1896.

AYLESBURY URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Estimated population, 9,532.

During the year there have been registered—

	M.	F.	Total.	Annual Rate per 1,000 living.
Births.....	120	105	225	or 23·6005
Deaths	84	65	149	or 15·6420
Excess of Births	36	40	76	

Twenty-eight deaths were extra-parochial; which deducted makes corrected rate 121 or 12·6940 per 1,000 living.

There were—

	16 deaths in Union House,	6	extra parochial.
	15 „ „ Bucks Infirmary,	12	„
	2 „ „ H.M. Prison,	2	„
Non-residents,	8 „ (three of these sudden)	8	„

The births are 15 more than last year, but 16·3 less than average of last ten years. The deaths are in excess of last year, and 20·3 less than average of ten years. The last two years are the lowest recorded since 1881 (when 116 were registered), and considering the increase in population they are lower than that year. The birth rate in both years has been low, and as infant mortality exceeds that of any other period of life it has some effect on the general death rate. I append tables of births and deaths for this and previous ten years. In this table the extra-parochial deaths are deducted, showing the corrected death rate; all those that follow are calculated from the gross death rate as returned by the Registrar:—

			Per 1,000.				Per 1,000.
1886	Births,	257	or 31·456	...	Deaths,	200	or 24·479
1887	„	275	„ 33·321	...	„	140	„ 16·987
1888	„	252	„ 30·230	...	„	149	„ 17·874
1889	„	251	„ 29·813	...	„	122	„ 14·847
1890	„	217	„ 25·523	...	„	138	„ 16·231
1891	„	253	„ 28·375	...	„	151	„ 17 823
1892	„	252	„ 27·885	...	„	143	„ 15 823
1893	„	232	„ 25·2283	...	„	129	„ 14·0278
1894	„	214	„ 22·9909	...	„	121	„ 13·0004
1895	„	210	„ 22·2929	...	„	120	„ 12·739
1896	„	225	„ 23·6005	...	„	121	„ 12 6940
	Average...	241·3	„ 25·3157	...	Average	141·3	„ 14·9286

As regards sex the births and deaths for this and previous ten years are:—

BIRTHS.

	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1891.	1890.	1889.	1888.	1887.	1886.
M.	120	96	114	118	139	124	112	122	126	156	127
F.	105	114	100	114	113	129	105	129	126	118	130
Total	225	210	214	232	252	253	217	251	252	274	257

DEATHS.

	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1891.	1890.	1889.	1888.	1887.	1886.
M.	84	65	79	90	86	85	78	74	98	72	107
F.	65	75	62	70	74	90	83	61	75	79	117
Total	149	140	141	160	160	175	161	135	173	151	224

	1896.	1894.	1893.	1892.
Excess of male births.....	15	14	4	26
Excess of male deaths	19	17	20	12

In 1895 female births exceeded that of males by 18.

In 1895 female deaths exceeded deaths of males by 10.

1895 is exceptional in giving excess of births and deaths to female sex.

The average of 10 years shows an excess of male births over females of 5·6 ; of male deaths over females of 4·8.

1895 reduces the average of previous decade, which was 7 and 8 respectively.

The deaths from zymotic diseases, 27 or 2·8346 per 1000 living, are attributed to measles 14, whooping cough 3, rheumatic fever 5, diarrhœa 3 (all infants), enteric fever 1, croup 1.

Notified under Notification of Diseases Act, 18 :—

Small Pox (modified)	2
Scarlet Fever	9
Erysipelas	3
Diphtheria	1
Enteric Fever	3 (1 fatal)

Table of deaths from zymotic diseases for this and previous 10 years :—

1886	61 or 7·588	per 1,000 living.
1887	33 „ 3·997	„
1888	22 „ 2·639	„
1889	19 „ 2·256	„
1890	19 „ 2·230	„
1891	16 „ 1·794	„
1892	18 „ 1·9918	„
1893	18 „ 1·9573	„
1894	22 „ 2·3628	„
1895	10 „ 1·0615	„
1896	27 „ 2·8346	„
Average of 10 years...	23·8 „ 2·498	„

This year is 2·2 above average of previous 10 years, and the highest rate since 1886 and 1887, when measles, diphtheria, whooping cough were epidemic. Measles caused 14 deaths, rheumatic fever 5, whooping cough 3 ; it is the prevalence of these diseases that makes the increase in average and over that of last year, which was the lowest zymotic death rate recorded since 1881, when the number was the same.

Table of causes of death from principal zymotic diseases for this and previous 10 years :—

	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1891.	1890.	1889.	1888.	1887.	1886.	Average of 10 years.
Measles.....	14	0	0	1	11	0	0	4	0	0	17	... 3.3
Diphtheria	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	6	27	16	... 5·5
Whooping Cough	3	0	14	0	0	4	5	1	5	1	6	... 4·6
Croup	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	3	2	0	... 1·
Diarrhœa and Dysentery ...	3	3	2	7	2	2	3	7	3	0	8	... 3·7
Rheumatic Fever	5	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	... ·4
Erysipelas	0	5	0	0	1	0	1	3	0	3	1	... 1·4
Enteric Fever ...	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	2	0	0	... ·9
Puerperal „ ...	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	... ·5
Scarlet „ ...	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	1	2	0	0	... ·7
Pyæmia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	... ·2
Influenza	0	0	3	2	4	7	0	0	0	0	0	... 1·6
	27	10	22	18	18	16	19	19	22	33	61	

Table of deaths from pneumonia, pleurisy, and bronchitis for this and previous 10 years :—

1886	.....	33 or 4·029	per 1,000 living.
1887	.....	22 „ 2·665	„
1888	.....	28 „ 3·359	„
1889	.....	19 „ 2 216	„
1890	.....	26 „ 3·058	„
1891	.....	30 „ 3·363	„
1892	.....	31 „ 3·430	„
1893	.....	25 „ 2·7185	„
1894	.....	35 „ 3·7623	„
1895	.....	25 „ 2·759	„
1896	.....	19 „ 1·993	„

Average of 10 years, 27·4 ; this year is the lowest return since 1881. In 1889 the same number (19) was registered, but the increase in population gives 2·216 per 1,000 for 1881 ; 1·993 per 1,000 for 1896.

The deaths were pretty equally distributed in first, second, and fourth quarters, the third quarter 3 were registered, 7 were under 5 years.

Deaths at different ages for this and previous 10 years :—

	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.	1891.	1890.	1889.	1888.	1887.	1886.	Average.
Under 1 year	34	19	39	26	32	34	29	23	40	31	57	33·
1 & under 5	15	5	14	16	15	11	14	11	17	25	39	16·7
5 „ 15	6	1	5	12	6	5	7	7	7	14	18	8·2
15 „ 25	16	8	7	4	10	11	8	4	8	5	11	7·6
25 „ 65	39	50	38	49	39	37	36	38	36	32	40	38·5
65 & upwards	39	57	38	53	58	77	65	52	65	44	65	57·4
	149	140	141	160	160	175	161	135	173	151	224	

Of those born (225), 15 males and 5 females—20 died within the year, or 8·888 per cent. of births. Average of 10 years, 22·8, or 9·531 —higher than last year, but below average, as shown by table :—

1896	.....	20 or 8·888	per cent. of births.
1895	.....	14 „ 6·66	„
1894	.....	24 „ 11·30	„
1893	.....	21 „ 9·515	„
1892	.....	25 „ 9·92	„
1891	.....	28 „ 11·067	„
1890	.....	20 „ 10·85	„
1889	.....	12 „ 4·78	„
1888	.....	30 „ 11·9	„
1887	.....	21 „ 7·636	„
1886	.....	33 „ 12·84	„

The death rate under 1 year is 15 greater than last year, and 1 in excess of average of 10 years. Eleven died in the first week. Deaths attributed to premature birth 2, debility at birth 10, measles 2, whooping cough 2, diarrhœa 3, bronchitis 3, tubercles 2, convulsions 2, stenosis 1, meningitis 1, cellulitis 1, spina bifida 1, inquest 1, pressure on cord at birth.

One to 5. Ten more deaths than last year, 1·7 less than average. Attributed to measles 8, inquests 2 (accidental), bronchitis 3, whooping cough 1, diarrhœa 1, croup 1.

Five to 15. Five more deaths than last year, but 2·2 less than average. Attributed to rheumatic fever 2, measles 2, otitis 2 (the latter were operated on).

Fifteen to 25. Deaths are 8 in excess of last year, and 8·4 in excess of average. Nine are attributed to phthisis and tubercular disease, 1

to enteric fever, 1 paralysis, 1 epilepsy, 1 bronchitis, 1 rheumatic fever, 1 Bright's disease, 1 meningitis. An unusual number of chronic tubercular cases have died this year, which has caused the average mortality at this period to be more than doubled. The typhoid fever case came down from London ill.

Twenty-five to 65. Deaths 11 less than last year, exceed average by 0·5; with exception of the last two years the term was calculated from 25 to 60, so that the average is not correct; it would be below instead of exceeding it. Deaths due to phthisis 7, cancer 5, liver disease and dropsy 3, bronchitis 2, pneumonia 4, rheumatic fever 2, hemiplegia 1, epilepsy 1, Bright's disease 2, general debility 1, insanity 1, pernicious anœmia 1, influenza 1, phlebitis 1, heart disease 1, inquests 8 (1 suicide, 4 natural causes, 3 accidental).

Sixty-five and upwards. Deaths 18 below last year, and 18·4 below average; the average being calculated during first 8 years from 60 instead of 65 would be larger in proportion, so not quite correct comparison. Deaths due to senile decay 9, cardiac disease 10, apoplexy and paralysis 7, bronchitis 5, inquests 2 (found dead, 1 in bath, other in ditch), liver disease 3, kidney 1, hernia 1, osteo arthritis and dyspepsia 1.

The following tables gives the deaths for this and previous 10 years at the ages of:—

	1896.	'95.	'94.	'93.	'92.	'91.	'90.	'89.	'88.	'87.	'86.
60 to 70.....	12	19	18	17	18	15	24	20	25	10	16
70 „ 80.....	22	31	16	23	26	40	30	18	32	22	32
80 and upwards.	9	20	9	13	14	22	11	14	8	12	17
	43	70	43	53	58	77	65	52	65	44	65

The first decade shows 7 less than last year; 6·2 less than average.
The second „ 9 „ 5 „
The third „ 11 „ 5 „

The year has been favourable to those in advanced life—only one died at the age of 90. This year is just the converse of last, the mortality being greater in the earlier periods of life and less in the latter.

The births and deaths for several quarters of the year:—

	DEATHS.					BIRTHS.			
	M.	F.	Total.	Per 1,000 living.		M.	F.	Total.	Per 1,000 living.
1st Quarter.	24	11	35 or	14·6873	.....	40	26	66 or	27·2765
2nd „	16	15	31 „	13·0088	.....	29	30	59 „	24·7584
3rd „	26	16	42 „	17·6248	.....	24	26	50 „	20 9819
4th „	18	23	41 „	17 2052	.....	27	23	50 „	20·9819
	84	65	149 „	15·6420		120	105	225 „	23·6005

Twenty-eight deaths were extra-parochial; 12·6940 is corrected rate per 1,000 living. Measles were prevalent in 3rd Quarter, 10 deaths recorded from it.

Union Workhouse.

The total number of Inmates in the House, January 1st, 1896 ...	107
„ „ December 31st, 1896.	108
Weekly average	103
Number admitted	159
„ discharged	164
Deaths.....	16
Births	6

Union Infirmary.

	M.	F.	Total.
Number of Patients, January 1st, 1896	13	19	32
Admitted	17	8	25
Number of Patients December 31st	15	13	28
Weekly average	—	—	28

The 16 deaths are given as 10 belonging to Aylesbury, 6 extra-parochial, are attributive to senile decay 2, bronchitis 13, phthisis 2, cancer 2, paralysis 1, epilepsy 3, Cardiac disease 1, diarrhœa 1, injuries 2.

Ages.

1 year and under 5	2 deaths.	Pneumonia and diarrhœa.
25 „ 65	9 „	
65 and upwards	5 „	Three over 70.

Among admissions to Infirmary one case of modified smallpox admitted in casual ward, had been on tramp, was isolated in infectious diseases ward; one case of scarlet fever, also isolated, no further infection; measles, 6 cases occurred in the house; venereal, 2; phthisis, 3; bronchitis and pneumonia, 4; paralysis, 2; alcoholism, 1; gout, 1; stricture, 1; cancer, 1; diseased bone, 1. The general health of inmates has been good. One case of erysipelas notified.

The master suffered in consequence of foul air finding its way into his office, and a communication was found with an old drain that had not been taken up and allowed sewage to tail back. This was attended to and the nuisance abated, otherwise the condition of the house has been satisfactory.

Bucks County Infirmary.

The number of patients under treatment during the year, 1,799; of these 1,559 were out-patients, 240 in-patients.

38 in-patients in House January 1st, 25 in House December 31st, 209 admitted during the year; 31 accidents admitted (in addition).

166 out-patients on books January 1st, 139 December 31st; 805 treated during the year; 292 dental; 258 casualties.

15 deaths have occurred in the Infirmary during the year; 12 were from neighbourhood, 3 from Aylesbury. Three inquests. The deaths were due—fracture of spine 1, fracture of skull 1, caries of spine 1, cirrhosis of liver 1, stricture of rectum 1, tubercular 4, Bright's disease 2, bronchitis 3, ascites 1.

Zymotic affections scarcely appear on the list; 3 cases of measles developed in the house, probably through visitors; 4 cases of whooping cough; 2 cases of diarrhœa among out-patients, one old man, one infant; 1 case of idiopathic erysipelas in the house, 4 cases were notified last year; influenza one among out-patients.

In-patients above 5 years, 40 belonging to Aylesbury; under 5 years, 6. Out-patients above 5 years, 326; under 5 years, 29.

The cases treated consisted of:—

Casualties	258	
Debility	82	
Strumous	62	
Lung Affections	55	and 22 of Phthisis
Cancer	6	
Syphilis	5	
Rheumatism	31	
Chlorosis and Anæmic	68	
Dyspepsia	84	
Hernia	28	

Ophthalmia	33	
Nervous System	49	and 11 of Epilepsy
Skin	70	
Heart and Vascular	58	
Kidney	10	
Prostatic and Cystitis	15	
Liver	6	
Uterine	28	
Goitre	3	
Tonsilitis (28), Pharyngitis (14)	42	
Tumours	20	
Deformities	8	
Mental	1	

General Remarks.

Under Infectious Diseases Notification Act, which has been in force since February, 1890, 18 cases have been notified, against 31 in 1895, 68 in 1894, 191 in 1893, 19 in 1892, 18 in 1891, 37 in 1890.

Notifications of this and previous six years tabulated :—

	1896.	'95.	'94.	'93.	'92.	'91.	'90.
Diphtheria	1	1	6	7	0	3	5
Typhoid	3	5	2	4	2	2	5
Puerperal	0	4	0	1	1	1	1
Erysipelas	3	8	15	10	12	5	3
Scarlet Fever	9	14	45	165	4	7	23
Small-pox	2	3	0	3	0	0	0
Cholera	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
	18	35	68	191	19	18	37

Diphtheria.—Only one; this case recovered after tracheotomy. Another case of death after operation returned as membranous croup. Both these cases occurred in August, had no connection with one another, and no evidence of being in contact with any suspicious case could be elicited. Average of previous six years, 3·66.

Typhoid Fever.—One case was a young man sent home from London; proved fatal. No other case arose from it. Two other cases were from the Plough Inn, and appear to have arisen from old and defective drainage and direct communication with sewer from imperfectly trapped drain in cellar; the landlord did not know of its existence, and for six months, including the tropical weather of last summer, he had put no water in the trap. Husband and three children, I have little doubt, had the disease, but struggled through it without medical attendance. The nurse girl was sent home with it, and her mother, who washed for family, failed in January. The drains were all renewed, ventilated (and disconnected in the cellar), as soon as they were reported on. Average number of cases for the last six years, 3·33.

Puerperal Fever.—No case notified. Average of previous six years, 1·33.

Erysipelas.—Three cases notified, one in Infirmary, one in Union-house, one in the town, all idiopathic. No fatality. Average of six years, 8·833.

Scarlet Fever.—Nine cases notified, one in January, three in May, one in October, two in November, two in December. In one case only did a second case arise in the same house. Two cases in December were in the same school, a case of sore throat and ill-defined rash had occurred in another scholar, but was not pronounced to be scarlet fever. This may have been the origin, but the school had dispersed for the

holidays before the disease showed itself. I heard of no other case falling. One case in May was removed from a common lodging-house to Infectious Diseases Hospital. The man was one of ten Militiamen billited there—a Wycombe man, at the time small-pox had broken out there through Gloucester rags imported to paper mill, and his rash at first assumed a very threatening aspect, and he was at once taken to Hospital and his mates vaccinated. However, after a week's observation there, he was liberated, as neither small-pox or scarlet fever developed. The fever and rash were probably due to exposure to cold after violent exertion.

Small-pox.—Two cases notified. One was a journeyman from Christchurch, and previously employed at Aldershot, who fell ill a day or two after arrival in the town. He was promptly removed to Hospital, and no other case resulted. The inmates of the house where he lodged refused revaccination, and were excluded from the Printing Works until a fortnight had elapsed. The second case was a tramp in Union-house; he was removed from the reception ward to the isolation ward of the House. This was a very modified case. Average of six years, one case.

Diarrhœa.—Three deaths registered, all infantile. Only one case recorded in Medical Officer's Relief Book.

Measles.—Fourteen deaths, 12 under five years. Only four cases reported in Medical Officer's Relief Book, and six in Union-house. This disease is not notified, was widely prevalent in the third quarter of year, ten deaths being then recorded, and schools were closed in consequence. The illness was mainly limited to the infants, but the attendance at all schools was influenced on account of exclusion from school of those who had measles in the family.

Whooping Cough.—Three infants died from this disease; it was not universally prevalent.

Rheumatic Fever.—Five deaths notified. Average ·4. Only one case of acute rheumatism in Medical Officer's Relief Book. The deaths are unusually numerous from this cause; three took place in September and October. The continued rains prevalent at that time may have caused this. There is no record of the number attacked with acute rheumatic fever, but I think the death rate must have been very large.

Influenza, in April and May, was registered as primary cause of three deaths. One of these is included in rheumatic fever returns, pericarditis being the ultimate cause of death. The disease was not extensively prevalent, and all the deaths attributed to it are in one practise.

New cases of sickness from Medical Officer's Relief Book 57, include catarrh and bronchitis 12, ulcers of leg 8, measles 4, acute and chronic rheumatism 4, diarrhœa 1, sore throat 2, heart disease 3, syphilis 2, epilepsy and paralysis 3, stricture 2, and phthisis 2.

Infectious Diseases Hospital.—Has been twice occupied during the year—one modified small-pox case, and another suspected case which did not develope. No alteration has been made in it, and what has been said in previous reports applies equally now. If we lost the old woman who is put in charge when a case occurs, I do not think we could get any one to go there to take charge of a case on account of its complete isolation and want of accommodation for any messenger in case of help being needed.

Slaughter Houses have been visited during year, and found in fair condition. The tubercular lungs of a sheep were seized in one, but the carcase could not be traced, and the butcher stated that they were

May 7th 1897

Temple Square,
Aylesbury.

Dear Sir

I notice on Page 8 of my report - Paragraph dealing Houses, that 200 has been put instead of 300 cubic feet space when the Militia were quartered here in many cases less than 200 ft where allotted to a man for his billet and I respectfully beg

autumn that I thought
this should be guarded
against in future
and the space allotted
to each bed in the
common lodging
houses should be
increased from
200 to 300 cubic
feet space as the
minimum

Yours truly
Charles Hodges
Chief Offr of Health Aylesbury
Urban Sanitary Authority

N. B.
If you would substitute
300 for 200 in the
present report for 1896
it would correct the
substantial error

derived from an animal sent to be slaughtered, the carcase of which had been boiled down. He was cautioned that he was liable to be prosecuted for having such diseased meat on licensed premises. Several visits were made to inspect meat exposed for sale, but the meat, which was frozen meat, could not be condemned, though it would not keep in the hot weather; it was all disposed of on Saturday night, while it was in a cooking condition.

Bakehouses also visited, and condition fair. One new one has been erected in place of the most dilapidated of the old ones, in fulfilment of the promise made last year. Notices served on one or two to white-wash and paint as required by law.

Dairy and Cowsheds.—No provision made for inspection.

Elementary Schools have received attention. The arrangements of the closets may, I think, now be considered satisfactory.

The Scavenging seems to be carried out in a satisfactory manner.

Lodging Houses have been visited. The cards have been removed from some of the dormitories, and one or two rooms changed, and I reported that I thought the time had come when it would be advantageous to increase the cubic air space allotted to each occupier of a bed, and that with the prospect of the Militia being billeted in Aylesbury again, the Quartermaster should be informed that 200 cubic feet space would be the minimum the Authority would permit to be occupied by each soldier. In the last billeting this space was not given in many instances.

Disinfecting Chamber.—The want of this is constantly felt, as large articles, such as beds and bedding, cannot be thoroughly treated without it. Arrangements could be made for one to be erected on the premises of the Council in Bourbon Street, the condensed steam being generated from the Baths opposite. This would be more convenient than having it at Sewage Works, where the Surveyor suggested that he should construct one last year.

The Surveyor has kindly furnished me with reports on sewers, drains, water supply, street works, buildings, and a comprehensive account of what has been done in regard to the Sewage Works, which I append.

I regret that the presentation of this report should have been so long delayed, and must plead for your kind consideration on account of my professional work at this time of the year being very pressing.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES HOOPER,

Medical Officer of Health, Aylesbury Urban District Council.

SURVEYOR'S REPORT OF SANITARY WORK FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1896.

Sewers.—A short length of new 9 inch glazed pipe sewer was constructed in Victoria Street, Victoria Park, in order to drain six houses erected by Messrs. Hazell, Watson, and Viney, Limited, and completed in the month of February.

An old and very defective brick sewer was taken up from Brook Street to the Canal overflow, running parallel with Walton Street. The house drains were relaid where required, and new connections carried through into the new 30 inch oval brick sewer in Walton Street, each connection being properly trapped and ventilated.

An old brick sewer was also removed, running from Walton Brewery, parallel with the Canal overflow at a right angle to and underneath Walton Street, in the direction of the Metropolitan Railway; any connections being dealt with similar to the above.

Ventilating Shafts.—Three ventilating shafts from main sewers have been erected during the year as follows:—

A 4 inch galvanized iron shaft from manhole at summit of 9 inch pipe sewer in "Nag's Head" Passage.

One 4 inch ditto from manhole in Church Street near Temple Square.

One 6 inch by 4 inch ditto at summit of 9 inch pipe sewer running at rear of cottages in Mill Lane from Stock Lake to Mill Stream Bridge.

One 4 inch ditto from manhole in Walton Street at junction with Brook Street.

Intercepting Traps.—Several old defective service drains have been discovered during the year, and replaced by proper stoneware pipes jointed in cement.

Thirty-four intercepting traps have been inserted to existing service drains as required, and several ventilating shafts erected.

Water Supply.—A water supply from the Chiltern Hills Water Mains has been laid on to 25 houses.

Street Works.—The plans referred to in last year's report for the roadmaking of a private street north of Victoria Park have not yet been carried out, the work having been adjourned from time to time pending enquiries from and communications with certain property owners.

The 150th section of the Public Health Act, 1875, has, however, been enforced in Eastern Street, Cambridge Street. Plans, sections, specifications and estimates were duly prepared for the proper metalling, kerbing, channelling, paving and lighting as required, and the work was accordingly carried out and completed towards the end of the year at a cost of about £220.

A considerable area of patent Victoria and Croft Adamant Paving has been performed on certain footpaths in the district including High Street, Castle Street, Church Row, New Street, and Exchange Street.

Denner Hill Channelling has also been laid, and new street gullies put down (glazed stoneware pan and trap in one piece).

A new steel footbridge has also been constructed across the mill stream, immediately below Aylesbury Mill, leading from Mill Close to Hartwell Road.

A similar bridge was also constructed across the mill stream overflow leading from Mount Street to the storm overflow tank on main sewer.

New Buildings.—The following buildings or alterations were sanctioned during the year, viz.:—

Dwelling Houses	16
Various Alterations	13
New Stores	5
Temporary Erections	4
Conservatories	3
New Bakehouses	2
Band Stand	1
Club Room and Offices	1

Sewage Works.—In last year's report it was stated that two small experimental filter beds (one Coke Breeze and one Burnt Ballast) were being constructed as speedily as possible for the new year.

These were duly completed and the effluent after chemical treatment was delivered into the filters. Samples were taken at intervals, the results from the "Coke Breeze" proving most satisfactory.

Instructions were accordingly given to the Surveyor for plans and estimates to be prepared for a complete system of "Coke Breeze" Filtration for the further purification of the whole of the effluent after chemical treatment.

After these had been prepared and submitted to the Local Government Board, together with an application for the necessary loan amounting to about £6,000, a letter was received declining to sanction a loan for any scheme which did not include additional land.

Further correspondence took place, and on June 16th, 1896, a deputation from the Council waited upon the Right Hon. Henry Chaplin, M.P., President of the Local Government Board, at the House of Commons, and explained the proposed system, with the result that a Local Government Board enquiry was promised.

On Tuesday, July 7th, 1896, Colonel W. Mardon Ducat, R.E., Inspector from the Local Government Board, held the said enquiry at the Surveyor's Offices, Aylesbury, and also visited the Sewage Works. Evidence was given in support of the application for the loan by Mr. H. Wyatt, J.P., Chairman of the Council; Mr. W. W. Fisher, F.I.C., &c., County Analyst; Mr. C. Hooper, Medical Officer; Mr. L. E. Walker, Chairman of the Sewage Committee; and Mr. J. H. Bradford, Surveyor, who also produced and explained the plans of the proposed scheme.

Mr. W. S. Bunting, of the Solicitors' Department of the Thames Conservancy, attended the enquiry on behalf of the Conservancy. He did not wish to oppose the application; he only hoped and urged on behalf of the conservators that every facility would be given to the Council to enable them to purify the effluent.

On Thursday, July 16th, 1896, Colonel Ducat again visited the Works and took three samples of water for analysis. Further plans, particulars, and detailed estimates were submitted and correspondence followed.

The Local Government Board, however, still adhered to their request for additional land, and the Surveyor had therefore to prepare other plans accordingly.

Three sites were under consideration, and eventually a field of about 14 acres was selected (owned by Mr. B. F. J. Gates, of Wing, Bucks), situate to the east of the present Sewage Works, but separated from the Works by the Accommodation Lane.

Plans of the new scheme were then prepared showing the treatment of the 14 acres of land (in ridge and furrow), six Coke Breeze filter beds, having a total filtration area of half-an-acre situated in the centre of the north side of the field, parallel with the existing main sewer. A new precipitating tank of 100,000 gallons capacity to be constructed on the existing Works, new pumping plant in duplicate for delivering the effluent water, after chemical treatment, through a 12-inch rising main on to the Coke Breeze Filters. The effluent from the filters to be discharged into a main carrier flowing east and west, distributing the water into small carriers along the ridges, flowing over the lands into the furrows and gravitating into the main effluent channel, and conveyed from thence along the present effluent channel under the Metropolitan Railway into the Mill Stream.

New boilers, chimney shaft, and air compressing machinery for sludge pressing are also contemplated, the estimated cost being £10,000.

An application was then made to the Local Government Board to sanction the loan of £10,000, and a reply was received stating "that a provisional agreement for the purchase of the necessary land should be entered into" and revised detailed estimates furnished.

The Clerk thereupon negotiated with the owner of the land, and it was eventually agreed that the amount of the purchase money be settled by arbitration.

The matter is therefore awaiting the decision of the arbitrators.

J. H. BRADFORD,
Surveyor.

INSPECTORS' REPORT OF THE SANITARY WORK COMPLETED IN THE YEAR 1896.

No. of Complaints received during the year	6
No. of Houses, Premises, &c., inspected	172
No. of re-inspections of Houses, Premises, &c.	312
Results of Inspection—	
Orders, Notices, and Letters issued for Sanitary Amendments of Houses and Premises	63
Houses, Premises, &c., Cleansed, Repaired, Whitewashed, &c.	3
Houses Disinfected after illness of an Infectious Character	9
House Drains—	
Repaired, Cleansed, Trapped, &c.	[illegible]
Ventilated	3[illegible]
Privies and Water Closets—	
Repaired, &c.	0
Supplied with Water	0
New provided	8
Dust Bins—	
New provided	0
Repaired, Covered, &c.	0
Water Supply—	
Cisterns (new) erected	25
Cisterns Cleansed, Repaired and Covered	0
Waste Pipes connected with Drains, &c., abolished	1
Miscellaneous—	
No. of Lodging Houses registered under 35th Section of the "Sanitary Act, 1866," or 90th Section of "Public Health Act, 1875."	3
Dust removal—No. of Communications received and attended to	0
Removal of Accumulations of Dung, Stagnant Water, Animal and other Refuse	1
Animals Removed, being improperly kept	1
Regularly Inspected—	
Bakehouses	23
Licensed Cowsheds	0
Licensed Slaughter-houses	14
Legal Proceedings—	
Summonses	0

CHARLES HOOPER,

Medical Officer of Health.

16th Annual

Report of the Medical Officer

of Health

Aylesbury Urban Sanitary District

for

year ending 31. Dec

1896