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BEXHILL

Urban District Council.

Medical Officer's Report,

1898.

O. OSBORNE, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S., Eng.

Boxhill-on-Sea :

PRINTED AT THE " CHRONICLE " OFFICE,

FEBRUARY, 1899.

Health Office,

Bexhill-on-Sea, 1899.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Bexhill Urban District Council.**

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour of submitting to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of Bexhill for the year 1898.

I wish to thank the members of the Sanitary Committee for the courtesy and consideration that I have received from them during the past year.

I have also to thank Mr. Flint, your able Sanitary Inspector, for the energy and willingness he has displayed in carrying out the work of the Department. I should like to direct your attention especially to two points, the necessity of providing an Isolation Hospital for the district, and of remedying at the earliest possible opportunity the nuisance caused by the defective state of the sewer outfall at Galley Hill, which was the subject of numerous complaints from visitors and residents during the summer.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

O. OSBORNE.

POPULATION.

The district covers an area of 8015 acres. At the end of the year there were 2047 inhabited houses against 1782 at the end of 1897.

There are in course of erection 208 houses, two hotels, two churches and one large mansion. During the year 235 houses have been certified as fit for occupation. In estimating the population I have this year allowed $5\frac{1}{2}$ persons to a house as a large number are occupied by two or more families. This would bring the number of the population approximately up to 11,250 in the middle of the year. The following table shews the rate of increase since 1881.

Year	1881	1891	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
	census	census					
Pop.	2452	5026	6770	7105	8150	8910	11250

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS.

There have been registered during the year 253 births ; 135 males and 118 females. This is equivalent to a birth rate of 22.49 per 1,000 inhabitants, which is lower than last year. The birth rate for the whole of England and Wales was 29.4 per 1,000.

The following table shows the number of births registered annually for the past six years.

Year.	No. of Children born.	Male.	Female.
1893	173	79	94
1894	183	81	102
1895	173	84	89
1896	192	97	95
1897	218	109	109
1898	253	135	118

There were four illegitimate births this year. There is a steady decline in the birth rate as will be seen from the following figures:—

In	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898.
It was	27·03 per 1,000	24·00	23·5	24·46	22·49

DEATHS.

During the year 1898, 129 deaths were registered as belonging to the district, 64 of males and 65 of females. This gives an annual death rate of 11·46. If from these figures be deducted the deaths of temporary residents in the public institutions of the town of which four occurred at Nazareth House, four occurred at the Convalescent Home, and of six due to accident and suicide, the corrected death rate would then be 10·22 per 1,000. The death rate for the 33 great towns was 19·1 and that for the whole of England and Wales 17·6 per 1,000.

TABLE OF DEATHS.

[illegible]

Of the number of deaths occurring under one year there were three due to premature birth, the infants living only 11 hours, 8 hours, and 10 min. This return shows an infant mortality of 102·76 per 1,000 births, that for the whole of England and Wales being 161 per 1000 births. There were 9 deaths registered as being primarily due to Old Age, eight of them being females. Seven of them were over 80 and the other two 78, and 79. Influenza was the cause of death in three cases. The immediate cause being pneumonia in two cases and meningitis in the other. There were 17 deaths from Phthisis. This gives a death rate from this cause of 1·51 per 1000. This is a high rate as the so-called permissible rate ought not to exceed 1·50 per 1,000. Rooms that have been occupied by phthisical patients should be disinfected and thoroughly cleansed when evacuated and care taken to disinfect the sputa and prevent the dissemination of the disease by that means. I would suggest that printed notices to that effect should be distributed among the householders of the town and that the medical men be asked to use their influence to see that some such measures are carried out in cases that have been under their care. This would be a first step towards educating public opinion in the belief that phthisis is a preventable and curable disease.

ACCIDENT OR VIOLENCE.

Of the deaths recorded under this heading in the table :—

Two were of persons washed ashore.

One of a lad drowned whilst bathing.

One of strychnine poisoning (suicide).
One of an infant suffocated in bed.
One of meningitis set up by a fall.

INQUESTS.

There were seven inquests held in the town, one on each of the bodies mentioned above and one on a baby who died suddenly in convulsions.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Twelve deaths occurred from Zymotic diseases ;—

One from Diphtheria Eight from Infantile
Diarrhœa

One from Measles Two from Puerperal
Fever

producing a zymotic death rate of 1·06 per 1,000, that for England and Wales being 2·22 per 1000. The zymotic death rate for the last five years is here shown :—

1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
0.73	0.70	0.98	1.23	1.06 per 1,000

The death rate from zymotic disease in a town of this description ought always to be under 1·00 per 1,000.

During the year the following 250 cases of infectious disease were notified :—

	Under 5 Years.	Over 5 Years.	Total.
Scarlet Fever ...	3	9	12
Diphtheria ...	1	8	9
Measles ...	83	118	*201
Rötheln ...	—	11	11
Typhoid Fever ...	—	9	9
Puerperal Fever ...	—	3	3
Erysipelas ...	—	5	5
*Of these 34 were notified by householders, no medical man being called in.			

SCARLET FEVER.

One case occurred in April, a visitor's child who was removed to the Worthing Sanatorium the day after notification. Another case occurred in May in a house in which there were visitors who had just recovered from the disease in London. In October, two children developed the disease who were attending a private school. On enquiry the sister of one of them, who was also attending the same school, was found to be in the peeling stage. They were isolated in their own homes and the school room disinfected and closed for a fortnight. No other cases occurred. The other cases occurred in December in five households and for which I could find no common cause.

They have to be isolated in their own homes which means that isolation is very imperfectly carried out. Owing to this imperfect isolation and to slight cases not being recognized and no medical man called in, an epidemic is often started.

DIPHTHERIA.

Four cases occurred in the first five months of the year at the Sluice, one of which terminated fatally. In each case the sanitary arrangements of the cottages were found to be in a bad state. In two, proper drains were provided and taken into watertight ventilated cesspools, in place of the existing privies and cesspits. In another the cesspits were done away with and earth closets substituted. Four cases occurred in a cottage at Barnhorn in which there were cases last year.

TYPHOID.

The cases of Typhoid occurred in the north part of the town. In two the well water used for drinking purposes was analysed and found to be contaminated with recent sewage. These were at once closed and the town water laid on. Defective drains were found in three houses from which four cases were reported. No cause could be discovered for the other three cases. It is satisfactory to be able to note that no deaths took place. One patient was removed to the East Sussex Hospital at Hastings.

INFANTILE DIARRHŒA.

There were eight deaths from this cause ; all one year or under. The excessive heat and dryness of the summer, no doubt accounts for this, as deaths from diarrhœa are in intimate relation to the height of the thermometer. The unscavenged condition of some of the streets that had not been taken over by the Council, by allowing accumulations of dust, etc., which finding its way into houses and contaminating the milk supplied to infants, may also have been a factor contributing to the mortality due to this disease. The condition of the backyards in certain streets also calls for more frequent inspection so that they may be kept in a more sanitary condition during the hot weather.

MEASLES.

This disease took the form of a mild epidemic in the latter part of the year. A few cases occurred during the spring and summer months. These were nearly all visitors from other towns, chiefly London. In October the notifications increased to 73 and to 75 in November, falling to 18 in December. On October 18th it was found necessary to close the S. Barnabas Infant School for a month, and the schools in St. Peter's parish were closed in November for the same period, as the attendance in each case was seriously affected. The boys attending the S. Barnabas School, in Reginald Road, escaped the infection so it was not necessary to close that one.

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total in Year.
Measles. Number of cases coming to our knowledge.	4	1	0	8	2	3	7	1	9	73	75	18	201
Number of Deaths.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1

Age of Patients.	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-6	6-7	7-8	8-9	9-10	10-15	15-20	20-30	Total
No. of Persons attacked by Measles.	6	11	17	17	31	31	23	24	10	9	18	1	3	201
No. of Persons dying of Measles.		1												

I have to thank the School authorities for the help I had from them in supplying me with daily lists of the absentees, as in that way I was kept informed of the progress of the disease and was able to distribute handbills among the households, where a doctor had not been called in, reminding parents that they had to notify to the Sanitary Authority cases occurring among their families. It seems to me that partial notification, that is to say, compulsory notification of the first case that occurs in a family and of no others of that family for say a month, is all that is necessary to enable the Sanitary Authority, with the means at

present at their disposal, to do all that is possible to combat an epidemic. In the present state of public opinion which looks upon measles as a trivial and unavoidable complaint, isolation is impossible and is scarcely ever attempted. It remains with the School and Church Authorities of various denominations and with medical men so to educate the people that they may have a due sense of their responsibility in this matter. If the calling in of a doctor to such cases were more common the mortality of the disease itself and of its sequelæ would be much lessened, for while a neglected case may not prove fatal at the time its after effects are often sufficient to undermine the constitution and cause premature death.

RÖTHELN.

Nine of the eleven cases were notified from one school.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

Three cases were notified, two proved fatal. The medical man who attended these two ceased his labour practice for a time and the nurse was instructed not to attend any more cases for two months.

The following are the notices that are sent to households in which a case of infectious disease has occurred.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE SPREAD OF INFECTION.

Scarlet Fever or Scarlatina is infectious for at least **six weeks** from the date of commencement of the first symptoms. During this period the Child must be kept indoors and separated from all healthy children.

No healthy child from a house where Scarlet Fever is present should be allowed to attend School during the six weeks named above; and if a second case of Scarlet Fever occurs, six weeks must be allowed to elapse from the beginning of this case, before any Child from the same house is allowed to attend School.

It is highly dangerous for parents to visit among their neighbours while their Children are suffering from Scarlet Fever or any other Infectious Disease; or to allow Children suffering from such Disease to play with other Children in the street or elsewhere, or to attend School.

By Section 126 of the Public Health Act, any person who

- "(1) While suffering from any dangerous infectious disorder,
 - "wilfully exposes himself without proper precautions
 - "against spreading the said disorder in any street,
 - "public place, shop, inn, or public conveyance, without
 - "previously notifying to the owner, conductor, or driver,
 - "thereof that he is so suffering;
- "(2) Being in charge of any person so suffering, so exposes such sufferer; or
- "(3) Gives, lends, sells, transmits or exposes, without previous disinfection, any bedding, clothing, rags, or other things which have been exposed to infection from any such disorder, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding **FIVE POUNDS**, and a person who, while suffering from any such disorder, enters any public conveyance without previously notifying to the owner or driver that he is so suffering, shall in addition be ordered by the court to pay such owner and driver the amount of any loss and expense they may incur in carrying into effect the provisions of this Act with respect to disinfection of the conveyance."

N.B.—Scarlet Fever being highly infectious during the peeling state, strict isolation must be observed, until the doctor in attendance certifies that the case is free from infection

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE SPREAD OF INFECTION.

Diphtheria is infectious for at least **three weeks** from the date of commencement of the first symptoms. During this period the Child must be kept indoors and separated from all healthy children.

No healthy child from a house where Diphtheria is present should be allowed to attend School during the three weeks named above; and if a second case of Diphtheria occurs, three weeks must be allowed to elapse from the beginning of this case, before any Child from the same house is allowed to attend School.

It is highly dangerous for parents to visit among their neighbours while their Children are suffering from Diphtheria or any other Infectious Disease; or to allow Children suffering from such Disease to play with other children in the street or elsewhere, or to attend School.

By Section 126 of the Public Health Act any person who

- " (1) While suffering from any dangerous infectious disorder,
 - " wilfully exposes himself without proper precaution against
 - " spreading the said disorder in any street, public place shop,
 - " inn, or public conveyance, without previously notifying to
 - " the owner, conductor or driver thereof that he is so
 - " suffering;
- " (2) Being in charge of any person so suffering, so exposes such sufferer; or
- " (3) Gives, lends, sells, transmits or exposes, without previous disinfection, any bedding, clothing, rags, or other things which have been exposed to infection from any such disorder, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding **FIVE POUNDS**, and a person who, while suffering from any such disorder, enters any public conveyance without previously notifying to the owner or driver that he is so suffering, shall in addition be ordered by the court to pay such owner and driver the amount of any loss and expense they may incur in carrying into effect the provisions of this Act with respect to disinfection of the conveyance."

N.B.—All discharges being highly infectious, it is absolutely necessary that all Handkerchiefs, Linen, &c., that have been used in the sick-room must be thoroughly disinfected before being washed. It is better to use some material that can be burnt immediately after use.

THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (PREVENTION) ACT, 1890.

53 & 54 VIC., CAP. 34.

SEC. 7.—Every person who shall cease to occupy any house, room, or part of house in which any person has, within six weeks previously, been suffering from an infectious disease without having such house, room or part of house, and all articles therein liable to retain infection,

disinfected to the satisfaction of a registered medical practitioner, as testified by a certificate signed by him or without first giving to the owner of such house, room or part of a house, notice of the previous existence of such disease, and every person ceasing to occupy any house, room or part of a house, and who, on being questioned by the owner thereof, or by any person negotiating for the hire of such house, room or part of a house, as to the fact of there having within six weeks previously been therein any person suffering from any infectious disease, knowingly makes a false answer to such question, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding **TEN POUNDS**.

SEC. 13.—Any person who shall knowingly cast, or cause or permit to be cast into any ash-pit, ash-tub or other receptacle for the deposit of refuse matter, any infectious rubbish, without previous disinfection, shall be guilty of an offence under this act.

Sec. 16.—Every person who shall wilfully obstruct any duly authorised officer of the local authority in carrying out the provisions of this Act shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding **FIVE POUNDS**, and if the offence is a continuing one, to a daily penalty not exceeding **FORTY SHILLINGS** a day so long as the offence continues.

OSWALD OSBORNE, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.

52 & 53 VIC., CHAPTER 72.

Where an inmate of any building used for human habitation within a district to which this Act extends is suffering from an Infectious Disease, the following provisions shall have effect, that is to say :

“The head of the family to which such inmate belongs, and in his default the nearest relatives of the patient present in the building or being in attendance on the patient, and in default of such relatives, every person in charge of or in attendance on the patient, and in default of any such person, the occupier of the building, shall, as soon as he becomes aware that the patient is suffering from an infectious disease to which this Act applies, send notice thereof to the Medical Officer of Health of the District.”

Every person required by this Section to give a Notice or Certificate who fails to give same, shall be liable on Summary Conviction in manner provided by the Summary Jurisdiction Acts to a fine not exceeding FORTY SHILLINGS.

OSWALD OSBORNE, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.,

Medical Officer of Health.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST THE SPREAD OF INFECTION.

Measles is infectious for **three weeks** from the date of commencement of the first symptoms. During this period the Child must be kept isolated in a separate room.

No healthy Child from a house where Measles is prevalent should be allowed to attend School during the three weeks named above; and if a second case of Measles occurs, three weeks must be allowed to elapse from the beginning of this case, before any Child from the same house is allowed to attend School.

It is highly dangerous for parents to visit among their neighbours while their Children are suffering from Measles or any other Infectious Disease; or to allow Children suffering from such Disease to play with other Children in the street or elsewhere or to attend School.

By Section 126 of the Public Health Act, any person who

- "(1) While suffering from any dangerous infectious disorder,
"wilfully exposes himself without proper precautions
"against spreading the said disorder in any street,
"public place, shop, inn, or public conveyance, without
"previously notifying to the owner, conductor, or driver,
"thereof that he is so suffering;
- "(2) Being in charge of any person so suffering, so exposes such
"sufferer; or
- "(3) Gives, lends, sells, transmits or exposes, without previous
"disinfection, any bedding, clothing, rags, or other things
"which have been exposed to infection from any such
"disorder, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding **FIVE**

" **POUNDS**, and a person who, while suffering from any such disorder, enters any public conveyance without previously notifying to the owner or driver that he is so suffering, shall in addition be ordered by the court to pay such owner and driver the amount of any loss and expense they may incur in carrying into effect the provisions of this Act with respect to disinfection of the conveyance. "

N.B.—It should be noted by parents, that although Children frequently appear to have recovered from Measles at the end of the first week, they are infectious for two more weeks, and wilful exposure of them during this time renders parents liable to prosecution.

OSWALD OSBORNE, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.,

Medical Officer of Health.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

I am sorry to have to report that the town is still without adequate means of isolating infectious cases. The Berthon Huts have not been used during the year owing to the freedom of the town, during the months when it was possible to make use of them, from cases of infectious disease suitable for removal, and in December when the need arose for isolating some cases of Scarlet Fever, the weather prohibited their use.

A Conference was held at Lewes, in October, to discuss the question of provision of Infectious Hospitals in this part of the County, but nothing practicable resulted therefrom. I would again ask you for the sake of the reputation of the town as a health resort, to keep this question of an Isolation Hospital to the front.

CUSTOMS AND INLAND REVENUE ACTS.

1890, S. 26 (2), & 1891, S. 4.

I examined, at the request of the owner, eight houses with a view to the granting of a certificate, by virtue of which exemption from inhabited house duty may be claimed under the provisions of the Acts. The Act of 1890 provides that, "before exemption from duty can be claimed the house be so constructed as to afford suitable accommodation for each of the families or persons inhabiting it, and that due provision be made for their sanitary requirements." The Act of 1891 stipulates that the annual value of each separate dwelling within the house "shall not amount to £20." The certificate was granted. The expressions "suitable accommodation" and "sanitary requirements" are somewhat vague and are left to be interpreted by the Medical Officer of Health.

WATER SUPPLY.

The town is supplied with water from springs that arise at Buckholt. The water undergoes filtration before distribution, and continues to maintain a high degree of purity as evidenced by the appended analyses :—

ANALYTICAL LABORATORY,

17, Great Tower Street,

London, E.C., 31 January, 1898.

Ref. No. 207/98.

Result of Analysis of a Sample of Water received from Mr. Alfred Flint, Inspector of Nuisances, Bexhill, on the

26th inst. Sealed with red wax. Marked "Taken January 24th, by Dr. Osborne, Medical Officer of Health, from the Bexhill Water Co.'s supply."

	Grains per Gallon.
Total Dissolved Matter ...	18.48
Loss on Incineration of Residue ...	1.12
Chlorine in Chlorides ...	4.10
(Equal to Chloride of Sodium) ...	6.76
Nitrogen in Nitrates... ...	.04
(Equal to Nitric Acid) ...	.14
Free (actual or saline) Ammonia ...	traces
Albuminoid (organic) Ammonia ...	.001
Oxygen absorbed by Oxidisable Organic Matter, &c., from a solution of Permanganate of Potash at a tempera- ture of 80° Fahrenheit—	
In 15 minutes ...	.007
In 4 hours ...	.013
Phosphoric Acid ...	traces
Appearance in 2 feet tube ...	clear ; practically colourless

Both chemical and bacteriological examination indicate beyond doubt that this water is of a very high degree of purity.

BERNARD DYER.

London, E.C., 8th July, 1898.

Ref. No. 1409/98.

Result of Analysis of a Sample of Water, received from the Bexhill Urban District Council, on the 5th inst. Sealed plain wax. Marked "Bexhill Water Company's supply."

	Grains per Gallon.
Total Dissolved Matter ...	17.64
Loss on Incineration of Residue ...	1.12
Chlorine in Chlorides ...	4.10
(Equal to Chloride of Sodium) ...	6.76

Nitrogen in Nitrates...	...	...	.02
(Equal to Nitric Acid)	...	...	.07
Free (actual or saline) Ammonia	...	...	.001
Albuminoid (organic) Ammonia	...	...	.002
Oxygen absorbed by Oxidisable Organic Matter, &c., from a solution of Permanganate of Potash at a temperature of 80° Fahrenheit—			
	In 15 minutes	...	.007
	In 4 hours	...	.016
Phosphoric Acid	...	...	faint trace
Appearance in 2 feet tube	...	clear ; practically	colourless

This water is of a very high degree of purity. This is indicated by the results of a careful bacteriological examination as well as by the results of chemical analysis.

BERNARD DYER.

London, E.C., 6th January, 1899.

Ref. No. 2818/98.

Result of Analysis of a Sample of Water received from the Bexhill Urban District Council on the 30th ultimo. Sealed plain wax. Marked "Bexhill Water Company's Supply."

	Grains per Gallon.
Total Dissolved Matter	17.08
Loss on Incineration of Residue	1.40
Chlorine in Chlorides	3.90
(Equal to Chloride of Sodium)	6.42
Nitrogen in Nitrates...	.02
(Equal to Nitric Acid)	.06
Free (actual or saline) Ammonia	.003
Albuminoid (organic) Ammonia	trace

Oxygen absorbed by Oxidisable Organic matter, &c., from a solution of Permanganate of Potash at a temperature of 80° Fahrenheit—

	In 15 minutes	...	.003
	In 4 hours	...	.009
Phosphoric Acid	...	...	... faint trace
Appearance in 2 feet tube	...	...	clear, colourless

This is pure water of excellent quality.

BERNARD DYER.

There have been 16 wells closed during the year and the town water laid on to the premises. At the Sluice the inhabitants are supplied with water from the River Ashburn. The water is passed through a sand and gravel filter and then into a storage tank from which it is pumped as required. The water is of good quality when efficiently filtered. The houses in the outlying portions of the district obtain their water from wells. This is in almost all cases good potable water containing traces of iron. Chalybeate springs occur in the district, the best known of which is situated on Mr. Walker's estate in the north of the town.

SANITATION.

DRAINAGE.

There have been about two miles of new sewers laid during the year.

The Drainage Scheme for Little Common has been the subject of an enquiry by the Local Government Board and has been approved of, some minor details only requiring to be added. The defective state of the sewer outfall at Galley Hill has been the cause of numerous complaints. The part of the above drainage scheme relating to the improvement of this outfall should be carried out as soon as possible, as it is imperative that this defect should be remedied with the least possible delay. During the dry weather some of the street gullies became untrapped and caused several complaints. This matter was remedied by the Surveyor. I am sorry to have to report that owing to the refusal of the Council to take the sewer up to an estate at Sidley, a row of houses has been built, each house having a cesspool in the garden. These are likely to become a grave nuisance to the neighbourhood and already the Sanitary Inspector has had his attention drawn to them, as one has been emptied into a ditch. New Urinals have been erected at the York Hotel, and the New Inn, Sidley, and the old ones at the Devonshire and Castle Hotels have been reconstructed and a constant water supply laid on to each.

HOUSE REFUSE

is removed by the Contractor once a week, and the work has on the whole been carried out in a satisfactory manner. The complaints that were received were at once attended to by the Sanitary Inspector. During the last three-quarters of the year 1541 loads have been collected. Two new

patent covered carts have been provided, so that the work has been carried out in a decent way, and since their introduction there have been no complaints, as there were formerly, of any nuisance arising during collection or during the passage through the streets. I would recommend that another of these carts be provided.

BAKEHOUSES.

The bakehouses in the district have been inspected, as usual, during the year, and were found to be kept in a satisfactory condition. Notices were sent to the occupiers in two or three cases to whitewash the bakehouse where it had not been done within the time required by the Public Health Act. These were at once complied with. There are 17 bakehouses in the district. Three new ones have been opened this year and one is in course of erection. One old one was pulled down, as there was a nuisance caused by a defective flue allowing fumes to escape into the adjoining dwelling house. It was re-constructed so as to remedy this defect and secure better light and ventilation. A cellar, which was being used as a bakehouse, having been brought to my notice, the occupier was requested to discontinue using the same as such. This was done, other premises being taken to carry on the business. There is only one underground bakehouse in the district and this was used before the Factory and Workshop Act of 1895, which prohibits their use, came into force.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

At the present time there are within the district four slaughter houses. One in the Parish Meadow, one in the old Village, one at Little Common, and one at Cobb's Hill. The last three are registered houses. These have been inspected at various times during the year and the business found to be carried on generally in a satisfactory manner. Frequent complaints were made towards the end of the year *re* the condition of the one at Little Common. This was visited several times by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. The chief cause of complaint is that the process of slaughtering can be seen from the road and that children and the public generally have free access during the time that killing is going on. Notice has been served upon the owner to pave the yard and make good the paving in the slaughterhouse and to erect a fence that will effectually screen the interior of the premises from public view. A licence to erect a new one near the Kennels and which was the subject of a report by me, was refused on account of the inappropriateness of the site. The following is the Report referred to :—

REPORT.

TO THE MEMBERS AND GENTLEMEN OF THE
SANITARY COMMITTEE.

November 28th, 1898.

GENTLEMEN,

I have inspected the site of the proposed Slaughterhouse at Little Common, with the

Sanitary Inspector, and consider that the site would with one or two exceptions be a suitable one

As to the plans submitted, I should advise the Committee to have the Slaughterhouse much larger, and the drainage system shown. It would be better for the floor to slope gently from all sides to one point, close to the wall, so that the blood may be conducted outside into a blood pit, from which it could be easily removed. A copper for heating the water should also be provided, and I should advise the construction of a brick and cement trough to facilitate the scalding of the carcasses where necessary.

At the time of my visit, the stream which runs at the bottom of the meadow had been dammed back, so that the animals could drink from it, but as the sewage of Little Common runs into this ditch, and it also receives the drainage of S. Faith's Home, at a point not very far distant, the ditch should be cleaned out and fenced in, to prevent water being taken from it. The proximity of the Kennels is not a point in favour of the site, as there is a remote danger of the meat becoming infected with the ova of the dogs' tape-worm (*Tœma echinococcus*) which produces the disease known as Hydatids in man.

At the same time, I would ask the Committee to take into consideration the advisability of recommending the Council to provide a Public Abattoir. If slaughterhouses and the processes

connected therewith are offensive, or liable to become so, or are of such a nature as to require active supervision, it is very desirable to restrict the number of such establishments to the absolute requirements of the trade.

The difficulties in the way of inspection are greatly increased when supervision has to be extended to a multitude of small out-of-the-way places, and without such supervision the slaughter-houses of a town are likely to become centres of offence and a danger to the health of the locality; not only so, but they may furnish a ready means for the disposal of meat which is unfit for human food. The difficulties are still further increased by the practice of several butchers killing on the same premises, thus putting still further obstacles in the way of fixing responsibility and preventing improper conduct. But it is no good refusing to license premises such as are now submitted if the Council does not intend to provide a Public Abattoir, as the killing of the smaller animals would then take place in back yards and other undesirable places.

A resolution was passed by the Council in favour of erecting a Public Abattoir, but in consequence of the occupiers of the registered houses refusing to use the same and of another butcher who intends to erect a private slaughter-house outside the district, at the next meeting it was resolved that for the present the matter should remain in abeyance. I would still urge the Council

to bring the question forward at the earliest opportunity as it is a matter of importance that this town should be able to guarantee that its meat and milk supply is above suspicion.

“COWSHEDS, DAIRIES, AND MILK-
SHOPS ORDER, 1885.”

During the year three cowkeepers and dairymen, five dairymen, and two purveyors of milk have been registered. There are now in the district:—

Cowkeepers.	Cowkeepers and Dairymen.	Dairymen.	Purveyors of Milk.
8	4	13	2

Two cowkeepers and dairymen have left the district this year. Most of the premises have been inspected some time during the year. Notice was sent to one cowkeeper and dairyman to put his premises into sanitary condition and to make some necessary structural alterations. He gave up the trade rather than comply with the notice.

GEOLOGY.

The highest points in the district are 157 feet above sea level. The church in the old village is situated on one, and the other is just outside Sidley, near Mayo's Farm. According to the geological survey there is a good deal of variety in

the soil in different parts of the district. The sub-soil is of Wadhurst Clay, with patches of Tunbridge Wells sand of various size and thickness, on one of which the old village stands. Underlying this there are beds of sandstone and Ashdown sand. There is a narrow strip of Ashdown sand along the shore extending from Bulverhythe on the East to near Kewhurst on the West. The widest part of this is near the west of the station, where it extends a little north of the railway line. It is interrupted at the eastern end by a small patch of Fairlight clay. On the north-east, at Buckholt, there is an outcrop of Ashdown sand at the head of a small valley of alluvium, through which the river Asten finds its way to the sea. West of Kewhurst there is marshy land, consisting of alluvium, with two or three patches of blown sand lying just north of Pevensey Sluice, where there is also a small patch of the Wadhurst clay. The shore is of sand and sandstone, with beds of lignite from two feet to six inches in thickness.

SANITARY WORK OF THE YEAR.

The following is a summary of the work done by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Flint, during the year, but the work involved can be only inadequately described in this way. I should here like to bring to your notice that a large portion of Mr. Flint's time is taken up by the building inspection. If the inspection of "footings," etc., could be taken off his duties leaving him the inspection of the drainage only, he would be able to devote more time to the inspection of Dairies, Slaughterhouses, Workshops etc., work

which at present is done at odd times. There would then be time for him to make a house to house inspection of some parts of the town which is badly needed, to keep some of the houses, especially those that are occupied by more than one family, in a sanitary condition and to prevent overcrowding.

In the following tables the work of the Sanitary Department is stated so far as it can be given in tabular form.

No. of Complaints received	...	...	...	293
„ Drains choked or bad smells from same	...	...	...	35
„ Cesspool overflowing	...	...	...	12
„ Foul state of urinals or privies	...	...	...	10
„ Offensive smells from hog-wash	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ fish offal	...	...	...	6
„ „ „ slaughterhouse	...	...	...	3
„ „ „ corpse in mortuary	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ dead rats	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ sewer grids or street gullies	...	...	...	11
„ House, or part overcrowded	...	...	...	6
„ Black smoke being emitted	...	...	...	5
„ Offensive smell from oil engine	...	...	...	1
„ Animals kept in such a state so as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	17
„ Burning refuse in yards	...	...	...	3
„ Throwing slop water into roadway	...	...	...	4
„ Accumulations of garden refuse or manure	...	...	...	22
„ Houses or premises without a proper water supply	...	...	...	5
„ State of well water	...	...	...	4
„ Premises without dust receptacles	...	...	...	3
„ House refuse not removed	...	...	...	118
„ Underground basement commenced being used as a bake-house	...	...	...	1
				269
„ Complaints made found not to be a nuisance injurious to health	...	...	...	24
				293

COMPLAINTS ATTENDED TO, INSPECTIONS MADE, AND DRAINAGE TESTED, &c.

No. of Houses and other premises inspected ...	...	177
„ Complaints attended to ...	...	293
„ Drains opened for examination ...	...	46
„ Visits to test or examine old drains ...	...	112
„ Visits to test by water drains or portions of drains	...	430
„ Smoke test applied to drains or soil pipes ...	...	41
„ To look up work in hand ...	...	641
„ To look up work, re notices served ...	...	89
„ Slaughterhouses ...	...	31
„ Cow Sheds... ...	...	8
„ Dairies ...	...	41
„ Fish shops... ...	...	27
„ Bakehouses ...	...	56
„ Stables ...	...	34
„ Pigsties ...	...	42
„ In respect of sickness, (private houses)	...	274
„ To schools ...	...	57
„ To fumigate rooms ...	...	20
„ Cab fumigated ...	...	1
„ Smoke observations... ...	...	9
„ Visits for sundry purposes ...	...	238
„ Visits, re removal of dust ...	...	132
„ Notices sent to dust contractor ...	...	66
„ Notices sent to private houses, re sickness	...	105

WORK EXECUTED BY OWNERS.

NATURE OF NOTICE.	Verbal or Written Notice.	Final Notice	Total.
To Drain taken up and re-laid into the common sewer and properly ven- tilated	13	36	49
„ Properly construct watertight drain, and connect same to watertight covered and ventilated cesspool ...	4	7	11
„ Repair drain and make same water- tight	4	5	9
„ Remove the defective and leaky zinc soil pipe ventilator, and replace by 4in. iron pipe	9	24	33
„ Repair the joints of soil pipe or drain ventilator	7	10	17
„ Remove defective form of closet and replace by a more efficient form of closet	3	8	11
„ Properly ventilate drain	1	1	2
„ Provide the premises with a proper covered dust bin	0	6	6
„ Provide the premises with a proper water supply	28	6	34
„ Lay on a proper and permanent water supply to closet or urinals...	25	8	33
„ Provide and fix proper waste pipes...	0	2	2
„ Properly pave and drain stable ...	1	6	7
„ Provide and drain manure pit ...	0	1	1
„ Repair defective paving of yard or cellar	1	9	10
„ Clear choked drains	8	8	16
„ Cleanse, purify, strip, and white- wash rooms... ..	0	10	10
	104	147	251

WORK EXECUTED BY OWNERS

CONTINUED.

NATURE OF NOTICE.	Verbal or Written Notice.	Final Notice	Total.
Brought forward	104	147	251
To Empty and cleanse cesspool ...	1	3	4
„ Empty and cleanse cesspools and fill up with solid material... ..	3	10	13
„ Cleanse ditches or watercourses ...	0	3	3
„ Thoroughly cleanse and white-wash interior of house	0	5	5
„ Properly trap drain	3	2	5
„ Disconnect stack pipe from drain ...	1	2	3
„ Provide proper constructed earth closets in lieu of privies	2	8	10
„ Properly cover inspection chamber...	2	0	2
„ Disconnect waste pipe from drain and cause same to discharge in the open air	0	1	1
„ Cleanse well	0	1	1
„ Remove foul fish boxes, &c. ...	0	1	1
„ Abate discharging black smoke ...	0	5	5
„ Provide and ventilate the soil pipes so as to prevent closets being untrapped	0	1	1
„ Disconnect overflow of cesspool from common sewer	0	1	1
TOTAL ...	116	190	306

WORK EXECUTED BY OCCUPIERS.

NATURE OF NOTICE.	Verbal or Written Notice.	Final Notice	Total.
To Cleanse and whitewash premises			
after disinfection	3	4	7
„ Cleanse and whitewash bakehouses and flour stores	9	3	12
„ Cleanse premises and remove all foul accumulations	0	2	2
„ Cleanse well	2	1	3
„ Remove temporary privies	1	0	1
„ Remove accumulations of manure...	12	4	16
„ Remove rotten and decayed vegetable matter, fish offal, &c.	6	3	9
„ Empty and cleanse cesspool ...	10	8	18
„ Cleanse urinal, closets, or privy ...	10	6	16
„ Thoroughly cleanse interior of house	0	1	1
„ Cleanse watercourse, ditch, or pond	5	3	8
„ Cleanse earth closets	0	1	1
„ Cleanse water closets	3	8	11
„ Cleanse drinking water cistern ...	2	0	2
„ Thoroughly cleanse, lime - wash slaughter-house	2	0	2
„ Empty blood-pit and remove offal from slaughterhouse	0	2	2
„ Provide suitable apparatus for scalding milk cans and other utensils ...	2	0	2
„ Cleanse yard	4	0	4
„ Clear drain	7	0	7
„ Fix new pan to w.c.... ..	1	0	1
„ Lay on water to dairy	0	1	1
„ Abate overcrowding	2	0	2
„ Abate discharging black smoke ...	2	0	2
„ Repair drain	—	—	—
„ Repair paving of yard	1	0	1
„ Fix new kerb and covering to wells	2	1	3
„ Discontinue throwing slop water into public thoroughfare	8	0	8
„ Cleanse pigsties	0	3	3
„ Discontinue keeping animals so as to be a nuisance	1	2	3
TOTAL ...	95	53	148

