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Contributors

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BENWELL AND FENHAM
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

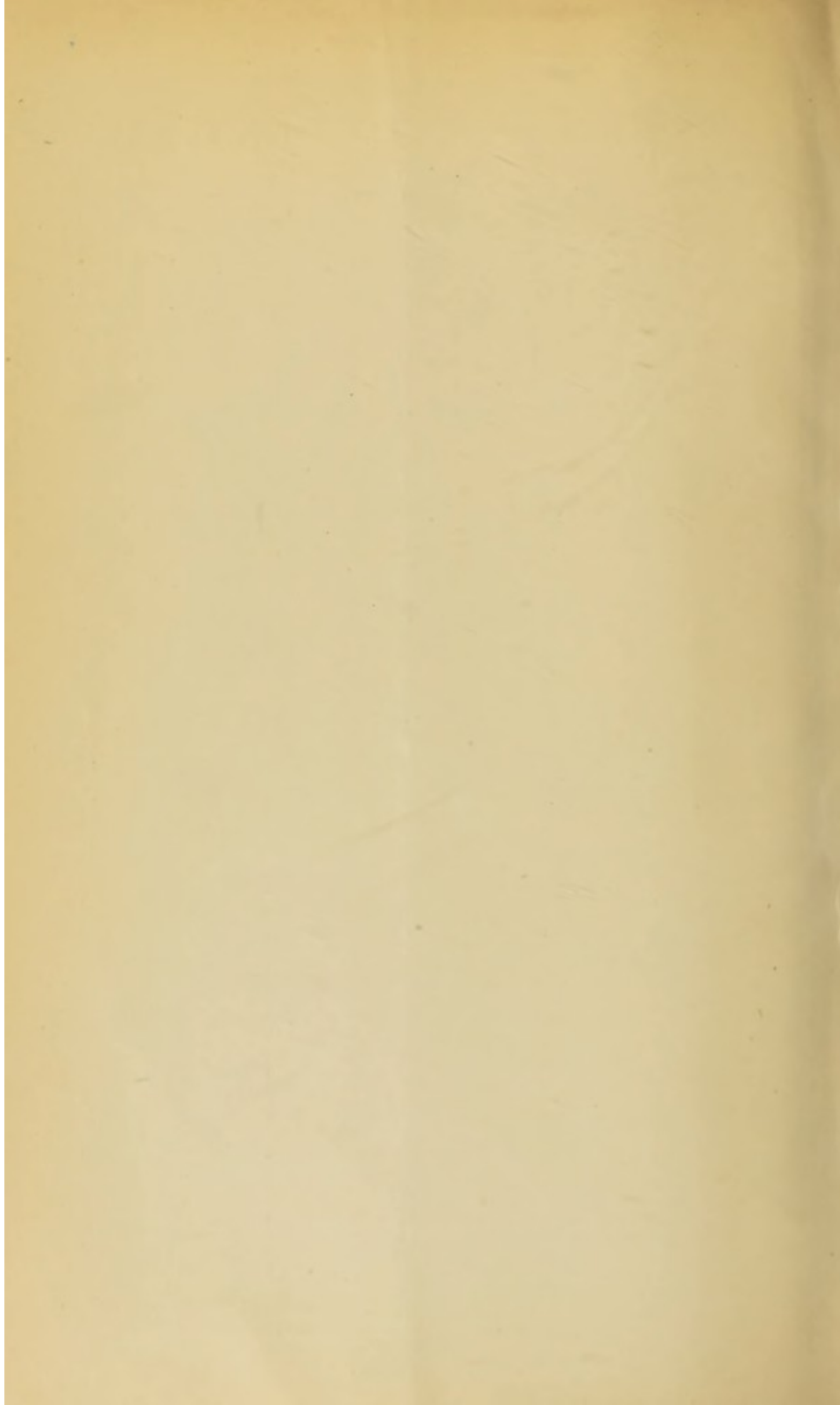
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE
YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1896.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE:
PRINTED BY CAIL & SONS, 29 AND 31, QUAYSIDE.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE BENWELL
AND FENHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

The period has again arrived when the regulations of the Local Government Board require me, as Medical Officer for your District, to lay before you a statement of its condition as to health, &c. My monthly reports have regularly acquainted you with my work—the infectious diseases prevalent, and any steps possible to prevent their spread, any sanitary deficiencies requiring your attention, the birth rate and mortality, as furnished by the local registrar, and any other matters to which I considered your attention should be directed. This report summarizes the information, and puts it in a shape by which our sanitary condition can be discovered and means of criticism be afforded.

The work of the Board has, as far as I am concerned, gone on smoothly and I hope satisfactorily. I cannot allow this opportunity to escape, however, without thanking you for your assistance and co-operation, and to again express my desire to further your work to the best of my ability, and maintain and improve the health of the community over whose interests and welfare you preside.

During the year the health of the Authority has been fairly maintained. No general unsanitary condition prejudicial to health has existed. Individual sanitary short-comings, as catalogued further on, have been not unfrequent; on their discovery, their mitigation or removal has been speedily effected.

Unfortunately, we have been in no month free from zymotic disorder of one kind or another. Its isolation is difficult, as it is entrusted to the guardians of the sick, whose means of doing so are limited; the population being artisan, their houses are in flats, or too small to afford means of satisfactorily accomplishing it. I have had to report cases where treatment of the sick in the midst of a family was obviously improper. The means of disinfection are

imperfect. The County Medical Officer in his report suggests that a disinfecter be procured. The Board might ask him what form of appliance he would recommend for the use of so limited an area as Benwell and Fenham.

POPULATION.—For statistical purposes the number of inhabitants is taken as 10,500. With the present prosperity and the erection of numerous houses, this statement, I believe, is below the mark.

BIRTHS.

During the year, 425 births (214 males and 211 females) were registered, equal to a rate of 40 per thousand per annum of the population.

1896	...	...	40
1895	...	...	39
1894	...	...	39·7
1893	...	...	39·9

The per centage of deaths under one year, numbered in proportion to the recorded births, is 15·2.

1896	...	...	15·2
1895	...	...	19·7
1894	...	...	8·56
1893	...	...	17·2

BIRTHS—	Dates.	Males.		Females.	
January	...	26	...	21	...
February	...	17	...	16	...
March	...	13	...	18	...
April	...	19	...	20	...
May	...	21	...	17	...
June	...	20	...	19	...
July	...	17	...	16	...
August	...	18	...	21	...
September	...	13	...	14	...
October	...	14	...	13	...
November	...	18	...	18	...
December	...	18	...	18	...
TOTALS		214	...	211	...
				425	

DEATHS.

During the year, 173 deaths were registered from all causes and at all ages.

	1896	...	...	173
	1895	...	...	210
	1894	...	...	130
	1893	...	...	215
	1892	...	...	177
THE MORTALITY—				
	1896	...	...	16·4
	1895	...	...	20·0
	1894	...	...	13·0
	1893	...	...	21·5
	1892	...	...	17·7

MONTHLY RETURNS—

DEATHS—

	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
January	13	14	11	15	35
February	10	15	18	11	11
March	8	18	9	15	15
April	17	12	12	12	15
May	14	12	6	18	6
June	14	9	10	16	12
July	18	23	7	21	9
August	17	22	9	10	15
September	16	26	11	14	15
October	13	18	9	20	15
November	17	21	25	12	20
December	16	20	8	33	9

It will be observed that excepting in March, when 8 deaths were registered, the number of deaths monthly is about the same. This indicates an absence of any epidemic of a fatal character, or of any local temporary prejudicial influence on health.

THE YEAR'S DEATHS—

LOCALITIES—

	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
South Benwell	51	72	41	61	69
New Benwell	41	47	34	44	40
Priestman's Cottages and Handyside's Buildings..	7	9	5	11	11
Delaval	16	20	8	12	10
Benwell and Denton	16	18	10	17	4
Fenham	4	1	1	3	0
River Tyne	3	3	0	1	4
Railway	0	0	1	2	0
Scotswood	35	37	30	54	39

AGES—DEATHS—

	Under						60 and above.
	1 year.	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 40	40 to 60	
1896 ...	65 ...	28 ...	10 ...	11 ...	12 ...	23 ...	24
1895 ...	81 ...	39 ...	8 ...	13 ...	8 ...	29 ...	32
1894 ...	34 ...	19 ...	11 ...	8 ...	12 ...	17 ...	29
1893 ...	70 ...	59 ...	12 ...	9 ...	17 ...	24 ...	24
1892 ...	68 ...	31 ...	9 ...	5 ...	14 ...	19 ...	24

INFANTILE DEATHS.—65 (equal to 37·5 per cent. of the year's mortality) were of children under one year of age.

1896 ...	37·5
1895 ...	38·5
1894 ...	26·1
1893 ...	32·4

INFANTILE DEATHS (continued)—

CAUSES—

	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
Premature Birth and Debility..	20 ...	15 ...	9 ...	13 ...	16
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ...	12 ...	17 ...	4 ...	9 ...	8
Convulsions ...	1 ...	10 ...	10 ...	16 ...	14
Whooping Cough ...	5 ...	1 ...	0 ...	2 ...	5
Meningitis ...	2 ...	2 ...	0 ...	2 ...	1
Marasmus ...	8 ...	6 ...	1 ...	5 ...	7
Measles ...	0 ...	0 ...	9 ...	1 ...	2
Heart Disease ...	1 ...	0 ...	0 ...	1 ...	3
Diarrhœa ...	4 ...	4 ...	1 ...	3 ...	0
Intestinal Catarrh and Gastro Entiritis ...	9 ...	20 ...	4 ...	5 ...	6
Syphilis ...	0 ...	2 ...	1 ...	0 ...	1
Spina Bifida ...	2 ...	4 ...	0 ...	1 ...	2
Accident ...	1 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0 ...	0

Of these infantile deaths, DISORDERS OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM accounted for—

1896 ...	18·4
1895 ...	20·9
1894 ...	11·7
1893 ...	13·0

DISORDERS OF DIGESTIVE SYSTEM—

1896	...	...	32·3
1895	...	...	36·2
1894	...	...	20·5
1893	...	...	20·3

PREMATURE BIRTH AND CONGENITAL DEBILITY—

1896	...	...	33·8
1895	...	...	18·7
1894	...	...	26·4
1893	...	...	18·0

NERVOUS DISORDERS AND DENTITION—

1896	...	...	4·6
1895	...	...	14·8
1894	...	...	29·4
1893	...	...	23·1

ZYMOTIC DISEASES—

1896	...	...	7·6
1895	...	...	1·2
1894	...	...	5·9
1893	...	...	13·0

Above figures indicate fairly the causes from which the main portion of the infantile mortality springs. It will be observed that premature birth and congenital debility account for 33·8 per cent. They result mainly from the causes I have specified in former reports—too early pregnancy, constitutional defects, too frequent child-bearing, drink, improvidence and illegitimacy. Disorders of the digestive system still hold a foremost place in the return, 32·3 per cent. This subject was fully entered into in my report for 1895.

GENERAL DEATH RATE—ALL AGES.

CAUSES.—DISORDERS OF RESPIRATORY SYSTEM caused 25 deaths, 14·4 per cent. of the mortality.

1896	...	...	14·4
1895	...	...	15·2
1894	...	...	17·6
1893	...	...	11·9

PHTHISIS caused 18 deaths, 10·4 per cent. of the mortality.

1896	...	...	10·4
1895	...	...	9·0

HEART DISEASE caused 14 deaths, 8 per cent. of the mortality.

1896	...	...	8·0
1895	...	...	8·0
1894	...	...	16·7
1893	...	...	6·9

DEATHS OVER 60 YEARS OF AGE.—22 deaths, 12·7 per cent. of the mortality, were of persons over 60 years of age.

1896	...	...	12·7
1895	...	...	15·2
1894	...	...	22·3
1893	...	...	12·0

ACCIDENTS caused 9 deaths, 5·1 per cent. of the mortality.

ZYMOTIC DEATHS—

	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.
Measles
Whooping Cough
Diphtheria
Puerperal Fever
Erysipelas
Typhoid
Scarlet Fever

These Zymotic Diseases are responsible for 8·6 per cent. of the mortality.

1896	...	...	8·6
1895	...	...	6·6
1894	...	...	11·5
1893	...	...	23·7

And are equal to a Zymotic rate of 1·4 per 1,000 on the estimated population of the district.

1896	...	...	1·4
1895	...	...	1·3
1894	...	...	1·5
1893	...	...	5·1
1892	...	...	2·2
1891	...	...	2·6

LOCALITIES OF ZYMOTIC DEATHS—

	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
South Benwell	4	6	6	10	16
New Benwell	3	4	8	11	0
Handyside's Buildings and Priestman's Cottages ...	2	2	1	5	0
Scotswood	3	1	3	14	3
Benwell	1	0	1	2	0
Delaval	2	1	1	9	3

COMPULSORY NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

As explained previously, into all cases of the kind a searching investigation and carefully written report is made on the accommodation of the sick, and the surroundings. Notification promptly rendered enables the Authority to deal with disease, and minimize, as far as their means allow, the risk to others which a sick centre entails.

During the year, notification has been made as—

SCARLET FEVER—

	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.
January	13	1	3	12
February	2	1	1	5
March... ..	4	1	2	5
April	3	5	2	1
May	1	5	0	7
June	4	4	1	6
July	6	13	0	4
August	7	26	3	1
September	2	20	4	1
October	4	9	3	9
November	8	8	1	17
December	1	15	0	18

LOCALITIES OF SCARLET FEVER—

New Benwell	25
South Benwell	27
Scotswood	1
Delaval	0
Handyside's Buildings & Priestman's Cottages ..	2

SCARLET FEVER—

LOCALITIES and time of year when notification made.

January	... South Benwell ...	...	3
	... New Benwell ...	...	10
February	... Do. ...	...	2
March	... South Benwell ...	...	3
	... Delaval ...	...	1
April ...	... South Benwell ...	...	2
	... New Benwell ...	...	1
May ...	... Do. ...	...	1
June ...	... South Benwell ...	...	2
	... New Benwell ...	...	2
July ...	... Do. ...	...	3
	... South Benwell ...	...	3
August	... Do. ...	...	7
September	... Do. ...	...	1
	... New Benwell ...	...	1
October	... Do. ...	...	1
	... South Benwell ...	...	2
	... Scotswood ...	...	1
November	... Handyside's Buildings ...	...	1
	... New Benwell ...	...	4
	... South Benwell ...	...	2
December	... Handyside's Buildings ...	...	1

SCARLET FEVER.—As in previous years, no month is free from the notification of this disease—there has been no epidemic; fifty-three cases altogether and no death, a testimony to the mildness of type of the disorder, and the efficacy of the official supervision.

Notification of TYPHOID was made— 1896. 1895. 1894.

January	...	...	0	...	0	...	3
February	...	...	1	...	0	...	3
March ...	...	...	2	...	0	...	0
April ...	...	...	1	...	0	...	0
May ...	...	...	1	...	0	...	1
June ...	...	...	0	...	0	...	2
July ...	...	...	0	...	0	...	0
August ...	...	...	1	...	0	...	2
September	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
October	...	...	0	...	1	...	2
November	...	...	0	...	0	...	3
December	...	...	0	...	0	...	2

TYPHOID.—LOCALITIES—

New Benwell	6
South Benwell	1

TYPHOID.—Seven cases reported, with one death. One of the cases was imported; two resulted from the too close proximity of an ashpit to a living room; one was infected by another member of family, whose attack was being treated at home; one blamed the foul latrine in the works where he was employed for his seizure.

AS ERYSIPELAS.—Sixteen notifications; no deaths.

LOCALITIES—South Benwell	10
Scotswood	2
New Benwell	2
Delaval	1
Handyside's Buildings	1
WHEN CERTIFIED—January	1
February	2
March	4
April	1
May	2
August	1
September	1
October	1
November	1
December	2

AS DIPHTHERIA.—Eighteen cases; two deaths.

LOCALITIES—Fenham	2
South Benwell	6
New Benwell	6
Delaval	4
TIME OF YEAR—January	1
February	4
March	1
April	2
May	2
June	1
August	1
September	3
October	2
November	1

The fatal nature of this disease (now frequently reported) is evidently much mitigated. Sanitary deficiencies beyond direct infection usually account for an attack. Two cases were caused by the festering ooze of an open drain; another by the mouldy dampness of the wall of a living room. It is a point of importance, therefore, that notification (which will always ensure a careful examination of premises) should be promptly made.

AS PUERPERAL FEVER.—Two cases; two deaths.

LOCALITIES—Delaval	1
Scotswood	1
TIME OF YEAR—January	1
November	1

AS MEASLES.—Ninety-nine cases; two deaths.

LOCALITIES—New Benwell	22
South Benwell	49
Handyside's Buildings ...	5
Paradise	2
Scotswood	1
Delaval	16
Benwell	4
TIME OF YEAR—January	11
February	3
March	4
May	3
June	22
July	8
August	3
September	8
October	2
November	5
December	30

Most sanitary authorities are following your lead in the matter of measles notification. No doubt the ratepayer grumbles at the expense, but the diminished mortality, as evidenced above, amply justifies your decision.

GENERAL WORK.

During the year the district has been supervised regularly. The condition is fairly satisfactory. The water supply is good and

the sewerage effective. Special attention has been paid to periodical flushings of the sewers. In addition to a general supervision where an insanitary influence has been suspected, I have examined such and reported. Generally, I have advised the Council on sanitary matters, and attended the monthly meetings and presented a report. During the year a sewer has been relaid at Benwell, and the Council have now decided not to sanction privies or ashpits in new buildings.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.—The Council now have under consideration :—

1. The inefficiency of the sewer on the west turnpike.
2. Defects in water fittings and ash tubs at Scotswood.
3. Want of paving, resulting in pools of stagnant water ; foul and dilapidated ashpits and privies ; imperfect cleansing and scavenging of Malting Row, Benwell.
4. Dangerous dilapidated walls ; foul and dilapidated ashpits and privies ; badly cemented yards ; defective water fittings ; stopped gullies ; imperfect spouting ; and necessity of paving back lane all of Handyside's Buildings.
5. Paving and re-sewering of Delaval Terrace.

THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

The SANITARY INSPECTOR is resident at the Board's offices in the district. He is Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor ; he has charge of all the plant belonging to the Board, and generally controls, pays and manages the work department.

COW SHEDS AND DAIRIES have been regularly inspected ; nineteen visits have been paid to each. The milk has been of good quality ; no complaint has arisen as to its impurity.

DISTRICT VISITATION.—The inspector, in discharge of his daily duties, visits some portion of the district. Every week some portion is taken for special examination.

SCHOOLS.—One voluntary and two board schools are visited regularly. They are kept particularly clean. The out-buildings are examined also, and found to be sweet, well flushed and in good order.

The SLAUGHTER HOUSES are visited weekly. Their condition is satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS.—This duty is mainly discharged by County Council.

INSPECTOR'S SANITARY WORK.

	Found.	Abated.	In hand.
Choked and defective drains ...	51	50	1
Do. do. gullies ...	84	81	3
Defective waste pipes ...	17	17	0
Do. and foul water closets ...	21	20	1
Foul privies ...	38	38	0
Defective privies ...	8	6	2
Foul ashpits ...	38	36	2
Defective ashpits ...	8	8	0
Do. hatches ...	58	57	1
Soakage from ashpits ...	17	17	0
Defective paving in yards ...	28	28	0
Foul yards ...	15	15	0
No water supply ...	15	12	3
Accumulation of filth ...	3	3	0
Passages to cleanse and limewash ...	52	52	0
Cases of overcrowding ...	3	3	0
Dangerous walls and buildings ...	16	10	6
Number of houses disinfected ...	198		
Visits to infected houses ...	775		
Disinfectants supplied ...	184		
Houses rendered fit for habitation ...	3		
Owners or agents interviewed ...	460		
Informal notices served ...	297		
Formal do. ...	63		
Notices complied with ...	294		
Notices now being dealt with ...	18		

ASHES AND REFUSE.

During the year, 2,491 loads have been collected from ashpits cleansed monthly, 3,914 weekly and 1,128 daily, a total of 7,533 loads—an increase of 3,379 over the collection in 1891. Of the 7,533 loads, 2,880 have been sent to sea, and 4,650 used for agricultural purposes.

The Board have their own horses (6), carts and workmen. They are employed for ashpit work and scavenging, road repairing and lighting. The scavenging is much more regularly and efficiently done than it was. South Benwell is swept and cleansed every Friday, New Benwell every Saturday, Scotswood and Benwell every Friday and Saturday; thus the whole of the populated part of the Authority is regularly and efficiently cleansed once a week.

I am,

Yours obediently,

N. HARDCASTLE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Newcastle-on-Tyne,

January 15th, 1897.



(A) TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1896, in the Urban Sanitary District of BENWELL AND FENHAM, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES of LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.)	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.										MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																															
	At all Ages.	Under 1 Year.					Under 5 Years.					Under 15 Years.					Under 25 Years.					Under 65 Years.					Under 65 and upwards.															
		(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	1 and 5.	5 and 15.	15 and 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phtisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.						
BENWELL AND FENHAM	173	65	28	10	11	41	18	(i)	Under 5	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	18	2	2	50	91	
TOTALS	173	65	28	10	11	41	18		Under 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	8	5	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	18	2	2	50	91	
									5 upwds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.....	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	Under 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Under 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Area and Population of the District to which this Return relates :—

Area in Acres	1,367
Population (1891)	10,501
Death Rates { General: 14.4 per 1,000 population, estimated to middle of 1896.	
{ Infant (under one year of age): 1.52 per 1,000 births registered	

