

Report relating to the sanitary condition of the District of Gray's Inn.

Contributors

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REPORT

RELATING TO

The Sanitary Condition of the District of Gray's Inn

In the year ending 31st December, 1897.

BY

E. G. YOUNGER, M.D., M.R.C.P.,

Diplomat in State Medicine; Medical Officer of Health, Gray's Inn.

To F. W. MUSGRAVE, Esq.,
Sanitary Authority, Gray's Inn.

SIR,

I beg to hand you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, under the provisions of the Public Health (London) *Act*, October, 1891.

BIRTHS.—There were three births, all female, registered during 1897.

MORTALITY AND SICKNESS.—There were also three deaths, due respectively to apoplexy, acute rheumatism, and suicide. I am happy to be able to report that no case of infectious disease has occurred during the year.

POPULATION.—This remains practically unaltered since the census of 1891.

DRAINAGE.—The work of improving the drainage and general sanitation of the Inn continues to engage my very earnest attention. The system of drainage is being steadily brought up to modern opinions and requirements. Many improvements have been made during the past year, among which I may enumerate the following:—

Old faulty iron soil pipes have been removed and replaced by drawn lead soil pipes, properly ventilated. In each of these cases, galvanized iron rain-water pipes have also been fixed, discharging over trapped gullies to receive bath and sink wastes which had heretofore discharged into the soil pipes.

Inspection chambers and interceptor traps have been placed at 2, Gray's Inn Square, 9, Gray's Inn Square, and 1, Raymond Buildings, into which all drains and gullies from these houses now discharge.

Complaints having been made of bad smells coming from several of the "street-gullies" in the Inn, my investigations led me to condemn five of these (four in Gray's Inn Square and one in South Square) as being antiquated and insanitary. Each of these had below it a brick cesspit with very foul contents. One of these pits was five and a half feet deep. Another (opposite 2, Gray's Inn Square) discharged by an overflow into a huge cesspool, which had evidently, in former days, received sewage from several houses on west side of the Square, and which in its turn overflowed into an old brick barrel drain. All these pits were emptied and then filled in with dry rubbish, and new hinged gully gratings were fixed over new Doulton's four feet earthenware gullies.

In several cases where stagnant water collected in the areas of houses, the flagstones have been sloped and new gullies have been made to carry it off.

Several old container closets have been superseded by those of modern design, and in many cases the flushing arrangements have been much improved.

I beg to thank the Sanitary Committee for much courtesy and kindness shown me, and for the readiness they have always evinced to entertain any suggestions of mine, which have had for their object improved sanitation.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. G. YOUNGER, M.D.

19, MECKLENBURGH SQUARE, W.C.,

January, 1898.

