

Report on the sanitary condition of Leeds for the year 1870.

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REPORT (TA)

ON

THE SANITARY CONDITION

OF

LEEDS,

FOR THE YEAR 1870.



BY M. K. ROBINSON, M.D.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE BOROUGH OF LEEDS.

LEEDS :

PRINTED BY CHARLES GOODALL, 16, WOODHOUSE LANE.

1871.



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THE
SANITARY CONDITION
OF LEEDS.

TO THE SANITARY COMMITTEE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF LEEDS.

GENTLEMEN,

During the year ending December 31st, 1870, the number of deaths registered in the Borough of Leeds was 7,333, the births numbered 10,439, showing 3,106 as the natural increase of population. Excluding the Hamlets, the North Registration district, which comprises the North and North-east Wards, exhibited both the highest death and birth-rates. Of the 7,333 deaths, 3,799 deaths were of males, and 3,534 of females; 4,262 occurred in the Township of Leeds, and 3,071 in the remaining divisions of the Borough. According to the presumed estimate of the population, the deaths last year equalled 28.2 per 1,000. This is below the average of the last ten years, but in excess of the three previous years. Throughout the year the weekly number of deaths ranged from 99 in the 24th week, to 207 in the 31st week. The third was the most fatal quarter in the year, when a drougthy summer followed an unusually dry spring. More than half the deaths in this

quarter were due to diarrhoea. The deaths occurred in the following districts of the Borough.—

DISTRICTS.	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	TOTALS	Death-rate per 1000.
Leeds { North.....	412	377	518	463	1770	37·0
Town- { West	378	366	453	337	1534	25·7
ship. { South.....	197	204	313	244	958	30·1
Hunslet	258	222	298	276	1054	27·2
Holbeck.....	163	137	137	139	576	27·1
Wortley	193	139	218	168	718	23·7
Kirkstall	90	48	97	98	333	21·9
Bramley.....	65	73	54	45	237	26·2
Chapelton	31	38	40	40	149	25·2
Hamlets.....	3	1	...	...	4	12·0
BOROUGH ...	1790	1605	2128	1810	7333	28·2

Deducting 325 deaths which occurred at the Leeds Workhouse and House of Recovery, the rate in North Leeds would be represented by 30·2, and again subtracting 171 deaths recorded in the Infirmary, West Leeds would equal 22·9. It will be seen that the North division presents the highest rate, and this district contains the greatest proportion of inhabitants to superficial area. The resulting high death-rate thus agrees with the law shown by Dr. Farr to prevail, viz. :—That there is a constant relation between the density of the population and the mortality, and teaches the importance, which has been so often urged, of securing adequate space and ventilation for human habitations.

The respective ages at which the deaths occurred were as follows :—2,278 died before attaining the age of 1 year ; 801 under 2 years ; 622 under 5 ; 273 under 10 ; 140 under 15 ; 207 under 20 ; 414 under 30 ; 448 under 40 ; 507 under 50 ; 490 under 60 ; 585 under 70 ; 412 under 80 ; 125 under 90 ; and 11 under 100. Of the total deaths 41·4 per cent. died under 5 years of age, and 15·5 per cent. between the ages of 60 and 100, whilst the deaths under 1 year equalled 31 per cent.

Infant mortality always forms the principal factor in the total deaths, because the hold on life during the first year of existence is too feeble to resist successfully diseases, with which the adult may grapple without succumbing to their influence. The vital tenacity of infants diminishes as we proceed back to the commencement of life; the mortality, according to the Registrar General's returns, reaching during the first month of life to 57 per cent. of those living at that age.

The following table exhibits the number of deaths referred to the principal zymotics during the last five years:—

DISEASES.	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870
Small Pox... ..	59	46	17	42	9
Measles	219	28	95	26	179
Scarlatina	98	71	181	337	339
Diphtheria	27	28	28	18	23
Croup.. ..	98	71	81	49	44
Whooping Cough.....	242	168	79	75	187
Fever, including Typhus, Enteric, Relapsing, and Continued Fever	490	257	314	237	345
Diarrhœa	428	407	739	414	657
Other Zymotics	84	81	97	92	106
TOTALS	1745	1157	1631	1290	1889

Of the 9 deaths occasioned by small pox last year, 4 occurred in the North, and 1 in the South Registration District of the Leeds Township, 3 in Wortley, and 1 in Bramley. Three died under 1 year of age, 2 under 5, 1 under 30, and 3 under 40. Six of the 9 deaths took place in persons reported to be not vaccinated, and 1 of the deaths after vaccination was said to have been practised. The other 2 deaths were of persons on whom it was not ascertained whether vaccination had been performed or omitted. The Leeds Board of Guardians deserve the thanks of the public for the firmness displayed in administering the Vaccination Amendment Act, and in the face of an epidemic in the country, the several Boards of Guardians within the Borough will do well, not only to continue their exertions in enforcing early vaccina-

tion, but also by offering facilities for the re-vaccination of adults. The protective power of vaccination against this loathsome disease, is established on too undoubted testimony to permit the medical profession to disbelieve in its efficacy, and therefore it is to be hoped that the ignorant or unwary will not be induced to disregard the inestimable boon of free vaccination provided by the State, and that the intelligent part of the community in Leeds, will guard themselves and their families with the protective power of vaccination, against an epidemic which may at any time extend rapidly to our Borough. Besides the 9 deaths alluded to, 33 cases of illness from small pox came under notice, Bramley and Wortley suffering most. Four cases were introduced from other towns, 2 of them being tramps. Twenty-four persons had visited at houses infected with the disease, and it is supposed that 2 contracted small pox in the House of Recovery, as they succumbed to the disease after seeking the benefit of that institution as fever patients.

The deaths from scarlatina numbered 339; 165 of these were males, and 174 females. 36 died under 1 year of age; 50 under 2; 153 under 5; 76 under 10; 18 under 15; 2 under 20; 3 under 30; and 1 under 50. 84 of the cases occurred in the North Registration District of the Leeds Township, 49 in the West, and 64 in the South; 41 suffered in Hunslet; 29 in Holbeck; 16 in Wortley; 5 in Armley; 1 in Farnley; 4 in Headingley; 3 in Burley; 12 in Kirkstall; 20 in Bramley; 7 in Chapel-Allerton; 1 in Potternewton; and 3 in the Hamlets. From inquiries instituted into the circumstances surrounding the deaths and other cases which came under notice, I found that in 221 instances, either the actual sufferers, or members of their families, had visited infected houses; 67 had attended infected schools; 15 had played with infected children; and 14 were imported from other towns. In the houses where 74 cases occurred the drainage was found defective. The origin of scarlatina is still involved in obscurity, although various theories have been propounded to account for it. In an able paper contributed by Dr. Carpenter, and read at a meeting of the Medical Society of London, this year, that gentleman endeavours to show from the observations he has made of a number of cases, spread over a series of years, that scarlatina arises, sometimes spontaneously,

from the reception of putrid blood exhalations into the system, under certain conditions favourable to the development of the disease, and asserts that, when he was unable to trace the disease to an infectious source, the sufferers had been exposed to an atmosphere polluted by emanations from slaughter-house refuse, or decomposing blood. Scarlatinal poison is, however, very subtle, and easily disseminated, and until more is known respecting its origin, we must rely upon the public assisting in preventing its spread, by obtaining as thoroughly as possible isolation and disinfection in each individual case as such arise. The importance of adopting prompt precautionary measures, cannot be too strongly impressed upon the superintendents of schools, where an outbreak takes place amongst their scholars, for it is quite certain that schools form an important element in the spread of this disease.

Under the comprehensive term of fever, 345 deaths were registered. Of these 182 were certified as enteric; 131 typhus; 13 relapsing; 13 continued fever; 3 remittent; and 3 puerperal. True, contagious typhus has been steadily declining since 1866, when the deaths then numbered 407. The following table shows the number of deaths in the Borough from the different forms of fever during the last five years :—

	1866	1867	1868	1869	1870
Typhus	407	221	170	134	131
Enteric	73	31	143	100	182
Continued	6	...	...	1	13
Relapsing .....	...	...	...	1	13
Remittent	4	...	...	1	3
Puerperal .....	...	3	1	...	3
TOTAL	490	255	314	237	345

It will be seen that enteric was the principal fever during 1870, and that the deaths were considerably in excess of those attributed to the same cause in any of the preceeding four years. This disease is often called pythogenic, or begotten

of filth, so constantly is it found to exist in connection with defective drainage or cesspool contiguity to houses or wells. The virus of enteric fever is eliminated chiefly by the bowels, and to this cause must be assigned the reason why it is so often associated with defective drainage and cesspool arrangements. In 85 of the cases where the deaths were referred to this disease, the drainage of the houses where the sufferers resided was found defective, and in 26 other instances the privies or ashpits adjoined the houses.

The year 1870 was marked in Leeds by an epidemic of relapsing fever, and although only 13 deaths were referred to this malady, which is so much less fatal than either typhus or enteric, upwards of 360 cases came under notice. As this disease has received the name of famine fever, from epidemics of it being associated with periods of destitution amongst the inhabitants where it has prevailed, I directed special inquiry into the circumstances of the families where it occurred, and in 261 instances I found that destitution existed. In very many instances this indigence did not result from the want of work (which would have brought them under the pauper class), but from the dissolute habits of the heads of the families afflicted. Its contagious property is well known, and therefore it is not a matter of surprise that its extension in 228 instances was traced to this influence. The North Registration District suffered most from the epidemic, and the cases occurred principally in the streets, courts, and yards, included in the triangular area bounded by Marsh Lane, Duke Street, and Quarry Hill; also in the streets between Quarry Hill, Mabgate, Linsley Fold, and St. Mary's Lane; with scattered cases in Ebenezer Street, Pollard's Yard, Lincolnfield Terrace, Back York Street, Harper Street, Granville Street, Bread Street, Wheat Street, Acorn Street, Myrtle Street, and Nile Street. The South-east District suffered next in intensity, and here the streets between Marsh Lane, Shannon Street, Richmond Road, and East Street; with Bath Street, Bath Terrace, Cottage Street, Shears Yard, Camp Field, Waterloo Street, Plaid Row, Spring Close Street, Laurence Street, Hugo Street, Cross Green Lane, and Meadow Lane were the places infested. Hunslet suffered also to a considerable extent from the epidemic, the cases occurred chiefly in the streets and

yards situated between Low Road, Church Street, Anchor Street, and Greenwood Street ; with scattered cases in Larchfield Street, Gordon Place, Grape Street, Leathley Street, Pottery Fields, and Upper Carr Place. The following were the places where cases occurred in the West District, viz. :—Lower Hanover Street, Cavendish Street, Wellington Lane, Saville Street, Baker Street, Marlborough Street, and Woodhouse Carr. Holbeck had cases in Holmes Place, Holmes Street, Moore Street, Linley Place, and Dale Street. Hardly any of the districts of the Borough escaped ; scattered cases occurring in Wortley, Potternewton, Bramley, and Burley. Fifteen cases were reported from other towns ; 7 of these were tramps ill on their arrival. Several came from Bradford, being ill when reaching Leeds. One came home ill after visiting an infected house at Brighouse, the rest of the family subsequently suffering. A bargeman came home ill from Hull. One young woman was taken ill on her way from Goole, sleeping in a barn with a number of others on the night previous to her arrival in Leeds ; and one man after coming direct from the Fever Hospital at Liverpool, was seized with a relapse in Water Lane, Leeds.

The deaths from typhus fever numbered 131, a smaller number than has been recorded for many years, and these cases, along with those of enteric fever, occurred in the same places as those where relapsing fever prevailed, with the following additions :—For the North District—The streets and courts bounded by George Street, Harewood Street, Lady Lane, and Millgarth Street ; in the streets also between Bridge Street, Lilac Terrace, Millwright Street, and Templar Street, together with Pollard Street, Haigh Street, Tiger Street, Cambridge Street, and Lincolnfield Terrace, in Newtown. In the West District—The streets out of Kirkstall Road and West Street, streets and yards at Woodhouse Carr and Buslingthorpe, with Meanwood Road, Pack Horse Yard, and Commercial Court. In the South District—Courts and yards in Kirkgate, yards in Bowman Lane, Fleece Lane, and Meadow Lane, streets bounded by Great Wilson Street, Kidacre Street, Gas Works, and Meadow Lane, with Camp Field. In Hunslet, the cases occurred chiefly in Grape Street, Vine Street, Pitfield Street, Pearson Street, Pottery Fields, yards in Church Street, and the

streets between Beeston Hill and Lady Pit Lane. Other cases occurred in the Wortley, Bramley, and Chapeltown Districts. In the Map appended to this Report the localities are indicated where fever cases occurred.

Diarrhoea was the principal zymotic of the year, and not only contributed so largely in the third quarter towards the death roll, but, with the exception of bronchitis, constituted the most fatal of any of the diseases registered. Its victims were chiefly infants, for out of the 657 deaths attributed to the disease, 567 died under 2 years of age; 219 of these were not suckled by their mothers, but brought up by hand feeding. In 97 instances, common privies and ashpits adjoined the houses, and in 174 of the houses where the cases occurred defective drainage existed. The following table portrays the weekly number of deaths from diarrhoea during the third quarter of the year, with the recorded temperature, atmospheric pressure, and rainfall corresponding with each week.

1870.

WEEK ENDING		Deaths from Diarrhoea	Mean Temperature	Amount of Rainfall
July	9th	12	61.1	0.56
"	16th	22	63.7	0.01
"	23rd	41	64.1	0.00
"	30th	40	64.8	0.00
August	6th	69	65.5	0.00
"	13th	80	65.2	0.00
"	20th	73	60.4	0.53
"	27th	66	55.3	0.44
September	3rd	45	55.1	0.88
"	10th	36	56.3	0.49
"	17th	30	52.9	0.35
"	24th	18	56.4	0.02
October	1st	16	54.5	0.00

Diseases of uncertain seat caused 257 deaths, tubercular affections 879. The number of deaths referred to diseases of the heart was 320; and, excluding phthisis; 604 to maladies of the respiratory organs. By referring to the

weekly table it will be seen how the deadly effects of severe cold are manifested in the winter months, when the death-rate rises from chest affections.

The remaining causes of death were registered as follows:—Diseases of the stomach accounted for 264 deaths; diseases of the kidneys, &c., 85; developmental diseases, 211; debility, atrophy, and marasmus, 471; old age, 217; child-birth and disease of the uterus, 49; and under the head of inquests, sudden deaths, and deaths from violence, &c., the causes registered are as follows:—Accidentally burnt, 20; choked, 1; injured 11; scalded, 10; drowned, 26; poisoned, 1; suffocated, 14; run over, 6; killed, 7; sudden deaths from fit, 20; apoplexy, 9; convulsions, 21; heart disease, 24; congestion of lungs, 15; laceration of brain, 1; concussion of brain, 8; rupture of blood vessels, 8; rupture of bowels, 2; scarlatina, 1; scrofula, 1; bronchitis, 1; phthisis, 3; hemorrhage, 1; syncope, 2; brain disease, 2; whooping cough, 1; pneumonia, 1; inflammation, 1; inflammation of stomach, 1; lockjaw, 1; fracture, 49; suicide by hanging, 9; drowning, 7; poisoning, 1; murder, 1; manslaughter, 1; found dead, 6; unknown, 1; surgical operations, 9. The foregoing is a summary of the causes of death during the past year, and from a retrospective glance it will be seen that what are termed zymotic or preventable diseases, contributed largely to the gross result. Most of the diseases in this class possess contagious properties, and much is done by your Committee in the way of isolation, cleansing, and disinfecting, as also by enforcing the provision of the Sanitary Act relating to the spread of infectious diseases, but so long as the infected continue to sell their clothing, travel in public vehicles, and otherwise mingle with their fellows, before the risk of communicating disease is removed, we cannot hope to eradicate these maladies. It is something more than a solemn mockery to hear a mother express her resignation to the Divine dispensation of disease, whilst bearing in her arms the infant at her bosom to a neighbour's house, whose children are stricken down with scarlatina or some other equally communicable disease. During last year 805 persons suffering from either scarlatina, small pox, or fever, clearly traced their attack to having had intercourse with infected sources. The two diseases which specially indicate local sanitary defects are diarrhoea and enteric fever, and it is a sad task

to witness removable causes of these maladies, without being able to remedy them by reason of the Chancery Injunction, which precludes your Committee from causing many necessary alterations to be made in faulty property. From a review of the various particulars coming to my knowledge in the course of the year, whilst inquiring into causes of the prevailing epidemics, I am led to the conclusion that the two prominent causes which contributed largely to the propagation of zymotic diseases were, first, the spread of these affections by virtue of their own contagious property, aided through the ignorance or carelessness of the afflicted, or of those in whose custody the sufferers were placed; and, next, the retention and perpetuation of the common-privy system, in its worst form, which results in producing a faecal atmosphere in and around dwellings, and thus begets a pregnant source of enteric fever and diarrhoea. The removal of the first-mentioned cause will be materially facilitated if the public co-operate with the Committee in adopting precautionary measures, and also by perfecting the arrangements already in existence for separating the sick from the healthy, and securing thorough disinfection. Provision is now being made for supplying more adequately some of these requirements, and, therefore, by the exercise of due vigilance it is to be hoped that some of these diseases may be materially arrested in their devastating progress. In pointing out how to minimise the jeopardy to the public health, which is occasioned by the common cesspit system, some opposition may be provoked, but still as no new facts have come to my knowledge which induce me to alter an opinion already expressed, I can only repeat that I consider for a dense town population, the only perfect method for excreta removal yet devised, which fulfils most completely sanitary requirements, is the water carriage plan. In the suburban districts, wherever insuperable objections exist to this being carried out, Moule's earth closets offer a safe and efficient substitute. In giving prominence to these special causes, which I am anxious should be fully recognised because of their potency for evil, it must not be supposed that other causes have been overlooked, such as faulty construction in houses, occupation, habits, over-crowding, &c., with other remote and proximate elements, which operate in the origin and dissemination of disease.

SANITARY WORK DURING 1870.

Under the powers of the Nuisances Removal Acts and Sanitary Act, the Committee's functions have been extensively exercised as the following returns show:—

Cottage houses visited with the object of improving their sanitary condition	15,489
Infected houses disinfected	1,012
Overcrowded houses partially emptied	72
*Offensive midden sumps converted into water closets	4
†Pigsties removed	121
Miscellaneous nuisances removed	11,514
Notices and letters issued	11,997
Orders made by Magistrates	47
Penalties inflicted, including bad meat prosecutions...	£73 17s. 0d.

Mr. Sands' report of the work accomplished under the Smoke Prevention Clauses of the 1866 Leeds Improvement Act, is as follows:—

Number of observations taken by the Smoke Inspector during the year.

1866	1867	1868	1869	1870
2295	2008	835	898	843

Number of observations of 60 minutes' duration taken by the Smoke Inspector during the years

1866	1867	1868	1869	1870
155	92	13	93	116

* Proceedings of this kind have been stayed in consequence of the Chancery Injunction.

† No proceedings were taken in these cases, nor pigsties removed, without previous complaints from the inhabitants.

Total number of summonses issued by the Smoke Inspector, with number of convictions, &c., in the following years :—

	Summonses Issued.	Convictions Obtained.	Dismissed or Withdrawn.	Amount of Penalties Imposed by Justices.
1866	48	43	5	£84 0 0
1867	25	19	6	47 0 0
1868	1	1	...	2 0 0
1869	41	33	8	58 0 0
1870	42	36	6	124 0 0

The lodging houses and minor workshops have been systematically inspected under the direction of the Lodging House Committee.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

M. K. ROBINSON, M.D.

Officer of Health.

March 29th, 1871.

MONTHLY METEOROLOGICAL TABLE
FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST. 1870.

Taken at the Philosophical Hall, by the late

HENRY DENNY, ESQ.,

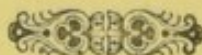
Month. 1870.	Mean Readings of Baro- meter.	Mean Tempera- ture of the Air.	Mean Tempera- ture. Dew Point.	Most Prevalent Wind.	Amount of Rainfall.
January	29·808	37·5	43·2	N.W.	1·70
February	29·703	37·0	32·9	N.E.	1·30
March	29·893	40·4	33·6	N.S.W.	1·50
April	29·936	50·6	41·8	N.W.	0·46
May	29·839	54·4	43·2	W.N.E.	0·91
June	29·917	59·0	47·2	N.W.	1·43
July	29·821	64·2	50·8	N.W.	0·81
August	29·841	61·0	47·0	N.S.W.	1·52
September	29·871	55·2	48·3	W.N.E.	0·62
October	29·509	48·5	43·3	N.W.	4·85
November	29·629	40·2	36·1	N.W.	1·71
December	29·753	35·2	30·8	N.W.	2·67

LIST OF STREETS where Twelve or more CASES OF
FEVER have occurred during the last Five Years.

		STREETS.	No. of Cases.
Bank	...	Bow Street	16
"	...	Brown Street	12
"	...	Brighton Court, Brighton Street ...	15
"	...	East Water Lane, East Street ...	19
"	...	Giles Yard, Mill Street	18
"	...	Keeton Street, Pontefract Lane ..	15
"	...	Kendall Buildings	20
"	..	Lower Cross Street	32
"	...	Pork Alley, Weaver's Square ..	28
"	...	Richmond Road	37
"	...	Sheffield Street	12
"	..	Wellhouse Yard, Richmond Road ...	17
Meadow Lane	...	Hill's Yard... ..	21
"	...	Lee's Yard	21
Hunslet	...	Bell Row, Church Street	31
"	...	Canning Street, Dewsbury Road ...	14
"	...	Crowther's Buildings, Church Street ...	29
"	...	Derby Street	14
"	...	Drayton Manor Yard, Hunslet Moor ...	12
"	...	Exchange Street	27
"	...	Greenwood Street	20
"	...	Holmes Place, Dewsbury Road ...	12
"	...	Hunslet Hall Road	23
"	...	Michael Street	12
"	...	Monkton Street	13
"	..	Myrtle Street	14
"	...	Pollard's Square, Waterloo Road ...	30
"	..	Trinity Place	21
"	...	Vaux Street	16
Kirkgate	...	East Lane	15
"	...	Harper Yard	23
"	...	Harper Street	26

STREETS.						No. of Cases.
Kirkgate	...	Moxon's Yard	...	...	...	15
"	...	Wellington Yard	...	...	...	20
Kirkstall Road	...	Baker Street	..	...	...	15
Leylands	..	Myrtle Street	.	...	...	17
"	...	Templar Street	...	..	...	12
Mabgate	...	Middle Fold	...	...	...	67
"	...	Ward's Fold	...	...	...	24
Marsh Lane	...	Dunn's Yard	...	...	...	18
"	...	Dufton's Yard	...	...	..	12
"	...	Rising Sun Yard	...	..	...	17
"	...	Off Street, Duke Street	...	...	...	12
Millgarth Street	...	Back George's Street	...	...	...	22
"	...	Ebenezer Street	...	...	...	23
"	...	George Street	...	...	...	16
"	...	Nelson Street	...	...	...	14
"	...	Union Street	...	...	...	22
"	...	Union Court, Union Street	...	...	...	13
Moortown	...	...	...	...	...	22
Newtown	...	Brierly Street	...	...	...	20
"	...	Lion Street...	...	...	...	27
"	...	Lincolnfield Terrace	...	.	..	12
New Wortley	...	Barleycorn Street	...	..	...	17
Quarry Hill	...	...	...	...	...	20
"	...	Allison's Buildings, Charles Street	...	...	...	14
"	..	Boynton Street	...	...	...	15
"	...	Charles Street, St. Peter's Street...	...	...	...	24
"	...	Randall's Yard	...	...	...	16
"	...	St. Ann's Lane	...	...	...	13
Stanningley	...	Post Office Row	...	...	...	16
Somerset Street	...	Dufton's Yard	...	...	...	12
York Road	...	Acorn Street	...	...	...	13
"	...	Woodman Terrace	...	...	...	20
York Street	...	...	...	...	...	86
"	...	Back York Street	...	...	...	16
"	...	Brick Street	...	...	...	13
"	...	Giles' Street	...	...	...	16
"	...	Goulden's Buildings	...	...	...	16
"	...	Lee's Square	...	...	..	23
"	...	Lemon Street	...	...	...	13

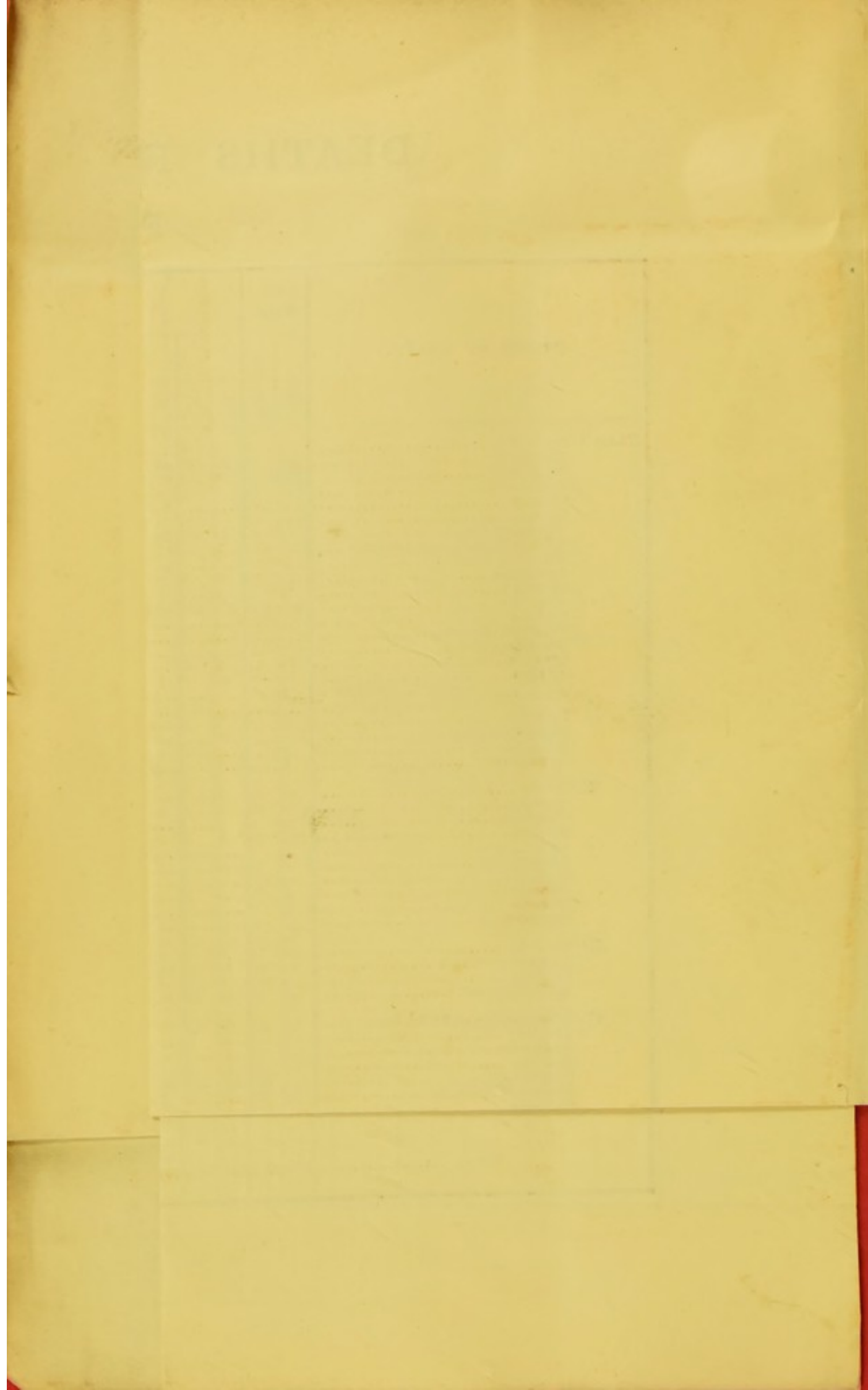
STREETS.						No. of Cases.
York Street	...	Lloyd's Arms Yard	...	...	...	19
"	...	Plane Street	...	...	...	43
"	..	Upper Plane Buildings	..	..	...	33
"	...	Prospect Row, Lemon Street	...	...	...	12
"	...	Stainburn Square	..	...	...	14
"	...	Sykes Yard	19
"	...	York Court	12
Upper Wortley	17
"	...	Cabbage Hill	13
Lower Wortley	14



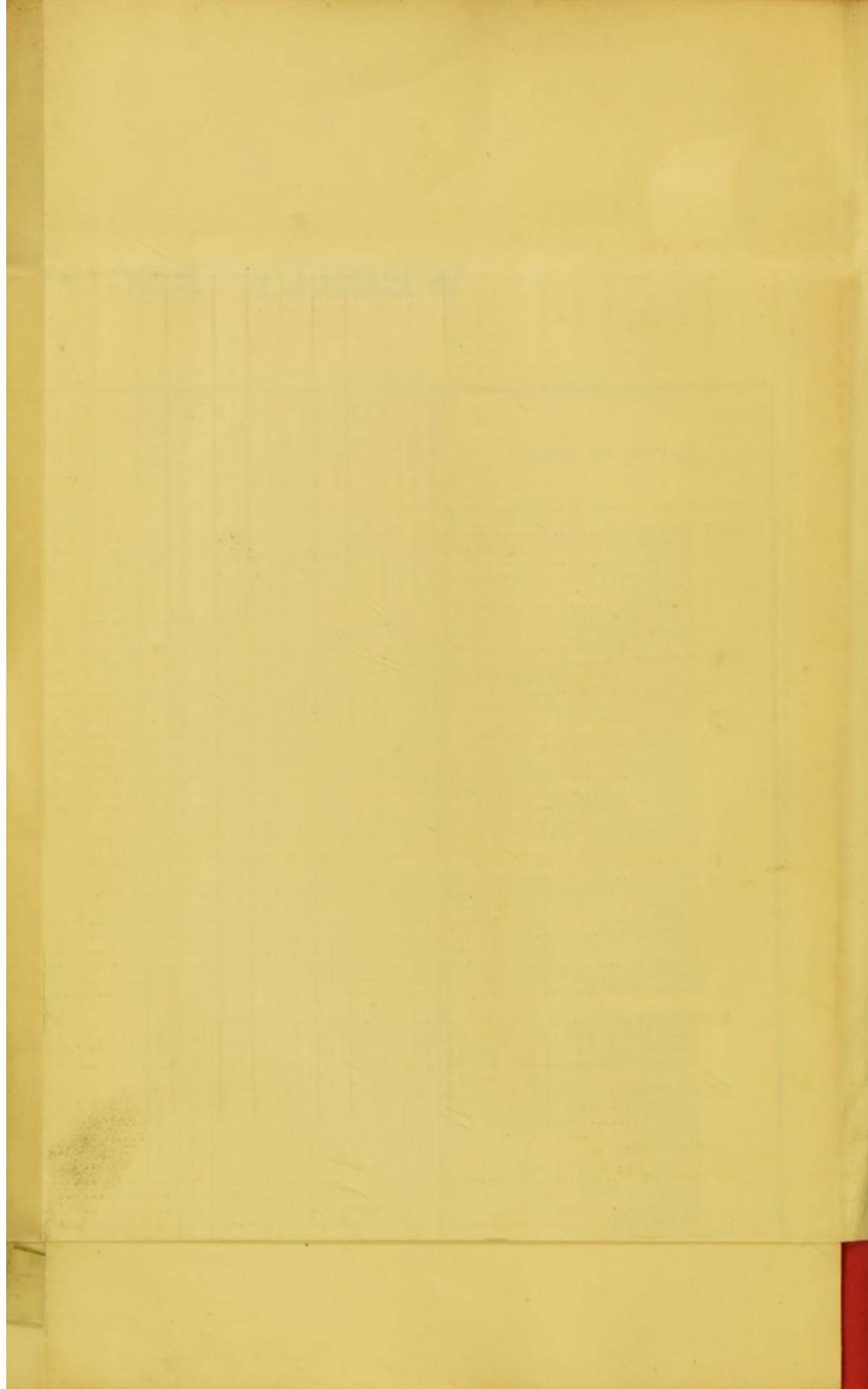
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STATIONERS HALL.

RES AND BLACK MARKS

THE CHURCH

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