

Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress. : Appendix Volume XXI. Report to the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress on an inquiry in certain unions into cases of refusal of out-relief / By Miss G. Harlock.

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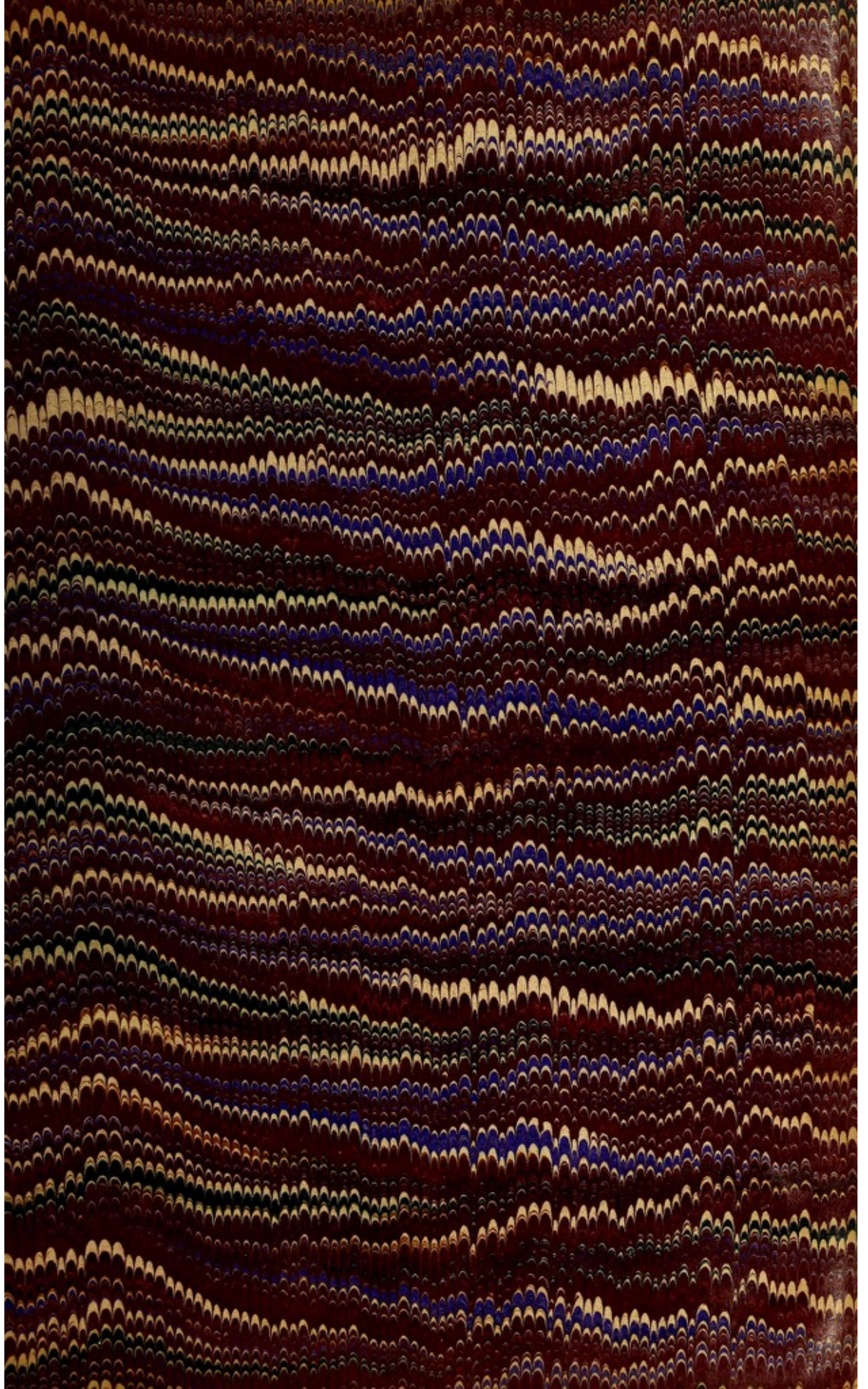
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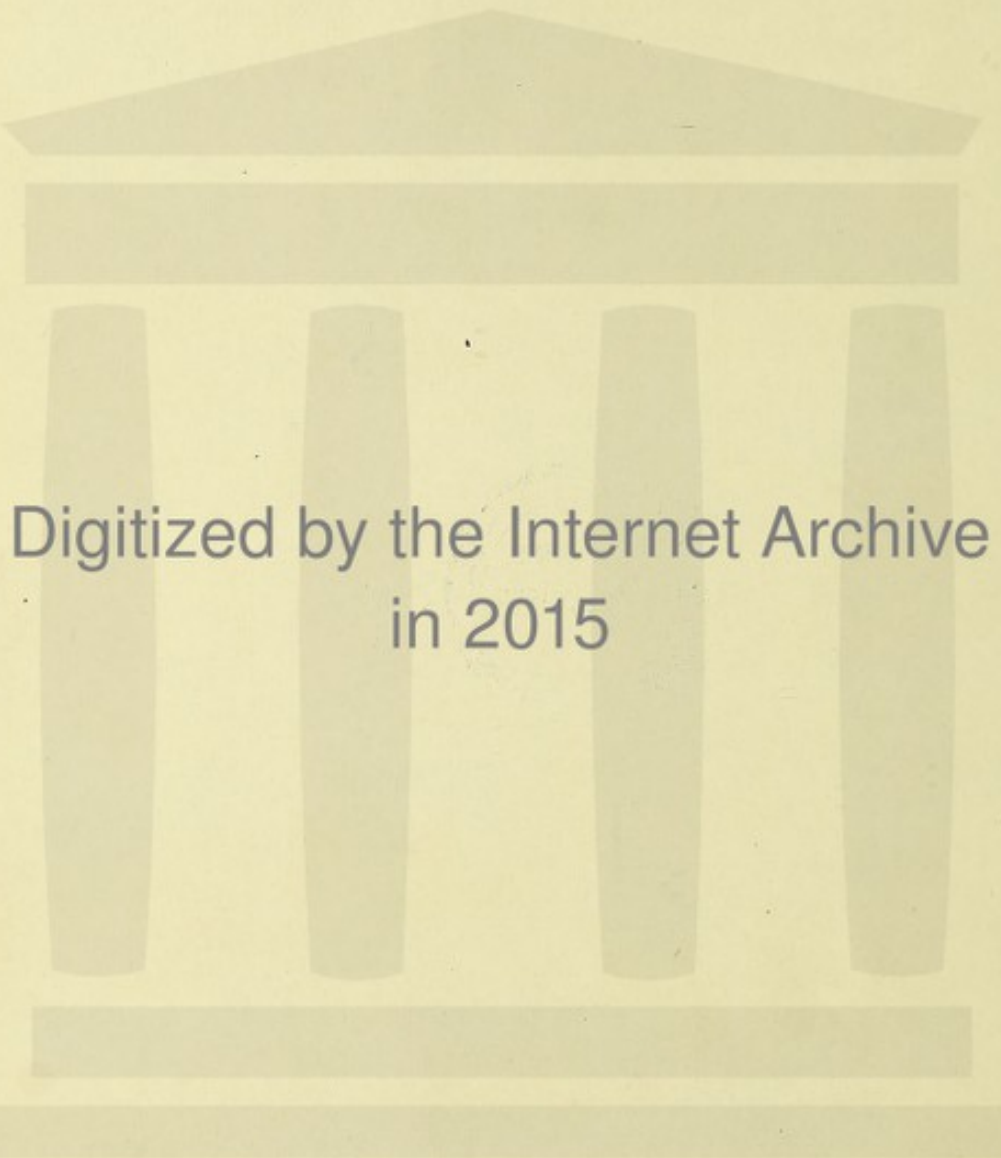
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ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POOR LAWS
AND RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

APPENDIX VOLUME XXI.

REPORT

BY

THE

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POOR LAWS AND RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

Inquiry in Certain Unions

Cases of ...



Printed by ...



ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POOR LAWS
AND RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

APPENDIX VOLUME XXI.

REPORT

TO THE
ROYAL COMMISSION
ON THE
POOR LAWS AND RELIEF OF DISTRESS
ON AN
Inquiry in Certain Unions
INTO
Cases of Refusal of Out-Relief.
BY
MISS G. HARLOCK.

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



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I. PRELIMINARY INQUIRY INTO CASES OF REFUSAL OF OUT-RELIEF BY THE BRADFORD GUARDIANS.

OBJECTS OF THE INQUIRY.

This investigation was undertaken at the request of the Royal Commission in order to ascertain what had been the result of the refusal of Out-Relief; *i.e.*, whether as a consequence the applicants had either by self-help or the help of friends, raised themselves from the condition of destitution, or whether on the other hand the result had been to involve the applicant in suffering, or in physical, mental, or moral deterioration.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION.

1. The names and addresses of the persons to be visited were obtained from the clerk to the Bradford Board. He had kindly arranged them in districts. On the receipt of these lists, with the aid of a map and street directory, I further sub-divided them into streets, and courts or yards, leading out of them. On going to a house I enquired whether Mrs. — lived there. On being answered in the affirmative I asked permission to go in, and, entering the house, sat down and chatted to the person to be interviewed in a friendly way. Soon many persons seemed to feel that there was some ulterior motive to my call, and if they asked I explained to them that I had come because I knew they had applied for out-relief, but that it had been refused them, and I wanted to know how they were getting on. When they clearly realised that I had nothing to do with the Bradford Board, they talked freely to me.

2. After leaving the house I made hasty notes of the visit and then found the next house. In cases where the persons to be visited were employed in the mills, another call had to be made in the evening.

3. On returning to the hotel the hasty notes which had been taken *outside* a house were gone through and amplified. These notes are given on pages 7 [7] to 28 [28] of this Report. When all the homes had been visited I went through the cases with the two secretaries of the Guild of Help. They were most kind in giving me all the information at their disposal. We checked my information by their case books, and I was often able to give them some facts about a person or family with which they were not previously conversant. Then I saw the secretary of the Charity Organisation Society, and we went through the same procedure. Finally I interviewed the "Lady Cross Visitor" under the Bradford Board, and obtained from Mr. Crowther the particulars of each case which the relieving officers had presented to the guardians when the application for relief was made. These particulars are attached to my notes on pages 7 [7] to 28 [28].

4. On submitting my notes to these tests I was more than satisfied with their accuracy. In no case had I been deceived as to the main outlines, *e.g.*, rent, income, etc., while my information was more complete from the personal side.

BRADFORD INQUIRY INTO FORTY-ONE CASES OF PERSONS WHO WERE REFUSED OUT-RELIEF BY THE GUARDIANS, AND SIX CASES WHERE ALL RELIEF WAS REFUSED.

Class I.—Cases where Out-relief was refused.

5. 18 widows without children dependent.
- 3 widowers without children dependent.
- 7 married couples without children dependent.
- 3 married women with children. In two cases the husbands are ill in the workhouse hospital; in the other case he is in prison.
- 3 deserted women with children.
- 1 deserted woman without children.
- 6 single women.

Total - 41

6. Of these 41 cases it was found that:—

- 6 had gone to the workhouse.
- 8 now in receipt of out-relief.
- 7 living in own houses with uncertain incomes.
- 9 now working.
- 6 living with relations in good homes.
- 1 living with a son, with a large family, who is out of work.
- 1 ill in lodgings, without any source of income.
- 2 cannot be found.
- 1 in prison.

—
Total - 41
—

7. Kind of homes in which these 41 persons were living:—

- 13 clean and comfortable.
- 4 dirty but comfortably furnished.
- 5 poor but clean.
- 7 dirty and neglected.
- 3 fair.
- 6 of the applicants had gone to the workhouse.
- 2 of the applicants cannot be found.
- 1 of the applicants now in prison.

—
Total - 41
—

8. The ages of the 41 cases are as follows:—

Ages.	Men.	Women.	Totals.
20-30	—	2	2
30-40	1	2	3
40-50	—	5	5
50-60	—	5	5
60-65	4	4	8
65-70	2	7	9
70-75	1	6	7
75-80	—	1	1
80-85	—	1	1
Totals	8	33	41

Class II.—Six Cases where all Relief was refused.

- 9. 1 widow with children dependent.
- 2 widows without children dependent.
- 1 married couple without children dependent.
- 2 single women.

—
Total - 6
—

10. Kind of homes in which these 6 persons were living :—

5 clean and comfortable.
1 of the applicants now left Bradford.

—
Total - 6
—

11. Ages of applicants :—

Ages.	Men.	Women.	Totals.
30-41	-	1	1
40-50	-	1	1
50-60	-	1	1
60-65	1	1	2
65-70	-	-	-
70-75	-	1	1
75-80	-	-	-
Totals	1	5	6

12. The cases visited are probably too few in number for any general conclusions to be drawn from them. I was particularly struck with the hardship of women with children, who are expected to be at the same time both the breadwinner and the housewife of their families. (See Nos. 23, 25, 26, 27, 29.) These women so often go under in their struggle to perform this impossible task, dragging their children down with them. Under more favourable circumstances this degradation would probably not have occurred. From the lowest standpoint, that of a merely commercial one, would it not be a better investment of the national resources to help these women *adequately*, while they are performing their duties as mothers, in order to assist them to bring up their children decently, instead of crushing them, and postponing the help until both the mother and the children are reduced to such a low state of mental and physical efficiency that no relief, when given, will be able to restore to them a decent home and their self-respect. The alternatives then, are starvation or the workhouse, and the latter is now acknowledged to be a failure, at any rate so far as the children are concerned. In one of these cases (No. 29) the applicant, through her own efforts and with the assistance of friends, has risen superior to the refusal of relief, but she was in an exceptionally good position. She was a capable, competent woman, and in addition had friends who were able to help her with money, work, advice and encouragement. She was not left to fight the battle alone and there was a limit (6 months) to the time she would be thrown upon her own resources, and the help of her friends. Neither had she to contend against the long hours, or the physical exhaustion of standing all day, as the women have who are employed in the mills. But she has the anxiety of an uncertain income, as the money she can earn varies from 3s. 6d. to 10s. per week.

13. In two cases (Nos. 36 and 42) other Unions were willing to grant relief to persons living within the Bradford Union. But these offers were not accepted by the Bradford Board.

14. I consider that the refusal of relief has involved the applicants in suffering either mentally, physically, or both, in the following cases—Nos. 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 27, 28, 29, 32, 34, 36, 38, 42, 43. No. 22 is the case of an old woman who has worked hard all her life, and by her own efforts has furnished three different homes. Now, at the age of seventy, she has commenced working in a mill again, to save herself from the workhouse.

15. The following examples will illustrate some of the different kinds of sufferings caused by the refusal of relief:—No. 21 is the case of a man ill with consumption. No. 25 that of a woman with a family, struggling against tremendous odds, and whose hardships may also possibly lead to moral deterioration. No. 32 is the case of a decent single woman who has worked hard all her life and now, at the age of 74, is unable to maintain herself any longer.

No. 21.—*E. V.* Income, 4s. 6d. Rent, 3s. 6d. Two persons.

E. V. is sixty-three years old, and is very weak and ill. He has been in the workhouse hospital, in the consumptive ward, but took his discharge "because I could not bear to think of my wife at home pining." She had nothing to eat, and he thought he was better and that he could work, but he has found out his mistake. He got employment in a mill, but fainted while at work and the foreman now says he is not strong enough for work. They dare not employ a man who faints, for if he got hurt they would be liable for compensation.

I asked him why he did not return to the hospital. His eyes filled with tears, and in a low whisper he said, "It's not so nice there; they are all so ill in that ward, and many of them bad-tempered on account of their disease. And some of them groan and groan, and you can hear them dying, and then the dead ones are carried out by your bed, and you can see and hear it all. And it gets on my nerves, and I can't bear it; I can't bear it. If only the guardians would give us a bit of relief we could manage; but they won't. They say we must go into the House, and there they would separate us, me and her, after we have lived together forty years. No, no, we'll not do that. I'm not a begging man, I'm just all the other way. I've always given, and I can't bear to ask for help now. I've always been steady, there's no drink in question, or broken time here. But my health's been just going steadily down hill for the last twenty years, and now I've come to this. It's the heat in the rooms at the mill that has done it, then bronchitis and asthma, and now you see what I am."

The poor man looked shockingly wasted and ill. He thought if he could only get away for a change it might set him up, so that he could work.

A man and woman with two children are lodging in this house. They pay 4s. 6d. per week, but will not stay long, as the man is in work now, and they want to make a home for themselves. This is the only source of income for Mr. and Mrs. V. It just pays the rent and buys a bag of coals.

The house is a poor, damp, dark place. The furniture is comfortable, but they are selling it bit by bit to live, "and it's nothing like the home we once had."

The guardians refused Mrs. V. help when her husband was in the workhouse hospital, giving as a reason that she "was too young." She is fifty-seven years old and has had a stroke, and has been an inmate of the Menstone Asylum. I do not think that anyone would employ her. They have four married children, but all are too poor to help.

The Charity Organisation Society know this case, and do not agree with the relieving officer's report re drink. He has not been a teetotaler, but he has not wasted time through drinking. They say Mr. V. has an idea firmly rooted in his mind that the patients in the workhouse hospital are given something from a "black bottle" which ends their lives.

Remarks.—Much mental and physical suffering is caused by the refusal to give relief in this case. Husband and wife do not wish to be separated by going into the workhouse. The man is ill, and I do not think that he will ever work again. The serious part of this case is that a young married couple with two small children should be living in the same house, which is damp and dark, and sleeping in the same room as a man who is in an advanced stage of consumption.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
<i>E. V.</i> - -	62	—	Comber	Nil at this time.	Not satisfactory. Both addicted to drink, especially wife.	—	—
<i>S. A. V.</i> - -	56						

No. 25.—*A. C.* Income, 23s. Rent, 5s. Five persons.

Mrs. C's husband is in the workhouse hospital with a bad leg, the result of an accident which he met with two years since. She nursed him at home for eight months, and then he got to work again. But the trouble soon returned, and this time she has let him go to the hospital.

The guardians refused her relief, because they said "you must work for yourself." They offered to take her baby into the Children's Home, but she would not let it go. "She has never parted with any of her children."

She has one boy of fifteen who earns 7s. per week, and a little lad of thirteen has just started as a "half-timer" and earned 2s. 8½d. this week. She earns 13s. or 14s. herself in a mill.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

Mrs. C. looked such a decent woman and the three children I saw had bright attractive faces; but the home was dirty and neglected. How could it be otherwise with Mrs. C. always away at the mill? She was cross and impatient with the children, but was very tired and done up after her long day's work. Mrs. C. has half an hour's walk each way to and from the mill, so she leaves home every morning at 5.30 and returns at night after 6 p.m. She pays 3s. 6d. per week for her baby being minded, and has to put a good bit of her washing out.

She looked tired and overworked, and said that she was too tired and done up to start baking, although a stone of flour stood on the table waiting to be made into bread. She will have to bake bread when she leaves off work to-morrow, Saturday. She is in debt and is downhearted and discouraged. Four different men called for money while I was at the house, but she paid none of them. A neighbour had sent some tea-cakes, as she knew they had no bread in the house for their tea, and had given them boiling water "to mash" the tea with. There was no fire in the grate.

Her husband has attended the same church regularly for thirteen years, but she can't get her boys to go to Sunday School. They say they are so sick of being shut up in the mill all the week that they must have their Sundays free. So nobody from the church looks after her now her husband is away.

Mrs. C. is a nice-looking capable woman, and I felt very sorry for her, for evidently her struggle is more than she can manage. All the spirit is being taken out of her, and she begins to feel that she cannot bear things any longer. She has been fighting against tremendous odds for over two years. When her husband was first taken ill she nursed him at home for eight months with a doctor and a nurse calling at the house every day. Her son H., a boy of thirteen, who has commenced working in a mill as a half-timer, was at home. He looked pale and tired, but had a nice face. I talked to him about his work. His eyes filled with tears when he told me how he disliked it. He would like to do something outside, better. But his mother told him he would have to do it whether he liked it or not, and that he had not finished yet, for he had got the house to clean up, and she ordered him to start by taking up and shaking a big hearthrug made of cloth pieces. It was much too heavy for the boy to manage alone.

Remarks.—Mrs. C. is quite overwhelmed with the task of supporting her family. It is impossible for any woman to spend all day and every day working in a mill, and at the same time keep a decent home together and bring up her family respectably. I feel that with adequate out-relief this woman might have been helped, and saved from much physical and mental suffering, and very probably from moral deterioration. If she goes to the bad, it will simply be the force of circumstances which will have sent her there. If the Poor Law could have helped her adequately, she would have been a good citizen herself, and would have brought up her children to be the same. She is a good and competent woman in the process of being crushed by her misfortunes.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
A. E. C. - -	40	—	Married.	Weaver.	B. (son), 7s. ;	Not satisfactory. Said to be often with women who are known drinkers and who frequent town.	—	Guardians thought she should get a nurse for child and go out to work.
B. C. - -			Husband in		H. (son),			
H. C. - -	14		workhouse		1s. 8d.			
E. C. - -	12		hospital.		Total, 8s. 8d.			
G. C. - -	9							
	18m.							

No. 32.—Miss E. C. Income, 1. Rent, 4s. Three persons.

E. C. is a tidy, respectable, clean old lady aged seventy-four years. She used to char, but is too old now—younger women do her work—but she kept herself until about nine months since. Before taking up charing she worked in a mill.

She was living in lodgings, and the relieving officer said she must move, as they were overcrowded. Then she could not get anyone to take her in, as when they enquired into her source of income and found she was having out-relief, they said, "They would not always have the relieving officer poking round and prying into their affairs." So at last in desperation her widowed sister, aged seventy, who keeps house for her son, aged forty-five, took her in. The nephew said, "We can't let aunt sleep in the street and be taken up by the police; she had better stay here and take what she can get." He is a warp twister by trade and never gives his mother more than 14s. per week, and often less. Out of this sum she does all the housekeeping for three persons, pays rent, 4s.; coals, 2s.; and insuffance, 1s. 3d.; and they live on the rest. They live principally on porridge, and when she can't give her son a bit of meat at home she "gives him 2d. to get something for himself." "A son is not like a husband, he will just do as he thinks." Although he said his aunt might stay there, he has never given his mother an extra penny piece towards helping to keep her.

Miss C's relief was stopped on March 10th. She had had it for six months previously. She and her sister are very superior refined looking old women, with their pretty grey hair so nicely done. But they are feeling this stress and strain very much. If only the guardians would continue the 4s. they could be comfortable and happy, but now they never know where the next penny is to come from. By Monday night they have often no money left to go on with for the rest of the week.

Miss C told me that she goes sometimes to see some of the ladies she used to work for, and they give her a cup of tea and often a tea cake and a bit of dripping to take home with her. But of course there is no certainty about help of this kind. The house is beautifully clean and comfortable.

Both sisters asked me if I thought there would be a chance of an Old-Age Pension soon. "It's so hard for people who have always kept themselves respectable to be harassed like this when they can't work any longer."

Remarks.—The refusal of relief causes much suffering to both E. C. and her sister. They simply do not know how to live. The nephew will give his aunt shelter, but will not provide for her further. If she were in lodgings where she could not be so comfortable as she is with her sister, relief would be given. But she cannot find lodgings.

Out-relief would be a great comfort to this woman, as it would put her in a position to pay for her food, and now both she and her sister must often go short. It seems so unnecessary to make them suffer in this way, especially as this is one of the few cases in which the relieving officers state that the character is "good."

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self and Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
E. C.	72	—	Single	Housework	Nil	Good	—	No accommodation at — Removed from here to — but now no certain address.

16. The doctors seem to hold out very little hope that No. 44 will ever be able to resume work. In the course of time I am afraid these sisters will come to the Poor Law for assistance; their resources cannot last long.

17. Three persons (Nos. 9, 32, 42) asked me as to the probability of getting old age pensions in the near future, and evidently felt that these would solve some of their present anxieties. So many persons also seemed to feel that by paying rates all their lives they had earned the right to relief. They evidently look upon rates as a form of insurance.

18. It will be noticed that 14 of the cases visited were being dealt with by the Poor Law authorities. Of the remaining 21 cases in Class I. I should consider that 17 cases, Nos. 15, 17, 19, 23, 24, 26, 29, 30, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, and 41, were unsuitable for out-relief, and that 3 cases were doubtful, Nos. 18, 28, and 31. In 7 cases, Nos. 16, 20, 21, 22, 25, 27, and 32 (Leeds Union might have been asked to repay the cost of temporary relief in the case of No. 27), I feel that out-relief would have been useful and would have saved considerable suffering. While fully realising the difficulty of obtaining uniformity in the administration of relief, it seems hard to understand why it was granted to Nos. 8 and 11, and refused to Nos. 16, 20, 21, 22 and 32. There seems no ultimate good to be achieved in forcing No. 21 and his wife into the workhouse, and separating them during the short time E. V. will probably live, and thus adding to his sufferings. For there is no doubt that, he is genuinely terrified at the thought of being in the workhouse hospital. The remembrance of his past experiences as a patient there being very real, indeed, they are a perfect nightmare to him.

19. I heard no complaints about the relieving officers. Several persons said they were "gentlemen" and "wishful to do their duty." But I wondered whether their judgment was not sometimes unnecessarily harsh and censorious. Various persons told me of the treatment they received from the guardians, and said they did not like "being laughed at and made fun of." Others felt that the doctors were often rough and unkind.

20. The notes printed on pages 7 [7] to 28 [28] give a brief description of each person visited and their present surroundings. Where persons are not now in receipt of out-relief I have added my own impression of each case under the heading "*Remarks.*" In these remarks I have tried to show what has been the result of the refusal of out-relief so far as it was possible to judge from one visit. In each case I have put the age of the applicant in brackets () after the name.

G. HARLOCK.

INQUIRY INTO CASES OF REFUSAL OF OUT-RELIEF BY BRADFORD GUARDIANS.

GONE TO THE WORKHOUSE.

There are six cases under this heading:—

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1.—J. B. (64). | 4.—S. H. (80). |
| 2.—M. A. E. (37). | 5.—A. L. (52). |
| 3.—E. H. (48). | 6.—M. O'H. (68). |

No. 1.—*J. B.* Gone to the workhouse.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
J. B. - - -	64	—	Widow	Nursing	3s.	Not satisfactory.	Now in "House," admitted 13 days later; been in twice previously.	—

No. 2.—*Mrs. M. A. E.* Gone to workhouse hospital.

This woman is Mrs. O'H's. (No. 6) daughter. She and her mother lived together until they went to the workhouse.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
M. A. E. -	37	—	Deserted woman.	Servant	See No. 6	Not good	—	—
J. (illegitimate)	7							

No. 3.—*E. H.* Gone to the workhouse.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
E. H. - - -	48	—	Widow	Cook	11s.; Lucy, daughter, 7s. Total, 18s.	Doubtful	—	No destitution.

No. 4.—*Mrs. H.* Rent, 3s. Gone to workhouse infirmary.

A daughter, who has been separated from her husband, lives here alone now her mother has gone to the workhouse.

The room is squalid and dirty to the last degree, and there is practically no furniture. The bed is black with dirt. This daughter works in a mill and is forty-eight years old. She was just getting up when I called at 12 noon and was going to the mill after dinner. She earns only 6s. per week, as she makes so much broken time. She looked extremely ill and quite unfit for work, and seemed to be verging on a mental breakdown. Her son, who used to live here, has left his mother and gone to live with his father.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
S. H.	80	—	Widow	Housework	Uncertain	Not satisfactory.	—	Lives with daughter, Eleanor Carr, who does washing, etc., and with grandson who goes out hawking.

No. 5.—A. L. Gone to the workhouse.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
A. L.	52	—	Widow	Charing	Uncertain	Altogether unsatisfactory, morally, &c., Had two illegitimate children.	—	Left the "Shelter"; whereabouts uncertain.

No. 6.—Mrs. M. O'H. Gone to the workhouse.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
M. O'H.	68	—	Widow	Housework	Daughter, M. A. E., a deserted woman, had two illegitimate children Goes out as a servant, income uncertain.	Not satisfactory. House offered several times.	—	—

NOW IN RECEIPT OF OUT-RELIEF.

There are eight cases under this heading:—

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 7.—J. B. (62). | 11.—M. G. (77). |
| 8.—A. B. (71). | 12.—M. F. H. (61). |
| 9.—R. C. (73). | 13.—M. M. (56). |
| 10.—M. C. (66). | 14.—H. M. (51). |

No. 7.—J. B. Income, . Rent, . Two persons.

J. B. (62) is out of work. He looks as if he had been very unsteady, and remarked that "he knew he had not always been just as he should," but that he meant to do better if only he could get some work. He talked extremely indistinctly, so that it was difficult to follow the thread of what he had to say. This took the form of a bitter tirade against children not being allowed to work before they were fourteen. He started work when he was seven and earned 3s. 6d. per week, and was all the better for doing it. Then he greatly objected to children being turned into soldiers when they ought to be book-learning—young men being put on to sweep the roads, which was work he could do—and aliens being allowed to land at our seaports.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

His wife was ill in bed, and he continued to make her breakfast all the time he was talking to me. She is being attended by the "town doctor, who is so close, and won't say nothing, so I don't know what is the matter with her." They are also being allowed "a bit" by the guardians while she is ill.

The house was clean and comfortably furnished. A basin of milk stood on the table; he carefully removed the cream from the top of the milk, drinking it himself in spoonfuls, and then added some of the milk to his own mug of tea, and some to his wife's, and gave it her to drink.

J. B. is prematurely old, and does not look as if he could do a day's work. He drags one leg; his speech is also affected. He has evidently had a stroke. Relief was granted in this case on June 6th, 1907; he was relieved with goods only.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
J. B. - -	62	—	Carter	Husband, nil	Husband reputed lazy.	—	
E. A. B. -	64	—	Charing	Wife, 4s. 6d.	—	—	—

No. 8.—*Mrs. A. B.* Income, 4s. parish relief. Rent, 3s. One person.

Mrs. B. (70) is a widow for the third time. She is greatly pleased with herself because she has had three husbands.

The third husband died about Easter, and her relief was stopped because she received some insurance money at his death. The relief has now been given to her again, and she is getting 4s. a week, but "she can hardly live on it." She is a gaunt, weird kind of woman. Her mental balance seemed weak, and she looked ill.

The house was fairly clean and comfortable. There was a clay pipe on the table which she had been smoking. She had had a broken wrist, which the "town doctor" had set for her. It had been badly set, and the hand is quite useless. When the doctor removed the splints her husband asked him to wrap the wrist up in something soft, and he replied, "We can't afford to do things like that for paupers." They both felt this remark to be very hard.

The "Cross Visitor" told me that this old woman had filthy habits and was of a very low type.

Relief was granted in this case April 18th, 1907. It was refused previously because she withheld certain information *re* insurance from relieving officer. She has, however, been excused the fault.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted.	Remarks.
A. B. - -	71	—	Widow	Housework	Husband died on Feb. 18, 1907, and was insured for £12 18s. She spent £7 15s. on funeral expenses, leaving a balance of £5 3s., and then denied having any means.	Fair	—	Now on outdoor relief.

No. 9.—*R. C.* Income, 4s. 6d. parish relief. Rent, 2s. 3d. Two persons.

R. C. (75) was clean and most respectably dressed, but is feeble and has not been able to do "her own washing and baking for years and years." Her husband has been dead a long time, and she has had 4s. 6d. out-relief for the last six years. The relief was stopped for a week or two, because the relieving officer found her living with a married son under overcrowded conditions. She met another woman at the board the day her relief was discontinued, and told her that her relief had been stopped and the reason. So this woman (*Mrs. D.* by name) said *Mrs. D.* might come and live with her if she liked, so she did, and her relief is now going on as usual. She pays *Mrs. D.* 1s. 3d. per week. They live in one room, which is clean and comfortable. *Mrs. C.* has a proper bedstead, but *Mrs. D.*'s bed shuts up, which makes room for them to do their work, etc., during the daytime. *Mrs. C.* told me she is not comfortable with *Mrs. D.*, and "longs for her own people."

Her daughter-in-law is very kind to her, and does her washing, and always gives her bread when she bakes. Mrs. C. has 5s. relief, and her son gives her 1s. 3d. per week in addition to the 1s. which he pays to the Board. Mrs. C. asked me if I thought Old Age Pensions would come in, in her day. "It is so miserable to have this anxiety every few weeks as to whether your relief will be stopped." Relief was granted in this case May 1st, 1907, on leaving her former residence with relatives, where there was an adequate income.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
R. C.	73	—	Widow	Housework	Nil	Fair	—	At this time she was living with son, but could not agree with son's wife. Out-relief granted when she removed into lodgings.

No. 10.—*M. C.* Income, 19s. Rent, free. Three persons.

Mr. C. (67) has taken his discharge from the workhouse hospital, or rather was discharged as incurable and is now living with his wife. They have been given 6s. out-relief since the husband came home. He is bedridden and has been ill seven years. The home is clean and comfortable, and the old man looked nicely cared for. Mrs. C. cannot go out nursing now that she has him at home to look after.

The house and furniture belong to a married daughter who is living in Russia, and she pays the rent. Her husband went to Russia nine years since to be a "bit of a gaffer in a mill." The old people live in the house to take care of it. The daughter and her husband come to England every three years for a month's holiday. They then clean the house down from top to bottom and do a bit of papering. The daughter has two children; they go to school in Russia and are learning four languages.

A sister of Mrs. C.'s lives here; she works in a mill and earns 13s. per week. Relief granted in this case May 23rd, 1907, owing to a decrease in income and husband's return from workhouse hospital.

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RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
<i>M. C.</i>	66	—	Married woman. Husband, Thomas, in workhouse hospital.	Nursing	Sister, E. B., 13s. and rent free.	Good	—	No destitution.

No. 11.—*M. G.* Income, 4s. Rent, 3s. 3d. One person.

M. G. (77) is now in receipt of 4s. relief. When she applied for relief it was refused because she had a son aged fifty-four, out of work, living with her. When the son went to the workhouse hospital she applied for relief again, and it was given her.

She saw her son at the workhouse last Saturday. He is now out of hospital and wants to return home, but she begged him to stay where he is, as otherwise her relief would be stopped. This woman has never been married, and has had two illegitimate children. The father of her son promised to marry her, but he left her and married another woman before her son was born. "But he never did any good for himself after that, and so he had his reward."

Her house was dirty and untidy, and the furniture was poor. She cannot go out to work now, because she is not strong enough and her breathing is so bad. Younger women can do more work than she could, so no one will employ her; but she goes to help a friend sometimes who gives her an odd copper or two and a bit of food.

When I called she was getting her dinner—a mug of black tea and a piece of dry bread. When she had finished her meal she meant to clean up a bit, but she felt so "tight on her chest that she felt she must have a warm drink first." She never goes to church or chapel. Relief was granted in this case April 25th, 1907, owing to a promise being made to amend her habits.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
M. G.	77	—	Single	Charing	Nil. Friends help with food and money.	Doubtful for years. Had two illegitimate children.	—	Now on outdoor relief.

No. 12.—*M. F. H.* Income, 6s. Rent, 3s. 3d. One person.

Mrs. H. (62) is a widow. She has a clean home with frugal furniture. At one time she and her husband were comfortably off. They had a grocery business. Then they left that, where they were doing well, and took a nut and bolt business. This did not answer and they lost several hundred pounds. Her husband then worked for the person who took over the nut and bolt business when he failed.

Mrs. H. seems a decent woman. She was in the workhouse hospital some little time since with gastric ulcer, and now the guardians are allowing her 3s. out-relief. She is only sixty-two years of age, but does not seem strong enough to keep herself entirely. She does a bit of washing if she can get it, and repairs clothes for her sister, who keeps a second-hand clothes shop, and who is "very comfortably off." When I called to see her she was turning a dress skirt into an underskirt, for which she would be paid 6d., and had another dress skirt in the house which wanted repairing round the bottom; for this she would receive 9d.

She apologised for her home being so poor. She had a nice house and furniture once, but she sold £50 of furniture to live before she applied to the Board. But now "I have nothing left to part with if I mean to keep a home at all, and I don't want to go into the workhouse. I *must* keep a little place of my own. I have always been used to privacy." The tears rolled down her cheeks as she talked to me. Relief was granted in this case on April 18th, 1907, as *Mrs. H.*'s sister was unable to take entire charge of her, and she was found to be practically incapable of work.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
M. F. H.	61	—	Widow	Sewing, etc.	2s. 6d.	Good.	—	Now on outdoor relief.

Nos. 13 and 14.—*M. M., H. M.* (Two cases). Income, 9s. parish relief. Rent, 4s. 10d. Two sisters live together.

These sisters (aged fifty-six and fifty-one) have had relief for about six years. One is lame and the other is blind. The relief (4s. 6d. for each sister, *i.e.*, 9s. for the two) was stopped because the guardians wanted the blind sister to undergo an operation for her eyes. But she would not agree to this. In days gone by she and her sister had great faith in doctors and spent a lot of money over doctoring and took a "vast amount of medicine." But they have come under the influence of the Christian Scientists and will have nothing to do with doctors now. Some of the guardians thought the whole teaching of the Christian Scientists rubbish, and one of the parish doctors thinks so also, so as *Miss M.* would not do what the guardians thought best and have an operation on her eyes, their relief was stopped. When this happened they were in great trouble, as neither of them could possibly work. But a lady—"the Board knows who; we always speak the truth to the relieving officer"—kept them for the nine months that they were without relief, and now the guardians have given it to them again. This is an immense relief to them both.

They have a nice comfortable home, which is clean and attractive. The blind sister does the cleaning and a "friend" comes and helps her with the upstairs work now and again, because she can't be quite sure that she cleans out the corners. There was a nice clean pair of lace curtains in the living room window which the blind sister had washed and got up.

Before these sisters were overtaken by their infirmities they worked in a mill. The bed of the lame sister is downstairs in the living room, but the blind sister sleeps upstairs. They have lived in their present house for over twenty years. The lame sister is trying to learn how to do fancy work, as she thinks she might earn a few coppers in this way. But she is not a very good hand at it. Both sisters had such nice faces. They say they are so much better in health and so much happier in every way since they have been Christian Scientists. They have no relations who can help them.

The blind sister would not like to undergo an operation for her eyes. She is so afraid that it would make her quite blind, and now and again she gets such "beautiful glimpses," and she would not like to be without these. Relief was granted in both these cases on May 15th, 1907. The sisters are adherents to the Christian Science faith and for a time refused to accept all medical treatment. Ultimately they accepted the medical order, and out relief was renewed.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
M. M. - -	56	—	Single	Weaver	Largely assisted by friends belonging to the Christian Scientist Society. 9s. or 10s. per week for about eight months.	Satisfactory	—	—

On May 1st, 1907, a fortnight later, granted out-relief, and now in receipt of same. (See following case.)

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
H. M. - -	51	—	Single	Weaver	(See previous case.)	Satisfactory	—	—

On May 1st, 1907, granted out-relief, and now in receipt of same.

LIVING IN THEIR OWN HOMES WITH UNCERTAIN AND INADEQUATE SOURCES OF INCOME.

There are seven cases under this heading :—

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 15.—A. B. (67). | 19.—G. P. (66). |
| 16.—H. D. (67). | 20.—S. A. S. (69). |
| 17.—C. J. (43). | 21.—E. V. (62). |
| 18.—M. O. (65). | |

No. 15.—A. B. Income, ? Rent, 2s. One person.

A. B. (67) is a widow and has a dirty, comfortless room. It contains hardly any furniture. She chops sticks for a living, and the room was littered with wood, old boxes, etc. She went to service when she was nine years old, and has worked hard ever since. She cannot possibly make a living by chopping and selling wood, and she thinks she will go into the workhouse hospital. She has been there before as a patient, and they were very kind to her.

She has also worked in the workhouse hospital as a scrubber, and the guardians paid her 10s. 6d. per week. But she can't work now, "she is too old and ill."

Remarks.—Not a suitable case for out-relief. Her home is so poor and dirty that it is not worth saving. The woman is ill and requires proper care and nursing.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
A. B. - -	67	—	Firewood hawker.	2s. 6d.	Not good, lived in adultery with J. P. for years.		

No. 16.—H. D. Income, 4s. and bread. Rent, 2s. 9d. Two persons.

Mr. D. is sixty-seven, but looks more like a man of eighty, and his wife is sixty-six. She has had a stroke and can only get about the house with the aid of a stick. She cannot dress or undress herself; her husband always does this for her. Their home was very clean, but they had hardly any furniture—just a bed, three chairs, and a table. Two of Mrs. D's sons allow her 2s. per week each, and this is all the

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income they have. The old man goes out and stands where the carts pass in carting coke from the gasworks. Cinders often fall off the carts. He picks these up and carries them home, and that is how they get their firing.

They said no one ever gave them anything. The neighbours all round are too poor to even spare a bit of bread, and they neither of them go to church or chapel, as they have no clothes to go in. Of course Mrs. D. could not go now even if she had clothes, as she could not walk. They both looked well nourished, but I could not discover any other source of income, and the fire in the grate was certainly only made of cinders. I suggested that perhaps he earned a copper or two, but they both denied this problematical source of income. A married daughter gives them bread when she bakes.

Remarks.—This is a clean home and, with the addition of out-relief to the sum which the sons provide, H. D. and wife might be comfortable. They dread going into the workhouse on account of being separated from each other. Much mental suffering is caused by the refusal of relief, as they do not know how to live without some further assistance.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
H. D.	66	—	Navy	Sons, 4s. Daughter, 1s.	Not satisfactory.	—	—
A. D.	65			Another daughter pays for coals and bread.			

No. 17.—*Mrs. C. J.* Income, 8s. Rent, 4s. 2d. Three persons.

Mrs. J's. (43) house was filthy, and what furniture it contained was poor and dilapidated. An uncooked dried haddock lay on the dirty table, and she was boiling water in a dirty saucepan to make two mugs of tea. She was dirty and untidy in her person.

Her husband is a plasterer's labourer, and has been a great deal out of work the last year or two. He had an accident in April, 1906, and hurt his thigh. Since this accident he has been in the workhouse hospital three times, and in the Royal Infirmary twice, and is now attending several times a week at the Royal Infirmary as an out-patient. It was during the time that he was in the workhouse hospital that Mrs. J. applied for relief, but the guardians told her that she and her daughter must manage to live on the money the daughter earned. The daughter is a girl of seventeen, and earns 8s. per week in a mill. On enquiring if she was in arrears with her rent, she replied, "I pays my rent when I has it, but I'm a good bit behind with it; but it does not matter, as I live under a good landlord."

Her husband got no compensation when he was hurt, as he was out of work and doing a bit for himself when the accident occurred. He fell off a scaffolding about 6 feet high and hurt his thigh. Now no master-builder will employ him, as he cannot get up ladders. I enquired if he drank. She replied, "He's middling steady. Of course he likes his pint; all men do." Mrs. J. is a Roman Catholic, but she never goes to Mass. "I cough too much when I kneel down, and it disturbs others." The priest never comes to see her.

She applied to the Guild of Help and they assisted her with clothing. She also had help twice from the Charity Organisation Society. They gave her 3s. 6d. per week for two weeks, and then said they could do no more for her.

Remarks.—I think out-relief in this case would be inadequate and would probably do harm. The husband is evidently idle and unsteady, and was often out of work before he met with the accident. Mrs. J. is ill, and could not work. She is probably suffering from a tumour, and can hardly get about in her own house. She would be better in the workhouse hospital, where she could receive proper care and attention.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
C. J.	43	—	Married Woman. Husband in workhouse hospital.	Housework	E., daughter, 10s.	Not satisfactory; lazy, never known to work.	—

No. 18.—*Mrs. M. O.* Income, 5s. Rent, 2s. 9d. One person.

Mrs. O. (65) applied for out-relief because the daughter who lived with her and who had been her chief support, met with an accident at the mill. The shuttle flew out and hurt her spine. From the newspaper

report which Mrs. O. showed me I saw the firm had been prosecuted by the Home Office on account of this accident and had been fined £5 for not having the machinery properly protected.

The Trades Council took the matter up for Mrs. O. and the firm paid the girl half her weekly wage for a certain number of weeks. When the payments ceased Mrs. O. began selling the furniture from the house in order to live. But after a while this source of income failed and the girl was taken to the workhouse infirmary. The doctors say, however, that the illness she is now suffering from has nothing to do with the accident.

The mother applied for out-relief in order to live while her daughter is unable to work, but she was told that she must manage to keep herself.

The day I saw her she had been up since 6 o'clock and had made five showy print chair covers, which she meant to hawk round in the afternoon and would try to sell at cottage doors for 7d. each.

She applied to the Charity Organisation Society for help and they gave her a 5s. hawker's license. The Guild of Help has given her clothes.

When I called she was getting her dinner of dry bread and a mug of black tea. She had no fire in her own house, but a neighbour had given her the boiling water "to mash" the tea with.

She was clean and tidy in her person and her hair had been nicely attended to—but the room looked poor, neglected and desolate. She lost a son, aged thirty-five, May, 1906, from consumption. He had lived with her, and before his illness they had had a comfortable home—and now her daughter, her only support, is injured and she does not know what to do to keep herself. She cried quietly all the time she was talking to me.

N.B.—The Charity Organisation Society, who have known this woman for years, do not agree with the character the relieving officers give her.

Remarks.—The refusal of relief is causing physical and mental suffering here, as the woman is at her wits' end to know how to live and does not want to part with her home.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
M. O. - -	65	—	Hawker	5s.	Not satisfactory ; drinks.	—	Daughter in workhouse hospital : an immoral character.

No. 19.—G. P. Income, ? Rent, 4s. Two persons.

Mrs. P. (66) is a tidy old woman, with a clean and comfortable home. The guardians will not give her out-relief because a good-for-nothing son lives here. He is a great trouble to his mother, but she "holds to him," and shields him at every turn. A good neighbour lives next door, who often gives her a meal, and she goes out and does a bit of charing.

Remarks.—I do not think that relief would have helped in this case ; it would only have benefited the son. The refusal of it has, however, caused much mental suffering to G. P.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
G. P. - -	66	—	Widow	Housework	Nil	Not satisfactory.	—	Away with son, S. F., a "betting man" who has done no honest work for a long time and whose income is not ascertainable.

No. 20.—S. A. S. Income, 4s. 6d. Rent, 4s. 9d. One person.

A tidy, respectable home and woman, aged sixty-nine ; been deserted since 1864, but up to two years since her husband has contributed 5s. per week to her support. Her husband has been married twice since

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he deserted her. Mrs. S. never had any children. She married from B. and was given £20 from a B. charity for a marriage portion. She spent it all on furniture.

She has managed pretty comfortably alone until the last few months. When she was first deserted she kept herself by dressmaking; then she was a housekeeper.

Latterly she had a lodger who lived with her six years, but he went to A. this spring and she does not know how to manage now. The lodger who lived with her for six years paid her a lump sum for board and lodgings, so she always managed to live out of him. Her present lodger only pays her 4s. for his room, and he is very bad to do with.

She is now selling her furniture to live. She parted with her sewing machine last time she sold anything.

She is trying to sell some mineral waters to earn a copper or two, but the weather is so bad nobody wants them. Neighbours give her a bit of food now and again, and she goes and cleans up for a neighbour and so earns 6d. Last Saturday she had not even money enough to buy a loaf of bread; a friend came to the door and gave her three coppers to get some.

She never goes to chapel or church; she is "too heavy-hearted."

She applied to the Guild of Help. They gave her some food and then advised her to apply to the guardians for assistance. When the guardians refused her out-relief they advised Mrs. S. to go to the workhouse hospital, but she does not want to break up her home. They told her to sell some of her furniture and pay up arrears of rent (she owes 22s. 6d.) and they would store the remainder for her. But she is told the guardians would sell it, to pay for her maintenance while she is in the workhouse, "so I don't trust them."

Remarks.—With relief this woman would have been able to keep a decent home together, but it is disappearing bit by bit. The refusal of relief has caused much mental and physical suffering.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
S. A. S. -	69	—	Married woman. Husband been absent since 1864.	Taking lodgers in.	Nil	Good	—	Rent owing and sickness. Guardians offered to store furniture.

No. 21. Included in Report. See page 4.

NOW WORKING.

There are nine cases under this heading:—

22.—H. B. (70).	25.—A. E. C. (40).	28.—W. L. (64).
23.—R. C. (32).	26.—E. D. (36).	29.—J. P. (24).
24.—A. C. (48).	27.—P. G. (45).	30.—M. W. (64).

No. 22.—H. B. Income, 7s. Rent, 2s. One person.

This old lady, aged seventy, has started minding a loom again since the guardians refused her out-relief. She has such a tidy, comfortable room. She was getting her supper when I called—a mug of black tea, without sugar or milk, and a halfpenny scone, which she had bought on her way home from the mill. She thinks that it is very hard that the guardians refused her relief. "If I'd been a rucky, lowsy trollops with a shawl over m' head who spent m' money in the pub, they would have given it me, but seeing I spoke the truth they would not help."

Her husband was "a drunken, idle reprobate," so she left him with the home and came into Bradford and earned a home for herself. This was thirty years since. After she had got a good home together, he came to her and begged to be taken back. "So I thought I'd try him again. I says, 'Joe, there's always room to mend.' But the first Saturday he was at home he got 'as drunk as ever.' So I said, 'Joe, there's no mending in thee,' and I turned him out and said I'd have no more of him." He died in Bradford workhouse twelve or thirteen years ago.

About twenty years since a man named K. came and asked for lodgings at Mrs. B.'s, so having a furnished room to spare she took him in, and he lodged with her until his death on October 29th, 1906. It

was after this date that Mrs. B.'s troubles began. "The man K. was a good 'un. He was right good." When Mrs. B.'s husband died in the workhouse K. wanted Mrs. B. to give him a "decent burial" and said he would help with the expense. But she would not spend £10 or £12 on him. She had not got the money; he was not insured and she did not want to get into debt, although K. said he would help her with the expense. As Mrs. B. got older and became more feeble, K. said he would pay her a bit more for his lodgings, and then she need not go to the mill to work. So she gave up working in the mill.

In October last K. died suddenly—he was found dead in his bed. "When the policeman came he said to me, 'Did the man K. live here?' And I says, 'Yes, he did,' and took him into the house to see the corpse. Then when the report of the inquest was given in the paper, they called me 'his widow.' But 'I never said that I was his widow, and they never asked me if I was.' After this I sold up my home, all but yon shut-up bed which you see and the cuckoo clock, and went to Sunderland to live with my niece. But I could only stay there three weeks. What with the children and being used all these years to having a home of m' own I was forced to come back. So I got this bit of a home together; it's the third I've made by my own efforts, and I thought if the guardians would allow me a bit I could maybe manage. But when I asked them for help, they only offered me 'the House.' They said I'd been living all these years with the man K. and they would give me no help. There were three men sitting there that day and they all tried to trap me into saying I'd lived with K. Maybe if I'd been able to talk to them the same as I can talk to you, it would have been different, but I couldn't. You see I cry so easily. And they would not listen to what I tried to tell them, but kept on saying that 'I'd lived with K.' So I came home and went to the mill and asked them to give me a job. There was a woman ill, so they put me on to her loom. And when she got back to work they gave me another job. You see I can weave as well as any of them, but I'm not so quick on m' feet. I can manage in the summer, but when the winter comes I don't know what I shall do. You see I'm getting old and I've bronchitis in the winter. But I'll not go into the workhouse. Well, maybe, maybe."

The old woman cried bitterly, not quietly, the whole time she talked to me. The tears simply poured down her face and fell into her mug when she drank her black tea.

This old lady is a Spiritualist and finds a lot of comfort in going to their meetings.

Remarks.—The refusal of out-relief has caused great physical and mental suffering in this case.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
H. B. - -	69	—	Widow	Had lodgers	Nil	Not satisfactory, untruthful. Co-habited with man for many years.	—	—

No. 23.—R. C. Income, 7s. Rent, 4s. Five persons.

A poor, dirty, neglected home containing hardly any furniture. The children look fairly well nourished, but are filthy and only clothed in rags. The man won't work. He has been ill several times and was in the workhouse infirmary for a long time with a broken leg.

I called on this family twice, and between my first and second visit R. C. had deserted his wife and family.

Mrs. C. (32) has now got work in a mill and earns 7s. per week, but of course this takes her away from her home all day. Since her husband deserted her the guardians have commenced feeding the children of school age, through the Education Committee.

She is badly in arrears with her rent, and the landlord has given her notice to leave, and she cannot find another house to go to, because the landlord tells everyone she does not pay her rent.

She says her husband drinks, and "that's just the cause of our downfall." If he earns money it does not benefit them; he just drinks it, and he sells things from the house to get drink.

This family has received a lot of assistance from the Guild of Help. They have provided bedding and clothes most liberally. However, it does not seem to have done much good.

They are Roman Catholics, but the children never go to Sunday School; they have got no clothes to go in, and the priest never visits them.

Remarks.—The refusal of out-relief probably caused no suffering in this case. Mrs. C.'s feelings must long since have been dulled. She is now working in a mill and is therefore away from her home all day. She did not seem very capable or competent, but I felt that with assistance she might probably make a tidy home for her children, now that her husband has left her. He is incapable and not mentally efficient.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
R. C. - -	32	—	Labourer	Uncertain	Not satisfactory. Man given up his work voluntarily a week previous, and has since refused work at 18s. a week.	—	—
M. C. - -	32		Charing				
C. C. - -	10						
M. A. C. - -	7						
R. C. - -	4						
H. C. - -	2						

No. 24.—A. C. Income, 22s. Rent, 4s. 6d. Two persons.

Two sisters live together here. It is a fair home, but they had to part with a lot of their things when A.'s sister was ill, and she (A.) went into the workhouse.

A. (48) applied for relief because her sister was ill with rheumatic fever, and she (A.) was out of work. The sister seems a capable woman, and I should imagine that she is a good worker. A. looks incapable, has very sore eyes, which she seems unable to open properly on account of the sores and scabs on the lids, and she evidently only does inferior work in the mill.

When the guardians refused A. out-relief she went into the workhouse and Father Earnshaw looked after M. He used to go and see her every day and would always give her either 1s. or 1s. 6d. each visit. If it had not been for him she would have died.

M. still looks weak and ill, but is back at work again, and earns 14s. a week. A. is also working and earns 8s. They would be comfortably off, but they are overburdened with debts which worry them very much. M. has evidently worked extremely hard all her life and has borne the stress and the strain for the whole family. As she expresses it, "I buried my father, mother, and several brothers and sisters, and they never wanted for anything. I gave them all a decent burial." Now when she wants help there is no one to give it her. She is thirty years old, but looks much older. A. evidently takes quite placidly whatever comes, and did not mind being in the workhouse.

Remarks.—I think the refusal of out-relief probably caused no suffering in this case. A. did not mind being in the workhouse and Father Earnshaw looked after M. In any case the relief would have been insufficient to prevent them from getting into debt.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
A. C. - -	46	—	Single	Charing and nursing.	M., sister, 14s.	Not satisfactory.	—	No destitution.

No. 25. Included in Report. See page 4.

No. 26.—E. D. Income, 16s. Rent, 4s. 11d., including gas. Five persons.

E. D. (36) has a dirty, neglected house. She and the children are also dirty; but as the woman is always out at work in order to keep the home together, one ought probably to think leniently of the dirt and surroundings. Her husband is in the workhouse infirmary. When he went in the last time—he has been there before—she applied for relief, and the guardians offered her the House for herself and the children, but she would not accept it. Her husband is a dyer's labourer by trade, and he can earn 23s. when in work. But he has been more or less ill for two years, and they have had to live as best they could.

Mrs. D. is now working in a mill, and earns 11s. per week. Her little girl, aged twelve years, has just started as a half-timer in a mill, and earns 3s. 5d. one week and 5s. 1d. the next.

She puts her baby out to nurse while she is away at work, and pays 2s. per week for its being cared for in her absence. She also pays a "knocker-up" 3d. per week.

Her husband has been a "bad 'un" to her ever since they married. He went off and left her for five years during the South African War. He enlisted under a false name, so she could never trace him, and she kept herself and two children all the time he was away, but had an illegitimate child during his absence.

Her husband is now suffering from pneumonia and pleurisy, the result of being in South Africa. The last time he was in the workhouse hospital the guardians allowed her 9s. per week, but she says her husband has told the relieving officer all sorts of things about her—that she drinks, etc.—and so they will only take her and her children into "the House" this time that he is ill, "but they were off the giving of me anything, that was about the strength of it. When you are down, everybody tries to kick you to the earth."

She looked a poor, overworked, down-trodden woman. The last time her husband was ill the Guild of Help assisted her with clothes for the children.

She says her husband's friends (who are Irish) live all round her, and are "real bad 'uns" to her. One aunt has a house where £6 goes in every week, and she never even so much as gives the children a bit of bread.

Remarks.—This woman has been coming to the Poor Law for help, off and on, for years—ever since her husband first deserted her. She has evidently got very low, and I do not suppose that the recent refusal of the guardians to give her out-relief will have affected her very much. She is a capable woman gone to the bad. When her husband is at home he drinks, and she drinks, and he ill-uses her. The last time they were drinking together, he kicked her home all down the street. No one had a good word to say for her, and I should judge from what I saw that things are not satisfactory.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
E. D. - -	36	—	Married woman; husband, J., in workhouse hospital.	Housework	B., 4s. 3d.	Not satisfactory. Has been convicted for drunkenness.	Stated she would get work.	—
B. D. - -	12							
R. D. - -	9							
G. D. - -	5							
J. D. - -	18m.							

No. 27.—*P. G.* Income, 40s. Rent, 2s. 6d. Seven persons.

Mrs. G. (50) is a deserted woman with six children living with her. She used to live in Bradford, but four years ago they moved to Leeds to follow her husband's work. He is a plasterer by trade. When he deserted her, and she and her children could not find work in Leeds, they decided to return to Bradford.

They came to Bradford twelve months ago, and have had a very hard time since. The eldest lad, a youth of twenty, could get no work, and fell ill, and was nursed in the Bradford workhouse hospital, nor could the other sons, lads of fifteen and seventeen, get work. So she applied to the guardians for assistance. The only help they would give was to pay their fares back to Leeds, where their settlement was. But *Mrs. G.* knew they could not get work there, so would not accept this offer.

The son, aged twenty, who is a plasterer's improver, has got a job this week, and will earn 12s. 6d. The boy aged seventeen is a "jobber" in a mill and earns 9s. The lad aged fifteen is also a "jobber," and earns 7s. 6d., and *Mrs. G.* is also working in a mill and earning 11s. The worst of it is, they are so badly in debt. They owe a lot for rent and £30 for furniture which they have bought on the "hire system." This week they will all draw wages for the first time for several years, and if it were not for their debts they would be all right. But with this heavy burden it will be a long time before they can pull round. They are living under overcrowded conditions. They have only one bedroom and two beds for the whole family. *Mrs. G.* would like to take a bigger house, but she can't move until they have cleared off their arrears of rent.

Mrs. G. is a tidy, frail, little woman, and looks very ill. She says she wishes that she had not to go to the mill, for when she comes home she is far too tired, after standing all day, to start baking and washing. But she must earn herself until she can see how things are "going on." On her way home from the mill this evening she pawned the shawl which she was wearing, to get money to buy bread and jam for their tea. It was raining heavily at the time, but, as she remarked, "They must have something to eat after being out at work all day."

Mrs. G. told me (without any complaints) of the hard struggle they have had since they came to Bradford, and, being strangers, they did not know where to turn for help. One day they were nearly all starving, and the little children were crying for food. So she went to the chapel and told the people there, and they have been very kind to them since. Then she added, "But of course we can't expect them to go on always."

The eldest boy told me they were very good to him at the workhouse hospital; they nursed him so well, and "it was a beautiful place."

The house was clean, though scantily furnished. I could not see anything like £30 worth of furniture in the place; but furnishing on the "hire system" would be sure to be expensive.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

Remarks.—Out-relief would probably have helped this family. It would have saved them from much physical and mental suffering. Although it would have been insufficient to set them on their feet, it would have prevented them from being actually hungry, and the children from crying for bread.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
P. G. - -	45	--	Deserted	Housework	Son,	Fair.	—	—
T. G. - -	14				H.,			
A. G. - -	13				mill hand,			
E. G. - -	10				9s. ; son,			
P. G. - -	3				T., mill hand, 7s. 6d.			
					Total,			
					16s. 6d.			

Settlement, Leeds ; only 9 months in Bradford.

No. 28.—*W. L.* Income, 23s. Pays 6s. for lodgings. Two persons.

W. L. and his wife are both about sixty-four years old and have been in the workhouse all the winter, as he was out of work and could get no employment. When they took their discharge from the workhouse they asked the guardians for "a bit of relief to help them while they looked round," but they would not give it them.

The husband has now got night work in the engine room at a mill and earns 23s. They are living in lodgings and pay 6s. per week. It is a poor place to live in, and Mrs. L. would like a home of her own; but she finds that "it's easy to scatter a home, but it's not so easy to get it together again." She sold up her own home to live when they were out of work for so long. She looks a decent hard-working woman. She came to Bradford from Ireland when she was fifteen years old, to work in a mill. She has a great dread of the workhouse. "The Lord pardon me, but I'd sooner make a hole in the water than go into the Big House again."

I find from the Charity Organisation Society that these people have been helped many times in order to prevent them from coming to the Poor Law. They are decent people, but have two idle sons who have been their ruin.

Remarks.—Now in good work. Had a very hard time without relief after being discharged from the workhouse and before finding employment.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
W. L. - -	64	—	Labourer	Uncertain	Not satisfactory.	Started working.	—
B. L. - -	64						

No. 29.—*J. P.* Income, 1. Rent, 5s. 6d. Two children.

Mrs. P.'s husband is in prison for six months. He is a warehouseman by trade and stole goods from his master.

Mrs. P. (24) is a decent, respectable woman with a good home, which is beautifully clean and cared for. Her baby, seven months old, was spotlessly clean, and was lying in its cradle having its lunch out of an Allen & Hanbury feeding bottle. Mrs. P. applied to the guardians for relief when her husband was sentenced. She says that she was perfectly panic-stricken at first, and her one idea was how she could keep her home together. The neighbours told her to apply to the guardians, and she thought if they would only allow her a little—just enough to pay the rent—she would work and earn enough for food, etc., for her children and herself. When they offered her "the House," she knew that that was no good, as she would then lose her home, so after thinking a bit she went to see the lady she had lived in service with before she married. She told her everything and the lady promised to help her. She gave her some charring to do at her own home, and then spoke to a lot of her friends about her. So now Mrs. P. is able to earn anything from 3s. 6d. to 10s. per week. Of course the work is uncertain, but she knows that she will earn something every week. The ladies she works for are also kind in giving her old clothes for herself and the children.

Mrs. P.'s sister is parlourmaid in a good situation, and she and her mistress help Mrs. P. The mistress often sends her food and the sister helps her with the rent when she has not been able to earn enough herself for this purpose.

A neighbour, who is only a poor woman, sends her two loaves of bread whenever she bakes, *i.e.*, twice a week. This woman has a large family of her own. Her mother-in-law can't help with money, but minds the children for her when she is out charing. A brother-in-law gives her 1s. per week.

Mrs. P. is very glad now that the guardians did not help her—she likes to be independent.

She is a nice-looking superior woman and is capable of helping ladies with dinner parties. She is, therefore, in a much better position than an ordinary rough charwoman would be.

Remarks.—A clever, competent woman, who has risen to the emergency in which she was placed. By her own hard work, and the help of friends, she is doing comfortably in the absence of her husband. The refusal of relief caused her mental suffering at first, but she pulled through, where a less capable person would have failed.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
J. P. - -	24	—	Married, husband in gaol for theft.	Housework	Nil at this time.	Fair		Guardians considered that husband's family, who live near, ought to assist.
I. P. - -	2							
H. P. - -	6 m.							

No. 30.—*M. W.* Income, . Rent, 4s. 6d. Two persons.

M. W. (64) has a comfortable home. She greatly resents the guardians' refusal of out-relief. She looks idle, and as if she had never cared for work, and says the guardians refused her out-relief because she has a "nurse child" living here. The child is five years old, and she has taken care of him since he was born. His mother is a cook in a good family, but "can't afford to pay her much," and the guardians think she is keeping him entirely; but she is not. She used to be paid 5s. per week for him when he was small, but she does not get so much now, and his mother provides him with clothes.

A crippled niece lives here. She also has applied for relief, and was refused, and was not even offered the "House." The niece was out when I called, and her aunt entirely denied that she had ever asked for help.

The niece has a knitting machine, and knits for the workhouse. Her aunt complains that they do not keep her supplied with work, but the workhouse matron complains that she is idle, and will not get the work finished, or she might have a lot more.

They have just taken to selling yeast. *M. W.* owned "that that little business was doing nicely."

Remarks.—I concluded they were well able to maintain themselves if they would make a little effort. *M. W.* appeared lazy and apathetic. They are in debt.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
<i>M. W.</i> - -	64	—	Widow	Washing and nursing.	Uncertain	Unreliable	—	In debt for rent, coal, milk, &c. Niece lives with her, who does knitting, &c. and whose earnings are uncertain.

LIVING WITH RELATIONS IN GOOD HOMES.

There are six cases under this heading:—

31.—*J. A.* (62).

33.—*G. H.* (24).

35.—*T. M.* (69).

32.—*E. C.* (72).

34.—*A. M.* (70).

36.—*J. W.* (78).

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

No. 31.—*J. A.* Total income, 22s. Rent, 4s. 9d. Five persons.

This is an oldish man (62), who is out of work and is living with a married daughter. Her husband is employed by the Telephone Company, and earns 22s. a week. The house is comfortably furnished, but was dirty and untidy. The daughter apologised for this, and said she was feeling so badly that she had not been able to clean up. Her father and children were getting their dinner when I called, but she was sitting by the fire and was evidently in pain, and could not eat.

J. A. wants to get some work. He has tried to get taken on by the corporation as a night watchman, "but there are so many for jobs of that kind."

He has been in the workhouse hospital with abscesses in his neck, but the treatment there did him no good, and he thought that he might just as well be out and looking for a job, so he took his discharge.

Someone had given him a penny in the street, so he had bought a few potatoes, and had just cooked them for dinner. He was sitting at the table when I called, and a little grand grandchild stood one on each side of him, and they were all eating with their fingers from the same plate. An abscess had just broken in *Mr. A.*'s neck. No attempt had been made to bandage it or protect it in any way. The pus from this wound was simply pouring down in a long stream on to his coat or edge of the plate, according to the position he was sitting in. He, however, continued eating greedily, as if he were really hungry, and took no notice whatever of the suppurating abscess. I think that I have never seen a more revolting sight. Like *Micawber*, he kept on expressing the pious hope that he might get some work soon, "and that he meant to start looking for it next week."

Remarks.—It must be a pinch to this family to be keeping *J. A.* His daughter is expecting another baby almost directly, and I cannot imagine how they will manage then unless he gets some work. As the daughter said to me, "It is always such an expensive time, no matter how cheaply you try to do it." She seemed ill and anxious.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
<i>J. A.</i>	64	—	Widower	Carter	Lives with son-in-law, <i>D. W.</i> , whose income is £1 1s. per week.	Fair, formerly addicted to drink.	—	No destitution.

No. 32.—Included in Report. See page 5.

No. 33.—*G. H.* Income, 39s. Rent, 6s. 6d. Five persons.

G. H. is a young woman aged twenty-four, living with her parents. Her father is a plumber by trade, but has been a great deal out of work lately on account of the slackness in the building trade. He has got a job now and earns 32s. per week, but his railway fares to and from work are costing him 4s. 6d. per week. A son, aged twenty-one, a plumber, just out of his time, lives here and is out of work; and another son, aged fourteen, works in a warehouse and earns 7s. per week. The home is comfortable, but it was not very tidy. The daughter, *G.*, was coming home from work one day twelve or thirteen years ago—she was apprenticed to a dress and mantle maker—when a brick fell on her head. It did not seem to affect her much at the time, but nine years ago she went quite "wrong in her head." She was in the Menstone Asylum for some years and was then discharged. When "she came home she was ever so nice." But she has kept on getting worse ever since. Now she sits in a corner all day long and never says a word. She can't dress herself or help herself in any way. When *Mrs. H.* applied for help a few months ago for *G.* the guardians gave her an order for the House, and she took her there. *G.* remained in the workhouse hospital for five weeks and was "shamefully neglected." "She came out a mere bag of bones." When *Mrs. H.* complained she was told that "they had not enough nurses there to look after patients of that kind, they ought to help themselves."

Remarks.—Parents can support this girl when they are in work and do not wish to shirk their responsibilities. It was when the father was out of work and they were pinched at home that they asked for help for their daughter.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
<i>G. H.</i>	20	—	Single	Nil	—	—	An Imbecile. Parents took charge of her.	—

No. 34.—A. M. Income, 40s. Rent, 5s. 6d. Five persons.

Mrs. M. is living with her married son, who is a brass finisher. The house is comfortably furnished, but black and dirty, and looked squalid. Mrs. M. was also very black and dirty. She looked thin and ill, and " frets a lot," because the guardians would not " allow her a bit." But Church people have been very good to her and the Charity Organisation Society gave her 3s. twice, or she does not know what she would have done.

The guardians refused her relief because they said her son ought to keep her, and " that he was idle and lazy and did not want work." She cried bitterly when she told me this, and it was difficult to follow what she said, but I gathered that he had worked for one master thirteen years and had got a very good character.

She said that her son's wife was very good to her : " she is just like one of m' own." She works at tailoring and has only one child.

Remarks.—The son ought to be able to keep his mother quite easily. But Mrs. M. " frets " because they won't give her relief, and thinks it is very hard of the guardians.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
A. M.	70	—	Widow	Housework	Son, T., brassfounder, for week ending March 27th, 1907, 6s.; wife, tailoress, 16s. Total, £1 2s.	Good	Assume that income of son and wife sufficient.	—

No. 35.—T. M. Income, 28s. Rent, 5s. 6d. Six persons.

This man is seventy years old, and is suffering from a stroke. He lives with a married son. Mrs. M., the son's wife, is a very superior woman, and has a clean, comfortable, bright home. Her husband works at a mill and earns 22s., a son is a half-timer at a mill and earns 4s., and a brother, who is also married, pays 2s. towards the maintenance of his father. Another brother, who is out of work, lives here. He sleeps in the same room as his father, and helps to lift and dress him.

Mrs. M. took me upstairs to see her father-in-law. He was sitting in a wooden armchair by the fire in his bedroom, and was beautifully clean and well cared for. The window was open at the top, and the room was cheerful and airy. He looked very pallid, worn and ill. He did not want to go to the workhouse hospital, and when the relieving officer suggested that he should go there he cried so much that " they had not the heart to part with him." He had saved a bit of money, and I have my doubts whether this is exhausted yet, although Mrs. M. gave me to understand that it was. She did not say so right out, but suggested that it had come to an end.

Remarks.—The family are caring for this man very nicely, though it may be a bit of a pinch if his money is really exhausted.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
T. M.	69	—	Widower	Grease extractor.	Son, D. M., £1 2s.; grandson, 4s.; from sons and daughters, 5s. Total, £1 11s.	—	—	No destitution.

No. 36.—J. W. Income, 34s. Rent, 5s. 6d. Four persons.

This is a charming old lady of seventy-eight, who has lately come from Lincolnshire to live with her daughter. She was sitting by the table, rubbing the lumps out of baking powder with a spoon when I saw her. She had on a cottage bonnet which matched her print dress, and had such a good strong face, although it is old and wrinkled. It is the kind of face which Millet would have delighted to paint, and reminded me so much of his pictures of French peasants. She is very deaf and could not follow the conversation I had with her daughter.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

The guardians from the Sleaford Union are willing to allow her 3s. 6d. per week, but the Bradford union refuse to pay it. She has worked very hard all her life, and has been housekeeper to her brother for thirteen years, but he has never paid her a penny piece, and has been unkind to her. She has milked the cows, looked after the stock and worked in the harvest field. Now that she is past work he has turned her out. Her daughter went to fetch her to Bradford a few months since, and the poor old lady was quite "broken down." "It's wonderful how she has improved in health since she came here."

Mrs. S., the daughter, has a very good home. It is nicely furnished, is bright, clean and comfortable. Her husband earns 24s. in a mill, and a daughter, aged sixteen, who is apprenticed to a dressmaker, earns 5s. Mrs. S. has a little shop, just a tiny place, boarded off from the kitchen. She bakes bread and tea cakes every day. Sometimes she takes 2s. 6d. during the day, and sometimes 5s. She is a nice-looking, capable, superior woman. Although I called early in the morning (about 9 a.m.) the house was spotlessly clean and tidy, and she was just "weighing off" her day's supply of tea cakes.

She thinks it very hard that the Bradford Guardians will not allow her mother to have the relief which the Sleaford Guardians are willing to pay. She (Mrs. S.) has had a very hard time since she married. Her husband has been out of work so much, and she has had to turn to, and keep the home together. She worked for several years in a shop in Bradford, and earned enough to save the home. Now her husband has got work and they are just "turning nicely round." If only the guardians had given them the relief for a bit they would have managed comfortably, but she does not feel that she can keep her mother yet without being pinched. "She has no clothes, and she wanted, and still wants, a lot of nursing up and doing for, which costs a lot."

Then I had a little chat with J. W. She could not say enough about her daughter's kindness to her, and of the comfort and peace of her present home. She says that her daughter is "so clever," and "God only help them if she had not been," otherwise she and her family would have been brought to the lowest depths.

Remarks.—There seems no apparent reason that this old lady should have relief. The daughter makes a great trouble about it being refused to her mother, and Mrs. W. told me that she thought she had earned it.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
J. W.	78	—	Widow	Nil	Daughter, Mrs. S., £1 4s.; from shop, 10s. Total, £1 14s.	Good	Assume that income of daughter and family sufficient.	Only lived three days in Bradford, from Tattershall Bridge, Lincolnshire

LIVING WITH A SON, WITH A LARGE FAMILY, WHO IS OUT OF WORK.

There is one case under this heading:—

37.—B. L. (70).

No. 37.—B. L. Income, 16s. (varies). Rent, 5s. Ten persons.

B. L. is now living with her son, who is married and has seven children. It is a poor, dirty home. Mr. W. is often out of work and had nothing to do when I called. He is strong and has been a sailor. B. L. looked very ill. She was sitting in a chair in a corner of the room with her head resting against the wall. She came from Ireland about sixty years ago, and worked in a mill for many years. She has had two husbands. She is past work now, and if only the guardians would "allow her a bit" she would be all right.

I had to listen to a long tirade from Mr. W. about various things. He greatly resents "these investigators" always being on his doorstep. "If people have anything to give, why can't they give it like gentlemen, without making so many enquiries, and turning your very vitals out of your insides?" He knows all about the guardians too. "Guardians! Who do they guard? Only themselves. Have you read about the West Ham scandals?" "Yes." "Well, that's just what's going on here; they are taking themselves what ought to belong to the poor," etc., etc.

The income in this house varies from over 50s. per week to about 8s., according to how many of the family are in work. When I called I gathered that it was about 16s. that week, as the father and two sons were not working. But Mr. W. says his mother shall not go to the "Big House"; she has been in once or twice, but never again. I find that the Guild of Help have assisted this family since 1905, and have a complete record of all visits paid. They have tried to get Mrs. W. to clean up her house, and have given her wall paper for her room. The family seems to vary between weeks of prosperity and poverty, and it is difficult to help them. The Guild has tried to co-operate with the priest in their efforts at reformation, but he does not seem to think that it is much good bothering.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
B. L. - - -	64	—	Widow	Charing	Uncertain, lives with married daughter, S. H.	Fair	—	—

ILL IN LODGINGS WITHOUT ANY SOURCE OF INCOME.

There is one case under this heading :—

38.—H. T. (72).

No. 38.—H. T. Income, nil.

Lives in lodgings with a woman and her daughter who take in lodgers. The daughter works in a mill. The house is clean and comfortable. Mr. T. is an old man (aged 72), and is at present in bed with an attack of rheumatism, "and is very ill in himself." I advised the landlady to have the doctor; but she said if they sent for the "town doctor" he would have Mr. T. moved to the workhouse hospital, and "he would cry so because he does not want to go," and she does not want to part with him either, because he is an old friend of her father's, and has made his home with her for over twelve years. She has been keeping him entirely the last few weeks, but she can't afford to do it. If only the guardians would allow him a bit, he would be all right, and she would nurse him to the end.

In addition to the lodgers and the money her daughter earns at the mill, she "earns a bit" by minding children while their mothers are at work. She had one child about two years old with her when I called. It was nice and clean, but very cross and fretful. She thought "it was about getting some more teeth."

Mr. T. had a nice bit of money once, but he lent it to a brother, who was in business, and he lost it. This brother died of a broken heart with "fretting" about his losses, and now Mr. T. is left to face things alone. He was brought up in a "better kind of way than poor people," and has come down in the world.

Remarks.—This man has not earned anything for many weeks.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
H. T. - - -	71	—	Widower	Smallware hawker.	Uncertain	Not satisfactory.	—	Man still hawking.

CANNOT BE FOUND.

There are two cases under this heading :—

39.—C. A.

40.—A. M.

No. 39.—C. A. Cannot be found.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
C. A. - - -	50	—	Widow	Charwoman	Nil	Bad, lived 24 years in adultery with O. A. previous to marriage. Applicant is given to drink.	—	—

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

No. 40.—A. M. Cannot be found.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
A. M. - -	65	—	Married woman. Husband, J. M., working at brush-making in charge of guardians.	Charwoman	Nil at this time. Only been out of "House" a few days.	Not satisfactory. Addicted to drink.	—	—

IN PRISON.

There is one case under this heading :—

41.—A. M. (50).

No. 41.—A. M. Now in prison.

A curious thing happened when I called to see this woman. Another woman who was living in the house personated A. M., and I quite thought that I had seen her. I only discovered the mistake through the relieving officer, whom Mr. Crowther sent to visit the case after I had reported it to him. This woman, E. T., had previously applied for relief, and it had been refused her, although her name does not appear on my list. Her present illness is in a large measure caused by an assault A. M. made on her, and yet she personated A. M. to me, and never told me how she had been hurt by her.

Everyone gives A. M. a very bad character. The Charity Organisation Society told me she was a "vile woman," and then added, "she is too vile to be called a woman at all," and they knew she was in prison. The Secretary of the Charity Organisation Society had been in court when she was convicted. Mr. Crowther also told me that "she is a vile character."

I attach to this case the notes I made when I called on A. M. as I supposed, but in reality on E. T., as it throws some light on A. M.'s usual surroundings, and the reason, therefore, for the refusal of out-relief :—

Income, nil. Rent, 2s. 9d. One person.

A filthy, dirty, degraded home. E. T., a black scarecrow of a woman, is ill and is lying in a black, dirty bed. She could hardly talk to me for weakness, but she sat up in bed and gave a tirade against the cruelty of the guardians for having refused her relief after she had been a ratepayer for thirty-seven years. "And here am I left to pine in a Christian land." These words she repeated over and over again. She said that once she was three days without food and no one went near her. I tried to persuade her to go into the workhouse hospital, but she cried and said "that she did not want to give up her bit of a home." She had hardly any furniture left in it, and what she has, looks more fit for the dust destructor than anything else. She sold her sofa last week to get coals and food. I told her the guardians would store her furniture, and that if she went into the hospital and got better she could come out and make a fresh start. Her right hand was badly crippled and the fingers were twisted. I asked if it had been hurt at work, but she replied, "No, it's all hard work that has done it; I've scrubbed and brushed clothes so much, that it has got like this."

Then she begged me very piteously to help her, but I told her that whatever I did for her could not possibly be any good, and once more recommended her to go to the workhouse hospital. As I left the house I heard her repeating her pet phrase, "And here am I left to pine in a Christian land." I reported the case to Mr. Crowther, clerk to the board, as I felt he ought to know how ill she was. He sent a relieving officer at once to visit the case, and when the relieving officer saw how ill E. T. was, he fetched the doctor, who was angry with the woman for not applying sooner. She is now receiving medical relief in her own home, and is to be moved later to the workhouse hospital.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why was "House" not accepted?	Remarks.
A. M. - -	50	—	Widow	Weaver	Nil at this time.	Bad, two little children adopted by guardians.	—	—

II.—SIX CASES WHICH WERE REFUSED ALL RELIEF.

- 42.—M. I. (79). 44.—H. L. (57). 46.—A. W. (41).
 43.—H. J. (69). 45.—C. S. (69). 47.—M. Y. (31).
 No. 42.—*M. I.* Income, 40s. 6d. (varies with seasonal trade). Rent, 6s. 10d.

Six persons.

Mrs. I. (80) is now living with her married son and his family. He is a woolsorter by trade, and his earnings vary from 14s. to 34s. per week, according to the season.

Up to Easter of 1907, *M. I.* lived with a married son at North Brierley, but he died at Easter, and his widow said she had enough to do with her own children and troubles and could not keep her any longer. *M. I.* is a decent old woman and must have worked hard all her life. Her hands and fingers are twisted with hard work. She has been a widow thirty-three years, and before moving into Bradford had lived in the same house for fifty-four years. Her husband was an invalid for many years before he died, and could only earn 12s. per week on account of his weakness. He used to wind silk bobbins for the weavers. *Mrs. I.* also had an idiot daughter who lived to be twenty-four years old, and who never had "sense enough even to open a door." When her husband's health failed she could not go back into the mill to work again, as she had done before her marriage, but took in washing so that she could work at home and care for this daughter.

Ten years ago the North Brierley Guardians gave her out-relief. She had 2s. at first, and then 2s. 6d., then 3s., and the last time they granted it her they gave her 3s. 6d. This was two weeks before she moved into Bradford. The North Brierley Union were willing to continue the relief and would have repaid the Bradford Board, but the Bradford Guardians declined to give it. When she appeared before the board no women were present. The men guardians cross-questioned the poor old lady, and she has no idea what she said to them, "because she was so frightened." Her daughter-in-law could not go with her because she was ill. *M. I.* has been twice before the Bradford Board. The Bradford Guardians got the wage sheets of her son, with whom she is now living. This gave the wages he had earned during the previous four weeks, and, as it happened, were the best wages he had earned for twelve months.

A son (16) has just started his apprenticeship as an engineer (?) and earns 5s. 6d. per week.

Mrs. I., junr., cried as she talked to me and told me of her mother's struggles, and the tears rolled down the poor old lady's cheeks as she sat and listened. She told me "the bit of money did not keep her, but it made her feel a bit independent, and she did not like to feel that she was a burden to her sons." She has another son who pays 1s. to help his brother. She said, "It seems so hard, when you had worked hard all your life and kept respectable, that there should not be a bit for you in your old age." She had never had a chance to save on account of her invalids. And then she asked me about old-age pensions, and if I thought they would come in her day. She said, "The poor ought to have something to look forward to when they are old." She can do "nought now but dry a few pots," and *Mrs. I.*, junr. told me that she wanted a lot of "doing for."

The house was very clean and comfortable, but the two children I saw were delicate—the little girl had a throat affection, and the boy was lying on his face on the sofa with it buried in the cushion, because he could not bear any light to his eyes, which have got such bad inflammation in them, the after-effects of measles.

Mr. I. came in from work just as I was leaving, and stormed and stormed again because his mother's relief had been stopped. He is going to get a copy of the Poor Law, and when he has read it carefully through he means to go to every public meeting and "let them have it." He looked a most respectable man, but evidently the whole thing has got on to all their nerves and they cannot look at it calmly. He says "My mother frets so about it and that upsets me. I can't bear to see her taking on so at her age."

Remarks.—A comfortable, clean home, with sufficient income going into the house at the present time.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why Relief was refused.
M. I.	79	—	Widow	Housework	With married son, £1 13s. 9d., and three children; Arthur, 5s. 6d.; from another son, 1s. Total, £2 0s. 3d.	Nothing against her.	Sufficient income

No. 43.—*H. J.* Total income, 44s. Rent, ? Nine persons.

H. J. (69) is a decent old woman, who is now living with a married daughter. Her son-in-law is a labourer at the gas house and earns 24s. per week. She has two daughters working in the mill; one earns 9s., and the other 11s.

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Mrs. J.'s husband died in the workhouse hospital a month or two ago. Before he went into the hospital the guardians allowed them 10s. per week. They had a house of their own then. But when Mr. J. died, the daughter could not allow her mother to live alone, and the guardians then stopped the relief. The old lady takes this very hardly. "If only they had given her 1s. or 1s. 6d. just to buy her clothes with she would not have minded, but she does not like to be dependent on her son-in-law for everything."

Remarks.—A nice, comfortable home. Mrs. J. is evidently made very welcome here.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why Relief was refused.
H. J.	69	—	Widow	Housework	Lives with £ s. d. son-in-law 1 4 0 E. . . . 0 10 0 S. . . . 0 8 0 <hr/> Average . 2 2 0 At present 2 10 0	Good	No destitution. Husband died December, 1906. Widow received £10 from club. Paid funeral expenses, £4 12s., and grave, 18s. Total, £5 10s., leaving her a balance of £4 10s.

No. 44.—*H. L.* Total income, ? . Rent, 3s. 9d. Two persons.

H. L. is fifty-seven years old and was taken ill at work during the month of January. She has had a clot of blood on the brain and has never got about since she had the seizure. Her mother was living then, but she was taken ill in March and died in a fortnight from bronchitis. Now two sisters are living together. The house is bright, clean and attractive. The family have lived in this house sixty years.

Miss L. told me that it was an uncle who had applied for relief for her sister "unbeknown to her mother and herself." Both sisters have worked in a mill up to the time of the eldest sister's illness. When she was first taken ill her mother nursed her. Then when the mother became ill, the younger sister had to leave off working at the mill to nurse both the mother and her sister. Since the mother's death she has had to stay at home to care for her sister, who is still in bed. When in work she earned 12s. to 14s. per week now trade is good, and only half that sum when trade is bad and they are on short time.


On being questioned as to how they were managing to live she told me they had some insurance money at their mother's death, and they were living on that. They were being very careful, and had bought "no black." When she got back from her mother's funeral she quite expected to find her sister dead, for the shock had upset her sister very much.

A lady brought another doctor to see her sister last Saturday, and he wanted her to go into the infirmary. He thought that a thorough, all-round change would be good for her, and she quite hopes that her sister will agree to do this. She said this doctor held out no hopes that her sister would ever be able to work again. But if only she could get so that she could make herself a cup of tea, and sit alone in the house while the younger sister went to the mill, she would not mind. She thought they could manage "even if they went a bit short."

Remarks.—Superior home and woman. The sisters are living with the greatest care and thrift in order to make their money last as long as possible.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why Relief was refused.
H. L.	57	—	Single	Weaver	—	—	Application for relief made by a relative unknown to H. L., and the latter declined to proceed with application as she was not destitute.

No. 45.—*C. S. and wife.* Total income, 35s. Rent, 5s. Four persons. 

This is a beautifully clean and attractive home, with good furniture. Both Mr. and Mrs. S. are invalids. He sits in his chair all day and can only move with difficulty. She manages to wash "a few pots," but

can do no hard work. He is a carter by trade and is sixty-nine years old. Up to three months ago they had an unmarried daughter living with them. She earned 10s. per week by working in a paper mill, and the board allowed Mr. and Mrs. S. 6s. per week, and a married son gave them 3s.

When the daughter married twelve weeks since the relief was stopped because she and her husband made their home here. But the old people could not manage without them, they could not get on alone.

The income of the family at the present time is as follows : son-in-law earns 22s. ; daughter earns 10s. ; married son gives parents 3s. There is certainly no destitution in this home, but the old people take it very hard that *all* their relief should be stopped. They expected it to be *reduced*, but what are they to do for clothes, etc., they must have something to wear ? They can't expect their children to keep them altogether.

Remarks.—A clean, comfortable home, with sufficient income.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why Relief was refused.
C. S. - -	69	—	Carter	Lives with married daughter and her husband, whose weekly earnings amount to £1 10 0 Son allows 0 3 0 <hr/> £1 13 0	Good	Sufficient income
M. A. S. - -	67					

No. 46.—A. W.

For particulars of this case, see No. 30, M. W.'s sheet.

Remarks.—I did not see this woman, but her aunt, with whom she lives, indignantly denied that she had ever applied for relief.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why Relief was refused.
A. W. - -	41	—	Single	—	—	Unreliable	Admitted earning sufficient for her own maintenance.

No. 47.—M. Y.

Gone to London.

RELIEVING OFFICER'S REPORT.

Name of Applicant and Dependent Children.	Age.	Address.	—	Occupation.	Income of Self or Family.	Character.	Why Relief was refused.
M. Y. - -	31	—	Widow	Laundress	Nil at this time	Not satisfactory.	Refused information.
H. Y. - -	9						
W. Y. - -	4						

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INSTRUCTIONS AS TO THE INQUIRY IN SIX TYPICAL UNIONS INTO THE RESULTS OF THE REFUSAL OF RELIEF.

I.—GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AS TO THE OBJECTS OF THE INQUIRY.

The inquiry relates to applicants who have been refused relief by the guardians and the main objects of the investigator should be :—

(1) To give the Commission as accurate an idea as possible of the applicants' conditions of life—

(a) At the time or shortly after the refusal of relief ; and

(b) At subsequent periods of one or two months or more from the date of the refusal of relief.

(2) To endeavour to indicate the extent to which the conditions of life may be attributable on the one hand to the refusal of relief, or on the other hand to independent causes unconnected with such refusal.

Thus, for example, where there is an improvement, to what extent is it due to the self-help of the person stimulated by the refusal of relief, or to what extent to independent circumstances, such as an unexpected access of means. Where there is a deterioration, to what extent is it explainable by habits or disabilities acquired prior to the refusal of relief, or to what extent by habits or disabilities acquired since the refusal.

II.—PARTICULAR INSTRUCTIONS AS TO PROCEDURE.

(3) The investigator will be furnished by the Commission with a list of unions in which she is to conduct her inquiry.

(4) The inquiry must not extend retrospectively to cases of refusal of relief which have occurred more than a month prior to the commencement of the inquiry in any union.

(5) The investigator will proceed to a union on her list shortly after the meeting of the board of guardians, or their committee, at which relief has been administered.

(6) The investigator will, as soon as possible, obtain from the clerk to the guardians and from other Poor Law officials, the following particulars of the cases in which relief has been refused at the last meeting or the last two meetings of the board of guardians or relief committee, viz. :—

(a) The entries from the application and report book.

(b) Any additional information available as to the reasons for the refusal of relief.

(7) After obtaining the information indicated in Instruction (6), the investigator will proceed to the homes of the refused applicants and will by personal interview, observation and inquiry, obtain the particulars indicated on the annexed form, and any other particulars she may deem necessary as indicating the conditions of life.

(8) After the lapse of not less than one, and not more than two months, the investigator will again visit the union and repeat the process indicated in Instruction (7). If necessary, the investigator may make a third visit to the union and the homes for the purpose of giving a final report.

(9) In giving her account of the conditions of life, the investigator should confine herself to a statement of ascertained facts.

(10) All quoted statements, whether of Poor Law officers or of applicants refused relief, should, wherever possible, be verified by application and inquiry to a charity organisation society, clergymen, employers, friends, or other persons having knowledge of the case.

(11) Upon completion of her collection of the facts in any union, the investigator should write a short report summarising the information as far as possible.

(12) On the conclusion of her inquiry, the investigator may present a similar report including in its scope the facts collected in the whole inquiry.

(13) The printed General Instructions for the guidance of investigators shall be followed wherever applicable.

R. G. DUFF,

Secretary.

II.—INQUIRY IN SIX UNIONS INTO CASES OF REFUSAL OF OUT-RELIEF.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION.

1. First the relieving officer's books were examined and particulars extracted regarding persons to whom an order for the workhouse had been recently given.

These persons were then visited in their own homes, information was obtained regarding their history, and observations were made of their present condition and surroundings.

2. With the purpose of corroborating the information thus gained, clergymen, Sisters, sanitary inspectors, secretaries of P.S.A.'s or of charitable institutions, chairmen of boards of guardians, guardians, doctors, district nurses, etc., were interviewed, and numberless letters of inquiry were written to other persons. Much information was kindly afforded by branches of the Charity Organisation Society.

3. After the collection of this information, the relieving officers were again seen and questioned on each case, the answers often throwing light on difficult points.

4. After a lapse of from six to eight weeks, all the cases were revisited, gaps in the information previously collected were filled in, and changes in circumstances carefully noted. (In some instances three or even four visits to one house were required to obtain the necessary information.) The relieving officers were also consulted as to whether fresh applications had been received from any of the applicants since the former visit, or if they had obtained further information respecting them.

Forty-nine cases have been visited in connection with this inquiry, namely:—

- 11 in the parish of Paddington.
- 12 in the Hackney Union.
- 15 in the township of Manchester.
- 6 in the Atcham Union.
- 4 in the Helston Union.
- 1 in the Thame Union.

All notes on the policy of the boards visited have been submitted to the chairmen or clerks of the various boards for corroboration. These notes and particulars of each separate case are given in detail.

PARISH OF PADDINGTON.

The clerk informed me that they had very few cases of the refusal of out-relief in this union. The people in the district knew the policy of the board and did not apply for relief unless they thought they had a strong case.

From observation, I should judge that relief is carefully administered by this board. They have a strict policy and, as stated above, the applicants or would-be applicants are fully acquainted with it. In the case of widows with children, the woman is not expected to support more than two children herself, and in some cases not even this number. As far as possible, the guardians try to separate the sexes. Thus, if a woman were left with four children—two boys and two girls—the guardians would take either the boys or the girls and send them to one of their schools. The chairman stated that the boys in the schools turn out very well, but that the results with the girls are not quite so good.

The guardians also endeavour to see that the woman gets work which will support herself and the children left under her care, either in private places or in connection with their own institutions. Eleven women are permanently employed at the Infirmary Laundry. They are regarded as charwomen, their remuneration, 2s. 1d.

per day with dinner and tea, is paid to them as a regular wage, and is in no way looked upon as relief. These posts are keenly sought after by the women who come to the board for help. They have an independent position equivalent to, or in fact superior to, that of an ordinary charwoman, for as long as they do their work satisfactorily, there is no uncertainty or insecurity as to their weekly earnings. They have not to appear before the guardians, at stated intervals, to ask for the renewal of their work, but are to all intents and purposes officers of the board. (See Case-Paper in Appendix A.)

A further reference to this case-paper will show that even in this union where the administration is unquestionably able, leakages occur. There were possibilities of development in connection with this family which were not taken. James, a lad of fourteen, when his parents first apply to the board, was allowed to remain untrained, and now at the age of twenty-four is selling flowers in the streets instead of being employed at a good trade. The relieving officer (November 3rd, 1903) calls the attention of the guardians to the daughter, Margaret, a girl of nineteen (a cripple) and suggests that she be taught some occupation by which she can earn her living, but nothing is done and we now find her sometimes in the workhouse and sometimes living with her mother, entirely untrained and incapable of supporting herself. In all probability she will be a source of expense to the State as long as she lives, and her happiness in life will be curtailed by her limitations. Yet when she first became chargeable she was only a child of eleven.

Where out-relief is granted it is given adequately :—

An old person living alone would have 7s. a week.

An old couple 10s.

In this union the board and the local branch of the Charity Organisation Society work in unison. The same person is chairman of the board and honorary secretary of the Charity Organisation Society. He has devoted many years of his life to the work and is thoroughly in touch and in harmony with the methods and work of both. The information obtained regarding applicants for relief or help at either office is interchangeable. This co-operation must be a source of great power and strength to both the Poor Law officials and the Charity Organisation Society. The honorary secretary told me that the Charity Organisation Society in this union is responsible for pensions to the amount of about £1,100 per year, and that it would be safe to state that the local rates are saved to this amount. He also considered that there was a good deal of genuine unemployment in the district.

The case-paper system has been in use in this union for nearly twenty years. Here are recorded the life history of thousands of families, at least in so far as they are concerned with the Poor Law. This collection of filed and easily available information, going back as it does for such a number of years, must, I think, be unique in Poor Law annals. It would provide a perfect mine of interest to any student of economics or sociology who could devote the necessary time to its digestion.*

The population of this union is 143,954, and the proportion of paupers is 17 per 1,000 of the population. But as a large area in this union is populated by the wealthy classes, this figure is not comparable with unions like Hackney and the township of Manchester, where the areas are chiefly inhabited by the working classes.

The eleven cases visited may be classified as follows :—

2 widows without children dependent.

1 single woman.

1 old couple.

6 married couples with 22 children varying in age from four months to thirteen years dependent on them.

On visiting these eleven cases for the last time, I found that :—

1 had obtained work.

8 were living in homes with uncertain incomes.

1 trying to form a cobbling connection.

1 dead.

* Examples of case-papers giving the Poor Law history of two families (A. and B.) will be found in the Appendix.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

PARISH OF PADDINGTON

CASE-PAPER No. 1.

H. L. (Widow).

AGE.—64.

EARNINGS.—Actual, 1s. 6d. Charing. Owes three weeks rent.

HEALTH.—Good.

CHARACTER.—Seems respectable, but the curate who visits her periodically thinks she drinks.

CHILDREN.—None.

HOUSING.—Lives in one room, first floor back. Fair neighbourhood. No garden. Weekly rent, 3s. 6d. One inmate.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Clean and comfortably furnished. Staircase and passages clean.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for the workhouse, November 14th, 1907.

Other Help.—A bag of coals from the church, and odd shillings from the vicar, but nothing regular.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Inability to earn sufficient to keep herself.

GENERAL REMARKS.

November, 1907.—Mrs. L.'s husband was a bricklayer, and has been dead seventeen years. Since he died Mrs. L. has managed to support herself by charing, and taking care of people's houses when they go to the seaside, etc. She was a cook in a gentleman's house before marriage. Her father was an agricultural labourer in the West of England, and she came to London to enter service. Her husband was a true Londoner. Now she is "very hard pressed and cannot earn enough money to pay her rent," as she cannot get charing to do. People like younger women. She is in great distress at the thought of having to give up her home. She could not bear to go into the workhouse "to live among so many people, and never have any privacy." She is beginning to pawn her things.

February, 1908.—Mrs. L. was not at home when I called to see her. She was taking care of a house while the owners were away.

PARISH OF PADDINGTON.

CASE-PAPER No. 2.

M. P. (Widow).

AGE.—58.

EARNINGS.—None. Chars. Owes £3 rent.

HEALTH.—Bad.

CHARACTER.—Not satisfactory.

CHILDREN.—Thomas (35), single, out of work. Joseph (30), single, nearly blind, never works. Edward (39) married, with children, a foreman. Robert (28), married, with children, a labourer. James (22), married, with children, a labourer. Jessie (24), married, with children.

HOUSING.—Lives in two rooms, ground floor front. Poor neighbourhood. Weekly rent, 7s. Three inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Dirty narrow street. House squalid and dirty. Rooms dirty and contain hardly any furniture.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for the workhouse, November 17th, 1907.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Bad health and unable to work.

GENERAL REMARKS.

November, 1907.—Mrs. P. states that none of her children can help her. Two sons live with her, one is nearly blind, and never attempts to work. The other never has regular work. Both these men were in bed when I called, between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. This family is evidently of a very low type. The married children all have enough to do to help themselves, and can't spare anything for their mother. Mrs. P., and her rooms, were black and dirty. The rooms contained two beds—a large one in the living-room, and a small one in the ante-room. A good fire was burning in the grate. Mrs. P. said a neighbour had given her the coal for cleaning up for her. She told me that she was going to be turned out of her rooms on Monday for arrears of rent.

February, 1908.—Things much as they were when I called last. Thomas was in bed about 12 noon. He has had no regular work, but "gets a day's work now and again." Mrs. P. looked thin and ill, and told me that she had "fits." If anything, both the room and Mrs. P. were cleaner. She said she would be glad to get some charing, but no one would employ her. I asked her why she had not left her rooms? She could give me no answer to this question, and I imagine she told she was leaving because she did not want me to visit her again.

PARISH OF PADDINGTON.

CASE-PAPER No. 3.

E. V. H. (Single).

AGE.—71.

EARNINGS.—Actual, 1s. 6d. for minding niece's baby. Machinist, has not worked for eighteen months.

HEALTH.—Feeble.

CHARACTER.—Good.

CHILDREN.—None.

HOUSING.—Lives in one room, fourth floor back. Good neighbourhood. Weekly rent, 3s. One inmate.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—House, passage and stairs very clean. Room clean and comfortably furnished.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for the workhouse, October 31st, 1907.

Other Help.—None.

Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—Lives in the same house as a nephew who cannot afford to keep her. He is a grocer's porter, and has a wife and two small children. The wife cleans offices and goes out charing.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Destitution, as she cannot work to keep herself any longer.

GENERAL REMARKS.

November, 1907.—Miss V. H. worked with the same firm as a machinist for over forty years. Now she is too old to work. The business has recently changed hands and the new owner will not have anyone so old on his staff. She is a most superior and respectable old lady. The style of her furniture, etc., show that she belongs to people who have had a comfortable home. She is selling her furniture in order to live. A book case was standing ready to be fetched away when I called. In recent years she has made muslin window curtains for the firm for whom she worked. Her father and mother were for many years sexton and sextoness at St. Peter's Church, Saffron Hill, and prior to that they had been schoolmaster and schoolmistress in the same parish. After her father died she helped her mother with the work in connection with the Church. Her mother lived to be 88 and during the last years of her life Miss V. H. took care of, and helped to support her. Now she is getting beyond work for herself. When she applied for relief "She had never felt so ashamed before, and felt that she was committing a crime." The relieving officer and the guardians were very kind to her, but told her they could not help her, as she belonged to Clerkenwell Union. But they advised her to go into the workhouse and become chargeable, and then they would see what the Clerkenwell Guardians would do for her. But she "could not" go into the workhouse. Miss V. H. is of Dutch origin. Her grandparents came to England from Holland, but both her father and mother were born in London and she was also.

February, 1908.—The refusal of relief makes life a constant anxiety. Circumstances remain much the same as when I called in November. Miss V. H. continues to sell her furniture in order to live. She earns a few pence occasionally by doing a bit of sewing, and 1s. 6d. per week for minding her niece's children when she goes out to work.

PARISH OF PADDINGTON.

CASE-PAPER No. 4.

N. H. (Married).

(Left his wife twenty-two years ago. "Does not know where she is and does not want to.")

AGE.—69.

EARNINGS.—General dealer. Own business. Owes £25 for rent, and £4 for other things.

HEALTH.—Had a stroke—hand paralysed.

CHARACTER.—Relieving officer says "Not steady." He has known N. H. for years, but has never seen him drunk. Charity Organisation Society have letters filed with his case-papers, from various persons, who testify to his respectability, and recommend him as a deserving case.

CHILDREN.—

HOUSING.—Pays rent for the whole house, which his daughter-in-law lets off in rooms. Good neighbourhood. Weekly rent, 20s. and rates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—The exterior of the house presents a look of well-being and prosperity. There are clean lace curtains to all the front windows. Steps, passage and approach to the house clean.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Applied for, November, 14th, 1907. Not entertained.

Other Help.—None.

Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—Widowed daughter-in-law with her two children (19 and 14) live here. She keeps a lodging-house and lets rooms, and N. H. lives with her. They occupy the basement and three other rooms. Two other rooms are let for 5s. each, one at 2s., and the top floor for 7s.; but five of the rooms are at present unlet.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Unable to maintain himself.

GENERAL REMARKS.

November, 1907.—N. H. formerly had a business of his own. He parted with this in 1905 for £25, and has long since spent all the money. The business was not in a flourishing condition when sold. At one period it had been prosperous. N. H. was out when I called. His widowed daughter-in-law came to the door. She looked a hard-working respectable woman, but said she could not afford to keep her father-in-law. The house stands in his name, but she always manages it. N. H. "frets a great deal" because he can get nothing to do, and the worry of this tells on his health and spirits. The furniture in the house belongs to his daughter-in-law. She has two lodgers who board with her. One owes her £12. The relieving officer informs me that he thinks Mrs. H. is very hard pressed, and that it is doubtful whether she will be able to keep the business going, especially as the house is in an unsuitable neighbourhood for her purpose. The borough council excused N. H. the payment of his last rate value £3 16s. He has rented this house for sixteen years. He has had a stroke and it is unlikely that he will ever find any employment. In August, 1907, he applied to the Charity Organisation Society to find him some light work or to grant him a pension. After making the fullest inquiries they did not see their way to provide a pension.

February, 1908.—No change in circumstances since November. Probably if out-relief had been granted to N. H., his daughter-in-law would have been contented to make a home for him. As things are she is always complaining and trying to get rid of him. But it would have been an impossibility to give relief of any kind to a person with a yearly rental of £50 and rates. I did not see N. H. He had gone out to try and get some bill distributing. He occasionally earns a shilling in this way. Mrs. H. told me that times were very bad. She has no lodgers now, but all her rooms are let. She said that she could not possibly afford to keep N. H.

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PARISH OF PADDINGTON.

CASE-PAPER No. 5.

G. AND E. M. (Married).

AGES.—Husband, 74. Wife, 61.

EARNINGS.—Husband, normal, 12s. to 15s. Road sweeper, borough council. Wife, actual, 1s. 6d. Charing. Owe 12s. rent.

HEALTH.—Husband, bad. Wife, poor.

CHARACTERS.—Husband, good. Wife, good. "A very decent old couple."

CHILDREN.—None.

HOUSING.—Live in one room, front basement. Good neighbourhood. Weekly rent, 4s. Two inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Entrance passage and stairs clean. Room not very clean or tidy.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Had relief in January, 1901. January, February, April, May, 1906. February, March, April, October, 1907. Order for Workhouse, November, 1907; 6s. out-relief, November 1st, 1907; 5s. out-relief on death of husband.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Illness of George Marshall.

GENERAL REMARKS.

November, 1907.—Mr. M. has now gone to the workhouse infirmary and is very ill. Mrs. M. has applied for out-relief again in order to keep her home together while her husband is away. She has a comfortably furnished room. Her one idea is to keep her home together while her husband is away, for him to return to when better. The landlady is pressing her for the arrears of rent. She is troubled and anxious about the future. She has tried to get some more charing to do, but as she looks ill and incapable of doing a day's work, I do not think that she is likely to succeed. She was in domestic service before she married and saved money, but these savings are all used up.

February, 1908.—Mr. M. died in the workhouse infirmary on November, 25th. Mrs. M. was granted 6s. out-relief on November 21st in order to keep her home together. The out-relief was reduced to 5s. per week after her husband's death, and the guardians told her to try and find a cheaper room. But her landlady did not wish to lose her as a tenant so she reduced her rent by 1s. per week, and it would therefore be impossible for her to find a room at a less rent anywhere else in the district. She has a sister who is also in receipt of out-relief in the Paddington Union, and the guardians made the suggestion that they should live together. But they would not be comfortable, they have each had their own homes so long, and think that it is better to remain as they are.

PARISH OF PADDINGTON.

CASE-PAPER No. 6.

W. AND C. B. (Married).

AGES.—Husband, 25. Wife, 24.

EARNINGS.—Husband, normal, 10½d. per hour, Br'cklayer. Mr. Saunders, 2, Albany Street, Regent's Park. One month's work; then job was finished. Had no regular work for five years. Before this he worked for John Allen & Sons, Kilburn. Left because job was finished. Wife, none. Owe ten weeks' rent. Pawn tickets value £2.

HEALTH.—Husband, good. Wife, looked starved and ill.

CHARACTERS.—Husband, steady and industrious. Wife, good.

CHILDREN.—William (4). Clara (2). Edward (4 months). All looked starved and ill.

HOUSING.—Live in one room, fourth floor front. Good neighbourhood. Weekly rent, 4s. Five inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Room contains but little furniture; one large bed and one chair-bed. Very clean.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for workhouse, November, 1907. Home order for child, Edward. Nourishment value, 2s. December, 1907. Dispensary order for child, William. Nourishment, value 2s. 8d. Dispensary order for Edward. Nourishment, value 2s. 8d. Temporary relief, value 2s. 8d. Temporary relief: bread, 2 quarters; meat, 3 lbs.; milk, 12 pints; coal, ¼ cwt., January 2nd, January 31st, February 8th, and 14th, 1908.

Other Help.—Mrs. B.'s mother gives her a pinch of tea and a bit of bread occasionally, but she is so poor herself that she does not know how to spare it.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help. Father, Edward Bircham, bricklayer, out of work.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Out of work.

GENERAL REMARKS.

November, 1907.—Seems to be a good tradesman and is out of work through no fault of his own, but owing to the depression in the building trade. Mrs. B. was in domestic service before her marriage. A respectable family. Mr. B. has been out of work this time for ten weeks, but it is five years since he had regular employment. They have been selling and pawning his tools and furniture in order to live. There is practically nothing left now to part with. William (4) looked thoroughly ill, and the baby (4 months) had bronchitis. Mrs. B. feels that it is very hard that the guardians will not give her husband work in the labour yard. He does not want "something for nothing," but is anxious to work for all they get. If they sold up their things and went into the workhouse they would be no better off, for what would they do when they came out? They are young people and do not want to spend all their lives there at the expense of the ratepayers; and if her husband is in the workhouse he may lose the chance of a job. So they do not know what to do for the best.

February, 1908.—Things remain much as they were when I called in November. Mrs. B. looks more starved and ill, and has a weary and pathetic smile. The children are ill, chiefly, I should suppose, through lack of food. This family has been relieved five times since my last visit. Mrs. B. was clean and tidy in her person, and her room was clean. There seemed nothing left either in the way of clothes or furniture which they could raise money on. She has not even a change of clothes left for the children. When she washes those they are wearing the children stay in bed until they are dry again. All the bed clothes have also been sold. The baby has swollen glands, and is to have an operation on them. It looked unhealthy, but better nourished than the other children, as the "sanitary lady" is now allowing it a quart of milk a day. Mr. B. has done three days' work since Christmas, and he sometimes gets an odd 6d. given him. He has been tramping to look for work, and has worn his boots out without finding any. He cannot stay at home when out of work, it gives him "the hump," he gets so miserable when he sits in the house, so he spends his days in the streets, wandering about and looking for employment. He would like to emigrate, and has applied to the Charity Organisation Society for assistance to do so, and they have the application still under consideration. There can be no doubt whatever that they are all suffering acutely from this period of prolonged distress. They do not go to church or chapel and have had no one to help them with advice, encouragement, or in more material ways.

PARISH OF PADDINGTON.

CASE-PAPER No. 7.

W. AND E. B. (Married).

AGES.—Husband, 39. Wife, 32.

EARNINGS.—Husband, actual, ; normal, . Bricklayers' labourer. Never had a regular job. Always done odd jobs for different firms. Length of time with one firm never exceeded three or four weeks. Wife, none. Owe £6 rent.

HEALTH. Husband, good. Wife, good.

CHARACTERS.—Husband, not satisfactory. Wife, not very competent.

CHILDREN.—Louisa (6). James (4). George (4 months).

HOUSING.—Live in one room, first floor, front. Poor neighbourhood. Weekly rent, 4s. Five inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Street narrow and dirty. House squalid and dirty. Staircase and passage filthy. Room squalid; one large bed and one chair-bed. No bed-clothes.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for the workhouse, November, 1907.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help. None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Want of work.

GENERAL REMARKS.

November, 1907.—Mr. B. has never had a permanent job. He always works where he can get it, and he never worked with one firm for more than three or four weeks at the longest. He has had two days' work this week. A typical slum family. Live from hand to mouth. Mr. B. has done two days' work, so they were able to "get a bit of food" and had paid the landlord a few shillings. The room was full of smoke and a large pan stood on the fire. Mrs. B. was peeling carrots in an extravagant way, and putting them into the saucepan as she cut them up. She appears to be one of the happy-go-lucky sort who live from hand to mouth, and as a good meal was in sight nothing else seemed to disturb her. She was dirty and untidy, and so were the children. They have sold and pawned all the things they can raise money on.

February, 1908.—Things are much the same as in November. Mr. B. has had odd days' work from time to time. The baby is very small and badly developed. Mrs. B., the children, and the room were cleaner than when I called before. The landlord is pressing for rent, and when Mr. B. gets a day's work they always give him something. They have nothing left that they can raise money on.

PARISH OF PADDINGTON.

CASE-PAPER No. 8.

F. AND M. A. T. (Married).

AGES.—Husband, 41. Wife, 46.

EARNINGS.—Husband, actual, ; normal, 22s. 6d. Horsekeeper for the last sixteen years with Pickford & Co. Hand-sewn boot-and-shoemaker by trade. Wife, none.

HEALTH.—Husband, good. Wife, looks starved and ill.

CHARACTERS.—Respectable and steady. Got a good report from labour colony. Wife, decent, respectable woman.

CHILDREN.—Maud (12). Thomas (11). Frederick (9). Mary Ann (3). George (12 months). Son (18), earns 12s., goes with van for Pickford & Co. Daughter in service, aged 16.

HOUSING.—Live in two rooms, first floor back and front. Good neighbourhood. Weekly rent, 7s. 6d. Eight inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Entrance passage and stairs beautifully clean. Room clean and comfortable. Furniture good.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Relief in labour yard, September and October, 1907. Order for workhouse, November, 1907.

Other Help.—Groceries and coal from church. Wife's brother and sister now paying rent.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help. Father and mother at Eye in Suffolk. The father worked for thirty years for one farmer. He is now living on 5s. pension from his club.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Out of work.

GENERAL REMARKS.

November, 1907.—Most respectable family. Mr. T. is a hand-sewn boot-and-shoemaker by trade. Mrs. T. was in service before marriage. The family moved from Eye in Suffolk to London sixteen years ago. They came to London at the suggestion of a relative who lived there and was doing well. Trade was bad at Eye and it was Mr. T.'s intention to join the London Police Force. They broke up their comfortable home without making any inquiries as to the probability of his gaining admittance to the force, only to learn when too late, that he was not tall enough. They had "saved a few pounds" before coming to London, and he thought himself "a man with money in his pocket." Such a thing as being unable to find work never once entered his head. Soon all their money was used up and they had a hard time. He could not find employment in his own trade, and finally got work with the Midland Railway Company as a horsekeeper. He worked there five years and left to better himself by going to Pickfords. He worked for this firm for nine years. He left them last April without giving notice. His work was changed to the City Basin Depôt, and he had to be there by 4 a.m. Before reaching his work he had a five-mile walk. He tried to find rooms nearer the City Basin, but could not get them on account of having so many children. He would now return to this work with all its drawbacks, but Pickford's will not reinstate him. They give him a good character, but never re-employ a person who has once left their service. During the time he worked for Pickford's he saved £7. Mr. T. suggested that he should go into the workhouse while his family were helped outside, but the guardians would not allow this. He felt that he could not take his wife and children into such surroundings and break up his home.

The home and the children are nicely cared for. Mrs. T. and the children looked pinched and emaciated. Mr. T. looks fit for work. He was at the Farnbridge Labour Colony in June fourteen weeks and got a good report. The change did his health and spirits good, and the family were comfortably off during his absence, receiving 16s. 6d. per week. But he has had no work since his return home. He is unhappy and discouraged at his enforced idleness. They are selling and pawning their furniture, etc., to live.

February, 1908.—Have left the address where I visited them in November, and are now living in the basement of a house, and are thus saving 1s. per week in rent. The rooms are dark and it is an undesirable place in which to bring up a family. There is no suggestion of dirt or squalor in connection with this family. Mrs. T. and her baby bear special marks of deprivation, but there is no loss of respectability or self-respect. Although all the members of the family looked pinched, and must have endured great hardships and deprivations, that fatalistic hopelessness which

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is to be found in most of the persons in their position was lacking. I attribute this entirely to the advice and encouragement of the almoner in connection with the church which they attend. They have had but little material help from him, but he has been a tower of strength to them in other ways, and through his sympathy they have kept on striving to make the best of things. At his suggestion, Mr. T. is endeavouring to start in business for himself as a boot and shoe repairer. Last week he earned 6s., and as he gets better known, he hopes to be able to make a living.

PARISH OF PADDINGTON

CASE-PAPER No. 9.

S. G. AND H. H. S. (Married).

AGES.—Husband, 33. Wife, 33.

EARNINGS.—Husband, actual, 8s. last week, two days work; normal, 26s. Carman, Messrs. Broad, contractors. Wife, none. Owe a lot for rent, and have other debts.

HEALTH.—Husband, good. Wife, ill and emaciated.

CHARACTERS.—Husband, good. Wife, good.

CHILDREN.—Frank Walter (10). William Thomas (4). Frederick (2). Rose (6 months). Children bear traces of starvation.

HOUSING.—Live in one room, first floor front. Poor neighbourhood. Weekly rent, 4s. 6d. Six inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Typical slum property in a dirty street. Stairs and approach to room filthy. No latch on door. Small in room unbearable.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Dispensary Order for children, December, 1898. Relief in labour yard, February, 1899. Order for workhouse. Relief in labour yard, 2s. 0½d. Home Order for child, Frederick. Nourishment, value 2s. Temporary relief, value 3s. Temporary relief, value 12s. 11d. Temporary relief, value 12s. 11d. Relief labour yard, 10s. 10½d. Relief labour yard, 14s. 11½d. Relief labour yard, 6s. 1½d. November, December, 1907.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—Mrs. Powell, Clarendon Street. Mrs. S.'s mother. She is a widow, and too poor to assist, but is a most respectable woman.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Want of work.

GENERAL REMARKS.

November, 1907.—Mr. S. lost his work through an accident happening to the van for which he was responsible, though the accident does not seem to have been his fault. He had worked for the same firm for three years. Mrs. S. was in domestic service before marriage, and lived in good places. Both she and her husband are Londoners. Filthy, poverty-stricken home. Mrs. S. is evidently ill. She and the children looked deplorable. Frank Walter (10) was at home from school minding the baby. Mrs. S. explained that she felt so ill herself that she was obliged to keep him from school "to hold the baby." Mrs. S. hopes that her husband will get reinstated with his old employers. The room contained one large bed and a crib, but there were no blankets or other bed-clothes on them. Walter had been to the house of a widowed aunt, who supports herself and family with a mangle, to see if she could do anything for them. As Mrs. S. explained, "she is very poor herself." She had however sent them two-pennyworth of coal and 2d. to buy some bread with. If they went into the workhouse they would be no better off because her husband could not look for work and he might miss the chance of a job. I suggested that it would be better to do so for the sake of herself and the children, but she replied that nothing would induce her to go there. "If I've got to die, and I feel like it, I would rather die outside."

February, 1908.—This family has been relieved seven times since my previous visit. Mr. S. has had odd days of work. The money he has earned has been chiefly given to the landlord. Things seem in even a more deplorable condition than in November. Mrs. S. looks terribly wasted and ill and has a nasty hacking cough, and the children look more puny and starved and will probably bear traces of this prolonged period of deprivation all their lives. Everything has been parted with that they could raise money on and there is not even a cup and saucer remaining. Mrs. S. was making a shirt, by hand, for a neighbour, and would receive 2d. for it when it was finished. She had written to her husband's late employers, and showed me the reply to her note, in which they promise to re-employ him when they have a vacancy. He also constantly calls at the business premises to see if there is the chance of a job either temporary or permanent.

PARISH OF PADDINGTON.

CASE-PAPER No. 10.

W. J. AND F. H. (Married).

AGES.—Husband, 36. Wife, 33.

EARNINGS.—Husband, actual ; normal, 23s. to 26s. Carman. Has had no permanent work since 1905. Was thrown out of work then on account of his employer closing his business. Wife, actual, 10s. last week; normal, 2s. 6d. to 5s. Charing. Owe £2 rent.

HEALTH.—Husband, good. Wife, pregnant.

CHARACTERS.—Husband, unsteady when in work. Wife, good, very industrious.

CHILDREN.—Alice Louisa (12). Fred C. William (10). William Walter (7). Florence Clara (2). baby (10 days).

HOUSING.—Live in two rooms; front and back room on ground floor, in two adjoining houses. Poor neighbourhood. Weekly rent, 6s. Seven inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Street narrow, squalid and dirty. General outside appearance of houses, squalid and dirty. Mrs. H.'s rooms are clean, with comfortable furniture.

POOR RELIEF GRANTED.—Relief in labour yard, June, July, August, 1905; and January, February, March, October, 1907. Order for workhouse, November, 1907.

Other Help.—Maternity note from lady for whom Mrs. H. cares, February, 1908.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Out of work.

GENERAL REMARKS.

November, 1907.—Mr. H. is a good labourer but drinks when he is earning money. When he is out of work and earning no money he is steady. Up to 1905 when the business closed in which he had been employed for many years he seems to have had regular work. Mr. H. was born in a house in the street where they now live. Mrs. H. is a superior woman. She was a shirt ironer before she was married and earned 20s. per week. Her people were "better class" than her husband's and came up to London from Berkshire. Mrs. H. wishes that her husband would go into the workhouse and take the boys with him. But she would not go herself, or let her girls go. If he would go away with the boys she could manage. This family occupies two rooms which are in different houses, though the houses are next door to each other. The husband pays 3s. 6d. per week for the room he occupies with the boys, and owes £2 rent. Mrs. H. pays 2s. 6d. per week for her room and owes no rent. She goes out charing, and earned 10s. last week, as the lady she works for was changing houses. The work was really too heavy for her to do in her present condition, but she had no choice but to take it. When she goes out to work, she saves most of the food provided for her, and her employer allows her to take it home, where she shares it with her children. Mrs. H. looked weak and ill and is expecting to be confined shortly.

February, 1908.—Mr. H.'s being out of work has caused Mrs. H. to be working unusually hard during periods of childbearing, when she ought to have been devoting her time and energy to her home. She was extremely ill at her confinement, ten days ago, when twin boys were born. One had been dead several days before birth. The doctor considers that she suffered unduly on account of being overworked. She is ill and is not allowed to get up yet. She had no blankets on her bed, but had redeemed a pair of sheets from pawn. The nurse visits her daily. Mr. H. has had work for about five weeks, and his wife hopes that it may be permanent. He is earning from 18s. to 20s. a week. If he does a full day's work he receives 4s.; but some days there is only half-a-day's work to be done, and he is paid accordingly.

PARISH OF PADDINGTON.

CASE-PAPER No. 11.

C. AND C. H. (Married).

AGES.—Husband, 54. Wife, 45.

EARNINGS.—Husband, nil. Dock labourer, formerly a steward on a river steamer. Wife, none.

HEALTH.—Husband, bad. Wife, bad.

CHARACTERS.—Husband, unsatisfactory. Wife, unsatisfactory.

CHILDREN.—Annie (13). Daisy (10). Florence (3). Rosina (22), in service. Lily (20), in service. Charles (16), undergardener, earns 9s.

HOUSING.—Live in two rooms, first floor front and back. Good neighbourhood. Weekly rent, 6s. Five inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Entrance passage and stairs fairly clean. Was not allowed to go into rooms.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Relief given for varying periods:—Food, infirmary orders, nourishment, children in Poor Law schools, workhouse and infirmary orders, dispensary orders, October, November, 1896; May, June, July, August, September, 1897; March, May, June, July, August, September, October, December, 1898; January, February, March, April, May, June, 1899; June, October, November, 1906; January, February, April, August, October, November, 1907; January, 1908.

Other Help.—Daughters in service help as much as possible. At one time family lived on Lily's savings. These are all used up now.

Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Out of work and ill.

GENERAL REMARKS.

November, 1907.—Mr. H. was a steward on the river steamers when he married in 1884. His wife was in domestic service before marriage. In 1897 he obtained work at the docks, and has done casual work ever since, with the exception of a short period when the family moved to Norfolk. But Mr. H. could not manage agricultural work, and the family soon returned to London, being London born and bred. This family have been coming to the guardians for relief on and off since October, 1896. Mr. H. opened the street door for me, and did not wish me to enter the house. However, I went upstairs to the door of their rooms, but was not allowed to go in. At first Mrs. H. greatly resented my visit, and asked me: "What business I had to intrude on their privacy?" They have no friends and the children do not go to Sunday school, and none of the family ever go to church or chapel. Mrs. H. told me that her daughters who are in service are very good to them, but she hates taking their money. They work so hard and it seems unfair to make them give up their earnings to pay rent, etc. In spite of all the degradation this family have been through, I felt there were the germs of better things still left in Mrs. H., and even now she would respond, if someone could give her a helping hand. That she is ill and starved there can be no question, and she is crushed and broken-spirited by all she has endured and is enduring. Her attempted suicide in 1896 was her last struggle for respectability. She felt she could endure things no longer then; now she accepts her fate.

February, 1908.—Mrs. H. asked me into her room. It was practically bare. A filthy feather bed and pillows lay on the floor. There was no bedstead. The furniture, which had been purchased on the hire system, had been seized, as they had been unable to keep up the payments. Rosina is at home, and has been out of a place for six weeks. Mr. H. is ill, and could not do a day's work; the doctor says one lung has completely gone. Mrs. H. would like to go into the workhouse for the sake of the children, but her husband will not consent to do so, and the guardians will not take her and the children unless Mr. H. goes also. They are continually turned out of their rooms, owing to non-payment of rent, and have to leave these, where they have been living for two weeks, on Saturday.

This case is of special interest on account of its history, which is related in Appendix B. In studying this record the question arises: Has the present method of the Poor Law administration acted as a deterrent and made poverty obnoxious, or has it not (in spite of considerable expense), allowed a second generation of untrained and neglected persons to grow up, which very likely will in its turn become chargeable? It will be seen that this family came to the guardians for the first time on October 31st, 1896. In December, 1896, the wife attempted suicide. In August, 1898, she was committed to prison for drunkenness, and in March, 1899, was again locked up for being drunk. In April, 1899, the husband was committed to prison for one month for neglecting to maintain his family, etc. If it had been possible to take stringent curative measures with these persons when they first applied to the guardians for help, is it not probable that in 1907 they would have been respectable and self-supporting? Instead of this, the very means for deterrent which have been ineffective for eleven years are still being applied in 1908, and the family practically remains in the same unsatisfactory position. In the meantime, the children have been living through their most impressionable years amid sordid surroundings, and now when two of the daughters are in service and ought to be saving for their own old age and making provision against sickness, their money is used to help to maintain a poor and degraded home.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

HACKNEY UNION.

The clerk informed me that an able-bodied applicant is generally relieved temporarily with food for one week. If, however, a second application were made, an order for the house is given, but the applicants know "the policy of the board" and rarely apply for relief two weeks in succession. He considered that the temporary relief had the effect of satisfying the applicant, and often they were not heard of again. The amount of out-relief, when given, is small. For a widow, or person living alone, it usually consists of 2s. 6d. or 3s. in money, and two loaves of bread a week, value 6d. The relieving officers assured me that they always ascertained that some person would be responsible for the rent of the applicant before relief were given. Either the sons of the applicant promised to pay it, or some charitable person.

There are ten relieving officers in this union, each for a separate district. In several of the districts there had been no refusal of relief for many weeks, and in one not for three months.

The chairman has been a member of the Hackney Board for thirteen years and possesses a thorough and intimate acquaintance with the people in the district, where he has lived and worked for twenty-one years. He is also on the committee of the local branch of the Charity Organisation Society, and spoke warmly of the help which this organisation had often given him. Speaking of the work of the board he stated that the particulars which the relieving officers were compelled to obtain regarding each case which came on the books were inadequate and wanted revising. But if the books were revised and the Local Government Board demanded fuller information, this would double the work in connection with the board and would necessitate increasing their present staff of relieving officers in order to do the work thoroughly. He thought, however, that it would be worth while to do this. He considers an "Order for the House" no test. If it is accepted there is no proper classification inside to enable the guardians to deal efficiently with the idle and worthless and it is unsatisfactory to herd this class of persons in large houses—in large towns or cities—where it is impossible to provide them with suitable employment. He would advocate labour colonies with powers of detention, and if a man did not work neither should he eat. He felt strongly that greater powers are necessary for dealing with this class of person. He also stated that he considered that drink played an important part in the poverty of the district; but who could wonder when one knew the squalid surroundings of the population and saw that all the attractive buildings in the neighbourhood were public-houses? He gave a deplorable picture of life *inside* the workhouse, where the want of classification and the number of inmates made it almost impossible to rectify it. In speaking of widows left with young children, he felt that it was impossible for them to bring up their families respectably without adequate assistance, and that in the present state of affairs if a woman loses her husband she and her children are practically penalised for their misfortune. The woman often goes under in the impossible task of trying to support them; for she has to be both breadwinner and housewife. In the first place women's unskilled work is badly paid, and then if she is out at work all day her home and children are neglected and she soon gets discouraged and depressed.

The population of the union is 285,476, and the proportion of paupers is 29 per 1,000 of the population.

The twelve cases visited may be classified:—

- 4 widows without children dependent.
- 1 widow with one child dependent.
- 2 widowers without children dependent.
- 1 married couple without children dependent.
- 1 deserted woman with children.
- 2 unmarried men who have cohabited with the same woman for a number of years.
- 1 single able-bodied man.

On visiting these twelve cases for the last time it was found that:—

- 3 were in the workhouse.
- 7 were living in homes of their own with uncertain incomes.
- 1 was dead.
- 1 had left the address she was living at when application for relief was made, and could not be found.

HACKNEY UNION.

CASE-PAPER No. 12.

E. L. (Widow).

AGE.—74.

EARNINGS.—None. Charwoman. Owes some rent.

HEALTH.—Infir.

CHARACTER.—Steady.

CHILDREN.—Son (30), shop porter, out of work since March, 1907, has done odd jobs, earned 2s. 6d. last week, thoroughly idle. Dorothy (34), artificial florist, earns 10s. to 12s. per week in the season, only earned 4s. last week, has "fits" and, on this account, is often obliged to be away from work. Susan Gammon, married, with four children, husband, French polisher, out of work. S. G. and one daughter are artificial flower-makers. Julia Tidmarsh (40), married, no children, husband, cab driver. Say they cannot help E. L. The "taxi" cabs are ruining their business.

HOUSING.—Lives in one room, second floor front. Fair neighbourhood. Rent, 5s. weekly. Three inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Clean and tidy room, passage and staircase clean, furniture poor. Only the one bed for mother, daughter and son.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for workhouse, November, 1907.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Unable to work to support herself.

GENERAL REMARKS.

December, 1907.—Was left a widow over thirty years ago. Her husband was a baker, and when he died left her with a family of six children to bring up. Mrs. L. went out charing and managed to keep them on what she earned. She did this without any help from the parish. Two of the children are now dead. Mrs. L. is a decent old woman, and if it were not for the idle son who is at home, and the unsuitable conditions under which they are living and sleeping, she would have been allowed relief. The daughter has "fits," and is always an out-patient at the Epileptic Hospital in Queen's Square. She has been an in-patient, but the doctors say they can do nothing for her. Mrs. L. feels that it is a "great shame" that the guardians refuse to help her, when she brought up all her children without their assistance.

February, 1908.—Circumstances much the same. The son is still out of work, and Mrs. L. is too feeble to go out charing. The son has been working at the Church Army Labour Yard, but they say they can do nothing more for him. He looks fat and well, but is thoroughly idle, and was wearing a good suit of clothes. He was sitting over the fire when I called at 10 a.m. and was making no effort, as far as I could judge, to find employment. Mrs. L. is worn and anxious, and does not know what she is to do next. They have sold and pawned most of their things.

HACKNEY UNION.

CASE-PAPER No. 13.

I. M. (Widow).

AGE.—68.

EARNINGS.—Actual, none. Normal, 3s. to 4s. Chars and sews.

HEALTH.—Poor. Suffers from bronchitis, which makes her breathing difficult.

CHARACTER.—Good.

CHILDREN.—Emma Newinan (47), husband, letter sorter, no children. Mother goes there every Monday to help wash, and they give her 2s. Louisa Pollard (45), widow, dependent on her own children.

HOUSING.—Lives in one room, fourth floor back. Good neighbourhood, main street, and on tram-line route. Rent, 3s. weekly. One inmate.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Room beautifully neat and clean. Bed linen clean. The cupboard door stood a little ajar, and I could see that the shelves were neatly lined with newspaper, and the things tidily arranged on them.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Had 2s. 6d. per week out-relief in Shoreditch for over three years. Applied for help in this union, November, 1907. Recommended to return to Shoreditch Parish.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Cannot support herself entirely. People like younger women to char for them. She cannot go up and down stairs easily, on account of shortness of breath.

GENERAL REMARKS.

December, 1907.—Husband died in Shoreditch Infirmary. He was a watchmaker, but his trade died out with the advent of machine-made watches. Mrs. M. was a "widow's weeds" maker before her marriage. She is a clean respectable woman. At one period of her life she saved money, but that has long since been used up. Her husband had a stroke six years before his death. He became an inmate of the Shoreditch Workhouse Infirmary so as not to be a burden on his wife. They talked things carefully over when he became paralysed, and he thought that by going away from home he would help her the most, as she could not nurse him and at the same time earn money. After he had gone she tried to take up her old trade, but found that it had died out, and so she went out charing, and took in sewing. Mrs. M. has had 2s. 6d. out-relief for the last three years in the Shoreditch Union. But she had to leave her room there, because her landlady required it for a daughter who had just married, so she came to the room she is now living in. It was a great surprise to her when she found that she could not have relief from the Shoreditch Guardians because she was just outside their parish. Then she applied to the Hackney Guardians and found they could not relieve her because she did not belong to them.

February, 1908.—Circumstances remain unchanged since my previous visit. Mrs. M. looked ill and her breathing was bad. She told me that she had had a sharp attack of bronchitis. Mrs. M. and her room were beautifully clean. She has earned a few coppers by doing a bit of sewing since my last visit. But she keeps "herself to herself" and none of the other inmates in the house know how badly she is off.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

HACKNEY UNION.

CASE-PAPER No. 4.

E. E. (Widow).

AGE.—45.

EARNINGS.—Actual 8s. Chars.

HEALTH.—Good.

CHARACTER.—Very unsatisfactory.

CHILDREN.—Mary Ann (27), with illegitimate child. George (25), out of work. John (19), has epileptic fits, hawks, earns 2s. 6d. Joseph (16), ropemaker. Harry (7½).

HOUSING.—Lives in two-roomed self-contained cottage. Bad neighbourhood. Rent, 5s. 6d. weekly. Seven inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—House has been condemned.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for the workhouse, October, 1907, Novem' er, 1907.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Short of work.

GENERAL REMARKS.

December, 1907.—I could not find this woman. She had left the address given to the relieving officer when making her last application for relief. The relieving officer tried to trace her for me but was unable to do so. She applied to the Charity Organisation Society for help in May, 1906. After careful inquiries had been made the case was marked "unsuitable." At the last interview, Mrs. E. was told that her children ought to be supporting her, and replied that the relieving officer had told her the same thing. She stated that her age was 51 when applying to the Charity Organisation Society, but told the relieving officer that it was 45.

February, 1908.—Nothing further has been heard of this woman, and I cannot trace her.

HACKNEY UNION.

CASE-PAPER No. 15.

C. J. (Widow).

AGE.—66.

EARNINGS.—None. Charwoman.

HEALTH.—Bad throat.

CHARACTER.—Not steady.

CHILDREN.—None.

HOUSING.—Lives with granddaughter, who is a costermonger, and whose husband is a painter. Poor neighbourhood.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Street, and houses in it are filthy. Slum property. Many of the houses are empty. Granddaughter and her children are very dirty.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for the workhouse infirmary, November, 1907. Has been in the workhouse before. Took her discharge from infirmary, January 19th, 1908. Died, February, 1908.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Illness.

GENERAL REMARKS.

December, 1907.—This woman has not been steady. She is now ill with a serious throat trouble, and had gone into the workhouse infirmary when I called to see her.

February, 1908.—Mrs. J. took her discharge from the workhouse on January 19th, 1908. She was to have been moved to Brentford, but fretted and cried so much when she knew she was to go so far from her granddaughter that her granddaughter had her home again. She died a day or two before I called the second time.

HACKNEY UNION.

CASE-PAPER No. 16.

M. I. (Widow).

AGE.—56.

EARNINGS.—None. Used to have a laundry.

HEALTH.—Had a stroke. Now suffers from partial paralysis.

CHARACTER.—Unsatisfactory.

CHILDREN.—Fred George (35), shop porter, earns 17s., pays 12s. for board and lodgings. Henry (33), coach painter's labourer, out of work, idle and will not work, at present time in workhouse. Emily (17), in screw factory, earns 6s., pays 5s. 6d. for board and lodgings. Charles (14), barber's boy, is lame, earns 4s. William (34), single, baker, often becomes chargeable, has had both indoor and outdoor relief, very unsteady. Albert (23), labourer, lodges with a maternal aunt, not seen for twelve months. Leonard (22), labourer, cohabiting with a woman.

HOUSING.—Lives in three rooms in model dwellings, first floor back. Poor neighbourhood. Rent 8s. weekly. Five inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Fairly clean; furniture poor, and very little of it.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for the workhouse, November, 1907. This woman has had relief in one form and another for the last ten years.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Cannot go out to work on account of partial paralysis.

GENERAL REMARKS.

December, 1907.—Mrs. I. has been in the workhouse several times and has had relief many times. She applied for help to the Charity Organisation Society in 1894. Her husband was then alive, but was ill with consumption. He was a baker by trade, and the family seem to have been respectable at this period. After her husband's death, she was provided with a mangle by the Charity Organisation Society, and a note is made on the Case-Paper to the effect that she was a deserving case, but since that date she seems to have steadily deteriorated. She told me that "some friends" had given her a mangle when she was left a widow, but she was sorry to say she had sold it. In 1903, the Charity Organisation Society was again applied to; this time it was a surgical boot for Charles which was required. It was provided on the understanding that small regular payments were to be made for it. These were paid under much pressure up to September, 1904, when they ceased. In April, 1905, a new surgical boot was asked for at the Metropolitan Hospital, and the almoner in connection with this institution reported the matter to the Charity Organisation Society. Charles (14), who is a barber's boy, has paralysed toes, and for this reason, he requires a special boot. The paralysis was caused by an accident which he met with while playing in the street. Fred G., who is industrious, will not live in the same house any longer with Henry, so the latter was turned out this week, and is now in the workhouse. Emily (17), has a wretched physique, and looks both under-fed and under-clothed. She has tried being in service, but is ill, and always has to return home before her first month is up. This is a most unsatisfactory family.

February, 1908.—Circumstances unchanged, with the exception that two sons William (34), and Henry (33), (see Case-paper No. 23), are now in the workhouse. Mrs. I. has again applied for out-relief, which has been refused. She is living in the Islington Union, but has no settlement there.

HACKNEY UNION.

CASE-PAPER No. 17.

S. P. (Widower).

AGE.—73.

EARNINGS.—Tooth-brush worker.

HEALTH.—Infirm and bronchial.

CHARACTER.—Steady and respectable.

CHILDREN.—Samuel (46), bone brush worker, married, with one child, works at home, and S. P. assists him, makes tooth-brush handles, and is paid 4s. a gross, earned 12s. last week. Esther Marshall, married, with four children. Sarah Durvin, married, with twelve children. Henry (46), married, with six children, carman.

HOUSING.—Lives in one room, first floor front. Good street of newly-built houses. Weekly rent, 3s. 6d. One inmate.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Outside appearance of house very respectable. Inside the passage and stairs were very dirty, and the room was dirty, but comfortably furnished.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—2s. 6d. per week, with tea, sugar and rice for two and a half years, from 1903 to October, 1906. Order for the workhouse, November, 1907. Adm'tted to workhouse, January, 1908.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Old age and unfit to work.

GENERAL REMARKS.

December, 1907.—S. P. was in receipt of out-relief for some two and a-half years. In October, 1906, he applied for an admission order to the workhouse, because his son was out of work, but he never used it. On this application being made the out-relief was discontinued. When a new application was made for out-relief in November, 1907, the relieving officer went carefully into the case, and came to the conclusion that S. P. earned enough by his work to support himself, and that under any circumstances his son was in a position to provide for him, so an order for the workhouse was given. S. P. seemed a decent old man and was wearing a good suit of clothes. He is very deaf, and for this reason I was unable to obtain any particulars from him regarding his previous life and work. He said that he was very badly off, and that he could not now earn enough to keep himself, "as his breathing was so bad." His son cannot afford to keep him either, as work is short and he earns so little. He cried quietly as he talked to me and seemed greatly concerned as to how he was to exist. The room I saw contained a large bed, with plenty of bed clothes, and was comfortably furnished. A small lathe was fixed close to one of the windows, and a quantity of tooth-brush handles in an unfinished state were lying in a bowl of water on a small table. S. P. stated that he paid the rent for this room. I should, however (judging from appearances), think that it was used by the whole family. A good fire was burning in the grate and the tone of the place gave one the idea of comfort. There was certainly no outward sign of poverty. The furniture was modern and fairly new, and seemed more like the property of a recently married couple than that which would belong to an old man. The son rents a small room at the back of the house. As I passed the door, which stood ajar, I noticed that he was working at his trade and his wife was helping.

February, 1908.—S. P. applied for an admission order to the workhouse on January 21st, and is now an inmate.

HACKNEY UNION.

CASE-PAPER, No. 18.

J. H. (Widower).

AGE.—66.

EARNINGS.—Actual, 5s. Jobbing gardener. Owes three weeks rent.

HEALTH.—States he is epileptic.

CHARACTER.—Quarrelsome man, children will not live with him.

CHILDREN.—Herbert (32), single, labourer, out of work. Percy (24), single, works at coffee-stall, earns 14s. George (36), married, with four children. Frederick (26), single, works at fur factory. Alfred (30), single, labourer, address not known. James (30), widower, in Canada. Frank (18), single, barber's assistant. Gertrude (28), married, dressmaker, address not known.

HOUSING.—Lives in three rooms, tenement dwelling, third floor. Fair neighbourhood. Weekly rent, 7s. 6d. Three inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Rooms tidy and fairly clean. Good furniture. Steps leading to dwelling dirty.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for the workhouse, November 26th, 1907. Bread, tea, sugar and rice, value 8d. January 4th, 25th, February 1st, 1908.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Sons refuse to help, and cannot support himself.

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GENERAL REMARKS.

December, 1907.—J. H. was away doing a day's work when I called. An idle-looking man opened the door. I took him to be one of J. H.'s sons, but he would not own to the relationship, and said that he was out of work, but lodged there.

February, 1908.—J. H. has no work, and his sons who live with him are both out of employment. J. H. worked at the Abney Park Cemetery for twenty-six years, but had a disagreement with the head man, and was discharged at a moment's notice. He is not allowed even to enter the cemetery, although his wife and daughter are buried there. Latterly he has earned an uncertain living as a jobbing gardener.

He is neat and tidy in appearance, and looks more like a gentleman's servant than a jobbing gardener. He was full of complaints against his children, who are "all worthless," and whose duty it is to keep him in his old age. He is specially bitter against his daughter, Gertrude, who has recently married, and who ought to have worked to support him. He made a great point of having "fits," which make him unequal for work. He is evidently a good hand at begging, and goes to four different places of worship every Sunday, and when everything else fails, applies to the Salvation Army, because "he helped bury Mrs. Booth." He begged from me, and followed me down the steps of the dwellings and up the street asking for at "least 2d. to buy a bit of bread with." From his conversation, I should judge that his mental balance is not very stable, and he will probably end in an asylum.

HACKNEY UNION.

CASE-PAPER No. 19.

W. AND J. K.

AGES.—Husband, 68. Wife, 47.

EARNINGS.—Husband, nil. Bricklayer's labourer. Wife, actual, 2s. 6d.; normal, 4s. to 5s. Chars and does needle-work. Owns property, which is valued at 16s. per week, less rates and taxes.

HEALTH.—Husband, lame, infirm and bronchial. Wife, good.

CHARACTERS.—Husband, good. Wife, good.

CHILDREN.—Charles (26), travels with a circus. Has not been heard of for three years. Got a decent wife, but is a very bad husband.

HOUSING.—Live in one room, top storey front. Main street on tram route. Weekly rent, 4s. 6d. Two inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Comfortably furnished, but thoroughly dirty and untidy. Passages and stairs leading to room clean and wholesome.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Had relief, both inside and out, for the last four years. Applied for renewal of relief, November 26th, 1907. Refused pending inquiries re wife's property.

Other Help.—None.

Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—W. K. is ill and cannot work.

GENERAL REMARKS.

December, 1907.—A decent old man, who has had relief both in the workhouse and in his own home for the last four years. Relief was stopped November 26th, 1907, because the relieving officer became aware that Mrs. K. had property which was valued at 16s. weekly, less rates and taxes. The relieving officer is making further inquiries with a view to prosecution. W. K. is very sickly and infirm. He has been a teetotaler for over twenty years. He started work as a chimney sweep when seven years old, and used to go up the chimneys. Then he became a bricklayer's labourer and was never out of a job until he met with an accident in saving a child from being run over. He picked up the child from under the horse's feet, and then slipped in trying to regain the footpath, and hurt his knee against the kerbstone. The knee cap was displaced, and he has never been able to go up ladders, etc., since. His first wife drank heavily and he had a miserable home; eventually she deserted him. Now he is in great trouble on account of his relief having been stopped. He had no idea that his wife had money for she had never told him anything about it, and he never asked her about her "private affairs." He said how good this wife is to him, and what care she takes of him.

February, 1908.—The guardians have decided not to prosecute in this case. W. K. has been very ill since my previous visit, and is now in the Bethnal Green Hospital. He is suffering greatly from the injury to his knee, and had been taken to the hospital the day I called to see him. I have made inquiries about this man in several places, and every one agrees that he is respectable and worthy. He has attended the local P.S.A. for many years. This has brought him friends who have visited him several times a week since he became ill. He has also attended a class which is held on Thursday afternoons for twenty-four old men. After the class they have a cup of tea and a piece of bread and butter, and are given half-an-ounce of tobacco to take home with them.

Mrs. K. applied for medical relief for her husband on December 21st, 1907, but it was refused.

HACKNEY UNION.

CASE-PAPER, No. 20.

A. T. (Deserted Wife).

AGE.—26.

EARNINGS.—Actual, 1s. 6d.; normal, 8s. to 10s. in the season. Presser in an underclothing factory. Owes three weeks' rent.

HEALTH.—Good.

CHARACTER.—Good.

CHILDREN.—George (4). Charles (3). Albert (9) months.

HOUSING.—Lives in one room, first floor back. Fair neighbourhood. Weekly rent, 3s. Four inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Very little furniture. Room fairly clean.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for the workhouse, November, 26th, 1907. Medical relief for child. Went into workhouse, December 5th, 1907, and remained there seven weeks, while guardians endeavoured to find her husband.

Other Help.—None.

Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—On account of desertion by husband. He is an overmantel maker.

GENERAL REMARKS.

December, 1907.—Mrs. T. and her husband applied to the Charity Organisation Society for help in July, 1906. It is stated on their case-paper that they "are a very nice respectable couple." They were advised to apply to the relieving officer for help and at the same time to enter the man's name at the Labour Bureau as being out of work. Shortly after this Mrs. T. was deserted. She entered Shoreditch Workhouse in October, 1906, and remained there until March, 1907. During this period her baby was born. Two of the children go to a day home, and get most of their food there. Their mother pays 1s. per week for each child. She is out of work at the present time, and is very hard pressed. Charles (3) is ill in bed, and Mrs. T. is in receipt of medical relief for him. Her landlady is very good to her, if this were not the case it would be impossible for her to manage. The matron at the day home considers Mrs. T. a most respectable woman and stated that the money for the children is paid with the greatest regularity. Mrs. T. says she will not go into the workhouse. "She could not eat the breakfast of gruel and dry bread."

February, 1908.—Mrs. T. and her children have been in the workhouse for seven weeks since my previous visit. They remained there while the guardians endeavoured to find her husband. She is now in work again as a "presser." Her landlady seems to have been a mother to her, and to have helped her all through. She took care of her furniture while she was in the workhouse, and since Mrs. T.'s discharge from the workhouse, has got the lady, whose mother's meeting she attends, interested in Mrs. T.'s children, and two of them, the oldest and the baby, have been sent to Dr. Barnardo's Home. So Mrs. T. has only one child with her. The landlady told me that Mr. T. was a very superior man and she never thought that he would have deserted his wife and children, but being out of work preyed on his mind, and she thinks that he must have enlisted as a soldier. They had a comfortable home once, but most of the things were pawned and sold before Mrs. T. was deserted.

HACKNEY UNION.

CASE-PAPER, No. 21.

S. AND E. O.

AGES.—S. O., 68. E. S., 55. Cohabited for fourteen years; married, December, 1907.

EARNINGS.—Husband, actual, 1s. 9d. Night watchman and hawker now, used to be a labourer for the London County Council. Wife, actual, 2s. 6d. Chars, hawks, or minds children.

HEALTH.—Husband, very feeble. Wife, good.

CHARACTERS.—Husband, steady man. Wife, "seems all right."

CHILDREN.—None.

HOUSING.—Live in one room, ground floor. Fair neighbourhood. A tiny bit of garden, but it is practically useless. Weekly rent, 2s. 6d. Two inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Room fairly clean, but poorly furnished. Bed clothes clean, but no blankets.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for the workhouse, November 26th, 1907. Temporary relief, to the value of 1s. 9d. was given for several weeks from end of November to end of December, 1907. Out-relief, value 4s. in money and 8d. in kind, December 28th, 1907. Wife admitted to workhouse infirmary, February 15th, 1908.

Other Help.—None.

Relatives (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Cannot earn sufficient to support themselves.

GENERAL REMARKS.

December, 1907.—This couple were in the receipt of out-relief when it was discovered that they were not married, so the relief was stopped, and they were told to get married and the guardians would then see what could be done for them. The home is poor, though fairly clean. The woman is garrulous, and her story sounds plausible, though I doubt her veracity. She had got a soup ticket, and was just going with a couple of jugs to fetch soup when I called. I should judge that she is of a low type, and quite used to begging. She frequents a church mission in the neighbourhood, and at the instigation of the persons who work this mission, is to be married shortly.

February, 1908.—These people were married by a Church of England clergyman free of charge in December, 1907. He also gave them 2s. 6d. to pay their first week's rent. Out-relief to the amount of 4s. per week in money and 8d. in kind was granted them on December 28th. On February 15th, Mrs. O. was found drunk in the street, with a broken ankle. She is now in the workhouse infirmary. Mr. O. was at home when I called. He is a poor feeble old man, and greatly upset about his wife's accident. He assured me they never bought beer, they could not afford to do so. That his wife had had nothing to eat all day, and when a friend gave her a drink it upset her, and she fell down and hurt her ankle. The accident occurred on a Saturday night about twelve o'clock. When she can take her discharge from the workhouse infirmary, she is to appear before the magistrates charged with being drunk and disorderly. Mr. O. is evidently past work. He has never been out of work. For years he has been employed by the London County Council as a labourer, and was taken over with other men when the council was formed. Latterly he has done "watching" for them, but now he is not strong enough for even this, and rarely gets a job. He keeps a dog, and told me that he had paid no tax for it. It looked starved. His wife has been earning 3s. per week lately by minding a child. He is now taking care of it, as he has nothing else to do, and they will be glad of the money when she returns home.

HACKNEY UNION.

CASE-PAPER No. 22.

W. S. (Unmarried).

(Cohabited with a woman for fifty years).

AGE.—67.

EARNINGS.—Actual, 4s. 6d. to 5s. Boot-finisher.

HEALTH.—Fair.

CHARACTER.—Steady.

CHILDREN.—John Thomas, Royal Marines. James, a soldier. First daughter, widow, has four children. Second daughter, married, husband, cabinet-maker, have seven children. Third daughter, married, husband, shoemaker, have five children. Fourth daughter, married, husband, engineer's labourer, have four children.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

HOUSING.—Lives in one room. Very poor neighbourhood. Rent, 2s. 6d. weekly. One inmate.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—From 1904 out-relief, 3s. 6d. in money and 8d. in kind. This was given for two and a half years. Discontinued July, 1907. Order for the workhouse, November, 1907.

Other Help.—None.

Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Children refuse to assist now they know their parents were unmarried, and applicant cannot support himself.

GENERAL REMARKS.

December, 1907.—W. S. had gone into the workhouse when I called to see him. From inquiries I gather that W. S. has been a steady man. He and his supposed wife lived together fifty years and brought up their family respectably. For two and a half years this man was in receipt of out-relief. Once when he applied for a renewal of relief he was asked to produce his marriage certificate, and could not do so, neither could he give satisfactory evidence as to where he had been married, so the relief was stopped. This so preyed on M. B.'s (the supposed wife's) mind that she committed suicide by jumping into the Thames. At the inquest these particulars became known and a juror considered that undue harshness had been used, but the coroner exonerated the relieving officer from blame stating that he was only doing his duty in making the inquiry which had led to such sad results. When the out-relief had been discontinued, all the children deserted their parents, and after M. B.'s death, W. S. accepted the order for the workhouse, and is now an inmate.

February, 1908.—W. S. is still an inmate of the workhouse.

HACKNEY UNION.

CASE-PAPER No. 23.

H. I. (Single).

AGE—33.

EARNINGS.—Actual, ; normal, . Coachpainter's labourer and hammerman.

HEALTH.—Good.

CHARACTER.—A regular loafer, and thoroughly lazy.

CHILDREN.—None.

HOUSING.—Lives with mother. (See Case-Paper No. 16.)

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—(See Case-Paper No. 16.)

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for workhouse, November 26th, 1907. Admitted to workhouse, December 5th, 1907, and again on February 3rd, 1908.

Other Help.—None.

Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Out of work eight weeks, and said mother meant to turn him out of the house.

GENERAL REMARKS.

December, 1907.—This man applied for admittance to the workhouse on December 5th. His mother had turned him out and so he became destitute. Mrs. I. told me that he had not worked for eleven weeks, and that he was thoroughly idle, and simply would not work. If he got a job, and he had had many good ones, he always lost them after a few days trial. He has been in the workhouse before.

February, 1908.—H. I. is still in the workhouse, and his brother, W. I., aged 34, and single, has joined him there. H. I. took his discharge from the workhouse for a few days, but was re-admitted on February 3rd, 1908.

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER.

Out-relief is rarely refused to the aged in this union, but it is not given to applicants who are considered unsuitable for this kind of relief, *e.g.*, too old or infirm to take care of themselves, have no proper home, or give way to drink. The relief is given in money and in kind. An old person on first making application for relief would probably be given 2s. in money and 1s. in kind. The "kind" would consist of some or all of the following articles, according to necessity:—bread, tea, sugar, oatmeal, treacle, soap and candles. The treacle is principally given where there are children in order to make the bread more palatable, and to provide heat-giving food. These cases come up for revision every eight weeks.

Out-relief is sometimes granted under *very* strict regulations, to able-bodied men in the form of work in the labour yard. In these cases the relieving officer visits the homes of the men every two weeks.

Temporary relief is also given in the form of food to families who are in distress. If the head of the family obtains work, and takes a note to the relieving officer from his employer (or his employer's representative) to this effect food will be given him. This food enables him to be in a fit condition to do his work thoroughly until such time that he can draw wages, and thus be in a position to purchase necessaries for himself and his family.

The number of guardians on this board is fifteen. Three committees are formed for the purpose of administering out-relief, giving a total of five elected members to each committee. The superintendent relieving officer and the relieving officer for each district are also present. The superintendent relieving officer has had a long and varied experience in Poor Law work. He has been a valued official of this board for forty years, and was previously an inspector in the police force of this city. It often happens that the chairman is the only *elected* member of the board present when a case comes before the relief committees for consideration; and in consequence of the long experience and faithful service of the superintendent relieving officer his opinion is generally accepted and thus great uniformity in administration is obtained.

A lady member of the board, who has served in this capacity for twenty years, spoke most strongly as to the necessity of further powers being required to meet the present day needs. It is fatal to turn children adrift (who have been brought up under the care of the guardians) at the age of fourteen years. Many of them know nothing of life, as they have been educated in Poor Law schools, and are too inexperienced to go out into the world and face its difficulties alone. As things are now paupers are being manufactured by the very processes which are supposed to be used for their extermination. She considers that out-relief is carefully and wisely administered by this board.

Great difficulty was experienced in endeavouring to trace three of the cases, Nos. 30, 31, and 37, in order to visit them the second time. I feel pretty certain that the right house was eventually found in the case of No. 30, but I was told that she was not living there, and in the end gave up the search. All were trying to avoid the importunities of their creditors. It is therefore safe to say that the families had not secured financial stability since my previous visit. The probability is that their circumstances were worse, for they had all moved into poorer and less desirable neighbourhoods.

The population of this union (which includes the poorest parts of the city in its area) is 132,287, the proportion of paupers being 38·2 per 1,000 of the population.

The fifteen cases visited may be classed as follows :—

- 4 widows without children dependent.
- 1 widow with one child dependent.
- 1 widower with children dependent.
- 5 married couples with three children, varying in age from one month to sixteen years, dependent on them.
- 1 married couple without children dependent; husband in workhouse.
- 3 married women with children dependent, whose husbands were in prison when application for relief was made.

On visiting these fifteen cases for the last time it was found that :—

- 1 was in work.
- 7 were living in houses with uncertain incomes.
- 5 could not be traced.
- 1 working three days a week employed by Distress Committee.
- 1 in workhouse.

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER.

CASE-PAPER No. 24.

M. S. (Widow).

AGE.—60.

EARNINGS.—Actual, 1s. Charwoman [Owes several weeks rent.]

HEALTH.—Feeble and ill.

CHARACTER.—Steady.

CHILDREN.—None.

HOUSING.—Lives in one room, first floor front. Fair neighbourhood. Rent, 2s. weekly. One inmate.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—A miserable room, containing an old bed but no mattress, and a lot of dirty rags.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Has been an inmate in the workhouse. Order for House, January, 1908.

Other Help.—None.

Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—No work.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—Mrs. S. has been a widow nineteen years. Before her marriage she trimmed gentlemen's tall hats. Her husband was a bad man, and very cruel to her. She always kept herself after she was married by charring. Until a few weeks ago, she had a house of her own and took in lodgers, but she got behind with her rent, and her furniture was sold. The few things in her present room are all that she now possesses. She is a poor, dirty, lonely, old woman living in the midst of squalor and rags. She looks much older than 60, and is quite unfit for work. Her hair had evidently not been combed for days, probably not for weeks. Her only clothes were filthy rags.

March, 1908.—Mrs. S. was turned out of the room where I last visited her about three weeks since, because she was unable to pay the rent, and in addition her landlady was supplying her with food. The landlady told me she could not eat herself when she knew Mrs. S. had nothing, and she had enough to do with her own six children without feeding anybody else. She also said that Mrs. S. was so feeble that it was not safe for her to be alone. She is now living in a house alone, but as she is incapable of working, and has nothing left to sell or pawn, she will soon be turned out again, and must eventually, unless she dies, go to the workhouse.

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER.

CASE-PAPER No. 25.

J. G. (Widow).

AGE—67.

EARNINGS.—Actual, ; normal (when well enough to work), 2s. to 3s. Seamstress.

HEALTH.—Poor, weak and ill.

CHARACTER.—Good.

CHILDREN.—Grandson, 26, labourer at glass-house, out of work, lives with grandmother. One son married with a large family, out of work, and could not help if he were in work.

HOUSING.—Lives in two rooms. House situated in side street. Poor neighbourhood. Rent, 2s. weekly. Two inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Filthy, practically no furniture. Grandson sleeps in the same bed with his grandmother.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for workhouse. First application, January 8th, 1908.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Cannot support herself by sewing.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—Came to Manchester forty-five years ago. Was born in Dublin. Her husband was a labourer and was often out of work. Only one bed, which is used by both grandmother and grandson. Mrs. G. is a poor, dirty feeble old woman, and looks more like 90 than 67. Her grandson is deformed, and in consequence, would be unable to earn as much as an able-bodied man. When able to work Mrs. G. buys up old trousers. She cuts these down into smaller ones for children, and then sells them at the second-hand clothes shop. She is paid 10d. or 1s. the pair according to the size. When she is pretty well she can earn between 2s. and 3s. per week in this way. But she has been too ill to work for many weeks.

March, 1908.—Grandson got work as a labourer in glass-house this week, but does not know what his wages will be. Mrs. G. is still too ill to sew. She looked even more deplorable and lost than on my previous visit, and said that she was very weak through lack of food.

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER.

CASE-PAPER No. 26.

E. O. (Widow).

AGE—42.

EARNINGS.—Actual, 4s. Quilt maker.

HEALTH.—Good.

CHARACTER.—Bad.

CHILDREN.—Henrietta, (17), doll dresser, earns 7s. Edward Tilly (11), orphan, lives with applicant.

HOUSING.—Lives in a house with four rooms in a side street. Fair neighbourhood. Rent 5s. 3d. weekly. Three inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—January 6th, 1908, Order for House.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Cannot support herself and family.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—A thoroughly unsatisfactory person. Mrs. O. and her daughter had disappeared the day before I called. No one knew where they had gone to. They left when the boy was away from home, and as they had not returned quite late at night the police took charge of him.

March, 1908.—Mrs. O. is now living outside this union, and is cohabiting with a man. Address unknown. She had evidently ill-treated the boy who lived with her until her disappearance. She has applied to the guardians for his restoration to her care, but this will not be granted. The guardians mean to adopt him and have transferred him to their schools. The poor lad begged that they would not send him back to Mrs. O.

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER.

CASE-PAPER No. 27.

E. J. (Widow).

AGE.—53.

EARNINGS.—None. Attends women at their confinements.

CHARACTER.—Unsteady.

CHILDREN.—James, married, with three children, assists in iron works, pays mother 1s. 6d. Abraham (13), lives with his brother, who keeps him. John, married, with one child, in jam works, pays mother 1s. Daughter, married, no children, address not known.

HOUSING.—

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Medical relief. Temporary relief, 2s. Out-relief, two weeks, 6s., December, 1907. Order for House, January 8th, 1908.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Sickness, and want of employment.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—I could not trace this case, but was informed that Mrs. J. has been a decent woman but has taken to drink and is deteriorating. She was staying with a friend when she applied for relief, but told the relieving officer that she was in lodgings and had a room there. When he went to see the room, he discovered that she had not spoken the truth. The woman with whom she had been staying told me that Mrs. J. used to be a very respectable woman but that "she was going down." She often gives way to drink. She used to look after women at their confinements, but people won't have her now, on account of her unsteady habits. These facts were corroborated by other information which I obtained.

March, 1908.—Address still unknown.

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER.

CASE-PAPER No. 28.

E. R. (Widow).

AGE.—47.

EARNINGS.—Actual, none. Normal, uncertain. Charwoman. Owes for rent.

HEALTH.—Good.

CHARACTER.—Not satisfactory, always applying for relief, and not truthful.

CHILDREN.—John (21), glass worker, 7s. Anna Jane, printers' assistant, 8s. Mary Ellen (18), printers' assistant, 7s. Walter (15), out of work. Mary Agnes (12). Catherine Batty, married, husband a packer, has four children. Mark, glass worker, married, has one child.

HOUSING.—Live in two rooms in a tenement dwelling, converted from an old mill. Poor neighbourhood. Rent, 4s. 3d. weekly. Six inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Fairly clean, furniture frugal, but comfortable.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for the Workhouse, January, 1908. Had relief twelve months since.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Insufficient means.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—Mrs. R. is trying to find work for herself. One son is out of work. Mary Jane (18) looks puny and undergrown. Mrs. R. is not a satisfactory character. She is evidently idle and untruthful.

March, 1908.—John, 21, is now out of work. Mrs. R. is a strong, able-bodied woman. The two daughters have left the printers, and are now employed in a cotton mill. My impression of this family is the same as it was in January. Mrs. R. would not allow me to enter her room, but told me that it was inconvenient for me to do so. She gave as her reason for refusing, that her son was just going to bed, as he was working at nights at the glass-house. She stated that she could get no work to do herself, but I place no trust in anything she said to me. She told me she had applied for relief because none of the family had been earning on account of the Christmas holidays, and she thought some relief would just help them to pull round a bit.

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER.

CASE-PAPER No. 29.

J. C. (Widower).

AGE.—52.

EARNINGS.—Actual, none. Normal, uncertain. Jobbing bricklayer, known locally as "property repairer." Heavily in debt.

HEALTH.—Good.

CHARACTER.—A thoroughly weak man, and terrified of his son (22), who is out of work.

CHILDREN.—Mary (25), French polisher, 8s. Patrick (22), plasterer and slater, out of work. Margaret (17), French polisher, 3s. Martyn (14), works at glass-house, earns 5s. Mary (14). Joseph (10). James (8).

HOUSING.—Live in house with four rooms. House situated in a side street. Fair neighbourhood. Rent, 4s. 6d. weekly. Eight inmates.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Room clean, contains scarcely any furniture.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for the workhouse, January 4th, 1908. Temporary relief, January 6th, 1908.

Other Help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Out of work.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—Mr. C. works for himself and his son assists him when he has work. Family not up when I called at 11 a.m. After repeatedly knocking at the door, one of the sisters, half-dressed, let me into the house. Their brother (22), was asleep on the sofa. The two sisters were both at home. The family have only lived in this house two weeks. They were turned out of the last house on account of arrears of rent.

March, 1908.—Mr. C. and son have no work at the present time, though they have had odd days work since my previous visit. The two daughters are also out of work. J. C. is steady, but is thoroughly weak with his children, and the family is going down, down. Each month their position is worse. With the exception of the boy, Martyn, the whole of the family are out of employment. There is no French polishing to be done, and the father and the eldest brother have no building work. The house looked forlorn and poverty-stricken, and there was no fire in the grate. Patrick, 22, was at home, and was evidently annoyed at my visit. He looked idle, ill, and evil-tempered.

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER.

CASE-PAPER No. 30.

M. J. S. (Married)

(Separated from husband. Maintenance order to pay wife 8s. per week).

AGES.—Husband, 33. Wife, 30.

EARNINGS.—Husband, . . . Labourer; a cooper by trade. Wife, normal, 9s. "Waste Sorter." Owes rent and money at shop. Can't work at present on account of young baby.

HEALTH.—Husband, good. Wife, confinement.

CHARACTERS.—Husband, "blackguard." Wife, very good.

CHILDREN.—Mary Jane (12). Joseph (8). Thomas (5). William (2). Catherine (1 month).

HOUSING.—In lodgings, one room. House door opens on to street. Poor neighbourhood. Weekly rent, 2s. 6d. Six inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Practically no furniture, a table, bed, and an old box to sit on. The room, woman, and children spotlessly clean.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Medical relief for confinement. Milk. Temporary relief, 4s. and four weeks out-relief, 24s., December, 1907. Order for three eldest children to go to Poor Law schools, January, 1908.

Other Help.—None.

Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Separation from husband, and confinement.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—Husband sent to prison on guardians' warrant, October 28th, 1907, for one month. Since his release for this offence, he has been in prison for being drunk and disorderly. Mrs. S. is a decent hard-working woman, but her husband is "a lazy good for nothing." He has been in prison several times for neglecting to maintain his wife and children. His wife has a separation order from the magistrates, and when this was granted he was ordered to pay 8s. a week. He has paid his wife this sum once, and now owes her over £8. When the separation order was given, her husband sold up the home and went away with the proceeds. She is now living in one room with her five children; they were spotlessly clean and so was the room. She had half a loaf of bread which a neighbour had given them, and Mrs. S. had borrowed money from a neighbour to get some coals for a fire. The baby had been in Ancoats Hospital with a throat affection. It appears to be wasting away. "It gets smaller every day," but was very clean. Mrs. S. fed her baby herself before it went into the hospital, but cannot do so now. Sometimes a neighbour gives it a half-pennyworth of cow's milk, and sometimes it has condensed milk. It was being fed from a medicine bottle with a teat on the neck. Before this baby was born, Mrs. S. worked at a waste warehouse, and earned 9s. a week, and a neighbour looked after the children, but no one will mind this baby free and she cannot afford to pay 3s. 6d. She has sold and pawned everything she can. The children only possess the clothes they are wearing, and when she washes these they stay in bed until they are dry again. She had just sold the pillow cases from the pillows on the bed, and the blankets had gone long since. In the midst of all this poverty, there was an air of respectability and an absence of squalor and dirt.

March, 1908.—This family could not be found. Mrs. S. had left the room where I saw her in January, and is again living with her husband. I spent hours trying to trace her, but was unsuccessful. A sister-in-law gave me the information that she was with her husband, and added, but "he'll do her no good, my husband's just the same, he's had six months for neglecting to keep his family. They come of a bad lot." The baby is dead and they are heavily in debt. It is for this reason they keep their whereabouts so quiet.

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER.

CASE-PAPER No. 31.

W. AND M. E. A.

AGES.—Husband, 42. Wife, 36.

EARNINGS.—Husband, actual, none, normal, 18s. to 22s. Wife, actual, 6s. 6d., normal, 5s. to 12s. Husband, brick-layer's labourer. Wife at "waste works." Owe a lot of rent.

HEALTH.—Good.

CHARACTER.—Husband, "a worthless blackguard, drinks heavily, a despicable man." Wife, good, "a hard working, striving woman."

CHILDREN.—Alice (16), machinist, out of work, been in workhouse hospital. William (11). Lydia (8). Mary Ellen (7). John (5). Joseph (3). Elizabeth (1). Baby (4 weeks)

HOUSING.—Live in four-roomed house, situated in a side street. Fair neighbourhood. Rent, 4s. 4d. weekly. Ten inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Very desolate. Sold and pawned furniture, etc. Front room quite empty, only sewing machine remains. Clean.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Temporary relief and children in Poor Law Schools, December 6th, 18th, 24th, 30th, 1908.

Other Help.—Christmas dinner, old clothes and free breakfasts on Sunday from Charter Street Ragged School.

Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Husband in prison.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—W.A. was sent to prison November 26th, 1907, for fighting. Four of the children were taken care of in the Poor Law schools during his absence, and his youngest child was born. He has been in prison several times and also in the workhouse. Both mother and father were out when I called. Alice (16) was at home. She took her discharge from the workhouse hospital because she would not have her tonsils removed. She is small for her age and looked thoroughly ill and delicate. She said her father told her she would have to go to the workhouse again because she was not well enough to work, and he could not afford to keep her.

March, 1908.—Could not trace this family. They are heavily in debt, and so many people "are after them" that they left their old address without letting the neighbours know of their intention to move.

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER.

CASE-PAPER No. 32.

F. T. (Married).

AGES.—Wife, 24. Husband, 26.

EARNINGS.—Wife, a few coppers for work from sisters, who are poor. Husband, normal, 18s. to 22s. Iron labourer, always in good work.

HEALTH.—Wife, pregnant. Husband, good.

CHARACTERS.—Wife, good, belongs to a respectable family. Husband, good workman, but drinks, and is then quarrelsome.

CHILDREN.—Elsie (3). James Henry (2).

HOUSING.—Living with sister-in-law, and paying nothing. House contains four rooms. House is in side street off tram route. Fair neighbourhood. Weekly rent, 5s. Six inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Clean, comfortable home.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for the House. First application, January 8th, 1908.

Other Help.—Coal from clergyman.

Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—Father, labourer, cannot help daughter.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Pregnancy, and husband in prison, and cannot support herself and family.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—Husband in prison for two months for violent assault on a woman, and breaking her arm. He was very drunk when the offence was committed. He is a good workman, and never out of employment. Mrs. T. is living with her sister-in-law, and is paying nothing for her lodgings. As Mrs. ——— remarked: "How can she pay when she has nothing coming in." Mrs. ———'s husband is out of work, so they are all having hard times. Mrs. T. says that drink is at the bottom of their trouble. Mr. T. was in good work, but got drinking and then quarrelling, and was then sent to prison. She has sold all her furniture to live, and when he comes out of prison they will have to make a fresh start. The clergyman had called the day before and had found them without a fire, so he had sent them some coals. Mrs. T. had been cleaning some fire-irons for one of her sisters, and hoped she would give her a copper or two so that they could buy a bit of bread for their supper. The eldest child was at school. The baby, aged 2, was at home, and was black and dirty. This is a mixed marriage. The husband is a Roman Catholic and the wife a Protestant. The sister-in-law, with whom she is living, is a Roman Catholic, and her husband is a Protestant.

March, 1908.—Husband was released from prison last Saturday and commenced work on Monday morning. Nearly all the sister-in-law's furniture has been sold or pawned since I called last. The house looked bare and comfortless. Mrs. T.'s husband is working this week and so is her brother-in-law. They will both have money to take home for the first time for several months. They have long arrears of rent to pay up, and are in debt in other ways. If it had not been for the help they have had from the clergyman they would have starved. He told me that they were a most respectable family; he had known them for years, and that if only T. could be kept away from the drink all would be well. But that when he had it, he was like a madman. He spoke most kindly of the sister-in-law and her husband.

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER.

CASE-PAPER No. 33.

J. AND J. R.

AGES.—Husband, 40. Wife, 38.

EARNINGS.—Husband, normal, 26s. to 27s. Skilled labourer. Heavy arrears of rent. Wife, *nil*.

HEALTH.—Husband, good. Wife, generally good, but not strong at present.

CHARACTERS.—Husband, drinks, and keeps bad time at work. Wife, steady, respectable, hard-working woman.

CHILDREN.—Joseph (11). Mary (8). Maud (6). Margaret (4). John (3). Peter (4 months).

HOUSING.—Live in four-roomed house, in side street off main tram line route. Poor neighbourhood (gone down within the last ten years). Weekly rent, 5s. Eight inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Poor property. A through house with small back yard. Living-room dirty and dark, but contains comfortable furniture.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Food, value 20s. 6d., given between September 30th and December 18th, 1907. Order for workhouse, January 3rd, 1908.

Other Help.—Food from Convent, and goods value 1s. from Central Wesleyan Mission.

Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Out of work for ten weeks.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—Mr. R. is out of work. He is a labourer in the iron trade, but had worked himself up, "with the help of his mates," almost to the position of a skilled workman. He now calls himself a "skilled labourer." He left his last employers according to his own account, because of a reduction in the staff, and his place was taken by a youth, "a great strong chap of eighteen can do as much work as a man, and does not want so much wages." The foreman where he was formerly employed states "that he is a good workman, but that he had to leave through losing time after having had several chances. He is a good unskilled workman." The relieving officer told me that this man is always applying for relief. He (the relieving officer) has obtained work for him several times among his friends, but he has never done it to the satisfaction of his employers.

Mrs. R.'s imbecile brother, a man of about forty, sat by the fire nursing her baby and crooning to it. He lives next door with his mother who has occupied the same house for forty-two years. Two unmarried daughters live with her and support her and their brother. Mrs. R.'s children were dirty and looked pinched. She had been to the Convent for food, and had been given a large jar of dripping and some oatmeal. The children were taking handfuls of oatmeal out of the bag and eating it raw. Mrs. R. was a tailoress before marriage and seemed a decent woman. She looked thin and ill, and said she had not got round from her last confinement.

J. R. is hoping to get work shortly through the labour bureau. They are selling and pawning their furniture to live, and are heavily in debt. He kept his mother for the last ten years of her life. He would have emigrated to Canada with his brother if it had not been for her, but he stayed in England to make her a home.

February, 1908.—J. R. got work from the labour bureau a few days after my previous visit. He has been employed ever since for three days a week on relief work, which takes the form of road-making, and earns 11s. per week.

Various pieces of furniture have disappeared from the living-room since my previous visit, and the children's clothes are poorer. Mrs. R. looks anxious and says she often feels so ill that she cannot work.

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER.

CASE-PAPER No. 34.

J. AND C. M.

AGES.—Husband, 48. Wife, 44.

EARNINGS.—Husband, actual, 12s. to 20s.; normal, . Labourer. Wife, none.

HEALTH.—Husband, good. Wife, poor.

CHARACTERS.—Husband, unstable. Wife, good.

CHILDREN.—Step-daughter, (18), umbrella-worker, pays 2s. for lodgings, and buys own food. John, errand boy, 5s. William (12). Agnes (9). Bernard (5). Married son, a paver working for Corporation, gives father 1s. 6d. per week.

HOUSING.—Live in four-roomed house, in a side street. Fair neighbourhood. Weekly rent, 4s. 9d. Seven inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Furniture comfortable. Dirty and untidy.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Temporary relief, 1s. 6d. in food, January 4th, 1908. Order for workhouse, January 6th, 1908.

Other Help.—Mates who meet him in the street spare him 6d. for food.

Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—Married nieces often give 2s., or 1s., or 6d., as the case may be.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Out of work; had no regular job for nearly two years.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—J. M. has been out of regular work for nearly two years. He is a strong-looking man, and appears equal for any kind of hard work. At one time he was in the Army, but since his discharge has been employed on and off by the Highways Department of the Manchester Corporation for between twenty to thirty years. He seems to have left their employment several times. Up to 1892 he was employed as a paver, then he left, but was re-engaged later on in the year as a labourer. He joined the Thrift Fund in November, 1894, and left the service in October, 1896, and withdrew his thrift money. He applied to be reinstated and was admitted into the service in September, 1897. He left this work again, but re-entered the Corporation service September, 1899, and continued here until he was called out as a Reservist to South Africa, during the late Boer War. On his return from the War, about February, 1901, he was at once reinstated as a Corporation labourer. He joined the Thrift Fund, November, 1902, and continued his contributions to it until April, 1906, when he left the service of the Corporation, of his own account, and withdrew his contributions, to the amount of £7. 8s. 4d. He is now trying to get re-engaged by the Corporation Committee. J. M. was in bed when I called about 11 a.m. His wife had gone out to see if she could find some work. The house looked dirty and neglected. There was plenty of food on the table, which he told me had been given them by the relieving officer.

February, 1908.—J. M. is still out of regular employment, but he gets casual work from the Corporation as a sweeper. He commences this work at 2 a.m., and it lasts until 11 a.m. when he is employed. Last week he was employed three days and the week before he had five days; he is paid 4s. a day, when he works. He has to be at the office each morning before 2 a.m. to see whether he can get a job, and is very disappointed when he is not taken on. Mrs. M. is a decent woman, but is in poor health, and worries very much over the uncertainty of their income. She has two children by a former marriage in Canada, and the daughter, 18, who now lives here is going to join them shortly.

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER.

CASE-PAPER No. 35.

J. AND M. M.

AGES.—Husband, 54. Wife, 53.

EARNINGS.—Husband, actual, ; normal, 18s. to 22s. Builder's labourer. Wife, none. Owes for rent.

HEALTH.—Husband, good. Wife, poor.

CHARACTERS.—Husband, good. Wife, a begging woman.

CHILDREN.—Catherine (10). Mary (20), umbrella-maker, actual earnings 4s. Bridget Brogan (30), married. Husband tailor's pre s'r. They have four or five children. This family has had relief several times. Margaret Smith, married daughter, lives in London.

HOUSING.—Live in four-roomed house. Poor neighbourhood. Weekly rent, 4s. 3d. Four inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Very clean; furniture frugal.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Temporary relief, January 2nd, 1908. Order for the workhouse, January 6th, 1908.
Other Help.—Get a lot of help from priest, both in money and in kind, and has had a shillings worth of groceries this week from Wesleyan Central Mission.
Relations, (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—No work for three weeks.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—J. M. is out of work owing to the depression in the building trades. They get help from the priest. Mrs. M. is ill, and the priest sent her money and a chicken after mass on Sunday.
February, 1908.—Have been turned out of the house where I last visited them, and practically everything has been sold. They now live in one room. The bars are broken out of the fire grate, and the dirt and squalor is indescribable. They pay 3s. rent for this room and J. M. sleeps at an aunt's. He gets an odd day's work now and again, and the priest gives Mrs. M. 2s. 6d. a week towards her rent. Both Mr. and Mrs. M. were born in Ireland, and she has been in Canada, but they have lived in Manchester many years.

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER.

CASE-PAPER No. 36.

T. AND M. S.

AGES.—Husband, 40. Wife, 38.
EARNINGS.—Husband, actual, : normal, 18s. to 22s. Bricklayer's labourer. Wife, actual, 7d. Owe three weeks' rent.
HEALTH.—Husband, good. Wife, poor.
CHARACTERS.—Husband, good, but generally out of work in the winter. Wife, good.
CHILDREN.—Christine (7). Thomas (5).
HOUSING.—Live in a house with two rooms in a dirty court. Very poor neighbourhood. Jewish Quarter. Weekly rent, 3s. 6d. Four inmates.
GENERAL CONDITIONS.—House beautifully clean and attractive. Comfortable furniture; an oasis in squalid surroundings.
POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Temporary relief, January 4th, 1908. Order for the workhouse, January 6th, 1908.
Other Help.—None.
Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Out of work.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—T. S. has been out of work ten weeks. They are selling and pawning furniture and clothes to live. In the summer when he is in work they manage to clear off arrears of rent. Mrs. S. looked ill. The children were beautifully clean and looked well cared for. Each season this family has a period of distress. Then in the summer they pull round and just begin to feel comfortable when the winter sets in and they are again in difficulties.

February, 1908.—T. S. has only had odd days' work since my last visit. Their comfortable home has been disbanded and they are reduced to the lowest depths. The house looked as if no one was living there when I knocked at the door. The window was closed up with newspapers. I was just going away when a woman at the other end of the yard beckoned me. I went into her house, and there huddled on the sofa pale and trembling I found Mrs. S. She told me that she was hiding from the bailiffs. They were coming to sell up "the few sticks" she had left. She looked thoroughly ill and cried all the time. She said it was so hard when they tried to be honest and respectable to be like this year after year, and through no fault of their own. If they were unsteady she would not mind, because she would then know they had only themselves to thank. But she was quite sure of one thing—her boy, aged five, should never have a trade which depended on the weather. She thought she should put him into the Post Office. When I left she begged me not to tell the bailiffs where she was, if I met them.

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER.

CASE-PAPER No. 37.

M. AND F. C.

AGES.—Husband, 43. Wife, 33.
EARNINGS.—Husband, : Hawks oranges, etc. Wife, Hawker.
HEALTH.—Husband, good. Wife, good.
CHARACTERS.—Husband, drinks. Wife, good.
CHILDREN.—Charles (12). Joseph (8). Michael (6).
HOUSING.—Live in two-roomed house. Poor neighbourhood. Weekly rent, 3s. 9d. Five inmates.
GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Miserable house, has been condemned. Clean, but practically no furniture.
POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Temporary relief, December 31st, 1907. Order for workhouse, January 6th, 1908.
Other Help.—None.
Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—Wife's father a bricklayer at Welshpool, aged 70. Too old to work now, and cannot afford to help.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—No work, had no settled employment for over two years.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—M. C. is a bricklayer's labourer by trade, but now hawks fruit. It is over two years since he had any regular work. They have sold their furniture to live, and have practically nothing left. The living room contained a table, an old sofa and a stool. Mrs. C. seemed a decent woman. She was a domestic servant before marriage, and was born in Wales. Her father is a bricklayer by trade, and lives at Welshpool. He is seventy years old, and cannot do much work now, and is not in a position to help his daughter. Indeed, her people do not know how badly off she is, and she would not like to tell them. Her children were at school, so I did not see them, but she looked thin and emaciated. They never go to church or chapel, and the children attend no Sunday School. Mr. and Mrs. C. have a good "hawking connection"; they have separate rounds. Mrs. C. can make 12s. to 15s. a week on her round. At Christmas Mr. C. had a drinking bout, and sold up all their stock, and now they cannot get a fresh start.

February, 1908.—I could not trace this family. Their old house was being demolished, and they had left without telling their neighbours where they were going. I spent hours trying to find them.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

TOWNSHIP OF MANCHESTER.

CASE-PAPER No. 38.

M. AND C. L.

AGES.—Husband, 62. Wife, 56.

EARNINGS.—Husband, . Market porter. In workhouse hospital, ill with paralysis, since December 28th.
Wife, actual, 3s. Washing. Owes a lot of rent.

HEALTH.—Husband, bad. Wife, good.

CHARACTERS.—Husband, good. Wife, good.

CHILDREN.—Daughter, Annie (27), waste sorter, with illegitimate child, six weeks old. Child was born in the workhouse. She took her discharge a week ago, but means to return to the workhouse at the end of this week. She is too weak to go out to work and the weather is very cold.

HOUSING.—Live in two-roomed house in a court. Fair neighbourhood. Weekly rent, 3s. 3d. Three inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Clean; furniture frugal. Walls all stripped by sanitary authorities, who disinfected house after her married daughter's confinement. The daughter was removed to hospital, and died there shortly after removal.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Out-relief, one week, 3s., January 1st, 1908. Order for workhouse, January 6th, 1908.

Other Help.—Lady sanitary inspector had given her the coal for the fire in the grate.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Husband in workhouse, cannot support herself.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—Mrs. L.'s husband is in the workhouse hospital. He was a labourer employed in the Market Hall, and had a stroke one day when he was at work. Mrs. L. says she has had a lot of trouble lately. A married daughter died after her confinement leaving three little children. She had the care of the children up to Christmas Eve, when her son-in-law took them all away and she does not know where they are now. The lady sanitary inspector taught her how to feed and manage the baby. Her daughter, Annie, was at home with her illegitimate baby six weeks old. She looked a poor feeble-minded creature, but seemed fond of the child. It was clean, and looked as well cared for as could be expected in such poverty-stricken surroundings. It was wrapped in a piece of an old counter-pane, which was clean. Mrs. L. is to be turned out of this house on Monday owing to arrears of rent. She takes in a bit of washing, and when Annie can get back to work, and the weather is better, she hopes they will be all right.

February, 1908.—Mrs. L. is now living in lodgings with her daughter. She would not allow me to go into the house, because the place did not belong to her. She looked ill and miserable, and kept on saying she had had such a lot of trouble. Her husband is still in the workhouse infirmary.

ATCHAM UNION (SHROPSHIRE).

There has been a remarkable uniformity in the administration of the Poor Law in this union since its formation seventy-two years ago. That the policy of the board has been so uniform is chiefly owing to two factors:—

- (1) The long periods for which successive chairmen have served the board.
- (2) The office of clerk having only been held by two persons—father and son—the son having been trained in Poor Law work by his father.

Sir Baldwin Leighton was the first chairman of the board, and held this position for an unbroken period of thirty-five years. Under his leadership the workhouse test was rigidly enforced, this being the pivot on which the whole policy of the board worked. He was ably assisted in the work of bringing order out of chaos in the newly-formed union by Mr. Thomas Everest, who was appointed clerk in 1836, and who came to this Union bringing valuable credentials in the shape of practical experience which he had gained at Penshurst, in Kent, where he had undertaken work of a similar character. Penshurst Union being the first (or nearly the first) union to be formed under the new Poor Law Act (1834).

Sir Baldwin Leighton and Mr. Thomas Everest worked together unceasingly for twenty-eight years for the effective administration of the new Poor Law Act, and on the death of the latter in 1864, his son, Mr. Joseph Everest, was appointed his father's successor, and still holds the office.

Under these circumstances Atcham became one of the model unions in the country. It still bears this reputation, though the strictness with which the workhouse test is applied has been somewhat modified within the last few years—out-relief now being granted in many cases where it would formerly have been refused.

The population of the union is 49,440, and the proportion of paupers is 31 per 1,000 of the population.

The cases visited may be classed as follows :—

- 4 widows without children dependent.
- 1 single woman.
- 1 old married couple.

On the second visit it was found that all these persons were living in their own homes with practically no change in their circumstances. I was much impressed with the respectability and superiority of the applicants for relief in this Union.

ATCHAM UNION.

CASE-PAPER No. 39.

C. S. (Widow).

AGE.—75

EARNINGS.—Charwoman.

HEALTH.—Infirm.

CHARACTER.—Good.

CHILDREN.—House stands in son's name. He is a collier (35), unmarried, earns 18s. per week. Widowed daughter (37), lives here and keeps house. Edward (43) (Hanwood), collier, married, one child, helps mother when he can, "gives an odd shilling when he can spare it." Thomas (40), address unknown. Charles (30) (Birmingham), collier, married, four children.

HOUSING.—Lives in four-roomed house, situated in a hamlet. Good garden. Rent 2s. 6d., weekly. Three inmates. GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Clean comfortable farm labourer's cottage, with an old oak dresser which has been in the family for generations, and old common pottery ware standing on it.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for the workhouse, December, 1907. Being attended by parish doctor. March, 1908.

Other Help.—None.

Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Too infirm to work.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—Mrs. S. is very infirm and often remains in bed for days together. The son is tenant of the cottage, but the furniture belongs to his mother. A widowed daughter keeps house for her brother, and takes care of their mother. The guardians thought that if Mrs. S. went to the workhouse infirmary, her daughter might go out to service. But she could not part with her mother "she would fret so." An old uncle, aged 86, who has been a small farmer, was staying with them for a few days. He is now too old to work, and is living on his savings. The daughter cannot go out charing because it would not be safe to leave her mother.

March, 1908.—Mrs. S. is more infirm and is now entirely confined to bed. The bed has been moved into a small room down stairs which opens out of the living-room. Mrs. S. was beautifully clean, and was being carefully tended in every way. She is being visited regularly by the parish doctor, who says she is thoroughly worn out and he can do nothing for her. The old lady sat up in bed and told me how hard she had worked all her life. She was left a widow with a young family, and worked "at charing, washing, in the fields, or at anything I could do, and brought them all up without asking for a penny from anyone, and they might give me a bit now, it won't be for long, and they let others have it who are not as respectable as I am."

ATCHAM UNION.

CASE-PAPER No. 40.

E. B. (Widow).

AGE.—60.

EARNINGS.—Charwoman.

HEALTH.—Asthma. Can't work now; just recovering from a serious attack of pneumonia.

CHARACTER.—Very quarrelsome, and begs.

CHILDREN.—Annie (22), day girl, 5s. per week and food, at a public-house. John (24), at Crewe, a labourer, 14s., rent free, married, no children, made a home for mother once, but her temper was so bad they could not keep her. Two married daughters, husbands, labourers, "cannot keep their own families." In both cases the women themselves have to earn money.

HOUSING.—Lives in three-roomed house, back to back in a long row of houses. Poor neighbourhood, slum property. A tiny bit of garden, which is used as a rubbish heap. Rent, 2s. 8d. weekly. Two inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Beautifully clean, with comfortable furniture. House bright and attractive.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for House, December, 1907.

Other Help.—None.

Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—To make her son contribute.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—Mrs. B. has been very ill, and is now unable to work. She says her son gives her an odd sixpence now and again, and her daughter who is in service helps. The latter is to be married in March, and will then make a home for her mother. The daughter who now lives at home, and who works as a day girl at a public-house, was in good service and was earning £18. She came home to look after her mother. Her old mistress is always writing and asking her to return to her, and would pay her £24 per year to do so. But she won't leave her mother. Mr. B. was a carpenter and wheelwright by trade, and was in regular employment for many years on a gentleman's estate. He lost this post through drink. "He had not a lazy bone in his body," but drank all he earned. Many and many a week he never gave his wife a penny piece, but in spite of this always expected a good meal to be ready for him. Mrs. B. worked hard, and supported the family. She told me that the same story is being repeated with her married daughters.

March, 1908.—Mrs. B. had left the house where I last visited her. I went to the house of one of her married daughters in order to find her. The daughter is a superior, industrious woman, but evidently has a hard life. She goes out to work every day, and her mother minds her baby for her in her absence. She had been out washing when I called.

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and, after giving the children their tea, was sitting down to make an apron for a neighbour. She said that her mother was ill and quite unable to work, and was difficult to get on with. She tried to help her all she could but with four or five children of her own, she could not spare her much. The sister, who is now a day girl at a public-house, came in while I was there. She looked too good for this kind of work. The other sister who was to have been married in March is leaving her place to come and live at home with her mother and sister. She is not going to get married, but thinks that it will be better for them to live together. She wants to find some work. So two daughters, who are able to earn good wages in domestic service, have thrown up their places for uncertain and unremunerative employment, in order to make a home for their mother.

ATCHAM UNION.

CASE-PAPER No. 41.

M.M. (Widow).

AGE.—70.

EARNINGS.—A few coppers, runs errands for neighbours. Journeys to and from the pawnshop for them.

HEALTH.—Poor, is badly disfigured with eczema of the nose.

CHARACTER.—Good.

CHILDREN.—Edmund, a baker by trade, plays football and drinks, latterly he has been working at the head of a coal pit, he can earn 3s. 6d. per day. A niece would make a home for this woman, but will have nothing to do with the son, won't even allow him to enter her house.

HOUSING.—Lives in three-roomed house, back to back in a yard. Poor neighbourhood. Rent, 2s. 6d. weekly. Two inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—House clean, but there is practically no furniture.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for the workhouse, January, 1908.

Other Help.—A friend gives her 1s. per week.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—To help with rent, and to keep a home together.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—Mrs. M. is a feeble old woman, and quite unfit to do a day's work. When her husband was alive she used to help him hawk wood. They had a donkey and cart and a good connection. She has been living lately by selling her furniture. Her son is often out of work. He is a baker by trade, but now works at a pit-head. He met with an accident a month ago, and has not worked since. He was lying on the sofa when I called, and looked thoroughly idle and worthless. When in work he lives away from home.

March, 1908.—I saw Mrs. M.'s niece, who is a widow with one child, and a bright energetic woman. She would let her aunt live with her if it were not for the son. This son had a good trade, and was always in work and steady and respectable, until he took to football and drink. Now he will do anything to escape an honest day's work. He rarely sends money to his mother, but gets all out of her that he can. He was at home for a month recently, when the poor old woman did her best to provide for him.

ATCHAM UNION.

CASE-PAPER No. 42.

M.W. (Widow).

AGE.—74.

EARNINGS.—Actual, 3s. Chars, cleans schools.

HEALTH.—Infirm.

CHARACTER.—Good.

CHILDREN.—Grand-daughter (14), earns from 1s. to 1s. 6d. Emma Woodbine (44), married, husband, labourer, helps mother a little, sends the grand-daughter's food who lives here and who is her daughter. Harry (38), married, with three children, carter, 13s. 6d., and house rent free. Eliza Sankey (35), married, with five children, husband, railway porter.

HOUSING.—Lives in three-roomed house, situated in a hamlet. A nice garden, but has to pay to have it cultivated. Rent, 1s. 5d. weekly. Two inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Clean, attractive, respectable farm labourer's home.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—2s. out-relief, December, 1899. Order for workhouse, August 1906. Order for workhouse, December, 1907.

Other Help.—Squire's wife gives food, etc.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Cannot earn enough now to keep herself.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—Mrs. W. is a decent, clean old woman, and has lived in this little detached cottage for forty-four years. Her husband was a farm labourer. She cleans the village schools, and is paid £7 per year for this work. But out of this money she is obliged to pay a man for emptying the earth closets, etc., 30s. per year, so she only gets £5 10s. for herself. In addition to this sum she is paid 2s. per week in the winter by a club which is held in the school. At the present time she has a temporary lodger, who pays her 3s. per week. He is thrashing for the squire, and will only remain with her for a week or two. She considers that the "schools about pay her rent and coal, but she has to put a bit extra to it for the coal." She is a member of the coal club. Mrs. W. told me that she could not live at all if it were not for the squire's wife, who gives her scraps of food, and is very good to her. She does not want to leave her home and go to the workhouse. She could not bear to be so shut up, and so many of them all together. She has always been used to popping in and out as she likes, and could not live in a place with the door always shut. Her children are only poor and cannot do much for her, but her son-in-law, who is a porter, gave her a pair of cloth boots recently. Her grand-daughter, who sleeps with her, helps her clean the schools, and goes out and does a bit of work at neighbouring farmhouses.

March, 1908.—Mrs. W. was out when I called. The garden was in good order and looked so attractive with the early spring flowers just bursting into bloom.

ATCHAM UNION.

CASE-PAPER No. 43.

A. H. (Spinster).

AGE.—65.

EARNINGS.—

HEALTH.—Blind, and weak intellect.

CHARACTER.—Good.

CHILDREN.—None.

HOUSING.—Lives in four-roomed house, in a hamlet. Good garden. Rent, 2s. weekly. Three inmates. Lives with married brother, who was a small farmer and who now lives on his club pension of 5s. per week.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Fairly clean, furniture comfortable.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for the workhouse, January 4th, 1908.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—Two brothers.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Want of means.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—Miss H. lives with her married brother and his wife. He is crippled with rheumatism and looks ill. He can hardly move out of his chair. By trade he is a staircase maker, and worked at this occupation in Birmingham for many years. When his father died, twenty-five years ago, his mother and sister kept on the little farm and he used to help them by doing their accounts, etc. Then he found they were being cheated all round, so he gave up his trade and went with his wife to live at the farm with his mother and sister. At first things went well. Then he had a run of bad luck. He lost four horses in ten years, his pigs had swine fever, and his cows died. So after paying 20s. in the £ to all their creditors, they gave up the farm and came to live in this little cottage. Miss H. always lived with them after the mother died, and though "simple" was useful. They are fond of her, and she evidently trusts and depends upon them. In addition to Mr. H.'s pension, Mrs. H. makes a little by buying up butter and eggs from her neighbours and taking them to her old customers on market days. When she returns home she brings fish in her otherwise empty baskets. She sells the fish to the persons who live in the cottages near her. In this way she makes "a bit," but they cannot afford to keep their sister without assistance. Miss H. has recently had an operation on her eyes for cataract, and when she gets her glasses in a few weeks time, they hope her sight will be improved. Mr. H. has two brothers in good positions in Manchester, who absolutely refuse to do anything for their sister. The guardians also refuse out-relief, because if it were granted they feel that Mr. and Mrs. H. would probably soon be applying for it themselves.

March, 1908.—Circumstances remain much the same. Miss H. has got her glasses, and can manage to read easy reading. She looks brighter than when I last saw her. Mr. and Mrs. H. are evidently hard pressed to live, and yet feel as if they cannot bear to let their sister go to the workhouse. That she is well cared for there can be no doubt. The clothes she was wearing are better than those Mrs. H. wore, and she was clean. Indeed, she did not look nearly so anxious and worn as her brother and sister-in-law.

ATCHAM UNION.

CASE-PAPER No. 44

R. AND H. G.!

AGES.—Husband, 73. Wife, 74.

EARNINGS.—Husband, 2s. 6d. per day when able to work, 4s. per week pension from club. Owes £7 for doctor's bill.

HEALTH.—Husband, infirm. Wife, paralysed.

CHARACTERS.—Good.

CHILDREN.—Sarah Overton, married, two children, husband, farm labourer. Eliza Williams (44), married, two children, husband, farm labourer. Richard (33), collier, married, seven children. Harriet Thomas (35), married, five children, husband, collier. Elizabeth Adams (23), married, four children; husband, carter. Mary Pinches (30), married, five children, husband, station-master. Priscilla Williams (29), married, no children, husband, police-constable. John (31), labourer, married, two children, lives next door to mother.

HOUSING.—Live in three-roomed house, country hamlet, with scattered cottages. Good garden. Rent, 2s. weekly. Three inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Clean and comfortable, with the usual furniture of a respectable farm labourer's cottage.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Refused December, 1907.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Recommended to apply by son-in-law (police constable) who had the sympathy of the local guardian in making the application.

GENERAL REMARKS

January, 1908.—Mr. G. is a respectable old man. He is now past working on the land and is employed on the roads. He earns 2s. 6d. per day when he can work. In addition to this, he has a pension of 4s. per week from his club. Mrs. G. told me that she and her children had many times gone without food to eat in order to save the money to pay the club contributions. She had a stroke twelve months ago, and is paralysed all down the left side and is bed-ridden. They pay a woman 2s. per week to live in the house to look after her. The bed is downstairs in the living-room. She is always very cold, in spite of the bed being close to the fire. She seemed a decent, tidy, old woman, and explained that the bed-clothes were giving out because of her long illness, and she had no money to buy new ones. The doctor had just sent her a bill for £7 for one year's attendance, and she worries to know how it is to be paid. Her children cannot help her systematically, because they have families of their own and only small means, but they do what they can. It takes more than the club money to provide coal and rent, and she buys a pint of new milk every day for herself, because the doctor said she must have it.

March, 1908.—Circumstances remain much the same. Mrs. G. is still in bed, and cries and worries about how the doctor's bill is to be paid.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

HELSTON UNION, CORNWALL.

This union extends over a wide, bleak area, and the two relieving officers have great distances to travel in the performance of their manifold duties. I inquired whether they considered the difficulty of getting to them deterred persons from applying for relief, but in their opinion the long distances made no difference to would-be applicants. Persons wishing to apply for relief knew how to reach them, and would write and ask them to call or, in cases of emergency, they would be fetched by some neighbour. From this conversation I gathered that persons applied for temporary relief in this union as quickly as they do in other centres where the relieving officers and the offices of the board are more accessible.

The policy of the board is to give small sums in out-relief to deserving cases and the workhouse test is not enforced.

The standard of comfort is not so high in this district as in other places I have visited. Low light wooden forms without backs take the place of chairs in the cottages and there is an absence of other little touches which go to make a place look homely and attractive.

The population of the union is 20,773, and the proportion of paupers is 18·1 per 1,000 of the population.

There were four cases in which an order for the workhouse had been recently given. They may be classed as follows :—

- 1 widow without children dependent.
- 1 family of children.
- 1 married couple with children.
- 1 single woman.

On my first visit the order had not been accepted in any case, and three of the applicants had been relieved in their own homes "for they could not be allowed to starve." On my second visit No. 45 had been removed to the workhouse, Nos. 46 and 47 were being relieved outside, and No. 48 had made a fresh application for assistance.

HELSTON UNION.
CASE-PAPER No. 45.

D. P. (Widow).

AGE.—77.

EARNINGS.—None. Charwoman.

HEALTH.—Bad; paralysed.

CHARACTER.—Good.

CHILDREN.—Felix, a tailor, lives at Reading, doctor's certificate has been received to say that he is in bad health and cannot contribute towards his mother's support. The other son, a miner, sends his mother 1s. 6d. per week.

HOUSING.—Lives in three-roomed house, in quiet country street. Good neighbourhood. Rent, £5 a year. Two inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Clean, tidy and respectable.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Had relief when her husband was alive eight or ten years ago. When he died the relief was discontinued, and the sons kept her. Relief given two months ago, 3s. 6d.; and guardians pay a girl 2s. 6d. per week to sleep here. Order for house, January 25th, 1908.

Other Help.—A lady gives her her Sunday dinner.

Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Insufficient income provided by sons.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—Mrs. P. has lived in this house for thirty-three years. She is a refined, respectable old lady. She is now ill in bed and is very wasted and had bad bed sores. Her hands are all drawn with paralysis. The guardians want her to go to the workhouse, but she cannot bear to think of leaving her own home. She was far too ill for me to talk to her about her past life.

March, 1908.—Mrs. P. is now an inmate of the workhouse.

HELSTON UNION.

CASE-PAPER No. 46.

B. O. (Single).

AGE.—48.

EARNINGS.—Actual, *nil*. Normal, 3s. for cleaning schools, 6s. for charing.

HEALTH.—Bad leg, broken veins.

CHARACTER.—Fair.

CHILDREN.—None.

HOUSING.—Lives in three-roomed house in small village, house on main road. No garden. Rent, 1s. weekly, and 10s. 3d. per year for rates. One inmate.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Fairly clean and comfortable. Beautiful old brass candlesticks on mantelpiece, belonged to her mother, also some old china and pottery ware.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—For several months 5s. per week, which was gradually reduced to 2s. 6d., 1906; 5s. for eight weeks, followed by 3s. 6d. for four weeks, 1907. Order for workhouse, January, 1908.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—Four brothers and one sister, all illegitimate children. The brothers are labourers with large families. One carries the post-bag between Manaccan and Helston.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Bad legs, unable to work.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—Miss O. is now ill, and has been unable to work for some time. She has lived in a house alone since her mother's death. Formerly she was a cook in a gentleman's family, but she left her place in order to look after her mother, who was crippled with rheumatism. When well, she cleans the village schools, and is paid 3s. 6d. a week, but has to pay a man out of this sum to empty the earth closets, and clean the stove pipes. Since she has been unable to do this work her sister-in-law has done it for her, so that she should not lose the job. Before she had the broken vein in her leg she did four days' washing a week, and was paid 1s. 6d. a day, and had her food. She then managed to live comfortably. She is now evidently suffering from lack of food and want of companionship.

March, 1908.—Has had a severe attack of influenza, and is weak and run down, and was not equal to talking to me. The guardian of the parish told me that he did not know what to do with the case. They had tried a big amount of out-relief, viz., 5s., then they reduced it, then it was discontinued. Now they are allowing her 3s. 6d. per week, but feel she ought to go to the workhouse. I also saw the village nurse, who told me that the broken veins were practically healed. I felt that what was probably required here was a strong friend. It is quite certain that Miss O. will never be able to earn her living again by going out washing, but she is far too young to go into the workhouse and thus give up all hope of ever keeping herself again. She can knit and sew, but wants guidance, to show her how a new start can be made.

HELSTON UNION.

CASE-PAPER No. 47.

T. J. AND E. P.

AGES.—Husband, 28. Wife, 28.

EARNINGS.—Husband, actual, ; normal, 20s. Stonemason. Wife, actual, ; normal,

HEALTH.—Husband, in consumption. Wife, probably phthisical.

CHARACTER.—Husband, unsteady, spends his time in the public-house. Wife, unsatisfactory.

CHILDREN.—Violet (6½), Willie (5), Daisy (2½).

HOUSING.—Live in two-roomed house, in a small village. No garden. Rent, £3 a year. Five inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Clean and fairly comfortable, with but little furniture.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Goods in kind, value 10s., December 14th, 23rd, 30th, 1907; January, 6th, 13th, 30th, 25th, 27th, 1908.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—Father, but he is a heavy drinker and cannot help.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Illness.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—Mr. P. is evidently very ill. The doctor says that his illness is probably caused by his unsteady habits. His wife looked starved and ill. Their relief, 10s. in kind, is given them in the form of an order on a grocer. Mrs. P. told me that the grocer gave her 2s. to 2s. 6d. in money out of their weekly ticket, and it was in this way that they paid their rent and bought their coal. I was informed at the office that their relief was paid in the form of a ticket on a grocer in order to prevent the money being spent at the public-house. This is a very unsatisfactory family in every way. The man has been a heavy drinker, and the wife has no character or back-bone. They are poor, ill, and ignorant.

March, 1908.—Mr. P. is in a more advanced stage of consumption than when I last saw him. His doctor sent him this week to a Convalescent Home, but he wrote and asked his wife to fetch him home "as he was cold and hungry and had the hump." By the next post a letter was received at the office from the Sister in charge of the home asking the guardians to remove him as soon as possible, as the doctor on examination had found him to be a case of advanced tubercular phthisis. His wife fetched him home on March 12th. I saw him on the 13th, and I have since been informed that he died on the 15th. I saw the doctor about this man on the 12th. He told me (as everyone else did to whom I spoke on the matter) that this was a most unsatisfactory family, and that it had been impossible from the beginning to help them on account of their ignorance and unsteady habits. He very much feared that Mrs. P. was phthisical, and would be unable to work to support herself and her children when her husband was gone. The guardians tried to force Mr. P. into the workhouse, but he refused to go and as they could not let him starve out-relief has been given.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

TOWNSHIP OF HELSTON.

CASE-PAPER No. 48.

E. M. A., L., AND S. P.

AGES.—Edward (12), Mabel (11), Annie (10), Lily (7), Samuel (4).

EARNINGS.—William (19), a miner, earns £4 per month.

, 17, a miner, earns £3 per month.

15, a miner, earns £ per month. Jack, in farm service, earns £12 per year. Katie, in service, earns £6 per year. May (3), living with an aunt at Falmouth.

HEALTH.—

CHARACTERS.—

CHILDREN.—

HOUSING.—Live with paternal aunt (who has two illegitimate children) in six-roomed detached house on side of hill on rough moor. No garden. Rent, £17 per year with land. Ten inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Fairly clean; very scantily furnished.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—Order for the workhouse for children, January 25th, 1908.

Other Help.—None.*Relations* (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Aunts on mother's side consider that the children are living in unsuitable surroundings and wish to have them removed from their paternal aunt's care.

GENERAL REMARKS.

January, 1908.—This is a difficult case, but one which ought never to have come to the Poor Law, for there is no actual destitution. It is really a family quarrel, and wants the help of some person who would be prepared to spend time and trouble over it, in order to get things placed on a sound basis. Probably the help would have to extend over many years. Briefly stated, the case is this:—Mrs. P., the mother of the children for whom the guardians have been applied to for assistance, died three years ago, when her youngest child, May, was born. Her death so preyed on her husband's mind that he became insane and was removed to an asylum and died there on December 15th, 1907. Then the maternal aunts tried to get the children removed from the care of the paternal aunt who kept house for their father after the mother's death. Their point is, that this aunt is not a suitable person to bring up the children on account of her past life. She has had two illegitimate children, and is practically stone deaf. They would like to see their nephews and nieces removed to the care of the guardians. The brothers who are working say they would like to keep the home together and are willing to look after their younger brothers and sisters. These brothers work in the mines, and are wishful to keep on the small farm which their father had before them, when he also worked in the mines. They have two milking cows. The guardians gave the applicants an order for the workhouse for the children, but so far no use has been made of it.

March, 1908.—On Saturday, March 7th, a fresh application was made to the guardians on behalf of these children. This time out-relief was asked for on their behalf and was refused.

THAME UNION (OXON).

There has been a great decrease in this union in out-relief during the last ten years, owing to more careful administration. The cases have been revised and the names of persons who, on further investigation, were found to have a sufficient income, were removed from the list, and relatives in other cases have been called upon to maintain the applicants. In decreasing the number of persons in the receipt of out-relief, the number in the workhouse has not been materially increased. From the official returns I find that the workhouse contained:—

In 1893, 98 inmates.	In 1903, 102 inmates.
„ 1897, 83	„ „ 1907, 103

Most of the persons in the workhouse at the present time are very old, and the matron informed me that only two of them could read or write. Indeed, on turning over the pages of the relieving officer's books, I was particularly struck with the great age of the 402 persons in receipt of out-relief. Of this number:—

144 persons or 36 per cent.	were under 65 years of age.
184	„ „ 46 „ „ over 65 years, but under 80.
74	„ „ 18 „ „ over 80. Two having attained the great age of 94 years and one 97.

At the last meeting of the board, prior to my first visit to this union, out of seventeen persons applying for the renewal of relief eleven were over seventy-five years of age, and four of the remaining cases were those of widows with children of school age.

The policy of the board is to give a small sum in out-relief, where the conditions and surroundings are suitable, and in other cases an order for the workhouse. In a case of severe illness, if the home is a suitable one, the applicant is adequately relieved in money.

In the case of widows with young children, who could not be left while the mother went out to work, the woman would be allowed so much per week for herself, and a certain sum for each child. The board has no scale of relief, but every case is "judged on its merits." An old man or an old woman would probably be allowed 3s. 6d. per week, but before deciding the amount to be given, the circumstances of each applicant are carefully considered. The relief is paid in money and nothing is given in kind.

In conversation with a lady member of the board, I gathered that she considered there was much unnecessary medical relief given in the union. People had got into the way of applying for relief immediately there was sickness in the family. These persons had made no provision for themselves by becoming members of sick clubs, etc., but could always find money to spend at the public-house.

The chairman of the board, who has lived in the district all his life, informed me that there was an awakening among the people in the district. He never remembered a time when the gardens had been better cultivated, or when the occupants of the cottages had so fully realised the value of the land to them. Many of the allotment holders clubbed together and bought the very best seeds they could purchase from well-known seedsmen. One man had told him that they now knew the importance of good seeds and that his crop of onions alone had paid the rent of his bit of land. He also stated that he considered the labourers were drinking less than formerly. He is a member of the various sick clubs in his village, and attends the club meetings. Although the meetings are held in a public-house the younger members do not take beer but order some kind of temperance drink. From his own experience he considers that the poor in the district are more thrifty than formerly and thoroughly appreciate the efforts which are made to help them in the way of various clothing, coal, and boot clubs.

The population in the union is 13,023, and the proportion of paupers is 43 per 1,000 of the population.

THAME UNION.

CASE-PAPER, No. 49.

W. AND E. A.

AGES.—Husband, 60. Wife, 60.

EARNINGS.—Husband, . . . Saw sharpener. Wife, actual, 1s. 3d. Chars one day a week.

HEALTH.—Husband, failing eyesight. Wife, poor.

CHARACTERS.—Husband, lazy, and drinks heavily. Wife, decent respectable woman.

CHILDREN.—Fred (17), 10s., pays mother 8s., labourer in brickyard. James, married, labourer, with two children. John, married, with six children. Thomas, married, labourer, with three children. Harry, married, labourer, with one child. Two married daughters with families, husbands labourers. One daughter (25), in service, she has bad health, and is just changing her place.

HOUSING.—Live in three-roomed house. Small garden. Weekly rent, 1s. 6d. Three inmates.

GENERAL CONDITIONS.—Clean, respectable, comfortable home, with frugal but sufficient furniture.

POOR LAW RELIEF GRANTED.—5s. to 6s. for groceries for several weeks in succession, some years since, when W. A. was ill.

Other Help.—None.

Relations (other than children) legally liable or able to help.—None.

CAUSE OF APPLICATION FOR RELIEF.—Out of work and almost blind.

GENERAL REMARKS.

February, 1908.—W. A. is losing his eyesight. He is a saw sharpener, and the dust caused by his trade has got into his eyes, and has injured the sight. Mrs. A. has had thirteen children, ten are living. Of these, eight are married. One daughter is in service in Oxford, and the unmarried son who works at a brickyard, lives at home and pays his mother 8s. per week. She does on an average one day's charing a week, for which she receives 1s. 3d. She is not strong enough to do more work than this. The home was clean and comfortable, and though the furniture was poor, the whole house had a look of great respectability. Mrs. A. thinks that it is a great shame that the guardians will not allow her husband a "little maintenance"; "lots of others have it, and so ought he." She looked weak, ill, anxious, and worried. She went out charing and worked in the fields during the whole period she was childbearing.

March, 1908.—Mrs. A. was out at work when I called. Circumstances remain practically unchanged. From inquiries I made from the vicar of the parish and others, I learned that W. A. has been a hard drinker, and thoroughly lazy all his life. He is still out of work and will probably never do anything again. Everyone testifies to Mrs. A.'s respectability and worth and is genuinely sorry for her.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

ANALYSIS OF CASES.

Before discussing the effects which have followed the refusal to grant out-door relief in the cases visited, it will be well if I analyse the immediate causes of poverty leading to the application for relief. The causes were found to be complex, especially when the family comprised more than one adult. They are referred to at length in the preceding pages. In the following table the principal cause of destitution only is given.

	No. of Cases.	Per cent.
A. Unemployment.		
(1). Through bona fide lack of work	2	4
(2). " seasonal " " "	4	8
(3). " casual nature " "	3	6
(4). Laziness	1	2
(5). Through drink	6	13
B. Loss of chief wage-earner.		
(1). Death of husband	6	12
(2). Desertion of husband	1	2
(3). Father and mother both dead	1	2
(4). Imprisonment of husband, due to drink	3	6
C. Incapacity.		
(1). From illness	4	8
(2). " Old age	18	37
	49	100

In the case of ten of the sixteen persons who pleaded want of work as a claim for relief, unemployment was due to some personal defect, such as drinking habits, laziness, inefficiency, etc., and four of the remaining six cases belonged to seasonal trades.

Of the six widows, not one owed her distress merely to the loss of her husband, but all had some other disqualification which would make it difficult for them to find remunerative employment.

Nine cases are returned as destitute primarily on account of drink. Drink may have been a contributory cause in other cases, but I have found no confirmatory evidence of this.

Only one case has been entered under the heading of laziness, but in eight cases (Nos. 2, 12, 14, 16, 18, 28, 29 and 41), the applicants for relief had able-bodied sons who to all appearance made no effort to obtain regular employment. If these sons had been in work their relatives would not have been in a position to require State aid.

Old age accounts for eighteen of the cases, no other cause of destitution being responsible for so many. In fifteen of the eighteen cases no contributory causes of destitution could be discovered. In the other three cases drink has possibly been a factor.

The following tables give respectively the status of the families visited, their occupations, the condition of their homes, and the ages of the applicants:—

Family Status.

15 widows without children dependent.	12 married couples with children dependent.
2 widows with one child dependent.	1 man living apart from his wife.
3 single women.	1 single man.
3 married women whose husbands were in prison, with children dependent.	1 family of children.
1 deserted woman with children dependent.	—
1 widower with children dependent.	49 Total.
2 widowers without children dependent.	—
7 married couples without children dependent.	

*Occupations, Present or Past.**Women :—*

12 charwomen.
4 seamstresses.
1 nurse.

1 woman runs errands.
1 woman once owned a laundry.
1 presser in clothes factory.
1 "simple minded."

Men :—

1 general dealer.
2 bricklayers.
1 stone mason.
5 builders' labourers.
2 iron workers' labourers.
3 general labourers.
1 dock labourer.
1 coach painter's labourer.
1 horse-keeper.
2 carmen.

1 tooth-brush worker.
1 boot finisher.
1 jobbing gardener.
1 market porter.
1 hawker.
1 saw sharpener.
1 roadman.
1 road sweeper.
1 family of children.

Condition of Homes.

14 clean and comfortable.
8 fairly clean and comfortable.
13 clean but with poor furniture.
4 dirty but with good furniture.

6 squalid and dirty.
3 homes not found.
1 gone to workhouse, home disbanded.

Ages of the Applicants.

Ages.	Men.	Women.	Totals.	Per cent.
20-30	3	1	4	9
30-40	5	0	5	
40-50	5	4	9	29
50-60	4	3	7	
60-65	2	3	5	25
65-70	5	4	9	
70-75	2	4	6	37
75-80				
80-85	1	2	3	
—	27	21	48*	—

Results of Refusal to Grant Out-Relief.†

Having given the above particulars, with regard to the families visited, I am now in a position to discuss the results following the refusal to grant out-relief. These may be summarised as follows :—

(1) In no case was the support by relatives increased through the refusal of out-relief. In practically all the cases they were so poor themselves, that they were not in a position to give systematic assistance. If such additional help had been given it must have been at the cost of the physical efficiency of the younger generation.

* The family of children (49) is not included in this table.

† To give a really adequate statement of the results of the refusal of out-relief would require a personal acquaintance with the cases, both before and after the refusal, extending over a lengthy period. Such acquaintance it was, of course, impossible for me to gain. The cases were under my observation for a few weeks only. The present report is put forward with the knowledge of the shortcomings necessarily arising from this fact.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

(2) In no case has any charitable agency effectively dealt with the destitution. Occasionally I found that spasmodic gifts were made, but with one exception, no effort was attempted definitely to place the family upon a sound economic footing.*

(3) There was no evidence to show that the applicants themselves had been stimulated by the refusal of relief to greater personal efforts. On the contrary the denial of assistance appeared to have discouraged and disheartened many whose energy might have been roused by wise guidance accompanied by sufficient temporary aid to enable them to maintain physical efficiency.

(4) Two of the cases found work. In one of these the man went back to his old employment straight from prison, and in the other the man had got some irregular and possibly only temporary employment (Nos. 10 and 32).

(5) In more than half of the cases the refusal of out-relief led to a gradual dispersal of the household furniture and wearing apparel, often not even excepting the most necessary clothing. There were also unmistakable signs of a marked physical deterioration of the members of the families, owing to lack of food, warmth and proper clothing. If eventually the applicants are forced to enter the workhouse they will do so with health gone, home gone, and spirit and courage shattered. This deterioration is from the national standpoint, probably most serious in the case of the children. The homes which were being broken up were of two classes : firstly respectable homes which have been in the past thoroughly comfortable (*e.g.*, Nos. 3, 6, 8 and 36), secondly, homes which possibly have never reached a high standard of comfort (Nos. 2, 7, 14, 26).

(6) Six of the applicants accepted the order for the workhouse. No. 5 died there shortly after admittance, and No. 15 remained an inmate for a few weeks, and died at the house of her grand-daughter soon after taking her discharge.

SUGGESTIONS AND REMARKS.

1. If universal old-age pensions were in vogue it is doubtful whether any of the eighteen cases of applicants over sixty-five years of age would have become Poor Law cases.

2. I was much struck with the hopeless condition of some of the cases at the stage at which I visited them. With these an earlier commonsense treatment would have prevented the development of destitution (and in some cases of degradation also) to its present acute form. Cases 8, 9, 10 and 20 illustrate this. To effectively suppress pauperism, cases of destitution should be dealt with at an earlier stage.

3. The method of dealing with cases should be much more elastic. The workhouse test is not enough. (*See Case No. 11*). There are many cases which cannot suitably be met either by the grant of a workhouse order or by out-relief. Some require curative treatment, some merely sound advice. No case which has ever touched the Poor Law should be left to drift unaided. There is evidently an urgent need for some organisation which would deal with cases where the offices of a friend are required. It should work in conjunction with the Poor Law officials, who would hand over suitable cases to its care. I have come across cases, *e.g.*, Nos. 46, 48, where it is likely that if a strong and wise friend could be found they might be placed upon an independent economic footing. It is so often not only financial aid that is needed but friendship and advice. It is sometimes thought that the religious and charitable agencies provide this, but in only one case have I discovered any attempt on the part of such agencies to build up the economic independence of the family. The need for effective encouragement of thrift in the case of those who are engaged in seasonal trades was very evident. Cases 35 and 36 illustrate this. The men earned good money in the summer but instead of saving a proportion of it spent it all and in the winter they had nothing to fall back upon. The mere providing of facilities for saving is not enough. There should be persons visiting the families who will encourage them week by week during the summer to make provision for the period of seasonal unemployment.

* In the case of No. 8 the almoner in connection with a church has attempted to start the man as a jobbing cobbler. The experiment was of too recent formation for me to express an opinion as to the probability of its ultimate success.

If the suggestions named above were carried out it would be necessary to have a better class of persons to act as relieving officers and to restrict the number of cases with which each officer has to deal.

The following minor suggestions have also occurred to me in the course of my work :—

- (i) That a uniform case-paper system should be introduced into every union.
- (ii) That the law of settlement should be abolished. If this is not practicable for the whole Poor Law system, it should at any rate be abolished between different unions in the same town.
- (iii) The appointment of paid women officials in every union, who should not be attached to any special district, as relieving officers are, but some of whose duties should be : (a) to inquire into maternity cases ; (b) to visit aged women and women with children in the receipt of out-relief ; (c) to inquire into the circumstances of the relations of children who become chargeable ; (d) to inquire into the suitability of proposed situations for children about to be placed out by the guardians, and to visit them regularly when in places ; (e) to superintend the boarding-out of children outside the union ; (f) to deal with exceptional cases from time to time as they occur. These are only a few of the directions in which a paid woman official could be of service, but are sufficient to indicate the importance of the duties which she would undertake.

G. HARLOCK.

APPENDIX A.

PARISH OF PADDINGTON.

SAMPLE CASE-PAPER GIVING POOR LAW HISTORY OF T. H. AND HIS FAMILY.

Date.	Nature of Application and Order of Committee.
March 30, 1898.	Dispensary order (Susan).
" 31, "	Approved, two weeks.
July 7, "	Burial order (Ethel).
" 14, "	Approved.
August 9, "	*Home order for Bridget Susan.
" 11, "	Approved. Not present.
February 28, 1901.	Home order (man).
March 1, "	Temporary relief given by relieving officer: Bread, 2d.; meat, 2d.; milk, 3d. Value, 2s. 7d.
" 7, "	Approved, 2s. 7d. Home order, two weeks.
" 7, "	Temporary relief given by relieving officer: Bread, 6 quarterns; meat, 3 lbs.; milk, 12 pints. Value, 5s. 6d.
" 14, "	Approved.
" 14, "	Temporary relief given by relieving officer: Bread, 6 quarterns; meat, 3 lbs.; milk, 12 pints. Value, 5s. 6d.
" 21, "	Approved.
August 29, "	Home order (James).
September 12, "	Approved. Not present.
February 5, 1902.	Home order (man).
" 6, "	Approved, four weeks.
" 7, "	Nourishment as recommended by medical officer: meat, 5 lbs.; milk, 7 pints. Value, 3s. 3d.
" 12, "	Wife applies for work.
" 13, "	Approved, 3s. 3d.
" 13, "	Four days' washing a week, two weeks.
" 25, "	For continuance of work for wife.
" 27, "	Four days' washing a week, two weeks. Medical officer to report again as to man.
March 12, "	For continuance of work for wife.
" 13, "	Laundry, four days, four weeks.
April 9, "	For continuance of work for wife.
" 10, "	Laundry, four days, four weeks.
May 14, "	For continuance of work for wife.
" 15, "	Four days washing a week for two weeks.
" 21, "	For continuance of work for wife.
" 29, "	Four days' washing in laundry for five weeks.
July 1, "	For continuance of work for wife.
" 3, "	Four days' washing, four weeks.
" 28, "	For continuance of work for wife.
" 31, "	Four days' a week washing, two weeks.
August 11, "	For continuance of work for wife.
" 14, "	Four days' washing a week, two weeks.
" 26, "	For continuance of work for wife.
" 28, "	Four days' washing a week, two weeks.
September 9, "	For continuance of work for wife.
" 11, "	Four days' laundry, four weeks.
October 8, "	Home order for man.
" 8, "	For continuance of work for wife.
" 8, "	Four days' washing, four weeks.
November 4, "	For continuance of work for wife.
" 6, "	Four days' washing, four weeks.
December 2, "	For continuance of work.
" 4, "	Three days' washing, four weeks.
" 24, "	For the continuance of three days' washing.
" 24, 1902.	Three days' washing, one week. Medical officer to report as to husband.
January 1, 1903.	Continuance of three days' washing for wife.
" 1, "	Six days' work in labour yard at 1s. a day in food.
" 8, "	Home order (Mary).
July 4, "	Approved. Not present.
" 9, "	Home order for Margaret.
August 25, "	Approved. Not present.
" 27, "	Home order for man.
September 19, "	Infirmary order for man.
" 21, "	Ambulance, 10s.
" 24, "	Two loaves; 4 lbs. meat; 6 pints milk, 3s. 5d.
" 24, "	Approved, ten weeks. Approved, 3s. 5d.
" 24, "	Wife applies for renewal of the washing in the laundry.
" 26, "	Two loaves; 4 lbs. meat; 6 pints milk, 3s. 5d.
" 26, "	Man died. Approved, 3s. 5d. Four days' washing, one week; 4s. in value, one week.
" 28, "	Medical officer to report re Margaret.

* Home order means that the medical officer is to visit the home of applicant and report.

Date.	Nature of Application and Order of Committee.
October 1, ..	Applicant applies for the admission of Mary and Susan, and for the continuance of her work. Medical officer's Report <i>re</i> Margaret.
" 5, ..	Four days' washing a week, four weeks. House order, four weeks, for Mary and Susan.
" 8, ..	Mary and Susan admitted to workhouse.
" 9, ..	Mary and Susan transferred to children's receiving home.
" 9, ..	Mary and Susan transferred to workhouse. Mary and Susan transferred to Totteridge.
" 13, ..	Approved for eight weeks.
November 2, ..	Continuance of four days' washing, and for Mary, eleven, and Susan, eight, to remain.
" 3, ..	Four days' washing a week, two weeks. Mary and Susan to remain thirteen weeks. Medical officer to report <i>re</i> Margaret and Miss Humphrey to visit.
" 5, ..	Report from Miss Humphrey.
" 12, ..	Continuance of four days' washing. House order, eight weeks.
" 19, ..	Two loaves; 4 lbs. meat; 6 pints milk, 3s. 5d.
" 21, ..	Approved.
" 26, ..	Two loaves; 4 lbs. meat; 6 pints milk, 3s. 5d.
" 26, ..	Two loaves; 4 lbs. meat; 6 pints milk, 3s. 5d.
December 1, ..	Woman applies for work.
" 3, ..	6s. 10d. approved. Not present.
" 3, ..	Two loaves; 4 lbs. meat; 6 pints milk, 3s. 5d.
" 5, ..	Renewed application for washing.
" 10, ..	Approved, 3s. 5d.
" 10, ..	House Order, eight weeks.
" 10, ..	Renewed application for work.
" 29, ..	Four days' washing a week, two weeks.
" 31, ..	Application for the continuance of four days' washing.
January 12, 1904.	Four days' washing a week, two weeks.
" 14, ..	Applies for Mary and Susan to remain at Totteridge, and the continuance of four days' washing.
" 26, ..	Mary and Susan to remain thirteen weeks at Totteridge, four days' washing a week, two weeks.
" 28, ..	Continuance of four days' washing.
February 22, ..	Four days' washing, four weeks.
" 22, ..	Continuance of four days' washing.
March 17, ..	Four days' laundry work, four weeks.
" 24, ..	Continuance of four days' washing.
April 18, ..	Also applies for the fare to visit her children at Totteridge.
" 18, ..	Four days' washing a week, four weeks. Fare to be paid to Totteridge and back.
" 21, ..	Fare to Totteridge, 2s. 6d.
" 21, ..	Approved.
" 28, ..	For the continuance of four days' washing, and for Mary (12) and Susan (9) to remain at Totteridge. Four days' laundry, thirteen weeks; Mary and Susan to remain thirteen weeks.
May 14, ..	Dispensary order (William).
June 1, ..	Approved, four weeks.
" 2, ..	For the continuance of four days' washing, and for Mary (12) and Susan (9) to remain at Totteridge.
August 8, ..	Four days' washing a week, eight weeks. Children, Mary and Susan, to remain thirteen weeks.
" 18, ..	Continuance of four days' washing, and for Mary (12) and Susan (9) to remain at Totteridge.
October 15, ..	Four days' washing in laundry, four weeks. Children, Mary and Susan, to remain at Totteridge thirteen weeks.
" 20, ..	Continuance of four days' washing.
November 10, ..	Four days' washing, four weeks. Woman warned.
" 17, ..	Milk, 10½ pints; 1s. 9d.
" 22, ..	Approved.
" 24, ..	Continuance of four days' washing, and Mary and Susan to remain at Totteridge.
December 15, ..	Mary and Susan to remain at Totteridge, thirteen weeks; four days' washing for four weeks. Woman urged to seek more work outside.
" 22, ..	For continuance of work. Four days' work in laundry, four weeks. Woman warned.
January 14, 1905.	Continuance of washing.
February 16, ..	Four days' work in laundry, four weeks.
" 23, ..	Continuance of four days' work in laundry.
March 16, ..	Four days' laundry, eight weeks. Attendance excused.
" 23, ..	Note from Minutes:—" Recommending that Mary Ann Hawkes be appointed laundrywoman at the infirmary in place of Eliza Hagerty (resigned), at wages of 2s. 1d. per day, together with dinner and tea daily."
April 12, ..	Mary and Susan to remain at Totteridge.
May 4, ..	Mary and Susan to remain thirteen weeks.
" 11, ..	Home Order child. One loaf; 2 lbs. meat; 4 pints milk, 1s. 10½d.
July 17, 1905.	One loaf; 2 lbs. meat; 4 pints milk, 1s. 10½d.
" 20, ..	Approved. Attendance excused.
" 21, ..	One loaf; 2 lbs. meat; 4 pints milk, 1s. 10½d.
" 21, ..	One loaf; 2 lbs. meat; 4 pints milk, 1s. 10½d.
" 27, ..	Approved.
" 28, ..	Mary and Susan to remain at Totteridge. Mary and Susan to remain at school thirteen weeks.
August 3, ..	Mary and Susan to remain at Totteridge.
December 12, ..	Children to remain thirteen weeks.
" 14, ..	Mary, 14, and Susan, 11, to remain at Totteridge.
March 10, 1906.	Children to remain 13 weeks.
" 15, ..	For Mary, 14, and Susan, 11, to remain at Totteridge.
June 9, ..	Children to remain thirteen weeks.
" 14, ..	Home Order, Margaret.
July 13, ..	Approved and week's attendance excused.
" 19, ..	For Mary, 14, and Margaret, 11, to remain at Totteridge.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

Date.	Nature of Application and Order of Committee.
September 13, 1906.	Mary and Susan to remain thirteen weeks. Attendance excused.
October 20, ..	Home Order, Margaret.
" 25, ..	Approved, twelve weeks.
December 8, ..	For Mary, 14, and Susan, 12, to remain at Totteridge.
" 12, ..	Approved, thirteen weeks.
January 19, 1907.	Dispensary Order for child Alfred.
" 24, ..	Approved, four weeks.
March 8, ..	Mary, 15; Susan, 12; to remain at Totteridge.
" 14, ..	Mary and Susan to remain thirteen weeks. Attendance excused.
April 11, ..	Home Order for Margaret (child). Approved, four weeks.
June 8, ..	Continuance of Mary, 15, and Susan, 12, at Totteridge.
" 12, ..	Continued thirteen weeks.
July 3, ..	Situation proposed for Mary.
" 9, ..	Mary discharged to service.
September 7, ..	Continuance of Susan at Totteridge.
" 12, ..	Susan to remain thirteen weeks at Totteridge.
October 22, ..	Home Order for Margaret.
" 24, ..	Approved, four weeks.

Date of First Application, March 30th, 1898.

Names of Applicant and Wife.		Age.	When born.	Where born.	Religious Persuasion.
Surname.	Christian Names.				
Hawkes	Thomas	37	Aug. 21, 1860.	St. George's, Hanover Square.	R. C.
	Mary Ann	38	Mar. 30, 1860.	Townsend Cottages.	"

Names of Children under 16 dependent on them.	Age.	When born.	Where born.	Religious Persuasion, and when and where Baptised.
James	14	Feb. 25, 1884.	218, Cambridge Road.	R. C. Church, Quex Rd.
Margaret	11	Nov. 3, 1886.	30, Kilburn Park Road.	"
Mary Agnes	6	Dec. 24, 1891.	do.	"
Bridget Susan	3	Nov. 9, 1894.	"	"
William	1	Apr. 27, 1899.	2, Gordon Road.	"
Alfred		May 21, 1903.	6, St. Catherine's Road.	St. Francis R. C. Church Portland Road.
Ethel	2 mths	Died July 6, 1898.		

Names of Children not dependent on them.	Age.	Married or Single.	Address.	Occupation.
Emily	20	Married 1902, Mrs. Dibsall.	—	—

If adult, whether single, married, widow, or widower.—Married. Widow since September 28th, 1903.

Date and place of marriage.—Our Lady's Catholic Chapel, St. John's Wood, May 3rd, 1879.

Wife's maiden name.—Mary Ann Dawson.

Date and place of his or her death.—Paddington Infirmary, September 28th, 1903.

Whether relieved before, in this or any other union or parish, and if so, when and where.—Nowhere.

Residence and how long there.—34, Clarendon Street. Five weeks.

Rent and amount due.—4s.; 2s. owing.

How long resident in the parish without relief or interruption, giving particulars of residences and corroborative evidence.
Also rent owing (if any).—13, Malvern Road, Kilburn, twelve months. 2, Gordon Road, Kilburn, two years and two months.

Present or previous occupation of applicant and earnings.—Labourer (handy man); out of work.

Present cause of seeking relief.—Illness of child Susan.

If applicant is in debt, nature of debts covered by bill of sale, pawn tickets, etc.—Pawn tickets, 15s.

Club, benefit, or trade society.—No.

Insurance society.—No.

Name of nearest relative or friend.—Thomas Hawkes.

Relationship of nearest relative or friend.—Father of child.

Address of nearest relative or friend.—34, Clarendon Street.

Occupation of nearest relative or friend.—Labourer.

Names, addresses, and financial circumstances of:—

(a) *Liabile relatives other than those mentioned on page 1.*—Son, James, earns 1s. a week, working at Hart's Confectioners, High Street, Kilburn.

(b) *Other relatives assisting or able to assist.*—Applicant is out of a situation. Wife is expecting to be confined Living by borrowing and pawning.

PARTICULARS AS TO SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS OR AS TO CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

DATE.	PRESENT RESIDENCE.
July 7, 1898.	34, Clarendon Street. Man has earned nothing for three weeks.
August 9, ..	1, Bowden Street. Rent, 6s. None owing; 25s. owing at 34, Clarendon Street. The man has been out of work five weeks. He may have earned 8s. at odd jobs during that time. The wife earns about 6s. weekly as a rule. James, 14, is now out of work; he has lost an eye. The child, Bridget, is now with her aunt, Louisa Stephens, 38, Amberley Road.
February 28, 1901.	62, Woodchester Street, twelve months. Rent, 6s. Three weeks owing. Pawn tickets, £1. Man has only done about a week's work since Christmas. Wife earns 2s. a week charing. Son, James, at home, out of work; he may earn a shilling or two on Saturday. Daughter, Emily Dibsdale, 56, Clarendon Street. Two children.
March 7, ..	62, Woodchester Street. Rent, 6s. Owes one month. Pawn tickets value £1. James is out of employ; earns 1s. or 1s. 6d. on Saturdays. Wife earns 2s. a week down charing. Very destitute.
August 29, ..	31, Clarendon Street. Rent, 7s. Owes 14s. Pawn tickets, 10s. Man has started work this week. Will earn about £1. James is unable to go to work owing to illness. Recommended to join a dispensary.
February 5, 1902.	31, Clarendon Street. Rent, 6s. Owes three weeks. Pawn tickets, value 10s. Man has been out of work four months. Wife does charing, earned 7s. last week. James, a porter at High Road, Kilburn; wages, 10s. a week.
February 12, ..	Rent, 6s. Owes three weeks. Pawn tickets, value 10s. Man has been out of employ four months. Wife does charing; earned 7s. the week before last; nothing last week. Son, James, a porter at a tailor's shop in High Road, Kilburn; wages 10s. a week. Margaret, 15, at home, is paralysed. Mary Agnes, 10; Susan, 7; William, 2, at home. Daughter, Emily Dibsdale, married, two children; husband, a carman for Mr. Marks, ice merchant, address, 56, Clarendon Street; cannot assist. Applicant will have a day's work on Saturday at the Albert Hotel, Cornwall Road, will earn 2s. 3d. Two rooms, fairly clean.
February 25, ..	Circumstances as above.
March 12, ..	31, Clarendon Street. Rent, 6s. Owes three weeks. Pawn tickets, 10s. Son, James, is still earning 10s. a week. Applicant has a day's work every Saturday at the Albert Hotel, Cornwall Road. Wages, 2s. 3d. Husband unable to work at present.
April 9, ..	Circumstances as above. Man has gone on tramp to Dartford, having heard there is work to be obtained.
May 14, ..	Rent, 6s. Three weeks owing. No alteration in circumstances.
May 28, ..	Rent, 6s. Owes three weeks. Man is not at present able to work. Wife only has a day's work every Saturday at the Albert Hotel, Cornwall Road; wages, 2s. 3d. James is still employed at a tailor's in High Road, Kilburn; wage, 12s. a week.
July 1, ..	Rent, 6s. Owes three weeks. Man has not obtained any work. Wife only has a day every Saturday; wages, 2s. 3d. James is still earning 12s. a week.
July 28, ..	Rent, 6s. Owes 17s. Husband is still out of work. Wife has one day every Saturday; wages, 2s. 3d. James is still earning 12s. a week. Husband went out Monday to seek for work and has not returned.
August 11, ..	31 Clarendon Street. Rent, 6s. Owes 17s. Husband has not returned home. Applicant earns 2s. 3d. every Saturday. James is still earning 12s. a week.
August 26, 1902.	31, Clarendon Street. Rent, 6s. 17s. owing. Man is still tramping about looking for work. No change in circumstances.
September 9, ..	Applicant states that she heard from her husband. He expected to commence work yesterday, hop-picking; no alteration in circumstances.
October 8, ..	Rent, 6s. 14s. owing. Wife earns 2s. 3d. every Saturday. James earns 12s. a week. Husband returned October 1st, is at present home ill. Margaret, 16, at home, a cripple.
November 4, ..	Rent, 6s. Owes 14s. Wife earns 2s. 3d. every Saturday. James earns 12s. a week. Man has not obtained any work at present. Margaret 16, at home, a cripple. Mary, 11; Susan, 9; William 3.
December 2, ..	Rent 6s. Owes 15s. Pawn tickets all out. Applicant is earning 2s. 3d. every Saturday. James is earning 12s. a week. Man has gone to stay with his cousin, William Dennis, at Ilford. Applicant states she cannot obtain any work at present.
December 2, ..	Rent, 6s. Owing, 12s. 6d. The man has earned nothing for three weeks. The week before he earned 4s. at odd jobs. The wife earns 2s. and food on Saturdays. Emily Dibsdale lives at 56, Clarendon Street. Two children. James, 18, a shop porter earns 12s. weekly; pays his mother 6s. for lodging, and 1s. for food on Sunday. Margaret, 16, cripple; paralysed in one arm and one leg; at home. The man has not done anything at his own work for eighteen months. He should be in the Labour Yard, with the payment all in kind, then he would try and get work elsewhere. The kitchens in which they live are not so clean as they might be.
January 6, 1903.	On the 5th inst. at 12.30 p.m. I visited. Thomas Hawkes was in bed; there did not appear to be much the matter with him. One hour afterwards, Dr. Hibberd visited with a view to giving the certificate required; Thomas Hawkes was not at home. The home is still dirty.
July 4, ..	31, Clarendon Street. Rent, 6s. 24s. owing. Pawn tickets, 30s. Man earned 5s. last week. Wife has no work. James is earning about 8s. a week selling flowers.
August 25, ..	31, Clarendon Street. Rent, 6s. 18s. owing. The man earned 5s. last week. The wife earns nothing. James earns 8s. weekly selling flowers.
September 19, 1903.	Rent owing, 18s. The man has not worked for three weeks. The wife is earning nothing. James is earning 5s. weekly. Margaret, 16, a cripple, at home. Living by selling and pawning. Tickets, value 30s.
September 26, ..	Rent owing, 24s. James (has only one eye), is earning 5s. weekly, selling flowers. The wife is earning nothing. Margaret, 16, a cripple, is earning nothing. Living by selling and pawning. Tickets, £2. The rooms are dirty and poorly furnished. The mother and five children sleep in front kitchen, and the boy, James, in the back.
September 28, ..	The husband died in the infirmary to-day. He is not insured.

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DATE.	PRESENT RESIDENCE.
October 5, 1903.	Applicant states she would rather keep the younger children at home, as it is something for Margaret, the cripple daughter to do, in having to look after them. If Mary and Susan are taken in, applicant thinks she can manage with the work the guardians are giving her.
November 3, ..	First floor, front. Rent, 4s. 6d. The son, James, has gone to 13, Baynard Road, Bermondsey, but he has no work. Margaret at home minding the younger children; she is a cripple, having one leg shorter than the other. Relieving officer thinks something might be done for this girl, although she may be useful to her mother in minding the children, her own life is being wasted and spoiled. William, 4, and Alfred, 6 months.
November 16, ..	Rent, 4s. 6d. 18s. owing. James sent 2s. last week. The woman is earning nothing in addition. (Earned 1s. 6d. this week.)
November 21, ..	The woman refuses to come in.
December 1, ..	13s. 6d. rent owing. The woman has earned nothing since last Thursday. James sent 2s. on the 28th. The room is perhaps slightly cleaner, but the woman has very crude ideas of cleanliness. The girl, Margaret, is now in the workhouse.
December 5, ..	The woman came too late to attend the Committee on Thursday. Made up the week's rent by selling some of her things. No work at present. (Worked at 25, Canterbury Road last Tuesday; earned 1s. 6d. per day, with food).
December 29, ..	Rent, 4s. 18s. owing on the 24th inst. She earned 3s.; earned nothing else. James sent 3s. on the 24th. He lives at 13, Baynard Road, Bermondsey. He gets his living in the streets. Two children, Mary and Susan, at Totteridge. William and Alfred with the applicant. The woman has no prospect of work, very destitute; living by selling her things. I could not help noticing that while making her application a very unpleasant smell as if she had not washed her linen lately. The woman's room is cleaner.
January 12, 1904.	31, Clarendon Street. Rent, 4s. 18s. owing. She earned 2s. and food on the 5th instant. James has sent nothing. William, 4, and Alfred, 7 months, with the applicant. No other work. The applicant has moved into a clean room, and there is a decided improvement which the applicant promises to maintain.
January 26, ..	Rent, 4s. 18s. owing. She is earning 3s. and food in addition to her work here. James (19), brought 3s. on Saturday.
February 22, ..	18s. owing. She is earning 3s. and food in addition to the work in the laundry. James, 19, gives his mother 3s. every Saturday. William, 4. Alfred 9 months.
April 18, ..	18s. rent, owing. Still earning 3s. and food in addition to her work in the laundry. James, 19, gave 3s. 6d. last week. William, 4. Alfred 1.
May 14, ..	18s. rent owing. Earning 2s. and food in addition to the work in the laundry. James, 19, gave 3s. last week. William, 5, Alfred, 1.
June 1, ..	18s. rent owing. Woman has no work outside the workhouse laundry.
August 8, ..	18s. rent owing. 1s. in addition to the work in the laundry. James, 19, is giving 3s. weekly. William, 5. Alfred 1.
October 15, ..	31, Clarendon Street. Rent, 4. 18s. owing. In addition to the work in the laundry she is earning 3s. and food. Income 14s., and food. James, 20, still gives his mother the 3s. weekly. Margaret, 17, a cripple, in the infirm wards. Mary Agnes, 11, and Susan, 9, at Totteridge. William, 5, and Alfred, 1, at home. Emily Dibsall, 26, at 41, Brindley Street.
November 12, ..	18s. rent owing. Earnings 3s. and food in addition to what she is earning in the laundry. James, 20, only gave her 1s. 6d. last week; generally gives 3s.
December 17, ..	18s. rent owing. The applicant is earning 3s. and food in addition to the work in the laundry. James, 20, is giving 3s. weekly. William, 5, and Alfred 1, at home.
January 14, 1905.	Rent 4s. The circumstances are exactly the same.
March 20, ..	18s. rent owing. The applicant is earning 3s. and food in addition to the work in the laundry. James, 20, is giving 3s. weekly. William, 5, and Alfred, 1, at home.
May 9, ..	17s. owing. The woman now at work in the infirmary, earning 12s. 6d. per week with dinner and tea. James is giving 3s. weekly. Margaret, 18, the cripple, came home from the workhouse on the 3rd instant, which is, the relieving officer thinks, a bad thing for the girl. William 5, and Alfred, 1, at home.
May 19, ..	The relieving officer is sorry to have to report that Mrs. Hawke's room was very dirty again when he visited.
" 27, ..	Mrs. Hawkes and Mrs. Dibsall visiting order. (31, Clarendon Street).
July 17, ..	Child with measles. Woman stopped at her work.
" 22, ..	Woman will go to her work on Monday.
September 9, ..	31, Clarendon Street. 15s. owing. Still working in laundry. James still allowing 3s. weekly. The applicant is working in the infirmary laundry earning 12s. weekly and dinner. Margaret, 18, at home, a cripple. William, 5, and Alfred, 2, at home.
December 12, ..	15s. rent owing. Still working in infirmary laundry. 12s. and dinner. James who is doing very little work gave 1s. 6d. last week. Margaret, 19, at home a cripple. William, 5, and Alfred, 2, at home.
March 10, 1906.	15s. rent owing. This woman is working in the infirmary laundry earning 12s. weekly and her dinner. James, 22, lodges at Bermondsey; hawks flowers, and allows his mother 3s. weekly. Margaret, 19, at home a cripple. William, 6, and Alfred 2, at home. Begs to be excused attendance.
No date.	15s. rent owing. Earnings, 12s. and dinner in the infirmary. James allows 3s. weekly. Margaret, 19, a cripple at home. William, 6, and Alfred, 2, at home. Begs to be excused attendance.
July 13, 1906.	31, Clarendon Street. Rent, 4s., 15s. owing. Applicant works in the infirmary earning 12s. and dinner. James allows 3s. weekly. Mary, 14, and Susan, 12, at Totteridge. Margaret, 19, William, 6. Alfred, 2, at home.
September 8, ..	15s. rent owing. The applicant works in the infirmary, earns 12s. and dinner. James allows 3s. weekly. Mary, 14. Susan, 12, at Totteridge. Margaret, 19. William, 6, and Alfred, 2, at home.
October 20, ..	15s. rent owing. The applicant works in the infirmary, earning 12s. and dinner. James, 22, allows 3s. weekly. Margaret, 19, at home, a cripple. Alfred, 3.

DATE.	PRESENT RESIDENCE.
December 8, 1906.	15s. rent owing. The applicant works in the infirmary, earning 12s. and dinner. James, 22, sells papers; he allows his mother 3s. weekly. Margaret, 20, a cripple, at home, earning nothing. Mary, 14, and Susan, 12, at Totteridge. William, 7. Alfred, 3, at home.
January 19, 1907.	No change in circumstances.
March 11, "	15s. rent owing. The applicant earns 12s. and dinner in the infirmary. James allows 3s. weekly. Margaret, 20, a cripple, at home. Mary, 15, and Susan, 12, at Totteridge. William, 7, and Alfred, 3, at home.
June 10, "	15s. rent owing. The applicant earns 12s. weekly and dinner in the infirmary. James allows 3s. weekly. Margaret, 20, at home, a cripple. William, 8, and Alfred, 4, at home. Begg to be excused attendance.
September 7, "	31, Clarendon Street. Rent, 4s., 15s. owing. This woman works at the infirmary, earning 12s. weekly and dinner. James, 23, lives in Bermondsey, and sends his mother 3s. weekly. Margaret, 20, at home, a cripple. Mary, 15, in service. William, 8, at home. Alfred, 4.
October 22, "	Margaret, 20, at home with mother. There are many papers attached to this file including doctors' certificates, Charity Organisation Society's Report on case, correspondence re placing Mary in service, Report of lady relief visitor to 31, Clarendon Street, in September, 1907, etc.

APPENDIX B.

PARISH OF PADDINGTON.

SAMPLE CASE-PAPER, GIVING POOR LAW HISTORY OF C. H. AND HIS FAMILY.

Date.	Nature of Application and Order of Committee.
October 31, 1896.	Temporary relief given by relieving officer amounting to 3s. 6d.
November 5, "	3s. 6d. approved. "Sudden and urgent necessity."
May 25, 1897.	Home order for man.
" 26, "	Infirmary order for man. Cab, 1s.
" 26, "	Nourishment given by relieving officer; value, 2s. 1d.
" 27, "	Approved, six weeks to be removed, also 2s. 1d. and 1s.
" 28, "	Temporary relief given by relieving officer. Value, 5s. 4½d.
June 3, "	Approved.
May 31, "	Woman applies for relief during the time her husband is in the infirmary.
June 3, "	House order, eight weeks.
" 5, "	Temporary relief given by relieving officer. Value, 3s. 6½d. Approved.
" 8, "	Woman and three children admitted to workhouse, as order of relieving officer, June 3rd.
" 10, "	
" 19, "	Children sent to Ashford Schools.
" 20, "	Lily transferred to infirmary.
" 28, "	Woman applied for one day's leave. Granted.
July 1, "	Man transferred to workhouse.
" 1, "	Man and wife discharged. No address.
" 15, "	Wife applies for children to remain.
" 15, "	Approved, two weeks. Charles, Annie, Lily.
" 17, "	Child Lily transferred to workhouse; Charles and Annie at Ashford; Lily in workhouse. Man attended and was told to take children back home at end of two weeks. He said he wished to take Lily away at once, and was told he might do so.
August 3, "	Approved for two weeks.
" 3, "	Child Lily discharged to 24, Earl Street, Edgware Road.
" 16, "	Man told to take children out. Approved for four weeks.
September 13, "	Man promises to take his children out to-morrow. Approved for two weeks.
" 17, "	Children, Charles and Annie, returned to workhouse.
" 18, "	Children, Charles and Annie, discharged to 24, Earl Street.
March 7, 1898.	Dispensary order, child (Charles).
" 10, "	Approved.
" 10, "	Bread, meat, milk, given by relieving officer. Value, 1s. Two days' work in labour yard at 1s. 2d. a day. Value, 2s. 4d. Total, 3s. 4d.
" 17, "	Approved, 3s. 4d.
May 21, "	Temporary relief given by relieving officer: Bread, 5 quarterns, meat, 5 lbs.; milk, 5 pints. Value, 5s.
" 24, "	Applies for relief until able to go to work.
" 26, "	Approved, 5s. Dispensary order for man for two weeks. Five days a week washing two weeks, woman.
" 26, "	Temporary relief given by relieving officer: Bread, 1s. 8d.; meat, 1s. 8d.; milk, 8d. Value, 4s.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

Date.	Nature of Application and Order of Committee.
June 2, 1908.	Approved.
" 8, "	Woman applies for continuance of washing.
" 9, "	Five days a week washing, two weeks.
" 21, "	Woman applies for continuance of washing.
" 23, "	Five days a week washing for three weeks.
July 23, "	Home order for man.
" 23, "	Temporary relief given by relieving officer: Bread, 5 quarterns; meat, 5 lbs.; milk, 5 pints. Value, 5s. Approved.
" 27, "	Wife applies for work.
" 28, "	House order, eight weeks to be removed.
" 28, "	Temporary relief given by relieving officer: Bread, 7 quarterns; meat, 7 lbs.; milk, 7 pints. Value, 7s.
August 2, "	Applies for relief or for a loan of £2 to go to Southend.
" 4, "	House order eight weeks to be removed.
" 8, "	Temporary relief given by relieving officer. Bread, 3 quarterns; meat, 3 lbs.; milk, 3 pints. Value, 3s.
" 11, "	Approved, 3s.
" 16, "	Four children, Lily Catherine, Chas. Herbert, Annie Mary Daisy, and Margaret, admitted to workhouse.
" 26, "	Workhouse order for woman.
" 26, "	Woman transferred to infirmary.
September 1, "	Lily and Charles sent to Ashford schools.
" 5, "	Approved for eight weeks.
" 3, "	Woman transferred to workhouse.
" 8, "	Approved, eight weeks. To be removed.
" 15, "	Lily and Charles returned to workhouse.
" 16, "	Woman and four children discharged; no address.
" 19, "	Child Daisy re-admitted to workhouse. Approved for three weeks. To be removed.
October 11, "	Child Daisy discharged to 59, Clarendon Street.
" 19, "	Workhouse order for woman and four children.
" 20, "	Approved six weeks. To be removed.
" 27, "	Lily and Charles sent to Ashford Schools.
December 5, "	Woman in workhouse. Lily and Charles at Ashford.
" 5, "	Approved for twelve weeks.
" 5, "	Child Charles, returned to workhouse.
" 6, "	Woman and three children, Charles, Annie, and Daisy, discharged to 9, Braden Street.
" 29, "	Child Lily at Ashford. Dispensary order for man.
January 14, 1899.	Man applies for temporary relief. Wife will attend.
" 5, "	Left in the hands of relieving officer. Home order. Approved for one week.
" 17, "	Workhouse order for man and boy Charles.
" 18, "	Workhouse order, woman, Annie, and Daisy.
" 19, "	Approved six weeks; to be removed.
" 18, "	Man transferred to infirmary.
" 19, "	Woman transferred to infirmary.
February 1, "	Woman transferred to workhouse.
" 2, "	Charles sent to Ashford Schools.
" 17, "	Man transferred to workhouse.
" 20, "	Applies to go without family.
" 20, "	Application refused.
" 27, "	Man and woman in workhouse; son Charles at Ashford.
March 6, "	Approved for twelve weeks.
" 6, "	Applies to go out without family.
" 6, "	Refused.
" 6, "	Order of removal made on St. Olaves.
" 7, "	Charles and Lilian return to workhouse.
" 8, "	Man, woman, and four children discharged. No address.
" 8, "	Order of admission given to man, and four children to the workhouse at 7.50 p.m.
" 9, "	Approved, two weeks (the man did not come in).
" 8, "	Four children only admitted to workhouse.
" 16, "	Lily sent to Ashford Schools.
" 27, "	Approved, two weeks. Children to be removed by Wednesday.
" 28, "	Application by telephone this morning for copy of depositions.
" 28, "	Lilian returned to workhouse.
April 10, "	Approved for two weeks. Proceedings to be taken.
" 12, "	Recommending that Mr. Hubert Bannister, General Relieving Officer, be directed and empowered to take proceedings against Charles Hill, for deserting his four children, whereby they have become chargeable to this parish, and that a reward of £1 be offered for his apprehension.
" 13, "	Lily, Charles and Annie sent to Ashford schools.
" 17, "	Home Order for wife.
" 19, "	Workhouse Order for man and wife (8.15 p.m.), given but not used.
" 20, "	Approved, not present.
" 24, "	Approved for two weeks.
" 27, "	Warrant issued for neglect to maintain.
" 28, "	Man arrested and remanded, one day.
" 29, "	Man committed by Mr. Curtis Bennett for one month with hard labour.
May 3, "	Order for admission to St Olave's Workhouse received for Lily, Charles, Annie, and Daisy.
" 4, "	Lily, Charles, and Annie returned to workhouse.
" 5, "	Four children removed to St. Olave's Union.
June 4, "	Lilian, Charles, and Annie re-admitted to workhouse.
" 5, "	Three children discharged. No address.

Date.	Nature of Application and Order of Committee.
June 16, 1906.	Dispensary Order. Man applies for work. Notice sent to medical officer of health. 7s. 1d.
" 21, "	House Order, six weeks. To be removed.
October 31, "	Home Order for man. Temporary relief, 1s. 10½d. Wife applies for work.
November 1, "	Approved House Order, six weeks.
" 3, "	Infirmary Order, man. Wife applies for work. Temporary relief, 8s. 1½d.
" 3, "	Infirmary Order approved, six weeks. House Order approved, six weeks to be removed.
" 10, "	Man discharged, no address.
January 5, 1907.	Temporary relief.
" 5, "	Home Order. The wife applies for work or relief, 7s. 8½d.
" 10, "	Six days in Labour Yard, at 1s. 6d. To be removed. Day's relief and per day. Total 7s. 10d.
" 17, "	Approved.
February 13, "	Home Order, child Florence.
" 14, "	Approved, three weeks.
" 15, "	Nourishment recommended by medical officer. Milk, 12 pints. Value, 2s. Approved.
" 20, "	Dispensary Order man.
" 21, "	Applies for relief.
" 21, "	Approved Order for House, eight weeks to be removed.
" 26, "	Home Order.
" 28, "	Wife applies for relief.
" 28, "	House Order, eight weeks, to be removed.
April 12, "	Dispensary Order, child Florence.
" 18, "	Approved. Not present.
August 2, "	Relieving officer's reports. Temporary relief, 2s. 7d.
" 15, "	Approved.
October 21, "	Home Order, child Florence. Approved. Four weeks.
November 2, "	Nourishment. Milk, 12 pints. Value, 2s.
November 5, "	Man applies for relief.
" 5, "	Temporary relief. Bread, 2 quarterns. Meat, 2 lbs. Milk, 6 pints. Value, 2s. 8d.
" 7, "	Not present. Approved.
" 13, "	Applies for relief.
" 14, "	House Order. Six weeks.
January 14, 1908.	Dispensary Order for child Florence.
" 16, "	Approved.

Date of First Application, March 31, 1896.

Names of Applicant and Wife.	Age.	When born.	Where born.	Religious Persuasion.
Hill, Charles - - - -	43	Nov. 22, 1852.	Southwick - - - -	C. of E.
Wife, Catherine - - - -	34	Oct. 29, 1862.	Commercial Road - -	-

Names of Children under 16 dependent on them.	Age.	When born.	Where born.	Religious Persuasion, and when and where Baptized.
Rosina - - - - -	11	July 2, 1885.	Rotherhithe - - - -	-
Lily - - - - -	9	Apr. 11, 1887.	Richard Street, Commercial Road.	-
Charles - - - - -	6	Aug. 10, 1890.	Old Church Road - -	-
Annie - - - - -	2	June 23, 1894.	York Place, Stepney -	-
Daisy - - - - -	9 months.	Aug. 1, 1897.	24, Earl Street - - -	-
Florence - - - - -	3	June 24, 1903.	Commercial Road - -	-

If adult, whether single, married, widow, or widower.—Married.

Date and place of marriage.—August 3rd, 1884. Christ Church, Bermondsey.

Wife's maiden name.—Maloney.

Whether relieved before, in this or any other union or parish, and if so, when and where.—Nowhere.

Residence and how long there.—22, Dudley Street; two weeks.

Rent and amount due.—3s. a week; one week owing.

How long resident in the parish without relief or interruption, giving particulars of residences and corroborative evidence.

Also rent owing (if any).—22, Appleford Road, Kensington, eight weeks. 7, Adpar Street, Paddington, four months. 27, Huntsworth Terrace, Marylebone, eighteen months. York Place, Stepney, two years, two months. Trafalgar Square, Stepney, two months.

Present or previous occupation of applicant and earnings.—Dock labourer.

If applicant is in debt, nature of debts covered by bill of sale, pawn tickets, etc.—Pawn tickets, value about £2.

Club, benefit, or trade society.—None.

Whether receiving any, and, if so, what, relief from Clubs, Charitable Institutions, Government Pensions, or otherwise.—None.

Name of nearest relative or friend.—Charles Hill.

Relationship of nearest relative or friend.—Father.

Address of nearest relative or friend.—18, Stanley Street, Paddington Green.

Occupation of nearest relative or friend.—Road sweeper.

Names, addresses, and financial circumstances of:—(a) Liable relatives other than those mentioned on page 1.—Father Charles Hill, aged, 74 years, a road sweeper on the Paddington Vestry; is at present out of employment owing to illness and cannot assist.

REMARKS.

Applicant applies for temporary relief as he states his children are starving. He has done no work for two weeks, but expects to obtain some the early part of next week. Relieving officer visited and found the family in a very destitute state, scarcely any furniture, and all living in one room. Have been living by pledging and selling the furniture. Man refused workhouse order as he could obtain work on Monday.

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PARTICULARS AS TO SECOND AND SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS, OR AS TO CHANGE OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

DATE.	PRESENT RESIDENCE.
May 25, 1897.	39, North Whay Road. 4s. 3d. rent. Owes two months. Man has been working at the London Docks, up to Thursday last, for three weeks; wages about 19s.; wife has no work at present; expects to be confined in July. Four children at home, attending Bell Street Board School. Since man has been out of employment the family have been living by assistance of neighbours.
" 28, "	Husband in the infirmary. Wife states that she may obtain work Monday at dust yard. Pawn tickets, value 30s. Owes Mrs. Tomkins 2s., money borrowed. No assistance. Refuses to come to workhouse.
" 31, " (Wife attempts suicide.)	Relieving officer visited and found the applicant in a very destitute condition, scarcely anything but a bed and a box in the room, also a chair. In December, 1896, applicant was charged at the West London Police Court with attempting suicide. Mr. Lane dismissed the case, on the woman promising not to do so again, and the Rev. Carados, Court Missionary, assisted the family. Woman states that her husband is likely to obtain work on the steamers when he comes out of the infirmary. <i>Note.</i> —Did not get on at the dust yard. Has no prospect of work. Owes about three months' rent at 4s. 3d. a week. Room fairly clean.
June 15, "	Wife states that her husband is working at the docks. Earns 20s. or 22s. a week. They have been living at Levett's Coffee House, 408, Harrow Road. Rent, 2s. a night. Cannot obtain a room at present; has to see about one to-day in Earl Street, Marylebone. <i>Note.</i> —This work will be up in about two weeks.
August 3, "	Man is now living at 24, Earl Street, Marylebone. Went there, Saturday, July 17th. Wife was confined last Sunday. Man has no work at present, but hopes to get temporary work as steward on steamers to Margate.
March 7, 1898.	3, Cirencester Street. Rent, 5s. Has only been here since Friday. Man is doing a little night work on Great Western Railway. Earned 9s. 11d. last week.
" 10, "	Relieving officer visited and found this family in a very destitute condition, scarcely any furniture in the rooms. Man starts on Wednesday at the docks.
May 21, "	3, Cirencester Street. (Owes about three weeks rent at 5s. a week.) Twelve weeks previously at 24, Earl Street, Marylebone. Man has been employed at the London Docks as labourer; wages varied from 3s. 9d. to 4s. 9d. a day. Left work Wednesday, owing to injury to shoulder. Wife goes about two hours every morning to work at 5, Kensington Garden Square (where daughter Rose worked); wages, 2s. and breakfast. Daughter Rose is in service at Rev. Dixon's, 65, Sutherland Avenue. Has only been there one week. Wages not known. Had 10s. advanced to buy aprons, etc. Four children at home. Family in a very destitute condition, having only a bed in one room, and a table and two chairs in the other. <i>Note.</i> —Man was injured yesterday week in avoiding a bale which was falling on him. Hopes to get on a river boat again. Used to receive 10s. a week, standing wage. Tips fairly good.
" 26, "	Temporary relief given by relieving officer owing to woman being unable to work on account of holidays.
June 8, "	3, Cirencester Street. Rent, 5s. One month owing. Lived five months previously in Marylebone. Husband is still at home and unable to work. No alteration in circumstances.
" 21, "	Husband is still at home, and unable to work. No alteration in circumstances.
July 23, "	Rent, 5s. Owes 24s. Husband has been at work at the docks for the last two weeks. Left work July 15th, owing to the work being finished. Wife has no work at present. Done nothing for two weeks. Daughter Rose is at Rev. Dixon's as servant. Has been there three months; receives 2s. 8d. per week, board and lodgings. During the three months she has given her mother 3s. 6d., as she requires clothes. Four children at home. Lily, 11 Charles, 7. Annie, 4. Daisy, 1.
July 27, "	Family are in a most destitute condition, scarcely anything in the room, and in bed at 9.30 a.m. when relieving officer called.
August 2, "	No alteration, neither man nor woman at work; woman called this morning and when asked about her husband stated he was a little better, but not able to come out. About five minutes after woman had gone, the husband came up and stated his wife could not come to the office, as she had gone after some work. When told she had been he stated he did not know, as he had been to the city to see about some work. He may start work at the Docks at the end of September. States that if he had the money to start with he could obtain a living at Southend, by selling sherbet and water. He did this about six years ago, and earned from 30s. to £2 per week.
" 8, "	Man supposed to have obtained work to-day, but will not be at home until Thursday or Friday. Family very destitute, but refuses to come to workhouse.
" 19, "	Man called and stated that he is now living at 59, Clarendon Street.
" 26, "	Woman applies for her admission. States she has stayed at 31, Alfred Road, W. She saw her husband yesterday, but cannot say where he is living. Destitute; she has four children in the workhouse. She has recently been discharged from prison. Was committed for seven days for being drunk.
(Committed to Prison for drunkenness.) October 20, "	Levett's Coffee House, 468, Harrow Road, one month. She states that her husband is living somewhere in Tilbury.
December 29, "	9, Braden Street. Rent, 6s. 6d. 13s. owing. The man is a dock labourer. Last week he earned 12s. at the Great Western Railway. He earned 16s. the week before at the docks. He has earned nothing this week. His wife is at home. Rosina, 14, in service for the Rev. Dixon. Lily, 11, is at Ashford. Charles, 8, Annie, 4, and Daisy, at home. The home and children are very dirty, and the wife is doing no work. The man told me that he moved up here from the docks to bring his wife away from evil companions, but he does not think that he has been very successful.
January 4, 1899.	The man says he hopes to make a start the middle of next week.
January 17, "	Rent owing, £2. It appears that the applicant had furniture on the hire system to the extent of £10 8s. 6d., not keeping up the payments the goods were removed. The wife is doing no work, "don't want to." Rosina, 14, is going to leave the Rev. Dixon's to-day.

DATE.	PRESENT RESIDENCE.
March 8, 1899. (7.50 p.m.) (Locked up for drunkenness.)	The man stated that his wife (who left the workhouse in the morning with him) had been locked up for being drunk, also that he had work to go to in the morning, but he had nowhere for the children to sleep.
April 17, .. (Drunk.)	468, Harrow Road, Levell's Lodging-House. Letter received. Visited. Saw Mrs. Hill who said she had had a fit, but did not say whether it was drunkenness, or other description of fit. She said they paid 7s. a week rent, the room is 6 feet by 8, is very dirty. There is an old bed and an old table in it. Mrs. Hill looks as if a good bath would improve matters considerably. Her husband has been at work for the Vestry since the 10th April, 1899, at £1 weekly. I also saw Mrs. Levell the proprietor, who in answer to my question: "Were they drunk on Saturday night?" said, that at 2. a.m. Sunday, they were screaming, fighting drunk. "What, both of them?" "Yes, both." "I'm going up to throw them out, I can't stand them at any price." "What rent do they pay?" "7s. a week." (See letter from Mr. Heston.)
April 19, ..	8.15 p.m. The man came to the office with his wife, and applied for admission for his wife. He started work (he said) for the Vestry on April 5th. On April 10th he took five days' money, 16s. 8d. On April 16th he took a full week's money, £1, and he is still working. He has now 1d. and his wife says she has 2d. The man states that he was turned out of Levell's Coffee House on Monday night. Having been informed by the master that there was a warrant out for the man, I went to Carlton Bridge Police Station, at the master's request, and told the inspector on duty that the man was in the waiting-room. The inspector searched the warrant book as far back as early 1896 and could not find any record of such warrant. He offered to send a constable to the guardians' relieving officer's address but we could not give it. The man, Hill, preferred to take his wife away rather than come in with her.
June 20, 1906,	73, Amberley Road. Rent, 7s. None owing. Kitchen and ante-room. Since March 7, 1906, previously at Heacham Hall, Heacham, Norfolk. Since August 2, 1905. 28, Lomas Buildings, Stepney, about ten months. 5, Hope Place, Stepney, about seven months. Not lived in any parish three years since he left Paddington, seven years ago. Probably belongs to Stepney. The man has not worked for three weeks; previously working at the London Docks. There is nothing doing until three weeks hence. The wife is doing nothing, going to try and get some work. Rosina, 20, servant at Heacham Hall. Lily, 18, a servant in Surrey. Charles, 15, at Heacham Hall in the garden. Annie, 12, Daisy, 8, and Florence, 3, at home. He has paid his rent with the money saved when at work—about 30s. No pawn tickets. This man states that he has got a job to go to on July 2. Dock work, but hopes to get a job before then.
October 31, 1906.	56, Amberley Road. Rent, 6s. 23s. owing. The man is at home ill. The wife is earning nothing. The man has been out of work three weeks. Pawn tickets, 20s. Rosina, 21, in service; Lily, 19, in service; Charles, 16, under-gardener, Norfolk; Annie, 12; Daisy, 9; Florence, 4. Nothing coming in. Children sleep in a separate room.
November 6, ..	56, Amberley Road. Rent, 6s. 29s. owing. The wife is earning nothing; going round to laundries on Monday. Three young children. Did not succeed in getting work.
January 5, 1907.	42s. rent owing. This man knocked off work on December 21st, and has not done anything since, being too ill to work. The wife has earned 9d. this week, and nothing last. Nothing else coming in. Living by selling and pawning. Pawn tickets, 24s. Rosina, 21, in service; Lily, 19, in service; Charles, 16, under-gardener, Norfolk; three young children.
.. 7, ..	The man expects to be sent for to go into Brompton Hospital soon.
.. 9, ..	Man states that he is going to try to go to work next Monday. But the wife and also the relieving officer thinks that he is not able to work.
.. 15, ..	Wife came to say the man had gone to work.
February 13,	Removed to 76, Woodchester Street, two weeks. Rent, 5s. 6d. None owing. Applicant has no work. Wife does half-a-day occasionally. Rosina and Lily in service, has assisted with a few shillings.
.. 15, ..	No alteration in circumstances. House order offered.
.. 26, ..	76, Woodchester Street, three weeks. Rent, 5s. 6d. None owing. 56, Amberley Road, five months. 73, Amberley Road, one month. Previously at Heacham, Norfolk. Pawn tickets, £1. Daughters, Rosina and Lily, in service, pay the rent. House order offered, as per order, 21st inst. Rooms are in a very destitute condition. Man refuses to come into infirmary.
April 12, ..	Rent, 5s. 6d. Owes one week. Pawn tickets, 10s. Man has not earned anything for two weeks. Wife has not earned anything for two weeks. Daughter, Rosina, in service, earnings not known. Daughter, Lily, at home out of work. Charles away in Norfolk, earns 9s. a week, and keeps himself. Three young children at home. Family has been living on the savings of daughter Lily while she was in service; now all gone.
August 2, ..	98, Clarendon Street. This man came to the office and applied for food, but after reviewing the case, the relieving officer told him that no relief could be given except an order for the workhouse.
.. 6, ..	Man came and begged for some food. Said he was going to work next day.
October 21, ..	3, Darlington Terrace. Man out of employment. Wife unable to work, child having measles.
November 2, ..	3, Darlington Terrace. Rent, 6s. Owes three weeks. Pawn tickets, value 20s. Man out of employment for the last four weeks. Wife has no work. Daughter, Rosina, in service, assists as much as possible. Daughter Lily, in service, assists as much as possible. Charles is at Heacham, Norfolk, learning gardening. Annie, Daisy, and Florence at home.
.. 13, ..	Rent, 6s. Owes four weeks. Pawn tickets. Applicant did not attend last Thursday, as he had three days' work for the borough council, at 4s. a day. Other circumstances as above.
January 14, 1908.	Removed to 63, Brindley Street. Rent, 5s. 6d. None due. Man out of work. Has not done any for two weeks. Wife charrs. Earned nothing last week. Two daughters, Rosina and Lily, in service. Assist with a few shillings occasionally. A large number of papers are attached to this file:—viz., doctors certificates, confirmatory evidence from the Charity Organisation Society, orders of removal from one parish to another, copies of letters re sending children to Ashford Schools, etc., etc.

NOTE.—References to this volume in the Reports of the Commission are to the page-numbering in brackets.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POOR LAWS AND RELIEF OF DISTRESS.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF APPENDIX VOLUMES TO THE REPORTS OF THE POOR LAW COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

APPENDIX VOL. XXXV.—INDEX TO THE REPORT ON ENGLAND AND WALES.

APPENDIX VOL. XXXVI.—SOME INDUSTRIES EMPLOYING WOMEN PAUPERS.

A Supplement to the Report (Appendix Vol. XVII.) by Miss Constance Williams and Mr. Thomas Jones on the Effect of Outdoor Relief on Wages and the Conditions of Employment.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POLICE AND THE FIRE SERVICE

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF WITNESSES TO THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE POLICE AND THE FIRE SERVICE

Witnesses who have been examined in connection with the inquiry into the activities of the Special Branch of the Police and the Fire Service

Name	Address	Occupation
Mr. A. B. C.	1, White Street, London	Police Officer
Mr. D. E. F.	2, Green Lane, London	Fireman
Mr. G. H. I.	3, Blue Hill, London	Police Officer
Mr. J. K. L.	4, Yellow Road, London	Fireman
Mr. M. N. O.	5, Purple Way, London	Police Officer
Mr. P. Q. R.	6, Orange Avenue, London	Fireman
Mr. S. T. U.	7, Red Circle, London	Police Officer
Mr. V. W. X.	8, Brown Square, London	Fireman
Mr. Y. Z. A.	9, Grey Terrace, London	Police Officer
Mr. B. C. D.	10, Black Court, London	Fireman
Mr. E. F. G.	11, White Walk, London	Police Officer
Mr. H. I. J.	12, Green Close, London	Fireman
Mr. K. L. M.	13, Blue Lane, London	Police Officer
Mr. N. O. P.	14, Yellow Street, London	Fireman
Mr. Q. R. S.	15, Purple Road, London	Police Officer
Mr. T. U. V.	16, Orange Way, London	Fireman
Mr. W. X. Y.	17, Red Avenue, London	Police Officer
Mr. Z. A. B.	18, Brown Circle, London	Fireman
Mr. C. D. E.	19, Grey Square, London	Police Officer
Mr. F. G. H.	20, Black Terrace, London	Fireman
Mr. I. J. K.	21, White Court, London	Police Officer
Mr. L. M. N.	22, Green Walk, London	Fireman
Mr. O. P. Q.	23, Blue Close, London	Police Officer
Mr. R. S. T.	24, Yellow Lane, London	Fireman
Mr. U. V. W.	25, Purple Street, London	Police Officer
Mr. X. Y. Z.	26, Orange Road, London	Fireman
Mr. A. B. C.	27, Red Way, London	Police Officer
Mr. D. E. F.	28, Brown Avenue, London	Fireman
Mr. G. H. I.	29, Grey Circle, London	Police Officer
Mr. J. K. L.	30, Black Square, London	Fireman
Mr. M. N. O.	31, White Terrace, London	Police Officer
Mr. P. Q. R.	32, Green Court, London	Fireman
Mr. S. T. U.	33, Blue Walk, London	Police Officer
Mr. V. W. X.	34, Yellow Close, London	Fireman
Mr. Y. Z. A.	35, Purple Lane, London	Police Officer
Mr. B. C. D.	36, Orange Street, London	Fireman
Mr. E. F. G.	37, Red Road, London	Police Officer
Mr. H. I. J.	38, Brown Way, London	Fireman
Mr. K. L. M.	39, Grey Avenue, London	Police Officer
Mr. N. O. P.	40, Black Circle, London	Fireman
Mr. Q. R. S.	41, White Square, London	Police Officer
Mr. T. U. V.	42, Green Terrace, London	Fireman
Mr. W. X. Y.	43, Blue Court, London	Police Officer
Mr. Z. A. B.	44, Yellow Walk, London	Fireman
Mr. C. D. E.	45, Purple Close, London	Police Officer
Mr. F. G. H.	46, Orange Lane, London	Fireman
Mr. I. J. K.	47, Red Street, London	Police Officer
Mr. L. M. N.	48, Brown Road, London	Fireman
Mr. O. P. Q.	49, Grey Way, London	Police Officer
Mr. R. S. T.	50, Black Avenue, London	Fireman
Mr. U. V. W.	51, White Circle, London	Police Officer
Mr. X. Y. Z.	52, Green Square, London	Fireman
Mr. A. B. C.	53, Blue Terrace, London	Police Officer
Mr. D. E. F.	54, Yellow Court, London	Fireman
Mr. G. H. I.	55, Purple Walk, London	Police Officer
Mr. J. K. L.	56, Orange Close, London	Fireman
Mr. M. N. O.	57, Red Lane, London	Police Officer
Mr. P. Q. R.	58, Brown Street, London	Fireman
Mr. S. T. U.	59, Grey Road, London	Police Officer
Mr. V. W. X.	60, Black Way, London	Fireman
Mr. Y. Z. A.	61, White Avenue, London	Police Officer
Mr. B. C. D.	62, Green Circle, London	Fireman
Mr. E. F. G.	63, Blue Square, London	Police Officer
Mr. H. I. J.	64, Yellow Terrace, London	Fireman
Mr. K. L. M.	65, Purple Court, London	Police Officer
Mr. N. O. P.	66, Orange Walk, London	Fireman
Mr. Q. R. S.	67, Red Close, London	Police Officer
Mr. T. U. V.	68, Brown Lane, London	Fireman
Mr. W. X. Y.	69, Grey Street, London	Police Officer
Mr. Z. A. B.	70, Black Road, London	Fireman
Mr. C. D. E.	71, White Way, London	Police Officer
Mr. F. G. H.	72, Green Avenue, London	Fireman
Mr. I. J. K.	73, Blue Circle, London	Police Officer
Mr. L. M. N.	74, Yellow Square, London	Fireman
Mr. O. P. Q.	75, Purple Terrace, London	Police Officer
Mr. R. S. T.	76, Orange Court, London	Fireman
Mr. U. V. W.	77, Red Walk, London	Police Officer
Mr. X. Y. Z.	78, Brown Close, London	Fireman
Mr. A. B. C.	79, Grey Lane, London	Police Officer
Mr. D. E. F.	80, Black Street, London	Fireman
Mr. G. H. I.	81, White Road, London	Police Officer
Mr. J. K. L.	82, Green Way, London	Fireman
Mr. M. N. O.	83, Blue Avenue, London	Police Officer
Mr. P. Q. R.	84, Yellow Circle, London	Fireman
Mr. S. T. U.	85, Purple Square, London	Police Officer
Mr. V. W. X.	86, Orange Terrace, London	Fireman
Mr. Y. Z. A.	87, Red Court, London	Police Officer
Mr. B. C. D.	88, Brown Walk, London	Fireman
Mr. E. F. G.	89, Grey Close, London	Police Officer
Mr. H. I. J.	90, Black Lane, London	Fireman
Mr. K. L. M.	91, White Street, London	Police Officer
Mr. N. O. P.	92, Green Road, London	Fireman
Mr. Q. R. S.	93, Blue Way, London	Police Officer
Mr. T. U. V.	94, Yellow Avenue, London	Fireman
Mr. W. X. Y.	95, Purple Circle, London	Police Officer
Mr. Z. A. B.	96, Orange Square, London	Fireman
Mr. C. D. E.	97, Red Terrace, London	Police Officer
Mr. F. G. H.	98, Brown Court, London	Fireman
Mr. I. J. K.	99, Grey Walk, London	Police Officer
Mr. L. M. N.	100, Black Close, London	Fireman

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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- 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. Toynebee.
- APPENDIX VOL. XVI.—INVESTIGATORS' REPORTS.—INDUSTRIAL AND SANITARY CONDITIONS.**
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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.
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Report on the Effects of Employment or Assistance given to the Unemployed since 1836 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.
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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.**
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- APPENDIX VOL. XXVI.—CHARITIES.**
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