

Remarks on Mr. Haviland's report on the visitation of fever in the school and town of Uppingham.

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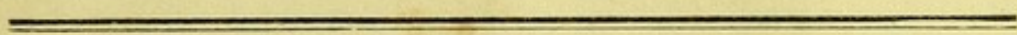
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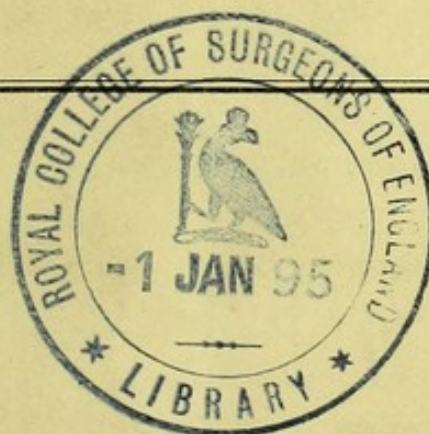


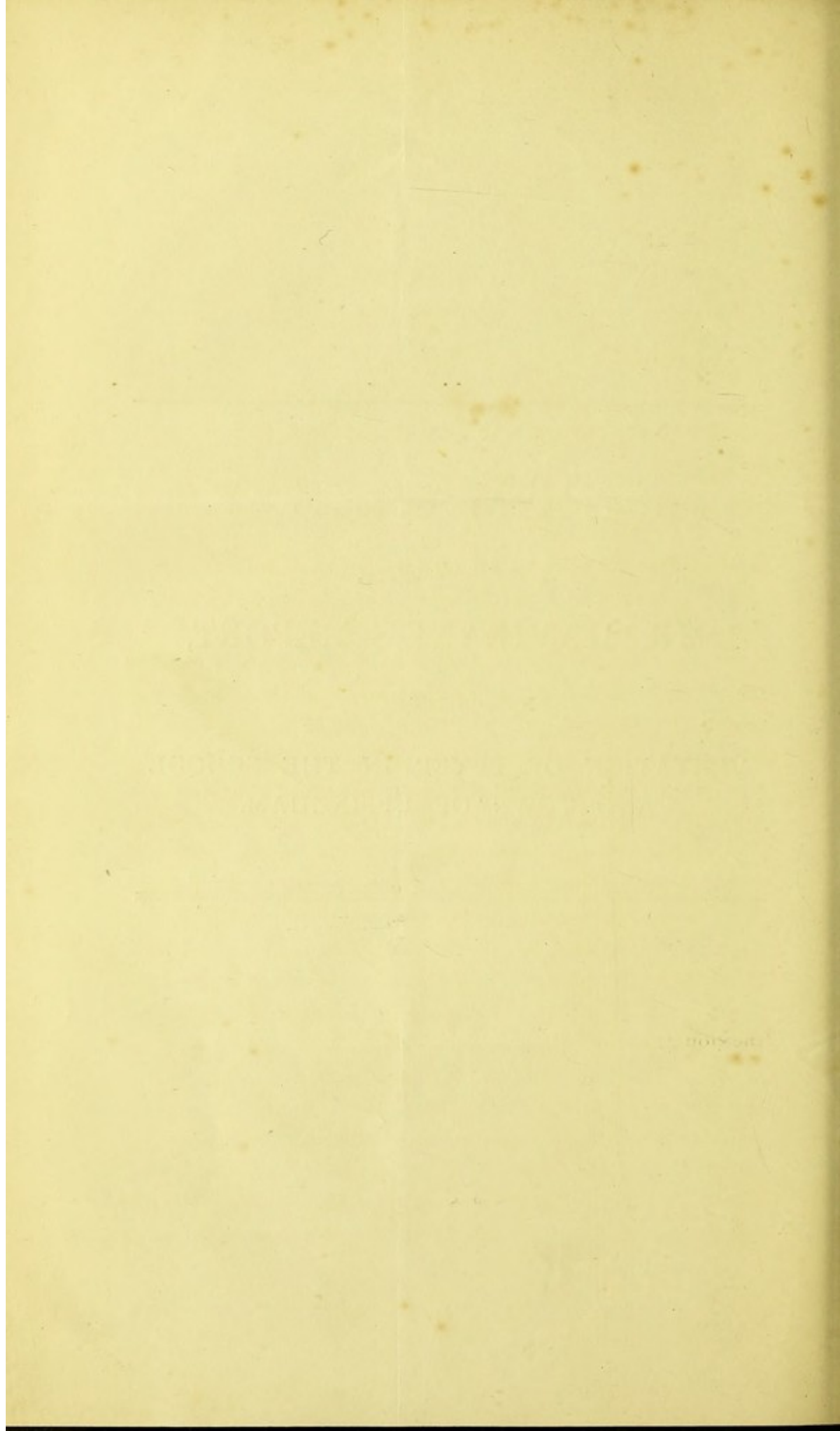
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REMARKS
ON
MR. HAVILAND'S REPORT,
ON THE
VISITATION OF FEVER IN THE SCHOOL
AND TOWN OF UPPINGHAM.





A REPLY TO THE PERSONAL ELEMENT IN
MR. HAVILAND'S REPORT, AND OTHER
REMARKS ON THE LATE VISITATION
OF TYPHOID FEVER IN THE SCHOOL
AND TOWN OF UPPINGHAM.

I WILL first take the cases of boys taken ill with the fever in the Lower School which have been brought prominently forward by Mr. Haviland.

P. 3 of the Report : the case of B. E. H. In this earliest case I have to plead guilty to ignorance of the nature and origin of typhoid fever. During my life of twenty years as a Master in Uppingham School, I had never had a case of this fever in my house, nor even seen one. There was nothing in the early stages of the disease to awaken anxiety in the mind of one inexperienced in the subtle forms it assumes—nothing but what must perpetually be happening in a house of young boys, viz., such ailments as are sufficient to awaken care and watchfulness, but not sufficient to awaken apprehension of serious mischief. But whether I am greatly or little to blame in this matter, the complexion that Mr. Haviland imparts to it by his sprinkling of italics, and a selection of materials favourable to his purpose, is certainly misleading. His account is not the report of a scientific enquirer into the causes of fever ; on the contrary, much of it is impertinent, and bears no relation to his duties as a servant of the Sanitary Board. Mr. Haviland states (p. 31) "I have given a short history

of this case, as the course pursued by those in charge of this boy was similar to what was so complained of by the parents of other scholars, whose cases terminated fatally." Any unprejudiced reader would at once declare "this statement should be justified, or withdrawn." The passage is so general, unsubstantial, and so utterly unsupported by evidence, that it is impossible to grapple with it.

P. 4. The case of F. E. R. The mother was not kept in ignorance of the true state of her son's case. She had very prompt intimation of the illness of her boy, and was urged to come here as early as she could. The dates of Mr. Bell's attendance, my letters and telegram, amply prove this. I do not complain of any statements the mother might make in her bitter grief; but for a medical officer to rally round them is strongly to be reprobated.

P. 13. The case of O. Under the circumstances, I now deeply regret the removal of the boy to the Hospital. If an error of judgment, it was committed at a time I was ill in mind and body, and hard pressed from without and within. I have three remarks to make. (1) I acted with one object, pure and simple, to have the boy well nursed, a thing impossible—as I thought at the time—in the house. (2) I acted under written medical permission, obtained two hours before the removal took place. (3) It is easy to be wise after the event.

I now take the last case that occurred in my house. Mr. Haviland's story will be found on p. 28. This case was of a "painful character," but, when facts are stated, will assume an aspect differing widely from that which is given to it by the medical officer. The boy was not engaged while the fever was at its height, nor had a boy been sent home. He was engaged while in service of a family

residing near Banbury, who were leaving for the Continent. The family left, and the boy returned to his home, failing, however, to give us any address. It was a matter of repeated regret that we could not communicate with him. As soon as he arrived, he had the option of sleeping out of the house, and of having his fare paid back next morning to Southampton. He then and there elected to remain, though he knew the boy then in our service was willing to continue in his place. Mr. Haviland adds, that "shortly after entering the house he was seized with enteric fever." At least four weeks elapsed during which he had no symptom of fever. His mother, who was acquainted from the first with all the circumstances, helped to nurse him; and she has testified, over and over again, by word of mouth and by letter, to the extreme kindness and sympathy shown throughout.

P. 10 of Report. The servant, E. S., left my house for her Aunt's in the Town, having first visited her medical attendant, who diverted her entirely from the idea that she had much the matter with her. After a day or two she returned to my house, to tell us that she should go home for a few days, and spoke more definitely of her illness, viz., that her medical attendant had assured her she had no more typhoid fever than he had. I had, therefore, nothing to do with her action in leaving the house, nor any knowledge that she was "suffering from an infectious illness." Mr. Haviland knew all this from me; and by stating it, would have, perhaps, saved the Sanitary Board from their imbecile action in assuming to censure a man whom they dared not try to summon.

Mr. Haviland further states that E. S. was discharged from my service. She was not discharged, and since her recovery has been, and is now, in my service.

On p. 3 will be found Mr. Haviland's story about the explosion of sewer gas in connection with main cesspit ; he is very particular and minute in his details. Whatever he may have stated at the time, no one is more astounded than Mr. Chapman himself at Mr. Haviland's presenting such an exquisite picture to his readers. The "*tremendous*" explosion with "*the streak of lightning*" is, I fancy, a dream of Mr. Haviland's. However this may be, he has omitted one circumstance that may have some bearing on the case in the eyes and heart of a truth-seeking, and kindly-thinking reader. His informants, from whom he picked up all sorts of odds and ends of facts, which were afterwards pieced together, were unable to tell him that I was at the time, and for long after, seriously ill in my bedroom, and could not appreciate the gravity of the occurrence, from the simple fact that I was kept in ignorance of it. But no doubt here was the source of very grievous mischief, discovered by Chapman, and pointed out to Mr. Haviland.

The plan (on p. 18 of Mr. Field's report) will shew that the sewage from this cesspit, overflowed by a steep gradient into the garden manurial well. When the cesspit was last emptied (by the Builder of the house), he gave me as his advice from its then condition, that there would be no necessity to empty it, as the water used in flushing twice a day was so abundant as to greatly tend to keep the solid matter in a state of solution : he spoke definitely, and strongly. I admit I have been woefully misguided. *But the cesspit was not neglected in the sense Mr. Haviland would have it appear.*

It is true the cesspit system attaching to my house might have been done away early in 1873 (as likewise "every cesspool in Uppingham," as Mr. Rawlinson states, p. 9 of his report, "might by this time have been abolished") :

but, since Mr. Haviland discovers the main cesspit is only between 30 and 40 yards from the new south drain, where was the action of the Sanitary Board? I have had two successive Sanitary Board Inspectors in two successive years, 1874 and 1875, over my premises, and given them every information they required; but never any action, or word of advice, from the Board in consequence of their visits: *what their officers had failed to find out, I had failed to find out likewise.*

Mr. Haviland is very happy in his effort to absolve the Town drains of any share of accusation. But to any unprejudiced mind, no doubt whatever exists of the foul state of the drains at that time through want of ventilation and flushing. And whatever illness befell the house of Mr. Mullins, may be reasonably traced to his use of the "good sewer which had been brought to his door, purposely that it should be used to avert disease, and death." (I did not know Mr. Mullins's house communicated with the main sewer until after my illness.)

Mr. Haviland's laudation of the Sanitary Board contrasts strangely with the truth as it is given in Mr. Rawlinson's report. Mr. Tarbotton, in his report, by the bye, gives an account of a cesspit constructed expressly by order of the local authority, who, I understand, hinted at prosecution in case of Mr. Rowe making use of the Town sewer. But Mr. Haviland's eyes are shut to the fact that the cesspit system was the system which the local authority did not raise their little finger to alter or improve; "making" (as Mr. Rawlinson writes, p. 8 of his report) "sewers at a considerable cost for parts of the district, but never completing them, or even serving notices for the abolition of private cesspools, and the execution of house drainage." Under such circumstances, one might well be timid in any

action ; indeed, I understood that the Board had given it out, that though the sewers were there, they were not to be used for solid fæcal matter. And I think herein they acted wisely ; so long as the main town sewer was entirely un-ventilated, and the south sewer only partially ventilated, but the partial means of ventilation, as discovered by their own Engineer, entirely concreted up.

If then the terrible disaster befalling the Lower School could have been so readily kept away, as Mr. Haviland asserts, the blame of course rests primarily with the Sanitary Board. But the truth is, as with my cesspits, so with the Town sewers, non-ventilation and ignorant neglect, have been the sources of serious mischief.

Painful as the late crisis has been, and its memory is, surely we might have been spared the addition to it of a report so out of harmony with the responsible position of a public officer. That a Sanitary Board could adopt it, and publish it as their own, (even after the revision to which, I understand, Mr. Haviland had to submit) passes my understanding. Moreover, a very superficial acquaintance with the Minutes of the Sanitary Board, as published, and attached to his report, will show how they have frittered away their time, meeting after meeting, instead of setting to work to do what three months after the Fever broke out they are compelled to do, viz., to see to the ventilation of the Town sewers ; and to give (what they have not yet given) effective attention to the tenements of the poor, to the removal of nuisances from yards and outbuildings, etc.

If the action of the Sanitary Board has not exhibited during the crisis "stolid neutrality and active antagonism," their conduct bears the impress of very extraordinary imbecility.

This voluminous report may have its charms in the eyes of the Sanitary Board, and contrast pleasantly with the simple business-like statements of Messrs. Rawlinson, Field, and Tarbotton ; but it will not stand in the eyes of the ratepayers and public for sterling action.

I leave my Statement in the hands of those interested in the School, and especially of my fellow-townsmen ; they, at any rate, will pass a judgment not based upon Mr. Haviland's report, but upon a statement of facts, and a life among them of twenty years.

R. J. HODGKINSON.

THE LOWER SCHOOL,
UPPINGHAM,

February 10th, 1876.

From the "Sanitary Record" of February 5th, 1876.

Special Report.

THE WATER SUPPLY OF UPPINGHAM.

MR. HAVILAND'S Report to the Sanitary Authority of Uppingham misrepresents the condition of the drinking-water of Uppingham, and misrepresents the analysis which I made for the sanitary authority.

I received six samples of water from the Sanitary Inspector of Uppingham. The following are my analyses :—

Date.	Name and description of the samples of water.	Grains per gallon.		Parts per million.	
		Solids.	Chlor.	Free amm.	Album amm.
1875. Nov. 15.	Uppingham Waters.				
	1. Hodgkinson's Well	33'	1'5	'00	'04
	2. David's Well	120'	14'6	'00	'04
	3. Top Town Spring	33'	1'6	'00	'04
	4. Campbell's Well	67'	4'2	'00	'04
	5. Mullins's Well	104'	16'8	'00	'13
	6. Dr. Brown's Well	89'	8'8	'00	'06

Persons who are familiar with water-analysis will at once see that according to this table the four first waters are extraordinarily free from nitrogenous organic matter, that water 5 (Mullins) is dirty, and that water 6 is fairly free from organic matter. Now, having received these analyses from me, and having made use of my name in his report to the sanitary authority which was inquiring into the outbreak of typhoid fever in Uppingham, Mr. Haviland publishes the analysis of Mr. Mullins's well and suppresses the rest. It appears, moreover, from the appendix to the report (but it is not stated in the body of the report) that the water of Mullins's well is never used for drinking purposes.

Thus then, having sent me six waters to be examined in connection with an outbreak of typhoid fever, Mr. Haviland publishes an analysis

condemnatory of a water which is not drunk, and suppresses the five analyses which are in favour of the organic purity of the five remaining samples.

He goes even further than that, and very ingeniously makes it appear that my other analyses condemn the other waters. This is managed as follows: It happened that water 1 (Hodkinson's well) had been analysed by Dr. Anderson in October. This Analysis was condemnatory, and, while exhibiting the same or nearly the same amount of solids and chlorine as my own analysis, differed from mine in the essential particular, that is to say in the albuminoid ammonia which is the index to organic contamination. My analysis showed 0.04 for albuminoid ammonia, and Dr. Anderson's showed 0.12 parts of albuminoid ammonia per million. Mr. Haviland publishes this analysis of Dr. Anderson's in the most prominent manner possible and suppresses my determination of albuminoid ammonia, and says that Dr. Anderson's analysis agrees substantially with mine.

Having by this artifice made me seem to report 0.12 in place of 0.04—that is to say, having represented me as finding Hodgkinson's water to be a foul water, whereas it is in reality a water of unusual purity—Mr. Haviland proceeds to extend his misrepresentation by the ingenious remark, that 'Professor Wanklyn's analysis of Mr. Hodgkinson's water and the Top Town Spring water exactly agree with each other in every particular except that the latter had one-tenth of a grain more chlorine per gallon than the former.' By this device he asserts, in effect, that I find 0.12 albuminoid ammonia in Top Town Spring water.

Of the water in Monsieur David's house, Mr. Haviland says that it was 'analysed by Professor Wanklyn and found polluted; it contained 120 grains of solids to the gallon, and 14.6 grains of chlorine.'

The truth is, that this water was analysed by me, and, so far from being polluted, was found to be of extraordinary purity. It gave (*vide* the table) 0.04 part of albuminoid ammonia per million, and in point of organic purity ranks with good distilled water and with deep spring water and the purest filtered river waters.

J. ALFRED WANKLYN.

