

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Wandsworth District, The Board of Works (Clapham, Putney, Streatham, Tooting & Wandsworth)].

Contributors

Wandsworth (London, England). Board of works.
McDonogh, John

Publication/Creation

1872.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/jrzcpvej>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

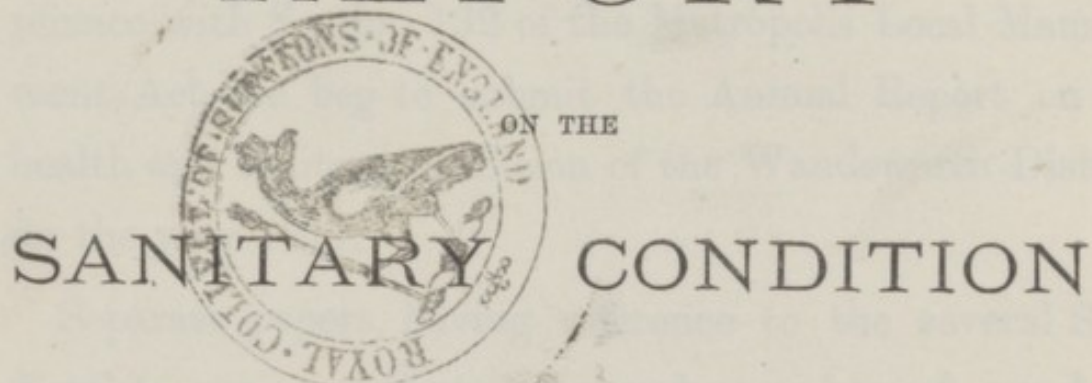
Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

REPORT



SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE SEVERAL PARISHES COMPRISED IN THE

WANDSWORTH DISTRICT

DURING THE YEAR 1871.

By the Medical Officers of Health.

London:

JOHN SMITH & CO., LONG ACRE, W.C.

1872.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

TABLE.

Showing the Sanitary Condition of the District of London during the Year 1871.

REPORT

SANITARY CONDITION



OF THE SEVERAL PARISHES CONTAINED IN THE

WANDSWORTH DISTRICT

DURING THE YEAR 1871.

By the Medical Officers of Health.

London:

JOHN SMITH & CO. LONDON AND W.C.

1872.

REPORT,

1871.

To the Board of Works for the Wandsworth District.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with your instructions, and in compliance with Section 132 of the Metropolis Local Management Act, we beg to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Wandsworth District for the year 1871.

Separate papers, having reference to the several Sub-districts, are contributed by each member of our local association, and the local statistical tables have been further collated and arranged in an Appendix, with the view of rendering them, as usual, equally applicable to the entire District.

Thus constructed, we may be permitted to hope the present Report (the sixteenth issued since 1855) will be found to furnish not only as great an amount of information, but to be equally as serviceable in indicating sanitary progress as any that have preceded it.

We have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your very obedient Servants,

*The Medical Officers of Health of the
Wandsworth District.*

REPORT,

1871.

To the Board of Works for the Wandsworth District.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with your instructions, and in compliance with Section 132 of the Metropolitan Local Management Act, we beg to submit the Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Wandsworth District for the year 1871.

Separate papers, having reference to the several sub-districts, are contributed by each member of our local association, and the local statistical tables have been further collated and arranged in an Appendix, with the view of rendering them, as usual, equally applicable to the entire District.

Thus constructed, we may be permitted to hope the present Report (the sixteenth issued since 1855) will be found to furnish not only as great an amount of information, but to be equally as serviceable in indicating sanitary progress as any that have preceded it.

We have the honor to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your very obedient servants,

The Medical Officers of Health of the

Wandsworth District.

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION OF THE ENTIRE DISTRICT.

GENERAL REMARKS.

THE unusual fatality that has attended Small Pox, Scarlatina, Whooping Cough, and some other Zymotic diseases during the past year (1871), throughout the country, has happily not increased in any very marked degree the death-rate of the entire Wandsworth District.

An examination of Tables I. and II., in the Appendix, will show that during the past year the population was increased, apart from its augmentation by the influx of new residents, by the births of 4,380 infants, and was, during the same period, diminished by the deaths of 2,867 of the inhabitants. The gain, therefore, by what is termed the natural increase, as shown by the excess of births over deaths, was 1,513. The other source of increase, or that by immigration, has, there is every reason to believe, added a very large number to the population, even since the last Census was taken, when it was ascertained to be 125,050, or 54,647 in excess of the enumeration of 1861.

But adopting, as usual, the Registrar General's method of calculation, and assuming the increase of the population of the entire Wandsworth District in the interval of the last Census and the middle of the year 1871, to have been in the same ratio as that of the average of the ten preceding years, a death-rate of 22·6 per 1000 is deducible. The death-rate for all London was 24·7 per 1000, or 2·1 above that of this District.

By employing the same method of calculation, the birth-rate is found to have been 34·6, and the rate of natural increase 11·9 per 1000.

Since the completion of the general tables of statistics in the Appendix to this Report, it has been found that the Registrar General has made a correction of his Census Returns generally, and that he has given to the entire Wandsworth District 10 more inhabitants than originally appeared when the result of the enumeration was first made known in April, 1871. This slight increase (125,060 instead of 125,050) does not, however, materially affect the calculations here given.

The following table exhibits the estimated population, the number of deaths, and the ratio of deaths to population for 1871, in the five Sub-districts respectively, placed in the order of their greatest mortality:—

SUB-DISTRICTS.	Estimated Population in the middle of the Year 1871.	Deaths.	Ratio of Deaths to Population.
Battersea	54,847	1,472	1 in 37
Wandsworth	19,958	453	1 in 44
Clapham	27,509	604	1 in 45
Putney & Roehampton	9,512	151	1 in 63
Streatham, Tooting, and Balham	14,588	187	1 in 78

The Sub-districts of both Battersea and Wandsworth exhibit, of course, a higher ratio than do either of the other localities, by reason of the many public institutions contained in the former.

This is more fully explained in the local summaries themselves; but it may be here remarked that the *actual* death-rate of the entire District widely differs from the *natural* death-rate, or the rate *proper* to each Sub-district, correction being made for the deaths of non-parishioners in the institutions referred to.

Prevalence and Fatality of Zymotic Diseases, Small Pox, Vaccination, &c.—But for the excessive number of

deaths due to Small Pox registered throughout the District in 1871 over the number recorded in the previous year's Report, a much more favourable and satisfactory general return would have now been presented. From the fact of this malady extending itself over the whole kingdom, as well as the continent, there is far more reason to apprehend its long continuance than had its incidence been upon a limited area. It will doubtless require great efforts to be made, and some wiser laws in relation to epidemics than those at present existing to be enacted, before any sensible abatement of the malady can be looked for. If the influence of the anti-vaccinationists is really not to be got rid of, and a compulsory system of vaccination, beyond the mere name of such, ensured, far better would it be that the existing laws upon the subject be repealed, and an entire reliance placed upon the good sense of the people to eventually overcome the prejudices now fostered and encouraged on the ridiculous plea of the operation of vaccination being an interference with the "liberty of the subject"—a mode of reasoning meaning, if it can have any meaning attached to it, that Her Majesty's subjects ought not to be deprived, by legal enactments, of the liberty of putting the lives of any number of their fellow subjects in jeopardy if they so will it, the Divine law which enjoins consideration for the welfare of one's neighbours being, of course, entirely ignored! Such are, substantially, the views of most of the foolish opponents of Jenner's great discovery, but more absurd reasoning it is difficult to conceive.

Since the appointment of a Vaccination Officer in this District the existing Vaccination Act has gradually become more systematically and effectually carried out. The operation is also, apparently under the influence of a growing confidence, being more readily complied with. Seeing therefore the great improvement already effected, it is reasonable to hope that with some few judicious amendments of the existing Act, and the peremptory "shall" being made to supply the

place of the permissive "may," the fulfilment of all its more important provisions will be gradually realized.*

It was intended here to have inserted a table showing the number of cases of Small Pox amongst the poor of the District treated both in and out of hospital, with the number of resulting deaths apportioned to each of the Sub-districts ; but although application was made to the Board of Guardians and to the hospital authorities, it has been found impossible, as yet, to obtain returns that could be relied upon to furnish the desired information. The number of cases treated by the Union Medical Officers out of hospital, and the number of resulting deaths are, as usual, to be found in the statistical Table No. V. Appendix ; and it may be stated generally that 364 cases of Small Pox were admitted from the District into the Stockwell Hospital, and that of this number 62 died of the disease during 1871 in that institution. No account, however, appears to have been kept of the parishes from which the patients were sent, nor does it seem to have been made known at the hospital from whence any of the patients came, further than that they were sent in under the authority of particular Unions. Of the total cases of Small Pox in this District, treated both in the Stockwell Hospital and at poor patients' homes, the rate of mortality is found to have been 8·4 per cent. The rate of mortality

* Taking the vaccinated as well as the unvaccinated cases, as exemplified in 5,539 persons treated in the Hampstead and Stockwell Small Pox Hospitals, it has been shown (*vide* Report of the Committee of Managers of the Metropolitan Asylum District, issued in July last) that the percentage of deaths of cases with no marks was 55·9 ; with one mark, 15·2 ; with two marks, 11·7 ; with three marks, 9·4 ; with four marks, 6·5 ; with five marks and more, 5·5 : thus incontestably proving the value of properly performed vaccination. In the same report the policy of revaccination is strongly urged, and the conclusive fact stated that "of 14,800 cases received into the Hospitals, only 4 well-authenticated cases were treated in which revaccination had been properly performed, and these were light cases" ; and further that "all the revaccinated nurses and servants of the Hospitals, to the number, at one time, of 300, who were hourly brought into the most intimate contact with the disease, enjoyed complete immunity from its attacks." It will be curious to see how the antivaccinationists will deal with these valuable statistics.

of all the patients received into the above named hospital from every source, was 17·6 per cent.

Although it has been found impracticable to obtain a detailed return of the deaths in the Small Pox Hospitals, and consequently to present any accurate statistics of the severity of the late epidemic in the several parts of the District, it is nevertheless possible to form an approximate estimate of the relative extent of its prevalence in the several Sub-districts, by noting the relation borne by the deaths from Small Pox to the deaths from all causes, as in the following form :—

Percentage of Deaths from Small Pox to Deaths from all Causes in the several Parishes of the Wandsworth District.

Battersea	..	..	..	17·9
Clapham	..	..	..	15·5
Wandsworth	..	.	..	3·0
Streatham	..	..	..	2·1
Putney	..	..	..	0·66

The percentage of deaths from the seven principal Zymotic diseases to the total deaths from all causes is 28·8 as against 26·0 in the previous year.

Ordinary Diseases and their resulting Mortality.—The deaths from diseases, apart from those of the epidemic or Zymotic class, were in excess of the number registered in 1870 to the extent of one only. This is somewhat remarkable, looking at the great increase of population in the interval of the two years, the relative numbers being 2008 in 1870 against 2,009 in the past year.

Uncertified Deaths, Inquests.—The Medical Officers of Health have again to direct attention to the very numerous registrations of deaths without medical certificates. They amounted in the entire District during the past year to 116, many of them being found to relate to illegitimate children. It is quite time the Legislature took this matter in hand, since the evil results of the present lax system of registration is every year increasing.

The number of inquests held during the year on persons who had died suddenly, or from causes needing investigation, was 114.

Ages at Death, Infant Mortality, Mortality of Persons in advanced Life.—Numerically the deaths of infants and young children, between birth and ten years of age, were as usual (as is the case throughout the kingdom) very great, 123 being the excess over the number registered at these ages in this District during the preceding year. These deaths are thus distributed :—Under 1 year of age, 753 ; from 1 to 5 years, 638 ; and from 5 to 10 years, 42 ; the total number (1,433) being just one-half of the total mortality at all ages.

The number of deaths registered from old age or natural decay (no other cause being assigned in the medical certificates) was 125, which is 8 less than in the preceding year. From 60 to 80 and upwards, there died from all causes 559 persons, of whom 118 were registered as being over 80, and a few to have exceeded 90. The oldest person registered within the year was a female who died at Clapham, and who had reached, within two weeks, the advanced age of 102. In the Putney Sub-district the death of one person at 96 years was recorded ; at Battersea two were registered at 94 ; at Streatham one at 92 ; and at Wandsworth one at 90.

Social Position.—The proportion of deaths amongst the labouring classes to those which occurred during the year amongst the three classes above them collectively, was larger than usual, the relative numbers being 1,860 of the former to 1,007 of the latter, accounted for by Small Pox having been much more fatal amongst the poor than amongst the other classes named.

Table V. in the Appendix gives as many as 262 more cases amongst the out-door poor treated by the Union Medical Officers than in the preceding year. The total number of out-door poor treated in the past year was 6,299, and the number of resulting deaths 237; thus giving almost precisely the same percentage of deaths to cases treated as last year, viz. 3·7.

Sanitation.—In speaking of the sanitation of the past year, Table No. VI. Appendix, is referred to as pointing out better than any verbal description can do, that which has been accomplished in this direction throughout the District. Perhaps the most important work of the year has been the completion of additional sewerage to the extent of 19,589 feet. The careful inspection of upwards of 6,000 houses and premises has led, as may be imagined, to very many sanitary improvements of a beneficial character. The cases investigated by the Magistrates (17) were less by one than in the preceding year. These investigations comprised a somewhat larger number than usual of enquiries into alleged nuisances from the keeping of pigs. In the Sub-district of Battersea especially, the complaints against pig keeping have been both numerous and urgent, repeatedly raising the question of the effect on health of large piggeries in crowded neighbourhoods. That a small number of pigs may be kept comparatively clean by attention and the adoption of efficient drainage, but few will be disposed to dispute; but where drainage and water supply are defective or absent, and a very large number of animals are crowded into small spaces—manure-making constituting a prominent object of their keepers—then there appears good grounds for the interference of the authorities, and it is hoped that the Legislature will not long delay the consideration of this important matter, with the view of giving to Vestries and Local Boards a greater control over all piggeries, and empowering them to license such places, in the same way as they now do the slaughter and cow-houses. It is feared the promise

of the responsible Minister, that he would insert in his new Public Health Bill a clause bearing upon this most important sanitary question, will not, at least for some time, be realised, since that part of the Bill in which the clause referred to was to have appeared, has been withdrawn.*

Sewer Ventilation.—So frequently have the Medical Officers of Health discussed this question in their reports, that some apology seems to be needed for reverting to it in this place. So continually also are complaints being made of the noxious smells emanating from the sewer gratings in public places, that it seems desirable the subject should be further considered, with the view of discovering, if possible, some improved means of depriving the sewer gases of their noxious qualities.

Amongst the suggestions to this end which have emanated from scientific men, may be mentioned that of the free use of charcoal. "In 1854," writes Dr. Stenhouse, in the *Times* of a recent date "I was fortunate enough

* Since this Report was written Mr. Stansfeld's Public Health Bill has been reprinted, as "amended," and has subsequently passed both Houses of Parliament. The clauses relating to the appointment of sanitary authorities, urban and rural, remain; but all from clause 32 to clause 69 have been struck out. These clauses defined and prohibited nuisances by pollution of streams, and required the ventilation of sewers and drains, and the cleansing of streets, and earth and other closets. A right of entry into houses to inspect the condition of drains was given. The Nuisances Removal Act of 1863 was extended to milk and tea. A penalty of £20 might be inflicted for the sale of unsound human food; and a search warrant might be granted on reasonable cause shown. A clause contained provisions for the closing of foul wells and pumps, and of buildings unfit for habitation. There were provisions for testing and securing the purity of water supply, regulations relating to gas, stipulations for hospital accommodation for persons having dangerous diseases, and also for disinfecting apparatus. The Local Government Board was to have power to direct the establishment of dispensaries, and might also require mortuaries to be provided. There was a penalty on giving a false answer when letting as to the recent existence of infectious disease in the house. All these and some other clauses connected with them have been unfortunately struck out, and an Act much crippled in its intended usefulness has been the result.

to discover that if putrid air were slowly passed through charcoal, the poisonous and offensive gases would be absorbed and completely decomposed by the oxygen contained in the pores of the charcoal. In this way the gases are entirely destroyed, as if they passed through a fire. This discovery led to the construction of the now well-known charcoal air-filter, of which I have already given a detailed description in your journal in 1854 as well as in various other publications. It consists essentially of a layer of coarsely-powdered charcoal interposed between two sheets of wire gauze, and supported on a suitable frame of metal or wood. When an air-filter similar to that above described is closely fitted into the ventilating opening of any drain, all pressure will be taken off the water-traps, the deleterious gas will be removed, and only pure air allowed to pass out through the filter, which will remain in an effective state for several years, provided only that the charcoal be kept dry. These air filters have been very extensively employed during the last fourteen years in London, Glasgow, Nottingham, and numerous other large towns."

The *sine qua non* of keeping the charcoal dry appears to have operated to throw this method into disuse, but it is yet possible it may be revived by the discovery of some means of overcoming the present objection to its employment.

The utilisation of the lamp-posts in streets and exposed places, for carrying up, at certain distances, ventilating pipes or small shafts, so that the sewer-air escaping into a moving atmosphere, high above the heads of the passers-by, might become practically harmless, is another suggestion that has found favour with some. Whether this plan has ever been tried on a sufficiently large scale to test its practicability and usefulness does not appear, but be this as it may, it is believed by the Medical Officers of Health that nothing is likely to prove more satisfactory and effectual than the adoption of a constant water-flow through

the sewers, as suggested by Dr. Nicholas several years since, and repeatedly alluded to in the Reports of the Medical Officers of Health, who fully concur in the views of their colleague.

To the ordinary trappings of sewer gratings practical engineers do not appear to attach much importance. In a sensible letter upon this subject in the *Times*, a few months since, the following remarks occur:—"Sewer air can be forced through most of the ordinary traps, and even where the amount of water they contain is so large as to resist a considerable amount of pressure without letting the foul air bubble through, this water soon becomes saturated with sewer emanations." This view of the matter affords an additional argument in favour of the plan of a constant water-flow as a means of preventing, to a great extent, the generation of sewer gases, by the speedy manner in which the material is carried away, thus allowing decomposition to proceed only to a very limited extent within the sewers.—(See Report, 1856.)

The Disinfection of Bedding, Clothing, &c.—The following appeared in a London newspaper of December last:—

"At Marlborough Street, on Friday, December 1st, Mary Rennary was charged with neglecting to disinfect a bed upon which a person from Small Pox had died. The defendant, according to the evidence of the Sanitary Inspector of the parish of St. Marylebone, had not used proper means to cleanse the bed in question (although a disinfecting chamber had been established in the parish for public use), and the consequence had been that two persons who had subsequently slept upon it had been attacked by Small Pox. Mr. Mansfield fined the defendant 20s., with 5s. costs."

The above circumstance is referred to for the purpose not only of showing how Small Pox is sometimes propagated, but the great injustice that might be done to the

poor by authorities who neglect to supply proper means of disinfection. It is true the greatest difficulties are frequently experienced in procuring sites for buildings to contain the necessary apparatus, but the bad policy of permitting a penal clause to exist in an Act of Parliament without adequate provision being made to enable the poor fully to obey the law, should be corrected with as little delay as possible.

The Commons and Open Spaces of the District.—There is one thing upon which those of the inhabitants who reside near the Heaths and Commons of this extensive area may be very fairly congratulated, and that is, the passing of certain Acts of Parliament for vesting the management of Wimbledon, Putney, and Wandsworth Commons, in representative and responsible conservators, the better to preserve them to the public as places of healthful recreation. This is a boon that has long been contended for, and the impossibility of any individual or body of speculators now succeeding in attempts to establish sewage-farms or such like nuisances on these Commons, cannot prove otherwise than a source of great satisfaction to the ratepayers.

Water Supply.—The Medical Officers of Health return to this subject with very considerable misgivings, in respect to any very speedy realisation of the hopes of the public that water is to be henceforth supplied to the inhabitants on the *constant* principle, and of a quality superior to that hitherto afforded them by the Companies. The season has arrived when the storage of potable water in exposed cisterns and filth-collecting water-butts should claim the particular attention of every householder; for assuredly it will be some time yet before the public will obtain its water without the intervention of these objectionable receptacles. The apathy of the Water Companies in this matter is only equalled by that of the public; but a cholera or fever invasion of the country may possibly

effect that which no amount of reasoning or warning appears, at present, capable of bringing about.

The Medical Officers of Health are amongst those who, whilst deprecating sensational phraseology in describing the impurities, &c., of the present supplies of water, are still of opinion that the public will suffer much by the manifest incompleteness of the arrangements in respect to a constant service and efficient filtration. That the water supplied to this District is occasionally very impure, from the presence of living organisms, is a fact verified by all unprejudiced observers. That such water oftentimes contains the germs of disease, in a very concentrated form, is equally certain; but it is not so certain that there is amongst our legislators and the public a sufficient appreciation of the discoveries of our scientific men, to induce them to take any but the most ordinary interest in securing the passing of really effective measures for the protection of the public health. The difference of authoritative opinion on most sanitary subjects is another and very serious drawback to wise legislation on these matters. In respect to the all important question of water supply, for instance, the public were not long ago told that the Rivers Pollution Commission, consisting for the most part of scientific men of great repute, had recommended the speedy adoption of a remedy for the sewage contamination of the Thames and Lea, from which rivers, they were of opinion, that it would be dangerous to continue to draw the supplies of water for the Metropolis in their then impure condition: and very shortly after it was intimated to the same public that a Committee of the House of Commons, under the presidency of Mr. Ayrton, had reported that so well satisfied were they with both the quantity and quality of the water drawn from the sources above referred to, as to render it, in their opinion, unadvisable to disturb existing arrangements under the Act of 1865! In view of such conflicting and contradictory declarations, who shall predict the ultimatum of any measure

of sanitary reform that through Royal Commissions or otherwise may be submitted to the consideration of Parliament?

The promised measures of protection against the adulteration of food, the sale of unwholesome articles of diet, the neglect of vaccination, &c., will each be more or less affected, it is feared, by this want of unanimity in the opinion of those whose function it is to inaugurate all such measures.

The public, therefore, bearing in mind how vitally they are concerned in the enactment of good sanitary measures, and the heavy burdens imposed on them for the small advantages afforded through timid and incomplete legislation, should perseveringly continue to agitate for the completion and final enactment of those promised reforms, which all practical men are agreed are imperatively needed, but which vested interests seem alone to be keeping in abeyance.

WANDSWORTH.

LOCAL SUMMARIES.

The total deaths which were registered as having occurred during the past year numbered 153; 329 were of males and 224 of females. Of these the following number took place in public institutions: 722 in the County Asylum; 100 in the House of Correction; 21 in the Hospital for Insane; 10 in the Royal Victoria Asylum for boys; 2; and in the similar institutions for girls 3; forming a total of no less than 124.

During the year a serious epidemic of smallpox was prevalent in the district. The deaths which occurred, and which are estimated to have been 184, were 1000 persons.

WANDSWORTH.

THE health of this Sub-district during the year 1871, has been influenced by the occurrence of three severe epidemics, namely, Scarlatina, Small Pox and Measles ; hence it is not suprising to find on examination of the public records of mortality, that the death-rate was in excess of the average ; but it is nevertheless reassuring to observe that, notwithstanding such ordeal, it was considerably less than that which prevailed during the year preceding.

The total deaths which were registered as having occurred during the past year numbered 453 ; 229 were of males and 224 of females. Of these the following number took place in public institutions ; viz., in the Surrey County Lunatic Asylum, 100 ; in the House of Correction 9 ; in the Hospital for Incurables 10 ; in the Royal Patriotic Asylum for boys 2 ; and in the similar institution for girls 3 ; forming a total of no less than 124.

Death Rate. — The *death-rate* for the past year, deduced from the deaths which occurred, and an estimated population, was 18·44 per 1000 persons

living. This estimate is based upon the assumption that the population has increased since the period when the census was taken, in the same proportion as it had done during the preceding ten years : and correction is made for the deaths in the Surrey County Lunatic Asylum and the Hospital for Incurables, after the manner described in previous reports. It will be sufficient to observe here, that the necessity for such correction arises from the circumstance that the inmates of these institutions are derived from without the parish, undergo no natural increase, and are subject to a high mortality ; the deaths, moreover, are so numerous that, without such correction, a death-rate determined solely from the deaths registered would fluctuate with the mortality of these institutions, and could not therefore represent the *natural* death-rate of the Sub-district. The death-rate deduced from the deaths registered without the correction above indicated was 22·69 per 1000.

Birth Rate.—The births registered during the past year numbered 620, 289 of males, and 331 of females. The *birth-rate* was 35·7 per 1,000 and the rate of *natural increase* 17·26 per 1000 persons living of the entire population.

The following table contains a summary of all the causes of death arranged in accordance with the classification of the Registrar General, showing the sex, social position, and age at death at different periods, and particularizing the several diseases of the Zymotic class :—

STATISTICS OF MORTALITY.

WANDSWORTH.		Total Deaths from each Class of Disease, &c., in the Sub-District	SEX		AGE								SOCIAL POSITION			
Population in 1871—19,797. Population in 1861—13,346. Increase in 10 years—6,451. Area in Acres, 2,478.			Males	Females	Under 1 year	From 1 to 5 years	From 5 to 10 years	Under 20 years, including all under 10 years	At 20, and under 40 years of age	At 40, and under 60 years of age	At 60, and under 80 years of age	80 years and upwards	Nobility and Gentry	Professional Class, Merchants, Bankers, &c.	Middle and Trading Class, Shopmen, Clerks, &c.	Industrial and Labouring Classes
Diseases and other Causes of Death. Diseases Classified.																
Classes :—																
1. Zymotic	Small Pox	14	11	3	2	4	2	8	4	1	1	...	...	...	5	9
	Measles	31	9	22	7	20	3	30	...	1	...	...	...	...	4	27
	Scarlatina ...	23	7	16	2	15	5	22	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	20
	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Quinsy .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Croup	3	...	3	1	2	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Whooping Cough ...	11	6	5	4	6	1	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
	Typhus & Infantile Fever	3	1	2	1	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Erysipelas...	5	4	1	1	...	...	2	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	4
	Metria, Childbirth	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
	Carbuncle ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea & Dysentery ..	21	8	13	10	5	...	15	...	2	2	2	...	...	3	18	
Cholera .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals of Zymotic Class		113	46	67	28	53	11	94	8	6	3	2	1	...	17	95
2. Tubercular		57	32	25	8	3	3	20	21	12	4	...	...	2	7	48
3. Of Brain, Nerves, &c.		88	47	41	7	9	1	18	20	26	23	1	...	4	8	76
4. Of the Heart, &c. ...		26	16	10	...	...	...	...	6	9	11	...	1	2	5	18
5. Of Respiratory Organs		65	34	31	14	2	...	17	8	21	17	2	1	2	7	55
6. Digestive Organs ...		26	16	10	5	1	...	6	3	8	9	...	1	2	3	20
7. Urinary Organs.....		4	2	2	...	...	1	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	3
8. Of Organs of Generation		1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
9. Of Joints, Bones, &c.		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Of Skin .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. Premature Birth, Low Vitality, Malformation, &c. }		21	11	10	21	...	...	21	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	18
12. Of Uncertain Seat...		19	7	12	1	...	1	3	1	10	5	...	...	2	6	11
13. Age		18	6	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	10	...	3	1	14
14. Violence.....		12	10	2	1	...	1	3	3	4	2	...	...	...	2	10
15. Not Specified.....		3	2	1	2	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
TOTALS		453	229	224	87	68	18	185	70	100	83	15	5	18	60	370

Class 1. Zymotic (epidemic, endemic, contagious) constitutes as usual by far the greater portion of the causes of death, forming nearly one fourth of the whole. The next most fatal class in the table is that of diseases of the Brain and Nervous System, but, as has been explained in previous reports, it becomes necessary, in consequence of the undue augmentation of this class of diseases by the mortality of the Surrey County Lunatic Asylum, to eliminate such class from a consideration of the causation of mortality proper to this Parish. Diseases of the organs of respiration come next in order of fatality, forming upwards of 14 per cent, and then the Tubercular class, which includes Consumption, forming $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Consumption alone, which was as usual the most fatal of any single disease, formed over 10 per cent., which is considerably above the average. Diseases of the Heart and Diseases of the Digestive organs formed 5 per cent. respectively. The other classes do not present any deviation from their usual average requiring comment. Upwards of 19 per cent of all deaths occurred to children under the first year of age ; 34 per cent. to children under 5 years of age ; and upwards of 40 per cent. occurred under 20 years. Eighteen deaths are registered as the result of old age, but no less than 53 took place above the age of 70 ; viz., from 70—75 twenty-four ; from 75—80 sixteen ; from 80—85 five ; and from 85—90 eight.

An examination of the deaths in relation to social position, shews that upwards of 81 per cent. of all deaths occurred amongst the labouring classes, and of the deaths from epidemic diseases, upwards of 84 per cent. took place amongst them.

The unusually large number of 36 inquests were held during the year. Twelve deaths resulted from violence, 6 of which were accidental, 5 suicidal, and 1 homicidal. In 8 instances, the cause of death was not certified by medical testimony. The absence of such testimony, it

needs scarcely be observed, admits of the *possibility* of the occurrence of such deaths from other than natural causes. It is not necessary to repeat the observations made on this subject from time to time in previous Reports, to which the reader is referred, but to remark here only that the evil is one of such magnitude as to require legislative interference, and that the remedy, consisting in the employment of medical investigation in all cases of uncertified deaths, is one of direct and easy application.

Epidemic Diseases—Their prevalence and fatality.—The following Table shows the deaths which have resulted from the 7 principal epidemic diseases during the past and ten preceding years, and the relation which they bore to the deaths from all causes.

YEARS.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Cholera.	Diarrhoea.	Fever— Typhus and Typhoid.	Total Deaths from Epidemics.	Total Deaths from all causes.	Per centage of deaths from Epi- demics to deaths from all causes.
1861	1	1	12	1	4	...	8	3	30	246	12.1
1862	0	28	2	5	11	...	5	11	62	273	22.7
1863	8	2	23	1	9	...	6	13	62	300	20.6
1864	4	0	3	6	9	...	8	13	43	311	13.8
1865	5	2	3	1	6	...	19	18	54	338	15.9
1866	3	23	10	2	5	7	18	5	73	351	20.7
1867	3	1	7	1	6	1	7	7	33	332	9.9
1868	0	8	5	2	20	...	22	7	64	394	16.2
1869	0	23	36	0	7	...	23	5	94	429	21.9
1870	0	2	48	4	16	...	33	10	113	450	25.1
1871	14	31	23	...	11	...	21	3	113	453	24.9

The number of deaths resulting from these diseases is seen in the Table to correspond with that of the year preceding, which was exceptionally high, and to exceed the average of the preceding 10 years by upwards of 80 per cent. The excess was caused partly by the Epidemic of Small Pox, partly by that of Scarlatina, but mostly by a sudden and very fatal outbreak of Measles which occurred during the Winter quarter. The figures in the Table show the relative fatality from these diseases, the number of deaths from Scarlatina having been upwards of a third greater, and those from Measles considerably more than twice greater than those from Small Pox. A little correction of the Table, however, is here necessary, for the number of deaths from Small Pox is that of those registered in the Parish, and does not include those who died in the public Hospitals; but if the latter be added, then Small Pox exceeded Scarlatina by one death in 24, but was exceeded by Measles by 7 in 31 deaths. So that Small Pox, although in consequence of its wide spread prevalence throughout the country, and the great fear which, from its loathsome nature, it always produces amongst the people, was the most notable, it was by no means the most fatal of diseases of the epidemic class. Scarlatina and Small Pox were present during the whole year, but prevailed mostly in the Spring and Summer quarters. Diarrhœa prevailed as usual principally in the Autumn, but was attended with less fatality than during the three preceding years. There was a smaller amount of Fever (Typhus and Typhoid) than has occurred for many years, having been probably supplanted by the other eruptive fevers.

Sickness and Mortality of the Parochial Poor.—Table 5 in the Appendix will be found to contain the amount, nature, and fatality of the sickness which prevailed amongst the parochial poor during the past year, and furnishes valuable information, corroborative of the deductions which may be drawn from the general Table of

Mortality. The amount of sickness, and its fatal results, though less than those of the year preceding, were much higher than the average, the number of fresh cases coming under treatment having been 2,037 with 70 deaths, or 3·43 per cent; the average of the preceding ten years having been 1,532, with 47 deaths, or about 3 per cent. The amount of epidemic diseases was also greater, presenting 494 cases with 21 deaths, compared with the preceding ten years' average of 336 cases, and 13 deaths. As might be expected from an examination of the Table of General Mortality, the most prevalent of the class of diseases amongst the poor were Measles, Scarlatina, and Small Pox. Of the last named disease 132 cases occurred amongst them, 57 of which were removed to Hospital, and of these 10 died. Seventy-five remained undertreatment at their homes, and of these 5 died; so that the mortality of the whole of the cases of Small Pox, which came under treatment in hospitals or otherwise amongst the parochial poor was 11·36 per cent. In the report recently issued by the Committee of Management of the Stockwell Small Pox Hospital, the rate of mortality appears to have been 17·6 per cent., a result doubtless of the severer cases, as a rule, being sent to hospital. Compared with the general fatality of Small Pox, the rate of mortality in this Parish from that disease was low; and looking to the very low ratio borne by the deaths from Small Pox to the deaths from all causes (which was 5 per cent., or excluding the deaths in hospitals, 3 per cent. only) it is obvious that relatively to other Sub-districts, in which such ratio is found to be 15 and 17 per cent, this Sub-district enjoyed comparative immunity from the late epidemic.

Sanitary Proceedings, Removal of Nuisances, &c.—In addition to the general sanitary proceedings which were carried out during the past year, a summary of which is contained in Table 6 in the Appendix, all the Cowhouses and Slaughterhouses in the Sub-district were examined and specially reported on, previous to a renewal of their

owner's licenses. The purification of unwholesome dwellings in which contagious diseases had been present, was as usual vigorously carried out, especially during the prevalence of Small Pox, when disinfectants were freely used, and distributed to the poor where required. In accordance with a memorial issued by Her Majesty's Privy Council at the beginning of the year relative to the epidemic of Small Pox, in which the Medical Officers of Health were enjoined to put in force whenever necessary the 28th section of the Sanitary Act, 1866, which empowers any Justice to direct the removal to a hospital of any poor person suffering from a dangerous, contagious or infectious disorder, such person being without proper lodging or accommodation, application was made to the sitting magistrate for an order for the removal to hospital of a patient suffering from Small Pox, under conditions of such an exceptionally bad sanitary character as to necessitate the application. The order was readily obtained, but was resisted by the parents of the patient, and after three days attendance at the police court, it was found that the magistrate had no power to enforce his own order. The circumstance, on account of its great importance, is recalled to the recollection of the Board, and it is earnestly hoped that so serious a defect in the law will be remedied in the forthcoming Public Health Act; otherwise one of the most important powers possessed by the Board for the prevention of the spread of contagious diseases, by means of "isolation" of the sick from the healthy, will be rendered completely futile.

The nuisance arising from the ventilation of the sewers, continues the subject of general, and, it must be added, well founded complaint. Although many remedies have been suggested, and some tried with various degrees of success, they have, without exception, been directed to the mitigation of the evil only. For a defect so extensive, a correspondingly comprehensive remedy is required, such

as is to be found in its prevention rather than its cure. This could be effected, as I have submitted in previous reports, to as practical an extent and as economically as possible, by the employment of an abundant and *continuous* flow of water for the distinct service of the sewers, so as to ensure a rapid removal of their contents, and consequently prevent the decomposition and resulting gases which otherwise ensue.

GEORGE EDWARD NICHOLAS, M.D.

Medical Officer of Health for Wandsworth.

BATTERSEA.

THE Medical Officers of Health, taking into consideration the fact that the Parish of Battersea has, during a portion of the past year only, been divided into two distinct divisions, find it impracticable to present a separate report for either Sub-district, the more especially as no provision has been made by the Registrar General for an apportionment of the number of births and other statistical details to the respective sub-divisions of the Parish. The present report consequently applies to the whole Parish, as has heretofore been the case.

The year 1871 has been an exceptional one, it having been the census year, and one in which vital statistics would consequently possess more indisputable claims to consideration than for several years past, during which the real numbers and rate of increase of the population could be merely assumed.

Although these statistics are made good use of by the Registrar General, it is somewhat doubtful whether his mode of deducing his death-rates can quite so well meet the requirements of such an exceptional locality as Battersea, as it does most of the other Metropolitan parishes, since it is known that the increase of population of this Sub-district has proceeded, during the last decade, in such a very unusual manner as to defy all ordinary calculations. To obtain indeed even a tolerably accurate death-rate for this parish, it would seem to be almost necessary to institute an annual census, or at all events to secure a much more frequent enumeration of the inhabitants than appears at present attainable. The Registrar General has not been slow to recognise this peculiarity of the parish, for he observes in his last Annual Summary that "The most remarkable case of increase of population between 1861-71 occurred in the Battersea Sub-district"; and this will be thoroughly understood when it is stated, that the

number of inhabitants rose from the comparatively small number of 19,600 in 1861, to the extraordinary high figure, according to the original statement issued soon after the last Census was taken, of 53,988.*

To secure uniformity of calculation in deducing the mean death-rates of the several Sub-districts, the method pursued by the Registrar General in bringing the population to apply to the middle of a year, is adopted, and in this way we arrive at the fact, that the inhabitants of this rapidly increasing parish must at that period of the year in 1871, have numbered very little short of 55,000 (54,847).

The total number of deaths during the year 1871 was 1,472, consequently a rate of mortality of 26·83 per 1000 persons living has to be recorded; but excluding 91 Non-parishioners who died in the Union infirmary, situated in this parish, this rate becomes very considerably diminished, and may be stated to be somewhat under 25 per 1000.

The annexed table gives the causes of all the deaths that occurred in the Sub-district during 1871, with the ages, sex, and social positions of the deceased persons. It also gives the Census return of the total population, as well as the actual increase during the last decade, 1861-71.

* The Registrar General in his last Annual Summary more than hints that these figures fall somewhat short of the actual enumerated numbers; for owing to some undefined error on the part of the enumerators employed in taking the Census of the Wandsworth District, they failed so it is said, to account, at first, for 28 residents in Battersea. This correction, if it be a proper one to make, would raise the population, at the period referred to, to 54,016, and as the Registrar General himself remarks, would have given to the 10 years increase, a number "equal to 176 per cent." Seeing, however, that the Registrar General's actual correction of the Census numbers applying to the *entire* Wandsworth District is to the extent of 10 only, increasing the total originally stated from 125,050 to 125,060, the Medical Officers of Health can hardly venture to claim 28 as a correction of the Census returns of their own individual Sub-district. They have therefore considered that a calculation based on the originally-stated numbers, which are being still put forward in all the Registrar General's Weekly Returns of Births and Deaths, will be the most satisfactory way of proceeding, and less open to objection, or the suspicion of exaggeration, than any other.

STATISTICS OF MORTALITY.

BATTERSEA.		SEX.		AGE.									SOCIAL POSITION.				
Population in 1871—53,988. Population in 1861—19,600. Increase in 10 years—34,388. Area in Acres—2,343																	
DISEASES, And other Causes of Death.		Total Deaths from each Class of Disease, &c., in the Sub-District.		Males.	Females.	Under 1 year.	From 1 to 5 years.	From 5 to 10 years.	Under 20 years, including all under 10 years.	At 20, and under 40 years of age.	At 40, and under 60 years of age.	At 60 and under 80 years of age.	80 years and upwards.	Nobility and Gentry.	Professional Class, Mer- chants, Bankers, &c.	Middle and Trading Class, Shopmen, Clerks, &c.	Industrial and Labouring Classes.
Classes—																	
1. Zymotic	Small Pox	264	126	138	58	97	33	212	38	13	1	...	...	2	52	210
	Measles ...	17	11	6	3	12	1	17	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	12
	Scarlatina	55	28	27	2	36	16	55	...	...	...	...	1	...	13	41
	Diphtheria	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Quinsy.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Croup	7	...	7	2	5	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5
	Whooping Cough ...	19	10	9	4	14	1	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	17
	Typhus, In- fantile and other Fevers	34	16	18	2	11	4	14	8	10	2	...	1	...	14	19	
	Erysipelas	12	7	5	3	...	...	3	1	5	3	...	...	...	3	9
	Metria, Childbirth	2	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Carbuncle	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Influenza...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diarrhœa & Dysentery	173	40	33	58	12	...	70	...	...	2	1	3	2	26	42
	Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Totals of Zymotic Class		485	239	246	132	187	55	399	48	29	8	1	5	5	116	359	
2. Tubercular		263	146	117	102	36	8	163	58	41	3	...	5	5	83	170	
3. Of Brain, Nerves, &c.		178	95	83	70	33	5	108	9	18	56	7	4	3	52	119	
4. Of the Heart, &c. ...		59	25	34	2	3	2	13	11	20	13	2	1	1	20	37	
5. Of Respiratory Organs		211	108	103	71	54	1	129	17	25	35	5	5	1	57	148	
6. Of Digestive Organs		42	16	26	4	6	1	14	4	9	14	1	...	...	20	22
7. Of Urinary Organs		10	5	5	1	1	...	2	5	1	2	...	...	...	4	6
8. Of Organs of Gene- ration		13	...	13	...	...	...	8	5	...	...	...	...	...	3	10
9. Of Joints, Bones, &c.		2	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
10. Of Skin .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. Premature Birth, Low Vitality, Mal- formation, &c. ...		35	20	15	35	...	...	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	26
12. Of Uncertain Seat...		39	16	23	1	1	2	8	12	11	8	...	1	2	12	24	
13. Age		54	28	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	28	6	1	14	33
14. Violence		25	19	6	4	2	1	8	7	6	4	...	...	...	5	20
15. Not Specified.....		56	29	27	9	3	12	18	18	9	10	1	2	2	10	42	
TOTALS		1472	746	726	411	226	87	897	194	175	159	43	29	21	405	1017	

Zymotic Diseases.—Sanitarians will perhaps hereafter chiefly remember the year 1871 by the truly fearful mortality caused in all parts of this country by Small Pox—a loss of life, in great part preventible, and attributable either to the total neglect of vaccination in many cases, or to the inefficient manner in which it is sometimes performed, owing to the frequent deficiency of fresh lymph elsewhere than at the appointed Public Vaccination Stations, where arm-to-arm vaccination, the only mode of performing the operation on which reliance can be placed, is always adopted; as well as to the fact that the protective influence of vaccination requires renewal at about the age of puberty, the protection hitherto afforded appearing to wear out at that period of life, as a consequence of the great organic and functional changes which then occur.

That this subject affects all ranks of the community alike may be demonstrated by the fact that out of 264 deaths in this Parish from Small Pox amongst all classes, only 24 cases proved fatal under the care of the Poor Law Medical Officers; and the deaths of 50 persons, or just 20 per cent. of the total number, occurred amongst the middle and trading classes.

The Small Pox epidemic excepted, the mortality from Zymotic disease has been low compared with former years, and had we not been thus exceptionally visited, abundant proof would have been given of the good results produced by the enormous sanitary work which has been so admirably carried out in this Parish for the 16 years during which your Board has had jurisdiction over it.

Had the ordinary mortality from Small Pox prevailed, viz., a mean average of 11·2 per annum for the preceding 10 years—the total mortality for this Sub-district would have been at the rate of 21·2 per 1000 per annum, and

there is reason to hope that that average may not be exceeded in the year 1872.

As is usually the case when an epidemic of one particular Zymotic disease prevails, the other deadly disorders of the same class have been less malignant: thus Scarlatina was the cause of death in 55 instances in 1871, against 239 in 1870; Measles in 17 against 25; Whooping Cough in 19 against 21; Fever, of different kinds, 34 against 39; Childbirth, 2 against 11; and Diarrhoea, the only disease, except Small Pox, which showed an increase, 73 against 62.

It has been found impracticable to obtain an exact return of the number of Battersea parishioners who died in the several Small Pox and Fever Hospitals during the year 1871.

Ordinary Diseases and resulting Mortality.—Tubercular diseases are always at the head of the death-producing causes of the non-zymotic class, and although affected by general sanitary measures to a less extent than the epidemic forms of disease, yet the universal result of thorough and efficient drainage in all localities, has been to reduce the number of deaths from Phthisis. Dr. Buchanan, a Medical Inspector of the Privy Council, has found that the death rate from Consumption has been reduced by one-third, or even by one half in many localities.

These diseases contributed to the mortality in 1871, 263 deaths against 224 in 1870.

Diseases of the Brain and Nerves caused 178 deaths against 198 in 1870, being fewer by 20; Heart disease 59 to 51. Of the Respiratory Organs, including Bronchitis, 211 against 218. The other diseases exhibit features somewhat like those of last year.

Altogether it will be observed the year 1871, contributed 987 deaths from non-zymotic disease against 944 in 1870.

Infantile Mortality—Old Age.—The excessive infantile mortality, which is one of our saddest duties to record, includes upon the present occasion 411 deaths under one year of age—nearly one-third of the deaths at all ages.

Under 10 years of age 724 deaths occurred—very nearly one-half of the total mortality.

The majority of deaths in childhood occur from Zymotic, or preventible disease, and we must look in this direction for the first indications of good results from sanitary measures; therefore, when with a rapidly-increasing population, it is found that in 1871, 411 deaths under one year of age occurred against 415 in 1870, and that of deaths under ten years of age 724 from all causes took place against 851 in 1869 (a diminution of numbers to the extent of 127 and this notwithstanding the Small Pox epidemic) there is fair cause for congratulation.

Twenty-eight persons died above 80 years of age during the year. Two of these persons attained the age of 94 years.

Disease and Mortality amongst the Out-door Union Poor.—The total number of cases attended by the Union Medical Officers amongst the Out-door Poor during 1870 was 2283, the deaths were 70 or 3.06 per cent. Many cases were, however, sent to the Infirmary and to the Small Pox and Fever Hospitals, which would otherwise have raised this exceedingly small percentage of deaths to cases.

Inquests, Violent and Sudden Deaths, &c.—In 46 instances the cause of death was investigated by the Coroner, and with the following results—

Found dead, newly born, cause unknown	6
Infants—1 suffocated in bed, 1 fracture of skull.	
Verdict—Wilful Murder	2
Burns	2
Run over in Street	1
Fractured Ribs. Verdict—Manslaughter	1
Accidents—1 fall, 1 choked	2
Killed on Railways (2 Suicides)	8
Drowned (1 Suicide).. .. .	6
Natural deaths from disease.. .. .	16
1 Shooting, 1 Hanging (both Suicides) . . .	2
	<hr/>
	46
	<hr/>

One verdict of Wilful Murder, 1 of Manslaughter, and 5 of Suicide, were returned, and the rest were accidental or the result of disease.

The very large number of deaths “not certified” during the year, viz. 97, and yet registered upon the information afforded by friends, tends to show that our system of death registration is too lax. No death where a qualified medical practitioner has not been in prior attendance, should be registered without the cause being investigated by the Coroner or some of the Local Medical Staff. This is the more necessary, as almost the whole of these uncertified deaths were infants of tender years, and therefore especially in need of protection against neglect and improper treatment.

Summary of Sanitary Proceedings.—A very large amount of sanitary work of all kinds has been carried out during the year. Nearly four thousand (3971) inspections have been made by the Inspector of Nuisances, W. Blackmore, under the superintendence of the Surveyor, Mr. Buckham, whom the Medical Officers have to thank for the assistance he has rendered them on all occasions, and the promptitude with which he has always attended to their requests.

Notices have been served to abate nuisances in a great number of cases, and in but very few has it been found necessary to call upon the magistrate to enforce the execution of necessary works. In 116 cases fumigations and disinfections of houses after disease have been executed, clothes and bedding have been replaced when destroyed by medical order after infectious disease, to the value of £28. Of fish unfit for food the large quantity of $9\frac{1}{4}$ cwt. has been destroyed, a quantity capable of causing a great amount of illness if consumed. Of fruit unfit for food 3 cwt. has been similarly treated,

Numerous complaints were made during the year of the nuisances arising from pig-keeping, more especially in Latchmere-grove and the York-road. The Medical Officer of Health made a thorough inspection of these premises, and found that, although in many cases the pigs were properly attended to, and the styes clean, in others the complaints were well grounded. The most objectionable practice which prevailed among the pig-keepers was that of accumulating large quantities of food in an advanced stage of decomposition.

Proceedings were taken before the Police Magistrate in six of the more serious cases, and after evidence given by the Medical Officer, in three cases the keeping of pigs was ordered to be wholly discontinued, and in

the others storage and cooking of decomposed food in the open air was prohibited.

It is expected that legislation will shortly place pig-keeping under the same regulations as slaughter-houses and cow-houses. At an interview between a deputation from your Board, accompanied by the Clerk and the Medical Officers and Surveyor for Battersea, and the President of the Local Government Board—after a lucid and comprehensive explanation of the whole subject by Mr. Meaden, and some explanatory remarks of a technical nature by the Medical Officers and Surveyor—Mr. Stansfeld promised that a clause should be inserted in his Public Health Bill in Parliament, giving the several District Boards and other local authorities power to control the keeping of pigs and other animals by means of a licence, which could be withdrawn if they were not kept in a proper condition, which licence should be granted by and at the discretion of the District Boards. Should this proposal be carried into effect, by receiving Parliamentary sanction, then, and not till then, shall we be able to place the keeping of animals under proper sanitary regulations, so necessary to the comfort and health of the community.

The views held by us upon the important subject of the water supply, and other matters of great interest, will be found in the Report for the entire District, and the opinions therein expressed being those of the whole of the Medical Officers of Health, will carry with them the weight the several topics merit.

W. H. KEMPSTER,

JOSEPH OAKMAN,

Medical Officers of Health for the Eastern and Western

Sub-districts of Battersea respectively.

CLAPHAM.

I NEED offer but very few comments upon the following introductory table, since it is one which has always been found to speak for itself, and to afford such an amount of information as to generally interest those who are really intent upon watching the social and sanitary progress which th's rapidly increasing township is making.

A good indication of the general prosperity of a community is always to be found in the number of its marriages. These events, it will be seen, were much more numerous during the past year than during 1870, in the proportion of 249 to 158 ; but it will strike every one as somewhat singular that the excess of births over deaths should be so much less than in any year since 1865, when it was 314, or 57 more than in the past year. In the past

year the excess was 257 only; hence a year of excessive mortality in proportion to population has been made still more manifest, the registered deaths in 1870 having been 480 only, whilst those in the past year (1871) numbered no less than 604. It may be remarked that so large an excess as 124 cannot be accounted for by any corresponding increase of the population, for there are no grounds for believing that any very extraordinary augmentation of the number of inhabitants took place in the interval of this and the previous Report.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS.

YEARS	1861	1862	1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871
Marriages	182	175	181	227	221	310	244	272	234	158	249
Births	624	622	685	640	707	711	777	801	838	867	864
Deaths	390	343	355	408	393	425	451	450	508	480	604
Excess of Births over Deaths ...	234	279	330	232	314	286	326	351	330	387	260

Of the 604 registered deaths, the deceased persons were, as to sex, nearly equal in numbers, an excess of 18 only being found on the side of the females. Of the 864 births there were registered 458 males and 406 females,

giving in this case a majority of 52 to the males. Whilst upon this subject, I may mention the fact that all the deaths taking place in the Sub-district are, without exception, duly registered, but that the machinery of the birth registration is so faulty as to allow, to my certain knowledge, a rather considerable number of infants every year to escape the ordeal altogether. This is assuredly a great evil, but it is one which I am pleased to find the Legislature intends to deal with very shortly.

Death-rate, &c.—The late Census, taken in April of the past year, gave to this Sub-district a population of 27,348. If these figures be duly corrected for increase of population, an approximate estimate of the death-rate for 1871 may be arrived at as being 22 per 1000 persons living. That this is quite an exceptional rate is shown by the fact that since 1861 (*vide* introductory table) it is rarely that 17 per 1000 has been exceeded.

The following table, on the same form as the Health Officers have made use of for many years in all their local summaries, exhibits, in a clear concise manner, the statistics of mortality for this Sub-district. It constitutes, in fact, an epitomised annual local report in itself, and by its comprehensiveness obviates much tedious repetition and lengthened description.

STATISTICS OF MORTALITY.

CLAPHAM.		SEX		AGE								SOCIAL POSITION																				
Population in 1871—27,348. Population in 1861—20,894. Increase in 10 years—6,458. Area in Acres—1,233.				Under 1 year.		From 1 to 5 years.		From 5 to 10 years.		Under 20 years, including all under 10 years.		At 20, and under 40 years of age.		At 40 and under 60 years of age.		At 60 and under 80 years of age.		80 years and upwards.		Nobility and Gentry.		Professional Class, Merchants, Bankers, &c.		Middle & Trading Class, Shopmen, Clerks, &c.		Industrial and Laboring Classes.						
DISEASES		Total Deaths from each Class of Disease, &c., in the Sub-District.		Males.		Females.		Under 1 year.		From 1 to 5 years.		From 5 to 10 years.		Under 20 years, including all under 10 years.		At 20, and under 40 years of age.		At 40 and under 60 years of age.		At 60 and under 80 years of age.		80 years and upwards.		Nobility and Gentry.		Professional Class, Merchants, Bankers, &c.		Middle & Trading Class, Shopmen, Clerks, &c.		Industrial and Laboring Classes.		
And other Causes of Death																																
Classes :—																																
I. Zymotic	Small Pox .	94	45	49	15	22	12	54	22	14	4	...	1	8	16	69																
	Measles ...	2	...	2	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...															
	Scarlatina .	20	15	5	2	14	3	19	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	13														
	Diphtheria .	3	2	1	...	1	1	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...													
	Quinsy ...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...								
	Croup	2	2	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...								
	Whooping Cough ...	18	9	9	8	10	...	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...								
	Typhus, &c.	10	4	6	...	2	2	6	1	1	1	1	4	...	2	4																
	Erysipelas .	4	2	2	1	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	1	1	2														
	Metria, Childbirth	7	...	7	...	...	...	1	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	3														
	Carbuncle																
	Influenza...																
	Diarrhoea & Dysentery	31	12	19	20	4	...	25	...	1	3	2	2	2	9	18																
	Cholera																
Totals of Zymotic Class .		192	91	101	47	57	18	131	31	18	9	3	8	14	41	129																
2. Tubercular*		59	32	27	9	4	...	15	26	17	1	...	1	3	18	37																
3. Of Brain, Nerves, &c.		56	25	31	4	8	2	14	5	11	22	4	5	3	21	27																
4. Of the Heart, &c. ...		43	22	21	1	...	2	5	6	12	18	2	4	7	14	18																
5. Of Respiratory Organs		102	50	52	23	17	4	46	3	16	31	6	8	10	32	52																
6. Of Digestive Organs		30	12	18	3	1	...	4	3	12	10	1	3	4	12	11																
7. Of Urinary Organs .		2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...															
8. Of Organs of Generation .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Of Joints, Bones, &c.		3	...	3	...	1	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	1															
10. Of Skin		2	2	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1															
11. Premature Birth, Low Vitality, Malformation, &c. ...		65	38	27	59	4	...	64	1	...	...	...	1	7	12	45															
12. Of Uncertain Seat .		1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...				
13. Age.....		30	10	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	15	6	4	9	11															
14. Violence.....		4	2	2	...	1	1	2	...	2	...	...	...	1	2	1															
15. Not Specified		15	7	8	1	1	...	2	1	6	5	1	1	1	6	7																
TOTALS		604	293	311	148	94	27	285	77	96	114	32	37	56	170	341																

* Of the 59 deaths from Tubercular disease 46 were due to Phthisis.

Zymotic Diseases, their prevalence and fatality.—Amongst the various classes of inhabitants as many as 192 deaths, due to maladies of the epidemic or Zymotic order, took place during the past year. It is not very satisfactory to find that the fatal cases of this class of disease absorbed considerably more than one-third of those from all causes, Small Pox alone having caused as many as 94 deaths. Of these 94 fatal cases of Small Pox, 49 were of young children, including 15 under 1 year, 22 from 1 to 5 years, and 12 from 5 to 10 years. There were others who succumbed to this distressing malady, varying in age from 20 to 63 years, and a rather large number (35) were registered as having died wholly unvaccinated. Several who had had the disease once, and some few who have been twice afflicted, took it a third time and became severely invalided, thus confirming my experience that vaccination is quite as great a protection as Small Pox itself.

Comment upon the following table—which is inserted to show the comparative mortality from the seven principal Zymotic diseases in the past and 10 preceding years—will be quite unnecessary, but from it may be gathered the fact that if we exclude the excess of deaths from Small Pox and Whooping Cough, the normal mortality, compared with that of the 10 preceding years, allowance being made for increase of population, will not have been very greatly disturbed.

YEARS.	1861	1862	1863	1864	1865	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870	1871
Small-pox.	6	1	11	3	7	10	7	0	10	6	94
Measles ...	0	6	24	12	7	18	3	9	2	14	2
Scarlatina.	22	13	28	11	11	6	5	14	29	45	20
Diphtheria	13	3	1	2	4	5	3	7	0	2	3
Whooping-cough ...	14	14	9	10	15	14	7	25	29	9	18
Typhus ...	5	8	6	14	11	16	10	26	17	12	10
Diarrhœa & Cholera	16	7	16	11	20	17	21	28	30	31	31
TOTALS ...	76	52	95	63	75	86	56	109	117	119	178

Speaking more particularly of Small Pox, I cannot avoid expressing my deliberate opinion that much of the suffering, and still more of the loss of life, may be justly attributed to a defective Vaccination Act, an equally defective Registration Act, and, above all, to the maniacal teachings (to use no stronger term) of the anti-vaccinationists.

Ages at Death.—As many as 269 infants and young children, between birth and 10 years of age, are noted in the Mortality Table, whilst 145 persons of advanced life, *i. e.*, between 60 and 100 years, are set down as having succumbed to either disease or accident.

The death of one poor hard-working woman, a laundress, is recorded, and the deceased stated to have attained the advanced age, within about a fortnight, of 102 years. She is also known to have been in possession of most of her faculties at the time of her death.

Disease and Mortality amongst the Union Poor.—Table V. will show that 1,489 persons of the pauper class submitted themselves to treatment for sickness and accident during the year, and that of these cases 76 deaths resulted—a percentage as low as could be expected, seeing the many drawbacks in both illness and convalescence to which this class of persons are necessarily exposed. Of these 1,489 cases, there came under treatment the very large number of 396 persons labouring under Small Pox, and, as the table will show, 29 succumbed to the disease within the Sub-district. How many were sent from this Parish to one or other of the Metropolitan Small Pox Hospitals, and had died in those institutions, I am unable just now to determine, but I have been favoured with a return from the Superintendent of the Stockwell Hospital giving the result of 62 deaths of 364 cases of Small Pox admitted into that institution from the *entire* Wandsworth

District. Possibly before the final publication of this Report, more detailed information upon this point may be obtained.

Violent, Sudden and Uncertified Deaths, Inquests, &c.—Nine Coroners' inquiries appear to have taken place during the past year. The evidence adduced led to the finding of verdicts to the following effect :—Found dead (an infant about two weeks old) in such an advanced stage of decomposition as to render it impossible to correctly judge of the cause of death, 1 ; accidentally scalded (a child aged seven months), 1 ; sudden deaths from diseases of the heart, 3 ; and other violent and accidental deaths, 4. There were also found upon the register 7 deaths that were uncertified by any medical attendant. As many as 4 of these uncertified deaths were of infants under 1 year of age, and 3 of elderly persons aged respectively 73, 75 and 81 years.

It need scarcely be repeated here that this most unsatisfactory way of carrying out an important Act of Parliament, designed to secure a correct record of the cause of death, in *every* instance, is much to be deplored. (See remarks in previous Reports.)

Sanitation during the Year.—Table VI. Appendix points out that no fewer than 1,500 houses and premises were inspected by the Surveyor and myself during the past year, and it may be stated that, in every instance where sanitary defects or nuisances were discovered, the proper remedy was at once pointed out, and the owners or occupiers called upon to execute the necessary works forthwith. In over 350 dilapidated and unwholesome houses and premises were the usual cleansing operations and repairs insisted upon, and it may be further stated that all the sanitation of the year was accomplished with but one appeal to magisterial authority.

In addition to the 21 miles of main and branch sewerage already in full operation in this Sub-district, 2,000 feet of new work in the same direction has been completed during the year. Of the utility of this great work there cannot be two opinions. That its efficiency will be thoroughly maintained we have the fullest assurance in the knowledge we possess of the competency of the hands to which its superintendence has been intrusted. Our present able Surveyor, I feel assured, will yield to no one in his desire to reap every possible advantage from this costly undertaking, and if the operation of flushing be but earnestly and constantly carried out, few will be disposed to doubt that results will follow fully justifying the money outlay that has been made in bringing the entire system of local drainage into such excellent working order as it is known to be at the present time.

The Water Supply of the Sub-district.—I can add but very little to the observations I have already made upon this important matter in former Reports, but I will venture to remark that, if the promises exacted from the Water Companies who supply the District be fulfilled, a rather large instalment of the requirements of the Government Commission, and of that which the public so earnestly demands, will be secured—but I greatly doubt it.

Slaughter and Cow Houses.—In compliance with the order of the District Board at the usual period for renewing the licences to the slaughter and cow houses within this Sub-district, the Surveyor and myself carefully inspected all the premises devoted to the above purposes, and reported on the same to the Board. I am pleased to state that no licence was opposed, nor any complaints made of proprietors failing to supply their premises with every requisite sanitary appliance.

JOHN MAC DONOGH,
Medical Officer of Health for Clapham.

STREATHAM, INCLUDING TOOTING AND BALHAM,

THE difficulties of making an approximate estimate of the death-rate of this Sub-district are much lessened by the last Census having been so recently taken (April, 1871). The comments, therefore, that it will be necessary to make upon the statistical tables need not be very lengthened.

The usual form of table showing the deaths and their causes, registered in the past year, will be perused with interest, since it exhibits the gratifying circumstance of the mortality being less by 22 than in the preceding year.

The number of registered deaths in the past year was 187, males 96, females 91. The registered births amounted to 401, males 190, females 211. The natural increase of the population is therefore greater by 31 than in 1870. The increase by influx of new residents during the year does not admit of quite such easy calculation on account of its great fluctuation. Making, however, the estimate upon the basis of an annual average increase, inclusive of the natural increase, it would give a Death-rate of—as near as need be calculated—a fraction under 13 per 1,000 persons living. The estimate of the preceding year was 14·7 per 1,000.

This is most satisfactory, and indicates an improving sanitary condition of the Sub-district.

The table which follows affords precisely the same information as those hitherto employed in these reports, and well marks the number of deaths and their causes, together with the sex, ages, and social positions of such of the inhabitants as have succumbed, during 1871, to disease, violence and accident.

STATISTICS OF MORTALITY.

STREATHAM, INCLUDING TOOTING & BALHAM.		SEX		AGE								SOCIAL POSITION				
Total Deaths from each Class of Disease, &c., in the Sub-District.		Males.	Females.	Under 1 year.	From 1 to 5 years.	From 5 to 10 years.	Under 20 years, including all under 10 years.	At 20 and under 40 years of age.	At 40 and under 60 years of age.	At 60 and under 80 years of age.	80 years and upwards.	Nobility and Gentry.	Professional Class, Mer- chants, Bankers, &c.	Middle & Trading Class, Shopmen, Clerks, &c.	Industrial and Laboring Classes.	
Population in 1871—14,479.																
Population in 1861—10,082.																
Increase in 10 } 4,397.																
Area in Statute Acres—3,465.																
DISEASES, And other Causes of Death																
Classes :—																
1. Zymotic	Small Pox...	4	1	3	1	...	1	...	3	...	...	2	...	1	1
	Measles	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Scarlatina ...	7	5	2	...	6	1	7	...	...	...	...	...	2	5
	Diphtheria	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Quinsy .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Croup.....	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Whooping Cough ..	3	1	2	2	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
	Typhus and Infantile Fever... ..	6	2	4	...	1	...	1	3	...	2	...	2	...	3	1
	Erysipelas...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
	Metria, Childbirth	2	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	Carbuncle ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diarrhoea & Dysentery	9	6	3	8	1	...	9	...	...	...	...	1	6	2
Cholera .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals of Zymotic Class		35	17	18	12	10	2	24	5	3	3	...	4	1	17	13
2. Tubercular.....		22	14	8	5	1	1	10	9	2	1	...	...	14	8
3. Of Brain, Nerves, &c.		36	13	17	5	2	1	9	2	7	9	3	3	1	12	14
4. Of the Heart, &c. ...		15	9	6	...	1	...	1	1	4	9	...	1	2	3	9
5. Of Respiratory Or- gans		24	10	14	11	11	...	2	7	4	2	...	11	11
6. Of Digestive Organs		12	8	4	4	4	...	4	4	...	2	1	5	4
7. Of Urinary Organs .		3	2	1	1	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	3	...
8. Of Organs of Gene- ration		1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
9. Of Joints, Bones, &c.		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Of Skin .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. Premature Birth, Low Vitality, Mal- formation, &c. ...		13	5	8	13	13	1	1	1	10
12. Of Uncertain Seat...		5	1	4	...	...	...	...	2	2	1	3	...	...	2
13. Age		16	9	7	...	...	...	...	...	7	9	3	...	9	4
14. Violence.....		11	8	3	...	...	2	5	...	3	1	...	...	5	6
15. Not Specified.....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS		187	96	91	51	14	4	75	22	27	45	18	19	7	80	81

Zymotic Diseases.—The deaths from Zymotic diseases were not so numerous by 5 as in 1870, and but for the mortality from Small Pox the amount would have been inconsiderable. The four diseases, Small Pox, Scarlatina, Fever and Diarrhœa, found during the past year 26 victims, which together is 8 less than in the preceding year. The deaths from each of the other diseases of the Zymotic class, enumerated in the table, were not more numerous than they have usually been for some years past. The Small Pox cases that came under the treatment of the Union Medical Officers were 10, but possibly most of these were ultimately, and after being submitted to home treatment for a brief period, sent to the special hospitals; for of the number stated, there is no record whatever of deaths. It must be assumed therefore that the four deaths appearing in the Register were those of persons above pauperism.

Both vaccination and re-vaccination, I have reason to believe, were prosecuted with great energy, otherwise the presumption is, the mortality would have been much greater. It is to be regretted that there exists no machinery by which the number of cases of Small Pox and other Zymotic diseases in strictly private practice could be known and recorded, since no general estimate can be formed at present of the comparative mortality to cases treated, amongst all classes of sufferers.

Other Diseases.—There is nothing remarkable to be noted in the columns marking the deaths from diseases other than Zymotic. One or two of these diseases are in a small excess of the number tabulated in the previous year, whilst a few others are much below the former rate, but in the aggregate these maladies resulted in death in fewer instances by 17 than appears in the record of 1870. Of the deaths (22), due to the Tubercular class of diseases, 14 were registered as the result of Phthisis.

Ages at Death, Infant Mortality, &c.—Of the 69 deaths registered as occurring amongst infants and children under 10 years of age, 24 were due to the Zymotic class of diseases, the remaining 45 being tabulated to the various other diseases (non-Zymotic), more especially to the respiratory organs and to premature birth and low vitality. A very favourable inference may be deduced from these facts, inasmuch as during the previous year (1870) the number of deaths amongst infants and young children were as many as 79, so that, notwithstanding the increase of the population, both by births and immigration, the mortality during the year under review was 10 less than appears in the table of the last Report.

At the other extreme of age, it is worthy of note, that 9 persons died at upwards of 80 years, the oldest of the deceased having reached the advanced period of existence of 92 years. It is also found that several died considerably over 80, and many more between 60 and 80. In the aggregate of the persons who died in advanced life, 63 were registered as being between 60 and 92 years, 47 of which were certified as having succumbed to one or other of the diseases enumerated in the table, and the remainder of pure old age, without any maladies being mentioned as contributing to such deaths.

It has been always noted as remarkable that this neighbourhood usually records more deaths of aged persons than any other Sub-district. This probably is owing partly to the small number of indigent poor located in the three parishes comprising the Sub-district of Streatham, and partly to the undoubted healthiness of the locality.

Cases and Deaths amongst the Out-door Union Poor.—The ratio of deaths to cases treated during the year was 5.1 per cent., the cases being 172 and the deaths 9. This is a less percentage than that noted in the previous Report, and indicates a favourable sanitary condition of those localities occupied by the poor.

Inquests, Violent and Sudden Deaths, &c.—The large number of 14 inquests appear to have been held during 1871, these may be enumerated as follows:—Accidental deaths, from falls, suffocation by fire, burns, &c., 8; natural deaths, though sudden, from Disease of the Heart, Apoplexy, &c., 4; suicides, by drowning, and by decapitation on a railway, 2.

Two deaths are, as last year, recorded of persons who died without medical attendance, the causes being stated to be “uncertified” in the register.

Sanitation.—The column relating to this Sub-district, in Table VI. Appendix, sufficiently points out the sanitation completed during the year 1871.

The principal works accomplished in this direction are the 5,123 feet of new sewers, added to the already completed drainage of this locality. The number of houses and premises inspected were 260, and in respect of these 31 notices appear to have been served, requiring the owners or occupiers to cleanse or repair. There were, I am pleased to report, no cases of nuisance, nor other sanitary matters submitted to the decision of the Magistrates.

The slaughter and cow houses were, as usual, inspected and reported on, and all licences to the same were renewed without opposition.

Water.—My views upon the water supply question being in perfect accord with those of my colleagues, the reader is referred to the introductory section of this Report, or that part applying to the entire District, where this matter, and others of general interest, will be fully discussed.

D. C. NOËL,

*Medical Officer of Health for Streatham, Tooting
and Balham.*

PUTNEY AND ROEHAMPTON.

THE general condition of the public health of this fast increasing Suburb, as indicated by its registered mortality during the past year (1871), is upon the whole satisfactory. The deaths enumerated in the register of that year were 151, 63 males and 88 females, which, notwithstanding the increase of the population, in the interval, is only 6 more than are to be found on the record of the preceding year.

Calculating the year's increase of population to have been in the same proportion as that of the average of the past 10 years, it is found that a death rate is being maintained in this Parish very slightly exceeding 15 per 1,000 persons living, or nearly 2 per thousand below what is termed the Zero, or very healthy rate, of the Registrar General. This, it is submitted, is all the more satisfactory seeing that the estimate is based on no mere assumption, but upon the actual Census last taken (April 3rd, 1871), which gave to Putney, including the hamlet of Roehampton, a population at that time of 9,438.

The births during the year were 275, 135 males and 140 females, which is but 4 more than were registered in the year preceding.

By noting the excess of births over deaths we can of course obtain with accuracy the natural increase of the population within a given period, and by calculating the increase by immigration in the same period, on the basis of a 10 years' average, we may arrive at a tolerably correct estimate of the total number of inhabitants from which to deduce at least an approximate death rate for the year.

In the past year the natural increase amounted to 124, and it may be very fairly assumed that the population has been further augmented by influx of new residents alone, to the extent of nearly or quite 300 more, for it will be seen that the 10 years, average, as calculated in the report for 1870, was then 259·4. The above estimate therefore gives to the Sub-district within the small number of 138, a population of 10,000 persons. The ratio of deaths to the estimated population for the middle of the year 1871, is found to be 1 in 63.

Zymotic Diseases, their Prevalence and Fatality.—The seven principal Zymotic diseases, viz.:—Small Pox, Measles, Scarlatina, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Fever and Diarrhoea, are found to have resulted in death during the year in 32 instances, two thirds of these being found registered as due to malignant Scarlet Fever, showing (see the following table) that the percentage of deaths from the principal epidemics, to deaths from all causes, stands at a very much higher figure than in any year since 1862, with two exceptions, viz. 1863 and 1869, when it was 22·4 and 23·3 respectively.

YEARS.	Number of Deaths from all Causes.	No. of Deaths from Seven of the principal Epidemic Diseases.	Percentage of Deaths from seven principal Epidemics to Deaths from all causes.
1862	107	13	12·1
1863	129	29	22·4
1864	121	11	9·0
1865	115	11	9·5
1866	121	16	13·2
1867	128	20	15·6
1868	118	14	11·8
1869	133	31	23·3
1870	145	19	12·4
1871	151	32	21·1

By a perusal of the above table, and that of the more comprehensive one which follows, and by comparing them with those in former reports, it will be at once seen that but for the great fatality attending Scarlet Fever, during the past year, a general rate of mortality (due allowance being made for increase of population) would have been recorded of a very satisfactory character. The deaths from Scarlatina in 1870 were 3 only. In the past year they amounted to 21, an increase of 18 deaths from one Zymotic disease in so short an interval (except in certain Cholera years) having been seldom reported in this Sub-district. It should be remarked also that this locality stands among the Metropolitan parishes, by no means alone in presenting for the past year a high rate of mortality from Scarlatina. Throughout the country indeed the epidemic was unusually severe and fatal, frequently causing two or three deaths in the same family within a few days of each other. In this Parish during the past year, there were recorded no less than four instances of a double event in death in the same family, due to this dreaded malady, conclusively showing that when the poison of Scarlatina, of so malignant a type as that recently observed, once finds admittance into a dwelling crowded with delicate young children, it becomes a most difficult matter to confine the disease to the patient first attacked. It is found next to impossible, too, in some families, to insure the requisite care in the cleansing and disinfecting of clothes, bedding, &c., and it is the experience of every practitioner that nothing is more difficult, notwithstanding their repeated admonitions, than for medical attendants to induce parents to adopt the precaution of prompt and rigorous isolation. While upon this subject, I can but express my regret that so few sanitary authorities have yet considered it expedient to carry into effect the recommendations of their Medical Officers of Health, to appropriate certain centrally situated buildings wherein the disinfecting process by heat might be made thoroughly available.

The Act of 29 and 30 Vic., c. 90, renders penal the giving, lending, selling, or exposing of any bedding, clothing, rags, or other things which have been used in infected houses; and yet in but comparatively few instances have any systematic efforts been made to supply the requirements indicated.

In the City of London, in Liverpool, and in some few other places, establishments of the kind required are in full operation, and that, too, at a very small cost. On the authority of Dr. Trench, the Medical Officer of Health of Liverpool, it may be stated, that two are being carried on in that town at a weekly expense of less than £5 each. When it is recollected that establishments of this description once provided, may be readily made available for several other sanitary purposes, amongst which may be mentioned the furnishing of convenient standing places for vehicles employed in the conveyance of infected persons to the special hospitals, infirmaries, &c., the wonder is that they are not more generally adopted, and that the opposition of persons who object to these places on purely selfish grounds, is so often permitted to prevail against the common sense view of such a matter.

The following detailed table, read in connection with that in the Report of 1870, will show how few, comparatively speaking, were the deaths from the other Zymotic diseases during the year under review:—

STATISTICS OF MORTALITY.

PUTNEY AND ROEHAMPTON.		Total Deaths from each Class of Disease, &c., in the Sub-District.	SEX.		AGE.							SOCIAL POSITION.				
Population in 1871—9,438. Population in 1861—6,481. Increase in 10 years—2,957. Area in Acres—2,176.			Males.	Females.	Under 1 year.	From 1 to 5 years.	From 5 to 10 years.	Under 20 years, including all under 10 years.	At 20, and under 40 years of age.	At 40, and under 60 years of age.	At 60, and under 80 years of age.	80 years and upwards.	Nobility and Gentry.	Professional Class, Mer- chants, Bankers, &c.	Middle & Trading Class, Shopmen, Clerks, &c.	Industrial & Labouring Classes.
DISEASES, And other causes of Death.																
Classes:—																
1 Zymotic	Small Pox ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Measles	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Scarlatina ...	21	12	9	1	17	3	21	...	...	...	...	2	...	11	8
	Diphtheria ...	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Quinsy .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Whooping } Cough ... }	1	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Typhus & In- fantile Fever	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Metria, } Childbirth }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Carbuncle ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
	Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Diarrhœa & } Dysentery }	6	2	4	4	1	...	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	2
	Choleraic } Diarrhœa. }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals of Zymotic Class...		33	19	14	6	20	3	29	1	1	2	...	2	1	18	12
2 Tubercular		22	8	14	5	...	...	8	10	3	1	...	2	3	16	1
3 Of Brain, Nerves, &c.		19	7	12	4	2	1	7	1	2	8	1	4	1	7	7
4 Of the Heart, &c.....		9	3	6	...	...	...	...	...	2	7	...	1	1	4	3
5 Of Respiratory Organs		29	11	18	7	3	1	11	1	4	11	2	3	2	15	9
6 Digestive Organs ...		8	4	4	1	1	...	2	1	...	4	1	2	...	4	2
7 Urinary Organs		1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
8 Of Organs of Gene- ration		1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
9 Of Joints, Bones, &c.		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 Of Skin .....		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11 Premature Birth, Low Vitality, Mal- formation, &c. ... }		11	3	8	11	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	7
12 Of Uncertain Seat ...		5	1	4	...	...	1	1	...	1	2	1	1	...	3	1
13 Age		7	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	2	...	...	5
14 Violence		4	2	2	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
15 Not Specified		2	...	2	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
TOTALS		151	63	88	36	26	6	75	15	13	14	8	17	8	75	51

Small Pox and Vaccination.—A return furnished of the number of Vaccinations performed during the past year indicates a still more strict observance of the law than formerly, and from this circumstance we may calculate that Small Pox, if it does not occur less frequently, will, at all events, present itself with much less intensity than under the old enactment, which permitted so many to escape the penalties attached to their neglect.

One death only from Small Pox is recorded in the present mortality table, and it should be noted that the sufferer in this case did not contract the disease within this sub-district.*

Non-Zymotic Diseases.—Tubercular diseases, including Phthisis and diseases of the Respiratory Organs, were amongst the most fatal of the year. Of the 26 deaths due to the Tubercular form of disease, there were as many as 18 registered as Phthisis. A less number of deaths by 9, the result of other forms of Non-Zymotic disease, occurred in the past than in the preceding year.

Ages at Death.—In consequence of the number of deaths from Scarlet Fever amongst children, the columns in the above table, marking the ages at death from 1 to 20 years, present much higher figures than do those in the table of the previous year, in the proportion of 75 to 56; whilst the columns denoting the ages at death from 20 to 80 and upwards give, in the aggregate, a less number by 50 compared with 1870.

The deaths certified as being due exclusively to Old Age amount to 7. The number dying from all causes,

* By inquiries made of the Union Medical Officer and by reference to the District Medical Relief Book, it is found that, of 14 cases of Small Pox occurring amongst the Union Poor in Putney and Roehampton during 1871, there were received into the Small Pox Hospital at Stockwell, 12 patients. Of these one died in that institution. There were also two of the same class treated at their own homes in Putney, one of whom died and one recovered. Of the cases treated in strictly private practice there exists no authentic record, but it is believed they were very few, and of a mild type.

including Old Age, between 60 and 100 years, was 49, the oldest of the deceased persons having reached the advanced age of 96.

Disease and Mortality amongst the Working Classes and the Union Poor.—Making a further analysis of the table, it is satisfactory to find that a much less number died of the above-named classes of inhabitants than in the previous year. In the last Report the proportion of deaths amongst these classes, to deaths of the three classes above them collectively, was recorded as being 72 of the former to 73 of the latter. In the present table it will be seen that 51 only of the labouring and poorer classes succumbed in 1871 to 100 of the three classes above them collectively. This difference in the relative numbers in the two years is somewhat remarkable, and would seem to indicate a much improved sanitary condition of those localities inhabited by the poor.

Amongst the very poor in the receipt of parochial relief, and who were attended in sickness and accident by the Union Medical Officer, it appears that there were during the year 318 cases treated, whilst 12, or 3·7 per cent. proved fatal. This percentage of deaths to cases treated is certainly small, but the record referred to, unfortunately, does not in any district furnish very correct data upon which to calculate the death rate amongst this class of persons, inasmuch as many who are in the earliest stages of sickness, &c., returned in a Medical Officer's Relief Book, are subsequently removed to hospitals or infirmaries, and dying away from the parish to which they belong, the deaths are of course recorded in the registration districts in which such institutions are situated.

Sudden Deaths, Deaths from Violence, Inquests, &c.—Nine inquests appear to have been held in the Sub-district during the year. Of these, 3 resulted in verdicts of "Natural Death, from Diseases;" 2 in open verdicts of "Found dead without marks of violence," (newly born infants); 2 in deaths from suicide, and 2 in accidental

deaths, one by drowning, and the other by being run over by a railway locomotive.

Two deaths appear on the Register as "Uncertified," and were presumably cases in which no medical advice had been sought or obtained. The evil arising from the permission to local registrars to record the causes of death without either medical certificates or inquests, has been strongly remarked upon in this and in former Reports by all the Health Officers, and to these remarks the reader is referred.

SANITATION.

The summary of sanitary proceedings contained in the Table annexed, indicates an amount of accomplished work that cannot fail to prove highly beneficial to the neighbourhood. In the matter of drainage, it will be seen that 3,800 feet of new sewerage were constructed during the year. A large number of inspections were also made, and numerous nuisances removed or abated, all of which were accomplished with but one appeal to the magistrates. Apart from what appears in the Table, a good deal was accomplished by the exertions of the able and active Surveyor, in the way of cleansings, repairs, &c., in respect to which no particular record was, at the time, deemed necessary, and consequently no detailed reference has here been made to them.

The annual licences to premises used for slaughtering purposes, and for cow sheds, were obtained at the usual period, and I am pleased to record the fact, that no complaints were made of the condition of these places upon the inspections of the Surveyor and myself. The slaughter-houses were all found to possess the sanitary requisites insisted on in the published regulations of the Board, and the cow-houses were in like manner certified to as being in a satisfactory condition.

Water Supply.—Little requires to be said upon this subject pending the trial (if ever such trial is made) of the new regulations providing for a continuous supply of potable water, but there still remains the necessity for

legislative interference to ensure more purity in the fluid itself. If we are to attach any importance to the recent analyses of Dr. Frankland, made so late as the end of March of the present year (1872), it would seem that the supply of water to the District, in respect to freedom from organic impurity, &c., is scarcely what it ought to be—at all events a comparison of the London waters gives to that of the Southwark and Lambeth Companies, in the tables of Dr. Frankland, degrees of turbidness surpassing all the others referred to. Dr. Frankland says (Report March, 1872):—"The waters supplied were perfectly clear, except those sent out by the Southwark and Vauxhall and Lambeth Companies, the waters of each of these two Companies were slightly turbid, and that of the latter contained moving organisms."

Adulteration of Food.—It is to be hoped the Legislature will, concurrently with the promised sanitary reforms now before Parliament, be able to accomplish something towards the real protection of the public against adulterations of all kinds. The existing laws bearing upon this all important matter having been pronounced by the responsible Minister to be worthless, it may be reasonably expected the repeal of these imperfect measures will not be much longer delayed, but will be speedily made to give place to more stringent enactments, and to such as admit of neither compromise nor evasion.*

*An "Act to amend the law for the Prevention of Adulteration of Food and Drink and Drugs" has, since the above was written, received the sanction of Parliament. Whether the new Act will deliver the public from the widely-extended evils of adulteration may be a question, but the measure is unquestionably in the right direction, and calculated in a great measure to meet the public requirements. Clause 1 is directed against manufacturers who "wilfully admix with any article of food or drink any injurious or poisonous ingredient or material to adulterate the same for sale." For the first offence a penalty of fifty pounds is imposed, imprisonment with hard labour for the second. The next clause deals with the retailers of such injuriously-adulterated articles, and imposes a penalty of twenty pounds for the first offence, and for after offences there is to be inflicted the additional penalty of the offender's name, place of abode, and offence being published in newspapers, or in such other manner as the convicting justices may think desirable. This last is a most excellent provision, and will probably have a very deterrent effect on evildoers.

Permissive legislation is hardly ever satisfactory, and when the object in view is that of detecting and punishing deliberate and systematic fraud, it can scarcely be expected that good will ever come of other than the most stringent and compulsory measures.

R. HARLAND-WHITEMAN,

*Medical Officer of Health
for Putney and Roehampton.*

Chairman of the Associated Health

Officers of the Wandsworth District.

APPENDIX OF STATISTICAL TABLES.

TABLE I.

Summary of Deaths and their Causes, registered in the entire District during 1871, classified according to Sex, Age, and Social Position, and showing also the relative Numbers in each Sub-District.

POPULATION OF ENTIRE DISTRICT.		SUB-DISTRICTS.										SEX.		AGE.							SOCIAL POSITION				
In 1871, 125,050. In 1861, 70,403.		Total Deaths from each Class of Disease, &c., in the entire District.																							
Increase in 10 } years' interval } 54,647.		Chapman—Population in 1871, 27,348, area in acres, 1,233. Wandsworth—Population in 1871, 19,797, area in acres, 2,478. Battersea—Population in 1871, 53,988, area in acres, 2,348. Putney—Population in 1871, 9,438, area in acres, 2,176. Streatham, Tooting, and Balham—Popu- lation 1871, 14,479, area in acres, 3,465.										Males. Females.		Under 1 year. From 1 to 5 years. From 5 to 10 years. Under 20 years, including all under 10 years. At 20, and under 40 years of age. At 40, and under 60 years of age. At 60, and under 80 years of age. 80 years and upwards.							Nobility and Gentry. Professional Class, Merchants, Bankers, &c. Middle and Trading Class, Shopmen, Clerks, &c. Industrial and Labouring Classes.				
Estimated Population for middle of year, 1871,— 126,416.																									
Area in Statute Acres, 11,695.																									
DISEASES, And other Causes of Death.																									
Classes:—																									
1. Zymotic	Small Pox ...	377	94	14	264	1	4	184	193	76	123	47	275	65	31	6	...	3	10	74	290				
	Measles	52	2	31	17	1	1	21	31	12	44	4	51	...	1	...	...	...	1	11	40	
	Scarlatina ...	126	20	23	55	21	7	67	59	7	78	28	124	2	...	...	...	3	2	34	87	
	Diphtheria	6	3	...	1	1	1	4	2	...	2	2	5	1	...	...	...	1	...	2	3	
	Quinsy	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Croup	13	2	3	7	...	1	3	10	3	10	...	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	10
	Whooping Cough ...	52	18	11	19	1	3	27	25	19	31	2	52	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	46
	Typhus and Infantile Fever.....	54	10	3	34	1	6	23	31	3	15	6	24	12	12	5	1	7	...	19	28				
	Erysipelas...	22	4	5	12	...	1	13	9	5	...	...	6	2	9	5	...	1	1	5	15		
	Metria, Childbirth Carbuncle...	13	7	2	2	...	2	...	13	...	...	...	2	11	...	...	...	...	1	6	6
	Influenza ...	2	...	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	1
	Diarrhoea & Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera or Choleraic } Diarrhoea }	140	31	21	73	6	9	68	72	100	23	...	124	...	3	8	5	5	5	48	82					
Totals of Zymotic Class.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Tubercular		858	192	113	485	33	35	412	446	225	327	89	677	93	57	25	6	20	21	209	608				
3. Of Brain and Nerves		423	59	57	263	22	22	232	191	129	44	12	216	122	75	10	...	8	13	138	264				
4. Of Heart		371	56	88	178	19	30	187	184	90	54	10	156	37	64	98	16	16	12	100	243				
5. Of Respiratory Or- gans		152	43	26	59	9	15	75	77	3	4	4	19	24	47	58	4	8	13	46	85				
6. Of Digestive O- rgans		431	102	65	211	29	24	213	218	126	76	6	214	29	68	101	19	19	15	122	275				
7. Of Urinary Organs.		118	30	26	42	8	12	56	62	17	19	1	30	11	33	41	3	8	7	44	59				
8. Of Organs of Gene- ration		20	2	4	10	1	3	11	9	2	1	1	4	5	6	5	...	...	...	11	9	
9. Of Joints, Bones, &c.		16	...	1	13	1	1	...	16	...	...	...	...	9	7	...	...	1	1	4	10
10. Of Skin		5	3	...	2	...	...	...	5	...	1	...	1	1	2	1	...	...	2	1	2
11. Premature Birth, Low Vitality, Mal- formation, &c. ...		2	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
12. Of Uncertain Seat		145	65	21	35	11	13	77	68	139	4	...	144	1	...	...	...	2	9	28	106	
13. Age.....		69	1	19	39	5	5	25	44	2	1	4	12	13	25	17	2	5	4	21	39				
14. Violence.....		125	30	18	54	7	16	58	67	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	65	17	8	33	67
15. Not Specified		56	4	12	25	4	11	41	15	5	3	3	19	15	12	9	1	...	1	16	39				
Totals		76	15	3	56	2	...	38	38	14	4	12	24	19	15	16	2	3	3	17	53				

TABLE II.
BIRTHS registered during the year 1871.

SUB-DISTRICTS.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Clapham... ..	458	406	864
Wandsworth	289	331	620
Battersea	1137	1083	2,220
Putney and Roehampton	135	140	275
Streatham, including Tooting and Balham...	190	211	401
Total	2,209	2,171	4,380

*. The excess of Births over Deaths in the entire district is 1,513.

TABLE III.
METEOROLOGICAL ELEMENTS for 1871, from Observations taken at Greenwich.

MEANS.	Jan., Feb., and March.	April, May, and June.	July, Aug., and September.	Oct., Nov., and December.	The Year.
Temperature of the } Air }	40.2°	51.5°	61.3°	41.8°	48.7°
Evaporation	38.2°	48.2°	56.7°	40.0°	45.8°
Dew Point	35.5°	44.9°	52.7°	37.8°	42.7°
Weight of Vapour } in a Cubic Foot } of Air }	2.5 grs.	3.4 grs.	4.4 grs.	2.7 grs.	3.3 grs.
Degree of Humidity } (Satu. 100) ... }	84°	78°	74°	86°	81°
Reading of Barometer	29.789 in.	29.772 in.	29.755 in.	29.842 in.	29.790 in.
Weight of a Cubic } Foot of Air ... }	553 grs.	539 grs.	528 grs.	552 grs.	543 grs.
Rain (amount of) ...	4.3 in.	6.7 in.	8.3 in.	3.2 in.	22.5 in.

TABLE IV.

Showing the total Deaths from the principal Epidemic Diseases registered in each Sub-District, and in the entire District, and the relation which they bore to the total Mortality in the several years 1861-71.

YEARS.	DEATHS FROM THE SEVEN PRINCIPAL EPIDEMICS IN EACH SUB-DISTRICT.					ENTIRE DISTRICT.		
	Clapham.	Battersea.	Wandsworth.	Putney.	Streatham.	Total Deaths from the Seven Epidemics.	Total Deaths Registered from all causes.	Per centage of Deaths from the Seven Epidemics to Total Deaths.
1861	76	112	30	21	18	257	1393	18.4
1862	52	106	62	13	16	233	1343	17.3
1863	95	86	62	29	32	304	1471	20.9
1864	63	129	43	11	22	268	1688	15.8
1865	75	177	54	11	26	343	1783	19.2
1866	86	244	73	16	34	453	2072	21.8
1867	56	122	33	21	10	242	1937	12.4
1868	99	194	64	14	28	399	2168	18.4
1869	117	247	94	31	27	516	2393	21.5
1870	119	404	113	19	37	692	2659	26.0
1871	178	463	103	32	31	807	2867	28.8

* * The Diseases included in the above Table constitute, as in the Registrar-General's Returns, the principal maladies only of the Zymotic class—viz.: Small Pox, Measles, Scarlatina, Diphtheria, Whooping-cough, Diarrhœa and Cholera, and Fever,

TABLE V.

Cases of Sickness amongst the out-door Poor under the treatment of the Union Medical Officers, with the Deaths from each class of Disease, during the year ended 31st December, 1871. Compiled from the District Medical Relief Books.

SUB-DISTRICTS.													Total Cases of Sickness treated in each Sub-district.		1—Small Pox.		2—Measles.		3—Scarlatina and Malignant Sore Throat.		4—Whooping Cough.		5—Diarrhoea and Dysentery.		6—Cholera.		7—Fever.		8—Erysipelas.		9—Puerperal Fever.		10—Lung Diseases except Phthisis.		11—Phthisis.		12—Hydrocephalus, Atrophy, Scrotula, and Convulsions, of Children.		13—Other Diseases.		14—Violence, Privation, and Premature Birth.		Total Deaths in each Sub-District.		
													Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	
Clapham	...	...	1489	396	29	...	...	20	2	20	6	54	3	...	...	189	...	7	2	...	...	192	9	17	7	53	10	499	8	42	...	76					
Wandsworth	...	...	2037	132	5	102	7	35	4	19	1	182	4	...	...	20	...	4	...	...	...	395	14	9	9	4	2	1017	24	118	...	70						
Battersea	...	...	2283	517	24	29	...	42	2	22	1	132	3	1	...	125	5	15	...	...	...	367	9	29	7	31	4	916	15	57	...	70								
Putney and Roehampton	...	...	318	16	1	2	...	25	4	...	...	11	...	...	...	12	...	1	...	...	...	14	4	2	...	5	1	209	2	21	...	12			
Streatham, including Tooting and Balham	}	...	172	10	...	8	...	8	...	1	1	7	1	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	25	1	5	2	...	...	97	4	6	...	9				
Totals		6299	1071	59	141	7	130	12	62	9	386	11	1	...	346	5	32	2	993	37	62	25	93	17	2738	53	244	...	237												

* * The ratio of deaths to cases treated is the same as that of 1870, viz., 3·7 per cent.

TABLE VI.

SUMMARY of the Sanitary Operations in the entire District during the year 1871.

	Clapham.	Battersea.	Wandsworth.	Putney and Roehampton.	Streatham, including Tooting and Balham.	TOTALS.
Number of Houses and Premises in- spected	1,500	3,971	150	126	260	6,007
1st Notices served	141	246	82	18	31	518
2nd Notices served	31	27	4	3	...	65
Cesspools emptied and cleansed ...	10	23	...	...	25	58
Cesspools abolished	6	23	10	9	18	66
Waterclosets con- structed	18	23	...	49	219	309
Houses supplied with water ...	25	120	2	49	210	406
Drains constructed or connected with Sewer	70	130	35	45	85	365
No. of feet of New Sewers, &c. ...	2,000	5,590	3,076	3,800	5,123	19,589
Drains repaired or trapped, or ob- structions re- moved	15	92	22	29	31	189
Open Ditches, Ponds, &c., cleansed (in feet)	200	...	...	2,200	1,500	3,900
Dust-bins provided	45	83	...	38	168	334
Pig Nuisances re- moved	8	14	19	5	...	46
Accumulations of Offal, Manure, &c., removed ...	7	26	6	8	9	56
Unwholesome and di- lapidated Houses cleansed or re- paired	350	16	33	4	10	413
Cases investigated by Magistrates...	1	13	2	1	...	17
Compulsory Orders obtained ... ..	...	12	1	...	...	13
Compulsory works executed ... ..	...	12	1	...	...	13
Works remaining in abeyance from various causes ...	1	...	...	...	...	1

