

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 township of Burley, in the parish of Otley, in the county of York / by William Ranger, Superintending Inspector.

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14
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

(11 & 12 Vict. Cap. 63.)

R E P O R T

TO THE

GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH

ON A

P R E L I M I N A R Y I N Q U I R Y

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

OF THE TOWNSHIP OF

B U R L E Y,

IN THE PARISH OF OTLEY, IN THE COUNTY OF YORK.

By WILLIAM RANGER, Esq.,

SUPERINTENDING INSPECTOR.



LONDON:

**PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.**

1854.

REPORT
TO THE
GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH
OF A
NOTIFICATION.

THE General Board of Health hereby give notice, in terms of section 9 of the Public Health Act, that on or before the 8th day of July next, being a period of not less than one month from the date of the publication and deposit thereof, written statements may be forwarded to the Board with respect to any matter contained in or omitted from the accompanying Report on a Preliminary Inquiry into the Sewerage, Drainage, and Supply of Water, and the Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of the Township of BURLEY, in the Parish of Otley, in the County of York, or with respect to any amendment to be proposed therein.

By order of the Board,

T. TAYLOR, *Secretary.*

Whitehall, 23rd May 1854.



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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (11 & 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 Township of BURLEY, in the Parish of Otley, in the West Riding of the County of York. By WILLIAM RANGER, Esq., Superintending Inspector.

*London, 2A, Pall Mall,
February 15th, 1854.*

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honour to submit to you the following report on the sanitary condition of the township of Burley in the parish of Otley and West Riding of Yorkshire.

The petition for the inquiry (for a copy of which see Appendix, p. 22) was transmitted to your Honourable Board on the 15th November last. There are 79 names attached to it, a number much more than is required by the 9th section of the Public Health Act.

OPENING OF THE INQUIRY.—The inquiry was commenced at the Mechanics' Institute, on the 4th of January, 1854, evidence having first been given that the notices for the same had been duly posted in the various places where such documents are usually affixed.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.—The village which forms the subject of the present report is situated about twelve miles from Leeds, and two from Otley, lying a little higher up the valley of the Wharfe than the last-named place. Burley has increased considerably in size within the last few years, chiefly in consequence of the extension of the Greenholme-mills. These, formerly cotton mills, are now in the hands of Messrs. Fison and Forster, worsted manufacturers. These gentlemen are the great employers of the place, the occupation of the working population being, in

fact, divided between agriculture and worsted spinning. Mr. Forster has signed the memorial, and both parties are warm promoters of the application of the Public Health Act to the township.

The houses in the village are for the most part good substantial stone buildings. The people also are well employed, and have a comfortable contented look. The situation of the place is open and picturesque, and yet, with all these advantages, I regret to say that the evidence given during the inquiry affords conclusive proof that there are some hidden influences at work, creating a considerable amount of sickness, and a most undue proportion of mortality ; that mortality, however, being in the main confined to one disease, consumption.

GENERAL REPORT.—The promoters of the present inquiry were first led to give their attention to the sanitary condition of the village by the visitation of cholera to this country in the course of last autumn. A general meeting of the inhabitants was accordingly summoned on the 1st of October, 1853, to consider the question, the Rev. H. G. Robinson, incumbent of Burley, being in the chair, and it was then resolved to put in operation the Nuisances' Removal and the Diseases' Prevention Act. An inspector of nuisances was employed at the rate of 5s. per day, to visit the houses in the village, and report to the chairman of the Sanitary Committee the results of his inspection. It would appear from the minutes of the committee (see Appendix, p. 24) that 51 notices were served, some for the removal of heaps of offensive manure, others for the repair or construction of privies, and the like. In the large majority of cases these notices were attended with good results, a ready and immediate compliance being given to the committee's directions. A sudden and very effectual stoppage to the committee's labours was put, however, by a resolution of the Poor Law officers of the township not to allow any of the expenses which might be incurred under the Nuisances' Removal Act, unless the same were specially endorsed by themselves.

The following is a copy of the Poor Law guardians' written notice to this effect:—

" To the Chairman of the Sanitary Committee.

" SIR,

" WE hereby give you notice that from this date we shall be neither individually nor collectively responsible for any

expenses which may be incurred, directly or indirectly, in connexion with the instructions of the Sanitary Committee, unless the same shall be specially endorsed by us, the undersigned.

(Signed)

"E. B. PADGETT,

STEPHEN FAWCETT,

Overseers of the Poor.

THOMAS FOSTER,

Guardian."

"Burley, November 28, 1853."

The committee, which was composed of persons selected from the inhabitants generally, finding itself thus subjected to the entire control of the union officers, who up to that time had not shown any disposition to co-operate with them, were compelled to suspend their operations. But it had been previously resolved to memorialize your Honourable Board, with the view of securing the application of the Public Health Act.

POPULATION—POOR RATE OUTLAY—RATEABLE VALUE OF TOWNSHIP, &c., &c.—The population of Burley in 1851 was viz:—Males, 897, Females, 998,—1895. The rateable value of the township in 1838 was 3819*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*; a new valuation was in progress and nearly completed, at the time of my inspection, and it was believed that by it the rateable value of the property would be nearly doubled.

The poor rate has averaged a shilling in the pound for the last four years. The sums expended, and the number of persons relieved, are as follows:—

Quarters ending	1850.			1851.			1852.			1853.		
	Expended.	No. Relieved.	No. of Sick.	Expended.	No. Relieved.	No. of Sick.	Expended.	No. Relieved.	No. of Sick.	Expended.	No. Relieved.	No. of Sick.
	£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.			£ s. d.		
March .	32 3 0	31	5	31 4 0	29	5	33 7 6	28	8	33 3 0	28	7
June .	32 2 6	30	3	33 2 3	26	3	35 7 11	30	8	34 5 4	26	6
Sept. .	37 4 0	30	3	31 13 8	24	3	30 10 9	28	7	33 19 6	25	7
Dec. .	35 8 9	32	5	32 7 9	30	4	32 2 6	28	4	25 1 6	22	6
	£ 136 18 3	123	16	128 7 8	109	15	131 8 8	114	27	126 10 1	101	26
Sick Relief }	24 4 6			25 6 6			29 12 6			40 14 6		

The above returns were furnished by Mr. James Holden, the assistant overseer of the township.

The Rev. *H. G. Robinson*, one of the chief promoters of the inquiry, said :—

“ That the other originators of the memorial and himself were compelled to take the course they had done, as they found that their efforts to carry out the Nuisances Removal Act were frustrated by the want of proper powers. It had been stated that the proceedings of the Sanitary Committee had originated in a movement of the overseers and other town’s officers ; but the fact was that he and others had arranged for a general meeting before the select vestry was thought about, and the meeting was, in fact, a general one, in which everybody had taken part. He thought it due to the movers in the matter that this should be made clear, for it was by them that the putting in force of the Nuisances Removal Act, and the present application for an inquiry under the Public Health Act, had been originated.

“ He had been incumbent of Burley for the last eighteen months. He considered the health of the population bad, and that the rate of mortality during the past half-year had been higher than that of many populous towns. Consumption was the fatal disorder. It was most prevalent amongst the young women, and excessively rapid from a certain point. Its ravages, in his opinion, were aggravated by the bad sewerage and drainage, and the other evils arising from a deficiency of these two aids to health and cleanliness. As far as natural situation went, Burley was favourably situated. Some of the people worked on the land, the rest were employed in the Greenholme-mill, or were woolcombers at their own houses. Amongst the latter the combing had sometimes to be carried on in the living or sleeping rooms, in which they also had to use charcoal when they were at work. The water supply was excellent, and it was impossible for any improvement to be made in the present arrangement of the works.

“ The churchyard was not overcrowded, Burley church itself having only been built within the last twelve years. The ground was clay and gravel, but very badly drained. Indeed the subsoil was so wet that a grave, after standing open for four or five hours, would be found half full of water.

“ The more modern parts of the village, such for example as Peel-place, Pleasant-row, West-terrace, Kaye’s-buildings, &c., had for the most part been built by working men, who had saved enough to build themselves houses. He considered the men of this class one of the most valuable in the place. They were shrewd, sensible and independent, and if the Public Health Act were applied, he trusted that the qualification of the Local Board would be fixed low enough to admit some of these his poorer neighbours as members, for he believed they would do their best to work the Act to some good practical end.”

The Rev. *Joseph Boyd*, minister of Salem-chapel, and a resident in Burley for the last twelve years,

“ Was able to confirm all that the Rev. Mr. Robinson had said

with respect to the health and general sanitary condition of the population. It was not necessary for him to make any detailed statement, as it would only be a repetition of that I had just received. The burial ground attached to Salem Chapel was not overcrowded; the ground was drained, but it wanted a better outfall. He begged to hand a return of the area of the ground, and the number of burials that had taken place since 1839, when it was first opened, as well as a copy of the rules and regulations for interment."

(For these papers see Appendix, page 35.)

MORTALITY.—In the Appendix (page 31) will be found a return by I. Spence, Esq., surgeon, registrar of the district, of the deaths in Burley from 1849 to 1853. These are 157 in number, or at the rate of about 31 annually. On an average of these five years, therefore, the number of deaths are not more than 16·3 per 1,000, but the result is much less favourable when the last two years are considered. In them the mortality is 32 and 49 respectively, the deaths from consumption alone being 9 in the year 1852 and 16 in 1853. Thus in the latter period the enormous proportion of nearly 33 per cent. of the whole mortality of the township is due to this one disease.

Speaking of the mortuary returns, Dr. *Spence*, son of the above, says,—

"I have known Burley for the last fourteen or fifteen years. Consumption is endemic; in fact, it is the prevailing complaint in this valley. In my opinion, employment in the mills is the chief cause of it. The children come out of the warm work-rooms into the cold air, without wrapping up sufficiently. They then catch cold, and in time this passes on to consumption. The mills formerly for cotton are now worsted. Apprentices to the mills are brought here young, and it is possible that they may be tainted with the seeds of the disorder before they come to Burley."

Other witnesses have given evidence of the prevalence of consumption, but without offering any opinion as to its primary cause. The Rev. H. G. Robinson, who has been the incumbent of Burley for the last eighteen months, and the Rev. J. Boyd, minister of Salem-chapel, and a resident in the township for twelve years, both bore testimony to the frightful amount of consumption, and to its extreme rapidity after it had reached a certain point. W. E. Forster, Esq., of the firm of Fison and Forster, alluded to the same matter, and expressed the extreme anxiety of himself and his partner to do all they could to make their mill healthy and their work-people comfortable. The rapid increase in the mortality from all, as well as from parti-

cular causes, during the last year has naturally made me anxious to discover whether this peculiarity is confined to Burley alone.

For this purpose I applied to and obtained from Mr Spence, a medical practitioner residing at Otley, and the father of the gentleman whose evidence I have already quoted, a comparative statement of the mortality in that place and Burley. This return will be found in the Appendix, (page 30). The following are its general results:—

From July 1840, to March 1853, there have been in Otley 1,083 deaths from all causes, and in Burley 408, the population of the former, in 1851, being 4,750 against 1,895, that of the latter. The deaths in Otley have been from consumption 205, and from fever 44, whilst in Burley these two disorders have proved fatal in 80 and 13 instances respectively. Thus the average results come as nearly as possible the same.

In either case the deaths are about 17 in the thousand annually, whilst those from consumption are about 20 per cent., and from fever about 4 per cent., of the whole mortality.

These results would therefore imply that the first causes of consumption, whatever they may be, exist in Otley in just as great force as in Burley. But this ceases to be the case when the valley of the Wharfe is left. Mr. Spence instances four neighbouring districts, Baildon, Yeadon, Faystone and Harewood, having a population of 18,061 persons, where the whole of the deaths from consumption are not more than in the united populations of Otley and Burley, which amount to 6,646 only. Consequently for one case of consumption in these four districts put together, there are three in Burley and Otley.

Some of the persons present during the inquiry attributed this undue mortality to the natural situation of the village, placed as it is in the valley of the Wharfe, and having consequently much higher ground on both the north and south, the course of the stream being east and west.

In support of this opinion Mr. *James Whitehead*, who lives some 250 feet above the level of the village, stated,—

“ That he had often observed a thick mist hanging over Burley and the low ground along the valley at times when the high land on either side of it was quite clear. He considered that to this, as one cause at least, might be attributed the unhealthiness of the village.”

Mr. *W. Laurence*, residing and keeping a school at a house called Scalebor-park, situated on the rising ground

to the south of Burley, also furnished me with evidence respecting the extremely healthy state of the inmates of his establishment. But it is impossible to form an opinion of the healthy or unhealthy condition of a community from that of a single house, particularly when, as in the case of a school, every precaution is taken by the head of it to keep his pupils in good condition. It is unnecessary for me to give the details of Mr. Laurence's evidence. It is sufficient if I state that the particulars with which he furnished me prove that the expenditure for medical attendance on his pupils is very trifling. His house too has the additional advantage of being far enough from Burley to protect it from any particular local cause of sickness or disease. I consider it highly important, however, to know that such is the case, for it proves, that with care and attention, such causes of unhealthiness as do exist in the village may be entirely removed, or their ill effects, at all events, considerably modified and diminished.

I received two statements respecting the alleged healthy character of the district. One of these was from a Mr. Duckworth, the other from a Mr. Weddell, both gentlemen being surgeons resident in Otley, but practising in Burley as well. I found, however, on asking these witnesses some further questions, that they neither of them had any statistical or precise information to give me in confirmation of their assertion that Burley was a healthy place. On the contrary, the most they could say was that Burley was as healthy as Otley. I have already shown from Mr. Spence's tables that in one respect this is true; both places are on a nearly equal footing, as regards the public health, but they occupy a most disadvantageous position when compared with other places in the same neighbourhood.

Before, therefore, the opponents of the Public Health Act can make good their assertion that Burley is a healthy place, they must prove that its mortality is far below that of the adjoining parish of Otley.

Before concluding my remarks on this subject I may insert the following comparative tables of births and deaths for 1852 and part of 1853, which Mr. Forster was good enough to give me.

1852.			
Quarters ending		Births.	Deaths.
March	- -	14	9
June	- -	13	14
September	- -	16	5
December	- -	14	11
		<u>57</u>	<u>39</u>

Half of 1853.

Quarters ending		Births.	Deaths.
March	- -	22	15
June	- -	13	22
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		35	37
		<hr/>	<hr/>

Thus the natural increase of the population during the last 18 months has only been 16, whereas from July 1848 to December, during which the births were 325 and the deaths 207, the difference was 118 or at the rate of about 21 annually in favour of the births over the deaths.

THE WATER SUPPLY.—I have much pleasure in stating that I found the arrangements for the water supply equal to those of almost any place I have ever inspected. The works owe their existence to Thomas Horsfall, Esq., of Burley Hall, who is lord of the manor. They were commenced about five years ago; and they now give every house in the village, with the exception of two, an unfailing and constant supply of most excellent water. The service reservoir is on rising ground at a sufficient elevation to throw water over the highest building in the place. The streets are laid with mains, provided with fire-plugs at regular distances from each other.

Mr Horsfall was obliging enough to furnish me with a financial statement of the works, which will be found in the Appendix (page 32).

Mr. Horsfall, in establishing the Burley Water Works, has had the benefit of the village, and not his own advantage in view. Accordingly his object has been to give a supply on favourable terms to the inhabitants, rather than with any intention of securing a large return for the outlay of his capital,

The deed, under which the works have been executed, limits him to $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. profits, but he does not wish for, nor does he expect more than 5 per cent. Accordingly everything has been done to induce the inhabitants to take water. Mr. Horsfall himself is at the expense of providing the taps and service pipes, for which the very moderate sum of 2s. 2d. annually is charged, and in this is included the cost of the first work, and of any subsequent repairs that may be needed. The water rates are on an equally favourable scale, being only 1d. a week, or a farthing in the pound on the actual rental of the poorest houses, and 5 per cent. on that of those of a better class. Rents being

very moderate, the inhabitants secure all the advantages of a most excellent and unfailing supply of water for an almost nominal sum. With the further object of letting the inhabitants know that the works are not for his exclusive advantage, Mr. Horsfall, though his deed does not oblige him to do so, permits any ratepayer, who may wish it, to examine the accounts on giving notice to that effect. Your Honourable Board will, therefore, see that by the liberality and public spirit of Mr. Horsfall, the township of Burley, as regards a supply of water, enjoys all the advantages the Public Health Act can secure it in this respect. Each house has as much water as it wants at a most moderate scale of charges, at the same time that there is an abundant supply for public purposes, if necessary.

During the past year, in consequence of the alarming mortality, an absurd rumour was set about that there was some connection between this increase of sickness and the establishment of the water-works, and that it was possible there might be something injurious in the water supplied by Mr. Horsfall. To satisfy the people on the subject, a sample of it was analyzed by Mr. West, of Leeds. The following is that gentleman's statement :—

“10, Albion-street, Leeds,

“19th May 1850.

“I have analyzed the water sent me from Wharfeside, more especially with a view to ascertain whether it contains any foreign matter that could be supposed likely to cause disease of any kind to those using it for drinking or ordinary purposes. The water only contains a small portion of earthy salts, viz., 8 grains per gallon, and there is nothing whatever in it to lead to such a supposition. I have no hesitation in pronouncing it an excellent water, and, therefore, that any suspicion of the kind referred to is founded on a mistake.

(Signed)

“THEODORE WEST.”

This statement must be quite satisfactory, and I can only add, of my own part, that I tasted the water myself, and that it seemed to be as good and pure as any one need wish.

Before concluding my remarks on the water supply, I may insert a letter sent by Mr. Horsfall to your Honourable Board before the inquiry took place :—

“SIR,

“Burley Hall, 15th November 1853.

“A memorial has been forwarded to you by a numerous and respectable portion of the ratepayers of this township, requesting the attendance of an inspector from the Board of Health, for the purpose of examining the drainage and other arrangements affecting the healthfulness of this locality.

"Being possessed of the manorial estate, with the rights appertaining thereto, and also being the owner of the water-works for the supply of water for domestic purposes, I shall offer no opposition to such measures as may be deemed necessary and advantageous for the improvement of the sewerage, or otherwise conducive to the salubrity of this locality.

"I remain, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"To the Secretary of the
General Board of Health."

"THOMAS HORSFALL."

THE SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—As in most other places of the same size there is no proper sewerage in the township. There is one main sewer, indeed, beginning opposite the township school and running down the village to its eastern extremity, where it discharges its contents into the Wharfe, below the dam of the corn-mill near Burley Hall. But this sewer is not laid deep enough to admit of any regular house drainage. It was originally constructed by the highway surveyors, and intended for both land drainage and sewage, though it is better adapted for the former than the latter use.

However, such as it is, it at present serves to carry off the liquid refuse of a considerable portion of the village. It is the only sewer under the control of the highway surveyors, who occasionally flush it from a small stream in Moor-lane, known as the Town Beck. But as the volume of water in the latter is very inconsiderable at any time, such flushing can only be practised in winter or in wet weather; during the summer months, when such an operation is most needed, there is no head of water in the Town Beck for the purpose. Complaints, it would seem, have often been made to the highway surveyors respecting the inefficiency and bad state of this sewer. It has in consequence been sometimes opened out; in the places where examined the sewer was ascertained to be not more than fifteen inches from the surface, and as much as three or four inches of soil was found in it. It did not appear from the assistant surveyor's statement that any public money had been expended on the sewer since its first construction.

The more recently built parts of the village, in which I may include Pleasant-row, Coronation-row, Peel-place, Kaye's-row, and West-terrace, in fact almost all the western part of the village, are drained into common open field ditches. I need not describe to your Honourable Board the effect of such a bad arrangement. It is to little or no use that the houses are, as in the present instance, well and

substantially built, the rooms clean and tidy, and the people themselves apparently well fed and well employed, if outside there be a filthy open gutter, stagnant except in wet weather, from which all sorts of stench and foul gases are constantly escaping.

The people who occupy the above-named localities are fully alive to the evil, but they are at present powerless to apply a remedy.

There being no governing body who can take any steps for the better sewerage of the village, the householders have done what they could. But in this, as in larger communities, it has been found that without adequate control little good is effected. Some have contributed their money, whilst others have refused, hoping to get the benefit of the improvement without paying for it, and as it was beyond the power of the people to combine for any general system of sewerage, these partial efforts have done little or no good. The following may be taken as proofs of the feelings of the householders in general on the subject.

George Holmes told me—

“He had lived at West Terrace for the last three years. There was an open gutter at the back of his house. He remembered it a clear running stream, but since that time, twenty new houses had been built, all of which drain into this stream, which was now a stinking gutter. It was not more than five feet from the back door of the house. His wife was ill; he believed bad drainage was the cause of it, and that he must leave the house if nothing was done. The gutter was now stagnant, except in wet weather.”

Benjamin Waterhouse said—

That he resided in Peel Place, and that his cellar was sometimes flooded to a depth of twenty-four inches for want of proper drainage. The smell from the cellar was very bad in hot weather. There were some of his neighbours who did not seem to care for having their drainage better, but he was not of that mind himself. He knew it could not be done without its costing money, but for his part he would rather spend a little money in making good drainage, than bear all the annoyance and discomfort he now had for want of it, let alone the bad health it might bring upon him. There had been no prospect of getting anything done till the present inquiry was talked about, and then some of those who set their faces against it were ready enough to offer to make fresh sewers. The proposal was made at the public meeting, when they considered about sending the petition to the General Board, and it was on that occasion that some gentlemen came forward and offered to lend ten pounds each to the owners of houses in Peel-place and elsewhere on their personal security, if they would not sign the petition. But he for one wanted no such arrangement; he was

anxious for better drainage, and he would rather do it out of his own pocket than be beholden to any one for a loan."

Other statements to much the same effect were given by owners and occupiers of the more recently built houses; but I do not consider it necessary to do more than notice them.

I have selected the evidence of the last two witnesses because it was practical and to the point, and also because both the speakers were excellent types of a class who are rather numerous at Burley. They are working men, who have by industry and prudence saved a little money, and invested it in the erection of a house. Feeling a very proper pride in the possession of such property, they are anxious to have it as complete and comfortable as possible; and I accordingly found amongst this part of the population especially the most anxious wish to see improvement works carried out.

Nor was there any less feeling on the subject displayed by the larger number of the higher classes in the village. I have already mentioned Mr. Horsfall's readiness to support the application of the Act, and the Rev. H. G. Robinson and others have dwelt on the necessity of better sewerage and drainage.

For example *W. E. Forster, Esq.*, as a member of the firm who are the largest employers of labour in the place, said—

"The pecuniary results of the application of the Public Health Act would affect them more than any one else. But his partner and himself were anxious to see Burley placed under the Act, because there was no existing body to carry out the requisite improvement works. He was convinced that better sewerage was essential, for he feared that some at least of the present unhealthiness was due to the defective state of the sewerage. As a member of the Sanitary Committee, he had been anxious to do what he could for the improvement of the place, but they very soon found that they wanted proper powers. As long as the owners or occupiers were willing to do what was required, things went on well enough, but the moment they showed signs of opposition, the committee became powerless. It was this which had led the members of it to forward the memorial to the General Board of Health, and he for one wished it might result in some practical benefit to the town."

It is my duty to make every Report as impartial as possible, and I must therefore notice such statements as I received in contradiction of the foregoing evidence.

Mr. *Duckworth*, a medical man residing in Otley, but occasionally practising in Burley, said that, "speaking com-

paratively, he thought the village cleanly, and the drainage good." This statement was confirmed by Mr. Weddall, also a medical man residing in Otley, and practising both there and at Burley.

It will be remembered that these gentlemen are the same who have said that they thought Burley a healthy place; but as, in this respect also they spoke comparatively, and without possessing any statistical or reliable information to guide them, I cannot but think that they were as much in error when they spoke of the good state of the drainage as when they called my attention to the comparatively good health of the population of Burley.

PRIVY ACCOMMODATION.—Mr. E. Brumfit, the inspector of nuisances under the Sanitary Committee, furnished me with various particulars relating to the privy accommodation. In some parts of the village, and this applies both to the older and more recently built houses, the accommodation was deficient, and the buildings often too close to the houses. He had reported on the subject to the Sanitary Committee (see Minutes of Proceedings, page 24), who had given directions for new or additional places to be erected. In some instances these orders had been complied with, but not in others. Though they had such an excellent supply of water, there were not more than twelve water-closets in the town, in consequence of the want of drainage and the expense of making cesspools.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The highway surveyors of the township exercise the ordinary control of such officers under the General Highway Act. The carrying out of their directions, however, is in the hands of the road surveyor, Mr. James Holden. The duties discharged by this gentleman are somewhat multifarious. As road surveyor he has the charge of the highways; as assistant overseer he has the control of the poor rates, which he levies and collects. He is also, though only assistant overseer, in the habit of signing the rate book as overseer to avoid any legal difficulties. In this latter capacity he distributes the poor rate relief, and he uses his own discretion in calling in the medical officer for all cases of pauper sickness. This was formerly done by contract, but the last holder of it was thought by Mr. Holden, who is, by calling, a pharmaceutical chemist, to have neglected his duty, and the contract was in consequence allowed to expire. Besides the above, Mr. Holden also fills the offices of tithe collector and assistant registrar of the district.

CONDITION OF THE ROADS.

Mr. *James Holden* stated,—

“That, as assistant surveyor, he had about $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles of road under his charge. This included turnpikes. He made and collected the rates, which were at present 9*d.* in the pound. The accounts were not audited by any one. Two able-bodied men were kept constantly employed on the roads. His salary used to be 5*l.* a year, it was now 10*l.* This sum was, of course, in addition to the 30*l.* a year, and the 6*d.* a mile travelling expenses, which he received out of the poor rates for his services as assistant overseer.”

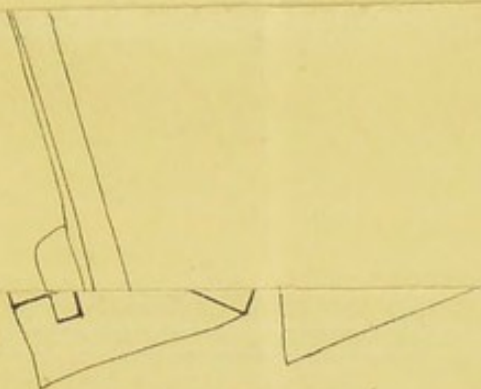
The following was the expenditure on the highways for the last three years :—

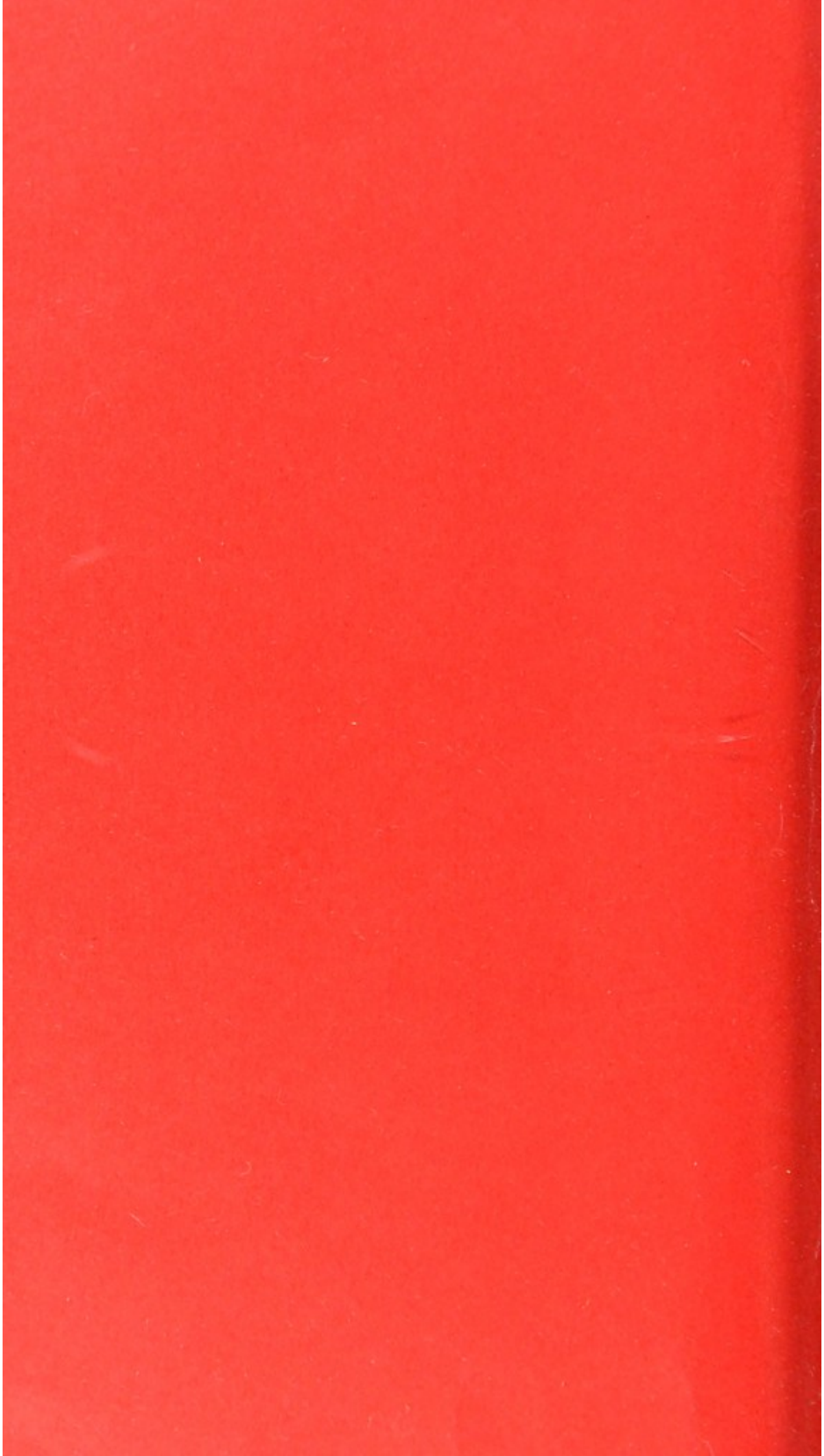
	1850.	1852.	1853.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Day labour - -	85 0 4	91 14 4	69 18 10
Contract work - -	24 15 3	61 2 5	26 2 10
Materials - -	6 0 7	18 18 8	19 11 1
Team work - -	41 16 0	73 16 6	42 4 9
Tradesmen's bills -	2 14 0	6 10 8	9 3 6
Quarry and gravel rent - - -	5 0 0	- - -	6 0 0
Incidental expenses -	3 2 7	7 10 11	1 19 6
Surveyor's salary -	5 0 0	10 0 0	10 0 0
	£173 8 9	£269 13 6	£185 0 6

PERSONAL INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.—I spent a portion of the second day of the inquiry in inspecting the village. A heavy fall of snow the preceding evening prevented me from examining all the nuisances and defects I had heard complained of the day before, though I was enabled to form a tolerably good idea of the place from those I did see.

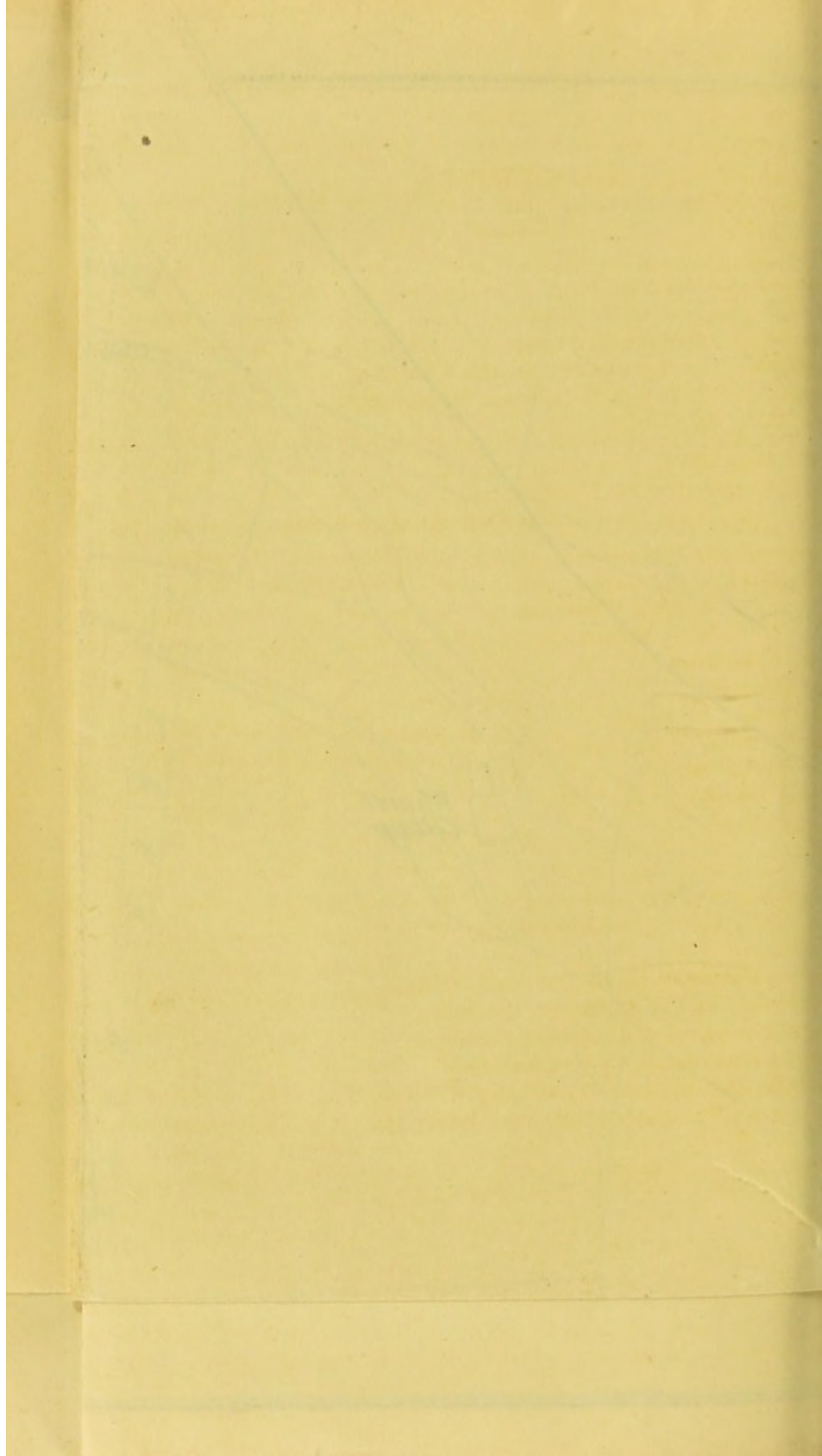
I found the main evil of the place to be the want of proper sewerage, a defect which cannot be remedied till a proper sanitary body is appointed. In some parts of the village also the privy accommodation was defective, and the buildings themselves placed too near the houses. This last-named objection has been caused more from ignorance than anything else; for in several instances I found the privy and ash-pit built close to the back door and windows of the house, though there was plenty of space behind on which to erect it.

from Shipley









With very few exceptions, the houses are all well and substantially built of stone; and every one I entered, with the view of ascertaining if the people had any complaints to make, I found clean and tidy. The inmates themselves looked well fed and well-to-do, so that altogether there seemed nothing wanting to make them entirely comfortable except good sewerage and proper house drainage. Most of the houses in the newer parts of the village have underground cellars; but owing to the absence of sewers, all of them are more or less damp, and some of them are half filled with water. The people made great complaints about this, and were unanimous in their statements as to the annoyance and dampness it caused, and the unpleasant smell which, in hot weather, constantly filled their houses, from the cellars below.

THE GREENHOLME MILL.—During the inquiry, and in the course of the discussion which took place on the causes of the existing mortality, and more especially on that to which the prevailing disease of consumption was owing, some remarks were made respecting the internal arrangement and ventilation of the Greenholme Mill. Amongst others, Mr. Whitehead, one of the highway surveyors, and the same gentleman, who in another place has pointed out that the unhealthiness of the village may be attributable to its low lying situation, said—

“ That the population of Burley had been very much changed of late, and that the prevailing mortality from consumption had occurred amongst the young women employed by Messrs. Fison and Forster in their manufactory.”

After a statement of this kind I considered it my duty to examine the Greenholme Mill. Mr. Forster not only offered me every facility for this purpose, but he also said that he was particularly desirous such an examination should take place; because, if anything likely to create disease were found to exist, it was the wish and intention of his partner and himself at once to remedy the evil.

I have already said that this mill has, within the last year or two, been used as a worsted instead of a cotton factory. The change, if anything, is one likely to tend to improved health, rather than the contrary. I, therefore, asked different questions of some of the persons who had been employed in the mill at both times, and I received from all of them the same answer, that the health of the people in the mill is

better now than before, and that there used to be more people on the sick club when it was a cotton mill.

I was informed that, out of the 241 spinners who were employed at the time, three only were off work ; and that of these, two were absent for the first time that day. Of the 256 women, who were weavers, five were off work ; two of them had just been confined ; two others, who were single, were attending to household duties during the illness of their mothers, and the fifth alone was laid up by sickness.

From the account of the sick club, (Appendix, page 33), it appears that during the year 1853, (there being about 100 members in the society,) one death has taken place, that of a young woman from consumption ; and that there have never been more than three sick persons on the list at any one time.

Messrs. Fison and Forster, since their recent occupation of the Greenholme Mill, have made considerable extensions and improvements. Amongst others, they have erected a large weaving shed, much more lofty and spacious than the room used for this purpose in the old building. In the latter indeed the floors used for spinning and other purposes are much less lofty than could be wished. The ventilation of these rooms is managed by openings in the windows, but I consider that an improvement might be made in the existing arrangements. The difference in the atmosphere of the rooms in the older building and of that of the new weaving shed, (the roof of which is constructed on the principle of the Crystal Palace), was very striking, the advantage being of course altogether in favour of the latter.

But any deficiency there may be in the ventilation of the older parts of the Greenholme Mill, is not such, as in my judgment, to account for the wide prevalence of consumption among the young. The mortality may, as Dr. Spence has said, arise from the women not taking enough care of themselves when they go into the cold air ; but if so, then the disease arises from a cause without, not within the mill, and from one over which its proprietors cannot be said to have any control.

Though not bearing strictly on the question of the sanitary condition of the mill population, I may mention as a proof of the spirit in which Messrs. Fison and Forster wish to act towards the persons they employ, that they have established a night school for the young women, and a library and concert room, and that all are extremely well supported by the work-people. This disposition I consider the more important on the present occasion ; for it affords an earnest

that the chief employers of labour, and the largest rate-payers in Burley are ready to do all they can to improve the condition of their people. Whilst as regards direct sanitary improvements, I have already given Mr. Forster's statement, that his partner and himself will gladly see the Public Health Act applied to the district, in order that it may have better sewerage and drainage, and a governing body to carry out these works efficiently.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.—I am not aware that the present inquiry calls for any particular remarks on my part. Your Honourable Board has already been made aware of the circumstances of Burley; and that the main evils needing remedy, are those arising from the want of sewerage and drainage. Amongst a large majority of the inhabitants there is a strong desire that this want should be speedily made good. But they also feel that there is no chance of such an event, until they can secure a proper governing body, with powers sufficient to execute all that is required.

This the Public Health Act will give them, at the same time that it will afford what they want at little or no cost, except that of the expenses of the inquiry and this report.

There was an impression amongst some of the ratepayers that the application of the Act made it compulsory to elect a number of separate and distinct officials, and from this had arisen an idea that a large expense would necessarily arise from the payment of an equal number of salaries. I explained, however, that this would be by no means the case; and that in a place of such limited size and resources, one, or, at the most, two persons would discharge any and all the duties that are likely to arise under the Act, and that some of these might very easily be combined with those discharged by the present highway surveyor, as the roads will, in case of the township coming under the Public Health Act, be placed under the control of the local board.

I am obliged to recommend the application of the Act to the entire township of Burley, there being no other known or defined boundary. As the circumstances of the case do not render it desirable to have a further inquiry, I may take this opportunity of explaining to those who may reside in the township, but beyond the limits of the village itself, that the farm lands will not be put to any expense for the improvement of Burley. That place will have to be made a special district; and consequently none will be called on to pay the special district rates, except those residing in it. The general districts rates will be a charge on the whole

township, but these will be extremely small and the residents in the outlying parts of the district will obtain more than an equivalent for any expenses they may incur under this head.

I have, therefore, to recommend—

1st. That the Provisions of the Public Health Act of 1848, and the supplemental Act of 1849, (except section 50 in the copies of the Act of 1848,) printed by her Majesty's printers, be applied to and throughout the township of Burley in Wharfedale.

2d. That the Local Board of Health for the said township shall consist of nine persons, and that the qualification for such office shall consist in the being seised or possessed of real or personal estate, or both, to the value of not less than 300*l.*, or the being rated to the relief of the poor of the said township on an annual value of not less than 6*l.*

3d. That every person shall, at the time of his election as a member of the said Local Board, and so long as he shall continue in office by virtue of such election, be resident in the said township, as in the Public Health Act of 1848 is required.

4th. That the fourteen days' notice of qualification required by the Public Health Act of 1848 to be given by owners of property in order to entitle them to vote at the first election of the said Local Board of Health, be given to the person or persons appointed to conduct the election thereof.

I have the honour to remain,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

WILLIAM RANGER,

Superintending Inspector.

The General Board of Health,

Whitehall.

APPENDIX.

COPY of the MEMORIAL for the APPLICATION of the PUBLIC HEALTH ACT to the TOWNSHIP of BURLEY.

To the Honourable the General Board of Health.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

THE petition of the undersigned, being ratepayers in the township of Burley, in the parish of Otley, in the county of York, sheweth

That with a view of promoting the general health of the village where they reside, which in the judgment of your petitioners suffers from insufficient and bad drainage, your petitioners desire to avail themselves of the benefit of the provisions of the Public Health Act passed A.D. 1848.

Your petitioners number more than one tenth of the whole of the residents rated for the relief of the poor ; they therefore respectfully solicit your Honourable Board to direct a Superintending Inspector to visit their township and to make such inquiry and examination as may be needful, with a view to the application of the Public Health Act to this township, and your petitioners will feel obliged by your so doing.

(Signed by seventy-nine Rate-payers.)

COPY of the NOTICE issued by the Sanitary Committee for the Enforcement of the Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Act.

PUBLIC notice is hereby given, that by the authority of the "Nuisance Removal and Diseases Prevention Act," and by "Order in Council," it is required that all accumulations of ashes, filth, manure, dung, compost, &c. &c., be immediately removed ; all sinks, drains, and watercourses effectually and constantly cleansed, and every means used to prevent the spread of epidemic disease.

The inhabitants of Burley are respectfully requested to co-operate with the sanitary committee to this end, by perfect cleanliness, and by using every precaution to avert an approach of cholera.

Mr. Edward Brumfitt is appointed to the office of Inspector of

Nuisances, and will attend to all complaints made relative to existing nuisances, and unhealthy or uncleansed dwellings.

By order of

Thomas Foster	Thomas Gill
Stephen Fawcett	William Laurence
Benjamin Padgett	Thomas Outhwaite
William Fison	John Wood
Thomas Taylor	Richard Brogden
Francis Smith	Abraham Holt
J. H. Whitehead	John Metcalf
W. E. Forster	

(the Sanitary Committee).

Burley, October 1st, 1853.

COPY from the Minute Book of the PROCEEDINGS of the SANITARY COMMITTEE.—G. H. ROBINSON, Chairman.

1st. It was proposed that Mr. Laurance be appointed a member of the sub-committee for the purpose of carrying out sanitary arrangements in the united townships of Burley and Burley Woodhead.

It was proposed that Abraham Holt, J. Wood, and J. Metcalf, and R. Brogden be also appointed members of said committee.

It was proposed that W. E. Forster, Thomas Gill, and Thomas Outhwaite, be also added to the sub-committee ; these persons were elected unanimously.

2nd. It was resolved that the sub-committee be required to meet at least once a week for dispatch of business, and that they be empowered to add to their number if it shall appear necessary.

3rd. It was resolved that E. Brumfit be appointed Inspector of Nuisances, with a salary at the rate of five shillings per day while actually employed in his official duties.

H. G. ROBINSON, Chairman.

Tuesday, October 4th, 1853,

The sub-committee appointed under the order for the extension of sanitary measures met to receive the report of the Inspector of Nuisances. A report was made in reference to various offensive nuisances, in different parts of the village, when it was resolved,—

1st. That Mr. T. Horsfall's attention be called to the state of certain cottages at the low end of the village of which he is the owner, and as it appears on the Inspector's report that there is a deficiency of necessary convenience, as well as defective drainage, that he be requested to make immediate provision to remedy this evil.

2nd. That the Inspector's report makes it evident that certain cottages belonging to Mr. Timothy Horsfall are destitute of conveniences essential for the comfort of the occupiers, and for the prevention of common decency, and that Mr. T. Horsfall be requested, according to the terms of the Act 11 & 12 Vict., to make the necessary provision and abate the nuisance pointed out by the Inspector.

3rd. That Mr. Joseph Whitehead be requested by usual form of notice to remove the dung-heap at present adjoining certain

cottages belonging to him ; the said dung-heap appearing to this committee to be a real nuisance, and detrimental to the health of the occupiers of said property.

4th. That the Inspector, in conjunction with Mr. Outhwaite and Mr. J. Wood, be requested to make a special examination of certain tenements belonging to Mr. Wm. Whitehead, of Menstone, situate near the national school, and to report to the sub-committee at their next meeting.

5th. That the proper notice be served on the owners and occupiers of those houses known by the name of East-terrace, requiring them to remedy without delay the defective drainage as pointed out in the Inspector's report.

6th. That Mr. T. Horsfall's attention be further called to the condition of certain privies on premises belonging to him, and in the occupation of Jno. Parker and others, and that he be requested to abate the nuisance connected with them.

7th. That the usual notice be sent to Mr. R. Foster, requesting him to take measures for cleansing and keeping clean the straw-yard in his occupancy, situate on the north side of the main street of Burley.

8th. That notice be sent to Mrs. Green, requesting her to remove the privies situate on her property occupied by Samuel Lupton, and to others whom it may concern, requesting them to remove a nuisance complained of in the Inspector's report.

9th. A form of notice was submitted to the meeting and approved of, subject to any necessary corrections.

H. G. ROBINSON, Chairman.

Tuesday, October 11th, 1853.

The sanitary committee met this morning to transact business and to receive the Inspector's report.

1st. It was reported that notice had been sent to Mr T. Horsfall, in reference to nuisances complained of, and that he was taking the necessary steps for their removal.

2nd. Reported, that a similar notice had been sent to Mr. Timothy Horsfall, but that yet no proper steps had been taken for the effectual removal of the nuisances complained of. It was resolved, therefore, that the Inspector be ordered to communicate again with Mr. T. Horsfall with a view to carrying out the necessary arrangements.

3rd. Resolved, that information be given to Mr. J. Whitehead unless steps be taken to prevent the occurrence of the nuisance, in regard to the manure heap adjoining his cottages, the committee is of opinion that the measure is not sufficiently abated. It was further resolved, that Mr. Whitehead's attention be called to the situation of the privy belonging to the cottages, and to the fact, that only one privy is provided for the tenants of four houses, and that the amount of accommodation is, in the opinion of the committee, far from being sufficient.

4th. That the attention of Messrs. T. Horsfall and J. Whitehead, be called to the state of the drains on their property, whilst an accumulation of water is caused in the middle of the yard.

5th. That proper notice be sent to Mr. Whitehead, of Menstone, requiring him to provide a sufficient number of privies for the cottages belonging to him, and to take care, in making his arrangements, that the privies be not so placed as to be a nuisance from their situation. In the opinion of this committee there ought to be at least three privies for seven cottages, and the position of the privy already built is an actual nuisance, and moreover involves bad drainage.

6th. That a notice be sent to Mr. Kendall to remove the nuisance heap on his tenancy and to avoid the recurrence of the nuisance.

7th. Resolved, in reference to the houses in East-terrace, that inasmuch as no steps have yet been taken to abate the nuisance reported, notice be given to the parties concerned, that unless operations be commenced forthwith, this committee will be under the necessity of applying for a summons against the owners of property, according to the provisions of the Act.

8th. The committee observe that Mr. Timothy Horsfall has taken steps to cleanse the privies on the property occupied by J. Parker and others; at the same time they do not perceive that any precautions have been taken to prevent a recurrence of the nuisance before complained of. It was resolved, therefore, that Mr. Horsfall's attention be called to this point, and that he further be requested to take steps for the permanent removal of the nuisance caused by the farm-yard in the occupancy of R. Foster.

9th. It was reported that the nuisance complained of on the property occupied by S. Lupton and others has been properly abated; at the same time the committee feel it necessary to give notice to Mrs. Green that they feel compelled to require her compliance with their previous resolution.

10th. Resolved, that Thos. Wade's attention be called to the state of the privy on the property belonging to him in the occupation of Gascoigne.

11th. Resolved, that a notice be sent to Mr. J. Lupton, requesting him to remedy the nuisance connected with the yard as described in the Inspector's report.

12th. That notice be sent to Messrs. Fison and Forster, requesting them to remedy the nuisance complained of on the property occupied by Dunwell as described in the Inspector's report and also, calling their attention to the state of the cellar in the occupancy of Wm. Gill, senr., and to the fact that the privy is in very close proximity to the tenements occupied by W. Gill, and Butterfield.

14th. That the attention of Messrs. Fison and Forster be called to the manure-heap accumulated by their tenants in Pleasant-row, and also to the state of the upper part, which in the opinion of the committee is caused by the pipes conducting water from the back kitchen not being of sufficient bore to carry off the whole of the waste water. That Messrs. Fison and Forester be further requested to abate the nuisance arising from the situation and defective

construction of a certain privy standing at the east end of the thatched cottage adjacent to Pleasant-row, and also to the condition of another privy attached to those tenements, called the "white house," from which there appears to be no drainage.

15th. That notice be given to the owners of all the property which is drained by means of the open ditch running behind Peel-place, reported as a nuisance, requiring them to take steps for the cleansing of the said drain, and for preventing the recurrence of the nuisance.

16th. That notice be given to Edw. Lupton respecting the nuisance caused by the waste water flowing through an open drain on his premises.

17th. That notice be given to the representatives of the late Mr. J. Whitaker, in reference to the drainage of the premises occupied by Mr. Colinson.

18th. That notice be given to the owners of the row of houses adjacent to Leatherbank-lane, requiring them to provide for the removal of the nuisance caused by a certain open ditch, in the said lane, which is at present a receptacle for sewage and other refuse from the said property.

19th. Resolved, that notice be given to the owners of the property called West-terrace, and to others whom it may concern, requiring them to take steps for the removal of a nuisance complained of by G. Holmes and C. Baker, caused by an open ditch which receives the drainage of the property in question.

H. G. ROBINSON, Chairman.

Tuesday, October 18th, 1853.

The sanitary committee met this morning to transact business and to receive the Inspector's report.

1st. That the consideration of Mr. Outhwaite's objection to the erection of a privy by Mr. T. Horsfall in Winterburn's-yard be postponed till next week.

2nd. Resolved, that it having been reported to the committee that Mr. Tim. Horsfall has not erected a privy for the five cottages on his property, but has given them access to the privy belonging to the house in the occupation of Joshua Breare, he be informed that the committee will be obliged to take steps to prevent six houses being supplied with only one privy.

3rd. That the Inspector be requested to communicate with the assistant overseer, with a view to the immediate inspection of any houses wherein it may appear that lodgers are received, and in order to the suspension of any such lodging-houses as are not licensed according to the terms of the Common Lodging-house Act.

4th. That resolution No. 3 (passed at previous meeting) be brought before the committee at their next ensuing meeting.

5th. That the Inspector be ordered to repeat his notice to Mr. Wm. Whitehead, of Menstone, and to inform him that unless steps be taken to comply with the tenor of it within twenty-four hours of its receipt, further proceedings will be taken by summons from justice of peace.

6th. With reference to the case of Mrs. Green, the inspector was authorized to inform her, that provided she would take steps to prevent the privy in question from being a nuisance dangerous to health, by the adoption of some such arrangement as he was directed to suggest, this committee would not for the present require any further steps on her part.

7th. That resolutions 10 and 11 (previous report) be brought before this committee at their next meeting.

8th. That the opinion of some qualified authority be obtained in reference to the liability of the ratepayers to construct a main drain through the village, with a view to discover on whom the expense of such construction will legally fall, and that the Inspector be requested to invite Mr. James (now residing at Ilkley) to confer with certain members of the committee on the subject.

9th. That notice be sent to J. Delves, requesting him to procure the immediate cleansing of the privy on premises occupied by him.

10th. That Mr. J. Mullinaux be requested to remove the heap of ashes and manure on his premises, reported as a nuisance.

11th. That the Inspector's accounts are received, including statement of charges up to Saturday, October 15, 1853, amounting to 1*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, which charges were allowed by the committee.

H. G. ROBINSON, Chairman.

October 25th, 1853.

The sanitary committee met this morning to receive the Inspector's report.

1st. That resolutions 1, 3, and 4 be further postponed.

2nd. That the Inspector be authorized to take ultimate proceedings with regard to the nuisance complained of on Mr. W. Whitehead's property.

3rd. That Mr. S. Lupton be urged to commence without delay the improvements recommended in resolution 11.

4th. That Mr. Walker be reminded of the terms of the notice already served upon him.

5th. Proposed by Mr. W. E. Forster, and seconded by J. Ward, that it is the opinion of the sanitary committee that a good main drain should be made down the public highway, and that a meeting of the ratepayers should be called to consider the propriety of requesting the surveyors to do so.

An amendment was proposed by Mr. Laurance, and seconded by Mr. T. Gill, to the effect that the consideration of this question be postponed until the meeting of the next committee. Amendment carried.

6th. The Inspector desires to give a notice of his intention to resign his office, conditionally upon the amount of time his notice shall seem to require.

H. G. ROBINSON, Chairman.

Tuesday, November 1st, 1853.

The sanitary committee met this morning for dispatch of business.

1st resolution, referred to in No. 1 of previous meeting, further postponed.

2nd. The Inspector reported that he had obtained a summons upon Mr. W. Whitehead, of Menstone, and that the case would be heard on Friday, the 4th instant.

3rd. It was reported that Messrs. J. Lupton and S. Walker would commence the necessary improvements without delay.

4th. That Mr. Metcalfe undertakes to abate the nuisance complained of in Burley Woodhead-lane.

5th. That notice be given to the overseers in reference to the state and situation of the privies attached to the township school.

6th. That notice be sent to James Walker respecting the state of privies on his property.

7th. Proposed by Mr. Whitehead, and seconded by Mr. Laurance, that the case of the occupiers and owners in West-terrace and Peel-place be considered at the next meeting of the committee.

8th. The accounts of the Inspector, being 2*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* for eight days' work and sundries, were presented and allowed.

H. G. ROBINSON, Chairman.

November 15th, 1853.

The sanitary committee met this morning for dispatch of business.

1st. It was resolved that the Inspector be requested to obtain a summons against J. Walker, to compel him to abate the nuisance previously reported to the committee.

2nd. Resolutions 1 and 3 (meeting October 15th), be attended to by Inspector.

3rd. That the Inspector be requested to continue his survey of the sanitary condition of the village, and to make a report at the next meeting of the committee.

H. G. ROBINSON, Chairman.

MORTUARY RETURNS.

STATEMENT by I. SPENCE, Esq., Surgeon, of the Mortality from certain causes in Otley, as compared with that of Burley, and some other neighbouring places.

BURLEY.			OTLEY.		
July 1840 to March 1853.			July 1840 to March 1853.		
No.	Other causes.		No.	Other causes.	
	Consumption.	Fever.		Consumption.	Fever.
73	33	4	173	50	2
64	8	3	163	36	18
47	20	5	158	38	10
64	13	0	155	43	7
67	16	1	185	38	7
315	80	13	834	205	44
$315 + 80 + 13 = 408$			$834 + 205 + 44 = 1082$		
Total number of deaths in Burley, from all causes=408. Consumption=one in five, or 20 per cent. Fever=one in thirty-one, or 3.225 per cent.			Total number of deaths in Otley, from all causes=1802. Consumption=one in five, or 20 per cent. Fever=one in twenty-four and a half, or 4 per cent. nearly.		

The population of the following places, viz :—Baildon, Yeadon, Faystone, Harewood, amounts to 18,061 ; the population of Otley and Burley amounts to 6,646.

The number of deaths from consumption in the last two places is equal to the number in all the former places taken together. In other words three to one for a like number of inhabitants.

RETURN furnished by W. SPENCE Esq., M.D., Registrar of the District, of the Deaths, and the causes thereof, in the Township from 1849 to 1853.

Deaths in Burley.

—	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.	1853.	Total.
Dropsy - -	2	3	3	.	1	9
Phthisis - -	6	7	3	9	16	41
Small-pox - -	.	.	4	1	.	5
Cancer - -	.	.	1	.	.	1
Apoplexy - -	.	1	.	.	.	1
Fits - - -	8	4	2	4	12	30
Stomach - -	.	.	.	.	1	1
Unknown - -	1	1	1	3	2	8
Diarrhœa - -	.	1	.	1	.	2
Hydrocephalus - -	.	.	.	2	1	3
Old age - -	2	3	1	2	2	10
Fatty tumour - -	1	.	.	.	.	1
Burn - - -	1	.	.	.	.	1
Delirium tremens - -	1	.	.	.	.	1
Heart - - -	1	2	1	1	2	7
Hooping cough - -	.	1	.	1	2	4
Retention—urine - -	.	1	.	.	.	1
Water in chest - -	.	1	.	.	.	1
Bronchitis - -	.	2	1	.	1	4
Influenza - -	.	1	.	1	.	2
Tetanus - - -	.	1	.	.	.	1
Puerperal fever - -	.	1	.	.	.	1
Hemorrhage - -	.	.	1	.	.	1
Inflammation - -	.	.	1	2	2	5
Mortification - -	.	.	1	.	.	1
Intr. fever - -	.	.	1	.	.	1
Accident - - -	.	.	1	2	3	6
Measles - - -	.	.	1	.	.	1
Liver complaint - -	.	.	.	1	1	2
Spinal disease - -	.	.	.	1	.	1
Scarlatina - - -	.	.	.	1	.	1
Continued fever and typhus - -	.	.	.	.	3	3
	23	30	23	32	49	157

As compared with the former account there is an increase in disbursements chargeable to revenue; this is attributable to repairs of taps and service pipes. It is requested that in future any consumers who require repairs, will immediately apply to Mr. John Myers, who is charged to take care that they be promptly attended to. It should be borne in mind that in other waterworks, the taps and service pipes are supplied and paid for by the owner or occupier of the respective premises. In proposing 2s. 2d. per tap, the proprietor of the Burley waterworks did not contemplate so serious an outlay in repairs; he therefore seeks to impress upon the consumers of water the necessity of care and attention in the usage of them. In the event of damage being caused by negligence or wantonness, the proprietor may deem it requisite either to insist upon payment for the taps and service pipes, or otherwise to stop the supply of water. Should any rate-payer, be desirous to see the accounts, he is at liberty to do so by giving proper notice.

Burley Hall, October 1853.

The following are Copies of the Returns I received from three Sick Clubs in Burley.

Rules of the Sick Club held at the mill of Messrs. Fison & Co. Greenhelm.

President and treasurer, W. E. Foster, Esq.

Vice president, Mr. Hargreaves.

Committee, Christopher Cooper, Henry Crewdson, J. Illingworth, Thomas Hirst, William Baker.

Secretary, Charles Wood.

Rule I.—Persons in the employ of Messrs. W. Fison & Co. under 55 years of age, and wishing to enter this club, can do so, subject to the consent of the committee, on payment of the following sums:—

3d. per week for men over 18 years of age.

1½d. per week for all women employed as weavers and in the drawing-room, and for all lads who are weavers under 18 years of age.

¾d. per week for all full-time spinners, both boys and girls.

II.—Any member who becomes sick or lame to give notice thereof to Mr. C. Wood, and if compelled to keep off work for a week, after the week's end to become entitled to relief as follows:—

All those who pay 3d., 1½d., and ¾d. to receive at the rate of 10s., 5s., and 2s. 6d. per week.

III.—No member to be entitled to relief till he or she has been in the club six weeks.

Rule IV. to XII.—Details as to management, payment, inspection, &c.

XIII.—A meeting of all the members to be called at the expiration of six months from the opening of the club, when the rules shall be re-considered, and altered if necessary; the com-

mittee re-appointed; and if any sum in the hands of the treasurer above 5*l.*, rateably divided amongst the members, to be either returned to them, or otherwise appropriated as they may prefer.

Additional rule.—In case of the death of any of the members, a dead brief will be given as follows :—

		£	s.	d.
To class A	paying 3 <i>d.</i> per week	-	-	3 0 0
" B	" 1½ <i>d.</i> "	-	-	1 10 0
" C	" ¾ <i>d.</i> "	-	-	0 15 0

This club was formed in January 1853. At its commencement it numbered about 90 members; after many fluctuations it now numbers more than at any previous time, viz.,

	15 of class A
	83 " B
	18 " C
Total	- 116

	Amount received in contributions from members.	Amount dis- tributed in relief.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
During the first half-year of 1853	16 8 7	3 12 9
" second " "	14 13 7½	4 15 5
Total -	£31 2 2½	£8 3 2

There has been only one death, a young woman, of consumption, and there is now only one sick member on the book; the greatest number sick at any one time during the last half-year, having been three.

Messrs. Wm. Fison and Co. subscribe 5*l.* per annum, partly to meet the small expenses of management, and also in order that the club should have a fund to start with after each distribution.

A subscription having been made by the work-people in the mill towards the Holmfirth relief fund, the balance returned from it, amounting to 4*l.* 10*s.*, is, as well as Messrs. W. F. and Co.'s subscription, kept in the club.

And with the above arrangement the club consider it safe to encourage all work-people to join who are not actually ill at the time of joining.

The next sick club is that of the Yorkshire Independent Order of the Ark Good Intent Lodge. Established April 23rd, 1853, for relief in sickness, and assistance at death.

It consists of thirteen members, who contribute 3*d.* per week to its funds, and upon sickness receive 10*s.* per week; and the allowance on the death of a member 10*l.*, and at the death of a member's wife 7*l.*; average age of members, 38 years. Nothing has been paid out of the funds for either sickness or death. Prospects good.

EDWARD BRUMFITT, Secretary.

The account of sick money paid for the last five years, and paid for deaths also.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
In 1849—sick	5	6	9	—for deaths the same year	-	4	0 0
In 1850—sick	5	10	0	—for deaths, 1850	-	8	0 0
In 1851—sick	1	12	0	—for deaths, 1851	-	4	1 6
In 1852—sick	1	0	0	—for deaths, 1852	-	5	0 0
In 1853—sick	1	0	0	—for deaths, 1853	-	2	19 6
	<u>£14</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>		<u>£24</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>6</u>

BURIAL GROUND ACCOMMODATION.

Salem Chapel Burial Ground, 147 feet long, 51 feet wide : 833 yards. Planned for 270 graves, and a space of 7 feet wide and 50 feet long for the burial of children. The ground for *each grave* is 7 feet by 3. Opened for interment, December 1839. Number of graves made (January 1854) 43. Number of Interments 73, being

35 children under 12 years
9 persons " 20 "
11 " " 30 "
8 " " 50 "
10 " " 80 "
<u>73</u>

In the years			
1840	-	-	1
1841	-	-	8
1842	-	-	8
1843	-	-	4
1844	-	-	4
1845	-	-	6
1846	-	-	7
1847	-	-	4
1848	-	-	1
1849	-	-	4
1850	-	-	9
1851	-	-	4
1852	-	-	6
1853	-	-	7

CHARGES and REGULATIONS for interment at the Salem Chapel Burial Ground, Burley-in-Wharfedale :—

	£	s.	d.
1. The price of ground for a grave 7 feet long by 3 feet wide	-	-	1 1 0
Single interment	-	-	0 5 0

2. The purchase-money must be paid before the breaking up of the ground.

3. All expenses connected with the making or opening of a vault or grave, must be paid by the purchaser to the gravedigger appointed by the committee.

4. The remuneration to the officiating minister for his attendance, shall not be less than 2s. 6d. for each interment.

5. The stones laid down must be exactly 6 feet 9 inches by 2 feet 9 inches ; and no inscription will be allowed until it has been seen and approved by the committee ; raised or head-stones will not be permitted.

6. Every interment will be carefully registered.

7. In all the graves appropriated for single interments, the first interment must be made at the depth of 9 feet.

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