

Further report of special committee as to the future sanitary administration, and regulations of and for the parish : read and received at a vestry meeting, held the 2nd day of May, 1872.

Contributors

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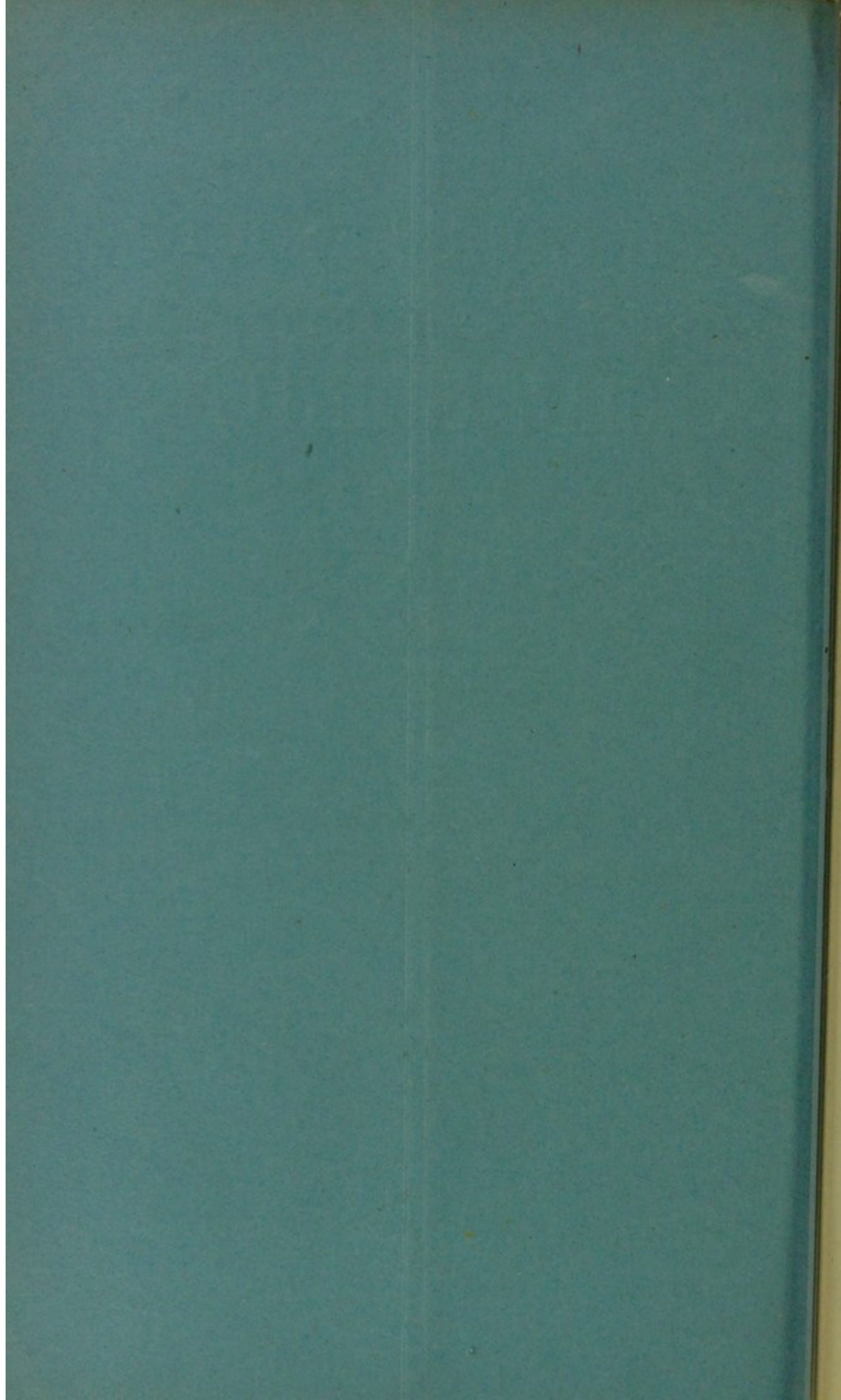
FURTHER REPORT
OF
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
AS TO THE
FUTURE SANITARY ADMINISTRATION,
AND
REGULATIONS OF AND FOR THE PARISH.

*Read and Received at a Vestry Meeting, held the 2nd
day of May, 1872.*

*Ordered to be printed and taken into consideration at
a Vestry Meeting, to be held the 16th day of May,
1872.*

LONDON :
MERSER & GARDNER, PRINTERS, 270, KENNINGTON ROAD.

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THE HISTORY OF THE

ROYAL NAVY

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FURTHER REPORT
OF THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE

*As to the future Sanitary Administration and
Regulations of and for the Parish.*

— :o: —

SINCE the presentation of the first Report of your Committee to Vestry on the 9th day of November, 1871, Seven Meetings have been held, to consider the future Sanitary Administration and Regulations of and for the Parish, at which Meetings, Mr. F. H. FOWLER occupied the Chair.

Sewers in the Parish, Plans, &c., House Drainage, &c.

Your Committee desiring the fullest information on these important matters requested the Surveyor of the Vestry to report thereon, who has done so to the effect following:—

“ Agreeably with your instructions I beg to report that the information possessed by the Vestry in respect of the Sewerage and Drainage of the Parish, is chiefly contained on the sheets of the Ordnance Survey, the scale of which is 5 feet to the mile, or 88 feet to the inch. This survey consists of a skeleton plan of the Streets, and gives nothing more than the line of frontage, no buildings or detail information; it was made by the Ordnance Authorities in 1848 and 1849 for the then Commissioners of Sewers. When the Vestry was first established, a Copy of so much of this Survey as embraced the Parish, was furnished by the Commissioners of Sewers, with all the existing Sewers marked upon them, together with the sizes and levels so far as known. Since 1856 it has been my practice to record upon these plans all Works carried out by the Vestry from time to time, and in addition to mark upon them, as much information as circumstances have permitted. You will see by reference to the plans, that in a great many places the frontage line has been filled in, shewing the houses and making the plans more useful, from the further detail upon them. Whenever I have by any circumstances obtained information which it would be useful to record, I have as soon as possible had it marked upon the sheets. The whole of the Sewers both main and Local are laid down, and the information in this respect is very complete.

“ With respect to the Streets which are undrained, they are very few, if there are any which can be so described; but there are Streets in which the existing drainage is not good, and in which re-construction will be necessary.

“With respect to the houses drained and undrained, I have to report that the House Drainage is now the subject of special work by the Sewers Committee, under whose direction I am pursuing a systematic examination of existing House Drainage in the localities where new Sewers have been constructed; and in connection with the Medical Officer taking steps to compel, where necessary, the construction of improved Works.

“There are very few places which are without drainage of some kind, and in many cases it would be difficult to lay complaint sufficient to justify reconstruction, if parties were to make a determined resistance; the Policy of the Sewers Committee has been to induce voluntary action as far as possible, and now that reasonable time has elapsed, they will stimulate those who have delayed, and coerce those who are inclined to neglect doing what is necessary.

“There is one great need in keeping a record of house drainage, and that is a detail plan upon which to mark the Work.

“I have procured a couple of Sheets of the detail plan being made by the Ordnance Department, when that is completed for this Parish I shall be able to mark upon it an immense amount of information, and shew every House that has been drained since the Vestry has been constituted. In the meantime a great deal will be done, if the Vestry do not interrupt the Work now under the direction of the Sewers Committee.

I beg to submit for your information the Ordnance Sheets in skeleton, those with the information filled in, the foreman's books where new Sewers are con-

structed, the drainage application Books, and detail drawings and plans which have been copied from documents of the Metropolitan Board of Works. In addition to these, I may say, that through the kindness of the Members of the Metropolitan Board of Works, I have in the office a Copy of all the Main Drainage Works, Plans, and Sections, on both sides of the River."

HUGH McINTOSH.

Surveyor.

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH;
TO THE
SPECIAL SANITARY COMMITTEE.

—:o:—

IN accordance with the Resolutions passed at your Meeting, December 12th, 1871, requiring me to bring up a Report on the following subjects, viz:—

“THE EVILS OF OVERCROWDING IN TENEMENTS,”—
“ON THE NUISANCES ARISING FROM DUST YARDS,”—
“AND AS TO PROVIDING MORTUARIES.”

I have now the honor to submit my Report thereon.

FIRST.—*As to the Evils of Overcrowding in Tenements.*

All Sanitary Authorities are agreed upon this question, and it has been made the subject of special enactment by the Sanitary Act of 1866. It is a matter

however which requires to be very cautiously handled, and every case treated according to the circumstances that may present themselves. Whilst a code of general Rules should be laid down, there should be, I think, discretionary powers given to your Medical Officer, to relax, where necessary, any Rule, which, in his judgment, he considered either impracticable to be carried out, or that might inflict hardship, or inconvenience ; it is quite certain that many cases will occur where from either the poverty of parties, or the exigencies of their occupations, requiring their residence to be near their work, they are compelled to put up with accomodation, they would not otherwise willingly do ; in such cases, the deficiencies arising from want of sufficient cubic space, must be remedied as far as possible by a more careful attention to other sanitary measures, such as ventilation, cleanliness, &c.

I would recommend the Committee to obtain a Return of those localities where overcrowding is most likely to exist, which no doubt will be very numerous, especially in the Inner Liberties. A very striking return has been lately obtained by the Vestry of St. George's Hanover Square, from which it was found that in 25 Houses in that district, there were packed no less than 450 persons ; or in other words allowing for each person 500 Cubic feet, it was found that in the 25 Houses referred to, there was a surplus population of 252 people.

From statistical returns bearing on the condition of St. Giles, it appears that in one district there were 600 families, and of these, 570 severally occupied but *one* room. In another, of 700 families, 550 occupied but one room each. In one room visited in this Parish,

which was 12 feet by 13 feet, and 7 feet 6 inches high, *eight* persons lived, and the rent was 4s. a week; thus giving but 137 cubic feet to each individual. Another room which was 13 feet by 5, and 6½ feet high, contained 5 children and their parents. The rent being also 4s. a week. This gives but 95 cubic feet for each person.

Whilst I would hope that no such abominable state of things will be found existing even in the worst parts of this parish, there cannot, I presume, be any doubt, but that we shall find several cases requiring to be dealt with, and which, if remedied, will produce a vast improvement in the healthiness and also the Death rate of the district.

After obtaining the Returns, I would suggest certain Rules and Regulations should be prepared, and submitted for the approval of the Secretary of State for the Home Department; on obtaining such, I would then make a personal House to House Visitation, and endeavour to deal with every Case upon its individual demerits.

SECOND.—*The Nuisances arising from the Dust Yards.*

I have made a careful examination of the Five Dust Yards in the respective districts of Inspectors Baxter and Coxhead, and have to Report as follows:—

MR. COOKSON'S, Doughty Street.—Here I found a very large accumulation, the yard and road leading thereto in a very filthy condition—the paving requiring repairs in many places. Some excuse may reasonably be made for the accumulation, in consequence of the Christmas Holidays, and the very continuous wet weather.

The situation of this yard is very objectionable, being in close proximity to dwellings.

The state of the paving and road Mr. Cookson promised should be remedied. I instructed the Inspector to keep a constant supervision, to insist upon the accumulation being not only removed speedily, but that it must not be allowed to occur again ; also to see that whenever necessary, disinfectants should be freely used.

MR. REDDIN'S.—The same remarks as I have made above are applicable in this case ; the yard was badly paved and very dirty, there was also a very large accumulation. The situation is the most objectionable of all the premises I visited, as Houses adjoin and abut all round. I have given similar instructions as to the supervision, repairing the paving, and use of disinfectants.

MR. BOYCE'S.—There was a very small accumulation in this yard ; the roadway was however in a bad condition. Mr. Boyce promised that this should be at once attended to, and he proposes erecting a wall round the premises with enclosed gates ; if this be done, there can be but very little, if any nuisance, as there are no Houses adjoining. I directed the same supervision, &c., to be exercised here by the Inspector.

MR. EASTON'S—There was a very large and unnecessary accumulation here, but he promised me that every exertion should be made to reduce this, and as the premises adjoin the water, and barges come alongside into which the refuse can be delivered direct, there is the less excuse. The Christmas Holidays however has had something to do with this.

The paving of the yard is in a bad condition, and it was very filthy. He has promised however to do the necessary repairs; and with close supervision and the free use of disinfectants, when necessary, there need not be any nuisance detrimental to health, especially as there are no dwelling houses in close proximity.

LETT'S WHARF.—These premises are used by *Three* Contractors; it was not only very clean, but there was a very small amount of refuse, and is the least objectionable yard I have seen.

As these places are necessary evils, I do not see what I can suggest to the Committee, further than they must be kept under close supervision,—all undue accumulations prevented; the free use of disinfectants, especially in hot weather, and if they could all be placed at the water side, so as to afford an easy and rapid removal by barges, I believe the nuisance inseparable to such places would be reduced to a minimum of annoyance.

I now proceed to the consideration of the THIRD and last resolution namely:—

As to providing Mortuaries.

The necessity for such places does not admit of a moments hesitation, especially for those localities where the population consists of the poorer classes, occupying in many cases but one, or at the most two rooms, where if a person dies of an infectious or contagious disease, it is of the utmost importance that the dead body should not be left longer than can be avoided, poisoning the atmosphere of the rooms inhabited by the survivors.

Indeed there are some diseases where the risk of Contagion is greater after death than during life. It is hopeless to expect to arrest, or prevent the spread of disease by any process of cleansing or disinfection, so long as the dead body is allowed to remain, in many cases without being placed in a shell or coffin for days, from the inability of the relatives to procure at once the means for burial. In hot weather, and in cases of Malignant Fevers, Small Pox, Cholera, &c., such places of reception is of the most vital importance. It is no doubt repugnant to the feelings, to lose sight of those we love, even when dead, till absolutely necessary; but then we owe a duty to others, and must not allow them to be subject to the risk of a similar disease. The living have the chief claim upon us, we must not endanger their health, or existence, by contact with Miasma arising from the bodies when kept who have died of these diseases.

In large and roomy houses, and amongst the wealthier classes, this question is not of such importance; but in the dwellings of the poor, it is altogether different—to them the removal of the corpse is a highly salutary measure, and I have no doubt, that although as a rule, the poor are as tenacious of the higher order of feelings as the most refined, and that it might be difficult to persuade them of the reason of such a step, I feel assured that a proper explanation of the necessity of so doing, and the danger they were incurring by the non-removal, would soon overcome their opposition;—especially if the places provided were of a decent and befitting character, such as I have seen in Marylebone and other districts of London.

There are many other matters of great Sanitary importance I am desirous of bringing under your notice; one especially, the urgent need of a proper disinfecting chamber—but as by the terms of your Resolution I have been limited to the *Three* subjects I have treated upon, I must defer my remarks, on these other matters for a future Report.

M. J. MAC CORMACK,
Medical Officer of Health, Lambeth.

A P P E N D I X .

—:0:—

RETURNS OF PLACES WHERE OVER- CROWDING EXISTS.

PRINCE'S SQUARE, COMMERCIAL ROAD.

There are here 80 Families, comprising 450 Souls, mostly occupying only one room.

At No. 2	}	... Six Persons in 2 Rooms.
		... Seventeen in Two Rooms.
At No. 5	...	Five Persons in One Room.
At No. 6	...	Twenty Four in One House.

SALUTATION PLACE, STAMFORD STREET.

There are here 250 Souls.

At No. 2	...	6	Persons reside in One Room.
At No. 4	...	8	do. do.
At No. 10	...	7	do. do.
At No. 11	...	9	do. do.

WINDMILL COURT.

At No. 10	...	22	Persons reside in 4 Rooms.
At No. 1	...	15	do. do.
At No. 3	...	15	do. do.

KING STREET.

Is very densely populated.

FRANCIS, FOUNTAIN AND PAVED COURTS—LAMBETH WALK.

Are generally overcrowded, dirty, and very little convenience for cleanliness.

PARK ROAD, PITT STREET, WESTHALL ROAD—BRIXTON.

Are all much overcrowded. My informant a Medical Gentleman, says he has seen in those and adjoining Streets more Small Pox than in any others during the last year. Two or three weeks ago he saw at *one time* 6 cases of this Disease in *one* house, 30, Park Road.

BEADMAN STREET, ELM GROVE, EAST PLACE, CHANGE ALLEY,
PROVIDENCE PLACE—LOWER NORWOOD.

My informant states there is much overcrowding, especially in Beadman Street, and some of the Houses are scarcely fit for habitation, being damp and insufficiently ventilated.

On receiving the above Reports, I caused a careful House to House Inspection to be made by the 4 Inspectors, whose Reports I herewith submit.

From these Returns, I am satisfied there is sufficient data for the Committee deciding to recommend Certain Rules should be prepared, for the approval of the Secretary for the Home Department. Until such rules are adopted, I have very little power of dealing with the great evils arising from overcrowding.

EVILS OF OVERCROWDING *in* TENEMENTS,—*On the*
 NUISANCES *arising from* DUST YARDS, *and as to*
providing MORTUARIES.

On these subjects the Medical Officer as required by the Committee, has reported to the effect before described.

After full consideration of the several matters, your Committee passed the following Resolutions thereon, and recommend the same for approval and confirmation by the Vestry :—

AS TO OVERCROWDING IN TENEMENTS.

Resolved—that the Committee report to Vestry that overcrowding in Tenements does exist in several parts of the Parish, and that proper measures should be immediately taken to prevent it, by framing such Rules as may be approved by the Secretary of State.

AS TO DUST YARDS.

Resolved—That the present Dust Yards appear by the Medical Officer's Report, to be prejudicial to public health, in consequence of these yards being receptacles for refuse vegetables, fish, and stable dung, being converted for Agricultural purposes into manure, and the Committee are of opinion they should be placed under strict Regulations, so that the Nuisances complained of may be abated.

AS TO MORTUARIES.

It was *Resolved*—That this Committee consider that two Mortuaries should be provided, one for the Inner Wards, and one for the Outer Wards of the Parish, in places easy of access.

Further, your Committee have to Report the full consideration of the provisions of “An Act for preventing the Adulteration of Articles of Food or Drink,”—the 23rd and 24th Victoria, cap. 84—and that it was resolved that an Analyst should be appointed for this Parish, under the 23rd and 24th Victoria, cap. 84, independent of the Medical Officer of the Vestry, and that such Analyst shall not be paid any Salary, but his remuneration shall be obtained from fees only.

Dated this 30th day of April, 1872.

F. H. FOWLER,

Chairman.

THOS. ROFFEY,

Vestry Clerk,

Vestry Hall, Kennington.