

Report to the General Board of Health on a preliminary inquiry into the sewerage, drainage, and supply of water, and the sanitary condition of the inhabitants of the hamlet of Hoddesdon and the parish of Broxbourne, in the county of Hertford / by William Ranger, Superintending Inspector.

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8
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT,

(11 & 12 Vict., Cap. 63.)

R E P O R T

TO THE

GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH,

ON A

PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

**INTO THE SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE, AND SUPPLY OF
WATER, AND THE SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE INHABITANTS**

OF THE HAMLET OF

HODDESDON,

AND THE PARISH OF

B R O X B O U R N E,

IN THE COUNTY OF HERTFORD.

By WILLIAM RANGER, Esq.,

SUPERINTENDING INSPECTOR.



LONDON:

PRINTED BY W. CLOWES & SONS, STAMFORD STREET,

FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1851.

NOTIFICATION.

THE General Board of Health hereby give notice, in terms of section 9th of the Public Health Act, that on or before the ~~10th~~^{15th} day of June next, being a period of not less than one month from the date of the publication and deposit hereof, written statements may be forwarded to the Board with respect to any matter contained in or omitted from the accompanying Report on the Sewerage, Drainage, and Supply of Water, and the Sanitary Condition of the Hamlet of Hoddesdon, and the Parish of Broxbourne, in the County of Hertford; or with respect to any amendment to be proposed therein.

By order of the Board,

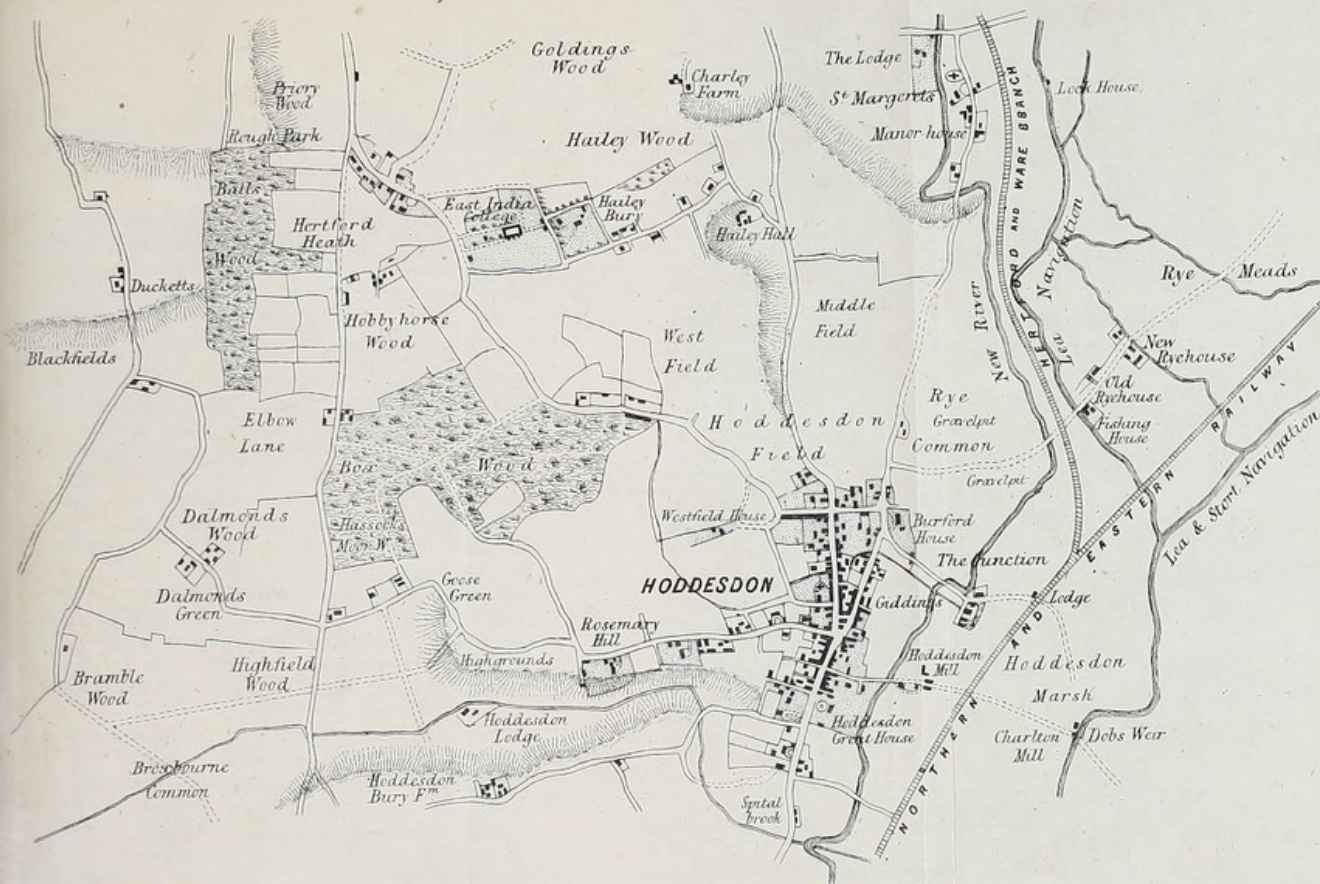
HENRY AUSTIN, *Secretary.*

Whitehall, 3rd May, 1851.

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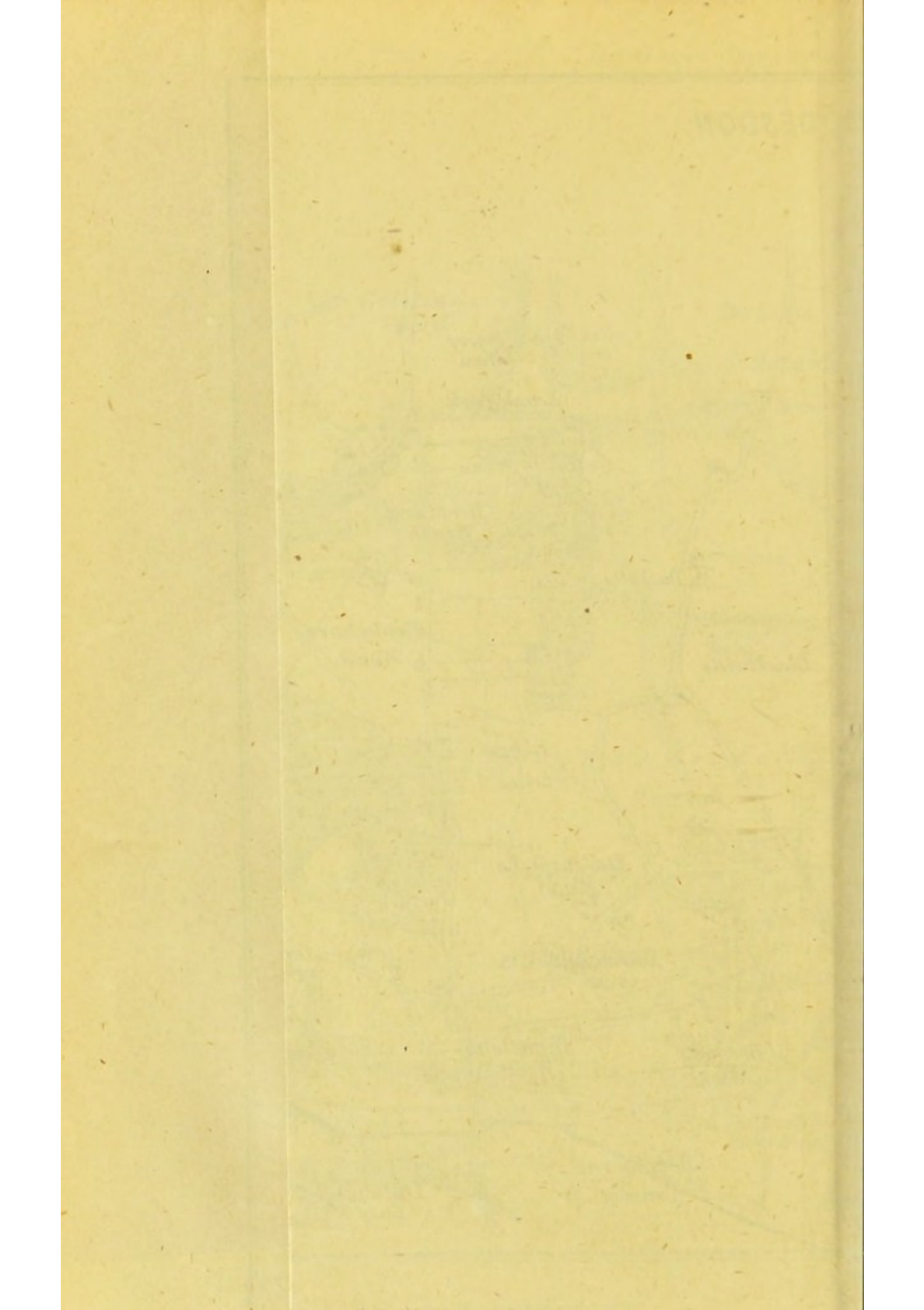
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HODDESDON.

*Scatle*

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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (11 and 12 Vict., cap. 63).

Report to the General Board of Health, on a Preliminary Inquiry into the Sewerage, Drainage, and Supply of Water, and the Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of the Hamlet of HODDESDON and the Parish of BROXBOURNE, in the County of Hertford. By WILLIAM RANGER, Superintending Inspector.

LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

London, 16th August, 1849.

UPON the receipt of your instructions and in accordance with a petition presented to the Board, duly signed by the representative number of inhabitants rated to the relief of the poor, with respect of property within the hamlet of Hoddesdon and the parish of Broxbourne, in the county of Hertford, to the public inquiry, and examine witnesses with respect to the matters set forth in the instructions, I gave the notice required by the Act 11 & 12 Vict. c. 63; and on the 28th of last past, at 10 o'clock A. M., in the vestry-room at Broxbourne Church, opened the proceedings pursuant to the notice. But subsequently, and at the request of the inhabitants then present, in order to further their wishes, as there was not sufficient accommodation in the vestry-room, I removed the meeting to the Bull Inn, in the parish of Broxbourne.

The inquiry was attended by a considerable number of gentlemen, as well from the hamlet of Hoddesdon as from Broxbourne, (in common, although each place has a known and defined boundary.) Among those present were the Rev. W. Eckthall, vicar of Broxbourne; the Rev. R. Morice, incumbent of Hoddesdon; G. J. Bosanquet, Esq.; Messrs. Gosse and Co., medical officers of the union; Messrs. Hunt, Christie, & Co., of Warner, Clarke, Jeffreys, &c.; Mr. Sworder, solicitor, of Broxbourne, also attended on behalf of his clients, Messrs. Gosse and Christie.

The following report which I have now the honour of submitting for the consideration of the Board, is founded upon the statements made, the evidence given, and the subsequent

inspection of the different localities which I made, accompanied by the medical officers and other inhabitants of the chapel of Hoddesdon, exclusive of Broxbourne, there being, as I have before stated, a known or defined boundary to the former. The Hoddesdon, however, includes a portion of Amwell, there are houses in the latter parish intermingled with those of the chapelry.

POSITION OF THE HAMLET.—The hamlet is bounded by the River Lea on the east, by Broxbourne on the south, Brickley on the west, and Amwell on the north. It is divided into two but unequal, parts by the high road from London to Watlington, a branch to Stanstead commencing nearly in the middle of the town. It is also intersected by the New River, which flows on the northern side, following a tortuous course, and leaving it on the east. The town itself stands on rather elevated ground above the river.

Forasmuch as the Act contemplates the adoption of extended boundaries for the purpose of obtaining proper areas and falls for drainage, these areas "proper" are of two classes: one has reference to town drainage, the other to water-courses or gathering ground. And it is one main principle of the statute, that "districts" may, if necessary, be formed so as to correspond with the areas of drainage, and co-extensive with the line of water-shed.

The hamlet of Hoddesdon and the parish of Broxbourne are contiguous to the valley of the Lea, its river forming the bottom of a valley in the great chalk ridge which intersects the county of Hertford. The tributaries, consisting of the Mimms, Beane, Rib, Ash, and the Stort, are under no general control but subject to partial and independent or separate jurisdiction consisting of—

The Trustees of the Navigation of the Lea, or parts of the river Lea, from Hertford to London,
The Commissioners of the Stort Navigation,
The Commissioners of Walthamstow Marshes,
The Mill-owners,
The Landholders and their tenants.

Upon a careful examination of rivers and their tributaries two characteristic differences will be found to present themselves: some are subject to sudden floods, while others of the same size, and under similar conditions, are not so.

The low lands at various parts are subject to permanent inundation, so that the upland drainage is impeded from effecting a free discharge of its waters, and the soil, as a consequence, is rendered far less productive.

The cause, I think, is this: the waters from the upland have no means of discharge except by the narrow bed of the river, which may be almost termed neglected; for although water

considerable extent have been executed by the Trustees of Navigation and the mill-owners, these works have naturally been formed solely with a view to the maintenance of the navigation, and a permanent supply of water for the mills. In far as these results are concerned, there can be no objection to the course pursued, but if the question be regarded in a contrary point of view, it will be seen that by keeping up the waters to the height of the several dams, the drainage of the district is materially obstructed. Some general measure relating to the height to which the water is to be upheld, can secure the district from inundation, and provide outfalls for the drainage of the uplands and the villages on the banks of the Lea.

That this has not hitherto been provided for, will, I think, be evident upon a review of the powers that have from time to time been delegated to the Trustees by Parliament. and passed in and subsequent to the 13th of Elizabeth, c. 18, for bringing the Lea to the north side of the city of London.

In the 3rd Henry VI., c. 5, 1425, the Commissioners were authorized "to retain persons to reform the river running from the Lea to the Thames;" again, 9th Henry VI., c. 9, 1431, "to reform and amend the River Lea in the counties of Essex, Hertford, and Middlesex." Under this last Act, a commission was granted in 1440 to Sir Ralph Cromwel, Knt., and others, to move all the shelves in the river, and in 1476, 16th Edward IV. Sir Thos. Wisewyke, Knt., and nine others, were directed to view and order the repair of all the banks. &c, upon the Lea. (2d. Fens. fol. 81.)

The next legislative enactment affecting this river took place in the 12th of Geo. II., when an Act was obtained "For ascertaining, preserving, and improving the Navigation of the River Lea from the town of Hertford to the town of Ware, and for preserving and improving the said River from the said town of Ware to the New Cut or River made by the Mayor, Aldermen and Citizens of London, and for enabling the Governor and Company of the New River the better to supply the Cities of London and Westminster and the Liberties and Parishes thereof with good and wholesome Water" By this Act the navigation was defined, and 60 trustees were appointed by name, exclusive of the lord mayor, aldermen, and commoners of London, the members for Middlesex, the city of Westminster, Essex, Colchester, the county and borough of Hertford, the Mayor of Hertford, all for the time being. Although the Act determined various disputes which had long existed, and regulated the draught or quantity of water to be supplied from the Lea for the use of the New River, it was soon found to be insufficient to answer the purposes for which it was intended; amongst other matters, that of a divided jurisdiction (the

government of the New Cut, vested in the lord mayor, the corporation, and citizens of London by the Act of Elizabeth (which remained in them exclusively) upon one and the same navigation, was productive of great inconvenience. In 1766 the trustees consulted Messrs. Smeaton and Yeomans, and in the following year, 7th of Geo. III., another Act was obtained "For improving the Navigation of the River Lea from the town of Hertford to the River Thames, and extending the Navigation to the Flood-gates belonging to the Town of the said town of Hertford." By this enactment upwards of 100 trustees were added to those appointed by the last statute. Since other Acts have since been obtained, one in the 19th of Geo. III., and another in the 45th of the same reign, by which the powers of the trustees are enlarged, and some of the provisions of the former Acts amended, amongst others that of regulating the height of water at some of the mills. By the Act of the 45th of Geo. III. powers were granted for making and maintaining new cuts or canals to communicate with the river for navigation; to purchase messuages, weirs, turnpikes, locks, cisterns, tenements, or hereditaments; to sell or exchange land; to satisfy the claims of interested parties, and sum up the injuries to assess damages; and adopt other measures for promoting the navigation of the river on the soundest footing.

The Lea, however, rises in Leagrave Marsh, about 10 miles north-west of Luton in Bedfordshire, a long distance beyond the jurisdiction and control of the Board of Trade. A similar want of control exists in relation to the several tributary rivers or streams that fall into the Lea. The appropriation of the water has, during the last century, been the subject of repeated litigation, and is so at the present time, although Wren, Desaguiliers, Smeaton, and Rennie have been employed on the object in each case being merely, I believe, to improve the navigation and allow of the abstraction of supplies by the River Company, reserving to the mill-owners their respective rights, without any attempt to combine with them the regulation of efficient drainage, and the prevention of the inundation of the low lying lands. At all events, the present division of jurisdiction is unsatisfactory.

The fact of the land being subject to even partial inundation proves either that there is more water from the upland sources than is required for the existing mills, the navigation, or the uses of the water companies, and that there is a lack of the proper means for securing the discharge of this surplus supply, or that it has been rendered useful as a motive power, although in consequence of inadequate control, it has, in a greater degree, been made injurious to the lands bordering upon the river. Now these provisions, if allowed to remain in their present form, will certainly impede the carrying out of such

es as are essentially necessary for the improvement of the sanitary condition of the towns and districts situated in the valley of the Lea.

The obstacles opposed to the natural discharge of the waters flowing upon the uplands of the Lea and the valleys connected with it are of two classes, *i. e.*,

Reservation of lockage, and
Mill power.

Each of these being vested rights, must necessarily remain unimpaired, nor is there any necessity for diminishing their supply. If any interference take place it will consist in giving increased and uniform supply; but this is a matter of detail rather than of principle.

The second class of obstacles, independent of the tidal waters of the Thames and resistance produced by the roughness and inequalities of the edges and bottom, consist of

Cores,
Deposits,
Sluices.

And it is by the removal and adjustment of the latter class of obstacles, combined with the holding up of all surplus waters in properly situated catchment ponds, that not only the future inundations of any portion of the land can be avoided, and protective supplies for mills and navigation practically increased, but also that the general drainage of the several districts under the provisions of the "Public Health Act," can be accomplished efficiently.

The distribution of the vegetable soil is above the average, and tolerably uniform.

POPULATION, &c.—In 1801 the number of inhabitants was 27; in 1811 it amounted to 1,249; and in 1821 to 1,354. In 1831, according to the census, the number amounted to 1,515, and in 1841 to 1,743, thus showing an increase of 128 in the 10 years ending 1841; whilst the number of houses in which the population was lodged in 1831, amounted to 305; and in 1841 to 339; giving an increase of 34 houses.

The total area of the hamlet is stated at 2,650 acres; and the annual value of property rated to the poor's rate in 1847, amounted to 7,560*l.*; whilst the proportion in the pound of expenditure to the annual value of property in the same year, is 1*s.* 7½*d.*

LOCALITIES AND CHARACTER OF DISEASE.—The clerk of the Union writes, in answer to a letter requesting information as to localities where epidemic, endemic, and other contagious diseases prevail, as follows:—

"SIR,

Ware Union, April 2nd, 1849.

"IN reply to your inquiry of the 22nd ultimo, I have to say that I consulted with the senior practitioner of Hoddesdon, who has written to me as follows:—'I am happy to say that we are, and have been for a very long time, free from all epidemic, contagious, or endemic diseases. I do not know of any part of our township where such are likely to occur, in consequence of its being an unhealthy locality. Of fever there has been very little, and those cases which have occurred, were the result of exposure to cold rather than any endemic or contagious influences.'

(Signed)

"GEO. MOORE,
"Clerk to the Union.

"*To the General Board of Health.*"

Shortly after the inquiry had been commenced, Mr. Sworner, a solicitor of Hertford, said he was not a ratepayer, but had been requested to attend to put in a protest signed by persons who were not (in his opinion) legally entitled to do so; the proceedings would be vitiated; as a matter of fact, therefore, he presented the protest. Mr. Sworner observed that fifteen of the inhabitants who had signed the petition had also signed the protest in terms as follow:—

"*To the General Board of Health, and to WILLIAM RANGER, Esq.,
Superintending Inspector.*

"We, the undersigned owners and rate-payers of the hamlet of Hoddesdon, parish of Broxbourne, in the county of Hertford, do hereby respectfully protest against the application of the Public Health Act to the said hamlet.

"1stly. Because Hoddesdon is a place to which the Public Health Act is totally inapplicable.

"2ndly. Because the said hamlet is, and has been in a most healthy state, and there is no situation in which epidemic, endemic, or contagious diseases do exist, or have at any time been continued.

3rdly. Because the petition or memorial to the General Board of Health was got up by a party who is neither an owner nor ratepayer in the said hamlet, and without the knowledge of some of those most interested therein.

And because a great many of those who signed such petition or memorial did not understand the nature and effect thereof when they signed the same.

"*Dated Hoddesdon, June 26th, 1849.*"

William Gosse, *Surgeon*.
 Thomas Pickthall, *Vicar*.
 Peter Christie
 Hugh Hughes
 George Allen
 Montague Pollett
 J. G. Stokes, } *Church-*
 Samuel Dunn, } *wardens*.
 D. H. O'Brien
 Carus Cheffins
 Robert Hunt
 Mrs. Wood
 Mrs. Weaver
 Mrs. M'Adam
 S. B. Bridge
 Mrs. Robinson
 Mrs. Logsdail
 Mrs. Good
 John Nicholls
 Thomas Philipps
 Louisa Outteden
 William Gosley
 Daniel Ha-nes
 William Abbey
 Joseph Pryor
 Thomas Roat
 Thomas Armstrong
 George Gosnold
 Robert Rowley
 Edward Plume
 Thomas Clark
 S. Samuel
 William Collin
 Joseph Avis
 J. S. Lanatrath
 W. B. Burton
 Thomas Tuck
 John Clark
 A. T. Thorp
 Thomas Pugh
 Benjamin Rogers
 C. Dymock
 C. Coomer
 H. Little

Watson Coulson
 Henry Giblion, V. S.
 Wm. Hempson
 E. Green
 S. Fuller
 J. Boneham
 A. Oakden
 Edward Hammond
 Ann Davis
 Joseph Frogley
 S. Thompson
 Charles Bonham
 J. Judd
 J. Hunt
 J. H. Waller
 W. Phillips
 William East
 Wm. Williams
 John Harding
 Nashfield Mason
 C. Webb
 Alfred Head
 Joseph Whittaker
 W. Bryme
 Sarah Aylott
 Amelia Waller
 Miss Lawrence
 Miss Cheffins
 Charles Whitby
 J. H. Hench
 W. S. Staabrass
 James Gochen
 P. J. Cheffins
 Charles Brewster
 E. C. Clark
 S. Beckwith
 James Deacon
 William Green
 Charles Curtis
 George Tingay
 Thomas Tingay
 Thomas South
 M. Rooke
 John Robertson

BURIALS, &c.—The Rev. R. Morice, after alluding to the manner in which the parishioners had been called upon to sign a petition to the Board, *i. e.*, by a non-resident, stated that 10 persons were buried in the hamlet in 1847; 27 in 1848; and 10 in the present year, up to the date of the inquiry. The deaths in the Hoddesdon district, according to the local Registrar, in the quarter ending June 30th, 1849, were as follows:—

Fever	2
Apoplexy	2
Paralysis	1
Disease of the Heart	2
Debility from Birth	1
Convulsions	1
Consumption	3
Old Age	1
Hooping-cough	1
Dropsy	1
Sudden	1
	—
Total	16
	—

Mr. Gosse stated that he had known the parish for thirteen years, and without exception he did not, as a medical man, know a more healthy locality.

There was no epidemic nor endemic disease, although, occasionally, there was small-pox and scarlatina, but it was generally amongst the children. During the whole period of his residence in the hamlet, he has never seen a case of typhoid fever in the place, except in one instance, *i. e.*, about six years ago, when he had one fatal case.

Mr. Horley (medical officer of the Hoddesdon district,) confirmed *Mr. Gosse's* statement as to epidemic and endemic disease, and stated there was little disease from local causes.

OVERCROWDING.—*Mr. Horley* said there were many instances of overcrowded rooms in his district, where large families lived in one room. But as the district alluded to extended over a part of the parish of Amwell, and the petition for inquiry had been signed by inhabitants of the hamlet of Hoddesdon exclusively, I did not consider myself authorised to enlarge the boundary of my inquiry in the absence of the notices duly given pursuant to the Act.

Mr. Gosse, upon being questioned as to his knowledge of instances of overcrowded rooms, stated :—"I cannot say that the rooms in my district are small, but they are, at times, overcrowded."

PRIVY ACCOMMODATION.—*Mr. Gosse* stated that in the division under his charge, he had found the privy accommodation defective and incomplete. At the entrance to Lord-street on the right-hand side, it was particularly bad, and that he had made complaints to the landlord upon the subject, but with what success was not shown.

At *Chapel Hill*, there is a block of houses without any privies, the tenants of these houses throw their slops into the street, and one of them stated in explanation,—“We go to the privy at the *public-house*, across the other side of the street.”

In another instance, the privy is placed in the basement, under the floor of the sitting room; but the occupiers prefer using a tub, which they empty once every fortnight.

In some instances the privies are placed over, or on the verge of water-courses, whilst in other parts of the village they are built in front of the houses, averaging one privy to four houses.

REMOVAL OF REFUSE AND OFFAL.—It was stated that the sewage from a block of houses in Griffin's-yard was discharged upon the adjoining premises, the occupier of the latter observing he could not prevent it, from not having been able to comply with the required conditions of indictment, as no one could be prevailed upon to join him in laying the necessary information before a magistrate, and he was therefore under the necessity of enduring the intolerable nuisance, by receiving the drainage of the yard in question, where a number of pigs are also kept.

Mr. Manser stated, in reference to the removal of refuse:—“It had been the practice during the last year, to discharge a quantity of foul matter from an extensive brewing establishment, into an ancient water-course, between his premises and *Mr. Clark's* house; the channel thus made the receptacle of the sewage from the above establishment, being about 450 feet long by 7 feet wide.”

The effluvium from this source was represented as being exceedingly disagreeable. As the tendency of the sewage from brewhouses is generally to excite to decomposition other animal and vegetable matters it meets with in its course.*

Mr. Christie observed:—“Formerly we made use of the sewage now discharged into the open water-course alluded to by *Mr. Manser* for manuring the intermediate lands, but having relinquished the farming business, it is disposed of in the manner already described.”

The two principal sewers are situated as follows, *i. e.*—One passing from the market-place, with an outfall into the brook leading from the conduit head to the north. The other commences at the conduit, and running a short distance to the south, diverges nearly at a right angle to the east, passing under the passage of a dwelling-house, and empties itself into the marshes.

The lengths and sizes of the different public sewers has been furnished by *Mr. Andrews*, a resident bricklayer, and are as follows:—

130 feet of 7-inch tile drain	730 feet of 12-inch ditto
637 feet of 8-inch pipe drain	469 feet of 15-inch ditto
463 feet of 9-in. brick barrel drain	118 feet of 18-inch ditto
Making a total of 849 yards.	

* *Mr. Hunt* stated, the quantity swilled down from the brewery, was about 100 barrels per day.

The length of frontage appears to be about 2640 yards ; that only about one-third of it has public sewers available for taking the house refuse. The sewers put down in the turnpike, by the road trustees, are not used by the inhabitants, who are prohibited from connecting their house drains with them.

PRESENT WATER SUPPLY.—The sources of the water supply are fourfold :—the conduit,—the brook,—the surface drainage—and the wells. All of these are, however, more or less remote from the habitations of the poorer class, and upon the whole, even in the midst of an abundance, they are not properly supplied.

Mr. Warner observes :—“There are 18 dwellings near Spitt Brook without any supply of water, except what is procured from the brook ; and the water in this channel is often so foul particularly after rain, that the people residing in these houses are unable to drink it.”

In other parts of the hamlet, the poor are obliged to pay the sum of $\frac{1}{2}d.$ and $1d.$ per week for permission to abstract a supply of water from distant pumps, independent of the labour of fetching.

Experience in my inquiries has uniformly shown, that the dwellings of the poorer class are remarkable for their uncomfortable appearance, in proportion as they are deficient in a supply of water, and the means of fetching it ; and how can it be otherwise ?

Supplies obtained from wells by the labour of carrying it in buckets, do not answer the purpose of regular supplies brought into the dwelling without such labour.

The interposition of the labour in going for, and bringing home water from a distance, acts as an obstacle to the formation of better habits.

In relation to this subject, it has been justly remarked in the General Report, by Edwin Chadwick, Esq., on the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population :—

“That it is in vain to expect that the disposition, much less the habit, will precede or anticipate and create the conveniences. Privation and inconvenience is too frequently undergone to avoid the labour of fetching water ; with the poor it almost amounts to an absolute barrier, as privation is felt by them so little as that of cleanliness ; and nothing short of the utmost facilities for water will be found to counteract the tendency, and it may be said, the habit of uncleanness.”

From a return procured for me by Mr. Marchant, it appeared that the following was the expenditure from the poor rates for the half-year ending Michaelmas, 1847 :—

	£.	s.	d.
13 paupers, 1465 days' provisions	37	2	3
clothing	2	5	9
Out-relief, 129 resident	217	9	9
non-resident	3	5	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	260	3	6
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Common charges	12	16	5
Establishment	51	5	7
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 64	0	0

and for the half year ending Lady-day, 1848:—

	£.	s.	d.
In maintenance of 30 paupers, 1951 days' provisions	47	18	8
Ditto ditto clothing	5	14	1
Out-relief, 133 resident	261	10	1
Ditto non-resident	3	5	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	328	7	10
Common charges.	38	6	1
Establishment	63	12	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£ 101	17	1

making a total of £754 8s. 5d. for the year, or about 8s. 8d. per head on the entire population.

Subsequent to my inspection of the Hamlet, the parishoners held a meeting and the following statement shows the manner of setting the necessary preliminaries in motion for that purpose.

"To the Churchwardens of the Hamlet of Hoddesdon.

“ We, the undersigned, request you to call a meeting of the inhabitants of the hamlet, at an early day for the purpose of taking into consideration the state of the drains and watercourses of the town.

William Gosse	Joseph Whitaker
William Horley	Cornelius Prior
John Warner	John Hunt
Peter Christie	Montague Pollett
Robert Hunt	William Tuck
W. Ellis	James Sherrell
Christopher Tuck	Charles Whitley
Watson Coulson	Joseph Mason
Edward Lock	

"Hoddesdon, August 24th, 1849."

Upon the receipt of the above requisition, the churchwardens caused to be posted the following:—

"Notice is hereby given, that, in accordance with a requisition numerously signed, a Public Meeting will be held at the Town Hall on Tues-

day next, the 28th inst., at seven o'clock in the evening, to take in consideration the state of the drains and water-courses in the Town.

(Signed) "J. G. STOKES, }
"SAMUEL DUNN, } Churchwardens

"Hoddesdon, August 25th, 1849."

The meeting took place at the time, and place appointed, and proceeded as under:—

"At a meeting held in the Town Hall, Hoddesdon, on Tuesday evening, at seven o'clock, on the 28th day of August, 1849, according to a requisition numerously signed, to take into consideration the state of the drains and watercourses—

"It was proposed and seconded, that a committee be appointed, consisting of the churchwardens, overseers, surveyors, and medical officers and other inhabitants of the hamlet, to visit and examine the various nuisances existing in the parish, with a view to their removal, and that this Committee commence their operations on Wednesday morning next the 29th instant, by meeting at the Town Hall at 10 o'clock, A. M.

"J. G. STOKES, Churchwarden, in the Chair."

The circumstance of the petition presented to the Board for an inquiry having been signed by the inhabitants of Hoddesdon in the parish of Broxbourne, to the exclusion of the inhabitants residing in that part of the hamlet which is in the parish of Amwell, although the houses in the latter place are encircled and intermingled with those of Hoddesdon in Broxbourne, leave me no alternative but that of recommending a further inquiry; although the complete immunity enjoyed by Hoddesdon from deaths by contagious, febrile, and acute diseases, as represented by the medical men, is a strong testimony to the value of the openness and elevation of its site, it has to contend with a great deficiency of sewerage, a want of properly arranged accommodations for the poorer class—of water supply and the means of cleanliness for their persons and houses. Additional comforts in these respects may be secured by the application of the Public Health Act, and it may, I believe, by a judicious appliance of the means provided, be gained without incurring any additional expenditure, and merely by diverting a portion of the present expenditure.

From the fact of having been able to inspect a portion only of the hamlet, I have deemed it advisable, in the absence of further instructions, to defer offering for the consideration of the Board, any remedial measures, or from recommending the application of the provisions of the Public Health Act to the district forming the subject of this Report, until the necessary preliminary inquiry has been made in the remainder of the hamlet lying in the parish of Amwell.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant

W. RANGER.