Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress. : Appendix Volume XIII. Special reports from the dioceses in England and Wales as to the extent and intensity of poverty and the administration of charitable and Poor Law relief.

Contributors

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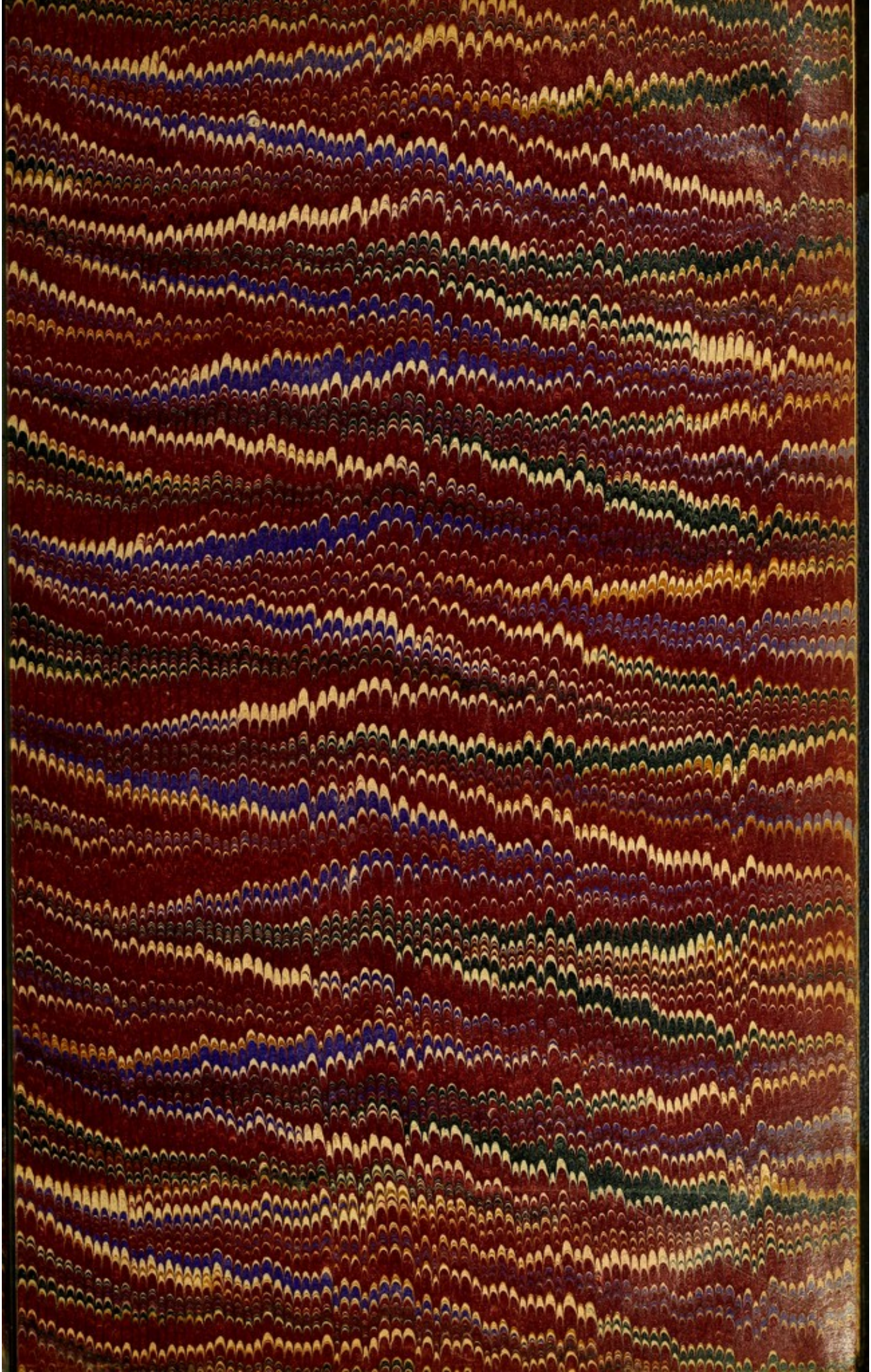

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ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POOR LAWS AND RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

APPENDIX VOLUME XIII.

SPECIAL REPORTS

FROM THE

DIOCESES IN ENGLAND AND WALES

AS TO THE

Extent and Intensity of Poverty and the Administration of Charitable and Poor Law Relief.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

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CIRCULAR LETTER AND LIST OF QUESTIONS.

Scotland House,
Victoria Embankment,
Westminster, S.W.
April 18*th*, 1907.

My Lord Bishop,

The Royal Commission, which has been appointed to investigate the working of the Poor Law and the relief of distress, is anxious to avail itself of the great experience possessed in this matter by the clergy of the Church of England, and to obtain from them reliable information as to :—

(1) The extent and intensity of poverty in various parts of the country ; and

(2) The methods of administering charitable assistance.

The subject has already received attention in some ecclesiastical gatherings. For example, at the Winchester Diocesan Conference, held last October, the following Resolutions were passed :—

(1) That in the opinion of this Conference the care of the poor and needy should always be one of the foremost duties of the Church :—

(2) That in order to avoid any tendency to pauperise those who receive assistance, and to encourage thrift, it is desirable to provide for the administration of parochial charities of all kinds on definite principles, by the co-operation of existing charities for parochial relief, and by the formation of parochial Relief Committees associated with a Central Authority, the duty of which would be to advise and assist local Committees in the work of ameliorating the social and economic condition of the poor.

The Bishop of the Diocese accordingly appointed a Committee of eight members, of whom four were laymen, to inquire into the subject of charitable assistance ; and although that Committee has not yet completed their inquiry, they have favoured the Commission with some valuable evidence and information.

Now, if an investigation on similar lines could be made in the other Dioceses of England and Wales, an important service would be rendered, not only to the Commission, but to the whole community.

I enclose herewith a list of questions which indicate the general lines of inquiry. Of course, all these questions are not equally appropriate to all parishes in Your Lordship's Diocese ; and accordingly they would need modification.

The Royal Commission has been advised that this information could most easily be collected by a Special Committee appointed in each Diocese, and this would obviously be facilitated if it were convenient that the subject should be considered by the Diocesan Conference.

I am instructed, therefore, to inquire whether Your Lordship would be pleased to take such steps as may be necessary in order that the inquiry which I have indicated may be carried through.

I am to add that the Commission desire, if possible, to receive the results of this inquiry, if made, not later than Christmas, 1907.

In conclusion, I think it may be of interest to you to see a copy of a letter which has been received from His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury on the subject, and I am desired by Lord George Hamilton, the Chairman of the Commission, to express the hope that you will see your way to affording the Commission your co-operation in the matter.

I am, my Lord,
Your obedient Servant,
R. G. DUFF,
Secretary.

429.—App XIII. 2,000—Wt. T.L 313. 9/09. Wy. & S. 4339r.

LIST OF QUESTIONS.

1. Is there much poverty in your parish, and if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due ?

2. Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress ? Are you assisted by a Committee ? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors ?

3. Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief ? If so, please give one or two instances and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.

4. Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians being inadequate ? If so, please give one or two instances.

5. Is there in your parish any needless overlapping—

(*a*) between various forms of charity ; or

(*b*) between charity and the Poor Law,

and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping ?

6. If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.

7. Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your parish during the course of a year ?

Lambeth Palace, S.E.

April 15th, 1907.

[Copy Letter]

My dear Lord George,

I am grateful to you for sending me a copy of the letter you have written to the Diocesan Bishops inviting the co-operation of the parochial clergy in obtaining information for your Commission on the working of the Poor Laws. It is certain that a rich vein of knowledge and experience may thus be tapped, for there is no class of educated men throughout England who necessarily know so much about the daily life of the poor as do the clergy both in urban and rural parishes.

I am sure that there will be a general readiness on the part of the Bishops to facilitate your endeavour to obtain this information. I have myself arranged for a discussion of the subject in the next Diocesan Conference of Canterbury Diocese. I will also bring the matter to the notice of the Bishops when Convocation meets, and if there is any other way in which we can usefully further your wishes I hope you will kindly let me know.

I am,

Yours very truly,

(*Signed*) RANDALL CANTUAR.

The Right Hon. The Lord George Hamilton,
Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress.

TEXT OF REPORTS FROM DIOCESES.

BATH AND WELLS.

Committee on Charitable Assistance.

E. T. D. FOXCROFT, Esq., Hinton Charterhouse.
Miss N. L. FRY, Cricket S. Thomas.
Rev. J. HAMLET, Barrington.
Miss JOSEPH, Holford.
A. G. RUSS, Esq., Wells.
Col. SKRINE, Bathford.
Prebendary NORTON THOMPSON, Bath.
Prebendary VAUGHAN, Wraxall.

The Inquiry which this Committee was asked to make is of a restricted and specific character. It deals indeed with such general questions as poverty, charity, and the administration of the Poor Law, but its scope was narrowed to ascertaining from the clergy what is being done by the Church for the poor within the limits of its parishes; what the clergy have found to be the causes of poverty; and the extent to which the Poor Law is effective in the relief of distress. The Committee has therefore abstained from following some of these questions to their wider issues, and leaves to other investigations by the Royal Commission such matters as non-parochial charities, the possibility of substituting charity for out-relief, the work of friendly, co-operative, and other self-help societies.

The Committee sent out unaltered the schedule of questions provided by the Commissioners. It was obvious that they were unsuitable to many parishes, but it may be doubted whether any short set of questions could be devised which would suit the very different circumstances of towns and villages.

Some of the clergy found difficulty in dealing with the undefined word "Poverty," with the comparative term "Is there much poverty?" and were in doubt as to what amounted to a "special" cause or method. Probably some of the clergy who did not reply were hindered by this vagueness (Return 306).

Three hundred and forty of the clergy, undeterred by these difficulties, replied for 369 of the 549 parishes in the diocese, and thus have given information with regard to the areas in which dwell 349,263 of the 434,950 persons in the county.* These returns from 67 per cent. of the total number of parishes (66 per cent. of the rural and 96 per cent. of the urban population) form a broad ground from which to draw inferences as to the social condition of the people in Somerset. For, as the Right Hon. Charles Booth has said of incomplete returns: "It is not likely that places left undescribed differ materially from those in neighbouring districts." And the strength of this remark will be felt by anyone who compares the outline given by the dozen or so of returns from Somerset which he used in his book The Aged Poor† with that which is afforded by the 340 which this Committee has gathered.

It is not easy to condense the information which comes from town parishes and country villages when varying values are given to crucial words such as "poverty" and the writers differ so widely from one another in their interest in economics, Poor Law, and the principles of sound charity; and when the Returns give inextricably intertwined facts and points of view. It is desirable, therefore, to go back behind the Summary‡ which the Committee has made, and the Tabulation§ on which it rests, to the Returns themselves. It will then be found that in spite of their variety and conflicting expressions certain broad features emerge and remain upon the mind of anyone who examines them.

* Census of 1901. The population of the Diocese differs from that of the County by only 2,685.
† 370 and 297–301. ‡ Appendix, p. 36. § Appendix 6 to 35.

NOTE.—In addition to the Reports from the Dioceses, the Commission have, in some instances, received Summaries of the Returns from the Parochial Clergy upon which the Reports are based. These Summaries will be found printed as Appendices to the Reports, and have not been altered in any way by the staff of the Commission.

Question 1.—*Poverty.*

Is there much poverty in your parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?

(*a*) Amount.—It is difficult to find a satisfactory standard by which to measure such a comparative term as "poverty." The clergy appear to have taken the word as including not only distress and destitution but also neediness. They are familiar with the term "second poor" as describing those grades next above the recipients of Poor Law relief. However, their testimony is clear, there is not "much poverty" in Somerset. Of the 325 who reply to the question, 295 say there is "none," or "very little," or "not much." Only thirty report to the contrary, and they speak almost entirely for the towns and chiefly for Bath.

(*b*) Intensity.—Seventy-nine Returns deal with the question as to whether poverty is increasing in intensity, and only nine say that it is. Of these half are from Bath or its borders, and four from other urban places.

(*c*) Causes.—As to the causes of poverty the witness of the clergy is emphatic. Putting aside the physical causes sickness and age, the chief causes of poverty, they say, are not economic but moral. It may be said that this is the view which would naturally be taken by the clergy, who are by occupation and training moralists, just as in another quarter all poverty has been attributed to mental failure, and in others solely to unjust social and economic conditions. To be sure there is evidence in the Returns that the clergy answer the question as those who, broadly, accept present social conditions, and they might say in defence of their answers, "We were not asked for general but for special (individual and local) causes of poverty." Besides, there are others than the clergy who have reached the same conclusion. Mr. Charles Booth, in stating the consensus of opinion manifested in returns from 617 unions, says,* "as to the causes of poverty the fact is emphasised that most of the destitution is due to intemperance or vicious habits." The moral causes specified in our Returns are improvidence, bad management on the wife's part, and drink—not usually heavy but very common and wasteful.

Of the economic causes the chief are low wages (*i.e.*, an inadequate share of wealth) and the inconstancy of employment which fluctuates with trade and the time of the year. Others are the changes caused by the advent of the tram and motor-car or the turning of arable land to pasture.

As a social cause of poverty the town clergy hold that the condition of the poor in town parishes is seriously aggravated by the migration from country places, and the village clergy point out that the poverty in the places where they work is increased by the migration of the young, who leave the old and infirm behind and unprovided for (Returns 215, 173).

Question 2.—*Administration of Charitable Assistance.*

Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself or do you leave it in the hands of District Visitors?

(*a*) Methods.—Scarcely any of the clergy claim to have "special" methods of distributing charitable assistance. Possibly the word was taken to mean "devised by yourself, unique." Some of them, speaking for villages, denied that any method is needed: there is no need for investigation, the personal and intimate knowledge which the almoners already have enabling them to adapt the treatment to each case; there is ordinarily no need for special appeals for money, for there is "the parson's pocket" (Returns 179, 124), "the farmers (*i.e.*, employers) are good" (Nos. 123, 157), "the Squire helps" (Nos. 7, 140, 162). In the towns there is, of course, some organisation, and in certain cases very careful and effective methods.

(*b*) Committees and District Visitors.—In the country parishes a Committee is "not needed" or is even reckoned as a "hindrance." Such opinions are held even by those who when working in a town parish valued the help of a Committee. But even in the towns there are extremely few parishes where a Committee has been constituted for parochial charitable purposes only. It is, however, a common practice to distribute relief

* Aged Poor. Condition. 331.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

through the District Visitors, and in some places the meetings of the District Visitors amount to a parochial relief Committee; but there is very little evidence that the Visitors have been trained in right principles of charitable work, and in many cases they appear to be givers of doles or tickets, mere palliatives without any curative end in view. There is only one Return (No. 102) which tells of a paid trained lay charitable officer, but in a number of town parishes there are paid lay-helpers of experience.

(*c*) By the clergy themselves.—There are only about sixty urban parishes in the diocese and the great majority of returns are from villages. This accounts for the large number of instances in which the clergy themselves give the charitable relief. They have or can easily obtain all the facts of the case, and they find it advisable to avoid the murmuring which the public treatment of private need is likely to cause in a small place. But in some few cases the distribution of help is handed over to, say, a churchwarden so that the spiritual work of the parish priest may be dissociated from material gifts. Probably this would be more often done if the right person could always be found and the dissociation could be complete.

(*d*) Classes helped.—(i.) The sick are given in some parishes "1s. a week," in others "adequate help." In a number of parishes a nurse is provided. Medicine is given in villages, and there are a few dispensaries in the towns. The sick are given milk, nourishment, medical comforts, "dainties." Help is given in convalescence, *e.g.*, tickets for Sanatoria, the fares to which are occasionally paid. Women are assisted in several ways at childbirth. (ii.) Widows with little children receive special care. (iii.) In one Return (No. 286) we hear of school children being fed in the winter. (iv.) The "Second poor" are helped in various places. (v.) Cases of chronic distress and the aged are often treated alike. For these we are told the help given is "regular"; in some few places they are, on principle, "left to the Poor Law"; in others pensions are given, ranging in amount from 1s. to 10s. a week (No. 49 D).

(*e*) Principles.—In view of the variety of method and frequent absence of method, the very few indications of the principles upon which charitable relief is given are worthy of note: (i.) In some cases it is given to the "God-fearing," "to those rich in faith" (No. 98), to communicants (No. 239), but in one it is of set purpose given "apart from Creed" (No. 286). (ii.) One clergyman is sure it is best to give money, and a considerable number appear to do so; but in many places all help is given in kind—by tickets, coal, soup, from a kitchen, blankets, boots, surgical appliances, in almshouses, and often as Christmas gifts. In such places money is given "rarely," "by the clergy only," or "never." In a large number of parishes help is given through provident or bonus Clubs and as interest in Savings Banks. In some few places loans are made of blankets, and in one of money—through a solicitor (No. 125). (iii.) Some of the clergy (*see* No. 317) regard all money given in doles as wasted. And others say their practice is to "give substantial help," to seek "the permanent good of the one helped," to help "a few well rather than many a little." (iv.) In two or three Returns a preference is given to those who are "in a Club," *i.e.*, who give evidence of thriftiness. (v.) In one we are told that the help is given carefully but always "accompanied by a written kindly message."

Question 3.—*Reluctance to seek Poor Law Relief.*

Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.

(*a*) The amount appears to be small and instances are not often given. But it is probable that there are many more than those known. The readiness with which very unexpected persons will apply for a pension when given apart from any stigma reveals a kind of need which the Poor Law does not meet.

(*b*) Causes of reluctance.—Those who have "come down in the world" and find the condition of dependence, subjection, and pauperism contrary to all their habits and past will endure real hardships rather than seek Poor Law relief. Amongst the class who have not this aversion one great ground of reluctance is fear of "the House," and in the case of out-relief there is a fear that contributions will be exacted from relatives and strained family relations arise. Some abstain from Poor Law relief lest they should be disqualified for a charity, and in a few cases, especially among the younger men, they shun the loss of the

vote. The aversion from the "House" is general: in the country it often cuts the inmates off from relatives and life-long friends; it amounts to never returning to a separate home again; it substitutes a life of unfamiliar rule and routine for the dear liberty of all their past; it associates one willy-nilly with uncongenial and sometimes feeble-minded persons; it embodies all that they have dreaded when looking forward to their later years. The writer of Return 125 says that in his parish three suicides have been caused by this horror. As to the severance from the old neighbourhood it will be observed that this applies especially to sparsely populated country unions. And it should be remembered that in such places distances are not to be judged by mileage only. A familiar place seems nearer than a place not half so many miles away to which one never goes: the unknown is dreaded. Langport Union is probably not singular: there the number of inmates from the parishes adjoining the workhouse brings the cost of in-relief granted to those parishes up to 2s. 4d. per head of the population, whilst that received by the remoter parishes sinks to 1d., ½d., and nothing. Those who thus dread the workhouse are largely influenced by harshness of past administration and by rumour, but they know certainly that there are two classes sent there, undesirables to whom the guardians will not give out-relief and the ever-so-worthy who happen to be both unable to do for themselves and without friends to take care of them. But these two classes, in many country workhouses, have to spend all their time together in the same living and sleeping rooms.

Question 4.—*Adequacy of Poor Law Relief.*

Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians being inadequate?

Only about one in five of the clergy who reply say that the Poor Law relief is adequate. Probably many of these if questioned would say: Of course, I only mean that it is adequate "taking things as they are." Anyway, more than three-fifths of the clergy deny that it is adequate, a few, indeed, ask "can it ever be adequate?" There are a few, very few unions which are exceptional in this respect, but the Local Government Board Poor Law Inspector for the South-Western District (which includes nearly all Somerset) has frequently asserted that out-relief is given both too widely and in quite inadequate amounts. There has of late years been some improvement, but usually the guardians make their grants relying upon supplementation by small earnings, trifling assistance from relatives, as also from charity endowed or current. It is a very rare thing to find in the Returns that the clergy recognise such supplementation as one of the hindrances to adequate relief from the Poor Law (Return 324).

Question 5.—*Overlapping.*

Is there in your parish any needless overlapping between various forms of charity and the Poor Law? And has any special effort been made with a view to preventing it?

(*a*) Overlapping.—The large proportion of villages represented in the Returns accounts for the small number of instances where overlapping is feared or known to exist; it is a danger chiefly of populous places where the people are largely unknown to one another, and where there are various sources of help to be tapped. And the clergy probably kept in mind when replying to this question that only "needless" overlapping was inquired for. Some of them assert that it is needful that charity should overlap the Poor Law as usually administered. And they know that in many a case neither the Poor Law nor any one charitable source will be found adequate to the need.

(*b*) Prevention.—In the towns and urban districts action has here and there been taken to prevent unnecessary overlapping, *e.g.*, at Weston-super-Mare there is a Charity Organisation Committee, at Taunton there is a useful Town Relief Committee, and at Bath there is a movement for the co-ordination of all the charities in the city. But who can prevent the overlapping which happens when a plausible beggar goes from one individual who owns the obligation to assist the poor but spends no time upon the duty, to another who enjoys the immediate gratification of pleasing the applicant?

Question 6.—*Amount of Charitable Assistance.*

If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.

It is evident that the clergy found this a difficult point to deal with. About sixty either did not attempt it or said that they could not. One (Return 109) states that it was

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

not only impossible but undesirable to give figures or make an estimate of the amount raised in a parish for this purpose. Part of the difficulty arose from the not uncommon fact that the clergy were largely or wholly in the dark as to what their charitable parishioners were doing (Return 105), and these again are often unaware of what is being done by their neighbours. In Return 191 we find that "several individuals help the same case," and in No. 14 that "the sick are inundated with delicacies," but these are "residential" parishes.

Not only the Clergy, the Committee also found difficulty here: it was not easy to condense the Returns made. The Tabulation should certainly be referred to on this point. These are the difficulties: (i.) The amounts vary greatly. In Return 58 we are told that £5 a year is raised for the charitable assistance of the poor in a population of 1,300, in No. 158 that £300 a year is spent where there is an ordinary population of only 1,000. (ii.) The clergy followed no one method in stating these amounts—in some cases only the Church collection "for the poor" is given, in others the private gifts of individuals and all the endowed charities are included. (iii.) Another obstacle to giving a clear indication of the amount of such assistance is that it is distributed in such diverse ways: collections for institutions which give in exchange tickets of admission, bonus clubs, medicine, nursing, almshouses.

But taking a general view it may be said that in every Church there are periodical collections for the sick and poor (Return 1 is a remarkable exception), that they usually provide only a small amount, occasionally only a minute sum, *e.g.*, Return 156 shows only £5 a year from a population of nearly 1,400, and No. 209 where the collection is but £3, although £60 a year and a Nurse are provided by the same people apart from the collections. It is clear that the sums obtained by these collections are inadequate for any substantial and curative treatment of poverty. But it should be remembered that besides these collections considerable sums are raised by subscriptions in many parishes for various parochial agencies.

Question 7.—Number assisted.

Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your parish during the course of a year?

Omitting those places where there are "no poor" (*e.g.*, Returns 25 and 3), as many as eighty-four of the clergy do not attempt, or say that they cannot reply to this question. It seems to have been at least as difficult as question 6. Here again we find a wide variation, arising from the same cause: if it is a question as to how many are helped from the collection for the poor the answer may be "only the sick" or "none regularly." If it is to include those who benefit from endowed charities, bonus clubs, gifts of bread or coal, a large number will be stated, and in the villages not infrequently every cottager participates.

In concluding our Report we beg again to refer to the Summary, the careful Tabulation, and the Returns themselves.

For the Committee:

J. HAMLET, *Chairman.*

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON CHARITABLE ASSISTANCE.

No. of Return.	Population. Rural.	Population. Urban.	Question 1. Poverty. 1. Amount. 2. Increasing? 3. Special Causes.	Question 2. Administration of Charitable Assistance. Special Methods for (1) Sick, (2) Aged, (3) Temporary, (4) Chronic cases.	Question 2. By Self, Committee, or District Visitors.	Question 3. Distress from Reluctance to use Poor Law Relief. 1. Amount. 2. Instances. 3. Causes.	Question 4. Distress Inadequately Relieved by Poor Law. 1. Amount. 2. Instances.	Question 5. Overlapping. 1a. Charities. 1b. Charity and Poor Law. 2. Special Efforts to Prevent.	Question 6. Amount spent yearly in Charitable Assistance.	Question 7. Number of Persons or Families receiving Charitable Assistance.
228	367	–	1. Considerable. 2. No. 3. Age, Intemperance, too little migration.	1. Adequate. 2 & 4 Regular.	District Visitor.	Reluctance to lose independence and acquaintances. Almshouses wanted in a Parish, for desirables.	Inadequate usually.	None.	£10 and blankets.	12 Families.
178	398	–	Not much.	Monthly collections for sick and needy.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£4.	The sick and a few others.
182	345	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	A needy old woman refused, because life tenant of cottage and field.	No.	£6.	20 Families.
70	121	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	Employers help, coal is given.	5 Families.
490	598	–	Very little.	Some pensions from Charities, 24 persons 3s. to 10s. each, other relief from private sources.	—	No.	—	No.	See Qu. 2.	About 24 Persons.
181	277	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	One case: fear loss of home (cottage, orchard and field).	No.	No.	Small amount.	—
109	1413	–	Not much.	No, except that it varies with the case.	Self.	No.	In some cases of youngish women with families.	No.	Impossible and undesirable to say.	No.
50	358	–	Not much.	A Relief Fund.	District Visitor.	No.	No.	No.	£33.	6 Families.
17	277	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£8.	2, and those in the Coal Club.
166	–	1668	1. 25 % poor, some very. 2. No.	Many pensioners. District Visitors make monthly report.	District Visitors.	3. Self respect.	Inadequate if not supplemented.	1a. Yes, between the several religious bodies, and between the religious bodies and generous individuals.	£95.	120.
97	–	–	Unable to give particulars. No Population assigned to this Chapel.			—	—	—	—	—
84	–	1888	1. Not much. 3. Slack trade.	Printed orders on tradesmen. A Nurse for the poor.	District Visitors.	—	—	—	—	—
122	–	5084	1. Much. 2. No. 3. Large number of casual labourers.	Parochial kitchen District Nurse. Coal Club. Poor Fund. Blanket Society.	Self, through District Visiters.	No.	Is Poor Law Relief ever adequate?	No.	£97.	—

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48	–	12000	1. Drink. 3. Much.	By Tickets and Pensions.	Self, through District Visitors.	1. Some. 2. A sick man, income 3s. a week, reluctant to lose vote.	——	1a. Yes. 2. Hope to co-operate with C.O.S. as at Hampstead.	£320.	—
180	–	Included in 48, above.	1. Some. 3. Advent of the Motor Car.	Monthly meeting of District Visitors, Chairman being also Chairman for the Board of Guardians. Information is also obtained from reliable working men.	Self and District Visitors.	Not much.	No.	No.	£100 to £120.	—
205	–	3283	1. Nearly all poor, few destitute. 3. Casual employment, lack of meat and coal, drink, gambling.	Pensions and Tickets.	Clergy and District Visitors' Committee.	3. Fear of the very mixed company in the House.	The Bath maximum of 5s. is too little, rent would be 2s.	1a. Some.	£55.	30 Families.
160	–	1703	1. Not much. 2. Probably. 3. Lack of work.	Pensions, 1s. a week. Tickets. Provident Fund. Coal Club.	District Visitors.	No.	No.	Yes. Charities and Private Charity.	£70 to £80 in relief, £46 in bonus.	50 to 60.
98	–	2000	1. Much in parts. 2. Probably not.	Tickets and Money, and through Monmouth Street Society. Especially to the God-fearing.	Self chiefly	1. Some. 3. Fear of losing St. John's Hospital charity. The supposed disgrace. Fear that the House will be offered.	2. An old woman with only 3s. Another case only 3s.	Not much.	£17.	55 Persons.
278	–	6000	1. Much. 2. Probably. 3. Lack of employment, drink, thriftlessness.	By Committee meeting three times a week. Always by Tickets.	Self, Committee and District Visitors.	1. Some. 3. Restrictions of Workhouse, Separation of husband and wife.	1. Some cases.	1a. Probably, not easy to discover. 2. No, but needed.	£157.	Some hundreds.
279	397	–	No, very little.	No.	Self.	No, except as to House.	Not distress, scarcity.	No.	£33.	All labouring households from endowed charities.
92	107	–	Not much.	Sick, from Church Collections.	—	No.	No.	No.	£3.	12 Families.
88	1,648	–	Not much.	—	District Visitors.	No.	No.	No.	£50.	None regularly.
226	891	–	1. Not much. 2. Probably. 3. Scarcity of work; drink amongst women.	—	Self and District Visitors.	No.	No.	No.	£30 and much privately.	12 monthly.
258	796	–	Not much.	—	Self.	No.	No. Extra relief in winter.	No.	£10.	At present 5 Families.
250	129	–	None.	—	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£10.	—
13	341	–	1. Not much. 2. No.	Church Collection.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£13.	12 to 15 Families.
90	220	–	Not much.	House to house visiting.	Self and District Visitor.	1. One Case. 3. Self Respect.	No.	1. No. 2. Common sense.	£44.	50.

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.—*continued.*

No. of Return.	Population.		Question 1. Poverty.	Question 2. Administration of Charitable Assistance.		Question 3. Distress from Reluctance to use Poor Law Relief.	Question 4. Distress Inadequately Relieved by Poor Law.	Question 5. Overlapping.	Question 6.	Question 7.
	Rural.	Urban.	1. Amount. 2. Increasing? 3. Special Causes.	Special Methods for (1) Sick, (2) Aged, (3) Temporary, (4) Chronic cases.	By Self, Committee, or District Visitors.	1. Amount. 2. Instances. 3. Causes.	1. Amount. 2. Instances.	1a. Charities. 1b. Charity and Poor Law. 2. Special Efforts to Prevent.	Amount spent yearly in Charitable Assistance.	Number of Persons or Families receiving Charitable Assistance.
265	287	–	1. Not much. 3. Drink.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No, because Rector is also Guardian.	—	7 aged. The sick. Special cases. At each birth.
233	843	–	1. Not much. 3. Except through drink.	No. A good deal of private charity, and collections in Church. A Charity formerly given in doles, under a new scheme at discretion.	—	The Taunton Union gives too little out-relief. The poor reluctant to go into House.	—	—	—	—
49E	698	–	None.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	Impossible to estimate private charity.	—
248	506	–	1. Not much. 3. Old age and sickness. Allotments keep off poverty. ¾ of poverty from drink. In the country everybody knows everybody and the needy are better looked after.	No.	Self. District Visitors are duped.	No.	No. Vicar also Guardian, but Poor Law relief is usually inadequate.	No. Vicar also Guardian.	£7.	Very few.
127	423	–	1. Little. 2. No. 3. Death of husband.	No special methods. Widows with children 2/6 a month; sick, 1/- or 2/- a week.	Self.	No.	1. Some, because they owned their cottage.	No.	£38.	20, not including those in clubs.
132	85	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£5.	8 Families out of 21.
276	138	3716	1. Some. 2. No. 3. Improvidence, drink, casual labour.	Diligent inspection of all cases.	Clergy and District Visitors.	1. Some. 3. Inherited hatred of Poor Law Relief; supposed degradation; private aid preferred; publicity of Poor Law Relief.	Not much.	1a. Yes. 1b. No. 2. Yes, as the case requires.	Can't be done.	Can't be done.
31	301	–	1. Not much. 2. No.	Almshouses provided by Rectorial Tithes for those past work.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£30.	8 Persons.
193	320	–	1. Not much. 2. No. 3. Age.	No.	Self and Employers.	No.	No.	No.	£12. Bonus £4. Blankets.	None regularly.

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19	626	–	Not much.	No special method needed; personal knowledge.	Churchwardens, another layman, wife and self.	No.	No.	No.	£25.	50.
38	373	–	1. Very little. 2. No. 3. Old age, young families, low wages (14s.)	1. Food for the sick, Stimulants when ordered. 2. Aged helped every week. 3. Temporary if Members of Benefit Clubs. No chronic distress. Money rarely given.	Self.	No.	No. 7 persons in receipt of Poor Law Relief, 2 of them without need.	No.	£35 in 1906 (above the average).	38 Families out of 80 in 1906. Average 30.
184	1788	–	1. Not much. 2. No.	No.	Self.	No. Great reluctance to go to Workhouse. Smallest out door relief preferred.	Poor Law Relief *never adequate*. Charity enables people to eke out a bare existence.	—	Impossible.	20 to 25 Families constant, others occasional.
162	102 41	–	Not much.	Food and clothing by the Squire. Sick and Needy from Church Collection.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£30.	10 to 12.
259	474	–	1. Not much. 2. No.	—	Self, and through Laity.	No.	No.	No.	£21.	Charity (1) 57 Families. Charity (2) 20 Persons. (3) Voluntary 12.
24	–	2957	1. Not much. 2. No. 3. Migration of labour.	Ample Collections. By Tickets. Much private Charity.	Self, Family and District Visitors.	2. One case 3 Former good position.	Usually adequate.	Yes, some. 1a. Church and private, Church and non-Church.	£255 (£150 in Almshouses).	50
41	409	–	1. Not much. 3. Little work in winter.	—	Self.	No.	1. Many cases, but supplemented by Charity.	No.	Besides Bonuses £10 Coll. £15 private.	Can't say.
199	243	–	Not much.	Unnecessary.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£20.	32 Families.
496	766	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£16.	27 Persons regular.
158	1021	–	Not much.	One District Nurse. Three Bonus Clubs. An Almshouse for 8 persons. Most relief in kind.	Self. A Committee would be a hindrance.	No.	Some cases supplemented by weekly groceries.	—	Coll. and Endowment £300.	100 Families, that is 5 %, not reckoning Bonuses.
148	160	–	Not much.	No. Shares 2 small Charities with Whatley, which see.	Self.	One case, reason unknown.	No.	No	£5.	2 or 3.
15	285	–	1. Some. 2. Yes. 3. Age.	Sick and Aged given meat and necessaries from Collections. Fuel in winter. Help to go to Hospital.	Self.	1. Some. 2. (a) Shoemaker and wife, aged 80; the couple fear separation. (b) Another couple, 80, fear sons asked to contribute.	None.	No.	£12.	14
164	–	3926	1. Not much. 3. Laziness and drink.	—	District Visitors.	One case; fears disqualification for a Charity.	No.	Probably some.	Can't.	Can't.

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.—*continued.*

No. of Return.	Population.		Question 1. Poverty.	Question 2. Administration of Charitable Assistance.		Question 3. Distress from Reluctance to Use Poor Law Relief.	Question 4. Distress Inadequately Relieved by Poor Law.	Question 5. Overlapping.	Question 6.	Question 7.
	Rural.	Urban.	1. Amount. 2. Increasing? 3. Special Causes	Special Methods for (1) Sick, (2) Aged, (3) Temporary, (4) Chronic cases.	By Self, Committee, or District Visitors.	1. Amount. 2. Instances. 3. Causes.	1. Amount. 2. Instances.	1a. Charities. 1b. Charity and Poor Law. 2. Special Effort to Prevent.	Amount spent yearly in Charitable Assistance.	Number of Persons or Families receiving Charitable Assistance.
144	775	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£3—£10.	3 or 4.
100	322	–	Not much.	No.	—	No.	No.	No.	£23.	3 Families.
12	288	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	Old people with only 2s. 6d. a week.	No.	Impossible.	None.
190	344	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	Sufficient as a rule, because children help and rent is low.	No.	—	—
10	64	–	Not much. No one receiving Poor Law relief.	—	—	—	—	—	£3.	—
74	271	–	Practically none.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£20 to £30.	5 or 6.
307	155	–	Not much. 3. Improvidence.	—	Self, but oftener by others.	No.	Old persons without relatives should be provided with attendance.	No charities.	—	—
274	971	–	1. Little. 2. No; because of rise in labourers' wages.	No special method, able to deal separately with each case.	Self.	No.	Almost always inadequate, but supplemented by relatives, friends, charitable persons, charities and earnings.	No.	£100.	130 Families.
150	631	–	Not much.	By collections.	Self and District Visitors.	No.	No.	No.	£24.	8
176	131 163 86	–	1. No extreme poverty. 2. No. 3. Thriftlessness, failure of relatives to help, ill health.	Collections.	Self and others.	Only reluctance is to go into the House.	Very inadequate.	No.	£3 to £4.	18 Families.
129	180	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£8.	1 Person.
86	93									
	31	–	Not much.	No; help in temporary need by a neighbour, or employer, or from collection.	—	No.	No.	No.	£20.	4
83	247 301	–	No extreme poverty, wages low, labour scanty.	No; we help the sick, and those in temporary need. Chronic cases left to Poor Law.	Self.	No.	No, yet barely adequate, supplemented by relatives.	No.	£6 at C., £9 at West C., not including Bonus.	C. 15, West C. 17.
5	62	–	Not much.	No	—	No.	No.	No.	£20.	12 Families occasionally.

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104	1,300	–	1. Not much. 3. Age, drink, improvidence, large families.	Collections.	Self.	Certainly not.	No.	—	£3.	—
65	152	–	Not much.	No.	Self and family.	No.	No.	No.	£15.	4 or 5 Families.
64	496	–	1. Not much. Only in sickness.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£30.	—
204	299	–	1. Not much. 2. No. 3. Drink.	Collections for sick, aged, temporary. Coal and Clothing Clubs.	Money, self; Clubs and Charities by Committee.	No.	No.	No.	£25.	12
14	–	4,200	Not much.	Monthly in Committee with Staff and District Visitors, in emergency oftener.	District Visitors in Committee.	No.	No.	Sick inundated with delicacies.	£10.	—
191	–	1,720	1. Not much. 2. Yes, on the outskirts of the parish. 3. Scarcity of work, high rent, drink, debt.	By tickets, after monthly meetings of District Visitors.	District Visitors.	No.	No.	Yes, by several private individuals helping the same case.	£33, besides contributions to Institutions, Clubs, etc.	None continuously.
244	99	–	Not much.	Collections.	Self.	No.	No; because friends help.	No. 2. Communication with the Relieving Officer.	£10.	3 Persons.
303	146	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£6 + Parish Nurse, Dispensary and Hospital Tickets.	—
196	1,265	–	Not much.	Collections. Tickets. To Aged and Chronic cases, 1s. per week. Temporary, according to need.	Self, and District Visitors.	No.	No.	No.	Coll., £8. Charity, £20.	75.
58	1,320	–	1. Little. 3. Age and Intemperance.	No.	Self.	No reluctance as to out-relief.	No.	No.	£5.	A few families.
145	163	–	Very small place.	Questions inapplicable. We relieve the sick.		Poor Law stingy here as elsewhere.	—	—	—	—
37	475	–	Not much. Wages low. Allotments and gardens provide a fair living.	No. I relieve the sick.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	—	Only in sickness, two or three.
217	175 118	– –	Not much.	Collections.	Self.	No, only too ready.	No.	No.	Coll., £8. Charity, £3.	—
85	1,167 190	– –	Not much.	Collection for Sick. Two Pensioners, 1s. a week.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£10.	6 Families.
195	373	–	Not much.	No need of special methods. Each case can be separately dealt with.		No.	No, but aged should have more. 2. Couple over 70, salary £5, does odd jobs. Poor Law only 4s. a week.	No. A resident gives 2s. a week to those on the parish.	Charity, £40. Private, £30. Other doles, £5.	6 Families.
263	255	–	Not much.	No.		No.	No.	No.	Charity, £15.	30 to 40.
25	195	–	No Poor.	—		—	—	—	—	—

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.—*continued.*

No. of Return.	Population		Question 1. Poverty.	Question 2. Administration of Charitable Assistance.		Question 3. Distress from Reluctance to Use Poor Law Relief.	Question 4. Distress Inadequately Relieved by Poor Law.	Question 5. Overlapping.	Question 6.	Question 7.
	Rural.	Urban.	1. Amount. 2. Increasing? 3. Special Causes.	Special Methods for (1) Sick, (2) Aged, (3) Temporary, (4) Chronic cases.	By Self, Committee, or District Visitors.	1. Amount. 2. Instances. 3. Causes.	1. Amount. 2. Instances.	1a. Charities. 1b. Charity and Poor Law. 2. Special Effort to Prevent.	Amount spent yearly in Charitable Assistance.	Number of Persons or Families receiving Charitable Assistance.
87	1,054	–	Not much, except the aged.		Self, and D. Visitors.	Reluctance to go to the House. 3. The stigma, the confinement.	The old people live hard lives. A little more out relief wanted.	No.	Coll., £8. Charity, £9. Other sums, £6.	5% of poor receive doles, 50% from Charities.
49c	–	5,170	Not much. 3. Intemperance, improvidence, bad trade.	Tickets.	D. Visitors who report.	No, except as to the House.	No, Guardians most liberal and sympathetic.	No.	£40 to £50. About the same through Clubs.	50 to 70 Families.
40	45	–	Not much.	No. In confinement, in sickness. Never money, except under special circumstances, *e.g.*, surgical appliances.	Self, and others independently.	No.	No.	No.	£10.	5, and Clubs.
115	670	–	3. Great and needless increase of rates; rise in price of the necessaries of life.	Yes.	Committee.	No.	No.	No.	—	—
225	218	–	1. Not much. 2. No. 3. Drink and want of thrift.	Collections and Rector's Income.	Clergy.	No.	No.	A second-poor Charity £5 a year, not needed by many. 2. Yes, reductions.	C. £16. S. T. £12.	20 to 25 Families.
105	1015	–	1. Not much. 3. But some families suffer in winter from lack of work, owing to division of properties amongst small owners, who employ no regular labour. Increase of casual labour.	Help a few well, not many a little, preference to those in Clubs. Chronic cases by weekly pensions through a Committee. The sick according to doctor's advice, surgical and convalescent cases helped.	Self.	No.	No, but 2s. 6d., an almost impossible living, and does not vary with fluctuating price of coal.	No.	Impossible to say. Various persons giving independently.	—
81	217	–	1. Not much.	No, but help in time of sickness and age.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£10.	—
63	67	–	Not much.	A district nurse.	—	—	—	—	—	—
266	677	–	Two chronic invalids	By ticket.	Churchwardens.	No.	Always inadequate but supplemented by relatives.	No.	—	6 Persons.

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232	512	-	Not much.	Card's Charity (1) All the year—19 recipients of 5s. to 1s. 6d. a week. (2) During the winter 14 others, for 16 weeks, 2s. 6d. to 1s. 6d. (3) Doctor's Bills paid and Sanatorium Tickets given.	Self. Trustees.	No. Poor Law Relief Cases disqualify for Card's Charity.	No.	No.	Coll. £5. Charity. £190	19 Persons, in winter 33.
209	367	-	1. Not much. 3. Chiefly old age.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	Very little.	Coll. £11. Pensions £31. Gifts, £30. Charity, £3. Parish Nurse	12 People + x.
156	1369	-	Not much.	Collections for sick.	Self.	No.	No.		£5 + Private Gifts.	No.
99	389	-	Not much.	No. The small collection is ordinarily not needed, accumulated for rare cases. I prefer a Committee in a large parish; here everyone knows everyone's business, so I do it myself.	Self.	No. The danger is imposition on the Poor Law.	No.	No.	£3.	3
174	1182	-	Not much.	Temporary and urgent cases relieved by Clergy; chronic cases by district visitors monthly.	District Visitors and Clergy, and others.	1. Occasionally. 3. Because not of the usual class.	2s. 6d. is inadequate where one person lives alone, but such cases are supplemented privately.	1. No. 2. Carefully guarded against.	Coll. £25. Privately, considerable. Charity £80.	100
252	798	-	Not much.	By clubs. A nurse provided by subscriptions. Collections £25.	Self.	No.	—	No.	Coll. £25. Clubs, Nurse.	—
72	Included in K. E.	-	1. Not much. Gloving supplements labourers' wages.	—	Self and District Visitor.	No.	No.	No.	£3.	20 Families.
110	130 17	- -	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£10.	6
90a	437	-	Not much.	Monthly collection.	-	—	—	—	£10.	—
26	149	-	1. Not much. Wages very low, nearly all border on poverty.	No.	Self and Family.	No.	A mystery how they live on the pittance given; must be supplemented by friends.	No.	£6, and coal at Christmas.	Nearly all have coal.
49a	736	-	Not much.	No. Can visit each case.	Self and District Visitor.	No.	As a rule inadequate.	It is necessary that Charity and Poor Law overlap; the Guardians count on it.	£12, and a coal charity.	26 Families.

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE—*continued.*

No. of Return.	Population. Rural.	Population. Urban.	Question 1. Poverty. 1. Amount. 2. Increasing 3. Special Causes.	Question 2. Administration of Charitable Assistance. Special Methods for (1) Sick, (2) Aged, (3) Temporary, (4) Chronic cases.	Question 2. By Self, Committee, or District Visitors.	Question 3. Distress from Reluctance to use Poor Law Relief. 1. Amount. 2. Instances. 3. Causes.	Question 4. Distress Inadequately Relieved by Poor Law. 1. Amount. 2. Instances.	Question 5. Overlapping. 1a. Charities. 1b. Charity and Poor Law. 2. Special Efforts to Prevent.	Question 6. Amount spent yearly in Charitable Assistance.	Question 7. Number of Persons or Families receiving Charitable Assistance.
3	110	-	Questions inapplicable, people poor, singular absence of pauperism.			—	—	—	—	—
62	271	-	Not much.	No. Collections.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	Coll. £5. Charity £2 10s., for second poor.	2 regular, others casual.
131	1188	–	Not much.	No. By clubs.	Self, D. Visitors, and Trustees.	Not to out-relief. 3. Restrictions of the House; will half starve to avoid it.	No; because supplemented by collections, friends, former employers.	1a. A little. 1b. No; we confer with the Relieving Officer.	Coll. £12, Charity £30, Subs. £37, Private large.	30, or including Clubs 70.
242	398	–	1. Not much. 2. No.	No.	Self. Trustees.	No.	In two cases, increased relief would be a real boon.	No.	Charity £10, Coll. £11, Clubs £10.	12 or 14 Families.
16	264	–	1. Very little. 2. No.	No.	Self.	One case. 3. Probably small diminishing savings.	No; Poor Law relief.	No.	£3.	2
218	140	–	1. Very little.	No need.	Self and others.	One case; fear children will be asked to contribute.	Needs to be supplemented.	No.	—	1 in 8.
	56	–	2. No.							
189	948	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	—	£5.	—
133	241	–	1. Very little. 2. Decreasing.	No need.	Self.	Reluctance; but not to the extent of enduring distress. Naturally there is reluctance to go to the House. 3. Proper pride.	No. 2. A woman-servant, paralysed, only kept from the union by employer; to go to the union probably mean another stroke.	No; the parish is so small.	Including Clubs £25.	Very few regular, nearly all by Clubs.
118	340	–	1. Not much, owing to the women's shirt work. 3. Thriftlessness and drink.	No. Each case separately dealt with in money or kind.	Self.	One case: a young woman with illegitimate child, House offered, grandparents reluctant child shall be brought up there.	One case: widow of a soldier, he died because health broken in S. Africa. She had 3 children, Poor Law relief withdrawn, the woman told to break up her home and go to service.	No.	£10.	15; including Clubs, 30.
	84									
128	215	–	Very few cases indeed.	Monthly collection.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£20.	4 Families.
171	68	–	No real poverty.	No need. Help wanted in sickness only.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£3, nearly all in kind.	10.
157	531	–	1. Very little. 2. No.	Money. Tickets.	Self and District Visitor.	No.	No; but a little *comfort* desirable.	No.	£21.	16.

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254	–	4,000	Not much.	Yes.	Clergy and District Visitors.	No, except as to the House.	Supplemented by the Church.	No. Church and chapel relieve different individuals; desirable Charity and Poor Law should overlap.	£85 and Dispensary. 120 Blankets. Charity £40.	Including coal, 150 Families.
59	–	3,791	Not much.	No.	Self and District Visitors.	No.	No.	No.	£30, but many of our poor look to S. John's.	—
299	–	1,350	Very little.	Tickets. Money only in special cases.	District Visitors.	No.	No.	No.	£24.	30
272	–	2,878	Not much. 3. Drink, and want of management, the latter a growing evil.	Tickets.	Self through Visitors.	1. Little. 3. The manner of the Relieving Officer. The Guardians should be more accessible.	Inadequate in some of the older cases.	No.	£16.	—
30	51	–	None.	—	–	—	—	—	—	—
208	239	–	Not much.	Collections and local charities.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£50.	—
79	302	–	No real poverty. 3. Moral causes.	Tickets, not cash.	Self.	No, indeed some who ought not use parish doctor.	If given at all should be more.	No.	£4.	—
113	340	–	1. Not much, but all the agricultural labourers underfed.	Mostly in milk. Nurse provided when needed.	Self.	The Guardians guard the purses of the rich. 2. Labourer's wife in advanced consumption, 2 children, Poor Law does not provide the needed nurse.	No, as we have good parish charities.	No.	Coll. £15. Charity, £65.	30 Families and Clubs.
223	512	–	No abnormal poverty. Shirt making supplements men's wages and keeps them low.	No. As to direct alms. As to clubs.	Self, Church Workers.	No.	Have seen the horrors in Whitechapel where out-relief was refused; here the Poor Law administration more humane, yet relief often inadequate, *e.g.*: (1) a half-crazy widow incapable of earning has 2s. 6d. and pays 1s. rent. (2) Another only 2s 6d., but neighbours help.	Yes. A bread charity, and it is necessary for Charity to overlap Poor Law.	£50, including clubs, medicine, convalescent homes, etc., and educational gifts.	24
52	470	–	Not much, a few old persons.	No.	Self.	No.	Aged sick need more.	No.	Coll. £16. Charity £19.	Nearly all Christmas bread.
34	1,160	–	Not much. 2. No. 3. Improvidence and drink.	No special methods. Vicar gives relief in kind and by tickets. A lady gives money and in kind, lends blankets in the winter, provides nurse. Subscriptions to coal and clothing clubs. Bonuses.	—	No.	No.	No.	Charity £7. Others £80.	70

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE—*continued.*

No. of Return.	Population. Rural.	Population. Urban.	Question 1. Poverty. 1. Amount. 2. Increasing? 3. Special Causes.	Question 2. Administration of Charitable Assistance. Special Methods for (1) Sick, (2) Aged, (3) Temporary, (4) Chronic cases.	Question 2. By Self, Committee, or District Visitors.	Question 3. Distress from Reluctance to use Poor Law Relief. 1. Amount. 2. Instances. 3. Causes.	Question 4. Distress Inadequately Relieved by Poor Law. 1. Amount. 2. Instances.	Question 5. Overlapping. 1a. Charities. 1b. Charity and Poor Law. 2. Special Efforts to Prevent.	Question 6. Amount spent yearly in Charitable Assistance.	Question 7. Number of Persons or Families receiving Charitable Assistance.
188	428	–	Not much. 2. No. 3. Sickness and slack work.	None needed. A second-poor fund. By tickets and clubs.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£25.	5 chronic, others temporary.
262	258	–	1. Not much. 2. No.	No. Blanket, coal, clothing, and boot clubs.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	—	—
308	–	1,965	1. A good deal but variable. 2. Probably will. 3. Shortage of work. Improvidence and idleness. Drink.	No. Personal.	Self and District Visitors.	No, except in delaying application on the part of some.	1. Some cases.	Yes. C.O. needed. Unscrupulous applicants and careless givers.	Collection £25.	—
134	898	–	1. A good deal. Chronic, not intense. 2. No. 3. Low wages. Inconstant employment. Drink. Large families before the eldest earn.	No.	Self and Visitors.	Great aversion from the House, *i.e.*, breaking up home and living under discipline.	Sometimes relief not prompt enough.	No.	Charity £12. Coll. £5 and private.	—
106	812	–	1. Very little 3. Widows. Drink.	No. Tickets.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£20 from Church.	1 or 2 chronic, 15 temporary.
1	392	–	Not much, only the aged.	No. Coal and blankets.	Self.	No.	The widows need more.	No.	No collection for poor.	—
161	170	–	Not much. 2. No.	—	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£10.	4 Families. 4 in workhouse.
213	519	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£20 known.	12
238	477	–	Not much. 3. Age.	Small sums regular n chronic cases.	Self.	No.	Not more than usual.	Yes, by a few who ask everyone.	Coll. £9.	2 chronic, 5 temporary.
214	487	–	Not much.	Collection in Church.	Self.	No.	One case: Man over 80, wife nearly 80.	No.	Coll. £6.	7 or 8.
201	161	–	1. Several cases. 3. Sickness. Accident.	No. No charities.	—	No.	No.	No.	—	—
111	226	–	Not much. 3. Age. Drink. Thriftlessness.	Collections.	Self.	No.	No, but only because supplemented, *e.g.*, old couple, only 6s. a week supplemented by same amount and coal.	No.	£50 till our old people died.	14 cases, and occasional.

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255	706	–	1. Not much. 2. No.	By tickets and dainties, for aged and sick.	Self and a Visitor.	1. Some. 2. Two cases specified. 3. Self-respect. Fear of interview with Board. Possession of mortgaged cottage.	2s. 6d or 3s. not enough. Widows can't pay rent, get food and coal unless supplemented by alms and Clubs.	No	£50.	No.
119	303	–	Very little. Two receive out relief.	Collection in Church and gifts.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£10.	2 or 3.
221	–	3140	Not much.	No. There are coal, bread, second-poor and child-birth Charities, also collections in Church.	District Visitors.	No.	No, but widows, with small children, need more.	No.	Charities £24 Coll. £24.	—
202	368	–	Practically none.	9 almshouses with garden and 2s. 5d. a week, 8 with garden and 2s. a week.	—	No.	No.	No.	£5. See Question 2.	—
301	508	–	Not much. Five out of 130 Families receive Poor Law Relief.	Collection in Church, but only a small amount of relief administered in this way.	Self.	No, but hardship. 3. Fear contributions will be levied; Guardians refuse those who own their cottage; *Status* of paupers.	No, but always inadequate, because administration expensive and ratepayers poor. Help needed from Exchequer.	No; unfortunately	£3.	20 Persons.
89	191	–	Not much.	Collections: distributed with reference to 5 Charities and character.	Self and Churchwardens.	No.	No.	No.	£10 and meat, etc.	4
90b	254	–	Not much.	Collections.	Self.	No.	One case: relief only pays rent.	No.	£11 coll. Other gifts.	—
163	3150	–	1. A good deal. 3. Inconstant employment.	Collections, tickets, a soup kitchen.	Clergy, District Visitors, Parish Nurse.	Reluctant to enter House.	No.	1a. Not much. 1b. Not "needless."	£35.	—
273	780	–	Not much.		Self.	No.	No.	No	—	16 widows from a Charity and a few others in sickness.
147	327	–	Not much. 2. No.	No.	The Rector's family.	No.	No, Grants larger since circular to Boards of Guardians from Local Government Board.	No.	£27.	21
237	854	–	Not much.	Tickets monthly to those receiving Poor Law relief.	District Visitors.	No.	An old couple, one bedridden, imbecile son, 5s. a week.	No.	—	—
33	93	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	None.	No.	No.	£30.	None.
267	252	–	Very little—only widows.	No. Sick: food, alms, medical attendance. Aged: Weekly alms and pensions.	Self. Several Visitors.	Certainly not.	No.	No, because a little village.	Coll. £15. Gifts of food, clothing. Wages paid in sickness. 2 pensions = £14.	26 Persons.
2	112	–	Not much.	Collection.	Self.	No.	Should be 50 per cent. more in winter.	No.	Mostly in kind.	Half the families.
68	70	–	Not much. More thrifty and contented than in town.	No. No collection.	The Rector and 2 farmers.	No.	No.	No.	—	4 Families.

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.—*continued.*

No. of Return.	Population.		Question 1. Poverty.	Question 2. Administration of Charitable Assistance.		Question 3. Distress from Reluctance to use Poor Law Relief.	Question 4. Distress Inadequately Relieved by Poor Law.	Question 5. Overlapping.	Question 6.	Question 7.
	Rural.	Urban.	1. Amount. 2. Increasing? 3. Special Causes.	Special Methods for (1) Sick, (2) Aged, (3) Temporary, (4) Chronic cases.	By Self, Committee, or District Visitors.	1. Amount. 2. Instances. 3. Causes.	1. Amount. 2. Instances.	1a. Charities. 1b. Charity and Poor Law. 2. Special Efforts to Prevent.	Amount spent yearly in Charitable Assistance.	Number of Persons or Families receiving Charitable Assistance.
245	198	–	Practically none.	No Charities. Clothing Club. Bonus 2s. 6d. or 3s. ; 2 cottages for aged poor. Chief need nursing in sickness and confinement.	—	—	—	—	—	—
107	371	–	Very little.	No. Money and light food to the sick. 1s. a week to 8 old persons.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£20	—
230	813	–	1. Not much. 2. No. 3. Sickness and widowhood. Drink and laziness.	Collection. Tickets. Club bonuses.	Self and District Visitor.	No, or seldom. Aversion from the House, partly from the company there.	No, unless widows, *e.g.* a widow half blind, 4s., 2s.6d. rent.	1a. Church and Chapel.	Alms and Clubs £36. Hospital £6.	30 Persons.
154	204	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	—	2 Persons.
76	154	–	1. Scarcely any. 3. Laziness, Drink.	No. Little sickness. Few aged.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£8.	12 Persons.
20	206	–	1. Not much.	No. Collection.	—	No.	No.	No.	—	No.
302	155	–	1. None. 2. No.	Collection. About 4 persons regularly or occasionally, and after confinement.	Self.	No.	No.	—	£3.	—
126	137	–	1. None.	No. Help is given as required and in many forms.	Squire, Self, Others.	No.	No.	No.	No.	—
231	406	–	1. A good deal in proportion to population. 2. No. 3. Age and infirmity.	1. Tickets through District nurse. 2 and 4, very few ; regular gifts. 3. Very rare. All helped from collection. Help often given towards going to Hospitals and meeting Doctors' Bills.	By Others.	No.	An old woman 3s., rent 1s. to pay out of it.	No.	£10.	25 to 30 Persons.
140	119 47	–	1. None.	Squire excuses rent to widows. A little relief given in illness or accident.	—	No. None to Outdoor Relief. Much to Indoor Relief.	—	No.	—	—
53	436	–	1. Not much.	—	Monthly Committee, each Member a District.	No.	No.	No.	Collection £6. Charity £21.	Charity 140. Collection to the Sick.

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207	280	–	Not much. People industrious and thrifty.	No. No Charities. Chief landowner gives clothes and helps Clothing Club. None receiving *regular* alms.	—	No.	No.	No.	—	—
239	1,962	–	1. A good many cases. 2. No. 3. Failure in business, Infirmity and Sickness. Drink. Improvidence. Inconstant work.	Collection. No Committee, but consult District Visitors at Monthly Meeting and other times. Christmas gifts in money and kind. Girl in Preventive Home. Nourishment for Sick. Journeys to Hospitals and Homes. Money. A good deal of relief given by individuals and Nonconformists.	Clergy.	Very little reluctance to Outdoor relief and decreasing as to Indoor.	No.	Some between Church and Chapel.	Collection £30. Clubs £38. Charity £23.	Vide Question 2.
194	985	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£10.	—
36	532 267	–	Not much.	No. Nearly always in kind.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£15.	4 old Persons.
222	1,364	–	Not much.	Collections. By tickets. There are 3 Charities: Blankets, Coal, and Money.	District Visitor.	No, regarded as a right.	No.	No.	Col. £15. Charity £37. Hospital £23.	40 Families.
18	608	–	Very little. Small holdings prevent it.	Collection.	Self.	No.	Not distress.	No.	Collection £5 Charity £30.	Charity, 75 Families, Collection 6.
75	1,685	–	Not much when gloving is good.	Collection. Usually in kind. Four Charities, (1) Doles, (2) Blankets and Coal, (3) Doles, (4) Doles.	District Visitors.	No.	No.	No.	£21.	No.
46	145	–	Not much.	There is a fund of £12 a year against sickness and accidents; accumulates.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£25.	—
125	–	2,779	Not much. Depends on building trade and season. Bad management.	In kind to sick. 1s. a week to aged. Help to those keeping their relatives from the House. Lend money. A penny Bank for rent difficulty. Several Charities, beneficiaries regard them as a prize, no disgrace.	District Visitors.	Aversion from the House great amongst aged, three suicides, fear loss of liberty.	No.	No.	—	—
241	681	–	Only a little, not increasing.	Collection. Endowed Charity to deserving people by Parish Council Committee.	Self and another.	No.	No, but a little more beneficial.	No.	Coll. £12.	No.
21	743	–	Not much. 3. Want of work. Price of coal. Drink.	Collection. Occasionally to temporary cases, regularly to Chronic.	Self.	No, except as to House.	Not usually: *e.g.*, Widow, 79, 2s. 6d., two daughters, one 53, deaf and dumb, 3s., other 50 deaf, does some sewing 2s., 7s. 6d. in all.	No.	Coll. £12. Clothing Club £11. Blank't C. £5. Coal Club £2 10s.	10
22	261 126 121	–	Not much.	No. As cases arise.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	M. £5. St. £4. S.M. £3.	None regularly.

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.—*continued.*

No. of Return.	Population. Rural.	Population. Urban.	Question 1. Poverty. 1. Amount. 2. Increasing? 3. Special Causes.	Question 2. Administration of Charitable Assistance. Special Methods for (1) Sick, (2) Aged, (3) Temporary, (4) Chronic cases.	Question 2. By Self. Committee, or District Visitors.	Question 3. Distress from Reluctance to use Poor Law Relief. 1. Amount. 2. Instances. 3. Causes.	Question 4. Distress Inadequately Relieved by Poor Law. 1. Amount. 2. Instances.	Question 5. Overlapping. 1a. Charities. 1b. Charity and Poor Law. 2. Special Efforts to prevent.	Question 6. Amount spent yearly in Charitable Assistance.	Question 7. Number of Persons or Families receiving Charitable Assistance.
253	231	–	Not much. 2. No.	No. When visiting, and as necessary. Self-reliance and self-help encouraged.	Clergy.	No.	One or two cases.	None.	£13.	No.
135	1,060	–	1. Much. 2. Yes. 3. Want of work. Improvidence. Old age.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	Collection £11. Charity £4.	35 to 50 Families.
269	720	–	1. Not much, but fluctuating, the need usually temporary. 2. Probably not.	Collections. By Tickets. Monthly Meeting of District Visitor.	Self and District Visitor.	No.	No.	No.	Collections, Clubs, and Charity, £30 to £35.	35 to 40
124	213	–	Not much.	My own pocket.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	–	4 Families.
192	581	–	Not much. Poorer people pick primroses, mushrooms, blackberries, whortleberries, and fuel on Quantocks.	Collection. Tickets. Small parish and no need of Committee. 6 Charities.	Self.	No, rather regarded as a right.	Apparently not, but how a poor person lives on 2s. 6d. or a couple on 4s. is a mystery.	Church and individuals overlap unless care is used.	Collection £10. Clubs £16. Charity £30.	85 Families.
236	260	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	–	20
219	392	–	Not much.	No. Collection and Charity.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£28.	6 regularly, others occas.
312	113	–	Cases very rare, but work decreasing. Cost of Medical attendance and Medicine.	No Collection nor Charities. Three or four individuals give in sickness, etc. Two pensions. Coal Club. District Nurse. Men belong to Friendly Society.	—	No.	No.	—	–	—
73	718	–	1. Not much. 2. No. 3. Widows and infirmity.	Collection. Two Charities. Three who help the poor.	Self.	None as to Outdoor Relief.	No.	Carefully guarded against.	Col. £7. Charity £23. Private C.	50 Families.
136	156	–	Not much.	Collection. Distributed according to need.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£25.	None regular.
306	1,525	–	What does "Poverty" mean?	Can't answer such vague questions.		—	—	—	–	–
82	783 27	– –	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£5.	Very few.

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185	275	-	None.	A nurse.	Curate, self and family.	No	No.	No.	£30 and much besides.	No.
51	455	-	1. About a dozen cases. 3. Old age, not improvidence.	1. Temporary help. Poor Law relief cases 6d. a week each. Those living on savings and debarred from Poor Law relief, occasional help.	Self and District Visitor.	No.	Insufficient, needs to be supplemented.	No.	Coll. £12. Charity £28 Clothing Club £20.	42 Persons from Charity
69	468	-	1. Not much. 3. Drink.	Gifts in kind, not tickets. Small weekly pension to aged deserving persons.	Self.	No, except for fear relatives will be called upon to contribute, and strained relations result.	No.	No.	£5 and special subscriptions.	Regular 4 or 5.
39	296	-	None.	1. In kind. 2. 1s. a week, *vide* Return.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£15 to £20.	12
277	434	-	None, but many receive 3s. as Poor Law relief.	Those receiving Poor Law relief have clothing, coal, food. "All want willingly supplied." *Vide* Return 49 D, and remark as to need of cottages.	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	519	-	1. Very little. 2. No.	Collections. Tickets. Clothing club.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	Coll. £5. Clubs £5.	12 Families.
253	1,065	-	3. Low wages, but gardens: if thrifty live comfortably, rent being low. Chief result of poverty here, wretched cottages; signs of improvement.	1. Help sick substantially, with a view to permanent good. 2 and 4 much the same: receive Poor Law relief which is supplemented by doles and gifts in kind. Try to help them toward work.	Self, after conference with others.	No reluctance except as to House.	Inadequate in most cases, *e.g.*, old woman 2s. 6d., 1s. 6d. rent.	Only as to private charity.	£32.	No.
28	450	-	1. Not much. 2. No. 3. Ill-health, laziness, drink.	No. Collection.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£2.	6.
167	432	-	Not much. Kindness of landowner prevents it.	Collection. Nourishment ordered by Doctor or Parish Nurse, given by written orders. Nine pensions of 2s. 6d. a month.	Self.	No.	No.	Some. 2. Care is taken.	£20.	30.
168	346	-	A little.	Committee not needed.	Self.	Reluctance as to House (because it means loss of own home). Reluctance disappears on experience.	No, for Guardians will increase it on reason shewn.	No.	Coll. £5. Subs. for Clubs £11.	25
197	1,505	-	Not much now, depends on coal-trade. Dozen cases meat once a week.	Collection. Tickets for 2s. 6d. and downwards. 5 monthly doles 2s. 6d. Clothing club 160 members 2s. each.	Clergy and Parish Nurse.	Yes; widow with crippled son, also half paralysed man, both reluctant to use Poor Law relief for fear of House.	Yes: a man and wife short of food; widow and weak-minded daughter.	No.	£54.	30. By Clubs 160.
67	54	-	Not a single case.	Any who need assistance I help.	—	—	—	—	—	—

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE—*continued.*

No. of Return.	Population.		Question 1. Poverty.	Question 2. Administration of Charitable Assistance.		Question 3. Distress from Reluctance to Use Poor Law Relief.	Question 4. Distress Inadequately Relieved by Poor Law.	Question 5. Overlapping.	Question 6.	Question 7.
	Rural.	Urban.	1. Amount. 2. Increasing? 3. Special Causes.	Special Methods for (1) Sick, (2) Aged, (3) Temporary, (4) Chronic cases.	By Self, Committee, or District Visitors.	1. Amount. 2. Instances. 3. Causes.	1. Amount. 2. Instances.	1a. Charities. 1b. Charity and Poor Law. 2. Special Efforts to Prevent.	Amount spent yearly in Charitable Assistance.	Number of Persons or Families receiving Charitable Assistance.
117	294	–	1. Considerable. 2. Yes. 3. Change from arable to pasture for milk. Three public houses to 256 people.	No. Sick and aged helped as far as funds go. An account at Easter.	Self.	Yes. Lack of necessary comforts for old age. 2. A widow refuses relief. 3. Fear son with 5 children ordered to contribute.	Yes. A widow. A man, he will starve rather than go to the House.	No.	Collections £12. Other £6.	7
170	302 429	–	1. Not much. 2. No. 3. Age and infirmity.	Collections. Individuals help.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£5.	40 Families.
251	1,715	–	Not much. Earnings very variable and casual. Improvidence.	No. Substantial help in temporary distress, rather than small doles to many. Collections. A charity in doles (complete waste of money). Two Nonconformist chapels to their members £14. Coal and Clothing clubs. Parish Nurse.	Self and Church Army Officer.	No.	1. Many cases. 2. Widow, 2s. 6d. and loaves. Many such, impossible to live on, induces begging.	1a. No. 1b. It is necessary, but ought not to be necessary.	Coll. £15. Charity £8. Nonconformist chapels £14. Clubs £34. Parish nurse £50.	—
172	996	–	1. Very little. 3. Mainly drink.	—	District Visitors as a Committee.	Dread of House as loss of own home.	No.	No.	£30.	65. 10 regular. 10 special.
121	263	–	None.	No. Collection. Generous help by the D. family.	—	No.	No.	No.	—	—
53	74	–	Not much.	2s. a visit when sick. Landowner gives each cottage half ton of coal at Christmas.	Self.	No, except as to House.	Inadequate, only 2s. 6d.	—	—	—
47	751 28	–	1. Scarcely any. 3. Age and sickness.	Collection. Two Charities.	District Visitor.	No.	No.	No.	Coll. £30. Charity £180	40 to 50 Persons or Families.
149	398	–	1. Very little. 2. No.	—	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£5.	14
310	–	2,787	1. A large amount. 3. Great loss of trade and lack of work.	Collections. Tickets. Coal and Clothing clubs.	Self and District Visitors as a Committee.	No.	No.	No.	Collections £60 Charity £48.	No.
77	130	–	1. Not much. 3. Low wages, age, bad management.	No. A committee would be a hindrance. Chiefly in kind, boots, clothes, milk, medicine, dinners, jam, coal.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	In kind, *vide* Question 2. £7.	All in need.

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61	372	–	1. None.	Collection for sick. Charity for second poor, 10s. each.	Self.	—	—	—	—	12.
151	171	–	1. None.	No. A charity at Christmas: 6s. to every cottage, blanket or flannel to 7 aged women. Private charity at Christmas: tea and sugar to every cottage. Monthly or occasional gifts of money to 21 persons.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£64.	Every cottager.
130	138	–	Not much, because no public house.	No. Every case known. Employers help.	Self.	No.	Yes. Insufficient; must be supplemented.	No.	£5.	None regular.
137	636	–	Not much.	Collection. Relief in kind. A charity.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£10.	24 Persons and Sick.
101	205	–	1. Very little. 3. Widowhood, age, sickness. Wages low, 12s. Cottages good, with gardens.	No. Coal, clothing and boot clubs, with bonuses of 25 per cent., 33 per cent., and over 50 per cent.	Self.	No.	—	No.	£13, etc.	40.
96	417	–	None.	Only to sick. Coal and clothing clubs.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£5.	Members of clubs only.
227	–	3365	None, except the aged.	A nurse. Collection. Wesleyans' quarterly collection. United Methodists' and Baptists' monthly collection, Primitive Methodists' yearly.	Self.	None as to Outdoor. Horror of Indoor Relief.	No.	Some. 3. A conference proposed.	Coll. £7. Hospital £35. Nurse £90.	20 to 30.
155	208	–	None, except aged, widows, and bad managers.	Collections and donations.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£4.	Every householder biennially from a charity.
200	463 93	– –	Not much.	Collections. Money or kind, not tickets. Aged 1s. a month. No need of committee or district visitor. Help sent by others with a written kindly message. Coal and clothing clubs.	–	No.	No.	No.	—	12 to 15.
95	137	–	Not much.	No need of methods or committee. Small parish, and help only given in sickness.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	Coll. £7. Club £10.	None regular.
93	456	–	Very little.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£6.	10 to 12.
311	1900	–	Not much; depends on work, *e.g.*, closed iron-ore works, and destruction of the harbour.	See Return 32, p. 30, below.	Self.	No.	—	—	—	—

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.—*continued.*

No. of Return.	Population.		Question 1. Poverty.	Question 2. Administration of Charitable Assistance.		Question 3. Distress from Reluctance to use Poor Law Relief.	Question 4. Distress Inadequately Relieved by Poor Law.	Question 5. Overlapping.	Question 6.	Question 7.
	Rural.	Urban.	1. Amount. 2. Increasing? 3. Special Causes.	Special Methods for (1) Sick, (2) Aged, (3) Temporary, (4) Chronic cases.	By Self, Committee, or District Visitors.	1. Amount. 2. Instances. 3. Causes.	1. Amount. 2. Instances.	1a. Charities. 1b. Charity and Poor Law. 2. Special Efforts to Prevent.	Amount spent yearly in Charitable Assistance.	Number of Persons or Families receiving Charitable Assistance.
229	202	–	Not much.	No. Coal, clothing, and blanket clubs.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	Coll. £6. Clubs £9. Charity £5.	From Coll. 11 F. From Charity every poor household occasionally.
175	358 598	– –	Little.	Collection. Tickets. Turf twice a year to Poor Law cases. In A. a charity to 80 persons, 2s. 6d. to 15s. each. In S. a charity from 5s. to 17s. 6d. Many who receive these charities do not need them.	Clergy.	No.	No.	No.	Collection and Charity in S. £20; in A. £48.	In A 80 P.; in S. 35 P.
210	618	–	Not much, owing to the gloving trade.	Collection.	Self.	No.	No.	—	Coll. £25.	20 Persons.
29	382	–	Not much.	No. In money or kind.	Self.	No.	Yes. Only 2s. 6d. allowed, this withdrawn if they earn anything. In one instance an old couple, both nearly 80, quite unable to work, get only 2s. 6d. for the two.	No.	No.	No.
1a	1797	–	1. Little. 2. No	No.	Self.	No.	A woman because she owns her cottage; can get no help.	No.	£80 Collection, Clubs, Charities.	—
8	148	–	Not much.	Collection.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	—	1 or 2.
103	1997	–	1. Much. 2. Not decreasing. 3. Improvidence and drink.	Collection. Tickets.	District Visitors.	No.	No.	No.	£20.	60 to 70 Families.
54	415	–	1. Very little.	Collection.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	Coll. £7. Clubs £12.	No.
235	224	–	1. Very little, only sick, infirm, and aged.	No. No committee needed, all cases relieved from private sources.	—	No.	No.	No.	£3.	2 Families.

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78	81	–	1. Not much. 2. No. 3. Age and Infirmity.	Two charities. Clubs.	Self.	—	—	No.	£10	—
9	140	–	Practically none.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
139	832	–	Only amongst aged, sick, and large families with sickly father.	No, because I know every case. Collection. Charity (blankets and clothing). Clubs (clothing and coal).	Self.	No.	Only 2s. 6d., *must* be supplemented. Rent and firing cannot be less than 1s. 6d., 2d. a day is left.	No.	Charity £25 to £30. Coll. £11, and Club bonuses.	—
258	1034	–	1. Not much. 2. No.	Collection. Tickets. Almshouses for 9 persons. Pensioners, 8 at 3s., 8 at 4s.	Self.	No.	—	No, because prevented.	Collection £7 Charities £29. Bread doles.	70
116	982	–	1. Not much.	Collection. Charity doles, 1s. 6d. to 3s.	Self.	A case of aged woman and daughter unable to pay rent, formerly dairy farmers. *Vide* letter.	In every case where there is real destitution the Poor Law relief is too little.	No.	Coll. £4. Charity £7.	—
22	592	–	Not much. Employment plentiful.	No. A charity.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	Charity and Coll. £20.	All.
305	302	–	1. Not much.	Collection. A charity.	Self and Visitor.	No.	No.	1a. No. 1b. Some.	£100.	36 Families from Charity.
	630	–	3. Chiefly drink.							
49	97	–	None.	No. Collection against accidents and sickness.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	—	None.
206	336	–	None, only 2 receive Poor Law relief.	Have worked in towns, no committee necessary, as everyone is known.	—	—	—	—	—	—
211	–	4000	Not much, but dependent on the great factory, other employment shrinking. Men migrate and emigrate.	Collection. List kept of aged persons and needy widows, £5 a quarter distributed to these (2s. or 2s. 6d.) but at Christmas, by tickets. Temporary relief to sick. A charity to hospitals, coal club. Weekly payments to 26 persons, monthly to 48.	Clergy and District Visitors.	No. Reluctance from proper pride, or reluctance to state all sources of income.	The Board of guardians try to turn applicants to an endowed charity.	1a. Some between Church and Chapel. 1b. *Vide* Qu. 4.	Coll. £40. Charity £288 add Nurse and Chapels.	Say 100.
123	109		Not much.	No. Principal employers assist.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	Variable	No.
268	562		1. Not much. 3. Chiefly drink, also age and sickness.	Collection. Committee not needed. Individual charity.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£28. Other sources £10.	Say 6 and Sick.
224	1,045		1. Very little. 2. No.	No. Need only in sickness: district nurse and medical comforts available. Greater part of population depend on lace factory and are well looked after by employer. Several have pensions.	Self and District Visitors.	Seldom; one or two cases. (1) Widow, 67, fear of sons if ordered to contribute. (2) Woman, 65, invalid, husband gets a little at odd jobs, cause as in 1, yet sons in business and owning house.	Always inadequate.	Does not apply.	No.	No.

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.—*continued.*

No of Return.	Population. Rural.	Population. Urban.	Question 1. Poverty. 1. Amount. 2. Increasing? 3. Special Causes.	Question 2. Administration of Charitable Assistance. Special Methods for (1) Sick, (2) Aged, (3) Temporary, (4) Chronic cases.	Question 2. By Self, Committee, or District Visitors.	Question 3. Distress from Reluctance to use Poor Law Relief. 1. Amount. 2. Instances. 3. Causes.	Question 4. Distress Inadequately Relieved by Poor Law. 1. Amount. 2. Instances.	Question 5. Overlapping. 1a. Charities. 1b. Charity and Poor Law. 2. Special Efforts to Prevent.	Question 6. Amount spent yearly in Charitable Assistance.	Question 7. Number of Persons or Families receiving Charitable Assistance.
240		4,642	2. Tends to increase, because employment irregular. Insurance a kind of thrift, but as it exists here tends to serious moral degradation.	Collection. Subscriptions. A Bonus Club. Charitable persons like to distribute their alms themselves.	District Visitors.	No, but a few cases: (1) Man, 83, dread of House; (2) Invalid man at 50, the same.	Very generally inadequate; supplemented in many ways	1. Yes. 2. Yes, by Committee	By Collections and Subscriptions £50.	—
314		4,377	1. Very little. 2. No.	Difficult cases referred to a sub-committee of C.E.M.S. Coll.	District Visitors.	No.	No.	No.	Collections £10.	—
183		3,542	1. Yes, a good deal. 2. Intensity varies with the season. 3. Low wages; irregular work; drink.	Collection. C.E.M.S. and Church council both advise. Milk daily. A few pensions 1s. to 2s. 6d. a week. District Visitors give tickets for emergency help. Vicar money. Convalescent home payments.	Self and District Visitors.	Yes. *E.g.*, woman paralysed, with imbecile son, allowed 2s. 6d. for him, herself refused. 3. Harshness of Relieving Officer. Dread of House, as implying separation and loss of liberty.	Yes. *E.g.*, Three widows all about 80, 2s. a week, 6d. more in winter, rent 1s. 6d.	1a. A good deal. 1b. No. There is a Town Relief Committee (with a Sub-Committee in each Ward) to give adequate relief and prevent overlapping. The management is chiefly Nonconformist.	Coll. £55. Ward Com. £20. And Nonconformists.	80 to 90 Families. = 12 % mainly sickness.
198	678		Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£66.	40
153	595		Not much.	No, all cases known, also the help given. The farmers help those who work for them liberally.	—	None as to out, strong as to in-relief.	No.	No.	No.	No.
288	152		1. Not much. 2. Decreases. 3. Low wages and drink.	No.	By others.	No, except as to House. 3. Stigma and methods of administration. Poor have a right to a pension.	No.	No.	£5 to £20.	—
42	102		Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	—	Only sick.
112	157 182		Practically none.	Collection. Sick and aged regular help.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£15.	—
141	289		Very little. Two or three old and infirm persons.	Collection. Tickets.	Self.	None.	No.	No.	—	None regular.
35	265		Not much.	No. Little money given, cases helped in kind as they arise.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	—	—
120	1,515		1. A little. 2. No.	Collection. Tickets (average amount 2s.) Clothing Club. No, committee. Consult churchwarden.	Self.	No. *Note*: If a man is thrifty enough to acquire a house he becomes liable for rates and disqualified for relief.	Bad plan to give large loaf to old persons once a week.	No.	£14. Club £2.	6

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138	120		Not much.	Collections.	Self.	No.	No	No.	—	No.
261	354		1. Not much. 2. Decreasing.	No. Collection. Clothing club 54 members and 60 children. A Boot club. Charities, doles 2s. 6d. to 8s. to 56 persons. Almshouses for 4 women, 4s. a week and coal, and allowance for clothing. Help to sick and poor £20.	Self.	No, except as to House, from dread of the other inmates, there should be discrimination, for the worthy the House should be similar to an Almshouse.	No.	No.	Coll. £3. Private £17. Clubs £30. Charity £16	—
80	914	–	None in distress. All in need assisted	No.	Self and District Visitors.	No.	No.	No.	£100 including Poor Law relief.	53
102	1,300	–	2. Yes. 3. Want of work. Rents high; cost of living increasing.	A layman, experienced and paid, enquires into cases of need and relieves. The money expended goes farther and more surely to the right cases.	—	1. A certain amount. 3 (*a*.) Proper pride of those who have never used Poor Law nor been able to provide for age. (*b*) Want of old-age pensions. (*c*) Fear of children who may be called upon to contribute.	Poor Law relief is of course inadequate. "Can it be otherwise?" We supplement Poor Law relief through the winter.	1*a*. Very little. 1*b*. We consult Relieving Officer. 2. Assistance only given after enquiry, and outsiders referred to their own districts.	£70 to £80.	Impossible. Much temporary distress.
43	332	–	Very little.	—	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£7.	11 Families from a 2nd poor charity. None of them needy.
6	1,299	–	Not much.	Collection. Tickets.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	Small amount.	—
114	190	–	Practically none. Two Poor Law cases.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
179	426	–	Very little; only the old.	No method except the parson's pocket. No gentry.	Self.	None. Poor Law relief regarded as receiving again what was paid in rates.	No.	No.	Small.	No.
300	650	–	None except aged or sick.	No need. Collection.	Self.	—	—	No.	£20.	—
220	303	–	Not much.	Collection.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	—	10
260	322	–	Not much.	Charitable assistance here is done by private individuals.	—	—	—	—	—	—
7	440	–	No real poverty.	The Court and the Vicarage do what is needed.	—	No.	When inadequate supplemented.	No.	No.	Regularly 6 Families.
27	–	1,573	1. Not much. 2. No. 3. Drink and debt. A few women are money-lenders, and have what they call clubs; semi-secret, exorbitant interest.	Collection small. No regular assistance given. Considerable amount of private charity by rich people and employers.	Through others if possible.	No, and not much to the House.	1. Some cases. 2. (1) Woman aged 89, living alone, rent to pay, 3s. a week. (2) Man, 65, ill and needy, 3s.	No.	£16. Chapel probably less.	70 Families.

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.—*continued.*

No. of Return.	Population.		Question 1. Poverty.	Question 2. Administration of Charitable Assistance.		Question 3. Distress from Reluctance to Use Poor Law Relief.	Question 4. Distress Inadequately Relieved by Poor Law.	Question 5. Overlapping.	Question 6.	Question 7.
	Rural.	Urban.	1. Amount. 2. Increasing? 3. Special Causes.	Special Methods for (1) Sick, (2) Aged, (3) Temporary, (4) Chronic cases.	By Self, Committee, or District Visitors.	1. Amount. 2. Instances. 3. Causes.	1. Amount. 2. Instances.	1a. Charities. 1b. Charity and Poor Law. 2. Special Efforts to Prevent.	Amount spent yearly in Charitable Assistance.	Number of Persons or Families receiving Charitable Assistance.
246	1,036	–	Very little, and that amongst temporary residents.	—	Clergy.	No.	No.	No.	£10.	12 Persons.
177	–	4,679	1. No acute poverty. 2. Decreasing.	1. Nurse and District Visitors who relieve. 2. Pensions from Cathedral Alms and a charity. 3. From a charity. 4. Poor Law and supplemented. The City is very rich in charities, and has almshouses with 60 inmates; an excellent and satisfactory form of charity.	Trustees and District Visitors, and sometimes Clergy.	No.	No.	Very little.	No.	Large proportion of wage-earning class.
304	–	935	1. Much. 2. No.	Collection and donations.	Self and District Visitors.	No.	No.	No.	£19. Also a very liberal individual.	80 Families.
159	200 60	–	1. None, except a few aged women. Good cottages in L. which attract good labourers.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	—	4 Persons.
146	231	–	None.	—	—	No.	No.	No.	Charity £4.	16 to 20 Persons.
169	892	–	1. Not much. 2. No. 3. Improvidence, bad management, and intemperance.	No. Consider each case. Consult doctor and others. A charity. Collection.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	Charity £10. Coll. £6. Many private gifts.	50 per cent.
315	311	–	Not much.	No. Three charities, in doles 7s. each.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	Coll. £4. Charity £14; and another.	40 to 50.
234	359	–	1 Scarcely any. 3. Drink.	Two small charities (bread and coal). Collection, given away in kind to sick and at childbirth. The farmers give food in sickness.	Self.	No, except as to House.	No.	No. Small population; little danger.	Collection £4.	10 to 12.

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257	237	–	Not much, and that preventable.	No. Collection. Tickets. Subscriptions to hospitals. A small charity.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£35.	35
108	906	–	1. Not much. 2. No. 3. Drink, and this decreasing.	No Committee needed. Collection.	Clergy.	No.	No	No.	Coll. £23. Priv. Charity. Clubs £17.	20 regular, 7 occasional.
94	662	–	Very little.	No.	Self.	No	No.	No.	Charity £21, Coll. £10, Clubs £7.	24 from Collections, all "poor" from Charity.
203	2,252	–	No poverty but what we relieve. All the acute distress I know in this part arises either from improvidence or intemperance.	Pensions, amounting to £34. What is needed is (1) encouragement and (in sickness) help as to benefit clubs; (2) Stricter administration of licensing laws.	District Visitors, Clergy occasionally.	No. Outdoor relief cases require much more supervision than they get. Those who are unworthy of it through habits of intemperance which have pauperised them, ought to be prevented from indulging those habits at the cost of ratepayers who are temperate.	No.	Yes. 1a. and b. And between individuals. We are able to relieve every deserving case, but some go to the benevolent of the neighbourhood who give help often without enquiry, and so to the undeserving. Such benefactors appear to prefer uninformed almsgiving.	£90.	No, every deserving case relieved.
297	3,800	–	Not much, indeed very little, except from drink. A flood or very hard winter will produce exceptional need.	Collection. Tickets. A few aged widows, weekly pension.	Clergy and District Visitors.	No, but harshness in questioning by Relieving Officer resented.	—	—	£50. Special appeal in exceptional distress.	—
291	150	–	1. A very poor parish, yet not the poverty of a town. 3. Want of work.	Only in sickness.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	—	—
143	–	4,280	1. Not much, mostly amongst casual labourers, out of employment except in the "Season."	Through District Visitors. A committee of Clergy and District Visitors. We co-operate with the Charity Organisation Society.	—	3. Fear of questioning by Relieving Officer and the House. A Charitable Relief Committee of Guardians and others desirable.	Totally insufficient.	No.	£70.	No.
321	–	412	None. Small district, no poor.	No. What our people do is done through agencies working in other parishes.	—	No.		No.	—	No.
475	–	5,379	1. Considerable, but variable. Bad this winter because summer season of 1907 a very poor one.	Collections. Tickets only. Relief given only in special distress, *e.g.*, sickness or want of work, and usually not regularly.	District Visitors, Lay reader, occasionally Clergy.	Only know one case. My impression is that there is a good deal.	Many cases require to be supplemented.	1a. Not much. Charity Organisation Society and Church do nearly all. 1b. No.	£35.	—

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.—*continued.*

No. of Return.	Population.		Question 1. Poverty.	Question 2. Administration of Charitable Assistance.		Question 3. Distress from Reluctance to Use Poor Law Relief.	Question 4. Distress Inadequately Relieved by Poor Law.	Question 5. Overlapping	Question 6.	Question 7.
	Rural.	Urban.	1. Amount. 2. Increasing? 3. Special Causes.	Special Methods for (1) Sick, (2) Aged, (3) Temporary, (4) Chronic cases.	By Self, Committee, or District Visitors.	1. Amount. 2. Instances. 3. Causes.	1. Amount. 2. Instances.	1a. Charities. 1b. Charity and Poor Law. 2. Special Efforts to Prevent.	Amount spent yearly in Charitable Assistance.	Number of Persons or Families receiving Charitable Assistance.
212	–	6,000	2. No.	Collection for Charity Organisation Society. Clubs for clothing, coal, and blankets.	Clergy and District Visitors.	House regarded as a disgrace.	Rarely sufficient. Rents high.	Doubtless there is.	—	No.
44	–	1,383	No poor.	—	—	•	—	—	—	—
187	172	–	Not much.	Collection. Two small charities. Regular help from myself, occasionally from others. The charities are shared by Chantry.	—	No.	No.	No.	Collection and Charity £14.	15
71	544	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£20.	25
57	193	–	None. Two aged Poor Law cases.	Collection. Farmers give in kind during sickness; garments and (in winter) soup, from Squire's house.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	Charity £4, and gifts in kind.	All the labourers.
32	1,366	–	1. Not much. 2. Slowly perhaps. 3. Altered relations between master and man. Workmen's Compensation Act. Lack of facilities for acquiring land and dwelling.	Committee and District Visitors not needed. A Blanket Charity shared with W; 60 blankets there, 40 here. Vide Return 311 page 23 above.	Self.	No	No.	No.	£20.	100
292	734	–	No deep poverty.	Gifts in kind in special need. District Nurse helps in sickness. Nourishment in winter from principal houses.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	—	—
	84	–								
45	817	–	No serious poverty.	—	District Visitors.	No.	No.	No.	£35.	10 regularly.
186	1,950	–	Not much.	No.	District Visitors.	No.	Cannot say.	Think not.	£25.	No.
271	940	–	None, except the aged and intemperate. 22 in receipt of Poor Law relief.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
66	358	–	No distress, people industrious and temperate. Three receiving outrelief.	Collection for sick and aged. Three charities.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	Collection £5. Charity £33.	From Charity 40 Families

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91	395	–	Not much.	No.	—	No.	No.	No.	£5.	None regular.
142	109	–	Not much.	Collection.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	—	No.
215	—	2,212	1. Fairly large. 3. Low wages; Young people go away and leave their parents; some drink.	Collection. 1s. Tickets. A dispensary supplying medical attendance and medicine gratis to the poor. Bonus clubs for coal, clothing, blankets. A maternity society and a lying-in Charity. Nurse. Hospital tickets. Every case of distress well attended to.	Self and District Visitors.	No.	No.	1a. Every case of real distress is helped by many parishioners who prefer to do it themselves. 1b. Yes, but not needless.	£35 besides private charity which is very large.	20.
173	565	–	The only poor are the old folk, left by the young people who have migrated.	Collection for Poor Law cases. Charities for 2nd poor. These extend to the ecclesiastical parish of H. (*vide* Return 188), which is in this civil parish. 10s. at child-birth for midwife from Charity.	Self. The Committee	No.	Guardians give 3s. to widows. Not enough, has to be supplemented by alms. As long as no classification in the House out-relief should be adequate.	1a. No. 1b. Not needless. 2. Care is taken.	Coll. £13. Charity £30. Private £5.	30 Families.
249	266	–	1. Not much. 2. No. During last 23 years homes more comfortable, children better fed and clothed.	No. Relief in money or kind as far as funds allow, according to knowledge of the case. I consult overseers, employers.	Self.	No, except when there is a fear that a contribution will be levied and this may lead to cessation of casual but possibly larger gifts from relatives. Old people have less aversion from the House, it is more comfortable than it was.	No, but there are cases which must be supplemented in the winter.	No.	£60 Poor Law relief £40.	36 Families.
293	1,300	–	Only a little. Plenty of work for women (laundry). Market gardens.	No. Four Charities, chiefly in 2 Bonus Clubs and Christmas doles. Widows get 2s. 6d. at Christmas from private persons.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	Coll. £6. Doles £8. Bonuses £30 Private char.	Charities, 130 Families. Clubs, 180 Members
152	844	–	Very little.	A few pensions, relief in kind in sickness.	Clergy.	—	—	—	£30.	6 Persons.
243	1,386	–	Very little.	No. Collection.	Self and District Visitors.	No.	Yes, must be supplemented.	1 a & b. Yes. 2. Efforts but unsuccessful.	Private charity unknown.	From collection 44 Families.
60	181	–	Not much.	No.	—	No.	No.	No.	£11.	4.
11	1,662	–	1. Very little. 3. Intemperance and improvidence.	Relief in sickness, accident, or emergency. Charity to 2nd poor, 9s. in cash.	Self and District Visitors.	No.	No.	No.	Coll. £20. Clubs £15. Charity £86.	A large number.
270	—	4831	1. Not much. 2. No. 3. Drink. Want of work in winter.	Collection. Tickets. Clubs. Penny dinners.	Committee of Clergy and workers.	1. Some. 2. Widow and daughter of sergeant: widow owning her house. Six other cases given. 3. Dread of House, because of stigma, loss of liberty, lack of classification.	Some cases: *vide*, seven given.	Perhaps between Church and Chapel. Certainly between individuals. 2. Committee about to be formed.	Coll. £44. Coal C. £44. Other Clubs.	—

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.—*continued.*

No. of Return.	Population.		Question 1. Poverty.	Question 2. Administration of Charitable Assistance.		Question 3. Distress from Reluctance to Use Poor Law Relief.	Question 4. Distress Inadequately Relieved by Poor Law.	Question 5. Overlapping.	Question 6.	Question 7.
	Rural.	Urban.	1. Amount. 2. Increasing? 3. Special Causes.	Special Methods for (1) Sick, (2) Aged, (3) Temporary, (4) Chronic cases.	By Self, Committee, or District Visitors.	1. Amount. 2. Instances. 3. Causes.	1. Amount. 2. Instances.	1a. Charities. 1b. Charity and Poor Law. 2. Special Efforts to Prevent.	Amount spent yearly in Charitable Assistance.	Number of Persons or Families receiving Charitable Assistance.
247	—	4700	Not much.	In kind, on C.O.S. Lines.	Self and D. Visitors.	Occasionally.	No.	A great deal. Co'mittee about to be formed.	£40.	—
165	—	2400	Not much.	Collection.	D. Visitors.	No.	No.	No.	£20.	No.
324	–	1625	This parish has the best shops, and many poor people, in courts, as caretakers and charwomen. Some in squalid poverty and of pauper class. The prosperous go to the suburbs, so poverty increases and deepens.	By tickets. As far as possible assistance not continuous, 4 or 5 weeks the limit. District Visitors supply a list of cases helped. Bonus clubs for clothing, blankets, and coal. Garments to children. Clothing sold under cost-price at Mothers' meeting. Coal distributed at Christmas.	Chiefly by District Visitors, Clergy, little as possible.	Yes, a decided reluctance. (1) Because of status. (2) Poor Law relief disqualifies for some Charities.	Poor Law relief is of course inadequate. Guardians said to expect out-relief to be supplemented—a wrong view, because (1) Poor Law cases not always deserving of charity. (2) Purpose of charity not relief of rates.	1a. Yes, much here extent unknown. M. S. Society a valuable aid. 1b. Guarded against.	£44 besides bonuses, garments, coal, M. S. Society, and private Charities.	55 Persons or Families.
294	–	3699	1. A great deal; much of it amounting to destitution. 2. No, except in the winter. 3. No staple industry here, work precarious, unemployed become unemployable, and the economic cause a moral one.	Collection. Administered by visitors on personal knowledge, with discrimination between misfortune and fault.	2 lay readers, Bible-wom'n, Committee of 14 Visitors.	No, a few cases from harshness of Relieving Officer.	Usually inadequate probably right, but more discrimination needed. A little help needed in not destitute cases, *e.g.* aged person with annuity of £11 purchased out of savings. Poor Law relief refused till half-yearly payment spent, improvidence encouraged.	Carefully guarded against, and quickly detected by our system.	£80 besides Charities.	200 to 250
284	–	8500	1. A great deal, say 2,000. 2. Probably. 3. Want of work.	Collection much too small because richer people go to other Churches. Those Churches should help such as ours. Tickets. Occasionally money. Not enough money to help aged and chronic. Help to sick, young people, and young families.	Clergy and lay readers only.	Poor Law relief an obstacle to employment, and employment scarce.	Often inadequate. Poor Law cases often in intense poverty.	No. We scarcely touch the fringe of our poverty.	Collections £50.	Not half those in need.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

325	–	1703	1. A good deal. 2. Yes. 3. Want of work. Use of machinery, Tram-cars. Intemperance.	Collection. Tickets. Occasionally money. Dispensary tickets. M. S. Society.	Self and District Visitors.	Some cases: regarded as a disgrace.	—	No.	£35.	150
283	72	3459	Very little.	Collection and donations. Much private assistance at Xmas (blankets and coal). M.S.Society. Three Charities, (1) 12 doles at 6s. 3d. to aged, (2) 28 doles at 2s. 3d. to sick, (3) 10 at 2s. to the infirm.	Clergy, District Visitors and Sacristan.	Occasionally. Can be overcome by tact in Relieving Officer.	No.	No.	£100 to £120 and privately by District Visitors.	70 to 80 Persons.
282	–	1239	1. Very few cases. 2. Decreasing, because poorer houses pulled down.	Collection. Tickets. Subscriptions to Hospital, Dispensary. District nurse.	District Visitors and Clergy.	No Poor Law cases.	No.	No.	£40	20 besides Hospital and Dispensary tickets.
309	–	7313	1. A good deal, say $\frac{2}{3}$. 2. No. 3. Employment so variable. Rent increased. Low wages. Drink. Improvidence: Clubs and Penny bank, antidotes.	No, if it means peculiar. Collection. 4 bonus clubs. A few pensions. Gifts in money and kind, and tickets. The Town Charities distributed in conference with representatives from all parts of the town. They amount to £110, given to 2nd poor by 3s. tickets, more than one often given.	By the Staff only.	Yes. 1. Say 20 to 50 cases. 2. Husband out of work, son with spinal disease, child of 13 feeble-minded, very little income, will not apply to Relieving Officer, pawn and go on credit. 3. Indignity of Out-Relief, dread of house.	No. Have been a Guardian. Consult Relieving Officer.	1a., b. No. 2. Care is taken as to charities.	Coll. £50. Clubs £40. Charities *Vide* Qu. 2.	Very difficult.
290	–	355	1. A good deal. 2. No. 3. Low wages which fluctuate from 15s. downward. Improvidence and bad management.	No. In kind. Two charities, badly administered. £90 in 2s. 6d. tickets at Christmas. Vide return.	Self.	No.	Yes, the old people. 2. Old woman can earn nothing, 1s. 6d.; the highest is 3s. Inadequate.	1a. Yes. Vide return. 1b. No.	Very difficult.	Very difficult.
298	1270 in Somerset.	11230 in Bristol.	1. In Urban part of Parish considerable. 3 Slack trade.	Tickets. District Visitors report the needy cases.	Clergy and District Visitors.	Yes, in the case of those who have seen better days. 3. Self-respect.	Yes, has often to be supplemented.	Yes, as to private charity.	Cannot.	
317	2022	–	2. Yes. 3. Paper mills closed some years ago; men followed their work; shopkeepers etc., impoverished. Strawberry cultivation very profitable for one month, scarcely any work the other eleven: idleness, debt, loans. A precarious harvest produces speculative habit.	Relief through lay-reader and in the Winter by a Committee (soup kitchen). Some charities chiefly wasted in doles.	Through Lay-Reader.	Yes, as to the House. Sometimes for good reasons and love of liberty, sometimes from love of drink.	No, but occasionally a poor person may own a small unprofitable property which the Guardians require to be given up, and so cut off all hope of recovery.	—	—	—

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.—*continued.*

No. of Return.	Population. Rural.	Population. Urban.	Question 1. Poverty. 1. Amount. 2. Increasing? 3. Special Causes.	Question 2. Administration of Charitable Assistance. Special Methods for (1) Sick, (2) Aged, (3) Temporary, (4) Chronic cases.	Question 2. By Self, Committee, or District Visitors.	Question 3. Distress from Reluctance to use Poor Law Relief. 1. Amount. 2. Instances. 3. Causes.	Question 4. Distress Inadequately Relieved by Poor Law. 1. Amount. 2. Instances.	Question 5. Overlapping. 1a. Charities. 1b. Charity and Poor Law. 2. Special Efforts to Prevent.	Question 6. Amount spent yearly in Charitable Assistance.	Question 7. Number of Persons or Families receiving Charitable Assistance.
319	635	–	Very little. Eleven Poor Law cases.	Collection monthly. 3 weekly pensions of 1s. Charity given to all cottagers in bed-clothing.	Self.	No.	Inadequate. 2. Old man 84, wife 86, 4s. 6d. and a loaf. Rent to pay. Old man 77, wife 77, 2s. and a loaf. Rent to pay. Old man 70, almost blind, 2s. and a loaf.	No.	Collection £10. Charity £30.	From Collection 12 Families. From Charity all poor house-holders.
286	–	972	1. Not much. 3. Low wages, high rents, drink.	No. Collection spent on blankets, rent, stimulants, food for school children. Tickets, clubs, shoes, coal, clothing, maternity. All apart from Creed. Lend many blankets for the Winter.	District Visitors. Never Self.	Only as to House.	No.	No.	Collection £25. Clubs £37. Private.	No.
320	2100	–	1. Not much. 2. No.	Fourteen aged Persons monthly pensions.	Self and District Visitors.	No.	No.	No.	£71.	60
296	256	–	1. Much. 3. Low wages.	A Sick Club providing meat, brandy, milk, etc.	Self.	——	Old shepherd past work, long illness, 2s. 6d.	No.	—	—
318	284	–	1. Very little.	Two Charities: distributions Lady Day, Michaelmas, Christmas, 28 recipients. Collection.	Trustees Self.	None whatever.	No.	No.	—	*Vide* Qu. 2.
326	598	–	None, all the poor live in their own freehold cottages.	No collection.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£10.	50 Families.
281	392	–	1. Only a little. 3. Low wages, Slack trade. Drink. Improvidence.	Collection.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£8.	16 Families. 5 Chronic.
323	–	3889	1. Not much. 3. Want of work. High prices. Drink.	Only through systematic visiting of Clergy and District Visitor. Sick, coal and blankets, Bonus Clubs.	Clergy and District Visitors.	No.	No.	Not much. 2. An agreement to help only our own people.	£70.	100 Families.
289	Say 300	Say 300	Not much.	No. Collection. Help chronic cases of poverty, sickness and convalescence.	Self, but consult Churchwarden.	No.	One or two cases. Dread of House.	Cannot say.	Cannot	say.

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322	1,166	–	1. Only a little in K. because women do laundry work. At M. a great deal. 3. Want of work in winter. Drink.	Collection for poor and distressed. Special temporary cases dealt with by special appeal to individuals or congregation. Tickets. Sale of clothing at low price, and proceeds to poor. The branch of Charity Organisation Society helps. The Urban District Council provided work this winter, 1907–8.	Clergy.	1. Very little. 3. Not independence, but fear contributions will be levied, or from clinging to mortgaged cottage.	Have never known it adequate. Poor Law relief should be more elastic, especially during winter.	Between individuals.	Cannot say.	More in winter.
316	205	–	Two Poor Law cases.	No. Help in sickness.	Self.	—	—	—	£4.	—
313	345	–	No poor. Questions not applicable.		—	—	—	—	—	—
295	–	4,000	Not much.	No.	Self and D. Visitors.	No.	No.	No.	£17. Private Charity.	No.
280	1,429	–	1. Not much. 3. Want of work in winter and when trade is slack.	Collection. Charities and Clubs. 1. Sick, through District Visitors. 2. Aged, *i.e.* Poor Law cases, helped once a month, 1s. or more. 3. Fares to find work. Surgical appliances. 4. Helped if not their own fault.	District Visitor and Self.	They will work till 70 rather than apply, showing a spirit of independence.	Usual grant 3s. 6d., supplemented.	No.	Coll. £72. Charity £80. Private a large sum. Bonus Clubs.	No.
287	2,356	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	More ready to apply than 20 or 30 years ago.	No.	No.	£15.	60 to 70.
496	* –	–	Not much.	No. Each case dealt with individually.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£4.	No.
49[illegible]	–	–	Not much, only those past work.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£10.	4.
216	–	–	Not much.	No. Almshouses.	Self.	No.	One or two cases.	No.	—	7 in almshouse.
264	–	–	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	No.	£4.	8.
327	713	–	1. Occasionally. 2. No.	No. Collections. Briefs. A Charity for the 2nd poor, for decayed householders.	District Visitors.	No.	No.	No.	Charity £100. Coll. £15. Briefs £10.	50 Families from Charity, 25 from Collection.
328	–	6,892	1. Nothing abnormal. 2. No.	Collections and 40 District Visitors.	District Visitors.	No.	No	No.	£30.	—
329	–	715	1. Not much. 3. Drink and Improvidence.	Collection. Monthly meeting of District Visitor. Coal in winter. Bonus club.	District Visitors.	No.	No.	Between Church and Chapel.	£10.	12
330	–	5,000 as estimated in 1907.	1. Yes, considerable. 3. Drink and depression of building trade.	Chronic cases ticket for daily milk. Collection.	Self and District Visitors.	No.	No.	1. No. 2. C.O.S.	£40.	—
331	–	361	Not much.	No.	Self.	No.	No.	1a. Yes. b. No.	Vide Return	177, page 28.

* This and the three Returns which follow are anonymous and the population cannot be given.

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN CONFERENCE COMMITTEE.—*continued.*

SUMMARY.

Sheets of MS.	Returns.	Parishes.	Population. Rural.	Population. Urban.	Question 1. Poverty. Amount. None.	Very little.	Not much.	More.	Increasing? No.	Yes.	Doubtful.	Causes. Economic. Want of Work.	Low Wages	Physical. Age.	Sickness.	Moral. Improvidence.	Wife's bad n'n'g'ment.	Drink.	Question 2. Charity. No Special Method.	Committee.	Self or Clergy	District Visitors.	Question 3. Reluctance to use Poor Law Relief. No.	Yes.	As to House.	Question 4. Inadequate? No.	Yes.	Question 5. Overlapping. No.	Yes.
1	19	19	4,154	33,626	–	1	10	7	3	–	3	5	–	1	–	1	1	4	5	1	12	10	9	5	3	7	8	11	4
2	18	19	8,738	3,716	2	1	15	–	5	–	1	2	–	2	1	1	–	5	9	–	15	4	15	3	2	15	1	15	1
3	15	16	7,047	6,883	–	1	14	–	4	1	–	2	1	2	–	–	–	1	7	–	13	2	11	4	2	11	4	11	1
4	18	21	6,076	5,920	1	–	17	–	3	1	–	2	1	1	2	3	–	3	9	2	13	3	16	–	1	14	3	13	1
5	13	15	6,941	5,170	–	–	11	–	–	–	–	1	1	2	–	1	–	2	6	–	8	3	10	–	2	10	2	11	–
6	10	10	5,531	–	–	–	8	–	1	–	–	1	–	1	–	1	–	1	3	1	7	–	8	–	–	8	1	6	1
7	15	17	7,065	–	–	3	11	–	4	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	10	–	13	4	8	1	2	7	5	10	2
8	13	14	2,682	12,019	1	5	7	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	2	4	–	11	4	9	2	2	7	3	11	1
9	16	17	7,571	1,965	–	2	12	2	6	–	1	3	1	4	2	3	–	5	10	–	14	1	14	1	1	10	5	14	2
10	18	19	8,699	3,140	–	5	12	1	2	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	2	8	–	13	4	16	–	2	14	4	15	1
11	15	17	9,274	2,779	3	1	9	2	2	–	–	1	–	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	7	3	13	–	2	12	1	13	1
12	19	22	9,205	–	2	1	14	1	3	1	1	3	–	3	–	1	–	2	6	–	17	2	18	–	1	14	2	16	1
13	17	20	9,055	2,787	3	4	7	2	4	1	–	3	1	2	3	1	–	3	4	2	11	3	11	2	5	10	5	11	1
14	15	17	6,484	3,365	3	4	8	–	–	–	–	1	2	3	1	–	1	–	7	–	14	–	14	1	–	11	1	12	1
15	17	18	10,607	4,000	2	3	10	1	3	–	1	–	–	3	2	1	–	2	6	–	13	2	13	1	–	8	4	12	2
16	17	18	7,039	12,561	–	5	8	1	5	1	–	2	2	1	1	–	–	3	9	–	13	5	11	2	4	13	3	14	2
17	19	20	8,588	7,187	1	8	9	1	4	1	–	1	–	2	–	1	1	3	6	–	14	2	15	1	1	13	2	15	2
18	17	18	13,630	17,454	2	1	11	1	2	–	1	2	–	–	–	1	–	3	4	1	12	7	13	–	2	11	3	11	2
19	15	15	8,006	14,143	–	7	7	1	2	–	–	1	1	1	–	1	–	4	5	2	11	5	10	2	1	9	4	9	4
20	7	8	72	27,538	–	2	–	5	3	2	1	4	1	–	–	1	–	2	–	1	4	3	1	2	1	3	3	6	1
21	12	12	9,857	16,746	1	2	5	3	2	1	–	3	4	–	–	2	1	3	4	–	10	4	8	2	3	7	5	7	3
22	15	16	6,655	16,968	1	1	11	2	2	–	–	3	–	1	–	1	–	2	9	–	11	6	9	–	–	10	3	11	3
	340	369	162,526	197,967*	22	57	216	30	61	9	9	41	16	30	14	22	6	53	137	11	256	77	252	29	36	224	71	253	37

Population.	Rural.	Urban.	Parishes.	
Of County 1901.	245,829	189,121	In Diocese	549
In Returns	162,526	186,737*	In Returns	369
No Returns for	83,303	2,384	No Returns for	180

* Deduct from this the 11,230 of Brislington which is in the Diocese but not in the County } 197,967 − 11,230 = 186,737

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the pages numbered in brackets.

BIRMINGHAM.

REPORT of a COMMITTEE of the Cathedral Chapter appointed to collect and consider answers from Parochial Clergy to questions issued by the Commissioners.

The Committee was constituted as follows:—

The Rev. Canon Carnegie,
The Rev. Canon Ford,
The Rev. Canon Vecqueray,
The Rev. Canon Trotter,
The Rev. Canon Astbury,
The Rev. Canon Hobhouse (*Secretary and Convener*).

The list of questions framed by the Commissioners was issued to all the incumbents in the diocese, with the additions denoted by brackets. Replies having been received in all but a few cases, they were analysed and tabulated, and the following Report is now submitted by the Committee. The work of tabulation was kindly undertaken by the Rev. J. R. Brooke, Organising Secretary of the Christian Social Union, to whom the Committee are greatly indebted.

LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR THE CLERGY.

1. Is there much poverty in your parish; and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?

2. Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress?

Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors?

(Do you work in connection with the Birmingham City Aid Society or any similar organisation?)

3. Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law Relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what, in your opinion, is the cause of the reluctance.

4. Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law Relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.

5. Is there in your parish any needless overlapping—

(*a*) Between various forms of charity, or

(*b*) Between charity and the Poor Law,

and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

6. If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.

7. Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your parish during the course of a year?

(In answering Questions 6 and 7, account should be taken only of relief given from sources connected with the Church.)

The diocese of Birmingham consists of 143 parishes, with an estimated population of nearly 1,000,000, and returns have been received from all but five or six parishes. As by far the largest part of the diocese consists of the city and suburbs of Birmingham, and is therefore urban in character, your Committee decided to treat separately about 45 parishes which are either wholly or mainly rural in character, and to base their Report on the returns of some 90 parishes where urban conditions prevail. These parishes contain a population of from 850,000 to 900,000, and are situated in the Unions of Birmingham, King's Norton, Aston, West Bromwich, Storubridge, and Dudley.

(The numbers in brackets denote the number of returns in which the particular point is mentioned.)

Question 1. (74 *returns.*)

(a) *Is there much Poverty in your Parish?*

Throughout the greater part of this district poverty is prevalent (50 parishes), the exceptions being mainly in the residential suburbs.

(b) *Is it increasing in Intensity?* (52 *returns.*)

On the whole poverty seems to be increasing, the exception being in the outlying districts. Of the 52 who answer, 33 definitely state that it is increasing, 16 say that it is not increasing, and four affirm that it is decreasing.

(c) *Can you point to any Causes, Moral or Economic, to which it is due?*

Among the causes suggested,
Intemperance is certainly the most widespread (41).
The causes next in importance are :—
The slackness and casual nature of employment, especially the effect of seasonal trades (52).
Improvidence (35).
The prevalence of gambling (17).
The low rates of pay, or sweated wages (8).
The employment of women (8).
The migration of the better-class population is depressing several districts in the centre of the town (17).
In three parishes special distress has been caused by the dismissal of large numbers of men from the Birmingham Small Arms Factory.

Question 2. (41 *returns.*)

(a) *Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress?*

In administering relief, money is not often given (6) save as pensions to the old.
Relief usually takes the form of orders for coal, groceries, and other necessaries (26).
Hospital notes are freely given in some parishes (9).
In distributing the Poor Fund, preference to Church Members is only rarely mentioned (5).
The greater part of the relief is given to the sick. The chronic cases of distress are almost always handed over to the Poor Law.

(b 1) *Are you assisted by a Committee?* (78 *returns.*)

In 12 parishes there is a parochial Committee, of which the clergy are always ex officio members, but the assistance of extra-parochial committees or societies is often sought. (In four instances Charity Organisation Societies, and in eight Local Aid Societies other than that which is mentioned in the next paragraph.)

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

Most prominent among the Local Aid Societies is the Birmingham City Aid Society, a society which has been founded with the object of co-ordinating the charities of the city. It has only been in existence for a year, but is already receiving the support of the clergy. The great majority (41) of the parishes within its area are working in co-operation, clergy or representatives of the parish sitting on the local Committees. During the year ending September 30th, 1907, the City Aid Society investigated 2,413 cases and helped 1,545. Its total income was £2,073.

One Parochial Committee has already been abandoned, and has handed over its work to the Society; and another is to do so as soon as it is convinced of the efficiency of the local branch.

But while they are sympathetic and, in some instances, ready to make subscriptions from their Poor Fund to the Society, very few of the clergy are prepared to abandon the distribution of their own relief entirely.

(b 2) *Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of District Visitors?*

The greater part of the relief is still in the hands of the clergy, and is distributed

Partly by themselves directly (59),

Partly by District Visitors (21),

Partly by paid lay workers connected with the parish (16).

These paid workers, lay readers, Bible women, &c., have not necessarily had any special training in the administration of relief.

Question 3. (75 *returns.*)

(a) *Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law Relief?*

In 41 parishes there is considerable amount of distress due to reluctance to resort to Poor Law Relief, and many instances are given.

(b 1) *State briefly what, in your opinion, is the cause of the reluctance.*

The reluctance is due primarily to the loss of self-respect consequent on the receipt of relief (19). This is not so marked in the case of out-relief (6), dread of the workhouse being the great deterrent (16). Other causes are:—

Dislike of the separation of husband and wife (7).

Fear lest the relief granted by Guardians should be recovered from the children (7).

A certain number of the clergy complain of the needlessly harsh and unsympathetic treatment to which the applicants are subjected by the relieving officer and workhouse officials (14).

One return, on the other hand, comments on the sympathetic attitude of the Guardians.

In one or two cases the distance which has to be traversed in order to apply for relief is mentioned as a difficulty.

Some instances are given of people even leaving the infirmary owing to dissatisfaction with the treatment which they received.

Instance.—(No. 60.) A woman of 80 went to the workhouse infirmary, and was so harshly treated that she came home to die.

(b. 2) *Give instances of the reluctance on the part of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law Relief.*

No. 49. Case of man with wife and small children, physically unfit to earn enough; wife works when unfit before and after childbirth; will not go into the house.

No. 65. Man out of work from the closing of brickyard; wife and 5 children (one in service, and boy earning a few shillings); is willing to do anything; has pawned almost everything, and half starved himself and wife rather than apply.

No. 67. Man, 72, had been respectable tradesman in city for 40 years, lived with aged sister, very poor, not sufficient food; went last winter, but now refuses to apply and become a pauper.

No. 69. Widow, 80, works at Laundry, average earnings 6s. 6d. a week; offered Infirmary, will not consent to die a pauper.

Note to Question 3.

Of the 33 returns which say that there is no reluctance, four are self-contradictory, in that they proceed to state that dread of the workhouse is the cause of reluctance, and 11 are inadequate and apparently not based on real knowledge. Eight others admit that cases occur, but do not consider them common. Thus there are only nine competent reports which do not think that hardship is ever caused.

Question 4. (73 *returns.*)

(a) *Is there any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate?*

The opinion of a large majority (45), especially among the more careful reports, is that outdoor relief is always inadequate. It is especially bad in the case of the old.

"Impossible to exist on it." "Always inadequate." "Does not provide bare necessities," are some of the comments. More than half of those who give this opinion fortify it with special instances.

In several returns special stress is laid on the inadequate relief given to widows with a number of young children.

Question 4.

(b) *Instances of Poor Law Relief being inadequate.*

No. 6. Woman of 80, blind daughter 50, son contributing 1s. weekly, received 5s. weekly from Parish, recently reduced to 4s. on guardians taking into consideration son's 1s. Supplementary charity indispensable.

No. 23. Man of 82, cannot be left, wife (62), formerly helped in kitchen of public-house, cannot earn anything at home because of eyesight. Rent 4s. 3d., lodger pays 3s. Quart of milk granted from dispensary, out-relief 4s., and 9d. worth of grocery. Doctor orders man whisky.

No. 27. Aged couple over 70 (Communicant and blameless), 5s. a week from Parish.

No. 35. Widow, 78, in one room, does button carding, gets 2s. 6d. relief.

No. 39. Widows have 1s. a week and a loaf for each child, if family of two or more. Bread must be fetched (1 mile), some women have to pay 2d. or 3d. to have it fetched.

No. 65. Old couple, over 70, receive 4s. 6d. a week and pay 1s. for room.

No. 71. Three widows live together, no means of support, rent 4s. 3d.; each receives 2s. and a loaf.

Note to Question 4.

Of the 28 reports which state that out-relief is adequate—

Ten must be ranked as showing little evidence of knowledge;

Five are self-contradictory in that they state that out-relief needs supplementing by parochial relief;

Four admit occasional cases;

Only nine satisfactory reports state that relief is adequate.

Question 5. (80 *returns.*)

(a) *Is there in your Parish any needless overlapping between various forms of charity?*

A large majority (54) are of the opinion that there is no overlapping of charities.

(b) *Is there any needless overlapping between charity and the Poor Law?*

Between charity and the Poor Law it would appear that there is no needless overlapping (61), though several returns (6) mention the necessity of supplementing Poor Law relief.

The theory stated in one report, that "Guardians are responsible" if they touch a case, is not acted upon at all generally. But such supplementing is not needless overlapping.

(c) *Has any special effort been made with a view to prevent such overlapping?*

To prevent overlapping a number (41) of parishes keep in touch with the City Aid or with other similar societies (8).

Question 6.

Give any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your Parish in the charitable assistance of the poor.

The amount spent in relief cannot be accurately determined. Seventy-two parishes state that they give sums amounting to £3,258, but the figures do not seem to be exactly ascertained.

N.B.—Incumbents were asked to take account only of the money which came from sources connected with the Church.

Question 7. (40 *returns sent.*)

Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your parish during the course of a year?

The figures given under this head are probably even less reliable than those in the last answer. Forty parishes make estimates, the total being 4,714; but as they do not always mention whether individuals or families are intended, the total figure is of little value.

Rural Parishes.

The returns from 45 rural parishes, many of which have a population of less than 500, are practically unanimous in stating that there is no general prevalence of poverty, and several of them state that there is *no* poverty in the parish. Generally speaking, poverty seems to be confined to the cases of the aged who are past work; of those who from being crippled or in ill-health are unable to work; and of a few who from intemperate or "ne'er do weel" habits do not find or do not keep work. There does not appear to be any difficulty in procuring relief for those who need it, and it cannot be said that the problem of poverty exists in an acute form in the rural parts of the diocese, except so far as the difficulty of provision for old age is concerned.

The Committee felt that the Returns would be incomplete without some account of the experience of the Nonconformist bodies. They therefore communicated with the Secretary of the Council of the Evangelical Free Churches of Birmingham and District (the Rev. C. A. Fellowes), who kindly gave his ready co-operation, and has forwarded the Report contained in the Appendix.

Signed on behalf of the Committee of the Birmingham Cathedral Chapter,

January 9th, 1908. WALTER HOBHOUSE.

APPENDIX.

NONCONFORMIST RETURNS.

The following five questions have been submitted to 150 Free Churches in Birmingham and district.

Only about half have sent in replies.

Of the 71 churches that have responded, 14 say they are unable to supply any information.

The replies sent in by 57 churches will be found analysed in the "Answers" given to the several questions below.

Question I.—Is there much poverty in the neighbourhood of your church; if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?

Answers I.—(*a*) Is there much poverty in the neighbourhood of your church?

24 churches say "Yes."
12 ,, ,, "Considerable."
10 ,, ,, "A little."
5 ,, ,, "No."

(*b*) Is it increasing in intensity?

11 churches say "Yes."
13 ,, ,, "No."
2 ,, ,, "It is decreasing."

(*c*) Special causes to which it is due.

24 churches say "Intemperance."
1 ,, ,, "Drinking by women."
5 ,, ,, "Gambling."
7 ,, ,, "Lack of thrift."
14 ,, ,, "Unemployment."
4 ,, ,, "Lack of work for men over 50."
5 ,, ,, "Superabundance of unskilled labour."
6 ,, ,, "Fluctuating labour market."
2 ,, ,, "Unwillingness to work."
1 ,, ,, "Low wages paid to women."

Question II.—Is there, in your locality, any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what, in your opinion, is the cause of this reluctance.

Answers II.—(*a*) Is there much unrelieved distress owing to reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief?

14 churches say "Yes."
13 ,, ,, "Some."
3 ,, ,, "Very little."
10 ,, ,, "Know of none."
13 ,, ,, "No."

(*b*) Causes of this reluctance:—

15 churches attribute it to the fact that it is "considered a disgrace to apply for relief."

9 churches attribute it to unsympathetic and harsh treatment on the part of the officials. Several instances are given; a very glaring case is mentioned by Rev. Wm. Sawyer, pastor of the Church of the Saviour.

4 churches attribute it to "the fear of being forced into the union."

3 churches ascribe the reluctance to the "consequent loss of the franchise."

Question III.—Is there, in your locality, any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.

Answers III.—(*a*) Is there distress due to inadequate relief?

12 churches say "Yes."
3 ,, ,, "Relief is *generally* insufficient."
2 ,, ,, "Relief is *occasionally* insufficient."
19 ,, ,, "We don't know."
6 ,, leave the question unanswered.
14 ,, reply "No."

(*b*) Instances are asked for, and several are given, and can be produced if necessary.

Question IV.—Can you give the average number of needy persons (not in receipt of parish relief) annually assisted from the benevolent fund of your church?

Answers IV.—

38 churches report an average of 57, or a total of 2,166.
3 ,, ,, "Numbers vary."
8 ,, ,, "Can give no particulars."
2 ,, ,, "Teas given to 127 poor children."
1 ,, ,, "Soup given to 825 families."
3 ,, ,, "Occasional help given."
5 ,, ,, "No help given."

Question V.—What is the average amount annually disbursed by your church in assisting such needy cases?

Answers V.—

45 churches report an average of £40, or a total of £1,800.
7 ,, ,, "No account kept."
3 ,, ,, "Only privately."
1 ,, ,, "Nothing."
1 ,, leaves the question unanswered.

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CANTERBURY.

DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON QUESTIONS OF POVERTY AND RELIEF.

December, 1907.

MY LORD ARCHBISHOP,—The Committee nominated by Your Grace, in accordance with the resolutions passed at the Canterbury Diocesan Conference in June last, beg to present the following report upon the extent and intensity of poverty in the various parts of the diocese, and the existing methods of administering charitable relief.

This report has been prepared for the use of the Royal Commission at present engaged in an inquiry into the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress.

The statement in the appendix may appear somewhat long, but it was obvious that if the information was to be of any service to the Commissioners it must necessarily be detailed and local.

The object aimed at has been to allow the answers to the questions to speak for themselves. Accordingly as far as possible the actual words used in the answers have been adopted, or a short *précis* of them made, when the latter was necessitated by the length of a particular answer or the grouping of similar answers together.

Anything noteworthy in any parish is specially mentioned with the name of the parish attached. The arrangement made is that according to rural deaneries, numbered according to the diocesan calendar; each deanery is characterised as either rural or urban or both.

Out of 309 parishes in the diocese replies have been received from 235. In a few cases no reply could be expected owing to vacancy in the incumbency

The first seven questions were suggested by the Royal Commission. We have ventured to add two others (viii. and ix.); the first with regard to the abuse of medical relief, and a final one as to the effect of charity on the character of the recipient.

The latter was added as likely to give point to the answers to the other questions, and to enable the various incumbents to set forth the sum of their experience as to the moral issues underlying the giving and receiving of relief.

Signed,

W. DOVER,

Chairman of Committee.

Lieut.-Col. NEWTON DICKENSON,
Mr. W. T. HINDS,
Rev. T. J. HOLT,
Mr. HOWARD HOULDER,
Mr. H. W. PLUMTRE,
Rev. E. L. RIDGE,
Rev. CANON TINDALL,
Rev. Dr. SPRINGETT

Members of Committee.

Rev. H. HOLDEN, *Hon. Sec.*

REPORT.

Amount and Causes of Poverty.

In the country parishes we find that there is no real poverty. There is nearly always work enough for those who can do it. If in some cases the employment is not constant there is the possibility of supplementing it even in the winter by work of another kind. The poverty that does exist is due for the most part to moral and not to economic causes.

In the towns there is poverty varying in different localities. But much more stress is laid upon the moral rather than economic causes. As to the latter, the chief reasons assigned are want of work amongst unskilled labourers; the slackness of the building trade, especially in Croydon and the coast towns, where there has been much over-building; and the multiplication of casual workers in one area. High rents are also mentioned. Amongst older persons the poverty is attributed in the towns to the increasing difficulty to find employment. With regard to the moral causes, with reiteration we find poverty assigned to "The waste of money in drink," "thriftlessness," "money spent on pleasure out of all proportion to earnings," "growing extravagance in the manner of living," "improvident marriages," "slate-clubs as a substitute for benefit societies," "a spirit of pauperism has been fostered by petty doles and local charities," and this last applies equally to Church charities and to those controlled by parochial or municipal authorities.

A further moral cause is given both in the towns and country. There is an increasing tendency on the part of children to allow aged parents and relations to apply for out-relief. It is true that in some cases this is in part recovered from the relations, but only at the sacrifice of much self-respect, and relief granted in this way would seem to be undermining the responsibility and initiative of the family. We are told on the one hand that in the country a large percentage make no effort to save, and on the other—and this is from Croydon—that "the lack of sense of filial responsibility has increased during the period in which the State has done so much for the children."

In attempting to arrive at the root cause of the poverty we are driven back again and again to the moral cause. The poverty is to be attributed to a failure in character rather than to any particular economic cause, making all allowance for the depression in certain trades which certainly exists in some of the towns. And we are obliged to record the fact that the expectation of relief appears to have contributed in no small degree to the encouragement of pauperism.

Another bad feature of the existing poverty in some towns is the number of unskilled casual workers who are content to live on the earnings of women; when the latter are unable to work distress instantly ensues.

The breakdown of the old apprenticeship system has left a great gap in the training of lads. The ranks of unskilled labour are increasingly being recruited from those lads who shift from place to place without being qualified for any skilled trade. If private efforts cannot cope with this threatening danger, it would seem that this is a case where the State might step in and give in the last years of school life something in the nature of a technical training.

The Administration of Relief.

From the replies to the second question it appears that in the smaller country parishes relief is administered for the most part by the clergy themselves, sometimes after consultation with the churchwardens or district visitors. In a few cases relief is given by the district visitors. In one case we are glad to note that the advice of the medical man is asked. We could wish this were more common.

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In a country parish it is obviously inadvisable and unnecessary to have a committee. More harm than good might result. But it is very expedient in the light of experience and disclosures, both from the side of the clergy and that of self-respecting men, that the clergy should as far as possible dissociate their office from the personal distribution of relief.

In the case of town parishes it is much to be regretted that so great a responsibility is thrown upon the district visitors; for it is through them that relief is given, and not seldom on their own initiative. It is almost essential for the satisfactory administration of relief that individual cases should be considered by a committee composed of other elements than the clergy and visitors—some outside laymen, and amongst these, if possible, a representative of the artisan class, and one or more of the local guardians. Such an arrangement at once secures co-operation with the Poor Law and removes from the Church, in the limited sense of the word, an invidious responsibility, the discharging of which often has a disastrous effect both upon the Church itself and the recipients of relief. We read—and the evidence comes from one holding an important town charge and accustomed to weigh his words—that "The relief given by the Church has probably played a great part in the degradation of the poor," and alienated not a few of the better minded amongst them from taking part in her more direct ministrations.

The Committee venture to think that the administration of relief by tickets ought to be avoided; one reason for this being that if the recipient is not fit to be entrusted with money it would appear that the case ought not to be entertained at all by the Church, but be left to the Poor Law. Further, it is believed that this method creates the demand for relief. The papers pass from hand to hand, the local tradesmen are interested in them, and hereby privacy and self-respect, the great safeguards of a right relationship between the giver and receiver, are destroyed. Experience goes to prove—and this is constantly attested by the evidence of the returns—that few persons are capable of receiving relief without being hurt by it. There is no need to mention here that if a family or individual are helped at all they should be adequately helped. We are afraid this is often overlooked, judging by the small amounts for which the tickets are made out. It is a temporary expedient, and as such both unsatisfactory and inadequate.

Reluctance or Non-Reluctance to Resort to the Poor Law.

So far as out-relief is concerned, it appears there is only too great a willingness to make application, and children sometimes in good circumstances are willing to allow their parents to resort to the Poor Law when this might easily be prevented by co-operation amongst themselves. Some exception to this must be made in the case of "the better class of aged poor, where the receipt of Poor Law relief would preclude them from obtaining an almshouse or any of town charities." There is a reluctance to resort to the Poor Law if it is thought that only institutional relief will be offered. From several answers it seems that the fear of a supposed separation acts as a deterrent in the case of an aged man and wife. We are told of some distress in one or two town parishes through unwillingness to break up homes, and in one place where there is much indiscriminate charity, through "the possibility of getting on somehow by persistent begging." We are told, on the other hand, by a Guardian of a certain rural Union, that "the Guardians do not encourage out-relief, but I know of no case in which in consequence of this there has been bad effect."

Consequences of Inadequate Out-Relief.

With regard to the amount given in out-relief, in hardly a single case does the amount allowed by the Guardians appear to be adequate of itself for the support of the recipient. In fact, the Guardians do not profess to give adequate relief in the sense of wholly supporting the individual. They rely upon the amount given being supplemented by private charity or, in some cases, by the possibility of small earnings. We venture to think that such a policy is harmful for several reasons. In the first place, it is not likely to conduce to the proper self-respect of the individual to be the subject of treatment by two parties at the same time (*cf.* Lord G..schen's minute on the relief of the Poor in 1869).

If it is right for the Poor Law to intervene, such action should lead to the undertaking of the entire responsibility.

Secondly, a partial policy often leads to much suffering on the part of the recipient. There is frequent allusion to this in the returns. "Distress often unrelieved when out-relief is given." "Insufficient for maintenance." "Two widows in this parish struggling to exist on 2s. 6d. and 3s. respectively per week." "Relief given to aged people means semi-starvation." "All Poor Law relief cases require further assistance." "In every case of out-relief appreciable distress." "Individual cases of real hardship." "It is supposed children will supplement the grant, which they often do not; hence distress."

Thirdly, this policy of overlapping stands in the way of a satisfactory discrimination between those who should rightly be treated by the Poor Law and those who should in the case of need be provided for by private charity. We believe that there are many now partially dealt with by the Poor Law who might be kept from it altogether by a thoughtful administration of charitable funds, nearly always available for such cases. We also think that the co-operation of relations and friends is more likely to be offered when it is known that such a discrimination is being aimed at.

There is the further fact that the Poor Law is going beyond its proper function in dealing with those who are not really destitute. We venture to think that if the minute of Lord Goschen in 1869, with regard to the working of the Poor Law, were acted upon, there would be less distress and less loss of self-respect.

It would appear to be possible in most cases to make this discrimination, and we further believe the existing confusion to militate against the proper administration of the Poor Law, and in its results to be alike injurious to the recipients of relief, the relations, and all contributing parties.

As a remedy we would suggest:—

(i) A clear discrimination between the Poor Law and charity.

(ii) A severe restriction in the granting of out-relief. The good effects of such a system are amply borne out by the evidence of some who have had a very long experience both as guardians and incumbents of parishes. We would call especial attention to the evidence of the Vicar of St. George's, Deal (30 years a guardian, p. 8 of Appendix): "I unhesitatingly say the less outdoor relief given the better it is for the poor . . . A few hard cases might arise, but I am sure the entire stoppage of outdoor relief would tend to the reduction of pauperism."

And to that of the Vicar of Kingsdowne (39 years a guardian, p. 15 Appendix).

The latter is too long to quote, but very instructive.

(iii.) A careful consideration by a committee of the cases of those who have given evidence of good character and thrift, and who ought to be kept from the Poor Law by—

(*a*) The co-operation of relations. It is impossible not to be struck by two facts constantly recurring in the returns. The first is, the large amount of money spent in drink and present pleasure, and the second the increasing loss of the sense of family obligation to support aged and infirm relations. When these two moral facts are set side by side with a further fact, the increasing demand for and readiness to accept out-relief, we do not think we are demanding too much in insisting that this co-operation should be a paramount factor in relief.

(*b*) By the assistance of private charity, adequately granted, and in this we include grants from the Church and private benevolence. The evidence shows that both in the town and country some special cases are taken up by private arrangement to provide pensions for the aged poor and widows of good character

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in chronic distress. Very often, however, it appears that these pensions are to supplement inadequate out-relief. We believe that there is money available by the careful extension and co-operation of private charity to meet the calls that would be made upon it.

(*c*) By the diverting of parochial charities into this channel in districts where out-relief is withheld. There is a good deal of evidence to prove that even under the amended schemes drawn up by the Charity Commissioners there is still much useless and harmful giving. These schemes, however, suggest almost invariably three or four alternatives in the method of administration. We believe that by means of these, either pensions or substantial grants-in-aid could be made to aged and infirm persons of good character, or to provide the care of a nurse and some special assistance in sickness. We need not state how preferable such grants would be to the petty doles by which they are still in many cases frittered away.

In this connection we note that there appear to be many unreformed charities. "Two loaves a week through six winter months to widows and poor attending Church." "Another charity gives coal at Christmas and money to about eighty persons at Easter." In the same parish, population 1,350, "£15 a year to thirty men and women over sixty; also grants of £1, £2, £3, to fifteen others in need of help." Again, in another parish, population 2,321, "On Ash Wednesday 100 persons receive ten shillings each."

When such grants are made we are told often that persons do not need them. It would obviously be well in some case to secure an alteration of old schemes, and, where new schemes are unwisely administered by parochial bodies, to make suggestions as to the more helpful alternatives offered by such a scheme.

The Committee is of opinion that if the separation between Poor Law and charity were made, the desired change in the method of administration would come about of itself.

The Prevention of Overlapping.

There appears to be a good deal of overlapping in the towns owing to "numerous denominational funds and irresponsible private benevolence," also "owing to reckless way in which tickets from city charities are given away by city authorities."

Efforts are being made to cope with this difficulty by relief committees and invitations to members of other religious bodies to serve on these committees. In Croydon a guild of help has been formed—one object being to prevent overlapping.

The Number of Families in Receipt of Charity.

It is difficult to arrive at anything more than an approximate estimate of the numbers relieved and the amount given. But it appears that in many places a considerable number of persons are in receipt of charity in one form or another. A town parish in Croydon says: "Nearly all the population (2,500) get more or less relief." A parish in Dover (population 4,140) "About 60 families in more or less regular relief. Last winter we kept about 200 families from absolute starvation during the severe weather." The Brents, Faversham (population 1,100): "More than half the population received help last winter." One small county parish (population 159): "Practically every labouring family receives from one charity or another." In the light of such evidence the Committee feel justified in saying what they have with regard to a sufficiency of charitable funds for all ordinary needs for the purposes of a sound administration and a clear differentiation between the spheres of charity and the Poor Law.

Abuse of Hospitals.

The returns deny any abuse of Medical Poor Law relief, but give evidence of a considerable abuse of hospitals. Letters are often granted to fairly well-to-do

persons who could afford to pay a doctor. The person who goes to the hospital with an ordinary complaint is often very far from regarding himself as a recipient of charity, and, to say nothing of the time wasted, the effect upon the character of the individual cannot but be injurious; moreover, a wrong is often done to the local practitioner. In one town where there is great abuse of hospitals and dispensaries it is reported "practically any person can be doctored free." We are glad to note the practice of one particular country parish where hospital letters are granted by the Rector, Churchwardens, and medical practitioner after consultation; and in towns and country alike we would lay stress upon the greatest possible discrimination being exercised by subscribers in the bestowal of hospital letters.

We are also told that many persons use the hospitals who should be looked after by the Poor Law.

The Effect of Relief upon the Character of the Recipient.

It needs much strength and independence on the part of the recipient to prevent charity spoiling character. This would serve as a good summary of the returns to this question added with a view to bringing out the moral issues underlying the giving and receiving of relief. The acceptance of relief has had a "degenerating effect upon recipients," "fosters the pauper spirit," "more evil is done in the giving of relief than in the withholding it." "The degradation of character which so frequently follows is worse than any physical sufferings which are incurred."

Exception is made in the case of the sick and the aged, and those who can be trusted to make a reciprocal effort. But such sentences as those above quoted occur again and again, especially are they found in the returns of those who have obviously studied the social problems and speak from experience—often the combined experience of parish priest and guardian. The evidence from the towns is overwhelmingly strong in the sense of the prevailing "effect of relief given being decidedly demoralising." It is destructive of thrift, self-reliance, and effort.

With regard to Poor Law relief the evidence is of the same character. "Because of outdoor relief many labourers make no effort to save." "The acceptance of Poor Law relief has had a bad effect on sons of recipients." "Except in matters of burial there is little or no provision for old age." "This want of provision is due, not to inadequate means, but to the feeling the State will provide."

Summary. Discrimination and the Teaching of Thrift.

The Committee are of opinion that the remedy for many of the existing abuses and much current distress lies—

(i.) In the direction of classification.

a. Discrimination between charity and the Poor Law.

b. Classification in institutional relief, according to character.

c. More stringent treatment of the vagrant class.

(ii) They are also strongly of opinion that in the light of all the facts represented with regard to thriftlessness, bad management, the waste of money, and want of character, a great effort should be made in every parish towards the promotion of provident habits amongst the poor. They hold that one of the greatest barriers to thrift is too often the lavish bestowal of out-relief and the expectation of assistance from local charities. They would suggest that special opportunities should be taken to place before children the lessons of self-reliance; that the managers of schools should ask the local education authority for permission to give lectures on thrift; that the teachers be asked to spread information as to the local facilities for saving; as to friendly societies—especially the junior branches—and the opportunity of providing pensions for later life.

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DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY.

APPENDIX

I.

Is there much poverty in your parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?

RURAL DEANERY OF:

1. **EASTBRIDGE** (rural).—20 parishes, replies from 17.

Little real poverty; steady workers get fairly good wages. If there is poverty, drink generally the cause. Large percentage make no effort to save.

2. **WESTBRIDGE** (rural).—10 parishes, replies from 10.

Little poverty; if labourers depended entirely on farm work there would be, but many find employment in the woods. In one case several young men emigrated to Canada through lack of work.

3. **CANTERBURY**—17 parishes, replies from 14.

City.

St. Paul's and St. Martin's.—A good deal, and increasing. Cause: Practically no industry in Canterbury.

St. Alphege.—Yes, and on the increase in certain parts. Cause: Lack of thrift, lack of work, unemployable.

St. Dunstan's.—Not much; what there is is due to thriftlessness encouraged by the existence of number of city and parochial charities.

St. Mary Bredin.—No real poverty. Drink and want of thrift.

St. Peter's and Holy Cross.—Nothing exceptional. Want of work among unskilled labourers.

4. **DOVER.**—18 parishes, replies from 14.

(a) *Town.*—Poverty: A great deal. Several slummy streets with shifting population. Many thriftless, and sometimes destitute people.

Formerly respectable streets now occupied by very poor. Causes: Low moral standard result of bad influences in a seaport and garrison town. Drink.

Distribution of relief by the Church has probably played a part in degradation of the poor.

Falling off of trade in Dover. Cessation of harbour works. Transitional stage of Dover.

(b) *Agricultural Districts.*—No poverty.

5. **ELHAM.**—19 parishes, replies from 12.

(a) *Towns.*

Folkestone.

St. Peter's and Parish Church.—Poverty rather on increase. Cause: Failure of fisheries of late years; stoppage of building operations; overbuilt.

St. John's—Some distress in winter. Causes: stagnation in building trade, drink, improvidence.

Cheriton.—Slackness of building trade.

Hythe.—Not much poverty. Work plentiful in season.

(b) *Country Parishes.*—No.

RURAL DEANERY OF—*cont.*

6. **NORTH LYMPNE** (rural).—19 parishes, replies from 14.

None, except occasionally amongst old and past—work or intemperate.

7. **SOUTH LYMPNE** (rural).—16 parishes, replies from 13.

Oxney.—For most part next to none. Some large families of small children and small income.

Dymchurch.—In winter some distress owing to lack of employment through land going out of cultivation and reluctance on part of some to stick to regular employment.

8. **OSPRINGE** (except Faversham rural).—23 parishes, replies from 17.

Faversham.—Yes, owing to failure of brick trade and closing of large cement works; many out of work and many leaving for Canada.

In other parishes, except one or two adjoining Faversham, which are affected by brick trade, little or none.

Doddington.—What there is due to drunkenness and other improvidence.

9. **SANDWICH** (rural except Sandwich, Deal, Walmer).—25 parishes, replies from 15.

Rural Parishes.—No poverty. Where it exists due to bad management or intemperance. Inability to work.

Deal, St. George's.—Not much real poverty. What there was in winter due to slackness in building trade and failure in fishing industry.

Walmer.—Only in Lower Walmer among families of boatmen. Due partly to improvidence; partly to alterations in shipping trade.

10. **WESTBERE** (coast towns and villages adjoining).—27 parishes, replies from 16.

Ramsgate, St. George's.—A good deal of poverty in certain parts of parish, and increasing with changing character of visitors. Moral cause: Among unskilled labourers, and probably among fishermen, a good deal of drink. Economic: Ramsgate has been overbuilt. Too great dependence on work of wives; letting lodgings and going out to work.

Margate.

Parish Church.—A good deal of poverty and increasing. Causes: Economic, no industry; people mainly depend on summer season, great scarcity of work in winter. Moral: Thriftlessness, pleasure-seeking, disposition to depend on large number of charities.

St. Paul's.—Not much. What exists due to: (1) Overbuilding: labourers thrown out of work; (2) precariousness of letting lodgings.

All Saints'.—Very little. What there is due to: (1) Want of character; (2) bad seasons for lodging-house keepers.

RURAL DEANERY OF—*cont.*

10. **WESTBERE** (coast towns and villages adjoining) —*cont.*

Westgate.

St. James'.—No poverty, but some embarrassment among artisan lodging-house keepers.

St. Saviour's.—Virtually none.

St. Peter's, Thanet.—Some poverty in outlying districts amongst unskilled labourers; too many so-called gardeners for number of gardens.

Monkton.—Some; amongst old, due to labourers' inability to provide for old age. Duty of children to help aged parents not sufficiently recognised.

Birchington.—What there is due to intemperance.

St. Lawrence.—Distress amongst unskilled labourers due to slackness of building.

11. **EAST CHARING** (rural except Ashford—population, 14,500)).—12 parishes, replies from 12.

Ashford.—Not much poverty. Majority depend on South Eastern Railway works. Other parishes, no poverty. Except in special cases due to old age, infirmity, intemperance, extravagance in dress.

12. **WEST CHARING** (rural, except Cranbrook).—18 parishes, replies from 14.

Smarden.—Not much poverty. What there is due as a rule to drink and failure of children to support parents.

Hawkhurst.—Drink will account for almost all there is.

Sissinghurst.—It is increasing in intensity only, so far as the drink habit increases.

Goudhurst (population, 1,952).—Very little real povetry; 34 in receipt of Poor Law relief.

13. **CROYDON** (town and suburbs).—20 parishes, replies from 16.

Parish Church (population, 12,000).—Not much severe poverty; temporary depression owing to lack of employment, older men find it harder to get work owing to employers' increased legal responsibility. Causes: (*a*) Depression in building trade; (*b*) drink, apart from drunkenness; (*c*) lack of training for lads after leaving school; (*d*) high rents; (*e*) money spent on pleasure out of all proportion to earnings; (*f*) lack of sense of filial responsibility increased during period in which State has done so much for children; (*g*) slate clubs as a substitute for benefit societies.

Christ Church (population, 9,283).—Poverty increasing, due to: (*a*) Want of employment; (*b*) early and improvident marriages.

St. Matthew's, St. Peter's.—No.

St. Michael's, Emmanuel (S. Croydon).—Not much.

St. Augustine's.—A large amount, due to slackness in building trade.

Selhurst.—Yes, increasing owing to many out of work in building trade.

St. Paul's (Thornton Heath) (population, 12,000).—Yes, owing to influx from London of casual labourers, hawkers, etc.

St. Mark's (S. Norwood) (population, 14,000).—Poverty quite 40 per cent., increasing owing to depression in building trade and increase of rents and rates.

St. John's (Norwood) with *St. Alban's* (population 16,000).—Yes, due to: (*a*) Money being spent in present pleasure (apart from drink); (*b*) variety of doles and petty relief exaggerate poverty; (*c*) breakdown of old apprenticeship system.

RURAL DEANERY OF—*cont.*

13. **CROYDON** (town and suburbs)—*cont.*

Woodside (Croydon) (population, *c.* 9,000).—Yes: (*a*) Depression in building trade; (*b*) influx of poor from S. London.

Shirley (population, 1,100).—Formerly none, except through drink and old age; now increasing through want of work.

14. **SITTINGBOURNE.**—28 parishes, replies from 24.

Sittingbourne.

St. Michael's.—Some poverty due to slackness in brickmaking and cement-making. Large numbers emigrated.

Holy Trinity.—Yes, due to series of poor years in hops and fruit. Improvidence.

Sheerness.—No.

St. Paul's.—Yes, some due to lack of thrift and bad management when husband in work.

Queenborough.—No real poverty.

Newington.—A little owing to slackness in brick trade. Might be avoided altogether if it were not for drink.

In Country Parishes.—No poverty except in a few cases of aged.

15. **SUITON** (rural, except Maidstone).—34 parishes, replies from 26.

Maidstone.

Parish Church (*All Saints'*).—Slight increase in poverty, but not acute. Causes: (*a*) Scarcity of work; (*b*) lower class of workpeople coming into parish through removal of better class to outskirts of town; (*c*) usual causes, drink, etc. A good many casuals living on the work of their women.

St. Luke's (population, 3,500).—Considerable amount and increasing. Causes: (*a*) Unskilled labourers majority of population; (*b*) improvidence; (*c*) intemperance.

Holy Trinity.—A good deal. Moral causes: Drink; growing extravagance in manner of living; high rents causing overcrowding and consequent carelessness and thriftlessness; men of Maidstone content to live on earnings of wives in paper mills; when wife is laid by distress instantly follows; number of doles. Economic: Depression of trade, especially building, for three years; bad effect produced by typhoid epidemic seven years ago, when much money poured into the town.

St. Philip's.—Much poverty, due to want of work; tramp lodging-houses; insanitary conditions; drink and unwise charity.

St. Paul's.—Not much indigent poverty.

(*Rural Parishes.*)

Thornham.—Not much poverty, but occasional lack of work in winter. This has led to several families emigrating to Canada last year and this.

Bredhurst.—No poverty, but people not so prosperous as formerly owing to agricultural depression.

Wychling.—No poverty, but tendency of young to go into towns.

All other parishes say no. What there is due to drink, old age, and occasionally want of constant employment.

II.

Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of District Visitors?

RURAL DEANERY OF:—

1. EASTBRIDGE.—Vicar assisted by churchwardens as a rule.

2. WESTBRIDGE.—Clergy administer themselves. In money or kind. Sometimes by district visitors. Advice of churchwardens.

3. CANTERBURY.

St. Martin's.—Relief committee. (Three laymen, two ladies, vicar, curate.) Relief given by district visitors. Aims of committee: (i) Weekly pension to old deserving folk; (ii) temporary help in sickness; (iii) temporary help in unemployment.

Holy Cross and St. Mary Bredin.—Tickets given.

Hackington.—Churchwarden gives weekly doles. Vicar gives to persons out of work, and clothes to large families.

Nackington (population, 140).—10s. on birth of child.

4. DOVER.

Town.

St. Mary's, Dover.—Immediate relief by ticket given by district visitors. Anything further referred to relief committee consisting of clergy, churchwardens, and a lady guardian. Clergy give no relief.

St. Bartholomew's.—Immediate relief by district visitors. Afterwards supervised by relief committee consisting of clergy and working men appointed by Church council. Clergy give no relief.

Holy Trinity.—No attempt to relieve chronic distress. Sick by district visitors.

St. James'.—Small pensions of 1s. a week to aged and in chronic illness. No committee. Relief by district visitors and clergy.

Charlton.—District visitors and sister.

Buckland.—Co-operate with town committee in special times of distress.

Temple Ewell.—A committee of district visitors; a monthly meeting: cash-relief in cash and by tickets. Vicar gives also himself.

St. Margaret at Cliffe.—Weekly allowance from Alms Fund to widows and infirm. District visitors.

5. ELHAM.

Folkestone.—Parochial relief administered by sisters and district visitors. Pensions to old people. There is a branch of Charity Organisation Society; in winter a relief fund promoted by the mayor. Clergy only give relief in exceptional cases.

All Souls' (Cheriton).—Committee of church officers give relief to unemployed in winter. Sick helped from another fund. Free soup given by vicar. St. Martin's also gives free soup.

Hythe.—Weekly alms to aged poor. Soup kitchens. Relief given by vicar on recommendation of district visitors.

Country Parishes.—Relief mostly given by clergy. In one case by district visitors.

6. NORTH LYMPNE.—Special methods not required. Relief given by clergy or by district visitors.

RURAL DEANERY OF—*cont.*

7. SOUTH LYMPNE.

Lydd.—No special methods. As a rule administered by the incumbent in money.

Woo'church.—Two special charities by the rector and churchwardens. Three by parish council.

8. OSPRINGE.

Faversham.—At present through district visitors. Hoping to have new system this winter.

Selling.—Widows receive 2s. 6d. per month from church offertory.

Teynham.—Clergy and district visitors.

Dodington.—Orders for bread, coal, grocery given by vicar; otherwise by clergy and trustees.

9. SANDWICH.—Churchwardens assist with advice and administration of relief in kind.

Deal, St. George's.—Careful administration by vicar. No committee.

Walmer.—Through district visitors. Adequate relief aimed at.

Rural Parishes.—Relief administered by clergy chiefly in kind through tickets.

10. WESTBERE.

Ramsgate. At present through district visitors' committee with representatives, if possible, of the guardians upon it proposed.

Margate.

Parish Church.—No committee. District visitors, who in doubtful cases consult clergy.

St. Paul's, All Saints'.—District visitors and ticket system.

Westgate.—District visitors and adequate relief in sickness.

St. Peter's, Thanet.—Consultation with relieving officer.

Monkton.—Parochial charity administered by committee, otherwise help given by vicar out of alms.

Minster.—By vicar, owing to demands made on district visitors being exorbitant.

Birchington.—District visitors by 1s. tickets. Special cases reported to vicar.

11. EAST CHARING.

Ashford.—Church Relief Committee. Town benevolent society for food and coal, also small society to assist aged poor with clothing.

Other Parishes.—Relief given for most part in kind, administered by clergy with help in some cases of churchwardens, in one of district visitors.

12. WEST CHARING.

Cranbrook.—No committee: Relief by tickets given by clergy or district visitors. Chronic cases: no general provision, but individual cases taken up by special arrangement, *e.g.*, one widow at present receives £24 a year.

Biddenden.—Money gifts to sick from Church Fund through rector. Charities administered by trustees.

Newenden.—The aged and chronic cases practically pensioned through help of friends and the Alms Fund.

RURAL DEANERY OF—*cont.*

12. WEST CHARING—*cont.*

Hawkhurst.—No committee; but too much relief administered by clergy and private individuals without concerted action.

Benenden.—A small relief committee; we give a few pensions to deserving aged and infirm; administered through district visitors as far as possible.

13. CROYDON.

Croydon.

Parish Church.—(*a*) Relief in kind to sick and nurses; (*b*) efforts to assist out-of-work cases; (*c*) almshouses with out-pensioners. (150 good cases before Board now.) No committee. Relief through district visitors, superintended by clergy.

Christ Church.—Relief in kind through district visitors and mission women. No committee.

St. Matthew's.—Tickets—weekly pensions of 1s. to aged, through district visitors.

St. Michael's.—Relief through thirty district visitors.

Emmanuel.—Tickets through district visitors.

St. Augustine's.—District visitors.

Selhurst.—The relief through clergy and district visitors.

St. Paul's (Thornton Heath).—(*a*) Sick fund administered by clergy and parochial nurse; (*b*) Relief Committee for temporary distress—chiefly out-of-work cases.

St. Mark's (S. Norwood).—Samaritan Society with committee, including two guardians. Larger part done through district visitors.

St. John's (Norwood).—Parochial Committee—with case papers; out-of-work cases not attempted except in sickness.

Woodside, Addiscombe, West Wickham, Addington.—Clergy and district visitors. No committee.

RURAL DEANERY OF—*cont.*

14. SITTINGBOURNE.

Sittingbourne.

St. Michael's.—Vicar and overseers for parochial charities. District visitors otherwise.

Holy Trinity.—Mission woman and four district visitors.

Sheerness, Holy Trinity.—A special town committee was formed to deal with exceptional distress in winter.

Queenborough.—Public charities through vicar and trustees; otherwise vicar and district visitors, also the Mayor through agents.

Borden.—Parochial charities through vicar and parish council or trustees. Church alms by vicar.

15. SUTTON.

Maidstone.

All Saints'.—At present through district visitors; committee proposed.

St. Luke's.—Relief by tickets—confined chiefly to sick cases; soup tickets in winter through men visitors. No relief committee. District visitors administer after consultation with clergy.

Holy Trinity.—No committee; district visitors under supervision.

St. Philip's.—Attempt to organise committee; at present through district visitors and lay agents.

St. Paul's.—Application made to clergy; tickets given by district visitors.

Rural Parishes.

Bearstead.—Tickets and grants of 5s. a month to old people.

Hollingbourne.—Tickets for food and payment of rent and doctors' bills. Through district visitors.

Boughton Monchelsea.—Vicar administers relief himself or else advises wealthier residents. In all other parishes relief is given as a rule through tickets, administered for the most part by clergy, otherwise through district visitors.

III.

Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.

DEANERY OF:—

1. EASTBRIDGE.—No. So far as outdoor relief is concerned, no hesitation in applying for it.

2. WESTBRIDGE—In most cases no reluctance; but no unrelieved distress, because of occasional reluctance.

3. CANTERBURY.—No distress due to reluctance to apply.

In St. Mary Bredin special co-operation with relieving officers.

City Parish.—People not restrained from asking by any delicacy of feeling.

St. Alphege.—Reluctance to go into Union and the possibility of getting on somehow by persistent begging all over Canterbury are cause of much distress in my district.

4. DOVER (town and country).—No reluctance to apply for Poor Law relief.

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

5. ELHAM.

Folkestone.—No reluctance, except where it might be detrimental to business.

Hythe.—No reluctance.

Country Parishes.—No reluctance.

6. NORTH LYMPNE.—No.

Bonnington.—Inquisitorial methods of relieving officers sometimes a deterrent to persons in want.

7. SOUTH LYMPNE.—No.

8. OSPRINGE.

Faversham.—No, but in some cases pride prevents them from asking for out-relief.

Throwley.—Outdoor relief is regarded as a right. There is reluctance to enter the House.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

8. OSPRINGE—*cont.*

Hernhill.—It is stated that there has probably been hardship in one case of a man dying slowly. The wife did not apply, because the relieving officer was rough in his treatment, and a son who was doing all he could—3s. a week—would have offensive letters written to him.

9. SANDWICH.

Deal.—No reluctance in cases of real distress. Cases that will bear enquiry.

Other Parishes.—All say "No." Only too ready to apply for outdoor relief. Dislike of the House.—Ringwold.

10. WESTBERE.

Ramsgate.—No.

Margate.

Parish Church.—Some cases amongst respectable persons who let lodgings. The bulk only too ready to ask where there is a chance of getting anything.

St. Paul's.—One case of old woman (presumably without out-relief). Reluctant to give up her home.

All Saints'.—No.

St. Peter's (Thanet).—Reluctance amongst out-of-work cases to apply through fear the relieving officer will offer the House.

Monkton.—Reluctance to go into House through fear of separation. (Aged man and wife.) Inadequate out-relief being given.

Minster.—No reluctance whatever or sense of shame in resorting to Poor Law relief. I know of a coal merchant (well-to-do) who did not hesitate to send his mother up to the Union in her declining years.

Other Parishes.—No.

11. EAST CHARING.

Ashford.—No distress through reluctance to apply to Poor Law.

Other Parishes.—No reluctance.

Kennington.—Only too great readiness to place aged on the Poor Law.

Exceptions.

Pluckley.—One case of reluctance through fear of losing caste, afterwards helped by charity.

Charing Heath.—*L. C.*, 77 years of age, said she would rather drop and die by wayside than enter House.

G. C., incurably diseased. A burden on aged mother. Refuses to go into infirmary.

In both cases mere prejudice the cause.

12. WEST CHARING.—No distress and no reluctance to apply.

Smarden.—Commendable reluctance on the part of some parishioners.

Benenden.—Reluctance of old married couples to go to the House and be separated.

High Halden.—The Tenterden guardians do not encourage outdoor relief, but I know of no case in which in consequence of this there has been bad effect. Rector a guardian.

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

13. CROYDON.

Croydon.

Parish Church.—No.

Christ Church.—Possibly some, due to desire of an eventual application to an alms-House.

St. Matthew's, St. Peter's, St. Augustine's, and others.—No.

Selhurst.—Yes, amongst respectable poor through reluctance to go into the House.

St. Paul's (*Thornton Heath*).—Yes, in case of casual worker with large family unwilling to submit to restraints of the House. Manages to live somehow.

St. John's (*Norwood*).—I do not think so. Never found person refusing Poor Law relief except as regards funerals.

Woodside.—Will not apply to relieving officer, even when on brink of starvation, because the House is nearly always offered, but come only too readily to the Church.

West Wickham.—One widow who ought to have relief, but daughter opposed to it.

14. SITTINGBOURNE.

Sittingbourne, Holy Trinity.—Frequently meet with cases of distress through reluctance to apply for Poor Law relief owing to the well-known fact that House will be offered and out-relief refused.

Sheerness, St. Paul's.—A man (with wife and two children) invalided out of Navy, broke down again after working in dockyard. Refused for some time to go in infirmary through self-respect. Finally went in through persuasion of relieving officer and clergy.

Others say no.

15. SUTTON.

Maidstone.

All Saints', St. Luke's.—There is reluctance on part of really needy to apply for Poor Law relief. This arises chiefly in the case of *families* who would be told to go into the union. They are looking forward to better times, and will not break up homes even when starving. In the case of the better class of aged poor the receipt of Poor Law relief would preclude them from obtaining an alms-house or any of town charities.

Holy Trinity.—Not much reluctance. Younger generation rather like to go in in winter and loaf in summer.

Bearstead.—The fear of the House deters some. One woman, said to be starving, last winter refused to apply.

Bicknor.—No, except in the case of casuals, who prefer vagrancy.

All other parishes say no unrelieved distress from this cause.

N.B.—*By the reply no reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief is to be understood, in almost all the answers, outdoor relief only.*

IV.

Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.

DEANERY OF:—

1. EASTBRIDGE.—The amount is not adequate by itself. Only becomes so through help from other sources—from charity, friends, or Church. This latter is nearly always forthcoming.

Barham.—Have been cases of pinching.

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

2. WESTBRIDGE.

Wye.—Distress often left unrelieved when out-relief is given. Necessary to supplement it.

Molash.—Find it necessary to help those receiving out-relief..

Chartham.—Insufficient for maintenance.

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

3. CANTERBURY.—Guardians evidently depend on recipient augmenting (dole given usually, 2s. 6d.) from charitable sources.

St. Alphege.—There are two widows in my parish who are struggling to exist on 2s. 6d. and 3s. respectively per week.

4. DOVER.

Town.

Five parishes say relief is adequate.

Christ Church.—Relief given (usually 2s. 6d.) to aged people means semi-starvation.

Holy Trinity.—Not adequate.

County.—One case not adequate, 2s. 6d.

5. ELHAM.

Folkestone, Christ Church.—No. But outdoor relief not of itself adequate unless supplemented.

Hythe.—No.

Country Parishes.—No.

6. NORTH LYMPNE.—Apparently none, except in one parish (*Aldington*) where it is usually inadequate.

7. SOUTH LYMPNE.—No, for most part.

Warehorne.—In one case I am aware of, relief if doubled would not be too much.

Dymchurch.—Guardians grant from 2s. 6d. to 3s. a week. A quite inadequate sum to really relieve.

8. OSPRINGE.

Hernhill.—Do not consider guardians give adequate outdoor relief.

Faversham.—No.

Newnham.—I have never known a case where the relief given could be considered adequate. Three cases were helped last winter.

9. SANDWICH.

Deal, St. George's.—Vicar a guardian thirty years; also chairman. Amount given by our guardians very small. Some tendency in certain guardians to increase it. I unhesitatingly say the less outdoor relief given the better it is for the poor. Lavish outdoor relief a fruitful source of pauperism. A few hard cases might arise, but I am sure the entire stoppage of outdoor relief would tend to the reduction of pauperism.

Ripple, Eastchanger, Eythorne.—Three parishes state amount inadequate unless supplemented by outside help. The latter thinks old-age pensions would meet the case more effectively than Poor Law relief.

10. WESTBERE.

Ramsgate, St. George's.—Three shillings a week obviously inadequate.

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

10. WESTBERE—*cont.*

Margate.

St. Paul's, All Saints'.—No.

Parish Church.—All Poor Law relief cases require further assistance from the charitable.

Monkton.—Inadequate (*see* answer to previous Question).

Birchington.—In a few cases additional help given from Church funds.

11. EAST CHARING.

Ashford.—Inadequate. Widow, 2s. 6d. out-relief; rent, 1s.

Several parishes say no.

Exceptions.

Willesborough?—There are individual cases of real hardship; in several cases when rent is paid, only 1s. remains.

Charing Heath.—In every case of out-relief appreciable distress:—*e.g.*, *L. C.*, allowed 3s. per week, otherwise wholly destitute; rent, 1s. 6d. *G. C.*, allowed 2s. per week, on which, in addition to 2s. club money, he has to support himself and aged mother.

12. WEST CHARING.

Smarden.—In no case is the relief given adequate. The difference is made up by private charity and small earnings.

Other parishes say no, but outdoor relief must be supplemented.

13. CROYDON.

Croydon.

Parish Church.—No.

Christ Church, St. Michael's.—Relief given often inadequate.

Addington, St. Matthew's, St. Peter's.—No.

St. Mark's, S. Norwood.—In these cases the relief given not adequate.

St. John's.—Inadequate, because it is supposed children will supplement the grant, which they often do not; hence distress.

Shirley.—Seldom adequate.

West Wickham.—Outdoor relief is supplemented by the Church.

14. SITTINGBOURNE.—All say no.

15. SUTTON.

Maidstone.

All Saints.—Apparently not.

St. Luke's.—Not always adequate, *e.g.*, in the case of a mother with young children.

Thornham.—There are two or three cases where the Poor Law relief is evidently insufficient.

Other parishes say no.

V.

Is there in your parish any needless overlapping—(a) *between various forms of charity, or* (b) *between charity and the Poor Law; and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?*

DEANERY OF:—

1. EASTBRIDGE.—(*a*) No; (*b*) No. Sometimes through private individuals.

2. WESTBRIDGE.—No.

3. CANTERBURY.

City Parish.—(*a*) Yes; owing to reckless way in which tickets from city charities are

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

3. CANTERBURY—*cont.*

City Parish—cont.

given to the most undeserving by city authorities. Canterbury is a sink of small charities.

St. Martin and St. Paul.—There is a great deal of overlapping between various charities.

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

3. CANTERBURY—*cont.*

St. Martin and St. Paul—*cont.*

I have tried to get the well-to-do parishioners who subscribe to coal clubs, work societies, to give their tickets to Relief Committee. A great many municipal charities and charities in hands of trustees and almshouses which might well be reorganised. There is a regular scramble for their doles.

4. DOVER.

St. Mary's.—(*a*) Some overlapping; (*b*) Guardian on committee prevents this.

St. Bartholomew.—Considerable overlapping. Have appealed to dissenting bodies to co-operate. Give no relief to those in receipt of Poor Law relief.

Yes, unless great care is taken. All country parishes say no overlapping.

5. ELHAM.

Folkestone.—(*a*) No, in four parishes.

Christ Church.—Has been between Church and dissenting bodies.

(*b*) No. We know who are relieved by Poor Law.

Cheriton.—Communicate with guardians when cases unsuitable for relief from Church funds.

Hythe.—Not much.

Country Parishes.—No.

6. NORTH LYMPNE.—No overlapping in either way, apparently.

7. SOUTH LYMPNE.—No.

8. OSPRINGE.

Faversham.—Overlapping between Church and Nonconformity—various bodies. Hope to prevent this by having a Town Relief Committee. Other parishes say no.

9. SANDWICH.

Deal, St. George's.—Answer implies that special effort has been made to prevent overlapping between charity and Poor Law. Other parishes say no, but imply overlapping between charity and Poor Law.

10. WESTBERE.

Ramsgate, St. George's.—No organised overlapping, but cases of Poor Law doctor recommending his patients to apply to Church and graduating his help according to that received through district visitors.

Margate.

St. Paul's.—Efforts to avoid it by communication between relieving officer and committees of local charities.

Parish Church.

Yes, in the case of one very large charity, which is a good deal abused.

Other Parishes.—There seems to be some co-operation with relieving officers.

11. EAST CHARING.

Ashford.—Apparently none.

12. WEST CHARING.—No needless overlapping—owing to the way in which outdoor relief is administered there must be overlapping.

Biddenden.—It appears to be the other way. The old charities cannot be given to any who have received relief from the rates,

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

12. WEST CHARING—*cont.*

Biddenden—*cont.*

according to Charity Commissioners' scheme. These are the very people most needing relief from these charities. Their case has already been carefully enquired into by relieving officer.

13. CROYDON.

Croydon.

Parish Church.—(*a*) A constant danger owing to numerous denominational funds and irresponsible private benevolence. (*b*) Charity knowingly supplements Poor Law relief; efforts to keep in touch with relieving officer. A guild of help has just been formed in the borough, one object being to prevent overlapping.

St. Matthew's.—(*a*) Overlapping through independent action of other religious bodies. (*b*) No. Church refers heavy cases to the guardians.

Selhurst, St. Peter's, Emmanuel.—(*a*) Yes, especially at Christmas. (*b*) Yes, through irresponsible benevolence.

St. Michael's.—

St. Augustine's.—(*a*) Yes. A large amount of indiscriminate charity by certain people. Undesirable class of people attracted to neighbourhood in consequence.

St. Paul's, Thornton Heath.—Effort to co-operate with other religious bodies, by inviting members to committee; also with relieving officers and local church organisation societies.

St. Mark's, Norwood.—Outdoor relief knowingly supplemented.

St. John's.—(*a*) Much overlapping between church and chapel; by Charity Organisation Society and parochial committee we try to prevent it. (*b*) We try to leave certain cases entirely to Poor Law and take others entirely off it, but Poor Law pensioners clamour and district visitors are weak. Have drawn attention to overlapping in local press, tried to further guild of help, and urged that all charitable funds should be pooled.

Addiscombe.—Irremediable denominational overlapping.

14. SITTINGBOURNE.

Sittingbourne, St. Paul's.—(*a*) Some between church and chapel. (*b*) Undoubtedly; attempt to prevent this by co-operation with relieving officer.

Other parishes.—Nothing appreciable.

15. SUTTON.

Maidstone.

All Saints'.—(*a*) I think not. The adult school gives some unwise help in winter. (*b*) No needless overlapping.

Other parishes in Maidstone say care is taken to avoid overlapping as far as possible.

Bearstead.—The Poor Law relief as a rule needs to be supplemented by charity.

Sutton Valence.—Sometimes from Nonconformists having a complete system of visiting separate from the church. We try to find out what they are doing in special cases.

Other parishes say no.

VI.

If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.

DEANERY OF:—

1. EASTBRIDGE.—Sums vary from £6 to £75; in this latter are included church money and parochial charities. There are also special gifts of coal at Christmas. In some cases almshouses.

2. WESTBRIDGE.—Vary, according to charities, from £6 to £30 or more. A nursing association at Wye.

3. CANTERBURY.

City.

St. Martin and St. Paul's.—£115, besides coal and work tickets.

Unknown.—£80 to £90.

St. Margaret, St. Andrew, St. Mary.—£37 19s. 7d.

St. Mary Bredin.—£70 to £80.

St. Peter's and Holy Cross.—Old charities. Bread, flannel, £21. Sick poor, £46 9s. 9d.

St. Stephen's, Hackington.—Church, £32. Old charities, £78.

Sturry (Village).—£25. Church funds.

4. DOVER.

Dover.

St. Mary's.—£175, exclusive of charity doles.

St. Bartholomew.—£150, in a hard winter.

Holy Trinity.—£90, and 4 tons of coal.

Christ Church.—£50.

St. James'.—£127, besides Christmas bequests.

Charlton in Dover.—£50, besides private benevolence.

Temple Ewell and St. Margaret at Cliffe.—£30 (about).

Two country parishes (combined population, 633).—£75.

5. ELHAM.

Folkestone, Parish Church.—Nearly £200; in others from £130 to £80.

Hythe.—Church, £152; other sources, £110.

Country parishes.—From £16 to £30.

6. NORTH LYMPNE.—Amounts range from £5 (Oakstone) to £30 (Smeeth).

7. SOUTH LYMPNE.

Woodchurch.—From £53 9s. 5d., besides a large bread charity.

Old Romney.—£2.

8. OSPRINGE.

Faversham.—Per district visitors, £36 16s. 3d.; Charities per churchwardens, £51 13s. 11d.; Christmas and supplementary account, £34 5s. 10d.=£122 16s. In addition to this, coal charity, soup, lying-in charity, and almshouses.

Selling.—£29 5s. 4d.

Teynham.—£32 1s. 4d.

Boughton-under-Blean.—Parochial charities at Christmas, £100; church alms, £7 4s.

The Brents, Faversham.—£30, in tickets in winter.

Otterden (population, 159).—£22 2s. 8d.

9. SANDWICH.

Walmer.—£80 to £90, with gifts of money and coal

St. Mary.—£88 15s. 7d.

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

9. SANDWICH—*cont.*

St. Clement's.—£24 10s.

Rural parishes from *Ripple* (population, 271), £6, to *Ringwold* (population, 272), £23 18s. 3d.

10. WESTBERE.

Ramsgate, St. George's.—£160.

Margate.

St. Paul's.—£40.

All Saints'.—Impossible to estimate; so much given, in tickets, through philanthropic societies.

Parish Church.—About £300 a year.

Town Charities.—£2,150; For inmate of almhouses, £1,800; Soup Kitchen, penny dinner fund for children.

11. WESTBERE.

Westgate.

St. James.—£25 from Church. £20, old charities.

St. Saviour's.—From £14 to £38.

Minster.—From £30 to £35, including one or two parochial charities.

Birchington.—£60 to £70, Church relief. £18, charities.

St. Laurence (Thanet) (population, 3,071).—£70.

Reculver (population, 244).—13s. 11½d. £9 7s. 6d., charities.

12. EAST CHARING.

Ashford.—£180, Church sick and poor fund. £60, benevolent society.

Kennington.—£16 to £18, money and coals. £90, parish nurse.

Boughton Malherbe (population, 380).—£50, coal at Christmas. £25 to £30, other relief.

Pluckley (population, 950).—£22, parish bequests. £41, other relief and bonuses.

Little Chart (population, 313).—£13, coal and clothing club bonuses. £5, other relief.

13. WEST CHARING.

Biddenden.—£90, by old charities; much of this given to those not poor. £9, Church fund.

Hawkhurst.—£7, charities. £37, Church fund.

Smarden.—£23, Turner charity; administered by trustees through parish council. £2 13s., from Church.

Benenden.—£59 11s. 11d., Church funds.

14. CROYDON.

Croydon Parish Church. (*a*) Church fund, £420. (*b*) Considerable private sources. (*c*) Trust charities.—Statistics not available.

St. Matthew's.—About £130.

St. Peter's.—About £151 11s. 9d.

St. Michael's.—£120.

Emmanuel.—Church, £55. Two private ladies must spend a great deal.

St. Augustine's.—Impossible owing to private persons with unlimited means who publish no accounts.

Selhurst.—Sick and poor, £50, besides much spent on clubs, etc.

St. Paul's (Thornton Heath).—About £140.

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

14. CROYDON—*cont.*

St. Mark's (Norwood).—£314 17s. 8d., besides sided self-help.

St. John's (Norwood).—£162 10s., besides clubs and societies.

Woodside.—About £100.

Addiscombe.—About £150.

Shirley (population, 1,100).—£50.

West Wickham (population, 1,328).—£75.

Addington (population, 670).—Pensions to aged labourers or widows, £100. Other charities, £58.

15. SITTINGBOURNE.

Sittingbourne St. Paul's.—£17 from Church.

Holy Trinity.—£20, sick and poor.

Newington.—£8. Also bread charity; two loaves a week through six winter months to widows and poor attending Church.

Sheerness.—£17 10s.

St. Paul's.—£42 10s. S.S.F.A.

Queenborough (Population, 1,544).—£100.

Borden (Population, 1,350).—£590. Barrows charity (£15 a year to thirty men and

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

15. SITTINGBOURNE—*cont.*

Borden—*cont.*

women over sixty. Also grants of £1, £2, £3, to fifteen others in need of help three times a year). Another charity gives coal at Christmas and money to about eighty persons at Easter.

16. SUTTON.

Maidstone.

All Saints'—£87, for sick and poor. £35, subscriptions to club, etc. £30, Christmas gift to the poor.

St. Luke's.—Between £30 and £40.

Holy Trinity.—£40.

St. Philip's.—£35.

St. Paul's.—£65, besides £34 in coal.

Bearstead, Chart S.—£40 to £45.

Hollingbourne.—£70, owing to two epidemics.

Sutton Valence with East Sutton.—£34 in charities. £25, Church offertories.

Staplehurst.—£28, besides several small charities.

Marden.—£190.

Lenham.—£50.

Other parishes ranging from £1; Bredhurst (population, 334) to £20.

VII.

Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity, other than the Poor Law, in your parish in the course of a year?

DEANERY OF:—

1. EASTBRIDGE.—From two in Chillenden (population, 150) to seventy-five in Ash (population, 1,503).

2. WESTBRIDGE.

(1) From thirty families in Petham and Waltham (population, 1,560) to about fifty in Wye (population, 1,350).

(2) As a rule only to those in receipt of Poor Law relief.—Molash.

3. CANTERBURY.

Canterbury.—A city parish.—240.

St. Martin and St. Paul.—135.

St. Dunstan.—About 100.

St. Peter's.—About eighty.

St. Mary, St. Andrew, St. Margaret.—forty, two.

St. Alphege.—About 35 families.

Sturry.—Two.

Nackington (population, 140).—Most of families receive 4 cwt. of coal.

4. DOVER.

Dover.

St. Bartholomew's.—About sixty families in more or less regular relief. Last winter we kept about 200 families during the severe weather from absolute starvation.

Christ Church.—Average number of families receiving help, sixty.

Buckland.—Fifty or sixty at a rough guess.

St. Margaret at Cliffe.—Twelve.

County parishes, from six to twelve.

5. ELHAM.

Folkestone.

St. Peter's.—Sixty to seventy families.

Christ Church.—Forty to fifty families.

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

5. ELHAM—*cont.*

Hythe.—Twenty regular recipients of Church alms. Eighty to 100 Mayor's gift. Seventy families soup kitchen.

Other cases numerous.

6. NORTH LYMPNE.—Numbers range from three or four to fifteen.

7. SOUTH LYMPNE.

Lydd—Nineteen widows. Twenty-nine others.

Woodchurch.—Large but uncertain number because of overlapping.

Old Romney, six.

8. OSPRINGE.

Faversham.—No number given.

Boughton-under-Blean.—Church alms given to sixty different persons. Charities given to sixty-four different persons.

The Brents (population, 1,100).—More than half the population received help last winter.

Otterden (population, 159).—Practically every labouring family receives from one charity or another.

9. SANDWICH.

Walmer.—About thirty a year.

Sandwich.

St. Mary's (population, 1,092).—300.

St. Clement's (population, 956).—100.

Eastry (population, 1,302).—Thirty, with extra help in winter.

Ringwold (population, 272).—Twenty.

Ham.—(Fetteshanger) (population, 95).—Ten.

10. WESTBERE.

Margate, Parish Church.—Number must be large. (*See* answer to previous question.)

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

10. WESTBERE—*cont.*

Westgate.

St. Saviour's.—Those in receipt of charity as a regular thing do not exist. Two or three old women get 2s. 6d. a month.

St. James'.—Twenty-five.

Birchington.—Probably thirty families.

St. Lawrence (Thanet) (population, 3,071).—250

Reculver (population, 244).—One family, since emigrated.

11. EAST CHARING.

Eastwell.—Twenty families out of 130.

Boughton Malherbe.—Owing to outbreak of measles nearly every family received relief during winter months.

Pluckley.—Thirty-nine households out of 194.

Charing Heath (population, 434).—Twenty.

12. WEST CHARING.

Cranbrook (population, 2,962).—Recipients of tickets probably less than 5 per cent. of families.

Hawkhurst (population, 3,097).—Between sixty and seventy persons annually relieved.

Smarden (population, 1,000).—No family in receipt of regular relief. Five persons helped during year for some immediate need, *e.g.*, carriage to hospital, help in house durin sickness. Recipients of Turner Charit through parish council, about forty.

Benenden (population, 1,336).—About forty from the Church.

13. CROYDON.

Croydon.

Parish Church.—450

Addiscombe.

Christ Church, St. Paul's, Thornton Heath, St. Matthew's, Selhurst.—No register kept of families relieved.

St. Peter's.—About thirty cases a month, some chronic.

St. Michael's.—About 100 families.

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

13. CROYDON—*cont.*

Croydon—cont.

Emmanuel.—About seventy or eighty families.

St. Augustine's.—Nearly all of poor population, 2,500, get more or less relief.

St. Mark's, Norwood.—About 320 families.

St. John's.—About 250 families.

Woodside.—About 200 families.

14. SITTINGBOURNE.

Sittingbourne, St. Paul's.—Christmas gifts, 150; other cases, 100.

Sheerness, St. Paul's.—Between forty and fifty aged and chronic cases, 2s. a week.

Queenborough (population, 1,544).—120.

East Church.—Offertory money to ten people (eight of whom receive parish relief).

(*a*) The local charity given to fifty-six persons; many of them well-to-do.

Borden.—Sixty-five.

15. SUTTON.

Maidstone—

All Saints' (population, 3,769).—110.

St. Luke's (population, 2,962).—100.

St. Philip's.—Over 300 tickets issued.

Hollingbourne.—Any families where there is illness. Last year practically all the poor were helped.

Thornham.—Thirty to thirty-five out of 105 cottage houses.

Sutton Valence (population, 1,125).—Fifty families.

East Sutton (population, 380).—Twenty-five families.

Marden (population, 2,321).—Thirty ordinary. At Christmas 100 receive coal charity. On Ash Wednesday 100 receive 10s. each. Attend Maplesden charity.

Bredhurst (population, 334).—Two or three.

N.B.—In many cases owing to many agencies at work it is difficult to state even an approximate number.

VIII.

With regard to medical relief in your parish, is there any abuse—(a) *of Poor Law relief;* (b) *of hospitals?*

DEANERY OF—

1. EASTBRIDGE.—Apparently none.

2. WESTBRIDGE.—Abuse repudiated.

3. CANTERBURY.

City.

St. Martin's and St. Paul's.—Hospital and dispensaries. Practically any person can be doctored free. Not good for self-respect of people. Hospital and dispensary letters looked upon as a right.

City Parish.—The dispensary more abused than hospital.

4. DOVER.

Town.—Much indiscriminate giving of hospital letters. Poor Law not abused.

Country.—No.

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

5. ELHAM.

Folkestone.—No, and very little.

Cheriton.—In one case subscriber to hospital pass letters on to vicar.

6. NORTH LYMPNE.—(*a*) No. (*b*) Very little, if any.

7. SOUTH LYMPNE.

Lydd.—(*a*) No. (*b*) I think so in some cases.

8. OSPRINGE.

Faversham.—Abuse of dispensary. People earning good money join. Apparently not of (*a*) or (*b*).

9. SANDWICH.—No

Walmer.—In cottage hospital every patient pays according to ability. Scale fixed by hospital.

Betteshanger and Ham.—No abuse. Greater number of poor belong to medical club.

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

10. WESTBERE.—(*a*) and (*b*) Apparently not.

11. EAST CHARING.

Kennington.—Fairly well-to-do people ask for hospital letters.

Pluckley.—Hospital letters are granted by rector, churchwardens, and medical practitioner after consultation.

Others say no.

12. WEST CHARING.

Smarden.—Hospital letters are sometimes abused, being given to persons who could well afford to pay local practitioner or otherwise.

Others say no abuse.

13. CROYDON.

Parish Church.—(*a*) No. (*b*) Some medical men think there is abuse of hospitals.

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

13. CROYDON—*cont.*

Christ Church.—(*a*) Many persons use hospitals who should be looked after by Poor Law.

St. Michael's, St. Paul's, Thornton Heath, Selhurst, Shirley.—(*b*) Hospital letters often used by those who could afford to pay.

St. John's, Norwood.—Yes. Hospitals are abused.

14. SITTINGBOURNE.

St. Paul's.—Occasionally hospital letter refused.

Eastchurch.—Relieving officers rather too ready to grant medical relief.

15. SUTTON.

Maidstone (Holy Trinity), Langley, Detling, Linton, Tovil, Otham.—Hospitals often abused by people who could afford a doctor.

IX.

From your own experience can you say whether the acceptance of relief (charitable or Poor Law) has any effect on the character of the recipients, and, if so, in what way?

DEANERY OF.

1. EASTBRIDGE.

Nonington.—Have known one or two cases in which discontinuance of relief has acted as stimulus to effort and added to self-respect.

Earham.—In some cases made less thrifty and self-reliant.

(Grumbling of *Non-recipients.*)

Ickham.—(Rector has been a guardian.

The only real test of poverty—the offer of the House—is seldom tried. Because of outdoor relief many labourers make no effort to save. A man in receipt of large wages said: "Do you think I am such a fool as to save? When I cannot work someone must support me." The circumstances given of two similar adjoining parishes, one pauperised, other self-reliant.

2. WESTBRIDGE.

Chartham.—Many persons receive out-relief who would not do so under a better administration of the law.

Wye.—Tendency to destroy independence and create begging temper.

Petham.—Tillard's charity, £75 per annum, tends to keep families in place who might seek maintenance elsewhere.

3. CANTERBURY.

St. Martin's.—In most cases it has a bad effect. I believe in Canterbury many men are unwilling to work because they find that they can get on by the women working and begging. It destroys thrift. A real temptation to independent poor to cadge.

City Parish.—The multiplicity of charities in this city tends to pauperise and to destroy self-reliance, also encourages in many a spirit of deception.

St. Peter and Holy Cross.—I do think that relief as a rule produces gratitude, but I am sure the withholding of it from those who have received it causes jealousy and murmuring.

4. DOVER.

Dover.

St. Mary's.—Acceptance of relief has had a degenerating effect upon the

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

4. DOVER—*cont.*

Dover—cont.

St. Mary's—cont.

recipients. The systematic relief of the poor by the church has played a part in this degeneration and in the growing estrangement of the working classes from all religion.

Bartholomew.—The acceptance of relief, save in sudden emergencies, tends to foster the pauper spirit, to encourage thriftlessness. The right persons rarely get relief; those who beg most, get most.

Other parishes.—Effect of relief given decidedly demoralising.

Temple Ewell—A great deal of jealousy amongst the recipients.

The other country parishes notice no effect.

5. ELHAM.

Folkestone.

Parish Church.—The usual tendency to make the recipients less independent.

St. Peter's.—Certainly a bad effect on a few, but not so on the majority.

Christ Church.—Have found it necessary to withhold relief from fear it would encourage recipients in intemperance, and the knowledge of it would have bad effect on neighbourhood, but instances where timely relief sympathetically given has had softening effect on character.

Hythe.—The present system of giving same Poor Law relief or house accommodation to deserving and undeserving alike and over-leniency to tramp class has a most disastrous effect. A premium to thriftlessness.

Cheriton.

St. Martin's.—Have not noticed any marked effect.

All Saints'.—Very little. In some instances a calling forth of real gratitude.

Saltwood.—In several cases acceptance of relief has had a marked deleterious effect.

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

6. NORTH LYMPNE.

Orlestone.—Poor Law relief is taken as something they are entitled to.

Hinxhill.—Always think acceptance of charity has tendency to lessen a man's independence and self-respect.

Bonnington.—The acceptance of relief has only good effect when cases are *known* to be deserving.

7. SOUTH LYMPNE.

Lyld.—It prevents despair. Occasional relief for emergencies does provoke gratitude.

Dymchurch.—The employment of lads as caddies on neighbouring golf course seems likely to turn many of them into loafers.

Old Romney.—Unless extreme care be taken more harm than good.

8. OSPRINGE.

Dollington.—Looking back over a long life mostly in town parishes—Maidstone, Hythe—I am strongly convinced that more evil is done in the giving of relief than in the withholding it. The degradation of character which so frequently follows is worse than any physical sufferings which are incurred. Of course, I exclude all cases of sick and aged who cannot be dealt too kindly with.

The Brents.—The only effect as far as I know has been gratitude.

Faversham.—Out-relief is given very carefully; perhaps too sparingly. It does not affect people.

Selling.—No harmful effect.

9. SANDWICH.

Deal.—Less given, the less sought.

Eythorne.—Bad or good effect depends upon the disposition of the recipient.

Eastry.—Yes. Makes them sly in many cases.

St. Mongeham.—Most poor people expect it as a right.

10. WESTBERE.

Ramsgate, St. George's.—I fear that the town of Ramsgate as a whole is decidedly low as regards proper independence. The whole tendency of an influx of trippers is to get old and young into the way of looking to what they can get out of a person.

10. *Margate, All Saints'.*—My experience is that in a great proportion of cases the acceptance of relief tends to sap independence of the right kind.

Westgate, St. James'.—I am of opinion that, saving in the case of the sick, infirm, aged, the receipt of charitable relief is nearly always harmful to the receiver. It is remarkable how little gratuitous receiving it takes to shift a man's point of view as to how his life ought to be maintained.

Minster.—With reference to Poor Law relief, the old feeling of not liking to come to the parish seems here to have entirely died out. "I have a claim on the rates," is the argument used, "having paid for so many years."

Birchington.—The effect is to create a feeling of carelessness as to the future. Except in matters of burial, there is little or no provision for old age. This want of provision is not due, I think, from inadequate means, as from the feeling the State will provide.

St. Lawrence (Thanet).—Relief other than that in sickness or to meet temporary need has undoubtedly a bad influence.

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

11. EAST CHARING.

Kennington.—The giving of small sums lowers self-respecting habits of poorer people.

Boughton Malherbe.—Careful giving has an excellent effect on the recipients.

Pluckley.—The certainty that help will be obtained when really needed prevents bitter feeling against well-to-do.

Westwell.—A certain section of poor inclined to regard clergy as relieving officers. People on the whole more independent than in towns.

Charing Heath.—Undermines in some cases self-reliance; in yet others, begets a spirit of mendicancy and leads to falsehood.

12. WEST CHARING.

Hawkhurst.—All depends on character at the time of reception of relief.

Smarden.—The present administration of the parochial charity is not conducive to the maintenance of a spirit of self-respect in the case of recipients or would-be recipients of doles.

The acceptance of Poor Law relief in two or three instances has a bad effect on relations—sons—of recipients.

13. CROYDON.

Croydon Parish Church.—Some loss of independence; those who have been helped are apt to apply with increasing readiness.

Christ Church.—Cannot say I have noticed bad effect; have been in parish fifty-five years.

St. Matthew's.—Our system of relief has, I think, a decidedly bad effect on character.

St. Peter's.—Overlapping creates hypocrisy.

Emmanuel.—Far too much has been given away; relief regarded as a matter of right.

St. Michael's.—The effort to obtain relief often causes deceit.

St. Augustine's.—I consider that in this neighbourhood it has had a most demoralising effect, but the givers are more to blame than the receivers.

St. Mark's (Norwood).—The plainest lesson spelt by the facts seems to me to be that where the church once realises its true message as bearing upon the *sins* which underlie the evils of pauperism, and where it addresses itself to the *causes*, rather than to the *symptoms*, of the disease, then, and not till then, will it be possible even to *expect* any improvement.

St. John's (Norwood).—Our present system tends to create hypocrisy and craft.

14. SITTINGBOURNE.

Sittingbourne, St. Paul's.—Bad effect when Church is regarded as a *Deus ex machina*.

Newington.—Bread charity has bad effect, as recipients have to attend church to get it.

Sheerness.

Holy Trinity.—Acceptance of relief with few exceptions has deteriorating effect.

St. Paul's.—Disappointed that more gratitude is not shown.

Wade.—Appreciation of what is given and a desire for more.

East Church.—No effect noticed on character of recipients of outdoor relief. The great thing we have to contend against is the reluctance of children to support their parents.

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

14. SITTINGBOURNE—*cont.*

Leysdown and Harty.—It needs much grace on part of recipient to prevent charity spoiling character.

Kingsdown.—As for thirty-nine years I was member of Milton Board of Guardians, I have had some insight and experience in the administration of relief to the poor. During this time there were two distinct periods. The first was one in which outdoor relief was freely if not lavishly given. At last some of us began to be alarmed. It looked as if we were drifting into the abuses of the old Poor Law, and after much discussion a paper was issued which said that in future outdoor relief should only be given after strict investigation of each case, and in exceptional cases; all other applicants must come into the house. The effect of this was prompt and curious. In a month's time the applicants for outdoor relief, who were so numerous that it used to take an hour and a half or more every week to deal with them, dwindled down to four or five. Not one hardly came into the house. Not only were the rates relieved, but, really more important, the independent feeling of the poor was raised, and it brought to their minds that a recipient of outdoor relief was just as much a pauper as an inmate of the workhouse. I wish I could say that this excellent system is now carried out as strictly as it was. I have been long convinced that in the interests both of the ratepayers and the poor themselves, the strict and continuous carrying out of the regulations of the new Poor Law is the very best thing for the community at large. Should old-age pensions be ever unhappily granted, three quarters of the population will be pauperised.

DEANERY OF—*cont.*

15. SUTTON.

Maidstone.

All Saints'.—Experience shows that it is extremely difficult to do good with charity without also doing a certain amount of harm.

St. Luke.—The more relief given the less self-respecting our people become. When in work they spend their money chiefly in public-house. They live in utter disregard of God and His law, often in terribly immoral relations, and then when winter comes, and they are thrown out of work, within a day or two they reach the end of their resources and begin to beg. We often *have* to give help in such cases, but the *moral benefit* of such charity is certainly not apparent.

Holy Trinity.—No ill effect on the industrious and sober.

St. Philip's.—Seems to have sapped independence in this parish and led to increased improvidence and drinking. District visitors fear they would not be welcomed if deprived of their power to relieve.

Langley.—The prospect of relief tends to make men lazy.

Sutton Valence.—Permanent charities tend to destroy self-reliance.

Wychling.—The whole question to me seems to depend on the religious education of the family; where this has been absent the acceptance of relief seems to dull further the better feelings, and the family sinks lower and lower in the moral scale.

CHESTER.

QUESTION 1.

Is there much poverty in your Parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?

The summarised Returns from the 13 Rural Deaneries of Chester Diocese agree in stating that, on the whole, there is not much poverty; with respect to the purely agricultural Rural Deanery of Malpas, it is stated that "there is no real poverty."

To the question whether poverty is on the increase a general negative is returned. There are, however, a few districts of which an increase in pauperism is recorded; there is an increase in Nantwich, where the distress is due to economic causes mentioned below; in Moulton, where the decline of the salt trade and the introduction of labour-saving plant have deprived many of their work; in two or three of the poorest parishes of Birkenhead; and in parts of the Frodsham Rural Deanery, where the population is increasing.

In one Rural Deanery (Wallasey) poverty is definitely stated to be decreasing, and the reasons given are (1) abolition of insanitary property, (2) general improvement in the condition of the working classes, (3) free meals to children.

"Little or no poverty" is said to exist in the agricultural districts of Cheshire—a natural result of the comparatively high degree of prosperity attained by farmers in this county. It seems, however, that the estimate of poverty in rural districts requires some modification, for the following reasons:—There is evidence that considerable doubt was felt as to the definition of the word "poverty" and of how much especially it included. Thus, it is stated that there is no poverty in the country parishes of Macclesfield Rural Deanery, "if by poverty is meant out-of-work starvation"; "much poverty and some destitution" is an answer given by one incumbent. In the report from Birkenhead Rural Deanery a distinction is made between the poor in three classes of parish—the poverty in the lowest class being characterised as "marked" and increasing, while that in the second class is widespread, but coupled with preservation of self-respect and due to such causes (among others) as the burden of the rates and want of thrift In other cases it is not clear whether poverty has been taken as including destitution, excluding it, or as coextensive with it. Again, temporary and continued poverty each require to be relieved. But temporary poverty in country districts is readily recognised and remedied by the proverbial kindness of village neighbours and donations from the clergy or landowners. The existence of this quickly relieved temporary poverty must be allowed to qualify the favourable account given of pauperism in the country. Further, it seems likely that in some cases poverty was taken to mean unrelieved poverty. In one Rural Deanery (Bowdon) there is not much poverty except in one parish. Yet the figures for Outdoor Relief are given as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Half-year ending Lady Day, 1907 - - -	1,440	5	5
Estimate for half-year ending Lady Day, 1908	1,625	0	0

In towns where there is some flourishing industry—*e.g.*, Runcorn, Stockport, Crewe—there is little real poverty. The greatest distress obtains where trade is bad, *e.g.*, in the salt district and at Nantwich, and where a town has no important industry but considerable opportunities of casual employment during part of the year, *e.g.*, Chester.

In general, the existing poverty appears to be the outcome of a combination of causes, some moral and some economic.

Among the moral causes the chief are (1) *Drink*. This evil is mentioned as a cause of poverty in all the Rural Deaneries. One Rural Deanery (Wallasey) is able to record a decrease in drunkenness, and it is noticeable that the same Rural Deanery reports a decrease also in poverty. That poverty is occasioned and intensified by the

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

waste of wages and loss of moral energy involved in continual intemperance is certain. That drink is the original cause of poverty in a large number of cases is not so certain. In Frodsham Rural Deanery "the clergy are of opinion that whatever poverty there may be is due primarily to intemperate habits, and that those habits are largely the outcome of thriftlessness, of uncertainty of employment, of bad housing, and of the insanitary conditions under which many of the poor have to live." From Staleybridge the opinion comes that "poverty among skilled workmen is often originally due to intemperance." The extreme heat of the furnaces used in the salt trade is mentioned as exciting a craving for drink. In more than one Rural Deanery drunkenness is prevalent among the women; they have a tendency—unlike the men—to drink at home. In Chester the women work hard as charwomen, washerwomen, and workers in the fields when the weather is fine; they are often left to support themselves and their families while their husbands pick up what they can and spend it on themselves.

(2) *Thriftlessness* is mentioned in nearly all the reports from the Rural Deaneries as causing poverty. Men and women in receipt of good wages do not lay by for less prosperous times. Wages are no sooner received than they are spent, not only in food and drink, clothing and rent, but in various amusements and entertainments which entail an outlay of more or less hard cash. "Love of pleasure" is often mentioned as a cause of poverty. The amusements of various kinds provided by professional entertainers are known to hold an important place among the attractions which are drawing the country population to the towns. Thriftlessness is especially characteristic of the poor in towns where there is much temporary employment, summer work, odd jobs for loafers, &c. Thus in Chester, "the employment being casual, the people are casual also." In the cotton trade the conditions under which the work is carried on render it necessary that the employees should live well. There is stated to be a good deal of direct or indirect thrift in connection with Trades Unionism, the use of Co-operative Stores, membership of the great Friendly Societies, and Funeral Insurance. In the manufacturing districts (Stockport, Staleybridge, Hyde, etc.) money is saved for a holiday of some days and for new clothes at Whitsuntide. The amount deposited in Savings Banks cannot be estimated, but it must be considerable throughout the county. It should be noticed that thrift is sometimes discouraged by "the difficulty of saving sufficient to be of any real assistance in time of need." Also that in one Rural Deanery (Malpas) distress is said to be caused by the failure of Benefit Clubs in a hard winter.

(3) *Gambling* is mentioned as a rather widely spread cause of poverty. While it appears to be especially a town evil, it does not appear to be confined to the districts where good wages are to be had.

(4) *Early and Indiscreet Marriages* are mentioned as leading to poverty in one Rural Deanery.

Chief among the economic causes are:—

(i.) *Shortness of Work.*—There are generally many unemployed during the winter in towns where the employment is largely temporary in character, dependent on a summer season, or to be obtained only during fine winter weather. In Chester "a few days' rain or a week's frost reduces people to poverty for the time," while numbers are thrown out of work at the close of the summer when there is no longer employment for many boatmen on the River Dee or for a large staff of waitresses in the refreshment rooms, and when there are few visitors to make the profession of the loafer a profitable one by their gifts.

In Birkenhead, and no doubt elsewhere, the supply of unskilled labour exceeds the demand. Where the manufacture of silk is the chief industry poverty exists among the male population owing to the predominating use of female labour in that trade. Men of 40 and over, who for any temporary cause have lost their job, find it hard to get into the mills again. Young men are preferred; especially in the cotton spinning mills, where good eyesight is of great importance.

In general, the ups and downs and fluctuation of trade in different localities are a source of poverty in so far as they entail a reduction of the numbers of employees. Adverse tariffs are mentioned as depressing some trades.

(ii.) *Bad Wages.*—In some trades the wages are so low that the employees are very poor. This is the case in the boot and shoe and tailoring trades at Nantwich.

(iii.) *Sanitary.*—The climate of certain parts of Cheshire appears to be a good deal responsible for laziness and want of independence among the poor. In Chester itself "the climate favours inactivity of mind and body, and loafing is a favourite, if not a profitable, occupation." "There is generally (in Chester) a lack of independence

of spirit and a tendency to rely upon others. People are 'propped up.'" Poverty tends to increase in congested districts. Occasionally the improvements effected in one district drive its poorer population into another, which becomes overcrowded, to the detriment of the original population as well as the new comers.

There is a general agreement that bad housing and inefficient drainage are powerful agents in causing poverty. Housing reform is said to have proceeded much too slowly in some of the large towns; and the appointment of Medical Officers of Health by the Local Government Board is suggested. The depressing surroundings tell on those whose lives are passed among them in the way of causing a gradual moral and physical deterioration, or sometimes lead to an epidemic of disease with all the attendant difficulties of closed schools, loss of situations, and lack of necessary food and medicine. It has, however, been noted that epidemics are, strangely enough, sometimes more frequent in the better parts of a town than in the worse.

(iv.) *Charity.*— The existence of endowed charities has a direct effect in creating paupers. In Nantwich the decline of the boot and tailoring trades is not alone responsible for the increase of pauperism. The report from the Rural Deanery says that Nantwich "is an old market town with one church, to which are attached a number of rich charities, and this fact has naturally conduced to a certain amount of pauperism." Not infrequently cases of out-of-work destitution are traceable to the cruel kindness of individuals, especially visitors, who administer casual street charity.

QUESTION II.

Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic, distress? Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of District Visitors?

The Returns from the 13 Rural Deaneries support the conclusion that there are no very "special" methods of administering charitable assistance. It would be true, however, to say that there is evidence of greater system in the organisation and administration of charity in some parishes than in others. As an example it may be mentioned that in some parishes rules have been drawn up dealing with the various sources from which relief is to be obtained, the manner, time, and place in which it is to be applied for, the ways in which temporary and chronic poverty are alleviated. A system of relief by ticket only is frequent in towns.

While special methods of administering relief cannot be said to have been thought out or adopted in the majority of parishes, one principle, namely, that of "cutting the coat to suit the cloth," has guided the operations of charity. Under present conditions it appears to be inevitable that this should be the case. For not only do districts vary very much in the possibilities of work they offer to men or women who are out of employment, but parishes differ greatly in their means and channels of relief according to the existence or non-existence of relief funds or local branches of benevolent societies. The working of this principle, and its application to the cases respectively of the sick, the aged, those who are only in temporary distress, and those whose poverty is chronic, may perhaps be best shown by one or two typical instances.

The needs of the sick are usually met by gifts of food and assistance in paying doctors' bills, and by in and out-patients' recommendations to infirmaries. Offertories for the sick and needy provide some at least of the money necessary. Some parishes send their sick to convalescent homes. Help for cases of sickness—as well as for cases of poverty without sickness—is often privately solicited and given.

In many places—*e.g.*, Chester, Tarporley, Little Budworth, and Sandbach—there are almshouses for the aged. There are pensions for the aged in some places; the City Charities of Chester are given in pensions to Freemen; while in one parish of Congleton Rural Deanery pensions are given by the Squire. Naturally the demand for an almshouse or a pension is very great, and people will endure much hardship and keep off the rates rather than lose their chance of obtaining this form of help. By private charity they are sometimes kept above water until they get the one or the other.

In the case of widows and orphans in the country part of Chester Rural Deanery relief is sought from the rates and probably supplemented by private help.

Temporary cases of poverty are usually met by contributions from the clergyman or (in the country) landowner, and chronic cases are referred to the Parish Authorities. But the relief of poverty in each aspect is effected by the following additional organisations and methods of giving charity. Funds, raised in various

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ways, are used, *inter alia*, in giving bonuses to assist Clothing Clubs and in providing food (a ticket is often given entitling the recipient to buy food up to a certain value). In Middlewich and other Rural Deaneries the poor are aided by the West Cheshire Needlework Guild, which sends garments once a year; by the Budworth Charity, which gives coal and money at certain periods, besides maintaining six almshouses for men and six for women; by the almshouses at Tarporley and a fund from which considerable sums can be distributed; by considerable charity funds at Middlewich; by the distribution of sums from 35s. to 2s. 6d. on Whit Sunday and St. Thomas' Day at Weaverham; and by an undenominational Provident Society at Over. This Society has a paid secretary who visits and makes inquiries; grants, nearly always in kind, are made from its income of £70. Wood chopping is offered to some. Northwich Labour Committee gives employment to about 70 men a year, and has also been able to find situations for men out of work. In the same place about 3,000 children have been provided with dinners during the winter by public subscription. In Chester Parish relief is supplemented by the relief fund of the Charity Organisation Society in such a way as to bring the income of a single person up to 7s. 6d. and of two persons to 12s. Similarly there are relief funds and benevolent societies in the other Rural Deaneries. It should be noted that as a rule—some of the exceptions to the rule are mentioned—relief is given in kind and not in money.

Committees to direct or assist in the distribution of relief exist in comparatively few parishes. In Birkenhead Rural Deanery there is no Committee sitting as a rule, and in Runcorn there is no Central Relief Committee. In Chester there is a Relief Committee, under whose direction a soup kitchen is opened in severe winter months (bread and coal are given also). In one Parish of Stockport Rural Deanery there is a Committee, and in a group of Parishes in Congleton Rural Deanery money raised by voluntary subscription is distributed by a Committee in the form of food and payment for labour. In a report upon the Wirral Rural Deanery which is drawn up by the Chairman and late Chairman of the Wirral Board of Guardians, with the concurrence of the Rural Dean, the following suggestions are put forward:—"We are strongly of opinion that Churches of all denominations should have a Committee of Clergy and Laity for the distribution of their Poor Funds, either in money or kind, and that there should be a method by which the Guardians of the Poor for the particular district should be made acquainted with such distribution so as to prevent overlapping.

"We are strongly of opinion that charitable relief should be supplementary to Poor Law Relief. These remarks apply also to Medical relief and Parish Nursing, as the Union provides for the nursing of the sick poor in an up-to-date Infirmary. The Clergy and Committee should be informed of the fact that the Union Medical Officer of the district has power to order in extreme cases (in addition to medicine) articles of nourishment such as milk, meat for beef tea, etc." The view that charitable relief should be supplementary to Poor Law Relief is obviously open to grave question.

On the other side it may be noted that Relief Committees are not formed in Mottram Rural Deanery for the avowed reason that the funds are so small that they can be dealt with as efficiently by the Clergyman.

In general, relief is administered by the Clergy, with the assistance of and sometimes upon the information given by the District Visitor. But relief is not left in the hands of the District Visitors. Parish Nurses also help in this work in some Parishes. Of them the report from Frodsham Rural Deanery says that their work among the sick poor "cannot be too highly estimated." Parish or District Nurses are now found throughout the diocese in both town and country. Police Court Missioners also play an important part in relieving the poor of some districts. Careful personal inquiry into cases of temporary or chronic poverty appears to be without exception the rule followed by the Clergy.

One Incumbent states that he "tries as far as possible to keep the administration of relief out of the hands of the Clergy and District Visitors, as he considers the connection of religion and relief is a fatal error."

QUESTION III.

Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.

There is no appreciable amount of unrelieved distress traceable to reluctance to apply for relief, provided it is outdoor relief. In the poorest parishes of Birkenhead Rural Deanery people are only too ready to apply, except when deterred by the fear of investigation and the workhouse.

From one Rural Deanery (Wallasey) it is reported that there is considerable reluctance to ask for relief, and the fact is explained as due (*a*) to unpleasant treatment by the officials, (*b*) to the small amount of relief offered as an alternative to the workhouse (*c*) to the fact that women deserted by their husbands shrink from lodging a complaint, which means prosecution for the husband and the workhouse for themselves, (*d*) to independence of character—*e.g.*, among those who have "seen better days" and are unaccustomed to manual labour. Where reluctance to apply exists in the other Rural Deaneries it is attributed to one or other of the following causes:—Pride or self-respect—the latter more rarely—often qualified by a readiness to beg for personal charity; fear of being disqualified for obtaining trust charities, almshouses, &c.; and above all dislike of the workhouse. Relieving Officers are said to be sometimes inconsiderate and hard in their dealings with the poor—*e.g.*, in requiring aged and infirm people to go considerable distances to them to obtain their weekly relief.

The workhouse appears to be an object of universal and deep-seated aversion, although it is reported from Bowdon Rural Deanery that the old reluctance to apply for Poor Law and workhouse relief is dying out owing to a growing feeling that each case will be fairly and fully considered. It is not only the obligation to use soap and water and conform to the other workhouse rules which acts as a deterrent. There is also a natural reluctance to give up house and liberty. A prejudice against the workhouse, partly due to ignorance of the advances made in treatment during the last 10 years, is sometimes encouraged by the relations and friends of those who are in "low water."

The report from one Rural Deanery states that people formerly avoided the Workhouse Infirmary from a suspicion of improper treatment there; but this suspicion had now been removed. In another quarter it is stated that, while the dislike of the workhouse itself largely continues, there is sometimes an undue tendency to enter the Union Infirmary.

QUESTION IV.

Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.

The reports from about two-thirds of the number of Rural Deaneries state that the Poor Law relief given by the Guardians is inadequate or very inadequate, especially in the case of widows with one or more children, and of sick persons. In the reports from the remaining Rural Deaneries the relief given is generally described as adequate to prevent distress, and the Guardians are said to discharge their duty in a fair and equitable manner.

Instances of inadequate relief are the following:—The report from a parish (Seacombe) in Wallasey Rural Deanery states that "poor old women generally get only 2s. 6d. a week: a widow with only one child, nothing." With the possible exception of this parish rents in the Rural Deanery are everywhere high—5s. 6d. and 7s. 6d. a week.

The Wirral report states that the amount is usually insufficient because it is intended to be supplemented by relations and from parish charities. The report adds: "We know of cases where sons have refused help to aged destitute parents, which we ourselves have had to take legal proceedings to enforce."

The Mottram report notes that the average outdoor relief is 2s. 6d. to 4s., which is considered too small.

The Middlewich report considers the scale allowance of 2s. 6d. too small. Two incumbents hold that relief should not be refused to those persons who have saved a little by thrift. Further, the report cites the following cases from different parishes:—

"An old couple, the man disabled through rheumatism, the wife nearly so, compelled to work. The man only is relieved and receives 3s. The rent is 3s. 6d."

"Mrs. ———, a widow, receives intermittent relief, which is stopped when there is work in the fields, for which frequent application has to be made, entailing a week's or fortnight's privation. She is 73."

"The Guardians do not give enough. A tradesman died here and was found to be bankrupt. All his goods were sold. The Guardians allowed the widow and five children 7s. 6d. per week, and considered themselves generous in so doing. The

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widow had no relatives. She is a most deserving woman. The youngest child was only three months old. The other children were at school."

An opinion is expressed that the Guardians sometimes give inadequate relief on the supposition that it will be supplemented by charitable assistance, though they do not know for certain that such assistance will be forthcoming. One Incumbent writes: "I should say that in this neighbourhood, owing to this 1s. 6d. per head for the children of widows, we are nurturing quite a considerable population of future incapables to make a problem for the next generation to deal with."

The treatment of "Children of the State" under the "Boarding-Out System" is much more liberal. This system obtains in several parts of the county. An interesting and, thus far, encouraging experiment is being carried on under the auspices of the Vicar of Audlem, who is assisted by an active committee of ladies. In this case the payment for care of children is adequate. The report from Staleybridge says that the workhouse children are boarded out with excellent results, though at considerable expense. The Styal Homes, established near Handforth by the Chorlton Guardians, afford in another way a very well-equipped provision for workhouse children.

QUESTION V.

Is there in your Parish any needless overlapping—
(a) *between various forms of charity, or*
(b) *between charity and the Poor Law,*
and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

The answer to Question V. is that, in a very large majority of parishes, there is no overlapping of either sort, or else very little. What little there is for the most part comes under (*a*) (overlapping between various forms of charity), and is not infrequently due to the injudicious and excessive generosity of private individuals.

In Birkenhead Rural Deanery there is a little overlapping between various forms of charity and between charity and the Poor Law, but the local Charity Organisation Society does good work in obviating the evil. The Civic Guild of Help is also mentioned as useful in one locality in preventing overlapping, and in other ways.

In Bowdon Rural Deanery there is a good deal of overlapping between various forms of charity, where cases are not carefully inquired into and may be receiving relief from several religious bodies; there is not so much overlapping between charity and the Poor Law, but the great difficulty is private charity.

Altrincham tries to prevent overlapping by the formation of a Provident Society.

Probably an explanation of the small amount of overlapping may generally be found in one or other of the causes mentioned in the reports from Mottram and Macclesfield Rural Deaneries respectively—namely, that as a rule the amounts given by the Poor Law and Church Poor funds are both too small to meet the needs of the case, and so overlapping is scarcely possible; or, that the Church does practically all the almsgiving needful.

QUESTIONS VI. AND VII.

If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your Parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.
Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your Parish during the course of a year?

It has been found practically impossible to obtain accurate or helpful statistics in answer to either of these questions. A very large number of parishes have been unable to furnish any reply; some parishes supply approximate estimates of the money spent and the numbers assisted by charity. The value of charitable assistance given in kind cannot be accurately ascertained.

Besides, the statistics of money given in charitable assistance vary from several hundred pounds to ten shillings; and an *average* expenditure calculated from such widely varying figures would be of little or no value.

It does not appear to be possible to work out a trustworthy comparison of the *amounts given* in different parishes with reference to the *numbers in receipt of charitable assistance* in those parishes, owing to the reasons given above, and because the amount of charitable assistance given *per head* in different parishes varies so remarkably.

APPENDIX TO THE REPORT FROM THE DIOCESE OF CHESTER.

Summary of Returns from 13 Rural Deaneries.

(Note.—The numbers at the commencement of the different paragraphs of the Summaries refer to the questions submitted to the incumbents of the various parishes. The questions are quoted in the report.)

RURAL DEANERY OF BIRKENHEAD.

This Rural Deanery of Birkenhead contains 14 parishes, here arranged in three groups.

Group I.

Contains four comparatively "well-to-do" parishes, in which there are not many destitute persons, as follows:—Bidston (2,910 pop.), St. Stephen's, Prenton (1,400), St. Saviour's, Oxton (4,000), Christ Church, Claughton (7,070).

Group II.

Contains two parishes, in which are a considerable number of poor, though no great proportion can be called destitute poor. St. Peter's, Rock Ferry (8,552), and St. Catherine's, Tranmere (14,813).

Group III.

Contains eight parishes, in which are large numbers of very poor persons, though the parishes are not, in every case, very thickly populated, as under:—St. Mary's (5,000*), Holy Trinity (18,000*), St. Anne's (7,057), St. James' (3,555), St. John's (16,000*), St. Paul's, Birkenhead (6,228), St. Paul's, Tranmere (8,000*), St. Luke's (5,000*).

The vicars of the several parishes, with one exception, have sent me answers to the "Questions for the Clergy," which I have carefully read, and here summarise:—

Group I.

In the four parishes of this group I am led by the returns to conclude that the—

1. Poverty is not pressing, and is not increasing. What there is is chiefly due to (1) drink, (2) gambling, (3) shortness of work.

2. The clergy assist the poor by distributing relief tickets, and they give ocasional monetary help in pressing cases.

3. No "appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress is due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief."

4. The outdoor relief given by the guardians is often very inadequate, and there is frequently considerable suffering caused by the rise in the price of food and coal.

5. Some "overlapping" seems inevitable, but the local Charity Organisation Society is distinctly successful in coping with this evil.

6 and 7. It is difficult to state with anything like accuracy the amount given to the poor in charitable assistance, "or the numbers of families and individuals in receipt of charity."

Group II.

1. The two parishes in this group contain much poverty, and in a certain district of St. Peter's, Rock Ferry, the distress is great. In St. Catherine's, Tranmere, there are many who are living on the verge of poverty. However, it is not increasing. The causes of it are, as before: (1) Drink, etc.; (2) Want of employment; (3) Nothing seems to be laid by in times when work is plentiful. The people are not thrifty, and the burden of the rates is often heavily felt.

2. Some assistance is given by the clergy in extreme cases, often on the advice of the district visitors, especially to the sick and aged, after careful inquiry.

3. There seems no great amount of "unrelieved" distress. Frequently pride or self-respect hinders application for relief. There was considerable prejudice against the workhouse infirmary, there being a suspicion (unjust) of improper treatment there. But the prejudice has now disappeared.

4. There is not much complaint of the Poor Law relief being inadequate, though doubtless it is so, but sometimes persons in need, being refused outdoor assistance, will not enter the workhouse, preferring to remain outside and trust to chance charity.

5. There is certainly some overlapping, especially at Christmastime, and it is difficult to stop it. The Charity Organisation Society is, however, doing good work in this matter. There is some little overlapping between charity and the Poor Law, but not much to complain of.

6 and 7. There is no possible means of getting any reliable statement as to the annual amount spent in any parish "in the charitable assistance of the poor." The offertory gifts represent but a small part of what is done for the poor privately. There is also no means of obtaining reliable information "as to the number of families in receipt of charity."

Group III.

1. There are eight parishes in this group where poverty is very marked. There does not, however, seem much increase in its intensity except in two or three parishes.

The causes (1. Moral) are as before, *i.e.*, drink, etc. There are too many public-houses; the licensed houses should be reduced in number. There is, one fears, an increasing love of drink amongst women, often in their own houses. (2) Gambling. (3) Love of pleasure. (2 Economic.) (1) Irregular employment. (2) Thriftlessness. (3) Excessive supply of unskilled labour.

2. The chronic cases are referred to the Poor Law. The sick and aged are, as far as possible, helped by the clergy from the offertory. Relief tickets are generally distributed by the district visitors. There is no relief committee as a rule sitting.

3. People are too ready to depend on the Poor Law relief, the only reluctance seems to be caused through fear of investigation. The workhouse is very unpopular.

4. The Poor Law relief, in too many cases, is very inadequate; instances can be given if required. This is especially the case with widows having young children, and old people. Aged couples cannot live on 5s. or 6s. per week, and the relief is miserably inadequate.

* Estimated.

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5. There is necessarily some overlapping, but not very much. The work of the Charity Organisation Society has prevented this to a great extent, nor is there anything to complain of as to private charity and the Poor Law.

6 and 7. It is impossible to give any accurate statements as to the amounts given in charity. Every parish distributes some small amount out of the offertory in relief of the poor, and there are very many kindly disposed persons who give private relief.

W. H. F. Ronson.

RURAL DEANERY OF BOWDON, IN THE DIOCESE OF CHESTER.

This Rural Deanery includes the following Poor Law districts, with their several populations:—Sale 21,126, Altrincham 30,955, Knutsford 8,807, and Lymm 7,469, or a total population of 68,357.

The cost of out-relief in this area for the half-year ending Lady Day, 1906, was £1,519 12s. 2d.; ending Lady Day, 1907, was £1,440 5s. 5d. Estimate for half-year ending Lady Day, 1908, £1,625.

In this Rural Deanery there are 31 parishes, and returns have been received from 21, these including all parishes of any importance in this inquiry.

1. Of the 21 parishes making returns only one answers in the affirmative, and in this case it is added that poverty is not on the increase.

Causes of poverty are attributed chiefly to illness, old age, want of or irregularity of work, and in some cases to intemperance.

2. The general reply to this is in the negative, and that, as a rule, relief is administered by the incumbent and his colleague and district visitors, the last reporting cases to the clergy.

3. As a rule distress does not exist owing to reluctance to have recourse to the Poor Law. The old reluctance, where it exists, to the workhouse and the Poor Law authorities is dying out, owing to a growing feeling of confidence on the part of the poor that each case will be fully and fairly considered.

4. The opinions of incumbents of populous parishes seem to point distinctly to the inadequacy of Poor Law relief, especially in sick cases and those of widows with children.

5. There is a good deal of overlapping between various forms of charity, where cases are not carefully inquired into, and may be receiving relief from two or more religious bodies. There is not so much between charity and the Poor Law. The great difficulty is declared to be the indiscriminate charity of private individuals. An effort is made in Altrincham to obviate this overlapping by the formation of a provident society.

6. The amounts vary considerably—from £68 per annum in one parish to £7 10s. in another.

7. It seems very difficult to form an estimate of the number of individuals receiving charity other than from the Poor Law, because the same individual may be helped only once in the course of a year, the necessity arising, perhaps, from illness or temporary unemployment; there being but few regular pensioners.

One incumbent writes:—"I cannot furnish such an estimate, to be much more than guesswork."

H. Bethell Jones,

Rural Dean.

RURAL DEANERY OF CHESTER.

The Rural Deaneary of Chester contains 2 parishes, of which 11 are city parishes and 18 country. The conditions in town and country differ widely. I have received from these parishes 20 returns, nine of which are from city parishes and the remainder from the country. In the rural districts there appears to be little or no poverty. When temporary cases arise of sickness, etc., they are promptly dealt with by the clergy, the landowner, or the employer. In the cases of widows and orphans relief is sought from the rates, and probably this is supplemented by private help. The poor in the country are easily known, and their needs can be readily met. In the town it is very different. Chester is a city with little employment of a constant kind. The railway and wagon building and repairing shops provide constant work. The lead works provide work, and employ a considerable amount of unskilled labour; many women are employed there. The hydraulic engineering works employ artisans and a number of labourers. The building trade fluctuates very much, and often there is little work of this kind going on. The canal provides constant and well-paid work, and many employed on it have homes in Chester. A considerable number of both men and women are employed in the nursery gardens and in field work.

The river provides work for a number of men in the summer. Restaurants and refreshment rooms provide work for women in the season.

There is always a large number of people out of work. A few days' rain or a week's frost reduces people to poverty for the time, and applications for relief are constant at such times. People will not apply to the Relieving Officer if they can help it—it is easier and much pleasanter to get relief from the clergy. There is a Poor Relief Committee in the city, and when the winter is severe a soup kitchen (excellent in its arrangements) is opened, and, if necessary, bread and coal are given also.

There is a great deal of out-door relief given by the Guardians, but it is seldom sufficient to enable the recipients to live without additional help, which they get from the clergy or from friends who know them. The C.O.S. has a relief fund, from which parish relief is supplemented so as to bring the income of a single person up to 7s. 6d. a week, or of two people to 12s. a week.

There are city charities, which are given in pensions to Freemen of the city; and, in the hope of obtaining one of these or an almshouse, people will keep off the rates and endure much privation before they can obtain the desired help from charities. Sometimes private charity is employed to enable such persons to tide over their difficulties until they can obtain a pension. About 70 or 80 people receive doles of from £1 to £5 each year from these charities.

Chester lives at a low level. In the summer, when there are many visitors, money can be had in various ways, but, the employment being casual, the people are casual also. There is no incentive to improve their position; the climate favours inactivity of mind and body, and loafing is a favourite, if not a profitable, occupation. The women do a great deal of work, either by cleaning, washing, etc., or by working in the fields when the weather allows. Men sometimes pick up what they can, and spend it on themselves, and allow the wife to keep the house going by her work.

There is, generally, a lack of independence of spirit and a tendency to rely upon others. People are "propped up."

Mr. Bennett, of Christ Church, is greatly impressed by the contrast between the people at Stockport and Chester, and by the conditions with respect to work, etc., under which they live.

S. Cooper Scott,

Rural Dean.

RURAL DEANERY OF CONGLETON.

The Rural Deanery comprises 24 parishes with a population of 35,751. Of these 13 have a population ranging from 1,006 to 4,000. The remaining 11 are all under 1,000.

Fifteen parishes comprising a population of 19,905 have replied to the questions. One incumbent is prevented from replying by illness. One incumbent can give no reply, having only recently come into his parish. Seven incumbents have not answered the questions.

1. There is little poverty in country parishes. In town parishes of 3,000 and upwards there is considerable poverty, but it is not increasing. The causes are said to be

(*a*) Fluctuation of trade.
(*b*) Foreign competition and adverse tariff.
(*c*) Improvidence.
(*d*) Drink.
(*e*) Want of energy.

2. In most cases assistance is administered by the clergy alone, in one parish through district visitors also; in five town parishes money is raised by voluntary subscriptions, and distributed by committees in the form of tickets for food and payment for labour. In one country parish pensions are given by the Squire.

3. In the great majority of parishes there is no appreciable amount of unrelieved distress due to reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief. In some few instances persons entitled to it do not apply from the feeling that to do so would be degrading.

4. Some few instances are given of inadequate relief, but in the majority of parishes there is said to be no appreciable amount of distress because the relief given is inadequate.

5. There is no overlapping except so far as is caused by unwise giving on the part of a few individuals, which as far as possible is discouraged.

6. Thirteen parishes report £349 10s. given annually to the poor. Two parishes report they can make no estimate.

7. Ten parishes report 240 persons annually relieved. Five parishes give no numbers.

AMBROSE HEYGATE, R.D.

RURAL DEANERY OF FRODSHAM.

REPORT on Answers to Questions addressed to Incumbents.

MY LORD,—The incumbents of all the 26 parishes in this deanery have answered the questions sent to them, and after carefully examining and considering their returns I beg leave to submit to your Lordship the following report.

1. There is not much poverty in this district, and what there is is not increasing, excepting where the population is growing as at Stockton Heath; but even in large towns like Runcorn Archdeacon Wood states that there is very little genuine poverty. The clergy are of one opinion, that whatever poverty there may be is due primarily to intemperate habits, and that those habits are largely the outcome of thriftlessness, of uncertainty of employment, of bad housing, and of the insanitary conditions under which many of the poor have to live. Much, indeed, in the way of sanitary reform has been already done in the urban district, but in the rural district of this deanery some of the cottages and their surroundings are in a most unhealthy condition. To this cause may be attributed the many outbreaks of epidemics, especially among children, which occur every year, and which necessitate the closing of the schools so frequently; also the fact that the children in the villages are not as strong and robust as they should be.

2. The administration of charitable assistance seems to be in most parishes conducted by the clergy alone, and even in a large town like Runcorn there appears to be no Central Relief Committee, such as was suggested by the Winchester Diocesan Conference. The reason, probably, is that it is not necessary, excepting in the winter when there may be abnormal distress, because the Board of Guardians acts as a relief committee for the district.

3. The answer to this question is a general negative. Reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief is rare, and where it occurs it springs, very occasionally, from a feeling of self-respect: more often from a fear of being sent to the workhouse, which would involve loss of liberty, being compelled to do some work, and the obligation to use soap and water.

4. Two cases are quoted by the vicar of All Saints, Runcorn, and the vicar of Lostock Gralam, in which the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians is considered inadequate. No other incumbents furnish any instances, but all, with a single exception, answer this question in the negative.

5. No overlapping of either kind is the universal answer.

6-7. There appears to be some difficulty in answering these two questions. It is, however, evident that large sums are spent yearly—more particularly at Christmastime—by the clergy in the several parishes of the deanery, in the charitable assistance of the poor, not only in money, but also in food, in clothing, in bonuses to mothers' meetings, and also in the maintenance of parochial nurses, whose work among the sick poor cannot be too highly estimated.

I have the honour to be, my lord,
Your obedient servant,
HENRY B. BLOGG
(Vicar of Frodsham and Rural Dean.)

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Chester.

RURAL DEANERY OF MACCLESFIELD.

Answers from the Rural Deanery at Macclesfield to the questions of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress, the questions being put to the clergy.

Out of the 27 incumbents, answers came from 20. Twelve of these parishes were country; eight of these parishes were town. The answers may be summarised as follows:—

1. Country.—None, if by poverty is meant out-of-work starvation. All have work, although wages are low and profits, even from small holdings, scanty.

Town.—A good deal of poverty, but not increasing. Where it exists it is due to the following chief causes: (*a*) Intemperance. (*b*) Scarcity of work for men—the silk trade employing chiefly women, which leads too often to a degenerate slackness and love of idleness on the part of the man. (*c*) Thriftlessness, due to the habit of spending wages at once on self-indulgences and amusement. (*d*) Early and indiscreet marriages.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

(e) The depressing conditions of insanitary property.
(f) Shattered health of so many reservists from effects of late war.

2. Country. — No special methods, the usual methods of distribution through the Vicar and his church helpers being adopted.

Town.—The same answer applies, except that a relief committee in the town of Macclesfield materially helps the efforts of the clergy. Both for the town and country recourse is had to the invaluable help of the local infirmary, and the district nurses and health visitors succeed in directing much-needed relief into the right quarters..

3. Country.—Very little outdoor relief is ever applied for, and there is no reluctance to receive it when required. A natural reluctance to go into the house is always found, and is due obviously to their unwillingness to lose their home and liberty.

Town.—The same remarks apply, except that outdoor relief is more general.

4. Country.—No.

Town.—No.

5. Country.—None whatever.

Town.—Practically no overlapping, the Church doing nearly all the almsgiving.

6. Country.—£21 10s. is the average annual amount given in ten parishes which returned answers.

Town.—Out of seven town parishes answering the average came to £33 per annum for each parish.

7. Country.—For the seven parishes making returns the average works out at 23 families helped per annum.

Town.—For three (quite representative) town parishes the average is 232 families helped.

The above answers have been tabulated by us from the various returns, and are vouched as being correct.

HENRY W. BRADLEY,
Vicar of Birtles.

H. NORMAN LOWNDES,
Vicar of Macclesfield—St. Paul.

J. G. ELSTOB,
Rural Dean.

RURAL DEANERY OF MALPAS.

A SUMMARY of replies to the questions received from the incumbents of Malpas Deanery.

1. There is not any real poverty. In a few cases where temporary distress exists, it is due generally to drunkenness and want of employment in hard winter weather; some distress has been caused through the failure of benefit clubs.

2. The clergy in a general way administer relief themselves; they employ no district visitors. In a case or two charitable assistance is administered by laymen appointed by a parish council, such council having the control of some charity or dole. The method employed by the clergy is usually in the following manner:—(1) Tickets for food at shops. (2) Distribution of offertory "for the sick and needy." (3) Bonuses provided from charity funds to assist clothing clubs. (4) Assistance in meeting doctors' bills. (5) Sending sick to convalescent homes.

3. No appreciable amount of distress due to reluctance of destitute persons to apply for relief. There are one or two exceptions (which prove the rule) where it is considered *infra dig.* to apply, though such people are quite ready to accept help from any other source. There is great reluctance to enter the workhouse.

4. It is generally thought that the relief granted by the guardians is inadequate; and, fortunately for the recipients, they receive help through other channels (see reply from Mr. Miller and Mr. Jacob).

5. There is a unanimous opinion that there is no overlapping. The Vicar of Bunbury has discovered a case or two where private individuals have unwittingly been too generous.

6. No incumbent knows what others give, in the way of food, clothing, or money, therefore it is considered impossible to estimate the annual amount spent in the several parishes. A few particulars are given—viz.: Bickerton, £54; Bickley, £18; Bunbury, £9; Burwardsley, £11; Coddington, £2; Farndon, £33; Handley, £5; Malpas, probably nearly £100; Tilston (in Poor Law relief), £30; Tushingham, £22; Whitewell, £15.

7. This question is most difficult, almost impossible to answer. A few particulars are given—viz.: Aldford, 20; Bickerton, 40; Bickley, 10; Bunbury, very few; Burwardsley, —; Coddington, 1; Farndon, 8; Handley, 20; Harthill, 13; Malpas, unable to say how many; Tushingham, 40; Tattenhall, 50.

The following are some typical replies from parishes in the Rural Deanery of Malpas:—

BICKERTON PARISH.

1. Not much poverty and not increasing. Prosperity probably due to departure of surplus population to towns, comparative absence of drunkenness owing to distance of public-houses in scattered neighbourhood, and interest at home in pigs, cows and gardens.

2. Charities are administered under a scheme of the Charity Commission, part dispensed by the vicar and part by local trustees. The sick are assisted by paying for nursing from small nursing fund. Aged (especially widows) receive gifts in kind, and sometimes in money in the winter. A bonus is given to members of coal and clothing club.

3. No.

4. No.

5. No.

6. General charities £21, rectorial £27, nursing £6.

7. About 40 families, and 20 more who receive bonus from clothing club, but no other form of charity. There are 240 families in the parish.

C. R. McKEE,
Vicar of Bickerton.

BICKLEY PARISH.

1. No. This parish is purely agricultural, and most of the labourers have a few acres of land with their cottage at a moderate rent. This, in my opinion, accounts to some extent for the absence of extreme poverty.

2. As vicar I have the distribution of a share of the rectorial charities of the ancient parish of Malpas. This relief I administer myself. It is the duty of our parish nurse to report any cases of sickness and distress to me; this takes the place of a committee. The general charities from the ancient parish of Malpas are administered by trustees, appointed under a scheme approved by the Charity Commissioners. Lord Cholmondeley's agent distributes the widows' doles. In addition to this I distribute all moneys collected in church for the poor and sick.

3. No.

4. No.

5. No, not to my knowledge.

6. About £18. (Impossible to include *private* benefactions.)

7. About 10.

N.B.—Nearly the whole of this parish is owned by the Marquis of Cholmondeley, and when any cases of sickness and poverty arise much charitable assistance is given by Lady Cholmondeley and other ladies.

(Signed) ERNEST F. GORST,
Vicar of Bickley.

FARNDON PARISH, CHESTER. RURAL DEANERY OF MALPAS.

Per REV. L. E. OWEN.

1. No. There are nearly 1,000 people in the parish, which is entirely agricultural. Wages average 16s. a week. House rent from 2s. 6d. to 4s. a week. Not enough garden or land to each house. Farms are too large. Small people have no chance. Allotments away from home not popular. The pressing want is adequate water supply.

2. The Church offertory is distributed by the minister. No committee. Any extraordinary cases which the offertory is unable to meet are relieved by application to the more wealthy.

3. There is no "appreciable amount of distress." None decline outdoor relief, but everyone declines indoor union relief. Here are two cases (in July, 1907) upon which all the neighbours agree: Widow, rather odd in mind, no relations, living under very uncomfortable, if not insanitary conditions, and frequently ill, relieved by outdoor relief and offertory. (2) Widower, over ninety years old, tottering, forgetful, lives alone, difficult, insanitary. Both these cases should be taken to the workhouse infirmary; and this kind of case often occurs.

The cause for "reluctance" to receive outdoor relief does not occur, but there is reluctance to enter the workhouse on account of (1) change of old habits; (2) general dislike, but this latter feeling is growing less.

One way of popularising the workhouse is to allow friends further opportunities of visiting inmates, and so to be convinced that it is not the tried and non-free place which has been reported by some. If the clergy would go there oftener they could bear testimony to the comfort, warmth, good food, and care bestowed.

4. The clergy think generally that just another 1s. a week would make the recipients of outdoor relief comfortable.

5. No, but next answer is relative.

6. If this includes doles, I wish to say that in Farndon parish there is an unfortunate custom of distributing annually in coin two charities, each worth about £13-26. This runs to about 2s. 6d. per family. One charity is distributed by "the Minister and Churchwardens," according to will painted on a board hanging in the belfry, and derived from money invested in Consols. The distributors endeavour to improve the system by proportionating the money to necessitous cases. The other charity is income from land, and distributed by trustees, who do not include the minister and churchwardens. But the whole matter requires alteration.

The Church offertory, about £7 per annum, for the sick and poor, is distributed by the minister, so that perhaps about £33 goes out in pecuniary relief, plus the outdoor Poor Law relief.

7. No; I cannot give them exactly—practically very few, perhaps seven or eight.

Rev. L. E. OWEN,
Rector of Farndon, Chester.

July, 1907.

TILSTONE FEARNALL PARISH.

1. There is hardly any serious case of poverty in my parish, speaking generally. Occasionally, when men are out of work through illness or some like cause, there is considerable temporary distress, especially where there is a large family. The death of a cow forms a great loss.

2. There is a special "Sick and Poor Fund," supported by collections in church, which I administer myself. I very seldom give actual money; but have an arrangement with local tradesmen to supply those presenting an order signed by me.

3 and 4. In this parish the guardians refuse to help anyone who keeps a cow; consequently there are a few deserving cases where they do not like to apply to the guardians, as they do not wish to give up their cow. Personally, I think it a hard and mistaken policy on the part of the guardians.

5. There is no overlapping here, as I always make inquires from the one or two gentle-people who help the poor of the parish, before I give relief.

6. It would be impossible to obtain particulars.

7. The number varies so in proportion to the amount of work available, the prevalence, or otherwise, of sickness, and many other causes, that it is impossible to give a general answer. For example, we have several bricksetters in this parish, who are engaged from time to time at the large houses or farms in the neighbourhood. A long frost in the winter, or a slack season in the amount of work available, often causes serious poverty for a few weeks. In the country such men are not paid the high wages they receive in the towns, which, if they are saving, enables them to balance bad times with good. Here they are paid 27s. or 30s. a week, and at times they may be two or three months out of work.

PERCY A. MILLER,
Vicar of Tilstone.

WHITEWELL PARISH. DIOCESE OF CHESTER. COUNTY OF FLINT.

1. I think there is only one person in receipt of poor relief from the guardians, and he is partly a cripple and an old man. Practically there is no real poverty in the parish; although in the case of a long illness of either a father or mother, there are one or two families, where there are young children, who feel the strain.

2. There is no special method of administration. I give all the relief myself—even that nominally in the hands of a body of trustees (called "Whitewell General Charities") is left to me to give away by formal resolution every year.

3. At present, none, although in the past I have known cases. The difficulty is that the guardians never give permanent help when the applicant has a cow or anything to bring a little in, but not enough to keep them wholly. It is a pity that, under proper safeguards, they (the guardians) are not able to supplement.

4. None. G. C. gets 2s. 6d. a week only, but he is helped in various ways by more than one person, and so manages to get along.

5. None. The parish is so small that there are but few opportunities for any overlapping to take place.

6. Quite impossible to say. I have about £15 a year for such purposes passing through my hands. We also provide a free nurse for any cases of sickness requiring such a person. The nurse receives £20 a year.

7. Beyond a few loaves of bread, given weekly, there is no regular distribution of charity except the Poor Law. Five people receive the bread.

JOSEPH JACOB.

October 27th, 1907.

RURAL DEANERY OF MIDDLEWICH.

MY LORD,—I have to report that 16 replies have been sent by the clergy of this deanery of Middlewich to the list of questions from the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress.

1. There are two places in this deanery where there is considerable poverty, Winsford and Moulton. At Moulton it seems to be increasing owing to the decline of the salt trade and the erection of labour-saving plant. In such parishes as Middlewich and Northwich the poverty that exists is mainly caused through improvidence and drink. This is the case also to some extent in the parish of Over, where the salt furnace men working in the great heat of the works are great drinkers. They receive good wages but spend them week by week, and when work is slack or lacking they are destitute. In Middlewich and Over there is some poverty through irregularity of work in the salt-boiling industry. In Northwich, Messrs. Brunner, Mond and Co.'s alkali works offer good employment, but many widows find it difficult to make both ends meet.

2. There are no special methods in most parishes. District visitors, parish nurses, and the clergy distri-

bute relief; a police-court missionary works in part of the deanery; the West Cheshire Needlework Guild sends garments to a few of the parishes once a year, some subscribe annually to convalescent homes, etc.

At Little Budworth the Budworth Charities, under a body of trustees, have almshouses for six men and six women, and give coal and money at certain periods. In Tarporley there are almshouses and a fund from which a considerable sum of money can be distributed. Middlewich also has good charity funds. In Weaverham the vicar and wardens on Whit Sunday and St. Thomas's Day distribute sums varying from 35s. to 2s. 6d. In Over there is a provident society, undenominational, with a paid secretary who visits and makes inquiries. The income is £70, from which grants, nearly always in kind, are made. Wood-chopping is offered to some. The vicar of Over constantly uses this society. In Northwich there is a "labour" committee which owns a wood-cutting shed. This gives some employment to about seventy men per annum. The committee has also been able to find situations for men out of work. In the same place some 3,000 children had dinners provided for them by public subscription during the winter months.

3. There is no reluctance, as a rule, to resort to Poor Law relief, though there is generally great reluctance to go into the workhouse.

4. Several of the clergy answer "No" to this question. But the rector of Tarporley and the vicar of Witton think that relief should not be refused to those who by thrift have saved a little, and also are of opinion that the scale allowance of 2s. 6d. is too small. The vicar of Wettenhall writes that the Poor Law relief seems to verge towards meanness, *e.g.*, an old couple, the man disabled through rheumatism, the wife nearly so, compelled to work, the man only is relieved and receives 3s. The rent is 3s. 6d. The vicar of Middlewich cites this case:—Mrs. W., a widow, receives intermittent relief, which is stopped when there is work in the fields, for which frequent application has to be made, entailing a week's or fortnight's privation. She is 73. The vicar of Over says: "The guardians do not give enough. A tradesman died here and was found to be bankrupt. All his goods were sold. The guardians allowed the widow and five children 7s. 6d. per week, and considered themselves generous in so doing. The widow had no relatives. She is a most deserving woman. The youngest child was only three months old. The other children were at school."

5. (*a*) The general opinion is that there is no overlapping between various forms of charity. In Northwich, however, there is some. (*b*) No. The relieving officer makes careful inquiries.

	Q. 6.	Q. 7.
	£ s.	
Byley	5 0	16
Little Budworth	250 0 (income of ten Charities)	20 or 30
Castle Northwich	—	—
Crowton	10 0	—
Davenham	60 0	—
Delamere	—	—
Hartford	43 0	70
Middlewich	173 0	360
Moulton	38 0	50
Minshull Vernon	13 0	—
Over	95 0	100
Weaverham	67 0	120
Wettenhall	0 10	—
Whitegate	38 0	60
Witton	300 0	—

I am, my lord,
Your obedient servant,
W. H. BINNEY.

RURAL DEANERY OF MOTTRAM.

18 Benefices. 17 Returns.

1. There is not much poverty in the parishes of this Rural Deanery, nor is that which exists increasing in intensity. The poverty is congested in a few parishes into which the indigent have drifted, through, for example, the pulling down of inferior property in other areas. The very flourishing condition of the staple industry, the cotton trade, accounts for the absence of distress to a great extent.

The *moral* causes of poverty, where it exists, are mainly intemperance as regards alcohol, thriftlessness, gambling. The *economic* causes are the difficulty of a man over forty years of age, if for any reason he loses his place, getting another, unless perhaps he is an ordinary labourer, the preference given to young men for posts in the mills, and the credit system. One reason for younger men being preferred in cotton-spinning is the importance of the eyesight being good.

With regard to intemperance and thriftlessness as moral causes of poverty, drunkenness seems to be decreasing among men but increasing among women. The strain of the ordinary cotton work necessitates good living. There is a considerable amount of indirect thrift in connection with trades unionism, the use of co-operative stores, and membership of the great friendly societies. Funeral insurance is also largely used. The cause of thriftlessness is the difficulty of saving sufficient to be of any real assistance in time of need.

A feature in the industrial conditions in this neighbourhood is the large amount of more or less skilled female labour employed in the cotton industry.

2. Except in one or two parishes, the Poor funds are small. The Church funds are needed for the support of the clergy and Church expenses. An occasional Sunday's collections for the poor, help privately solicited for particular cases, with the recommendation of cases to unsectarian local relief organisations, are the usual methods of assisting the distressed. There is no assistance from committees in the administration of Church Poor funds. These are administered almost entirely by the clergy, and for the simple reason they are not large enough to be better administered otherwise. There is no such thing as leaving it "in the hands of district visitors" practically in this Rural Deanery.

3. There is no appreciable amount of unrelieved distress through the destitute being reluctant to resort to Poor Law relief. Where this exists it is when people have come down in the world, and prefer struggling on on a small pittance to applying for assistance from the Guardians. No specific case has been reported in any returns.

4. There is, generally speaking, in cases where Poor Law relief has been given, *distress*, but not *great distress*, through the amount given being insufficient. The average outdoor relief (from 2s. 6d. to 4s.) is too small. The majority of the returns emphasise this, but only about 25 per cent. specify any actual cases of distress through inadequate relief.

5. There is no overlapping, either between various forms of charity or between charity and the Poor Law, except to a very small extent (taking the whole Deanery to an infinitesimal extent). It might occur where benevolent ladies assist people helped by other forms of charity. As a rule the Church Poor funds are too small, and the amounts given by the Poor Law too small also, to cause any overlapping that is needless.

6. This is very variable. £50 to £100 in a well-to-do parish, in addition to, say, another £50 in private benevolence, and also in addition to public unsectarian charities and endowed local Church charities in parishes where such exist. In a poor parish with a large population £40 may cover everything. From £40 in a poor and populous parish to say £140 in a fairly well-to-do industrial parish might be considered as "striking an average."

6. As to the families receiving charitable assistance other than the Poor Law, where numbers have been given, 20-60 families in, say, a population of 4,000 to 5,000 have been returned (considerably more in the case of one fairly well-to-do parish). But it is doubtful whether these statistics are really reliable. The clergy have felt that the question is not easily answered accurately. The Sub-Committee which considered the various parochial returns felt that the distress of the needy poor might be much mitigated by

(*a*) A system of old-age pensions, free from the stigma of pauperism.

(*b*) A distinction being made between the unem-

ployed who are willing to work and the unemployed who are unwilling, the former being assisted more liberally by the Guardians in outdoor relief, the magistrates or other authorities having power given to them to deal with the idle unemployed by committing them to labour colonies or other kindred institutions.

T. H. SHERIFF.

RURAL DEANERY OF NANTWICH.

In dealing with the returns from the Rural Deanery of Nantwich it is necessary to state that it is mainly an agricultural one.

There is one large centre of population—viz., Crewe, where the London and North-Western Railway works are situated, and where the inhabitants are, as a rule, in receipt of regular wages.

The town of Nantwich, also in the Deanery, presents peculiar difficulties. It is an old market town, with one church, to which are attached a number of rich charities, and this fact has naturally conduced to a certain amount of pauperism. Moreover, the inhabitants of the town are engaged for the most part in the shoe-making and tailoring trades, and these industries are seriously affected by competition with firms employing cheap foreign labour, the wages being necessarily very low and uncertain.

1. There is not much poverty in the agricultural parishes, and the little there is is not increasing. In dealing with Crewe, cases of real poverty are few in number. There is the usual amount of thriftless people, and beyond these the only people requiring assistance are the sick and aged and infirm. Intemperance, gambling, and laziness account for some destitution.

In the town of Nantwich there is a considerable amount of poverty, which seems to be increasing, and mainly for reasons mentioned above.

2. Both in the country and town parishes, generally speaking, no special methods are adopted. Relief, other than that given by public charities, is administered by the clergy themselves.

3. There is no appreciable amount of distress due to reluctance in applying for Poor Law relief. We note in Nantwich a number of persons are unwilling to apply to the union for assistance, solely because to accept Poor Law relief is a disqualification for receiving assistance from the trust charities.

4. In the country parishes there is none. In the town parishes there is, especially in the case of aged people and widows with large families of small children. The limit of relief fixed by the regulations of the Board of Guardians is, in the cases above mentioned, far too low.

5. There is no needless overlapping.

6. In striking an average from the returns sent in the following results have been obtained:—In the country parishes about £45 is distributed annually, but this amount includes in some cases the moneys given in temporary sick relief, and also that distributed from parochial charities.

In Crewe the average given in regular relief is about £40, but this does not include a much larger sum of money, difficult to estimate, given in specie in times of sickness, etc.

It is worthy of note that in the town of Nantwich public church charities amount to £816, and in addition to this there is distributed annually from the church funds £100 among the sick and needy. It is stated in the Nantwich return that in addition to the above the householders of the town possess certain real estate which brings an income sufficient to afford to each, regardless of rank, 15s. a year.

7. A very difficult question to answer. In the agricultural parishes from four to five hundred persons in all appear to be in receipt of pecuniary assistance from charities and church funds. As regards the town parishes it is impossible to arrive at any reliable estimate.

NOTE.—The above return deals only with such sources of relief as come directly under the cognisance of the Parochial Clergy.

	——	No 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.	No. 4.	No. 5.	No. 6.	No. 7.
254	Breadbury	Not much poverty. Not increasing.	Administer relief myself.	No	No	No	Undenominational Nursing Association, about £150.	About Seventy-six.
255	Chadkirk	No. No	Sick nursing association, self only.	I do not know any	I think not	I do not know of any	£9 14s., offertory	Four.
256	Cheadle	No	Clergy district visitors, church wardens.	No	No	(a) Possibly between church and chapel.	£78	Hard to say—about one hundred and twenty.
257	Cheadle Hu'me	No No	Vicar and district visitors.	I think not	I think not	Probably some between church and chapel.	Church £20	Six.
258	Disley	No	Myself and nursing committee.	No	No	No	About £24	Thirty persons relieved from church about fifty by Nursing Committee.
259	Gatley	Practically none	We give Christmas day offertory. Have no charities. Vicar administers funds.	No	No	No	£4 or £5	Only two or three.
260	Handforth	No actual poverty in the parish.	I administer church relief.	No	No	No	No answer	—
261	High Lane	Very little	I administer church relief.	No	Two cases 2s. per week, increased on appeal to 2s 6d.	No	About £40	Difficult.
262	Marple	See No. 3	Clergy and district visitors.	Yes, but to a sense of pride.	Women 75 at 2s. 6d. Men 70 at 2s. 6d.	No	No answer	About thirty.
263	Norbury	Not much; but some caused by drink and thriftlessness.	Sick club committee and district visitors.	No reluctance to apply to Poor Law.	No. Guardians very considerate.	Not much	From £50 to £60	One hundred.
264	Stockport, St. Mary	Generally only sick and aged.	By the clergy	People go to Union for relief.	Not adequate in two, Mrs. F—— and Chas. Holt.	No answer	£95 6s. 7d. from Church Charities, Almshouses and £50. Bulkeley Clothing Charity £42.	—
265	Stockport, St. Alban's	No	No	Not to my knowledge	Not to my knowledge	Not to my knowledge	Estimated very few pounds (say 15s.).	About twenty families.
266	Stockport, St. Augustine's.	Not much	By clergy only	No	In two cases, widows	Do not think so	From church £20 to £30	Sixty to one hundred.

267	Stockport, St. George's	Very little	By bearer	No	No	No	£80 from church	About one hundred and fifty.
268	Stockport, St. Matthew's.	Yes. Trade conditions and drink.	Poor fund by Vicar. Samaritan Society by Vicar and committee.	No reluctance to outdoor relief.	Adequate on the whole	No	£50 1s. 9d. from church	Fifty.
269	Stockport, Portwood	Not much	Yes, by Vicar; by ticket (ii rules).	No	No	No	£80 from church	About one hundred and fifty.
270	Stockport, St. Peter's	Yes	Our rule is only to sick and aged. Partly through district visitors.	Extremely rare	Distress often due to inadequate Poor Law Relief.	We work in conjunction with the Poor Law.	£30	—
271	Stockport, St. Thomas'	Much. Not increasing. Work plentiful.	Parochial ticket needy fund. By clergy.	No	No. Would be in cases but for private assistance.	Very little	No answer	Impossible to say.
272	Taxal	No returns from Taxal	Never can get any.	—	—	—	—	—
273	Wilmslow	Yes. Not in reasing. Insufficient and uncertain employment.	By committee	Unknown to me	Poor Law Relief not always adequate.	(*a*) Some overlapping	£70	About one hundred.
274	Woodford	No	No. By myself	No	No	(*a*) No. (*b*) No	From £2 to £5	Two to four.

F. A. MACDONA, R.D.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

RURAL DEANERY OF WALLASEY.

1. The six parishes of Wallasey, New Brighton, Liscard, Egremont, Seacombe, and S. Luke's Poolton differ very much economically. In the first four the incumbents report "not much poverty," "confined to a few streets," "in the sense of destitution no poverty." In the last two "there is much poverty and some destitution," but "not increasing—rather the other way, owing to the abolition of insanitary property, a general improvement in the condition of the working classes, and the free feeding of children." Both moral and economic causes contribute. In Wallasey and New Brighton there is ample work in the summer, little doing in the winter. Drunkenness certainly not so great a cause as formerly.

2. No special methods followed. Temporary cases are aided (*a*) by or through district visitors, or (*b*) by the clergy to whom the district visitors report. The clergy are, as a rule, *not* aided by a committee. Chronic cases are recommended to the parish authorities.

3. All agree that there is considerable reluctance in applying. Causes reported from Seacombe, where there is some destitution:—(1) Unpleasant treatment by officials; (2) Small amount to be got at all, if not offer of "house"; (3) Women deserted by husbands do not apply, because it means "house" and prosecution of husband; (4) Independence of character, etc. Several instances are given. They are generally cases of those who have "seen better days," and not used to manual labour; clerks thrown out of work by firms breaking up, and too old to obtain fresh places.

4. Most of us hold that the relief is insufficient. The Vicar of Seacombe is strong on this point. "Poor old women generally get only 2s. 6d. a week; a widow with only one child, nothing." The Vicar of S. Luke's:—"Where rents are high, all the relief given is swallowed up by it. (Rents are high everywhere but, possibly, in Seacombe, *i.e.*, from 5s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. a week.)

5. Three parishes report, "No overlapping"; one, "Yes, between divers sources of charity." But even where this is the case, it is felt that the civic Guild of Help is the cause of its almost disappearing.

6. It appears that about £250 is spent in outdoor relief in the six parishes. The vicars report that their church funds spend as follows:—Wallasey £50, Egremont £45, New Brighton £70, Seacombe (no return), Liscard £90, S. Luke's £40; Civic Guild £80 for whole district.

7. There appear to be, on reference to the relieving officer, 246 cases in all:—Wallasey 11, New Brighton 0 (?), Liscard and Egremont 112, Seacombe 123.

It will have been noticed that good work is reported to be done by the Civic Guild of Help.

The blots in the working of the Poor Law are:—(1) The costly working of the "house," payment of officials, etc., the reluctance of the deserving poor to enter the "house," and the inadequacy of outdoor relief.

Would it be impossible to reduce the first by adopting the "farming-out" system in the case of children, and to cause the latter to be more adequately and sympathetically administered by compelling the district councils, etc., to form guilds of help in every large community, and by entrusting a lump sum to such guilds, after careful estimate of the circumstances, to be supplemented by private donations, and so applied to the relief of the poor?

WILLIAM H. L. COGSWELL,
R.D. of Wallasey.

RURAL DEANERY OF WIRRAL.

Heswall Rectory, Cheshire,
November 5th, 1907.

MY LORD,—The enclosed report, based upon returns from every parish in the Rural Deanery of Wirral, has been compiled, as you will recognise, by two gentlemen whose standing especially qualifies them for such purpose.

It may appear at first sight to be scanty and to contain little that can be of use to your Lordship, but the conditions of this deanery are really fairly represented.

It is composed of several quite rural parishes, where distressing poverty is almost unknown, and the few cases are amply met by the gifts of those who are well-to-do.

The larger centres of population are almost entirely residential or prosperous growing suburbs of the great towns of Birkenhead and Liverpool, and the only real pressure is either quite temporary or (in the case of the intemperate) self-induced.

The three considerable industrial centres are Port Sunlight, Bromborough Port, and Ellesmere Port. The two former are model villages, connected respectively with Lever's soap works and Price's candle works. The latter is in a state of high prosperity.

The main outcome of the inquiry seems to be that there is really little poverty in this deanery; that the causes are more moral than economic; that while there is intense repugnance to accept indoor relief, there is scarcely any to outdoor relief; that the amount of outdoor relief administered is totally inadequate unless supplemented from other sources; that there is thus some overlapping; but that while a good deal might be done by friendly co-operation, it would be practically impossible under present conditions to allow the administration of charities by religious bodies to be, however remotely, connected with the administration of the Poor Law.

I remain,
Your Lordship's obedient servant,
T. H. MAY,
Rural Dean of Wirral.

Heswall Rectory,
January 21st, 1908.

MY DEAR LORD BISHOP,—I am very sorry to have kept the draft report so long, but I wanted to verify some figures which, if not actually called for by the questions of the Commissioners, must have an important bearing upon the whole enquiry, and without the consideration of which any report must be misleading. No doubt in some other form their importance will be brought before the Commission. Still, as a matter of local or diocesan interest I thought, as you asked for remarks, I ought to note them.

One point most clearly brought out by the evidence is that the Poor Law relief as administered would be entirely inadequate apart from such other help as is administered by clerical and personal charities. Apart from these the greater number of those receiving outdoor relief must either go into "the House" or the amount given must be so increased as to be a further considerable addition to the rates.

But no word has (in the report) been said as to what would happen in this respect were it not for the work done by way of actual relief as well as by the encouragement of thrift and self-help, by the "Tontines," "Shepherds," and other clubs which cover and flourish in our country districts. I have the word of two secretaries of such clubs, intelligent working men, that the existence of such societies has a most important bearing upon the rates, in their opinion, and that they consider that without them the amount of Poor Law relief would have to be immensely increased.

I give the actual figures for the year 1907 of the two largest societies in this Heswall district, and these cover, I think, almost the whole of Wirral.

Heswall Tontine.—Number of members, 382 (422 for 1908); receipts for 1907, £1,079 1s. 5d.; disbursed, £125 15s. 3d. and £78 10s. doctors' salaries; total, £204 5s. 3d. Among 62 sick members, three members deceased, one member's wife deceased. Members pay 1s. per week; are entitled to sick pay, 12s. per week for first thirteen weeks, 6s. for second thirteen weeks, after that 3s. per week (pension). At death, £8. At death of wife, £6. Society worked by men themselves.

The actual cost per member for all these benefits was 4s. 7d. for the year, but this was more than covered by fines and forfeits.

Shepherd Glory Lodge, Ashton Unity, Heswall Branch.—Number of members, 215. Contributions, £200 8s. 5d. Amount paid in benefits, £157 8s. among 61 members. Members are entitled to sick pay, 12s. per week for first twenty-six weeks, 6s. for second twenty-six weeks; after that, 3s. per week (pension). At death, £12 to nearest relative. If a member of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, an additional £5 and 10s. for each child under 14 years. £10 on death of member's wife. There are female and juvenile branches of this society. These clubs are well managed, practically at no cost, by the men themselves. But this, of course, is not the point. They are composed of men who, apart from them, would in the large majority of cases after serious illness be thrown with their families upon the rates, and these figures from one small district suggest what would happen as regards Poor Law relief but for their work.

There is no suspicion of charity about them, and there is no taint of pauperism. They have solved the question of "pensions" for themselves. Members capable of working must work. Those incapacitated have not to wait until they are 60 or 65, or even 70 for what they may get.

They scorn the proposal for old-age pensions. They think it will break up all their good solid work. Either they will be forced to contribute to a pension scheme, or else the rates, etc., must be raised to provide funds. In either case it would be impossible for most of them to continue their voluntary contributions to their societies.

Of course, I do not think these remarks are directly asked for in the questions for the clergy, but I venture to think that you will agree with me that they are very pertinent to the whole question of Poor Law and its working.—With my kind regards,

Yours ever sincerely,

T. H. May.

1. We agree that much of the poverty is caused through drunkenness, male and female. We do not think it is increasing in intensity, or that it exists to a large extent.

2. We are strongly of opinion that Churches of all denominations should have a committee of clergy and laity for the distribution of their poor funds, either in money or kind, and that there should be a method by which the guardians of the poor for the particular district should be made acquainted with such distribution, so as to prevent overlapping.

We are also strongly of opinion that parish relief should be supplementary to Poor Law relief. These remarks apply also to medical relief and parish nursing, as the union provides for the nursing of the sick poor in an up-to-date infirmary.

The clergy and committee should be informed of the fact that the union medical officer of the district has power to order in extreme cases (in addition to medicine) articles of nourishment, such as milk, meat for beef tea, etc.

3. We do not find any reluctance on the part of destitute persons to receive outdoor relief (Poor Law), but we do find strong reluctance against going in to the workhouse owing to old prejudices as to treatment and requirements there. They do not understand the advance in workhouse treatment in the last 10 years. They also object to the odium of being in the workhouse, the relatives also encouraging this sentiment.

4. The usual amount given in outdoor relief is not sufficient unless supplemented by help from sons and those legally liable for maintenance of destitute persons, and assistance from parochial and charitable funds.

We know of cases where sons have refused help to the aged destitute parents, which we ourselves have had to take legal proceedings to enforce.

5. We think our recommendation in answer to Question 2 answers this. We know of cases where overlapping has taken place owing to ignorance on the part of charitable persons, particularly of different denominations.

6. A large amount is distributed by Church and Nonconformist denominations, supplemented by large contributions in private charity, also from parish nursing, the cost of which is provided by private sources; also friendly societies, which provide for sick and burial of their members.

7. A considerable amount is annually distributed, principally in temporary relief and in supplementing outdoor relief from union to poor deserving persons, the number varying according to the class of population.

G. J. Townsend,
Chairman, Wirral Board of Guardians.

H. A. Latham,
Late Chairman of Wirral Guardians and Churchwarden of Hooton.

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CHICHESTER.

DIOCESAN CONFERENCE INQUIRY.

The Committee, appointed by the Standing Committee of the Chichester Diocesan Conference to deal with the replies from the Incumbents of the diocese to the questions of the Royal Commission, beg to make the following Report.

They would first, however, point out that, as conditions vary considerably, they have found it necessary to present a separate report for town and country parishes.

In the Diocese of Chichester there are 414 ecclesiastical parishes, of which 99 are town parishes and 315 country. Of the 384 Incumbents, replies to the questions of the Royal Commission were received from 320 (viz., 93 town Incumbents and 227 country). Many of the Incumbents have filled in their returns with evident care and in some detail.

Town.—There is a general consensus of opinion that conditions as to food, clothing, and housing have improved, but some deterioration in housing (arising from high rentals or the unsuitability of the houses for the working classes) is mentioned in a few of the returns.

Education, generally, is improving; although whether the education given is in some cases the best suited for after-life appears to be considered rather a moot point in a few of the replies.

Country.—The returns state, almost without exception, that there is no lack of employment for those who are both able and willing to work.

The general conditions as to food, clothing, housing, and education are reported as improved in nearly every parish. Some twenty returns, however, refer to cottages being "unsatisfactory" or "scarce," and in one case the housing is reported as "very bad." Several returns refer to the education given in elementary schools as not best suited to rural life.

QUESTION 1.—*Is there much poverty in your parish, and if so is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?*

Town.—The amount of poverty seems to vary greatly in the winter and summer, as many of the towns have a number of persons who find work for the most part in the summer only—*e.g.*, fishermen, boatmen, cab-drivers, porters, and beach hawkers. Poverty is reported as having increased in some places owing to the slackness of the building trade, but on the whole there is not a general increase of poverty. Where such increase is reported, it is almost entirely confined to the towns of Brighton and Hastings. Amongst causes of poverty are mentioned drink, the want of thrift in prosperous times, and in some cases betting and gambling.

Country.—About two-thirds of the returns state that there is no actual poverty, and the remainder "very little." On the estates of some landowners the labourers are not infrequently pensioned off when they are no longer able to work. For such poverty as does exist the main causes mentioned are intemperance and want of thrift.

QUESTION 2.—*Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, and those in chronic, distress? Are you assisted by a committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors?*

Town.—In nearly every parish relief from church or charitable funds is administered by the clergy in consultation with, or by the agency of, visitors. In some cases there are relief committees to whom cases of distress are referred.

Country.—Charity is administered generally by the Incumbent ,and frequently in the form of orders upon tradesmen for meat, groceries, etc. In only a few cases of large country parishes are the clergy assisted by district visitors or a relief committee. Hospital letters are freely given; and coal, clothing, and other clubs exist in which the savings of members are supplemented by the subscriptions of the wealthier parishioners. Special charities are administered in various parishes by trustees. In one parish of 800 inhabitants an old-age pension scheme was established eight years ago. This is supported by subscriptions added to the payments of members, and the Incumbent reports that since the inception of this scheme "we have had no fresh cases applying for parochial relief."

QUESTION 3.—*Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress, due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what, in your opinion, is the cause of the reluctance.*

Town.—It may be said that reluctance to accept "outdoor" relief does not exist, but in some cases there is a dislike to and shrinking from entering the "house."

Country.—The reply is almost unanimously in the negative. An aversion to entering the "house" is occasionally reported, and destitute persons prefer to obtain outdoor relief, and get this supplemented by charity.

QUESTION 4.—*Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.*

Town.—The relief given by boards of guardians on the whole seems to be considered adequate, but in some instances it fails—*e.g.*, in the case of widows with casual employment, or persons with large families needing temporary assistance.

Country.—The relief granted is on the whole reported as on a reasonable scale. In a very small minority of cases, however (some 5 per cent.), it is reported that the relief given is not adequate. Cases in these parishes appear, however, very frequently to be assisted from other charitable sources—*e.g.*, church alms, &c.

QUESTION 5.—*Is there in your parish any needless overlapping*—(a) *between various forms of charity, or* (b) *between charity and the Poor Law; and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?*

Town.—This question is a very difficult one to answer. So much charity is given privately, and without any inquiry as to what others may be doing, or without knowledge of other sources of help, but it may be said that there is, as between charity and charity from Church or Nonconformist or private sources, a good deal of waste from overlapping. Between charity and the Poor Law there is probably very little, since the relations between the charities and boards of guardians are generally cordial, and information is often sought and given.

Country.—There is very little that is preventable between various forms of charity. Careless or indiscriminate private givers will sometimes do harm through failing to make any inquiry. As between charity and the Poor Law, overlapping is often prevented by the fact that the clergy are frequently themselves on boards of guardians, and in other cases the clergy take counsel with the relieving officer.

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QUESTION 6.—*If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the actual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.*

Town.—The varying amount given in each parish in charitable relief is so great, as in some cases it amounts to 400*l.* or even 500*l.* in the year, while in others it is only 5*l.* or 6*l.*, that it seems impossible to draw any conclusion that would be of much value.

Country.—Many of the returns state the sums given through church channels, but cannot give any reliable estimate as to the amount directly contributed by charitable private donors. Any figures professing to be inclusive would necessarily be extremely vague and misleading. In the aggregate a very large sum is annually expended through church agencies, the amounts varying in individual parishes from 2*l.* or 3*l.* to 200*l.* or 300*l.*

QUESTION 7.—*Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity, other than the Poor Law, in your parish during the course of a year?*

Town.—No general conclusion can well be arrived at from the data supplied. The number varies with individual circumstances and surroundings. In some very poor parishes the number of persons relieved is very great, in other parishes there are few, and in some none at all.

Country.—The returns give no very definite information, for the reason already referred to in reply to Question 6, viz., that the clergy often find some difficulty in discovering what is being given by private donors. Further, the question itself appears to be differently understood. Does the receipt of a gift at Christmas, or a hospital letter, or a membership of a coal or clothing club, constitute charitable relief, are some of the counter-questions asked. On the whole, it appears impossible from the returns received to obtain any reliable figures which would be of value as a general reply to the question.

General Note as to Town Parishes.—The total amount of money known to be given in charity in these town parishes is very considerable, and there may be added a large sum in private donations, the value of food, clothing, firing, etc., making a very large total. There may be a question whether by some interchange of inquiry there could not be an avoidance of waste.

The establishment of labour bureau exchanges, as in large towns in Germany, to facilitate the spread of the knowledge as to where labour is wanted, or is scarce, might help to deal with the question of the reduction of poverty.

Education in household management, and the spread of the knowledge of thrift, would also conduce to the same end.

HENRY PALMER,
Chairman.

EDWARD H. NASH,
Convener.

SUMMARY OF RETURNS RECEIVED FROM 320 INCUMBENTS, OUT OF 384, IN THE DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER IN REPLY TO THE QUESTIONS OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

Question I.—Is there much poverty in your parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?

269 state "no poverty" or "very little."

28 state "much poverty" (and in most cases increasing).

8 state either "poverty in winter" or "all poor."

As to causes replies mention intemperance, thriftlessness; one mentions "decline in hop cultivation."

Question II.—Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors?

The majority mention simply "ordinary parochial methods."

29 report relief committees.

83 report relief administered by district visitors generally in consultation with the clergy.

122 report relief administered by clergy (as a rule these are small rural parishes).

Question III.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.

264 report no appreciable amount of unrelieved distress due to reluctance, etc.

17 report some distress, due to objection to "the house."

24 report occasional distress for reasons not stated.

Question IV.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.

277 report no appreciable distress through inadequate Poor Law relief.

24 report some distress through inadequate Poor Law relief (distress of this nature is reported as being often relieved by Church or private charity).

Question V.—Is there in your parish any needless overlapping:—

(a) *Between various forms of charity; or*

(b) *Between charity and the Poor Law;*

and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

253 report no overlapping to any appreciable extent (these replies are in the main from rural parishes).

46 report some overlapping between various forms of charity (generally in town parishes).

Between charity and the Poor Law the reports state that practically there is no overlapping save an occasional case of imposture.

Question VI.—If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.

Very difficult to give figures that would be of real value. Many returns give no reply beyond "Impossible to say."

237 returns give a total of £14,570 for a year.

Question VII.—Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your parish during the course of a year?

Same difficulty occurs as mentioned above (Question VI.).

But 164, who answer, report a total of 7,518 families.

REPORT OF THE

DURHAM DIOCESAN COMMISSION

ON

POVERTY AND CHARITABLE ASSISTANCE

1907–8.

DIOCESAN COMMISSION.

Gateshead District - - - -	Rev. P. A Derry and Mr. T. Reed.
Mid-Tyne and Chester-le-Street District -	Rev. J. Gill and Mr. T. H. Spencer.
South Shields District - - - -	Rev. H. E. Bilbrough and Mr. G. Druery.
Sunderland District - - - -	Rev. Canon Moore Ede and Mr. Jas. Watson.
Easington District - - - -	Rev. S. B. Guest Williams and Mr. J. B. Taylor.
Hartlepool District - - - -	Rev. W. J. Knowlden and Mr. J. E. R. Hurworth.
Stockton District - - - - -	Rev. Canon Martin and Mr. T. Parkinson.
Darlington District - - - -	Rev. T. C. Gobat and Mr. C. P. Douglas.
Bishop Auckland District - - -	Rev. H. Gouldsmith and Mrs. J. T. Proud.
Durham District - - - - -	Rev. H. Roberson and Mr. W. Lisle.
Lanchester, A. District - - - -	Rev. J. Hudson-Barker and Mr. F. Priestman.
,, B. District - - -	Rev. R Watson and Mr. T. M Ridley.
Houghton-le-Spring District - - -	Venerable Archdeacon of Auckland and Mr. R. Richardson.
Sedgefield District - - - -	Rev. Canon Price and Mr. H. P. Botting.
Stanhope District - - - -	Rev. J. Harrison and Mr. O. Monkhouse.

Chairman (till Nov., 1907) -	The late the Venerable the Archdeacon of Auckland.
Since Nov., 1907 -	Rev. Canon Moore Ede.
Hon. Secretary - - -	Rev. J. R. Croft, St. Hild's College, Durham.

My Lord,—This Commission was appointed by your Lordship to collect information as to (1) the extent and intensity of poverty within the county; and (2) the methods of administering charitable assistance. The late the Venerable the Archdeacon of Auckland accepted the Chairmanship at your Lordship's invitation. His death, before the completion of our labours, we record with sorrow, and a deep sense of loss. In succession to him the Reverend Canon Moore Ede has acted as Chairman. The Reverend J. R. Croft has acted as Honorary Secretary.

At the first meeting it was decided that for the purposes of this inquiry the county should be divided into fifteen districts under the supervision of fifteen clergy and the same number of laymen. Accordingly, in addition to the eight clergy originally invited by your Lordship, seven more were invited, and asked to nominate an equal number of laymen for the completion of the *personnel* of the Commission.

The population of the ancient county of Durham was, at the census of 1901, 1,187,361—the number of males over 10 years of age in that year being 451,378, of whom 84·3 per cent. were engaged in various industries. The following figures taken from the Census of 1901 show the number of workers engaged in the various industries employing more than 10,000 males over ten years of age.

Coal and Shale Mining	98,864
Metals, Machines, and Implements	56,447
House Building	29,904
Ships and Boats	28,077
On Railways (excluding Platelayers, Railway Labourers)	10,966
On Roads (including Coachmen, Grooms, &c.)	10,419

The number of Ecclesiastical Parishes in the Diocese is 251.

The list of questions suggested by the *Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress* was considered by the Commission, and, after certain verbal amendments and additions, adopted in the following form.

QUESTIONS.

1. Is there much poverty in your parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity? and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?

2. Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to (i) the sick, (ii) the aged, (iii) those in temporary distress, (iv) those in chronic distress?

Are you assisted by a Committee? If so, how is it constituted?

Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of District Visitors?

3. Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief, either (*a*) in the workhouse or (*b*) outside the workhouse? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.

4. Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.

5. Is there in your parish any needless overlapping—

(*a*) between various forms of charity, or

(*b*) between charity, public or private, and the Poor Law,

and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping, by co-operation with Relieving Officers or in other ways?

6. If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount, from all sources, spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, whether by Churchmen or others, please do so.

7. Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your parish during the course of a year?

This was issued to the incumbents of the Diocese in August, 1907, with the request that replies should be sent to the Commissioners for the several areas on or before 14th September, 1907. Replies were received from some 230 parishes in your Lordship's Diocese. The Commission feels that this response is most gratifying, and wishes to thank the incumbents for the care and trouble they have taken in the preparation of their answers.

The work of examining and tabulating the returns was undertaken by the Commissioners for each area, who prepared a digest of the evidence received from each of the fifteen districts. These are printed in the Appendix (pages 17–23).

The following is a summary report, based on the evidence received from the clergy in answer to the several questions:—

1. *Extent, Intensity, and Causes of Poverty.*—The answers to this question fall into two groups: (*a*) those relating to the towns, and (*b*) those relating to the colliery and rural districts.

(*a*) *The Towns.*—There is, we regret to say, a considerable amount of chronic poverty in the slum districts of our towns; indeed, the poverty in the towns on the seaboard and Tyneside seems to be above the average. There is, however, little evidence to show that it is increasing either in amount or intensity, except in some parishes where a gradual deterioration is going on owing to the migration of the more respectable classes and better-paid artisans to new districts and suburbs. But the proportion of "poor" to the whole population is not increasing. Since the reports of the incumbents were received depression of trade has caused great distress in some of the towns which are dependent for their prosperity on shipping, shipbuilding, and allied industries. Efforts are being made by Committees to mitigate the suffering thus caused.

It is the general opinion that the poverty of the towns must be largely ascribed to moral causes—*e.g.*, intemperance, gambling, extravagance, and thriftlessness. Much of it, however, is stated to be undoubtedly due to economic conditions, especially among unskilled labourers. The average wage among this class is very low—at most 25s. per week, and in the large proportion of cases considerably less. Unskilled labourers suffer, too, from irregular employment. Very few are able to do more than live "from hand to mouth," and provision for future need is practically impossible. As is pointed out in the report on Self-Help (page 13), it is among this class that the benefits of Trades Union provident funds are least enjoyed, owing, apparently, to the general inability to pay the contributions to the "Friendly Section" of the Labourers' Union.

Another economic cause of poverty mentioned in some of the reports is the operation of the Workmen's Compensation Acts, which have the effect of making it extremely difficult for the physically unfit, and those who are past the prime of life, to obtain employment. We are of opinion that this is the case to a much greater extent than the reports of the incumbents show.

Further details of the condition of the towns in County Durham will be found in a report kindly prepared by the Rector of Gateshead, Rev. P. A. Derry, which is printed below (page 7).

(*b*) *Colliery and Rural Districts.*—It is gratifying to be able to record that there is, comparatively speaking, little poverty in the colliery and rural districts—except among the aged, widows, and those who are physically unfit—and that it is not increasing in intensity except among the last-named class. This increase is due, as in the towns, to the operation of the Workmen's Compensation Acts in

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making it difficult for them to obtain employment. With this exception, such poverty as does exist in these districts is almost invariably ascribed to moral causes—intemperance, gambling, thriftlessness, &c. So far as the colliery districts are concerned times are good, work is plentiful, wages are much better than they have been for many years, and, as colliery houses are only occupied by those who are in the employ of the colliery companies, poverty, when it exists, is seldom due to economic causes. Moreover, the mining population are secured against the distress which would otherwise result from periodic industrial depression, illness, accident, death of bread-winner, &c., by the numerous organisations for self-help which are established among them. So beneficially do these agencies operate among the largest industrial section of the community that the Commission has thought well to append to its report some information, prepared by the Hon. Secretary, as to their extent and usefulness. We are largely indebted to Mr. John Wilson, M.P., Secretary of the Durham Miners' Union, for his assistance in this section of the report, and to the Secretaries of the various Trade Unions mentioned in it.

2. *Methods of Administering Relief.*—The general answer to this question is "No." Few committees for the distribution of (Church) charitable relief exist in the county—only one or two instances being recorded in the reports (see, *e.g.*, Sunderland). The general usage is for the clergy to dispense relief themselves, with the aid in many instances of District Visitors and other Church workers. The relief given is nearly always in the form of tickets on tradesmen—money being given only in rare cases, when the distressed are well known to the clergy and perfectly trustworthy. It would seem in the majority of cases to be unnecessary to have Parochial Relief Committees—the amount expended on charitable assistance being very small in most parishes. In the town areas relief committees are usually formed in times of distress, as is shown in some of the reports appended, *e.g.*, Stockton (page 26). In one case, that of Consett, the incumbent states that he receives considerable assistance in relief work from the local branch of the Church of England Men's Society. In several towns there are branches of the Charity Organisation Society with which Churchmen are associated, and in many parishes the clergy co-operate with this society in their distribution of relief.

There are in some parishes Nursing Associations for the relief of the sick, supported by voluntary subscription. Great good is also done by the issue of Dispensary tickets in connection with such institutions as Sherburn Hospital, the Gateshead Dispensary, and the dispensaries at the hospitals in the towns. In connection with the former institution some 4,000 tickets are issued annually to the clergy and large employers of labour in the Diocese, besides which it has an Infirmary for the sick poor capable of taking 30 patients. For the relief of the aged such institutions do good work. Sherburn Hospital gives a pension of 10s. per week to 15 "out-brethren" and 30 "out-sisters," and provides a separate room, regular allowance of food and clothing, and 4s. per week to 15 "in-brethren." All recipients of this charity are required to give evidence of good character and necessitous circumstances, and in the case of in-brethren some religious qualification is demanded. Greatham Hospital has 13 in-brethren and 27 out-brethren. The latter receive 10s. per week and are members of the Church of England. In Gateshead there is an "Aged Society," which provides coals for about 70 aged persons per annum. King James' Hospital in Gateshead is another charity providing pensions of 10s. and 5s. per week for some 56 aged men. In several parishes there are almshouses for aged persons.

The receipt of Church charity, as a general rule, is not conditioned by religious belief. This, we believe, is true of all the parishes in the Diocese.

3. *Reluctance to accept Poor Law Relief.*—It is generally agreed that there is great reluctance in all parts of the county to enter the workhouse because of the loss of liberty involved, the break-up of the home, the stigma attached, etc. Great hardships are undoubtedly borne in many cases by poor persons because of their extreme unwillingness to enter the workhouse. It is alleged that in some cases the "House" is offered by Relieving Officers where they know it will not be acceptable, in order to avoid giving outdoor relief, and thus to keep the expenditure of the Guardians down. The following instance of unrelieved distress due to reluctance to enter the workhouse is given by one incumbent:—"Mrs. A. lived comfortably till her husband lost his work

through trade depression; then he left her saying she would be better off without him, as the Guardians would help if he was not there. This the Guardians declined to do. A baby was born and died the same week through the mother being so ill-fed; another child died the next week, practically starved. The mother was relieved by charity for a few weeks, and is now earning sufficient to keep the family. If 7s. 6d. per week had been granted for two months all would have been well." It is said that this instance is typical of others, but we do not think that they are common. Indeed, we believe them to be exceptional, and we have no means of judging the grounds on which the Guardians acted in such a case as the above. We believe, too, that Poor Law Authorities do not as a general rule relieve women who have been deserted by their husbands, because of the abuse to which such relief is liable. A more common type of distress resulting from unwillingness to enter the "House" is illustrated by the example quoted by the Commissioners for Mid-Tyne and Chester-le-Street (Appendix, page 18, B. 3).

The worst cases of distress due to reluctance to accept indoor relief occur among the sick and aged who live alone and do not receive adequate attention, medical treatment, or nourishment in consequence. An instance is quoted of an old woman who steadfastly refused to enter the Workhouse, preferring conditions of dreadful squalor and filth amid which she lay in her last illness—her death being, undoubtedly, accelerated by them. The outdoor relief she received was wholly inadequate to her needs. Such cases are, we believe, by no means rare.

There is no unwillingness to receive outdoor relief. Quite the contrary is the case.

Cases of distress are alleged in several reports, due to the refusal of children to help their aged parents and the neglect of the Guardians to take steps to compel them so to do, while at the same time withholding relief altogether on the ground that the children of applicants ought to support them. One case of this kind quoted is that of a Doctor's widow of good character. On the other hand, it is stated that the difficulty lies in many instances in the unwillingness of magistrates to co-operate with the Guardians by granting Orders for Payment in such cases, compelling obedience to Orders when granted, or making new Orders for the recovery of arrears, etc.

4. *Adequacy of Poor Law Relief.*—The standard of relief varies considerably in the different Poor Law Unions of the county. In many cases there is no complaint, and the relief granted is, on the whole, considered to be quite adequate. All testify, however, to the effect that the amount is inadequate when rent has to be paid and the recipient cannot live with relatives or friends.

5. *Over-lapping of Relief Funds.*—There is no over-lapping to any harmful extent—

(*a*) *Between various Forms of Charity*—except in rural districts where there are endowed charities (*see, e.g.*, Report of Commissioners for Sedgefield District), and in districts like, *e.g.*, Durham (page 28) and Darlington (page 27), where there are many well-to-do people, whose private almsgiving is often indiscriminate. There are of course no means of finding out what is done in this way by private individuals.

(*b*) *Between Church Charity and the Poor Law.*—There is, doubtless, over-lapping in some districts between the charity of private individuals and the Poor Law. But so far as Church Charity is concerned, we are glad to find that the clergy by co-operation with Relieving Officers are able to a large extent to prevent harmful overlapping, and we are of opinion that it is highly desirable that this co-operation should become general and closer. Church charity is frequently given to supplement the relief granted by the Poor Law Authorities when this seems, for any reason, to be inadequate, especially for comforts in sickness. There is no evidence available as to the existence or non-existence of overlapping between charity, other than Church Charity, and the Poor Law.

6. *Amount spent in Charitable Assistance.*—The replies to this question do not enable us to form any accurate opinion. Many incumbents make no return at

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all—or state that it is impossible to give a reliable estimate. The estimates that are given are some of them for Church funds alone—others for Church and Poor Law—others, apparently, for all forms of assistance, private, public, and religious. We are of opinion, however, that the average annual expenditure on charitable assistance of the poor by the Church in this county may be estimated at £15 to £20 per parish, with certain exceptions. The total sum on the maximum calculation would be about £5,000 per annum.

7. *Number of Persons in Receipt of Relief.*—It is impossible to give any reliable estimate of the number of persons in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law during the course of a year. The majority give no estimate—and, of those who do, many give no indication as to whether families or persons are meant. Supplementary questions dealing with children and the Poor Law and Medical Relief were suggested to us for consideration by the Bishop of Truro and others, but were received too late for incorporation in the Form of Enquiry issued to the clergy. One of the lay members of the Commission—Mr. J. E. R. Hurworth—has, however, kindly prepared answers to these questions, based on a long and intimate acquaintance with the administration of Poor Law Relief in this county. These answers are printed below (pages 9–11).

(Signed on behalf of the Durham Diocesan Commission),

W. MOORE EDE, *Chairman.*

March, 1908. J. R. CROFT, *Hon. Sec.*

POVERTY IN THE TOWNS OF COUNTY DURHAM.

In the diocese of Durham there are four County Boroughs—Sunderland, Gateshead, South Shields, and West Hartlepool. The largest population is found in Sunderland, viz., over 150,000. There are five Municipal Boroughs—Stockton-on-Tees, Darlington, Hartlepool, Jarrow, and Durham. Of these Stockton-on-Tees is the largest, with a population of 51,478, and Durham the smallest, with about 15,000.

With the exception of Durham, all these towns have the same character—namely, that of being large industrial centres. Engineering or shipbuilding, or both, in their various branches, are the main industries of them all. At Jarrow nearly half of the male population is engaged in one or other of these industries. Gateshead and Darlington have large railway works, South Shields has the largest number of Merchant Seamen, Pilots, and others connected with shipping, though in Sunderland, West Hartlepool, and Hartlepool many are similarly employed. In South Shields and Gateshead there is a considerable proportion of miners. In Gateshead there are more men employed in chemical works than anywhere else in the diocese, also a larger number of clerks, the majority of the latter being engaged either in railway work or in offices in Newcastle.

Employment of Women.—Compared with the rest of England and Wales, the proportion of women employed is low. For the whole of England, the average proportion per cent. of employed unmarried females 10 years old and upwards is 52·3 of the whole female population. The figures for three of the four County Boroughs are—Gateshead 39 per cent., Sunderland 38 per cent., and South Shields 34·9 per cent. Darlington has the highest percentage in this particular, the figures being 43·2, due to the fact that in that town textile industries are carried on. In order to appreciate the force of the figures quoted with regard to the County Boroughs, the statement should be made that in the districts of England given up to the textile industries the percentage is in one case as high as 76·5 (Blackburn). Another aspect of the employment of women is the number of married women and widows engaged in occupations. In this, the city of Durham stands at the head of the boroughs, with a proportion per cent. of 12·6. The parochial returns give an explanation of this in the statement that the widows of miners come to reside there. Sunderland and South Shields come next in this respect with a proportion of 7·7 per cent. and of 7·4 per cent., due to the fact that widows of seamen are found in large numbers in those towns. Another fact to be noticed with regard to the city of Durham is that it contains by far the largest percentage of females over the age of

10 and under 14 engaged in occupations – namely, 3·2. Taking the occupations of females as a whole, by far the larger number in every town are engaged in domestic service and dressmaking.

An interesting contribution to a general view of the material condition of a town is found in considering the proportion of householders who employ domestic servants. Nothing decisive with regard to the amount of poverty is obtained in this way, because in some districts of the diocese the proportion is very low, and yet little or no poverty is reported from those districts. In the City of York, on the other hand, the proportion is higher than in any town or district in this diocese, but 27·84 per cent. of the population are reported by Mr. Rowntree to be living in poverty, according to his standard of that condition. But, taken with the necessary modifications, the Domestic Servant test gives a very fair indication of the general condition of the County and Municipal Boroughs. It suggests how many of the inhabitants are weekly wage earners, and whether or not there is a large class of people able to contribute to the relief of the poor. The following Table, taken from the Census of 1901, shows the proportion per cent. of Domestic Servants to the total number of separate occupiers or families in the nine Boroughs of the Diocese.

Durham	22·6
Darlington	16·3
Sunderland	14·2
West Hartlepool	14·2
Hartlepool	13·6
Stockton	13.4
South Shields	12·4
Jarrow	11·5
Gateshead	9·9

To grasp the significance of these figures, it should be borne in mind that the average for England is 18 per cent., and that the largest proportion found anywhere is 79·8 per cent. at Hampstead. Devonport, a town similar in character to more than one of our towns, has 10 per cent. In the textile districts the proportion is lower than in this diocese, even in the case of large towns, Burnley having only 5·9 per cent., although the population is nearly equal to that of South Shields. With regard to the figures quoted above it is interesting to note that in the case of three out of the four towns with the highest percentage of domestic servants—namely, Durham, Darlington, and Sunderland, the complaint of the overlapping of charity is made in the parochial returns, while no such complaint is heard from the remaining towns. Taking two facts together, the proportion of domestic servants and the complaint of overlapping or otherwise, we obtain a fair indication as to the existence or otherwise of a large number of well-to-do people who are accustomed to give relief to the poor. Taking the towns as a whole the number is small, but in consideration of the present lack of organisation in charity the absence of a large pauperising class may be an advantage. At any rate, it may be fairly said that the amount of "Church cadging" is not as great in the north as in the south of England, and that the Church is not regarded to the same extent as a relief agency, pure and simple. A fact not to be overlooked is that of the constantly growing number of well-to-do people who move their residences from the districts in which their money is made, and wash their hands of responsibility for the poverty of those districts.

Housing.—In this respect few of the towns stand well compared with the rest of England. If the standard of overcrowding be that assumed in the Census of 1901—namely, more than two persons occupying one room, no County Borough in England or Wales, with the exception of Newcastle-on-Tyne, makes any approach to the bad condition of Gateshead, South Shields, and Sunderland in this respect. Gateshead comes first in the whole country with a proportion of 34·54 of its population who live in such a condition. South Shields comes next with 34·42, and Sunderland with 30·10 is slightly better than Newcastle, which has 30·47. To put the case in a different form, in Gateshead 37,957 persons live more than two in a room, in South Shields 31,520 persons, and in Sunderland 43,976 persons.

Statistics of overcrowding do not give the whole truth with regard to the poverty or otherwise of the people. They are good evidence that a large number of persons live under conditions prejudicial to health, morality, and cleanliness, but they do not

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always mean that there are not in a town a sufficient number of houses to be found at a reasonable rent. Gateshead at the present moment is an illustration of this. In the most overcrowded town in England there are one thousand to fifteen hundred empty tenements. If only the people in receipt of sufficient wages who of free choice live under overcrowded conditions could be removed, we could then judge better how far overcrowding is due to sheer poverty.

General Remarks on the Poverty of the Towns.—In considering the question of poverty, it is essential to have some standard by which to estimate it. Mr. Seebohm Rowntree, in his study of the conditions of life in York, divides the poor into two classes: (1) Those families of from two to six persons whose incomes are under 18s. a week—this he calls Primary Poverty; (2) those families of the same size whose incomes are over 18s. and under 21s. a week—this he calls Secondary Poverty. In the case of Primary Poverty, the sufferers do not earn sufficient for the necessaries of life. In the case of Secondary Poverty, there would be sufficient if it were not for some wasteful or useful expenditure.

In our opinion the greater part of the poverty of the towns belongs to the second class, although, undoubtedly, the first class in the aggregate presents an appalling picture of misery. And in the case of Secondary Poverty there is involved a great struggle, and the deprivation of much that is necessary for the proper development of human life. The lack of margin for the correction of mistakes and for the weathering of misfortunes is the sad outstanding fact. Lack of work or illness soon plunges the sufferers into the condition of Primary Poverty. In nearly all the Boroughs under consideration there are acres of streets inhabited by the poor, in Mr. Rowntree's usage of the word.

P. A. Derry.

CHILDREN AND THE POOR LAW.—MEDICAL RELIEF.

The following questions, suggested by the Bishop of Truro and others, were received too late for incorporation in the Form of Enquiry issued by the Diocesan Commission.

I.—Children.

Questions.

1. In your experience of children in your parish whose parents are in receipt of outdoor relief, have you found them sufficiently nourished? Have their mothers found time to mother them? Do they go to school till they pass 6th Standard? Does their familiarity with Relief Officer demoralise them?

2. As to those who are brought up in Poor Law Institutions, how do they compare with children brought up at home? Are they as self-dependent and as resourceful as observant? Are they more liable to attacks of temper? Does it make them ashamed among their equals?

3. Do you think it would be an improvement to dissociate children from the Poor Law Administration and transfer their care to the Education Authorities, so that they may be under the same control as other children?

Answers.

1. Generally, yes. I should say a fair proportion do *not* pass the 6th Standard I think it is a *very hurtful thing* for children to become familiarised with the Relief Office or Relief Pay Station; but I do not think they suffer much—if at all—from contact with the R.O. in their own homes.

2. Very favourably, both mentally and physically. An immense improvement is noticeable where children brought up in Poor Law Institutions, and formerly taught in them, are now allowed to attend the Public Elementary Schools. By

mixing daily with outside children they lose that dull, sheep-like expression which used to characterise the children brought up and educated in the Workhouse.

3. I think no children ought to be educated in Workhouses or similar institutions. The life is too exclusive and narrowing. If they are sent out daily to school, they seem quickly to fuse with the surrounding children, and are quite able to hold their own. The abolition of the uniform dress tends to destroy that "shame amongst equals" referred to in the questions.

Lastly, in considering the children of the poor, one is arrested by the enormous numbers who either die in their very early years or live to become mere weaklings. This is due to many causes, amongst which I place chronic or recurrent poverty, hereditary taint, idleness and/or intemperance of one or both parents, mother's ignorance or indifference in matters of feeding and tending. The most critical period of a child's life seems to be from the time it leaves the breast until it is, say, seven or eight years old. It is after this period usually able to forage for itself. I can think of nothing so helpful as a system by which trained female visitors, with a knowledge of simple domestic economy, common ailments, and nursing, should visit the houses of the poor, with power to call in the Medical Officer to cases requiring his skill, to notify the Relieving Officer where relief seems needed, and report for prosecution where children were found to be suffering from the neglect of parent or guardian.

Proposals are already in the air for school children to have medical attention from the public purse. As, however, children rarely begin school until five years of age, an enormous number would have suffered irreparably before coming under observation at school.

II.—Medical Relief.

Questions.

1. Is there any shame or any loss of reputation in making application for Medical Relief? Does this cause delay in the application for relief so that illness is aggravated?

2. Does the receipt of Medical Relief encourage application for other relief and thus tend to pauperise? Would this pauperisation be avoided by treating medical assistance as something apart from Poor Law Relief?

3. Does it seem to you that the objects of the Medical and Relieving Officers is to raise the standard of public health or merely to limit applications for relief? Would the former object be promoted if medical attendance were (a) dissociated from the Poor Law and (b) put under the control of the Medical Officer of Health, whose duty it should be to see that everyone was kept as healthy as possible?

Answers.

1. So far as I gather from a long personal experience and conversation with others engaged in Poor Law work, people have very little hesitation in asking for Medical Relief.

Many of the applicants are careful to explain that they are not asking for "Relief" (*i.e.*, money or groceries), but "only for the Doctor," and they show by their attitude that they have established a sharp distinction between medical and other forms of relief.

In my experience, I have known very few cases of people suffering through an unwillingness as ask for Medical Relief. The cases brought to light are invariably those of old people who have retained the fast disappearing prejudice against applying to "the Parish."

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2. Many persons undoubtedly use Medical Relief as a stepping-stone to other forms of relief. This is particularly the case in places where the Medical Officer dispenses with a free hand notes of recommendation or certificates to the Relieving Officer, without himself questioning the applicants as to their resources. Of course, the Medical Officer only *recommends*, and the Relieving Officer investigates and relieves. Still, the latter cannot but feel that by ignoring the Medical Officer's recommendation he may assume a serious responsibility, and a careful Medical Officer, by a few judicious questions and a little useful advice, may avert an application for relief in kind, in a case where the need is not pressing or the condition not a serious one.

I think it possible that pauperisation would be reduced if Medical Relief were administered apart from the Poor Law.

3. This depends absolutely upon the way Medical and Relieving Officers regard their work.

(a and b.) I think so, provided the Medical Officer has not too large an area to manage, and is not hampered with other appointments or a private practice.

As to Relieving Officers. In these days, the salaries offered to Relieving Officers are generally large enough to tempt men of decent education and antecedents. There is, therefore, no excuse for Boards of Guardians who appoint men of deficient education to these posts merely because of local influence or for some equally mischievous reason. If, before such appointments were made, the selected candidates were interviewed by a representative of the central authority, the inferior type of candidate would in time disappear, and be replaced by men who would bring developed reasoning powers to bear upon the problems facing them in their work.

J. E. R. Hurworth.

SELF-HELP IN THE COUNTY OF DURHAM.

There is little doubt that the various agencies for the encouragement of self-help are largely responsible for the comparative absence of poverty which the reports reveal. While it is impossible to give a complete list of all such agencies in the County, we are able to submit some figures showing the extent and usefulness of some of the principal thrift organisations.

A.—General.

1. *Co-operative Stores.*—Foremost among the movements which make for the prosperity of the Working Classes of the County stands the *Co-operative Store System.* The giving of a dividend on purchases has the effect of practically compelling the unthrifty who spend all their earnings, to save something. In innumerable cases these dividends, varying in different stores from 2s. to 4s. in the £, have encouraged members to begin saving, and have been the means of securing them from the ills of poverty in old age or misfortune. Indirectly, too, through the training in business habits which they receive in managing their stores and through the educative influence which comes from the store library and lecture hall, the members are helped in their efforts to avoid poverty and dependence on charity or Poor Law Relief. Some idea of the magnitude of the Co-operative movement in the County of Durham may be gathered from the following figures taken from the 39th Congress Report of the Co operative Societies (1907) :—

——	No. of Stores.	Membership.	Sales during Year.
			£
West Durham and South Northumberland District -	*23	31,721	1,490,480
East Durham - - - - - - - - -	21	65,732	2,303,825
South Durham - - - - - - - - -	20	41,443	1,705,452
South Durham and North Riding of Yorks - -	†19	54,687	1,835,903

*12 of which are in Co. Durham. †7 of which are in Co. Durham.

2. *Friendly Societies.*—These have considerable influence in the County, and the benefits they offer are enjoyed by many who are not members of Trades Unions—though, of course, Trades Union members are, many of them, members of Friendly Societies also. In the year 1905 *the total expenditure of Friendly Societies in the County, for benefits of various kinds, was* £125,819—above £1 per head of the total membership. (See Table below.) The chief orders in the County of Durham are Oddfellows, Foresters, Shepherds and Free Gardeners.

The scales of payment and benefit in Friendly Societies are illustrated by the following figures taken from the Rules of the Durham District Branch of the Independent Order of Oddfellows (Manchester Unity):—

Monthly Contribution, from 1s. 8d. to 3s. 6d., according to age at date of initiation.
" " (for those engaged in hazardous occupations), from 1s. 8½d. to 3s. 10½d., according to age at date of initiation.
Additional payments to Management Funds, not less than 4d. per month.
Contribution to funeral expenses of district (per annum), from 1s. 8d. to 11s. 6d. per member, according to age.

The above payments entitle members to the following benefits:—

10s. per week in sickness for first 26 weeks.
7s. 6d. " " " next "
5s. " so long as sickness may continue.
£10 on death of a member.
£5 " a member's wife.
£2 10s. " a member's second wife.

We are indebted to the Registrar of Friendly Societies for the following summary of the membership and funds of the Friendly Societies of County Durham for the year ending December 31, 1905:—

	Ordinary Friendly Societies.	Societies with Branches.	Total in County.
Lodges	105	768	873
Membership	14,774	100,158	114,932
Receipts (Benefit Funds)	£ 14,199	£ 121,113	£ 135,312
Sickness Pay and Medical Aid expenditure	9,569	90,887	100,456
Sums paid at Death	3,823	17,472	21,295
*Other Benefits	781	2,063	2,844
†Other Payments	480	744	1,224
Total Benefit Expenditure	14,653	111,166	125,819
Balance at end of year (Benefit Funds)	65,191	437,028	502,219

* This item includes old age pay, annuities, distress relief, and other benefits of an individual character.
† This item includes funds divided among the members, and payments to or on behalf of the members generally.
N.B.—In explanation of the above Table it should be stated that the title *Ordinary Friendly Societies* is applied to purely local societies. A large number of these are Women's Societies. The great orders—*e.g.*, Oddfellows, Foresters, etc.—are grouped under the title *Societies with Branches.*

In this connection we are glad to note that the Temperance Orders are growing rapidly in the County. Of these, the Order of the Sons of Temperance and the Independent Order of Rechabites are the most important. The latter had in 1906 a membership in County Durham of 10,700 Adults and 12,500 Juveniles. The District Funds were returned at £13,500—the Tents Funds at £16,500. By a fortnightly payment, ranging from 7¾d. at age 16 to 18 to 1s. 2¼d. at age 44 to 45, members can insure themselves for a sick payment of 10s. per week and £10 at death, and for slightly increased payments for greater benefits up to 15s. per week and £30 at

death. An additional 3d. per fortnight secures free medical attendance and medicine. These contributions also cover benefits on the death of member's children varying from 12s. 6d. to £1 10s., according to age. Separate scales of contribution are available for women and children. The Order of the Sons of Temperance had in 1905 about 100 branches—representing six Grand Divisions, which had a total membership of 23,957. Of these Grand Divisions, that with the largest membership—Newcastle-on-Tyne (12,670)—includes some branches in Northumberland. But making due allowance for this, the Durham membership is very large. The Church of England Temperance Benefit Society has 12 Lodges in the County. The Temperance Societies add a powerful inducement to total abstinence, and thus aid in the diminution of poverty arising from intemperance.

3. Of *Trade Unions*, other than the Durham Miners' Association, in the County the most important are the following:—The Boiler Makers and Iron and Steel Ship Builders, the Amalgamated Engineers, the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, Amalgamated Joiners and Carpenters, and the Gasworkers' and General Labourers' Union. All these have benefit funds whereby members are protected against the distress resulting from sickness, death, trade disputes, or scarcity of work. It has not been possible to obtain figures for the first three. But the following information, kindly supplied by the secretaries of the various societies, shows the membership of small but typical unions and the operation of their benefit funds.

(i.) Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners.

	£	s.	d.
Total number of members in County Durham at the end of October, 1907 - 3,217			
*Contributions paid in the year 1906 in the County. (This includes Contributions, Fines, and Levies: the Levies were rather heavy during this year.)	12,042	13	11
Unemployed benefit paid during 1906	5,548	1	6
Sick benefit paid during 1906	2,319	11	0
Tool benefit, replacing lost Tools	106	4	0
Superannuation Benefit, some at 8s. and some at 7s. per week	1,393	2	4
Contingent Benefit to members in distress	162	0	0
Accident Benefit	325	0	0
Death Benefit to members and members' wives	364	10	0
Total Benefits paid	10,218	8	10

* The ordinary contribution is 1s. per week, which is stated to be too small for the benefits paid, and therefore the Society often has to levy, an expedient which the rules provide for.

(ii.) Gasworkers' and General Labourers' Union.

		£	s.	d.
Members in County Durham	5,000			
Members in Sick and Burial section	700			
Income in 1906 from these 700 in Sick and Burial section		317	13	4
Benefits paid in 1906		36	0	0

The following are the scales of (*a*) contribution for participation in the Sick and Burial Benefits, and (*b*) Benefits per head:—

(*a*) *Contributions.*

	s.	d.
Accident and Burial Entrance Fee	0	8
Weekly Contributions	0	2
Sick and Burial Entrance Fee	1	2
Weekly Contributions (including Cards and Rules)	0	4
Supplementary Fund, for paying Members' Contributions when off work, weekly Contributions	0	0½

(*b*) *Benefits.*

Sick or Accident	8s. per week for 13 weeks and 4s. for further 13 weeks
Death of Member	£6
Death of Member's Wife	£3

It would appear from the membership figures of the last-named Union that the unskilled labourers of the County are not so well able to contribute to the benefit funds of their Union as are members of other trades. It is among this class of workmen that poverty is most prevalent. Wages are low; work is uncertain. Many are thus unable to insure themselves against distress and future need, and their plight in times of trade depression is in consequence very much worse than that of other workmen.

(iii.) THE ASSOCIATED SHIPWRIGHTS' SOCIETY.

Number of Members in County Durham 1,978:—

	£	s.	d.
Income from County Durham in 1906	4,467	5	8
Relief granted in 1906:—			
Trade Dispute Benefit	65	14	0
Unemployed	414	13	0
Sick and Accident Benefit	1,450	0	0
Superannuation „	190	10	0
Funeral „	259	10	0
Total Benefits paid	2,380	7	0

The scales of contribution in the various Trade Unions differ in details, but the following Table, kindly supplied by the secretary of the last-named Society, is offered as typical:—

Contributions.	Trade Benefit.	Tool Compensation.	Unemployed Benefit.	Sick Benefit.	Accident Benefit.	Superannuation Benefit.	Funeral Benefit.	Accident Bonus.
1s. per week.	12s. per week.	50 per cent. of cost of Tools up to £5.	9s. per week 10 weeks, 5s. 10 weeks.	12s. for 13 weeks. 8s. „ 13 „ 6s. „ 26 „ 5s. for as long as has been a member.	12s. for 13 weeks. 8s. „ 13 „ 6s. „ 26 „ 5s. for as long as a man has been a member.	5s. to 8s. according to length of membership.	£10. Members' Wife, £5.	Total Disablement £100. No Further Benefits after receipt.
9d. per week.	Do.	Do.	None.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.	Do.
6d. per week.	Do.	Do.	None.	6s. for 13 weeks. 4s. „ 13 „ 3s. „ 26 „ 2s. 6d. for as long as has been a member.	6s. for 13 weeks. 4s. „ 13 „ 3s. „ 26 „ 2s. 6d. for as long as a man has been a member.	3s. to 4s. 6d. per week, according to membership.	£5. Member's Wife, £2 10s.	Do
3d. per week.	Do.	Do.	None.	None.	None.	None.	Member only, £3.	Do.

4. *Hospitals.*—Considerable contributions are made by workmen of all trades to the various Hospitals in the County—the money thus contributed being in some cases almost equal to the actual amount expended on those members of the contributing trades who benefit by hospital treatment.

B.—AMONG MINERS.

Among the Miners of the County agencies for self-help are numerous and in the highest degree beneficial. 1. Foremost among them is the DURHAM MINERS' ASSOCIATION, the membership of which numbers about 95,000. For a payment of 1s. per fortnight the miner is insured against sickness or accident for 10s. per week and a Death Benefit for himself of £8 or £6, for his wife of £3. A further payment of 8d. per fortnight guarantees him an income of 10s. per week in time of trade depression or other occasions on which he may be out of work.

The following figures taken from the Balance Sheet for the year ending December 1906 show the amount expended in benefits during that year by the Durham Miners' Association.

	£	s.	d.
Sickness and Accident Benefits	57,095	14	9
Death Benefits	6,239	16	0
*Relief Fund for those out of work	10,245	5	7
Grants and Donations	367	2	0
Total Benefits paid	73,947	18	4

*An example of the usefulness of this Fund was furnished in the year 1895, when for a considerable period no fewer than 5,000 men were in receipt of a weekly allowance of 10s.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

2. PERMANENT RELIEF FUND.—Another important thrift agency among miners is the *Permanent Relief Fund* for the Counties of Northumberland and Durham. This Fund was established in 1863, and has since its commencement disbursed about £2,400,000 in relief of various kinds. The Minor Accidents section was founded in 1874, and the Superannuation Scheme in the following year. The largest expenditure is that for pensions for aged and infirm workmen—the amount thus disbursed since 1875 being £884,000. The income is practically all derived from members' contributions—the total amount of which since 1863 is returned at £2,776,000. The accumulated capital of the Fund is £398,000. By far the larger proportion of contributors to this Fund are Durham men. We are indebted to the General Secretary, Mr. W. Barnes, for the following information as to the work of the Fund in this County.

Number of members in County Durham 117,395.

Amount of Contributions (1906) £111,280 12s. 7d. (about two-thirds of the total contributions from both Counties.)

Amount of Contributions (per head) Full Members 5d. per week, Half-Members 2½d. per week.

Benefits
- 5s. per week for accidents incapacitating for less than 26 weeks.
- 8s. per week for accidents incapacitating for more than 26 weeks.
- Legacy of £23 in single fatal cases.
- Legacy of £12 in single fatal cases among Half-Members.
- Legacy of £5 and 2s. per week for each child and 5s. per week for widows of married members.
- Pension of 5s. per week in old age.

The total expenditure in the two Counties—exclusive of management expenses—in 1906, was about £137,000—of which Durham would receive a share proportionate to its membership. The following figures taken from the Annual Report show the details of expenditure on relief in the two Counties.

	£	s.	d.
Legacies	2,592	4	0
Widows, Guardians, and Children	24,044	11	7
Permanently Disabled	21,883	2	11
Minor Accidents	26,487	13	9
Pensions for Aged Miners	62,383	9	10

The Permanent Recipients of the various funds (both Counties) in 1906 were returned as follows:—

Widows	1,335
Guardians	62
Children	1,347
Permanently Disabled	1,216
Aged Miners	4,778
Total	8,738

The number of beneficiaries participating in the Minor Accidents Fund during 1906 was 27,293, of whom, again, the larger number were Durham miners.

On the assumption that two-thirds of the amount spent in benefits by the Permanent Relief Fund in 1906 was distributed in County Durham, *the total amount expended by the two above-named agencies for the relief of distress, etc., among miners was about* £165,000.

4. DOCTORS' FEES.—In addition to the above substantial safeguards against poverty the miners provide for times of sickness in their homes by a fortnightly payment of 9d. to their doctor, which entitles themselves and their families to free attendance and medicine.

5. Aged Miners' Homes Association.—This is another excellent agency for the minimising of distress among miners in old age. The A.M.H. Association—with the founding of which Bishop Westcott was closely connected—possesses some 250 houses and other property, representing a capital value of £35,000. These houses have been provided partly by subscriptions from the general public—the largest subscribers being the colliery owners—partly by the subscriptions of miners themselves. The amount contributed by the mining population to these homes is about £1,300 per annum. The Committee, of which Mr. John Wilson is Chairman and Canon Moore Ede Treasurer, is constantly acquiring and building new houses. Aged miners and their wives are nominated and elected by ballot of the contributing workmen to occupation of these houses. Practically all of them are in receipt of the weekly pension of 5s. from the Permanent Relief Fund. All are supplied with free coals by the Committee. The scheme ensures to a large number of industrious and deserving miners, who have been unable to make adequate provision for old age, a comfortable cottage, in many cases a small garden, conditions and companionship such as they have been accustomed to all their lives, and freedom from the taint of pauperism. It has been rightly described as a practical solution—in connection with the Permanent Relief Fund—of the problem of Old Age Pensions, and that largely by the efforts of the miners themselves.

The above-named thrift agencies are not, of course, mutually exclusive—large numbers of miners contributing to them all and enjoying the protection against poverty which they ensure.

6. Levies, Benefit Concerts, Collections, etc.—In addition to these organised methods of providing against distress there is a custom among the mine workers of raising a "levy" for widow and children in cases of fatal accident. In the large collieries the amount thus collected reaches sometimes to £100 or more. Other almost universally observed customs which mitigate distress are the collecting of subscriptions from house to house for the benefit of a sick fellow workman or a widow and her children, and the organising of benefit concerts, etc., by which large sums are raised every year. Besides maintaining all these agencies for self-help and mutual assistance the miners take their part in the support of hospitals, friendly societies, etc., such as are mentioned above. The Co-operative System, too, finds by far its largest number of supporters among the mining community—practically all of them being members of one or other of the numerous stores in the County.

J. R. CROFT.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

APPENDIX.

Summary of Reports received from the Incumbents of the County of Durham.

GATESHEAD DISTRICT.

A.—CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISTRICT.

Parishes.—The Gateshead Union contains within it 24 ecclesiastical parishes. Of these 14 are within the borough of Gateshead and two (Felling and Dunston) are outside, but they belong to the Rural Deanery, and are practically part of the town. The remaining eight parishes (Greenside, Ryton, Whickham, Swalwell, Winlaton, Heworth, St. Alban's, Heworth, and Blaydon) are all within a few miles of Gateshead.

Number of Returns.—There are returns from 23 parishes.

Population.—The population of the union is 182,000. This number is taken from the ecclesiastical returns, but the number is probably larger than this.

Nature of the population.—From the point of view of this enquiry, the chief characteristic of the population, taken as a whole, is the smallness of the number of rich people. There are some in St. George's, Gateshead, in Low Fell, Whickham and Ryton, but, taking Gateshead itself, it may be said to be a poor town compared with other towns of its size. There is a very small number of the villa class of inhabitants. The number of people who keep domestic servants is small considering the size of the town. This fact of the comparative poverty of the whole town has a bearing on the question of voluntary relief of the poor. It means that the amount spent in charitable relief is small, and raises the question whether the needy are really any worse off in Gateshead than they are in wealthier towns.

The industries of the district are varied. In Gateshead itself there are well-known works, and in the outside parishes there are collieries and some agricultural work.

B.—THE REPLIES.

1. Of the parishes outside the deanery five report that there is no poverty, or not much, three report that there is a great deal. None of these say that that poverty is increasing.

Within the deanery, eight report much and seven not much. All agree that there is *some* in every parish, but only three say that it is increasing in the town of Gateshead.

So out of 23 parshes, 11 complain of poverty, and if returns had been sent in from St. Pauls the number would have been 12. Although in three of the poorest parishes in Gateshead it is stated that the poverty is increasing, we are of opinion that there is not at the present time any noticeable increase going on in the town. No doubt some streets are deteriorating in the class of people who live in them, but in most of the worst streets things seem to have reached their lowest level. The cause of poverty in most of the returns is said to be drink, gambling, improvidence, sickness. One incumbent mentions tuberculosis as one of the causes. Economic causes are not mentioned by any of the incumbents. Two refer to the Workmen's Compensation Acts as making employment difficult to obtain by elderly men, and one states that the need of tariff reform is one of the causes of poverty. In our opinion one of the causes is the low rate of wages paid to labourers, a rate which makes thrift almost an impossibility. Taking the replies as a whole, the opinion of the clergy seems to be that the poverty in their parishes is due in the main to moral causes.

2. The replies show that there is very little method in the bestowal of relief. In most cases no distinction is made in the answers between the different classes named in the question.

In no parish is there a relief committee.

The incumbent usually distributes the alms himself; sometimes the other clergy assist him, helped by the paid women workers; in one case the churchwardens are stated to have done the work.

In two cases acquaintance with C.O.S. methods is shown, and almsgiving is claimed to be directed by them. In all cases care is claimed as being taken in the granting of relief. Relief is most frequently given in the form of orders on tradesmen.

3. Although some cases of hardship are quoted, the majority agree that there is no distress, owing to reluctance to apply for help from the Poor Law.

There is complete agreement that there is great reluctance to enter the workhouse, owing to the stigma attached, the loss of liberty, the break up of the home, the compulsory work when there.

One incumbent considers that there is reluctance to apply for out-relief owing to the conduct of the relieving officers, who, it is said, treat the applicants as criminals. The majority are of opinion that there is no reluctance to apply for out relief.

4. Opinion is equally divided as to the distress caused by the inadequacy of Poor Law Relief. Eleven answer yes and eleven no. All agree that such relief is inadequate. The amount is usually 2s. 6d. a week.

5. All agree that there is no overlapping, or not much, though the distinction between overlapping with Poor Law relief and charitable relief is not observed in the replies. The district is not one where overlapping with private or other charity, apart from the Poor Law, is likely to be found, because there are not a large number of people who are able to spend money in this kind of charity.

Only three incumbents speak of co-operation with the Relieving Officers.

6. This answer was not clearly given in every case. This is to be regretted, as it is important to know what sum of money is given through the church. Five incumbents supply no figures, and one states an impossible amount of £400, and that in a working class parish. As the figures stand, omitting the £400, they amount to £491 from all the incumbents who have given figures. Very little, if anything, is known of sums contributed by non-churchpeople.

In order to arrive at an estimate of what each parish has to give we have taken the figures returned by the Gateshead deanery as contributed in 1905 for the poor and for hospitals. We have deducted from the total the amount which we considered each parish might have given to hospitals, and the remainder we have taken to be the amount used in relief of the poor. The sum is £359, which allows about £22 for each parish in the deanery. This we should say is a fair estimate of what each parish in the union has to give away to the poor. In some cases it is too large, as one return only states £10 as the amount for that parish. Whickham, on the other hand, states £40.

In Gateshead there are certain church charities, amounting last year to £120, which sum, after deducting about £20, was divided among the parishes according to their needs.

The clergy have dispensary letters to distribute, which are in great demand. There is also an Aged Society, which helped last year 200 people with money, clothing, coals, and food. The amount distributed was £89, which sum means about 9s. for each person relieved.

7. No clear answer can be given to this question. The replies contain very few estimates.

(Signed) P. A. Derry,

(Rector of Gateshead).

(Signed) T. Reed.

MID-TYNE AND CHESTER-LE-STREET DISTRICT.

Of 18 forms of enquiry issued, 16 have been returned duly completed—viz., six from Tyneside parishes, comprising the urban districts of Jarrow and Hebburn, and 10 from parishes situated in colliery and rural districts.

As the two classes of parishes are quite dissimilar in character, it is proposed to deal with them separately.

A.—MID-TYNE DISTRICT, COMPRISING THE TOWNSHIPS OF JARROW AND HEBBURN.

ANSWERS RECEIVED FROM SIX OUT OF SEVEN PARISHES.

1. Yes, there is considerable poverty, said to be increasing. Special causes. — *Moral:* Drink and gambling; improvidence. *Economic:* Insufficient employment; lack of provision for old age; operation of Workmen's Compensation Acts; small wages and large families.

2. *Normally*, no special methods of administering charitable assistance. No committee at work, but relief given direct by clergy or district visitors. Money not often given, but orders on tradesmen for goods.

At times of great depression in trade and widespread poverty, committees have been formed, composed of workmen, clergy, district visitors, who enquire into circumstances of applicants, and administer relief in the form of food, clothing, and free meals to children.

3. Yes. But this reluctance is chiefly in respect of relief inside the workhouse. The improvident, as soon as they reach the age of 60, apply for relief as a matter of course, without any sense of shame. If outdoor relief is refused they will often endure great hardships rather than enter the workhouse.

Causes of this reluctance:—Loss of liberty, compulsion of personal cleanliness, moral stigma and sense of shame, dread of dying there.

4. Generally, no. One answers "Yes." In the case of widows and children of unskilled labourers—a class often thriftless—*i.e.*, Mrs. L, widow, with five children. Receives 6s. from guardians. Pays rent 2s. 6d. a week. Earns about 2s. a week by picking coals from cinder heaps. Helped a little by neighbours. Children look poorly nourished.

5. No overlapping, except in times of depression in trade.

6. Hard to estimate. (a) About £50; (b) £10; (c) £10 or £12.

7. Estimated by two correspondents at 20 families each, exclusive of doles.

B.—RURAL AND COLLIERY DISTRICTS.

1. According to the replies received, work is particularly brisk in the colliery districts, and there appears to be practically no poverty except such as arises from (a) intemperance, (b) gambling, and (c) improvidence.

A slight amount of poverty in certain parishes is due to long continued illness.

2. In none of the parishes is there any special method of administering charitable assistance. The general plan is for the clergy to dispense such relief as is given. In two parishes district visitors assist in the work.

There is a nursing association at work in one parish, the funds of which are subscribed by the parishioners. All sick persons are entitled to the services of its nurse.

In another parish all invalid requisites are provided for the use of the sick poor.

One parish (Lamesley) reports that almshouses provide homes for eight aged couples, and that about £13 per annum is divided amongst them.

Generally, relief is given in the form of tickets for groceries, medical comforts, etc., and not in money.

3. There is no appreciable amount of unrelieved distress due to reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief.

Many of the poor object to go into the workhouse owing to the constraint and stigma, but there is apparently no reluctance to apply for outdoor relief. One parish reports too great a readiness to apply for outdoor relief.

One instance is given of an old woman over 70 years of age, who received 3s. per week from the guardians, and pays 2s. 6d. in rent, and so has 6d. to live upon. Her neighbours and friends practically keep her. She would rather starve than go into the workhouse.

4. There is no complaint that the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians is inadequate. Some of the replies show that, on the other hand, the guardians are sympathetic and the scale of relief liberal.

What appears to bear particularly hard upon the poverty stricken is high rents. When outdoor relief is granted the high house rents inordinately reduce the benefits.

5. There is no overlapping of charitable agencies and no needless overlapping of such agencies and the Poor Law.

There appears to have been no attempt made to effect a system of co-operation between the Relieving Officer and the clergy and others administering charity.

In one parish the recipients of a public charity also receive Poor Law relief, but it is not suggested that the total amount received is excessive.

6. The answers to this question are very indefinite. In the majority of cases there appears to be no means of forming an estimate of the amounts spent in charitable asisstance of the poor. In one parish (Lamesley) the amount so spent is returned at £100.

7. Only four of the ten parishes give any idea of the number of cases relieved other than by the Poor Law. The particulars given are as follows:—

(a) About 60 individuals under a public charity.
(b) 34 individuals.
(c) 50 families in the course of each year.
(d) 4 or 5 persons or families per week.

(Signed) J. GILL,
(Vicar of St. Peter's Church, Jarrow).
(Signed) T. H. SPENCER.

SOUTH SHIELDS DISTRICT.

1. There are certain slum districts of the town where the amount of constant poverty is considerable. In other districts it is only due to special circumstances, such as prolonged illness, etc.

The special causes to which the extreme poverty is attributed are:—

A. Drinking and gambling.
B. The fact that most of the men in these districts are employed in casual labour, which is always precarious. When work is in any way slack these men are unemployed, and from the nature of their work have no savings to fall back on.
C. There are a large number of widows of seamen who have lost their lives at sea.
D. Lack of thrift.

2. In all cases clergy administer their own relief, acting on personal knowledge of the cases relieved and on the reports of their district visitors.

3. (a) A considerable number of aged and sick persons feel great reluctance to enter the workhouse, and prefer less favourable conditions in their own homes (several instances were given in the various reports). (b) There is not the same reluctance to receive out-door relief.

The causes of the reluctance of (a) are:—

1. Prejudice.
2. The thought of becoming "paupers."
3. The sacrifice of freedom and independence.

4. On the whole, not much. But sometimes the clergy, acting with the advice of the Relieving Officer, supplement the Guardians' relief.

5. What overlapping there is takes place with regard to private individual charity, which is almost unavoidable. There is not a large amount of charity distributed in the town, except by the Church and the

Guardians. In almost every parish the Relieving Officers are consulted, and are always ready to give advice and help to the clergy.

6. There are no returns made by some parishes, but where returns have been made, the amounts vary from £10 to £100.

7. No approximate estimate can be given.

The two Bollon parishes report that there is very little poverty there, and that there should be none at all if thrift and sobriety were exercised.

(Signed) H. E. Bilbrough,
(Vicar of South Shields).

(Signed) G. Drury,

SUNDERLAND DISTRICT.

The area concerning which this report refers comprises the town of Sunderland, together with Southwick, Fulwell, and Hylton, which are virtually part of the town and subject to the same conditions, though not incorporated in the borough, and also the two colliery parishes of Ryhope and Castletown and the parish of Whitburn, which is partly residentiary, partly colliery. In Sunderland there are some ancient charities—notably the Hudson, which makes grants of £10 to children of respectable widows, the Woodcock, which grants small pensions to widows of sailors, and some free rooms connected with Bishopwearmouth Church. There is a certain amount of promiscuous private charity, and a branch of the C.O.S., which does good work in investigating cases. There is also a committee under the Unemployed Act, but this has not done much work, and an attempt is being made to establish a Civic League on the lines of the Elberfeld system. The number of persons volunteering as helpers has not been adequate up to the present, but this experiment is only in its initial stage, and it is impossible to say whether it will prove effective.

The population of the area included in the returns is about 300,000. The main industry is shipbuilding, and, as this has been remarkably brisk, the amount of unavoidable poverty has been small; but there has recently been a sudden cessation of shipbuilding, due to the rise in the price of coal and other causes, and the consequence is a sudden lack of employment and the prospect of great destitution and poverty during the coming winter. Of the 25 parishes, 23 have sent in returns more or less complete.

These may be summarised as follows:—

In answer to No. 1: Apart from the depression, which began only a few weeks ago, the general testimony is that poverty has not been on the increase, except in parishes like St. Peter's, Holy Trinity, and St. John's, from which the artisans and more respectable people are migrating, and which are becoming more exclusively slum parishes. In the colliery parishes there is very little poverty. There is a general agreement to the effect that among the contributory causes of poverty are

1. Thriftlessness—waste of wages and unwise expenditure.
2. Intemperance.
3. Among unskilled labourers the amount of "broken time."
4. One attributes the increase of poverty in his slum parish to the effect of the Compensation Act in making it more difficult for the aged and bodily and mentally defective to obtain employment. One attributes the poverty to economic causes, but does not specify them.

One return from a colliery parish points out the beneficial results of the co-operative stores in promoting thrift in the form of dividends on purchases, which enable parents, otherwise thriftless, to provide clothes for their children, etc.

Question 2. Out of the 24 parishes which have sent in returns, only one (that of St. Hilda's) has any special form of administering relief. In that parish there is a committee of laymen, who consider all cases reported as necessitous, and determine what assistance shall be given from the Church alms. In the rest the alms are distributed by the clergy only, or by the clergy and Church workers. Assistance is in the main confined to the sick and aged, and is given in kind.

3. The answer to this question is practically unanimous. All testify that there is great reluctance to enter the workhouse, because it breaks up the home and restrains liberty, but that there is little reluctance to apply for or receive out-relief.

4. There is a general agreement that the out-relief is inadequate where rent has to be paid out of the amount received, but that it is adequate where the recipients live with friends or relatives rent free.

5. The general opinion is that in most parishes there is some overlapping in the charity of the various religious bodies, but not to any great extent. A large number of the clergy co-operate with the Relieving Officer, and thus prevent overlapping with the Poor Law. The vicar of one colliery parish makes reference to the large amount given at Christmas time by the co-operative store; also the many special efforts, concerts, etc., for assisting cases of exceptional distress, as the long-continued illness of a worker, or help for the widow on the death of a man who has been much respected.

The answers to 6 and 7 are practically worthless. The clergy say they have no means of ascertaining the amount of relief given by Nonconformists, and state that what is given is confined to those connected with the denomination. All the parishes have offertories for the poor, and receive donations for distribution among the poor, but few have given any definite figures. One parish (the most well-to-do in Sunderland) puts the amount given as low as £8. Another (about the poorest in the town) enters £50 as the amount expended. If these figures be correct, it indicates that there should be a linking of parishes, and a rich parish like Christ Church should collect from its well-to-do congregation alms which should be expended in one of the slum parishes.

It is remarkable that practically no reference is made to the work done by trade unions and friendly societies to alleviate distress and provide an income in sickness, and so prevent the necessity of appeal to charity or the Poor Law.

(Signed) W. Moore Ede,
(Rector of Whitburn).

(Signed) Jas. Watson.

SUNDERLAND DISTRICT.

	S. Gabriel's.	S. Paul's, Hendon.	S. Stephens.	S. Columbus'.	Christ Church.	S. Peter's.	Venerable Bede.	Monkwearmouth.	Bishop-wearmouth.	S. Barnabas.	Castletown.	S. Cuthbert's.	S. Hilda's.	Ryhope.	Hylton.	S. Ignatius.	S. Mark's.	Sunderland.	S. John's.	Whitburn.	All Saints'.	S. Andrew's.
I.	Not much.	Yes.	Improvidence. Drink.	Improvidence. Drink. Irregular work.	No.	Yes. Change of Population.	Thriftless. Drink.	Thriftlessness. Drink.	No.	No.	No. Improvidence. Drink.	No. Drinking.	Yes. Drink.	No. Thriftless. Co-op. Stores	No. Broken Employment. Drink.	No.	No. Thriftless. Drink.	Yes. Change of Pop. Irregul'r Compensation.	Yes. Irregular when work. Drink.	No.	Drink.	No. Drink, &c.
II.	No. Visitors.	No. Visitors.	No.	No. Sisters.	No. Clergy	No. Clergy.	No. Clergy.	No. Clergy.	No. Clergy and Visitor.	No.	No. Clergy.	No. Clergy	Yes. Relief Committee	Clergy No. App.	Clergy and Church C.	No. Clergy.	No. Clergy and D. V.'s	No. Clergy.	Clergy and D. V.'s	Clergy	Clergy	Clergy and Workers
III	No.	Yes. Workhouse. No Out Relief.	Yes. Workhouse. No. Out-Relief.	—	No.	Yes Workhouse. No. Out-Relief.	No.	Yes. Workhouse. No. Out-Relief.	No.	—	Yes.	—	Yes. Workhouse.	Yes.	—	Yes. Workhouse.	Yes. Workhouse.	No.	Yes. Workhouse. No. Out-Relief.	Yes. Workhouse. No. Out-Relief.	—	Yes. Workhouse.
IV.	No.	Inadequate where rent paid.	Inadequate. If Rent.	Inadequate. Rent.	No.	—	—	Adequate.	Adequate.	—	Inadequate. If Rent.	—	—	—	No.	Inadequate.	No.	No.	Yes. If Rent.	No.	No.	No
V.	No.	Yes. By Churches.	No.	No. R.O.	No.	Yes. Churches. R.O.	R.O.	Yes. Ch'rches R.O.	—	—	—	—	—	Co-op. Stores Gifts.	No.	—	A little.	Yes. R.O.	No.	No. R. O.	—	—
VI.	—	—	—	£30	£8	£30	£15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	£7	—	—	—	£50	£70	£30	—
VII.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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EASINGTON DISTRICT.

Returns have come in from 19 parishes. From these it appears

1. That except in the parishes of St. John Monk Hesleden and Haswell there is little or no poverty in this district. Where it exists, the causes assigned are improvidence, the crippling effect of debt, disinclination for work, drink, and gambling.

2. That there are no special methods of administering charitable assistance, and that occasional relief is given out of Church funds by the clergy, without the assistance of a committee, as a rule.

3. That there is no unrelieved distress. There is a reluctance to (a) go into the workhouse, on account of loss of liberty and degradation; but the poor readily accept relief (b) outside the workhouse.

4. The relief granted is generally adequate.

5. There is no overlapping of charities.

6. That sums varying from £5 to £30 are distributed annually, the amounts usually being obtained by collections in church.

7. That about 200 persons in the district obtain temporary assistance during the course of the year.

(Signed) S. B. Guest Williams,
(Vicar of Pittington).

(Signed) J. B. Taylor.

EASINGTON DISTRICT.

	Parish.	Question 1.	Question 2.	Question 3.	Question 4.	Question 5.	Question 6.	Question 7.
1	Wingate—Rev. R. Simpson	Not much improvidence, crippling effect of debt.	No. Personal visit before giving relief.	Do not think so.	I should say not.	None.	Can give no estimate.	From 10 to 15.
2	Hawthorn—Rev. H. J. Swallow	No poor in parish.	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	Kelloe—Rev. W. R. Burnet	No poverty.	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	Seaham—Rev. A. Bethune	Little poverty.	No.	None.	—	No.	—	—
5	New Seaham—Rev. A. Ramsbotham	No. No. No.	Advisory Committee of two Churchwardens and two Wardens of Mission Rooms. Relief through Lady Visitors.	No.	I do not think so.	No.	£10 12s. Holy Communion Collections. Marchioness of Londonderry gives clothing yearly.	20.
6	Sherburn—Rev. C. Parkinson	Not much poverty. Not increasing.	No. No Committee relieve personally.	No.	No.	(a) No. (b) No.	Amount very small	Very few.
7	Shotton—Rev. E. Fenton	No. Where poverty drink cause.	No.	No, too ready to apply.	No.	No.	£20 chiefly Convalescent Home orders.	—
8	Cassop-cum-Quarrington—Rev. W. Connor.	Not much poverty.	No.	No.	No.	No.	—	30 to 40 receive 10s. each at Christmas, publicly subscribed.
9	Castle Eden—Rev. F. G. J. Robinson	No.	No.	No.	No.	No	£5 or £6 collected when accident.	6.
10	Pittington—Rev. S. B. Guest Williams.	Not much poverty.	Vicar gives orders in kind when needed.	No.	No.	No.	£12 offertories.	About 30.
11	Seaham Harbour—Rev. J. Colling	No.	Relief administered by Vicar and Curates.	No.	No.	No.	—	12.
12	Monk Hesleden, St. John—Rev. S. Little.	Yes; not increasing; drink; disinclination for work.	Relief from Church Funds after enquiry by Churchwardens or Vicar.	No.	No.	No.	£6.	Difficult to estimate.
13	Haswell—Rev. W. R. Oldroyd	A good deal. Drinking and gambling.	Clergy administer occasional relief.	No; unwilling to go to Workhouse.	Occasionally. Widow with six children only 12s. a week.	None.	£18.	40.
14	Shadforth—Rev. W. Hooper	Practically none.	Relief administered by clergy.	Reluctance about (a). None about (b). Self-respect.	None.	No.	£5.	None.
15	Sherburn House—Rev. H. A. Mitton	None.	Sherburn Hospital and Dispensary.	—	—	—	£20 given among poor in Hospital.	—
16	Monk Hesledon—Rev. W. Bowker	No.	Money and kind if required administered by Vicar.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
17	Thornley—Rev. E. C. Biggs	No.	At district Church about £2 10s. distributed annually by Curate.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
18	South Hetton—Rev. J. W. Mitchell	No.	Clergy and Mission Nurse distribute occasional relief.	No.	Poor Law insufficient. House rents high.	No.	£30 from all sources.	113 Christmas gifts, 30 to 50 small sums during year.

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HARTLEPOOL DISTRICT.

Present population estimated at *ca.* - -	97,000
Consisting of—	
Municipal Borough of Hartlepool (about)	26,000
County Borough of W. Hartlepool (about)	68,000
Eleven rural parishes - - (about)	3,000

Principal Industries.

Ship and marine engine building, steel and iron works and blast furnaces, timber imports and coal exports.

Digest of Incumbents' Reports.

Question 1.—(a) Poverty: Seven reply "No," one "Not disproportionate," one "It varies," one "Not much"; two reply "Yes." (b) Causes: Drinking, gambling, and improvidence mentioned by three; fall of employment and slackness of trade mentioned by four.

Question 2.—Two have sick and poor funds managed by a committee. Eight do their own distributing, one of them remarking, "This is not satisfactory."

Question 3.—Nine reply in the negative, one says "There is some," one "Very little."

Question 4.—Seven say "Adequate" or simply "No" in reply to the question; two say "Have found instances"; one says "Think so in certain cases of widows with children"; one "Cannot say."

Question 5. Replies invariably suggest there is not.

Question 6.—Five make returns, varying from £142 down to £3 8s. 6d.

Question 7.—Five make returns; four say "None."

(Signed) W. J. Knowlden,
(Vicar of S. Aidan's, W. Hartlepool).

(Signed) J. E. R. Hurworth.

Name of Parish and Correspondent.	1 Is there much poverty in your Parish, and if so, is it increasing in intensity? and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic to which it is due.	2 Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary distress, those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a committee? If so, how is it constituted? Do you administer relief yourself, or by District Visitors?	3 Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief, either in the workhouse or outside? Give instances and your opinion as to cause.
Hartlepool. St. Hilda with St. Andrew. Rev. Canon E. R. Ormsby.	No. Mostly aged or infirm.	"Indigent and Sick Visiting Society" managed by a Committee. Visitors are appointed to give relief, which amounts to about £55 per annum. Clergy give about £20 in addition.	No disinclination to apply to Guardians for out-relief.
Hartlepool. Holy Trinity. Rev. E. T. Powell.	No. Present poverty less than normal.	Ordinary visitation by clergy, also Indigent Sick Society worked by ladies independent of the Parish.	I think not.
Hart. Rev. H. E. Powell	People mostly all poor, but not much real poverty.	Usual methods. No Committee. Churchwardens and Vicar, helped by one or two others.	Some, if very poor or out of work, are almost too ready to seek Parish relief, and have no shame when getting it.
Elwick Hall. Rev. G. W. Reynolds.	No.	No.	No.
Stranton. Rev. Jos. Bennett.	Not disproportionate to size and character of Parish. Large working class population. Poverty mainly governed by rise and fall of employment.	Relieved by clergy personally, or referred to Charity Organisation Society which is always ready to relieve when necessary.	No. Poor Law freely resorted to.
St. James's, W. Hartlepool. Rev. W. C. D. Fedden (only recently appointed to the Living).	Evidently much poverty. Drinking and improvidence apparently largely the causes.	Sick and Poor Fund, administered by clergy and relieved chiefly (i) and (ii).	A few look upon it as a disgrace to apply (one instance given), but very many are only too ready to claim it.
St. Paul's, W. Hartlepool. Rev. H. H. Birley.	Yes, especially in winter. Slackness of trade and trade disputes.	Done by clergy. Vicar, and wardens, are trustees of "Helen Belk" Charity for sick and indigent women, and providing girls with outfits for places, etc.	There is some, but I cannot say to what extent. In many cases a reluctance to apply to the Poor Law that is not shown towards the Charity Organisation Society.
St. Oswald's W Hartlepool. Rev. H. Robinson.	Not much unavoidable chronic poverty. Temporary poverty due to slackness of trade. Drink and gambling chiefly to blame for poverty in this Parish.	Parish Sick and Poor Fund, until recently administered by a small committee of ladies and one of the clergy. At present I administer by myself. This is not satisfactory.	Very little. No reluctance to receive out-relief, but great unwillingness to go into the workhouse.
Holy Trinity, Seaton Carew. Rev. C. B. Hunter.	There is hardly any poverty in this Parish.	—	—
Greatham. Rev. Edgar Boddington.	No.	Not as yet. Administer relief myself, so far.	No.
Christ Church, West Hartlepool. Rev. Canon W. F. Cosgrave.	It varies with state of trade. Parish on whole getting poorer as town grows and better off people move westward.	No. Through myself, but in consultation with Relieving Officer and Charity Organisation Agent.	People rather too ready to accept or rather claim Parish relief, but outdoor relief preferred.
St. Aidan's, West Hartlepool. Rev. W. J. Knowlden.	No. Improvidence now would give us a big problem if iron or steel works suffered from trade depression.	Sick and Poor Fund administered by clergy; *i.e.*, orders for milk, etc., for invalids and aged. Tickets for groceries, in temporary distress.	No.

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DISTRICT.	4 Is there any appreciable amount of distress due to the Poor Law Relief granted being inadequate? Give instances.	5 Is there any needless overlapping between various forms of charity, or between charity (public or private) and Poor Law? and has any special effort been made to prevent it by co-operation with the Relief Officers or otherwise?	6 Figures or estimate as to the annual expenditure on charitable assistance of poor in your Parish from all sources, whether by Churchmen or others?	7 Approximate number of families or individuals relieved other than by Poor Law in course of a year?
	I think the Poor Law relief generally adequate. It is more liberal than in some unions of a similar character.	There cannot be much overlapping. The Relief Officers are in close touch with local charitable agencies.	Cannot say.	Indigent Sick Society relieved about 54 families.
	Cannot say.	Not to my knowledge -	Cannot do so.	No.
	I think not. They get what is reasonable.	Nothing to complain of -	About £15 or £20 per annum given by church people.	About 20 families.
	No.	No.	—	None.
	No. Guardians relieve fairly liberally.	I think not. The Relieving Officer is a member of the Charity Organisation Society, and is consulted by other charitable agencies.	No.	No. N.B. A "distress Committee" was founded for West Hartlepool some time ago, of which I was appointed chairman, with power to summon a meeting if emergency arose.
	Have found instances, but cannot say if there is any appreciable amount.	I consult with the Relieving Officer as a rule.	St. James' Sick and Poor Fund, 1906–7, expended £12 6s. 6d.	No
	There is some. One instance quoted.	Not much. The chief overlapping comes from individual and indiscriminate giving at certain houses. I am in touch with all the main sources of relief.	£142 from our funds, plus £15 for assisted emigration, and £5 or so from private sources.	66 individuals helped by "Helen Belk" fund, and 35 families from other sources.
	No.	No. Care is taken to keep in touch with the Relieving Officer.	In 1906 Parish Sick and Poor Fund spent £3 8s. 6d.	About 10.
	—	—	—	—
	Not to my knowledge -	No.	I cannot do so as yet - -	No.
	No.	Not much. An undenominational Sick Visiting Society does a little overlap.	—	—
	Relief granted to widows with children always seemed to be inadequate for anything beyond securing food and housing.	Do not know of any. We sometimes supplement Poor Law allowance in sick cases.	About £10 from our Sick and Poor Fund last year.	About 35

DISTRICT OF STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

We have received reports from 12 out of the 14 district parishes. The two who have made no return are town parishes, and of such a constitution that they would not materially affect the general report of the district of Stockton-on-Tees.

1. There is comparatively little poverty in this district, and when it does arise it is chiefly due to the loss of breadwinners and general improvidence in times of plenty, so that widows and children have severe struggles to make ends meet. It is also due to drunkenness rendering employment precarious and to many classes of general labouring being irregular.

In times of distress caused by strikes and closure of works poverty increases very largely in this district, and there is a permanent Relief Committee, which is called together whenever the distress renders it necessary.

Speaking generally, distress is not increasing.

2. There are no special methods of administering charitable assistance, but this is largely done by the clergy and lay helpers, and frequently in giving kind rather than money. There is a certain amount of private assistance given, but there is no means of gauging the amount.

When the Relief Committee is called together, which is a general Town's Committee, of which the present Vicar has been Chairman for some years and which holds a good balance in hand for any emergencies, soup kitchens are opened, if necessary, and relief is dealt out to investigated cases.

3. There is practically no unrelieved distress due to reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief, and especially to outdoor relief, but indoor relief is generally disliked throughout the district on account of the loss of liberty caused by going into the workhouse.

4. There is hardly any distress due to inadequate Poor Law relief granted by the Guardians, as this is generally supplemented by relations and friends of the relieved. The Guardians deal liberally with those who have a small income due to any kind of thrift.

5. There is no risk of serious overlapping of assistance, as the resources are generally so limited.

6. About £280 to £300 is a reasonable estimate of the annual expenditure in charitable assistance in this district, but this is increased by £300 to £700 through the above-mentioned Relief Committee in bad years caused by strikes and closing of works from one reason or another.

7. About 160 would be a reasonable estimate of the number of families and individuals in receipt of charity other than Poor Law in any one year, increasing to as many as 400 or more in bad times.

(Signed) HENRY MARTIN,
(Vicar of Stockton-on-Tees).

(Signed) THOS. PARKINSON,
Guardian of the Stockton Union.

SUMMARY.

Parishes of :—

	Billingham.	Egglescliff.	Elton.	Long Newton.	Norton.	Redmarshall.	Stockton.	Holy Trinity.	St. James'.	St. Paul.
1	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
2	No	No	No	No	No	No	—	No	No	No
3	No	—	No	No	No	No	No	Very little	No	No
4	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Slightly	No
5	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
6	£30	—	Kind, not money	No	£80	£7	£50, £300 to £700 in bad years to whole Town.	£60	-	Little
7	7	10	3	No	100 to 185	10	30 to 250	-	No	No

DARLINGTON DISTRICT.

We have received answers to inquiries issued from twenty-five out of the twenty-seven parishes in this Deanery. There are three classes of parishes: (1) Darlington; (2) two small towns—Barnard Castle and Middleton-in-Teesdale; (3) Agricultural parishes.

1.—DARLINGTON (7 Parishes).

(1) There is a considerable amount of poverty, but apparently it is not increasing. Moral causes of this are said to be intemperance among men and women, and improvidence. Economic causes are irregular employment and low wages.

(2) In majority of parishes relief is administered by clergy, generally in the form of orders upon shops. In only one parish is there a relief committee, which meets once a week to consider cases of distress.

(3) There is not generally much reluctance to accept outdoor relief; though a certain amount of real distress exists among people who dread the appearance before the Board of Guardians and the examination of their character and circumstances in public, and who therefore do not apply.

There is a very general reluctance to enter the workhouse, on account of the separation of man and wife, the discipline, loss of liberty, and the breaking up of the home.

(4) It is generally considered that the outdoor relief granted by the Guardians is inadequate, most of it being spent in rent, leaving very little to live upon.

(5) There seems to be considerable overlapping between various forms of charity; not much between charity and the Poor Law. In most parishes there is co-operation with the Relieving Officers.

(6) No estimate can be formed of the total amount spent in charitable assistance. The returns from five parishes show that £103 per annum is expended on relief out of church funds.

(7) There is no means of arriving at an answer to this question.

2.—BARNARD CASTLE AND MIDDLETON-IN-TEESDALE.

(1) Not much poverty. What there is due to drunkenness and low wages.

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(2) Relief funds are administered by the clergy. At Barnard Castle money is given, not orders on shops.

(3) Answers are the same as in case of Darlington.

(4) Outdoor relief is considered adequate.

(5) There is no overlapping.

(6) Barnard Castle has charities for relief of poor amounting to £128 annually, and £35 is contributed annually from church funds. At Middleton-in-Teesdale a private donor distributes £25 in gifts at Christmas.

(7) At Barnard Castle 120 persons, at Middleton-in-Teesdale 60 persons, receive charitable assistance.

3.—AGRICULTURAL PARISHES (18).

(1) Generally there is very little poverty. What there is is due to drink and mismanagement.

(2) Relief is administered by the clergy.

Questions 3, 4, and 5 are answered in the negative.

(6) Returns from seven parishes show £102 spent in relief from church funds. Returns from four parishes show £29 as income of old charities.

(7) When answers have been given, the following are the figures:—Hurworth-on-Tees, 45 persons; Whorlton, five families; Sadberge, 17 persons; Haughton-le Skerne, 40 persons; Coniscliffe, seven persons; Ingleton, 17 families; Gainford, 30 persons; Aycliffe five families; Winston, three families; Heighington, six persons.

There has been a branch of the Charity Organisation Society at work in Darlington for nearly 30 years, run on unsectarian lines, on which churchmen, both laity and clergy, are fairly represented. The annual expenditure is about £250. The operations of the Society embrace all the parishes in the borough. Cases are investigated by the lady secretary and by members of the committee. In the case of sickness nourishing food is supplied, hospital tickets are provided, and a good many people are sent to sanatoria and convalescent homes. The administration of relief is carried out by the secretary and by members of the committee. People in temporary distress are adequately provided for in proportion to the size of the family (the relief being given in cash, weekly) until the family is again self-supporting. Cases of chronic distress are always referred to the Guardians.

(Signed) T. C. GOBAT,
(Vicar of S. James', Darlington).

(Signed) C. P. DOUGLAS.

AUCKLAND DISTRICT.

This district consists of the Auckland Deanery, with 23 parishes. A report has been duly received from each parish. From these reports we gather—

(1) That there is very little poverty except at Witton Park, where the roughest class seems to congregate, because of the low rent of the houses. Such poverty as exists is largely due to intemperance and lack of thrift. All who will can find work, except the older men and such as are physically unfit. The Workmen's Compensation Act makes it very difficult for the aged and those with any physical infirmity to gain employment.

(2) Such relief as is given in the parishes is in each case given through the clergy. Many use tickets on grocery shops.

(3) There seems to be no reluctance to receive outdoor relief. Some objection is raised at times to going into the workhouse.

(4) The Poor Law relief is considered by nearly all to be most adequate. At Howden-le-Wear a few have grumbled, and Merrington seems to think the guardians might add a little to aged couples who receive 5s. a week from the permanent relief fund. Shildon also thinks that in some cases the relief given is not adequate.

(5) Except at Auckland there seems no difficulty through overlapping. At Auckland attempts are now being made to form a society to prevent, as far as possible, the harm of indiscriminate charity.

(6) There seems to be no possibility of ascertaining how much private relief is given. It appears that through the Church, or known Charities, apart from Poor Law, in these 23 parishes about £375 is distributed yearly. This sum does not include the amount given to the four inmates of the Bede Houses, at Auckland.

(7) It has been impossible to estimate the number relieved apart from Poor-Law relief, as the returns are incomplete under this head.

(Signed) H. GOULDSMITH,
(Vicar of Bishop Auckland).

(Signed) FANNY J. PROUD.

DURHAM DISTRICT.

There are 17 ecclesiastical parishes in the Deanery, and forms of return were sent to the incumbents of all these parishes. Returns have been received from 14 of these incumbents. The parishes from which returns have not been received are St. Mary-le-Bow, St. Mary-the-Less, and Waterhouses. The area and population of the two former parishes are small, and the number of poor persons residing in these parishes must be insignificant.

The answers to the various questions asked can be summarised as follows:—

1. In 10 of the parishes there is not much poverty, and it is not increasing. In the remaining four there is much poverty, but in one of these parishes it is decreasing. The special causes of poverty, where given, are variously stated to be intemperance, gambling, and improvidence, in one case also idleness and low wages for unskilled work, and in two of the parishes (partly urban and partly rural) an influx of widows, children, and other persons into the urban parts from the adjoining colliery districts.

2. In four of the parishes there are no special methods of administering charitable assistance. In one parish hospital tickets are given, and in two parishes tickets for food and cash. In one parish there is a special offertory for the poor, supplemented by occasional help from charity; in another private gifts from the Vicar are administered, in addition to the offertory at Holy Communion, and in a third there is a sick and poor fund. In eight of the parishes the funds are distributed by the clergy, in one parish partly by the Vicar and partly by district visitors under his direction, and in two parishes partly by the Vicar and partly by the churchwardens. In one parish there is a monthly offertory distributed by the clergy, a small charity distributed by them and the churchwardens, and a Christmas fund distributed by a parochial committee.

3. In nine of the parishes there is no appreciable amount of unrelieved distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief either (a) in the workhouse, or (b) outside the workhouse, and in the other five parishes there are few cases of the kind. The causes of reluctance to enter the workhouse are variously given as hard labour and bad language and character of inmates there; inability to get beer there; curtailment of liberty and mixed company; loss of liberty, loss of sense of home, and parting from friends and neighbours. In two of the parishes it is stated that there are persons whose independence and self-respect prevent them from applying to the Guardians.

4. In ten of the parishes there is no appreciable amount of distress due to the Poor Law relief granted

by the Guardians being inadequate. In two of the parishes cases of the kind rarely exist; in the remaining two parishes the relief is considered inadequate in some cases. In one of these parishes it is stated that in some cases, mostly widows, the allowance of 4s. per week is inadequate, the rents being generally high; sometimes 2s. per week for a single room. In the other parish two instances are given, one of a widow unable to go out to work, who finds it very difficult to get any sewing; and the other of a widow with large family, who has a struggle to live by washing.

5. In eleven of the parishes there is not any needless overlapping between various forms of charity or between charity, public, or private, and the Poor Law. In one of the three remaining parishes the incumbent states that there is a great deal of mischief done by the indiscriminate charity dispensed by the kitchens of public educational institutions. In another of these parishes the incumbent states that there is needless overlapping between various forms of charity, chiefly due to giving to those who beg at the doors, and to others giving without regard to what is done through official and recognised charitable channels, and that Poor Law relief is often supplemented by private gifts, which somewhat relieve the pressure upon the rates, and where wisely given afford an opportunity for individual expression of kindly feeling. In another of these parishes the incumbent states that there is overlapping, due to private individuals, who give without inquiry or discrimination, and adds, "There have been cases where poverty (?) has been a very profitable condition."

6. In five of the parishes the incumbent is unable to give information as to the annual amount from all sources spent in the parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, whether by churchmen or others. In the other nine parishes the amount per annum is as follows:—

Belmont.—£12.

St. Oswald.—£50 from the church and churchmen. In addition there are two charities, one of which provides £100 per annum for eight old widows, and the other £10 per annum for the poor.

St. Nicholas.—£40, also relief in kind by house to house begging.

St. Giles.—£15 from churchmen by offertories and other means.

St. Margaret.—£70 to £85 from churchmen. Amount from other sources not considered to be large.

Croxdale.—£5 by Vicar in cases of sickness.

Sacriston.—From £4 to £5 by Vicar.

Willington.—£62; but may be a little more from unknown private charity.

Witton Gilbert.—£52.

7. In five of the parishes the incumbent is unable to give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity, other than the Poor Law, during the course of a year.

In some of the other nine parishes it is not stated whether the number given refers to families or individuals. The number in each of these nine parishes is as follows:—

Bearpark.—Two persons temporarily.
Belmont.—50 or 60.
St. Oswald.—From 100 to 300.
St. Nicholas.—From 30 to 60.
St. Giles.—50.
St. Margaret.—50 families.
Croxdale.—Twelve.
Shincliffe.—One family.
Witton Gilbert.—43 families.
Dated this 8th day of October, 1907.

(Signed) H. Roberson,
(Rector of St. Margaret's Church, Durham).

(Signed) Wm. Lisle.

LANCHESTER.—DISTRICT A.

1. On the whole, our district does not seem very poverty stricken. It is felt that adequate means are already adopted for the relief of the poor throughout it.

2. In all parishes the clergy seem to derive great assistance from the Laity as to information of needy cases.

In the parishes of large populations, district visitors or committees of laymen make themselves responsible for giving information, but the clergy themselves generally administer the relief and distribute the funds provided. The charity of the church is bestowed on families of all denominations.

5. Our informants seem to have considered in past years the chances of overlapping, and when it occurs it seems quite known and allowed as necessary.

By those parishes returning amounts distributed, there is an average of about £10 per parish so distributed.

(Signed) J. Hudson Barker,
(Vicar of Consett).

(Signed) F. Priestman.

LANCHESTER DISTRICT (A).

Parish.	Q. 1.	Q. 2.	Q. 3.	Q. 4.	Q. 5.	Q. 6.	Q. 7.
1. Benficidside :— Rev. Canon Ross Lewin	Yes. Influx of poor from other parishes. Feeble health, drink, gambling, old age, and misfortune.	Yes. Committee of members of the Church.	No.	No.	—	—	70 by Committee.
2. Blackhill :— Rev. J. Storey.	Very little unavoidable poverty, except widows and orphans.	No.	No.	No.	No.	—	—
3. Castleside :— Rev. J. Wallis.	No.	Clerk of Parish Council and Vicar himself.	No.	No.	No.	£3	12
4. Consett :— Rev. J. Hudson Barker	Many poverty stricken families, but not relatively to population.	Yes. District Visitors Committee and Church of England Men's Society. Clergy.	No.	Outdoor Relief inadequate.	No Various reliefs supplementary to each other.	£19 from Church alms besides personal gifts from Clergy and Church workers.	Over 20 families per annum largely helped, many casual cases.
5. Ebchester :— Rev. J. G. Gibson.	No.	No. Information by Church workers.	No.	No.	Supplementary.	£10	No.
6. Leadgate :— Rev. T. Varley.	No.	Church Benefit Society.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
7. Medomsley :— Rev. W. Cockin.	No.	No. The Clergy.	No.	No.	No.	—	About 25.
8. Muggleswick :— Rev. J. Dent.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	None.	None.
9. Satley :— Rev. L. J. Wilkinson.	Little poverty.	No.	No.	Adequate.	No.	Under £5.	Under 20.
10. Tow Law :— Rev. T. H. E. Espin.	No.	16 District Visitors.	No.	No.	No.	Between £30 and £40.	400 tickets annually to less than 100 people.

LANCHESTER.—DISTRICT V.

Reports were received from the incumbents of the following ten parishes in the diocese of Durham—viz., Esh, Tanfield, Marley Hill, Lanchester, Hamsteels, Collierley, Beamish, Dipton, Holmside, and Burnopfield.

The state of these parishes in regard to poverty is very satisfactory. There is practically no poverty in large colliery parishes in North-West Durham at the present time. There is plenty of work, wages are high, the great majority of the miners have free house and coals. It is therefore not surprising that in the above-mentioned parishes, which are all of the same character, namely, dependent on the mining industry, there is practically no poverty at all.

Seeing that this is so, the incumbents have very little indeed to say in answer to the remaining questions.

There being no poverty in the parish, no special methods of administering charitable assistance are necessary, etc., etc.

To make the fact clear to the Commission that question No. 1 has received but one answer, we shall give a brief summary of the answers received.

"Very little poverty of any kind—still less as compared with what is understood as poverty in many other counties in England." "A family of six or seven persons with free house and coals and from 20s. to 28s. per week going into the house from sons working (father ill or dead) often applies for relief to the guardians and sometimes get it."—Tanfield.

"Being a colliery district we have practically no poverty. Often sick people need relief at times, and a family is in need occasionally where there are many little children, and only one worker. We—the clergy—do what we can in these cases."—Esh.

"There is not much poverty in this parish, considering the population (8,000), and most of what is, can be traced to drinking and gambling."—Collierley.

"There is no poverty in this parish, except in a few cases of old people."—Beamish.

"None whatever, practically."—Hamsteels.

"No poverty. House rent is dear, consequently in nearly all the houses in the parish there are workers, and consequently little poverty."—Burnopfield.

"No poverty."—Holmside.

"Practically none, except isolated cases of old age and sickness."—Lanchester.

"There is very little poverty in my parish, and it is not increasing."—Marley Hill.

The one exception—if such it can be called—is the parish of Dipton.

"There is more poverty than there ought to be. It is an increasing quantity due probably to:—

(*a*) Lack of habits of thrift.
(*b*) Neglect of children to help their parents in old age.
(*c*) More expensive style of living.
(*d*) Change of sentiment."

2. None of the parishes have any special methods of administering charitable assistance—when help is necessary it is given by the clergy.

3 and 4. There is no unrelieved distress, and no reluctance to resort to Poor Law Relief. The relief given by the Guardians is adequate—the scale for guidance of relief Committees is much above that in most Unions, and the Committees act on the knowledge that they are not bound by the supposed scale, when they deem it necessary that more ought to be given.

5. There is no overlapping between various forms of charity or between charity, public or private and the Poor Law.

There is apparently only one parish, viz., Lanchester, where there is a private charity administered for the benefit of the poor, *i.e.*, G. H. Hedley's Charities are distributed in sums of £1 or so to several widows, to the total amount of £22 in each year.

Orders for groceries and delicacies for sick people are also distributed from the Holy Communion offertories.

6. In Tanfield parish about £20 a year is given for the benefit of poor people over and above the relief from the Guardians.

7. In Lanchester Parish there are from fifteen to twenty families in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law.

In Tanfield.—None regularly.
In Marley Hill.—About fifty.
In Dipton.—No permanent cases.
In Burnopfield.—Not more than five or six.

(Signed) RALPH WATSON,
(Vicar of Beamish).
(Signed) THOMAS M. RIDLEY.

HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING DISTRICT.

This district comprises the parishes of—

	Population (1901).
Houghton-le-Spring	6945
Lyons	4452
Rainton	2840
Newbottle	4143
Silksworth	5828
Chilton Moor	2909
East Rainton	1892
Eppleton	5226
Hetton-le-Hole	4384
Penshaw	4094
Herrington	3904

Answers have been received to the questions from every parish.

The district is almost entirely a colliery one—and the general character of the answers is of a similar kind throughout.

(1.) There is very little poverty in these parishes, and the prevailing cause for that which exists is intemperance. In Hetton-le-Hole poverty is said to be slightly on the increase.

(2.) In most of the above parishes the relief given either by the clergy or district visitors or deaconesses, relief tickets being generally bestowed.

(3.) There seems to be no appreciable amount of unrelieved distress—so far as is known to the clergy.

(4.) There is no reluctance in applying to the Guardians in such cases as are in absolute need of help.

(5.) In some cases it is found that private help is given without regard to assistance from other sources. Aged miners in receipt of pensions are allowed relief by the Poor Law Authorities.

(6.) The general answer to this question is that, though it does not seem possible to give an accurate statement as to the value of the amount distributed by the clergy in relief, it is not very considerable—not more than £40 being returned by all the parishes enumerated. It is not improbable that more is done in the ancient parish of Houghton, but in consequence of the recent vacation of that living by Canon Brown, and the fact that the new rector is only just entering on his incumbency, it has been difficult to obtain accurate information.

(7.) As the miners have, generally speaking, been in good work in these parishes, there has not been a large amount of relief required. Widows and young children receive help from the Guardians of the Poor.

(Signed) ROBERT LONG,
Oct. 8, 1907. (Archdeacon of Auckland).
(Signed) R. RICHARDSON.

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SEDGEFIELD DISTRICT.

The group of parishes assigned to us consists of nine:—

		Inhabitants.
Sedgefield	Agricultural	2,328
Gt. Stainton	„	115
Bishopton	„	430
Bishop Middleham	Agricultural, brewers'men, miners.	700
Stillington	Ironworkers	1,200
Ferryhill	Coalminers	8,000 growing
Cornforth	„	4,400
Coxhoe	„	2,381
Trimdon	Quarrymen	600
		20,154

Of these three are purely agricultural parishes—Sedgefield, Bishopston, Great Stainton, one mostly agricultural, with a few miners and some engaged in the brewery (Bishop Middleham), one almost entirely ironworkers—Stillington, three entirely coal miners—Ferryhill, Coxhoe, Cornforth, one entirely quarrymen—Trimdon.

We have obtained much information from the relieving officer of the district, who administers poor law relief to most of this district, but as his area is not quite coincident with our group of parishes, the figures are only approximately correct. For instance, only one side of the parishes of Coxhoe and Cornforth, and parts of the group called the Trimdons belong to this area, so we have proportional figures only from his totals. They have been read over to him, and he thinks them fairly accurate.

In the three agricultural parishes there are only twelve people in receipt of parish relief—one in every 294 people. In Bishop Middleham there are eight persons in receipt of parish relief—one in every 90 people.

In the parish of Stillington where the ironworkers are, the report says that there are none in receipt of parish relief. If the poor law officer had given his return perhaps there would have been some modification of this; but the poor law officer is a different one in this place. The largest number is in the miners' parishes—Ferryhill, Cornforth, Coxhoe, and the quarrymen at Trimdon. About 80 are in receipt of parish relief. But the proportion is about one in every 185 inhabitants—considerably larger than in the purely agricultural parishes.

In tabulating the returns given in the nine reports in answer to questions about the amount of poverty:

1. The reports are all in one strain—that there is very little poverty indeed; that all who want work can get it, and that the poverty which exists is among the widows and the infirm which are to be found everywhere.

Distribution of Charity: Its Methods.—There are two kinds of charity prevalent, the one of the sums collected in places of worship or privately given; the other that derived from ancient endowments. With regard to the first kind, the answer is the same in all reports where there are poor—that there is no other method than the giving as the need arises by the incumbent without the co-operation of a committee.

With regard to the second kind—that from ancient endowments—the method is practically arranged for us by Statute. The Parish Councils Act authorises a committee to be formed of representatives of the various townships in the original ecclesiastical area. These meet and distribute as they think fit.

3. *Reluctance to Receive Poor Law Relief.*—The answer is again unanimous—that there is no reluctance to receive out-door relief; but some reluctance in going into the workhouse, both among the persons who enter and their relations.

4. With regard to the sufficiency of the relief by the Guardians the general verdict from those parishes which have poor law cases is that the poor law relief is inadequate, but the very experienced relieving officer of this district informs us that it is considered very liberal in this district.

5. *Overlapping of Charities and Poor Law.*—The reports are meagre. One report says: "A great deal of overlapping; another: "I don't expect so"; another: "There is overlapping, but it is unavoidable."

In the other six there is either an assertion that there is no overlapping, or that there are so few poor as to have no possibility of it.

The representatives of Sedgefield say that there is a great deal of overlapping, and that there are people receiving poor law relief, doles in money and doles in bread at the same time, and that there is a large amount of abuse of the ancient charities.

The relieving officer is not consulted as to the distribution of charity in any parish in this district, but as he contrives to know something about these things it is probable that he nullifies to a certain degree the evil of overlapping.

6. *Annual Amount Given in Charity.*—The returns are for last year:—

Sedgefield.—A sum of £195 9s. from ancient charities in the form of money doles and bread doles. For two apprentices, £8. From offertories in church, £6. There is also the sum of £151 from Coopers' Charity for ten almshouse people—over £350 in all.

Ferryhill.—£14 18s. 4d., besides a little from church offerings.

Stillington.—Nothing recorded in return.

Coxhoe.—Nothing recorded in return.

Gt. Stanton.—Nothing recorded in return.

Bishopton.—£15 annually.

Bishop Middleham.—£28 0s. 9d. ancient charities and church offerings.

Cornforth.—About £40 ancient charities, church offerings, and Co-operative Society.

Trimdon.—£10 annually.

A total of £458 19s. 10d. among 20,000 people.

7. *Number of Families in Receipt of Charity Irrespective of Poor Law:*—

Sedgefield.—Eighty-four families, plus nine Poor Law—93. One in every five families in Sedgefield receives a dole, reckoning 430 families.

Ferryhill.—"I know only one."

Stillington.—"I don't know of any."

Coxhoe.—"None."

Gt. Stainton.—"None."

Bishopton.—"Not more than half a dozen."

Bishop Middleham.—"I know of three only."

Cornforth.—"Impossible to give owing to overlapping."

Trimdon.—"Eighteen."

The outstanding features of these reports are:—(1) That there is no appreciable poverty; (2) that there is no reluctance to receive out-door relief at all; (3) that there is no co-operation with the various agencies for relief of the poor.

(Signed) E. Price,
(Rector of Sedgefield).

(Signed) H. P. Botting,
(Lay Representative for Sedgefield).

STANHOPE DISTRICT.

Reports have been received from all the parishes of the deanery with the exception of those attached for this purpose to another area.

From these it appears that poverty does not exist to any great extent in any of the parishes, and certainly in no respect in such intensity as in our large towns. Cases of distress are immediately dealt with either by the clergy from charitable funds placed at their disposal and derived from endowments or offertories. Relief is also afforded by the district officer in out-door cases, whilst those of a chronic character and accompanied with physical defects of a varied kind, are dealt with in the workhouse at Stanhope.

The help administered through the parochial machinery is valuable as affording immediate relief in urgent cases, and until the Relieving Officer can deal with them in a more permanent manner.

On the whole this deanery may be congratulated on its happy condition of comparative prosperity, and freedom from any marked intensity of poverty. This is undoubtedly due to the agricultural character of the district, the thrifty character of its people, and the absence of those grave temptations which beset town life.

The Commissioners for this deanery herewith append in a tabulated form a digest of the answers to the various questions submitted by the Diocesan Committee to the various incumbents of this area.

(Signed) J. Harrison,
(Vicar of Heatherycleugh.)

(Signed) O. Monkhouse.

STANHOPE DISTRICT.

Parish. (page 6)	Q. 1.	Q. 2.	Q. 3.	Q. 4.	Q. 5.	Q. 6.	Q. 7.
Stanhope :— Incumbent : Bishop of Richmond. 2639.	No.	Chronic distress scarcely said to exist. Relief administered through Clergy and by Managers of one Charity.	No.	No.	No overlapping.	Two endowed Charities, £35 to £40 per annum.	Distributed during year in temporary cases—20 to 30. (6) To 50 aged people, chiefly widows.
Walsingham :— Rev. Chancellor Espin. 2919.	No.	No. Such methods not necessary. Assisted in distribution of endowed charities by three churchwardens—other relief through district visitors and clergy.	The Guardians treat poor considerately. No overlapping. Inquiry sometimes made of Relieving Officer.		Included in answers 3 and 4.	Ancient endowed charities of £100, distributed at Christmas and Easter by Rector and Churchwardens. Small Wesleyan Charity.	No estimate of number, chiefly widows.
Heathercleugh :— Rev. J. Harrison. 1048.	No.	To all four classes relief is given from Atwood Charity.	No.	No.	No.	£28.	Distributed by Incumbent to about 40 persons.
Frasterley :— Rev. F. W. Cullen. 1413.	Very little poverty. In a population of 1,500 not more than 15 recipients.	By the Clergy from offertories.	Relief where really needed and applied for is never refused.	No	No.	Cannot give exact amount. Only 25 in 1907 received relief of any kind.	Not more than 10.
Hunstanworth :— Rev. P. C. Jones. 220.	No.	No. III. and IV. none. By Vicar and wife.	Only one case in the Parish receiving out-door relief.	No.	No.	£6	None.
Edmundbyers :— Rev. R. Vaughan. 209.	Little poverty. People generally thrifty. Only cases of old age or misfortune.	From offertory. By Incumbent with consent of Church Treasurer and Churchwarden.	Only 2 cases in receipt of Parish relief. People prefer *not* to go to the Workhouse.	–	No overlapping. Co-operate with Relieving Officer.	No knowledge of acts of kindness by others.	People should be encouraged to become independent of Parish. Jewish system needs study.
Thornley :— Rev. H. J. Humphreys. 1114	Not much, although poorest part of Tow Law. Some wastrels. Not increasing.	By Incumbent. Each case on merits.	Poor relief accepted and well distributed.	No.	No	£10 in addition to Church help. Pitmen make collections for one another and the Salvation Army helps.	12

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STANHOPE DISTRICT—*continued.*

Parish.	Q. 1.	Q. 2.	Q. 3.	Q. 4.	Q. 5.	Q. 6.	Q. 7.
Crook :— Rev. J. King. 8763.	No.	Clergy give from own personal funds.	Occasional cases but unwilling to go to Workhouse, owing to restraint.	Few cases in which help encourages recipients to activity.	No.	Cannot tell, but Nursing Association and Newcastle Infirmary supported. Exceptional efforts made when trade bad.	Small number.
St. John's Chapel :— Rev. J. W. Pattison. 1203.	No.	Assistance by Incumbent. Little difficulty in discovering cases.	No.	No.	—	About £50. Church, £27; Non-Conformists, £6; Robinson Charity, £15.	40 persons. Widows chiefly.
Eastgate :— Rev. W. D. Crondace. 323.	Very little and not increasing.	In a parish of 293 one finds it best to keep it in one's own hand.	No. Not appreciable—only one case.	No.	No overlapping.	Amongst 7 or 8 families. £20 from Atwood Charity.	As in reply to 6.
Westgate :— Rev. E. Johnston. 742.	Little poverty and not increasing.	Administered solely by Incumbent.	No appreciable amount of unrelieved distress.	No overlapping in any form. Atwood Charity, £25 12s. 6d.	—	Cannot give exact numbers.	—
Stanley :— Rev. C. S. Wilson. 4106.	No.	No special methods—small offertories from Holy C. available.	Very little outside help preferred to workhouse, poor people think it a disgrace to go there.	Very little. Only one case in which recipient complained of inadequacy of outdoor relief, and he was receiving 2s. per week.	No.	Cannot say.	No.

[29.—App. XIII.

ELY.

To the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress.

My Lord and Gentlemen,

In compliance with the letter which your secretary addressed to him on April 18th, 1907, the Bishop of Ely appointed us a Committee to obtain information from the clergy of this diocese about poverty and the methods of relief, and to make a report. We sent a paper of fifteen questions to all the 567 incumbents, and received answers more or less complete from 462. Having studied these returns, and supplemented them by other enquiries, we have now the honour of reporting to you as follows :—

A.

We first submit a copy of the questions which were sent to the incumbent of each parish.

I. What are the chief causes of poverty in your parish ?

II. If possible please state approximately the total number of *families* in your Parish, and also what number of *families* are—

(*a*) living upon wages insufficient to furnish proper clothing and nourishment ;

(*b*) wholly or largely dependent upon charity or Poor Law relief.

III. What charitable trusts are there in your Parish ? What is the amount and object of each, and by whom is each administered ?

IV. In what way is charitable assistance (other than Poor Law relief) administered to

(*a*) the sick ?

(*b*) the aged ?

(*c*) families in temporary distress ?

(*d*) families in chronic distress ?

V. Can you estimate the total amount spent annually in the relief of the poor in your Parish ? If so, please distinguish—

(*a*) Poor Law relief,

(*b*) Grants from charitable trusts,

(*c*) Grants from collections,

(*d*) Gifts from private sources.

VI. Is there any unrelieved distress due either to the reluctance of the poor to apply to the Guardians, or to the inadequacy of the grants made by the Guardians ? If so, please give one or two examples.

VII. Is there any overlapping—

(*a*) between various forms of charity, especially through the action of different religious bodies ?

(*b*) between charities and the Poor Law ?

Has any attempt been made to co-ordinate different sources of relief ?

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* *NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.*

VIII. What, in your judgment, is the total effect of the assistance which is given? Is it merely palliative and pauperising? Or does it encourage effort and build up character?

IX. In what directions do you think reform is possible?

X. Is there any shame or any loss of reputation in making application for Medical relief,

(*a*) through the Poor Law?

(*b*) through hospitals or dispensaries?

Does this cause delay in the application for relief, so that illness is aggravated?

XI. Does the receipt of Medical relief encourage application for other relief, and thus tend to pauperise? Would such pauperisation be avoided by treating Medical assistance (either outdoor or indoor) as something apart from Poor Law relief?

XII. Would the standard of public health be raised if Medical attendance were

(*a*) dissociated from the Poor Law, and

(*b*) put under the control of the Medical Officer of Health, whose duty it would be to see that everyone was kept as healthy as possible?

XIII. In your experience of the children in your Parish, whose parents are in receipt of out-relief, have you found them sufficiently nourished? Have their mothers time to "mother" them? Do they go to school till they pass the Sixth standard? Does their familiarity with the Relieving Officer demoralise them?

XIV. As to those who are brought up in Workhouses or other *large* institutions, how do they compare with children brought up at home or on the boarding-out system? Is their character and moral tone less healthy?

XV. Would you suggest any extension of the powers of Boards of Guardians or their Officers over neglected children, other than those whose parents are in receipt of relief?

B.

Before making any general remarks it will be convenient to give a short analysis of the answers which were given to each question:—

I. The incumbents of 96 parishes report that they have "no real poverty." The rest assign a variety of causes, of which the chief are:—

The amount of money spent in drink - - - -	177 or 38 per cent.
Old age for which no provision has been made - -	132 or 28 per cent.
Thriftlessness and bad management - - - -	131 or 28 per cent.
Agricultural depression - - - - - -	96 or 21 per cent.
Widowhood - - - - - - - -	48 or 10 per cent.
Depression in local trades - - - - - -	43 or 9 per cent.

II. Not all incumbents are able to supply the figures. In the 387 parishes of which we have complete returns, the approximate numbers are:—

Total number of families - - - - - - -	86,650
Families living on insufficient wages - - - - -	2,800
Dependent upon charity or Poor Law relief - - -	5,600

III. We have a list of 935 charitable trusts, with an aggregate income of £22,000, which, (as we interpret the returns) is approximately nett.

In 245 cases the trusts are administered by the incumbent alone or by the incumbent and churchwardens jointly.

In 96 cases by a parish council or parish meeting, or trustees appointed by them.

In 39 by various bodies of trustees.

In 19 by the Charity Commissioners.

In others by Town Council, (9), County Council, (12), Overseers, (2), or Board of Education, (2).

The objects of these trusts, as defined by their instruments, may be classified roughly as follow:—

Distribution of coal to the poor	172
Doles of food	125
Doles of money	91
Gifts of clothing	82
Education	72
Housing the poor	60
Church purposes	27
Apprenticing boys	15
Hospitals	8
District nurses	3

IV. The answers to this question are too vague for classification.

V. The estimates which we have received are:

(*a*) Poor Law relief in 300 parishes amounts to £44,520.

(*b*) Grants for charitable trusts in 462 parishes £16,260.

(*c*) Grants from collections in 318 parishes, £4,000.

(*d*) Gifts from private sources 154 parishes, £2,500.

(This last estimate is avowedly based upon little more than guesswork.)

VI. Of those who answer this question only 28 express the opinion that distress is sometimes caused by reluctance to apply to the Guardians for relief. The other 325 emphatically deny that any such reluctance exists.

About the adequacy of the out-door relief opinions are more evenly divided. It is considered adequate by 262, while 113 hold the contrary view. Other replies are too vague to be credited to either side.

VII. The incumbents of 370 parishes state that there is no overlapping between different forms of charity, while 32 (mainly incumbents of town parishes) affirm that there is. Similarly 357 state that is no overlapping between charities and the Poor Law, and 27 express the opposite opinion. The force of these figures, however, is very much diminished by the fact that many of those incumbents who reply in the negative add that, although in many cases money from charities is given to those who also receive poor relief, this must be regarded as *supplemental*, not as overlapping.

In reply to the question whether any attempt has been made to co-ordinate different sources of relief, 194 incumbents say "No" and 20 say "Yes".

VIII. The replies to this question are not easy to summarise, and that for two reasons. A large number of incumbents make a distinction, which the Committee did not contemplate, between "pauperising" and "palliative": and assert that the relief which is given though palliative is not pauperising. Some again, have understood the question as referring only to Poor Law relief, while others have taken it (as was intended) to include all kinds of charitable aid. Perhaps the general tendency of the answers may be expressed as follows:—

Poor Law relief given to the sick and aged does not pauperise, because they have passed the stage where effort is possible. On the other hand it has in a sense

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pauperised them by anticipation: for their reliance upon such relief in case of need tempts men in middle life to neglect saving.

Other forms of relief (from funded charities or private gifts) on the whole do a great deal of harm. Worst of all are the "doles" and "coal charities" which are so common in the diocese of Ely. Though a few incumbents assert that all forms of relief "encourage effort and build up character," the most weighty and emphatic testimony is given to the contrary.

IX. As might be expected, the answers to this question suggest a great variety of reforms. Those which can claim any considerable number of advocates are:—

(1) Old age pensions.

(2) More liberal out-relief.

(3) The abolition of out-relief.

(4) A better classification of the inmates of workhouses, so that the reputable may be kept apart from the disreputable.

(5) The formation in each district of a Committee which shall organise all the charity, prevent overlapping, check unwise private gifts, and collect substantial sums to meet real cases of need.

X. The answers to this question are clear and decisive.

(*a*) About 40 incumbents think that shame is sometimes felt about accepting Medical relief from the Poor Law. The rest (some 300) deny the existence of any such feeling.

(*b*) All but one reply that no hesitation whatever is felt about obtaining relief from hospitals or infirmaries. The poor (and many who are not poor) consider that they have a right to all they can get from such institutions.

(*c*) Only eight incumbents think that mischievous delay is ever caused by hesitation to apply for relief.

XI. On this subject the replies are divided in the proportion of three to one. The majority say that Medical relief does not pauperise, and that nothing would be gained by separating it from the Poor Law.

XII. On the two points raised by this question opinions are very equally divided. Rather less than half think that separating the Medical Relief from the Poor Law would raise the standard of health; and rather more than half are in favour of increasing the compulsory powers of the Medical Officer and those who act with him. Many incumbents give examples of difficulties which they believe can be met only by some medical inspection which is systematic, gratuitous, and compulsory. Such are overcrowding, insanitary dwelling, the neglect of teeth and cleanliness in children.

XIII. Nearly half the papers which were returned failed to answer this question. So far as the answers were definite enough to be tabulated, they may be exhibited thus:—

(*a*)	Affirmative	-	-	183	Negative	-	-	37
(*b*)	,,	-	-	177	,,	-	-	33
(*c*)	,,	-	-	81	,,	-	-	77
(*d*)	,,	-	-	10	,,	-	-	179

XIV. Thirty-two incumbents think that children brought up in workhouses or large institutions compare favourably with ordinary children. Sixty express a contrary opinion. The rest give no answer to this question.

XV. One hundred and twenty incumbents are in favour of extending the powers of the local authorities to deal with neglected children. One hundred and twenty-six are opposed to every such proposal.

C.

Much of the most valuable matter contained in the replies of the clergy is not capable of tabulation. We should, therefore, perform but half of our task if we failed to record some of the general impressions which we have received from studying the returns as a whole. At the same time the figures given above appear to require a little interpretation. We propose, then to offer a few remarks under the following heads:—

The extent and causes of poverty in the diocese.

The administration of the endowed charities.

The administration of the Poor Law.

The problems of medical relief.

The treatment of pauper or neglected children.

We do not conceive that it is part of our duty to propose new methods. Our object is merely to supply the Royal Commission with some materials in a convenient form. The materials are mainly of the nature of problems; and it is to the Royal Commission that we look for solutions.

The Extent and the Causes of Poverty.

Taken as a whole the reports from the clergy of this diocese leave a much less unhappy impression than most people would have expected. In the three large towns, indeed, Bedford, Cambridge and Luton, there is a good deal of the squalid destitution which darkens the life of other large towns throughout the country. But in the rural or semi-rural parishes, which form the vast majority, the conditions of life are on the whole favourable. Though wages are low, employment is regular and living is cheap; so that nearly a hundred incumbents are able to report in the same phrase, "There is no real poverty in this parish." On examination this phrase is found to mean that although a few old people require parish relief, and here and there a widow has a great struggle, the families of all the respectable and sober labourers have no lack of food, clothes, and firing. Of the four counties it would seem that Huntingdon is the most and Suffolk the least prosperous. But even in Suffolk the general impression is not a gloomy one.

The large towns have their own special conditions which help to produce poverty. Common to them all are the uncertainties of employment. In Luton the straw hat manufacturing industry is liable to fluctuations: in Cambridge the University vacations continually throw many boys and men out of work. In Cambridge the employment of women as bedmakers, and in Luton their employment in the straw hat manufacture, is said to create a class of idle and useless men, who live upon their wives' earnings when they can, and at other times are destitute. But the main causes are the same both in town and in country. They are so simple and obvious that in one report after another the same phrases recur.

One of them is thriftlessness—the women in so many households have no notion how to spend their money to advantage; they can neither cook nor keep their houses tidy. The men have no idea of saving for a rainy day. Those who join benefit clubs appear to be a minority: those who save for old age are few indeed. Let us grant that the latter form of saving demands something like heroism when wages average 14s. a week: still the former ought surely to be general.

It would be, in all probability, if a second main cause of poverty could be removed. Improvident early marriages between young men and women who have no savings to furnish a house with, no experience to teach them economy, and no solid mutual affection to help them to bear hardship, are the source of great and prolonged misery. Upon many of these couples indeed, marriage comes not as a happy new start in life, but as a consequence of the incontinence of the past. In fact, the low standard of village opinion on the subject of sexual morality is perhaps the worst canker in the life of our rural districts. Until there has been some reform in that respect a large measure of poverty will be endemic.

The third cause is that to whose power we have received the most universal testimony. From every part of the diocese comes the cry, "But for drink there would

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be comparatively little distress." Some of our correspondents distinguish three forms of this evil. There are the regular drunkards, both men and women, who not only spend a large part of the family income in the public house, but make home intolerable with their brutal violence. There is the still larger number who, though they do not actually get drunk, habitually spend a great deal more than they can afford upon beer, because it is their chief pleasure. A third class waste their money upon drink, not so much because they care for it, as because they think such expenditure is required of them by public opinion. The extent to which the second form of intemperance prevails is particularly disquieting. The distress which it causes, though less acute than the effects of "open" drunkenness, is greater in volume. And it is much more difficult to deal with, since it rarely renders a man liable to any legal penalty. Whatever may be the exact proportion between the different varieties of the evil, we are convinced that it is hardly possible to exaggerate the extent to which the habit of drinking is responsible for poverty.

There remain two causes of another kind, not moral but physical—old age and widowhood. Where the rate of wages is so low as it is in our agricultural counties, men cannot be expected to make an adequate provision against either of these conditions. A man naturally hopes that he will live to support his family: he thinks of old age as something remote, until its approach begins to curtail his earnings: and all the while he finds it hard enough to heep his family upon what he receives. These causes of poverty, therefore, are likely to be permanent, and seem to demand some permanent remedy.

The Administration of Endowed Charities.

Our imperfect statistics, which lack the particulars of about a hundred small parishes, prove that the income of the endowed charities in the diocese exceeds £22,000. Though not a large amount compared with the funds of some other dioceses, it is large enough, if efficiently administered, to produce important results. Unhappily the documents before us tend to show that, under existing conditions, the administration neither is nor can be efficient.

(1). The mere fact that there are 935 separate trusts is a very serious obstacle. A separate organisation for managing every £20 of the income! But even that is not the worst. A great number of these trusts have an income of from £3 to 15s., sums not large enough to effect any solid good, yet quite large enough to be the objects of intrigue,and the causes of much jealousy and ill-feeling. Only if the administrators are both entirely wise and entirely trusted by the people can the distribution of such funds be innocuous.

(2). It has already been shown that in the majority of parishes the trusts are administered either by the incumbents alone or by the incumbent and churchwardens. Now it is only a minority of the clergy who have received any training in the principles of charitable relief: and the answers we have received make it clear that such knowledge does not come by the light of nature. Still less can we expect the churchwardens, who are appointed for reasons quite independent of almsgiving, to possess this kind of skill. Clergy and churchwardens alike are exposed to the criticism of the ignorant, whose idea of justice is always a mechanical rule. What wonder, then, if the administration of small funds is often either arbitrary or mechanical? We cannot refrain from quoting an example of churchwardens' charity which is given in one of the returns:—

"Our considerable charities are made of little use by being divided up among the whole of the cottagers. Families earning £3 a week are treated in the same way as those who are in real poverty; but the churchwardens cannot be persuaded of the folly of this waste." This is, indeed, the prevailing vice of distributing committees. Fearing the criticism which would be provoked by substantial gifts to deserving cases, they shield themselves by a mechanical allotment of useless doles. As to the other bodies of trustees we have no direct evidence; but it is reasonable to assume that many of them labour under the same disabilities.

(3). One of the besetting sins of charitable trustees is a desire to act independently, refusing co-operation with other bodies which are doing similar work. The effect of this feeling is that, all over England, plausible mendicants make a

comfortable income by obtaining grants from several sources. This diocese is no exception to the rule. In those many small parishes indeed, where all the funds are in the hands of the incumbent, and the Nonconformists give no relief of any kind, the danger is not serious. But in the larger parishes, especially in the towns, there are frequent instances of overlapping. Of the incumbents who are aware of the evil only twenty (mostly in town parishes) are able to say that an attempt has been made to co-ordinate the sources of relief. Where a Committee has been appointed to deal with all the local funds, and to work in concert with the Guardians, the results are said to be thoroughly satisfactory. The town of Bedford is particularly well organised in this respect, and derives much advantage therefrom. But the effect of the want of system, which is so general in the diocese, may be read in the discouraging answers given to our fifth and eighth questions. The perusal of them leaves a depressing conviction that the greater part of the "relief" which is being given is either useless or positively injurious to the recipients.

(4). The wisest administrator can effect little good if he is bound by covenant to devote much of his care to mischievous objects. We have therefore to consider the purpose for which the charitable trusts have been founded. Some of them are excellent. Parts of 72 trusts are devoted to education, of 60 to the housing of the poor, of 15 to apprenticing boys, 11 to hospitals or district nurses, and a few to allotments of land. But "charities" of another class are more numerous and better endowed. No less than 172 provide for doles of coal, 125 for doles of bread, 91 for doles of money, and 82 for doles of clothing. The returns contain many laments over the mischief which these relics of an obsolete conception of charity are inflicting upon the present generation. Where the funds are large (and in some places they are very large) widespread demoralisation is the result. All the parishioners are inclined to grasp at a share in such distribution: and trustees exposed to the fire of local criticism must be unusually courageous if they can wholly resist the claim. Consequently, for every case of deserving poverty which is relieved, several who are undeserving obtain a portion of the spoil, while several more are not less pauperised because their unjust desires have been disappointed. We cannot wonder, therefore, if the wiser clergy are anxious to be relieved of a responsibility which involves so much odium and carries with it so little power of doing substantial good.

These charities are subject to the Charity Commission; and many of them are administered under schemes drawn up by that body. Some of the schemes are intrinsically bad: some fail in practice because they assume too large a measure of wisdom and courage on the part of the trustees. We cannot help thinking that the time has come for a wholesale revision of these antiquated instruments.

The Administration of Poor Law Relief.

There are many aspects of the Poor Law with which the clergy are no more concerned than other citizens. Accordingly the scope of our questions and their answers was limited to such aspects of the Guardians' administration as directly affect the life of the parish, out-relief, medical relief, and the treatment of children.

A large majority of incumbents think the usual rate of out-relief is adequate. But an important minority make two objections to the current practice. Out-relief, they say, is granted in many cases which ought to be taken into the workhouse; and the amount granted in each case is insufficient. Guardians are tempted to allow out-relief because it is not only more popular, but apparently cheaper, since the cost of keeping a man in the workhouse is about 5s. a week. But living outside the workhouse, including rent, costs more than this; and someone must pay the difference, or the person "relieved" would starve. Unless he has relatives who will help, he must either get allowances from charitable funds, or beg from private persons. Generally speaking he does both; so that there is both overlapping and waste. Thus the out-relief is often an endowment of mendicancy. In the long run the rates are not benefited; for such examples are infectious, and the volume of destitution increases Still less is there any moral gain. Whether they consider it adequate or not, the clergy as a body deplore the effects of out-relief upon character. Many of them believe that if the aged had an allowance of 5s. a week, especially if it came as a right, they would feel independent, and would be saved from the temptation to beg, since they would be

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regarded as outside the scope of charity. For similar reasons it is urged that the allowance usually made to widows is inadequate. Often the mother has to work so hard in order to make up the needful income that she has not time or strength to care for the children. If, on the other hand, she is expected to obtain help from charities, she is exposed to the same temptations which we have already described.

We do not wish to express any opinion of our own on this difficult question: but we feel it our duty to represent the feeling of a strong body of the clergy.

Medical Relief under the Poor Law.

The replies of the clergy under this head give evidence of a great variety of theoretical opinions, but also of a very general agreement as to certain facts of the present situation. Three points are repeatedly mentioned with considerable emphasis.

(1). The functions of Medical Officer of Health and Poor Law Medical Officer, though sometimes happily united in one person, are usually exercised by different men who have little communication with each other, and no official connexion. Their spheres of duty overlap; their interests are different; and the result is not altogether satisfactory.

(2). The Medical Officer of Health, whose duty requires him to report upon nuisances, insanitary dwellings, and other impediments to the health of the poor, is rarely independent enough to face the owners of the incriminated property, who are not infrequently Guardians. Consequently serious evils often continue unchecked year after year.

(3). The Medical Officer of Health, again, has little power of initiative. He must wait, as a rule, until some one calls his attention to a nuisance. He has no right of entry into houses which he may believe on good evidence to be insanitary. He is not expected to take the initiative, even when the existence of such an evil is notorious.

The Relation of the Poor Law to Children.

The replies to the 13th and 14th questions bring out three points of some importance:—

(*a*) Much as the home life of the poor still leaves to be desired, there is on the whole a growth in the sense of parental responsibility. Children are not so often or so completely neglected by careless mothers as they were twenty or thirty years ago.

(*b*) In some districts the standard of exemption from school attendance is fixed much too low. Only in 76 places are children required to pass the sixth standard, and in some they are set free on passing the fourth.

(*c*) The majority of the clergy seem to know little about workhouse children. Among those who deal with the subject there is a general feeling in favour of boarding out, which is the system usually adopted in the diocese.

The replies to the 15th question reveal facts which call for serious consideration, and the remedies which they suggest raise a very important question of principle. The children whose condition is the hardest are not those of the legal pauper, but those of drunken, brutal or disreputable parents who are not in receipt of relief. Many such children are in a pitiable condition, hungry, filthy, unhealthy and vicious. The law, it is felt, does not enable the local authorities either to rescue them or to enforce better treatment in their homes.

In some cases, indeed, much more might be done if the authorities made full use of their existing powers. The borough of Luton has set a good example in the treatment of verminous children. The school teachers are instructed to report such cases to the police, who bring the parents before the magistrates. Sometimes the case is adjourned for a month to give the parents and the sanitary officer an opportunity of putting the children and the house in order: and if the result is satisfactory the

parents are merely cautioned. In bad cases, especially where there is evidence of drunkenness, one or both parents are sent to prison. The children are placed in the workhouse to be cleaned, and then passed on to children's homes; but returned to the parents when their sentence expires. This method is said to be so far successful that the police never have a recurrence of the offence with the same parents.

But there are other cases in which the law at present affords no remedy. For instance, if a widower neglects his family of young children, the Guardians cannot provide for them unless at the same time they take the father from his work and keep him in the workhouse.

A moving plea is made on behalf of these most unhappy children. They belong to the State as well as to their parents. If they grow up unhealthy, dirty, dispirited and unfit for work, they will ultimately join the ranks of the criminals, the prostitutes or the unemployable. To control their parents, and in extreme cases to remove the children from them, is not only to save individuals from misery and degradation, but to rear up a sounder generation for the service of the State. On that ground a large number of incumbents desire that extended powers should be given either to Boards of Guardians or to Education Committees: and they welcome, as a step in the right direction, the recent order of the Board of Education which requires a medical examination of school children at regular intervals.

On the other hand an equal number protest against what they consider to be an invasion of the parents' rights. They urge that in the end such interference will involve a weakening of parental responsibility. They fear any suggestion that parents should be relieved of their children, as a step towards breaking up the family.

The issue thus raised is so important, and the advocates on both sides are so closely in touch with the life of the poor, that we have thought it our duty to report the controversy at some length.

In conclusion, we desire to thank the Royal Commission for having given us the opportunity of contributing, however humbly, to a work which we feel to be of the first importance.

We have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

W. AUSTIN,

C. BIDWELL,

W. CUNNINGHAM,

M. G. GLAZEBROOK (*Chairman*),

W. HARTER,

J. A. HUGHES (*Secretary*),

J. J. JONES,

O. F. READ,

A. SLOMAN.

Signed on behalf of the Committee.

M. G. GLAZEBROOK.

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EXETER.

SOCIAL SUBJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT.

Subjoined is the result of inquiries from the Clergy of the Exeter Diocese on the above matter.

Generally speaking, answers have been sent in from most parishes, town and country. Archidiaconal Committees have kindly sifted the reports from their Archdeaconries, and it is now our duty to give a digest of the result.

DIGEST OF ARCHIDIACONAL REPORTS.

List of Questions for the Clergy.

1. *Is there much poverty in your Parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?*

There is a general consensus that in *country* parishes throughout the Diocese poverty is decreasing; and that such poverty as there is, exists, possibly to a small extent from low wages, but much more from drink habits, consequent thoughtlessness, improvident marriages and the unwise administration of doles, which last breeds a pauper temper. In the country proper there are few unemployed, unless for some reason or other they are practically unemployable.

In towns, especially the larger towns, though it is said poverty does not increase In ratio with the increase of population, there is a great deal of regrettable poverty. immorality tends to poverty; but the chief causes of poverty are the same as in country districts, only in a more aggravated form, viz.:—intemperance, want of thrift, large families, and local charities and doles.

Further, in large seaside places where tourists create a summer harvest, the intermittent character of much of the work has a degenerating influence. Money easily earned in the summer season is not husbanded to meet the stress of winter. In "The Three Towns" one of the causes of poverty, specially quoted, is stated to arise from the reduction in dockyard labour, the ups and downs of the building trade, and the occasional dislocation of labour due to the completion from time to time of such works as Keyham Naval Docks. The immigration of unskilled labourers from the country to large towns tends also to poverty. We also hear of the moral evil resulting from overcrowding, drink habits amongst women, and husbands thus driven from their sordid homes in search of the cheer of the public house. It is generally agreed that the causes of poverty are more moral and social and hereditary than economic.

2. *Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of District Visitors?*

In *small* country parishes such relief as the clergy have to deal with is distributed to deserving cases by them personally, after close inquiry. The people are better off than years ago, and there is very little indiscriminate almsgiving. In many a small parish scarce any pauperising influence survives.

In larger parishes both in town and country relief is commonly administered by distribution of tickets for relief in kind through parish committees and district visitors. Church collections and subscriptions by private charity provide the funds. The spirit of thrift is much fostered by clubs of various kinds. There is evidence that Churchmen are impartial in the relief of distress.

3. *Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law Relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.*

A chorus of "Noes" meets this enquiry. It is very seldom real distress shrinks from making its claim for "*outdoor* relief."

Still in towns very respectable persons in sickness and trouble fall into great stress, and thoughtful discriminating clergy use certain "offerings" of Churchmen to relieve such cases; such as would rather starve than let their destitution be known.

But with "*indoor* relief" there is great reluctance Improved as our Union Houses are, especially in the treatment of aged inmates and children, the "stigma" of the House is still felt. Causes of reluctance are, too, the necessary breaking up of home and the restriction of liberty. Improved as "the House" is, the immoral woman, the imbecile, the low characters of others that have reached the House through drink, make "the House" to the respectable poor still distasteful. For this, better and more uniform classification of the inmates of the Workhouse is a remedy much to be desired.

4. *Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.*

The "Totnes" Archdeaconry says: "There is a general report from all parishes that the Poor Law Relief is inadequate, principally in the case of aged single persons. The sum of 3s. 6d. is insufficient in the towns, as out of it 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. must be paid as rent for one room." The Exeter report says, "it is complained that *in towns* Poor Law Relief is inadequate." Many returns, both town and country represent sick and aged relief as insufficient, and some express the well-founded opinion that greater liberality might be allowed in case of "cripples," and victims by accident permanently disabled.

5. *Is there in your Parish any needless overlapping*

(a) *before various forms of charity, or*

(b) *between charity and the Poor Law,*

and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

In country districts there is but little overlapping of a needless character, as cases are known individually: in case of large families or greviously afflicted individuals by age, accident, or hereditary ailment, charity not unreasonably supplements the modicum of Poor Law allowance.

In town parishes there is doubtless considerable overlapping, owing to the number of Religious bodies acting independently of one another; no doubt, too, in towns Poor Law Relief is insufficient and other help is called for. At Exeter, Torquay and elsewhere excellent work is being done by the Charity Organization Society.

6. *If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your Parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.*

It is generally replied that it is impossible to answer this question with accuracy. The proportion of the three special sources of relief, viz.:—alms collected in church, private benevolence, and doles of endowed charities, differs very widely in different parishes. Even in the country, it is impossible to state exhaustively the amount of charitable assistance given outside Poor Law, and the number of those who receive it.

7. *Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your Parish during the course of a year?*

This question, though attempted by some, has been found difficult or impossible to answer satisfactorily.

It is agreed the existence of large endowed charities in a place tends to create whole areas of dependence and destitution. Some old charities are for the "second poor," as they are sometimes called, *i.e.*, all who do not receive "Parish Pay." One parish is said to possess £1,500 a year in Feoffee Charities. Few are too proud to refuse to take a share of such local blessings. Hence a dependent cast of character is developed, and the glorious pride of independence is not realized or valued at its full.

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GLOUCESTER.

Report of Special Committee.

To the Right Reverend Edgar Charles Sumner Gibson, D.D.,

Lord Bishop of Gloucester.

My Lord,

The Committee appointed by your Lordship to conduct an investigation as to the extent and intensity of poverty in this Diocese, and the methods of administering charitable assistance, have the honour to make the following Report:—

The first meeting was held by the kindness of your Lordship at the Palace but the subsequent meetings have been held at the Mission College, Gloucester.

Your Committee have to deplore the death of Mr. H. T. Carrington, who, unfortunately, was only privileged to attend the first meeting.

It was decided that a communication should be sent to all Incumbents throughout the Diocese, asking for information as set forth in the letter attached to this Report. *Two hundred and sixty-two* replies were received from 323 Incumbents to whom the letter was addressed.

Your Committee have divided those replies into three heads:—

(A) *From Parishes in Gloucester and Cheltenham.*

(B) *From Parishes with populations of* 3,000 *and over.*

(C) *From Parishes with populations of under* 3,000.

On these answers, for which we wish to thank the 262 Incumbents who have taken the trouble to reply to the list of questions, our report is based.

Question No. 1:—*Is there much poverty or destitution in your Parish, and if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?*

Replies:—(A) There is a good deal of poverty mostly among the casual workmen, but destitution is met by the Poor Law.

Causes: Moral.

(1) Drinking habits among men and women.

(2) Want of thrift.

Economic.

(1) Difficulty of elderly men and casual labourers to find employment.

(2) Depression in the building trade.

(B) Always poverty, but destitution is met by Poor Law relief—not increasing in intensity.

Causes: Moral.

(1) Want of thrift.

(2) Drunkenness.

Economic.

(1) Difficulty of elderly men to get taken on, after losing their work from failing health, or any other cause.

(2) Men living on the earnings of their wives and children.

(C) Replies are the same as those in (B).

Causes: These also are the same, with the exception of (2) economics, though in a few instances "low wages" is suggested.

Question No. 2:—*Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance* (a) *to the sick,* (b) *the aged,* (c) *those in temporary,* (d) *those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself or through District Visitors or others?*

Replies:—(A) Generally to the effect that charitable assistance is given through District Visitors, though some few Parishes relieve through the agency of a Committee.

(B) District Visitors generally administer charitable assistance.

(C) For the most part returns show that the Clergy and their families—in a few instances with the Churchwardens—administer charitable assistance, though District Visitors do so in some of the larger parishes.

Question No. 3:—*Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief,* (a) *in the House,* (b) *in the form of out-relief?* If so, please give details and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of reluctance.

Replies:—(A) (B) C). Generally the answers are in the negative both as regards (a) and (b), though there is evidently some reluctance on the part of the poor to enter the Workhouse as inmates. This is attributed mostly to the dislike of restraint and discipline, the breaking up of home, and in a lesser degree a dread of having to mix with persons of indifferent character and habits.

Question No. 4:—*Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate?* If so, please give instances and details.

Replies:—(A) (B) (C). For the most part the answers are in the negative, though many think the out-relief given by Guardians is not adequate, but no actual instances or details are given.

Question No. 5:—*Is there in your Parish any needless overlapping* (a) *between various forms of charity, or* (b) *between charity and the Poor Law, and, if so has any special effort been made with a view to prevent such overlapping?*

Replies:—(A) (a) Generally there appears to be but little overlapping, though a certain amount does exist in some Parishes and at certain times in the year.

(b) In many cases Poor Law relief is supplemented by charity, and is apparently not considered overlapping.

(B) The answers are for the most part in the negative.

(C) The general reply is "none whatever." Some Parishes keep in touch with the Relieving Officer.

(a) Larger Parishes say some overlapping between Church and Non-conformist charities.

Question No. 6:—*If you can give or obtain any figures, or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your Parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so*

Replies:—(A) (B) (C) No reliable information can be obtained.

Question No. 7:—*Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your Parish during the year ending 31st March last?*

Replies:—(A) (B) (C) No reliable information can be obtained.

Question No. 8:—*In the event of your having an endowed Charity in your Parish do you consider it is beneficial* (a) *in reducing pauperism,* (b) *in encouraging thrift?*

Replies:—(A) (B) The general opinion is that charities giving doles in bread and money tend to promote pauperism and discourage thrift.

(C) The general answer is No to both (a) and (b). It would appear that there is universal opinion that endowed charities consisting of doles, more especially in money, are not beneficial in either (a) or (b), while some go so far as to say that on the other hand they are calculated to increase pauperism and discourage thrift. Bonuses to coal and clothing clubs, which exist in very large numbers, almshouses, and charitable pensions are generally approved.

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GENERAL REMARKS.

The returns show that in 202 Parishes relief is given by the Clergy alone, in 29 by the Clergy and District Visitors, and in 23 the District Visitors alone administer charitable assistance. In 8 parishes there are Relief Committees.

The Committee are of opinion that the returns received show that there is no exceptional distress in the rural parts of the Diocese. Poor people there will always be, but their poverty is rather decreasing than increasing; and that the periodical seasons of exceptional distress in the large towns is mainly caused by the casual or seasonal nature of the employment of so many; to the want of thrift; and the large amount of money spent in drink; and to the fact that when in employment they spend all the wages they earn and lay by nothing for the many days when they are out of employment.

In many Parishes the custom is prevalent of supplementing out-relief, but it should be pointed out that Guardians constantly restrict or refuse out-relief because there are near relations able to help who are refusing to do so. The Committee, however, consider that out-relief, if given, should be adequate, this having regard to the ability of relatives to assist and the circumstances of the recipient of relief generally.

There is a general consensus of opinion that endowed charities, which consist of doles, have a demoralising effect on the recipients, and the Committee think that the Charity Commission might, with advantage, sanction schemes for the conversion of dole Charities to purposes more beneficial to the Parishes concerned.

The Committee desire, in conclusion, to bring to your Lordship's notice the great assistance they have received from their painstaking Secretary, Mr. H. Allen-Armitage, on whom the bulk of the work has fallen.

We have the honour to remain,

My Lord,

Your obedient servants,

J. F. Curtis Hayward (*Chairman*).

Russell J. Kerr, Junr. (*Vice-Chairman*).

E. C. Scobell (*Archdeacon of Glo'ster*).

H. R. Hayward (*Archdeacon of Cirencester*).

P. H. Kempthorne.

H. Madan Pratt.

W. F. Hicks-Beach.

J. Dearman Birchall.

E. Egerton Leigh.

Percival S. Marling.

A. C. Mitchell.

M. W. Colchester Wemyss.

E. B. Wethered.

H. Allen Armitage (*Hon. Sec.*).

[COPY LETTER.]

Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress.

GLOUCESTER DIOCESE.

7, Queen Street, Gloucester,

August, 1907.

Dear Sir,

The Royal Commission, which has been appointed to investigate the working of the Poor Law and the relief of distress is anxious to avail itself of the great experience possessed in this matter by the Clergy of the Church of England and to obtain from them reliable information as to:

1. The extent and intensity of poverty in various parts of the country; and
2. The methods of administering charitable assistance.

The Lord Bishop has therefore been asked to have such an enquiry carried through in this Diocese, for which purpose a Special Committee has been formed by his Lordship, of which I have the honour to be Chairman.

The Committee have now met and have drawn up a number of questions, a copy of which is sent herewith, and they confidently appeal to the Parochial Clergy throughout the Diocese to render them every assistance by concise and accurate replies to such questions.

Mr. H. Allen-Armitage has been appointed Hon. Sec. to this Committee, and you are asked to kindly send your replies to him at the above address as early as possible, but not later than the 29th September next.

I may add that a similar enquiry is being carried on in other Dioceses, and I am desired by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese to express the hope you will see your way to affording the Royal Commission your co-operation in the matter.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

J. F. CURTIS HAYWARD,

Chairman of Special Committee for the Diocese of Gloucester.

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HEREFORD.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON "POOR RELIEF."

In reply to questions:

(1) *Is there much poverty in your parish, and if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is mainly due?*

There appears to have been uncertainty as to what was meant by "poverty"; but it has been generally interpreted to mean "destitution," "lack of absolute necessaries," or "extreme or intense poverty." In a diocese where employment is chiefly agricultural, with wages of 11s. to 15s. a week, poverty of the kind implied in such wages is naturally taken for granted. "We are all poor" is a common verdict. But, apart from the privations admittedly attendant on wages like these, poverty of a severe type is said not to exist widely. There is an almost unanimous consensus of opinion that it is not increasing, and some little evidence that it is decreasing, and that too although there are frequent complaints of a steady diminution of industrial efficiency among the labourers. In only two replies is general poverty stated to be on the increase. The decrease in poverty is attributed to the scarcity of labour, which in some parts has caused wages to rise; and absence of severe and widespread poverty is also attributed to there being little or no unemployment by reason of the notable readiness with which the villagers migrate to towns or abroad, when work is lacking. Unemployment, as a cause of poverty, when it does exist, is present chiefly in the winter months, when agricultural operations are restricted. The readiness to migrate is probably a tradition due to the housing conditions, and the knowledge that no advancement in life is possible without leaving. As a rule, only sufficient houses are kept in repair to accommodate such families, as form the minimum staff with which the farms can be worked. To save expense of repairs, all other cottages are allowed to decay, and are ultimately demolished. It often happens that those who are too ill or too old to work are compelled to migrate to towns, because it is imperative that the farmer should have the house for a man who can work. It is for this reason that, as will be seen below (*vide* replies to Question 9), almshouses are so much appreciated in rural districts. Extra hands required for pea, hop, and fruit-picking are housed in temporary shedding; thus it happens that no houses are available for those not in regular work. Exceptional unemployment is noted in a few small industrial centres in Shropshire and Worcestershire, and is attributed to the closing of mines and carpet works, and to slackness in the building trade, which has caused discharges in brick and tile works.

As to the moral cause of poverty, the clergy are emphatic and almost unanimous, that it is drink first and other causes a very long way behind. Only two incumbents note the existence of gambling, and that, too, in small rural parishes; while only one (urban) attributes poverty to "marriages of necessity." This, of course, appears at first remarkable in a county in which the illegitimacy figures are so bad. The explanation is probably connected with the housing question referred to above. Those contracting such marriages would, in most parishes, be unable to obtain a house: in consequence the marriage either does not take place, or the couple go to "The Works" (*i.e.* South Wales), the usual resort of Herefordshire people with blemished reputations. In this way the difficulty of getting a house probably increases illegitimacy by preventing some marriages of this description which would otherwise take place. But in the city and county towns such marriages unquestionably produce much poverty.

The part played by drink as a moral factor has its counterpart in low wages

as the economic factor in the cause of poverty. The following opinions occur again and again, variously expressed:—

"The low wages paid by farmers to their regular men, make it impossible for men to provide for emergencies or old age."

"All energetic men have gone. Only least desirable are left."

"A married farm labourer can never make provision for old age."

"Wages low; families large; children underfed; labour inferior."

"A good deal of poverty is due to young and able-bodied men finding better paid work in large towns, and leaving the old and infirm with no one to support them."

And so the changes are rung.

Next to low wages comes old age. The old are said to be "relatively numerous": "their relations and natural supporters migrate." The very healthiness of agricultural life is said to aggravate the poverty. "Poverty here is due to the unusually long lives of our people." "They outlive their capacity to work." "Their pay does not admit of provision for a protracted old age." The evidence of the association of old age and poverty is only less wide and weighty than that on the subject of drink, and it is even more certain to be free from bias. Old-age pensions and almshouses are said to be the remedy. A great amount of poverty is attributed to widows, or widows and children being unprovided for.

Illness has its usual place; large families are said to be numerous, and to be a frequent cause of poverty. No suggestions are attempted for dealing with these cases; when hunger endangers the lives of the children, some are temporarily removed to the workhouse, to be returned to their parents when health is restored by food. But "things are better as soon as older children can work," thus showing the temptation to which the poor are exposed to send their children too early to work, though even this may well be a lesser evil than that the whole of a large family should grow up inadequately nourished. As a result of this child labour we are told that in places, a class of unskilled labourers is growing up, because there is much employment for young people in towns and their vicinities, directly they can earn anything as paper boys, errand boys, and the like. Parents do not apprentice them to trades sufficiently, and at about 18 employment ends. An undesirable kind of girl loafer is increasing because of the disinclination for domestic service. The subsequent results of this are seen later in that cause of poverty which is described in the often-repeated words, "wife a bad manager."

There is also considerable evidence that doctors' bills bring unmerited poverty on many who least deserve it, and devour the little store which thrift has with difficulty accumulated. One rector says that "no doctor will come to the parish for less than 10s. 6d. a visit." Another, "there are also many others who are kept very poor chiefly through doctors' bills when sickness enters a house." "Many thoroughly respectable people, though exceedingly poor, will not send for the parish doctor, and in consequence often find themselves at end of half-year saddled with a bill. These, to the amount of £2, £3, £4, £5, £6, £7 and even £8, are not infrequently to be found in a cottage where the earnings of the breadwinner are not more than 16s. a week. Being honest the people pay by instalments, and hence a chronic state of poverty, which means an insufficient supply of food. This class of person will not send for a parish doctor for two reasons: (1) Because of the name of the thing; (2) because they think, and rightly think, that their sick ones will not receive as much attention as if the doctor were promised payment."

One incumbent lays much stress upon the deterioration of character which is produced by efforts to save out of a wage which is entirely inadequate. The effort required is apparently so severe that a greedy and miserly habit of mind is engendered. This is a point which has been frequently noted by those who are intimate with the conditions of life among agricultural labourers.

In one parish three old people are penniless because their friendly society failed through bad management. In another parish it is stated that no poverty is present

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owing to the existence of a very energetic branch of a friendly society. And elsewhere it is stated that practically no distress is present, because three-quarters of the population of the whole village are protected by such a society.

In three parishes it is noted that there is an absence of poverty, due to every one, or nearly every one, being a small farmer or combining the occupation of land with some other trade. It may be added that parishes in which such conditions obtain are very rare in Herefordshire.

Elsewhere insanitary dwellings are said to produce poverty (no particular reason being given), and in Hereford City it is noted that the large number of bad houses let at very low rents attract men who are not wanted, and whose presence lowers wages and increases poverty over a large circumjacent area.

(2) *Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic, distress?*
Are you assisted by a committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of District Visitors?

The majority of parishes are small, and in these, as a consequence, no special method of administering charitable assistance is employed, the incumbent being able to keep a bird's-eye view on his parish. For this reason he usually administers the charity single-handed, and finds sufficient time for personal investigation of each case. No methods of relieving unemployment are referred to, there being little distress from this cause. In small parishes the assistance of a committee is not employed, as being not required. In the larger parishes district visitors are generally employed, but they are not always efficient, and in four parishes the assistance of a committee is obtained. Where there is a parish nurse she appears to be consulted—as is also in some cases, the doctor—as to the relief to be given. As would be expected from the answer to the previous question, the aged poor, and widows and their children are the chief objects of charity, and the funds for this purpose come mainly from the church offertory and endowments. But there is much evidence that the landowners are usually to be relied upon to give, when special funds are required for special cases; and that the farmers also help their own workpeople; but the practice with them is far from universal.

After old age, sickness claims most attention. Parish nurses are considered most desirable. As a rule, assistance is given in kind; but money is occasionally given at confinements, or to pay up arrears of club, or as bonuses for saving, coal, and clothing clubs.

There are many advocates of convalescent homes, and many of the clergy appear to think that the income arising from funded charities would be much better employed in this way, among others, than distributed in periodical doles.

The methods of relieving distress in Bridgnorth and Bewdley appear to be much better organised and well considered than in any other parishes in the diocese. The scheme given by the incumbent of Bridgnorth is attached in the hope that it may be brought widely to the knowledge of the clergy, by whom these methods might, in many places, with advantage be imitated.

(See Appendix to this Report.)

(3) *Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.*

(3) There is not any large amount of unrelieved distress. The evidence is conclusive that in a majority of parishes there is but little general reluctance to apply for outdoor relief, which is said by some to be "taken almost by right as an old age pension." In a larger number of parishes there are individual cases of reluctance to relief of any sort. There is evidence that such reluctance as there is is decreasing. In spite of this, in some few parishes there is said to be still a great traditional dislike

even of outdoor relief, probably due to memories of an exceptionally obnoxious local administration of the old Poor Law.

In many parishes there are isolated cases of privations endured by the aged and widows because self-respect forbids to go "on the parish," and it is said that probably there are more of such cases than are heard of. "People such as these are the last to complain," and "it hurts their pride to come up before the Board."

Besides self-respect, other causes of reluctance are enumerated. In primis, the fear that relations will have to contribute out of inadequate means, or that such contributions will produce unpleasantness with relations, or bring discredit on the family. This is natural, for the average wage being, as stated above, extremely low, and families large, there must be often cases in which such contributions, if enforced (as in some Unions, but not in all, they are enforced), would entail severe hardship on the children. These contributions must still further reduce the low wages, and, doubtless, stimulate migration, in order to escape a liability which can ill be afforded. There is, however, evidence that some who can afford to contribute, try to escape. Domestic servants are known to contribute very largely, and voluntarily.

Some reluctance is said to be due to the system which makes the farmers tenants of the cottages instead of the labourers. "The farmers prefer to have none but able-bodied people in their cottages, and old people fear, if they go "on the parish," they will lose their home."

Evidence is also given incidentally of the extreme goodness of the poor to each other. "They help each other in a hundred ways."

But if there is little reluctance to accept outdoor relief, the reverse is the case with indoor. There is an entire absence of evidence that any of the poor go willingly into "the house." There is complete unanimity that "the poor abhor 'the house,'" and "regard it with as much horror as a prison." "They prefer death to 'the house.'" Two replies state that this attitude is unjustifiable; none deny its universal existence.

(4) *Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.*

The very general opinion is that the outdoor relief given in a majority of Unions is quite inadequate. It is required mainly for the aged poor, widows and their children, and in cases of chronic sickness.

The payments vary from 2s. to 3s. 6d. per week per head, the usual sum being 2s. 6d., with or without a loaf, which is stated to be barely sufficient to keep body and soul together.

There would be considerable distress from this cause if the poor relief were not supplemented by charity of individuals and churches. The opinion is expressed that 4s. to 5s. should be given.

Numerous cases are quoted of aged and deserving couples trying to live on a joint income of 5s. per week, and pay their rent out of it.

Cases are quoted of inadequate payments to widows with children, e.g. 4s. 6d. for widow and four children.

There are some clergy who appear to think the relief adequate, but they are not numerous; it is probably considered adequate because it can be, and so often is, supplemented by charity.

(5) *What is your opinion in regard to outdoor relief in such a parish as yours?*

Opinion is almost absolutely unanimous that outdoor relief is necessary and beneficial, and ought to be adequate. That "it alleviates distress, but does not

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prevent it." Many are fearful it may lead to bad consequences, but little evidence is adduced that it has; but the clerk to a large Union informs the writer that huge sums are wasted on undeserving cases. All are, of course, agreed that the greatest care should be exercised in granting it.

The administration in the different Unions appears to vary in a remarkable degree. Some Boards are "kind and considerate," others "make it as hard and shameful as possible to get out-relief." "Enough consideration is not shown to those who have tried to help themselves." "Outdoor relief ought not to be refused to those who own a little house of their own," often mortgaged. It is said (not in these replies) that some relieving officers have made fortunes by buying the properties of such persons on nominal terms, or by a small pension for life, so that the vendor becomes qualified for relief. Complaint is made that "those who have saved a little are worse treated than those who have saved nothing," and it is considered monstrous that aged couples in receipt of outdoor relief should be prohibited from keeping a pig—this being considered evidence of other means.

Several incumbents think workhouses should be abolished, except infirmaries, and the saving in cost employed in augmenting the outdoor relief of deserving poor.

There is much evidence that outdoor relief is given in old age to some of the friendless and decrepit poor who would be very much better cared for in the workhouse infirmary; and it is suggested that larger powers ought to be given to the Guardians to remove to workhouses persons of this description, who suffer from neglect, vermin, dirt, and some kinds of disease.

Very serious complaint is made that single women with no visible means of subsistence are permitted to become the mothers of numerous illegitimate children when this might be prevented by continuous detention in the workhouse. It is said that some of these women are more or less feeble-minded, and are not really fit to be trusted with their liberty.

All are agreed that "almost any home" is better for children than "the 'house'"; and one incumbent notes as remarkable evidence in favour of workhouses that he once heard a child speak of this place as "home."

(6) *Is there in your parish any needless overlapping;*

(*a*) *between various forms of charity, or*

(*b*) *between charity and the Poor Law,*

and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

On the whole the answers to this question are well summarised in the following reply: "In our small communities everything is easily known: one form of charity helps rather than hinders another."

Many of the clergy are Guardians themselves, or in touch with the Guardians.

It is suggested that relieving officers should send lists of all in receipt of relief to ministers of all denominations.

As to (*a*), there is a little evidence of overlapping between Church and Nonconformity in two rural parishes, but it does not amount to much, and there is pleasing evidence elsewhere of co-operation between the Church and Nonconformity in the distribution of charity. But there is evidence of serious overlapping of charity of all sorts in and among several large urban parishes, where no successful attempt has been made to organise it. Regret is expressed that no charity organisation exists, but no explanation is given of the discreditable fact that in such parishes charity has not been adequately organised. That this is possible is well proved by the reports from Bewdley and Bridgnorth referred to above, where the organisation has been most successful.

As to (*b*), there is evidence of serious overlapping of endowed charities and the Poor Law in one instance. But there is also evidence that there are other places where such overlapping might equally well exist, but has been successfully prevented by judicious co-operation between Guardians and trustees. There is much evidence that in numerous places the administration of "dole" charities amounts to little else than relief of the rates, or subsidies to low wages.

(7) *If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.*

(8) *Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your parish during the course of a year?*

These two questions may best be summarised together. It is difficult to give anything but a merely approximate reply to them, as there was a lack of agreement as to what constituted "charitable assistance;" some incumbents included bonuses to parochial provident clubs, and some did not, while a minority have not taken account of parochial endowments, and many have attempted no replies. From 134 parishes, with an aggregate population of 88,994, answers were given disclosing a sum of £5,365 spent in charitable assistance, this including church offertories, interest on some parochial endowments, and some private charitable donations. The last-named were not included in a majority of cases, but often stated to be "considerable" or "very considerable." Sufficient data were not furnished to enable figures of any value to be given showing the relative proportions of the funds received from the three above-named sources. From the figures given above, it appears that, as far as the parishes making returns are concerned, 20·75 per cent. of the population are in receipt of charitable relief, allowing an average of five persons to a family. In these figures club bonuses are excluded as far as possible. The including of these would, of course, bring the major portion of the population—of the rural villages, at least—into the category of those receiving charitable assistance. These provident clubs exist for the purpose of encouraging and facilitating saving in cash, or for the purpose of buying coal, boots, or clothing at Christmas. The funds contributed by the poor are supplemented from the sources of charity referred to above, but still more often by special collections from the wealthier residents in the neighbourhood. Such clubs are universally well spoken of, and, if there are any objections to them, or abuses in connection with them, they are not disclosed in these replies.

It is most regrettable to find that a large number of parochial endowed charities are of the kind known as "dole" charities. They are generally described as "unsatisfactory," "wasteful," and "demoralising." These doles are given in bread, coal, clothing, boots, and cash, and bread is stated to be the most wasteful form of gift. Some recipients will not even take the trouble to call for the bread which has been allotted to them. Very many of the parochial charities have under the trust deeds to be distributed to fixed numbers of persons or families in money or kind, and it appears frequently to occur that these numbers are in great excess of the really necessitous poor of the parish. Even where the hands of the trustees are not fettered by the terms of the trust, it is the practice of many parish councils and other trustees, as a result of custom or a mistaken sense of justice, to distribute the proceeds of the charities in doles among the entire working population of the parish. Complaint is made that in some cases these doles have to be earned by a regular attendance at church services, and there are clergy who strongly resent having to perform divine service before a congregation consisting partly of paid worshippers. The doles are sometimes too large, often insignificant from excessive division, and, being regular, are anticipated before receipt, and for all practical purposes serve no useful end, but are merely aids to low wages, which they help to make still lower. Many incumbents express hopes that powers will be taken, if such are not now existent, to revise the trust deeds. There is an almost entire agreement that these dole charities would be better reserved for emergencies, such as cases of sickness, sending patients to convalescent homes, or providing outfits for girls of necessitous parents to enable them to enter domestic service, or in paying parish nurses. There are also important proposals for utilising the capital for the provision of almshouses, as indicated under the last question.

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(9) *If you have any almshouses or other forms of endowed charity in your parish, kindly give your estimate of their value, and mention any reforms which would make them more useful.*

There is more unanimity on the subject of almshouses than any other Wherever they exist they are approved. There is no essential point stated against them as homes for the aged and deserving poor, except the occasional absence of adequate nursing. In this diocese, where scarcity of houses often compels farmers to get rid of old workmen past labour to make room for younger men, the utility and humanity of such almshouses is obvious. The administration, though generally, is not always, approved, and in Hereford City accusations of the gravest nature are made against it. It is stated that their use is perverted by political partisanship, to the detriment of the deserving poor. These statements should be brought to the notice of the Charity Commissioners for investigation. Some complain that the pensions to occupants are excessive, and permission to revise is not obtainable; others, that discretion in choice of occupants is too much fettered. The only other criticism is that they are sometimes occupied by decrepit, feeble, and friendless persons, who would be *better attended* in workhouses.

It is suggested that in many cases the capital of the funds now squandered in doles could, with great advantage, be realised and employed in building almshouses in larger numbers in the more populous villages. If such almshouses were built in colonies of reasonable size, the services of nurses could be obtained to look after such of the inmates as required attention, and this would remove the only drawback referred to above. It is further suggested that the Poor Law authorities, instead of enlarging workhouses, should build almshouses in the larger parishes, where, under adequate nursing, the aged poor would be much happier and no less well attended than in the workhouse, while the bitterness of the name attaching to that institution would be removed. The special housing conditions obtaining in this diocese make these suggestions deserving of full consideration, while the practicability of the proposal will be greatly increased by the advent of *old age pensions, which will give the means of maintaining a home in the native village, but do little towards providing the home itself.* If the aged poor were by some such scheme as this removed from the workhouse, and the workhouse children boarded out under motherly supervision in cottage homes in the country and sent to the village schools, the classification of the remaining inmates of the workhouse would be greatly simplified in such a diocese as this.

APPENDIX TO REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE OF THE DIOCESE OF HEREFORD ON RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

BRIDGNORTH CHARITABLE RELIEF SOCIETY.

Principles of Relief.

1.—Suitable Cases.—Cases of unforeseen and unavoidable distress, where temporary aid is likely to do permanent good. Previous independence, a clean home, a good character, thrifty habits, regular payments to a sound Friendly and Medical Club, should tell in favour of an applicant.

2.—Unsuitable Cases.—(A) Where temporary aid is not likely to do permanent good, because it cannot remove the cause of distress, e.g. idleness, thriftlessness, drinking habits, chronic incapacity, &c.

(B) When relations refuse to give the assistance they can.

3.—Chronic Cases.—Where a permanent provision seems possible, quarterly pensions may be given to supplement

(A) Savings.

(B) Weekly contributions by relations.

(C) Contributions from a church or chapel fund.

N.B.—The provision should not exceed the amount of the contributions, which must always pass through the hands of the Society's officer, unless the Committee is satisfied that the payments are regularly made.

4.—Poor Law Cases.—These should be left entirely to the Guardians, one object of the Society being to *prevent* pauperism.

5.—Convalescent Cases.—No wiser assistance can be given than to hasten the recovery of the sick by defraying the extra cost of obtaining change of air, &c.

6.—Emigration Cases.—Assistance may be given (generally to supplement savings and the contributions of relatives), when lack of work is inevitable, but as a rule only to families.

7.—Begging Petitions should be entirely discouraged. In deserving cases, when it seems desirable to collect money for some special object, it must be collected by someone in independent circumstances, authorised by the Society.

8.—Loans in time of distress preserve independence and may promote providence. They may be granted, to be repaid by instalments; no sum exceeding 10s. should be lent unless good security is offered, one surety being (as a rule) in the same rank of life as the applicant.

9.—Tramps, being relieved by the Poor Law Authorities, are not considered proper objects for the charity of this Society.

10.—The Committee will strictly adhere to the rules of the Society that relief should be distributed without reference to creed.

Rules.

1st.—That a permanent chairman be elected to preside at the meetings of this Society.

2nd.—That no relief be given beyond the amount of the funds in hand.

3rd.—That no relief be given until the case has been brought before and decided by the committee, but should a case arise which needs urgent and prompt help, the committeeman of the district, the Chairman and the Charity Officer may grant interim relief.

4th.—All applications for relief shall be made to the Charity Officer or to the committeeman of the district, who shall obtain full particulars as to the condition wages, &c., these particulars to be brought before the committee at the next meeting, when the case shall be discussed and settled, the meetings to be held weekly in winter, and at such other times as the committee from time to time may determine.

5th.—An alphabetical list of applicants to be kept, with dates and amount of relief given, also a list of those refused relief, with reasons for refusal.

6th.—The amount of quarterly cases to be a first charge, together with the officer's salary and commission.

7th.—The amount provided by relations or from any other source to be paid through the Charity Officer, as a security that these payments are punctually paid; if they cease, the Society's money to stop. The first-named money to be paid in cash.

8th.—In case of need, and in times of exceptional distress the Society, through its Chairman, and, if possible, in conjunction with the Mayor, may issue a special appeal for funds, and the Society shall distribute such funds either in relief works or by ticket.

9th.—That ministers of religion and members of the Corporation be ex-officio members of the committee, but should not have separate districts assigned to them.

10th.—That no one be a member of the committee who is not a subscriber.

Mr. A. S. Trevor, Chairman.

Mr. F. Callant, Charity Officer,
56, High Street, Bridgnorth.

Mr. S. T. Nicholls } Hon. Secs.
Mr. F. W. Hewitt }

Hours of attendance from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m. every week-day except Saturday.

P.S.—All subscriptions and donations should be paid to the Charity Officer, who will give an official receipt for same.

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LICHFIELD.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELIEF OF THE POOR.

1. The following Report for the use of the Royal Commission on the "Poor Laws and Relief of Distress" is based upon the answers to questions issued by the Commission, which questions were sent to all the incumbents in the three archdeaconries in the Diocese of Lichfield, comprising 448 parishes, from 53 of which no replies were received.

2. The Archdeaconry of Stafford comprises 194 parishes, with a population (according to the Census of 1901) of 688,586, and covers a large mining and industrial district known as the Black Country, together with a considerable agricultural area.

3. The Archdeaconry of Stoke comprises 132 parishes, with a population (according to the Census of 1901) of 401,591, and contains the large pottery towns, together with mining and an agricultural district.

4. The Archdeaconry of Salop comprises 122 parishes, with a population (according to the Census of 1901) of 132,135, and may be taken as chiefly representing an agricultural county. There is only one large town, a certain number of market towns—a large proportion of the parishes being country villages.

5. For the purpose of this Report it has been thought expedient to take the questions in order and to give a brief summary of the answers received in reply.

6. *Question* 1.—*Is there much poverty in your parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?*

The Committee find that the replies point to the fact that in a large percentage of parishes in the diocese there is little real poverty. In the Archdeaconry of Stafford poverty is marked as increasing in 26 parishes, and as decreasing in 120. In the Archdeaconry of Stoke it is stated that there is not much poverty in 104 parishes; that there is poverty in 25; and that it is increasing in 8. In the Archdeaconry of Salop there is little or no real poverty, at all events of a chronic nature, in 104 parishes there is increasing poverty in 2 instances, and considerable poverty in 8 others.

7. Where poverty does exist, intemperance is assigned as the chief cause. To this is added in many cases idleness and want of thrift, whilst money spent in amusements, and gambling, and early and improvident marriages are also returned as causes.

8. Several economic causes are mentioned in the replies to this part of the question, namely—machinery taking the place of labour, the closing of works, the exhaustion of mines, the decline in the pottery trade since the McKinley tariff, cheap labour due to competition, the inadequate remuneration of unskilled and female labour, bad housing of the poor, less labour employed on farms than formerly, strikes, and especially the Workmen's Compensation Act making it difficult for men approaching 40 years of age to obtain employment. All these are mentioned, but the Committee wish to lay stress upon the fact that hitherto the great cause of poverty both in town and country is emphatically stated to be intemperance.

9. *Question* 2.—*Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a committee? Do you administer relief yourself or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors?*

The following are mentioned as some of the special means used for relieving temporary or chronic distress: the provision of nurses in sickness, hospital and dispensary orders, free breakfasts for school children, soup kitchens in winter, distribution of coal and food, allowances from charitable funds for the aged amounting to five shillings or less per week, work provided in the larger towns in labour yards, and the help of the Charity Organisation Society, which is gratefully acknowledged.

10. The agency through which relief is administered varies in different places. A distinction must also be drawn between the administration of endowed charities and the distribution of church alms. In the former case the work is chiefly in the hands of trustees, or of committees; in the latter in a majority of cases the alms are distributed by the clergy. This is so in 124 parishes in the Archdeaconry of Stoke, in 99 in Salop, and in 124 in Stafford.

11. There are 22 committees in the diocese established for the purpose of dealing with distress—temporary committees have also been formed to act in times of special distress. In several cases the clergy act in conjunction with the churchwardens and district visitors. It may be noted with respect to the church alms that the general practice appears to be to give relief in kind rather than in money, and that in many parishes it is the rule that the district visitors report cases of distress to the clergy, but do not themselves administer relief.

12. *Question* 3.—*Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of* (*unrelieved*) *distress due to reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.*

In the Archdeaconry of Stafford there are 28, and in the Archdeaconry of Stoke 18 cases of unrelieved distress due to reluctance to apply for relief. In the Archdeaconry of Salop 4 cases of unrelieved distress have been reported. The following causes are assigned to account for this reluctance, viz.:—Self-respect, the fear lest relief granted by the guardians will be recovered from children and so lead to family quarrels, the risk of breaking up the home, the loss of liberty, a dread of the workhouse, and personal reasons arising from the fear of facing investigation into life, character and surroundings.

13. *Question* 4.—*Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.*

The reply from the Archdeaconry of Stafford is that in 113 parishes there is no distress arising from this cause, but that in 47 parishes there is distress owing to inadequate relief.

In 98 parishes in the Archdeaconry of Stoke there is no appreciable amount of distress under this head; in 27 it exists. In the Archdeaconry of Salop it exists in 13 parishes only. There seems to be a general opinion that as a rule the guardians deal with cases on their merits and give adequate relief. It must, however, be noted that in one large union in Shropshire any outdoor relief is only sparingly given. Instances of suffering from inadequate relief being requested, four specimen cases taken from our Return are annexed to this Report.

14. *Question* 5.—*Is there in your parish any needless overlapping* (a) *between various forms of charity, or* (b) *between charity and the Poor Law, and has any special effort been made with a view to prevent such overlapping?*

In the Archdeaconry of Stafford there is an almost unanimous opinion that there is no needless overlapping. Replies to this effect have come from 148 parishes; in 11 only it is stated that there is some overlapping. In the Archdeaconry of Stoke the corresponding figures are 119 and 7. In Salop the proportion of parishes in which overlapping is stated to exist is rather larger, viz., 14.

Some overlapping between charity and the Poor Law is admitted, but it is stated in several cases that such overlapping cannot be called needless since it is often necessary to supplement Poor Law relief by private charity. In some cases, schemes issued by the Charity Commissioners and the work of the Charity Organisation Society are mentioned as a check upon overlapping.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

15. *Question* 6.—*If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.*

It is difficult to give an answer to this question that would be of any real value, from the fact that in some of the replies no distinction is made between funds derived from endowed charities and the church alms and gifts from private sources. In some cases the bonus added to the clothing and coal club deposits is included, in others it is omitted. Many incumbents have found it impossible to give any correct estimate of the amount spent in the charitable assistance of the poor, and have given no answer to the question. The Committee feel that any attempt to analyse the figures or to give the total sum expended would be only misleading.

16. *Question* 7.—*Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity, other than the Poor Law, in your parish during the course of a year?*

The replies to this question also cannot be accurately summarised, because in many cases the figures only are given without stating whether the number of families or of individuals is intended by the answer. In many other cases no estimate is given of the numbers. Approximately, the numbers (families or individuals) relieved in the parishes, from which a return under this head has been received, are as follows:—

Archdeaconry of Stafford, 5,762 in 87 parishes.
" " Stoke, 3,954 " 82 "
" " Salop, 1,987 " 75 "

Summary.

The following conclusions may be drawn from a careful study of the answers to the questions: (*a*) That where real poverty exists, it is in many cases due to intemperance and other preventable causes. (*b*) That there are both public and private sources from which help can be obtained in time of need. (*c*) That the extension of the principles of the Charity Organisation Society to small towns and country districts would tend to secure the wise and economical expenditure of money given in charity. As regards old charitable endowments, it would seem desirable, in order to meet the altered conditions of the present day, that more elasticity in the distribution of funds should be granted to those who dispense them.

Supplementary to Question 4.

Instances of distress due to inadequate Poor Law relief:—

(1) Old couple. Relief 4s. a week. Rent 2s. 6d. Coal 6d.
(2) Old woman after paying rent has 6d. to live on.
(3) Widow aged 60. No sons. Lives with married daughter with five young children. Refused relief.
(4) Woman aged 75. Rent 2s. 3d. Sole source of income 4s. 6d. relief.

Since the drafting of this report, a letter has been received by the Committee from the Bishop of Truro and Canons M. G. Glazebrook, S. A. Barnett, and George Astbury, requesting their co-operation in procuring information from the clergy upon the following points: (1) The medical relief of the destitute sick. (2) The treatment of such children as are exposed to the danger of a pauper taint. Whilst recognising the undoubted importance of the subjects referred to, the Committee regret that their letter was received by them too late for any effective action on their part. The following group of questions bearing upon each of these grave problems was suggested by the signatories of the letter in question:

Medical Relief.

1. Is there any shame or any loss of reputation in making application for medical relief? Does this cause delay in the application for relief so that illness is aggravated?

2. Does the receipt of medical relief encourage application for other relief and thus tend to pauperise? Would this pauperisation be avoided by treating medical assistance as something apart from Poor Law relief?

3. Does it seem to you that the objects of the medical and relieving officers are to raise the standard of public health or merely to limit applications for relief? Would the former object be promoted if medical attendance were (*a*) dissociated from the Poor Law and (*b*) put under the control of the medical officer of health, whose duty it should be to see that everyone was kept as healthy as possible?

Children.

1. In your experience of children in your parish whose parents are in receipt of outdoor relief, have you found them sufficiently nourished? Have their mothers found time to mother them? Do they go to school till they pass the sixth standard? Does their familiarity with the relieving officer demoralise them?

2. As to those who are brought up in Poor Law institutions, how do they compare with children brought up at home? Are they as self-dependent and as resourceful, as observant? Are they more liable to attacks of temper? Does it make them ashamed among their equals?

3. Do you think it would be an improvement to dissociate children from the Poor Law administration and transfer their care to the education authorities, so that they may be under the same control as other children?

9th October, 1907.

AUGUSTUS LICHFIELD.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

LIVERPOOL.

The Questions were sent out to the clergy of the 215 benefices in the Diocese of Liverpool, and replies were received from 112. A summary of these replies has been forwarded to the Commission. The information gathered varies considerably in fulness and in value, and there is a great tendency to vagueness, which may be partly due to the form of the questions.

Question I.—Is there much poverty in your parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?

It is evident, for instance, that the expression "poverty" in the first question is very differently understood by the different clergy who have replied, and it is not, therefore, easy in a Report to speak very definitely as to the facts revealed. It is, however, noteworthy that while more than a third of the parishes report the existence of a considerable degree of poverty, only one-seventh of the total number believe that there is a tendency for it to increase. Of those who attempt to indicate the moral causes to which poverty is due, by far the larger number (50) specify drunkenness; improvidence comes next (21); while in only a very few cases are idleness (9) or gambling (9) referred to. Very few have attempted to deal with economic causes, but of those who have done so, the majority consider that inability to provide for periods of sickness or for old age is the most important.

Question II.—Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors?

The answers to *Question II.* seem to reveal the fact that relief is given in kind rather than in money, and that it is not generally found possible to give assistance to those who are in chronic distress. The sick and the aged form the majority of those who are helped, the amount of the funds entrusted to the parochial clergy being, as a rule, insufficient to allow them to deal with other classes. The assistance which is given is mainly administered by the clergy themselves, though the practice of having a committee for the purpose seems to be growing.

Question III.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.

Perhaps the most important fact elicited by the inquiry is the general absence of reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief. Such reluctance as there is appears to be almost wholly confined to indoor relief, and in that case the causes of objection are, as will be seen from the summary, of so varying a character that it is not possible to indicate them in a Report.

Question IV.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.

The answers to *Question IV.* do not seem to show that the amount of outdoor relief granted by the guardians is inadequate, although in some cases larger sums might be granted to the aged and to widows. In a good many instances these receive supplementary help from the parochial clergy, and in view of the fact that their maintenance in the workhouse or infirmary would be of far greater expense to the community it would seem to be desirable that to these special classes more ample assistance should be given.

Question V.—Is there in your parish any needless overlapping—

(a) *Between various forms of charity, or*

(b) *Between charity and the Poor Law;*
and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

With reference to overlapping between various forms of charity, the large majority do not consider that it exists to any great extent, although it is admitted that it is difficult to form an accurate estimate of help that is given from private sources. The clergy have no difficulty in ascertaining what is given by the Poor Law, and where this is supplemented it is usually in the case of the aged and widows. There is no general organised effort to prevent overlapping, but there is a gradual tendency towards co-ordination, which will result in the reduction of such cases as exist.

Question VI.—If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.

Question VII.—Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your parish during the course of a year?

In answer to *Question VI.*, very few attempt to estimate the total amount spent in the parish upon the assistance of the poor, while the sums administered by the parochial clergy vary from £1 to £200 per annum. The answers received do not allow of any conclusion as to the total amounts expended from the various sources. In the same way no figures are available from the answers to *Question VII.*, upon which any accurate estimate can be formed as to the number of families which receive charity during the course of a year.

The Committee do not feel that the information received from the clergy of the Diocese of Liverpool leads to any definite conclusions except those already noted in the course of the Report. The diocese contains a large proportion of what are generally known as "slum parishes," but only a few, comparatively, report any increase of poverty. Reluctance to accept Poor Law relief is not widespread, and is decreasing, and such reluctance as there is displayed towards indoor relief. It is worthy of consideration whether the amount granted in this way to the aged and to widows ought not to be increased. The committee also feel that the information received points to the fact that the co-ordination of charity ought to be more seriously attempted on a larger scale.

H. H. MATTHEW.

Hon. Secretary.

Note.—This Report has been approved by the Committee as representing the information gathered from the replies of the clergy, but it does not necessarily embody the opinions of the Committee.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

APPENDIX TO THE REPORT FROM THE DIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL.

Question I.—Is there much poverty in your parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?

SCHEME OF CLASSIFICATION.

The headings given in Question I. appear to offer a basis of classification because, broadly speaking, the value of the answers to the other questions turns upon:—

A.—The amount of poverty in the parish.

B.—The fluctuations of poverty in the parish.

C.—The causes of poverty in the parish.

Again, in examining the returns individually, the value and extent of the information given as to B. and C. generally depends upon A. as known to the incumbent.

The total number of replies received—112 (of which thirteen are nameless) are therefore divided as follows into five classes:—

Class I.—"No poverty," or "not much." No indication as to fluctuation or causes	28
Class II.—"No poverty," or "not much." Normal or presumably not increasing (except in three cases). Causes given	43
Class III.—"Poverty" not increasing. Causes given	11
Class IV.—Poverty, chronic. Causes given	14
Class V.—Poverty increasing. Causes given	16
	112

Class I.

Twenty-eight answer Question I. by simply stating "No," "Not much," "No serious poverty," "Practically no poverty," "Quite normal."

(*a*) Of these nine leave Question VI. unanswered, and are, therefore, consistent with their own statement of no poverty (though one says c. 50 in).

(*b*) The remaining nineteen under Question VI. estimate the amounts given as:—"Not less than £10," (one); £15 (one); £18 (one); about £20 (two); £20 to £30 and pensions (this outside parish); about £25 and pensions; about £30 (two); about £40, some coals in winter, wine in sickness; about £48, doles of blankets, £200 fair average amount. Three say they cannot estimate the amount.

Probably the amounts expended are on sick relief. In some cases "pensions" are stated.

Class II.

Forty-three come under the heading "Not much poverty," variously expressed:—"Little poverty, not increasing," "Not much great poverty," "No extreme poverty," "Not a large amount," "Not so much as might be expected," "Not much extreme poverty and little starvation," "Very little poverty," "No poor in strict sense," "Practically none," "Country parish where the poor are retainers of the rich—grooms, etc.," "No real poverty," "What little there is," "Little or none," "Not much squalid poverty," "No great amount of abject poverty," "Poverty but not intense," "Poverty about normal," "Not to the same extent as in slum parishes," "Not much unpreventable poverty."

The causes given are:—

Moral:

(*a*) Drink	21
(*b*) Improvidence, wastefulness, thriftlessness, bad home managers, money-lending, pawning	7
(*c*) Moral more than economic	2
(*d*) Idleness	2
(*e*) Gambling	3

Economic and Industrial.

(*a*) Slackness and absence of employment	12
Irregular casual work, docks	3
Seasonal employment	1
Removal of industry	1
Absence of manufactories	1
(*b*) Growth of parish, poorer class coming in	5
(*c*) Large families	1
(*d*) Illness	10
(*e*) Old age	7
(*f*) Death of breadwinner	1

Seven directly measure the amount of poverty by the amount of work obtainable. One says that half the population (970) are entirely dependent on weekly earnings, the loss of which would mean distress. Two of these informants remark that cases of sickness and old age need help, and one says large families. Three note an increase of poverty. One says it is about normal.

Class III.

Eleven answer Question I. in the affirmative, and say "not increasing" (except one). The causes given are:—

Moral.

Drink	7
Improvidence, wastefulness, thriftlessness, bad "home managers," money-lending	5
Gambling	1

Economic.

Industrial—

(*a*) Slackness	1
(*b*) Irregular casual work, docks	7
(*c*) Seasonal employment	1
(*d*) Removal of industry	1
(*e*) Labour-saving machinery	1
(*f*) Incompetence	1
(*g*) Dislike of regular work	1
(*h*) Labour underpaid	1
(*i*) Cry for young *v.* old men	3
Competition (more than moral causes)	1
High rates	1
Illness	1
Old age	1
Economic generally	1

Notes.

One says that five-sixths of all the trouble is from drink, and some note drinking among women:—"Especially among women" (two); "Slightly worse among women" (one); "Decreasing among men, increasing among women" (one).

One says that intemperance is often caused by the dispiriting effects of cellar life, by a come-down in circumstances, and by loss of heart owing to irregular employment, noting that the custom of shipping firms is to encourage a surplus of labour.

Another notes that drink is often found amongst those who have the least money.

One regards drink as a contributory cause; competition and lack of work being more important as causes of poverty. One gives an analysis of causes of poverty:—

25 per cent. as due to illness or old age.
25 per cent. economic.
50 per cent. due to drink.

Class IV.

In fourteen there is "Chronic poverty," "A very great deal," "Plenty of poverty," "A good deal, normal," "Intense poverty," "The normal condition is intense poverty," "The usual distress," "One quarter of the people in poverty"; (2) "Chronic," "A little, and when work is slack, a good deal of distress."

Causes given:—

Moral.

Drink	7
Improvidence, thriftlessness, "bad managers," money-lending, pawning, illness	3
Lack of perseverance	1

Economic.

Industrial—	
Slackness and lack of work	5
Irregular, casual, docks	7
Incompetence	2
Demand for young *v.* old	1
Total	15
High rates	1
Attraction of low rents	1
Removal of better class	1
Large families	1

Three note that the amount of poverty varies with the state of work. One gives as the cause of lack of work that "the wholesale dumping of American watches has ruined the main local industry."

Class V.

In sixteen parishes there is "Poverty," "A considerable amount," "A very considerable amount," "A great deal of extreme poverty," and increasing (thirteen); rapidly (one); slowly (one); decidedly (one).

The causes given are:—

Moral.

Drink	15
Improvidence, wastefulness, "bad managers," money-lending, pawning, etc.	7
Illness	4
Gambling	5
Impurity	1
Love of amusement	1

Economic.

Industrial—	
Slackness—lack of work, etc.	3
Casual, docks	9
Removal of industry	1
Incompetence	1
Low wages	1
Cry for young *v.* old men	3
Total	18
Removal of better class	7
Poorer class coming to new cheap houses	1
Illness	1
Early marriages	2

Notes.

On the *drink* question one notes clubs, to say that drinking is equal among men and women.

Other expressions used are "Drink pre-eminent," "Unhesitatingly the chiefest cause," "Undoubtedly," "Very frequently," "Drink has something to do with it."

Summary of Question I.

Class I.—Twenty eight say "No poverty," "Not much," no indication as to fluctuation, etc., no causes given.

Class II.—Forty-three say "No poverty," "Not much," normal (except three cases). Causes given.

Class III.—Eleven say "Poverty" not increasing. Causes given.

Class IV.—Fourteen say "Poverty," chronic. Causes given.

Class V.—Sixteen say "Poverty" increasing. Causes given.

CAUSES.

I.—Moral.

—	Number in Class.	Drink.	Improvidence, etc.	Illness.	Gambling.	Lack of Perseverance.	Impurity.	Love of Amusement.	Moral more than Economic.
Class I.	28	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
„ II.	43	21	7	2	3	–	–	–	2
„ III.	11	7	5	–	1	–	–	–	–
„ IV.	14	7	2	3	–	1	–	–	–
„ V.	16	15	7	4	5	–	1	1	–

II.—Economic.

—	Number in Class.	Industrial. See subdivision.	Change in Parish.	Illness.	Old Age.	Large Families.	Death of Bread-winner.	High Rents.	Low Rents.	Competition.	Early Marriages.	Economic Generally.
Class I.	28	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
„ II.	43	18	5	10	7	1	1	–	–	–	–	–
„ III.	11	17	–	1	1	–	–	1	–	1	–	1
„ IV.	14	15	1	–	–	1	–	1	1	–	2	–
„ V.	16	18	7	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	2	–

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

Question II.—Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors?

Class I.

Of the nine who leave Question VI. unanswered, two also leave Question II. unanswered. One says "No." One says "No committee needed and practically no relief given." Two give through their clergy. One gives through the clergy, and is himself a Poor Law guardian and on Charity Organisation Society Committee. Two have charities administered by trustees.

Twelve administer relief through the clergy. Of these, one receives applications daily in the church, and after enquiry relieves in kind. One remarks that people would object to the district visitors. One with help of district nurse and district visitors under supervision. One states that he prefers not to administer relief himself, but does it through district visitors under own supervision. Two partly through clergy, partly through district visitors. Two have no special methods. One says that friends contribute to any real case of need. One mostly by friends.

Class II.

Two leave Question II. unanswered.

Of the others: Twenty-seven administer relief themselves (or assistant clergy). Nine administer relief through district visitors, churchwardens, deaconesses, paid workers. Five administer relief themselves, others through district visitors, etc. (Two say not by district visitors.) (Two say "Seldom by self.")

Methods.—Four have committees. (One says, "Nominally by committee.) One relieves by cheque from time to time. One has funds administered by trustees. Two say that money is very rarely given. Five by clothing, groceries, coal, orders, grocery tickets. One by endeavouring to find work (in suitable cases). One has a hostel in his parish for twelve aged women.

Class Relieved.—One by gifts of money and food to temporary cases (chronic). Five relieve chronic cases. Five relieve chronic cases, aged. One relieves temporary sickness and distress only. Seven state they relieve sickness. One states he relieves "the needy." One uses the central relief, etc., for temporary cases. One says he cannot help aged and chronics.

Class III.

Methods.—Four administer relief themselves. Two by their district visitors, nurse, paid worker. One says seldom by clergy. Two by both clergy and district visitors. One by committee. One through lady workers after consultation. One says that district visitors give no relief, only help casual and temporary cases. One says no committee as yet.

Form of Relief.—Three say that money is very rarely given. One says some cash given. One says by giving jobs rather than money (where suitable). One says by convalescent orders. Seven say by tickets. One says by the parish and other institutions.

Classes Relieved.—Three relieve aged. Five relieve sick (one says "liberally"). Two relieve chronic. One relieves temporary. Two use central relief. One says he cannot help chronics. One says that except at Christmas he has no charitable assistance to administer.

Class IV.

Methods.—Seven administer relief themselves, or through clergy. Seven administer relief through their district visitors, workers, etc. (Three say seldom or never by clergy. One rarely through district visitors.)

Form of Relief.—One gives clothing. Six use tickets. Two give no money. One uses central relief. One uses parish.

Class Relieved.—Two relieve aged. Two relieve chronic. Two relieve temporary. Three relieve sick. One relieves needy.

Class V.

Methods.—Ten administer relief themselves. Three by district visitors. Three by self and paid workers. Two have committees. One says seldom by clergy.

Form of Relief.—Ten by ticket. Four say money rarely given. One says no money given. One gives clothing. One gives groceries. One uses central relief. One uses orders.

Classes Relieved.—Five give to aged. Two give to chronic. Two use parish for chronics. Three give to temporary. Two cannot help chronics.

Question III.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.

Class I.

All answer in the negative, except one.

One says: "No appreciable amount, but there are isolated cases of lodging-house keepers who suffer much rather than apply for poor relief."

Class II.

Twenty-two answer in negative. One answers in negative, and adds that out-relief is freely given. One says "Not much." One says "By no means." One says "Little or no reluctance." One says "No: parish relief is accepted with increasing readiness." One says "Reluctance not the cause of much distress," but gives one instance of independence. Three say "No appreciable amount."

The above give no causes of reluctance.

Of the remaining twelve, four say there are "A few," "Some." "One or two." Two say "No appreciable amount of unrelieved distress," and give causes and instances. Six give reasons and instances.

The causes of the reluctance are variously given: "A kind of feeling against going on the parish," "Dread of being paupers," "Pride" (four); "Have seen better days" (two); "Dislike of being sent to the house" (three); "Unwillingness to submit to rules and regulations," "general vagueness as to where to go," "love of independence." One vicar, a Poor Law guardian, considers the reluctance healthy, and says that he has always met it.

Class III.

Three answer this question in the negative.

Of the other eight, one answers in the negative, adding "Quite inconsiderable." One answers Poor Law scarcely relieves poverty. One answers there are some cases of unrelieved distress. One answers there is a good deal. One answers he has had such cases. One answers reluctance is decreasing. One answers there is great reluctance amongst respectable poor. One answers as a rule, people not fond of poor relief (*i.e.*, the house.)

The cause of reluctance is practically objection to take indoor relief.

One informant says that he has scarcely ever met a case of refusal of monetary relief; another that there is no reluctance to apply for out-relief. The motives of this objection are given variously as pride, sense of degradation, unwillingness to submit to discipline (two); stigma of pauperism (eight); love of independence (one); separation of married couples (three); objection to break up home (two); dislike of food in the house (two); complaints of treatment in the house (one); loss of interest in life by going in (one).

Instances.—One gives as a typical case a respectable old man, once a clerk. One gives three instances, of which *two* show the difficulty of leaving house or work to attend at district Poor Law office at certain hours, and also denote harshness on part of relieving officer.

One also appears to show neglect on part of relieving officer. One, six instances, four of widows with children; one of woman with husband ill, and young family; an old couple.

Class IV.

Five answer this question in the negative. Two give no indication of unrelieved distress. Two (affirmative) give no indication of unrelieved. One says "Not much," "Here and there a case, but on the whole little reluctance." One says "There certainly are cases where respectable people in distress are reluctant." One, "There are several cases unrelieved because outdoor relief is refused." One, "There is some." One, "It operates with real hardship" in some cases.

Here, again, the reluctance is to indoor relief. One informant says "That the poor have a horror of the house."

The Causes of Reluctance are—Pride; sense of degradation; self-respect; stigma of pauperism (six); love of independence (one); separation of married people (one) dislike of investigation (one).

Instances.—One gives instance of "A most deserving woman," with father and mother depending on her, who, through loss of licence is in difficulty, and refuses to apply. One instances a woman struggling with a shop. One gives two kinds of instances: (*a*) Two of deserted wives, noting the necessity of distinguishing between the wronged and the wrong-doer; (*b*) an old couple, wife a chronic invalid, husband in irregular work.

Class V.

Five answer this question in the negative. One, however, notes great reluctance for burial. One says he has not sufficient reliable information *re* unrelieved distress. Two give no indication of unrelieved distress. One gives many cases of educated men and elderly people. One gives "Here and there cases of high self-respect, but rare, and getting rarer." Two answer the question affirmatively. One says "only a very few." One says a very few people who do not care to apply. One says instances are to be found. One says "An appreciable amount."

As before, the reluctance is practically always to indoor relief. One informant remarking that to all but the most hopeless the house is "anathema." One remarks that there is no reluctance to get out-relief if possible.

The Causes of Reluctance are.—Pride; sense of degradation; stigma of pauperism (six); dislike of relieving officer (six); dislike of work (one); ignorance of where to go (one); separation of married couples (two); objection to breaking up home and separation from children (four); dislike of investigation (two); compulsory association with undesirables in workhouse (one); conditions of casual labour make people hope (one). One gives an instance of a woman with three children whose husband had gone to Canada. She refused to be separated from the children. One gives two instances of educated men who had come down in life. One gives instances of uncalled-for remarks on part of relieving officer when asked to visit "a home where there are some signs of comfort." One gives two instances: one of a chronic invalid who insisted on being taken out of the workhouse hospital, and refuses to return.

Question IV.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.

Class I.

All reply in negative except four. "Outdoor relief inadequate in some cases." "Has occasionally wished it more when aged man has survived the savings of a lifetime." "It is supplemented in several cases sufficiently by relief from 'church funds.'" "Not serious as most cases are supplemented by private charity."

Thirty answer this question in the negative, two remarking that the guardians grant adequate relief. One says he "thinks not," but later says that the present maximum (3s.) is not sufficient. One says he thinks the allowances made are sufficient for real needs, but under Question VI. he states that he makes weekly grants to eight or nine who are "on the parish." Two say "No appreciable amount," "Not a very great deal." Two give no indication as to amount of distress. Seven answer in the affirmative, "Yes" (two); "Thinks so"; "A few"; "Several"; "One or two"; "Two or three."

Relief inadequate in cases of the aged (five). Relief inadequate in cases of the widows (five). Relief inadequate in cases of the husband ill (one). Relief inadequate in deserving (generally) (three).

Two state that they supplement in cases of inadequate relief. One says that in some cases the relief is supplemented from private sources. One who speaks of a good number of old widows trying to live on their allowance, says "In this parish Poor Law relief is not supplemented." One says the rates of relief are "Evidently not sufficient." Five answer this question in the negative, one adding that he finds he can get all he wants from the guardians where the distress is real. Two say Poor Law relief is adequate only when recipients can get additional help either from children or relatives, or by themselves serving. One says Poor Law relief adequate for rent of room and food, but leaves no margin for clothing, or special food in illness, and that several old women depend on *doles* at Christmas to meet these. One says the 2s. 6d. allowance is inadequate, and has to be supplemented. He adds that sick relief is fairly reasonable. One says that such relief as is given can never be adequate. Under Question V. (*b*) he states that what *is* given is "supplementary," not "overlapping." One says "Yes," especially in winter season, when nine-tenths of poor relief is supplied by religious organisations or the police. He attributes this partly to the distance (two miles) from Poor Law office.

Relief is inadequate in cases of aged and chronic (one); four state that they supplement Poor Law relief.

Class IV.

Six answer this question in the negative. One says he has not enough information to answer. One says "Not much." One says "Complaints? Yes, but the guardians do not profess to keep the family." Five consider that there is distress owing to inadequate relief. One says "Constantly," another "Here and there, though not so pronounced as formerly."

Relief inadequate in cases of aged (three). Relief inadequate in cases of widows (two). Relief inadequate in cases of husband ill (one).

Four state that they supplement. Two say that relief is inadequate unless work can be obtained.

Class V.

Two answer this question in the negative. One says "Speaking generally, the relief is adequate," though he has occasionally met with cases where (if recipients speak true) it is small. But there is not a sufficient number of these to make a general complaint. One says that there "Is not any appreciable amount as far as he knows" (under 5 (*b*) he states that there is no *needless* overlapping between charity and the Poor Law, and in No. 2 he says that pensions are given to a few deserving aged.) One cannot say that there is much, but instances a poor widow. Two say "Yes." One says "Yes, a good deal." Guardians are unable to meet the demand for outdoor relief, and many deserving applicants refused, and often treated roughly by relieving officers. Two say a few. ("Have met with several cases of real want.") One says the relief granted is often miserably inadequate. One says the relief granted is often miserably inadequate, but the poor struggle on with it rather than go to the house. One says, generally speaking, relief not adequate One says grants to aged insufficient. One merely gives an undefined instance. Relief inadequate in cases of aged (four); instances given. Relief inadequate in case of widows (three). Relief inadequate unless supplemented by work or friends (two). Relief inadequate in case of husband ill (one). Relief inadequate (undefined instances) (two). Relief inadequate in case of an invalid (one). Instances given. One informant knows of an old couple living on 5s. a week from Poor Law, adding, "And many others have only 2s. 6d. who need special nourishment. They would cost at least three times as much in the house." Five supplement Poor Law relief.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

Question V.—Is there in your parish any needless overlapping—

(a) *Between various forms of charity, or*

(b) *Between charity and the Poor Law;*
and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

Class I.

Three leave the question unanswered. Nineteen answer in negative. Remaining six as follows:—One says that they are careful to avoid "Overlapping" (*a*) 46. One says no appreciable overlapping. Two under (*a*) say it is slight owing to Provident Society, which is an organ of inter-communication. One under (*a*) notes overlapping at Christmas. One under (*a*) notes overlapping between different religious bodies. One says that a special effort has been made to prevent overlapping, but with indifferent success.

Class II.

Twenty-three answer Question 5 in the negative, or leave it unanswered (though one says that part of what he gives is to supplement inadequate Poor Law relief). One notes indiscriminate giving. One thinks that overlapping is entirely avoided by careful inquiry. One cannot say definitely, but from general appearances there is no overlapping. One says that "There is no needless overlapping." One says "Yes" to (*a*) and (*b*). One says "Very little" to (*a*) and (*b*).

Under (*a*)—Three say "No," "Not much" (one notes that the characters are co-ordinated). One says "That there is little overlapping." One says "Yes." One says the amount given is so slight, he does not consider it matters overlapping. One notes overlapping between church, chapel, and local Provident Society. Three note overlapping at Christmas. Seven note overlapping between various religious denominations. (One remarks that he refuses to help those the chapel help, if he knows it. The chapel does not seem to mind.)

Under (*b*)—Five say "No." One says "Not so much as (*a*)."

Special Efforts to Prevent Overlapping.—One vicar knows of no organised effort, but is thinking of suggesting a scheme for handing over charity money to a central committee, to be distributed irrespective of creed. This, of course, if Roman Catholics and Nonconformists would co-operate. One says there ought to be some combined effort. One tries to prevent overlapping by communicating with other bodies. One says that a special and successful effort is made to prevent it between charity and Poor Law. One says that as a guardian he knows the relief cases. One says that by use of the Charity Organisation Society they are gradually co-ordinating charity, "but it takes time." One notes indiscriminate giving on the part of private individuals, which the clergy try to check as far as possible. One says that the efforts made lack system and efficiency. Two note that there are difficulties. One says that no special effort is necessary as there are no poor's charities, except one, value £1 annually, which enables the overseers to give flannel at Christmas time.

Class III.

Five answer this question in the negative, one remarking that Poor Law and central relief work together, another that he always avoids overlapping as far as possible.

Under (*a*)—Two say "Not much." One adds "By public bodies, the church, chapels, etc., but probably a good deal when help is obtained from private individuals." One says "A little sometimes." One says "May be a few cases, but even so he does not think the poor receive any too much." (Another confirms this.) Two note overlapping at Christmas. Two note overlapping between various religious denominations. One notes that the town charities are "carelessly distributed." One notes that some sell gifts and pawn for drink.

Under (*b*)—Two say "No." Two note that it is supplementary. One notes that if given it is with full knowledge. One says no serious efforts have been tried. One says no special effort to prevent such overlapping as there is, is possible. One says that Poor Law and central relief work together. One says that caution is used. Central Relief Society does something. One says that as far as the Church is concerned, he has largely stopped the custom of giving promiscuously at Christmas.

Class IV.

Nine answer this question in the negative. One says that it is difficult to say for want of knowledge, and inquiry is a delicate matter, though Poor Law relief is always known as the people tell the clergy. The people do not generally tell if they are getting help from central relief, though the clergy generally know.

Under (*a*)—One says "Not much." Two answer in affirmative. One notes overlapping at Christmas. Two note overlapping between various denominations.

Under (*b*)—One notes that "Efforts are made to supplement parish relief from church sources."

Special Efforts to Prevent Overlapping.—One notes that his curate is on the central relief committee, and tries to prevent overlapping. One says that "He often makes inquiries." One says that he "Often confers with relieving officer." One that where sustained help is being given, it would be an advantage if the different organisations could send in monthly lists to some central body from which inquiries could be made. To organise this would be a delicate matter, but ought not to be impossible.

Class V.

Five answer this question in the negative. (One says "No needless overlapping"; another that there is room for all, and that the overlapping is trifling.)

Under (*a*)—Three note a "Little overlapping." One says "Not much." One says "No, but there are some exceptions." Three note overlapping at Christmas. Two note overlapping at Christmas, owing to careless distribution of hot-pot tickets. Four note overlapping between various denominations. One says that mothers and children cadge for treats.

Under (*b*)—One says "No." Five note that the overlapping is known, and is supplemented. Two say there is "Not much." One says that overlapping is due to the existence of more than one charitable body and ignorance of one another's work. One says that "No special effort has been found necessary." One says that he refuses to help when applicant attends another church. One says that he does not remember any special effort. One says he tried with others to form a branch of the Charity Organisation Society, but failed, though a society is now in existence doing certain work for the Charity Organisation Society. One says no special effort has been made, and it would be difficult.

Question VI.—If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.

Class I.

Nine leave Question VI. unanswered. One says that his parish gives about £100 per annum to poor parishes in Liverpool. Five say that it would be impossible to reckon. One says "Some coals in winter and wine in sickness." One says "In the parish a pound or two, including Christmas gifts—outside, £20 to £30." Five give figures between £10 and £20—£15 and £20, £18 and £20 (mostly charitable bequests), not less than £10. Two say about £30 per annum, one adding "By church and local charity." One says Poor Fund dispenses £40 per annum. One says £25 from church offertory (of which £18 goes in pensions) plus old charity funds, which provide doles of blankets, etc., to 160 people. One says from parochial funds, £50 per annum, in addition to other charities. One says "No account kept," and refers to Question II., where the sums are:—

	£	s.	d.
By rector and wardens in doles, blankets, St. John's Day - -	21	0	0
Provided by offertory - - -	27	5	1
	48	5	1

One says that the amount varies from year to year; £200 would be fair average.

Class II.

Six leave Question VI. unanswered. One says he could not give any approximate estimate. One says he can give no answer that would be of any value. One says that owing to large population and fewness of workers he cannot say.

The figures given in answer to Question VI. are only very approximate and, except in four cases where other charities are mentioned, are from church funds.

Six estimate the annual amount as between £1 and £10. Seven estimate the annual amount as between £10 and £20. Eleven estimate the annual amount as between £20 and £30. Two estimate the annual amount as between £30 and £40. Two estimate the annual amount as between £50 and £60. Two estimate the annual amount as between £70 and £80. Three estimate the annual amount as about £100. One estimates the annual amount as between £100 and £150.

Of the charities one notes that there are charities distributed at Christmas of the value of £56 of which some 270 families partake, but the immense majority of these are by no means in distress. In this parish there is also an apprentice charity.

Class III.

Of these, one gives no figures in answer to this Question, but says that there are nearly 200 families in his parish in receipt of Poor Law relief. Under Question II., however, he says that except at Christmas he has no charitable assistance to render.

Of the others, the figures given are, as a rule, approximate only, and from church sources. One estimates the annual amount as about £10. Cannot estimates other sources. Three estimate the annual amount as between £20 to £30. Cannot estimate other sources. Two estimate the annual amount as between £50 to £60.* † One estimates the annual amount as about £100. One estimates the annual amount as about £180.‡ One estimates the annual amount as about £300, irrespective of food and clothing given by police.

Class IV.

Two leave Question VI. unanswered. Two say that it is impossible to ascertain the amount. One says "By the church," £12 annually. One says in 1906, £14. One says £20, + central relief, district nursing fund (which gives convalescent help), ladies' clothing and provident society. One says "By church," £20, £30, £40. One says "From poor fund," £50 per annum. One says £50, sometimes more, in times of great distress as much as £110. One gives following analysis:—

	£	s.	d.
Christmas in treats and relief	30	0	0
Through the year, say	20	0	0
Pensions—Miss Bolton's charity	22	11	0
	72	11	0

+ tickets from city, and hot-pot funds.
+ private help, which cannot be estimated.

One says £169 + thirty almshouses and ladies' lying-in charity. One says "Impossible. We give about £200 per annum." One says from church fully £200.

Class V

One leaves Question VI. unanswered. One says from church in 1906, £18; "Does not know how much other bodies give." One says from church, £30 from December, 1906, to date (not given). One says in 1906, £34 8s. 8d. in money, + food and clothing given by guilds. One hundred garments from guild. Children sent to convalescent home. Day in the country to sixty children. One says £40. One says by own poor fund, £40; knows nothing of Roman Catholics (two-thirds of parish) and Nonconformists. One says from church funds, £45; other figures not obtainable. One says from church funds, £50, + private gifts of clothing, hot-pot tickets at Christmas and treat. Does not know what Roman Catholics, etc., do. One says total, £50 to £60 (some on convalescent help), + sixty parcels of bread and vegetables. One says by vicar, £60; cannot tell what others do. One says usually £60, could easily spend two or three times this, wisely. One says from poor fund, £70 per annum, other amounts impossible to estimate. One says from church for relief, £50, but if adds in relief of varied sorts, total, £80. One says in 1906, £93 8s. 1d. (this includes convalescent notes and medical assistance). One * says £159 from parish + what is given unofficially and by other denominations. One says £200 per annum would cover the whole.

Vicar goes on to say that "A good deal more is given unofficially by those who attend my church, and a considerable amount is given in (as far as I can judge) a somewhat indiscriminate way in connection with their religious organisations by the Salvation Army, the Presbyterians, and the Wesleyans, but I cannot attempt to estimate the amount thus given. . . . As a general conclusion I should say that my parish is rather over than under-done with charity."

Question VII.—Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity, other than the Poor Law, in your parish during the course of a year?

Class I.

Seventeen answer in negative or leave question unanswered; one remarks that to answer Questions VI. and VII. he would have to employ agents to ascertain the facts; one says he is not the relieving officer. One says next to none in the parish *per* his church. One says two or three. One says not more than half-a-dozen in money, and these are pensions. One says about twenty. One says about twenty-five. One says about forty. One says about fifty. One says about sixty individuals, largely widows, and very poor school children. One says about 200. One remarks that the number depends on the number of sick who have invariably to be helped. One says that families receive doles.

Class II.

Five leave Question VII. unanswered. Six cannot estimate. One says "The number is small"; one says that one-third only of the parish are Church of England, and that Roman Catholics and Nonconformists attend to their own people. Four have only occasional cases. One says "Few constant cases," another "Very varying, depends upon seasons and work." Four have between one and ten. "Three at most," "Nine," "Ten occasionally assisted," "Ten *families* in addition to those getting Poor Law relief. Two have forty between them. Six have between ten and twenty, "Probably not more than twelve," "Twelve to eighteen," "Eighteen," "Fifteen," "Something like twelve or fifteen families," "Twenty at most." Three have between twenty and thirty; one divides them as sick ten or twelve in the year, and doles to about twelve, "Thirty," "Thirty-five." Six have between forty and fifty, "Forty cases" (mostly convalescent help), "forty to fifty" (but in half of these only clothing was given, and to a large number of the others only very irregular and occasional help, "At the outside fifty *families* at one time or another through the year," "Forty," and to 270 *families* at Christmas, and nine from apprentice fund, "Fifty," forty-five *families*, "at least fifty *families* on an average." One says at least fifty *families* on an average. One says that

* One informant gives the following analysis of expenditure:—

	£	s.	d.
Weekly pensions	7	16	0
Relief tickets	6	0	0
Coal	10	0	0
Christmas expenses	12	0	0
Feeding children	20	0	0
	55	16	0

† One informant divides into necessary relief, £20; school picnics, etc., £30.

‡ This informant divides into parish church, £80; other organisations, probably £100.

* Analysis of £159 as follows:—

	£
District nurse	35
Assistance to sick and convalescent	33
Assistance to those in temporary distress	46
Pensions	45
	159

in 1906 the number was eighty persons. One says ninety. One says 100. One says that in 1907 up to November had relieved fifty-four *families*, and fifty persons not getting Poor Law relief, some of these are regular, others occasional. One says about 150 individuals or families; of these about 120 get a gift of clothing, etc., at Christmas. One says seventy-five families would be a fair estimate, and 100 individual members.

Class III.

One leaves Question VII. unanswered. Two say that they cannot estimate, one adding that there are very many Roman Catholics in his parish; the other that there is more private charity than people know of. One says not more than twenty *families* receiving regular help, and notes that the parish is a small one (2,804 persons). One says "Omitting special Christmas gifts, about forty to fifty, not more than fifty." One says "About fifty to sixty *families* at various times." One says about sixty families. One says from church, eighty to 100, and adds that he has a large number of casuals passing through, for whom he largely uses the clubs, making them do odd jobs for a meal and a night's lodging. One says from parochial funds eighty to 100 per annum, either Christmas or casual need, and from Charity Organisation Society, probably about fifty a year. All of these are worked discriminately and temporarily as stated, and often by a single gift. One says 400 to 500 other than those getting Poor Law relief, and adds that these are not all in poverty at the same time of the year. One says he would estimate about 120 families per annum of an average of five per family *i.e.*, 600 persons.

Class IV.

Three answer this question in the negative (one); or leave it unanswered (two). Two cannot estimate, "Too variable," "Impossible to say with a population of 14,000." One says "We ourselves help a large number but I could not even approximately give the figures." One says thirty to fifty. One says "In bad times eighty *families*, in better times thirty to fifty." One says "From church probably 100." One says "Over 130 cases have been helped, none in regular receipt." One says "Should say about 150 from parish funds," cannot estimate others. One says through the year eighty to ninety *families*. At Christmas 120 to 130 families. One says about 100 *families*. At Christmas relief and cheer given to 200 to 300. One says about 300 tickets for bread have been given.

Class V.

Two answer in the negative, one saying "No data" One says cannot answer, parish a very poor one, and people beg from all sides. One says that it is difficult to say as people are assisted in many ways, *e.g.*, "Jobs." One says quite impossible, as he only deals with his own church people, and there is a great deal of help given from a mission and a chapel. One says it would be difficult to state a number, because he does not keep a record of each case, and some appear more than once. He is also ignorant of what other bodies do. One says thirty-two. One says less than 100 persons. One says about 150. One says that he should think at least 200. One says about twenty-five *families* getting more or less regular relief, and 150 specially helped at Christmas One says thirty *families*, but greater part of parish is Roman Catholic, and vicar cannot tell. One says should say about sixty *families*, but it is difficult to give anything like exact figures. One says approximately 100 families or individuals from church. One says he should estimate an average of 100 cases (*families*) not all equally poor, and some are helped numbers of times, others once. One says some 200 families at least.

LONDON.

REPORT.

My Lord,

The Committee appointed by your Lordship to obtain information from the clergy in the Diocese of London for the use of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws beg to report as follows:—

The first meeting of the Committee was held on the 2nd July, 1907, when the questions to be sent out were considered, and the schedule as settled was sent to and approved by your Lordship.

This schedule was printed and posted between September 30th and October 5th, 1907, to 570 Incumbents in the Diocese. A copy of the covering letter is attached (App. A.).

Four hundred replies have been received, the last upon the 23rd of February, 1908. Of this number 13 contain neither the name of the Incumbent nor of the parish, and could not therefore be identified; 28 refer to city parishes and 8 to parishes of a rural character.

The returns have been carefully examined by the members of the Committee, and 4 meetings of the Committee have been held.

The difficulty of forming an opinion as to the value of the evidence is increased by the indefinite character of a large number of the answers, and by the absence, in most cases, of information as to the period of residence, and consequent knowledge of the district, of the Incumbent replying. In order to facilitate the consideration of the information received the questions have been subdivided and the answers classified and enumerated; the result is given in the tabular statement annexed (App. B.).

Since many of the questions refer to subjects which are matters of opinion, the replies must be affected by the idiosyncrasies of the writers, a fact to be borne in mind in considering the numerical results of the classification. The number of returns is, however, so large that the effect of the influence referred to will be considerably modified when the replies are considered as a whole, and your Committee think, therefore, that conclusions may be drawn from them which will give a fairly correct idea of the general view taken by the clergy of the Diocese upon the administration of Charity and of the Poor Law.

CHARITY.

Question 1. (*a*) Is there much extreme poverty in your parish? If so, to what do you attribute it?

Examples of Replies.

i. No; though proportionately, this parish containing few of the artisan class, there is too much. Rents here are very high, but the chief trouble is irregularity of employment, particularly in the cases of unskilled labour.

ii. Yes, many of the men are casual labourers and many only obtain work in their calling during part of the year. There is a good deal of drinking, both amongst men and women.

iii. Not a great deal of extreme poverty except under special circumstances when trade is bad and casual labour is in small demand. High rents, which mean sub-letting, are, in my judgment, a chief cause of squalid living and low ideals and want of self-respect.

vi. There is a good deal. Much attributable to drink; but a good deal also to the fact that many of the younger men have never learned a trade.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

v. In a population of 6,500 there are about 1,000 desperately poor. The sole causes seem to be drink and extravagance; especially extravagance in dressing the children and in expenses on holiday excursions and treats.

vi. About 1,000 people belong to the "slum class." Their poverty is, in my opinion, due to:—

(*a*) The uncertainty of employment for the *unskilled labourer*.

(*b*) Improvidence—

(i) Reckless marriage.

(ii) Drink.

(*c*) Disproportionately high rents for tenement property.

The replies to this question are affected by the absence of any generally accepted definition of the meaning of "extreme poverty." Thus the answers given by Incumbents of parishes in the same Poor Law area, and apparently subject to similar conditions, differ very considerably: this fact makes it useless to group the replies according to Ruridecanal or Poor Law areas.

Taking the Diocese as a whole, the figures show that the number of parishes in which poverty is stated to be either non-existent, moderate, or insignificant is largely in excess of that of the parishes in which it is said to be "extreme." Economic and industrial conditions, however, differ so widely in different districts that no general conclusions can be founded upon these figures. In many cases much care has been taken to give as accurate an idea as possible of existing local conditions, but as a rule the answers are of so general a character that they do not give any clear idea of the real amount of poverty in the parishes to which they refer.

Whilst the principal cause of poverty is stated to be want of employment, 122 replies give defects of character as a contributory, and in 10 cases as being the only cause.

It may be noted that with very few exceptions poverty is not attributed to the existing social and industrial organisation, nor is any reference made to the bearing of the most recent statistics of housing upon the question of poverty in the Metropolitan area.

Question 1. (*b*) Is it increasing or decreasing? What is the cause of the variation?

Examples.

i. The last 2 years there has not been quite so much out of work, but a *serious feature* is the difficulty lads—fairly capable, honest, and sober—find of obtaining work.

ii. Increasing. Poorer people coming to live here.

iii. Increasing on the whole. This is largely due to the migration of better-class families to the suburbs. Undoubtedly religious influences are among the chief causes for this aspiration after more congenial surroundings.

iv. Steadily, if slowly, increasing. The better-off folk push *out*; their places are taken by a lower social class.

At first sight the figures seem to indicate that "extreme poverty" is on the increase in a very large number (156) of parishes; but a change in local conditions, which appears to show an increase of poverty and which in so many cases is attributed to the emigration of a better and the immigration of a lower class, may be rather an indication of improved conditions in the immigrating class. As people improve their position they move to better-class districts and their places are taken by others who may themselves be rising from a lower social level. Thus, even if in relation to their new surroundings the immigrants represent a lower grade, their condition may be in reality an improved one. The fact that a "good district" is "going down" may occasionally be evidence that an increasing number of people are able to profit by its advantages; again, a newly developed district representing an enormous increase of means and comfort to the new settlers may quite conceivably appear to the Incumbent to increase the poverty of his parish.

Question 1. (*c*) Is the condition of the children in the elementary schools symptomatic of local poverty, and in what way?

Examples.

i. From inquiry among the teachers I should say no.

ii. To some extent. Want of decent clothes and good food are the evidences.

iii. The condition of the children, where they appear underfed, is, I think, rather symptomatic (with exceptions) of malnutrition than of actual want of food. Few parents do not, fewer still cannot, give their children satisfying food of some sort, but the extreme *cheapness* of bread has encouraged parents to think it enough to give their children a slice of bread with a dab of cheap jam, which saves the trouble of cooking, instead of providing a hot and more varied meal, but children, too, "do not live by bread alone." The waste of bread thrown out into the gutter is shocking. Then again the demand for the women's cheaper labour, while the man is standing idle, takes her from her proper household duties, and the children suffer.

It should be remembered that the schools referred to, in the replies to this question, are for the most part non-provided or church schools. On the whole, and subject to the remark made above as to the variation of local conditions, the figures appear to show that the condition of the schoolchildren in the Diocese does not give any decided indication of the existence of widespread poverty.

Question 1. (*d*) To what extent are the methods adopted to relieve distress, apart from the Poor Law, such as tend to prevent its recurrence?

Examples.

i. Our methods of relief cannot help in this way.

ii. In my own parish I endeavour as far as possible to investigate all applications for relief. When investigated I decide what treatment they shall receive—*e.g.*, voluntary or legal. When it is known that applications are rigidly investigated it prevents recurrence or speculative applications.

iii. I fear the bestowal of gifts tends to augment the trouble by giving extra license for masterfulness. Unfortunately we have charities in the parish which my experience of 25 years tends to conclude go far to pauperise and create discontent, envy, and jealousy.

iv. The present methods do anything but prevent recurrence of poverty. They rather encourage the poor to depend on charity and not to exert themselves.

v. Not at all in my opinion. Tiding over crises is practically all that is done.

vi. Inculcation by visiting, preaching, etc., of principles of Christianity.

This question seems to have been somewhat misunderstood; it has been very generally taken as referring to the "method" of relief adopted, and not, as was intended, to its effect upon the character of the person relieved.

Question 2. (*a*) What endowed charities are there available for your parish?
(*b*) How are the funds applied, and by whom are they administered?
(*c*) To what extent are these charities now received by the class for whom they were originally intended?

These questions deal with matters of fact; it appears that in the great majority of cases the funds of endowed charities are administered by trustees appointed by the Charity Commissioners, and in the opinion of the clergy are applied as directed by the trust deeds.

Question 3. (*a*) What charitable agencies, other than those mentioned above, are established in your parochial area?
(*b*) What local societies, if any, for the promotion of thrift, health, skilled employment, etc., are established with the object of improving the condition of the poor?

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[1] *NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.*

These questions also refer to matters of fact; in many cases a very full reply is given. The answers to Questions 2 and 3 give an impressive idea of the amount of charitable funds available and of the vast number of charitable agencies and societies that are established and at work in the Diocese.

Question 4. (*a*) How far is the relief given by the clergy personally? If by district visitors, is it given after reference to the clergy or at their own discretion?

Examples.

i. The small relief given is sometimes given by the clergy or by a district visitor after reference to the clergy.

ii. The relief granted by the Relief Committee is distributed by the district visitors. The clergy do not give relief. The district visitors have no discretion in the matter.

iii. No relief at door. No time fixed to encourage applicants. Relief is given through (1) nurse; (2) visitors, ladies or clergy, nearly always after reference to Vicar.

iv. The district visitors give tickets to necessitous cases, and the recipients have to bring these tickets to the vestry, after any service, when a priest gives a written order for a tradesman, making a duplicate on the counterfoil. The clergy very rarely give relief personally; if asked for it, they refer cases to the visitor. This method prevents overlapping between clergy and visitor; it prevents the clergy being looked upon as relieving officers, but it secures the recognition from recipients that they are getting a gift from the Church, not a dole from some unknown source upon which they have a claim.

v. The Vicar and his staff of 4 persons are responsible. Members of the staff are forbidden to give relief except after consultation with and by the direction of the Vicar. Any cases of difficulty, or of interest, are discussed at the weekly meeting for business.

The replies show that in the great majority of cases relief is given directly by spiritual workers; that is, by the clergy or by district visitors. There is but little evidence to show that thorough inquiry is made, and it appears to be constantly assumed that because persons are known to spiritual workers their economical position is thereby sufficiently ascertained.

Question 4. (*b*) Is there a Parochial Relief Committee to which all applications are referred?

Examples.

i. No.

ii. Yes.

iii. The workers form a committee.

iv. We have a Parochial Relief Committee, on which are many tradesmen in the parish. No names are published. The Vicar presides.

Although 157 replies state that Relief Committees exist, examination shows that in the vast majority of cases they consist only of the clergy and district visitors. The probable explanation of the discrepancy between the replies to 4 (*a*) B, where it is said that relief is given by the Relief Committees in 69 cases and the statement that 157 such committees exist, is, that the former number refers to committees which have the entire control of the relief given and the latter includes those in which this is not the case.

Question 4. (*c*) To what extent is any formal record kept of relief given?

Examples.

i. No formal record kept.

ii. By minutes.

iii. Accurately kept.

iv. Yes, on the counterfoils of the relief ticket books (*see* above). The counterfoils are digested once a month by a committee consisting of a churchwarden, the president of the district visiting society, and a member of the board of guardians. They make a report to me, which I use at the monthly meeting of *visitors*.

The records of relief given appear to be, as a general rule, inadequate; in a large number of instances the record seems to consist only of the counterfoils of "tickets" distributed, and in very few cases does a record of the history of the case relieved seem to be kept.

Question 4. (*d*) If a Parochial Committee exists, to what extent does it comprise representatives of local charitable associations or agencies and of other denominations?

Examples.

i. It contains all the Trustees of the various charities and the guardians of the poor.

Its denominational analysis is:—

Vicar and churchwardens and six Churchmen.
A representative of Congregational.
,, ,, ,, Baptists.
,, ,, ,, Wesleyan.
,, ,, ,, City Mission.
The chairman is a Congregationalist.

ii. None.

iii. There is an informal committee of working men to inquire into the *bona fides* of cases about which I am uncertain. They act precisely, at my initiative, as the committee of friendly societies do in their sick relief. They have been most useful in enabling me to get at the facts. But I do not permanently form and keep such a committee. I found that they became recognised as such, and were kept as much outside the facts as anyone else: so I nominate them for a case, or series of cases, and then select others.

iv. No representatives from other societies are appointed. All the members are Church of England.

Only 42 replies state that representatives of other agencies and denominations are included in the Parochial Relief Committees. The answers to this question suggest the general existence of a dread of outside interference.

Question 4. (*e*) Do you think there is overlapping between the various forms of local charity? If so, would you be in favour of a relief registry for your neigbourhood, or can you suggest any other system for avoiding overlapping?

Examples.

i. All charitable agencies are in touch with the Relief Committee; and also all the Nonconformist bodies. The only overlapping is in connection with private charity, but it is not serious.

ii. Very little, if any. Not much is given in this parish, as far as I know.

iii. I think there is a little. I should be *strongly* in favour of a Relief Registry personally, though *rather* doubtful if it would work.

Two-thirds of those replying to this question consider that overlapping does exist to a considerable extent, and 111 Incumbents are in favour of Relief Registries to check the evil as against 31 who are opposed to their establishment, but even amongst those who advocate the Registries many are doubtful of the possibility of their successful working, and 11 instances are given of their establishment and subsequent failure.

Question 5. (*a*) Are friendly societies active and well supported in your parish?

(*b*) Are you or your workers personally associated with them?

(*c*) Are slate clubs and dividing societies numerous? Are they increasing?

Examples.

i. Our two slate clubs are not the only slate clubs which operate in the district. The poorer working man regards the higher type of friendly society as a luxury beyond his means. The slate club probably more nearly meets his wants.

ii. Yes, we unfortunately inherit one connected with the Church.

The replies to this question seem to show that speaking generally the knowledge of the clergy of friendly societies and of their condition and working is not very definite or widespread; only in about 100 cases are the clergy or their workers stated to be personally associated with them. The answers generally give no evidence of increase in habits of thrift and saving, and hardly any replies testify to an increase of membership of friendly societies in the parishes referred to. In a considerable number of cases, however, Parish buildings seem to be used for the meetings of the local branches of friendly societies. Slate clubs are stated in many returns to be numerous, but the general opinion seems to be that they are not increasing. Some Incumbents state they have slate clubs connected with the Church, and but few say that they regard them as being inimical to real thrift.

Question 6. What, in your opinion, has been the result of the local administration of the Unemployed Workmen Act:—

(a) In relieving distress?

Examples.

i. No visible result.

ii. As far as this parish and neighbourhood is concerned, it has been useless.

iii. Inadequate and expensive. The ratepayers grumble, and the unemployed are not satisfied.

(b) In its effect upon the character of those obtaining work under its provisions?

Examples.

i. Good so far as it goes.

ii. The effect is to increase the evil which it was intended to lessen.

iii. There is a tendency for the men to look to the public authority to find them work as of right.

iv. *Bad* in majority of cases as tending to discourage independence and energy—the very thing lacking.

The answers to this question show how small has been the effect of the Unemployed Workmen Act upon the work or the minds of the clergy: 253 Incumbents state either that the Act has not been in operation at all in their parishes or to so small an extent that its effect has been inappreciable; in 20 cases the effect upon the character of those assisted under the Act is said to have been satisfactory and in 47 cases to have been unsatisfactory, whilst 335 say that the numbers dealt with have been so small that no opinion could be formed. It is remarkable how entirely the social significance of the Act seems to have escaped the notice of the clergy; evidently the proportion of the unemployed affected by the Act is so small that unless an Incumbent is actually a member of a Distress Committee the Act is not brought to his notice.

Question 7. Can you trace any change, for better or worse, in the character of your Parish due to altered local housing conditions?

Examples.

i. It is very marked. Huge houses 50 years ago occupied by city merchants now contain 5 or more families.

I do not think the flat system East End dwellings at all desirable.

ii. No! Unless the individual is changed, it seems to me good surroundings have little effect.

See remarks upon replies to question 1 *(a)* and *(b)*.

Question 8. Are there many common lodging-houses or any Rowton houses? What effects do you consider they have upon local poverty?

Examples.

i. A number of very poor lodging-houses, no Rowton. Increases the local poverty considerably. Fully 95 per cent. of the folk who drift into these lodging-houses have come there through their own fault, intemperance, impurity, and general laziness.

ii. Two common lodging-houses. The existence of the one in . . . . . in particular is most disastrous in a moral sense upon the place.

iii. There are cheap lodging-houses for men and women, but I do not consider that they affect in any degree local poverty.

iv. They meet a felt want.

v. Good.

Thirty-two Incumbents consider that the existence of common lodging or Rowton houses has an unfavourable effect upon local poverty, whilst 7 are of opinion that they are useful.

POOR LAW.

Replies to questions respecting the Poor Law, and its administration, show that in the opinion of the clergy there is not any lavish distribution of relief in the diocese. The evidence, however, shows that Poor Law relief is frequently supplemented out of voluntary funds: in consequence it is stated in the large majority of replies of the amount of Poor Law relief being inadequate.

The object of several of the questions was to ascertain whether the clergy found by experience among the poor that institutional relief was becoming unduly attractive and that the people were becoming less reluctant to accept such relief.

From the replies it would appear that the clergy have not generally found this to be so. In 17 instances the clergy reply that they consider it too attractive, 256 regard it either as deterrent "unnecessarily deterrent," or neither "attractive" nor "deterrent," whilst 109 do not reply to the questions. In most cases it is stated that persons apply for charitable assistance in consequence of being offered, or expecting to be offered, institutional relief, which they are disinclined to accept.

It is not to be deduced from the replies that any really systematic effort is made by the clergy for dealing with (a) widows with dependent children, (b) heads of families temporarily disabled by sickness and who have made no provision against this contingency, or (c) aged deserving poor, with the object of maintaining their independence of Poor Law relief. In some cases, where there are parochial charities available, relief of a more or less permanent character is given.

In 68 parishes the clergyman, or one of his workers, takes part in the administration of the Poor Law as guardian, and in 85 parishes the clergyman or his workers co-operate or consult with the guardians or relieving officers.

With regard to the general effect of the local administration of the Poor Law upon the condition of the poor, there will be found considerable diversity of opinion among the clergy. Three only appear to be of opinion that it has been over lenient.

There is running through a large number of replies a note of dissatisfaction with the Poor Law as at present administered; but in no case does there appear to be any complaint of a definite character, either in the way of omission or commission, charged against it. There is, however, a considerable body of opinion in favour of out-relief being more liberally granted, and sometimes the vague suggestion is made that for the inmates of the workhouse something more should be done than merely providing for their subsistence.

Question 1. Do you find that persons apply for and obtain charitable assistance in consequence of—

(*a*) The amount of Poor Law relief they are receiving being inadequate?

Examples of Replies.

i. Yes, a number of aged people we help because they do not get enough.

ii. Yes, the out-relief is obviously given with the hope of our adding to it.

iii. No doubt a good deal of charitable assistance is obtained because of inadequacy of out-relief.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

Question 1. (*b*) Being offered, or expecting to be offered institutional, or indoor relief by the guardians, which they are disinclined to accept?

Examples.

i. A certain number of distressing cases come under my notice of persons suffering very much before they will go into the workhouse or infirmary.

ii. There is the usual reluctance to going into the house. The streets hereabouts are full of people who would be in the house but for begging; at least it seems so from what I see, but again I cannot speak with full knowledge.

Question 3. Is there overlapping with private charity? Do you supplement parish relief?

Examples.

i. Certainly, there must be. Frequently we make ourselves responsible for the amount, without which the guardians will not give parish relief.

ii. We do, designedly and wittingly, supplement parish relief, in order to prevent decent aged people from being driven to endure the discomforts of the workhouse.

Question 4. Do you consider the conditions under which relief in the workhouse or infirmary is given to be unduly attractive or unduly deterrent?

Examples.

i. It is, if anything, too good in quality and very wasteful, but the people hate the workhouse in spite of its comforts.

ii. Unduly attractive to most people in workhouse and infirmary.

iii. Unduly deterrent.

iv. In the workhouse deterrent. In the infirmary excellent.

v. Deterrent from want of classification.

vi. There is much less reluctance to use the infirmary, I should say, but the deterrent thing about the house is the lack of liberty and the mild discipline. I gather that is what is felt here.

vii. Neither. The poor object to the workhouse on the grounds of the confinement, peculiar dress, unappetising (though wholesome) diet, tyranny of officials, in fact—the system generally. I never knew anyone who wished, to enter the house.

viii. Neither.

xi. Neither; but people still dread going to both.

x. It is unduly attractive to the undeserving, and unduly deterrent to the deserving.

Question 5. Is any systematic effort made in your parish for dealing with the following classes of applicants, with the object of maintaining their independence of Poor Law relief?

Examples.

i. No systematic effort is made beyond the consideration of each case by the district visitors.

ii. No systematic effort. But we help in individual cases as we are able, taking each case upon its merits.

iii. I can hardly call the effort made on behalf of these classes "systematic," but we do more for them than for others. For instance, under (*b*), if possible, we continue the relief so long as the sickness lasts.

iv. No, we consider they have a right to such relief, and try to supplement where necessary.

Question 7. What in your opinion has been the general effect of the local administration of the Poor Law upon the condition of the poor in your parish?

Examples.

i. If no relief is given unless an impecunious family enter the house it makes it difficult and impossible for the head of the family to obtain work and seems likely to retard the formation of working habits among the young and saps the spirit of independence.

ii. The workhouse system does not have a good effect: it lessens the sense of responsibility and self-respect, and puts a premium on thriftlessness. More out-of-door relief is needed, to supersede workhouses. Or, better still, old age pensions, recipients paying a small premium supplemented by the State.

iii. The effect of the present system is often to cause old people to drag out a miserable existence in consequence of the relief given being insufficient. Many in the parish depend entirely upon doles for their living. Outdoor relief should be withdrawn when people are unable, from old age or physical infirmity, to keep themselves or their rooms clean. In many cases it would be better, if it cannot be increased, for it to be withdrawn altogether.

iv. I think that the Poor Law, as I have said, is entirely antiquated and rusty as a means of progress in dealing with the problems of poverty. It confounds the deserving and the undeserving, the thrifty and the thriftless, the unfortunate and the vicious, always to the detriment of the deserving. It dishonours and troubles respectable old age, simply because of the accident of poverty, which sometimes a lifelong meritorious struggle against it makes specially poignant. Wherever it really touches and grips a man, woman, or family, it bids them abandon hope, saps their energy, and takes all colour from their life.

v. The general effect appears to us to be beneficent; though we believe the Poor Law to be open to great reforms.

vi. I consider the general effect to be good. It encourages independence.

vii. The administration of the Poor Law has been such as to mitigate much want and at the same time has not created those evils which unwise charity so often brings.

viii. It would be difficult to say. It has prevented poverty appearing in its severest forms, but as to the general condition of the poor it remains on the whole unchanged.

The above report was unanimously agreed to at a committee meeting, held on February 28th, 1908, at which all the members were present.

I am, my Lord,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR CLAY,

Chairman.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

APPENDIX A.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POOR LAWS AND RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

BISHOP OF LONDON'S COMMITTEE.

1, Vernon Chambers,
Southampton Row, W.C.

DEAR SIR,—A Committee has been formed by the Bishop of London, at the request of Lord George Hamilton, to assist the Royal Poor Law Commission in its inquiries as to the condition of the poor and the administration of the Poor Law.

I have been instructed to forward the enclosed list of questions which they have drawn up, and which have received the sanction of the Bishop of London. May I hope that you will answer the questions as fully as possible, as we feel that, by the co-operation of the clergy, we should be able to provide the Commission with really useful information. If the space for your answers is found insufficient, would you kindly add on the last, or on an extra sheet, any further matters, either in reply to the questions or which you think may be of interest. I enclose a stamped envelope addressed to the Chairman, Sir Arthur Clay, for your reply.

I need hardly add that any information you may be kind enough to send will be treated by the members of the Committee as private and confidential, and as intended exclusively for the use of the Bishop and the Royal Poor Law Commission.

Yours faithfully,
CLEMENT F. ROGERS,
Secretary.

APPENDIX B.

CHARITY.

QUESTION I. (a).—*Is there much extreme poverty in your parish? If so, to what do you attribute it?*

REPLIES.

Part I.—*Is there much extreme poverty in your parish?*

A.—Poverty, extreme	159
B—Poverty, moderate	72
C—Poverty, non-existent or insignificant	149
D—Poverty, partly extreme and partly moderate	6

Part II.—*If so, to what do you attribute it?*

A—To personal faults	122
B—To want of employment	179
C—To prevalence of unskilled labour or casual work	8
D—To high rents	1
E—To Emigration of better and Immigration of lower class	45
F—Difficulties of housing and overcrowding	30

QUESTION I. (b).—*Is it increasing or decreasing What is the cause of the variation?*

A—Poverty increasing	156
B—Poverty decreasing	27
C—Poverty stationary	87
No reply to Questions I. (*a*) and I. (*b*).	11

QUESTION I. (c).—*Is the condition of the children in the elementary schools symptomatic of local poverty?*

A—Yes	102
B—No	109
C To some extent or in exceptional cases	94
D—No schools in parish	41
E—No reply	54

QUESTION I. (d.)—*To what extent are the methods adopted to relieve distress, apart from the Poor, such as tend to prevent its recurrence?*

A—The methods adopted are such as tend to prevent recurrence	100
B—The methods adopted are not such as tend to prevent recurrence	79
C—No distress	9
D—Question misunderstood	110
E—No reply	102

QUESTION II. (a).—*What endowed charities are there available in your parish*

A—Endowed charities are available for parish	189
B—No endowed charities are available for parish	157
C—Cases in which the income of endowed, or other charities, exceeds £100 per annum	31
D—No reply	23

QUESTION II. (b).—*How are the funds applied; and by whom are they administered?*

A—Funds are administered by trustees or committees	115
B—By clergy, or those appointed by them, or by churchwardens	81
C—No reply	61

QUESTION 2 (c) *To what extent are these charities now received by the class for whom they were originally intended?*

A—Applied as provided by the trust deed	154
B—Not applied as provided	10
C—No reply	77

QUESTION 3 (a) *What charitable agencies, other than those mentioned above, are established in your Parochial Area?*

A—Reply giving full details	76
B— „ not detailed	161
C—No agencies, or societies established in the Parish	80
D—No reply	79

QUESTION 3 (b) *What local societies, if any, for the promotion of thrift, health, skilled employment, etc., are established with the object of improving the condition of the Poor?*

A—Reply giving full details	119
B— „ not detailed	169
C—No agencies or societies in Parish	47
D—No reply	59

QUESTION 4 (a) *How far is the relief given by the Clergy personally? If by the District Visitors, is it given after reference to the Clergy, or at their own discretion?*

A—Relief given by Clergy directly	137
B—By Parochial Relief Committee	69
C—By District Visitors after consultation with Clergy	162
D—By District Visitors at their own discretion	37
E—No reply	42

QUESTION 4 (b) *Is there a Parochial Relief Committee to which all applications are referred?*

A—Yes, there is a Parochial Relief Committee	157
B—No	191
C—No reply	52

QUESTION 4 (c).—*To what extent is any formal record kept of relief given?*

A—Full record kept of relief given	181
B—Some record	112
C—No record	26
D—No reply	81

QUESTION 4 (d).—*If a parochial Committee exists, to what extent does it comprise representatives of local charitable Associations or Agencies and of other Denominations?*

A—Parochial Relief Committees confined to Church people	105
B—Includes representatives of local charitable associations and other denominations	42
C—No reply	54

*QUESTION 4 (c).—*Do you think that there is overlapping between the various forms of local charity? If so, would you be in favour of a Relief Register for your neighbourhood, or can you suggest any other system for avoiding overlapping?*

A—Yes, decidedly there is overlapping	91
B—To some extent	125
C—No overlapping	105
D—In favour of Relief Registry	111
E—Not in favour	31
F—Relief Registry already established	21
G—No reply	57

QUESTION 5 (a)—*Are Friendly Societies active and well supported in your parish?*

A—Yes	119
B—To some extent, or fairly well	127
C—Not represented	66
D—No reply	88

QUESTION 5 (b)—*Are you or your workers personally associated with them?*

A—Yes, writer, or workers are personally associated with Friendly Societies	97
B—No	182
C—To the same extent	28
D—No reply	93

QUESTION 5 (c) I—*Are Slate Clubs and Dividing Societies numerous?*

A—Yes	160
B—No	152
C—No reply	88

QUESTION 5 (c) II—*Are the Slate Clubs and Dividing Societies increasing?*

A—Yes	55
B—No	173
C—No reply	172

QUESTION 6 (a) *What in your opinion has been the result of the local administration of the Unemployed Workmen Act in relieving distress?*

A—Act not been in operation in parish, or not sufficiently so to enable an opinion to be formed	119
B—Effect nil, or hardly appreciable	134
C—Satisfactory	29
D—Unsatisfactory	22
E—No reply	96

QUESTION 6 (b) *In its effect upon the character of those obtaining work under its provisions?*

A—Effect on character satisfactory	20
B—Unsatisfactory	47
C—No reply, or unable to judge owing to small number affected	335

QUESTION 7—*Can you trace any change for better or worse in the character of your Parish due to altered local housing conditions?*

A—Better	73
B—Worse	77
C—No change	150
D—No reply	100

QUESTION 8—*Are there many common lodging houses or any Rowton houses?*

A—Lodging house or houses, but no Rowton houses	75
B—None	275
C—Rowton houses	2
D—No reply	48

QUESTION 8—*What effects do you consider they have on local poverty?*

A—Useful	7
B—Undesirable	32
D—No reply	339
E—No, or little effect	22

POOR LAW.

QUESTION 1—*Do you find that persons apply for and obtain charitable assistance in consequence of:—*

(a) *The amount of Poor Law relief they are receiving being inadequate;*

(b) *Being offered, or expecting to be offered, institutional or indoor relief by the guardians which they are disinclined to accept?*

I (a) Part I—*Because relief is inadequate.*

A—Yes, generally	131
B—Yes, 'certainly' or 'very frequently'	34
C—Yes, under certain conditions, or in some cases	89
D—No	64
E—Question not applicable to parish	17
F—No reply to question	65

I (b) Part II—*Is the assistance granted when applied for?*

A—Yes	124
B—Yes, occasionally	74
C—Assistance given upon the ground of inadequate Poor Law relief	34
D—Assistance not given	79
E—Question not applicable to parish	16
F—No reply	73

QUESTION 1 (b) Part I—*In consequence of offer of institutional relief.*

A—Yes, persons apply in consequence of being offered, or expecting to be offered, institutional or indoor relief which they are disinclined to accept	130
B—Yes, to some extent	107
C—Yes, but only occasionally	37
D—No	30
E—Not applicable to parish	10
F—No reply	86

1 (b) Part II—*Whether assistance is given or not.*

A—Yes	162
B—Yes, occasionally	44
C—No	46
D—Not applicable to Parish	10
E—No reply	138

QUESTION 2.—*Is it common knowledge in your district that out-relief from the guardians is readily granted, or refused, or only granted under strict conditions?*

Part I.—*Is relief readily granted?*

A—Yes	29
B—Yes to some extent	45
C—Not readily granted	28

Part II.—*Or refused.*

A—Out-relief refused.	10

Part III.—*Or only granted under strict conditions?*

A—Only granted under strict conditions	136
B—Not unduly strict	74
C—Over strict	5
D—Does not apply to parish	10
E—No reply	67

QUESTION 3.—*Is there overlapping with private charity? Do you supplement Parish relief?*

Part I.—*Is there overlapping with private charity?*

A—Yes there is overlapping with private charity	90
B—To some extent	107
C—No	91
D—No reply	112

Part II.—*Do you supplement Parish relief?*

A—Parish relief supplemented	105
B—In exceptional cases, or occasionally	158
C—No	59
D—No out-relief given	2
E—No reply	76

QUESTION 4.—*Do you consider the conditions under which relief in the workhouse or infirmary is given to be unduly attractive or unduly deterrent?*

Part I.—*Unduly deterrent or unduly attractive?*

A—Unduly attractive	17
B—Unduly deterrent	21
C—Deterrent	25
D—Neither	210
E—People who have great dislike of workhouse	44
F—No reply	109

* In eleven cases a Relief Registry has been established, but has been given up or has failed from various causes.

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Part II.—*Infirmary.*

A—Unduly attractive	20
B—Unduly deterrent	19
C—Deterrent	19
D—Neither	222
E—People have great dislike to Infirmary	20
F—No reply	114

QUESTION 5.—*Is any systematic effort made in your parish for dealing with the following classes of applicants, with the object of maintaining their independence of Poor Law relief?*

(a).—*Widows with dependent children?*

A—Your systematic effort made to deal with widows with dependent children	132
B—No	195
C—Co-operate with C.O.S.	13
D—No reply	73
E—Guardians take some children	6

(b)—*Heads of families temporarily disabled by sickness who have made no provision against this contingency.*

A—Yes, efforts as above made to deal with heads of families	168
B—No	162
C—Co-operation with C.O.S.	16
D—No reply	70

(c)—*The aged deserving Poor.*

A—Yes efforts as above to deal with aged Poor	161
B—No	174
C—To Co-operate with C.O.S.	16
D—No reply	65

QUESTION 6.—*Do you or any of your workers take part in the administration of the Poor Law either as guardians or in co-operation with the guardians?*

A—Yes, clergy or workers take part	153
B—No	203
C—Writer is Chairman of Board of Guardians	4
F—No reply	43

QUESTION 7.—*What in your opinion has been the general effect of the local administration of the Poor Law upon the condition of the poor in your parish?*

Effect of Poor Law.

A—Good	92
B—Moderately so	16
C—Nil, or no particular effect	46
D—Bad; hostile to thrift, and encouragement to dependence	30
E—System radically unsound	15

Local administration.

F—That it is good	47
G—That it is faulty	15
H—That it is over-strict	11
I—Out-relief inadequate	9
K—Advocate more liberal and more freely given out relief	14
L—Suggestions for improvement	22
M—That it is over lenient	3
N—Unable or unwilling to express opinion	52
O—No reply, or not applicable to Parish	102
P—Unwillingness to apply for relief, or objection to workhouse	27
Q—Willingness to apply for relief	7
R—Willingness to apply for infirmary	3
S—People not pauperised, or character not injured by administration of the Poor Law	6

MANCHESTER.

I beg to forward herewith a Report based upon the returns of the clergy of the Diocese of Manchester to the questions issued by the Poor Law Commissioners. I also send a typewritten Report of the Rev. J. E. MacRae, Rector of St. Clement's, Salford, which it seems desirable that you should see. (*See* Appendix.)

Question I.—Is there much poverty in your parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?

Urban Districts.—There is a considerable amount of poverty manifest in all the large towns of this diocese, though at the beginning of the year, when trade was exceptionally good, the numbers in distress were less than usual. Where poverty exists in the towns, apart from unemployment, it seems to be traceable to the following causes, in order :—

(1) Drunkenness.

(2) Gambling.

(3) Thriftlessness and early marriages.

(4) Irregular employment, of unskilled labourers more especially.

(5) A desire to work only part of the week—this desire for "play" being said to lead, in the case of younger men, to strikes, when the coffers of trades unions are sufficiently full to allow strike pay.

Rural Districts.—Not much poverty, and what there is appears to be decreasing. It exists chiefly through drink and gambling, also through sickness and early marriage.

Question II.—Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors?

Urban Districts.—Relief is generally given personally by the clergy or their district visitors. Increasing use is being made of the Charity Organisation Society. Relief committees exist in a few parishes, but they are mainly called into existence when distress is exceptionally severe.

Rural Districts.—Relief mainly administered by the clergy. Some work through district visitors and Charity Organisation Society.

Question III.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.

Urban Districts.—Not much generally. Where such cases exist, they are traceable to a dislike to searching questions.

Rural Districts.—Very little. Reluctance generally due to the fear of social stigma and an impression that the administration is harsh and unfeeling.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

Question IV.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.

Urban Districts.—Not as a rule, though several specially hard cases are mentioned. But the majority of the deserving poor are often found to be unwilling to speak of their needs.

Rural Districts.—Not very much.

Question V.—Is there in your parish any needless overlapping—

(a) *Between various forms of charity, or*

(b) *Between charity and the Poor Law;*

and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

Urban Districts.—Overlapping exists to a considerable extent in the poorest districts of Manchester, notably in Ancoats. Elsewhere it is not general, and where it exists it is frequently due to denominational jealousy, private charities, and imposture. Great pains are, however, taken to avoid it.

Rural Districts.—Scarcely any.

Question VI.—If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.

Urban Districts.—It varies from £5 to £100. The average parish would give, apart from charitable funds administered by Boards or Societies, £20 to £30 annually.

Rural Districts.—Figures vary so much that it is impossible to form an estimate. Charities and doles vary in different rural parishes from £5 to £200.

Question VII.—Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your parish during the course of a year?

Urban Districts.—In the majority of parishes, no approximate estimates can be given. In others they vary from thirty to 150.

Rural Districts.—Apparently not many.

H. J. Smith.

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM DIOCESE OF MANCHESTER.

ST. CLEMENT'S, ORDSALL, SALFORD.

This parish in its relation to poverty and the Poor Laws is in many respects notable, and in some aspects certainly unique in England. It is practically isolated from both Salford and Manchester by railways and the Ship Canal, bounded on the south-west by the Salford docks, and on the south and east by the River Irwell and the docks of Manchester. The population is at least 11,997, for since that figure was recorded last Census very many houses have become tenanted by two families, and many more take lodgers, as a rule single men, mostly dock labourers. About 1,200 casual labourers at the docks live more or less continuously in the parish, but of these many stay for less than a year. These people are the shiftless and unemployable, and maintain a bare existence at the best. The rest of the population are artizans, about 350 or 400, steady and respectable—the rest picking up what they can, the women and girls taking what wages are offered in the various sweated industries in Manchester, to which daily they walk great distances, late and early. Taken as a whole, it is a population without prospects, and, therefore, without hope of betterment.

Question I.—*Is there much poverty in your parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?*

There is much poverty in every street; whole blocks of streets house the most wretched and helpless classes, and in some dirt and squalor reign supreme. The houses are now over thirty-five years old, in bad repair, and now unfitted for decent habitation. Over 3,000 people are crowded in these blocks, the streets small, narrow, "back to back," ill-paved and drained, and fast going to pieces.

Certainly poverty is increasing in intensity. Though moral improvement must be recorded since the removal of the barracks adjacent, still, economic changes have been for the worse. Municipal trams have taken the better-class workers to more open suburbs: the very poorest take their places. The Ship Canal attracts the lowest class of labourers, and broken-down men of all ranks; only one-third of the total seeking work can ever get a job at the docks any day, and then only for a few days or hours in each week, at the lowest price labour can demand. The cotton mills of Haworths, the dye works of Worralls, the engineer's shop of Smith and Coventry employ hands at good wages, and though there is plenty of work in the parish these wage earners, as a whole, live at a distance from the works. The result is a complete dislocation, socially and economically in this district.

Question II.—Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors?

Yes. No money is ever given, upon any pretext whatever, to any applicant. No help is ever given for debt, rent, pawned articles, money loans, or benefit society dues.

In cases of sickness hunger want of clothes or fire, grants of medicine food milk coal etc., are given, in writing, upon local tradespeople to the account of the rector only (the curates and Church Army Evangelists are forbidden to give anything without his assent, and authority). Each case is investigated before giving a grant, and no grant may exceed 2s. at any one time, nor may more than 10s. be granted in any one week to any single case. The aged, if not qualified for Booth's Charity, have continuous weekly grants in time of stress in winter.

Temporary distress in case of a family is met by a grant of provisions and coal up to £1, given at once after inquiry as above, the object being to set up the family immediately, and enable them to obtain work if at all possible.

Chronic cases are rare; the district is already too poor to support such, removal or death speedily end such cases. Very often one death in the family causes removal of the survivors. There is no relief committee; the clergy can get no help that way from working-class folk, themselves incapable of assisting, and the "better-classes" in Manchester and Salford, unlike those of other large towns, have, as yet, scarcely recognised any responsibility as individuals in such matters, being content with the "collective methods" of studying and relieving the problems of poverty. Needless to add, district visitors are unknown.

Question III.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.

Yes; constantly throughout the year. Not unnaturally people cling to their poor homes and few sticks of furniture; any application to the union sooner or later entails the demand they shall enter the House. Of the alternate forms of wretchedness they prefer the liberty and starvation of their own locality. (N.B.—If some plan could be adopted whereby *value for their few chattels* could be *advanced* to them, I think many deserving poor would make over to friends or the union what little they possess, and then enter *an upper section of the workhouse*, with a better grace, before they come to sink into utter destitution.) Nothing can conquer the very proper reluctance of the respectable, but unfortunate poor (and they are perhaps a majority after all) to be thrust into close—daily and hourly—association with the notoriously unworthy, and often evil-minded folk imprisoned in the workhouse.

(N.B.—*The statesmanlike remedy for all this, and it is the root difficulty of our present system, is the provision of an almshouse section in every union for the respectable and aged poor.*) Poverty does not in them destroy or abrogate their natural instincts of decency and self-reverence, of which the present system takes not the smallest account.

Question IV.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.

Yes; it is invariably inadequate because of the lack of discrimination above mentioned. When most of the household articles have been pawned more is needed for relief than so much bread and coal. A fresh start is required for that; far more careful inquiry into causes of distress is necessary. Head and heart are essential. Our system here in this parish is to notify the relieving officer of deserving cases after doing all we can to help for a few days. I cannot say that I have ever had evidence that this procedure met the full difficulty in any case. (N.B.—*Possibly the absence of any explicit and accepted mode of co-operation between clergy and the officers is the fault.*) No officer I ever heard of calls on the clergy even with reference to such recommended cases; yet much good might result from a little co-operation. Instances of these occur nearly every week; the cases most often cease by the death and removal within a fortnight. The most difficult cases are either dead or gone before the Poor Law agents deal effectively with them. It follows that instances cited here cannot now be traced up afterwards. Very typical, however, were those of:—

Mrs. Hedderwick, 93, West Park Street.
Mrs. Weedall, 33, Gertrude Street.
Mr. Kershaw, 65, Brighton Street.
Mr. Goodwin, 96, Phœbe Street.

But similar cases occur every week throughout the winter.

Question V.—Is there in your parish any needless overlapping—

(a) *Between various forms of charity, or*

(b) *Between charity and the Poor Law;*

and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

There is no needless overlapping, for the supply of "charity" is utterly inadequate. Nor would any amount of "charity" atone for the obvious social and economic dislocation and its effects. Without in any degree sympathising with the more blatant forms of Socialism, it is impossible for an ordinary conservative Christian to overlook the clear indications of social disorder and helplessness of the working people in this district. I repeat that the circumstances of this locality afford a singularly complete object lesson of the evils of modern industrial methods in relation to the life of the people, and I confidently affirm that a vast organised system of social compulsion under the "limited liability system" has been allowed to experiment on the lives of thousands of workpeople, with results known only to the clergy and the few students of social conditions. There is no overlapping of charity, and the Poor Law is utterly inefficient.

Question VI.—If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.

The amount spent in this parish in charitable relief is approximately:—

	£ s. d.
(1) By the Church of England - -	35 0 0
(2) By the Roman Catholic Clergy -	20 0 0
(3) By the Dissenting congregations -	10 0 0
(4) By "Booth's Charity" - -	200 0 0
(5) By employers of labour, *e.g.*, Messrs. Haworth, & Messrs. Worrall, etc., etc.	200 0 0
Total - - -	465 0 0

This is irrespective of the aid in sickness of benefit club and societies, which, of course, are not open to the very poor. Nor does No. 5 apply to that lowest class, only to employees in sickness or domestic distress.

No. 4 is applicable only to very old and infirm people past work; it does not really touch the causes of distress.

No. 3 is a diminishing element, for since the opening of a colossal Congregational Institutional Church in this locality, the smaller chapels have seen the necessity of closing their doors in the near future. The Congregational Church aforesaid ministers to its own members, and so far cannot be said to have addressed itself to the signs and causes of chronic poverty. "Congregationalism," Dr. Dale has reminded us, "cannot thrive save in a middle-class area."

No. 2.—Being on intimate terms with the neighbouring Roman Catholic clergy, I am able to say that they spend all they can on relief work; but I am constantly having to refer cases under my notice to their attention, and I am aware that they cannot be spending more than £20 a year on their poor. They are very clever, however, in arranging for small jobs and casual work for the more hopeful cases.

No. 1.—Our parochial poor fund amounts to about £15 a year. This I supplement with another £20 from my own resources, and occasionally I can dispose of a special Christmas donation for the poor. In 1905, over £50 was spent on poor relief, before the boom in trade began.

Question VII.—Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your Parish during the course of a year?

Under No. 4 I reckon about 25 recipients of "Booth's Charity." To this add ten persons receiving the Easter and Christmas doles of the King's Bounty, of which I am distributor. The parochial poor fund aided in 1906 over forty-five individuals, on the limited scale that is possible. Probably the employers of labour, so far as I can ascertain from cases known to me in visiting the sick, deal with about sixty in the course of a year. The Roman Catholic figures I cannot state even approximately, but they do not exceed those of the Church of England. Of the Dissenters, I believe very few receive any systematic aid in poverty in this district—there are no permanent or resident ministers. Approximately, therefore, I might hazard 230 cases relieved in the course of each year; this is the merest tithe of distress among 13,000 of the poorest classes in this slum parish.

JOHN E. MACRAE,

Rector of St. Clement's, Salford.

November 20th, 1907.

NEWCASTLE.

Inquiries as to the extent and causes of poverty were sent out to every incumbent in the diocese, and replies have been received and noted from 155 out of the 182 parishes. In the Archdeaconry of Northumberland, which includes the City of Newcastle and the thickly populated boroughs of Wallsend, Tynemouth, North Shields, and Hexham, reports were received from 92 out of 112 parishes, and in the Archdeaconry of Lindisfarne 63 out of 70 Incumbents made returns. As there is nothing exceptional in any of the parishes from which no replies have been received, this Report may be said to cover the whole diocese.

And first as to the extent of poverty. In the rural areas it does not exist to any appreciable extent. In the small boroughs and market towns, especially in Berwick, poverty is in evidence, largely due to "casual labour," mismanagement, and drink. In the south-east corner of the diocese, where the population is almost entirely industrial, poverty exists to a greater extent, and especially amongst the lower-class labourers, and again it is owing to lack of regular employment, want of thrift, ignorance of household management, drink, and gambling. Amongst the miners, of whom there is a large proportion, there is considerable reluctance to support their aged and infirm parents, owing, perhaps, largely to their becoming independent at early age, and this is aggravated by the number of miners' representatives on the board of guardians, who are ready to support applications without enforcing the duty of children to parents.

1. It is worthy of note that such poverty as does exist in the rural area is found in the small towns and in connection with the "rights of freemen," charitable trusts, and weekly markets. The first seems to limit enterprise, the second to attract an indolent class, and the third loafers.

2. *Charity (Voluntary).*—The sick and aged in the rural areas are the recipients of aid in their time of necessity, either through the ministrations of the clergy or of private benefactors. There are no relief committees; indeed, in few instances would they be of any use. In the case of "charities" these are mostly managed and distributed by the trustees or by the clergy and churchwardens. In the urban areas, district visitors, nurses, and sisters play a chief part in administering private charities. There is a little overlapping, but not a great deal. In the City of Newcastle much is done to prevent this by the Charity Organisation Society. But the operation of the Charity Organisation Society is almost entirely confined to the city and suburbs of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

3. The general opinion of the clergy is that there is no great reluctance to seek Poor Law relief. There are exceptions—and exceptions which often entail extreme deprivation and suffering—and the fear of an order to the "house" often prevents an application for outdoor relief in cases of labourers out of work. This applies almost exclusively to the industrial areas of the diocese.

4. The amount of charitable assistance varies very considerably from £5 or £10 in small to £100 or £200 in some of the wealthier and larger parishes. There is more than one expression of opinion that in the case of the larger "charities" some of it is expended on drink, but in the ordinary distribution of charitable funds much care and judgment is exercised, and in the urban areas the relief is given by orders on tradesmen.

5. *Medical Relief.*—Application for medical relief to the Poor Law authorities is almost unknown, owing doubtless, in the rural areas, to the preference for the regular doctor, though he may be also the "parish doctor," and to the presence now of a nurse in almost every part of the diocese, either in connection with the County Nursing Association, the Cathedral Nurse Society, or nurses maintained by private subscription. In the mining districts there are regular "clubs" for providing medical attendance, and, in the

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

urban areas, "dispensaries." The applications for "dispensary letters"—that is, orders for the attendance of the dispensary doctor—are made with great freedom, frequently with the persistency of a "claim."

6. There is no general wish to dissociate the duties of the medical officer from the Poor Law, though there is a division of opinion on the matter. One says: "With an experience of forty years, I scarcely remember a case of proved negligence against a medical officer, and, secondly, that an appreciable amount of Poor Law relief consists in medical orders for beef, milk, and other means of giving strength to the patients, in addition to the regular allowance."

7. There is no complaint about the children being insufficiently nourished, nor does it seem desirable to most of the clergy to dissociate the children from Poor Law administration. Two objections to this course are made by several of the correspondents; one that the religion of the parents will not be respected by the education authorities, and the other that in the case of Poor Law relief the parents will be under one authority and the children under another.

Adopted by the Committee.

JOHN WALKER,
Chairman.

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM THE NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN COMMITTEE.

Whalton Rectory,
Newcastle-on-Tyne,
December 4th, 1907.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POOR LAWS AND RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

DEAR SIR,—At a recent meeting of the archdeacons and rural deans of this diocese, held at Benwell Tower, the Bishop by their advice, and in response to a request from the Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws, appointed a Committee to co-operate with similar Committees in other dioceses in collecting evidence for the Poor Law Commission.

The Committee have accordingly determined to issue the enclosed questions, earnestly requesting the clergy and others to help forward the collection of evidence to lay before the Royal Commission, by careful answers to the several queries.

Your replies will be the more valuable if they are returned to me not later than December 18th, as the Secretary of the Commission wishes our report before Christmas.

Possibly some of these questions do not apply to your parish, will you, therefore, kindly answer such only as you can speak to of your own personal knowledge?—I am,

Yours sincerely,
On behalf of the Diocesan Committee,
JOHN WALKER.
Chairman.

LIST OF QUESTIONS.

1. Is there much poverty in your parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?

2. Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress?

Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors?

3. Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance?

4. Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.

5. Is there in your parish any needless overlapping—
(*a*) Between various forms of charity, or
(*b*) Between charity and the Poor Law;
and has any special effort been made with a view to prevent such overlapping?

6. If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.

7. Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law relief in your parish during the course of a year?

MEDICAL RELIEF.

1. Is there any shame or any loss of reputation in making application for medical relief? Does this cause delay in the application for relief, so that illness is aggravated?

2. Does the receipt of medical relief encourage application for other relief, and thus tend to pauperise? Would this pauperisation be avoided by treating medical assistance as something apart from Poor Law relief?

3. Does it seem to you that the objects of the medical and relieving officers is to raise the standard of public health, or merely to limit applications for relief? Would the former object be promoted if medical attendance were: (*a*) Dissociated from the Poor Law; and (*b*) put under the control of the medical officer of health whose duty it should be to see that everyone was kept as healthy as possible.

CHILDREN.

1. In your experience of children in your parish whose parents are in receipt of outdoor relief, have you found them sufficiently nourished? Have their mothers time found to mother them? Do they go to school till they pass Sixth Standard? Does their familiarity with relief officer demoralise them?

2. As to those who are brought up in Poor Law institutions, how do they compare with children brought up at home? Are they as self dependent and as resourceful, as observant? Are they more liable to attacks of temper? Does it make them ashamed among their equals?

3. Do you think it would be an improvement to dissociate children from the Poor Law administration and transfer their care to the education authorities so that they may be under the same control as other children?

The numbers in the following Reports refer to the Questions printed at the beginning of the Appendix.

NEWCASTLE DIOCESE.

Archdeaconry of Northumberland.

Bedlington Deanery.

Returns received from thirteen out of the fourteen parishes comprised in the deanery. The population is chiefly engaged in mining—good wages prevail with house and coal provided. There is very little poverty—a few aged people and a small number crippled by sickness, are chargeable to the Poor Law. In a few other cases want of thrift and drink produce their usual effects. The Miners' Permanent Relief Fund helps in supporting miners incapacitated by age, infirmity and accident.

2. Private charity is chiefly distributed by the clergy.

3. There is no reluctance in applying for relief, save in the case of women deserted by their husbands; they fear to bring the latter into trouble with the guardians. There are a very few who are reluctant to make application for relief.

4. There is no distress from inadequate relief, which is generally supplemented from varied sources.

5. There is very little overlapping though private benevolence is sometimes unwisely exercised.

6. There is some difficulty in estimating the amount of charitable assistance. It varies in the several parishes from £5 in most to £30 in one or two, and there are miners' homes provided in one (Earsdon), with a grant of money known as Taylor's Trust, and, of course, administered by trustees. At Christmas time there are special collections in a few parishes, the amount of which is given in parcels of groceries, etc.

Medical Relief.—Many of the miners subscribe to a doctor's fund. There is not a great demand for medical attendance as apart from other legal relief, and neglect cannot with just cause be attributed.

2. There is no reason to desire any change in the position of the medical officer, and except when there is need of special support for the invalid does medical relief tend to pauperise.

Children.—The children as a rule are properly nourished; the mothers do not go out to work in these districts, though they are often idle and careless. The children are generally at school till fourteen, and not demoralised by Poor Law relief.

2. Opinions are divided as to dissociation of children from Poor Law administration, but the opinions adverse to change are in the majority.

Bellingham Deanery.

Mostly a rural area of fourteen parishes, from ten of which replies have been received. The other four are thinly populated, and they are in no way to be distinguished from the rest as to the extent of poverty. There are several stone quarries in the deanery.

1. There is practically no poverty, and such as there is is due to gambling, and some uncertainty of employment in the quarries, but chronic poverty scarcely exists. There is a small market town—Bellingham—in which, however, there is an appreciable amount of poverty.

2. Charitable relief to the sick and aged is administered by the vicar.

3–5. There is no reluctance to apply for relief, and no distress owing either to such reluctance or inadequate relief.

6. In two parishes there are considerable charities, in Humshaugh about £70 mostly distributed by the vicar at Christmas time—and at Wark about £60—administered by the vicar and churchwardens, or by trustees of whom the vicar is one. There is no overlapping, and no preference in the distribution of these charities.

Medical relief in its legal sense is unknown, and so also, practically, is the maintenance of children by the Poor Law authorities.

Corbridge Deanery.

In the area of this deanery the population is partly agricultural and partly engaged in coal-mining. Out of a total of fifteen parishes twelve made Returns; and

1. In each case there is said to be little or no poverty, such as there is is put down to the cause of intemperance.

2. Charitable relief in cases of sickness or temporary want is administered by the vicar, or vicar and churchwardens, of the several parishes. There is no committee in any parish except in Bywell St. Peter's, where a sick fund exists with £65 in hand, and administered by a committee, of which the vicar is a member. In Corbridge Parish, doles amounting to £70 are given at Christmas and Candlemas by the trustees. The distribution of this dole is not necessarily beneficial, and the money is not always wisely spent. At Stamfordham, too, a purely rural parish, there is a small charitable trust dispensed by the vicar to the sick and aged.

3, 4, 5. The almost invariable answers to these operations are in the negative.

6 and 7. As above, the number of persons relieved by charitable funds is in most parishes very small, even in the more thickly populated mining districts. There is a nursing association at Heddon-on-the-Wall, on voluntary and co-operative lines.

Medical Relief.—There is no reluctance to apply for it, but amongst the miners there exists a voluntary fund to provide for medical attendance by the regular and resident doctor. In the rural areas the medical officer of health is seldom requisitioned, the people prefer their own doctor. There is no concensus of opinion in favour of transferring the medical officer of health to the county authority.

Children.—Two or three of the incumbents favour a transfer of the children from the Poor Law to the education authority, one by way of experiment, and another if the Education Committee will recognise the religion of the parent as is now done by the Poor Law authority. Another is doubtful if there would be any gain.

Hexham Deanery.

In this deanery of twenty parishes the population is somewhat mixed in character, and widely scattered. Hexham itself is a small market town with a moiety of casual labour. There are some lead mines in the west in a not very flourishng state, but the greater part of the population is engaged in agriculture. In two parishes there is some poverty owing to the closing of the lead mines, and scarcity of work.

Returns were made by eighteen of the twenty incumbents.

1. With exceptions there is practically little or no poverty.

2. There are no special methods of administering chartable assistance to the sick, the aged, and those in temporary want. Though in some parishes considerable funds are dispensed, £35 in Allendale, £70 in Alston by the vicar and churchwardens, and £200 in Hexham by rector and churchwardens, and £100 in St. John Lee by the vicar. The Rector of Haltwhistle is assisted by a staff of clergy and district visitors, but relief committees as such are unknown.

3 There is no reluctance to apply for relief, and no distress on that score, or on that of inadequate relief.

5. There is little or no overlapping inasmuch as the individuals relieved are well known. Here and there, are some importunate ones who do seek alms from every source.

6. As stated above, charitable relief varies very considerably in the different parishes; and

7 Consequently, the numbers of persons immediately benefited from five or six to twenty or thirty in some parishes, and as many as 200 in Hexham.

Medical.—One or two of the parsons favour the dissociation of medical relief from the Poor Law, and that in the more needy parishes.

Children.—Here, again, some three or four of the clergy are in favour of transferring the care of children entirely to the Education Committee.

Newcastle Deanery.

It will be convenient to consider the rural area of this deanery separately from the city proper, with its densely-populated parishes. In all, there are thirty-six parishes, and Returns have been made by twenty-seven. There

is nothing exceptional in those parishes which have not returned answers to our queries.

There are eight parishes outside the city two of which, in Gosforth, are really suburban, and the others contain a mining and manufacturing element, as well as an agricultural in the population thereof. There is some poverty in the suburban district, about 150, out of a population of 14,000, receiving Poor Law relief. In the more rural parts the really poor consist of aged widows, worn-out workers, or want of work in the case of casual labourers. High rents in the suburban district prevail and contribute, in a measure, to create a condition of poverty.

Among the causes of poverty are put down—

(1) The want of good management.

(2) Ignorance of domestic economy, extravagance, and pernicious habits.

There does not seem to be any tendency to an increase of poverty, except in the case of labourers, who are not in any union and in times of depressed trade.

2. Coming now to the city proper, with its eighteen crowded parishes, there is a good deal of chronic poverty, caused, it would seem, mainly by drink, thriftlessness, gambling, immorality, and the conditions of casual labour. In only five or six of the parishes is it said there is little or no poverty, and these are inhabited by business people, tradespeople, or the better class of artisans. In two parishes, owing to the migration of business people to suburban residences, poverty is increasing, and even amongst artisans, owing to want of employment, much poverty exists.

In all cases charitable funds are distributed to the sick and needy by the clergy, assisted in the town parishes by district visitors, Sisters, and deaconesses, and great care is exercised to prevent overlapping.

Several of the clergy give instances—striking instances—of great hardship endured rather than submit to the conditions of Poor Law relief, especially among the artisan class. Here is one case—

"A man and his wife, with nine children, living in two rooms, rent, 6s. 6d. per week. The man when in work can earn 18s. per week. The wife is a clergyman's daughter in this instance. Men do not like to apply in many instances, for they are frequently told that their only remedy is to go to the workhouse, which means breaking up their home, with little probability of its ever being got together again. It is also difficult for a man to get leave from the workhouse to seek work."

Another reports as follows, and this from a very poor parish:—

"There is extreme and universal dislike of the workhouse, due to a sense of shame. I recall two old people who preferred to die rather than enter it; one family who live in a cellar, where the mother would not go into the maternity ward, owing to fear that no work would be got again if she once went in; one and all prefer any poverty at home to the union. They say it is useless to ask for outdoor relief, as they will be told: 'Go to the house.'"

The clergy of another artisan parish where poverty is increasing, give three instances of people suffering great want. "One, an old woman, aged 70, very respectable (seen better days) lived with sick husband, since dead, two and a half years on savings; great difficulty in persuading her to accept relief." On the other hand, several of the clergy report that there is little reluctance in applying to the relieving officer.

3 and 4. The opinion in several instances is expressed that outdoor relief is inadequate.

5. Opinions as to overlapping are varied. It occurs occasionally in the case of inveterate beggars, and want of co-operation.

6. The amounts spent in relief outside the Poor Law vary very considerably from £15 to £150. In St. Nicholas' Parish, there is a charitable bequest from which twenty-four deserving poor receive 6s. per week, and twenty 15s. per annum, and the collections at the Cathedral provide about twenty-five families with assistance of 1s. or 1s. 6d. per week. In St. Andrew's charitable relief is distributed to the extent of £150, and in other poor parishes considerable sums are placed at the disposal of the vicar and his fellow-workers, clerical and lay.

7. *Medical.*—Opinions vary as to the expediency of dissociating medical relief from the Poor Law. There is no clear preponderance in either direction. It is generally looked upon as apart from Poor Law, and the dispensary is an important element. Letters for the dispensary are eagerly sought after in sickness and without hesitation. Nor is there any great reluctance to apply for the help of the medical officer appointed by the guardians.

8. *Children.*—The general opinion is that the present arrangements work well. In some of the city parishes, children leave school before the legal age. It does not appear that familiarity with the relieving officer is injurious. There is not much information forthcoming as to the comparison between children brought up in Poor Law institutions, and children brought up at home. In the first place much depends upon the home life and parental care; in the second place the Newcastle Board of Guardians send a large number of children to be brought up in cottages homes in the country, where they attend the village school.

As to the transfer of the care of the children to the education authorities, some of the clergy regard the suggested change favourably, but it is not a general opinion, and one of the most experienced in such questions pertinently remarks: "It would be very difficult to have the children of the family under the education authorities, and the parents under Poor Law administration."

Tynemouth Deanery.

In this deanery there is a large population of a very varied character; besides a considerable area of a rural character; there are coal mines and large industrial centres on the north bank of the Tyne, so that the population includes farmers and farm labourers, dairymen, coalminers, artisans, shipwrights, labourers in shipyards and factories, and fisherfolk. There are also workers in lead, copper and chemical factories, also in ropery works. It includes the Boroughs of Tynemouth and Wallsend, the Urban Districts of Willington Quay, Whitley, Monkseaton and Cullercoats—the latter three well-known seaside resorts. Replies were received from twelve of its thirteen parishes. Taking the whole area there is not a very great deal of poverty, though in the large Tyneside districts considerable chronic distress exists caused by the low average wage of labourers in the shipbuilding yards, and the ignorance of domestic economy on the part of the wives, and the extravagance and wastefulness of the men. There is considerable irregularity in the employment of labour of this class. The distress becomes acute periodically when business is depressed, and during strikes.

Just now, when hundreds of labourers are thrown out of employment by the strike of the various craftsmen and consequent dislocation of business, there is much poverty of a severe kind.

2. There are no special methods of administering charitable funds which are the proceeds of Church offertories, and are administered by the clergy or under their direction.

3. There is rarely any reluctance in applying for relief though, except in a few rare instances.

4. No; save again in a few isolated cases.

5. There is some little overlapping in the relief administered by voluntary effort owing to the co-existence of different forms of giving, and as the relief given by the Poor Law is small, the possible "overlapping" in this case is deemed not undesirable.

6. Varable from £50 to £120 from Church funds.

7. This is also a very variable number.

Medical Relief.—1. The answers are chiefly in the negative.

2. (*a*) Generally no; (*b*) there is an opinion largely expressed that medical relief apart from the Poor Law is desirable, especially in the case of midwifery.

3. There are a variety of opinions as to the objects of the medical officer; it is suggested that: (*a*) Neither is it in his mind to raise the general standard of public health; or (*b*) to limit applications; his duty is to look after his patients.

Children.—1. (*a*) Opinions are much divided; (*b*) mothers have often to go out to work; (*c*) generally, yes (*d*) no.

2. There is a strong concensus of opinion in favour of boarding-out children. The children under the Poor Law are less self-dependent, but not ashamed.

3. There is no strong feeling against the present state of the law as to dealing with pauper children.

ARCHDEACONRY OF LINDISFARNE.

Alnwick, Bamburgh, Glendale, and Norham Deaneries.

Returns were received from the four rural deaneries of Alnwick, Bamburgh, Glendale, and Norham. Thirty-two parishes are represented in these Returns. They are mainly rural parishes with small and scattered populations. But Berwick, with its two parishes, and Alnwick, with its two parishes, are included, also the colliery parishes of Chevington and Seremerston.

In many cases questions meet the natural reply that the populations being so small the data are insufficient for forming an opinion of any value.

The following summary represents the general tenor of the replies received. I have arranged them under three separate headings.

1. *Existence of Poverty.*—In the rural districts the opinion is universal that there is little or no poverty. The farm labourers are engaged by the year, and are paid in time of sickness. The wages of quarrymen are good and work is fairly regular, and the fishing folk, although not earning so much as they have earned in the past obtain a livelihood. There is no real poverty in Alnwick, and none in the colliery parishes. The only exception is Berwick, where there is a good deal of poverty, largely due to the existence of "casual labour and drink." The statistics of numbers assisted and money expended bears out the above statement. For example, Chevington, a colliery parish with a population of 4,500, had only one or two cases assisted by charity in the year. Ancroft, a rural parish with a population of 700, had only two cases, but the parish district of Berwick spends about £97 a year in charitable gifts.

2. *Charity (Voluntary).*—In no cases are there relief committees. In the villages, of course, there would be nothing for them to do. In the towns district visitors—in the villages the clergy—distribute what relief is given. There is a good deal of overlapping, but in the villages its existence is known; in the towns it is unknown, and, therefore, has more serious effects. The charity of private people is often an unknown quantity.

3. *Poor Law Relief.*—There is no reluctance to ask for, or shame in receiving outdoor relief (with rare exceptions). Inadequate outdoor relief is not thought to impose hardship or suffering; but the reason is noteworthy, because it is supplemented by voluntary charity. There is no reluctance or delay in calling in the Poor Law doctor. The reception of medical relief does not generally pauperise; but, again, the reason is noteworthy, those who apply for medical relief are generally already in receipt of other relief. The balance of testimony inclines to the belief that the Poor Law doctor tries rather to limit applications for relief than to raise the standard of public health, but it is not seen how the medical officers of health with their large districts could undertake Poor Law Relief work.

The questions relating to the children receive very few answers owing to want of data. Two incumbents of considerable experience hold opposite views. One thinks that children "brought up at home are much inferior to institutional children," and children should be transferred from the Poor Law authorities to the Board of Education. The other thinks that "institutional children are more self-dependent and resourceful than children brought up by their parents," and the oversight of the guardians could not be improved upon.

It seems that few definite conclusions can be drawn from the above evidence. Possibly the following conclusions might be fairly drawn:—

(1) There is little poverty in these parishes, and what there is, is adequately met by the existing system of charitable and Poor Law relief.

(2) The outdoor relief system encourages begging and concealment of facts, but does not entail suffering through its inadequacy. It remedies poverty at the expense of charity.

(3) Both the institutional and private treatment of pauper children have their good and bad points, and effective administration is more important than the system.

(4) It might be better for the Poor Law doctor to give his whole time to the duties of his office in thickly populated centres. But it must be recognised that this would be impossible in sparsely-populated districts.

Morpeth Deanery.

In the western portion of this deanery which is purely rural and agricultural, there is no poverty; in the eastern part, which is mainly a mining area, there is a small but appreciable amount.

The borough of Morpeth lies between the two divisions, and in it poverty does exist to a considerable extent. Mostly caused by drink and extravagance. There is a weekly market, and this attracts a class of casual labourers to the town, who earn a precarious living by driving cattle to and from the market. The housing of the working population is not of the best order, and a movement is on foot to effect a much desired improvement.

2. There are no special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, aged, and those in temporary want. Generally speaking, the clergy are the chief almoners, assisted in the more populous parishes as Morpeth, Ashington, and Hirst, by district visitors. The amounts distributed are comparatively small, varying from £2 to £12 or £13.

3 and 4. These questions must be answered in the negative. There is no reluctance anywhere in applying to the relieving officer indeed, in many cases, relief is claimed as a right, and the miners have twenty representatives upon the board of guardians, and very often applicants are already in receipt of relief from the Miners' Permanent Relief Fund, or other benefit societies, and these amounts are not reckoned by the guardians. The legal relief is an addition to the provision made by the applicant.

6 and 7. In the Borough of Morpeth there are one or two charitable bequests, and in addition to twelve almshouses, some £300 or more is distributed either in money, coals, or clothing. The almshouses are under the management of the rector and churchwardens. The "Hollon" charity is distributed by the council of the borough. The grants are £10 per annum to twenty-four old people of good character, with a supply of coals occasionally to sixty or seventy families.

Medical Relief.—This is seldom applied for in the rural districts, and in the borough of Morpeth there is a dispensary and a resident doctor. There is no shame or loss of reputation in applying for medical relief either by a dispensary note or from the Poor Law medical officer, and this applies to the mining district. It is often our first step, but the receipt of relief is now generally claimed as a right.

There is no opinion in favour of separating medical from Poor Law relief. On the contrary one best able to judge says: "I do not think that the separation of medical from Poor Law relief would make any difference in the thought of becoming a pauper; as that feeling scarcely exists now." The doctor does his best for the patient, and invariably orders extra nourishment where it is desirable.

Children.—The children whose parents are in receipt of relief are as well nourished as those in the same rank of life. With regard to dissociating the children from Poor Law administration it is pertinently asked: "Are the education authorities to board and lodge the pauper children? otherwise, how are they to have any control over them?" The children in the homes of the guardians compare favourably with children of the same class who are not paupers.

Rothbury Deanery.

This is a purely rural area of eight parishes and a scattered population, in which there is no real poverty except in the case of old people, particularly if childless. These and cases of temporary sickness are relieved chiefly by church funds, the gifts of farmers and other charitably disposed persons. The landowners are very liberal to their tenants and labourers. Poverty in its Poor Law sense may be said to be non-existent. Nurses under the County Nursing Association are employed in most parishes or groups of parishes, and to the very poor their services are given free.

The questions as to medical relief and the children are of no force for lack of experience.

Signed on behalf of the Committee.

JOHN WALKER,
Chairman.

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OXFORD.

Summary of Diocese of Oxford.

Population	560,089
Number of Parishes from which replies have been received	576
I.—In how many Parishes :—	
(a) Much Poverty	45
(b) Increasing Poverty	26
(c) Causes of Poverty, intemperance, improvidence, low wages, bad housing, irregular employment.	
II.—(a) Special methods for administering Charity	1
(b) Administered by Vicar or Rector only	322
„ „ „ + District visitors	117
„ „ „ + Committee or Parish Councils or Trustees of Endowed Charities	45
III.—(a) Distress due to reluctance to resort to Poor Law Relief	24
(b) Causes of this reluctance :—dread of workhouse, loss of independence, dread of inquiry, loss of vote.	
IV.—Distress due to Inadequate Poor Law Relief	52
V.—(a) Cases of Overlapping between Charities	19 and 4 doubtful.
(b) Attempts made to prevent this by Charity Organisation Society	14
VI.—Amount spent in 122 parishes of one Archdeaconry	£5,499 but these figures cannot be accepted as definite.
VII. No of (a) Families in receipt of Charity other than poor relief	These questions cannot be answered.
„ (b) Individuals „ „ „ „	

In answer to the questions issued to the clergy of the Oxford Diocese, replies have been received from 576 parishes, and the following General Report is based on those returns :—

It seems generally agreed among the clergy that there is not much poverty, and that it is even decreasing; in only 26 parishes is it said to be on the increase. There are, however, a few parishes where, though there is as yet no increase of poverty, there seems to be some likelihood of it. Low wages and large families render saving impossible, and consequently, in times of sickness or want of work, much distress and even destitution exist. One clergyman of a small parish considers that lack of employment has of late increased. Most indicate that work is plentiful and help ready for all who require it. Such poverty as exists is attributed to drink, improvidence, low wages, bad houses, irregular employment and large families.

The clergy generally undertake the administration of private relief, but the assistance of District Visitors is obtained in 117 cases. In 45 cases the relief is distributed by Committees, Parish Councils or Trustees of Endowed Charities. Almost all the answers show that there is no reluctance to seek out-door relief. It is also clear that old people will often struggle with poverty rather than enter the House. Most clergy consider that no distress results from inadequate Poor Law relief,

that the Guardians behave fairly, and that the relief allowed is practically sufficient, from the fact that it is supplemented by assistance from relatives and from private charity. The amount of Poor Law relief is by some clergy considered inadequate. Several point out that, though private charity may be said to overlap poor relief by supplementing it, still, such additional assistance is not unnecessary; there is, however, little overlapping between the various private charities, though it may happen that several kind-hearted people may help the same case.

It is impossible to estimate accurately the amount of charity dispensed in a village except such as is definitely represented by the Church Offertories, a few regular subscriptions to Clothing or Coal Clubs or the accounts of endowed Charities.

Many clergy have evidently been perplexed to know what other items, such as hospital tickets, Christmas gifts, etc., should be taken into account. They can seldom know what is given privately, nor can they estimate the large gifts of food given by farmers and others in country places.

The answers as to the numbers receiving assistance would be most misleading if supposed to indicate ratio of poverty. Gifts are frequently received, not to supply actual necessaries but to afford additional comforts. Coal may be sent into every cottage in a village or clothing given to Sunday School scholars, acceptable gifts, but by no means implying destitution in the recipients. So the answers to Questions 6 and 7 when they have been received cannot be looked upon as giving any reliable data on which to form an opinion.

Cases representing town areas call perhaps for special notice; and in this connection may be mentioned.

I.—OXFORD.

Here there are peculiar circumstances due to the presence of the University during only half the year. Almost all the Oxford Clergy call attention to the irregularity of employment caused by the alternation of term and vacation. Most of them lay stress on drink and the excessive number of public-houses, an evil intensified in some parishes by bad housing. Some clergy certainly are of opinion that work is scarcer than it used to be. Two speak of the decline of apprenticeship, and one of discharge of "hands" owing to improved machinery. The presence of the University and of a considerable residential population encourages dependence.

II.—WINDSOR.

Much poverty exists and has existed for years; due to the fact that historically the town has grown up round Windsor Castle, and as a consequence there are no manufactories of any kind, consequently when the Court is not at Windsor, the town trade falls very low and employment is scarce, and means of livelihood in very many cases are precarious.

Indiscriminate charity does a lot of harm, and is an evil in all large towns. A word from the Royal Commission as to the evil of this indiscriminate giving might be of great service.

III.—READING.

A good deal of poverty: a considerable amount of casual labour. Male labour has, at the factories and chief town industries, been largely replaced by girl labour—workmen in large numbers only employed at busy times. It is believed that at Reading, the rate of wages is exceptionally low, while the average house-rent is 5s. to 6s. per week; there is thus left but a small margin for food and clothing.

The Deaneries of Abingdon, Cuddesdon and Wallingford do not seem to show any great amount of poverty; where it did exist, it was considered due generally to drink or occasionally to casual employment, and in one or two cases to bad housing, which had the effect of driving away the better class of labour, those who came in being of a thriftless and unsatisfactory class. In some few cases it was considered that the relief given by the Board of Guardians was inadequate, and in some cases when it was offered it was not accepted; cases also were quoted of a dislike to enter the Workhouse, though in some cases this was said to be diminishing. It has been noticed that in the case of those incumbents, who were or had been Guardians, there was no complaint of this sort, in all probability the Guardians know more about the cases than individuals outside the Board, who are rather apt to take a sentimental view of the cases. The returns as to charities, whether private or endowed, were of such an incomplete nature that the returns made were of little practical value.

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PETERBOROUGH.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RELIEF OF THE POOR.

The Royal Commission on the "Poor Laws and Relief of Distress" having asked the Bishop for information concerning the present conditions of poverty in the Diocese, a Committee was appointed by the Bishop for the purpose of obtaining this information, and a series of questions was sent by this Committee to all the Incumbents of the Diocese in the autumn of 1907.

The Diocese consists of the three counties of Leicester, Northampton, and Rutland. There are 556 Incumbents, holding 583 Benefices, with a population, according to the census of 1901, of 788,211.

The Report of the Committee is based upon the replies to these questions which have been received from 445 parishes.

In the larger towns of the whole area the chief industries are much the same:—Hosiery, Boots and Shoes, Collieries, Stone Quarries, Brickfields, and the various industries connected with the Building Trade.

For the purposes of this inquiry, therefore, the Committee have thought it advisable to group the parishes according to population rather than in Archdeaconries or Counties. They have divided them into four Classes, named, respectively, A, B, C. and D.

A. Parishes in Towns of over 10,000 population of which there are 65 and 50 replies.

B. „ with a population between 1,000 and 10,000 „ „ 89 „ 64 „

C. „ „ „ „ 500 „ 1,000 „ „ 110 „ 78 „

D. „ „ „ under 500 „ „ 319 „ 253 „

Parishes "A" and "B" may be supposed to be entirely industrial or mining; "D." almost entirely agricultural; and "C." a mixture of both.

The Committee expected to find very different conditions in regard to poverty prevailing amongst the various groups.

This is not so, however, to anything like the expected extent. They will, therefore, only distinguish between such groups where the differences seem worthy of note.

They consider that they will best serve the purpose for which they were appointed by giving the questions and summarising briefly the answers received.

1. *Is there much poverty in your parish? If so, is it increasing or decreasing, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?*

(i.) The general answers to this question reveal the fact that there is very little real poverty, or at any rate distress, over the whole area. In a few parishes it is said to be fluctuating with the state of trade, but in no less than 380 there is said to be very little, and in only 31 any considerable amount. These 31, however, represent a total population of 148,711, of which 19 are "A" parishes, with a population of 130,773.

(ii.) Out of 106 Parishes which answer the second part of the question, 32 state that poverty is increasing, 32 that it is decreasing, and 42 that it is practically stationary. The increase is largely in Parishes "A" and "B," while the decrease is almost entirely in "D."

(iii.) The chief *economic* causes which are said to account for the existing poverty are trade depression (chiefly in the shoe factories and the building trade), and the gradual increase in the use of machinery in the factories, by which one man or even boy does the work formerly employing four or five men; twenty-eight parishes

referring specially to the former of these causes, and sixteen to the latter. Other causes mentioned are the effect of the Workmen's Compensation Acts (in parishes "A," "B," and "C" alike) in depriving men of employment who have the slightest defect of sight, hearing, or bodily infirmity; and of the "Team" system prevailing in the shoe trade in Northamptonshire, whereby men of advancing years are said to lose their positions because they are too slow to take their place in the "team," or to earn the minimum wage insisted on by the trade unions. These undoubtedly contribute to prevent men not fully efficient from getting employment, which many of them might otherwise do.

The following is a sample statement from a very large factory parish, which reveals what the Committee fear may be an increasing cause of unemployment as time goes on:—

"There are workmen who are willing to work, but who are not quite as quick, strong, or capable as others, and the manufacturers are willing to employ them, but they cannot, or will not, pay them the fixed miminum. I have known also of several of these worthy men, with slight heart trouble or other defect, *discharged* since the 'Liability' Act came into force."

(iv.) The chief *moral* cause of poverty in town and country alike is said to be excessive drinking—want of thrift, and bad management often, early and improvident marriages or gambling sometimes, accompanying it; in fact, in many parishes the reply on this point is practically that what little poverty exists is almost solely due to the drinking habits of the few whose families suffer in consequence.

Even when there is little actual drunkenness, the proportion of weekly wages regularly taken to the public-house is said to keep many families always poor.

2. *What is the total number of persons now in receipt of outdoor relief from the Guardians?*

In the case of some of the larger towns these numbers have been supplied direct by the Relieving Officer. In many cases the Clergy have themselves consulted these officers before making their replies, and the Committee feel that this fact alone may make this question fruitful of more co-operation in future between the Guardians of the Poor and those responsible for administering charitable agencies.

Unfortunately the question did not definitely state that it was the total number of *individuals* and not *families* relieved that was required, but wherever it appears or is stated definitely that it is the latter that is given, the figures have been disregarded as misleading.

The total number of individuals in receipt of outdoor relief, as given in the Returns, is 11,602 from parishes with a joint population of 591,915, or an average of just under 20 per thousand.

It will be sufficient to state, without giving the figures in each case, that the various averages per thousand in the four groups of parishes work out as follows:—Parishes "A" and "C" about 21, "B" and "D" 16.

All these are a little below the average for the whole country, which is about 22.

Forty-eight of the small agricultural parishes are returned as having none at all.

It should, perhaps, be added that the figures refer for the most part to the months of September or October of this year.

3. *Is there much unrelieved distress arising from reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief?*

If so, what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance?

(i.) The answers to the first part of this question show an almost exact correspondence with those as to the amount of poverty: 380 replying "No," while 12 say "Some," and 21, more definitely, "Yes." These latter are mostly from the villages and amongst the older people. In the larger towns the feeling is expressed that "people go far too readily for relief." "Application to the Guardians seems one of the first ideas in any trouble." The younger generation is in many instances said to

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feel no reluctance whatever to applying for outdoor relief, but rather to demand it as a right.

(ii.) Among the causes of reluctance stated are: an honourable feeling of independence, the stigma of pauperism, the loss of liberty and of the franchise, while one or two emphasise their opinion that pauperism is treated as a crime rather than a misfortune. One other cause of reluctance which is said to be growing in the smaller parishes is the fear of the children of applicants being called upon to contribute; while in one Union at least it is argued that those in receipt of outdoor relief should be allowed to earn a little for themselves by odd jobs of work.

(iii.) It should further be added that many who answer "No" to the first part of the question go on to say that there is still strong local objection to the "House," though this is dying out with the greater comforts now supplied.

4. *Is there* (a) *any appreciable distress due to Poor Law relief, in individual cases, being inadequate?*

or (b) *any increase in pauperism from its lavish administration?*

As regards (*b*) there are only 5 who definitely assert that lavish administration is leading to an increase in pauperism, but the answers to (*a*) show considerable difference of opinion.

While 285 replies are in the negative, fairly distributed through the 4 groups of parishes, 30 give some instances of inadequate relief from parishes "A" and "B," and 68 from all groups give a more decided answer, "Yes."

It is frequently said that, if there were more careful discrimination, larger relief might well be given to the more needy cases, especially widows and aged persons who have no near relations to help to support them.

"If there is no relation to give house room or pay rent, much suffering sometimes ensues."

At the same time it is freely admitted that any great rise would almost certainly lead to an increase in pauperism, and it is only fair to add that in many unions relief is said to be carefully, wisely, and, where advisable, even liberally administered.

5. *Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress?*

Are you assisted by a Committee?

Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors or others?

Have you met with success in formulating plans for permanent benefit, by co-operation with relatives, employers, or others?

(i.) It is understood that this question deals with alms and other gifts to the poor, and not with Endowed Charities, which come under Question 7.

(ii.) In the great majority of cases, especially in the smaller parishes, these alms are distributed by the clergy themselves: in 64 parishes, however, either through or in consultation with the district visitors, churchwardens, or others; in only 18 is there said to be a regularly constituted Relief Committee, though in a few more one is formed in seasons of special distress.

(iii.) Perhaps the most complete system of working by a Committee is shown in the two following:—

(*a*) "Chronic cases are reported to the Poor Law officers, who willingly co-operate with a Committee elected by the Church Council every Easter. The clergy do not administer relief. Cases are recommended by the clergy and district visitors to the Alms Fund Committee, which grants relief after investigation. In some cases employment has been found for the deserving."

(*b*) "The Committee is a Board of Almoners, seven persons, viz., Vicar, Churchwardens, and four others (two ladies). Our Board of Almoners

investigates each case reported by the district visitors and grants relief—never less than gold."

The result seems to be satisfactory, for it is added, "casual begging (bar ignorant tramps) has almost entirely ceased at the Vicarage; two years ago it was rampant." In this case a printed paper of questions has to be answered and signed by the applicant for relief. (See Schedule at the end.)

These are both "A" parishes.

(iv. As special methods, stress is laid upon the support of Friendly Societies, Provident, Clothing, and Coal Clubs as encouraging self-help.

In 31 parishes relief is given by tickets on tradesmen and not in money; in others a regular weekly or monthly allowance that can be depended on in chronic cases is thought the best method, while the help of the sick often takes the form of little comforts and necessarily varies according to circumstances.

In the larger towns chronic cases are in several parishes handed over to the Poor Law Officer or Charity Organisation Society to deal with.

(*a*) The following method is tried with success in an "A" parish:—"Whenever possible I try to get some charitable person or family to be interested in some special case of distress, to stick to it, and, if possible, see it through."

(*b*) In a small country parish there is a "Special Pension Fund, supported by Church offertories and subscriptions, and administered by the Church Council, which gives, irrespective of Guardians' allowances, 5s. a month to 6 persons, not drunken or thriftless. It has worked admirably, and costs at present £18 a year."

(*c*) An instance is given from the same parish of co-operation with relatives where "a good labourer and his wife, past work, have been saved from outdoor relief by i., parish almshouses, ii., contributions from relatives, iii., Church Pension as above: total 7s. 6d. a week and house."

(v.) It should be added as one benefit of large estates that in 10 of the "D" parishes the landowner is said practically to provide all relief that may be necessary, giving also pensions to the aged labourers or almshouses for widows.

(vi.) Not much has been elicited under the last head of this question, though employers more frequently, relations less frequently, are said to be very willing to bear their share when cases of real need are brought before them. The chief difficulty with relatives is that, perhaps naturally, so few are prepared to bind themselves by any promise of *continued* help.

6. *Is there, in your Parish, any needless overlapping—*

a. *between various forms of charity? or*

b. *between charity and the Poor Law?*

Has any special effort been made with members of other denominations or otherwise with a view to preventing such overlapping?

(i.) From the replies to this there seems to be little serious overlapping, though in regard to (b) it is frequently said that private charity is compelled to supplement Poor Law relief, and can hardly therefore be said to be needless. The Committee, however, feel on this point that more effort should be made to distinguish between the field of private effort and that of the Poor Law; believing that the proper division is that the Guardians should deal, and deal adequately, with the destitute, and that private charity should be confined to the self-respecting poor, with a view to keeping them off the rates altogether.

(ii.) The answer as to any special effort with members of other denominations is generally either in the negative or to the effect that these other bodies have enough to do to keep their own organisations going, and have little to spare for systematic relief.

There are, however, occasional instances to the contrary.

The following is the most striking:—

"In times of exceptional distress the parish has been divided, so that the Vicar

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has been responsible for one part and the Minister of one of the chapels another. This has only happened once in the last 12 years."

(iii.) The Citizens' Aid Society, in Leicester, was formed for the express purpose of encouraging co-operation and preventing overlapping; but, after doing good service for a time, it appears from the replies to be in an almost moribund condition.

Charity Organisation Societies are doing good work at Leicester and Northampton; and at Peterborough the Guild of Help has recently been formed under favourable auspices.

7. *Can you give, briefly, any information as to endowed charities for the relief of the poor, especially those represented by doles?*

Have you formed an opinion as to their effect on the condition of the people?

The answers to these questions contain much that is of great interest, though it is particularly hard to summarise them.

Most parishes, except the new districts in towns, have doles of some sort, though they vary in amount from a few shillings a year to nearly £200, exclusive altogether of Endowed Almshouses.

The replies as to their effect vary from "bad," "mischievous," "pauperising," and "leading to much jealousy," to "good," "beneficial," "useful," and "adding to comfort and happiness."

To some extent, at any rate, this is a matter of administration. When administered carefully, giving a really helpful amount, whether in money or kind, to the few thoroughly deserving and necessitous cases, they add greatly to comfort and are beneficial.

In many parishes, however, a share in these ancient Charities is claimed by all householders who are in receipt of weekly wages as a right, and the feeling seems quite general that when the amount given is small and universal it becomes at once mischievous and even of an immoral tendency.

Where the doles are of considerable extent, they have the effect of attracting undesirable people into the parish in order to benefit by them.

There are two "D" parishes, one of them under 200 in population, where between £70 and £80 is annually distributed in cash. The vicar of the smaller one says, "All the village participate in it, except those owning live stock." It is not surprising that he has formed a "distinctly unfavourable" opinion of the effect upon the people.

Some of the suggestions made are that doles in their present form should be done away with under a scheme of the Charity Commissioners, and the proceeds used towards pensions for widows and the aged, subscriptions to district nursing associations, provident clubs, etc.

Perhaps it may be useful to note some instances where this has been already done with marked success.

(*a*) A parish of little over 400 population has an income from dole Charities of £160 to £180 a year. Of this "£92 is given each year to old age pensions. The rest is spent in helping various clubs and aids to thrift. We have representative trustees on our Board, they are working men, and do their duty well."

(*b*) In a "C" parish "a Charity" (amount not stated) "gives assistance (1) to coal and clothing clubs; (2) to indigent old men who are members of clubs; (3) to the provision of a local nurse."

(*c*) In another parish of over 2,000, under a new scheme of 1896, money previously spent in doles is now appropriated to coals, increasing pensions of almshouses, and in particular £40 to a Samaritan Fund for the sick, and £10 towards a parish nurse.

The vicar writes: "The Samaritan Society is in my estimation an excellent channel for a charitable fund. It is managed by a committee of ladies of various denominations who work in connection with the doctors and parish nurse and provide well-cooked food, milk, etc., as ordered during sickness, for those unable to obtain them otherwise. The parish nurse is supervised by a similar committee. Infant mortality has remarkably decreased in the parish since her appointment."

The two following are "B" Parishes:—

(*d*) "There are several endowed Charities which have been in the past most indiscriminately administered to anybody applying, by way of doles. Help is now forthcoming from these sources for such purposes as the hospital, district nurse, etc. A scheme is now before the Charity Commissioners for further amalgamation and improvements."

(*e*) "The Feoffee Charity provides £80 for the poor. It makes contributions to the hospital and nursing funds. The rest is used to provide a bonus for the coal club, to which the poor make weekly payments. The bonus is about 25 per cent. of the contributions."

These sample cases may encourage others to proceed along the, at first, unpopular path of the reform of dole Charities. It may be added that the Charity Commissioners are always prepared to co-operate in forming a scheme adapted to any particular case.

Failing this more drastic method the following words in one of the replies may be usefully borne in mind:—

"A strict inquiry seems to be desirable into what constitutes eligibility (so far as position is concerned) for the old parochial Charities. Strong working men in the prime of life claim their share, *simply as labourers*, while widows and aged people suffer, for whom the Charity (*if kept for them*) would be a real and valuable boon. The keenness of these men to obtain their share, however small it may be, shows the harmful effect upon an otherwise manly and independent character."

8. *Are there any other points, bearing on the subject of this inquiry, upon which you would like to offer information?*

Under this general head many suggestions have been made.

(*a*) The most persistent urges the establishment of some scheme of pensions for the old, to which all able-bodied men should now be compelled to contribute if they would receive benefit in due time.

With this and the extension of almshouses it is thought that the "union houses" might come in time to be needed only as infirmaries for the sick.

Towards such purposes such doles as exist might very well be utilised for the benefit of the parish to which they belong, as, *e.g.*, in supplementing pensions or paying contributions towards them in specially hard cases; in fact, filling the place for the general community which the "Distress Fund" does for the members of the great friendly societies.

(*b*) The need of better dwellings for the poor is insisted on in many places.

"It is impossible to preach temperance, morality, and self-respect to people so housed. If this state of things—tolerated here for generations—can be remedied, much of the moral and spiritual degradation would at least be removable. Otherwise not."

(*c*) Emigration has only very rarely been alluded to as a cure for slackness of trade. Here is one town of over 2,000 where prompt and decisive measures have been taken with apparently good result.

"During the bad trade here six months ago, some 70 persons emigrated to Canada from this parish. Trade has now revived, and the emigration has ceased."

(*d*) The good work of the Charity Organisation Society is thankfully acknowledged, and the opinion is expressed in several quarters that a branch might usefully be started in some of the smaller towns.

That there are many "unhelpable" cases is shown by the following extract from the Report of the Leicester C. O. S. for 1906.

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"A careful examination of the number of people dealt with will show that out of 1,019 applications there were no less than 251 who were deemed unsuitable from one cause or another, and besides these it must be pointed out that the inquiries mentioned discovered another 300 of this class, whom the Decisions Committee consider unhelpable by charity."

This gives point to the remark in one of the Returns, a remark which the Committee themselves also endorse :—

"Help hopeful cases liberally; leave the mass of unhelpable cases to the Government to deal with on some large and statutory basis."

The Committee are much impressed by the importance and value of the great work which the best Friendly Societies are carrying on in developing habits of thrift, self-help, and self-government, and would gladly see every encouragement and stimulus given to them.

The Committee desire to place on record their grateful appreciation of the willing co-operation shown by the various incumbents in supplying the material upon which this Report is based.

E. M. Moore, *Chairman.*
G. E. Abbott.
C. E. Boucher, *Hon. Sec.*
E. Montague Browne.
T. Cope.
J. B. Gray.
T. S. Hichens.
W. E. Hincks.
C. V. Knightley.
A. W. Pulteney.
S. G. Stopford Sackville.
W. G. Whittingham.

December 16th, 1907.

SCHEDULE.

Form in use referred to it under 5, iii. (b).

NAME OF PARISH.

BOARD OF ALMONERS.

APPLICATION FORM.

Name _____

Address _____

Family consists of _____

Members of family at work _____

Total income _____

Is any relief being given by Board of Guardians or from any other source _____

_____

Cause of application for relief _____

_____

(Signed)

_____ *District Visitor.*

Examined and approved,

_____ *Vicar.*

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RIPON.

DIOCESAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON QUESTIONS OF POVERTY AND ITS RELIEF BY THE CHURCH.

March, 1908.

MY LORD BISHOP,

The Committee appointed at the Ripon Diocesan Conference in October last begs to present the following report upon the extent and the intensity of the poverty in your diocese, together with the various methods of administering charitable relief.

This report has been prepared for the use of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and the Relief of Distress, at present assembled for inquiry, and your Committee begs that you will kindly forward it to that Commission with the least possible delay, as, owing to sickness and the pressure of private business among the Committee, the report is late in its being forwarded to you.

A full *précis* has been made of the answers received, and is presented in tabulated form as an appendix. It appears to be very long, but your Committee feels that an important diocese such as this is, comprising, as it does, a vast urban population and also a large rural district comparatively sparsely populated, should be studied in detail, especially in matters which are of national importance. No time nor trouble has been spared in making the *précis* complete and intelligible, and your Committee trusts that the report will be of use to the Commissioners, and help in some little way towards the solution of the serious national problem of poverty and its amelioration on humane, scientific, and sane lines.

It has been thought advisable to take each Deanery as a self-contained entity and tabulate the answers to the questions for each Deanery separately. This is done because the difference between the character of the poverty and the people affected thereby in the various Deaneries is so great that any other method would be less intelligible.

The extra question was added by your Committee to the seven asked by the Royal Commission because the endowments attached to the parishes are felt to be in some cases more harmful than helpful.

We have the honour to be, my Lord,

Your obedient servants,

JOHN PATCHETT,

Chairman of Committee.

Members of the Committee:—

H. J. PALMER.
J. F. PHILLIPS.
LEONARD DAWSON.
AMOS CRABTREE.

HENRY E. KEMP,

Hon. Secretary.

To
THE LORD BISHOP OF RIPON,
The Palace, Ripon.

REPORT.

The Diocese of Ripon is a very difficult one to understand by those who do not live and work in it. It consists of two quite diverse kinds of district, viz. :—

(1) A district about 18 miles in length and 5 in breadth, approximately 57,000 acres, supporting a congested population of upwards of 850,000 people, and

(2) 1,327,500 acres with a population of about 300,000 people.

Outside the great cities of Leeds and Bradford are several towns such as Keighley and Shipley, where a dense population engaged in manufactures lives under congested conditions, and besides these there are many agricultural market towns such as Richmond, Ripon, and Skipton. It is evident, therefore, that comparatively few people live in the agricultural districts.

The Diocese thus contains the two extremes of great density and exceeding sparseness of population, and, consequently, every conceivable problem of inland poverty is in evidence.

Question 1.—*The Extent and Causes of Poverty.*

The Rural Parishes contain little or no poverty. In the great majority of cases the reply is that whatever real poverty there may be is due to the moral causes of intemperance and improvidence, and to the economic one of wages being too low to enable a saving to be made against sickness and old age.

The case in towns is very different. In some parishes poverty is intense and increasing; in others it is but little in evidence, but on the whole there seems to be a decrease in the amount of poverty.

The tendency is for the criminal and the poorer classes to live in certain districts more or less clearly defined, and in many cases the increase of poverty is attributed to "the immigration of undesirables." It is not sufficiently realised that the merely clearing away of slum areas is not in itself a cure for poverty. This process simply "moves on" the people to another area, and the consequence is that decent property in that area rapidly becomes "slum property," and that another district is face to face with the same problems which the purified area formerly suffered under. In other words, the inflammation is not cured, it is simply moved to another part of the body politic.

The moral causes of poverty are drunkenness, gambling, immorality, forced and hasty marriages, self-indulgence, love of luxury, large and neglected families, and laziness. In view of the very low birth rate, it is worthy of note that the birth rate in the poorer parts of the cities is high, and some of the reports bear out the experience of city missioners, etc., in this, that if the total birth rate be low, we, as a race, are not reproducing from the most efficient nor the most moral sections of the community.

The economic causes are also very terrible—fluctuation of trade, low wages for unskilled labour, the intermittent character of such labour, "too old at forty," "impossibility of saving against sickness," and the displacement of labour by new inventions and methods are the principal ones. The "too old at forty" reason has apparently been intensified by the recent "Workmen's Compensation Act." Masters dare not, unless they take a great risk, keep on any man amongst machinery who is not alert, agile, and self-possessed; consequently anyone who is turned forty, or who is any way afflicted, however slightly, has little chance of obtaining work if once out of employment.*

Another cause is the irresponsible giving of alms. It comes under both the economic and moral heads. The Ripon Diocesan Committee submits that this practice is a lazy way of avoiding responsibility, which puts a premium on professional begging and canting hypocrisy, to the detriment of the honestly unfortunate worker, and very rapidly causes widespread deterioration of character. The Committee urges that every means—religous, moral, and legal—be used to stop this harmful social evil. and that corporate responsibility for the cure of poverty be put forward strenuously as infinitely more beneficial than the temporary relief of individual distress by means of such a baneful habit. Another grave cause is the "short service system" in the Army, whereby a young man can enter the ranks of workers after three years' service in the Army, and can afford to take a place at less money than other men owing to his reserve pay, or, as often happens, use his reserve pay for his own self-indulgence. There is a distinct belief that this system is very harmful to the moral character of our men, and is indirectly producing much poverty. A certain class of people, both in the rural and urban parishes, look upon the alms from charity endowments as their right, and count on such bequests in calculating their possible income; and it is more than probable

* This is especially true in Bradford and Leeds, and the tendency to greater rigidity in the choice of workpeople is very marked in those centres.

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that this form of charity—unless very rigidly and carefully administered—becomes enervating to the healthy self-reliance of many people.

Another cause which may be pointed out, is the rapid dissolution of the sense of family responsibility. How far this may be due to moral causes (as selfish indifference) or to economic causes (as the difficulty of supporting many mouths on a small wage) the Committee offers no opinion; the fact is patent, and most regrettable, that relatives, however near, are increasingly willing to move the responsibility of supporting their poorer relations on to the impersonal charity of the Poor Law or Charitable organisations.

From the Reports received, it would appear that, whilst vice, immoral living, and self-indulgence of all sorts produce much and intensify all poverty, there is no doubt of there being a great problem which must be faced from the point of view that the present system of trade and manufacture is responsible for great distress, and as a community reaping the benefits of the system we must look after and ameliorate so far as possible the distress so caused. The Committee realises that no Acts of Parliament can cure poverty due to vice, and acknowledges that this must be slowly cured by the religious bodies in their ministrations educating the individuals to a sense of their lost manhood, and by preventing the children from following in the vicious ways of their fathers and mothers.

Question 2.—*The Administration of Relief.*

This diocese is very fortunate in having many thoroughly well-equipped hospitals and medical charities in the large centres, and convalescent homes and homes of rest in the rural parts. No consideration of the administration of relief would be complete without taking these public charitable institutions into consideration. It is not too much to say that the charitable medical assistance of the poor is not only excellent but stupendous in its scope, and, generally speaking, nobly and efficiently worked. Clergymen and ministers of all denominations receive every consideration from these institutions. There is also a strong sense of social responsibility in the large manufacturing centres, and excellent work is done by such societies as the Cinderella Clubs, Charity Organisation Society, and the Guild of Help in ameliorating distress, collecting and administering alms, and endeavouring to prevent, so far as possible, overlapping in charitable works.

In the rural parishes the strictly parochial relief is mostly administered by the clergy, without any aid from any committee, excepting, of course, those trustees and executors appointed for the administration of any endowment. In the urban parishes this is far from being the case. Many parishes have several committees for different branches of this work, and, whilst the clergy are the nominal heads of such committees, much of the necessary inquiry work is done by laymen. In only comparatively a few cases are the district visitors allowed to administer relief independent of consultation with the clergy.

Tickets for goods are being used much more than formerly, and this system is found to answer the purpose of temporary relief with much greater certainty than the giving of money.* Chronic cases of poverty are almost invariably referred to the Poor Law Guardians, and the relief granted by the church alms is generally confined to tiding over a critical time, as in sickness, or lack of work, and in supplementing inadequate wages or Poor Law relief.

Large amounts are spent in systematic giving in kind, as in the case of soup kitchens, coal, blankets, etc.

Question 3.—*The Reluctance or Non-Reluctance to Resort to Poor Law.*

There is little reluctance to accept out-relief, but a very strong dislike to entering the Workhouse. The dread of the official inquisition into the affairs of the home is intense, and the love of independence amongst the honest poor often proves stronger than their desire for more material comfort. A strong love of home, dread of the break-up of it, and a fear of separation are very strongly marked traits amongst unfortunate Yorkshire folk. With the more unworthy, fear of discipline seems to be the chief cause of non-application for relief.

Question 4.—*Consequences of Inadequate Out-Relief.*

The amount given by the Poor Law Guardians for out-relief is very often insufficient, both in the rural and urban parishes. Many instances are given of private and institutional charity being necessary to supplement such allowances, and often out-relief pays but little more than the rent of the house. The Diocesan Committee is fully alive to the difficulties of this problem, and feels that often a more generous out-relief would be very prejudicial to the public welfare, especially amongst the criminally poor of the

* The returns cannot be interpreted in any other manner than in this sentence; but a strong opinion that the ticket system of relief is pauperising, clumsy, and degrading is held by many leaders in the philanthropic work of the diocese.

larger centres of population; but, at the same time, its opinion is that the policy of allowing the Poor Law authority's relief to be supplemented is very harmful—first, because it does not do away with the reason for begging for alms, and thus opens out many ways of deceit and petty fraud by the unscrupulous poor on the charitably disposed community; and, secondly, it is always wasteful to have dual administration for the relief of one case. The Committee begs to submit their opinion that where out-relief is granted it should be made sufficient to alleviate the whole of the necessary expenses for food, clothing, lighting, and shelter. By so doing the personal ministrations of the clergy and religious bodies would be of far more use in relieving those who are in "genteel poverty" and temporary distress from various causes, and thus preserve the self-respect of many who at present apply for such relief. A more vigorous method of dealing with those who earn good wages and neglect to support their families is urgently needed, and the Committee submits that a more drastic surveillance of all such, and also the criminally poor—by police methods if necessary—would be very beneficial to the nation.

Question 5.—*The Prevention of Overlapping.*

There is much overlapping of charity, especially in the towns, but in view of the excellent work being done by such societies as the Charity Organisation Society and the Guild of Help, the Committee thinks that this difficulty is not insurmountable. The formation of labour colonies,* as well as the rigid discouraging of vagrants and beggars, would do much to overcome this evil.

Question 6.—*The Number of Families in Receipt of Charity.*

This is a question impossible to answer. From one old woman in a village to a huge town parish where the people as a whole make a trade of begging, there is every variety of proportion possible. The figures are very incomplete, not from carelessness, but owing to the great difficulty in calculating the number. In this connection, the Committee would point out that "begging by post" is very rife, and people who seem fairly respectable are found to be getting much assistance in this despicable way. The Committee submits that the system of begging letter writing should be rigorously discouraged.

See Memoranda A B C, and D, for the approximate figures relating to the amount of annual expenditure and the number of people relieved.

The Committee ventures to point out that the following points are, in its opinion, especially worthy of the consideration of the Commissioners:—

(*a*) The formation of labour colonies* and relief works.
(*b*) The taking of children from bad and demoralising surroundings.
(*c*) The rigid treatment of vagrants, mendicants, and loafers.
(*d*) The discouragement of indiscriminate almsgiving.
(*e*) The revision of the laws relating to out-relief.
(*f*) The classification of the recipients of Poor Law Relief.
(*g*) The defining on broad lines of the legitimate spheres of the Poor Law and private and religious charities.
(*h*) The formation of consultative bodies to prevent waste of money and energy.

With regard to the question of endowments, etc., which the Committee ventured to add, it is worthy of note that many of the larger charities are in small villages. One clergyman says that it is difficult to know what to do with the money. The Committee does not urge, nor even advise, any reorganisation of the distribution, but it is felt that a consideration of this very important matter falls naturally within the scope of the Commission. In very many cases the administration of doles, etc., is a distinct hindrance to spiritual work. It is also felt that the subject of bonuses should be considered, as often those who obtain bonuses in charitable societies in nowise are entitled to them on the score of poverty. (The bonus system is that in which a certain fixed proportion is added to every amount deposited by the benefited party in a club; as, say, a clothing club.)

In conclusion, the Ripon Diocesan Committee begs to assure the Commissioners of its hope that some definite steps will be taken toward a rational solution of this matter, and if the Committee can be of any further use it places its services at the disposal of the Commissioners.

* Not necessarily "Farm" colonies: the idea is to provide a means of segregating the Vagrant element and of preventing the "Out-of-work" individual from becoming demoralized by lack of work. The "Colony" system seems to the Committee to be a method worthy of experiment as leading to a practical way of dealing with these problems, and perhaps the Belgian Labour Colonies at Merxplas, etc., come nearest to the ideas of the Committee in this respect.

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APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM THE DIOCESE OF RIPON ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

The numbers in the Appendix refer to the following list of questions:—

1. Is there much poverty in your parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?
2. Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of District Visitors?
3. Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.
4. Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.
5. Is there in your parish any needless overlapping
   (*a*) between various forms of charity, or
   (*b*) between charity and the Poor Law,
   and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?
6. If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.
7. Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your parish during the course of a year?
8. Will you say (as nearly as you can) how much is dispensed in alms for the relief of distress in your parish—
   (*a*) From endowments, such as doles, etc.,
   (*b*) From annual voluntary charities, such as poor funds, soup kitchens, and bonuses to clothing and similar clubs?

ARCHDEACONRY OF CRAVEN.

Bradford Deanery.

51 Parishes, 34 Reports. *Question No. 1*

Parish.	Is there much Poverty?	Is it increasing?	Causes.
Bradford Parish Church (urban)	Yes.	Yes.	Bad trade, drink, impurity, lodging houses, furnished rooms.
Bierley (urban)	No.	?	Old age; vagrancy; and premature blindness amongst weavers.
Buttershaw (suburban)	No.	—	—
Holy Trinity (urban)	Yes.	Yes.	Drink, gambling, bad trade, improvidence, fluctuations of trade.
All Saints (urban)	Yes.	Yes.	Influx of people from the slums.
St. Andrew (urban)	No. ($\frac{1}{20}$ of Parish)	?	Improvidence.
St. Chrysostom (urban)	Yes.	No.	Drink, improvidence, ignorance.
St. Columba (urban)	No.	No.	—
St. Clement (urban)	No.	—	Such as there is due to old age.
St. Jude (urban)	Yes.	Yes.	Drink, idleness, and degeneracy short service system in Army.
St. James (urban)	Yes.	?	Thriftlessness.
St. John (Bowling)	No.	?	Drinking amongst women. Difficulty of men over 50 years of age in obtaining employment.
St. John (Horton Lane) (urban)	No.	Yes.	Influx of undesirables.
St. Luke (Manningham) (urban)	No.	?	Shortage of employment, idleness, illness.
St. Mark (Manningham) (urban)	No.	No.	Inclemency of weather. Shortage of work.
St. Mary (Laisterdyke) (urban)	Yes.	Yes.	Housing question. Change of character in the population.
St. Michael (urban)	Yes.	Yes.	Change of people.
St. Philip (urban)	No.	?	Shortage of work, low wages, sickness, drink, idleness, strikes.
St. Stephen (urban)	No.	No.	—
St. Wilfrid (suburban)	No.	No.	Illness.
Denhole Gate (rural)	No.	No.	Inclemency of weather.
St. Mark (Low Moor) (urban)	No.	?	Improvidence. Displacement of men by machinery, old men not being employed on account of the Employers' Liability Act and consequent responsibilities.
Oakenshaw cum Woodlands (suburban)	No.	No.	Old age and sickness.
Oxenhope (rural)	No.	No.	Old age.
St. Paul (Pudsey) (urban)	No.	No.	—
Queensbury (urban)	No.	No.	—

Bradford Deanery—*continued.* *Question No. 1*—continued.

Parish.	Is there much Poverty?	Is it increasing?	Causes.
Shipley (urban)	No.	No.	Drink, strike.
Thornton (suburban)	No.	No.	Drink.
Wibsey (suburban)	No.	Yes.	Depression in trade; want of thrift; large families, *i.e.*, early marriages.
Windhill (urban)	Yes.	No.	Cellar dwellings (a refuge for the very poor); precarious employment; *drink*, sordid environments; fluctuations of trade.
Wilsden (rural)	No.	No.	Fluctuations of trade.
Uncertain	No.	No.	Scarcity of work.
Uncertain	No.	No.	—
Uncertain	?	?	This parish is in process of transformation, having been condemned as mostly insanitary.

Question No. 2.

Parish.	Are there any?	System of administering relief. Special methods, if any.	
		Any committee.	Clergy or district visitors.
Parish Church	Clergy, lady-worker. Churchwardens by means of (*a*) tickets on tradespeople (*b*) small weekly allowance, 200 children fed at school daily under Feeding of Children Act. This is not out of Church funds paid for by township.	Co-operate with Guild of Help, and any doubtful cases send to Charity Organisation Society.	
Bierley	No.	No.	Clergy.
Buttershaw	No.	No.	Clergy.
Holy Trinity, Bradford	No.	No.	Clergy, and Lay Readers.
All Saints, Bradford	No.	No.	Clergy, and City Guild of Help.
St. Andrew	No.	No.	Woman worker and Clergy.
St. Chrysostom	No.	No.	Clergy.
St. Columba	No.	No.	Clergy, and City Guild of Help.
St. Clement	Tickets on tradespeople, cost for convalescence in home. Occasionally money.	No.	Clergy, Deaconess.
St. Jude	Tickets on tradespeople, tickets for stay in convalescent homes.	No.	Clergy, and District Visitors.
St. James	No.	No.	Clergy.
St. John (Bowling)	No.	No.	Clergy.
St. John (Horton Lane)	Tickets on tradespeople.	No.	Clergy.
St. Luke (Manningham)	Convalescent's expenses paid for stay in Convalescent Home. Tickets on tradespeople.	In times of great distress, *i.e.*, shortness of trade, etc.	Clergy, Lady Visitors, Church Army Officer.
St. Mark (Manningham)	No.	No.	Clergy.
St. Mary (Laisterdyke)	No.	No.	Clergy.
St. Michael	No.	No.	Clergy, Lay Assistant.
St. Philip	Relieve in kind, not money.	No.	Clergy, Lay Reader, Deaconess.
St. Stephen	No.	No.	Clergy.
St. Wilfrid	No.	No.	Clergy.
Denholme Gate	No.	No.	Clergy.
Low Moor (St. Mark)	No.	No.	Clergy.
Oakenshaw	No.	No.	Clergy.
Oxenhope	No.	No.	Clergy.

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Bradford Deanery—*continued.* *Question No. 2*—continued.

Parish.	Are there any?	System of administering relief. Special methods, if any.	
		Any committee.	Clergy or district visitors.
Pudsey (St. Paul)	No.	No.	Clergy.
Queensbury	No.	Men's Service provides Committee of five.	Clergy and Committee.
Shipley	Tickets on tradespeople.	No.	Clergy and District Visitors.
Thornton	No.	Committee.	Clergy and District Visitors.
Wibsey	No.	No.	Clergy.
Windhill	No.	No.	Clergy and District Visitors.
Wilsden	No.	No.	Clergy.
Uncertain	No.	No.	Clergy.
Uncertain	No.	No.	Clergy.
Uncertain	No.	No.	Clergy.

Question No. 3.

Parish.	Any distress from reluctance to resort to Poor Law?	Instances and Cause.
Bradford	Small amount.	(*a*) Very old couple will struggle on rather than go into the "House". (*b*) A sickly man will not go in because he is helpless when he comes out. (*c*) The mother will not appeal because she may be separated from her children.
Bierley	General reluctance to go into the "House." Many would starve first. (Note by Hon. Sec.: This part of the Deanery is noted for the hard-headedness and independence of its people.)	
Buttershaw	No.	—
Holy Trinity, Bradford	Much reluctance. The deserving poor shrink from the taint of pauperism and the searching inquiries. The undeserving object to the discipline of the "House," and to being deprived of alcohol.	Instance. Man ill with pneumonia, wife delicate, child ill, small wages—will not apply for relief.
All Saints' Bradford	Not known.	—
St. Andrew	Yes—a great deal, but cannot quote cases.	
St. Chrysostom	Yes—mostly deserving cases, *i.e.*, paralysed man and wife (needlewoman). Would rather die than appear before the Board. (2) Two sisters have struggled against illness and calamity for 15 years, and prefer to starve and suffer to the degradation of Poor relief.	
St. Columba	Yes—Instance, man too old for work, with delicate daughter. (2) Long illness from a stroke of the mother; delicate daughter; both struggling against extreme distress.	
St. Clement	Not much—some cases, as where the children cannot keep the parents, and dread the taint of pauperism; the dread of losing their furniture. (Yorkshire term: "house pride".)	
St. Jude	No.	—
St. James	No—the only cause is the "stigma" attached to Poor Law relief.	
St. John (Bowling)	No—(*a*) Pride of independence. (*b*) Fear of the "house." (*c*) "House pride."	
St. John (Horton Lane)	Yes—dread of inquiry and publicity. *i.e.* Two people keep their mother and grandmother, and dare not apply for relief for this reason of publicity.	
St. Luke (Manningham)	No. Several cases known on account of the— (1) Supposed stigma. (2) The necessary inquisition. (3) Loss of the Franchise.	
St. Mark (Manningham)	Not answered.	1 case—Man and woman past work live with married son—6*s.* per week received from Poor Law for *one week* only—stopped because unmarried daughter who was ill and had not worked for fifteen weeks would not go into hospital.
St. Mary (Laisterdyke)	Not much.	There are some cases as— (1) Fear of forfeiting club sick pay. (2) To save the children from having to pay—the old folks prefer to suffer. (3) to hide the folly of drunken father or mother.
St. Michael	Yes.	To keep the home together.

Bradford Deanery—*continued.* *Question No. 3*—continued.

Parish.	Any distress from reluctance to resort to Poor Law?	Instances and Cause.
St. Philip	Yes.	Honest poverty must be sought and dreads harsh inquiry, unsympathetic officialism, and the exposure.
St. Stephen	No.	(1) Objection to inquisition. (2) Independence of character.
St. Wilfrid	The poor are very reluctant to resort to Poor Law relief.	
Denholme Gate	No.	
Low Moor (St. Mark)	The most worthy refuse to resort to Poor Law relief.	
Oakenshaw	Believe not.	
Oxenhope	Not answered.	
Pudsey (St. Paul)	Not aware of any.	
Queensbury	Do not think so.	
Shipley	Think not. Few cases where the relatives would be called upon to contribute to the maintenance.	
Thornton	No great amount.	—
Wibsey	Yes—(1) Public opinion. (2) Breaking up of homes. (3) Loss of liberty. (4) Undesirable company in the house, *i.e.*, personal pride.	
Windhill	No—few cases, the cause is the consequent loss of independence and self-respect.	
Wilsden	No—love of independence.	
Uncertain	Not answered—several cases dread entry into the Union.	
Uncertain	Not much—Such as there is, due to dread of publicity, and the disabilities consequent to Poor Law relief.	
Uncertain	No.	—

Question No. 4.

Parish.	Is there any appreciable distress due to the amount of Poor Law Relief being too small?	Instances.
Parish Church	Yes—small amount.	Woman with six children—husband in Union hospital received 8s. per week in money and food.
Bierley	No information.	One case of a man—a ratepayer for forty years—who cannot get enough relief from the rates to keep him from starving without going into the Workhouse.
Buttershaw	No.	One case of woman 75 years of age—receives 3s. per week—cannot now work.
Holy Trinity	Yes.	The tendency in Bradford is to make outdoor relief adequate, and the Poor Law is much more humanely administered than a few years ago.
All Saints	No.	—
St. Andrew	Yes.	Cannot quote cases.
St. Chrysostom	No.	In this parish the relieving officers are imposed upon (1) by the unwillingness of neighbours to betray one another (2) by deception of appearances. (Note by Hon. Sec.—In St. Chrysostom Parish, as in others which I know, many of the people avowedly live on the community and deliberately plot to obtain relief from the Poor Law Authorities. This, of course, is but one of their ingenious frauds on Society. Begging letter writing, thieving, and prostitution are to them lawful means of a livelihood.)
St. Colomba	Not much.	One defect of the present Poor Law system is the refusal to grant relief whilst there is any available source of income, however small, remaining for the applicant. A more liberal outdoor relief system is very necessary in towns, as "religious almsgiving" is not copious enough to meet the needs of the poorer population.
St. Clement	No.	—
St. Jude	No.	—
St. James	No.	—
St. John (Bowling)	Yes.	Widows who cannot provide sufficient necessaries on allowance made.
St. John (Horton Lane)	Yes.	Widow with blind son—Church obliged to supplement the Poor Law allowance.

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Bradford Deanery—*continued.* *Question No. 4—continued*

Parish.	Is there any appreciable distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief being too small?	Instances.
St. Luke (Manningham)	—	Know two cases of inadequate allowance, but cannot complain of the authorities on account of the insuperable difficulties of the Poor Law administration.
St. Mark (Manningham)	Yes.	Widow with five children—previously allowed 12*s.* 6*d.* per week. Since boy started earning (4*s.* per week) reduced to 10*s.* per week. Boy wears out more clothes and boots than before.
Laisterdyke	No.	(1) One case; the inadequate out-relief is evidently to force the recipient into the Workhouse. (2) Old woman prefers to suffer rather than go into the Workhouse. Her family does not support her as it should.
St. Michael	No.	—
St. Philip	Yes.	But any cases reported by the clergy have been examined into and readjusted. The clergy are grateful to the guardians and officials for their respectful attention to their appeals.
St. Stephens	No.	—
St. Wilfrid	No.	—
Denholme Gate	No.	—
Low Moor (St. Mark)	Yes.	(1) One aged couple receive 6*s.* per week, and out of it pay house rent, gas, coal, etc. (2) One woman 3*s.* per week.
Oakenshaw	Believe not.	—
Oxenhope	No anwer.	Private almsgiving sufficient.
Pudsey (St. Paul)	No.	—
Queensbury	No.	—
Shipley	No.	Greater relief would encourage improvidence and pauperism.
Thornton	No.	—
Wibsey	No.	—
Windhill	Yes.	The local conditions of "cellar dwellings" to a certain extent helps the Poor Law authorities to give less than they otherwise would do.
Wilsden	No.	—
Uncertain	Not answered.	One case.
Uncertain	Not answered.	The instances noted show that the amount of relief granted barely more than pays the rent.
Uncertain	No.	—

Question No. 6.

Parish.	Is there any needless overlapping between		
	Various forms of charity?	Charity and Poor Law?	Any special steps used to prevent such overlapping?
Parish Church	Yes.	Yes.	Many endeavours have been made by the civic authorities and religious and philanthropic leaders. The Charity Organisation Society and Guild of Help do good work in this direction.
Bierley	No.	No.	—
Buttershaw	No.	No.	—
Holy Trinity	Much.	Yes.	Especially medical relief.
All Saints	Yes.	Yes.	Personal inquiries.
St. Andrew	No.	No.	—
St. Chrysostom	Considerable (especially indiscriminate almsgiving).	Yes.	None.
St. Columba	No.	No.	None.
St. Clement	No.	No.	None.
St. Jude	Yes.	Yes.	Guild of Help.
St. James	No.	No.	None.
St. John (Bowling)	No.	No.	None.

Bradford Deanery—*continued.* *Question No. 5*—continued.

Parish.	Is there any needless overlapping between		
	Various forms of charity?	Charity and Poor Law?	Any special steps used to prevent such overlapping?
St. John (Horton Lane)	Yes.	No.	None.
St. Luke (Manningham)	Yes.	Yes.	None.
St. Mark (Manningham)	No.	No.	Consultation with Guild of Help and Poor Law Authorities.
St. Mary (Laisterdyke)	No.	No.	Investigation.
St. Michael	No.	No.	Consult with Guild of Help.
St. Philip	No.	No.	None.
St. Stephen	No.	No.	None.
St. Wilfrid	No.	No.	None.
Denholme Gate	No.	No.	None.
St. Mark (Low Moor)	—	—	—
Oakenshaw	No.	No.	None.
Oxenhope	No.	No.	None.
St. Paul (Pudsey)	No.	No.	None.
Queensbury	No.	No.	None.
Shipley	No.	No	None.
Thornton	No.	No.	None.
Wibsey	No.	No.	None.
Windhill	No.	No.	None.
Wilsden	No.	No.	Sagars Charity.
Uncertain	No.	No.	None.
Uncertain	No.	No.	None.
Uncertain	No.	No.	None.

Questions Nos. 6 and 7.

Parish.	Approximate amount distributed per annum.	Estimated number of families or individuals relieved per annum.
	£. s. d.	
Parish Church, Bradford	64 16 4	200 families.
Bierley	10 0 0	—
Buttershaw	Cannot estimate.	—
Holy Trinity, Bradford	120 0 0	$\frac{7}{12}$ of the total number (a trade is made of begging).
All Saints about	45 0 0	—
St. Andrew over	30 0 0	$\frac{1}{20}$ of the total number.
St. Chrysostom	Cannot estimate.	$\frac{1}{10}$ of the total number.
St. Columba	—	20 families.
St. Clement	4 3 0	20 families.
St. Jude	20 0 0	35 families.
St. James	—	—
St. John (Bowling)	9 10 0	40 families.
St. John (Horton Lane)	90 0 0	100 families
St. Luke (Manningham)	80 0 0	60 families.
St. Mark (Manningham)	—	—
St. Mary (Laisterdyke)	15 0 0	
St. Michael over	5 0 0	100 families.
St. Philip	30 0 0	55 families.
St. Stephen	Cannot estimate.	—
St. Wilfrid	30 0 0	6 families.
Denholme Gate	20 0 0	60 families.
St. Mark (Low Moor)	10 0 0	—
Oakenshaw	—	—
Oxenhope	—	—
St. Paul (Pudsey)	10 0 0	6 families.

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Bradford Deanery—*continued.* *Questions Nos. 6 and 7*—continued.

Parish.	Approximate amount distributed per annum.	Estimated number of families or individuals relieved per annum.
Queensbury	17 10 0	—
Skipley	55 0 0	50 families.
Thornton	—	100 families.
Wibsey	19 18 2	—
Winthill	—	—
Wilsden	45 10 0	60 families.
Uncertain	101 0 0	—
Uncertain	—	—
Uncertain	—	—

In the above digest where two sums have been stated in the return, the mean sum has been put down, *i.e.*, from £20 to £30 would be stated as £25. (This rule is continued throughout the tables and digest.)

It must be borne in mind that the above amounts are almost entirely parochial, and do not take into account personal almsgiving, Poor Law relief, nor any charity from other religious and philanthropic bodies.

Questions re Doles, etc.

Parish.	Amount from endowments and doles.	Amount from clubs, etc. Bonuses to clothing clubs.
	£ *s.* *d.*	£ *s.* *d.*
Parish Church, Bradford	30 19 8	—
St. Jude, Bradford	The clothing clubs, etc., are thought to be baneful in their influence.	
St. John (Bowling)	4 0 0	—
St. John (Horton Lane)	—	Bonus 2 10 0
Denholme Gate	15 0 0	—
Wibsey	9 0 0	—
Wilsden	17 0 0	—
Uncertain	63 0 0	20 0 0

Deanery of Clapham.

14 Parishes, 10 Reports.

Question No. 1.

Parish.	Is there much poverty?	Is it increasing?	Causes.
Austwick	No.	No.	No.
Bentham			
Chapel-le-Dale			
Cantley			
Cowgill			
Clapham			
Garsdale			
Howgill			
Sedbergh			
Thornton-in-Lonsdale			

(These are all rural parishes.)

Question No. 2.—System of Administering Relief.

Parish.	Special methods if any.	Any committee.	Clergy or district visitors.
Austwick	None.	None.	Clergy.
Bentham	None.	None.	Clergy.
Chapel-le-Dale	None.	None.	Clergy.
Cantley	None.	None.	Clergy.
Cowgill	Co-operative methods to help anyone in time of misfortune.	None.	Clergy.
Clapham	None.	None.	Clergy.
Garsdale	None.	None.	Clergy.
Howgill	None.	None.	Clergy.
Sedbergh	None.	None.	Clergy and deaconess.
Thornton-in-Lonsdale	None.	None.	Clergy.

Question No. 3.

Parish.	Is there any distress caused by unwillingness to resort to Poor Law relief?	Instances.
Austwick	No	—
Bentham		
Chapel-le-Dale		
Cantley		
Cowgill		
Clapham		
Garsdale		
Howgill		
Thornton-in-Lonsdale		
Sedbergh	Think not.	If any it is caused by the fear of the loss of the franchise.

Question No. 4.

—	Is there any distress caused by the Poor Law relief being inadequate?
All the Parishes	No.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

Deanery of Clapham—*continued.* *Question No. 5.*

Parish.	Is there any overlapping	
	(*a*) between various forms of charity?	(*b*) between charity and poor law?
Austwick	No.	No.
Bentham	No.	No
Chapel-le-Dale	No.	No.
Cantley	No.	No.
Cowgill	Yes, there are five charities in the parish under different bodies of trustees, no one of which knows the work of the others.	No.
Clapham	No.	No.
Garsdale	No.	No
Howgill	No.	No.
Sedbergh	Yes, owing to independent organisations for relief of poor not knowing each other's work. The overlapping is minimised by the various charities being "pooled" and worked by a joint committee.	No.
Thornton-in-Lonsdale	No.	No.

Questions Nos. 6 and 7.

Parish.	How much is given annually for relief of charity?	How many families are relieved?
Austwick	No estimate.	No estimate.
Bentham	£11 0 0	12 families.
Chapel-le-Dale	No estimate.	No estimate.
Cantley	No estimate.	—
Cowgill	£22 4 1	16 persons.
Clapham	No estimate.	No estimate.
Garsdale	No estimate.	12 people.
Howgill	No estimate.	No estimate.
Sedbergh	£55 0 0	100 families.
Thornton-in-Lonsdale	£ 4 7 2	6 families.

Question No. 8.

Parish.	How much from endowments?	Bonuses, etc.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Austwick	28 0 0	—
Bentham	6 0 0	—
Chapel-le-Dale	—	—
Cantley	—	—
Cowgill	22 4 1	—
Clapham	22 0 0	9 0 0
Garsdale	7 5 6	—
Howgill	—	—
Sedbergh	—	—
Thornton-in-Lonsdale	21 11 6	—

Northern Division of the Deanery of Craven.

16 Parishes, 10 Reports.

Question No. 1.

Parish.	Is there much poverty?	Is it increasing?	Causes.
Arncliffe (rural)	No.	No.	—
Burnsall (rural)			
Coniston West (rural)			
Giggleswick (rural)			
Kirkby Malham (rural)			
Langcliffe (rural)			
Long Preston (rural)			
Settle (urban)			
Stainforth (rural)			

Question No. 2.

Parish.	Are there any special methods of administering relief?	Any committee?	Is relief distributed by clergy or district visitors
Arncliffe	None.	No.	—
Burnsall	Given in kind.	No.	Clergy.
Coniston West	Given in kind and money.	No.	Clergy.
Giggleswick	ditto.	No.	Clergy.
Kirkby Malham	No special method.	No.	Clergy.
Langcliffe	ditto.	No.	Clergy.
Long Preston	10 almshouses, Smith's Charity Nursing Association.	Several Committees.	Not given by Clergy.
Settle	Given in kind and money after personal investigation.	No.	Clergy and visitors both.
Stainforth	Yes (?)	—	Clergy and churchwardens.

Question No. 3.

Parish.	Is there any unrelieved distress owing to unwillingness to apply to the guardians for relief?
Arncliffe	No.
Burnsall	
Coniston West	
Giggleswick	
Kirkby Malham	
Langcliffe	
Long Preston	
Settle	
Stainforth	

Question No. 4.

Parish.	Is there any distress owing to the relief given by the guardians being inadequate?
Arncliffe	No.
Burnsall	
Coniston West	
Giggleswick	
Kirkby Malham	
Langcliffe	
Long Preston	
Settle	
Stainforth	

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Northern Division of the Deanery of Craven—*continued.* *Question No. 5.*

Parish.	Is there any needless overlapping	
	(*a*) Between various forms of charity?	(*b*) Between charity and the Poor Law?
Arncliffe	No.	No.
Burnsall	No.	No.
Coniston West	No.	No.
Giggleswick	No.	No.
Kirkby Malham	No.	No.
Langcliffe	Probably there may be, but not certain.	No.
Long Preston	No.	No.
Settle	No.	No.—Every case is investigated before relief is given.
Stainforth	No.	No.

Questions Nos. 6 and 7.

Parish.	Annual amount given.	Number of families relieved.
	£ *s. d.*	
Arncliffe	No estimate.	No estimate.
Burnsall	9 0 0	10 people.
Coniston West	1 4 3 (£10 per year to widows from an endowment.)	No estimate.
Giggleswick	15 0 0	26 people.
Kirkby Malham	55 0 0	22 families.
Langcliffe	7 0 0	10 people.
Long Preston	200 0 0	70 families.
Settle	No estimate.	60 families.
Stainforth	20 0 0	7 persons.

Question No. 8.

Parish.	How much is expended in charity from doles, etc.?	From bonuses, etc.
	£ *s. d.*	
Arncliffe	20 0 0	—
Burnsall	9 0 0	—
Coniston West	11 4 3	—
Giggleswick	—	—
Kirkby Malham	—	—
Langcliffe	—	—
Long Preston	150 0 0	£50
Settle	75 0 0	Soup kitchens, £5; clothing club, £12 10*s.*
Stainforth	—	—

Southern Division of the Deanery of Craven.

18 Parishes, 8 Reports.

Question No. 1.

Parish.	Is there much poverty?	Is it increasing?	What are the causes?
Bingley (urban)	No.	No.	—
Holy Trinity, Bingley (urban)	No.	No.	—
Morton (rural)	No.	No.	—
Riddlesden (rural)	No.	No.	—
Keighley (urban)	No.	No.	—
Keighley Holy Trinity, (urban)	No	No.	—
St. Peter, Keighley (urban)	Yes.	Yes.	Influx of derelicts of population.
St. Mary, Keighley (urban)	Yes.	Yes.	(*a*) Intemperance; (*b*) demoralising effects of working men's clubs; (*c*) thriftlessness; (*d*) enervation of character caused by "Grandmotherly legislation."
Oakworth (suburban)	No.	No.	—
Kildwick (suburban)	No.	No.	—
Cononley (suburban)	No.	No.	No.
Steeton (suburban)	No.	No.	No.

Question No. 2.

Parish.	Are there any special methods of administering charity?	Is there a committee?	Is it given by clergy or district visitors?
Bingley (urban)	Fortnightly meeting of Charity Organisation Society. District workers investigate and report to clergy. Tickets for relief (groceries, etc.) are used.	—	Clergy on advice from visitors.
Holy Trinity, Bingley	ditto.	Same methods and societies as those of the Parish Church.	—
Morton	Generally by order on the grocer.	No.	Clergy.
Riddlesden	Personal investigation.	No.	Clergy.
Keighley	Work through the Charity Organisation Society as much as possible.	—	Clergy and lady visitors.
Keighley (Holy Trinity)	Ditto.	—	Clergy and lady visitors.
Keighley (St. Peter)	Personal investigation.	No.	Clergy.
Keighley (St. Mary)	Ditto.	No.	Clergy.
Oakworth	No.	No.	Clergy.
Kildwick	No.	No.	Clergy.
Cononley	No.	No.	Clergy.
Silsden	No.	No.	Clergy.
Steeton	Joint committees from the various religious bodies; the Oddfellows are strong; two funeral societies; personal investigation.	—	Clergy and visitors.

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Southern Division of the Deanery of Craven—*continued.* *Question No. 3.*

Parish.	Is there any distress caused by reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief.	
Bingley	No.	—
Bingley (Holy Trinity)	Yes.	Word pauper objected to. Members of the co-operative societies and the trades unions think that this word should not be used on the relieving officer's cards.
Morton	No.	—
Riddlesden	No.	Honourable pride is against the applying for relief.
Keighley	No.	There is too much eagerness to apply for Poor Law relief.
Keighley (Holy Trinity)	No.	—
Keighley (St. Peter)	Yes.	Hard scrutiny of the officials. Unreasonable requirements.
Keighley (St. Mary)	—	Some of the most worthy poor will not apply on account of the supposed disgrace entailed thereon.
Oakworth	Yes	—
Kildwick	No.	—
Cononley	Think not.	—
Silsden	No.	—
Steeton	Think not.	—

Question No. 4.

Parish.	Is there any distress caused by the relief granted by the Poor Law Guardians being inadequate?	
Bingley	Not to Vicar's knowledge.	—
Bingley (Holy Trinity)	Yes.	Old woman and invalid daughter live together. Guardians allow 7*s.* per week to both. Nothing but casual help beyond this to provide everything.
Morton	No.	—
Riddlesden	No.	—
Keighley	Yes.	The tendency of the present system is to lower the wages of unskilled labour: aged poor should be treated separately from others. The present out relief is inadequate. (*See* answer to Question 5.) Old age pensions are needed.
Keighley (Holy Trinity)	None.	—
Keighley (St. Peter)	Yes.	The condition of forlorn women and men is not sufficiently considered.
Keighley (St. Mary)	—	The rigid application of rules does not allow an official to judge a case on its merits.
Oakworth	No.	—
Kildwick	No.	—
Cononley	No.	—
Silsden	Not to Vicar's knowledge.	—
Steeton	Think not.	—

Question No. 5.

Parish.	Is there any needless overlapping between		
	(1) Various forms of charity?	(2) Charity and the Poor Law?	What steps have been taken to prevent overlapping?
Bingley	Not to Vicar's knowledge.	—	—
Bingley (Holy Trinity)	No.	No.	The Charity Organisation Society is well worked.
Morton	No.	No.	—
Riddlesden	No.	No.	—
Keighley	Yes.	Yes.	Much private or collective charity is needed to supplement inadequate out relief.
Keighley (Holy Trinity)	None known.	—	—
Keighley (St. Peter)	Think not.	No.	Enquiry officer.
Keighley (St. Mary)	No.	No.	*See* answer to Question 2.
Oakworth	No.	—	—
Kildwick	No.	No.	—
Cononley	No.	No.	—
Silsden	No.	No.	—
Steeton	A little.	No.	*See* answer to Question 2.

Southern Division of the Deanery of Craven—*continued.* *Questions Nos. 6 and 7.*

Parish.	What amount is spent in the relief of the poor annually?	How many families are relieved annually
Bingley - - - -	£ s. d. Alms - - - - - 29 0 0 Other charities - - - 38 0 0 67 0 0 from Church Societies. Charity Organisation Society 50 0 0 Jubilee Seaside Fund - - 30 0 0 80 0 0 General Societies. Total - - - 147 0 0 per annum.	80 families.
Bingley (Holy Trinity) -	Parochial alms - - - 30 0 0 Charity Organisation Society 30 0 0 Total - - - 60 0 0	140 people (? families, etc.).
Morton - - - -	Parochial alms - - - 3 10 0 From Nonconformists - - 3 0 0 Total - - - 6 10 0	12 families.
Riddlesden - - -	10 0 0	12 poor old people.
Keighley - - - -	40 0 0 collections. 40 0 0 dole. 80 0 0 and special collections for special cases.	—
Keighley (Holy Trinity) -	No data.	No data.
Keighley (St. Peter's) -	7 10 0	No data.
Keighley (St. Mary) -	20 0 0	No data.
Oakworth - - -	No data.	No data.
Kildwick - - -	Impossible.	No data.
Cononley - - -	15 0 0	10 persons.
Silsden - - - -	—	No data.
Steeton - - - -	—	10 persons.
Silsden - - - -	By Poor Law authorities. By Church alms.	10 families.

Question No. 8.

Parish.	How much is dispensed in alms	
	From endowments, etc.?	From voluntary charities, such as soup kitchens, etc.?
	£ s. d.	
Bingley - - - - - - -	38 0 0	—
Bingley (Holy Trinity) - - -	—	—
Morton - - - - - - -	—	—
Riddlesden - - - - - - -	—	—
Keighley - - - - - - -	—	—
Keighley (Holy Trinity) - - -	—	—
Keighley (St. Peter) - - - -	—	—
Keighley (St. Mary) - - - -	—	—
Oakworth - - - - - - -	—	—
Kildwick - - - - - - -	1 10 0	—
Cononley - - - - - - -	—	—
Silsden - - - - - - -	—	—
Steeton - - - - - - -	2 5 0 from dole	—

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Western Division of the Deanery of Craven.

10 Parishes, 7 reports.

Question No. 1.

Parish.	Is there much poverty?	Is it increasing?	Causes.
Bolton by Bolland (rural) - -	No.	—	—
Grindleton (rural) - - - -			
Hurst Green (rural) - - -			
Mytton (rural) - - - -			
St. James, Dale Head (rural) -			
Slaidburn (rural) - - - -			
Waddington (with West Bradford (rural) - - - -			

Question No. 2.

Parish.	Are there any special methods of administering alms?	Is there a committee?	Is relief given by clergy or visitors?
Bolton by Bolland - - - -	No.	No.	Clergy and Churchwardens
Grindleton - - - - -	No.	No.	Clergy.
Hurst Green - - - - -	No.	No.	Clergy.
Mytton - - - - - -	No.	No.	Clergy.
St. James, Dale Head - - -	No.	No.	Clergy.
Slaidburn - - - - -	No.	No.	Clergy.
Waddington - - - - -	Special cases are made the subject of special appeals.	No.	Clergy.

Question No. 3.

Parish.	Is there in the parish any distress due to the reluctance of the poor to resort to Poor Law relief?
Bolton by Bolland - - - - - -	No.
Grindleton - - - - - - -	
Hurst Green - - - - - - -	
Mytton - - - - - - - -	
St. James, Dale Head - - - -	
Slaidburn - - - - - - -	
Waddington - - - - - - -	

(The Committee would beg to draw the Hon. Commissioners' attention to the remarks in answer to this question by the Vicar of Waddington. Although not quite pertinent in view of his answer to the first section of the question, they are of great interest, and probably of use in indicating a very common relationship between the State relief and privately endowed relief.)

H. E. Kemp, *Hon. Secretary.*

Question No. 4.

Parish.	Is there any distress caused by the poor relief being inadequate?
Bolton by Bolland - - - - - -	No.
Grindleton - - - - - - - -	
Hurst Green - - - - - - -	
Mytton - - - - - - - -	
St. James, Dale Head - - - - -	
Slaidburn - - - - - - - -	
Waddington - - - - - - -	Yes (compared with the population). One case of an old woman whose relief of 4*s.* 6*d.* is not sufficient to live on.

Western Division of the Deanery of Craven—*continued.* *Question No. 5.*

Parish.	Is there any overlapping between		
	Various forms of Charity?	Charity and the Poor Law?	What steps are taken to prevent overlapping?
Bolton by Bolland	No.	No.	—
Grindleton			
Hurst Green			
Mytton			
St. James, Dale Head			
Slaidburn			
Waddington			

Questions Nos. 6 and 7.

Parish.	What is the usual amount administered in charitable relief?	How many families are relieved annually?
	£ s. d.	
Bolton by Bolland	40 0 0	25 people.
Grindleton	55 0 0	28 people.
Hurst Green	15 0 0	20 people.
Mytton	6 0 0	—
St. James, Dale Head	—	None for three years.
Slaidburn	180 0 0	30 families.
Waddington	18 10 0	10 people.

Question No. 8.

Parish.	How much is dispensed annually from	
	Endowments?	Poor Funds, Soup Kitchens, etc.?
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bolton by Bolland	100 0 0	—
Grindleton	127 0 0	—
Hurst Green	15 0 0	—
Mytton	6 0 0	—
St. James, Dale Head	—	—
Slaidburn	200 0 0	5 0 0
Waddington	—	—

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Eastern Division of the Deanery of Craven.

12 Parishes, 7 Reports.

Question No. 1.

Parish.	Is there much poverty?	Is it increasing?	What are the causes?
Barnoldswick (rural)	No.	No.	—
Broughton in Airedale (rural)	No.	No.	—
Embsay (rural)	No.	Yes.	Drink, mental weakness, large families.
Lothersdale (rural)	No.	No.	—
Marton (rural)	No.	No.	—
Skipton (*Parish Church*) (urban)	No.	No.	Drink, want of thrift.
Skipton (*Christ Church*) (urban)	No.	No.	Old age, infirmity, laziness, intemperance.

Question No. 2.

Parish.	Are there any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the poor?	Is there a Committee?	Is relief administered by the clergy or visitors?
Barnoldswick	Poor Fund collected in Church.	No.	Clergy.
Broughton in Airedale	No.	No.	Clergy.
Embsay	No.	No.	Clergy.
Lothersdale	No.	No.	Clergy.
Marton	No.	No.	Clergy.
Skipton (*Parish Church*)	No.	No.	Clergy.
Skipton (*Christ Church*)	Chronic cases referred to the Charity Organisation Society.	No.	Clergy.

Questions Nos. 3 and 4.

Parish.	Question 3.	Question 4.
Barnoldswick	No.	No.
Broughton in Airedale		
Embsay		
Lothersdale		
Marton		
Skipton (*Parish Church*)		
Skipton (*Christ Church*)	Outdoor relief is not objected to. To become an inmate of the Workhouse is objected to.	No.

Question No. 5.

Parish.	Is there any overlapping between		
	(*a*) Various forms of charity?	(*b*) Charity and the Poor Law?	Has any effort been made to prevent such overlapping?
Barnoldswick	No.	No.	Personal enquiry.
Broughton			—
Embsay			—
Lothersdale			—
Marton			—
Skipton (*Parish Church*)			Charity Organisation Society.
Skipton (*Christ Church*)	—	—	—

Eastern Division of the Deanery of Craven—*continued.* *Questions Nos. 6 and 7.*

Parish.	What amount is given annually for the relief of the poor?	How many families are relieved annually?
Barnoldswick	No data.	No data.
Broughton in Airedale	No data.	No data.
Embsay	—	—
Lothersdale	£2	6 families.
Marton	—	—
Skipton (Parish Church)	£64 from dole—for whole town. £40 from Church. £30 charity organisation—for whole town. £134	80 families.
Skipton (Christ Church)	£16 10*s.*	70 people.

Question No. 8.

Parish.	How much is given annually from	
	(*a*) Endowments?	(*b*) Voluntary annual charities?
Barnoldswick *Broughton* *Embsay* *Lothersdale* *Marton*	—	—
Skipton (Parish Church) *Skipton (Christ Church)*	£64.	—

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ARCHDEACONRY OF RICHMOND.

Deanery of Catterick East.

14 Parishes, 12 Reports.

Question No. 1.

Parish.	Is there much poverty?	Is it increasing?	Causes.
Bedale (urban)	No.	No.	—
Burneston (rural)	No.	No.	—
Crakehall (rural)	A very good table given, viz.:— Houses occupied - - - - - - - - - - - - 114 Number of persons or families without sufficient means of subsistence is 11 Divided into—five in receipt of Poor Law relief: six not in receipt of Poor Law relief - - - - - - - - - - - - 11 *Causes of Poverty*:— From no fault of their own - - - - - - - 2 From Liberator frauds - - - - - - - - 1 From drunkenness *and* consequences - - - - - 6 From incapacity (Irish immigrant) - - - - - - 1 From death of husband - - - - - - - - 1 — — 11 11 Percentage of families in receipt of relief—9·649 per cent. The poverty is stationary.		
Kirkby Fleetham (rural)	No.	No.	—
Kirklington (rural)	No.	No.	—
Patrick Brompton (with Hunton) (rural)	No.	No.	—
Pickhill (rural)	Yes.	No.	Low wages of labourers make it impossible to provide against old age.
Scruton (rural)	No.	No.	—
Thornton Watlass (rural)	No.	No.	—
Melmerby (rural)	No.	No.	—
Well (rural)	Not more than usual in agricultural districts.	No.	Low wages, large families, inability to get land at a reasonable rent. The Holdings Act is expected to be very beneficial in this direction.
West Tanfield (rural)	No.	No.	Intemperance.

Question No. 2.

Parish.	(*a*).	(*b*).	(*c*).
Bedale	No.	No.	Clergy.
Burneston	No.	No.	Clergy.
Crakehall	No.	No.	Clergy.
Kirkby Fleetham	No.	No.	Clergy.
Kirklington	No.	No.	Clergy.
Patrick Brompton	No.	Only at Christmas.	Clergy.
Pickhill	No.	Only for endowments.	Clergy.
Scruton	No.	No.	Clergy.
Thornton Watlass	No.	No.	Clergy.
Melmerby	No.	No.	Clergy.
Well	No.	No.	Clergy.
West Tanfield	No.	No.	Clergy.

Deanery of Catterick East.—*continued.* *Question No.*

Parish.	(a).	(b).
Bedale	No.	—
Burneston	No.	—
Crakehall	One case. Vicar says that there are five cases of poverty which should be relieved by a Government pension *not* paid through a Poor Law officer.	Independence and "good pride" the cause.
Kirkby Fleetham	No.	—
Kirklington	No.	—
Patrick Brompton	?	The poor readily take out relief but would do anything rather than go into the Union.
Pickhill	No.	—
Scruton	No.	—
Thornton Watlass	No.	—
Wath	No.	—
Well	Yes.	Dread of publicity, of losing their homes, and of becoming a burden on relatives unable to bear the cost. (The guardians make the relatives bear a proportion of the cost of maintenance.)
West Tanfield	No.	—

Question No. 4.

Parish.	(4).
Bedale	No.
Burneston	No.
Crakehall	No.
Kirkby Fleetham	No.—It would cause distress in some cases if the Poor Law relief were not supplemented by private or parochial charity.
Kirklington	No,—ditto—in two cases.
Patrick Brompton	No.
Pickhill	No.
Scruton	No.
Thornton Watlass	No.—The guardians are very good in this respect.
Wath	No.
Well	Yes—Five or six cases allowed **3***s.* 6*d.* per week—one blind couple and another afflicted widow of a soldier.
West Tanfield	No.

Question No. 5.

Parish.	(a).	(b).
Bedale	No.	No.
Burneston	No.	No.
Crakehall	But little.	No.
Kirkby Fleetham	No.	No.
Kirklington	No.	No.
Patrick Brompton	No.	No.
Pickhill	No.	No.
Scruton	No.	No.
Thornton Watlass	No.	No.
Wath	No.	No.
Well	Yes, owing to private and unenquiring alms giving.	Yes.
West Tanfield	No.	—

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Questions Nos. 6 and 7.

Deanery of Catterick East—*continued.*

Parish.	(6).	(7).
	£ s. d.	
Bedale	30 12 0	60 individuals.
Burneston	50 0 0	39 families.
Crakehall	9 7 0	12 families.
Kirkby Fleetham	No estimate.	30 families.
Kirklington	39 0 0 in cash (minimum)	43 families.
Patrick Brompton	65 0 0	No estimate.
Pickhill	47 10 0	36 persons.
Scruton	13 0 0	8 families.
Thornton Watlass	13 12 0	—
Wath	43 15 6	—
Well	45 0 0	25 families.
West Tanfield	45 0 0	10 families.

Question No. 8.

Parish.	How much is dispensed from endowments in alms annually?		How much in annual and voluntary charity, such as clothing clubs, etc.?	
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Bedale	Dole	25 12 0	No estimate.	
Burneston	Dole	16 0 0	Clothing club—Bonus	7 0 0
	Almshouse	40 0 0	Coal	19 0 0
		56 0 0		26 0 0
Crakehall	Endowments	4 4 0 ?	Coal and clothing club's bonuses	11 15 0
Kirkby Fleetham	—		—	
Kirklington	Endowments	39 0 0	—	
Patrick Brompton	Endowments	18 0 0	—	
Pickhill	Endowments	33 0 0	Bonuses	12 0 0
Scruton	—		—	
Thornton Watlass	Medical charity	7 12 0	—	
Wath	Medical charity	10 0 0		6 19 6
Well	Endowments	15 0 0		37 10 0
West Tanfield		28 0 0	—	

Deanery of Catterick West.
16 Parishes, 11 Reports.

Question No. 1.

Parish.	(a).	(b).	(c).
Askrigg (rural)	No.	No.	—
Aysgarth (rural)			
Bellerby (rural)			
Coverham (rural)			
Hauxwell (rural)			
Hawes (rural)			
Middleham (rural)			
Spennithorne (rural)			
Thornton Steward (rural)			
East Witton (rural)			

Question No. 2.

Parish.	(a).	(b).	(c).
Askrigg	No.	No.	Clergy.
Aysgarth	No.	No.	Clergy.
Bellerby	No.	No.	Clergy.
Coverham	There is a charity of £25 per year.	Trustees.	Clergy and visitors.
Hauxwell	No.	No.	Clergy.
Hawes	No.	No.	Clergy.
Middleham	Monthly offertories given to poor.	Yes.	Rector and visitors.
Spennithorne	No.	No.	Clergy.
Thornton Steward	No.	No.	Clergy.
Askrigg	No.	No.	Clergy.
East Witton	No.	Yes.	Clergy.

Questions Nos. 3, 4, and 5

All the parishes return "No" to each question, viz.:—
(3) Is there any distress caused by the reluctance of the poor to apply for Poor Law relief?
(4) Is there any distress caused by the amount of Poor Law relief being inadequate?
and (5) Is there any needless overlapping?

Questions Nos. 6 and 7.

Parish.	(6).	(7).
Askrigg	No estimate.	No estimate.
Aysgarth	£ 9 0 0	9 families.
Bellerby	£10 0 0	4 families.
Coverham	£25 0 0	30 families.
Hauxwell	No estimate.	1 woman.
Hawes	No estimate.	20 families.
Middleham	£40 0 0	6 families and 20 individuals.
*Spennithorne**	£ 6 0 0	One family
Thornton Steward	£ 3 10 0	7 individuals.
Askrigg	No estimate.	No estimate.
East Witton	£20 0 0	11 families and individuals.

* *Note*:—The Rector of Spennithorne's interesting note *re* the danger of the tramps on the roads is very suggestive.

Question No. 8.

Parish.	—		
		£ s. d.	
Aysgarth	Dole	8 0 0	
Bellerby	Endowment	5 0 0	Bonus £5 0 0
Hawes	Endowment	5 0 0	
East Witton	Endowment	2 8 0	

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Deanery of Nidderdale.

12 Parishes, 7 Reports.

Question No. 1.

Parish.	Is there much poverty, and is it increasing?
Birstwith (rural)	No.
Dacre (rural)	
Greenhow Hill (rural)	
Hampsthwaite (rural)	
Middlesmoor (rural)	
Pateley Bridge (rural)	
Ramsgill (rural)	

Question No. 2.

Parish.	(*a*)	(*b*)	(*c*)
Birstwith	No.	Yes.	Clergy and visitors.
Dacre	No.	Yes.	Clergy.
Greenhow Hill	No.	No.	Clergy.
Hampsthwaite	Tickets on tradespeople are given in preference to money.	No.	Clergy.
Middlesmoor	No.	No.	Clergy.
Pateley Bridge	No.	No.	Clergy.
Ramsgill	No.	No.	Clergy.

Questions Nos. 3, 4, and 5.

All the Parishes return "No" to each of the questions, viz.:—Is there any appreciable amount of distress due—

(3) To the reluctance of poor people to apply for Poor Law relief?

(4) Is there much distress to the poor relief being inadequate? and

(5) Is there any needless overlapping?

Questions Nos. 6 and 7.

Parish.	(*6*).	(*7*).
	£ *s.* *d.*	
Birstwith	50 0 0	No estimate.
Dacre	18 0 0	13 families.
Greenhow Hill	No estimate.	1 old woman.
Hampsthwaite	28 10 0	30 people.
Middlesmoor	5 4 0	8 families.
Pateley Bridge	20 0 0	No estimate.
Ramsgill	No estimate.	No estimate.

Question No. 8.

Parish.	Amount from endowments, etc.	Amount from Bonuses, etc.
	£ *s.* *d.*	
Birstwith	Dole 18 0 0	2*d.* in the 1*s.* on all deposits in the clothing club.
Dacre	Dole 18 0 0	—
Greenhow Hill	—	—
Hampsthwaite	18 10 0	—
Middlesmoor	5 4 0	—
Pateley Bridge	1 7 6	—
Ramsgill	—	—

Deanery of Richmond East.
16 Parishes, 12 Reports.

Question No. 1.

Parish.	Is there much poverty, and is it increasing in intensity?
Ainderby Steeple (rural)	No.
Cleasby (rural)	
Croft (rural)	
Danby Wiske (rural)	
Eryholme (rural)	
Forcett (rural)	
Kirkby Wiske (rural)	
Langton-on-Swale (rural)	
Manfield (rural)	
Melsonby (rural)	
Great Smeaton (rural)	
Stanwick (*St. John*) (rural)	

Question No. 2.

Parish.	(*a*).	(*b*).	(*c*).
Ainderby Steeple	No.	No.	Clergy.
Cleasby	No.	Yes.	Clergy.
Croft	No.	No.	Clergy.
Danby Wiske	No.	No.	Clergy and wardens.
Eryholme	No.	No.	Clergy and wardens.
Forcett	No.	No.	Clergy.
Kirkby Wiske	No.	No.	Clergy and wardens.
Langton-on-Swale	No.	No.	Clergy.
Manfield	No.	No.	Clergy
Melsonby	No.	No.	Clergy.
Great Smeaton	No.	No.	Clergy.
Stanwick (*St. John*)	No.	No.	Clergy.

Questions Nos. 3, 4, and 5.

All the Parishes reply "No."

Questions Nos. 6 and 7.

Parish.	(6)	(7)
	£ s. d.	
Ainderby Steeple	24 0 0	12 families.
Cleasby	37 0 0	17 people.
Croft	18 1 4	7 families.
Danby Wiske	No estimate.	No estimate.
Eryholme	No estimate.	No estimate.
Forcett	15 0 0	15 families.
Kirkby Wiske	28 0 0	20 people.
Langton-on-Swale	5 0 0	9 people.
Manfield	6 0 0	3 families.
Melsonby	8 0 0	20 people.
Great Smeaton	1 0 0 in kind.	No estimate
Stanwick (*St John*)	40 0 0	—

Question No. 8.

Parish.	How much is dispensed in alms—	
	From endowments?	From annual voluntary charities such as poor funds, etc.?
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Ainderby Steeple	12 0 0	8 0 0
Cleasby	37 0 0	—
Croft	7 11 4	5 10 0
Danby Wiske	5 19 8	Nil.
Eryholme	Nil.	Nil.
Forcett	8 0 0	6 0 0
Kirkby Wiske	Nil.	Nil.
Langton-on-Swale	3 10 0	Nil.
Manfield	3 0 0	Nil.
Melsonby	2 0 0	Nil.
Great Smeaton	Nil.	Nil.
Stanwick (*St. John*)	Nil.	Nil.

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Deanery of Richmond North.

9 Parishes, 8 Reports.

Questions Nos. 1 to 5 inclusive.

Parish.	——
Barningham (rural). *Bowes* (rural). *Brignall* (rural). *Hutton Magna* (rural). *Laithkirk* (rural). *Rokeby* (rural). *Startforth* (rural). *Wycliffe* (rural).	(1) All the replies from this rural deanery state that there is no poverty in the respective parishes. (2) The clergy all administer relief personally without any committees except those rendered necessary by trust deeds. (3) There is no distress from the unwillingness of the poor to apply to the Poor Law authorities. (4) Two cases only are mentioned of the relief granted by the guardians being inadequate. (See Vicar of Laithkirk's report.) (5) There seems to be no overlapping in any of the parishes except that of Laithkirk, and this is in a very minor degree.

Questions Nos. 6 and 7.

Parish.	(6)	(7)
	£ s. d.	
Barningham	6 10 0	No estimate.
Bowes	Nil.	6 families.
Brignall	Nil.	No estimate.
Hutton Magna	5 0 0	No estimate.
Laithkirk	59 0 0	34 people.
Rokeby	—	2 families.
Startforth	Estimate 43 0 0	38 people.
Wycliffe	Nil.	Nil.

Question No. 8.

Parish.	How much is distributed in alms annually from endowments, etc.	How much from bonuses, etc.
	£ s. d.	
Laithkirk	56 0 0	—
Startforth	38 3 0	—

Deanery of Richmond West.
16 Parishes, 10 Replies.

Question No. 1.

Parish.	(a)	(b)	(c)
Arkengarthdale (rural)	—	No.	
Downholme (rural)			
Easby (rural)			
Gilling (rural)			
Grinton (rural)			
Kirkby Ravensworth (rural)			
Marske (rural)			
Muker (rural)			
Marrick (rural)			
Richmond, Holy Trinity (urban)	No.	Not increasing.	Less work is required at the factory and on the land. The land is being laid down to grass. The town is less prosperous altogether.

Question No. 2.

Parish.	(a)	(b)	(c)
Arkengarthdale	No.	No.	Clergy.
Downholme	No.	No.	Clergy.
Easby	No.	No.	Clergy.
Gilling	No.	Committees for endowments only.	Clergy and visiting ladies.
Grinton	No.	No.	Clergy.
Kirkby Ravensworth	No.	No.	Clergy.
Marske	—	Yes.	Clergy and trustees.
Muker	No.	No.	Clergy.
Marrick	No.	No.	Clergy.
Richmond (Holy Trinity)	Marchioness of Zetland provides soup kitchen when necessary, a nurse, blankets, and also gives annual dinner to the aged.	Trustees for various funds and endowments.	Clergy, nurse and visitors.

Question No. 3.

The answer from all the Parishes is "No."

Question No. 4.

Arkengarthdale	No.
Downholme	No.
Easby	No.
Gilling	This is prevented by private charity supplementing the Poor Law allowance. "3/6 per week for an aged person with rent to pay cannot be called adequate; nor can 6/- for an aged couple."
Grinton	No.
Kirkby Ravensworth	No.
Marske	No.
Muker	No.
Marrick	No.
Richmond	No.

Question No. 5.

The reply from all the Parishes is "No."

In the Parish of Easby recipients of Poor Law relief may not be beneficiaries of the Rev. Wm. Smith's Almshouse and Pension Charity.

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Questions Nos. 6 and 7.

Deanery of Richmond West—*continued.*

Parish.	(6)	(7)
	£ s. d.	
Arkengarthdale	—	—
Downholm	2 0 0	10 families.
Easby	45 0 0	28 families.
Gilling	119 0 0	12 families.
Grinton	No estimate.	—
Kirkby	156 0 0	12 women and 12 men in endowed almshouses.
Marske	35 0 0	4 families.
Muker	No estimate.	—
Marrick	No estimate.	—
Richmond (Holy Trinity)	181 12 11	50 families.

Question No. 8.

Parish.	(a)	(b)
	£ s. d.	
Arkengarthdale	—	—
Downholme	—	—
Easby	16 4 0	—
Gilling	85 0 0	22 0 0
Grinton	—	—
Kirkby Ravensworth	312 0 0	24 people.
Marske	—	—
Muker	—	—
Marrick	—	—
Richmond (Holy Trinity)	57 0 0	52 0 0

ARCHDEACONRY OF RIPON.

Deanery of Boroughbridge.

16 Parishes—11 Reports.

Question No. 1.

Parish.	(a)	(b)	(c)
Aldborough (rural)	No.	No.	—
Boroughbridge (rural)			
Cundall (rural)			
Dunsforth (rural)			
Great Ouseburn (rural)			
Hunsingore (rural)			
Kirby-on-the-Moor (rural)			
Kirk Hammerton (rural)			
Little Ouseburn (rural)			
Nun Monkton (rural)			
Roecliffe (rural)			In the country it is impossible to save anything as a provision against old age.

Question No. 2.

Parish.	(a)	(b)	(c)
Aldborough	Yes, there are various charities administered by trustees.	Yes.	Clergy and others.
Boroughbridge	No.	No.	Clergy.
Cundall			
Dunsforth			
Great Ouseburn			
Hunsingore			
Kirby-on-the-Moor			
Kirk Hammerton			
Little Ouseburn			
Nun Monkton			
Roecliffe			

Question No. 3.

The answer from all the parishes is "No."

Question No. 4.

Parish.	(a)	(b)
Aldborough	Yes.	Aged spinster allowed 3/- per week; man aged 74, his sister and her granddaughter allowed 7/- per week.

The reply from the ten remaining parishes is "No."

Question No. 5.

Parish.	(a)	(b)	(c)
Aldborough	No.	The parochial charities are viewed as a useful supplement to Poor Law relief.	—

The answer from the remaining ten parishes is "No."

Questions Nos. 6 and 7.

Parish.	(6) £ s. d.	(7)
Aldborough	92 19 3	30 people.
Boroughbridge	29 0 0	35 families.
Cundall	33 11 8	No.
Dunsforth	5 6 4	18 families.
Great Ouseburn	32 0 0	No.
Hunsingore	30 5 0	12 sick.
Kirby on the Moor	6 0	None.
Kirk Hammerton	25 0 0	5 people.
Little Ouseburn	27 15 9½	No.
Nun Monkton	17 9 8	No.
Roecliffe	9 17 0	No.

Question No. 8.

Parish.	(a) £ s. d.	(b) £ s. d.
Aldborough	92 19 3	—
Boroughbridge	7 0 0	—
Cundall	—	—
Dunsforth	4 15 4	—
Great Ouseburn	24 0 0	8 0 0
Hunsingore	4 5 0	6 0 0
Kirby on the Moor	5 0 0	20 0 0
Little Ouseburn	17 8 8	6 10 0
Nun Monkton	8 6 8	—
Roecliffe	4 7 0	—

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page numbering in brackets.

Deanery of Knaresborough.
21 Parishes, 10 Reports.

Question No. 1.

Parish.	(a)	(b)	(c)
Arkendale with Allerton Mauleverer (rural)	No.	No.	No.
Burton Leonard (rural)	No.	No.	No.
Farnham (rural)	No.	No.	No.
Goldsborough (rural)	No.	No.	No.
Harrogate (*St. Luke*) (urban)	No.	Slightly increasing.	Slackness in building trade.
Harrogate (*St. Mark*) (urban)	No.	Slightly increasing.	Moral causes and slackness in building trade.
Harrogate (*St. Wilfrid*) (urban)	No.	No.	No.
Killinghall (suburban)	No.	No.	Sickness, recklessness, and drink.
Knaresborough (urban)	Certain amount.	No.	No manufacturing industry.
Low Harrogate (urban)	No.	No.	Lack of work.

Question No. 2.

Parish.	(a)	(b)	(c)
Arkendale	No.	No.	Clergy.
Burton Leonard	No.	No.	Clergy.
Farnham	No.	No.	Clergy and Wardens.
Goldsborough	No.	No.	Clergy.
Harrogate (*St. Luke*)	No.	No.	Clergy and Church Army Captain.
Harrogate (*St. Mark*)	Tickets on tradespeople, recommendations for treatment in local hospital, and convalescent homes.	Yes.	Clergy and Visitors.
Harrogate (*St. Wilfrid*)	No.	No.	Clergy.
Killinghall	No.	No.	Clergy.
Knaresborough	No.	No.	Clergy and Wardens.
New Harrogate	No.	No.	Clergy.

Question No. 3.

The reply from all the parishes is "No," except in the case of the Vicar of Low Harrogate, who knows of one case due to "commendable spirit of independence."

Question No. 4.

The reply from all the parishes is "No."

Question No. 5.

Parish.	(a)	(b)	(c)
Arkendale	No.	No.	—
Burton Leonard			
Farnham			
Goldsborough			
Harrogate (*St. Luke*)	Yes. Cases are continually coming to light of the Nonconformists and Church people helping the same people simultaneously.	No.	Guild of Help formed.
Harrogate (*St. Mark*)	No.	No.	
Harrogate (*St. Wilfrid*)			
Killinghall			
Knaresborough			
Low Harrogate			Guild of Help formed.

Deanery of Knaresborough—*continued.* *Questions Nos. 6 and*

Parish.	(6)	(7)
	£ s. d.	
Arkendale	1 0 0	4 people.
Burton Leonard	1 10 0	—
Farnham	—	—
Goldsborough	28 18 2	9 families.
Harrogate (St. Luke)	75 0 0	150 families.
Harrogate (St. Mark)	45 0 0	—
Harrogate (St. Wilfrid)	—	—
Killinghall	18 16 0	7 families.
Knaresborough	229 0 0 (endowments alone.)	45 families.
Low Harrogate	—	—

Question No. 8

Parish.	(a)	(b)
	£ s. d.	
Arkendale	—	4*d.* in the 1*s.*—clothing club.
Burton Leonard	1 10 0	—
Farnham	—	—
Goldsborough	4 0 0	Clothing club—bonus £9 18*s.* 2*d.*
Harrogate (St. Luke)	—	Clothing club—bonus £4 0*s.* 0*d.*
Harrogate (St. Mark)	—	—
Harrogate (St. Wilfrid)	—	—
Killinghall	4 16 0	£10 0*s.* 0*d.*—Clothing club bonus.
	Remarks.—Giving money is generally of no use. Has but little money to use, and so recommends the poor to get Poor Relief, and then that is supplemented out of Church funds. Would recommend outdoor relief reduced to a minimum, and old age pension as—minimum amount.	
Knaresborough	229 0 0	—
Low Harrogate	—	—

Deanery of Leeds.
57 Parishes, 40 Reports.

Question No. 1.

Parish.	(a)	(b)	(c)
Leeds (Parish Church) - - -	Yes.	No.	*Moral Causes*: 1. Paramount—Drink. 2. Disinclination for work of all kinds becoming a habit and thus causing inefficiency. 3. Degeneracy and inefficiency caused by men losing their employment and not finding other work, thus drifting into the unemployable class. 4. Low state of intelligence. *Economic Causes*: The supply of unskilled labour exceeds the demand: the present system of competition as the rule of industrial life prevents the continuous employment of any who suffer from weak health, low intelligence, physical infirmity, or have passed 45 years of age. (The recent Workmen's Compensation Act has intensified the rigidity of applying these tests to the workpeople who seek employment). The middle-aged and slightly defective form by far the largest class of those poverty stricken from economic causes.
Adel (rural) - - - - -	No.	No.	—
Armley (urban) - - - -	Yes.	Yes.	Fluctuation of trade, uncertainty of unskilled labour market. Part of the parish is being occupied by a migratory population disturbed by the disturbance of the insanitary areas in Leeds.
Beeston (urban) - - - -	No.	No.	Old age.
Bramley (urban) - - - -	No.	No.	Drunkenness, impurity, and consequent early and improvident marriages; large and neglected families.
Farnley (suburban) - - -	No.	No.	—
Hartwith (rural) - - - -	No.	No.	Intemperance. Sickness and severe weather.
Headingley (suburban) - - -	No.	No.	—
Armley Hall (Holy Trinity) (urban)	Yes.	Yes.	Influx of undesirables, drunkenness, gambling, immorality.
Horsforth (suburban) - - -	No.	No.	—
Hunslet (urban) (uncertain) - -	Yes.	Yes.	The leaving of the better workmen and the residuum being "undesirable."
Hunslet (St. Mary) (urban) - -	No.	No.	Drink, gambling, and degeneracy.
Kirkstall (urban) - - - -	No.	Yes.	Low wages and irregular work. Total wealth of parish decreasing.
Leeds (All Saints) (urban) - -	Yes.	Yes.	Influx of undesirables, low wages for unskilled labour, indiscreet, forced, and unhealthy marriages; drink, gambling, and betting.
Leeds (All Souls) (urban) - -	Yes.	No.	Drink, betting, idleness, fluctuation of trade.
Leeds (St. Andrew) (urban) - -	Yes.	No.	Intemperance, betting, thriftlessness, low rate of wages for work done at home, *i.e.*, clothing trade.
St. Andrew (Stourton) (suburban)	No.	No.	Thriftlessness, intemperance, and slackness of trade.
Leeds (St. Clement) (urban) - -	Yes.	Yes.	Drink, bad trade—many Jews in parish who cut down wages.
Leeds (St. Cuthbert) (urban) - -	No.	No.	—
Leeds (St. Hilda) (urban) - -	No.	No.	Improvidence. Unwillingness to work.
Leeds (St. John, Moor Atherton) (suburban)	No.	No.	—
Leeds (St. John Baptist) (urban) -	Yes.	Yes.	Lower class of people. Drink, especially among women. Gambling. Introduction of labour-saving machinery. Thriftlessness, and the excessive amount spent on amusements and holidays. Premature old age owing to hard conditions of life.
Leeds (St. Luke) (urban) - -	No.	No.	—
Leeds (St. Mary of Bethany) (New Wortley) (urban)	Yes.	Yes.	Deterioration of class of population.

Deanery of Leeds—*continued.* *Question No. 1*—continued.

Parish.	(a)	(b)	(c)
Leeds (*St. Martin, New Potterneuton*) (urban)	Yes.	Yes.	Intemperance, slackness of trade, unsuitable and imperfect education.
Leeds (*St. Mark, Woodhouse*) (urban)	Yes.	Yes.	Great amount of unskilled labour on short time, lack of thrift, drunkenness, early, improvident, and forced marriages.
Leeds (*St. Matthew, Little London*) (urban)	Yes.	Yes.	Influx of very poor undesirables.
Leeds (*St Matthew, Holbeck*) (urban)	Yes.	No.	Unsatisfactory habits of life (reform must start with the children). Uncertainty of work. Low wages.
Leeds (*St. Michael*) (urban)	Yes.	Yes.	Slackness of the staple trade. Drunkenness.
Leeds (*St. Saviour*) (urban)	Yes.	No.	Improvidence. Slackness of work.
Leeds (*St. Thomas*) (urban)	Yes.	Yes.	Becoming almost entirely Jewish.
Leeds (*Upper Armley*) (urban)	Yes.	No.	Slackness of trade. Drunkenness.
Leeds (*Woodlesford* (suburban)	No.	No.	—
Leeds (*Wrangthorne* (urban)	No.	Yes.	The parish gradually becoming poorer Richer residents leaving.
Leeds (*Seacroft*) (suburban)	No.	No.	Sickness and old age.
Leeds (*Shadwell*) (urban)	Yes.	No.	Irregularity of work; influx of poor families.
Leeds (*Stanningley*) (urban)	No.	No.	Drink and betting.
Leeds (*uncertain*) (urban)	Yes.	No.	Slackness of trade.
Leeds (*uncertain*) (urban)	Yes.	Yes.	Slackness of trade. Scarcity of casual labour.
Leeds (*uncertain*) (urban)	No.	No.	—

Question No. 2.

Parish.	(a)	(b)	(c)
Leeds (*Parish Church*)	No.	No.	Clergy and district visitors.
Adel	No.	No.	Clergy, wardens and visitors.
Armley	Special attention paid to sick cases.	No.	Clergy.
Beeston			
Bramley	No.	No.	Clergy.
Farnley			
Hartwith	No.	No.	—
Headingley	No.	No.	Clergy and district visitors.
Armley Hall (*Holy Trinity*)	No.	No.	Clergy.
Horsforth	By orders on tradesmen. By money where it can be given safely.	No.	Clergy and district visitors.
Hunslet (*Uncertain*)	No.	No.	Clergy.
Hunslet (*St. Mary*)	No.	Several sectional committees.	Clergy and visitors.
Kirkstall	No.	No.	Clergy and visitors.
Leeds (*All Saints*)	Tickets on tradespeople.	No.	Clergy and lady workers.
Leeds (*All Souls*)	Soup kitchen and in kind.	Yes.	Not by clergy or by visitors, but by two voluntary lady visitors.
Leeds (*St. Andrew*)	No.	No.	Clergy and lay reader.
Leeds (*St. Andrew, Stourton*)	No.	No.	Clergy.
Leeds (*St. Clement*)	Orders on tradespeople.	No.	Clergy.
Leeds (*St. Cuthbert*)	No.	No.	Almoner.
Leeds (*St. Hilda*)	Given in kind.	No.	Clergy.
Leeds (*St. John, Moor Allerton*)	No.	No.	—
Leeds (*St. John Baptist, Newton*)	No.	No.	—
Leeds (*St. Luke, Beeston Hill*)	No.	No.	Clergy.
Leeds (*St. Mary of Bethany*)	No.	No.	—

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page numbering in brackets.

Deanery of Leeds—*continued.* *Question No. 2*—continued.

Parish.	(a)	(b)	(c)
Leeds (St. Martin, Potternewton)	Orders on tradespeople, orders of admission to convalescent homes.	Yes.	Visitors (by Clergy only in cases of sudden emergency).
Leeds (St Mark, Woodhouse)	Enquiries by committee.	Yes.	Clergy and Committee.
Leeds (St. Matthew, Little London)	Orders on tradespeople 1d. subscription administered by Church Army sister (5s. per week).	No.	Clergy and visitor.
Leeds (St. Matthew, Holbeck)	Enquiries made by laymen.	No.	Given by laymen where possible.
Leeds (St. Michael)	Help in kind and orders on tradespeople.	As Vicar—No. As Chairman of the District Fund—Yes.	Clergy.
Leeds (St. Saviour)	Tickets on tradespeople.	No.	Sisters of charity.
Leeds (St. Thomas)	By tickets on tradespeople.	No.	Clergy.
Leeds (Upper Armley)	By tickets on tradespeople.	No.	Clergy.
Leeds (Woodlesford)	No.	No.	Clergy.
Leeds (Seacroft)	Assistance given in kind.	No.	Clergy.
Leeds (Shadwell)	By tickets on tradespeople.	No.	Clergy.
Leeds (Stanningley)			
Leeds (uncertain)	No.	No.	Clergy.
Leeds (uncertain)	Orders on tradespeople.	No.	Clergy.
Leeds (uncertain)	No.	No.	Clergy.

Question No. 3.

Parish.	(a).	(b).
Leeds (Parish Church)	No—strong objection to going into the Workhouse but very little reluctance to receiving outdoor relief.	Going into the House is an acknowledgment of failure in life, and is a disgrace. The guardians refuse help to parents whose children refuse to help. A man who has been in the tramp ward finds it difficult to get work. One instance of an old couple who do occasional work refusing to go into the House.
Adel		—
Armley	No.	
Beeston		
Bramley		
Farnley	There is great reluctance to enter the House.	
Hartwith	No.	—
Headingley		—
Holy Trinity	General reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief.	Fear of having to go into the House or to do relief work.
Armley Hall		
Horsforth	No.	—
Hunslet	No.	—
Hunslet (St. Mary)		
Kirkstall		
Leeds (All Saints)		
Leeds (All Souls)		
Leeds (St. Andrew)	Yes.	(a) Fear of losing the home permanently. (b) Fear of separation of family. (c) Unsympathetic treatment which repels the really deserving but not the undeserving.
Leeds (St. Andrew, Stourton)	No.	—
Leeds (St. Clement)	Yes.	Idea of losing their home, the feeling of degradation, and, with the old, the fear of separation.

Deanery of Leeds—*continued.* *Question No. 3.*—continued.

Parish.	(a).	(b).
Leeds (St. Cuthbert)	No.	—
Leeds (St. Hilda)	Yes—object to going to the House.	—
Leeds (St. John, Moor Allerton)	No—one case.	Independent spirit.
Leeds (St. John Baptist, Newtown)	Yes—no objection to outdoor relief, great objection to the House.	(a) Love for home. (b) Feeling of shame at being confounded with the undeserving. (c) Dislike of discipline.
Leeds (St. Luke, Beeston Hill)	No	—
Leeds (St. Mary of Bethany	No.	—
Leeds (St. Martin, Potternewton)	Great reluctance to going to the House, little objection to outrelief.	(a) Man and wife would rather die than be branded with the stigma. The man is a kind, good man, afflicted with an incapacitating illness. (b) Aged man, paralysed, with wife —2/6 from Union, 2/6 from son, weekly. Refused to enter Workhouse. Causes—prejudice against supposed stigma, objection to loss of freedom and of friends.
Leeds (St. Mark, Woodhouse)	Ditto.	Pride.
Leeds (St. Matthew, Little London)	No.	—
Leeds (St. Matthew, Holbeck)	Yes.	Unwillingness to lose franchise.
Leeds (St. Michael)	Yes.	Dread of restraint.
Leeds (St. Saviour)	No.	—
Leeds (St. Thomas)	No.	—
Leeds (Upper Armley)	Yes.	Love of home.
Leeds (Woodlesford)	No.	—
Leeds (Wrangthorne)	No.	—
Leeds (Seacroft)	No.	—
Leeds (Shadwell)	No.	—
Leeds (Stanningley)	No.	Pride.
Leeds (uncertain)	No.	Love of home.
Leeds (uncertain)	No.	—
Leeds (uncertain)	No.	—

Question No. 4.

Parish.	(a).	(b).
Leeds Parish Church	Yes.	Poor Law outside relief does little more than pay the rent.
Adel	No.	—
Armley	Yes.	Poor Law outside relief does little more than pay the rent.
Beeston	Yes.	Poor Law outside relief does little more than pay the rent.
Bramley	No.	The relief is adequate.
Farnley	No.	The relief seems adequate.
Hartwith	Yes.	The relief seems inadequate. (1) Old man received £4 14s. 6d. in half year; (2) woman received £4 14s. 6d., house rent in this case being £2 5s. 6d.
Headingley	No.	—
Holy Trinity (Armley Hall)	Yes.	The outdoor relief is in most cases far too small.
Horsforth	No.	—
Hunslet (Uncertain)	No.	—
Hunslet (St. Mary)	No.	—
Kirkstall	No.	—
Leeds (All Saints)	Yes.	The relief is inadequate to do much more than pay the rent. (One case), aged couple receive 6s. per week; rent, 3s. 9d. per week. (2nd case), widow receives 3s.; rent, 2s. 9d.
Leeds (All Souls)	Yes.	Relief inadequate—three similar cases.
Leeds (St. Andrew)	Yes.	In *every* case it is inadequate.

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Deanery of Leeds—*continued.* *Question No. 4*—continued.

Parish.	(a).	(b).
Leeds (Stourton St. Andrew)	No.	—
Leeds (St. Clement)	Yes.	Most cases have to be supplemented by private charity.
Leeds (St. Cuthbert)	No.	—
Leeds (St. Hilda)	No.	—
Leeds (St. John)	No.	One case—bed-ridden mother and son who can earn 16*s.* a week. No allowance can be got for them from guardians.
Leeds (St. John Baptist, Newtown)	Not much.	Aged couples and aged widows and widowers are often inadequately relieved by the stereotyped grants.
Leeds (St. Luke, Beeston)	No.	—
Leeds (St. Mary of Bethany)	No.	—
Leeds (St. Martin, Potternewton)	Yes.	The outdoor relief is generally inadequate. (*a*) Old man and wife and two delicate daughters—one away, the other earning 6*s.* per week. Man forty years with Jewish tailor—no savings. Poor Law relief 5*s.*, rent 4*s.* 6*d.*—thus 6*s.* 6*d.* for three to live on, when the daughter is able to work. (*b*) See Question 3 *b*.
Leeds (St. Mark, Woodhouse)	Yes.	Many instances where out-relief practically resolves itself into starving outside the workhouse.
Leeds (St. Matthew, Little London)	Yes.	Widow, 3*s.* per week. The amount given in the majority of cases seems to be barely sufficient.
Leeds (St. Matthew, Holbeck)	Yes.	Widow of army veteran, 3*s.* 6*d.* allowed.
Leeds (St. Michael)	Yes.	In most cases where *bona fide* distress coupled with old age exists an inadequate allowance is made.
Leeds (St. Saviour)	No.	—
Leeds (St. Thomas)	No.	—
Leeds (Upper Armley)	Yes.	The allowance is insufficient for aged people who cannot supplement it.
Leeds (Woodlesford)	No.	—
Leeds (Wrangthorn)	No.	—
Leeds (Seacroft)	No.	—
Leeds (Shadwell)	No.	—
Leeds (Stanningley)	No.	—
Leeds (uncertain)	No.	—
Leeds (uncertain)	No.	—
Leeds (uncertain)	No.	—

Question No. 5.

Parish.	(a)	(b)	(c)
Leeds (Parish Church)	No.	No.	Charity Organisation Society has reduced overlapping to its minimum.
Adel			
Armley			
Beeston			
Bramley			
Farnley			
Hartwith			
Headingley	No.	No.	—
Holy Trinity (Armley Hall)			
Horsforth			
Hunslet (uncertain)			
Hunslet (St. Mary)			
Kirkstall			
Leeds (All Saints)			
Leeds (All Souls)	Yes.	Yes.	The committee endeavours to prevent it.
Leeds (St. Andrew)	No.	No.	—
Leeds (Stourton St. Andrew)			
Leeds (St. Clement)	Yes.	No.	Strict investigation.
Leeds (St. Cuthbert)	—	—	—
Leeds (St. Hilda)	No.	No.	—

Deanery of Leeds—*continued.* *Question No. 5*—continued.

Parish.	(a)	(b)	(c)
Leeds (St. John, Moor Allerton)	No.	No.	—
Leeds (St. John Baptist, Newtown)	Yes.	Yes.	Investigation (where overlapping occurs it is often because of the wilful deceit and cupidity of the recipient).
Leeds (St. Luke)	No.	No.	No.
Leeds (St. Mary of Bethany)	Yes.	Yes.	No.
Leeds (St. Martin, Potternewton)	Yes.	Yes.	By giving only to own people.
Leeds (St. Mark)	Yes.	No.	Investigation.
Leeds (St. Matthew, Little London)	No.	No.	No.
Leeds (St. Matthew, Holbeck)	No.	No.	No.
Leeds (St. Michael)	Yes.	Yes.	Strict personal investigation. Distress Fund inaugurated.
Leeds (St. Saviour)	No.	No.	No.
Leeds (St. Thomas)	Yes.	Yes.	The Charity Organisation Society works for this end.
Leeds (Upper Armley)	No.	No.	Strict investigation.
Leeds (Woodlesford)	No.	No.	—
Leeds (Wrangthorn)	No.	No.	—
Leeds (Seacroft)	No.	No.	Strict investigation.
Leeds (Shadwell)	No.	No.	—
Leeds (Stanningley)	—	No.	Periodical consultations with relieving officers.
Leeds (uncertain)	Yes.	No.	Consultations with dissenters.
Leeds (uncertain)	No.	No.	—
Leeds (uncertain)	No.	No.	—

Questions Nos. 6 and 7.

Parish.	(6) £	s.	d.	(7)
Leeds (Parish Church)	109	15	0	250 cases.
Adel	75	0	0	45 do.
Armley	50	0	0	45 do.
Beeston		—		25 families.
Bramley	210	0	0	5 pensioners.
Farnley	24	17	6	—
Hartwith	10	3	0	7 families.
Headingley	40	0	0	12 families.
Holy Trinity (Armley Hall)		—		—
Horsforth	29	3	0	—
Hunslet	10	0	0	
Hunslet (St. Mary)		—		—
Kirkstall	150	0	0	—
Leeds (All Souls)	152	17	8	95 families.
Leeds (All Saints)		—		—
Leeds (St. Andrew)	50	0	0	100 families.
Leeds (St. Andrew, Stourton)	10	0	0	20 families.
Leeds (St. Clement)	55	0	0	175 families.
Leeds (St. Cuthbert)	10	0	0	—
Leeds (St. Hilda)		—		—
Leeds (St. John)	7	0	0	8 cases.
Leeds (St. John Baptist, Newtown)	75	0	0	150 cases.
Leeds (St. Luke)	37	0	0	—
Leeds (St. Mary of Bethany)	10	0	0	—
Leeds (St. Martin, Potternewton)	61	0	0	70 families.
Leeds (St. Mark)	95	0	0	200 families.
Leeds (St. Matthew, Little London)	18	0	0	—

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Deanery of Leeds—*continued.* *Questions Nos. 6 and 7*—continued.

Parish.	(6)	(7)
	£ s. d.	
Leeds (St. Matthew, Holbeck)	25 0 0	6 families.
Leeds (St. Michael)	45 0 0	500 cases.
Leeds (St. Saviour)	65 0 0	150 cases.
Leeds (St. Thomas)	—	—
Leeds (Upper Armley)	40 0 0	—
Leeds (Woodlesford)	6 0 0	
Leeds (Wrangthorn)	100 0 0	300 cases.
Leeds (Seacroft)	66 7 0	40 cases.
Leeds (Shadwell)	—	—
Leeds (Stanningley)	7 10 0	—
Leeds (uncertain)	—	—
Leeds (uncertain)	25 0 0	26 cases.
Leeds (uncertain)	—	—

Question No. 8.

Parish.	(a)	(b)
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Leeds (Parish Church)	19 15 0	—
Adel	30 0 0	6 0 0
Beeston	10 0 0	11 0 0
Bramley	16 0 0	—
Farnley	18 0 0	—
Hartwith	7 13 0	—
Headingley	4 0 0	—
Horsforth	10 10 0	—
Leeds (All Souls)	—	15 12 4
Leeds (St. John Baptist, Newtown)	—	75 0 0
Leeds (St. Martin)	—	50 0 0
Leeds (St. Michael)	9 0 0	40 0 0
Leeds (St. Thomas)	2 14 0	—
Leeds (Seacroft)	16 15 0	49 12 0
Leeds (Shadwell)	4 10 0	78 0 0
Leeds (Stanningley)	—	7 10 0
Leeds (uncertain)	—	27 10 0
Leeds (uncertain)	2 10 0	—

Deanery of Otley.

23 Parishes, 11 Reports.

Question No 1.

Parish.	(a)	(b)	(c)
Addingham (rural)	No.	No.	Sickness. Old age.
Burley in Wharfedale (suburban)			
Bramhope, St. Giles (suburban)			
Denton (rural)	No.	No.	Sickness, lack of employment.
Horsforth (suburban)			
Ilkley, St. Margaret (urban)			
Menston (suburban)	No.	No.	The usual amount of winter distress.
Pool, St. Wilfrid (suburban)			
Stainburn (rural)			
Weeton (rural)	No.	No.	—
Weston, All Saints (rural)			

Question No. 2.

Parish.	(a)	(b)	(c)
Addingham	—	—	Clergy.
Burley in Wharfedale			Clergy and district nurse
Bramhope (*St. Giles*)	No.	No.	Clergy.
Denton			Clergy.
Horsforth	By tickets on trades-people.	No.	Clergy.
Ilkley (*St. Margaret*)	Yes—consultation with district visitors.	Yes.	Visitors.
Menston	Yes.	No.	Clergy.
Pool (*St. Wilfrid*)	No.	No.	Clergy.
Stainburn	No.	No.	Clergy.
Stainburn Weeton	Yes.	Church and Dole Committees.	Clergy, parish council, and wardens.
Weston (*All Saints*)	No.	No.	Clergy.

Questions Nos. 3 and 4.

Parish.	(3)	(4)
Addingham	No.	The amount granted to old married couples is much too small to enable them to live in comfort.
Burley in Wharfedale		
Bramhope, (St. Giles)		
Denton		
Horsforth		
Ilkley (*St. Margaret*)	No.	No.
Menston		
Pool (*St. Wilfrid*)		
Stainburn		
Weeton		
Weston (*All Saints*)		

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Deanery of Otley—*continued.*

Question No. 5.

Parish.	(*a*)	(*b*)	(*c*)
Addingham	No.	No.	Where possible information is obtained as to all sources of relief.
Burley in Wharfedale	No.	No.	—
Bramhope (St. Giles)			
Denton			
Horsforth			
Ilkley (St. Margaret)	Yes, due to reckless giving by individuals or sects who will not make enquiries.	No.	Guild of help formed, but it is much too small.
Menston	No.	—	—
Pool (St. Wilfrid)			
Stainburn			
Weeton	No.	No.	Any possible overlapping is carefully considered.
Weston (All Saints)	No.	No.	—

Questions Nos. 6 and 7.

Parish.	(*6*).	(*7*).
	£ s. d.	
Addingham	135 0 0	60 people.
Burley in Wharfedale	No estimate.	No estimate (much personal giving).
Bramhope (St. Giles)	7 0 0	No estimate.
Denton	No estimate.	No estimate.
Horsforth	8 5 0	No estimate.
Ilkley (St. Margaret)	40 0 0	12 families.
Menston	20 0 0	12 families.
Pool (St. Wilfrid)	5 0 0	11 families.
Stainburn	—	—
Weeton	38 10 0	11 families.
Weston (All Saints)	—	—

Question No. 8.

Parish.	Doles	Poor Fund.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d
Horsforth	4 5 0	4 0 0
Pool (St. Wilfrid)	1 0 0	—
Weeton	22 0 0	10 0 0

Deanery of Ripon.

17 Parishes, 12 Reports.

Question No. 1.

Parish	(a).	(b).	(c)
Aldfield-cum-Studley (rural)	No.	No.	—
Bishop Monkton (rural)	No.	No.	Improvidence and drink.
Healey (rural	No.	No.	—
Grewelthorpe (rural)	No.	No.	Seasonable unemployment.
Kirkby Malzeard	No.	No.	—
Markington	No.	No.	—
Masham (urban)	No.	No.	Intemperance
Ripon (*Holy Trinity*) (urban)	Yes, in winter.	No.	Lack of employment. Former pauperising tendencies of city doles.
Sawley (rural)	No.	No.	—
Sharon (rural)			
Winksley-cum-Grantley (rural)			
Ripon (*uncertain*)			

Question No. 2.

Parish.	(a).	(b).	(c).
Aldfield-cum-Studley	No.	No.	Clergy.
Bishop Monkton	No.	No.	Clergy.
Healey			
Grewelthorpe			
Kirkby Malzeard			
Markington			
Masham	Doles, 3 clothing clubs, 2 coal clubs, sick society and 10 almshouses	Several committees.	Clergy and visitors.
Ripon (*Holy Trinity*)	Charity Organi-ation Society for general cases.	No.	Clergy and visitors.
Sawley	No.	No.	Clergy.
Sharon			
Winksley-cum-Grantley			
Ripon (*uncertain*)			

Questions Nos. 3 and 4.

The reply from all the parishes to both these questions is "No."

Question No. 5

The reply from all the parishes to this question is "No."

The Vicar of Masham points out that the contemporary relief from provident clubs and Poor Law relief is not so much "overlapping as supplementary," and the Vicar of Holy Trinity, Ripon, states that what overlaping there is, is being minimised by the Charity Organisation Society.

Questions Nos. 6 and 7.

Parish.	(6) £ s. d.	(7)
Aldfield-cum-Studley	No estimate.	No estimate.
Bishop Monkton	15 0 0	do.
Healey	No estimate.	do.
Grewelthorpe	63 0 0	32 recipients.
Kirby Malzeard	No estimate.	6 people.
Markington	do.	No estimate.
Masham	200 0 0	120 persons.
Ripon (*Holy Trinity*)	60 0 0	50 persons.
Sawley	24 10	17 families.
Sharon	12 0 0	22 do.
Winksley-cum-Grantley	5 10 0	No estimate.
Ripon (*uncertain*)	No estimate.	No estimate.

Question No. 8.

Parish.	(a) £ s. d.	(b) £ s. d.
Aldfield-cum-Studley	50 0 0	—
Bishop Monkton	5 0 0	—
Healey	—	20 0 0
Grewelthorpe	36 10 0	—
Kirby Malzeard	3 5 0	5 0 0
Masham	130 0 0	20 0 0
Sawley	11 10 0	—
Winksley-cum-Grantley	0 10 0	5 0 0
Ripon (*uncertain*)	20 0 0	100 0 0

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Deanery of Wetherby.

10 Parishes, 6 Reports.

Question No. 1.

Parish.	(a)	(b)	(c)
Bardsey (rural) - - -	No.	No.	The causes of any poverty there may be are scarcity of work in winter, want of thrift, and want of energy.
Kirkby Overblow (rural) -			
Pannal (rural) - - -			
Spofforth (rural) - - -			
Wetherby (suburban) - -			
Harewood (rural) - - -			

Question No. 2.

In Question 2, the only special method used is that of the "order on tradesmen" system; the committee resolves itself into a meeting of the clergy, churchwardens, and trustees of any dole, etc., and the relief in all cases is given by the clergy.

Questions Nos. 3, 4, and 5.

The answer from all the parishes to the three questions is "No." The Vicar of Wetherby mentions that any reluctance there may be in applying for Poor Law relief relates to the going into the workhouse, and not to the receiving outdoor relief.

Questions Nos. 6 and 7.

Parish.	(6)	(7)
	£ s. d.	
Bardsey - - - - - - - - -	10 0 0	10 people.
Kirkby Overblow - - - - - -	20 0 0	25 people.
Pannal - - - - - - - - -	34 0 0	No estimate.
Spofforth - - - - - - - - -	60 0 0	35 families.
Wetherby - - - - - - - - -	52 10 0	75 families.
Harewood - - - - - - - - -	307 5 8	67 families.

Question No. 8.

Parish.	(a)	(b)
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Kirkby Overblow - - - - - -	12 0 0	26 0 0
Pannal - - - - - - - - -	22 0 0	—
Wetherby - - - - - - - - -	10 0	52 0 0
Harewood - - - - - - - - -	70 18 9	222 0 10

Deanery of Whitkirk.

18 Parishes, 9 Reports.

Question No. 1.

Parish.	(a)	(b)	(c)
Allerton Bywater (mining)	No.	No.	Drink and gambling.
Barwick-in-Elmet (rural)	No.	No.	—
Kippax (mining)	Yes.	—	Closing of a pit and those men who are middle-aged being unable to obtain work elsewhere owing to the question of "Compensation Act." Drink and gambling.
Lofthouse (mining)	No.	—	Old age—sickness.
Mickletown (mining)	Fluctuates with trade and employment. Sometimes much poverty, other times, very little.	—	—
Middleton (mining)	No.	No.	—
Swillington (mining)	No.	No.	Sickness, death of bread-winner. Old age.
Thorner (rural)	No.	No.	—
Uncertain	No.	No.	—

Question No. 2.

The answer to this question is that the only special method employed is that of 'Orders on Tradespeople," that any committee there may be, consists of the trustees of an endowment, and that relief is given by the clergy in person

Question No. 3.

The reply in every case but the one headed "Uncertain," to Question No. 3 is No." In that report occurs this sentence: There are certain cases—one a widow, careful and thrifty, whose savings are exhausted. She dreads the social stigma of pauperism.

Question No. 4.

Parish.	(a)	(b)
Allerton Bywater	No.	—
Barwick-in-Elmet	No.	—
Kippax	Yes.	One aged couple (74 and 76 years respectively) have been unable to obtain anything though exceedingly poor.
Lofthouse	No.	—
Mickletown		
Middleton		
Swillington	Yes.	The distress in winter is felt more acutely, and the relief given does not vary accordingly.
Thorner	No.	—
Uncertain	Yes.	Widow receives 3*s.* per week. Has been refused more.

Question No. 5.

The reply from all the parishes is there is no overlapping.

Questions Nos. 6 and 7.

Parish.	(6). £ *s.* *d.*	(7).
Allerton Bywater	No estimate.	—
Barwick-in-Elmet	13 17 5	No estimate.
Kippax	28 0 0	90 families.
Lofthouse	No estimate.	30 people.
Mickleton	No estimate.	No estimate.
Middleton	No estimate.	No estimate.
Swillington	9 3 2	20 persons.
Thorner	45 9 8	4 individuals.
Uncertain	20 0 0	25 individuals.

Question No. 8.

Parish.	(a) £ *s.* *d.*	(b) £ *s.* *d.*
Allerton Bywater	26 0 0	—
Barwick-in-Elmet	13 17 5	—
Kippax	19 0 0	11 0 0
Swillington	6 10 0	—
Thorner	38 9 8	—

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MEMORANDUM "A.

* Amounts given annually in Charitable Relief.

	£	s.	d.
Deanery of Bradford	832	7	6
" " *Clapham*	92	11	3
" " *Craven (Northern Division)*	317	4	3
" " *Craven (Southern Division)*	346	0	0
" " *Craven (Western Division)*	308	10	0
" " *Craven (Eastern Division)*	152	10	0
" " *Catterick (East)*	401	16	0
" " *Catterick (West)*	113	10	0
" " *Nidderdale*	121	14	0
" " *Richmond (East)*	182	1	4
" " *Richmond (North)*	113	10	0
" " *Richmond (West)*	694	12	11
" " *Boroughbridge*	303	10	0½
" " *Knaresborough*	399	4	2
" " *Leeds*	1,669	13	2
" " *Otley*	253	15	0
" " *Ripon*	380	0	0
" " *Wetherby*	483	15	8
" " *Whitkirk*	116	10	3
	£7,282	15	6½

* (The Committee begs to submit that the figures in the memorandums are unsatisfactory and in its opinion much underestimated.)

MEMORANDUM "B."

Reports have been received from 65·1 % of the total number of Parishes in the Diocese.

MEMORANDUM "C."

Number of families and individuals relieved annually by charity.

	*Families.	Individuals.
Deanery of Bradford	912	—
" " *Clapham*	118	28
" " *Craven (Northern Division)*	152	53
" " *Craven (Southern Division)*	102	172
" " *Craven (Western Division)*	30	83
" " *Craven (Eastern Division)*	86	70
" " *Catterick (East)*	167	96
" " *Catterick (West)*	81	28
" " *Nidderdale*	21	31
" " *Richmond (East)*	38	66
" " *Richmond (North)*	8	72
" " *Richmond (West)*	104	24
" " *Boroughbridge*	53	47
" " *Knaresborough*	211	4
" " *Leeds*	704	503
" " *Otley*	46	60
" " *Ripon*	39	208
" " *Wetherby*	177	35
" " *Whitkirk*	90	79
	3,139	1,659

MEMORANDUM "D."

The amount given annually from

Endowments. £	s.	d.		Bonuses, etc. £	s.	d.
129	19	8	*Bradford*	22	10	0
107	1	1	*Clapham*	9	0	0
245	4	3	*Craven (Northern)*	67	10	0
41	15	0	*Craven (Southern)*	—		
448	0	0	*Craven (Western)*	5	0	0
64	0	0	*Craven (Eastern)*	—		
210	16	0	*Catterick (East)*	94	4	6
20	8	0	*Catterick (West)*	5	0	0
61	1	6	*Nidderdale*	—		
79	0	0	*Richmond (East)*	19	10	0
94	3	0	*Richmond (North)*	—		
470	4	0	*Richmond (West)*	74	0	0
168	2	11	*Boroughbridge*	40	10	0
239	6	0	*Knaresborough*	23	18	2
151	7	0	*Leeds*	360	4	4
27	5	0	*Otley*	14	0	0
256	15	0	*Ripon*	150	0	0
105	8	0	*Wetherby*	300	0	10
103	17	1	*Whitkirk*	11	0	0
3,023	13	6		1,196	7	10

* 3,139 families. 1,659 individuals.

Taking the low average of 4 persons to each family this estimate works out at 14,215 people who are relieved to some extent by the personal ministration of the church every year—or in the same ratio—(the above figures being for 65·1 % of the Parishes only) 21,835 in the whole of the diocese.

The Committee is strong in the opinion that these figures, especially, are very much below the real ones, if those could be ascertained.

ROCHESTER.

The Special Committee appointed to report to the Royal Commission have circulated the list of questions supplied by the Commission among the incumbents and churchwardens of the diocese, and have received answers from 187 parishes, out of a total of 195.

As was to be expected, the answers vary greatly both in regard to fulness and clearness. Moreover, the questions suggested by the Royal Commission being general in their character, have, in many instances, not been interpreted in the same sense. This is exemplified, more particularly, in the replies to Question 3. Most of the answers state that there is no reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief, but it seems clear that those answers apply only to outdoor relief.

The answers to Question 4 as to "distress due to inadequacy of Poor Law relief" are generally in the negative, but this probably arises from the fact that it is looked upon as being mainly supplemented from other sources.

The answers to Question 6, it is feared, are not of much value, as it is clear that the returns of parish or endowed charities are far from complete.

Question 1 is thus worded:—

> "*Is there much poverty in your parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?*"

Dividing the parishes roughly into urban, manufacturing, and agricultural, to the first part of the question "Is there much poverty?" the answer from more than half the parishes is in the negative, *i.e.*, that there is either little or no poverty.

In those parishes where poverty is reported to exist, it is almost invariably stated to be increasing, or likely shortly to increase.

In regard to the last part of the question, as to the causes, moral or economic, of any poverty that exists, it will make it clearer if we consider the answers in connection with the nature of the parishes from which they come. Practically all the urban parishes attribute distress to depression in the building trade, increased in some cases by thriftlessness and drink. Distress in the manufacturing (especially riverside) parishes is attributed: (1) to economies in labour due to greater use of machinery, (2) to shutting down of works or reduction in the number of hands employed both by private firms and in the Government dockyards, and (3) to the incidence of highly paid dock casual labour, these causes being accentuated by drink, thriftlessness, and in a few cases by too great indulgence in amusements. The reasons usually suggested for depression in agricultural parishes are: (1) irregularity of employment occurring chiefly during the winter months, and (2) in certain districts the grubbing of hops (estimated to amount to at least 1,500 acres in the Diocese this season) and consequent smaller demand for local labour.

It may, however, be noted that, out of a total of about 116 parishes that may be classed as mainly agricultural, distress is admitted to exist in only twelve, and of those twelve in only two cases is the distress attributed to general agricultural depression.

The above appear to be the chief causes suggested to explain the existence of distress in the diocese, but in some few cases it is attributed to causes of a more general character that open up broad questions of political economy, and in one case of government in general.

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As regards Question 2:—

"*Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary and those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors?*

It is somewhat difficult, from the answers received, to judge how far control has been handed over to any definite organisations, but there are at least twenty-eight parishes in which separate bodies appear to be organised for dealing with the administration and distribution of charitable funds.

For the rest, however, the administration of relief appears to be in the hands of the incumbent, either entirely uncontrolled or in association with churchwardens or district visitors. Roughly speaking, in sixty-eight parishes the clergy are alone responsible, and in most of the others they are assisted by the district visitors.

Question 3:—

"*Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.*"

The replies to Question 3 are almost wholly in the negative, but they refer mainly to outdoor relief. In the cases where reluctance is stated to exist, the following are among the reasons generally given: "Reluctance due to feelings of self-respect and loss of independence"; "breaking up of home and separation of husband and wife"; "shrinking from the workhouse"; "cast-iron methods of Poor Law relief"; and "inherited prejudice."

Question 4:—

"*Is there any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians being inadequate?*" *If so, please give one or two instances.*

In a considerable majority of cases the reply to this is in the negative, but it seems clear that most of those that so replied considered that distress would exist if the Poor Law relief were not supplemented from other sources.

Of those cases where Poor Law relief is stated to be inadequate, the following (all from urban districts) may be given as typical examples:—

One return says: "Poor Law relief is an assistance rather than a support; has to be supplemented from other sources; amount of out-relief is certainly inadequate, for instance, a widow with four young children receives 6s. a week; a widow receives 2s. 6d."

Another return says: "Yes, certainly. Out-relief which suffices for country not enough for town. Example: 'Man and wife, sixty-two years old. Man ruptured through heavy work; allowed 2s. 6d. each. They have to pay 2s. 3d. a week for one room.' Another case: 'Man and wife, sixty-four years old. Half-a-crown each; 2s. 3d. weekly rent for one room.'" This report adds, "Similar cases often met with."

Another return says: "C.D., a respectable elderly woman (age sixty-eight), unmarried, got 2s. 6d. outdoor relief. She could do a very little needlework, and in order to live was forced to depend on private charities and to do charing work (for which her infirmities unfitted her) at 'sweating wages.'"

Another case given is as follows: "A widow with six children under fourteen years allowed 6s. a week. Woman not strong and obviously her place is at home. We have given her considerable assistance, but she cannot obtain work."

Another replies: "Unquestionably; rents, 5s. 6d. a week."

Question 5 :—

"*Is there any needless overlapping—*
(a) *Between various forms of charity, or*
(b) *Between charity and the Poor Law?*
and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?"

The replies to these two queries are almost all in the negative. It would seem that overlapping is common, but is not regarded as "needless."

Where needless overlapping is reported to exist it is generally attributed to indiscriminate almsgiving by individuals.

The negative answers to (b) may probably be due, in part, to incumbents considering private charity as supplemental to Poor Law relief and, in part, to their having no knowledge as to the recipients of such relief.

Question 6 :—

"*If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.*"

The answers to Question 6 as to the amount spent yearly in each parish in charitable assistance disclose, as was to be expected, very great differences, the lowest return being £4 and the highest £850.

The committee feel it impossible to produce any reliable figures with the materials before them, and think it is therefore best to avoid making an estimate which would cover the diocese.

In thirty-eight returns no amounts were given.

As to Question 7 :—

"*Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your Parish during the course of a year?*"

This question has been replied to less fully than any of the others. In only eighty-eight cases has it been answered directly, and in but few instances can any accurate conclusions be drawn.

In concluding this section of their report the committee wish to express their sense of the great obligation Conference is under to the incumbents and churchwardens, who have practically unanimously replied to the questions submitted to them.

(Signed)

HENRY HANNEN,

Acting Chairman.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS.

President: The Lord Bishop.

The Secretaries of Conference.

APPOINTED MEMBERS.

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Canon H. Curtis.
Rev. J. R. Leigh.
Rev. A. J. Micklethwaite.
Rev. G. A. Robins.
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Mr. H. Thornhill Roxby.

Canon C. C. Hawley, Mr. Alan Lambert, *Hon. Secretaries.*

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DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER.

APPENDIX

I.

Is there much poverty in your parish, and if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?

RURAL DEANERY OF:

MALLING.

West Farleigh (agricultural).—Yes, much more than of recent years; the principal cause being the diminution of acreage of hop cultivation and large number of labourers being thrown out of employment in consequence.

ROCHESTER.

Gillingham (urban).—No more than would be found in any other parish of this size. Besides the aged and sick poor there are cases of temporary poverty occasioned by improvidence, casual labour, intemperance, but chiefly by a love of frivolous and unnecessary expenditure on outings, etc.

GRAVESEND.

St. George's, Gravesend (riverside).—Yes, and increasing in consequence of changes in the cement trade, improved machinery, and shipping industries. The presence of a large number of casuals is due to situation on great tramp road at the point of crossing to Tilbury Docks.

RURAL DEANERY OF—*cont.*

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Christ Church, Tunbridge Wells (urban).—We have about 700 poor. There is not much acute poverty amongst them. Slackness of the building trade and the substitution of motors for carriages have thrown some out of employment.

EAST DARTFORD.

All Saints, Belvedere (manufacturing and riverside).—Yes, and it is increasing, owing to the discharges at the Royal Arsenal of Woolwich and the slackness of trade in the factories of the neighbourhood.

WEST DARTFORD.

St. Paul's, Penge (urban).—Poverty is not great, nor is it I think, increasing in intensity. There is less excessive drinking than formerly, and wages are much higher. And yet there is more distress this winter than last, and there are much fewer gentry resident able to afford expenditure on house and garden. Probably we shall soon arrive at a condition of squalid mediocrity. We are distinctly on the down grade.

II.

Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those intemporary, those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of District Visitors?

RURAL DEANERY OF:

WEST DARTFORD.

Holy Trinity, Beckenham (urban).—We administer all relief through the Holy Trinity Beckenham Charitable Society, and have certain aged sick parishioners who receive a weekly pension. Neither the district visitors nor I administer relief, all relief is given through the committee by a paid agent. I do not mean that we do not give private gifts, but all official relief is given through the society.

EAST DARTFORD.

Dartford (manufacturing and riverside).—The Dartford Charity Trust for which the vicar for the time being is chairman grants outdoor pensions of 5s. per week in addition to the support of the inmates of the Lowfield and Spital Street Almshouses. There are two district nurses who visit the sick and infirm, maintained chiefly by the Church. In their administrations they are granted medical comforts and additional nourishment for cases which do not come within the scope of the Poor Laws. We attend in the vestry at 10.30 a.m. daily (four clergy). All applications are written down for enquiry in the first instance, and help is sent to deserving cases.

RURAL DEANERY OF—*cont.*

MALLING.

WEST MALLING (agricultural).—Yes, Sick Church Alms Fund given in orders for meat, coal, milk, grocery.

Aged.—Brett Charity provides 6d. per week to twenty poor persons. There are several dole charities in money or kind given once a year. These are administered by trustees and given mostly to widows and old people.

Temporary.—Relief collected annually given in tickets for small quantities of coal or grocery.

Chronic.—We can only help regularly a very few except those who get the Brett Charity.

I avoid administering relief tickets personally as far as possible, they are given by district visitors. In addition to above there are benefit clubs for which bonuses are provided by subscription.

GRAVESEND.

Cliffe at Hoo (agricultural).—No, only my own private methods and about £20 yearly given by Church, which I distribute, having no district visitors.

RURAL DEANERY OF—*cont.*

ROCHESTER.

Frindsbury (agricultural).—Under ordinary circumstances I refuse relief to chronic cases of distress, feeling that the Poor Law only can deal adequately with such cases. The sick I relieve by tickets as a rule, the aims being to get them well and fit for work, as soon as possible. I administer relief myself; but invite the advice and suggestions of such visitors as I have. We have too few visitors to make it possible to relieve entirely through their agency, and some of those we have are scarcely up to the work of sifting cases.

III.

Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.

RURAL DEANERY OF:

EAST DARTFORD.

Bexley (urban).—I do not find the same reluctance to apply for Poor Law relief as formerly prevailed—on the contrary, I find many applying for relief rather than take the non-union rate of wages for odd jobs which charitable people offer the "out of works" to provide them with employment.

WEST DARTFORD.

Bromley (urban).—No, there are no special causes, there is the usual reluctance to lose independence and privacy.

WEST DARTFORD.

Chislehurst (urban).—Yes, the reluctance is owing to two causes:—

(1) Breaking up the home, and separation of husband and wife.

(2) Pride.

EAST DARTFORD.

Christ Church, Erith (manufacturing and riverside).—Yes, there are some such cases, as people have a strong disinclination to go to the union; they have not the same feeling against receiving outdoor relief.

SHOREHAM.

nockholt (agricultural).—There are two or three cases of the kind mentioned in this question:—

A woman who can get some field work in the summer, but none in the winter, and then has only 2s. 6d. outdoor relief, ought to go into the union, but refuses to do so because, as I believe, of the restraint attached thereto.

RURAL DEANERY OF—*cont.*

SHOREHAM—*cont.*

Knockholt—cont.

Another instance is that of a man who for years was employed by a resident lately deceased, and who is really incapable from age and infirmity—how he lives I don't know.

GRAVESEND.

Holy Trinity, Gravesend (riverside).—I am told that there are from time to time many cases of distress due to reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief. I know at this moment of a watch-maker who cannot get work owing to the cheapness of foreign watches. He is gradually parting with his furniture but will not ask for parish relief. One reason is that persons who have received parish relief are, I understand, not admissible to the local (Pinnock's) Almshouses; another is that the help given is inadequate whilst the worry and exposure of securing it is considerable; and in cases known to my visitors the poor have assured them that they have met with needless rudeness; but this is only hearsay as far as I am concerned. Of course, people do not wish to go into the House because they cannot do so until their home is destroyed, and they are extremely unlikely to be able to start afresh.

COBHAM.

Wouldham (agricultural).—No appreciable amount. The only person I heard of that said he would not accept such relief I heard was because the relieving officer asked questions that he did not like. Personally, I think that the relieving officer was quite right to ask such questions as are necessary for his guidance, as these were, and the relieving officer at Wouldham is helpful and discreet.

IV.

Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.

RURAL DEANERY OF:

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

Brenchley (agricultural).—I think the amount of relief given to widows with children quite inadequate. It is practically impossible for her to keep herself and her children properly and pay the rent on the amount allowed.

(1) A widow is supposed to keep herself and one child, and from the Poor Law is allowed only 1s. and half a gallon of flour for every other child. If she has a baby it is practically impossible

RURAL DEANERY OF—*cont.*

TUNBRIDGE WELLS—*cont.*

Brenchley—cont.

for her to work. Yet a widow here has had eight or nine children and brought them up on this pay. They cannot be fed properly.

(2) An old widow woman of 80 has 2s. 6d. per week pay to meet food, firing, and rent. Her kind landlady has excused rent for some years past, and I give what help I can through the offertory and private gifts. No one here would

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RURAL DEANERY OF—*cont.*

TUNBRIDGE WELLS—*cont.*

Brenchley—cont.

like her to be taken to the House, and it would be cheaper to the rate-payers to increase her outdoor pay.

EAST DARTFORD.

Erith (manufacturing and riverside).—Certainly there is. The amount of outdoor relief which suffices in country districts is not enough in a town where rents are higher.

S. and wife, 62 years old; man ruptured through heavy work; allowed 2s. 6d. each, and must pay 2s. 3d. a week for one room.

W. and wife, 64 years old; 2s. 6d. each; 2s. 3d. weekly rent for one room.

Similar cases often met with.

EAST DARTFORD.

Eynsford (agricultural).—Indirectly a considerable amount of outdoor relief is given, sometimes without necessity, sometimes (in cases of real want) inadequately.

A. B., a widow, destitute (died this year), aged 87; had for years received 2s. 6d. a week, and sometimes 1s. 6d. in kind; her rent was 3s. The sum given was supplemented by private charities in such a way as to keep her in a constant state of dependence, to the deterioration of her character. She would have been much better off if all outdoor relief had been refused, and she had been forced into the workhouse.

G. D., a respectable elderly woman (aged 68, unmarried; got 2s. 6d. outdoor relief; could do a very little needlework, and in order to live was forced

RURAL DEANERY OF—*cont.*

EAST DARTFORD—*cont.*

Eynsford—cont.

to depend on private charities, and to do charing work (for which her deformities unfitted her) at sweating wages.

WEST DARTFORD.

Orpington (agricultural).—In a general way the Poor Law relief appears sufficient, and is gladly accepted by the old and infirm to whom it is granted. A certain amount of real distress arises from the fact that an able-bodied man who is out of work is refused outdoor relief and must break up his home if he goes into the workhouse, whereas a few weeks of outdoor relief might help him over the difficulty.

ROCHESTER.

Borstal (urban).—Yes. A typical case:—

A widow with six children under 14 years, allowed 6s. per week. Woman not strong, and obviously her place is at home. We have given considerable assistance in the hope of the woman being able to earn money, but she is not successful in this. Hence we have tried to induce her to go into the workhouse, but then her home would be seized, which she fears would mean that she would never be able to form a home again.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

St. James, Tunbridge Wells (urban).—I do not think that the relief given by the guardians is really adequate, but I do not think that any appreciable amount of distress is caused in this parish by inadequate relief from the guardians.

V.

Is there in your parish any needless overlapping—(a) *Between various forms of charity; or* (b) *Between charity and the Poor Law; and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?*

RURAL DEANERY OF:

WEST DARTFORD.

St. Luke's, Bromley Common (urban).—(*a*) All religious bodies overlap; (*b*) The Bromley Charitable Society exists to assist those in receipt of Poor Law relief, thus allowing the guardians to give inadequate relief. Members of our relief committee attend the Bromley Charitable Committees and watch cases that apply to us, and we also co-operate with the Congregationalists.

EAST DARTFORD.

Crockenhill (agricultural).—We think not. The Eynsford Charity, value £5 a year, is equally divided between the vicar and the dissenting minister, who each draw up their list of beneficiaries together. We have no reason to think there is overlapping to any extent in the ordinary distribution of relief. It is much to be desired that the guardians would print periodically a list of those receiving Poor Law relief, and furnish copies to us in order to guard against unnecessary overlapping. This is done with great advantage in some places.

EAST DARTFORD.

St. Paul's, Northumberland Heath, Erith (manufacturing and riverside).—(*a*) We endeavour to

RURAL DEANERY OF—*cont.*

EAST DARTFORD—*cont.*

St. Paul's, Northumberland Heath, Erith—cont.

avoid overlapping by means of having a distress committee at which the different religious bodies are represented; (*b*) Except where the relief given by the guardians is inadequate, I do not know of any overlapping between charity and Poor Law.

GRAVESEND.

Holy Trinity, Gravesend (riverside).—In order to provide against what we suspected to be needless overlapping the clergy and others of the town organised, a year or two ago, a system by which they reported monthly to a secretary the cases which they had assisted, on a form, of which I append a copy. After some months, which were considered sufficient for a trial, this experiment was discontinued, as it was considered that the overlapping was inconsiderable. I do not think that the Poor Law relief was taken into account, or that all the dissenting ministers contributed information, and it was quite impossible to secure returns from private persons. It is known, however, that there are some (perhaps only a few) plausible persons who appear to support themselves by begging widely around the town, sometimes with a certain amount of excuse, such as chronic sickness, or a very large family, or both.

RURAL DEANERY OF—*cont.*

MALLING.

Yalding (agricultural).—There is, of course, overlapping, but I should not call it needless under existing circumstances.

EAST DARTFORD.

Beckenham (urban).—Pensions from the charitable society and parochial trustees are now only given to those who do not have out-relief, but from the church poor fund some cases receiving out-relief are also helped by a weekly order for groceries for 1s. or 2s., by which means some old folk are kept out of the house.

RURAL DEANERY OF—*cont.*

EAST DARTFORD.

St. Alban, Dartford (manufacturing and riverside).—The chief overlapping is due to private charity. Some of the poor make a habit of going round to various charitable persons, and sometimes get help from several, whilst at the same time getting help from the stone-yard and canteen. The only thing done to check it is by asking a lady who is often so appealed to, to attend the parochial relief committee at vestry—this has, no doubt, had a good effect.

VI.

If you can give or obtain any figures or estimates as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.

RURAL DEANERY OF:

EAST DARTFORD.

Eynsford (agricultural).—(1) Endowed charities (doles) educational charities not included, £40; (2) Church Poor and Sick Fund, £20; (3) Baptist Chapel Poor Fund (figures not accessible); (4) Private charities probably considerable. During the last year in money and kind about £150 were spent by the guardians in outdoor relief in the (ecclesiastical) parish of Eynsford.

GRAVESEND.

Holy Trinity, Gravesend (riverside).—I am entrusted with about £21 per annum (taking an average for four years) from my congregation to distribute amongst the poor. About £15 of this is from the offertory collections in Holy Trinity Church, and the rest special gifts. From this I have to try to help cases of sickness sent to hospitals or convalescent homes, young women sent to penitentiaries, cases of sickness in the parish, and the expenses of a soup-kitchen, etc. This does not leave a great deal for cases of poverty. For the past ten years I have had the distribution of tickets for coals, bread and grocery, amounting to about £5 per annum, handed to me by a gentleman, now deceased. These gifts have stopped. It will be seen that this £26 (in the past) is a very small sum in a poor population of 4,353. There are in Gravesend two charities at least which assist the poor—Varchell's and Pinnock's—but I am not on the management of either. A Samaritan society does good work amongst necessitous patients from the hospital after they have left; and these and other institutions help my people. Some of my district visitors give a little privately, but not much; and the West

RURAL DEANERY OF—*cont.*

GRAVESEND—*cont.*

Holy Trinity—cont.

Kent Guild of Needlework kindly makes a grant nearly every year of about fifty articles of clothing. But I consider all the above a scarcely appreciable alleviation of the great poverty in my parish.

GRAVESEND.

Rosherville (riverside).—I enclose our balance sheet of Sick Poor Fund. I mention two cases:—

(*a*) The loan of £10 to enable family to emigrate. The money is being paid back satisfactorily, and the family are doing well.

(*b*) The gift of £6 for outfit of cripple in a home. The parents are paying 10s. per month, and have been doing so for two years. The boy is learning boot-making, and will, I hope, be able to earn his own living.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

Rusthall (urban).—The following sums were spent in charitable relief in this parish in one year:—

Pensions, £51 17s.; convalescent homes and hospitals, £6 14s. 6d. (besides free letters to hospitals and convalescent homes); nursing, £5; medical appliances, £3 11s. 6d.; grants of coal, meat, milk, etc.; £96 8s. 9d.; subscriptions to needlework society, £49 15s. 6d. (this was not all spent in one year); subscriptions for bonuses to clothing club, £30 2s. 5d.; loans to colonists £65 19s. 6d. Total, £309 9s. 2d.

VII.

Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your parish in the course of a year?

RURAL DEANERY OF:

WEST DARTFORD.

Holy Trinity, Beckenham (urban)—Through our charitable society we assisted last year about 100 families, many several times; also gave away many hospital and surgical aid letters, and support a cot in the Sydenham Children's Hospital. We also gave 176 Christmas dinners to 176 families, each consisting of beef, bread, grocery, tea, and half a sack of coal. We have large coal, clothing, and boot clubs, and give a bonus of 2d. in every shilling.

EAST DARTFORD.

Crockenhill (agricultural).—790 persons received dinners or meat, soup, beef-tea (for sick), and milk, £5 16s. 5d.; eighty one grocery tickets, £2 1s. 7d.; seven women were helped in their confinement, £1 17s.; four men received trusses from the City of London Truss Society, £1 1s.; three sick cases

RURAL DEANERY OF—*cont.*

EAST DARTFORD—*cont.*

Crockenhill—cont.

were nursed, 5s.; eighteen received coal, 8s. 9d.; twenty-nine received cash, £2 3s. 8d.; hot water bottle, 3s. 4d.; and spectacles for poor needlewoman, 1s. Total, £13 17s. 9d.

GRAVESEND.

Holy Trinity, Gravesend (riverside).—No. We keep a statistical register, but this does not represent by any means the number relieved from all sources. There are the usual doles of food and clothing, and in a settled middle-class community there are many poor relations.

COBHAM.

Snodland (manufacturing and riverside)—Abnormal just for last eighteen months, and poor fund overdrawn, and fund of £1,400 almost expended over exceptional distress, caused by mill being burnt

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ST. ALBANS.

COMMITTEE:

THE RIGHT HON. JAMES ROUND (*Chairman*).

HARFORD GREEN, ESQ.
THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF LYTTON.
W. S. CHISENHALE MARSH, ESQ.
WALTER REYNOLDS, ESQ.
THE REV. LORD WILLIAM CECIL.
THE REV. A. F. CURTIS.
THE REV. J. T. INSKIP.
THE REV. CANON GLOSSOP (*Secretary*).

REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

When Lord George Hamilton, as chairman of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress, appealed to the Diocesan Bishops of the Church of England for their co-operation in obtaining information from the parochial clergy, the Archbishop of Canterbury replied: "I am sure that there will be a general readiness on the part of the Bishops to facilitate your endeavour to obtain this information." We are pleased to be able to report a general readiness on the part of the parochial clergy of this diocese. In exactly seven weeks from the appointment of our Committee we have sent out questions, and drawn up and presented a report on returns received from 580 out of the 645 parishes, or districts, in the diocese. If allowance is made for the livings that are for the moment vacant, and for such of the clergy as are incapacitated by sickness, or are away from home, the number of replies will appear very satisfactory.

In presenting this report, which was carried unanimously, we have added a selection of extracts from the returns received. The Committee do not accept any responsibility for the views expressed in these extracts, and they would wish to point out that prominence has necessarily been given to complaints and suggestions for improvement, and that the appreciative and kindly remarks about guardians, relieving officers, and other officials, which are frequent, have not been included. While the Committee have felt unable to make any definite report on the subject of Questions 7 and 8, they are aware from official figures of a sum of about £30,000 a year raised in voluntary contributions in the diocese for the charitable assistance of the poor, but this sum does not touch private benevolence at all, and does not represent anything like all the amount that is actually administered by the clergy themselves.

1.—(*a*) Is there much poverty in your parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity?
(*b*) Can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which such poverty as exists in your parish is due?

(*a*) Extreme poverty in the Diocese of St. Albans is mostly confined to London-over-the-Border, in which are situated some of the very poorest parishes in England. The extraordinary feature of this district is the herding together into localities of different classes of workers, or, as we might put it shortly, "one place one type." Some parishes contain fairly well-to-do clerks, some gas workers, some dock hands, and so on. The employers of labour on any large scale are almost entirely joint stock companies, and the people served are dwellers at a distance. There are practically no residents in a position to do much for those who are in need. One clergyman says: "There are in my parish probably over 2,000 always on the verge of destitution." There seems no keeping pace with the amazing growth of population. If a census could be taken to-day, at least one parish would probably be found to have 40,000 inhabitants. Poverty.

TOWN

1. "During the last three years the more well-to-do people have moved away, and a poorer class have taken their place . . . being, I believe, driven further afield into this neighbourhood by the influx of aliens and other causes."

2. "Probably over 2,000 are always on the verge of destitution. Of the whole number relieved with outdoor relief in 1905, in South West Ham, over 60 per cent. lived in this district."

3. "The cases which excite most sympathy are those in which arrival at life's prime is regarded as a disqualification, owing to the craze of employing none but young men."

4. "Mainly through the mills turning off their older hands."

5. "New machinery, girl labour and boy labour."

6. "Not among casual labourers, but from the number of lower grade clerks who are being dismissed owing to slackness and the desire to economise on the part of the employers."

7. "There is no admixture of classes. We are cut off even from the better class surrounding districts."

The definition of "much poverty" varies in different localities and with different men, but 64 town parishes speak of much poverty and 38 say that it is increasing."

COUNTRY.

1. "The labourers are much better paid than they used to be, and their drawing-rooms, seaside outings, and dress would surprise their grandfathers and grandmothers. I fear, however, that the increase of prices will cause much distress this winter."

2. "Note that" (the factory) "raised the population from 250 to over 600. Now the population is returning to its former numbers."

3. "Population under 1,000. Poverty gradually getting worse, a tannery burnt down, a brewery closed, a mill closed, and the gravel industry cut down."

Fifteen country parishes say that they have much poverty, and six say that it is increasing.

Causes of Poverty.

(*b*). The causes of poverty in London-over-the-Border are casual work, especially at the docks, drink, betting, and gambling. The influx of aliens is also severely felt, while for the moment at least the depression in the building trade, and the lack of employment for lower grade clerks in the City of London, is causing very considerable suffering.

Less acute, because less concentrated, poverty is reported from Colchester, Chelmsford, and other towns; the principal cause assigned is the depression in the building trade, which is at present so general. Casual employment, bad housing and an unnecessary number of public-houses are also mentioned, and moral causes such as drink and betting.

Acute poverty in country districts would appear to be very rare. "Those out of work leave the place." There is the usual cry that the best men go to the towns, but, so also do the worst. The period of agricultural depression has been sufficiently prolonged for matters to adjust themselves so far as the labourers are concerned, and they are probably better fed, except in some districts for the difficulty in obtaining

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good milk. On the whole, probably they are better housed, but the supply of reasonable cottages has been much checked by unreasonable bye-laws—in some cases with serious results. The closing of a factory in the country is a far more serious matter than in the towns. The opening of the factory may have more than doubled the population of a village, and when it closes its doors the workers have nowhere else in the neigbourhood to find work. Much suffering results until the population has returned to its former level. Drink is still the chief moral cause of poverty in our villages, but in both town and country the infinite amount of harm that is done by indiscriminate almsgiving is frequently mentioned.

An entirely modern cause of difficulty in country districts is the taking of the best cottages by residents in towns for week-end occupation. We are informed though in this case the fact is not mentioned in the returns, that in one case a visitor, presumably an house agent, bespoke six cottages in one afternoon this summer in one small village in Hertfordshire. The rural districts of both Hertfordshire and Essex are increasing sufferers from this custom.

The number of parishes in which drink is spoken of as the cause of poverty is 107. Next to drink improvidence is oftenest referred to. Third on the list comes the moral responsibility of donors.

1. "Some people are liberal in the gift rather than in charity."
2. "The circumstances of this parish, owing to the people having been completely pauperised in the past by misdirected charity, are peculiar."
3. "Our least deserving and needy often get large relief by imposition and shameless begging."
4. " . . . Avoid encouraging the poor in cadging, especially by ceasing to drop shillings at every visit. Most of the distress in our country villages is not caused by lack of work, and cannot be cured by almsgiving."

Betting and gambling are not so frequently mentioned as might have been expected. "Gambling very prevalent" would be a safe comment in many places.

Different views are represented in the returns:—

"Socialism is the only remedy. . . . Men should not be allowed to do two jobs. I know of a pensioner—7s. a day—who is doing other work. Overtime should be abolished altogether, and the hours of labour shortened."

"Men very largely work so legthargically that employers are less ready to launch into expenditure, since they get so much less for their money. Have trade unions anything to do with these things?"

"Poverty due partly to unemployed processions of last winter."

TOWN.

By far the most general cause of complaint is the depression in the building trade (including brick-fields, cement works, etc.). "The majority of genuine unemployed are stonemasons, bricklayers, carpenters, and their labourers." Casual work in the docks and elsewhere is easily second. "Labour Exchanges" are constantly advocated.

"Bad public-houses have a serious effect." "Too many public-houses," and the like comments occur with some frequency.

The rapid increase of population is alluded to: "Since the present vicar was appointed 28 years ago, the population has risen from 1,923 to 26,000. People erect streets of villas in neighbouring parishes, at £30 or £40 a year, and no suitable tenements for those who supply their domestic wants. We have two or three families in a house."

An adjoining parish reports: "No poor. I am informed that there are at the present time about 5,000 season tickets issued from our station to Fenchurch Street."

COUNTRY.

1. "The real needs of this parish are better cottages and a supply of good milk."
2. "Relaxation of bye-laws is needed to enable cheaper houses to be built."
3. "The housing question is the most pressing in country districts."
4. "Young men wishing to marry are compelled to leave the parish in quest of cottages."
5. "The number of cottages is less than the call for them, and so they are, with very few exceptions, occupied only by persons beneficially employed."
6. "The rich and the poor should live together, so as to know, trust, and sympathise with one another. This is the only free building parish in this neighbourhood. It thus houses the working population of" (five more or less model villages) "to a great extent."
7. "Old and indifferent cottages."
8. "Growing scarcity of cottages owing to Londoners taking them for week-ends."
9. "So long as people have to huddle together in pig-sties, they will live like pigs. There ought to be independent Inspectors appointed from a distance." *
10. "The landlord of our one public-house is giving up and going into another business. He tells me that he is ashamed to serve beer to men whose children want boots."
11. "Small and cheap houses." "Sum of over £200 a year from endowment expended annually among the poor. These two causes bring in from the surrounding district a certain number of poor."

Other causes assigned are: "Casual work"; "Purchase on the hire system"; "Unsuitable character of education"; "Abysmal ignorance of domestic economy"; "Refusing to work except at their own price."

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2. (*a*) What is your special system of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary or those in chronic distress? (*b*) Are you assisted by a relief committee, or do you administer the relief yourself, or leave it in the hands of district visitors, or other persons?

System of Relief.

(*a*) The systems on which the clergy administer charitable relief are extremely varied. A very considerable number consider that under existing circumstances those in receipt of inadequate Poor Law relief have the first claim. Some give to the sick only. Others have decided that some one or other of the following should be the first to be relieved:—

(i.) Those who have endeavoured to help themselves by joining Friendly Societies, &c.

(ii.) Widows with large families;

(iii.) Elderly widows; or

(iv.) The sick.

Some give to Church people only, but a very much larger number make no distinction on the grounds of religious creed. A considerable number make a rule, if they give at all, to give adequately, for instance, making loans to would-be emigrants. A very large number, however, have a system practically confined to doles—tickets for sixpennyworth of grocery or a shilling'sworth, doles of money, doles of food, doles of clothing. Some justify this course, others bemoan it. One vicar of a very large parish says: "Our system is as bad as bad can be. It is a system of doles to salve our Christian consciences. We simply cannot say 'No' to deserving cases."

* For particulars of certain cottages visited in this parish *see* Appendix A.

The number of parishes where there is avowedly no system at all, because there are practically no poor, is quite large.

Different systems of relief may be expected and justified in a diocese in which at the last census the population of parishes varied from 39,450 to 25.

The returns show that the parochial alms are distributed in 507 parishes as follows: Clergy alone, 314; clergy and district visitors, 73; clergy and landowners, 4; clergy and churchwardens, 14; clergy district visitors, and churchwardens, 2; clergy and members of their household 7; members of their household, 7; district visitors alone, 81; landowners alone, 2; lay agent, 1; churchwardens, 2. It should, however, be stated that in a considerable number of these parishes the clergy are only dealing with cases of sickness, and that other cases are handed over to a relief committee.

1. "Relief is, with us, simply an adjunct; in wrong hands a hindrance to spiritual work."
2. "It is difficult to change existing custom. A good lump sum given rarely on occasions of temporary distress from sickness, &c., is far more useful and far less pauperising than driblets of shillings, which people come to regard as their rights."
3. "The sick receive temporary help; the aged, permanent pensions."
4. "Sick cases helped as much as possible parochially. Ordinary cases generally referred to C.O.S. Committee."
5. "I strongly urge grants (loans chiefly) for emigrants."
6. "The duty of helping their parents should be brought before people. Enquiry made and application addressed to the children."
7. "Relief is separated from religion."
8. "Membership of a Friendly Society always constitutes in our eyes a strong reason for more liberal help."
9. "Widows with young children are put as nearly as may be in the same position as largish young families with the breadwinner at work."
10. "Large families, after first four children, receive regular charitable assistance."
11. "Properly cooked food is far more valuable than its worth in money."
12. "I have sorrowfully come to the conclusion that the evils of almsgiving (to the recipient) are so great that I should like to see charity restricted to sickness and to such emergencies as can be adequately dealt with."

(*b*) Relief Committees, and by this term we mean committees other than those exclusively composed of persons (clergy, district visitors, &c.) engaged in the regular parochial visitations, are practically confined to towns, and one committee often serves for many parishes and a very large population. Twenty-one such committees are mentioned in the returns. The advantages of a carefully organised and permanent Relief Committee are obvious enough, but temporary committees hastily appointed to meet emergencies, financed through newspapers and otherwise, have in some cases done a very considerable amount of harm. Relief Committees.

In the country many of the clergy feel strongly that the association of the idea of temporal gifts with parochial visitation is a distinct hindrance to spiritual work, and they would gladly welcome any competent assistance, but the following difficulties are encountered:—

(i.) The difficulty of breaking through the established custom of the parish.

(ii.) The difficulty of finding suitable persons willing to serve on a Relief Committee.

(iii.) The difficulty of getting members of a committee to attend meetings, when time after time there is so little to do.

It may, perhaps, be added, that existing committees for the administration of charitable endowments, whether old co-optive committees, or committees appointed by some lawful authority—including nowadays Parish Councils—have not always shown any appreciable amount of aptitude for the responsible work which they have undertaken.

In parishes where the district visitors have received training or instruction in sound methods, and act under the chairmanship of the Incumbent as a deliberative body, considering jointly the needs of the parish as a whole, and of individual cases, a claim is made that such an assembly is entitled to be called a Relief Committee, but it is not sufficiently representative to be quite satisfactory. Again, the moral effect of being regarded as dispensers of loaves and fishes, rather than as spiritual advisers and kindly friends to be welcomed without expectation of fee or reward, applies almost as much to the district visitor as to the clergyman.

There remains the question of the duties of the churchwardens and the Bishop of the diocese. The co-operation of the churchwardens is very distinctly contemplated, and indeed enjoined by the compilers of the Church Prayer Book and canons, and if it be argued that in some cases the churchwardens of a parish are disinclined, or unfitted, for such co-operation, that would appear to be somewhat in the nature of a reason for a change of churchwarden. The ideal committee for the average parish would appear to be the Incumbent and churchwardens, with power to add to their number. In cases where their kindly and genuine co-operation could be secured, the guardians of the parish, representatives of other religious bodies, and of the Friendly Societies, would no doubt be cordially welcomed. From such a committee, if he disapproved of its proceedings, the Incumbent has the right to appeal to the Bishop. It would be seldom made, but the fact of the Bishop being mentioned in this connection in the standing orders of our Church seems to suggest an important point. It is the duty of a Bishop to have a very real care for the poor throughout his diocese, and that care should be shown not only by fatherly advice, but on occasion by pecuniary help. To enable a Bishop to give such help over a great diocese a charitable fund should be at his disposal. The perusal of the returns of the diocese leave a very strong impression that such a fund could be easily raised and very profitably expended. "Never any difficulty in getting what is wanted for the sick and needy," may be taken as the return of a great number of parishes, and side by side with such returns come reports of grinding poverty with no sufficient funds for its relief.

The executives of our great Friendly Societies have power to raise levies from the whole body of their members to help poor districts, poor lodges, or distressed individuals. Why should the Church of England give no such power to its Bishops? If every parish in this diocese was asked to give not less than 5 per cent. of its annual offertories for the sick and needy to a Diocesan Fund (together with any Hospital or Convalescent Home letters which could be spared), the loss would be more than made up in increased offertories, a fund would have been started to which, especially at the Christmas season, other contributions would flow, and the necessity for sensational appeals in begging letters and newspaper advertisements for necessitous parishes would be largely and profitably diminished. Our London-over-the-Border parishes already have some such organisation. The Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Association which raises its funds by Church collections and by subscriptions sent to headquarters makes grants to London parishes. In return it asks from each parish for a Relief Committee, no advertising, and for a Church collection.

1. "Clergy should not give relief, if they can find others to do it."
2. "I tried to form a Relief Committee, but there was so little to do that it fell through."
3. "It would be of great advantage to the spiritual work of the Church if the administration of relief was taken entirely out of the hands of the clergy."
4. "If the administration of charity in a parish was taken out of the hands of the clergy and well-meaning ladies, and conducted in a more business-like fashion by a representative committee (of which the clergy should be *ex officio* members), there might be less waste, overlapping, and unfairness to the really deserving poor."
5. "The clergyman then would be more free to do his real spiritual work, and the relief would not be so much misused."
6. "Organised charity should not be in the hands of the clergy, but in a committee of lay and clerical helpers of all denominations."
7. "The money should be entrusted to committees, and indiscriminate almsgiving discouraged."

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

8. "I should welcome some scheme of centralisation of charitable distribution."

9. "One of the most valuable aids has been the foundation of a loan club worked by the committee of the Men's Service. A committee of men also administer a Relief Fund, to which all members of the Men's Service contribute. This has been so valuable that I am about to enlarge the scope. The little fund which they control has been much more efficiently administered than the larger fund controlled by the clergy."

10. "There is a Relief Committee of ladies belonging to the church and other religious communities. Aid is not given without consultation" (with the clergy).

11. "If a reserve Poor Fund for poor parishes were established at headquarters, it would be an incalculable boon and blessing to such parishes."

12. "I have been much impressed by the good results attained by the Metropolitan Visiting and Relief Society. I wish we had a society on similar lines for our own diocese."

13. "The charitably inclined should send their money to a central fund."

14. "I sincerely hope that this diocese will adopt some plan of charity organisation."

15. "I am strongly of opinion that under the present system a good deal of the money given in charity is wasted. The present plan of relief through district visitors is most unsatisfactory."

16. "I avoid letting persons think that parochial visitation must be attended by church alms."

17. "I intend to revise the method of administration in conjunction with the churchwardens."

18. "I enter names and amounts. The churchwardens understand that they can see the book."

WHAT COMMITTEES SOMETIMES DO.

1. Our £8 charity "was distributed in the form of coal to 116 families last year."

2. "I think charity endowments might be sometimes better applied. The committee keep the charity in hand till there is sufficient to give every labourer, his wife, and each child a quartern loaf, so that, as has occurred, a certain family may carry away in one day, once in three years, eleven quartern loaves."

3. "There is, in addition, an endowment, £15 a year, administered by the Parish Council. It is chiefly used to augment parish relief."

4. "Charity endowment, formerly at the discretion of the Vicar and churchwardens, now managed by the Parish Council, and I am afraid the publicans get it."

5. "There are two charities in the parish in the hands of the Overseers, and it is hard to prevent overlapping, for it is not known who receive the doles."

6. "The committee distribute about £200 in the winter, perhaps not very wisely."

7. "There were some few years ago funds subscribed for by the readers of daily papers. The overlapping and abuse was frightful."

8. "The Newspaper Charities the year before last overlapped one another."

9. "We object strongly to the opening of a public relief office, where people can go and apply."

3.—(*a*) Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? (*b*) If so, please state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance. Do you encourage or discourage destitute persons to apply for Poor Law relief?

Unrelieved Distress.

(*a*) Very few of the clergy seem to think that there is any longer much reluctance to apply for outdoor relief, though there would appear to be slightly more in large centres of population than in country districts.

The rector of one important parish writes: "The Poor Law, to my mind, is not sufficiently discriminating." He wants applicants classified "acording to antecedents, not practically treated as if on a dead low level." The dread of being assumed to be imposters, and treated as if on a dead low level with dissolute persons, does sometimes cause the deserving poor to endure much suffering before applying for relief, and in cases of sickness this may sometimes result in considerable expense, that a little timely aid might have avoided. In cases of this kind the co-operation of the clergy is of real value to the guardians.

Reluctance to break up the home and enter the workhouse must always remain, though it would appear to be much less marked among the aged than in former years. There is a strong opinion expressed by some of the London-over-the-Border clergymen that at least in their district a fixed limit of age for outdoor relief, regardless of all conditions, inflicts a very great deal of hardship.

It seems impossible to tabulate the returns on this head further than to say that out of 580 returns, only 39 speak of any reluctance whatever.

1. "The poor are not nearly so self-respecting as they were 10 years ago."
2. "The sense of self-respect is not as strong."
3. "I regret that reluctance is fast disappearing."

Causes of Reluctance.

(*b*) In some small parishes, where there is a good deal of money available, special efforts are made to keep people off the rates, if somewhat substantial assistance for a time is likely to meet the case, but in the great majority of parishes such assistance cannot be afforded for any length of time, and in these cases the destitute are encouraged to apply to the guardians. Obviously, however, it is those who clamour most loudly for assistance who are the soonest advised to apply. It is not always the fault of the clergy that the destitution of deserving persons is not known sooner. Such persons are often even more anxious to conceal their privations from the clergy than from anyone else. The poor who are earnest in their religious views, and regular in their attendance at their places of worship, have many taunts addressed to them by their neighbours, but perhaps the hardest one to bear is that their professions are all a pretence and pay very well.

1. "Bumbledom has much to answer for."
2. "Deserving destitute persons being treated when applying for relief as if they had no feeling."
3. "Relieving officers overworked. Guardians in fear of public opinion."
4. "The Union Workhouse is 10 miles away, and practically inaccessible."
5. "The place where cases are heard and adjudicated upon is too far off. Sub-commitees of guardians should be formed to deal with local cases."
6. Existing law whereby persons in receipt of any form of Poor Law relief forfeit claim to employment under local Distress Committee."
7. "I have known a man disqualified for having received relief in kind on one occasion."
8. "To avoid disqualification for employment under Distress Committee."
9. "Many of our Missions were heavily penalised last year to save families from being disqualified under Workman's Act. In cases where families had been relieved and would have been disqualified from emigration the relieving officer had the money refunded."

4.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law Relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate?

Is Relief Adequate.

There seems an unwillingness to condemn the Guardians, but no idea that Out-relief errs on the side of generosity.

If the Clergy understood adequate relief to mean sufficient to maintain in the simplest way the person who receives it, and to provide all that is absolutely necessary in the way of rent, food, and clothing, the answer would apparently have been a decided negative, but the idea seems widely prevalent that the amount given is supposed to take account of what may be received from charitable neighbours—poor as as well as rich. Such an idea seems entirely against the interests of the deserving, non-begging poor, and in favour of the professional cadger. It leads to overlapping in every direction, to great waste of money, and to the demoralization of many of the recipients.

There seems to be a very general feeling that elderly widows might receive a larger allowance, but the claims of widows with young children are even stronger. If these children are not sufficiently nourished, and if they are practically deprived of a mother's care owing to her being compelled to work early and late to keep the wolf from the door, they cannot in after life have the stamina to make good citizens. The pauper taint that is often said to be bred in the bone of a pauper child, may be in the workhouse child a moral taint, but it is more often in the out-relief child a physical one, caused by an economic system of semi-starvation and something more than semi-neglect. Eighteenpence or two shillings a week for the sole support of each growing child after the first, whom the widowed mother must maintain for herself, is a hopelessly inadequate payment at the the time, and involves far greater cost to the Poor Law, and to all concerned, in the years that are to come. Why, if 1s. 6d. a week is an all-sufficient sum for the relief of the child of an honest and hard-working widow, does the Local Government Board encourage Boards of Guardians to board out children whose parents may have been ever so dissolute at a cost (including extras) of five shillings a week?

When it is considered how extremely heavily the clergy are rated, since they pay not only on the value of the houses in which they live, but on their tithe also, and how many further and pressing claims upon their charitable assistance are made from day to day, the very considerable number of strong protests against the inadequacy of Poor Law Relief is well worthy of notice. Some of the returns received seem to imply that the special exemptions granted by law to members of Friendly Societies are not sufficiently attended to.

1. "I think that we clergy should report starving children to the authorities. The physique of our children is growing worse."
2.* "Quite inadequate; more should be done for widows with children."
3. "In cases of widows with large families, more relief should be allowed."
4. "The relief to widows with young children is in my opinion quite insufficient."
5. "Out-relief is altogether inadequate, and cut off if the recipient happens to earn 1s. or 2s."
6. "Altogether inadequate. Maximum during winter months 3s. per week and a loaf; at other times, 2s. 6d. per week and a loaf, This only to persons over 70."
7.* "The relief as given means semi-starvation. As a general rule I only give where the Relieving Officer gives."
8. "How they exist I have never yet fully found out. The amateur needy stand no chance against the professional and worthless."
9. "I am sure of it. It is necessary to supplement Poor Law Relief to prevent starvation."
10. "Of course 2s. 6d. a week and a loaf is inadequate."
11. "Poor Law Relief is totally inadequate, but it is largely supplemented. The Guardians know this, and, I am afraid, fix the scale accordingly."

* The clergy making these returns are themselves Guardians.

*12. "Out-relief with our self-help adequate.

13. "Quite insufficient to give even the bare necessities of life. It is prolonged starvation in many cases."

*14. "Poor Law Relief is seldom adequate."

*15. "Inadequate . . . the Guardians are adverse to modify their old stereotyped rules and scales."

*16. "Our Guardians never grant out-relief if they can help it. They offer the House."

*17. "Generally insufficient by itself."

*18. "The amount given is supposed to leave room for private charity to supplement what is necessary."

*19. "The tendency of our Board now is to reduce out-door relief."

*20 "In some cases I think 2s a week and a loaf insufficient."

21. "Inadequate. N.B.—The term Guardian is now obsolete. They are rightly District Councillors."

22. "I have frequently obtained an extra dole for individual cases that have come under my notice. I fear the majority receive the small sum granted and barely exist on it."

*23. "Generally inadequate. Must have help from friends or myself."

24. "Not adequate for a suburban parish . . . Food stuffs are 30 per cent dearer than in country districts, and rents 50 per cent more. Either more relief should be given, or applicants made to go into the Union."

25. "The Relieving Officer lives in the parish and suggests when parochial funds may supplement relief."

26. "Whole families in many cases under-fed and under-clothed."

27. "The Guardians might give additional relief in winter."

28. "I have never known a case of the Guardians being too generous."

*29. "I do not think the relief granted—especially in the case of widows—by any means adequate."

*30. "More would be very acceptable. The Relieving Officer lives miles away from this parish."

*31. "Really inadequate. The Guardians know that the destitute cannot live on the amounts given."

*32. "I have been a Guardian 25 years. It is the policy of our Board to give adequate relief, as ordered by recent L.G.B. orders, or offer an order for the House. We do not believe in doles of 2s. 6d. a week and a loaf."

*33. "Two shillings and sixpence or three shillings and a loaf. Rent and fuel leave only bread and tea for every meal, and this simple fare tends to longevity, and accounts for the great age of country paupers."

5.—Is there in your parish any needless overlapping?

a. Between the charities of Church and other denominations.

b. Between various charitable societies and individuals.

c. Between charity and the Poor Law.

Over-lapping.

(*a*) That there is in many places a very serious overlapping no one can possibly doubt, but without a very careful inquiry into the circumstances of each parish it would be difficult to determine as to what reliance should be placed upon the returns on this point. For instance, where Dissent is strong, and includes wealthy people charitably inclined, the answer that Nonconformists apparently give little or nothing away, but are content to leave the care of the poor to the Church, appears inconclusive

* The clergy making these returns are themselves Guardians.

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The begging class are not always careful to explain to those to whom they apply what assistance they are receiving from elsewhere. It may sometimes be found that the most cautious givers are the most conscious of the number of mistakes they make.

1. "I know very little about Nonconformist charities. The Nonconformists do not attend our central committee as we should wish."
2. "A certain amount. The Vicar offered to supply lists of persons receiving relief from Church funds, but the Nonconformist ministers flatly declined to reciprocate."
3. "I believe that vast harm is done by Churches and Chapels pauperising. I should like to see relief separated largely from spiritual things."
4. "Charities of other denominations not as a rule in evidence. No difference made as to the relief of necessitous cases between Church-people and others."
5. "As the poor of all denominations apply indiscriminately to the Vicar of the parish, it seems only right that the Nonconformist bodies be invited to take a more active part in their relief."

(*b*) There is comparatively little evidence of such overlapping in the returns before us. The clergy are apparently doing their best to check it, but it always will and must exist in any parish in which the system of charitable relief is not well organised and does not command confidence.

1. "Certain individuals in good position give their charities with much indiscrimination."
2. "Wrong relief does an infinity of harm."
3. "Overlapping—the facts about which we are the last to hear—is certainly a blot upon our system of charity."
4. "There is need to discourage the prevailing practice of giving money at the door to undesirable applicants."
5. "There are several denominations at work, and then there is a secular society started independently."
6. "Yes, most disgracefully."

(*c*) That overlapping exists extensively here is very obvious, but it is contended that it is not needless in cases where Poor Law Relief is inadequate to provide the simplest necessaries of life, and further that it would still be not needless to add a few little comforts in the case of the deserving poor. Anything, however, like a system of regularly supplementing Poor Law Relief would seem to be certain to defeat its own ends. A wealthy parish may be able to spend money in a way that frugal Guardians would take care to see shall relieve the rates, and that parish fixes the scale more or less for a whole Union, and paupers in poorer parishes suffer accordingly. It may be questioned whether there is a board room in either Essex or Hertfordshire where it is not often said of an absolutely destitute woman, "She will have plenty of friends; give her 2s. 6d. One clergyman puts it thus: "The Out-relief is small—say 2s. and a loaf. Rent not less than 2s. 6d. This is not encouraging"; but another gives the obvious reply: "It does encourage a continual course of begging."

1. "We are never now informed of the amount that is given by the Guardians, and therefore there is some overlapping."
2. "Would like to be sent a copy of Poor Law Out-relief."
3. "I should like the Guardians to supply to the clergy, lists of persons in receipt of Outdoor Relief."
4. "Not needless but unavoidable when the Poor Law Relief appears inadequate."
5. "Relief other than to the sick has been pretty well confined to those on the Poor Law list."
6. "A benevolent squire who systematically helps all who are on the parish with coals and money."

6.—Has any attempt been made to establish a system of mutual co-operation between yourself and the Poor Law Guardians, and it is your custom to inform the Guardians of cases of destitution in your parish?

Co-operation.

The best answer to this question is to say that 79 Incumbents of this diocese, out of the 580 who have sent in replies, state that they are Guardians themselves. Many more have been Guardians in the past, some of them for many years, others are quite unable to afford the necessary time. Very few show any unwillingness to co-operate, but in some cases too much perhaps on their own terms. Boards of Guardians are in a better position to put searching questions, and demand an answer. The parish clergyman hears perhaps neither the question nor the answer, but he hears some sort of report from the rejected applicant, who has not been pleased.

Still a certain number of the clergy seem to think that the spirit of bumbledon is not quite dead, and no doubt they are right. The proportion of clergymen who are Guardians and who seem to think so, is certainly larger than the proportion of clergymen who are not Guardians.

1. "If there is any possibility of restarting people in life, we strongly discourage any application for Poor Law Relief."
2. "The Clergy and other charitable workers should learn by actual experience the working of the Poor Laws."
3. "In various cases this has been done informally, but co-operation might well be extended further and will be undertaken."
4. "The Relieving Officer does this; he very much resents my interference."
5. "Yes, but the Guardians do not thank us."
6. "I often write to the Relieving Officer. He apparently resents interference. The Board, on the other hand, are always courteous, but entirely in the hands of the Relieving Officer; he is an autocrat."
7. "This does not seem to be desired by the Guardians."
8. "We have in certain cases of abuse of Poor Law Relief brought this before the Board."
9. "The Guardians should, if possible, be induced to make a more careful selection of their Relieving Officer."

7.—If you can give, or obtain, any figures or estimate as to the annual amount raised and spent in your parish for the charitable assistance of the poor, and as to the amount provided for the same purpose by endowments, please do so and state the sources.

8.—Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your parish during the course of a year?

A great mass of information has been received in answer to these questions, but it is not complete, and has not been sufficiently considered. The time from the appointment of the Committee to the date at which they were required to report was exactly seven weeks.

As regards Endowments, the very considerable amount of money that appears to be given away in doles is surprising. Whether such doles are, in all cases, really productive of good results may be open to question.

1. "If my Poor Fund runs low, I have only to say so in church, and the congregation will give readily"
2. "Total about £125, of which I have official knowledge. Much in addition to this, is done by private almsgiving."
3. "The charities for the relief of the poor have been amalgamated . . . they are now to be used for the upkeep of a club and reading-room."

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4. "I think the extent of our dole charities is on the whole mischievous, and should be glad to have the revenues devoted to some permanent object of helping appreciably the aged deserving poor."

5. "We get a little from Ecclesiastical Charities, but the recent conditions of its distribution greatly minimise its value."

6. "In my opinion wasted. Any change would be resented unless it were part of a general system prescribed by law."

7. "There are no endowments of any kind and I think this fact has been a blessing to the parish.

8. "There are no endowments, I am thankful to say."

9. "I think the money spent on doles according to the conditions of the Trust Deeds might be more beneficially expended."

10. "The Parish Charity is useless, and might with others of the kind be given to some other object—preferably Old Age Pensions."

11. "Every parishioner, including children, whose weekly wage does not exceed 25s. per week, is entitled to share in the endowed charities, so that in some cases as much as £2 goes to one house."

9.—Is there any increase in your parish in the number of the poor who have no settled habitation, and do you know of any efforts that are being made to prevent them becoming confirmed tramps and casuals?

Vagrants

Where, through lack of employment, there are any considerable number of persons, of a class bordering on tramps and casuals, effort has been made in many parishes to find a remedy. Some of the clergy keep labour registers, and have been able to find employment for considerable numbers of men. In some cases youths from London-over-the-Border have been placed on farms as far off as Devon and Cornwall. A very large scheme of Labour Bureaux would seem to be required. Tramping vaguely for work must be always vexatious, and proves often hopelessly demoralising, and should, wherever it is possible, be rendered un-necessary. Such remarks as "we want good men and cannot get them," occur in the returns from some districts in the diocese, but not very frequently.

Emigration also is encouraged in many parishes either by use of Emigration Societies, or, where parochial funds have been available, by advancing money on loan. One parish alone has assisted over one hundred emigrants during the last three or four years, "and all are doing well."

When once a man has become a confirmed tramp, he has got out of touch with all parochial systems. Any scheme for his reformation would apparently have to be undertaken by a central authority with wide powers. A very remarkable work, however, is being carried on in certain London parishes by a splendidly organised Society, which we must not name, as it objects to all publicity.

1. "Area inhabited by shifting population. Tenure six weeks to six months. Increase annually."

2. "Yes, a very decided increase of single men just bordering on the class of tramps and casuals."

3. "People drift who go not intend to pay rent. A lodging-house well conducted is doing good service."

4. "I have an understanding with the landlord of the lodging-house . . . that if he has any necessitous cases come there, who seem to him deserving of help, he is to send them to me with a note . . . He uses this discretionary power very seldom."

5. "I never refuse them work. They never turn up again."

6. "A Travellers' Rest has been opened, and an effort made on sensible lines to influence those who are in danger of becoming confirmed tramps."

7. "I think that the question of housing and caring for pea-pickers, who come from London every year in increasing numbers, should be faced at once, and some bye-laws adopted by the Essex County Council. This year in the wet summer their condition was simply disgraceful."

8. "Large numbers are housed by farmers during potato-picking, under conditions which I regard as very bad." (Herts.)

9. "We have a gipsy camp in the parish, which seems to be on the increase . . . To preach morality to persons who are herded together in a van or single room is futile."

10. "A mission to homeless men—a most extraordinary success. I know nothing like it. A few months ago I gave an address on a Saturday afternoon to 400 of these men, in a church lent for that purpose."

10.—Have you had any lectures on methods of relief for your Church Workers or District Visitors?

Lectures.

The number of parishes in which any special care is claimed to be taken in the instruction of district visitors for the due discharge of the important duties assigned to them is very small indeed compared to what it should be. One report says: "The Medical Officer of Health addressed our visitors recently, chiefly on the care of infants." Another reports that he gives all his district visitors a book published by the S.P.C.K., on the subject of almsgiving and relief. Some have lectures on C.O.S. methods, and others give more or less advice privately or at district visitor's meetings; but where almsgiving is left to visitors, careful training should surely be the rule and not the exception.

To quote a very worthy man's words, one who died suddenly within a few days of writing his report: "A woman whose head rules is far the best almoner. Some use discretion itself in this work, but others have hearts with which the head has nothing to do."

1. "Many of these attend lectures in connection with St. Helen's House Women's Settlement. Some are on the C.O.S. Committee."

2. "Separate lectures and one course."

3. "Lectures are advisable."

4. "It is difficult to get persons to see that they need training for dealing with the question of relief. I give a small manual, and keep casual relief out of the district visitor's hands entirely. I should be glad to have lectures by really competent persons."

RURAL DEANERY OF WEST HAM.

At a special meeting of the Chapter to consider the questions asked on behalf of the Royal Commission, the following resolutions were unanimously approved:—

1. The members of the West Ham Rural Deanery Chapter express their entire approval of the principle of a Small Holdings Bill, and believe that the acceptance of such an Act will materially lessen the pressure of population in towns, and thereby alleviate the distress in urban districts.

2. The Chapter further strongly urges the formation of casual labour, on the lines suggested by the Central Unemployed Body."

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume refer to the page-numbering in brackets.

APPENDIX A.

Note.—QUESTION 1: CAUSES OF POVERTY—COUNTRY. EXTRACT 8.

"So long as people have to huddle together in pigsties, they will live like pigs. There ought to be independent Inspectors appointed from a distance."

A visit was made to this parish to see if so strong a comment was at all justifiable. The following descriptions may be given of some of the cottages inspected:—

1. Front of house built flush on an alley; no back premises; no back windows; one downstairs room; one bedroom upstairs; floor of sitting-room brick, very uneven, and some bricks gone altogether; some 3 or 4 inches below the level of alley outside. Staircase led right into bedroom upstairs without any door. The bedroom floor displayed many holes of considerable size. There was no fireplace. The height of the room was about 6 feet 2 inches, length and breadth 9 feet by 8 feet. There was one smallish window opening outwards and tied up with string. One brick was missing from the opposite wall, through which a view was obtained of a wooden shed at a distance of a few feet. This cottage is for the moment unoccupied, having been lately vacated after 2½ years' occupation by a man, wife and family owing to the opportunity of securing a somewhat larger house after the birth (in this cottage) of the fifth surviving child. Persons entering this cottage should be careful not to press against the wall to the right of the front door, as it is leaning forward and sways. Otherwise the brick work appeared fairly sound.

2. Cottage of 3 rooms—sitting-room, small scullery and bedroom. Height of rooms about 8 feet. The bedroom was 8 feet in length and varied in breadth from 6 feet at one end to 8 feet at the other. The room was occupied by a man, his wife and three children. All three rooms were on the ground floor.

3. Two bedrooms. One occupied by father, mother and one child. The other (without fireplace) occupied by seven children. The dimensions of this room are 7 feet 6 inches high by 8 feet by 9 feet.

4. An old wooden barn converted, with the aid of a little lathe and plaster, into 4 cottages, one of which is at present unoccupied.

The insanitary condition of the cottages in this village have lately been made infinitely worse by the employment of a large number of navvies in the parish. It would be difficult to find words sufficiently strong to describe the conditions which have recently been obtaining.

APPENDIX B.

Summary of Returns Received from Parishes in the Diocese of St. Albans.

Parishes.	Returns.	Population.	Average population per parish.		Poverty.	Increasing.	Voluntary contributions for relief of the poor.	Endowments.	Poor relief inadequate.	Unrelieved.	Number of Clergy Guardians.
1.—Archdeaconry of St. Albans.											
							£. s. d.				
15	13	11,599	773	Baldock	–	–	430 15 1	145½	2	–	3
13	12	18,988	1,414	Barnet	–	–	786 2 7	256	1	–	1
14	14	18,816	1,344	Berkhampstead	–	–	1,063 17 4	850¼	6	–	3
14	13	16,755	1,196	Bishops Stortford	1	–	876 13 2	160½	3	–	2
10	8	4,161	416	Bennington	–	–	219 15 1	181½	4	–	1
10	8	5,017	501	Buntingford	–	–	211 4 4	88	4	–	1
13	12	18,793	1,445	Hertford	1	–	913 13 1	164½	–	–	1
15	12	22,054	1,470	Hitchin	1	–	745 15 3	226	8	1	4
17	16	45,423	2,691	St. Albans	2	2	1,934 18 2	554½	4	1	2
15	14	29,982	1,998	Ware	4	1	1,254 12 4	499	4	1	2
22	20	58,0[illegible]3	2,6[illegible]7	Watford	5	4	1,935 5 3	654	4	–	1
13	13	7,227	563	Welwyn	–	–	596 16 4	216½	2	–	2
171	155	256,948	1,511		14	7	10,969 8 –	3,996½	42	3	2[illegible]
2.—Archdeaconry of Colchester.											
18	17	41,955	2,662	Colchester	3	1	740 5 1	129	10	–	2
12	9	8,988	749	Witham	–	–	493 9 8	111	1	–	1
15	11	9,542	636	Newport	–	–	525 17 6	139	5	–	–
16	16	22,864	1,429	St. Osyth	2	1	585 17 2	194	7	–	1
15	11	22,085	1,472	Harwich	1	–	382 3[illegible] 1	140	4	–	3
15	15	12,642	842	Halstead	–	–	355 17 0	196	9	–	2
11	10	7,970	724	Hatfield Peverel	–	–	591 8 0	43	2	–	1
12	11	10,703	891	Saffron Walden	–	–	336 12 6	288	6	–	3
17	14	7,089	417	Hedingham	–	–	430 6 11	31	7	–	2
12	11	14,935	1,244	Braintree	1	–	373 8 2	446	4	–	–
10	9	8,645	864	Dedham	–	–	285 11 10	419	5	–	1
11	11	8,446	767	Coggerhall	–	–	270 1 6	153	4	–	2
13	12	5,329	409	Yeldham	1	–	161 15 4	250	2	–	2
10	9	5,551	555	Mersea	–	–	216 19 4	22	3	–	2
10	10	5,353	535	Sampford	–	–	146 6 5½	87	3	–	2
197	176	192,095	975		8	2	5,895 19 6½	2,648	72	–	24

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

APPENDIX B—*continued.*

Parishes.	Returns.	Population.	Average population per parish.		Poverty.	Increasing.	Voluntary contributions for relief of the poor.	Endowments.	Poor relief inadequate.	Unrelieved.	Number of Clergy Guardians.
				3.—ARCHDEACONRY OF ESSEX.			£. s. d.				
14	13	195,483	13,963	South Barking -	8	6	1,049 19 6	555	5	4	1
20	17	282,108	14,105	West Barking- -	13	11	4,671 13 2	76	10	11	1
24	21	268,463	11,185	North Barking -	14	11	3,284 1 1	381	10	8	1
58	51*	746,054	12,828		35	28	9,005 13 9	1,012	25	23	3
11	10	11,229	1,020	Barnstaple - -	–	–	271 1 7	118	1	–	1
16	15	46,806	2,925	Canewdon - -	5	3	569 14 4	96½	6	–	2
14	14	43,624	3,116	Chafford- - -	2	1	785 13 3	957	2	1	2
19	19	28,103	1,479	Chelmsford - -	2	–	920 11 6	120½	6	1	3
9	8	16,265	1,807	Chigwell - -	1	1	624 – 8	110½	3	–	–
10	10	5,049	505	Danbury - -	–	–	165 9 4	56½	3	1	3
11	5	6,832	621	Dengie - - -	–	–	86 – –	41	–	–	–
11	9	6,919	629	Dunmow - -	–	–	176 16 11	323¼	4	–	1
16	15	9,597	599	Harlow - - -	–	–	446 11 8	165¼	3	–	2
9	9	6,789	754	Ingatestone - -	–	–	248 2 8	137½	5	–	3
10	9	6,599	659	Lambourne - -	–	–	457 0 10	275¼	2	–	3
10	10	7,813	781	Maldon - - -	1	–	219 13 7	18	2	–	–
14	10	5,786	413	Ongor - - -	–	–	227 2 5	48	2	–	2
18	17	33,940	1,885	Orsett - - -	4	2	325 3 –	138½	4	3	2
15	12	14,237	942	Rochford - -	2	1	157 11 1	28¼	3	2	4
11	8	3,387	308	Roding - - -	–	–	127 7 9	4¼	–	–	1
204	180	252,975	1,240		17	8	5,808 – 7	2,639¼	46	8	29
58	51	746,054	12,828	London - over - the - Border.	35	28	9,005 13 9	1,012	25	23	3
204	180	252,975	1,240	Essex - - -	17	8	5,808 – 7	2,639¼	46	8	29
171	155	256,948	1,511	St. Albans - -	14	7	10,969 8 –	3,996	42	3	23
197	176	192,095	975	Colchester - -	8	2	5,895 19 6½	2,648	72	–	24
630	562	1,448,072	2,298		74	45	31,679 1 10½	10,295¾	185	34	79

* Many excellent returns have been received from Mission Districts, but in this Schedule, containing accounts of money, it has been necessary to include these Districts in their ecclesiastical Parishes. It will be noticed that in London over-the-Border seven Parishes have made no return at all. Ten other Parishes have given in their return no statement of accounts. In all such cases throughout the Diocese the figures given in the Official Returns to Convocation for the same period (1906-7) have been accepted. These figures appear in some cases to refer to local Offertories only, and in others to be not so inclusive as, for our purposes, we should have wished them to be. Thus S. Mark's, Silvertown (Victoria Docks) from which we have no return, gives £4 14s. 6d. in the Convocation Returns. This can scarcely be intended to include either the gross, or the net, sum obtained in answer to extensive advertising in the newspapers. Again in the case S. Mary's Plaistow, including the Districts of S. Matthias and S. Katherine, our question as to finance is unanswered. For this Parish in the Convocation Returns £2,999 12s. 5d. is given under the "Sick and Poor, Hospitals &c." column, and under the heading "Any other purpose religious or secular," which does not include amounts for the support of the Clergy, the schools, churchwardens accounts, Church building, or any extra-parochial objects the amount given is £5,108 14s. 8d., and we are unaware whether the total sum of £8,108 7s. 1d. includes any estimate of the enormous amount of relief in kind, food, garments, &c., which is poured into the Parish. The first named sum (£2,999 12s. 5d.) is included in the Schedule. In the great majority of Parishes very considerable care appears to have been taken to enumerate all sums that pass either through the hands of the Clergy, or are given in any sort of consultation with them, but in places where a Relief Committee exists for a large district, parochial accounts can often only show was expended on urgent cases, or those of temporary sickness.

ST. ASAPH.

The Diocese of St. Asaph comprises the whole of Denbighshire and Flintshire, the greater portion of Montgomeryshire, a large portion of Merioneth, and some parishes in Shropshire. The population is mainly agricultural and pastoral, but the Denbighshire and Flintshire coalfields occupy a very large number directly in the collieries, and indirectly in iron and brick works, and such-like industries that flourish where coal is convenient. There are also a certain number engaged in lead-mining and stone quarries. In addition there are the watering-places on the sea coast where the people are very much engaged for a period of the year, but have also a long period of slackness.

In accordance with the communications which have been received from the Royal Commission, and in terms of the questions suggested by them (for a copy of Questions *see* the Appendix), inquiries have been made, and answers have been received from all the incumbents of the parishes in the diocese.

In summarising the substance of these answers, it will be convenient to do so according to the threefold division of the population given above :—

(1) Agricultural and pastoral.

(2) Mining and industrial.

(3) Seaside and pleasure resorts.

The answers in the first division are nearly uniform, a large number of poor, but very little actual poverty. Those who are disabled by age or infirmity or sickness are willing to receive Poor Law relief, which is administered fairly liberally. In most of the parishes there are both coal and clothing clubs, and in some places sick clubs. These are chiefly managed by the clergy, and with the aid of liberal subscriptions from the well-to-do, add much to the comfort of the poor during the worst portion of the year. Benefit societies, Oddfellows, Foresters and the like, are also very general, and undoubtedly do much to stave off want in times of sickness.

Agricultural wages are found to vary very considerably, but mainly in accordance with the proximity of the locality to the colliery districts : Thus an agricultural labourer, who in a parish in Montgomery might receive 13s. per week with harvest and other allowances, in the neighbourhood of Mold or Wrexham for similar work would receive quite 18s. per week with the same allowances.

In the second division the tale is not so uniform. At Bagillt and Flint, for instance, there has been great poverty owing to the partial closing of both alkali and lead works, the business having been transferred to Newcastle, and this was intensified by the closing of a colliery, and recently by the growing slackness in the iron works along the River Dee. In these places, and in their neighbourhood, there has been much actual poverty producing considerable hardship. The poverty in these places, however, has been produced by exceptional causes, and in other places such as Buckley, Brymbo, or Ruabon, the tale is different—business has been fair, and poverty has been kept away.

In the watering-places there always will be a certain amount of poverty and distress in the winter. The business of a " pleasure resort " as it is called, naturally draws into its employ a certain number of the unthrifty, who do not mind a short spell of hard work, but will not plod through a task all the year round. This class of people earn a good sum of money during the season, but they also are, for the most part, good spenders, and the evidence shows that, during the dull season of the year, many of them and their families suffer considerable privations. There are also, among those who open lodging-houses, a large number of widows with very little capital. In good times they do very well, but if the season be wet or trade be bad, and in consequence the visitors not plentiful, the lodging-house keepers, if they do not become bankrupt, undoubtedly suffer considerably. Still, with such exceptions as those above mentioned, the North Wales watering places have not done badly of late years.

A. G. Asaph.
P. P. Pennant.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

APPENDIX

The following is the list of Questions mentioned in the Report:—

Question I.—Is there much poverty in your parish, and if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?

Question II.—Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors?

Question III.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.

Question IV.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.

Question V.—Is there in your parish any needless overlapping

(a) *Between various forms of charity; or*

(b) *Between charity and the Poor Law;*

and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

Question VI.—If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.

Question VII.—Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your parish during the course of a year?

ST. DAVIDS.

The Diocese of St. Davids comprises the whole of the three counties of Pembroke, Cardigan, and Carmarthen; the whole of the county of Brecon, except parts of three ecclesiastical parishes; the whole of the county of Radnor, except eight ecclesiastical parishes in whole or in part; together with thirty-five ecclesiastical parishes forming the rural deaneries of East Gower and West Gower, in West Glamorgan.

The population of the diocese in 1901 was 509,943, and it contains 2,267,900 acres, or nearly 3,543 square miles. In respect of population the diocese may be divided into three divisions—Industrial, Urban and Rural.

The Industrial area forms part of the South Wales coalfield, and has an acreage of 196,083 acres, and a population of 237,893. It includes the two largest towns in the diocese, namely—Swansea with a population (in 1901) of 94,537, and Llanelly with a population of 25,617.

The Urban area comprises the nineteen towns and urban districts, outside the Industrial area, specified in the Census Report. It has an acreage of 82,571 acres, and a population of 83,939. Only two towns in this area have a population of over 10,000, namely, Pembroke Dock (10,968), and Carmarthen, 10,025.

The Rural area comprises the remainder of the diocese, and contains 87·71 per cent. of its total area. It has a population of 188,111 to an acreage of 1,989,246 acres, or ·09 per acre.

An indication of the economic condition of the third division of the diocese is afforded by the fact that in 1894 out of the total acreage of the five counties of Brecon, Cardigan, Carmarthen, Pembroke and Radnor, only 63·8 was under cultivation (*i.e.*, under any crop, bare fallow, or grass), while 29·9 per cent. was mountain and heath land used for grazing, 3·3 per cent. was woods and plantations, and 11 per cent. was a residue unaccounted for in the Agricultural Returns.

A form of inquiry, of which a copy is appended, containing the list of questions suggested by the Royal Commission, was sent out in the autumn of 1907 to each of the 371 Incumbents in the diocese, and of these 281 were returned.

The Palace,
Abergwili, S.O., Carmarthenshire.
August 29th, 1907.

Dear Sir,—I have been officially requested to obtain from the Incumbents of the diocese, for the purposes of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Rekef of Distress, now sitting, such information as the parochial clergy may be able to supply. I shall, therefore, be much obliged if you will fill in the appended form of inquiry, and return it to me here by the end of next month. I am arranging for the appointment of a Committee of the Diocesan Conference to tabulate the replies and draw up a Report for the diocese as a whole, for the Royal Commission. I am sure you will be glad to have this opportunity of assisting in the promotion of the welfare of the poor.

I am, Yours faithfully,

(*Signed*) J. St. Davids.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

QUESTION 1.—*Is there much poverty in your parish, and if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?*

In reply to this question the great majority of Incumbents expressed the opinion that there does not exist much poverty in their parishes, and that it is not increasing in intensity. Only sixteen Incumbents, of whom eight were from the Industrial area, stated that much poverty existed in their parishes; and only seven considered the poverty to be increasing in intensity.

In the rural parishes, the poverty is said to be due to old age and sickness; and in towns to drink, thriftlessness, and, in a few cases, lack of work.

QUESTION 2.—*Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a Committee? Or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors?*

The answers to this question show that charitable relief is administered in this diocese generally by the clergy themselves, who are assisted in the towns by district visitors, and in a very few cases by Committees.

QUESTION 3.—*Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what, in your opinion, is the cause of the reluctance.*

The great majority of Incumbents give it as their opinion that there does not exist much distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief. While there is great objection to the idea of entering the workhouse there is no reluctance to apply for outdoor relief, as a rule. Whatever reluctance exists is attributed to self-respect.

QUESTION 4.—*Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.*

Only twenty-six Incumbents state that an appreciable amount of distress exists in their parishes, due to the inadequacy of Poor Law relief. Most of the distress that exists is attributed to inadequate relief in cases of sickness and old age. Two hundred and fifty-five Incumbents, however, answer the question in the negative.

QUESTION 5.—*Is there in your parish any needless overlapping:* (a) *between various forms of charity; or* (b) *between charity and the Poor Law; and has any special effort been made with a view to prevent such overlapping?*

All the Incumbents replying, except four, state that in their parishes there is no needless overlapping between various forms of charity, or between charity and the Poor Law.

QUESTION 6.—*If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so?*

No reliable estimate can be formed of the annual amount spent in the charitable assistance of the poor.

QUESTION 7.—*Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your parish during the course of a year?*

If appears to be very difficult to form a reliable estimate of the number in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law, but the figures given in the Returns come to about 3,199.

D. A. JENKINS.

Chairman.

(For the Bishop of St. Davids.)

APPENDIX.

Archdeaconry of St. Davids.

Roughly co-terminous with the County of Pembroke.

Rural Deanery of Castlemartin.

An English district, mainly rural, with a population of 21,637, but containing in it the urban area of Pembroke and Pembroke Dock:—

(1) Not much poverty and not increasing, except in Pembroke Dock where slight increase of late is due to discharges from His Majesty's Dockyard.

(2) Charitable assistance administered by incumbents, who, in the urban parishes, are assisted by district visitors.

(3) No reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief.

(4) In the case of two or three parishes the Poor Law relief is stated to be inadequate.

(5) No needless overlapping.

(6 and 7) According to the report of the Pembroke Dock Society for the Relief of Distress for 1905–1906, the sum of £94 13s. 2d. was distributed in the course of that year to 163 persons, while £27 17s. 4d. was distributed by the St. John's Church Relief Fund.

Rural Deanery of Dewisland.

A Welsh rural area, with a population of 4,640:—

(1) Not much poverty except in the Parish of St. Davids, where it is not increasing. The poverty in that parish is attributed partly to low wages, large families and intemperance, but chiefly to lack of thrift.

(2) Charitable assistance administered by incumbents.

(3 and 4) No reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief, and no appreciable amount of distress due to inadequacy of relief.

(5) No needless overlapping, though in St. Davids parish several persons in receipt of poor relief are also helped from the church poor fund.

Rural Deaneries of Dungleddy and Fishguard.

Duoglot rural areas, with a total population of 13,565:—

(1) Very little poverty, and not increasing.

(2) The little charitabe assistance necessary is administered by incumbents.

(3) No reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief.

(4) In the case of two parishes only is distress said to exist owing to the inadequacy of Poor Law relief. In one case, a widow with three young children receives only 3s. 6d. a week; and in the other case a widow receives 2s. 6d. a week.

(5) No needless overlapping.

(6 and 7) Very few persons in need of charitable assistance.

Rural Deanery of Narberth.

An English district, mainly rural, with a population of 11,913, but comprising in it the urban areas of Narberth and Tenby:—

(1) Very little poverty, and not increasing.

(2) Charitable assistance administered by incumbents in all cases except Tenby, where it is carried out by district visitors, the Tenby Charity Organisation Society, and the Tenby Charity Trustees.

(3 and 4) No reluctance to apply for Poor Law relief, which is reported adequate.

(5 and 6) About £300 a year said to be distributed in Tenby among about fifty families.

Rural Deanery of Roose.

An English district, mainly rural, with a population of 22,930, but comprising in it the urban areas of Haverfordwest and Neyland:—

(1) Not much poverty except in Haverfordwest, where it is attributed to insufficient demand for labour and low wages. Only in the case of the Parish of Llangwm is a tendency to an increase in poverty reported, due to reduced employment in Pembroke Dockyard, and irregular employment in the small collieries in the district.

(2) Charitable assistance administered by incumbents.

(3) No reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief reported except in the case of one parish, where it is stated that a few families prefer distress to applying for relief, one family because the children would be called upon to contribute, and the others desist from motives of self-respect.

(4) Two or three cases reported of distress due to inadequacy of Poor Law relief, especially when persons receiving relief incur extra expenses through illness.

(5) No needless overlapping.

Archdeaconry of Brecon

Practically co-terminous with the counties of Brecon and Radnor.

Rural Deaneries of Brecon I., II. and III.

A district mainly English and rural with a total population of 27,231, but comprising in it the urban area of Brecon and the populous industrial areas of Ystradgynlais and Vaynor:—

(1) Not much poverty and not increasing. Labour is scarce and wages therefore high in the rural parishes and good wages current in the industrial parishes.

(2) Charitable assistance administered by incumbents who in the urban and industrial parishes are assisted by district visitors and occasionally by committees

(3 and 4) No reluctance to resort to Poor Law (outdoor) relief, but objection to the idea of entering workhouse. One case reported of reluctance to resort to relief from motives of self-respect, and consequent distress.

(5) No needless overlapping. In some cases those in receipt of Poor Law relief are disqualified for grants from local charities, but in other cases the recipients of grants are chiefly paupers

Rural Deaneries of Builth and Elwel.

Rural districts, mainly English, with a population of 8,972:—

(1) Not much poverty, and not increasing except in the one case of the rural parish of Gwenddwr, where some increase in late years is said to be due to the departure of the younger and stronger men to industrial districts, leaving behind in country parishes only the older and less robust, who often eventually come on the poor rate.

(2) Charitable assistance, when necessary, administered by incumbents.

(3) No reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief reported, except in the case of Gwenddwr where three instances are given of distress preferred to Poor Law relief; the motive is said to be "self-respect which the unsympathetic would designate pride."

(4) Only one case reported of distress due to insufficiency of Poor Law relief.

(5) No needless overlapping.

Rural Deaneries of Crickhowell and Hay.

English districts, mainly rural, with a population of 20,065, but comprising the populous industrial parishes of Brynmawr and Llanelly (Breconshire):—

(1) Very little poverty. In industrial parishes the miners obtain good wages and are assisted by their clubs when disabled by sickness and obtain compensation when disabled through accidents.

(2) Charitable assistance administered by incumbents, assisted in the industrial parishes by district visitors

(3) No reluctance to apply for outdoor relief, but a general agreement of opinion that comparative poverty with "independence" is preferred to the workhouse with "dishonour."

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

(4) Some distress owing to inadequacy of Poor Law relief said to exist in case of widows in country parishes, and generally in the industrial parishes of Brynmawr and Llanelly where house rent is high.

(5) No needless overlapping.

Rural Deaneries of Melineth sub Ithon and Melineth ultra Ithon.

English rural districts with a population of 14,628, comprising one urban parish, viz., Llandrindod Wells:—

(1) Only three parishes report any appreciable poverty, one of them being a rural parish where poverty is said to be considerable among agricultural labourers, whose wages do not allow any margin to meet emergencies of ill-health; in the other two parishes, viz. Rhayader and Cwmdauddwr, the poverty is said to be due to lack of employment consequent upon the completion of the Elan Valley waterworks.

(2) Charitable assistance administered by incumbents.

(3 and 4). One only case reported of reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief which, when given, is said to be sufficient.

(5) No needless overlapping.

The Archdeaconry of Cardigan.

Has a population of 80,828, and comprises the whole of the County of Cardigan, and a small portion of the northern corner of North Pembrokeshire. The largest town in the Archdeaconry is Aberystwyth, with a population of 8,014. The only other urban districts in the Archdeaconry are Aberayron, Cardigan, Lampeter, New Quay and Newcastle Emlyn, and as these urban districts are all small country towns, the whole Archdeaconry is practically a (Welsh) rural area. As the replies received from incumbents show that the economic conditions are practically the same throughout the area, space and time will be saved by dealing with the whole area together as a whole:—

(1) There is very little poverty, and what there is is not increasing. In the country parishes the population has decreased considerably during the last ten years owing to immigration to the Glamorganshire industrial districts. Consequently, labour is scarce and wages are high, and in the country parishes the amount of real poverty is very little. In Aberystwyth, it is said that there is much less poverty than twenty years ago. One cause of poverty in that town is specified to be high house rent, as the new houses are built to meet the needs of visitors. At Bangor near Aberystwyth, the poverty is attributed to the decline of the mining industry in the parish.

(2) Charitable assistance is administered by incumbents, assisted at Cardigan and Aberystwyth by district visitors.

(3) No appreciable amount of distress owing to reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief, as long as the relief is outdoor relief, but there is strong objection to the idea of entering the workhouse. Several cases, however, are mentioned where a feeling of self-respect make persons to prefer some distress to acceptance of relief from the rates.

(4) The amount of Poor Law relief seems to be on the whole fairly adequate, though some cases are given of inadequacy of relief when poor and aged people fall ill, and have no friends or relations to look after them.

(5) No cases of needless overlapping are given.

THE ARCHDEACONRY OF CARMARTHEN.

In the Archdeaconry, again, which has a population of 283,047, and comprises the whole of the County of Carmarthen, together with a portion of West Glamorganshire, it is convenient to group together the rural areas in which the economic conditions are practically identical, leaving the industrial areas to be dealt with separately.

Rural Deaneries of Carmarthen, West Gower, Llangadock and St. Clears.

These four rural deaneries have a total population of 51,506, and are almost entirely rural in character, the only urban areas being Carmarthen and the small country town of Llandovery. The replies from the rural deaneries show that their economic conditions are generally speaking the same as the conditions which exist in the Archdeaconry of Cardigan:—

(1) There is not much poverty, and what poverty exists is not increasing. It is assigned to difficulty of saving against old age, thriftlessness, and, in some cases, intemperance.

(2) Charitable assistance administered by incumbents, assisted in a few cases by district visitors.

(3) Some cases are given of poor people declining to apply for Poor Law relief, though in distress, and general repugnance to the workhouse reported.

(4) The replies do not show any appreciable amount of distress due to the inadequacy of Poor Law relief.

(5) No needless overlapping.

Rural Deaneries of Llandilo and Kidwelly.

These two rural deaneries have a total population of 87,392, and though comprising a considerable rural district the most important portions are the populous industrial districts of Llanelly, Burry-Port, and Kidwelly and the parishes included in the rapidly developing Amman Valley:—

(1) Only in the cases of two parishes is there much poverty reported, viz., Dafen and Llangennech, both industrial parishes, where it is said to be due to depression in trade and the stopping of local industries.

(2) Charitable assistance administered by the incumbents, and on occasion of urgent need be committees.

(4) No reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief reported, except in the cases of Dafen and Llangennech, where four instances are given of distress preferred to resort to relief.

(5) Some cases given of distress due to inadequacy of Poor Law relief. In one case a widow, with six children, two of whom (boys) earn small wages, and one of whom is an invalid, only gets 3s. a week relief. Her house-rent alone is 14s. a month.

(6) No needless overlapping.

Rural Deanery of East Gower.

This industrial district of East Gower has a population of 144,149 and comprises Swansea and Swansea Valley. The economic conditions here are fundamentally different to what they are in the rural parts of the diocese, but within the industrial district different conditions exist in different localities.

(1) There is very considerable poverty, but only in the cases of the parishes of Kilvey, and St. Thomas, Swansea, is it said to be increasing. Poverty is attributed to intemperance, thriftlessness, irregularity of employment, high house-rent, and supply of labour exceeding the demand. At Clydach, Pontardulais, Ystalyfera, and Morriston, the replies show that there is not much poverty, and what exists is found among widows and aged people.

(2) Charitable assistance administered by clergy and district visitors.

(3) No distress due to reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief. One case is given where in temporary distress resort is had to the pawnshop rather than poor relief.

(4) In the case of five or six parishes, distress is said to exist owing to inadequacy of Poor Law relief. One instance given of a widow of seventy receiving 1s. 6d. a week relief, her married son contributing 1s. 6d. a week. She applied to the incumbent for help to pay the quarter's rent, which she was unable to meet. The incumbent of Llansamlet, who has had considerable experience in the administration of the Poor Law, writes as follows: "The relief is too small in the case of widows with children, and aged people; 2s. 6d. each should be given for children, and there ought to be a graduated scale for old people—3s. up to sixty-five; 3s. 6d. from sixty-five to seventy-five; 4s. from seventy-five to eighty-two, and 5s. to those about eighty-two."

(5) No needless overlapping.

(6 and 7) For this deanery, as for the rest of the diocese, the figures given are too incomplete to afford any basis for anything like a safe estimate.

D. A. JENKINS.

SALISBURY.

My Lord,—Your Committee having examined Returns from 354 parishes in answer to questions issued by the Poor Law Commission, beg to forward your Lordship the following Report :—

Question I.—Is there much poverty in your parish, and if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?

Ninety per cent. of the Returns state that there is no real poverty; the remaining 10 per cent. say that there are some cases, and attribute the causes to drink and thriftlessness, improvident marriages, increase of insanity, and fluctuations in a particular trade or employment; all agree that poverty is not increasing.

Question II.—Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors?

There are no special methods of administering charitable assistance. In nearly every parish help is given from the church collections, being administered by the clergy and district visitors, whilst the benefit clubs have their own officials. Charitable trusts are administered by the trustees of the charities. There appears to be no need for committees, as the parishes in most cases are small, and consequently every case is well known to the clergy and district visitors.

Question III.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.

No instance is given of distress due to reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief. Some 10 per cent. of the answers state that there is a disinclination to accept indoor relief, owing to:—

(*a*) Loss of independence;
(*b*) Breaking up of home;
(*c*) The discipline of workhouse life.

Question IV.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.

Eighty per cent. of the answers given state that the relief is sufficient to prevent distress, the remaining 20 per cent. say that it is insufficient unless supplemented from other sources.

Question V.—Is there in your parish any needless overlapping :—

(a) *Between various forms of charity; or*
(b) *Between charity and the Poor Law;*

and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

NOTE—References made in this volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this volume are to the page-numbering in the brackets.

There is no overlapping that can be prevented :—

(*a*) The clergy find it impossible to answer this question as so much is give from private sources ; in a few Returns from the town parishes of the diocese it is stated that there may be overlapping between the assistance given by the Church and Nonconformist bodies.

(*b*) Owing to the need of communication between the different charities and the Poor Law there is unnecessary overlapping.

Question VI.—If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.

It is impossible to give approximate figures on this point owing to the general nature of the Returns, which in some cases include, and in others exclude, such forms of charity as parish nurses, hospital tickets, assistance given to coal and clothing clubs, pensions from endowment, and other forms of private beneficence.

Question VII.—Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your parish during the course of a year ?

Owing to the character of the Returns made it is impossible to give an estimate that would fairly represent the number of those in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law, but in a large number of cases, especially in the smaller parishes, relief in some form or other is given to all.—We are, my Lord,

Yours respectfully,

Frederick Wm. MacDonald, Rector of Great Wishford, R.D. Wylye D ;

J. E. G. Bond, Vicar of South Newton, and Chaplain of the Wilton Union Workhouse ;

T. J. Woodall, Vicar of Britford and Chaplain of the Salisbury Workhouse.

SOUTHWARK.

The questions were sent out, together with a covering letter, by the Archdeacons to the Incumbents of their respective Archdeaconries.

Out of 298 Incumbents to whom the letter and questions were sent 230 have responded, while nearly 70 have not vouchsafed a reply. It is upon the answers sent by the 230, many of whom have given very valuable information, that the following Report is based.

Turning to the questions issued, it may be convenient to take them seriatim, and to give the substance of the information afforded by the answers to each.

(1) *Is there much poverty in your Parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?*

In the suburban and country parts of the Diocese there does not seem to be any growth of Poverty, except that incidental to the Building Trade, which is rather slack in some places; but in the Metropolitan Area, and more especially in the Archdeaconry of Southwark, reports show a considerable increase.

The causes for this seem to be from a moral point of view Drink and Thriftlessness, from an economic point of view to be owing to the fact that the richer people are gradually going further afield, and leaving many who used to be employed by them to shift for themselves, and further to an excess of unskilled labour, and to ignorance of domestic management, consequent upon too early marriages.

(2) *Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the Sick, the Aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress?*

Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of District Visitors?

In the great majority of Parishes relief is administered through the District Visitors with the Vicar as the chief adviser. In some few small parishes by the Clergy alone, while the custom seems to be growing in many places of having Relief Committees acting in association with the C.O.S., or on C.O.S. lines.

(3) *Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law Relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.*

There appears to be little or no known distress, owing to reluctance on the part of the Destitute to apply to the Poor Law Authorities. There seems to be a strong aversion on the part of many of the Poor to going into the Workhouse, which means a curtailment of liberty, but there are no cases known to the Clergy where the destitute are unwilling to apply for Outdoor Relief while in cases of sickness the Infirmary is resorted to as readily as a hospital.

(4) *Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law Relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate? If so please give one or two instances.*

The answers to this question vary greatly, but it seems to be a very general opinion that the Guardians in most Unions do not give adequate relief—the habit with most Boards of Guardians is to supplement private charity, to expect too much from a widow who has to bring up a family of young children, and to overlook the fact that in many cases what they give goes into the pockets of the Landlords, while the unfortunate recipient has to eke out an almost starvation existence. It is markedly inadequate in cases of sickness, as the Poor Law Doctor seldom, if ever, orders the necessary comforts which by law he is entitled to do.

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(5) *Is there in your Parish any needless overlapping—*

(*a*) *Between various forms of charity, or*

(*b*) *Between charity and the Poor Law;*

And has any special effort been made with a view to prevent such overlapping?

(*a*) There seems to be a certain amount of overlapping owing to the difficulty of getting the different religious bodies to work together; various attempts have been made towards co-operation in this respect, but with little success. Working in conjunction with the C.O.S. seems to be the best method to adopt in order to avoid the misuse of charity.

(*b*) This is answered by the fact alluded to in answer to Question 4, that Guardians are in the habit of supplementing private charity, but little or no expression of public opinion seems to have been brought to bear upon Poor Law Authorities with regard to the matter.

(6) *If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your Parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.*

It is difficult to give an exact return of the annual amount given in the various parishes in charitable assistance of the Poor. The returns sent in are in many cases only approximate, but the sum total subscribed in the Diocese amounts to several thousand pounds, which if more judicially spent might in your Committee's opinion benefit the poor far more than it does.

(7) *Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your Parish during the course of the year?*

Inability is generally expressed to give any satisfactory answer to this, but the main inference is that the relief given is in no way thorough, and in most cases is of the nature of a dole.

HUBERT CURTIS, Chairman.

SOUTHWELL.

DIOCESAN COMMITTEE.

PRESIDENT:

The Right Reverend The LORD BISHOP OF SOUTHWELL.

COMMITTEE:

The Reverend Canon MORRIS, J.P., The Vicarage, Ashbourne (Chairman).
(Chaplain of Ashbourne Union; some time Chairman of Mansfield Guardians.)

The Reverend H. R. ROLFE, St. Michael's Vicarage, Derby.
(Chaplain to Derby Gaol and Chairman of Derby Guardians.)

The Reverend F. P. EVANS, St. Barnabas Vicarage, Derby.
(Derby Charity Organisation.)

Dr. HELEN GREEN, 65, Friar Gate, Derby.
(Medical Officer to Derby Provident Dispensary, 1,200 Members.)

MRS. CHARLES MARKHAM, Hasland, Chesterfield.
(Member of Chesterfield Board of Guardians.)

MISS HINE, 48, Clarendon Street, Nottingham.
(Member of Nottingham Board of Guardians and Charity Organisation Society.)

J. A. LONGDEN, Esq., Stanton Ironworks, Nottingham.
(Managing Director of Stanton Ironworks, Nottingham.)

H. FITZHERBERT WRIGHT, Esq., West Hallam Hall, Derby.
(Director of Butterley Coal and Iron Company, Derby.)

GODFREY MOSLEY, Esq., Glenbrook, Duffield Road, Derby.
(Derby Charity Organisation Society.)

W. T. FURSE, Esq., Wisteria Lodge, West Bridgford.
(Chairman of Basford Board of Guardians.)

Dr. MILNER, Heathcote Street, Nottingham.
(Member of Nottingham City Council.)

H. SMITH, Esq., Melton House, Mansfield.

Captain BATTERBY, Church Army House, Derby.
(Church Army Officer.)

The Reverend A. W. HOPKINSON, St. Catharine's Vicarage, Nottingham.)
(Nottingham Charity Organisation Society.)

M. MASON, Esq., Chesterfield.
(Relieving Officer.)

REPORT

OF THE

SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN COMMITTEE ON THE WORKING OF THE POOR LAWS AND RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

My Lord,—Your Committee, which was appointed on the recommendation of your meeting of Archdeacons and Rural Deans and at the request of His Majesty's Royal Commissioners on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress, held its preliminary meeting at the Church House, Nottingham, on September 24th, 1907, under your Lordship's presidency. After the consideration of a lengthy communication from the Secretary to the Royal Commission, it was unanimously decided to carry out the request of the Commissioners, and a Schedule of Questions was drawn up. Canon Morris was appointed Chairman and Commissioner, and he was instructed to have the questions printed and forwarded to every incumbent in the diocese with a request that they might be filled in and returned not later than November 16th, 1907. This Schedule, with a covering letter, printed by the Government printers, was dispatched at the earliest date together with stamped and addressed cover for its return and a copy of the same is appended to this Report. (See Appendix A.)

Replies, more or less carefully prepared, were received from the incumbents of 444 out of 498 parishes which comprise your Lordship's extensive diocese. It is much to be regretted that the importance of the subject and its far reaching issues should have been ignored or overlooked by the occupants of any of the Benefices, for even in parishes where no poverty exists, and to which some of the questions would hardly apply, it would have been of great assistance to your Committee had a courteous communication been forwarded to this effect. It will be readily understood that the consideration of the numerous reports and the tabulation of the parochial statistics has entailed very considerable work at the hands of your Committee, who have spared no pains to make the information contained in the following report as correct and complete as possible. To those incumbents who have afforded the information upon which this Report is based your Committee tender their hearty thanks, and at the same time they acknowledge gratefully the courteous assistance rendered by the Charity Commissioners, the Clerks of the Peace for Derbyshire and Nottingham, and the Superintendents of the various nursing associations of the two counties.

THE EXTENT OF POVERTY AND ITS SPECIAL CAUSES.

In reply to the question, "Is there much poverty in your parish?" with comparatively few but important exceptions the returns are "No." Out of the 444 replies received, 410 are in the negative. It must, of course, be borne in mind that a large numerical proportion of the parishes of the diocese of Southwell are purely rural and scantily populated, whilst the mining and industrial centres are, for the most part, enjoying the benefits of good trade and regular employment. One regrettable feature, however, of the replies to the question "Can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which the poverty is due?" is the reiterated statement that the great proportion of poverty is due to "drink," "gambling," and "thriftlessness." Other reasons assigned are "disinclination for regular work," "poverty all practically confined to the district where the houses are of a low type and rent," "unwillingness to work on the land at low wages," "improvident youthful marriages," and "ignorance of the elementary laws of domestic economy." One of the incumbents writes: "I have consulted leading tradesmen, directors of land investment societies, and chapel officials, and they agree that there need be no real or degrading poverty if thrift be practised" (Somercotes). Nine-tenths of the returns bear testimony to the fact that where much poverty exists most of it is directly attributable to preventable causes, and should not therefore be beyond the reach of remedies in the not far distant future. For the unpreventable poverty many reasons are given—"old age," "sickness," "quarrymen suffer in prolonged hard winter" (Bakewell). "Building trade

has been recently slack" (Derby, St. John). "There is a certain amount of respectable poverty which is hard, pitiful, and very real, which obtains in watering places of this kind. It is increasing to some extent with the growth of the town and competition for livelihood. Causes: Drink, degrees of thriftlessness, high rents, scarcity of cottages for the poor (6s. 6d. a week), and the fluctuating conditions of a watering place with its bad seasons and its hazards" (Buxton). "A good deal of poverty. There are many casuals in lodging-houses who are practically beyond our reach. Apparently they never work" (Derby, All Saints). "There is a good deal of distress evidenced in the condition of the children in the schools, who are ill-clad and ill-nourished" (Derby, St. James'). "There is much poverty in this parish, but it is not increasing. Causes—Moral: sad lack of habits of sobriety and thrift, 45 fully-licensed houses among 5,987 people; economic: insanitary or close and ill-adapted dwelling houses; no respectable young man when he marries settles in this parish" (Derby, St. Peter's).

The parishes in which poverty is said to be on the increase are fortunately very few, and in most cases, as will be seen, the increase is accounted for by diminishing trade and the emigration of the younger men from country districts to the centres of industry and the attractions of towns. The following illustrate this fact: "Poverty increasing owing to diminishing employment and bad trade" (Derby, St. Werburg). "This is a diminishing parish. Mining is the sole industry. The pits are old and difficult to work. The best and youngest men leave for newer pits, where better wages are obtainable" (Eckington). The incumbent of a typical Derbyshire country parish writes: "A good deal of poverty exists which tends to increase. Immediate cause: Lack of employment and unwillingness to work on land." From a town parish the Vicar reports: "At the present time the shoe trade and the lace trade are very depressed, and I fear there will be much distress this winter. In ordinary years this would be a prosperous parish were it not for the too numerous licensed houses" (Melbourne). "There is considerable poverty, which increases in intensity. Causes: Low wages and neglect of property owners" (Osmaston by Derby). "About one seventh of the population are very poor, and about one twentieth are in a state of chronic destitution. The worst cases are attracted into the parish by low rents in two districts; the bulk of the men are unemployed and unemployable" (Whittington). "Poverty not increasing in intensity but in extent, varying with the state of the Burton beer trade. The decline of this in recent years after a period of prosperity, which caused a large growth in the working-class population, is the chief economic cause. Moral causes are too often ignorance of household management" (Winshill). "The population of this parish is 4,694; one third is poor, one sixth is very poor, the poorest tend to become poorer if possible. Special causes: Moral—drink among men and women and gambling; economic—a glut in unskilled labour" (Holy Trinity, Nottingham). "Oldish men cannot get employment" (Emanuel, Nottingham). Again, from the same town, "This parish is deteriorating in character, a lower class constantly coming in, frightful intemperance of the inhabitants combined with extreme carelessness and extravagance. Great temptations from excessive number of public-houses, which form great attractions to the people; music, singing, billiards, cards, and every form of amusement is provided, unchecked by the authorities. Lace work alone is not in ordinary cases sufficiently remunerative for the support of a family." (St. Philip, Nottingham). This is endorsed by other Nottingham incumbents. "Poverty tends to increase." Suggested causes:—

(1) All young and active people move out into new houses.

(2) Increasing custom of sub-letting houses in "furnished rooms."

(3) Many back-to-back houses which, with the raising of the standard of living, only the poorest will take." (St. Mary's, Nottingham).

"This is a purely slum parish. Its extreme state of destitution is principally owing to the disinclination of the majority to do any work. Difficulty of getting employment if over middle age" (Old Radford). "A considerable amount due to the fact that there are a large number of hand frame stocking workers who were too old to take up other work when their own industry died" (Sutton in Ashfield).

It will be seen that with very few exceptions the parishes which report much poverty are the parishes of the two county towns or those in their immediate neighbourhood, and in every case where an increase of poverty is noticeable some definite and recognised cause is offered for the increase.

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Your Committee have carefully weighed the evidence of the returns upon these points and recognising the fact that much poverty is due to intemperance, the unsatisfactory housing of the poor, and thriftlessness (though in some cases these are effects rather than causes) consider that much good might be done:—

(1) By careful teaching in the elementary schools of the evils of drink and gambling and by the inculcation of habits of thrift and some knowledge of domestic economy.

(2) By a further reduction in many places of the number of licensed houses which are still in excess of the legitimate requirements of the people.

(3) By greater attention by the sanitary authorities to the condition of the dwellings of the poor.

METHODS OF DISTRIBUTION OF VOLUNTARY RELIEF.

The returns show that with very few exceptions all voluntary relief is given by the clergy, or by private individuals, without reference to any organised body of advisers. In some cases the clergy are assisted by district visitors, but in hardly any cases is it reported that there are special methods of administering assistance to the sick, the aged, or those in temporary or chronic distress. The usual practice appears to be the recognised custom of giving tickets for coal, food or clothing upon the tradesmen of the district, though this is not always practicable in country districts. The Vicar of Christ Church, Belper, reports that relief is administered "through a cottage kitchen provided by G. H. Strutt, Esq." In other cases the poor are cared for by District Nurses, of which it is estimated that some 80 are at work in the counties of Derby and Nottingham. Upon this practical and efficient means of helping to relieve distress more will be said under a separate heading.

In many cases the sick poor are helped by grants of money towards visits to Infirmaries, Cottage Hospitals, and Convalescent Homes, by the augmentation of contributions to payments into Clothing, Coal, and Boot Clubs, by small pensions from parochial funds raised by collections in church or given by private individuals, by the provision of surgical appliances and medical comforts, and in some cases dispensaries for the use of the poor without charge. One incumbent reports the not uncommon custom of village and church collections for the relief of temporary distress in incidental cases. Where there is any departure from the ordinary custom of the distribution by the clergy of money or tickets the answers are noted and printed, but considerably more than 400 of the incumbents administer alms personally to those in need. The following are exceptions:—

"The Poor Fund is in the hands of three almoners, appointed by the Church of England Men's Society" (Osmaston by Derby).

"Vicar, churchwardens, and two others" (Hartington).

"The clergy and lay readers with parish nurse" (Heanor).

In other cases they consist of the clergy and visitors or the clergy and Church Army workers, nurses, bible women, or paid parish workers. In one case it is reported that "relief is administered by the people's warden" (Alvaston). In the villages even cases of chronic distress appear to be relieved as shown by such reports as the following: "In chronic cases we give regular monthly or weekly allowances" (Church Broughton). "Chronic cases materially helped by small pensions" (Darley Abbey). "One benevolent lady provides cottages free for some old people" (Bonsall). "The thrifty, sober, aged we deal with by providing pensions provided by the Chief Head Employer of Labour" (Dethick). "Assisted by a Charity Committee, consisting of the clergy, the churchwardens, and four sidesmen, two of whom are Guardians of the Poor, whose knowledge is valuable, a meeting of the committee is held every Monday in the winter, and every fortnight, or as occasion requires, in the summer, when applicants for relief know that they can come and state their need."

"There are two parochial funds for the relief of the sick poor maintained by voluntary annual subscriptions and managed by ladies" (Bawtry).

Another view is held by the Vicar of an important Nottinghamshire town parish: "A committee, unless restricted to skilled workers and investigators, would, I believe, lead to much waste as the result of acting on impulse" (Mansfield). In another case the incumbent reports: "We have the services of a lady specially devoted to this work in the parish on the staff" (Newark).

Your Committee recommend the attention of incumbents of large town parishes to the scheme adopted by the clergy and ministers of the town of Derby whereby an attempt is made to put the administration of charity upon a business basis. (See Appendix B.)

At the same time they recognise that such a scheme is not practicable in all places, though with modification it might be suitable in many.

UNRELIEVED POVERTY.

The overwhelming evidence of the returns from parishes, both urban and rural, is that there is little reluctance on the part of destitute people to resort to Poor Law relief, and that there is very little unrelieved poverty attributable to any such reluctance. The general character of the replies is embodied in the following returns:—"On the contrary, too much readiness to seek it." "There is not the slightest reluctance to seek Poor Law relief. On the other hand, it is often sought by those who should not require it."

Strong and convincing though the evidence on this point appears to be, there are incumbents of experience who do not concur in it. For the most part, perhaps naturally, they are those who minister in towns or the more thickly populated districts. One writes: "Most of the cases of avoidable distress, and all the cases of unavoidable distress, are most reluctant to resort to the Poor Law. The latter often say nothing to anyone. The former prefer cadging round and training their children to do so on the off chance of raising something for the day. In the worthy cases the reluctance is due to the brand of pauperism. In the unworthy cases it is due probably to this, and more to the condition of greater liberty and less responsibility, which is the result of living on the chance charity of well-disposed but feeble-minded neighbours" (Bakewell).

Another incumbent of a town parish gives as a reason for reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief "Shrinking from the House and the loss of their independence or home" (Buxton). "Mr. and Mrs H., an old couple, who from old-fashioned pride are reluctant to receive assistance from the parish" (Darley). "I only know of one family in distress who will not resort to Poor Law relief. I have assisted the family for years, and am perplexed to know what to do as there seems no prospect of their circumstances improving. The wife is ill, and the husband, a painter by trade, is subject to epileptic fits, and consequently finds it difficult to get work. He says he would prefer to commit suicide rather than apply to the Guardians for relief. Pride is, I believe, the only reason for this" (Derby, All Saints). "Prejudice against Poor Law officials and Poor Law administration still exists, but is decreasing" (Derby, St. Peter). Another incumbent, whilst reporting that there is little unrelieved distress in his parish, notes a decided reluctance to make application for Poor Law relief, and refers to an undoubted cause for such reluctance, viz., the possibility of the relief, if granted, being recovered from the sons of those relieved. "Difficulty is always experienced (he writes) to get people to apply—partly because they think it implies disgrace, and partly because they are afraid of their children being forced to pay for their support" (Duffield).

The latter expression of opinion is emphasised by other returns. Another instance assigned—but there is only one instance—for reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief is "The brusque manner of the Relieving Officer" and "Ignorance of the more enlightened methods of treating paupers which fortunately now is used in workhouses."

An exceptional reason is given in another return—a reason which probably applies in other parishes, where past or present recipients of Poor Law relief are debarred from participating in certain Charities under the terms of trust deeds. A decided reluctance is noted in Mansfield, where "those who are applying for Brunt's Charity cannot receive parish relief, and so often suffer a little privation." Brunt's Charity, which has an income of about £4,000 a year, makes Mansfield exceptional. This Charity deters old age provision, and yet, as no recipient of Poor Law is eligible for Brunt's, there are cases where deserving poor suffer, waiting to get on the Charity" (Mansfield). "The whole question of relief in Mansfield is dominated by the existence of Brunt's Charity with an income of £4,000 a year, given in 7s. a week to needy persons over 60 who do not receive parochial relief. In waiting for this, some who have hopes that they may be elected seriously pinch themselves" (St. John's Mansfield).

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"My experience is that the best type of poor are reluctant to make known their poverty and have too much self-respect to live on other ratepayers. Many Guardians nowadays are only one stage removed from the recipients of relief and are not very considerate and judicious in their investigations" (Worksop).

ADEQUACY OF RELIEF.

With respect to the adequacy of the relief granted by the Board of Guardians the evidence is more conflicting, though in the opinion of the great majority of incumbents there is no ground for complaint. In any case it is in very few places that d stress is reported as due to the amount of relief granted. As might reasonably be expected, opinions differ as to the amount which ought to be allowed under various conditions, and the reply of the Vicar of a large colliery parish to the enquiry of the Committee is undeniably true, "Most of the people receiving relief wish for more" (Codnor). In few cases are instances given of inadequacy and such general statements as "There is not a single case in which the Guardians give adequate relief" and "Poverty, owing to the inadequacy of the Poor Law relief to meet high rents and expenses of living" (Clown), are of less value to the Committee than the reports which embody definite instances of hardship, real or apparent. The Vicar of a large town parish writes: "The outdoor relief given in this district is to my mind totally inadequate. Either the relief should be more adequate or refused and the people compelled to go into the House. Case—Man and wife, and son more or less imbecile. Man a chronic invalid. Woman unable to work. Son's earnings very small and uncertain. Sum allowed, 5s. Woman constantly begging" (Brampton St. Thomas). "Mrs. F. has four children, two of which are delicate. She receives 8s. a week from the Guardians, which she augments by charwork and washing, but her life is a very hard one" (Calow). "Yes, there is. Widows receive 4s. to 6s. per week. This is insufficient. The cost per head in the workhouse is about 4s. 10d. for food and clothing alone. Rent and fires are rather a serious amount" (Eckington). "It is a mystery to me (reports the experienced Vicar in a parish in one of the great towns) to know how widows who cannot ostensibly get any work are to live on the allowance of 2s. 9d. per week. But the instances of this are so common that the cases must have been fully considered by the Guardians, and I know the subject of outdoor relief is a matter on which different opinions are held. So far, I think, Derby has not been in favour of the narrowest limits of such relief" (Derby, St. John). This expression of opinion is not endorsed by many of the reports from Derby, which (without impugning the administration of the Guardians) show that there are cases of hardship which arise from inadequacy of relief. Some give definite instances:—"Mrs. A., widow, aged 75, lived in present house 50 years. Husband steady, hard-working, under the Derby Corporation many years. Mrs. A. receives 4s. 3d. a week, pays 2s. 6d. rent, and has only 1s. 9d. to live on. I have made her an allowance for coal weekly for many years. Mrs. B., widow, aged 46, in delicate health, three children also delicate. A superior person. She receives 7s. and three loaves, pays 3s. rent" (Derby, All Saints). "A man at present sick with an invalid wife and three children receives 9s. a week" (Derby, St. Barnabas). It is noticeable that the complaints of inadequacy of relief come from the large towns where rents are high and where the resources of the charitable are presumably more heavily taxed than in the rural districts.

Another return from a large colliery district states, "I think out-door relief not enough per week, and that it should be given to fewer people. How can anyone live and pay rent on 2s. per week?" (Heanor). From another part of the County of Derby: (1) "John B., wife and child, invalid, part work. 3s. 6d. from Guardians, 3s. 6d. from Sick Clerk. (2) Betsy C., single woman, invalid. 3s. from Guardians. Can do very little work. What is the use of 3s. 6d. a week to an aged couple, who are most deserving, to pay their rent and live on? It means that at times they are practically starving" (Scropton.) A Nottinghamshire incumbent gives instances of inadequate relief —

> "Widow K. Poor relief 3s. 6d. per week. Rent 1s. 8d., coal 1s. 10d. Balance (?)
>
> "Widow S. Poor relief 4s. Rent 1s. 6d., coal 1s. 7d., light 6d. Balance 5d.
>
> "This person is getting 1s. extra pay just now on account of illness. Her usual money is 3s." (Arnold).

Similar cases are reported from Costock, Daybrook, East Leake, Famsfield Kirkby Woodhouse, North Muskham, St. Luke's, Nottingham; St. Nicholas, Nottingham; North Collingham, Plumtree, Ruddington, South Collingham, West Retford, and Radcliffe-on-Trent.

Your Committee note, with some surprise, that the loss of the power to exercise the franchise is only once given as a reason for reluctance to seek Poor Law relief.

OVERLAPPING.

On this important aspect of charitable efforts to relieve distress, the returns divide themselves, not unnaturally, into country and urban districts. In the former the almost unanimous reply to the question, "Is there needless overlapping?" is in the negative. The circumstances of village life render it possible for the Incumbent (in most cases the only resident minister of religion) to know the individual needs of the people, and to render through the medium of parochial funds and private benevolence substantial assistance in time of temporary necessity and, in many cases of chronic distress, to supplement poor law relief. In not a few cases the clergyman is a Guardian of the poor, and when the nature of the work is considered, with the opportunity it affords for usefulness in so many ways, it would be well if every Board of Guardians had its full quota of working clergymen. From the older towns and urban districts, however, the returns show that there is a considerable amount of harmful overlapping which no special efforts are made to prevent. The following are typical expressions of opinion from town incumbents.

"Overlapping is a serious evil and encourages mendacity and begging. The 'doles' are too numerous and sap all sense of independence. In my opinion they destroy manliness and are incentives to thriftlessness. In this parish with its rich charities and five sets of almshouses, few working-men consider it necessary to make provision for old age" (Ashbourne). "The various forms of charity in most cases relieve the same persons" (Beighton). "There is overlapping which is difficult to prevent" (Buxton). "There is no concerted action to prevent overlapping" (Bradwell). This, indeed, is the case in most large districts where overlapping is most common and needless, both between the various forms of private charity and between such charity and the poor law.

If, however, overlapping exists (and little effort has been made in the past to prevent the evil) the returns evidence a realisation of the need for some action in the matter. The Rural Dean of Derby writes, "A special effort is now being made by the clergy and others to develop the existing Charity Organisation Society into a central bureau; so that it may be possible to know what is being done by the Guardians and Ecclesiastical funds (Church or Nonconformist) in individual cases of relief." The returns from the incumbents of the various parishes in Derby endorse this statement, though in some cases it is stated that overlapping is legitimately a negligible factor. From a large industrial centre there comes corroboration of the evil, "In this town there is a good deal of relief regularly distributed by certain philanthropic persons. No attempt is made to prevent the overlapping. There is a surprising amount of indiscriminate charity distributed at the doors of the well-to-do. Not the slightest effort has been made to co-ordinate poor relief" (Dinting Vale). "Efforts have been made at various times during the last ten years to prevent overlapping, but with very little success" (Whittington). "I attempted to amalgamate the two nursing associations here but failed" (Beeston).

In some cases organised efforts are made to deal with the difficulty, and the plan adopted at North Wingfield should be possible in many parishes. "We avoid overlapping. The Parish Council and I 'pool' our endowed charities together and make a list of necessitous and deserving cases." Returns show that an effort is being made in Nottingham in connection with the Charity Organisation Society to form a Central Consultative Committee, and in Derby the scheme referred to by the Rural Dean and others is now in working order. A copy of the rules is appended (Appendix B) and your Committee commend them to the careful consideration of the clergy.

SICK NURSING OF THE POOR.

There are few ways in which charity can more reasonably be extended to the poor than in providing trained nurses in the time of sickness. Your Committee therefore rejoice to report that there are 32 trained nurses at work among the poor in the various parishes supervised by the Derby County Nursing Association, at an

annual cost of £2,250 per annum, exclusive of drugs, dressings, bicycles for the use of nurses, cost of relief nurses during the holidays of the permanent nurses' staff, office expenses, and the provision of nourishment necessary to the recovery of patients. It is to be regretted, however, that in the returns for the County of Derby there are only two instances given of the exercise on the part of the Guardians of the power to contribute to the support of this charitable work. In most cases, it is believed, that such support has been refused, although it is universally recognised that the work of these Nursing Associations is of inestimable value to the poor. In addition to these trained nurses a great work is being done in the town of Derby for the poor sick and suffering by the Nursing and Sanitary Association. During the past year in the Borough of Derby alone, its nurses have paid 38,389 visits, and in numerous cases have spent many hours with the patients. The annual cost of this work is not known to the Committee, but it must mean a large annual sum and tend to relieve the rates in a considerable degree. There are besides, both in the towns and counties of Derby and Notts, a considerable number of nurses which, though not affiliated to the above-mentioned associations, are nevertheless doing good work amongst the poor.

In the County of Notts there are 33 Associations affiliated with the Notts Nursing Federation, which is affiliated to the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute. These associations employ 38 nurses, of which number 35 are engaged in district work among the poor, and three are cottage nurses, at a total cost of £3,000 per annum. It is a subject of satisfaction to find that the various Boards of Guardians in Nottinghamshire show more appreciation of this work amongst the poor than do the Derbyshire Boards. The Superintendent of the Notts Nursing Federation informs the Committee that the following Boards of Guardians contribute to the support of the nurses:—The Mansfield Board make a grant of £7 per annum to each local association. The Basford Board make a grant of £2 10s. per annum. The Retford Board a grant of £2 2s. The Newark Board pay 1s. per week for each parish patient under the care of a district nurse. The Southwell Board have not extended aid in any way to the Nursing Associations in their division.

In addition to this organised work in the interests of the sick and suffering poor, it is estimated that there are 12 district nurses at work in various parishes in the County of Notts who are not affiliated to the Federation. The town of Nottingham, too, has its own association and employs 16 regular nurses, and three extra nurses when required, at an annual cost of £1,277. The Committee note with pleasure that the Nottingham Board of Guardians contribute £80 per annum in the interests of their poor.

VOLUNTARY RELIEF AND NUMBER RELIEVED.

Much difficulty arises in attempting to tabulate the answers to the enquiries as to the amount spent in voluntary relief and as to the number relieved. In the former case, in spite of the question as to the source of the assistance, most of the returns draw no distinction between voluntary assistance from individual sources and Church collections and endowed charities. In many cases, no doubt, the information is not available, as no record is kept of private benevolence. In some cases, however, the amount, or the approximate amount, is known and given; but there is a marked reluctance to give such figures as would enable any safe conclusions to be arrived at, either as regards the amount spent from Church collections or private benevolence. The old endowed charities are therefore dealt with subsequently from reliable figures.

A great majority of incumbents express inability to give information as to the number of poor people relieved, or as to the assistance rendered by the various Nonconformist bodies to their own members.

ENDOWED CHARITIES.

The endowed charities of the Diocese are large, and, apart from educational endowments, elementary or secondary, amount in the gross to a very considerable sum. In the County of Notts, apart from charities earmarked for educational and ecclesiastical uses, the following seem to be primarily for the relief of the poor:—

	£	s.	d.
Apprenticing and advancement	389	0	0
Almshouses and pensions	8,812	0	0
Doles in money and kind	3,142	0	0
Use of poor	1,373	0	0
Public uses	920	0	0
	£14,656	0	0

In the County of Derby the Clerk of the Peace has been making careful investigations, and, apart from Educational Charities, has information of the existence of charities amounting to £8,970 per annum, not including the rich charities of the town of Derby.

These charities are undoubtedly a relief to the rates, and in some cases meet the demands of local poverty.

"The charities are very large for so small a population, and meet fully their necessities" (Burry with Bradmore), writes a country Incumbent; whilst (as is evidenced in the returns from Mansfield) Brunt's wealthy charity of £4,000 per annum makes provision by pensions for numbers who would otherwise become chargeable to the rates. It is, however, an open question whether they are in all cases administered in the best interests of the poor. In any case there is a widespread opinion that the ordinary "doles" do little good and tend to demoralise the recipients. As in the case of private charity, so in the case of the endowed charities, a better system of administration might well be devised, and should old-age pensions come within the range of practical politics some of the old charities might be used to augment the allowances of the State or the good work of recognised and well-managed benefit societies.

SUBSIDIARY AIDS TO THE POOR.

Your Committee feel that any report upon charitable relief would be incomplete without recognition of the various agencies at work in the two counties for the inculcation of thrift and manly independence, agencies supported by voluntary contributions or the outcome of voluntary organisation. The amounts spent, and spent cheerfully, upon infirmaries, dispensaries, cottage hospitals, provident societies, colliery and other field and work clubs, clothing and boot clubs, penny banks, coal clubs, etc., it is impossible to correctly estimate. They must, however, amount in the aggregate to a vast annual sum. The usefulness, however, of the various friendly societies is fully recognised. "Sick clubs are much to the fore, there being Oddfellows, Rechabites, and two sick and dividing clubs. Of one of these I act as treasurer, and the members never expect help besides" (Goatham). This is a typical instance of clerical testimony, and it will be cheerfully recognised that were it not for the work done by these societies, the call upon the localities for Poor Law relief would be vastly increased in time of sickness and death in the homes of the working classes.

Your Committee recognise, therefore, the growing favour with which the Board of Guardians of the Diocese of Southwell regard these efforts of the working classes to make provision for sickness and in some cases for old age. Your Committee further desire to recognise the work of the Church Army Labour Homes at Derby and Nottingham, which are endeavouring to restore to independence and self-respect, many who, but for these agencies, would in all probability become permanently chargeable to the rates.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, your Committee desire to express their conviction that:—

1. Indiscriminate alms-giving and unorganised charity is not only a cause of vagrancy but an incentive to idleness, and should be discouraged as demoralising to the recipient.
2. That the clergy should recommend all working men to become at an early age members of some accredited Friendly Society.
3. That a Penny Bank should be opened in connection with all State-aided elementary schools.
4. That Relief Committees should be formed in all urban districts.
5. That the system of paying military and naval pensions in quarterly payments is a snare to the pensioner and should be reconsidered.
6. That in some cases the provisions of small holdings would be beneficial to the agricultural labourer.
7. That the provision of "Wages Boards" would tend to reduce "sweating" and lessen the number of unemployed.
8. That since the adoption of the Workmen's Compensation Act there has been a noticeable increase in the number of unemployed elderly men who previously would have found no difficulty in keeping employed.

NOTE—References made in this volume and in the Report of the Commission to the pages in this Volume, are to he page-numbering in brackets.

APPENDIX A.

(SOUTHWELL DIOCESAN COMMITTEE.)

THE VICARAGE,
ASHBOURNE,
October, 1907.

Dear Sir,—The Royal Commission, which has been appointed to investigate the working of the Poor Laws and the Relief of Distress, is anxious to avail itself of the great experience possessed in this matter by the clergy of the Church of England and to obtain from them reliable information as to—

1. The extent and intensity of poverty in various parts of the country; and
2. The methods of administering charitable assistance.

A Committee has been appointed, at the request of the Bishop of the Diocese, to collect such information, and I am desired to forward to you the enclosed schedule of questions and to beg that you will answer the same to the best of your ability, and return the form to me not later than November 16th next, as the Royal Commissioners desire the Committee to make their report before Christmas, and as the tabulation of the information will necessitate frequent meetings and very careful consideration. The subject being one of supreme and pressing importance, the Committee earnestly request that you will spare no pains to obtain correct and complete information, and that you will, whenever possible, invite co-operation to this end of other religious or charitable bodies in your parish.

I am,

Sincerely yours,

ERNEST E. MORRIS

QUESTIONS.	ANSWERS
1. Is there much poverty in your parish, and if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?	
2. Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors?	
3. Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (un-relieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.	
4. Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.	
5. Is there in your parish any needless overlapping (*a*) between various forms of charity, or (*b*) between charity and the Poor Law, and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?	
6. If you can give, or obtain, any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, together with information as to the source from which such assistance is obtained, please do so.	
7. Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your parish during the course of the year?	

APPENDIX B.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS IN THE TOWN OF DERBY ON CHARITABLE RELIEF.

Co-ordination of all existing channels of charity being desirable, to this end the following recommendations are made:—

I.—That a common basis for co-operation be found in the Charity Organisation Society of Derby, now being entirely reconstructed, of which the Mayor of Derby for the time being shall be invited to be President.

II.—That for the Church of England the town be divided, as at present, on the Parochial System, and that the Nonconformist Churches shall work the districts already assigned to them by the Free Church Council, and that Roman Catholics and other Religious Bodies co-operate in the scheme.

III.—That every such Parish and District be affiliated to the Charity Organisation Society of Derby, and subscribe towards the administrative expenses of that Society a yearly sum of £1 for Parishes with over 100 members, and 10s. for those under.

IV.—That every such Parish and District shall be free, if they so desire, to help cases of emergency, or Members, or Communicants, but shall notify such to the Charity Organisation Society.

V.—That in every other case, the Charity Organisation Society make the enquiry, and suggest a method of dealing with it; that then the Parish or District (see par. II.) be asked to contribute towards the amount needed, or to undertake the case entirely. In this way, each Parish and District will retain all its present power of giving and receiving. And that the several affiliated bodies may act in their own Districts, if they so desire, as almoners for the help given from all sources by the Charity Organisation Society.

VI.—That when a case from any Parish or Place of Worship is to be considered in Committee, the Representative of that Parish or Place of Worship be specially invited to attend.

VII.—That each Vicar, or Curate-in-Charge, and each Representative of other Places of Worship, be Vice-Presidents of the Charity Organisation Society of Derby, and *ex-officio* members of the General Committee.

VIII.—That, to avoid unnecessary questioning and to ensure its being sympathetic, the Charity Organisation Society's inquiries may be made, if it is so wished, by the District involved in the case.

APPENDIX C.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS.

Question 1.

405 report little or no poverty.
39 ,, much poverty.
9 ,, increasing poverty.

CAUSES.

65 report drink, idleness, and gambling.
6 ,, housing or land difficulties.
6 ,, difficulty of older men finding employment since the passing of the Employers' Liability Act.
2 ,, decay of mining industry by the working out of local coal pits.
2 ,, improvident youthful marriages.
3 ,, low wages in lace trade.

Question 2.

(*a*) 60 report employment of trained nurses, Church Army sisters, or Bible women.
10 ,, payment of small pensions.
350 ,, usual parochial methods of collections in church for the Poor Fund, and distribution in tickets—money or kind.
(*b*) 406 ,, relief administered by clergy only.
38 ,, relief administered by district visitors, paid workers, or committee.

Question 3.

58 report some distress due to reluctance to apply for Poor Law relief, but only 10 cite cases to illustrate.
386 ,, no reluctance and no appreciable amount of unrelieved distress.

Question 4.

17 report definite cases of what is thought to be inadequate relief.
57 ,, some distress, but give no instances.
370 ,, relief adequate.

Question 5.

381 report no overlapping.
63 ,, overlapping both between private charities and Poor Law relief.
20 ,, efforts made, or about to be made, to prevent the evil.

Questions 6 and 7.

281 ,, inability to give information as to the amount spent or number assisted.

In very few cases are figures given which can be vouched for as correct, and in most cases it is said to be impossible to record the numbers assisted.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the Page-numbering in brackets.

TRURO.

REPORT OF DIOCESAN COMMITTEE (AUTHORISED BY DIOCESAN CONFERENCE).

My Lords and Gentlemen:

At the request of the Lord Bishop of this Diocese, I have, as Secretary to the Housing Committee of the Diocesan Conference, communicated with the whole (236) of the beneficed clergy in the Diocese of Truro and have tabulated, in the paper which accompanies this, the replies which I have received from 231 parishes. The questions put to them were those suggested and printed by your Committee and I add a copy as sent out. I also, with some slight alteration of wording, printed and sent out to all the medical men in the County (Diocese) who hold the Poor Law appointments, the same series of questions, and have in a further paper tabulated their 39 replies.

The subject was fully discussed at the Diocesan Conference at Truro (October 24th and 25th, 1907), and I give the results of that discussion.

I add herewith a copy of the questions sent to the medical men and the leaf of the Conference Book sent to every member, on which the discussion took place.

The general result seems to point out that there is a large mass of pauperism which we are called on to relieve, which from local causes is not just now largely increasing (Mining boom, etc.) except in some special parishes, but that there is little reluctance to apply for Poor Law "*out*" Relief, in fact that it is almost considered a right; that the sum given (about 3s.) is too small, and has to be supplemented by kind neighbours, the clergy, and local charities, while *indoor* Relief is dreaded because of loss of liberty and of the regular routine of an Establishment; and that the aged and infirm should be obliged to go to an Infirmary, where they would be well nursed and fed, and would be allowed as much liberty as is compatible with the regularity of a large Home; also that the Guardians should all be ratepayers, thus having a distinct share in the responsibility of the money side of Poor Relief, and giving a "*living wage*" to necessary cases after more careful enquiry than they get at present; that all the working and paid officials should be dependent on the Central London Authorities for their tenure of office, and not on the votes of neighbours locally, while no Guardian should be allowed to supply and deal with the weekly notes given for food and necessaries by the Relieving Officer; that the Medical Officer should be *paid well enough to have a large District without private practice, i.e.*, a County Medical Officer of Health. It must be remembered that the Compensation Act will stop the employment of many "witless" people who have heretofore been kept off the rates by such employment; and it appears as if the present machinery, developed for a different (Workhouse) order of things, is unsuited for the present needs of the poor, where almost entirely the cases consist of *illness, aged, infirm.*

I have the honour to remain,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM HAMMOND,

Hon. Sec. Diocesan Housing Committee.

APPENDIX No. I.

Analysis of Replies to Questions (seven) Suggested and Printed by the Royal Commission.

Of the 236 beneficed clergy in the Diocese of Truro, 231 sent replies, and, in addition, I have embodied the points raised in the discussion at the Diocesan Conference on October 24 and 25, 1907.

Question I.—Is there much poverty in your parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?

Answer I.—The large majority of the answers said that there was little or no poverty in their parishes, and that is was not increasing, but the discussion showed that this was rather too sanguine, as it seemed that most took the question to mean "abject poverty," and some thought that no increase was equal to none. A few thought that in places it was increasing, and the evidence of the medical men was quite opposite in a few districts. It may be concluded that partly due to increase in mining there is not much distress, and that it is not increasing. Reasons given for it where it is: Low wages; desertion by husbands gone abroad mining; drink; inadequate poor relief; poor housing; dockyard discharges; failure of granite industry; foreign fish imported.

Question II.—Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors?

Answer II.—Most consider that there is no need of any special methods. In 193 parishes the charitable assistance is dispensed by the clergyman himself. In 32 by district visitors, in a very few by a committee.

Question III.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.

Answer III.—There seems to be very little reluctance to apply for Poor Law relief; it is taken almost as a matter of course and a right (209 cases), but there is an absolute dread of "indoor relief," and seemingly because rules and regulations have to be kept, and there is a loss of liberty.

Question IV.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.

Answer IV.—I cannot but think that this question was greatly misunderstood, and this came out in the Conference discussion, after my note on the answers then received had cleared matters somewhat, and it was then suggested that it would have been answered very differently had it been worded: "Is the average sum given in Poor Law relief to each person a living wage." The fact of the poor living on three shillings a week, of which one is expended in rent, is self-evident; but it can only be done by the goodness and help of neighbours and friends. In the answers, as sent, many qualifications are made, but forty-four call it "utterly inadequate," while the majority consider it—*per se*—not sufficient; though some say "quite adequate," and one (a guardian of fourteen years) "most adequate," and another "would not increase it if he could." Many add: "with private or outside help adequate."

Question V.—Is there in your parish any needless overlapping

(a) *between various forms of charity, or*

(b) *between charity and the Poor Law,*

and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

Answer V.—Only fifteen answers record an idea of overlapping. One suggests a central committee, and others say that overlapping is prevented where the vicar is a guardian; but no special effort is wanted in Cornwall.

Question VI.—If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.

Answer VI.—Very few can give an answer with even approximate figures; and where they are given they range from £200 to very little, and then no estimate can be formed of charity given by Nonconformists, and private residents in the parish; but it is clear that, generally speaking, a good deal is given.

Question VII.—Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your parish during the course of the year?

Answer VII.—Here, too, figures are most difficult to obtain. Half give no reply to this, and at the Conference described an answer as impossible; but I gathered that the percentage was small, outside those where something had to be added to their "parish pay" to make it a living wage.

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APPENDIX No. II.

Analysis of Replies to Questions (nine) Circulated for this Inquiry to thirty-nine Medical Men who hold Poor Law Districts in the Diocese.

Question I.—Is there much poverty in your district, and is it increasing in intensity? Can you name any special cause for it, moral or economic?

Answer I.—Thirty-three replied that there was not much poverty in their districts as a rule, and was not increasing; while three said that there was some considerable increase—one that there was sometimes much. And this state was by two attributed to a bad fishing season, by one to dockyard discharges, and by one to foreign imports of granite.

Question II.—Is there any appreciable amount of distress due to a reluctance to resort to Poor Law relief? Is there any reason for such reluctance?

Answer II.—The whole thirty-nine unanimously said that there was no reluctance in applying; and eleven added that there was no reason for any reluctance.

Question III.—Is there any distress from the amount of relief granted being insufficient? Is it generally too small and inadequate?

Answer III.—Twenty said that there was no distress caused by insufficient relief; while eighteen believed that there was distress. Ten said that relief generally was too small; one said that there was a good deal of pinching; and two that there was no distress, "as it was supplemented."

Question IV.—Is there in your district much charity outside the Poor Law, and, if so, what is its source?

Answer IV.—Nineteen said a good deal of charity outside, ten only a little; eight from private sources, and five from the Church only.

Question V.—Are there many dwellings insufficient, too crowded, or insanitary, and are they improving or otherwise?

Answer V.—Eighteen gave "many," nineteen "not many," and in twenty-two "improving," while in six "not improving."

Question VI.—Have the medical officers of health sufficient powers, and what improvement or alteration would you suggest?

Answer VI.—Fifteen say not sufficient, ten sufficient, and six sufficient "if backed," while the almost unanimous opinion is in favour of the M.O.H. having a permanent post under central—*i.e.*, the London authority, thus giving fixity of tenure, with no local medical practice; if possible, a seat on the local authority; in fact, a county medical officer of health.

Question VII.—How do the aged and very poor manage to live, and should the Poor Law Infirmary be more often insisted on where there is a clear necessity for more attendance and good nursing?

Answer VII.—Ten say "they exist," while six suggest that they have relief alone, and four that they get help from charitable neighbours. Thirty-two say that the infirmary should be insisted on more often, and that there should be power in many cases to compel this.

Question VIII.—Are some of the poor favoured in the relief given, and is such influence made to bear unfairly and heavily on them?

Answer VIII.—Twenty-nine say that they have never seen any favouritism, while six say that they have; one says that if the poor have no interest they get little or no pay; one that such influence may bear hardly on them, and one says that "no guardian or his wife should keep a shop," and this probably in the country is where the poor are hindered.

Question IX.—Is there much immorality in your district, and is it increasing? Is the birth-rate lowered by the use of drugs and other methods, and are such methods openly advertised and pushed in your district?

Answer IX.—Eighteen say that immorality is increasing, nine that it is not, four that it is about the same. Eight say that drugs are commonly used, six that they do not know this, five that advertising is common, and six that they have not noticed this.

WAKEFIELD.

The Secretary,
Royal Commission on the Poor Laws
and Relief of Distress.

Wakefield,
8th January, 1908.

Sir,—Referring to your circular letter of the 18th April suggesting that the wide experience of the clergy of the Church of England in the matter of relief of distress and their knowledge of the extent of poverty in their respective parishes would be of some assistance to the Royal Commission now engaged on the subject, we beg to inform you that a Committee of Clergy and Laity was appointed, with clerical and lay secretaries.

The suggested questions enclosed in your circular were, with some slight modifications, printed and sent to the clergy in the diocese, with an accompanying letter explaining the object and asking for the best information they could afford.

Of the forms sent out, 135 were returned; and the replies have been carefully considered.

For the purpose of answering the enquiry of the Royal Commission, we are of the opinion that the best form of reply will be the adoption of the original form of questions, with the condensed report of the clergy thereto, and which is enclosed herewith.

Yours very truly,

G. R. Wakefield.

William Donne,
Archdeacon of Huddersfield.

Thomas R. Sale,
Clerical Secretary.

Robert Potter,
Lay Secretary.

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1. *Is there much poverty in your parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?*

The Diocese of Wakefield is chiefly industrial; and population more or less dense. On the whole the reports are that while some poverty and distress exists, it does not appear to be generally acute or increasing. The causes are due to

(1) Fluctuations of trade, thus giving short time and loss of work.
(2) Sickness—old age.
(3) To the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act by reason of which employers hesitate to employ men over a certain age, or suffering from physical infirmity.
(4) To intemperance and gambling.
(5) To thriftlessness and improvident marriages.
(6) To bad housing accommodation and overcrowding, producing sickness, dirty habits, and immorality.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page numbering in brackets.

2. *Have you any special method of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary relief, those in chronic distress? Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of District Visitors?*

There does not appear to be any general or special method of administering relief. In the outlying, rural and sparsely populated parishes, relief is generally given by the clergy themselves, but in the towns and districts where industries are carried on it is always given in conjunction with Churchwardens, District Visitors, Relieving Officers, Church Councils, Lady Helpers, School Teachers, and others.

3. *Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law Relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what, in your opinion, is the cause of the reluctance.*

From a careful perusal of the replies to this question, there is not much evidence of any appreciable amount of *real* and *acute* distress due to reluctance to accept Poor Law Relief. Some cases, however, are reported of objections to Poor Law Relief arising from several causes, *e.g.*, sale of household furniture and effects, dread of Poor Law Relief owing to reduced circumstances, pride, taint of pauperism, the necessary inquiries by Relieving Officer, fear that the Poor Law Relief will disqualify in case of endowed charities, and publicity. Many object to going into the House owing to ignorance of the conditions and loss of liberty.

4. *Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law Relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.*

There is in some Unions, but not in others. In some Unions the Poor Law Relief is adequate, in others it is not. In certain cases which have come to our knowledge, 2s. 6d., 3s., or 4s. a week allowed by the Guardians in some Unions in this Diocese to an aged or sick person with no means, and rent to pay out of it, is, in our opinion, inadequate.

5. *Is there in your Parish any needless overlapping (a) between various forms of charity, or (b) between charity and the poor law, and has any special effort been made with a view to prevent such overlapping?*

We are of the opinion that there is but little overlapping. Considerable care appears to be taken by enquiry as to the resources of a person before relief is given. A *Central* Body of *Voluntary* workers acting on a system assisted or provided with voluntary funds has in some districts been advantageous, thus discouraging small local charitable societies, preventing indiscriminate charity and street begging.

6. *If you can give or obtain any figure or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your Parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.*

(*a*) *from definitely Church Funds*;

(*b*) *from any other Funds which come within your knowledge, other than Endowed Charities.*

In every parish, without exception, relief appears to be given from definitely Church Funds, *i.e.*, Church collections expressly for "sick and poor," ranging from £1 to £50 per annum. Generally, little appears to be known as to distribution of private charity, although it is well known that it is general and in some cases liberal.

7. *If you can give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your Parish during the course of a year, please do so.*

It has been so difficult to arrive at any definite or reliable information in answer to this question that we are unable to make any useful reply.

APPENDIX TO REPORT FROM THE DIOCESE OF WAKEFIELD.

Question I.—Is there much poverty in your parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?

1. Rural Deanery of Birstall.—21 parishes; replies from 17.

Battyeford.—Bulk of population of the labouring class, unable to save for old age. Men over 40 find difficulty in getting employment.
Upper Hopton.—Dislike of work and intemperance will account for most of the apparent poverty.

2. Deanery of Dewsbury.—28 parishes; replies from 18.

Mount Pellon.—Low wages paid to unskilled labour.
Dewsbury, St. Philip.—Intemperance.
Morley.—Bad trade and short time.
Batley Carr.—Badly-paid casual employment.
Staincliffe.—Intemperance and want of employment.

3. Deanery of Halifax.—42 parishes; replies from 30.

Halifax, St. Augustine's.—Irregularity of employment for unskilled labour; intemperance.
Halifax, King's Cross. — Intemperance and gambling.
Halifax, Holy Trinity.—Not employed because of old age; intemperance.
Halifax, St. Mary's.—Moral and physical inefficiency and fluctuating employment.
Halifax, St. George's.—Intemperance and thriftlessness.
Southowram.—Depression in the stone trade; thriftlessness.
Harley Wood.—Depression in cotton trade; improvidence.

4. Deanery of Huddersfield.—45 parishes; replies from 39.

Thurstonland.—Intemperance and gambling.
Rashcliffe.—Intemperance and poor wages.
Paddock.—Improvidence.
Honley.—Inability to provide for old age and sickness.

Huddersfield:—
St. Andrew's.—Intemperance, ill health, inefficiency, and old age.
St. Peter's.—Unskilled labour, thriftlessness, bad housing, overcrowding.
St. Mark's.—Intemperance, idleness, immorality, thriftlessness, unskilled labour, and old age.

5. Deanery of Silkstone.—22 parishes; replies from 18.

Denby.—No abject poverty, except where the father is lazy or drunken.
Thurlstone.—Intemperance and lack of thrift.
Barnsley, St. George's.—Slackness of trade and closing of factories in a decaying trade, intemperance, thriftlessness, and immorality.
Barnsley, St. John's.—Slackness of trade, intemperance, gambling, and irreligion.
Barnsley, St. Peter's.—Depressed trade and improvidence. Several common lodging-houses tend to increase the number of tramps.
Thurgoland.—Want of thrift and management.

6. Deanery of Wakefield.—20 parishes; replies from 17.

Wakefield, All Saints'.—Low wages, bad housing, old age, intemperance.
Wakefield, St. Michael's.—All of operative class; low wages and intemperance.
Wakefield, Holy Trinity.—Unnecessary distress due to drink and gambling.
Wakefield, Christ Church.—Bad housing, squalor associated with idleness and drink.
Wakefield, St. Andrew's.—Intemperance and gambling; know cases of families earning £2 to £3 per week worse off than those earning only £1.
Stanley.—Widows left with large families, aged and infirm, some from their own fault.
Alverthorpe.—Employers' liability against aged people getting employment, indolence and want of thrift.

Question II.—Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress?

Are you assisted by a committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors?

1. Rural Deanery of Birstall:

No special methods or committees. In small parishes relief given by clergy after inquiry, and from personal knowledge; in larger districts distribution is assisted by district visitors and others.

2. Deanery of Dewsbury.—The same as above.

3. Deanery of Halifax:

Halifax, King's Cross.—Local Guild of Help of great assistance.
St. Mary's.—The same as above.
St. George's.—The same as above.
All other parishes, *see* Deanery of Birstall.

4. Deanery of Huddersfield.—All parishes the same as above.

5. Deanery of Silkstone.—All parishes the same as above.

6. Deanery of Wakefield.—All parishes the same as above.

Question III.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.

1. Deanery of Birstall:

Drighlington.—Cases occur of aged persons, or widows, who dread asking for relief owing to the "stigma" attached to it.
Battyeford.—Hatred of the word pauper prevents many from applying, others by being called upon by the Relieving Officers to sell furniture, etc., they may value.
Birstall.—Natural love of home and shrinking from official inquiry.
Mirfield.—The most worthy of the destitute have great reluctance to apply for relief, from natural pride.
Liversedge.—Chief cause, desire for liberty.
Other parishes, "No."

2. Deanery of Dewsbury:

Mount Pellon.—Inadequate in case of widow, aged 75, suffering from cancer, daughter giving up

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

work at mill to attend to her. Natural independence causing reluctance to come on the rates.
Batley Carr.—An old woman of 80 in a cottage with a sick daughter, the house being kept by grandchild taking in washing. Another case, the man paralysed and wife a chronic invalid. Clear cases for relief. Both reluctant to apply for relief.
Ossett.—Woman left with two young children, struggled for years on an average income of 9s. per week rather than apply. An aged widow worked beyond her strength; had working-men lodgers from same cause.

3. Deanery of Halifax:

Halifax, St. Augustine's. — Much reluctance to apply for Poor Law relief.
Coley.—The worthy destitute object to Poor Law relief.
Sowerby Bridge.—The same, but much depends on the manner of the Relieving Officer.
Norland.—The same; object to loss of freedom.
Hebden Bridge.—No reluctance to accept relief.

4. Deanery of Huddersfield:

Rashcliffe.—Fear of being classed as paupers.
Holmfirth.—Objection to loss of liberty.
St. Andrew's.—Loss of liberty, unsympathetic treatment, association with degraded persons.
St. Paul's.—Many prefer to starve rather than go to the Union.
St. Peter's.—Publicity of information as to details of applicant's position, loss of independence.
St. John's.—People in reduced circumstances have great objection.
St. Mark's.—Dislike of workhouse.
Kirkheaton.—Pauper taint.

5. Deanery of Silkstone:

Denby.—Not to accept outdoor relief, but much to go into the house, the latter where a couple, hard-working and respectable, brought up a large family, who, when grown up, marry, perhaps go away, parents old, never able to save, means utter sadness to go into the house.
Barnsley, St. George's.—Reluctance on the part of better class of destitute to go into the house.
Barnsley, St. John's.—Yes, think it is inadequate in case of aged people.
Barnsley, St. Mary's.—Yes, elderly man in employment injured; had small compensation. Company declined to employ him again, and now destitute, absolutely refuses to go into workhouse.
Barnsley, St. Edward's.—Respectable poor consider a stigma attaches to Poor Law relief.
Dodworth.—None to outdoor relief, but objections to going into the house.

6. Deanery of Wakefield:

Wakefield, All Souls'.—People in reduced circumstances object to Poor Law relief.
Wakefield, Holy Trinity.—Ignorance of conditions and loss of freedom.
Christ Church.—Fear of disqualification for local charities.
Sandal.—Dread of publicity.

Question IV.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate? If so, please give one or two instances.

1. Deanery of Birstall:

Drighlington.—In some cases inadequate—chronic illness, and an instance of a respectable, aged couple, who had paid rates for many years. The changed circumstances not always taken into account.
Cleckheaton, St. John's.—Relief inadequate in case of a widow living alone, 3s. a week, and rent to pay from it 2s. 10d. An old married couple 5s. a week.
Birstall.—Totally inadequate in case of aged people.
Liversedge.—In many cases a little more pay would prevent begging.
Upper Hopton.—Cases of serious sickness quite inadequate.
Robert Town.—Inadequate in case of an aged widow, with no one to help, 3s. a week; another, a blind woman and her husband.
Other parishes, "No."

2. Deanery of Dewsbury:

Carlinghow.—Yes, ordinary relief 2s. 6d. a week, inadequate in case of old persons living with, say, a married child or relative.
Mount Pellon.—Yes, widow, age 73, living with a daughter, a deserted wife, with three children, is only allowed 1s. 6d. per week. The daughter is poorest type of a dressmaker; one child, half-timer, earns 3s. 6d. per week.
Morley.—Yes, an old widow woman, only allowed 2s. 6d. a week, pays 1s. 6d. rent out of it.
Batley Carr,—Barely sufficient. Man, age 76, willing to work, but cannot get it, allowed 3s. 6d. per week, lives in a shed, and pays 1s. rent.
Ossett.—Outdoor relief inadequate; a widow in poor health allowed 2s. 6d. a week.
Other parishes, "No."

3. Deanery of Halifax:

Illingworth.—Inadequate in cases of widows and disabled people.
Ripponden.—Some complaints of the inadequacy in case of aged people.
Brighouse.—Yes; old man, 70, allowed 3s., pays rent 1s. 3d.; woman, 70, 3s. per week, nearly blind, no other means—cannot tell how she manages to live; man and wife, two children, man paralysed, 3s. per week, wife goes out washing.
Coley.—Woman, 70, grant 3s., pays 1s. 6d. rent.; man, 65, grant 3s., pays 1s. 6d. rent.
Sowerby Bridge.—Entirely inadequate, relief afforded just keeps from starvation.
St. Thomas's.—Inadequate, cases too numerous.
St. George's.—Inadequacy generally complained of, and, I think, with justice.
Rastrick.—Generally inadequate. Woman (84) only 3s.; another woman, chronic invalid, 2s. 6d.; widow, with five children, late husband an invalid for eight years, only 8s. Children are underfed.
All other parishes "No."

4. Deanery of Huddersfield:

Huddersfield, St. Peter's.—Rents are high, and what would be adequate in some places think inadequate here; as a rule, however, good.
Huddersfield, Rashcliffe.—3s. or 4s. a week not sufficient, must be augmented from some source.
Kirkheaton.—No. A widow only receives 3s. a week, totally inadequate, having a settlement at Halifax, Hudd. Guardians refuse more.
All other parishes "No."

5. Deanery of Silkstone:

Barnsley, St. Mary's.—Inadequate. Many cases relief afforded only just pays the rent.
Gawber.—Inadequate. Person gets 3s., pays 1s. 6d. for rent, 1s. for coals, and lives on the rest.
All other parishes "No."

6. Deanery of Wakefield:

Wakefield, St. Michael's.—Inadequate without other help.
Wakefield, Sandal.—Man helpless (71), allowed 5s., woman (65), also 5s., rent 3s. 9d.; widow, three small children, 4s. a week, delicate, rent 3s.
Stanley.—Seem very hard put to it to make it do.
Alverthorpe.—Many cases where relief not sufficient to provide enough food.
Horbury Junction.—Insufficient without outside assistance.
All other parishes "No."

Question V.—Is there in your parish any needless overlapping

(a) *between various forms of charity, or*

(b) *between charity and the Poor Law,*

and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

1. DEANERY OF BIRSTALL:

Upper Hopton.—Charitably disposed persons sometimes give relief without inquiry, no doubt causing some overlapping.
Other parishes "No."

2. DEANERY OF DEWSBURY:

Ossett.—Great need of central committee; all act in ignorance of what others are doing.
Other parishes "No."

3. DEANERY OF HALIFAX:

Illingworth.—Local Guild of Help prevent overlapping.
Halifax, King's Cross.—Guild of Help solving the difficulty.
Halifax, St. James's.—Citizens Guild tabulate all forms of help.
Halifax, All Saints.—Guild of Help an excellent organisation.
Halifax, St. George's.—Guild of Help prevent it.
All other parishes "No."

4. DEANERY OF HUDDERSFIELD:

Huddersfield, St. Peter's.—Think there is a good deal due to various societies. A Central Guild of Help would be of great assistance in avoiding overlapping.
All other parishes "Not that they know of."

5. DEANERY OF SILKSTONE:

Barnsley, St. George's.—A good deal at Christmas.
Barnsley, St. Edward's.—Private charity and house-to-house begging cause it.
All other parishes "No."

6. DEANERY OF WAKEFIELD:

Wakefield, St. Mary's.—To some extent. Co-operation much needed.
Wakefield, Christ Church.—No, except perhaps at Christmas and private charity.
All other parishes "No."

Question VI.—If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, please do so.

(a) *from definitely Church funds.*

(b) *from any other funds which come within your knowledge, other than endowed charities.*

1. DEANERY OF BIRSTALL:

Ravensthorpe.—Church collections, about £20 per annum.
Birkinshaw.—Church collections, about £20 per annum.
Battyeford.—Church collections, about £30 per annum, and other sources about £12.
Birstall.—Church collections, about £23 per annum.
Mirfield.—Church collections, about £25 per annum.
Liversedge.—Church collections, about £11, other sources £175.
Tong.—Church collections, about £20.
All other parishes have collections also for sick and poor; the amounts vary, but smaller than above.

2. DEANERY OF DEWSBURY:

Mount Pellon.—Church collections, about £20 per annum.
Batley Carr.—Church collections, about £20 per annum.
Dewsbury Parish.—Church collections, about £20 per annum, other sources £255.
Ossett.—Church collections, about £30 per annum.
Morley.—Church collections, about £54 per annum, other sources £100.
All other parishes have collections also for sick and poor; the amounts vary, but smaller than above.

3. DEANERY OF HALIFAX:

Halifax, King Cross.—Church collections, about £30 per annum.
" St. Augustine's.—Church collections, about £30 per annum.
" St. James's.—Church collections, about £52 per annum.
" All Saints.—Church collections, about £75 per annum.
" Holy Trinity.—Church collections, about £30 per annum.
" St. Mary's.—Church collections, about £25 per annum.
" St. George's.—Church collections, about £18 per annum.
Illingworth.—Church collections, about £30.
Rippondon.—Church collections, about £5; other sources, £35.
Coley.—Church collections, about £52; other sources, £22.
Sowerby Bridge.—Church collections, about £35.
Thorpe.—Church collections, about £35; other sources, £20.
Hebden Bridge.—Church collections, about £45; other sources, £25.
Rastrick.—Church collections, about £30.
All other parishes have collections also for sick and poor; the amounts vary, but smaller than above.

4. DEANERY OF HUDDERSFIELD:

Huddersfield, St. Peter's.—Church collection, £150; other sources about £80; collection for infirmary included in the church collection.
Huddersfield, St. Andrew's.—Church collection, £27.
Huddersfield, St. Paul's.—Church collection, £20.
Huddersfield, St. John's.—Church collection, £20.
Huddersfield, Holy Trinity.—Church collection, £42.
Huddersfield, St. Thomas's.—Church collection, £30.
Ratcliffe.—Church collection, £20.
Honley.—Church collection, £30.
Almondbury.—Church collection, £40 to £50.
Kirkheaton.—Church collection, £30.
Milnsbridge.—Church collection, £12; other sources, £50.
Armitage Bridge.—Church collection, £15; other sources, £20.
Woodhouse.—Church collection, £30.
Slaithwaite.—Church collection, £15; other sources, £20.
All other parishes have collections also for sick and poor; the amounts vary, but smaller than above.

5. DEANERY OF SILKSTONE:

Barnsley, St. John's.—Church collection, £30; other sources, £7.
Barnsley, St. Mary's.—Church collection, £30.
Barnsley, St. Edward's.—Church collection, £28; other sources, £20.
All other parishes have collections also for sick and poor; the amounts vary, but smaller than above.

6. DEANERY OF WAKEFIELD:

Wakefield, All Saints'.—From church collections, £25.
Wakefield, St. Michael's.—From church collections, £40.
Wakefield, Christ Church.—From church collections, £25.
Sandal.—From church collections, £28; other sources, £16.

Alverthorpe.—From church collections, £40; other sources, £10.
Crofton.—From church collections, £14; other sources, £40.
Sandal Magna.—From church collections, £20; other sources, £30.
Warmfield.—From church collections, nil; other sources, £40.
Chapelthorpe.—From church collections, £25.
All other parishes have collections also for sick and poor; the amounts vary, but smaller than above.

Question VII.—Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals in receipt of charity other than the Poor Law in your parish in the course of a year?

1. Deanery of Birstall:

Ravensthorpe.—About 47 families.
Birkinshaw.—About 40 individuals.
Birstall.—About 20.
Gomersal.—About 20, may be more.
Mirfield.—About 20.
Liversedge.—About 370.
Hartshead.—About 2 or 3.
Tong.—About 70 to 80 families.
Robert Town.—About 30.
Other parishes cannot say.

2. Deanery of Dewsbury:

Morley.—About 70.
Batley Carr.—About 84 persons.
Gildersome.—About 12.
South Ossett.—Under 20.
Ossett.—Impossible to estimate.
Other parishes cannot say.

3. Deanery of Halifax:

Halifax, Illingworth.—70 to 80 families.
" St. Augustine's.—200 to 300 families.
" All Souls'.—40 to 50 families.
" All Saints'.—100 houses.
" St. Thomas's.—30.
" Holy Trinity.—60.
Ripponden.—40 families and persons.
Coley.—75.
Soworby.—20 (about).
Southowram.—31 families.
Norland.—9 or 10.
Luddenden.—12 to 20.
Copley.—5 or 6.
Cornholme.—Less than a dozen.
Cross Stone.—45 to 50.
Harley Wood.—40 persons.
West Vale.—About 20 families.
Hebden Bridge.—48.
Other parishes cannot say.

4. Deanery of Huddersfield:

Rashcliffe.—260 families.
Meltham.—10 to 12 families.
Holme Bridge.—20 to 30.
Farnley Tyas.—About a dozen.
South Crosland.—40 families.
Kirkheaton.—60 families.
Shepley.—10 families.
Meltham.—8 families.
Crosland Moor.—24 persons.
Woodhouse.—About 20.
Slaithwaite.—20 to 30.
Huddersfield, St. Andrew's.—50.
" St. Paul's.—100.
" St. Peter's.—250.
" St. John's.—20 to 30.
" St. Thomas's.—53.
" Moldgreen.—100.
Other parishes cannot say.

5. Deanery of Silkstone:

Barnsley, St. John's.—25 families, 200 individuals.
Denby.—3 families, 30 individuals.
Thurlstone.—About a dozen.
Dodworth.—Perhaps a dozen.
Hoyland Swaine.—8 persons.
Thurgoland.—5 families.
Other parishes cannot say.

6. Deanery of Wakefield.

Wakefield, All Saints'.—About 100 persons.
" Christ Church.—45 families.
" St. Mary's.—30 families.
" St. Catherine's.—125 individuals.
Thornes.—About 60.
Alverthorpe.—15 families.
Sandal.—50 families or individuals.
Chapelthorpe.—About 80.
Other parishes cannot say.

WINCHESTER.

COMMITTEE.

The Right Honourable Lord Tennyson, G.C.M.G. (Haslemere and Freshwater) (*Chairman*).
Rev. H. M. Burge, D.D. (Winchester.)
Rev. H. W. Bircham. (Southsea.)
Rev. A. E. Daldy. (Bournemouth.)
Rev. G. C. Fanshawe. (Godalming.)
Captain Winnington Ingram, R.N. (Southampton.)
A. H. Lee, Esq., M.P. (Fareham.)
Colonel Phayre. (Woking.)
H. A. Powell, Esq. (Guildford.)
General Scafe. (Portsea.)

Secretaries.

Rev. G. H. Aitken, The Rectory, Haslemere.
S. Bostock, Esq., Lainston, near Winchester.

MY LORD,—Your Committee was appointed in accordance with the following Resolution passed at the Winchester Diocesan Conference in October, 1905 :—

> "That this Conference request the Bishop to nominate a Committee, preferably of laymen, to report to the Conference from year to year on matters connected with want, destitution, and unemployment in the Diocese, the said Committee, in case of need, to have power to act as representatives of the Diocese and of the Church as a corporation."

The first meeting was presided over by the Right Hon. A. F. Jeffreys, the first Chairman of the Committee, whose death, in the summer of 1906, we deeply deplore. In succession to him Lord Tennyson accepted the Chairmanship on your Lordship's invitation.

In addition to the original ten members two more, General Scafe and Captain C. W. Winnington Ingram, R.N., have been appointed by your Lordship, and have consented to serve.

At the first meeting it was decided that, as a first step, a letter should be sent to all incumbents throughout the Diocese asking them for information, both as to the methods of relief already adopted in the various parishes, and also as to the special directions in which, in their opinion, social amelioration might best go forward.

Such a letter (Appendix A.) was drawn up, and was issued, in the first instance, in January, 1906. About 165 replies were received from the 570 incumbents to whom it was addressed. When Lord Tennyson assumed the Chairmanship he felt that this number was inadequate, and, at his suggestion, the letter was again sent to all those from whom no answer had been received, together with a covering letter from himself calling attention to the importance of the inquiry and the need for fuller information. In reply to this second issue 197 answers were received.

It is upon these answers, for which we wish to thank the 362 incumbents who have taken the trouble to reply to the somewhat formidable list of questions, that the following report is based.

Your Committee feels that an apology is due to some of those whose replies have been most helpful. A large amount of work is obviously involved in receiving, examining, and tabulating so large a number of returns. The secretaries are both men whose

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hands are already full, and they have not found it possible, so far, to enter into correspondence on matters of detail with individual parishes. This is, no doubt, one of the objects for which the Committee was constituted; but until, or unless, some further clerical help can be afforded to the secretaries, it will not be possible to carry out this intention and to make the Committee as effective as we believe it might be. A sufficient grant has now been made from the Winchester Diocesan Conference Fund to meet printing expenses, which are already considerable.

Turning to the subjects on which information was sought, it may be well to consider them under a few general heads.

Methods of Distribution of Relief.

The returns show that in over 120 parishes relief is given by the clergy alone, in nearly seventy by the clergy and district visitors, and in nearly fifty the district visitors alone are mainly responsible. In twenty-three parishes there are relief committees.

The Committee feels that a great effort should be made by the clergy to avoid giving relief personally. This is not always easy, especially in very small parishes. But this method of administering relief tends to obscure the spiritual relationship that should be fostered between the pastor and his flock. And, undoubtedly, very many people, in approaching a clergyman, are too ready to look upon him as one who will relieve their bodily needs. If the clergy could be freed from giving help personally, the avenues which lead to spiritual intercourse would more easily be kept open.

The systems of distributing relief by the clergy and district visitors, or by the district visitors alone, vary considerably. The weakness of the system lies in the fact that judgment is formed by one or two persons, where the combined opinion of a trained body might be more effective. The system often results in inconsistency of method.

Relief committees exist mostly in town parishes. The Committee usually includes a guardian and, in several instances, representative workmen. Some other parishes are considering the matter in the hope of forming a committee, while many others are only deterred from doing so by local circumstances. With one or two exceptions the experiment has been successful. Your Committee does not suggest that it would be suitable for all parishes. Many of the clergy who are most thoroughly in favour of adopting the best methods feel that, for the present at any rate, they can do most by educating their own district visitors and getting the parish gradually to understand the need for reform. But the value of a relief committee seems to consist (1) in its preventing the clergy from appearing in the guise of relieving officers; (2) in its tendency to bring the layman's point of view to bear upon the problems of charity; (3) in the fact that it promotes more orderly method, and co-operation between all classes and between various agencies; (4) in helping to ensure some continuance of a well-considered policy when a change of incumbents takes place.

Typical specimens of the rules which have been adopted in various parishes, and of the case-papers which are in use, are appended (Appendices H. and I.). It will be noticed that the tendency is to regard the family rather than the individual as the unit; to dissociate the giving of relief from any question of attendance at Church, and even of adherence to any special religious body; to secure co-operation with the guardians and any local charitable societies; to lay stress upon the fact that the breadwinner has been a member of a permanent benefit society; and to ensure that the relief given shall be adequate in amount.

Co-operation with the Guardians.

Most of the town parishes and many of the country clergy feel the need of this kind of co-operation. Where the relieving officer is willing to be consulted, use is often made of his experience. On one point, however, the word co-operation, as used in this connection, is given more than one meaning. Ninety parishes have answered the question as to supplementing out-relief, and of these it appears that in seventy-one cases this is done, while only nineteen of the clergy have made it a rule not to do so.

It does not seem to be generally known that the district medical officer has the power to recommend medical comforts and necessary food in any Poor Law case which he is visiting. This power would be more used if the clergy did not supplement the relief given.

And, further, it may be pointed out that, in certain cases, the guardians intentionally restrict or refuse out-relief because there are near relations able to help who are refusing to do so. In such cases, it is obvious that a moral wrong is being done if the Church takes a lower view of family responsibilities than that which commends itself to the guardians, and steps in to prevent the wholesome pressure which is being applied from succeeding in its object.

The Committee would draw special attention to the following paragraph taken from Lord Goschen's Minute on the Relief of the Poor in the Metropolis, 1869 :—

> "It appears to be a matter of essential importance, that an attempt should be made to bring the authorities administering the Poor Laws, and those administering charitable funds, to as clear an understanding as possible, so as to avoid the double distribution of relief to the same persons, and at the same time to secure that the most effective use should be made of the large sums habitually contributed by the public towards relieving such cases as the Poor Law can scarcely reach."
>
> "The question arises, How far is it possible to mark out the separate limits of the Poor Law and of charity respectively, and how is it possible to secure joint action between the two ?" (*See* Appendix C.)

The Committee is of opinion that the system of supplementing outdoor relief by gifts of money is neither wise nor wholesome. The objections to it, both in theory and practice, are very obvious. In the first place, two bodies are dealing with the same recipient. Relief given under such circumstances can never produce and seldom preserve self-respect. Secondly, the system enables the guardians to give relief which is known by itself to be inadequate. This fosters begging, and could hardly be defended as good work. Thirdly, it is doubtful whether funds supplied by Churchmen for the relief of the poor should be spent in relief of the rates.

The Committee, therefore, recommends that the *trend* of the administration of relief should be towards refusing to supplement outdoor relief. By this means gradually the guardians would be dealing with the destitute, and voluntary charity would be bestowed upon the self-respecting poor, who should never be allowed to go on the rates: the guardians would be pressed to deal adequately with those whom they undertake to help, and the clergy would have sufficient funds to deal with a smaller number of special cases.

Certain members of the Committee feel strongly that the system of administering relief by giving tickets instead of money, which is in very common use, is not desirable. If an applicant cannot be trusted with money, it is probably because he has given way to bad habits and has shown no signs of thrift. In this case, he is more often a proper subject for the guardians than for voluntary charity. The giving of tickets relieves the immediate want, but it does not tend to foster self-help and an honourable understanding. Often a self-respecting person in distress will take a pride in spending a sum of money to the best advantage.

Pensions and Endowed Charities.

Closely connected with the question of outdoor relief (*see* supra) is that of the provision of pensions. It is not quite easy to gather from the returns how many parishes have a satisfactory pension system already in operation. Twenty-nine speak of such a system, but it seems to be on a very restricted scale, consisting, in some instances of 2s. 6d. a month to a few old people, sometimes of 1s. a week to aged church folk; in one instance it is given frankly as a weekly reward to old people who attend church regularly.

In seventeen parishes the endowed charities have been converted, under a scheme drawn up by the Charity Commissioners. The amount formerly used for doles is, in these cases, applied usually, in the first instance, to pensions. Alms-houses, nursing funds, apprenticing, and other good objects are also included in the schemes. We are glad to notice that the clergy are evidently anxious for change. Speaking from personal

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experience, some members of your Committee can point out that, whatever opposition there may be at first to the adoption of a scheme, it speedily dies down when once the improved methods get to work. Also, it may be added, the Charity Commissioners are prepared to vary their scheme in order to meet the special needs of the neighbourhood.

In several parishes out-relief is reported to be dying out, being rendered unnecessary by the pensions provided under the scheme. In one or two cases the Church and the endowed charities co-operate to provide pensions for all who are beyond the working age and have a good record behind them.

Meantime, it appears that there are eighty-six parishes, of those making returns, in which there are endowed charities which are given away entirely, or almost entirely, in doles. Many strong criticisms are passed upon the result; the money is given "in coals and clothing to people who don't want them, and fifty-one loaves every Sunday to people who don't want them." "The parish suffers from the number of Christmas doles." "So many loaves are given each Sunday—all wasted money." In one parish the endowed charities yield an income of over £600 per annum, of which more than half is distributed in doles. That, of course, is exceptional.

The Committee would draw special attention to Appendix F., which explains the methods of the Charity Commissioners.

Slate Clubs and Friendly Societies.

It is unnecessary to state that the permanent benefit societies are widely encouraged by the clergy both in town and country. In some cases men who are members are helped by the Church in time of need almost as a matter of course; but many of the returns speak of the doubtful benefit rendered by slate clubs. They are held to "do more harm than good"; "only to benefit public-houses"; "magistrates should refuse to license public-houses where they are held"; "they are not much use, for strong pressure is brought to bear upon the members not to draw on the funds when sick." Several parishes take a more judicial view, and hold that, while useful to some who cannot gain admission to a friendly society, they do much harm in preventing young men from joining such societies. Many of the clergy state that they have formed slate clubs of their own in order to draw men away from those held at the public-house. The temptation to do this is naturally great, but it is necessary first to decide whether a slate club, which may injure the prospects of the permanent benefit society, is in itself a desirable thing. The clergy, it may be suggested, would do better work in this direction by joining the friendly societies as ordinary members.

At any rate, the Committee is of opinion that every effort should be made, both by clergy and laity, to encourage the working classes to join one or other of these great societies.

Among other methods of encouraging thrift, the most common are parochial boot, coal, and clothing clubs. The bonuses paid on these vary enormously. In one parish the bonuses on various funds seem to run from 8 per cent. to 125 per cent. The usual bonus appears to be 20 per cent. or 25 per cent. Many of the clergy look upon these bonuses as necessary evils. "I should certainly abolish the clubs and substitute collecting savings (*see* Appendix E.) if I were starting afresh." One parish pays no bonus, but has a flourishing pence club; "£264 was collected last year." Several send cards of rules showing an attempt to restrict the use of clubs to those who are in real need (widows with children, and labourers' families where the wages are below a certain level). It is obvious that all methods which involve the giving of a large bonus, though it may not be possible to change them hurriedly, tend in the direction of depressing wages, and are therefore of doubtful value. On the other hand, school savings banks, and other plans for collecting savings and investing them in the Post Office, are gradually coming into vogue, and will be of permanent benefit. One parish reports a coal co-operative club (Appendix D.), which is worked with complete success. We may also call attention to another where choir boys' money is paid in the form of contributions to friendly societies.

Housing and Sanitation.

Turning to more general questions, the one subject of importance on which there is, perhaps, the greatest unanimity of all is the need for more and better workmen's dwellings. Cottages "discouraged," "turned into week-end villas," "neither rebuilt nor repaired; interiors depressing." "Third bedroom to cottages a crying need." "Cottages uninhabitable. Local authority will no nothing. Labourers needed." "Overcrowding and immorality. Deplorable sanitation. Local authority does nothing." "Young couples leave the parish." Where new cottages are being provided the rents (running from 6s. to 10s. a week) are said to put them beyond the reach of ordinary workmen.

The Committee is agreed both as to the difficulty, and also as to the pressing nature of this problem. In place of formulating any recommendations of their own, they prefer to call the attention of the clergy, and of all Churchmen, to the series of resolutions which was passed, on the motion of the Bishop of London, in the Upper House of Convocation (Canterbury) while this Report was under consideration. These resolutions are printed in Appendix G.

Mention may be made of one instance in which the parish council is moving in the direction of having it made obligatory that no new house or cottage should be erected except on a site of sufficient size. Should this attempt to secure gardens for all houses be successful, it will, no doubt, be imitated in many other places.

Small Holdings.

It is a pleasure to point out that, where villages are prospering and population is increasing, the reason most frequently given is that land is available for cultivation. As against one or two parishes from which it is reported that small holdings and allotments have failed, there is a long list of gratifying successes. "Poverty is decreasing, and all are prosperous" is one report; "Wages are low, but all have allotments and grazing ground." "In several cases owners of small holdings are making a good living; but more are needed, and lads should be taught and interested in agriculture." "The population has been increasing steadily for the last twenty years owing to small holdings and allotments." "Most of the people have land and grow fruit. The population is increasing, and many new houses are built." "Very little poverty, because the land has been broken up for cultivation." Eight rural parishes deplore the impossibility of getting land for the labourers. "We shall never keep the people in the country without providing holdings." "Our need here is for small farms or large allotments." One rector is anxious to cut up his glebe (fifty acres) and let it to the labourers. "Co-operation and a central dairy factory might help us."

Of poultry farming different accounts are given, but to this and other small industries high charges for carriage are said to be a great hindrance.

We venture to recommend the clergy to ally themselves with the Agricultural Organisation Society (address, Dacre House, Dacre Street, Westminster, S.W.) or with local Agricultural Co-operative Societies, where these have been, or may be, formed.

Unemployed Funds.

Of the Unemployed Relief Funds which have been at work in various towns during the past few winters interesting details are given. These need not be discussed here. The need of trained men to deal with the difficult question of relief has nowhere been more evident than in the efforts of the municipalities to cope with this evil. From many places comes the cry that it will not be possible to deal with the unemployed till compulsory labour colonies, or the like, are provided by legislation for the unemployable, and that until this is done, proper classification cannot be carried out; a great part of the money is wasted, and much demoralisation results. Practically the same report comes from each of the larger towns where these funds have been at work.

Possibly the disappointment which has been felt at the comparative failure of these committees is due to the fact that too much was expected from them. At the best they could only be palliatives in times of distress. Making employment is not a real remedy

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for unemployment. All that can be hoped for is that the committees may not, in helping a few, do harm to many either by increasing the number of unemployed, or by facilitating the descent from the employable to the unemployable, which is already all too easy.

The Committee is of opinion that a better method of dealing with the unemployed, in times of exceptional distress, is to treat each case separately, and to keep the home together for a reasonable time so as to give the fullest possible opportunity to the unemployed man to find work. But the Committee does not look upon this as anything more than a help towards relieving immediate distress.

Emigration.

The conditions of life and labour in some of our towns and in the "outer rings" of some of our towns, and in some of our larger villages, where there is often a considerable amount of unemployed, unskilled labour, demonstrate the desirability of emigration to our colonies, not only in times of exceptional distress, but even in normal years. It is said that emigration robs the mother country of its best. We may point out, however, that the requirements of England and the requirements of a colony are different. Some succeed in England who would not succeed in a colony. Some fail to find scope for their energies or even to find employment in England, and probably sink eventually into the ranks of the unemployable who, if taken in time, would become prosperous and useful colonists, and increase the strength and prosperity of the countries to which they go, and so of the Empire.

[*See* Report of Departmental Committee of the Colonial Office on Agricultural Settlement in British Colonies, 1906.]

From several centres where large unemployed funds have been disbursed in recent winters, it is reported that no part, or a very small part, of the money has been set aside for emigration. The temptation to scatter the fund in small sums over a large number has proved too strong to be resisted. Hence, probably, less permanent good has been effected than would have been the case if fewer cases had been helped more thoroughly.

General.

Your Committee has in preparation a few leaflets, dealing more fully with some of the difficulties which have been briefly touched on in this Report. It is proposed that these, as they are printed, should be circulated, with your Lordship's imprimatur, throughout the Diocese.

No question was included in the letter to incumbents on the subject of vagrants; but we have thought it worth while to print the chapter on "Begging and Indiscriminate Charity" from the report of the Vagrancy Committee, 1906, as an appendix to our present Report (*see* Appendix J.) Much yet requires to be done before public opinion is educated with regard to this matter, and the whole of the Report, from which this chapter is taken, should be studied by those who are in a position to exercise influence.

It should be stated that one of the secretaries of your Committee was summoned last November to give evidence before the Poor Law Commission. The subject to which he was asked to address himself was the effect of relief on the character of the recipients. The second batch of returns had not then been tabulated, but he was able to call attention to the valuable information contained in the first batch. The letter issued by the committee and some of the tabulated returns will be published among the appendices to the Report of the Poor Law Commission. Moreover, in consequence of the interest which some members of the Commission felt in the returns, steps have been taken which will lead to a similar inquiry being carried out in other dioceses before the Commission completes its Report.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Committee recommend:—

(1) The discussion of this Report, or of some of the questions raised by it, at the next Diocesan Conference.

(2) That the subject of this Report be included among the subjects suggested to the rural deans for discussion at the ruridecanal conferences.

(3) The formation of parochial relief committees in the larger parishes of the diocese, with a view to: (*a*) Helping the poor in co-operation with the guardians; (*b*) spreading information as to the wisest methods of relieving poverty and destitution, and encouraging thrift, co-operation, and self-help.

(4) The formation of some kind of training centre in connection (if thought advisable) with one or other of the Charity Organisation Society Committees in Hampshire or Surrey, where laymen and women might gain insight into industrial and relief problems, in order that they may be qualified to act as secretaries to relief committees in the parishes.

(5) That opportunities be given to candidates for ordination to study the subjects dealt with in this Report.

(*Signed*)

TENNYSON, *Chairman.*

H. M. BURGE.
H. W. BIRCHAM.
A. E. DALDY.
G. C. FANSHAWE.
WINNINGTON INGRAM.
ARTHUR LEE.
R. PHAYRE.
H. A. POWELL.
C. H. SCAFE.

Committee.

G. H. AITKEN (*Hon. Sec.*)
S. BOSTOCK (*Hon. Sec.*)

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APPENDIX A.

COPY OF THE LETTER TO INCUMBENTS.

DEAR SIR,—In accordance with two resolutions passed at the meeting of the Diocesan Conference in October last, the Bishop of Winchester has appointed the committee on behalf of which we write to you. The terms of the resolutions are as follows:—

(*a*) "That in the opinion of this Conference the care of the poor and needy should always be one of the foremost duties of the Church."

(*b*) "That in order to avoid any tendency to pauperise those who receive assistance, and to encourage thrift, it is desirable to provide for the administration of parochial charities of all kinds on definite principles, by the co-operation of existing charities for parochial relief, and by the formation of parochial relief committees associated with a central authority, the duty of which would be to advise and assist local committees in the work of ameliorating the social and economic condition of the poor."

The committee is accordingly charged by the Bishop with the duty of collecting and disseminating information throughout the diocese on all questions which have to do with the causes of poverty and the most efficient methods for its relief or prevention.

At its first meeting it was decided that before any useful action could be taken, the committee must go to the clergy of the diocese for such details as they are able and willing to supply as to the methods of relief which are adopted in their own parishes.

It is well known that the returns which the clergy are already asked to make are somewhat numerous and burdensome, and it has been thought better, therefore, not to circulate any form which you would be asked to fill.

But in view of the necessity of making its report to Conference as full and as accurate as possible, the committee will be grateful if you will, of your courtesy, supply information, in whatever form will be least troublesome to yourself, particularly on some such points as the following:—

(1) Is there much poverty in your parish, and if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due? Was unemployment abnormal last winter, and how did it compare with the last two years?

(2) Have you any special methods of administering relief to the sick, the aged, those in temporary, those in chronic distress?

(3) Have you a relief committee, or do you feel that one would be helpful in your parish? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of district visitors and others?

(4) Do you in any special way co-operate with the Poor Law? Have you any rule as to giving relief in cases where out-relief is given by the guardians? Have you anything to say as to Poor Law administration in your union, *e.g.*, as regards classification, the granting of outdoor relief, the care of children and of feeble-minded? What relation is there between the Poor Law infirmary and the general hospital—if both exist in your neighbourhood?

(5) Any information as to (*a*) endowed charities; (*b*) pensions; (*c*) means of promoting thrift, *e.g.*, collecting savings banks, friendly societies, dividing societies, slate clubs, etc.

(6) Is there any overlapping in your district between the charities of Church and Chapel, or between various charitable societies? Has any special effort been made to prevent this?

(7) Are children being fed in any of the schools by guardians or by charitable funds, in accordance with the provisions of the Under-fed Children's Order of the Local Government Board?

(8) Can you tell us anything (if yours is a town parish) of the working of unemployed relief funds, of labour bureaux, of emigration?

(9) Have you had, or would you desire to have, any lectures on methods of relief for your church workers or district visitors?

(10) *Can you send us any balance sheet, or copy of accounts, which will show the amount of money collected and expended in the parish for the relief of the poor, or any report bearing upon these and kindred questions?*

(11) Is the supply of cottage accommodation a cause of depopulation in your neighbourhood? Are any steps being taken by the local authority to satisfy this need?

(12) Are any steps taken in your village to encourage allotments, small holdings, village industries, the organisation of co-operative credit (in the form of agricultural banks), poultry farming, or any other means of retaining the people on the land?

(13) Any other information which you think will be helpful, or any suggestions as to matters with which you think the committee might deal.

It will be clear to you that these questions are not all equally applicable to all parishes. They are simply meant to be a guide to the various classes of subjects as to which it will be useful to the committee to know your opinion or your practice. If you do not reply to any of them, we shall take it for granted that you feel you have nothing helpful to say on that particular subject. All answers will be treated as confidential.

Many causes are combining to bring home the importance of the subjects about which we are venturing to write to you. The alleged increase of unemployment, the recent Act for dealing with it, the appointment of the Poor Law Commission, the depopulation of rural parishes, and the increasing congestion of great towns, the stationary condition of the great friendly societies in many parts of the country, the discussion which has arisen as to the part which charitable relief may play, if unwisely given, in intensifying rather than diminishing the causes of poverty, these among other reasons will appeal to you as giving urgent cause for investigation and serious consideration on the part of the Church.

The Committee is assured that those especially who have already given thought to this matter and have realised its importance will not grudge the time and trouble required in order to reply to these questions.—We are,

Faithfully yours,

S. BOSTOCK,

G. H. AITKEN,

Hon. Secretaries.

July, 1906.

P.S.—In the event of this appeal for information meeting with an adequate response, the Bishop has suggested that steps might be taken to bring the opinion of the diocese before the Poor Law Commissioners.

As much labour will be involved in tabulating the answers received, you are asked to make your letter as businesslike as possible, and to reply to the questions by number.

APPENDIX B

SPECIMEN RETURNS FROM TOWN AND COUNTRY PARISHES.

[ABRIDGED.]

I.

1. A fair amount of poverty, increased lately. Unemployment normal last winter.

2. Relief administered on modified Charity Organisation Society lines.

3. Relief Committee sitting weekly in winter, and fortnightly in summer. Consists chiefly of district visitors. The district visitor brings the application, and, if granted administers relief.

4. A guardian is on the relief committee, but he rarely attends. Poor Law not very ready to co-operate with us. Too much out-relief given.

5. Smith's Charity administers about £100 per annum badly. Too many helped slightly, and too few substantially. Might be a weapon for good, but frittered away in paltry doles. Co-operation movement lately started. Church has men's and women's slate club as complementary to regular club, and not substitute for such. Wish slate clubs did not exist.

6. No overlapping.

8. Town authorities would not start labour bureau or help one started by Church. Relief committee keeps cut-of-work list; useful in getting employment.

9. Should like to have lectures for district visitors.

10. £120 spent in 1905 by relief committee, chiefly in sick and convalescent cases; many children.

11. Cottage accommodation bad; population rather increasing. No steps are being taken by the local authority to satisfy this need.

II.

1. No special poverty. Conditions normal. Agricultural. Population, 400.

2, 3. Relief committee of vicar and seven other men (several working men). Aged: Try to raise and grant pensions. Lady acts as almoner. Vicar sometimes gives sick relief; full inquiry made into every case. Committee meets monthly. Harmony of parish is never upset by the fact that the Committee considers cases.

4. No hard and fast rule as to supplementing out-relief. Some members of committee strongly object to supplementing out-relief; Vicar would supplement deserving cases, but thinks guardians ought to grant adequate relief that needs no supplementing and overlapping. Out-relief generally quite inadequate. When Poor Law reconsidered, he hopes deserving poor will be better and more sympathetically treated. Out-relief for honest and deserving should be thoroughly adequate.

5. Penny bank for children. Two small endowed charities. Oddfellows and Hants Friendly. Disapprove of slate clubs. Coal society useful here; on co-operative lines; entrance fee, 6d.; pay in what they like fortnightly; get tenders for coal at uniform rate per twelvemonth; decide on coal at annual meeting; add 4d. per ton for expenses. Tender accepted for next year is 21s. per ton. No member can order less than five cwts.; none delivered till card shows payment. Without this club members would pay 25s. ton, and more in winter, and worse coal. Last year seventy (70) tons ordered through club.

6. No overlapping.

7. No school feeding.

8. Country parish, but good to address children on Empire Day, on emigration.

9. Lectures for district visitors unnecessary here.

10. Relief £51 5s. 2½d. (£17 12s. 1d. offertories); rest contributed to pensions and debit, £8; spent on three pensions (8s., 7s., and 2s. 6d. week), £45 10s.; temporary, £5 15s. 2½d.

11. Supply of cottage accommodation to some extent a cause of depopulation.

12. Allotments and gardening lectures.

13. Relief committee advocated for every parish.

III.

1. Great poverty. Seamen and dock labourers. Caused by drink, overcrowding and casual labour. Unemployment distressing last winter, and worse winter before. Dock labour constant source of distress. Attracts wastrels; is intermittent. System of engaging casual dock labour thoroughly bad.

2. Relief to sick and aged; good many aged receive 6d. per week from alms. Last winter helped temporary distress from alms fund by soup kitchen and relief tickets.

3. No Relief Committee; would be difficult to form satisfactory one. Relief administered by district visitors.

4. Consult relieving officers. Relief tickets given regularly to aged out-reliefs as small addition to their comfort. Guardians do not consider club money disqualification in granting relief, but rather contrary. No classification. Children well cared for. General and Poor Law infirmary; latter lavishly built. Patients often transferred from general hospital to Poor Law infirmary.

5. Only one charity. About £10 per annum given to aged in £1 doles. Flourishing pence club, £264 collected last year. No bonus; purely savings.

6. May be a little overlapping; no attempt to prevent it.

7. Free breakfasts given last year to children at teacher's discretion. Voluntary funds.

8. Municipal relief. Winter 1903–04, 2,478 names at labour bureau. Work found for nearly all from one to twelve days; £2,500 spent, partly subscriptions, partly public funds. Winter 1904–05, 2,233 names; work found for 1,404 for one to twelve days; £2,565 spent. Winter 1905–06, 1,689 names; work found for 783 for one to twelve days; £1,764 spent. Winter 1903–04 was worst; much public sympathy; Mayor raised relief fund. Administered by ward committee. Greatly abused in parish ward; amounted to scandal. Even out-reliefs were assisted whose cases could in no way be considered exceptional. Next year appeal not responded to, but some money distributed. Clergy and ministers asked to send in weekly lists submitted to central committee under mayor and town clerk; revised for overlapping. This worked satisfactorily, and period of distress tided over. Some previous years mayor had raised special fund for coal; this relief valuable. Last year new Act in force, therefore no coal fund; much missed by aged poor and temporarily distressed.

10. Alms fund, 1905, £250 about; spent in relief tickets, £134 17s. 3d.; money, £48 12s. 9d.; provided by offertories, £187 2s.; subscriptions, £70 15s. 6d.

13. *Casual Labour.* — To clergymen resident in "Docks" town the subject of the employment of casual labour seems the most important. Hundreds of men always loafing about labour shed at docks on chance. Often get day, or two days' work in week; many prefer this to continuous work. Good wages while employed (6d. per hour); many are wastrels, who come into town and take work away from residents. Conditions of casual dock labour demoralising to character. If not for casual dock labour, unemployment at town in times of distress would not be impossible to deal with. Ought not great companies owning dock property to be restrained from inflicting moral wrong on neighbourhood by this labour? If compelled to keep register and employ residents entered on it in rotation this evil might be much alleviated.

IV.

1. Not much poverty, and not increasing; 1905–6 employment good; 1904–5 very bad.

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2. Relief to the sick by district visitors and clergy in conference. Aged and chronics by pensions from sick and poor fund and from "Charities."

3. Scheme in hand for formation of representative relief committee. Not yet in working order, so questions answered on present basis admittedly inadequate and temporary.

4. Consult relieving officer. No rule as to giving relief where out-relief is given by guardians.

5. Revised list of pensions in press. Pensions granted when thought desirable. All principal friendly societies; strongest—Oddfellows and Foresters; also Juvenile Foresters, National Deposit Friendly, Hearts of Oak.

7. No feeding of school children.

9. Have not had, but would like lectures.

10. Sick and poor: spent £44 10s. in cash relief per vicar and district visitors; spent £14 4s. in cash relief on almshouses and monthly allowances; spent £58 2s. tradesmen's bills—relief in goods.

11. Supply of cottage accommodation not a cause of depopulation here.

13. Thinks would be useful if bishop or suffragan or archdeacons gave authoritative expression by charge, address at Diocesan Conference, or other way, to desire that parochial relief committees should be formed whenever possible. Might persuade some to start them, and strengthen others who are trying to. Objection to them mostly from the laity.

V.

1. Considerable and increasing poverty; due to want of independence and backbone. Riverside work casual, seasonal, uncertain. Employment better.

3. Before 1905, relief given by district visitors in 1s. 6d. tickets; now relief committee; rules enclosed. Members: clergy, Church Army nurse, churchwarden, treasurer, three district visitors, two working men, headmaster of county school. Satisfactory change, but better if trained secretary could be found.

4. No: relieving officer would not sympathise with principles of relief committee. Rule not to supplement out-relief; sometimes violated at wish of majority of relief committee (vicar disapproving). Out-relief granted freely, but relieving officer does not keep in touch.

5. Charity Commission now revising endowed charities. Friendly societies weak.

6. Very little overlapping.

7. No school feeding at present; hope never will be.

9. A Charity Organisation Society secretary addressed district visitors in 1905. Lectures would be useful.

10. Sick and poor fund, £60 (including balance of £28). Provident club deposited £184; spent £203; bonus about 10 per cent. Almshouses, £101. Parish charities, £134 11s. 9d. (these now under new scheme).

13. Advisory committee would do useful work if could promote sounder views of administration of Poor Law, discourage policy of out-relief, and encourage more efficient men to serve as guardians. Specimen rules as to relief administration would also be useful.

VI.

1. A good deal of poverty. Unemployment due to dockyard discharges.

2, 3. Relief committee of clergy, lay workers, etc. Receive applications for relief; do not supplement out-relief; do not pay back debts on funerals; do not relieve out-of-work cases where no prospect; do not relieve where applicant is devoid of necessaries and no prospect; do not relieve chronic sickness, except in special circumstances, as to meet relatives' help; do not relieve where relations can but don't; not drunken cases or impostures. Unsuitable applicants should be left to the Poor Law.

4. In touch with relieving officer. Out-relief grants not adequate. Classification good.

5. Friendly societies urged. Many naval and military charities, which will co-operate. Charity Organisation Society has helped with pension cases.

6. Careful to prevent overlapping.

8. Unemployed fund not worked satisfactorily. Given temporary relief, but value doubtful. Difficult to work. Discrimination impossible, unless nation takes action by supplying labour colonies.

9. Lectures would be quite useful; might be arranged for several parishes together.

10. Sick and poor fund, £294; offertories, £153; subscriptions, £59. For deaconesses, £43, etc. Spent on relief committee, £106 17s. 11d. (largest items—relief in kind, £58 14s.; pensions, £23). Parochial visitation, £158. Maternity Society, £15.

VII.

1. Large amount acute poverty much increasing, largely due to migration from————slums into new streets here. Special cases:—

(*a*) Drink; female drinking alarmingly prevalent.

(*b*) Irregular employment.

(*c*) Glut of unskilled labour; intensified by readiness with which boys get unskilled brickfield work.

(*d*) Brickfield summer work (unskilled); off in winter.

(*e*) High rents for artisans. Unemployment was abnormal from dockyard discharges.

2. Refuse to relieve chronics, and relieve temporaries only where work is in actual prospect.

3. Relief committee, parochial, annually elected. Five qualified persons meet weekly and inquire into cases. No relief cases dealt with by clergy or district visitors.

4. Constant communication with relieving officer.

5. Provident Club, £84; small bonus. (No subscriptions.)

6. Overlapping carefully guarded against.

8. Relief funds; experience last winter demonstrated (*a*) necessity of unification; independent funds inevitably overlapped. (*b*) Danger of amateur management; should be careful, skilled, experienced; tends to fall under control of interested local tradespeople.

9. Rev. addressed Church workers on relief methods last autumn; highly desirable to educate public opinion.

10. Sick and poor fund, £58; from balance, £19 12s.; offertories, £17 9s.; subscriptions, £10 18s. Samaritan society, 16s. 7d. Provident club.

13. "Experience tends more and more to conclusion that in interests of spiritual work relief administered should be, as far as possible, dissociated from connection with directly spiritual agencies."

VIII.

1. A good deal of poverty, but not increasing. Many live on visitors, making money in the summer, out of employment in winter. Moral causes: Intemperance; idleness of men, living on wives' earnings.

2. Help given in money. With chronic or aged allow definite regular sum for fixed period. No help given to pay back rent. Sometimes meet relations in helping with rent for aged. Cases of sickness, especially of breadwinner, helped as liberally as possible. Doles discouraged.

3. No relief committee. Relief given by curates and district visitors, only after vicar's consent. Relief committee would be more satisfactory, but difficult at present to get competent one.

4. Have tried to co-operate with Poor Law, but am not much encouraged. As principle, think out-relief cases should be adequately helped, and that Church relief funds should not touch them. Cannot overthrow ancient customs without inflicting hardships; so often do what believe to be unsound. Poor Law seems carefully done. Parish doctors send cases to infirmary; others go to hospital.

6. Overlapping very serious. "Town relief society" collects money and distributes in coal and blankets to practically all who apply. Many ladies give alms indiscriminately at doors. Happy hunting ground for mendicants

7. No free food given to children.

8. Very little emigration attempted. Have helped five or six to emigrate during last year. No organised agency for this work.

9. Should like some lectures. Have given copies of Miss Sewell's tract to all my visitors, and lent them C. F. Rogers on charitable relief.

13. Hoping to form relief committee for whole town. Should be glad if your committee could supply printed matter to be circulated with view to bringing this about Should show clearly the advantages of central organisation and evils resulting from indiscriminate almsgiving. Should also be glad to know experience of other towns of this size with central committees, and their rules.

IX.

1. Not acute poverty. Unemployment normal.

2. Relief administered by tickets on shops; given at discretion of district visitors, who have so many per quarter. Special relief when necessary.

3. No relief committee, but one would be most useful. Ticket system most unsatisfactory. Relief is administered by self or visitors.

4. No rule as to supplementing out-relief; in theory hold that when guardians give out-relief it ought to be sufficient not to need supplementary help from the Church.

5. Private benefit society in parish since 1840. Now going down; only pays 15s. in £. Will probably be dissolved. In hands of chief registrar.

6. Not much overlapping.

7. No school feeding. In winter, 1904, soup sold cheaply to families by private effort, but found not much appreciated.

9. Lectures would be useful.

11. Population increasing.

13. Good houses for poor at reasonable rates much wanted. Better if sanitary inspector appointed direct by Government and often changed, so as not to be under influence of local authorities and big landlords. Probably would be well to urge clergy to form relief committee; they often lack energy and go on in old methods. Some "working" men should be on such committees. Perhaps parishes could combine together, or combine with Nonconformists on matters of relief.

X.

1. A good deal of poverty; employment irregular. Want of thrift and drink causes of poverty; 200 men out of work last winter.

2. List of recipients of small regular relief, mostly in almshouses.

3. Just formed guild of help for whole town; Mayor as chairman.

4. Refer to relieving officer. Consider Poor Law well administered.

5. Nine endowed charities, each distributing a few pounds at Christmas. Aggregate seems to equal about £78; some cash, some in kind. Large savings bank. Friendly societies strong; Oddfellows, 2,000 members.

6. Guild of help designed to prevent overlapping.

7. Children given free breakfast through winter, but not thought wise to continue.

8. Unemployed relief fund last winter managed by Mayor carefully done; most successful in alleviating distress. Starting small labour bureau.

9. No lectures have been given; would value such course.

10. Spent £93 (includes some endowment money); offertories, £27; subscriptions, £41 12s. 6d.

11. Old rookeries have been demolished; new houses built.

APPENDIX C.

LORD GOSCHEN'S MINUTE ON POOR LAW RELIEF (EXTRACT).

[Not Printed.]

APPENDIX D.

PLAN OF CO-OPERATIVE COAL CLUB TO TAKE THE PLACE OF SUBSIDISED CLUBS.

Specimen Rules for Village Coal Society.

1. That there be two classes of members:—

(*a*) Those taking three tons yearly and under.

(*b*) Those taking more than three tons.

2. That class (*a*) pay fortnightly; that class (*b*) pay before the end of the month. Special arrangements may be made for monthly payments by arrangement with the Committee.

3. The smallest amount paid in at one time shall be 6d.

4. Money to be returned in the event of sudden departure from the village.

5. Place of meeting—the schoolroom.

6. That an entrance fee of 6d. be paid by Class A. (those taking under three tons), and 2s. 6d. by Class B. (those over three tons).

7. That the minimum amount to be delivered be five cwt.

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

APPENDIX E.

RULES OF COLLECTING BANK.

Collecting Savings Bank.

1. Any sum from 1d. upwards will be received, and no depositor may have more than £5 in the Bank.

2. No interest will be given upon money deposited.

3. Depositors may withdraw their money on one week's notice. The depositor must present this card in person to receive the money.

4. Should this card be lost, the depositor shall pay 1d. for a new one.

N.B.—It is strongly recommended that depositors should at the earliest opportunity transfer their savings to the Post Office Savings Bank, where they will get interest for their money. The collector will give full information.

APPENDIX F.

THE CHARITY COMMISSION.

Information about the Charity Commission.

In the first place the Charity Commissioners possess the important power of inquiring into the condition and administration of the great bulk of charitable endowments.

The broad light thus thrown on the working of endowments, and the constant communication of their trustees and others with a central authority, has already done more for their improvement than all the actions of the Court of Chancery for centuries.

In the second place the Charity Commissioners have, by the establishment of official trustees, got a very simple machinery by which the safety of charity property is secured, and the expense of its devolution from one lot of trustees to another is saved, while the administration of the income by its managers is not interfered with. It is very important that this advantage to charity properties should be widely known.

In the third place the Charity Commissioners now exercise the old jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery in remodelling arrangements, or, as it is called, making new schemes; but the exercise of their power is subject to a very mischievous limitation. As regards small endowments, it may be exercised in every case, for the Commissioners may proceed to make a scheme on the application of the Attorney-General, or of any trustee of the endowment in question, or of any two inhabitants of the place it belongs to. But it is a curious instance of the dislike which the managers of these endowments have to reform, and of their great power in the legislature, that if the income of an endowment exceeds £50 a year, the Commissioners cannot make a scheme for it unless the trustees themselves ask to have one.

The following scheme of the Commissioners gives an idea of the way in which they dispose of charities referred to them:—

Subject to certain payment, the yearly income of the charities shall be applied by the trustees in making payments, under one or more of the following heads, for the benefit of either of the poor of the parish of ——— generally, or of such deserving and necessitous persons resident therein as the trustees select for this purpose, and in such way as they consider most advantageous to the recipients, and most conducive to the formation of provident habits:—

1. Subscriptions or donations in aid of the funds of:—

(*a*) Any dispensary, infirmary, hospital, or convalescent home, whether general or special, upon such terms (so far as may be) as to enable the trustees to secure the benefits of the institution for the objects of the charities;

(*b*) Any provident club or society established in or near the said parish for the supply of coal, clothing, and other necessaries;

(*c*) Any duly registered provident or friendly society accessible to the inhabitants of the said parish;

(*d*) Any cottage hospital or district nursing society.

2. Contributions towards:—

(*a*) The provision of nurses for the sick and infirm;

(*b*) The travelling expenses of patients to and from such institutions as are above mentioned in paragraph 1 (*a*);

(*c*) The purchase of annuities, whether present or deferred, or the augmentation of any income or other means of support possessed by the recipient which shall be proved to the satisfaction of the trustees to be properly secured, and to have been produced by his or her own exertions or providence;

(*d*) The cost of the outfit, on entering upon a trade or occupation, or into service, of any person under the age of twenty-one years;

(*e*) The cost of providing proper care and supervision (including any necessary cost of locomotion) for poor children requiring temporary change of air or special protection or treatment.

3. The supply of clothes, linen, bedding, fuel, tools, medical or other aid, including surgical appliances, sickness, disability, or infirmity, food or other articles in kind to an amount which, together with the total expenditure under Clause 14 aforesaid, does not exceed £15 in any one year.

4. Payment for placing out as apprentice to any suitable trade, occupation, or service, a poor deserving boy, born in the said parish, or who is, or whose parents are, *bona-fide* residents therein, and who is and has not for not less than six years been attending some public elementary school or schools.

Provided that the funds or income of the charities shall in no case be applied in aid of any rates for the relief of the poor or other purposes in the parish, or so that any institution, or, save as herein expressly provided, any individual may become entitled to a periodical or recurrent benefit therefrom.

APPENDIX G.

Resolutions on the Housing of the Poor passed by the Upper House of Convocation for the Southern Province, July 3rd, 1907:—

1. That the housing problem is one of special urgency, both in town and country, claiming for its solution the interest and co-operation of all members of the National Church.

2. That compulsory registration of ownership or of claim to ownership is urgently required to bring home a sense of responsibility to the owners, and to enable the authorities to deal with overcrowding and sanitation.

3. That it is the duty of those who have house property, and employ agents for its management, to make themselves acquainted with the condition of their houses, so that overcrowding and other kindred evils may be kept in check.

4. That the Church, occupying an exceptionally responsible position in every parish in the land, should utilise its organisations and agencies in discovering evils when they exist, and in seeking to apply the most effective remedies.

5. That for this purpose the clergy should co-operate actively with local authorities; and that in their parochial visitation they should endeavour to elevate the standard of feeling as to decency, sanitation, and overcrowding.

6. That in some places the formation of voluntary housing and sanitary committees, including clergy, medical men, and other practical workers, has led to valuable results and shown that there is much room for useful co-operation with local authorities.

8. That efforts should be made to check the appalling rate of infant mortality, especially in the congested parts of towns, both by proper instruction and by more stringent legislation.

9. That amongst the means of remedy for overcrowding a prominent place should be given to schemes of co-operation and co-partnerships which enlist the interest of the operative and occupying classes, and aim at securing housing extension under wholesome and methodical conditions.

10. That to promote the healthy and orderly development of new districts municipal authorities should be assisted to acquire all necessary powers to control the planning and laying out of the areas which are about to be covered with houses in such a way as to hinder the creation of slums and to secure healthy conditions of life.

APPENDIX H.

RULES OF PAROCHIAL RELIEF COMMITTEE.

1. The committee shall consist of the rector, the senior curate of the Parish Church, the curate in charge of——— Church, at least one of the churchwardens, and such other members as shall be nominated by the rector.*

2. The rector shall nominate an honorary secretary and an honorary treasurer (the latter not to be one of the parochial clergy), who shall, *ex officio*, be members of the committee.

3. The clergy of the parish (not included in Rule 1), and all district visitors, shall be entitled to attend the meetings of the committee, and shall be invited to do so. They shall not, however, be entitled to vote, nor to speak, except by permission of the chairman.

4. The committee shall administer the general relief fund of the parish.

5. Applications for relief, together with the fullest particulars obtainable, shall be submitted to the committee on the authorised application form. The decision of the committee shall be endorsed thereon. So far as possible application forms should be sent to the hon. secretary two days before the meeting of the committee.

6. No application for relief can be entertained unless the applicant is actually resident in the parish, or has a claim through connection with some parochial organisation.

7. The committee must bear in mind that there are many cases in which the granting of relief is likely to encourage idleness, lack of thrift, or forgetfulness of family responsibility. Consequently relief shall not be granted:—

(*a*) In ordinary out of work cases, unless there is evidence of thrift, or unless there is illness, and there is reasonable prospect that circumstances will improve.

(*b*) In cases of destitution, when there is no prospect of circumstances improving—these are Poor Law cases.

(*c*) In cases of chronic sickness, unless they are suitable for a permanent allowance on the ground of good character, thrift, provision for the future, and readiness of relations to assist.

(*d*) In cases in which near relations, able to help, are unwilling to do so.

The above are the rules framed for the guidance of the committee. A strict regard of these rules will gain the confidence of those who, being charitably disposed, are anxious for the distribution of charity in such a way as to truly help and not injure those who are in distress. In accordance with the Christian principles upon which a parochial relief fund must be administered, the committee will remember both that they are trustees of public money, and also that the rules allow of an exercise of Faith and Hope, as well as of Love, in their administration.

* It may be mentioned that the plan of election, either by the Vestry or by Members of the Church Council, has been found to work well in various Parishes. This may be read as applying both to Rules 1 and 2

HINTS FOR THE GUIDANCE OF DISTRICT VISITORS.

1. Be sure that you have fullest information, especially as to sources of income, and ability of relations to assist.

2. Be regular in your visits, so that every case of illness or sudden distress may be reported at once to the curate in charge of your district.

3. When relief is required, you need not frighten respectable people by making them fill up the application form; do this yourself. On the other hand, it may be well to ask those whom you think undeserving, but who apply for relief, to fill up the form under your guidance.

4. You will find that so long as there is money in the fund, deserving cases will be dealt with liberally.

5. You are most earnestly requested on no account to give money or food out of your own pocket, except in cases of immediate necessity, and in such cases the facts should be stated at the next meeting of the committee, and the cost refunded to you. If you wish to help a case yourself, please give the money to the general fund, and allow the committee to be your almoner. By a strict adherence to this fundamental rule, the confidence of the poor will be gained, and comparisons will not be made between district visitors.

6. Let the people feel that your visits to them are a pleasure to yourself; that you come as friends, and not as a mere matter of duty or routine.

7. You are urged to recommend all eligible persons, both young and old, to join some lodge or court of a recognised friendly society. You should supply yourself, through the secretary of the committee, with information on this subject. The encouragement of thrift will do much to help the people in your district. Men, women, and children can all join savings banks and sick clubs, and the suitability of cases for relief will be considered largely in relation to the use the applicants have made of such institutions while in receipt of wages.

8. It will be seen that the loyal co-operation of district visitors is essential to the success of the work of the relief committee. You are, therefore, asked to accept the ruling of the committee, even in cases where your own judgment is at variance with its decisions.

APPENDIX I.

PAROCHIAL RELIEF COMMITTEE.

APPLICATION FORM.

Date.....

Full Name of Applicant
Address — How long at present Address.
Name and Address of Landlord
Name of District Visitor
Nature of Assistance required (whether money, food, clothing, medical, or other. If money, the amount should be stated)

Full Names of all Members of the Family Living at Home.	Married, Single, or Widow.	Age	Weekly Income. Full Work. s.	Full Work. d.	Present. s.	Present. d.	Occupation.

Number of Rooms occupied

	s.	d.
Weekly Rent - - -		
Deduct Rooms let off -		
Rent stands at - - -		
Present Weekly Payments to Clubs or Benefit Societies - - -		
Rent now due (if any) -		
Other Debts - - -		

Income received from Guardians -				
" " " Club or Benefit Society -				
" " " Relations at Home				
" " " " Away -				
" " " other sources (if any) -				
Total Income of Applicant and his wife (if married) from all sources -				

1. Name and Address of present (or last) Employer
2. Time in last employ
3. Date of leaving
4. Cause of leaving
5. Time out of work during past twelve months
6. Names and Addresses of near relations, including children living away from home — Extent of help to be expected from each

The Visitor should add here his or her own Report as to—
(*a*) Cleanliness of home. (*b*) Length of time known.
(*c*) What evidence there is of thrift in the past.
(*d*) How the Applicant is likely to be most permanently helped.
(*e*) How family at present obtain a living.
Visitors are requested to write on the back under these five heads.

APPENDIX J.

BEGGING AND INDISCRIMINATE CHARITY.

Being Chapter XIII. of the Report of the Departmental Committee on Vagrancy.

[NOT PRINTED.]

WORCESTER.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON "POOR RELIEF."

In reply to questions:

(1) *Is there much poverty in your Parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?*

Not much poverty, except in congested areas, and not increasing. It is very prevalent where there are endowed charities. What poverty there is in country districts is caused by the precariousness of employment, which causes improvidence. In the town of Dudley, the reason for poverty is given—of a disinclination to employ people over 60 years of age. Most of the poverty is traceable to intemperance and to a disinclination to regular work.

(2) *Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to (a) the sick, (b) the aged, (c) those in temporary distress, and (d) those in chronic distress?*

Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of District Visitors?

In the towns there seem to be good methods adapted to the circumstances. In the country relief is given through the Clergy from Church alms, or personally, and by private individuals. No special method is adopted or required. Relief Committees exist in the larger towns, and where required there are District Visitors.

(3) *Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.*

There is no reluctance to accept Outdoor Relief, but there is a natural dislike to going into the Workhouse.

(4) *Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate? If so, please give the number and one or two instances in detail.*

The amount of relief granted by Guardians seems inadequate in some cases, but we cannot trace any distress directly to this cause.

(5) *Is there in your Parish any needless overlapping—*

(a) between various forms of charity, or

(b) between charity and the Poor Law;

and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

There is no overlapping except at Christmas.

(6) *If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your Parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, separating that (a) given to clubs, &c., for the encouragement of thrift from that (b) given to the sick, the aged, and those in temporary or chronic distress, please do so.*

(7) *Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals (a) regularly (b) frequently in receipt of charity other than that of the Poor Law in your Parish during the course of a year?*

The replies to these questions are so indefinite that it is impossible to form an opinion.

(8) *What is the average rent of an ordinary cottage in your Parish?*

About 2s. per week in the country, about 4s. per week in towns.

Some of the questions are difficult to answer, but on the whole the Committee consider that the replies have been well thought out. Replies were received from about 85 per cent. of those written to. The Committee will be glad to reply further to any question if their answer is not quite clear.

ERIC. A. KNIGHT
(for Committee).

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Report of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

APPENDIX (A).

DIOCESE OF WORCESTER.

REPORT BY COMMITTEE ON POOR LAW FROM THE ARCHDEACONRY OF WARWICK AND CERTAIN PARISHES IN ARCHDEACONRY OF WORCESTER.

My inquiry extended over 9 Deaneries, including 153 Parishes, of which 126 made statistical returns of a population of about 150,000; 20 clergy made no return.

In 26 parishes poverty was stated to exist—this should probably read as 17 only in which actual poverty over the normal was intended. Out of the 26, 16 are in the towns of Worcester and Warwick. In 6 parishes poverty is said to be increasing. The chief cause of poverty is given to intemperance, secondly to depression in agriculture and endowed charities. Lack of employment and free trade are also causes mentioned.

In 7 parishes only were special methods used for distributing relief, which appears to be generally administered by the clergy themselves only, though in 28 parishes the assistance of district visitors is used.

There are only 8 returns, or under 7 per cent., who consider there is any reluctance to resort to the Poor Law, the chief objection being dislike to live in; but double the number, or 17, consider the relief given by the guardians inadequate, which in W. W. & S. K. is returned as low as 2s. per week—a sum clearly inadequate. In N. K. and Alcester the relief given appears satisfactory—in fact, with the exception of the first deaneries mentioned one must conclude from the returns that it is generally considered adequate.

As regards any overlapping, there are 9 returns signifying such as occurring, but the question is somewhat difficult to answer, as there is no doubt it does exist in other parishes also, at the same time, though with one or two exceptions, perhaps, it is doubtful whether it exists in any parish to such an extent as to require attention. The amount given by the Poor Law would hardly suffice to keep one all the year round without the addition of some kind of charity or assistance.

Rents are not high (though query around Malvern), especially in the country parishes, where they average not more than 2s. per week. The general average is 2s. 6d. per week over the 9 deaneries. There is little doubt that where endowed charities are established poverty exists and they act as a deterrent to progress. The remedies proposed are clubs and oldage pensions. Tariff reform and better housing are also mentioned.

APPENDIX

DIOCESE OF WORCESTER.

Population.	Name of Parish.	Poverty.	Poverty increasing.	Special cause for Poverty.	Special methods of administering Relief.	Relief administered by Clergy.	Relief administered by District Visitors.	Reluctance to resort to Poor Law.	Poor Law Relief inadequate.	Charity overlaps Poor Law.	Families in receipt of Charity regularly.	Amount given to Club, etc. (A) £ s. d.	Families in receipt of Charity.	Amount given to Sick, Aged, etc. (B). £ s. d.	No. of Parishes.	Average Rent paid. £ s. d.	Remarks.
–	Bleckley . . 4	–	–	–	–	3	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	4	1 6	
14,327	Alcester . . 17	–	–	1	1	13	2	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	15	2 8	
6290	N. Kineton . 14	1	–	–	–	12	3	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	14	2 0	
14,007	S. do. . . 13	1	–	–	–	11	2	3	5	–	–	–	–	–	12	1 8	
23,089	Powyke . . 15	3	1	2	–	11	8	1	2	2	–	–	–	–	12	3 5	
7525	Upton . . 12	5	1	–	–	9	2	–	2	2	–	–	–	–	11	2 0	
22,059	Warwick . . 17	4	–	3	–	16	1	–	2	2	–	–	–	–	17	2 6	
37,462	E. Worcester . 17	6	1	–	3	13	6	1	2	1	–	–	–	–	14	3 5	
17,817	W. do. . . 17	6	3	4	–	15	3	3	3	1	–	–	–	–	16	2 8	
	Returns . 126	26 20%	6 5%	10 7½%	7 6%	103 80%	28 22½%	8 6½%	17 14%	9 7%	–	–	–	–	110	2 6	

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BLOCKLEY (6).

Population.	Name of Parish.	Poverty. (1)	Poverty increasing. (1)	Special cause for Poverty. (1)	Special methods of administering Relief. (2)	Relief administered by Clergy. (2)	Relief administered by District Visitors. (2)	Reluctance to resort to Poor Law. (3)	Poor Law relief inadequate. (4)	Charity overlaps Poor Law. (5)	Families in receipt of Charity regularly. (7 A)	Amount given to Club, etc. (6 A) £ s. d.	Families in receipt of Charity. (7 B)	Amount given to Sick, Aged, etc. (6 B) £ s. d.	Average Rent paid. (8) s. d.	Remarks.
1931	Blockley	Nil	Nil	Y	Y	—	Y	—	N	Y	50	clubs	30	36 0 0	1 6	Old age pension recommended.
—	Aston Magna	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	No	return.	—	—		
—	Cutsdean	—	N	—	—	Y	—	N	N	N	—	—	—	—	1 6	
85	Daylesford	—	N	—	N	Y	—	N	N	N	—	N	—	—	1 0	
207	Evenlode	—	N	—	—	Y	—	N	N	—	—	—	—	—	1 9	
—	Stretton-on-Fosse	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	4 Parishes	0	0	0	1	3	1	0	0	1					1 6	

ALCESTER DEANERY (20).

Population.	Name of Parish.	Poverty. (1)	Poverty increasing. (1)	Special cause for Poverty. (1)	Special methods of administering Relief. (2)	Relief administered by Clergy. (2)	Relief administered by District Visitors. (2)	Reluctance to resort to Poor Law. (3)	Poor Law Relief inadequate. (4)	Charity overlaps Poor Law. (5)	Families in receipt of Charity regularly. (7 A)	Amount given to Club, etc. (6 A)	Families in receipt of Charity. (7 B)	Amount given to Sick, Aged, etc. (6)	Average Rent paid. (8)	Remarks.
2303	Alcester	N	–	–	–	–	Y	N	N	N	15	£ s. d. 3 7 0	–	£ s. d. 11 6 9	s. d. 2 6	
317	Arrow	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	13	10 0 0	2	14 0 0	1 6	
433	Aston Cantlow	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	8	10 0 0	N	10 0 0	1 6	
522	Wilmcote	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	—	–	—	—	
1369	Bidford	N	N	N	Y	–	Y	N	N	N	–	—	–	14 9 6	5 0	
33	Billesley	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	–	N	–	N	2 0	
228	Binton	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	–	1 0 0	–	3 0 0	2 0	
635	Coughton	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	35 0 0	60	12 0 0	2 0	
171	Exhall	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	12	—	6	—	1 9	
253	Haselor	N	N	N	N	Y	N		N	N	–	—	3	—	2 0	
2231	Ipsley	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	—	–	6 0 0	4 0	
3775	Headless Cross	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	3	—	2	20 0	5 0	
59	Kinwarton	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	—	–	—	—	
61	Oldberrow	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	—	N	—	All allotted to Farms.	No Poor Law Relief
828	Salford	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	7 0 0	–	40 0 0	4 6	
74	Spernall	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	—	N	—	0	
2765	Studley	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	—	–	—	—	
371	Temple Grafton	N	–	–	–	Y	–	–	–	N	–	—	–	9 0 0	2 0	
642	Wootton Wowen	N	–	–	–	Y	–	–	–	N	–	—	–	—	—	
475	Ullenhall	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	—	20	—	2 0	
	17 Parishes	0	0	0	1	13	2	0	0	0	–	—	–	15 Parishes.	2 8	

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

NORTH KINETON (22).

Population.	Name of Parish.	Poverty. (1)	Poverty increasing. (1)	Special cause for Poverty. (1)	Special methods of administering Relief (2)	Relief administered by Clergy. (2)	Relief administered by District Visitors. (2)	Reluctance to resort to Poor Law. (3)	Poor Law Relief inadequate. (4)	Charity overlaps Poor Law. (5)	Families in receipt of Charity regularly. (7A)	Amount given to Club, etc. (A). (6A)	Families in receipt of Charity. (7B)	Amount given to Sick, Aged, etc. (B) (6B)	Average Rent paid. (8)	Remarks.
												£ s. d.		£ s. d.	s. d.	
433	Alderminster	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	–	4	–	1 2	
954	Alveston	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	–	–	–	–	2 0	
115	Atherstone-on-Stour	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
719	Barford	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
230	Butlers Marston	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	S*	N	–	–	–	–	1 9	*Contribution not considered sufficient.
212	Charlecote	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
209	Combroke	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	6 0 0	8	14 0 0	1 0	
620	Ettington	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	–	–	6 0 0	2 0	
454	Hampton Lucy	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	–	20 0 0	–	25 0 0	1 0	
1021	Kineton	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
352	Lighthorne	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
261	Loxley	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	–	–	2 0 0	2 0	
252	Moreton Morrell	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	–	–	–	–	2 0	
338	Newbold Pacey	N	N	N	N	Y		N	N	N	–	–	–	12 0 0	1 9	
123	Pillerton Hersey	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
8586	Stratford-on-Avon	N	N	I	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	24	100 0 0	–	80 0 0	4 6	Guardians very liberal
–	Bishopton	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	–	–	–	–	3 6	
225	Wasperton	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	5 0 0	9	10 0 0	1 0	
1123	Wellesbourne	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	8	30 0 0	12	20 0 0	2 0	
222	Walton D'Eivile	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	1 7 6	–	3 12 8	1 3	Pensions by Sir C. Mordaunt.
154	Whitchurch	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
	14 Parishes	1	0	1	0	12	3	0	1	0	–	–	–	–	2 0	

SOUTH KINETON (18).

Population.	Name of Parish.	Poverty. (1)	Poverty increasing. (1)	Special cause for Poverty. (1)	Special methods of administering Relief. (2)	Relief administered by Clergy. (2)	Relief administered by District Visitors. (2)	Reluctance to resort to Poor Law. (3)	Poor Law Relief inadequate. (4)	Charity overlaps Poor Law. (5)	Families in receipt of Charity regularly. (7A)	Amount given to Club, etc. (A). (6A) £ s. d.	Families in receipt of Charity. (6B)	Amount given to Sick, Aged, etc. (B). (7B) £ s. d.	Average Rent paid. (8) s. d.	Remarks.
161	Barcheston	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	—	–	—	–	
172	Barton-on-Heath	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	2 16 6	9	17 6 0	1 8	A generous lady in parish.
1060	Brailes	N	N	–	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	—	–	—	1 0	Agricultural depression. Poor Law administration good.
220	Charrington	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	—	–	—	–	
606	Compton Long	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Vague.	—	–	—	1 9	
245	Halford	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	—	–	—	1 9	
217	Honnington	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	—	5	2 10 0	1 6	
62	Idlicote	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	—	–	—	2 0	
703	Ilmington	Y	N	–	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	3 0 0	15	25 0 0	1 9	Agricultural depression. An independent spirit.
209	Oxhill	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	12 0 0	–	2 0 0	1 6	
494	Tredington	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	S	N	–	—	–	7 0 0	2 0	
425	Newbold-on-Stour	N	–	–	–	Y	N	N	N	N	20	—	–	14 0 0	–	Charity does mischief.
1646	Shipston-on-Stour	N	N	N	N	–	N	N	N	N	–	—	–	—	2 6	Labourers say they are crushed by foreign competition. Farmers ditto. 2s. per week only given by Poor Law.
910	Tysoe	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	—	–	—	–	
–	Whatcote	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	—	–	—	–	
597	Whichford	N	N	N	N	Y 2	Y 2	Y 2	Y 2	N	7	4 2 0	–	5 5 0	1 6	
30	Wolford and Burnington	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	–	15	14 0 0	–	6 0 0	1 6	
	13 Parishes	1	0	0	0	11	2	3	5	0	–	—	–	—	1 8	

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POWYKE (15).

Population.	Name of Parish.	Poverty. (1)	Poverty increasing. (1)	Special cause for Poverty. (1)	Special methods of administering Relief. (2)	Relief administered by Clergy. (2)	Relief administered by District Visitors. (2)	Reluctance to resort to Poor Law. (3)	Poor Law Relief inadequate. (4)	Charity overlaps Poor Law. (5)	Families in receipt of Charity regularly. (7A)	Amount given to Clubs, etc. (6A)	Families in receipt of Charity. (6B)	Amount given to Sick, Aged, etc. (7B)	Average Rent paid. (8)	Remarks.
												£ s. d.		£ s. d.	s. d.	
216	Acton Beauchamp	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	—	9	private	2 0	
966	Leigh	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	S	S	–	5 0 0	–	92 0 0	–	Almshouses, dread of living in Workhouse.
1088	Cowleigh	Y	–	–	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	–	none	–	none.	4 0	
4305	St. Mathias-Link	Y	N	I	N	N	Y	–	–	–	–	—	–	–	5 0	
319	Madresfield	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	70 0 0	–	6 0 0	2 0	
4026	Malvern, Gt.	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	12	80 0 0	12	25 0 0	–	
493	,, Guarlford	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	–	12 0 0	–	35 0 0	–	
3160	,, Christ Church	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	–	31 13 2	–	87 18 0	5 0	
2027	,, Holy Trinity	–	–	–	–	Y	Y	N	N	N	16	24 0 0	125	100 0 0	4 0	
221	Newland	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	4	10 0 0	5	15 0 0	2 6	
108	Malvern, Little	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	none	–	none.	4 6	
1375	,, West	Y	Y	I	–	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9	—	–	70 0 0	4 0	
761	,, Wells	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	4 15 6	–	5 16 0	4 6	
2748	Powyke	N	N	N	N	Y	–	–	–	N	–	—	150	100 0 0	2 0	
1181	Suckley	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	13 2 5	–	59 0 5	2 0	
	15 Parishes	3	1	2	0	11	8	1	2	2	–	—	–	12 Parishes.	3 5	

UPTON (14).

Population.	Name of Parish.	Poverty. (1)	Poverty increasing. (1)	Special cause for Poverty. (1)	Special methods of administering Relief. (2)	Relief administered by Clergy. (2)	Relief administered by District Visitors. (2)	Reluctance to resort to Poor Law. (3)	Poor Law Relief inadequate. (4)	Charity overlaps Poor Law. (5)	Families in receipt of Charity regularly. (7 A)	Amount given to Club, etc. (6 A)	Families in receipt of Charity. (6 B)	Amount given to Sick, Aged, etc. (6 B.)	Average rent paid. (8)	Remarks
												£ s. d.		£ s. d.	s. d.	
310	Barrow	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
227	Birts-Morton	–	–	N	N	Y	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Information vague.
260	Bushley	N	–	–	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	–	–	–	1 6	
526	Eldersfield	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	–	–	5 0	2 0	
1698	Hanley Castle	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	18 0 0	–	–	2 0	
421	Longdon	V L	N	–	–	Y	N	N	N	V L	1	17 0 0	–	5 0 0	2 0	
795	Castle Morton	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
228	Chaceley	N	N	N	N	Y	N	–	–	–	N	–	–	–	2 0	
218	Pendock	V L	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	–	–	10	5 0 0	1 9	
83	Queenhill	N	N	–	–	–	–	–	N	–	–	–	–	–	1 6	Chairman of Board of Guardians.
857	Redmarley	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	9 0 0	–	–	2 0	
325	Staunton	Y	–	–	–	–	Y	N	Y	N	41	–	52	21 7 6	1 6	Charity Bequest, £50.
2225	Upton-on-Sea	Y	Y	–	–	Y	N	–	Y	Y	–	Nurse (150) 187 4 0	–	46 11 0	–	Decline of agricultural intemperance.
977	Welland	N	N	N	N	–	–	N	N	N	3	19 5 0	10	21 0 0	4 0	
	12 Parishes	5	1	0	0	9	2	0	2	2	–	–	–	11 Parishes	2 0	

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WARWICK DEANERY (17.)

Population.	Name of Parish.	Poverty. (1)	Poverty increasing. (1)	Special cause for Poverty. (1)	Special methods of administrating Relief. (2)	Relief administered by Clergy. (2)	Relief administered by District Visitor. (2)	Reluctance to resort to Poor Law. (3)	Poor Law Relief inadequate. (4)	Charity overlaps Poor Law. (5)	Families in receipt of Charity regularly. (7 A)	Amount given to Club, etc. (6 A)	Families in receipt of Charity. (6 B)	Amount given to Sick, Aged, etc. (6)	Average rent paid. (8)	Remark.
												£ s. d.			s. d.	
188	Bearley	V L	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	9 0 0	–	1 14 6	1 6	
141	Beaudesert	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	–	N	–	3 0	
908	Baddbrooke	N	N	N	–	Y	N	N	N	N	27	11 0 0	5	50 0 0	1 9	
692	Claverdon	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	5 0 0	–	15 0 0	2 0	
208	Haseley	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	–	–	20 0 0	2 0	
1664	Hatton	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	–	20	10 0 0	2 0	
1043	Henley-in-Arden	N	N	I	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	20 0 0	–	50 0 0	3 0	Intemperance.
176	Preston Bagot	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	2 0 0	–	–	2 6	
833	Rowington	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	20	63 0 0	36	32 0 0	2 0	
191	Sherborne	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	–	5	30 0 0	1 6	
790	Snitterfield	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	S	N	N	–	N	–	2 0	
3219	Warwick St. Mary	Y	–	Y	–	Y	–	N	N	N	12	–	30	25 0 0	3 6	Too many public-houses. Independence spoilt by charities.
3197	,, St. Nicholas	I.	–	–	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	–	–	–	–	4 6	
2569	,, Emscote	Y	–	–	–	Y	N	N	N	N	–	–	–	35 0 0	2 9	
151	Wo verton	N	N	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2 0	
171	Wroxall	N	N	N	N	–	N	N	N	N	–	–	–	–	2 0	
2918	Warwick St. Paul	Y	–	Y I	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	–	–	–	–	3 6	Racecourse and wanted regular employment.
	17 Parishes	4	0	3	0	16	1	0	2	2	–	–	–	–	Average 2 6	

EAST WORCESTER DEANERY (22).

Population.	Name of Parish.	Poverty. (1)	Poverty Increasing. (1)	Special cause for Poverty. (1)	Special method of administering Relief. (2)	Relief administered by Clergy. (2)	Relief administered by District Visitors. (2)	Reluctance to resort to Poor Law. (3)	Poor Law Relief inadequate. (4)	Charity overlaps Poor Law. (5)	Families in receipt of Charity regularly. (7A)	Amount given to Club, etc. (A) £ s. d. (6A)	Families in receipt of Charity. (7B)	Amount given to Sick, Aged, etc. (B) £ s. d. (6B)	Average Rent paid. (8) s. d.	Remarks.
244	Aston Episcopi	N	N	N	–	Y	–	N	N	N	–	–	–	–	2 0	
152	Broughton Hackett	V L	N	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
1232	Claines	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	20	15 0 0	12	35 0 0	4 0	Amount given by Poor Law too small. Permanent charities a hindrance.
3799	Barbourne	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	–	10 0 0	–	20 0 0	6 0	
4892	Claines St. Georges	–	–	–	–	Y	Y	N	Y	N	2	10 0 0	30	35 0 0	6 0	
2393	Rainbow Hill	V L	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	17 14 6	–	2 0 0	–	
2686	Worcester: Holy Trinity	N	N	N	N	–	Y	N	N	N	–	13 0 0	–	35 0 0	3 9	
4792	Worcester: The Tything	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
544	Crowle	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	none.	9	none.	2 0	Wages too low to allow to save for old age. Poor Law rate too low.
402	Hindlip	N	N	N	N	Y	N	–	–	–	–	–	–	5 0 0	2 0	
1518	Kempsey	N	N	N	Y	–	Y	–	Y	N	–	20 0 0	–	24 0 0	4 0	
809	Norton-y-Kempsey	V L	N	N	–	Y	–	N	N	N	–	12 0 0	–	10 0 0	2 6	
2085	Ombersley	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	–	–	–	–	2 0	
283	Spetchley	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
312	Tibberton	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	–	–	–	–	
3878	Worcester St. Martin	Y	–	–	–	–	N	N	N	N	–	6 5 0	–	35 0 0	3 6	
436	Worcester St. Michael	Vacant return by curate.														
1494	Worcester St. Nicholas	L	N	–	Y	Y	Y	L	N	N	–	100 0 0	–	82 0 0	3 0	
7904	Worcester St. Peter	Y	Y	N	N	Y	–	–	N	V L	–	–	–	140 0 0	4 3	
3080	Worcester St. Paul	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
473	Worcester St. Swithin	Y	N	–	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	–	70 0 0	–	150 0 0	3 6	
45	Churchill	N	N	N	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Charity fund, 5 0 0	–	Cottages in bad condition.
	17 Parishes	6	1	0	3	13	6	1	2	1	–	–	–	14 parishes	3 5	

NOTE.—References made in this Volume and in the Reports of the Commission to the pages in this Volume are to the page-numbering in brackets.

WEST WORCESTER (19).

Population.	Name of Parish.	Poverty. (1)	Poverty increasing. (1)	Special cause for Poverty. (1)	Special methods of administering Relief. (2)	Relief administered by Clergy. (2)	Relief administered by District Visitors. (2)	Reluctance to resort to Poor Law. (3)	Poor Law Relief inadequate. (4)	Charity overlaps Poor Law. (5)	Families in receipt of Charity regularly. (7A)	Amount given to Club, etc. (A). (6A)	Families in receipt of Charity. (7B)	Amount given to Sick, Aged, etc. (B). (6B)	Average Rent paid. (8)	Remarks.
												£ s. d.		£ s. d.	s. d.	
731	Areley Kings	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	6	2 10 0	N	–	4 0	–
754	Astley	S	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	5	4 0 0	–	35 0 0	2 6	2s. per week given by Poor Law insufficient.
295	Broadwas	N	N	I	N	Y	N	S	Y	N	35	18 0 0	–	37 0 0	2 4	–
201	Cotheridge	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	Special returns		–	–	1 9	Intemperance cause of what poverty exists.
575	Grimley	N	N	I	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	–	–	V L	2 4	Drink
1768	Hallow	S	N	–	–	Y	N	N	N	N	1	4 18 6	10	21 14 11	2 6	–
284	Holt	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	4	10 0 0	Y	8 0 0	2 0	Advocate Tariff Reform
143	Knightwick	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	–	–	–	2 0	–
979	Martley	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	3	10 0 0	60	20 0 0	2 0	–
498	Shelsley, Bpm.	V L	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	–	–	–	–	2 0	–
	Shelsley Walsh	N	N	N	N	–	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	2 0	–
467	Shrawley	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	27	–	27	3 0 0	2 6	–
334	Wichenford	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	–	–	–	–	–	–
606	Witley, Gt.	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	–	19 0 0	–	13 0 0	2 0	Aged pensioned by Lord Dudley.
1809	Worcester, All Saints	Y	Y	–	–	Y	Y	N	N	N	–	–	350	115 0 0	3 0	–
1175	Worcester, St. Andrews	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
2107	Worcester, St. Clements	Y	Y	–	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	–	30 0 0	–	50 0 0	3 6	A lot of poor for lack of work through Free Trade and intemperance.
945	Worcester, St. Helens	Y	Y	I	N	Y	–	N	N	N	–	15 0 0	20	30 0 0	2 4	Due to charities and doles overlap.
5522	Worcester, St. John B.	N	N	I	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	10	4 3 9	20	77 10 5	5 0	Nursing association.
	17 Parishes	6	3	4	2	15	3	3	3	1	–	–	–	17 Parishes.	2 8	–

152.—Apr. XIII.

APPENDIX (B).

DIOCESE OF WORCESTER.

REPORT TO THE COMMITTEE ON POOR RELIEF FROM CERTAIN PARISHES IN THE DEACONRY OF WORCESTER.

In reply to Questions No.

1. *Is there much poverty in your Parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?*

1. Not much poverty, except in congested areas with indifferent houses, and not increasing. It is more prevalent where there are endowed charities. What poverty there is in country districts is caused by the irregularity of employment, at one time large wages being obtained, at another little or nothing; and this invariably causes improvidence. In the town of Dudley the reason for poverty is given—of a disinclination to employ people over 60 years of age. Most of the poverty is traceable to intemperance and to a disinclination to regular work.

2. *Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to* (a) *the sick,* (b) *the aged,* (c) *those in temporary distress, and* (d) *those in chronic distress?*

Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of District Visitors?

2. In the towns there seem to be good methods adapted to the circumstances. In the country relief is given through the clergy from Church alms and other sources, and by private individuals. No special method is adopted or required. Relief committees exist in the larger towns, and, where required, there are district visitors who assist in the distribution of relief.

3. *Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of* (unrelieved) *distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.*

3. There is no reluctance to accept outdoor relief, but there is a natural dislike to going into the workhouse, especially among the lowest grade of the population.

4. *Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate? If so, please give the number and one or two instances in detail.*

4. The amount of relief granted by Guardians seems inadequate in some cases, but we cannot trace any considerable distress directly to this cause.

5. *Is there in your Parish any needless overlapping*

(a) *between various forms of charity, or*

(b) *between charity and the Poor Law;*

and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

5. There is no overlapping, except at Christmas.

6. *If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your Parish in the charitable assistance of the poor separating that* (A) *given to Clubs, &c., for the encouragement of thrift from that* (B) *given to the sick, the aged, and those in temporary or chronic distress, please do so.*

7. *Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals* (A) *regularly* (B) *frequently in receipt of charity other than that of the Poor Law in your Parish during the course of a year?*

6 and 7. The replies to these questions are so indefinite that it is impossible to form an opinion.

8. *What is the average rent of an ordinary cottage in your Parish?*

8. About 2s. per week in the country. About 4s. per week in towns.

Some of the questions are difficult to answer, but, on the whole, the Committee consider that the replies have been well thought out. Replies were received from nearly 90 per cent. of those written to. The Committee will be glad to reply further to any question if their answer is not quite clear.

PARISH OF S. PETER'S, DROITWICH.

1. *Is there much poverty in your Parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?*

1. A great deal of poverty, but I do not think that it is increasing. It is due to two causes, in my opinion —(1) the decrease in the amount of labour required at the salt works. Many who used to work there are now thrown on their own resources, and at an advanced age have no trade in their hands; (2) the decided lack of a spirit of "self-help," which has been fostered by the number of parochial and civic charities, and the concentration of property in money and land in the hands of the late Dr. Corbett.

2. *Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to* (a) *the sick,* (b) *the aged,* (c) *those in temporary distress, and* (d) *those in chronic distress?*

Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of District Visitors?

2. (a) Sick helped by orders for nourishments on local tradesmen. (b) Aged helped, in a few cases, by regular pensions, usually 1s. a week, extending over periods of three to six months. (c) Temporary distress helped by gifts of money in cases where my own knowledge shows it to be deserved; not otherwise. (d) Chronic distress can only be helped by urging the sufferers to apply for relief from the Guardians. I have a committee who recommend cases to be helped. I administer the relief myself, often on personal visit.

3. *Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.*

3. I do not think so. They are only too glad to "go on the Parish." I have only met with one instance of reluctance, in the case of a man who did not want to lose his vote as a ratepayer.

4. *Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate? If so, please give the number and one or two instances in detail.*

4. I think the Poor Law relief is very fairly administered here, and in no case where the people are deserving have I known either temporary or permanent relief to be refused.

5. *Is there in your Parish any needless overlapping*
(a) *between various forms of charity, or*
(b) *between charity and the Poor Law;*
and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

5. (a) A certain amount of overlapping in the administration of parochial and town charities; and, of course, a certain amount of the same in the "doles" of so-called charitable persons. I believe that the latter is now decidedly on the decrease. (b) No; if a case is one for the Poor Law, I refuse to help.

6. *If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your Parish in the charitable assistance of the poor separating that* (A) *given to clubs, &c., for the encouragement of thrift from that* (B) *given to the sick, the aged, and those in temporary or chronic distress, please do so.*

6. (a) Clubs for the encouragement of thrift:—

I.—An excellent charity (parochial), "Roberts, Law, and Talbot," offers bonuses varying from 7s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. to those who place a certain amount of money in the P.O. Savings Bank during each year.

II.—Clothing clubs, children's penny bank, and coal club collect from the parishioners about £40 (forty pounds) in the year. An interest of one penny in the shilling is given on the annual sum paid in. (Next year it will have to be decreased to a halfpenny in the shilling.)

(b) Relief to the sick: In 1906-1907 (June to June, *i.e.*, since I have been here) relief at the rate of about 3s. 6d. a week has been given. This includes some special items, more particularly an invalid carriage for a child who is an incurable cripple, and who really ought to be helped by some sort of Invalid Children's Aid Association; I wish there was one.

7. *Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals* (A) *regularly* (B) *frequently in receipt of charity, other than that of the Poor Law, in your Parish during the course of a year?*

7. No one regularly (i.e., without intermission from one year to another). There are now six special cases which require watching, and helping when absolutely necessary.

8. *What is the average rent of an ordinary cottage in your Parish?*

8. Varying from 2s. to, I think, 6s. 6d. a week. The majority should be about midway between these two.

E. H. Blackwood Pine, Vicar.

PARISH OF S. NICHOLAS, DROITWICH.

1. *Is there much poverty in your Parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?*

1. The poverty is confined to poor streets in the parish. Here the conditions are the same as in S. Peter's, to the particulars of which, enclosed, I must refer you. The rest of the parish is middle class, and lets lodgings. As Droitwich is becoming more well known, I should say that lodging-house keepers are doing better than they used.

2. *Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to* (a) *the sick,* (b) *the aged,* (c) *those in temporary distress, and* (d) *those in chronic distress?*
Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of District Visitors?

2. The same system in vogue as at S. Peter's (q.v.).

3. *Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.*

3. No. See S. Peter's answer.

4. *Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate? If so, please give the number and one or two instances in detail.*

4. No. See S. Peter's answer.

5. *Is there in your Parish any needless overlapping*
(a) *between various forms of charity, or*
(b) *between charity and the Poor Law;*
and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

5. Not much in either way. Parochial charities are not many. There is the (decreasing) overlapping of the doles of the so-called charitable.

6. *If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, separating that* (A) *given to clubs, &c., for the encouragement of thrift from that* (B) *given to the sick, the aged, and those in temporary or chronic distress, please do so.*

6. (a) Clubs; Clothing and children's penny bank. About £60 is collected in the year. A halfpenny in the shilling is given as interest on the year's savings. (b) Help to the sick (from June to June) averages about 4s. a week in this parish.

7. *Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals* (A) *regularly* (B) *frequently in receipt of charity, other than that of the Poor Law, in your Parish during the year?*

7. I should say five families have been in frequent receipt of charity. Some twenty others very occasional relief.

8. *What is the average rent of an ordinary cottage in your Parish?*

8. Varying from 2s. 6d. a week up to £40 a year (the latter, of course, let lodgings).

E. H. Blackwood Pine, Rector.

DIGEST OF RETURNS FROM THE DEANERIES OF DROITWICH, TECKENHAM, AND BROMSGROVE, IN THE DIOCESE OF WORCESTER.

Parishes.	Population.	Poverty.	Increase.	Causes.	Special Method.	Admitted by	Distress due to Reluctance.	Cause.	Due to Inadequate Relief.	Instances.	Overlapping. (a)	Overlapping. (b)	Effort to Prevent.	Amount Given. (A)	Amount Given. (B)	Number of Families in Receipt. (A)	Number of Families in Receipt. (B)	Average Rent.
														£ s. d.	£ s. d.			Per week. s. d. s. d.
Abberton	90	Some	Not	Low wages, illness, old age.	No	Clergy	One	Fears call on church	None	—	No	—	—	—	1 0 0	5	—	1 7
Ablot's Morton	146	No real	—	—	No	Clergy	No	—	None	—	No	—	—	1 10 0	5 0 0	—	—	1 9 to 2
Alvechurch	1,569	No	Not	Intemperance, improvidence.	No	Clergy and D. V.	Rare	Two instances	Several	—	No	—	—	98 0 0	25 0 0	12	12	2 0 to 6 0
Bradley	240	Not much	Except small farms	High rent, bad season.	No	Clergy	No	—	Yes	Two	No	—	—		—	—	—	1 6
Bromsgrove All Saints	4,518	Good deal.	Not	Nail trade, break up of F.S.	No	Clergy and D. V.	No	—	No	—	Yes	Charity Trustees	—	3 0 0	25 0 0	—	—	2 9
Catshill	2,785	No	Except in hard winter	—	No	Clergy and neighbours.	No	—	No	—	Very little	—	—	25 0 0	35 0 0	—	—	2 8
Church Lench with Abbot's Lench	200 / 114	Very little.	Not	—	No	Clergy	No	—	No	—	No	—	—	—	—	None	—	1 3 to 2 0
Droitwich St. Andrew's	1,350	Some	—	Lack of employ.	No	Clergy and D. V.	No	—	No	—	—	—	—	—	—	None	—	3 6 to 4 6
Elmbridge	326	—	Not	Low wages	No	Clergy	No	—	No	Couples should have more.	No	—	—	—	10 0 0	—	—	3 0

Fladbury	1,172	Very little.	Not	Drink	No	Clergy, nurse, and D. V.	No	—	Yes, always.	—	No	—	—	—	—	40	—	2	8			
Hadsor with Oddingley	124 / 130	No	—	Improvidence	No	Clergy	No	—	No	No	No	—	—	5 0 0	5 0 0	None	3 or 4	2	4			
Hampton Lovett	203	No	—	—	No	Clergy	No	—	No	—	No	—	—	7 15 0	6 12 0	—	6	2	6			
Hanbury	800	Little	—	—	No	—	No	—	No	—	No	—	—	8 0 0	75 0 0	50	30	2	0			
Himbleton with Huddington	392 / 74	None	—	—	No	Clergy	No	—	No	—	No	—	—	3 0 0	10 0 0	None	None	2	4			
Kington with Dormston	95 / 77	None	—	Intemperance	No	Clergy	No	—	No	—	No	—	—	None	5 10 0	—	6	1	6			
Redditch St. Stephen's	6,812	No	—	—	Redditch Relief Committee	D. V.	No	—	No	—	Yes	—	—	23 0 0	40 0 0	—	—	3	6 to 6	0		
Salwarpe	396	No	—	—	No	Clergy	No	—	No	—	No	—	—	8 0 0		18	9	2	0			
Stoke Prior	1,239	Very little.	—	Old age, widowhood, intemperance.	No	Clergy	No	—	No	—	No	—	—	5 0 0	20 0 0	6	5	2	6 to 3	6		
Tardebigge	1,436	No	—	—	No	Clergy	No	—	No	—	No	—	—	12 0 0	127 0 0	—	—	2	0			
Upton Warren	280	No	—	—	No	Clergy	No	—	No (?)	—	No	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	0			
Wychbold	1,163	Very little.	—	Old age, widowhood.	No	Clergy	No	—	1 or 2 (?)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	0			
No Name given. 1. Martin Hussingtree	352	No	Not	—	No	Clergy	No	—	No	—	No	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	0 to 2	6		
No Name given. 2. Feckenham	3,488	No	Small farmers	—	No	Clergy, D. V. & C. W.	No	—	No	—	No	—	—	—	—	1,230	1,250	3	6			
No Name given. 3.	—	Very little.	Not	—	No	Clergy	No	—	One (?)	—	No	—	—	£10	£12	None	Few	2	0 to 2	6		
No Name given. 4.	—	No	—	—	No	Clergy	—	—	Cases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4 to 2	9		
No Name given. 5.	—	No	—	—	No	Clergy	No	—	No	—	No	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6 to 2			
Harvington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		—			
Bromsgrove	5,011	Yes	Not very	—	—	D. V.	No	—	No	—	No	—	—	—	—	—	—		—			

1. *Is there much poverty in your Parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?*

In thirty-one Parishes of the Deaneries of Droitwich, Feckenham, and Bromsgrove—which parishes contain a population of over 35,000 people—one large parish mentions that there is a good deal of poverty, owing to the decline of the nail trade, and the insolvency of friendly societies, but the returns of all the rest imply that there is none or very little. The causes stated, for what there is, are old age, intemperance, low wages, lack of employ (1), hard winters, widowhood, improvidence.

In two cases there is said to be more poverty among small farmers than among labourers. In no case is poverty said to be increasing.

2. *Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to* (a) *the sick*, (b) *the aged*, (c) *those in temporary distress, and* (d) *those in chronic distress?*
Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of District Visitors?

2. Only one parish has any special method of administering charitable aid. The Redditch Relief Committee (not a church institution) undertakes distribution of all relief, and the church makes use of it. In six cases district visitors share in the distribution of relief, nurse in one, churchwardens in one, neighbours in one. In all others the clergy alone distribute it.

3. *Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of* (unrelieved) *distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances, and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.*

3. In two parishes are mentioned cases of reluctance to apply for Poor Law relief. In all others none.

4. *Is there in your Parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate? If so, please give the number and one or two instances in detail.*

4. In one parish there is said to be inadequate relief in several cases. In three parishes in one or two cases, and in one parish in all cases. Instances are given from two parishes.

5. *Is there in your Parish any needless overlapping—*
(a) *between various forms of charity, or*
(b) *between charity and the Poor Law;*
and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

5. In three parishes there is said to be a little overlapping.

6. *If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your Parish in the charitable assistance of the poor, separating that* (A) *given to clubs, &c., for the encouragement of thrift from that* (B) *given to the sick, the aged, and those in temporary or chronic distress, please do so.*

6. The estimates of annual amounts spent in charitable assistance are very variable. Some parishes have large charities, so ne little or none.

7. *Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals* (A) *regularly* (B) *frequently in receipt of charity, other than that of the Poor Law, in your Parish during the course of a year?*

7. The answers to this question are of little value; in some parishes the annual charities appear to have been taken into account

8. *What is the average rent of an ordinary cottage in your Parish?*

8. The rents of cottages in the purely rural parishes appear to be about 2s. a week. In urban parishes and semi-urban they vary from 2s. 6d. to 6s. 6d., according to circumstances.

Two parishes sent in returns after this report—Bromsgrove and Harrington.

APPENDIX (C.)

DIOCESE OF WORCESTER.

REPORT ON POOR LAW AND CHARITIES ADMINISTRATION FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF COVENTRY.

I must preface this report by saying (i.) that many parishes have not sent returns, notably the town of Coventry; (ii.) that this Archdeaconry contains a very varied class of district, comprising manufacturing and collier centres, large residential towns and suburbs, such as Leamington and Kenilworth, and big country districts and estates; (iii.) that I have been unable to obtain any assistance, in preparing this report, from the actual district itself, and only send it so that the diocese may present some statistics from its whole area, as requested from the Diocesan Conference, and desired (in this case) by the Lord Bishop.

From those who have returned the forms I have gathered the following general information.

WILLIAM G. MELVILLE,
Hon. Sec. Dioc. Conf.,
Vicar of Wolverley,
nr. Kidderminster.

Question I.—Is there much poverty in your parish, and, if so, is it increasing in intensity, and can you point to any special causes, moral or economic, to which it is due?

Answer I.—Poverty, on the whole, is by no means general, and shows a tendency to decrease. Occasional shortage of work causes temporary distress. Other causes are alleged, drink and gambling especially in the large colliery districts of Nuneaton neighbourhood. In Leamington town poverty is reported as caused largely by indiscriminate giving of money, and among thriftless R.C. people. It is, however, not increasing.

Question II.—Have you any special methods of administering charitable assistance to (a) the sick, (b) the aged, (c) those in temporary distress, and (d) those in chronic distress?

Are you assisted by a Committee? Do you administer relief yourself, or do you leave it in the hands of District Visitors?

Answer II.—Charity is mostly distributed by the clergy themselves, with a few sick and nursing funds, and occasionally by District Visitors, who, however, report to the clergy. In two cases the Charity Organisation Society does most of it. Few Relief Committees. In some cases the owners of large estates see to their own poor and sick where necessary.

Question III.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of (unrelieved) distress due to the reluctance of destitute persons to resort to Poor Law relief? If so, please give one or two instances and state briefly what in your opinion is the cause of the reluctance.

Answer III.—In the large preponderance of answers it is distinctly declared that no reluctance to ask for Poor Law relief is known of, and the opinion that it is a right of ratepayers is evidently gaining ground. In only one case do I find that "proper pride" is quoted as against it, while one Guardian says there is no reluctance ever shown.

Question IV.—Is there in your parish any appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief granted by the Guardians being inadequate? If so, please give the number and one or two instances in detail.

Answer IV.—Several returns show that the relief granted is quite inadequate, particularly in the case of chronic or temporary sickness. The average seems to be about 3s. per week, which does not seem to be enough unaided by private sources of charity. Many, however, state that the Guardians do their best to act wisely in the matter.

Question V.—Is there in your parish any needless overlapping

(a) between various forms of charity, or

(b) between charity and the Poor Law,

and has any special effort been made with a view to preventing such overlapping?

Answer V.—The general view seems to be that there is an interchange of views between donors which tends to a diminishing of any overlapping. The town of Leamington reports that a great deal takes place owing to the efforts of various churches and chapels to obtain adherents by means of gifts, which amount in the end to bribery. Also that there is an enormous amount of private charity, with which, however, the Charity Organisation Society is dealing successfully.

Question VI.—If you can give or obtain any figures or estimate as to the annual amount spent in your parish in the charitable assistance of the poor separating that (A) given to clubs, etc., for the encouragement of thrift from that (B) given to the sick, the aged, and those in temporary or chronic distress, please do so.

Answer VI.—The range of figures in this return is so large that it is impossible to give an accurate idea of what is spent and distributed. Under heading (A) these range in all stages from £5 up to £50, while under (B) the range is from £120, in one Leamington parish, down to £1 10s. Very many give no return at all.

Question VII.—Can you give any approximate estimate of the number of families or individuals (A) regularly (B) frequently in receipt of charity, other than that of the Poor Law in your parish during the course of a year?

Answer VII.—The same difficulty appears under this heading. The clergy, however, as a whole seem to know the members who are given charity both regularly and frequently, and there is a large tendency to gifts in kind and to regular weekly pensions to the aged, to eke out the Poor Law relief, while the sick also receive temporary weekly relief.

Question VIII.—What is the average rent of an ordinary cottage in your parish?

Answer VIII.—The rents are, as a rule, high in town, suburbs and colliery districts; low in the country; while on many estates and farms they are given in part payment of wages. In Leamington and Nuneaton and the colliery districts 5s. to 6s. a week seems the average. In one Leamington suburb 7s. to 8s. is the average, while about 2s. is the country average.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF REPORTS.

THE EXTENT, DYNAMICS, AND CAUSES OF POVERTY.

(a) Extent.

The term "poverty" has been differently interpreted by different incumbents.

The answer "no real poverty" probably means that poverty is confined to the aged and to widows (Ely).

In some cases incumbents have not been quite sure whether "poverty" was intended to be synonymous with "destitution" (Chester).

(i.) *In Urban Parishes.*

The answers show that poverty is more prevalent in urban than in rural parishes.

Poverty does not seem to prevail in towns where there is some flourishing industry, but where trade is bad and where employment is not permanent but casual (Chester).

The Diocese of Birmingham reports: Poverty prevalent.

The Diocese of Canterbury reports: Poverty varying in different localities.

The Diocese of Durham reports: A considerable amount of chronic poverty in the slums.

The Diocese of Ely reports: In Bedford, Luton, and Cambridge, a good deal of squalid destitution.

The Diocese of Exeter reports: A great deal.

The Diocese of Gloucester reports: A great deal.

The Diocese of Hereford reports: Little poverty of a severe type, but "we are all poor."

The Diocese of Lichfield reports: Little real poverty in a large percentage of parishes.

The Diocese of Liverpool reports: A considerable degree of poverty in more than one-third of the parishes. The Diocese of Manchester reports: Considerable amount of poverty in all the large towns.

The Diocese of Peterborough reports: Little real poverty.

The Diocese of Ripon reports: Considerable amount in some towns (Bradford, Leeds).

The Diocese of Rochester reports: Little or no poverty.

The Diocese of St. Albans reports: Extreme poverty near London.

The Diocese of Southwark reports: Poverty in the Metropolitan area.

The Diocese of Southwell reports: Thirty-nine parishes (mostly in towns of Derby and Nottingham) report much poverty.

The Diocese of Truro reports: Not much distress.

The Diocese of Wakefield reports: Poverty, but not acute.

The Diocese of Worcester reports: Poverty, mostly in congested areas.

(ii.) *In Rural Parishes.*

The replies from country parishes are in the great majority of cases favourable. There appears to be little poverty, at any rate in an acute form.

"Little real poverty" is the most usual answer.

Chester (Diocese of).—The farmers said to be prosperous. Temporary poverty exists, but is soon relieved.

Chichester.—No lack of employment for those able and willing to work.

From the Diocese of Hereford comes the reply: "We are all poor," *i.e.*, the wages which prevail (11s. to 15s. a week) are said to imply a certain degree of poverty.

In the rural parishes in the Diocese of Exeter poverty exists only among the unemployable.

In the Diocese of St. Albans fifteen parishes report much poverty. Otherwise, labourers are said to live under much better conditions than did their grandfathers.

On the whole, therefore, poverty in the country seems to exist only among those who are unable or unwilling to work.

Bath and Wells.—There is not "much poverty" in Somerset—more than 90 per cent. of the Returns say there is "none"; "very little"; or "not much." The contrary refers almost entirely to towns, chiefly Bath.

(iii.) *In Colliery Districts.*

Here there seems to be little poverty. Work is plentiful, wages high, and the great majority of miners have free house and coal (North-west Durham).

In the Diocese of Truro, mining is said to have increased.

(iv.) *On the Coast.*

In seaside towns the amount of poverty varies greatly in winter and summer owing to the nature of such occupations as fishermen, boatmen, cab-drivers (Chichester and Canterbury Dioceses).

(b) Dynamics.

The great majority of answers state that poverty is not increasing, though it is not always clear whether the incumbent is referring to an increase in the intensity or the amount of poverty.

The following are the dioceses where there is the greatest amount of evidence of increase in poverty:—Birmingham, Canterbury, Peterborough, Rochester, Southwark. (In the Metropolitan area considerable increase is recorded.)

In several instances there is evidence that poverty is decreasing, especially in the Dioceses of Chester, Exeter, Hereford, Manchester, Ripon.

(c) Causes.

(i.) *Moral.*

Drink.—The reports show that drink is by far the most general cause of poverty.

Waste of money on drink, even when unaccompanied by drunkenness, is said to be a cause of poverty.

In every diocese, and in almost every parish where poverty exists, drink is mentioned as a cause. Intemperance among women is frequently mentioned.

Thriftlessness, taking the form of wasting and also a failure to save, is a cause very frequently alluded to. In some instances it is placed before drunkenness.

Early and improvident marriage is the next cause most often mentioned.

Gambling is referred to almost as often.

Other moral causes are said to be:—Improvidence; extravagance; money wasted on pleasure; idleness; ignorance of domestic economy; men content to live on the earnings of the women.

(ii.) *Economic.*

Depression in local trades is a cause of poverty often reported, *e.g.*, in the shoe and lace trades in the Diocese of Southwell; in the granite industry in the Diocese of Truro; in the salt industry at Droitwich; the Small Arms Factory at Birmingham.

Depression in the building trade is mentioned in four dioceses, viz., Canterbury, Gloucester, Rochester, St. Albans.

Passing to causes more general in area we find poverty attributed to:—

Casual nature of employment.—This is due in some cases to climatic causes, as in the seaside towns, in other cases to fluctuations in trade, as in the straw-hat industry at Luton.

Unemployment among unskilled labourers.—The number of this class of labourer is stated to be increasing. The breakdown of the old apprenticeship system is deplored, and the teaching of some trade at schools is advocated.

The Extent, Dynamics, and Causes of Poverty—*continued.*

Low wages are stated in one report to prevail in unskilled labour, and in another, defined as an inadequate share of wealth, are given as one of the chief economic causes.

Old-age.—Men advancing in years experience great difficulty in obtaining employment. This difficulty is stated to have been greatly increased by the operation of the Workmen's Compensation Act. This remark is often made. "Too old at forty" is a frequent complaint.

Machinery is displacing labour.—In several industrial centres this fact is said to create poverty.

Indiscriminate charity.—Another cause frequently mentioned. It is said to have a pauperising effect.

Sanitary.—Bad housing and over crowding are mentioned (Chester), but not often.

Influx of aliens is mentioned in the report from the Diocese of St. Albans.

Migration of young men to the towns is referred to in the report from the Diocese of Hereford.

Causes of Poverty in Urban and in Rural Parishes contrasted.

(i.) *Causes which preponderate in urban parishes.*

Moral.—Drink; thriftlessness; improvident marriages; gambling.

Economic.—Depression in local trades. Depression in the building trade. Casual nature of employment. Unemployment among unskilled labourers. Low wages. Old age, and the operation of the Workmen's Compensation Acts. Machinery displacing labour. Indiscriminate charity. Bad housing. Migration from the country.

(ii.) *Causes which Preponderate in Rural Parishes.*

Moral.—Drink; thriftlessness; improvident marriages. Gambling is once mentioned.

Economic.—Old age; physical incapacity; migration of better class of men to the towns. Indiscriminate charity is recorded, but not nearly so often as is the case in urban districts.

Irregularity of employment is mentioned in one or two instances (*e.g.*, Rochester, Newcastle, Worcester, Manchester).

Low wages are recorded in the reports from the dioceses of Hereford, Ripon, Exeter.

A desire to work only part of the week.—This desire for "play" being said to lead in the case of younger men, to strikes, when the coffers of trade unions are sufficiently full to allow strike pay. (Manchester.)

The answers to the question as to what are the chief causes of poverty point very clearly to this fact, viz., that while in urban districts economic conditions are to a large extent responsible for poverty, in parishes where rural conditions prevail such poverty as exists is due mainly to moral causes.

The displacement of labour by machinery, low wages, the operation of the Workmen's Compensation Acts, depression in the building and local trades, and other economic causes to which poverty is attributed in the towns, seem to bear a comparatively small relation to the amount of poverty existing in rural areas. In the diocese of Ely agricultural depression is recorded, but this is by no means a common complaint. In fact, in the reports made by the diocesan committees the remark is frequently made that moral and not economic causes are responsible for poverty in rural districts.

Old age and physical incapacity to work seem to be the chief economic causes of poverty in the country, added, perhaps, to the inclination of the younger men to migrate to the towns. On the whole there seem to be few unemployed, unless, as is stated in the report from the diocese of Exeter, they are for some reason or other practically unemployable. Less complaint is made of bad housing in the country than in urban districts.

The moral causes are more or less similar in both kinds of parishes, with the exception that gambling appears to be especially a town evil. Improvident early marriages are mentioned even more often in rural than in urban districts, but drink and thriftlessness are equally prevalent in both.

METHODS OF CHARITABLE ASSISTANCE.

(*a*) General.

The reports sent in on this subject show that in a great majority of cases there are no special methods of administering relief. The remark is made several times that no special methods are required. In the Diocese of Bath and Wells a considerable number of the Clergy give relief in money; but as a general rule, relief is given in kind, and no preference is, in the great majority of cases, shown to the church members in the distribution of the Poor Fund. The ticket system is largely in vogue. By this system orders for coal, groceries, etc., are given on local tradesmen. This system is the subject of adverse comment in one or two cases. It is said to be temporary, inadequate, and to create a demand for relief (Canterbury).

Priority is in some parishes given to members of Friendly Societies (*e.g.*, St. Albans), and care is taken to help deserving cases only.

The success of the various branches of the Charity Organisation Society has led the clergy in some cases to adopt as far as possible the methods of that Society in administering relief.

Landowners and sometimes farmers are said to assist those of the poor who have special claims on them (*e.g.*, Hereford, Bath and Wells.)

On the whole, the usual practice is for those in charge of the distribution of relief to determine what method is to be applied by the circumstances of each particular case (Chester.)

The following methods are mentioned:—

Soup kitchens.
Distributions of coal and food.
Free breakfasts for school children.

In the Diocese of Lichfield work is provided in labour yards in the larger towns.

In the Diocese of Salisbury, there are special methods. In nearly every parish help is given from the church collections.

The existence of almshouses and the granting of pensions are recorded in several reports. The practice of giving doles is, however, said to be injurious.

There is evidence that special regard is had to the needs of widows and persons with large families.

Additional Organisations.

Mention is made in the reports of various clubs and charitable societies which are said to do a great deal of good. Branches of the Charitable Organisation Society exist in the Dioceses of Chester, Lichfield, Ripon, Newcastle, and in several towns in the Diocese of Durham. In all the cases where this Society is alluded to, it is said to work with most beneficial results. Other societies especially mentioned are:—

The Birmingham City Aid Society.
West Cheshire Needlework Guild.
Church of England Men's Society.
Northwich Labour Committee.

Clubs of various kinds exist in different dioceses, *e.g.*, in Exeter, and in Peterborough, where there are provident, coal, and clothing clubs.

Permanent friendly societies are strongly advocated by the clergy in the Diocese of Winchester; but here, as in some of the other reports, slate clubs are said to confer a doubtful benefit. In the same report the bonuses paid on coal, clothing, and other clubs are described as a necessary evil.

Endowed Charities.

In the reports from four of the dioceses special attention has been paid to this subject (Ely, London, Peterborough, Winchester). As a rule, the funds of these charities go to the persons for whom they were originally intended (London), but complaint is made that they are not efficiently administrated (Ely, Winchester). In several parishes endowed charities have been converted under a scheme drawn up by the Charity Commissioners. This change is welcomed by the clergy, as tending to discountenance the giving away of charity in doles.

Methods of Charitable Assistance—*continued.*

(*b*) The Sick.

The reports show that in the administration of relief priority is in a great many cases given to the sick (*e.g.*, Birmingham, Winchester, Liverpool). The needs of the sick poor receive special attention. In some parishes in the Diocese of St. Albans relief is given only to sick cases. The following methods are recorded:—

Hospital notes (*e.g.*, Lichfield).
Dispensary orders (*e.g.*, Lichfield).
Pensions (*e.g.*, Rochester, Southwell).
Orders for articles of nourishment (*e.g.*, Worcester).
Nursing associations (*e.g.*, Durham).
Gifts of food.
Assistance in paying doctors' bills.

In some parishes of the Diocese of Chester the invalid poor are sent to convalescent homes.

The sick are helped out of the church alms, and in certain instances a separate fund exists for their relief.

District nurses are of great service in many parishes; the Derby County Nursing Association is said to do a great deal of good amongst the poor.

(*c*) The Aged.

Pensions.—The granting of pensions is the most usual method employed for the relief of the aged (Birmingham, Canterbury, Chester, Chichester, Rochester, St. Albans, Southwell, Winchester, Worcester).

The demand for these pensions is said to be very great (Chester).

In a parish in the Diocese of Chichester it is recorded that no fresh applications for parochial relief have been made since the inception of a scheme for the giving of old-age pensions.

In the Diocese of Winchester, however, the pension systems which exist are stated in many instances to be on a very limited scale.

Almshouses are mentioned (*e.g.*, Chester).

The church offertory, endowment funds and charitable funds are applied in relieving the aged (Hereford, Lichfield). In the Diocese of Durham such institutions as the Sherburn Hospital are said to do good work among the aged. This hospital gives pensions of 15s. a week to fifteen "out-bretheren."

Bonsall, Southwell.—Here, free cottages are provided for the aged.

(*d*) Temporary Cases.

This part of the question has not been answered in a great many cases. On the whole, there appear to be no special methods for dealing with cases of temporary distress. The following are instances of methods employed:—

Canterbury.—Temporary help in cases of sickness and unemployment is aimed at.

Chester.—Contribution by the clergy. In the country the landowners help in cases of temporary distress.

Croydon, St. Paul's.—A relief committee.

Rochester, West Malling.—Small quantities of coal and grocery are given.

Winchester (*in one parish.*)—Soup kitchen and tickets provided out of Alms Fund.

Worcester.—Gifts of money.

Southwell (*in one parish*).—Church and village collections are given.

(*e*) Permanent Cases.

Chronic cases are almost invariably handed over to the Poor Law authorities (Birmingham, Chester, Ripon, Rochester, Worcester, and in Dover (Holy Trinity).

In the towns in the Diocese of Peterborough permanent cases are stated to be handed over either to the Poor Law officer or the Charity Organisation Society; though in some parishes a regular monetary allowance is made. In the small agricultural parishes of this diocese the landowners are said to provide all the relief necessary. The following are instances where voluntary relief is given in chronic cases:—

Bath and Wells.—In some few places pensions are given ranging from 1s. to 10s. per week.

Dover, St. James's.—Small pensions are given.

Hereford.—The Bridgnorth Society gives quarterly pensions.

Southwell.—In the villages regular allowances and small pensions are granted.

Winchester.—In one parish pensions are given.

Canterbury (*West Charing*).—Individual cases are taken up by special arrangement.

Lichfield.—The same methods are applied in permanent as in temporary cases.

Committees.

The clergy are assisted by a committee in the following dioceses:—

Bath and Wells.—"Not needed" in country; in towns, in extremely few parishes for parochial charitable purposes only.

Birmingham.—(Twelve parochial committees, four Charity Organisation Societies, eight Local Aid Societies).

Canterbury.—Committees advocated in the towns.

Chester.—Comparatively few.

Chichester.—In some of the towns.

Durham.—A few.

Gloucester.—A few.

Hereford.—In the larger towns.

Lichfield.—Only twenty-two.

London.—One hundred and fifty-seven.

Manchester.—Relief committees exist in a few parishes, but are mainly called in existence when distress is severe.

Peterborough.—Only eight.

Ripon.—In urban districts.

Rochester.—In twenty-eight parishes.

St. Albans.—In some of the towns.

St. David's.—Very few.

Southwark.—The number of committees is said to be increasing.

Southwell.—Generally none.

Truro.—Very few.

Winchester.—In twenty-three parishes.

Worcester.—In the large towns.

In *Liverpool* the practice of having a committee is growing.

In the Dioceses of *Newcastle* and *Wakefield* there are stated to be no committees.

The answers show that where committees exist they are to be found almost invariably in the towns and larger parishes. In some of the country parishes in the Diocese of Chichester there are committees, but as a rule none are found in rural districts (Ripon, St. Albans, Worcester).

In the Diocese of *Salisbury* there appears to be no need for committees as the parishes are in most cases small, and consequently every case is well known to the clergy and visitors.

The general opinion appears to be that in rural areas they are unecessary (Hereford, Canterbury), presumably because the funds to be administered are small (Chester), and difficulty is experienced in forming a committee (St. Albans). In the towns and larger parishes the clergy are in favour of having committees (Winchester, and *see* the Report of the Diocesan Committee of Canterbury, where it is stated that the assistance of a committee is almost essential in the towns). Amongst the advantages of having the assistance of a committee, the fact that religion and the giving of relief are dissociated is mentioned. On the other hand, the Diocesan Committee of London remark that in most cases representatives of other agencies and denominations are not included in the parochial committees. This is said to point to a dread of outside influence.

Temporary committees are sometimes formed in times of special distress (Durham, Lichfield, Peterborough).

The report from the Diocese of St. Albans states that these temporary committees are harmful.

Relief, by Whom Administered.

The returns show that in a great many cases the clergy alone administer relief (Southwell, Birmingham, St. Albans, Truro, Bath and Wells, etc.). This is so particularly in the rural and smaller parishes (Hereford, Canterbury, Newcastle, Wakefield, Peterborough, Truro).

Methods of Charitable Assistance—*continued.*

In comparatively few instances is the work of administration left entirely in the hands of the district visitors. Some cases where this is done are:—

St. Albans (eighty-one parishes).
Bath and Wells.
Hereford (in the larger parishes).
London (thirty-seven parishes).
Gloucester (twenty-three parishes).

Truro (32 parishes), Winchester (50 parishes).—Here the visitors seem to be mainly responsible for the dispensing of charity. In one or two answers the district visitors are said to be not always efficient (Hereford), and the responsibility thrown on their shoulders in the towns of the Diocese of Canterbury is deplored.

In a great many parishes the district visitors act in conjunction with the clergy (Chester, Chichester (in the towns), Lichfield, London (162 parishes), Peterborough (sixty-two parishes), Durham, St. David's, Salisbury. Very often the part played by the visitors consists rather in giving information, reporting to and consulting with the clergy, than in actually administering relief (Durham, Lichfield, Ripon).

In rural districts of the Diocese of *Manchester* some of the clergy work through district visitors and the Charity Organisation Society.

Churchwardens.—There is evidence that churchwardens assist the clergy in administering relief in some parishes of the following dioceses:—

Canterbury.
Gloucester (in some of the smaller parishes).
Lichfield.
St. Albans.
Wakefield.

Parish Nurses are very highly spoken of in the report from some parishes in *Chester*, and are mentioned as helping in the administration of relief in certain parishes in the Dioceses of Hereford, Newcastle, Peterborough.

Paid Workers (lay readers, Bible-women, etc.) are found in sixteen parishes in the Diocese of Birmingham. It is stated that they have not necessarily had any special training.

Sisters assist the visitors in Folkestone and Charlton.

Police Court Missioners are referred to in Chester.

Endowed Charities.

Diocese of Ely.—Two hundred and forty-five charitable trusts are administered by the incumbent acting alone.
Ninety-six trusts by a parish council or a parish meeting or by trustees appointed by them.
Thirty-nine trusts by various bodies of trustees.
Nineteen trusts by the Charity Commissioners.

Diocese of Lichfield.—Endowed charities are stated to be administered by trustees or committees.

Diocese of London.—One hundred and fifteen charities are administered by trustees or committees. Eighty-one charities by the clergy, or trustees appointed by them, or by churchwardens.

Diocese of Newcastle.—Mostly by the clergy or churchwardens.

Diocese of Salisbury.—Charitable trusts are administered by the trustees of the charities.

DETERRENCE OF POOR LAW RELIEF.

(*a*) General.

There is evidence of reluctance to resort to the Poor Law (both with regard to indoor and outdoor relief) from the following dioceses:—

Bath and Wells.
Birmingham.
Ely (in twenty-eight replies).
Lichfield.
Southwell.

However, even in these dioceses, the reluctance to seek relief appears to be more marked in the case of indoor than of outdoor relief. In all the other dioceses where there is evidence of reluctance, it is indoor relief only which is the object of aversion. In fact, some of the incumbents in answering this question seem to refer entirely to outdoor relief when they state that there is not much reluctance to resort to the Poor Law (Canterbury, Peterborough, Rochester). On the whole, there does not appear to be a very great amount of unrelieved distress due to reluctance to resort to the Poor Law (*e.g.*, Southwell, St. David's, Salisbury) and in some dioceses there is very little evidence of any reluctance to apply for either form of relief (Gloucester, Hereford, St Asaph, Wakefield).

Manchester Urban Districts.—Not much generally. Where such cases exist, they are traceable to a dislike to searching questions.

Rural Districts.—Very little. Reluctance generally due to the fear of social stigma and an impression that the administration is harsh and unfeeling.

(*b*) Indoor.

The workhouse is said to be an object of universal and deep-seated aversion (Chester). In almost every report there is stated to be great reluctance on the part of the poor to enter the union.

In many parts of the country (*e.g.*, Durham) great hardships are endured owing to this reluctance (London, Bath and Wells). There seems to be almost complete unanimity on the part of the incumbents that the "poor abhor the 'house'" (*e.g.*, Hereford). Many instances of particularly striking cases are given in the report (Canterbury).

It is mainly among the sick and the aged that distress is caused by reluctance to enter the union (Durham). There is evidence that this dislike of the workhouse, which causes some of the poor to regard it with the same horror as a prison (Hereford), is not entirely the outcome of unjustifiable prejudice. Thus in the diocese of Birmingham an instance is recorded of an old woman who was so harshly treated in the workhouse infirmary that she came home to die. And twenty-one replies from the diocese of London state the conditions which prevail in the workhouse are unduly deterrent, twenty-five others stating that they are deterrent.

The reports from Chester and Southwark make an exception in the case of the workhouse infirmary; the poor of these two dioceses appear to be only too willing to resort to this form of relief, which is resorted to in cases of sickness as readily as a hospital.

From the Diocese of London, however, there is proof that in the opinion of the clergy there is a dislike of the infirmary, and some replies state that the conditions existing in the infirmary are unduly deterrent.

In the majority of reports it is not stated whether reluctance to enter the union is increasing or decreasing, but in the dioceses of Chester and Hereford this aversion to applying for indoor relief is said to be dying out.

10 per cent. of the answers in Diocese of Salisbury state that there is a disinclination to accept indoor relief.

(*c*) Outdoor.

In the dioceses of Lichfield and Wakefield there is evidence of a fairly considerable amount of reluctance to apply for outdoor relief, in Durham and Exeter there is shown to be a little.

Birmingham, Newcastle, Ripon, Rochester, Southwell.—In the reports from these dioceses instances of particular cases are given, but there appears to be no great reluctance to apply for out-relief. This also applies to Liverpool and St. David's.

In the other dioceses it is definitely stated, that there is no aversion to applying for outdoor relief, and in many instances it is said that the poor are only too willing to apply for indoor relief (*e.g.*, Canterbury, Truro).

The report from *Hereford* says that out-relief is taken "by right as an old age pension."

Deterrence of Poor Law Relief—*continued.*

In fact, in the *Diocese of Southwell* it is stated that relief is often sought by those who should not require it. On the whole, therefore, there appears to be little reluctance to apply for outdoor relief, and it is significant that one of the causes mentioned (where such reluctance does exist) is the fear that the applicant will be given indoor relief.

Southwell.—Such reluctance as exists is found in the towns and more thickly populated districts, though in Peterborough it is in the villages that reluctance exists.

The report from the diocese of London shows that out-relief is not always very readily granted, and that in most cases strict conditions are imposed before help is given.

In one or two parishes in the country it is recorded that the guardians refuse to grant out-relief where the applicant owns a cow or any other belonging which brings in money, however small the amount may be. This practice is deplored by the clergy (Tilstone Fearnall, Chester). In Ely, it is said that the guardians often grant out-relief where the workhouse would be a better remedy.

(*d*) Causes.

(i.) *Indoor.*

The principal causes of reluctance to resort to indoor relief are said to be:—

(1) *Breaking-up of the home* (Birmingham, Canterbury, Durham, Exeter, Gloucester, Lichfield, Ripon, Rochester, Salisbury).

(2) *Loss of liberty* (Chester, Durham, Exeter, Gloucester, Lichfield, Ripon, Southwark, Southwell, Truro, Wakefield, Salisbury).

(3) *Low character of inmates* (Durham, Exeter, Gloucester, Bath and Wells). Better classification of the inmates of the workhouse is advocated.

(4) *Ignorance of improved conditions* (Chester, Southwark, Truro).

(5) *Enforced cleanliness* (*e.g.*, Chester, Durham).

(6) *Dislike of discipline* (*e.g.*, Ripon, Salisbury).

(7) *Dissatisfaction with treatment received* (*e.g.*, Birmingham).

(ii.) *Outdoor.*

(1) *Fear that indoor relief will be offered* (Canterbury, Chester, Durham, London, Bath and Wells).

(2) *Publicity* (Durham, Lichfield, Ripon).

(3) *Fear that children will be compelled to contribute* (Birmingham, Southwell, Bath and Wells).

(4) *Unsympathetic treatment by officials* (Canterbury, Durham).

(5) *Dread of inquisition* (Ripon, Lichfield).

(6) *Long distances to be travelled by applicants* (Birmingham).

(iii.) *Common.*

(1) *Pride and self-respect* (Birmingham, Canterbury, Durham, Exeter, Gloucester, Lichfield, Ripon, Southwell, Wakefield, St. Davids).

(2) *Stigma incurred by receipt of relief* (Exeter, Peterborough, Ripon, and Durham).

(3) *Spirit of independence* (Chester, Durham, Peterborough).

(4) *Disqualification for local "charities."* (Canterbury, Chester, Southwell, Wakefield, Bath and Wells).

ADEQUACY OF POOR LAW RELIEF.

(*a*) General.

Birmingham, Canterbury, Chester, Exeter, Hereford, Ripon, Southwark, Truro, Durham, Bath and Wells.—In these dioceses a great majority of the incumbents are of opinion that the amount of out-relief given by the guardians is inadequate.

Chichester, Ely, Lichfield, Newcastle (except in the deaneries of Newcastle and Lindisfarne), *Peterborough, Rochester, Salisbury, Southwell.*—In these dioceses the majority of incumbents favour the opinion that relief is not inadequate. This is particularly so in the dioceses of Peterborough, Rochester, and Southwell.

Wakefield, Worcester.—In certain parts of the diocese the amount of relief granted is considered inadequate, but no distress is attributed to this cause.

Answers from the Diocese of Liverpool do not show that the amount of outdoor relief granted by the Guardians is inadequate.

The answers to this question are conflicting, but on the whole the weight of evidence is in favour of the opinion that the relief granted is inadequate in amount.

Manchester Urban Districts.—As a rule there is no appreciable amount of distress due to the amount of Poor Law relief being inadequate, though several specially hard cases are mentioned.

But the majority of the deserving poor are often unwilling to speak of their needs.

Rural Districts.—Not very much.

St. Davids.—Only twenty-six incumbents state that any appreciable amount of distress is due to this cause.

Two hundred and fifty-five replies are in the negative.

Some of the clergy who replied that relief was adequate were presuming that the amount given by the Poor Law is to take account of what may be received from other sources (St. Albans). Thus in the Report from the *Diocese of Truro* it is stated that no distress arises from inadequacy of Poor Law relief because it is supplemented, but the relief granted is not *per se* sufficient.

Canterbury, Chester, Hereford, Ripon, Rochester, St. Albans, Truro, Winchester.—In all these dioceses it is stated that Poor Law relief has to be supplemented by private charity.

In the *Dioceses of Canterbury and Chester, Bath and Wells,* the reports state that the guardians grant relief which is of itself insufficient, on the supposition that it will be supplemented from other sources.

This is said to cast a heavy burden on the clergy who might otherwise devote their attention to cases of "genteel poverty" and temporary cases arising from various causes. Moreover such a system leads to begging and causes loss of self-respect in the recipient who is dependent on two separate sources of subsistence (*e.g.*, Canterbury).

A great number of replies from the *Diocese of London* state that persons apply to the clergy for assistance in consequence of receiving insufficient relief from the Poor Law authorities.

On the other hand the report from *Peterborough* states that any great increase in the amount of relief given would lead to an increase in pauperism.

The reports from the *dioceses of Durham, Exeter, Southwark* lay stress on the fact that in many cases the amount of outdoor relief granted by the guardians does little more than pay the recipient's rent. In the report from the *diocese of Southwell,* the remark is made that the cost of feeding and clothing a person in the workhouse is 4s. 10d. per week, a sum in excess of that given as out-relief when rent has to be paid.

The amount given by the guardians varies in different localities. The following are examples:—

Durham (Auckland).—8s. a week to aged couples.

Exeter (Totnes).—3s. 6d. a week.

Hereford.—2s. to 3s. 6d. a week with or without a loaf.

St. Albans.—2s. 6d. and a loaf.

Southwark.—3s. to 4s.

The report of the *Committee for Hereford* advocates the giving of 4s. to 5s.

St. Albans.—It is recorded that out-relief is suspended altogether if the recipient happens to earn 1s. or more a week.

(*b*) Among Particular Classes.

(i.) *Widows.*

There seems to be a prevalent opinion that the amount of relief granted to widows is often inadequate; larger

Adequacy of Poor Law Relief—*continued.*

sums might be granted. Cases of hardship are mentioned with regard to elderly widows, but the claims of widows with young children are said to be even stronger (St. Albans, Birmingham, Southwark).

Instances of inadequate relief given to widows are also found in:—

Canterbury (St. Alphege).
Chichester.
Durham (Mid-Tyne and Chester-le-Street).
Ely. (Relief given not sufficient to remove temptation to beg).
Hereford.
Peterborough.
Leeds (Whilkirk).
Rochester (Tunbridge Wells).
Southwell.

(ii.) *The Aged.*

Mention is made of the fact that the aged receive inadequate relief in:—

Chester (Deanery of Birkenhead; Nantwich).
Durham (Auckland).
Exeter (Exeter; Totnes).
Peterborough.
Leeds (Deanery of Otley; Deanery of Leeds, Upper Armley).
Liverpool (Larger sums might be granted).

(c) Instances.

Instances of particular cases where inadequate relief has been given, are found in several of the reports:—

Lichfield.
Ripon.
Rochester.
Southwell.
Wakefield.

OVERLAPPING OF RELIEF.

(a) Charities.

Birmingham, Lichfield, Peterborough, Truro, Wakefield, Winchester.—In these dioceses there is no appreciable amount of overlapping.

Rochester.—Overlapping is common, but cannot be said to be needless.

Worcester.—There is overlapping only at Christmas.

Durham.—There is no overlapping to any harmful extent, except in rural districts where there are endowed charities.

Gloucester, Newcastle, Southwark.—A small amount of overlapping.

Liverpool.—A large majority do not consider that overlapping exists to any great extent, although the difficulty of forming an estimate of help given from private sources is admitted.

There is a good deal of overlapping in Canterbury (in the towns); Chester (in two parishes); Chichester; Ely (in the towns); Exeter (in the towns); Hereford (in large urban districts); London and Manchester (in urban districts); Ripon (especially in the towns); St. Alban's (though the answers are described as inconclusive); Southwell (in the towns).

Thus only six dioceses are free from overlapping, in five there is a certain amount, whilst in ten dioceses overlapping exists to a considerable extent.

From seven dioceses there is evidence that overlapping is more common in the towns than in the country. This is accounted for by the fact that in the country all the funds are in the hands of the incumbent (Ely), and each case is known individually (Exeter; Hereford).

Chichester, Exeter, Gloucester, Southwark, St. Albans.—Want of co-operation between Church, Nonconformist, and other religious bodies, is recorded.

Hereford, Rochester (*East Dartford*), *St. Albans.*—Overlapping of private charities and the charity of individuals.

Ely.—The trustees of various charities do not co-operate.

Canterbury, Chester, Durham, Worcester.—Overlapping among all kinds of voluntary charity is recorded.

Careless and indiscriminate private givers do harm through failing to make any inquiry. A great deal of charity is given privately, without any knowledge of what others may be doing (*Chichester*).

Plausible mendicants make a comfortable income by obtaining grants from several sources (*Ely*).

Religious bodies act independently of one another (*e.g.*, Exeter).

(b) Charity and Poor Law.

In the majority of dioceses there is not any very considerable amount of needless overlapping.

Hereford (in one parish); *Southwell* (in the towns); *Manchester* urban districts, notably Ancoats.—A great deal of overlapping occurs.

St. Davids.—Only four incumtents record any overlapping.

Chester, Durham, Lichfield, London, Ripon, Worcester.—Overlapping exists, but to no very great extent. (The overlapping in Durham is between the charity of individuals and the Poor Law, not between Poor Law and Church charity.)

The fact that the amount of overlapping between charity and the Poor Law which is recorded, is inconsiderable, is accounted for by the statement found in a great many reports, viz., that the supplementing of Poor Law relief by charity is necessary and therefore cannot be described as needless overlapping—(Birmingham, Canterbury, Durham, Ely, Exeter, Gloucester, Newcastle, Peterborough, Rochester, St. Alban's, Southwark, Bath and Wells).

Salisbury.—There is unnecessary overlapping owing to the need of communication between the different Charities and the Poor Law.

The necessity for supplementing Poor Law relief is the subject of adverse comment in several instances.

Canterbury.—A clear discrimination between charity and the Poor Law is advocated.

Peterborough.—The guardians should deal adequately with the destitute, and private charity should be confined to the self-respecting poor, with a view to keeping them off the rates altogether.

St. Albans.—Anything like a system of supplementing out-relief defeats its own ends.

Chichester.—Relations between charities and boards of guardians are generally cordial, and information is often sought and given.

Durham.—Closer co-operation with relieving officers is advocated.

Hereford.—There is much evidence that "doles" charities amount to little else than relief of the rates, or subsidies to low wages.

Southwell.—In not a few cases the clergyman is a guardian. It would be well if every board of guardians had its full quota of working clergymen.

Bath and Wells.—Some assert that it is needful that charity should overlap the Poor Law as at present administered.

(c) Prevention.

Ely.—194 incumbents says no efforts are made to prevent overlapping.

Peterborough.—No special efforts to prevent overlapping with other denominations.

Southwell.—The evil is fully recognised, but little effort made to prevent it.

The following societies are mentioned:—

I.—*Charity Organisation Society* (Chester, Exeter, Lichfield, Newcastle, Peterborough, Ripon, Southwark, Southwell, Worcester, Bath and Wells.)

City Aid Society, Birmingham.

Provident Society, Chester (Bowdon Deanery, Altrincham).

A society was formed in Auckland, *Durham* to prevent harm done by indiscriminate charity, but it failed.

The Bewdley and Bridgnorth Societies in the Diocese of Hereford.

Overlapping of Relief—*continued.*

Citizens' Aid Society, Peterborough.

II.—*Guilds of Help* are mentioned as doing good work in the reports from Canterbury, Croydon, Chester, Peterborough, Ripon, Wakefield.

III.—Committees are referred to in Canterbury, Ely, Rochester, Bath and Wells.

In the reports from *Peterborough and Rochester* the vicar and dissenting ministers are said to co-operate.

In the reports from *Chichester and Gloucester* communication between relieving officers and the clergy is mentioned.

The advantages of having members of the clergy on the boards of guardians is shown in the Reports from *Canterbury* (*St. Mary's*); *Chichester*, *St. Albans*, and co-operation with the guardians is stated to have prevented overlapping in the Diocese of Hereford.

Wakefield.—In some districts a central body of workers have proved advantageous.

Southwell (*North Wingfield*).—The parish council and the incumbent "pool" the endowed charities.

Suggestions.

1. A list should be kept by the guardians or relieving officers of those in receipt of Poor Law relief and sent to the clergy (Hereford, Rochester).

2. *Relief Registers.*—111 incumbents in the Diocese of Manchester are in favour of their formation, but many are doubtful of the possibility of their success.

3. The formation of labour colonies.

CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE.

A great many incumbents have been unable to answer this question, and the replies given are so indefinite that no satisfactory conclusion can be arrived at through them. Where figures are given they do not seem to be ascertained with exactness (Birmingham).

The value of charitable assistance given in kind cannot be accurately ascertained (Chester).

Some of the estimates are for Church funds alone—others for Church and Poor Law—others include all forms of assistance (Durham, Salisbury).

Little appears to be known as to distribution of private charity (Wakefield).

Several thousands of pounds are spent annually in various dioceses, from sources connected with the Church:—

	£
Birmingham	3,258
Durham	5,000
Hereford	5,365
Ripon	7,282

In *Southwell* there are endowed charities to the amount of £14,636.

As would be expected, the amount given in charitable assistance in various parishes, varies enormously, from less than £5 to several hundred pounds.

Rochester.—The lowest return is £4, the highest £850.

Liverpool.—Sums given vary from £1 to £200.

Worcester (*Archdeaconry of Coventry*).—The range is from £1 10s. to £120.

Manchester Urban Districts.—It varies from £5 to £100. The average parish would give, apart from charitable funds administered by boards or societies, £20 to £30 annually.

Rural Districts.—Figures vary so much that it is impossible to form an estimate. Charities and doles vary in different rural parishes from £5 to £200.

Bath and Wells.—The lowest return is £3, the highest £328.

NUMBER RELIEVED BY CHARITY.

In several reports no information is given on this point. The figures given are, in most instances, stated to be unreliable (*e.g.*, Birmingham, Chester, Rochester).

The numbers of families in receipt of charitable assistance varies enormously in different parishes, from "next to none" to "four or five hundred," (Liverpool), or from "five to six to two hundred," (Newcastle).

In the reports from some of the dioceses the figures are stated to be practically worthless as there is no indication as to whether they refer to families or individuals, (*e.g.*, Birmingham, Durham).

In certain parishes in the Dioceses of *Canterbury and Chichester* a considerable number of persons are in receipt of charitable relief. It is recorded that in a town parish in Croydon nearly all the population (2,500) receive charitable assistance of some sort; while in Diocese of *Salisbury*, especially in the smaller parishes, relief in some form or other is given to all.

21,835 is the roughestimate for the number of persons receiving help during the course of a year, in the Diocese of Ripon, and in the Diocese of St. David's, the figures given come to about 3,199.

Hereford.—20·75 per cent. of the population are in receipt of charitable relief.

(Club bonuses are excluded in this estimate).

Lichfield.—11,703 families or individuals in 244 parishes.

Manchester.—Such estimates as are given vary from thirty to 150 cases per annum.

Bath and Wells.—Here there is a wide variation; if it is a question as to how many are helped from the collection for the poor, the answer may be "only the sick" or "none regularly." If it is to include those who benefit from endowed charities, bonus clubs, gifts of bread and coal, a large number will be stated, and in the villages not infrequently every cottager participates.

Peterborough.—The average number of persons receiving charitable assistance annually is twenty in every 1,000.

A Dover Parish (population 4,140).—About sixty families in a more or less regular relief.

West Dartford (*Holy Trinity, Beckenham*).—About 100 families assisted by the local charitable society during a year.

Diocese of Truro.—The percentage of persons receiving relief is stated to be small.

Worcester:—

	Families in receipt.
Mallow (population, 1,768)	1
Blockley (population, 1,931)	50

MISCELLANEOUS.

Housing.

DURHAM.

Few of the towns in this diocese stand well compared with the rest of England.

In Gateshead 34·54 of the population live in such a condition that more than two persons occupy one room.

In South Shields 34·42 of the people live in similar circumstances.

Sunderland.—A proportion of 30·10 are in the same condition.

Miscellaneous—*continued.*

Thus in Gateshead 37,957 persons live more than two in one room. In South Shields 31,520 persons live more than two in one room. In Sunderland 43,976 persons live more than two in one room.

This does not always mean that there are not sufficient houses in a town, which can be had at a reasonable rent. Thus in Gateshead there are 1,500 empty tenements. People in receipt of sufficient wages live under overcrowded conditions of free choice.

LIVERPOOL.

The Diocese contains a large proportion of what are known as slum parishes.

TRURO. (*Question* 5.)

Eighteen say there are many dwellings insufficient, too crowded, or insanitary.

Nineteen answers state that there are not many dwellings which can be so described.

Twenty-two of the medical men say that dwellings are improving, six state that they are not improving.

WINCHESTER. (*Questions* 7, 8.)

Opinions are equally divided as to whether such changes as have been made in the character of various parishes by altered local housing conditions are for better or worse. The majority of the incumbents think that the alterations have made no change.

There are hardly any Rowton houses in the diocese, but some common lodging houses are found.

Thirty-two incumbents consider that the existence of common lodging or Rowton houses has an unfavourable effect upon local poverty, while seven are of opinion that they are useful.

PETERBOROUGH. (*Question* 8.)

The need for better dwellings for the poor is insisted on in many places.

Small Holdings.

WINCHESTER. (*Question* 12.)

Where villages are prospering and population is increasing, the reason most frequently given is that land is available for cultivation. In only one or two parishes is it reported that small holdings and allotments have failed.

"The population has been increasing steadily for the last twenty years owing to small holdings and allotments," is one answer. Another reply is "Very little poverty, because the land has been broken up for cultivation."

Of poultry farming different accounts are given, but to this and other small industries high charges for carriage are said to be a great hindrance.

The clergy are recommended to ally themselves with the Agricultural Organisation Society, or with local agricultural co-operative societies where they exist.

Employment of Women.

DURHAM.

The proportion of women employed is low as compared with the rest of England and Wales.

A large number of married women and widows are engaged in occupations, *e.g.*, in the City of Durham a proportion of 12·6 per cent. The explanation given for this fact in the Returns is that the widows of miners come to reside in Durham.

The City of Durham contains by far the largest percentage of females over the age of ten, and under fourteen engaged in occupations, viz., 3·2. The largest number of these in every town are engaged in domestic service and dressmaking.

In the diocesan Report figures are given showing the propo tion per cent. of domestic servants to the total number of separate occupiers or families in the nine boroughs of the diocese. These statistics show that the number of domestic servants is high as compared with the average number for England.

The towns with the highest percentage of domestic servants are those from which there are complaints of the overlapping of the various methods for the relief of the poor. This points to the existence of a large number of well-to-do people.

Vagrants.

ST. ALBANS. (*Question* 9.)

In many parishes effort has been made to find a remedy for vagrancy. Some of the clergy keep labour registers, and have been able to find employment for considerable numbers of men. In some cases youths from London-over-the-Border have been placed on farms as far off as Devon and Cornwall.

A very large scheme of labour bureaux is required. Tramping for work must be always vexatious and proves often hopelessly demoralising. When once a man has become a confirmed tramp he has got out of touch with all parochial systems. Any scheme would have to be undertaken by a central authority with wide powers. A certain splendidly organised society has in some London parishes done very good work.

Example.

"A mission to homeless men—a most extraordinary success. I know nothing like it. A few months ago I gave an address on a Saturday afternoon to 400 of these men, in a church lent for that purpose."

Children.

DURHAM. (*Question* 1.)

(*a*) Effect of Poor Law on Children.

Children whose parents are in receipt of outdoor relief are generally found to be sufficiently nourished. A fair proportion do not pass the Sixth Standard. It is a very hurtful thing for children to become familiarised with the relievng officer or relief pay station; but they do not suffer much, if at all, from contact with the relieving officer in their own homes.

ELY. (*Question* 13.)

183 incumbents say that children whose parents are in receipt of outdoor relief are sufficiently nourished. Thirty seven express a contrary opinion. Children are better cared for by their mothers.

177 incumbents say that the mothers of such children have time to nourish them. Thirty-three state that they have not.

Eighty-one incumbents state that such children go to school until they have passed the Sixth Standard; seventy seven reply that they do not. In some districts the standard of exemption from school attendance is fixed much too low; children are set free on passing the Fourth Standard. Ten replies state that familiarity with the relieving officer demoralises children; 179 answers are in the negative.

NEWCASTLE. (*Question* 1.)

There is no complaint about the children being insufficiently nourished.

E.g., Morpeth Deanery.—"The children whose parents are in receipt of relief are as well nourished as those in the same rank of life."

WINCHESTER. (*Question* 7.)

In some parishes free breakfasts are given to children, in accordance with the provisions of the Under-fed Children's Order of the Local Government Board.

DURHAM. (*Question* 2.)

(*b*) Workhouse Children.

Children brought up in Poor Law institutions compare very favourably, both mentally and physically, with those brought up at home.

The practice of allowing children brought up in Poor Law institutions to attend the public elementary schools has made a great improvement.

ELY. (*Question* 14.)

Thirty-two incumbents think that children brought up in workhouses or large institutions compare favourably with ordinary children. Sixty express a contrary opinion.

Miscellaneous—*continued.*

The majority of the clergy seem to know little about workhouse children.

There is a general feeling that boarding-out, the system usually adopted in the diocese, is beneficial.

NEWCASTLE. (*Question* 2.)

Tynemouth Deanery.—There is a strong consensus of opinion in favour of boarding-out children. The children under the Poor Law are less self-dependent but not ashamed.

DURHAM. (*Question* 3.)

(*a*) Dissociation of Children from Poor Law.

No children ought to be educated in workhouses or similar institutions. If sent out daily to school the effect on them is beneficial.

The abolition of the uniform dress tends to destroy "shame amongst equals."

An enormous number of the children of the poor either die in their very early years or live to become mere weaklings. This is due to hereditary taint and the bad habits and carelessness of the parents.

As a remedy it is suggested that trained female visitors should visit the houses of the poor and have power to communicate the medical officer and the relieving officer, and report the parents or guardians for prosecution where necessary.

NEWCASTLE. (*Question* 3.)

It does not seem desirable to most of the clergy to dissociate children from Poor Law administration. The parents' religion would not be respected by the education authorities, and, moreover, parents and their children respectively would be under two different authorities.

ELY. (*Question* 15.)

Powers of Local Authorities.

120 Incumbents are in favour of extending the powers of local authorities to deal with neglected children, 126 are opposed to every such proposal.

The children whose condition is the hardest are those of disreputable parents who are not in receipt of relief. The law does not enable local authorities either to rescue them or enforce better treatment of them in their homes. Moreover authorities do not always make full use of their existing powers.

In the Borough of Luton the following system of dealing with cases of verminous children works successfully. School teachers report such cases to the police, and sometimes the trial of the case is postponed for a month and if an improvement is affected the parents escape with a caution. In bad cases the parents are sent to prison. The children are placed in the workhouse to be cleaned, then passed on to children's homes, and returned to the parents after their sentence has expired.

The incumbents who protest against any extension of the powers of local authorities consider that any such extension would be an invasion of the parents' rights.

Effect of Relief.

CANTERBURY. (*Question* 9.)

Charity.—It needs much strength and independence on the part of the recipient to prevent charity spoiling character.

Acceptance of relief has had a degenerating effect upon recipients; it fosters the pauper spirit.

The evidence from the towns is overwhelmingly strong that the relief given has a decidedly demoralising effect. It is destructive of thrift, self-reliance, and effort.

Exception is made in the case of the sick, the aged, and those who can be trusted to make a reciprocal effort.

Poor Law.—The evidence is of the same character. Poor Law relief prevents many labourers from making any effort to save, and has a bad effect on the sons of recipients.

There is little or no provision made for old age, except in the matter of burial.

ELY. (*Question* 9.)

Charity.—On the whole charitable relief does a great deal of harm.

Worst of all are the "doles" and "coal charities" so common in the diocese.

Poor Law.—Poor Law relief given to the sick and aged does not pauperise because they have passed the stage where effort is possible. On the other hand it has in a sense pauperised them by anticipation. Reliance on relief tempts men in middle life to neglect to save.

A few incumbents assert that all forms of relief "encourage effort and build up character," but the weight of evidence is to the contrary.

GLOUCESTER. (*Question* 8.)

Endowed Charities.—Endowed charities which consist of doles have a demoralising effect. Some incumbents go so far as to say that they are calculated to increase pauperism and discourage thrift.

Bonuses to coal and clothing clubs, almshouses, and charitable pensions are generally approved.

LONDON. (*Question* 7.)

There is great diversity of opinion as to what has been the general effect of the local administration of the Poor Law. Ninety-two incumbents state that it is good; sixteen that it is moderately good; forty-six that its effect is nil; thirty that it is bad, hostile to thrift; fifteen say that the system is radically unsound.

Examples.

1. "The general effect appears to us to be beneficent; though we believe the Poor Law to be open to great reforms."

2. "I consider the general effect to be good. It encourages independence."

3. "I think that the Poor Law is entirely antiquated and rusty as a means of progress in dealing with the problems of poverty." The deserving and the undeserving are confounded, always to the detriment of the deserving.

Unemployed Funds.

WINCHESTER.

The need of trained men to deal with the question of relief has been very evident in the efforts of municipalities to cope with the evil of unemployment.

Compulsory labour Colonies, or the like, are said by many to be the only method of dealing with the unemployable. Until these are established proper classification cannot be carried out, a great part of the money is wasted, and much demoralisation results.

The Comparative failure of committees is due to the fact that too much was expected of them. At the best they could only be palliatives in times of distress. All that can be hoped is that committees may not, in helping a few, do harm to many by increasing the number of the unemployed or making the unemployed descend to the level of the unemployable.

The Diocesan Committee is of opinion that the better method of dealing with the unemployed in times of exceptional distress is to treat each case separately and to keep the home together for a reasonable time.

Unemployed Workmen Act.

LONDON. (*Question* 6.)

The effect of this Act on the work or minds of the clergy has been very small.

Two hundred and fifty-three incumbents state that the Act has not been in operation in their parishes or that its effect has been inappreciable.

In twenty cases the effect upon the character of those assisted under the Act is said to have been unsatisfactory, in forty-seven cases unsatisfactory.

Three hundred and thirty-five replies state that the numbers dealt with have been so small that no opinion could be formed. The social significance of the Act seems to have entirely escaped the notice of the clergy: evidently the proportion of unemployed affected by the Act is so small that unless an incumbent is actually a member of a distress committee the Act is not brought to his notice.

Emigration.

ST. ALBANS. (*Question* 9.)

Emigration is encouraged in many parishes either by use of emigration societies, or, where parochial funds have been available, by advancing money on loan.

Miscellaneous—*continued*

One parish alone has assisted over 100 emigrants during the last three or four years, and all are doing well.

WINCHESTER. (*Question* 8.)

Emigration to the colonies is desirable, not only in times of exceptional distress, but even in normal years, owing to the conditions of life and labour in some of our towns and larger villages, where there is often a considerable amount of unemployed.

Many who would not be successful in England succeed in the Colonies.

Unemployed funds would be better utilised if more money were set aside for emigration.

Immorality.

TRURO. (*Question* 9.)

Eighteen answers state that immorality is increasing; nine say that it is not; four, that it is about the same.

Eight say that the birth-rate is lowered by the use of drugs, six say that they have no knowledge on this point.

Five say that such drugs are commonly advertised, six that they have not noticed this.

Favouritism in Relief of the Poor.

TRURO. (*Question* 8.)

Answers of Medical Men.

Twenty-nine say that they have never seen any favouritism, while six say that they have. One says that if the poor have no interest they get little or no pay; one that such influence may bear hardly on them, and one says that "no guardian or his wife should keep a shop," and this probably, in the country, is where the poor are hindered.

Lectures.

ST. ALBANS. (*Question* 10.)

In very few parishes is special care taken in the instruction of district visitors.

Examples.

"The medical officer of health addressed our visitors recently, chiefly on the care of infants."

Some have lectures on Charity Organisation Society methods, and others give advice privately or at district visitors' meetings.

One incumbent gives his visitors a book published by the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge.

"Many attend lectures in connection with St. Helen's House Women's Settlement. Some are on the Charity Organisation Society Committee."

"Lectures are advisable."

WINCHESTER. (*Question* 9.)

The answers show that, though lectures are not usually given for the instruction of district visitors and church workers, such a course would be valued by the clergy.

Self-Help.

DURHAM.

The report from this Diocese deals at great length with this subject. There is little doubt that the various agencies for the encouragement of self-help are largely responsible for the comparative absence of poverty which the reports reveal.

(*a*) General.

I.—*The Co-operative Store System* is the principal movement which makes for the prosperity of the working classes. The giving of dividends (2s. to 4s.) on purchases has the effect of practically compelling the unthrifty, who spend all their money, to save something.

Moreover, the business training received in managing the stores, and the education obtained from the store library and lecture hall, have a beneficial effect on members.

Figures are given in the report showing the magnitude of the Co-operative movement.

In the West Durham and South Northumberland District there are twenty-three stores, the total membership of which is 31,721, whose sales amount altogether to £1,490,480 annually.

II.—*Friendly Societies* have considerable influence and are enjoyed by many who are not members of trade unions.

In 1905, the total expenditure of these societies in the county was £125,819, more than £1 per head of the total membership.

The chief orders are the Oddfellows, Foresters, Shepherds, and Free Gardeners.

Example.

Order of Oddfellows.

Monthly contribution varies from 1s. 8d. to 3s. 10½d., together with some small additional payments. These contributions entitle members to large payments, *e.g.*, 10s. per week for first twenty-six weeks of sickness.

Friendly Societies in Durham.—Total Expenditure for 1905.

Ordinary Friendly Societies.	Societies with Branches.	Total.
£	£	£
14,653	111,166	125,819

Temperance Orders are growing rapidly. Of these, the Sons of Temperance and the Independent Order of Rechabites are the most important. The latter had in 1906 a membership of 10,700 adults and 12,500 juveniles (in County Durham).

Temperance Societies encourage temperance, and thus aid in the diminution of poverty.

III.—*Trade Unions* are found, and five of the most important of them are referred to particularly. All these have benefit funds which protect members from sickness, trade disputes, scarcity of work, and in cases of death.

Example.

Amalgamated Carpenters and Joiners.

Number of members in County of Durham at end of October, 1907, 3,217.

	£	s.	d.
Total benefits paid in year 1906 -	10,218	8	10
„ contributions in year 1906 -	12,042	13	11

The ordinary contribution is 1s. per week, which is said to be too small for the benefits paid, and, therefore, the society often has to levy—an expedient for which the rules provide.

There is evidence that unskilled labourers (among whom poverty is the most prevalent) are not so well able to contribute to the funds of their union as are members of other trades. In consequence, in times of trade depression their position is very much worse than that of other workmen.

IV.—*Hospitals.*—Considerable contributions are made by workmen of all trades to the various hospitals in the county. The money thus contributed is in some cases almost equal to amount expended on the members of the contributing trades who benefit by hospital treatment.

(*b*) Among Miners.

Agencies for self-help are numerous.

I.—*The Durham Miners' Association.*—For a payment of 1s. per fortnight the miner is insured against sickness or accident for 10s. a week and a death benefit for himself of £8 or £6, for his wife of £3. A further payment of 8d. per fortnight guarantees him an income of 10s. per week in time of trade depression, or other occasions on which he may be out of work.

Balance Sheet for Year ending December, 1906.

	£	s.	d.
Sickness and accident benefits -	57,095	14	9
Death benefits - - - -	6,239	16	0
Relief fund for those out of work -	10,245	5	7
Grants and donations - -	367	2	0
Total benefits paid -	£73,947	18	4

II.—*The Permanent Relief Fund* for the counties Durham and Northumberland was established in 1863, and has since its commencement disbursed about £2,400,000 in relief of various kinds.

The minor accidents section was founded in 1874, and the superannuation scheme in 1875.

The income is practically wholly derived from members' contributions, the total amount since 1863 being £2,776,000.

Accumulated capital of the fund is £398,000.

The total expenditure in 1906 was about £137,000.

The largest expenditure is that for pensions for aged and infirm workmen, the amount thus disbursed since 1875 being £884,000.

Number of members *in County Durham*, 117,395.

Amount of contributions in Durham for 1906, £111,280 12s. 7d. Amount of contributions per head, "Full" members, 5d. per week; "half" members, 2½d. per week.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE TWO COUNTIES. (FOR 1906)

	£	s.	d.
Legacies	2,592	4	0
Widows, guardians and children	24,044	11	7
Permanently disabled	21,883	2	11
Minor accidents	26,487	13	9
Pensions for aged miners	62,383	9	10

Permanent Recipients in 1906.

Widows	1,335
Guardians	62
Children	1,347
Permanently disabled	1,216
Aged miners	4,778
Total	8,738

The total amount expended in 1906 *among miners* was about £165,000.

III.—*Doctors' Fees.*—A fortnightly payment is made by miners of 9d. to their doctor, which entitles themselves and their families to free attendance and medicine.

IV.—*Aged Miners' Homes Association.*—This society possesses some 250 homes and other property representing a capital value of £35,000.

These houses have been provided partly by subscriptions of miners and partly by subscriptions of the general public (particularly of the colliery owners).

Amount contributed annually by miners is about £1,300. New houses are constantly being built or acquired by the committee.

Aged miners and their wives are nominated and elected by ballot of the contributing workmen to the occupation of these houses. Practically all of them are in receipt of the weekly pension of 5s. from the Permanent Relief Fund, and all are supplied with free coals by the committee. This system, which ensures to aged miners a comfortable cottage, has been well described as a practical solution of the problem of old-age pensions, and that largely by the efforts of the miners themselves.

The above-named thrift agencies are not, of course mutually exclusive. Large numbers of miners contribute to them all.

V.—*Levies, Benefit Concerts, Collections, etc.*—There is a custom among miners of raising a "levy" for widows and children in cases of fatal accident. In large collieries the amount collected is sometimes £100 or more.

Other customs for mitigating the distress of a fellow-workman are recorded.

The miners also take their part in the support of hospitals, friendly societies, etc.

LONDON. (*Question* 5.)

Friendly Societies.—Of these the clergy have no definite or widespread knowledge. In only about 100 cases are the clergy or their workers stated to be personally associated with them.

There is little evidence of increase in habits of thrift or increase of the membership of friendly societies.

In a considerable number of cases, however, parish buildings are used for the meetings of these societies.

Slate Clubs are in many returns said to be numerous, but they are not increasing. Some incumbents have slate clubs connected with the Church, and but few say that they are inimical to real thrift.

Reform.

ELY. (*Question* 9.)

The answers suggest a great variety of reforms. The principal are:—

(1) Old age pensions.

(2) More liberal out-relief.

(3) The abolition of out-relief.

(4) A better classification of the inmates of workhouses, so that the reputable may be kept apart from the disreputable.

(5) The formation in each district of a committee which shall organise all the charity, prevent overlapping, check unwise private gifts, and collect substantial sums to meet real cases of need.

HEREFORD. (*Question* 9.)

REFORM OF ALMSHOUSES.

Almshouses are approved, wherever they exist.

The occasional absence of adequate nursing is sometimes a ground for complaint.

The administration, though generally, is not always approved. In Hereford City grave charges are made viz., that the use of almshouses is perverted by political partisanship, to the detriment of the deserving poor.

Other complaints are that pensions to occupants are excessive; that permission to revise is not obtainable; that discretion in choice of occupants is too much fettered; and that almshouses are sometimes occupied by decrepit and feeble and friendless persons who would be better attended in the workhouse.

It is suggested that in many cases the capital of funds now squandered in doles could be realised and employed in building almshouses in larger numbers in the more populous villages. It they were built in colonies of reasonable size the services of nurses could be obtained.

Poor Law authorities, instead of enlarging workhouses, should build almshouses in the larger parishes. The practicability of this proposal will be greatly increased by the advent of old age pensions, which will give the means of providing a home but do little towards providing the home itself. If the aged poor were by some such scheme removed from the workhouse, and children boarded-out under motherly supervision in cottage homes, the classification of the remaining inmates of the workhouse would be greatly simplified.

Medical Relief.

DURHAM. (*Question* 3.)

(*a*) OBJECT OF MEDICAL RELIEF.

The answer to the question as to whether the object of the medical and relieving officers is to raise the standard of public health or merely to limit applications for relief depends absolutely on the way they regard their work.

The standard of public health would be raised if medical attendance were dissociated from the Poor Law and put under the control of the medical officer, provided the medical officer is unhampered by other appointments, or a private practice, and has not too large an area to manage.

Salaries offered to relieving officers are large enough to tempt well-educated men. There is no excuse for the guardians appointing men of deficient education because of local influence or other mischievous reasons.

This practice would be avoided if selected candidates were interviewed by a representative of the central authority, before appointments were made.

ELY. (*Question* 12.)

Rather less than half the incumbents think that separating the medical relief from the Poor Law would raise the standard of health.

NEWCASTLE. (*Question* 3.)

There is no general wish to dissociate the duties of the medical officer from the Poor Law, though there is a division of opinion on the matter.

One says: "With an experience of forty years, I scarcely remember a case of proved negligence against a

Miscellaneous—*continued.*

medical officer, and, secondly, that an appreciable amount of Poor Law Relief consists in medical orders for beef, milk, and other means of giving strength to the patients, in addition to the regular allowance."

DURHAM. (*Question* 2.)

(*b*) Effect of Medical Relief.

Many persons use medical relief as a stepping-stone to other forms of relief. This is particularly so in places where the medical officer freely dispenses notes of recommendation or certificates to the relieving officer, without making sufficient investigation.

It is possible that pauperisation would be reduced if medical relief were administered apart from the Poor Law.

ELY. (*Question* 11.)

On this subject the replies are divided in the proportion of three to one.

The majority say that medical relief does not pauperise, and that nothing would be gained by separating it from the Poor Law.

NEWCASTLE. (*Question* 2.)

Bedlington Deanery.—Medical relief does not tend to pauperise except where there is need of special support for the invalid.

There is no reason to desire any change in the position of the medical officer.

Morpeth Deanery.—One answer says: "I do not think that the separation of medical from Poor Law relief would make any difference in the thought of becoming a pauper; as that feeling scarcely exists now."

DURHAM. (*Question* 1.)

(*c*) Deterrence of Medical Relief.

People have very little hesitation in asking for medical relief. Applicants make a sharp distinction between medical and other forms of relief.

There are very few cases of people suffering through an unwillingness to ask for medical relief. The cases brought to light are invariably those of old people who have retained old-fashioned prejudice against applying to "the parish."

ELY. (*Question* 10.)

(i.) *Poor Law.*

About forty incumbents think shame is sometimes felt about accepting medical relief from the Poor Law. The rest (about 300) deny the existence of any such feeling.

(ii.) *Hospitals and Dispensaries.*

All but one reply that no hesitation whatever is felt about obtaining relief from hospitals. The poor (and many who are not poor) consider that they have a right to all they can get from such institutions.

Only eight incumbents think that mischievous delay is ever caused by hesitation to apply for relief.

NEWCASTLE. (*Question* 1.)

Application to the Poor Law authorities for medical relief is almost unknown, owing, doubtless, in the rural areas, to the preference for the regular doctor. Moreover, nurses, either in connection with the County Nursing or the Cathedral Nurse Societies or maintained by private subscriptions, are found now in almost every part of the diocese.

In mining districts there are regular "clubs," in urban areas there are "dispensaries."

The applications for "dispensary letters" are made with great freedom, frequently with the persistency of a "claim."

Morpeth Deanery.—Receipt of relief is now generally claimed as a right.

CANTERBURY. (*Question* 8.)

(*d*) Abuse of Medical Relief.

(i.) *Poor Law.*

The returns deny any abuse of medical Poor Law relief.

(ii.) *Hospitals.*

There is a considerable abuse of hospitals. Letters are often granted to persons who could afford to pay a doctor.

The person who gets to the hospital with an ordinary complaint is often very far from regarding himself as a recipient of charity. In consequence, to say nothing of the time wasted, a wrong is often done to the local practitioner, and the character of the applicant is injured.

Many persons use the hospitals who should be looked after by the Poor Law (*Croydon, Christchurch*).

In the parish of *Pluckley, East Charing*, hospital letters are granted by the rector, churchwardens, and medical practitioner after consultation.

Canterbury, St. Martin's and St. Paul's.—"Practically any person can be doctored free."

The diocesan committee advise the exercise of the greatest possible discrimination by subscribers in the bestowal of hospital letters.

ELY.

(*e*) Powers of Medical Officers.

The medical officer of health, whose duty requires him to report upon nuisances, insanitary dwellings, and other impediments to the health of the poor, is rarely independent enough to face the owners of the incriminated property who are not infrequently guardians. Consequently serious evils often continue unchecked year after year.

The medical officer has little power of initiative. He must, as a rule, wait until someone calls his attention to a nuisance. He has no right of entrance into houses which he may believe on good evidence to be insanitary. He is not expected to take the initiative, even when the existence of such an evil is notorious.

The functions of medical officer of health and Poor Law medical officer are usually exercised by different men who have little communication with each other, and no official connection. Their spheres of duty overlap; their interests are different; and the result is not altogether satisfactory.

TRURO.

Fifteen medical men say that the medical officers of health have not sufficient powers, ten say their powers are sufficient, six say their powers are sufficient "if backed."

The most unanimous opinion is in favour of the medical officer of health having a permanent post under central, *i.e.*, the London authority, thus giving fixity of tenure, with no local medical practice; if possible, a seat on the local authority, in fact, a county medical officer of health.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POOR LAWS AND RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

LIST OF APPENDIX VOLUMES TO THE REPORTS OF THE POOR LAW COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, SCOTLAND, AND IRELAND.

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Diocesan Reports on the Methods of administering Charitable Assistance and the extent and intensity of Poverty in England and Wales.

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Report on the Methods and Results of the present system of administering Indoor and Outdoor Poor Law Medical Relief in certain Unions in England and Wales, by Dr. McVail.

APPENDIX VOL. XV.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—CHARITY.
Report on the Administrative Relation of Charity and the Poor Law, and the extent and the actual and potential utility of Endowed and Voluntary Charities in England and Scotland, by Mr. A. C. Kay and Mr. H. V. Toynbee.

APPENDIX VOL. XVI.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—INDUSTRIAL AND SANITARY CONDITIONS.
Reports on the Relation of Industrial and Sanitary Conditions to Pauperism, by Mr. Steel Maitland and Miss R. E. Squire.

APPENDIX VOL. XVII.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—OUT-RELIEF AND WAGES.
Reports on the effect of Outdoor Relief on Wages, and the Conditions of Employment, by Mr. Thomas Jones and Miss Williams.

APPENDIX VOL. XVIII.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—CHILDREN: ENGLAND AND WALES.
Report on the condition of the Children who are in receipt of the various forms of Poor Law Relief in certain Unions in London and in the Provinces, by Dr. Ethel Williams and Miss Longman and Miss Phillips.

APPENDIX VOL. XIX.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—UNEMPLOYMENT: ENGLAND AND WALES.
Report on the Effects of Employment or Assistance given to the Unemployed since 1886 as a means of relieving Distress outside the Poor Law in London, and generally throughout England and Wales, by Mr. Cyril Jackson and the Rev. J. C. Pringle.

APPENDIX VOL. XIX. A.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—UNEMPLOYMENT: SCOTLAND.
Report on the Effects of Employment or Assistance given to the Unemployed since 1886 as a means of relieving Distress outside the Poor Law in Scotland, by the Rev. J. C. Pringle.

APPENDIX VOL. XIX. B.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—UNEMPLOYMENT: IRELAND.
Report on the Effects of Employment or Assistance given to the Unemployed since 1886 as a means of relieving Distress outside the Poor Law in Ireland, by Mr. Cyril Jackson.

APPENDIX VOL. XX.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—BOY LABOUR.
Report on Boy Labour in London and certain other Typical Towns, by Mr. Cyril Jackson, with a Memorandum from the General Post Office on the Conditions of Employment of Telegraph Messengers.

APPENDIX VOL. XXI.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—REFUSAL OF OUT-RELIEF.
Reports on the Effect of the Refusal of Out-relief on the Applicants for such Relief, by Miss G. Harlock.

APPENDIX VOL. XXII.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—OVERLAPPING OF MEDICAL RELIEF IN LONDON.
Report on the Overlapping of the Work of the Voluntary General Hospitals with that of Poor Law Medical Relief in certain districts of London, by Miss N. B. Roberts.

APPENDIX VOL XXIII.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—CHILDREN: SCOTLAND.
Report on the Condition of the Children who are in receipt of the various forms of Poor Law Relief in certain parishes in Scotland, by Dr. C. T. Parsons and Miss Longman and Miss Phillips.

APPENDIX VOL. XXIV.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—ABLE-BODIED AND "ORDINARY" PAUPERS IN ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND.
Report on a Comparison of the Physical Condition of "Ordinary" Paupers in certain Scottish Poorhouses with that of the Able-bodied Paupers in certain English Workhouses and Labour Yards, by Dr. C. T. Parsons.

APPENDIX VOL. XXV.—STATISTICAL.
Statistical Memoranda and Tables relating to England and Wales, prepared by the Staff of the Commission and by Government Departments, and Others, and Actuarial Reports.

APPENDIX VOL. XXVI.—CHARITIES.
Documents relating more especially to the Administration of Charities.

APPENDIX VOL. XXVII.—REPLIES OF DISTRESS COMMITTEES.
Replies by Distress Committees in England and Wales to Questions circulated on the subject of the Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905.

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Reports of Visits to Poor Law and Charitable Institutions and to Meetings of Local Authorities in the United Kingdom.

APPENDIX VOL. XXIX.—REPORT BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.
Report on the Methods of Administering Charitable Assistance and the extent and intensity of Poverty in Scotland, prepared by the Committee on Church Interests appointed by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

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Foreign and Colonial Systems of Poor Relief, with a Memorandum on the Relief of Famines in India.

APPENDIX VOL. XXXIV.—LIST OF WITNESSES.
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