

**A plain statement of facts / addressed by Dr. Griffiths, to his fellow townsmen, of Sheffield. July 1878.**

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BOROUGH OF SHEFFIELD.



A PLAIN STATEMENT OF FACTS,

ADDRESSED BY

DR. GRIFFITHS,

TO HIS FELLOW TOWNSMEN, OF SHEFFIELD.

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JULY 1878.

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND BURGESSES  
OF THE BOROUGH OF SHEFFIELD, AND TO  
MY FELLOW TOWNSMEN OF SHEFFIELD.

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I am constrained to address to you the following letter, by reason of the very extraordinary line of conduct which has been followed with regard to me.

I am dependent for my daily bread upon my reputation; and that my reputation has been unwarrantably and unhandsomely assailed I believe will be patent to anyone who will enquire into the facts. I ask you, the Town Council, and you, my fellow townsmen, to do me the favour of reading what I now write, and then judging whether I am not right in saying that I have not been fairly and honourably treated.

On the 11th of November, 1872, a General Order was made by the Local Government Board, (who sit at Whitehall, in London,) as to Medical Officers of Health. [The term "Local Government Board" is apt to mislead—it must be borne in mind that it is a *London* Board regulating Local Governments.]

The General Order so issued defines the duties of each Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Sanitary District over which he may be appointed, and I publish, in the Appendix "A" hereto, a full copy of the duties assigned by this Order to Medical Officers. By perusing such copy it will be seen that a Medical Officer of Health is—(1.) To inform himself respecting influences threatening injury to health. (2.) To enquire into the causes, &c., of disease. (3.) To inspect his

district. (4.) To advise the Sanitary Authority. (5.) To visit places where contagious diseases break out. (6.) To advise upon measures to prevent the extension of disease. (7.) On receiving information from Inspectors of Nuisances as to overcrowding of houses, &c., to take steps such as the circumstances of the case may require. (8.) To inspect unsound provisions. (9.) To perform duties imposed upon him by Bye-Laws. (10.) To enquire into offensive trades. (11.) To attend at the office of the Sanitary Authority. (12.) To report in writing to such Authority with respect to sickness and mortality. (13.) To make notes of his observations, &c. (14.) To prepare an annual report each December, with tabular statement of sickness, &c. (15.) To give information as to the outbreak of epidemic diseases. (16.) To make quarterly returns. (17.) To observe the directions of the Local Government Board (that is, the Board in London), and the orders of the Sanitary Authority, &c.

Now, I deem it very important that it should be known what are really the duties of a Medical Officer. The outline above given shows that the Medical Officer was intended to be a person not tramelled by office work, but free to move about his district, obtain information, visit infected spots, draw up reports, statistics, &c., &c. Such an officer is best doing his work at times when, to the public eye, he would probably appear to be doing nothing at all. A Medical Officer walks through a district—he appears to have nothing to do—but he is observing conditions which affect health, and it is manifest to anyone who will read the detailed duties as they appear above, and in the Appendix, that these duties are meant to be undertaken by a person whose education and professional training qualify him for a most important, thoughtful office, but do not require of him office work and routine.

As examples of some of the non-medical matters to which I have had to attend I name the following:—(1.) Issuing of summonses. (2.) Conducting of legal proceedings before Magistrates. (3.) Superintending the erection of street orderly

bins and public urinals. (4.) Survey of the Porter Brook. (5.) Correspondence as to purchase of horses, railway waggons, and street watering carts. (6.) Advertising and receiving tenders and samples for provender for horses. (7.) Inspecting builders' work, *et hoc genus omne*.

On the 20th of February, 1873, the Town Clerk advertised for a Medical Officer of Health for the Borough. I set out the full advertisement in the Appendix B. It will be seen that the person appointed was required to perform the duties set forth in the order of the Local Government Board, at Whitehall, which I have above alluded to.

On the 9th of April, 1873, I was elected Medical Officer for the borough. I received 41 votes out of the 52 that were then recorded. At this time there was an Inspector of Nuisances for Sheffield, who received a salary of £300 a-year, but in May, 1874, this officer resigned, and no one was appointed to succeed him until June, 1878, when the process of superseding me had definitely begun to operate. I had entered upon my office in June, 1873; till May, 1874, or for 11 months, there was an Inspector of Nuisances, and I was free to perform those duties which were assigned to me by the order of the Local Government Board, but after May, 1874, no new appointment of a Nuisance Inspector was made, and the result was that the duties of that officer were thrown upon me. It is true I need not have taken them. I was appointed for three years, and I might have insisted upon doing those duties, and those only, which fell properly at my door, but I did not thus narrowly consider myself. I did my own work *and that of the Inspector of Nuisances also*. I now see that I was wrong. I have saved the town £300 a year from 1874 to 1878 by gratuitously doing the work of a Nuisance Inspector, but whilst doing this I have entailed upon myself work which was not my own, and for which, instead of getting thanks, I have got unworthy insinuations and unworthy treatment. The town of Sheffield has in reality paid me nothing as Medical Officer since May, 1874; it is true I have received £600 a year, but £300 of this has been paid by

Government, and £300 is the salary of the Inspector of Nuisances, leaving therefore *nothing* for the services of the Medical Officer. Whether I was really at the outset to be blamed for taking this extra work I do not know, perhaps I ought to have reported to Government, perhaps I ought to have rebelled against the Health Committee here, but I did neither. I carried out this work and other work which was not mine, and now every charge that is brought against me has reference to this other work, and no single thing has ever been even hinted against me which has reference to my proper duties as Medical Officer. I think my townspeople ought to know this. I think they should also know that, after the Health Committee had full knowledge of every allegation made against me, they *recommended my re-election*, and that it is only when bitter enemies of mine have used their power, behind my back, that that Committee is induced to alter its Report and to recommend that a Medical Officer of Health shall be appointed at half my salary; such an appointment I shall never seek. Gentlemen, it may appear to be *cheap* to appoint an Inspector of Nuisances and a Medical Officer at £300 a year instead of £600, but this cheapness involves at best, half services; henceforward it will be no man's *sole* duty vigilantly to watch all the accidents and incidents which bear upon health. The £600 a year paid to me only cost the town of Sheffield at most £300 a year. The other £300 was paid by Government, and as I have before shown, even the £300 a year was represented by work done by me not falling properly upon a Medical Officer. Give me what credit you think right, but in result Sheffield stands recorded as one of the healthiest towns in England (having regard to the population), whereas heretofore, it was one of the most unhealthy. I appeal to the Reports which I have from time to time issued, to speak as to the work that I have done. It is only by those reports that any record can be made of the work of a Medical Officer. The better his work is done in the shape of vigilance to detect and stop disease the less there is to see what he has done.

Whether the town of Sheffield, with its vast population of nearly 300,000 people, means to be economical on such a subject as health, it is perhaps not for me to say; but as the action which has been taken against me will probably drive me from the town, I feel constrained to record my warning against anything like a false economy being allowed to intrude itself into the health branch of the work of the Corporation—"Hinc illæ lachrymæ";—yet surely, if economy is to prevail, the proposed reduction in salary might have been discussed without degrading and defaming my character by unworthy insinuations against it.

Gentlemen, I have told you above that I was appointed in 1873, for three years. In 1876 and 1877 my appointment was renewed. In 1878, the Town Council referred the question of my re-appointment to the Health Committee, and those gentlemen brought a report *recommending my re-election*. This report was discussed at the Town Council meeting, when I was not present, and when, if present, I could have had no say. A few of the Members of the Town Council have made it their set purpose to remove me. They could slander me in the Town Council, and they did it; they raked up paltry questions which I had explained years before, (see the questions and my answers post,) and they have succeeded in getting the Health Committee not to do what the Town Council asked, namely, *make a report upon the offences which it is said I committed*, but to slide away from the appointment of a Medical Officer, pure and simple, into the appointment of a half-and half man, by reducing the salary in future to £300 a year. No man is safe who is treated as I have been. No town such as yours is safe without the *entire* services of a Medical Officer of Health—such is my firm opinion now;—I think it will be yours by-and-bye.

I was asked to give written replies to some questions which were put before me by the Health Committee. I complied with the request, and whilst doing so, I handed in the letter which is set forth in Appendix E, and which I now beg the favor of your reading.

This letter, which I addressed to the Committee, I feel expresses views which should have a wider circulation than is afforded in a committee-room. In the appendices hereto, I have also set out the questions referred to in that letter, and my answers and the Resolutions of the Health Committee thereon.

I have only now to ask the favour of a careful perusal of what I have written, and then of a deliberate judgment, as to whether the character of any man is safe under such treatment as I have received, and whether it is not a fact that my being superseded arises not from any defaults of mine, but because *false economy* is dominant, and for the time, outweighs all other considerations.

I shall always take an interest in the welfare of Sheffield. It stands now, (considering its size) almost "A.1." as regards Health. The death rate has declined steadily for all causes and for all groups of ages since my appointment. That is a great satisfaction to me. The death rates have been as follows:—

DEATH RATE PER 1,000.

1873	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26.9.
1874	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25.7.
1875	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24.8.
1876	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24.3.
1877	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21.8.

Allow me to add, that during my term of office there have been great savings; I claim in particular to have brought about the following savings:—

	£	s.	d.
The Chief Inspector's Salary (£300 per annum	1200	0	0
Improved mode of distributing disinfectants			
£294 12s. per annum	...	...	...
	998	8	0
Charges for removal of rubbish,			
in 1874	£38	5	3
„ 1875	325	3	11
„ 1876	238	11	5
„ 1877	220	0	10
	822	1	5
Total saving in 4 years	£3020	9	5

These items by no means exhaust the list of savings. It can be shown in addition that the introduction of the improved modes of Watering the Streets, and of my copyright forms in the offices, have resulted in increased efficiency and a further saving of several hundreds of pounds per annum.

I cannot but feel that I am entitled to some credit for these, but I fail altogether to see that such credit has hitherto been in any way accorded to me.

I beg to subscribe myself

Your obedient servant,

F. GRIFFITHS, B.A., M.D., &c.

#### APPENDIX A.

“EXTRACT from the GENERAL ORDER of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD of the 11th November 1872, as to MEDICAL OFFICERS of HEALTH.

##### “SECTION IV.—*Duties.*

“The following shall be the duties of a Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Sanitary District for which he is appointed; or if he shall be appointed for more than one District, or for a part of a District, then in respect of each of such Districts, or of such part:—

- “(1.) He shall inform himself as far as practicable respecting all influences affecting or threatening to affect injuriously the public health within the District.
- “(2.) He shall inquire into and ascertain by such means as are at his disposal, the causes, origin, and distribution of diseases within the District, and ascertain to what extent the same have depended on conditions capable of removal or mitigation.
- “(3.) He shall by inspection of the District, both systematically at certain periods, and at intervals as occasion may require, keep himself informed of the conditions injurious to health existing therein.

- “(4.) He shall be prepared to advise the Sanitary Authority on all matters affecting the health of the District, and on all sanitary points involved in the action of the Sanitary Authority; and, in cases requiring it, he shall certify, for the guidance of the Sanitary Authority, or of the Justices, as to any matter in respect of which the Certificate of a Medical Officer of Health or a Medical Practitioner is required as the basis or in aid of sanitary action.
- “(5.) He shall advise the Sanitary Authority on any question relating to health involved in the framing and subsequent working of such byelaws and regulations as they may have power to make.
- “(6.) On receiving information of the outbreak of any contagious, infectious, or epidemic disease of a dangerous character within the District, he shall visit the spot without delay and inquire into the causes and circumstances of such outbreak, and advise the persons competent to act as to the measures which may appear to him to be required to prevent the extension of the disease, and, so far as he may be lawfully authorised, assist in the execution of the same.
- “(7.) On receiving information from the Inspector of Nuisances that his intervention is required in consequence of the existence of any nuisance injurious to health, or of any overcrowding in a house, he shall, as early as practicable, take such steps authorised by the Statutes in that behalf as the circumstances of the case may justify and require.
- “(8.) In any case in which it may appear to him to be necessary or advisable, or in which he shall be so directed by the Sanitary Authority, he shall himself inspect and examine any animal, carcase, meat, poultry, game, flesh, fish, fruit, vegetables, corn, bread, or flour, exposed for sale, or deposited for the

purpose of sale or of preparation for sale, and intended for the food of man, which is deemed to be diseased, or unsound, or unwholesome, or unfit for the food of man; and if he finds that such animal or article is diseased, or unsound, or unwholesome, or unfit for the food of man, he shall give such directions as may be necessary for causing the same to be seized, taken, or carried away, in order to be dealt with by a Justice according to the provisions of the Statutes applicable to the case.

- “(9.) He shall perform all the duties imposed upon him by any byelaws and regulations of the Sanitary Authority, duly confirmed, in respect of any matter affecting the public health, and touching which they are authorised to frame byelaws and regulations.
- “(10.) He shall inquire into any offensive process of trade carried on within the District, and report on the appropriate means for the prevention of any nuisance or injury to health therefrom.
- “(11.) He shall attend at the office of the Sanitary Authority, or at some other appointed place, at such stated times as they may direct.
- “(12.) He shall from time to time report, in writing, to the Sanitary Authority, his proceedings, and the measures which may require to be adopted for the improvement or protection of the public health in the District. He shall in like manner report with respect to the sickness and mortality within the District, so far as he has been enabled to ascertain the same.
- “(13.) He shall keep a book or books, to be provided by the Sanitary Authority, in which he shall make an entry of his visits, and notes of his observations and instructions thereon, and also the date and nature of applications made to him, the date and result of the action taken thereon, and of any action taken on previous reports, and shall produce such book or

books, whenever required, to the Sanitary Authority.

- “(14.) He shall also prepare an annual report, to be made to the end of December, in each year, comprising tabular statements of the sickness and mortality within the District, classified according to diseases, ages, and localities, and a summary of the action taken during the year for preventing the spread of disease. The report shall also contain an account of the proceedings in which he has taken part or advised under the Sanitary Acts, so far as such proceedings relate to conditions dangerous or injurious to health, and also an account of the supervision exercised by him, or on his advice, for sanitary purposes over places and houses that the Sanitary Authority has power to regulate, with the nature and results of any proceedings which may have been so required and taken in respect of the same during the year. It shall also record the action taken by him, or on his advice, during the year, in regard to offensive trades, bake-houses, and workshops.
- “(15.) He shall give immediate information to the Local Government Board of any outbreak of dangerous epidemic disease within the District, and shall transmit to the Board, on forms to be provided by them, a Quarterly Return of the sickness and deaths within the District, and also a copy of each annual and of any special report.
- “(16.) In matters not specifically provided for in this Order, he shall observe and execute, so far as the circumstances of the District may require, the instructions of the Local Government Board on the duties of Medical Officers of Health, and all the lawful orders and directions of the Sanitary Authority applicable to his office.
- “(17.) Whenever the Diseases Prevention Act of 1855 is in force within the District, he shall observe the direc-

tions and regulations issued under that Act by the Local Government Board, so far as the same relate to or concern his office.

- “(18.) When more than one Medical Officer of Health shall be appointed by a Sanitary Authority, such Authority, with the approval of the Local Government Board, may either assign to each of the Officers a portion of the District, or may distribute the duties of Medical Officer of Health amongst such Officers.

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## APPENDIX B.

(ADVERTISEMENT.)

### “BOROUGH OF SHEFFIELD.

#### “MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

“The Health Committee of the Borough of Sheffield are prepared to receive applications for the office of Medical Officer of Health for the said Borough.

“The person appointed will be required to perform the duties of the office, as set forth in the order of the Local Government Board, dated 11th November, 1872, or in any future order of the said Board relating thereto, and must devote the whole of his time to the performance of such duties, at a salary of £600 per annum.

“The appointment will be subject to the approval of the Local Government Board, and for a period of three years from the date of appointment by the Council.

“Candidates must be legally qualified medical practitioners, registered under the Medical Act of 1858, and will be required to produce to the Health Committee their diplomas, certificates, or licenses.

"Applications (addressed to the Chairman of the Health Committee) to be sent to the Town Clerk's Office, Bank Street, Sheffield, on or before Wednesday, the 19th day of March, 1873.

"Personal canvassing is prohibited.

"(By order.)

"JOHN YEOMANS, Town Clerk.

"Sheffield, 20th February, 1873."

#### APPENDIX C.

Extract from the Minutes of the Health Committee's resolutions on 30th May, 1878.

"RESOLVED: On the motion of Councillor Brittain, seconded by Councillor J. Hadfield, that the Council be recommended to re-appoint Dr. Griffiths as Medical Officer of Health, for the Borough of Sheffield, for a further period of twelve months from the 24th day of June next, at a salary of £600, to perform the duties of the office as set forth in the general orders of the Local Government Board. Dated 11th November, 1872."

#### APPENDIX D.

##### "BOROUGH OF SHEFFILD.

"At a MEETING OF THE COUNCIL, held 12th June, 1878.

"RESOLVED: That the acts and proceedings of the Health Committee, since the last meeting of this Council, as stated and set forth in their minute book, now produced and considered as

read, be and are hereby approved of and confirmed, except so much thereof as relates to the proposed re-appointment of the Medical Officer of Health, and that such portion be referred back to the said Committee for further consideration, and that a special report upon the charges now made against the Medical Officer, and generally upon the whole subject, be presented to the Council at the next meeting."

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## APPENDIX E.

### "BOROUGH OF SHEEFIELD.

"At a MEETING of the HEALTH COMMITTEE, held  
13th June, 1878.

"IT WAS RESOLVED: That a Special Meeting of this Committee be held on Thursday next, the 20th instant, at Three o'clock in the afternoon, for the purpose of considering the following statements which were made against Dr. GRIFFITHS at the Council Meeting yesterday, and that the Dr. be requested to have his answers to them ready on that day, viz:—

"(1.) That a complaint having been made as to the price paid for Carbolic Acid Powder, Dr. Griffiths was directed by the Health Committee to order two tons from a certain house at a certain price, and he ordered four tons from another house at the same price.

"(2.) The Dr. was instructed to send a sample of the Carbolic Acid Powder supplied by Mr. Sharratt, to be analysed by Mr. Allen, the Borough Analyst. Was the sample sent to Mr. Allen taken from the bulk of the Powder supplied by Mr. Sharratt?

"(3.) In answer to an inquiry by the Mayor, whether the sample of Carbolic Acid Powder had been sent to the Borough Analyst, the Dr. said that the Analyst had

- not had time to analyse it, when in fact it had not been sent to him.
- “(4.) At a subsequent meeting, on enquiry being made, whether the analysis of the Carbolic Acid Powder had been received, the Dr. said, that he had not received it, when in fact, he had the Analysis.
- “(5.) That the Dr. told Mr. T. W. Smith to send in a Bill to the Health Committee for certain Mortality Returns supplied by him, and that a Bill was sent in with a note, that it was made out at the request of Dr. Griffiths, which Bill has been suppressed.
- “(6.) A Bill having been presented to the Health Committee for extra work in fixing certain urinals, it was objected to by the Committee, and Dr. Griffiths promised to send it to Mr. Jennings, the contractor, for payment. Has such Bill been returned, to Mr. Jennings, is it withdrawn, or only postponed?
- “(7.) That certain moneys amounting to £5 9s. 1d. paid to Dr. Griffiths in the months of July and September, 1875, were negligently kept in his possession until April in the following year.

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#### APPENDIX F.

“To the HEALTH COMMITTEE of the BOROUGH of SHEFFIELD.

“ANSWERS TO THE FOREGOING QUESTIONS, PUT BY RESOLUTION  
OF 13TH JUNE, 1878.

- “(1.) I have no recollection of any such order having been given to or received by me. If such order were given by the Health Committee I should expect to find it upon the printed minutes, or to receive a copy from

the Town Clerk. It has never been my practice to take any Copy of Resolutions passed by this General Committee. It is only the Resolution of the Sub-Committees (which I may have attended) that I have been accustomed to enter in the minute books. As no date is given as to when the resolution was passed or order given, I cannot trace the alleged circumstance with accuracy. On the 13th March, 1878, the Superintendent at Woodside wrote to me, 'We are nearly out of disinfecting powder, will you kindly order some?' I therefore ordered a supply of it as before, and from the maker who has supplied it for years past.

- "(2.) So far as I know the answer to this question is 'yes.' The Superintendent at Woodside Lane was requested by me to obtain samples of the powder from three or four different bags, and to send it to my office; this he did on the 3rd of May; as far as I know he sent the sample from the powder last supplied, *i.e.* that which he received in March. A portion of this sample was forwarded to the Borough Analyst.
- "(3.) I have been misunderstood here. I did not intend anyone to suppose 'that the Analyst had not had time to analyse it.' I believe I said, 'the analysis would take a little time.' When the powder was referred to, I said, 'that it had been sent for;' meaning that I had sent to the Superintendent for it, for analysis; not that it had been already sent to the Analyst.
- "(4.) The question here referred to was put very early at the meeting, and I gave the correct answer—'that I had not received the report.' I can probably recall to the Committee's mind the fact that the question was put thus early, by stating that immediately after the names of the Committee were called, and before proceeding with the general routine business, Mr. Dobb spoke as to whether 4 tons or 2 tons of disinfecting

powder ought to have been ordered; then, immediately after this, I was asked if I had received the report from the Analyst. My answer was in the negative, for I had not then received it. I then proceeded to other business, read some portions of my Annual Report and other matters, and I was requested to withdraw from the room. I did so, and took all my papers with me. Whilst I was occupied as above in the Committee room, several papers had been passed towards me; these I gathered together when I left the room, and read after so leaving. Among the papers so read after leaving the room was the Borough Analyst's Report. I expected momentarily to be recalled to the Committee; but, after a short time, they adjourned without recalling me. The report of the Analyst was consequently not presented at that meeting.

- “(5.) No doubt I told Mr. Smith to send in his bill to the Health Committee, for the returns here referred to. This bill has been paid by the Corporation. There were, in fact, two bills, amounting together to £2. 10s. They were paid on the 28th of August, 1877. They have been taken away from the office by Mr. Hunter, and *not* suppressed by me. There is nothing unusual in bills or accounts being sent for mortality or other cognate returns. The Registrars and Sub-Registrars require payment for such information, and the Health Committee sanctioned such a course so far back as 1873, and it is still continued, or the work must come to a dead-lock. All such returns and accounts are addressed to me, that they may be used and verified as correct.
- “(6.) The bill here referred to is that of Messrs. Ash & Son. It was forwarded to Messrs. Jennings on the 4th of February, 1878. On the 6th of February, these gentlemen wrote a letter declining to pay it. That

letter was replied to on the 11th of February, enclosing a copy of Mr. Jennings' letter of the 13th of June, 1877. On the 7th of June, no reply having been received to the letter of February, a further letter was written to Messrs. Jennings, asking for a reply; here the matter rests. The bill has not been withdrawn; it remains now exactly as appears upon the foregoing correspondence.

"(7.) The £5. 6s. 1d. relates to transactions in 1875. These transactions were in the first instance done by my clerk, and they were at the time duly recorded in his book. Sometime afterwards my clerk explained to me that he had handed me the cash, and, in fact, I found it placed, I believe by myself, in one of my drawers. I thereupon paid it over to the Borough Accountant. This matter has been explained several times before.

" Dated 10th June, 1878.

" F. GRIFFITHS, M.D.,

" Medical Officer of Health."

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## APPENDIX G.

*Dr. Griffiths' Letter accompanying his replies to the Committee's Questions.*

To the HEALTH COMMITTEE of the BOROUGH of SHEFFIELD.

GENTLEMEN,

In compliance with your Resolution, passed on the 13th instant, I beg to enclose herewith answers to the various questions there asked.

Whilst I thus comply with your requirements I must beg to call your attention to the very false position in which the proceedings of the Town Council, emanating from your Resolution recommending my re-election have placed me.

With how much pain I read the Newspaper Report of the Town Council Meeting, I hope none of you will ever know by experiencing the like pain yourselves. Upon the broad principle of "English fair-play," I ask, whether it is right that any man should be attacked as I was; whether any member of the Town Council would regard himself as fairly dealt with if he were treated as I was, upon matters, many of which were disposed of years ago, and none of which will, upon examination, be found to carry any discredit to my door.

Bear in mind if you please, gentlemen, that I have been a resident in your town for 18 years, living, I would fain hope, "in all good repute" amongst my townsmen; then bear in mind that I live by my reputation, and that, for five years, I have occupied the conspicuous post of Medical Officer in your town, my appointment being confirmed by government, who pay half my salary.

Bearing these matters in mind I ask you, gentlemen, whether there is any fairness or justice in what was done in my absence, at the last Town Council Meeting. Please remember that in a private Committee-room, whilst you were considering whether to re-appoint me or not, I fully admit that the freest discussion of my character and qualifications was perfectly justifiable, but, whilst admitting this, allow me to say that it is utterly another thing, and utterly wrong to have columns of a public newspaper filled with reflections upon my reputation, at the very time when a report is brought up by your Committee recommending my re appointment.

Kindly excuse me if anything that I now write appears to be too strongly expressed; I feel that a great wrong has been done, and I hardly know how to trust myself to speak or write upon the subject. The good name of a man is like the fair

reputation of a lady—it cannot be breathed upon without being tarnished.

My reputation, gentlemen, is in your hands and, with the assurance that every information upon every act of my ministerial life is at your service, I beg to ask you to bear this letter in your minds whilst you are framing your next report to the Town Council and let this letter be part of your report.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Your faithful and obedient servant,

F. GRIFFITHS, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sheffield, 19th June, 1878.

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## APPENDIX H.

### “BOROUGH OF SHEFFIELD.

“AT A MEETING OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, HELD JUNE  
20TH, 1878.

“IT WAS RESOLVED,

“That, having heard the evidence given in reference to the statements against Dr. Griffiths, the Medical Officer of Health, contained in the resolution passed at the last meeting of this Committee, and considered the answers thereto contained in the written statement of Dr. Griffiths, and his verbal explanation, this Committee are of opinion that such answers and explanations are not satisfactory.

## APPENDIX I.

## "BOROUGH OF SHEFFIELD.

"At a MEETING OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, held 27th  
June, 1878,

"IT WAS RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to appoint a Medical Officer of Health at a salary of £300 per annum, to perform the duties of that office as prescribed by the 'Public Health Act, 1875,' and the order of the Local Government Board, dated 11th November, 1874, and that the proposed appointment be submitted to the said Board as required by such Order."



