. In their present condition, doubtless, a considerable nuisance is created, and I would suggest for its prevention, that the boilers should be closely covered and the vapour consumed in the furnaces beneath. I advise this plan with confidence, having visited the premises of Messrs. Barber and Monk, at Whitechapel, where by the adoption of this process carcasses of horses and diseased animals are boiled without creating any offence at all to the population of the neighbourhood. I have seen and conversed with Mr. Young on this subject, and he has expressed his intention and willingness to carry out the suggestion, which when executed will I trust, remove all legitimate cause of complaint.

Complaints are again made of Mr. Petch and Mr. O'Neil, at Dockhead. I have repeatedly visited and inspected their premises, and am of opinion that sufficient care has not been taken to consume the smoke. I would suggest in this case, that the Police Commissioners be informed of the circumstance, for it is to all intents and purposes a smoke *nuisance*, which with care on the part of those employed in the process may be almost entirely avoided. I have certified the houses Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, Wright's Buildings, as dilapidated and unfit for human habitations.

We have no Epidemic prevailing, but the mortality is somewhat increased, and is principally caused by affections of the lungs, and air passages. In the week ending October 31st, the deaths registered are 33; and in the week ending November 7th, 26, in each case exceeding the average. I attended the police court on the 3rd, inst., in the matter of the Fish Manure Factory in the Railway Arches by Blue Anchor Lane. The Magistrate issued an order for removal of the fish, and informed the defendant that he would order a prosecution if a repetition of the nuisance took place. I hope and trust that this is the last time we shall be troubled with this case. As the result of the house visitation since the last meeting of the Board, I have certified 69 cases of nuisances requiring removal.

December 7th, 1857.

Gentlemen,—During the last fortnight there has prevailed over the entire Metropolis, influenza and affections of the lungs and air passages, of a severe character, as shewn by the increase of mortality in almost every parish and district. The weather has been dull, cloudy, damp, and foggy, and the degree of moisture and density of the atmosphere beyond the average. I find in the week ending November the 21st, that 41 of the 36 districts, shew a

mortality considerably above the average, that three parishes, namely, Holborn, Clerkenwell, and East London, are slightly below the average; but that two, Bermondsey, and St. George's, Southwark, are respectively considerably below the average. Bermondsey, the most so, presenting a clean mortality table, having no fatal case registered from any zymotic disease, either typhus, cholera, diarrhoea, scarlatina, or measles. This favourable condition is remarkably and most satisfactorily shewn also in the following week, ending November 28th, notwithstanding that the Registrar General says "sickness is now generally diffused throughout the Metropolitan area, which develops a high rate of mortality;" yet in Bermondsey, the deaths registered are but 20, the average being 25-7; and I am happy to state, that our neighbouring parish of Rotherhithe occupies with us the most enviable sanitary position. I am daily, more and more, convinced of the soundness of the opinion I have long entertained, that this district is peculiarly and singularly favourable to the preservation of health, as regards affections of the lungs and air passages; doubtless we are now reaping some of the advantages of former and continued exertions in carrying out every practicable sanitary improvement in a most efficient manner.

I regret however, that a serious evil, to which I am now about to direct the attention of the Vestry, has been hitherto overlooked by me, but most unintentionally. When inspecting the burial places and vaults of the Parish, I omitted Bethesda Chapel, in Jamaica Row, it was at that time as now, closed, and I was not aware that interments had been there, and so it escaped my inspection. In consequence of information, I on the 28th ult. visited this chapel in company with your Inspector of Nuisances. The woman in charge told me that it was let as an auction room. On descending some steps which led from the floor of the chapel through a trap door, opening in front of the pulpit, the whole basement was found crowded with coffins of various sizes, dates, and conditions; some were sound, some had fallen from the place originally occupied, and were partially or entirely crushed; in some parts smaller coffins were poked up flush with the flooring of the chapel, and altogether it was the veriest charnel-house that could be imagined. At a rough calculation, there must be between four and five hundred coffins in this place, which for all intents and purposes, as regards the health of the district might just as well have been placed in an open yard, or warehouse, or on the pavement. The ventilation in front takes place by gratings immediately into the street; considering that this practice had been going on for many years, it is impossible to calculate how great the amount of premature mortality has been occasioned, how much serious sickness induced, by effluvia proceeding from the decomposition of the dead being unconsciously inhaled by the living. There has, it appears, been no interment here for some years, but still I feel compelled to certify the building as one injurious to health, and a nuisance to the district. I cannot forget, that frequently, during the heat of

the summer just passed, complaints came to our ears of most offensive and sickening odours in this neighbourhood, which were supposed to arise from the sewers or gulleys. From this building, in the nature of things, there must at times arise a sickening deadly vapour. I urge upon the Vestry the necessity for placing the vast heap of poor corrupting human mortality now within this building decently beneath the earth. I have certified Bell Court and Medley's Buildings, Bermondsey Street, as requiring immediate attention.

December 21, 1857.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—In pursuance of the order of the Vestry of the 7th instant, I have inspected the vaults under St. James's Church, those under the Roman Catholic Church at Dockhead, and those at the Chapel in Long Lane. I will speak of the latter first, and it is with extreme gratification that I report the improvement which has taken place since my former inspection on the 1st of May, 1856, most of the bodies which were deposited beneath the chapel are now interred, a considerable quantity of fresh earth has been added as a further precaution, and there are also some bricked up in the vaults with lime, from which the external air is excluded, so that any emanation from the remains is thus prevented. I consider the care, attention, and anxiety shown by the authorities of this chapel, to render it free from noxious and injurious influences, worthy of especial mention. In St. James's, the vaults are, as far as ventilation and dryness, in excellent order; I think it most desirable in those instances where the coffins are piled one upon the other, as there is here plenty of space, that they should be placed upon the ground, for otherwise there is risk of the lower ones being burst by the superincumbent weight, independent of other causes. As Officer of Health, I still adhere to my opinion, that burial in the earth is the most effectual plan for the prevention and propagation of disease, by poisonous emanations from the dead. Under the Roman Catholic Church there are but 19 coffins above the earth, and I shall be rejoiced to learn that these are buried. I am unable to report to-day upon the condition of the vaults under St. Mary Magdalen, I hope however, to do so on the next meeting of the Vestry. In relation to Bethesda Chapel, I accompanied your Law Clerk to the Board of Health, Whitehall, when we were referred to the Burial Board Scotland Yard. In consequence of our representations, I have since been in communication with Mr. Grainger, and accompanied that gentleman to the chapel. He is Inspector under the Burial Act. He agrees with me, as to the urgent and pressing necessity for prompt action in removing a very serious nuisance, one calculated in an eminent degree, to affect the health of the public. I believe that an Order from the Privy Council will forthwith be issued for the removal of the bodies placed beneath this building, and that permission will be given for their interment in the ground of St. James's.

I have certified as to the existence of a nuisance complained of by

Mr. Perks, as Trustee of Herold's School which requires prompt amendment.

During the last two weeks our mortality has increased in some degree, and is about the average for the last 10 years without however making allowance for the increase of population. Chest affections and whooping cough are prevalent, there are two fatal cases of the latter disease in St. James's district.

January 14, 1858.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Vestry.—Having been favoured by the Churchwarden with the requisite order for inspection of the vaults beneath the church of St. Mary Magdalen, I have to report, that on the 29th ult., I went through them, accompanied by your Inspector. The atmosphere of the vault was dry and temperate, and on this occasion I did not discover any offensive emanation. There are, however, several coffins which are bulging out from the weight of the superincumbent ones, these will, in all probability, unless re-arranged, soon fall down, and most likely, in doing so burst. It would be very desirable to sprinkle the vault with deodorizing powder, and at the same time to lime-wash the walls; occasional inspection will be necessary. There is, in the ground adjoining the church, an open offensive privy, and by the engine-house a stench from an untrapped sink stone, which which the Sexton considers communicates with what was formerly a receptacle for the drainage and refuse from the engine-house, but which must also receive in some degree the drainage from the adjacent ground. I recommend that this place be emptied and filled up with dry rubbish. I have this day had a communication from Mr. Grainger, the Government Inspector of Burial Places, stating that he has received instructions from Sir G. Grey, the Secretary of State, to inspect the vaults, and of his intention to do so to-morrow, at the same time requesting me to accompany him.

Complaints have been made to me of deficient water supply in Abbey street, these I have investigated, and find that on some occasions, water has not been received for three days together, and Mr. Priddy, milkman, has suffered considerable inconvenience in consequence of being without water supply. It is however, but right to mention that the water supply has considerably improved of late. It is again a source of gratification to report that the health of the district is almost all that can be desired. For the week ending December 19th, the deaths are but 15, none from zymotic or epidemic disease, while the births are 61. The average deaths for the last 10 years are 27. For the week ending the 26th of Detember, there is an increase, attributable partly to accidental circumstances, as in the Leather Market District; there are four registered sudden deaths with inquests, and one case of scarlet fever. In Salisbury Place, a child died from measles without any medical attendant. The deaths for this week are 27, and the average for the last 10 years is 25.1; allowing for the increase of the population, the deaths in this week are below the average. At the next Vestry

Meeting, I intend to present my Annual Report, which will, I trust, prove satisfactory to the Vestry as to the past, and encouraging for the future.

February 1, 1858.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.—There are 31 deaths registered for the week ending January 2nd, but of these eight are accidental which have occurred in St. James's district during the quarter, and on which inquests have been held; one death is attributed to excessive drinking. The births are 45. For the week following, the deaths are 18, the average being 27, while the births are 48. In the week terminating January 16th, the deaths are 19, the average being 23, and the births are 41; and for the week ending January 23rd, the deaths are 25, the average being 27·6, and the births are 46. Two deaths occurred from scarlatina in Prince's Place, Crosby Row; I visited and inspected the house, and also the other houses in this court. The drainage has been carried out during the last year, but there is no water supply to the houses on one side of the place, and it is here that the deaths occurred, there is a very offensive and sickening exhalation in these houses, requiring investigation and amendment. The two children who died were four and six years of age, and had lately come there with their parents from the country. This is a striking instance of sanitary evil arising from inadequate supply of water, the only source being a stand pipe in the court from which the water flows feebly for about half-an-hour in the day, as I am informed. I am however, bound to direct the Vestry's attention to another source of mischief in this immediate locality. The gateway in Crosby Row is used as a urinal, the road is unpaved, and there is no drainage for the urine which accumulates, becomes putrid, soaks into the earth partly, and partially evaporates, giving rise to offensive exhalations, which are peculiarly liable to affect the health of children. There are some houses in the immediate vicinity in Long Lane, which I have certified as requiring amendment. I recommend that the house where fatal fever occurred be lime-washed from top to bottom. In consequence of an inquest on a woman who died in Thomas's Place, at the back of the Pitt's Head, I visited and inspected the house, which I certify as unfit for human habitation, it is in a most disgraceful condition; it was with great difficulty and some danger that I could get up the stairs in consequence of their dilapidated state; the atmosphere was so foul and oppressive that I could scarcely breathe; there was a little boy with a few rags on, and in a most filthy state, crouched in the corner of the room, where if he is allowed to remain I feel assured that he will not survive long. I strongly urge upon the Vestry the propriety of representing the condition of this property to the Police Commissioners, for it appears to me, independent of the foul and filthy condition in which the houses are, that they are perfectly unsafe as dwellings, and dangerous to the public. My attention has been again called to Bethesda Chapel, there has been some attempt to dispose of the human remains beneath by burial, but this has

been done without proper supervision, and the result is that a portion of the building has fallen in, and the entire structure is in a very shakey condition. There is a notice on the doors, announcing the establishment of a musical academy. I regret to have again to bring before the Vestry renewed complaints of deficient water supply, especially in Guy Terrace, Nelson Street, and in Pleasant Place. In the upper portion of Snow's Fields, on the south side, the air from the sewer is singularly offensive at times, and a serious case of fever has just occurred in one of the houses. I think the drainage there is susceptible of improvement.

February 15, 1858.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I regret to report that great complaints are again prevalent of the malt roasting process at Dockhead. I visited the premises on the 13th instant, having during the afternoon especially noticed the intensity of the odour at a considerable distance from the factory; on my arrival, a charge of the roasted malt had just been withdrawn from the cylinder, the smoke and vapour still remaining in and around the building. Gas was not burning, and I waited until a fresh charge was withdrawn; the gas then being lit before the withdrawal of the malt, there was little or no cause for complaint, of either vapour or smoke. I am decidedly of opinion that the gas was not burnt previous to my arrival; whether this omission arose from carelessness or with a purpose, it is impossible to say, in either case it is most censurable, and should any future neglect to burn gas for the protection of the neighbourhood be discovered, I strongly advise the re-institution of proceedings for suppressing what then becomes a serious nuisance. After my inspection, I remained a considerable time in the immediate neighbourhood, and there was no return of the peculiar faint suffocating odour which previously prevailed. Subsequently I received a communication which had been forwarded on the subject to the police. As regards the deficient water supply, I had an interview with the engineer of the Southwark and Vauxhall Company with reference to the serious inconvenience the inhabitants of Nos. 1, 2, and 3, Guy Terrace were put to by the deprivation of water. Mr. Quick promised immediate attention, and the promise was fulfilled, for the supply has since been liberal and plentiful. I have also received the following communication, which, as the question it relates to is one of primary importance, I will now read,—

*"Southwark and Vauxhall Water Company,
Office, Sumner Street, Southwark."*

"SIR,

"Feb. 9th, 1858."

"Since you called at this office, Mr Quick has had a further survey made of the houses in Guy Terrace, Snow's Field, a copy of which I beg to forward herewith."

"Mr. Quick regrets you should have been troubled in this matter, and hopes that in future, all complaints will be referred to this office, where they will receive immediate attention."

"I am Sir,

"Your obedient Servant.

"JOSEPH QUICK, Jun.,

"Superintendent."

"To Dr. Challice, &c. &c."

(Copy.)

"In consequence of a letter received from Mr. Eagle, of No. 1, Guy Terrace, in answer to the report sent to the Bermondsey Vestry on the 30th ult., and a visit from the tenant at No. 2, on Friday morning last, (who denied the truth of our report, and insisted that the lead pipe wanted forcing), the Inspector, accompanied by the tenant, proceeded to No. 2, Guy Terrace, at 11.30 A.M. He found all the houses in the street well supplied, except the cistern in the yard of No. 1, which supplies the houses and water-closets of Nos. 1, 2, and 3. The water was turned on at 11.35 A.M., when it commenced flowing into the said cistern, but slowly; the tap at the end of the pipe was then unscrewed, the water immediately rushed from the pipe with full force, and filled the cistern."

"From this, it appears that in addition to the defective arrangements already referred to in the first report, the flow of water to the cistern was impeded by the tap in the service-pipe being defective."

"On Saturday morning, 6th instant, the cistern at No. 1, the butt at No. 2, as well as No. 3, were all filled, the end of the service-pipe being still open."

It will be observed that this note was sent on the 9th instant; now on the 12th, Mr. James, the collector of rents for Turner's Retreat called upon me, and stated that there was little or no water supplied there, that the turncock had refused to interfere unless paid, that the tenants are much distressed, and finally, that application has been made to the Secretary of the Water Company, but that no notice whatever had been taken. I saw Mr. Quick again on this case, and he promised that immediate attention should be paid. It is not for me, as Officer of Health, to excuse or accuse the officials of a great company or its management, to whom a most important public trust, exercising a powerful influence on the health and lives of the community, has been confided. Doubtless it is a duty attended by difficulty, still I cannot refrain from expressing my opinion, that a more diligent and frequent inspection of the district, and greater readiness in investigating the real causes of complaint, would be beneficial to the public, and creditable to the Company. The health of the parish is upon the whole not unsatisfactory, the mortality is slightly below the average, being for the week ending January 30th 21, and for the week ending February 6th 28; we have some isolated cases of scarlet and of typhus fever. Now we cannot always point with certainty to the origin, that is the cause or starting point of a disease, but we know with comparative certainty the circumstances which tend to its communication from one human being to another, and to its general propagation. Now, I respectfully urge upon the Board the propriety and the necessity for their authorizing the Officer of Health to issue a printed notice to the inhabitants of houses where contagious or infectious diseases are present, requesting that those ordinary precautions which common prudence dictates, such as general cleanliness, the purification of a sick bed-room where fever has prevailed, or may be a death occurred, and more especially the lime-washing of the walls and ceilings of the room where sickness and death has been, before they are again tenanted by the healthy, who are, by the neglect of these precautions, subjected to great and unnecessary danger.

March 1, 1858.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—The mortality of our parish for the week ending February 13th, is indicative of the prevalence of disease affecting the lungs and chest to a considerable extent, as there were 25 deaths registered, the average for the last 10 years being 24·4, and of these no less than 15 were caused by the complaints above mentioned; as an illustration, in St. Mary Magdalen district, the deaths registered were four, one from natural decay, aged 76 years; two from consumption, aged respectively 36 and 49 years, and the other a child, aged one year, from whooping cough. The births in the week were 41. For the week ending February 20th, the deaths are 27, the average for the last decennial period being 24·3; and the births are 49. Affections of the chest again predominate, no less than 17 deaths having arisen from these causes. A shoemaker, aged 42, died from cancer of the tongue. Your Inspector has directed my attention to the condition of the houses in Cottage Place, Long Lane, which are neglected, dirty, dilapidated, and in some respects, ruinous; the privies are in progress of demolition, doors, sides, and floorings being removed; drainage stopped, the pans full; while in consequence of the absence of water-receptacles the water runs to waste, and from the choked or imperfect drainage forms pools which gradually soak into and saturate the surrounding earth. Prompt action is required here, as the houses are tenanted, and the immediate neighbourhood is thickly populated. I beg respectfully to present to the Board for its approval some rules for the prevention of infectious diseases. I have endeavoured to simplify them as much as possible, so that they should be clearly understood by even the meanest capacity.

March 15th, 1858.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I have the satisfaction of reporting this day some statistical facts in relation to the mortality of the parish of Bermondsey as compared with other Metropolitan districts during the year 1857. I have taken some pains with this subject, because I was anxious that the real circumstances should become known, being convinced that thereby, a great and general misconception, in relation to the unhealthiness of our locality, would be dispelled.

The term “Zymotic diseases,” is applied to those maladies which are supposed, and indeed in some respects known to be preventible; and the principal, most frequent, and most prevalent of these, are small-pox, measles, scarlatina, whooping cough, diarrhoea, and typhus fever. Now, as I have said on other occasions, typhus is a form of disease which, of all others, can most frequently be accounted for, and to which the above-mentioned maladies often degenerate. If any one, conversant with the causes producing disease, were desirous of ascertaining the healthiness or unhealthiness of a particular locality, his first question would be, “Are you subject to typhus?” I have, therefore selected this disease as my principal test, by which to judge of the prevalence of pre-

ventible diseases in Bermondsey, taking the mortality from typhus fever, in the Metropolitan districts, so that a correct conclusion may be arrived at

1st.—OF THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

In Bermondsey the deaths from typhus were, in the year 1857,	
of the population	1 in 1,925
Christchurch and St Saviour's	1 „ 1,116
St. George's	1 „ 1,328
Newington	1 „ 1,580
Lambeth, including Brixton and Norwood	1 „ 1,514
Clapham, with Battersea, Wandsworth, Putney, and Streatham	1 „ 1,637
Rotherhithe	1 „ 1,780
Greenwich, Deptford, and Woolwich; the Hospital and Convict Prisons in some degree account for this high rate of mortality	1 „ 801
Plumstead, Eltham, Lea, Lewisham, and Sydenham	1 „ 1,201

Thus then, as regards the southern districts, we stand the first on the list, that is, we have had fewer deaths from typhus fever during 1857, than the suburban districts of Kennington, Norwood, Wandsworth, Putney, and Streatham; or our neighbouring parishes, St. George's, Newington, Lambeth, or Rotherhithe.

2nd.—IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT.

The proportion of deaths from typhus fever, were as follows:—

Shoreditch	1 in 1,157
Hackney	1 „ 869
*Whitechapel	1 „ 666
St. George's-in-the-East	1 „ 1,099
Bow and Poplar	1 „ 813

The favourable position we occupy in relation to the Eastern Districts, is too marked to require any comment.

3rd.—IN THE CENTRAL DISTRICT.

In St. Giles's and St. George's, Bloomsbury	1 in 1,505
St. Anne's Soho	1 „ 1,425
Holborn	1 „ 2,119
Clerkenwell	1 „ 1,378
St. Luke's	1 „ 1,601
East London	1 „ 1,387
West London (two Prisons, Hospital, and Workhouse)	1 „ 359
City of London (Proper)	1 „ 3,101

In this division it will be seen that Holborn, and the City of London, stand each in rather a better position than Bermondsey. As regards the former, it may be remarked, that the calculation is made from the census of 1851, since then we have increased in population, probably to the extent of about 10,000, while in Holborn, the population has in all likelihood diminished from the destruction of many habitations for the various local improvements. Of the latter, the “City” proper, there are so few people who now sleep in it at all, that any approach to the real resident population is out of the question.

* Two Hospitals influence the proportion here.

4th.—NOW OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICTS.

In Marylebone, the deaths from typhus were	-	-	-	1 in 1,561
Hampstead	-	-	-	1 „ 1,331
St Pancras	-	-	-	1 „ 1,284
*Islington	-	-	-	1 „ 564
Stoke Newington (including Stamford Hill, and West Hackney)	-	-	-	1 „ 1,325

Again, we find from the mortality, that more typhus fever, to a very considerable extent, must have prevailed in each of these favoured localities than with us.

We now come to those especially favoured localities, sought after by the wealthy, blessed with parks and fine open spaces—the Court end of the metropolis.

5th.—THE WESTERN DISTRICT.

In Paddington, which includes Kensington, Brompton, Hammersmith, and Fulham	-	-	-	1 in 1,170
Chelsea	-	-	-	1 „ 1,826
St. John's and St. Margaret's Westminster	-	-	-	1 „ 886
St. Martin's-in-the-Fields	-	-	-	1 „ 1,540
St. James's, Westminster	-	-	-	1 „ 2,141
St. George's, Hanover Square, which includes Mayfair and Belgravia	-	-	-	1 „ 1,309

Any comment upon the facts shown by these figures, is perfectly unnecessary to demonstrate how fallacious, how utterly groundless public opinion has been with regard to the supposed unhealthiness of our district.

I have taken typhus fever as a standard for especial disease, and I will now refer to the general mortality for the year, which includes death from all diseases and all causes. I need not mention that the lives of the working classes are, to use a commercial phrase, hazardous; they are exposed to more risks, and when ill, have not the same comforts and appliances which the well-to-do and the rich have. A very considerable amount of our population consists of the working classes, and I confess to having approached the statistics of deaths from all causes with some misgivings. The following, however, is the result:—

In Kensington, for the year, 1857, the mortality from all causes was	-	-	-	-	-	1 in 39
Chelsea	-	-	-	-	-	1 „ 39
Westminster	-	-	-	-	-	1 „ 39
St. George's, Hanover Square	-	-	-	-	-	1 „ 44
St. Martin's-in-the-Fields	-	-	-	-	-	1 „ 42
St. James's	-	-	-	-	-	1 „ 55
Marylebone	-	-	-	-	-	1 „ 38
Hampstead	-	-	-	-	-	1 „ 42
St. Pancras	-	-	-	-	-	1 „ 41
Islington	-	-	-	-	-	1 „ 36
Hackney	-	-	-	-	-	1 „ 39
St. Giles's and St. George's Bloomsbury	-	-	-	-	-	1 „ 38
Strand	-	-	-	-	-	1 „ 42
Holborn	-	-	-	-	-	1 „ 42
Clerkenwell	-	-	-	-	-	1 „ 49

* Hospital, Workhouse, and Prison.

St. Luke's	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	„	42
East London	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	„	48
West London	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	„	23
Shoreditch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	„	36
Bethnal Green	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	„	43
Whitechapel	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	„	35
St. George's-in-the-East	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	„	39
Stepney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	„	38
Poplar	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	„	28
City of London	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	„	64

Taking the average of these, the mortality in Middlesex is about 1 in 41.

6th.—FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

They are for Rotherhithe	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	„	39
Newington	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	„	41
St. George's	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	„	42
Bermondsey	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	„	43

Thus it will be seen, that taking the entire population of the metropolis, our deaths are below the average. Humanly speaking, there can be no doubt that we are now reaping the fruits, not only of present exertions, but also of the energetic efforts used in years past for improving the sanitary condition of this parish.

The pernicious effects of impure water no longer tends to the production of diarrhœa, and of cholera; while that admirable Institution, the “Baths and Washhouses,” conduces to the comfort, cleanliness, and health of our inhabitants.*

I believe also, that the closing of the numerous burial places within our district, has exercised a most beneficial effect.

However, speaking of burial grounds, brings me to a circumstance demanding the earnest and especial attention of the Board.

The ground in Nelson Street, opposite to the model lodging houses, as is well known, had been used for a long period of time as the place for the burial of hospital patients.† I have, in a former report alluded to this spot as affording an opportunity for procuring an open space as garden, or playground to that very crowded locality. I regret to find that a notice has been affixed by the hospital authorities, to let this ground for a timber yard. It is not for me to speak of the indecency of this proceeding; but as Officer of Health for the district, I remonstrate against it. I believe this acre of ground would become of great value to the district as an open space, laid down in grass, if devoted to the public use; while on the contrary, if the surface be disturbed, considerable danger of the outbreak of disease will be incurred by the surrounding dense population.

It is unsatisfactory that no effectual steps have yet been taken with regard to the vaults beneath Bethesda Chapel. As the warm weather is approaching, I respectfully urge upon the Vestry a remonstrance to the Secretary of State on the subject.

P.S.—No death occurred from Small Pox in Bermondsey during the whole of the year 1857; a most satisfactory result of the general adoption of Vaccination.

* In 1856, there were 93,502, and 1857, 97,242 bathers.

† It is said to have been a burial place for nearly two centuries.

April 5, 1858.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—The mortality in our parish for the week ending March 13th, was 21, the average for the corresponding week for the last 10 years, being 25·9; there is no death registered from any zymotic disease, and the births for the week are 58. In the week following—that terminating on the 20th ult.—the deaths are 14; in the Leather Market district no adult died, three children's deaths only are registered, all under two years of age, the births are 39; the average deaths for the week, during the decennial period, has been 22·8. For the week ending March 27th, the mortality has increased, being 29, which is beyond the average, 13 of these were from affections of the lungs and air passages, and considering the extreme and sudden changes of temperature, this result was to be feared and expected. On the night of the 21st the thermometer registered as low as 21 degrees, while in the day it marked as high as 72, a variation certain to affect children and the aged with severity. I regret to report that the carcase of a cow was seized by your Inspector on Thursday, in the slaughter-house of Mr. Hellier, in Fashion Street, Dockhead. I testified to the Magistrate that the meat was diseased and unfitted for human food, I had also the advantage of the testimony of Dr. Dickson who kindly attended at the police court. The carcase was condemned, and under the supervision of your Inspector, destroyed. To the supervision exercised over the meat, and food of the district generally, doubtless is owing, in some degree, our improved health.

April 19, 1858.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—I have the honour to report to you that, in pursuance of your instructions, proceedings have been taken against Mr. Hellier at Dockhead, in consequence of the Inspector's discovery of the carcase of a cow in a licensed slaughter-house belonging to him, which was diseased and unfitted for human food. I conceive it to be my duty to especially mention this case, because it is one which very materially affects the health of the district, and to some extent, that of the metropolis at large, inasmuch as there is a great principle involved. The defence in this case was to the following effect,—That the carcase condemned was that of a diseased cow, which had died at a neighbouring cow-keeper's of a lingering disease, and that it was sent to this slaughter-house to be dressed, not for human food, but for the especial provender of dogs and cats. Now I respectfully and earnestly urge upon the Vestry, the propriety of adopting some resolution, by which it should become publicly known, that the Vestry will not henceforth sanction a licence for any "slaughter-house" where it is proved that diseased animals are dressed as food for cats and dogs. The distinction ought to be decidedly marked, and very strongly enforced. I am convinced that results of considerable importance to the public would be realized by the adoption of this course.

Bethesda Chapel, as regards the conditions of the coffins, remains in the same state. The building is dilapidated and in charge of

the police. The health of that district is at present unsatisfactory. The period allowed by the notice in the Gazette, dated February 3rd, has long since expired; and I trust that the precautions there and then advised will be carried out, viz.—

1st. That all coffins in the said vaults, for which there is space, be buried in the ground under the chapel, and be separated from each other by a layer of powdered charcoal.

2nd. That the remaining coffins be deposited on the floor of the vaults, and be covered with a layer of charcoal and of concrete.

3rd. That a proper plaister ceiling be made, and that it include the trap door by which the vaults are entered from the chapel.

4th. That the existing ventilating gratings be closed.

5th. That McDougal's powder be used for the protection of the workmen.

I am most anxious that these directions be carried out without delay.

It is with extreme regret that I bring before the Board, complaints with reference to the water supply, more especially as relates to Ship and Mermaid Court. The supply of water in this place has lately been most inefficient. The water-closets at the end of this place are choked up, and offensively disgusting in consequence of the non-supply of water. The poor inhabitants complain bitterly that they are entirely without the means of cleansing their houses, bodies, or clothes. The owner informs me that he has informed the turncock of this lamentable neglect, without any effect whatever. Complaints of less urgency have reached me from other parts of the parish.

My attention has been directed to the condition of St. James's Terrace, and Drummond Road, in the Blue Anchor Road, as well as of Wolfe's Terrace; in each of these places the drainage is most miserably deficient, indeed I believe these districts are without any means of drainage whatever, and in consequence, there are pools of stagnant and offensive water mixed with corrupting and putrifying animal and vegetable refuse, polluting the surrounding atmosphere, and damaging the health of the district, which is daily increasing in importance and population.

May 17, 1858.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.—With reference to the condition of Mr. Cripps's premises in Swan Mead, where the manufacture of size is carried on, I have to report as follows:—On the 4th instant Mr. Cripps called upon me, and I then informed him of the necessity for using every precaution on his part to carry on the business so as not to be a nuisance to the neighbourhood, and injurious to the health of the inhabitants. I explained to him that he could by care and exertion diminish, to a great extent, the offensive effluvia so much and so justly complained of. He promised me that no exertion on his part should be wanting. On the 14th instant, I visited the premises, and regret to state that they are in the highest degree unsatisfactory. On the eastern side of the yard, was a heap of scutch, giving off a vapour sickening and almost suffocating; by its

side, was a heap of black offensive matter, which appeared to be the scrapings of the surface of the yard; behind these, and nearer the timber yard, was an accumulation of stable manure; there were semi-fluid pools, stagnant, and very stinking, around these collections. Mr. Cripps stated that this offensive liquid came from the premises of Oastler and Palmer. I may mention that there is a large sewer at this portion of the premises, covered very imperfectly with wood. The scutch is piled upon this wood over the sewer. The steam from the boiler at Messrs. Oastler and Palmer's, is at times blown off at this spot, and must of necessity escape into the scutch, and so give rise to a volatile, pungent, and most offensive emanation. There are, however, other causes of nuisance in this place, which urgently require an effectual remedy; within a few yards of the spot, but faintly described, is a boiler where the refuse of the yard is simmered and boiled in an open copper, without the slightest precaution for carrying off the offensive vapour.

The general condition of the yard was filthy in the extreme. There is no paving and no channels for carrying away discoloured and offensive pools of water which seem natural to the place.

There were several tubs of stinking, semi-putrid, calves' feet.

On leaving the place, my impressions with regard to it were of that character, that I considered it would be my duty to advise the Vestry to take the strongest measures for putting down this very serious nuisance. I am the more confirmed in this impression by a visit which I made yesterday. I went again because I judged it a matter of importance to ascertain to what extent the nuisance existed when there was no manufacturing process going on. I was to some degree foiled, for there were several tubs filled with dark fatty matter in a hot state, which had just been taken from the copper before mentioned, and there were also other tubs filled with putrid animal substances. But especially I ascertained that behind a shed there was a large iron tank, partly filled with scutch, closely covered with a wooden lid, through which an iron pipe entered for the conveyance of steam, by the means of which the scutch is exposed to a high degree of heat, and with the addition of sulphuric acid, the remaining fatty matter is extracted. I have no hesitation in stating, that this is a process highly injurious to health, and ought not to be permitted near to human habitations. I may add that there was a rough contrivance by means of a wooden funnel or trough to carry the foul vapour into the sewer; of the two, probably more objectionable than allowing it to dissipate in the atmosphere.

1st. I advise that Mr. Cripps be required to discontinue, forthwith, the process of the extraction of fat from scutch by the means of sulphuric acid at a high temperature.

2nd. That the copper by the house should be covered, and that the vapour should be passed through the fire, and into the chimney.

3rd. That the scutch be removed forthwith, as well as the manure, and the heap of offensive yard refuse.

4th. That channels should be laid down, and where necessary the yard paved.

I consider it also advisable that more effectual covering should, without delay, be applied to the sewer.

I turn with satisfaction to the condition of our principal manufactories which are now in the course of inspection. Almost without exception there is evinced a laudable anxiety to adopt every reasonable and practical suggestion for the remedy of evil, and the prevention of nuisance. The following are the suggestions which I have given, and in every instance cheerfully agreed to.

1st. That in letting off the soaks, grains, or pures, or pumping out the pits, at least an equal quantity of fresh water should be let off, and that during the next three months the soaks should be emptied either before six in the morning or after eight o'clock at night.

2nd. That the refuse of the yard should be removed frequently.

3rd. That the soakings, drippings, and refuse about the yard should be swept away every night, and in hot and dry weather well sluiced with water.

I feel it necessary to say something with regard to the three factories occupied by Messrs. Margetson, Dickson and Whiting, and Messrs. Munday and Co., in Manning Street. There is here undoubtedly at times a very strong odour, and often a most unmistakable and very objectionable stench. The firm of Margetson consider it arises from the soaks of Messrs. Munday, the latter gentlemen believe it emanates from the pits of Messrs. Margetson, and Messrs. Dickson entertain a decided conviction that there is something wrong about the sewers.

At the factory of Mr. Morris, there are also some pits in which East India Kips have been soaked, which were offensive in the highest degree. I was promised that no recurrence of the like should take place, and that my suggestions should be carried out. I shall pay another visit shortly to this factory.

I wish to direct the attention of the Vestry to a spot which is daily becoming more and more a nuisance; it is an angular piece of vacant ground belonging I am told to the parish, in London Street, it is used as an urinal and for other purposes, and being unpaved has become very offensive. Animal and vegetable refuse are also deposited there.

I must not omit to mention that complaints have been made to me of a deficient and most inadequate water supply, by Messrs. I. and M. Sharp, Messrs. Munday and Co., and Messrs. Dickson and Whiting, I need scarcely mention how very materially this obstructs the necessary sanitary precautions in these important factories, in the very centre of the parish.

I regret to state that we have been suffering rather severely from the effects of measles, and especially from whooping cough; some isolated cases of fever have combined to increase our mortality somewhat beyond the average. For the week ending April 4th the deaths were 32, the the average being 23. For the week following they are 37, the average being 21. The week terminating April 17th they are 24, the average being 23. For the next week they are at the high figure of 41; this number is, however, made up by nine

inquests, which occurred during the quarter, the average being 22. In the following week the deaths are 29, the average being 22, and in the week ending May 8th, they are 28, being six above the average. In these weeks of increased mortality, 27 deaths have occurred from measles, and the same number from whooping cough. It is to be regretted that the working and poorer classes, as a rule, neglect to apply for medical assistance in the early stages of these two diseases; it results, that when they appear in a severe form, such as lately they have done, danger arises before it is the least expected, and when it is too late to remedy. The St. James's district has suffered most severely, and I cannot but draw the attention of the Vestry to the daily aggravation of the evil we suffer, from the effluvia arising from the sewers. I had looked forward for a remedy in the proposed pumping station, which the Metropolitan Board, some considerable time since, decided upon. I trust that its completion is not far distant, as I am at a loss for words to express how urgent the necessity there is for it.

I regret to state that, owing to legal difficulties, the very serious nuisance beneath Bethesda Chapel remains as heretofore. I have had two long attendances at the police court on this subject. The magistrate has adjourned his decision. Mrs. Higham has complained to me again that she can get no supply of water to her property in Pleasant Place, Dockhead, and that sickness and fever prevail in this spot. I have, on former occasions represented this case, and I consider it highly reprehensible that a remedy for the complaints of inadequate water supply has not been provided.

This question of adequate or inadequate water supply is one, to us, of *primary importance*. With sufficient supply of this necessary element of health and of life itself, I do not fear for the sanitary condition of our district; without it, as our requirements are large, I consider that at all times we are in imminent danger of the outbreak of disease with its attendant consequences of much human misery and suffering, which might be prevented.

June 7 1858.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—In the week ending May 15th, the mortality of the parish still remained considerably above the average, owing to the deaths from measles and whooping cough, of the former disease six deaths occurred, three in St. James's, two in St. Mary Magdalen, and one in the Leather Market districts; three died from whooping cough, and two from scarlatina; the total deaths were 30, the average being 20. For the following week the deaths were 22, still somewhat above the average, which is 18·9; five deaths from measles also occurred this week, two in St. James's, one in St. Mary Magdalen, and two in the Leather Market; in this district there is one death registered from diarrhoea, which appears to have arisen from improper food given to an illegitimate child 11 weeks old. The week ending May 29th shows a very satisfactory improvement, the mortality being but 13, although there are still three deaths from measles, two in the Leather Market, and one in St. James's districts. The average of this period is 19.

In my report to the Vestry, dated March 15th, I was anxious to show that the mortality in our parish from preventible diseases was below the average, and that the deaths from all causes, stood favourably with regard to the metropolis at large. There are still some facts and figures with regard to this very important and interesting question, to which I will now advert.

The births in Bermondsey in 1857 were 2,123, of these 1,116 were boys, and 1,007 girls, giving a majority to the Bermondsey boys of 109. The total deaths were 1,113, thus there were more boys born by three, than the combined deaths. In January 227 were born, the highest number; and in June 143, the lowest. The highest number of deaths are registered also in January, viz., 132; but of these 23 were over 70 years of age. The lowest number of deaths in any month was 68 in September, and in the third week of this month six deaths only occurred, the fewest on record. The month of May seems to have been most favourable for those persons numbering three score and ten years and upwards, for only two are registered for the whole month, these were in the first week; in the three latter weeks none died. Altogether during the year 111 aged persons above 70 died, there is a journeyman tanner of 80, a journeyman felmonger of 79, and a leather-dresser of 75, in the list. There are no less than 460 deaths of children under two years of age. The most fatal month for these cases was August, when 53 died; the most favourable, June and September, when 28 died in each month. This amount of mortality represents carelessness, neglect, ignorance, and cruelty to a great extent. Of the 1,113 deaths—408 were in St. James's District; 382 were in St. Mary Magdalen district; and 308 were in the Leather Market district.

There are, as hitherto, frequent complaints of inefficient water supply, especially during the last week, in Willow Walk, in Black Swan Yard, and in Pleasant Place.

From a return by your Inspector of Nuisances, there have been 798 nuisances removed and remedied during the year, and there are 36 cases in which the notices have not been complied with.

On the 6th instant I visited the ground opposite the model lodging houses in Nelson Square, now in the occupation of Messrs. Coleman, timber merchants, and formerly the burial-place for St. Thomas's and Guy's Hospitals. In or near the centre of the ground, there has been a considerable excavation, as to extent, and about six feet in depth. It is said that no interments have taken place at this spot for upwards of thirty years. I am informed that some coffins were exposed at the sides in consequence of the ground falling in, and some human remains disinterred. The cavity is now bricked round for the purposes of a saw-pit. A brick building, intended for a stable, is in course of erection, there is a hole adjoining for a dung-pit, into which the drainage will soak. Here and there, about the surface of the ground, human bones were scattered. On the north-east side of the premises was a heap of earth, which had been removed from the excavation, there were a few human bones, but the earth had not the appearance of being saturated with

animal matter. I did not notice any offensive odour, but I am informed that during the progress of the disturbance of the ground—which has lately taken place, very offensive smells have arisen. As yet, however, no mischief, that I am aware of, has been caused to the neighbouring inhabitants. Still it is a question of certainty, that the disturbance of the soil and surface of a burial-place, is always attended with very considerable risk, and although at times practised with apparent impunity, is at other times productive of very lamentable consequences. Under the circumstances of the case, the Messrs. Coleman appear anxious to adopt every reasonable precaution.

As regards Bethesda Chapel, I regret to state that, after an adjournment, and very considerable delay, the magistrate—by whom the case was heard, has declined to interfere on the ground of non-jurisdiction. I felt so anxious, and so desirous to get rid of this oft-mentioned nuisance, which has been before your Board now since December, that I waited on the Secretary of the Burial Board, wishing to see Mr. Grainger, the Inspector, so that no further dangerous delay should accrue. I was referred to the Secretary of State's Office where, being requested to make my representation in writing, I did so.

I have again inspected Messrs. Cripps's factory, and find that some progress has been made in carrying out the orders of the Vestry. A portion of the yard is now paved, and the scutch, dung, and refuse removed. I am however, of opinion that scutch is, at times, boiled on these premises, as I found the copper used for the purpose, about half filled with this putrid organic matter; as this is a process so offensive, the effluvia from it, extending to a considerable area, and is so injurious to health, that I very strongly urge upon the Vestry the propriety of taking more stringent proceedings against Mr. Cripps, should evidence of the fact arise.

The pits and nuisance complained of at Mr. Morris's, Dockhead, have been remedied.

Pursuant to the request of the Vestry on a former occasion, I now lay before you for approval, a hand-bill, with rules for the preservation of health, and the prevention of disease.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN CHALLICE, M.D.

embarrassment. I did not intend to say anything of the kind, but I am informed that during the progress of the discussion of the ground— which has lately taken place (very offensive) have taken place. As yet, however, no mischief has been done, and I am aware of the neighbouring inhabitants of Still it is a question of certainty that the disturbance of the soil and surface of a burial-place is a matter attended with very considerable risk, and although at times pressed with apparent propriety, at other times productive of very lamentable consequences. Under the circumstances of the case, the Medical Commission appears anxious to adopt every reasonable precaution, and I am sure that the Commission will not grow lax. As regards the Medical Commission, I regret to state that after the adjustment, and very considerable delay, the magistrate—by whom the case was heard, has declined to interfere on the ground of insufficient evidence. I felt so anxious, and so desirous to get rid of this embarrassing matter, which has been before your Board now since December, that I waited on the Secretary of the Board, and wishing to see Mr. Gairdner, the Inspector, so that no further delay might be caused, I was referred to the Secretary of State's Office, where being requested to make my representation in writing, I did so on the 17th inst. I have again inspected Mr. Gairdner's report, and find that some progress has been made in carrying out the orders of the Vestry. A portion of the yard is now paved, and the scotch, dung, and refuse removed. I am, however, of opinion that scotch is at times piled on these premises, and I found the copies used for the purpose about half filled with this kind of refuse matter; as this is a process so offensive, the efforts from its removal to a considerable extent, and is so injurious to health, that I very strongly urge upon the Vestry the propriety of taking more stringent proceedings, against Mr. Gairdner, should evidence of the fact arise. If at any time the pits and nuisance complained of at Mr. Morris's Dock, have been removed, the Vestry's business has been somewhat hurried to the report of the Vestry on a former occasion, I now lay before you for approval, a hand-bill, with rules for the preservation of health, and the prevention of disease, as model at each gate. I have the honour to remain, Your obedient Servant, JOHN CHALLICE, M.D.