

**[Report 1913] / Medical Officer of Health, Billinge U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Billinge (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1913

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1913

# BILLINGE Urban District Council.

## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1913.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my report on the health and sanitary condition of the Urban District of Billinge for the year 1913.

**POPULATION.**—The first matter to be dealt with is the estimation of the number of persons assumed to have been living in the district at the middle of the year, which number may be taken as representing the mean population for the year, and which may form the basis for the calculation of the Birth and Death Rates.

This mean population may be estimated from the following data:—

(1) Natural Increase.

Since the census of 1911, when the population was 4,904, the births calculated to the middle of 1913, have exceeded the deaths by 179; therefore, this number added to 4,904, would give a population of 5,083.

(2) Assumption of the continued uniform rate of increase.

If the population be assumed to have increased at the rate calculated from 1901—1911, the population by the middle of 1913 would have become 5,070.

Census population, 1901	...	...	...	4,232
Census population, 1911	...	...	...	4,904

(3) Calculation based on the ascertained number of inhabited houses at the middle of the year.

From the census returns the average number of persons per house was 5.05. If this average number of persons per house has remained unaltered, the population in the middle of the year 1913 will be 4,943.

	Billinge-Chapel-End.	Billinge-Higher-End,	Winstanley.
Occupied Houses	406	442	131

In view of these considerations, I am of opinion that the number 5,000 may be reasonably taken for the estimate of the population of Billinge as existing in the middle of the year 1913. Since the number of inhabited houses have only increased in Winstanley, this increase of 50 over the population of 1912 must be added to this district.

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The estimates of the population of the separate districts are as follows:—

	Population
Billinge Chapel End ... ..	2,100
Billinge Higher End ... ..	2,250
Winstanley ... ..	650
<b>Total</b> ... ..	<b>5,000</b>

The area of Billinge is 4,596 acres, and the density of the population 1.08 per acre. The number of deaths registered as having actually occurred within the district of Billinge during the year 1913 was 222, of which 167 occurred in the Workhouse Infirmary. Of the 222 deaths, 166 were those of non-residents, and which are to be deducted; while to this number one death is to be added as having occurred to a resident outside the district.

The corrected number of deaths, therefore, is 57, of which 28 were males and 29 females. The death-rate for the year 1913 equals 11.4 per 1,000 living, against 11.51 for 1912, and 14.04 for the quinquennial period 1908-1912.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year 1912 was 13.0, against 14.6 for the previous year.

Of the 57 deaths, 17 occurred in infants under one year of age, 10 in children one year and under 5 years, 19 in persons 5 years and under 65 years, and the remaining deaths, which total 11, over the 65 years age-period.

The deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 17, equal to an annual infantile death-rate of 124.08 per 1,000 registered births. This infant death-rate is slightly higher than the average for the decennium 1903-1912, when 124.06 was recorded, and much higher than the rate of 107.91 recorded for last year. Six of the deaths of infants under one year of age occurred within the first week of life, and were due to different causes.

**BIRTHS.**—During the year 1913 there were registered as belonging to the district 137 births, 70 males and 67 females, against 67 males and 72 females, as a corresponding total registered for 1912. The birth-rate for the district of Billinge is 27.4, as compared with 23.8 for England and Wales for 1912.

The number of births and the corresponding birth-rates of the separate localities in the district are shown in the following table:—

	BIRTHS.		Birth-rate.
	Males.	Females.	
Billinge Chapel End ... ..	33	34	31.95
Billinge Higher End ... ..	34	28	27.55
Winstanley ... ..	3	5	12.30

**INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**—During the year there were notified 13 cases of infectious disease, as against 11 for the previous year.

The following table shows the distribution of these diseases:—

	Billinge-C.E.	Billinge-H.E.	Winstanley.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	1	6	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	2	0	0
Diphtheria ... ..	1	0	0
Enteric Fever ... ..	0	1	0
Scarlet Fever ... ..	0	1	0

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The principal epidemic diseases, namely, Smallpox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Membranous Croup, Whooping Cough, Fever (comprising Enteric, Typhus, and Continued Fever), and Diarrhoea with Enteritis, gave rise to 7 deaths, representing 12.3 per cent. of the total deaths from all causes. The epidemic death-rate equals 1.4 per 1,000 of population, as compared with 1.21 for last year, and .99 for England and Wales for the same period.

MEASLES, a disease non-notifiable in this district, was extremely prevalent in Billinge Chapel End during the first quarter of the year. This outbreak necessitated the closure of the Infant Department of the Church of England Schools, but in only two cases did the disease prove fatal.

DIPHTHERIA.—Only one case of this disease has been notified during the year. This occurred in a house where sanitation was found good, and further investigation failed to elicit any definite cause. The case ended fatally, but treatment was only commenced when the child was *in extremis*. Anti-Diphtheria serum is supplied gratis both as a curative and prophylactic agent to doctors practising in the district.

ENTERIC FEVER.—One case of this disease, which ended in recovery, has been notified in Billinge Higher End during the year. This occurred in a farm labourer, who had been engaged in spreading nightsoil imported from without the district.

SCARLET FEVER.—This case manifested itself in a person who had worked for several days with one residing in an infected house. Treatment of this case was carried out at the home of a large family, but no further spread was reported—Eucalyptus Oil and Antiseptic Lozenges being freely used in the infected home.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS & OTHER FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS.—Ten cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, eight being Pulmonary and the remainder Glandular Affections of the Neck. Of the Pulmonary cases 3 ended fatally, equal to a percentage to total deaths from all causes of 5.3. The death-rate from this disease equals .60 per 1,000, as compared with .40 for last year, and .60, which is the mean for the decennial period 1903-1912. During the year all cases notified have been visited, and printed instructions left at their homes. In case of death or removal from any other cause, disinfection is at once efficiently carried out.

BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA were credited with 16 deaths, corresponding to 28.0 per cent. of the total deaths from all causes. The respiratory death-rates per 1,000 of the population for 1913 and 1912 are 3.2 and 1.21 respectively; and the mean for the corresponding years 1903-1912 is 2.51. Of the 16 deaths, 11 occurred at the extreme periods of life, when respiratory diseases are often fatal. I often think many of these might have been prevented if more care were exercised during the colder months in avoiding sudden changes of temperature among the very young and aged. It is not unusual to find over-heated rooms from which parents take their children for constitutionals on very cold days.

DEATHS UNCERTIFIED BY REGISTERED MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.—Two deaths during the year were returned as "Uncertified," and inquests have been held upon five cases.

DRAINS, SEWERS, AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—All faulty drains receive immediate attention, and the sewers are periodically flushed out. At Upholland Road a new sewer has been laid to receive from property the sewage which formerly discharged itself into a badly constructed

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cesspool. The cesspools connected with the property in Gantley Road and the immediate vicinity have given rise to complaints, and in consequence an agreement has now been made with an adjoining Authority to receive and treat the sewage from this area. The several sewage farms have been visited, although no complaint has been received during the year respecting the nature of their effluents.

**CLEANSING AND SCAVENGING.**—This work is satisfactorily carried out by the Council's workmen, more attention being now given to the removal of nightsoil. The inconveniences hitherto complained of have been surmounted by the Sanitary Inspector being given a free hand in this matter.

Thirty-nine notices have been served during the year to abate the following nuisances:—

Defective Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	9
Defective Drains	...	...	12
Defective Spouting	...	...	7
Defective Ventilation	...	...	1
Defective Yard Surfaces	...	...	3
Defective Roofs	...	...	2
Defective W.C.	...	...	1
Defective Cesspools	...	...	4

Of the 39 notices, 27 have been complied with.

**DISINFECTION.**—This has been carried out as in the past, by means of chemical agents, viz., Sanitas Compounds and Izal Fluid, no disinfecting apparatus being used. Formaldehyde Tablets are used for fumigation, and in cases where destruction of the bedding is considered advisable, the cost is defrayed by the Authority. The cottage at Brownlow has not been used during the year, but is quite fit for any emergency, being in good order, except some little fault in the roof causing dampness.

**SLAUGHTER HOUSES.**—There is only one licensed slaughter house in the district, and this is situated in Billinge Higher End. I have inspected this building, and find the ventilation and drainage of the yard in connection with it unsatisfactory. This matter has been referred to the Sanitary Inspector, and will be dealt with accordingly.

**DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.**—These premises receive periodic inspection, and on the whole may be considered very satisfactory. During the year one shippon has been drained, lighted, and ventilated in accordance with the regulations in force. No complaint has been received respecting the milk supply of the district other than the possible danger which might arise from the distribution of milk by persons carrying it out by hand and often in unsuitable vessels.

**FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.**—The whole of these have been visited, and apart from faulty slop pipes in the case of two bakehouses, nothing of an unusual character has been found. The Factory Inspector has not during the year reported any contravention of the Act, nor has any matter been notified to him. No home work has been done in unwholesome dwellings, nor has any case of infectious disease been notified in connection with these places.

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.**—These have been visited, and found to be kept in a cleanly state. At St. Mary's Schools, Birchley, the ventilation, lighting, and heating have been improved, while the lavatories complained of in my last report have been remedied. Apart from the condition of the playground and sanitary conveniences, which are of the midden type, everything appears satisfactory. The infant department of the Church Schools has been disinfected after measles, and antiseptic lozenges are freely given in all the schools, both to suspicious cases of infectious disease as well as to contacts.

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**HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.**—Much work has been done during the year to insanitary property from verbal notices. The work has included repairs to roofs, walls, and chimney stacks, fixing new windows and spouts, and repairing and building sanitary conveniences, while insanitary yard spaces in connection with dwelling houses have been drained and paved.

Under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, twenty-three inspections have been personally made and reported upon. These were dwelling houses of a low rental, 2s. 6d. and under, and were situated as follows:—

	Houses.
Rainford Road ... ..	8
Upholland Road ... ..	3
Moss Road ... ..	3
Longshaw Common ... ..	1
Cross Lane ... ..	1
Fair View ... ..	2
Carmill Road ... ..	4
Whittle Cottage ... ..	1

As most of this property is old and dilapidated, nine representations were made to the Council with a view to making Closing Orders, of which seven were made. With regard to the other dwelling houses, 8 have been remedied, 5 are in course of completion, 2 have been closed by owner without an order, and 1 has been demolished.

Ten new houses for the working class have been built during the year, while 8 have ceased to be occupied for the corresponding period; thus showing a nett gain of two houses for the year.

As the population has increased by 50, and the houses only by two, this on a basis of five persons per house shows that the accommodation for housing is not keeping pace with the growing population.

The subjoined table records the work carried out during the year under the Housing Acts:—

No. of Dwelling-houses inspected under Sec. 17 of the Act of 1909	23
No. of Dwelling-houses considered unfit for human habitation ...	23
No. of Representations to Authority with a view to making Closing Orders ... ..	9
No. of Closing Orders made ... ..	7
No. of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied without making Closing Orders ... ..	8
No. of Dwelling-houses put into a fitstate of habitation after making Closing Orders ... ..	0
No. of Dwelling-houses demolished...	2

**WATER SUPPLY.**—Much attention has been given during the year both to the collection and distribution of the water supply. Several samples of water from the different sources within the district have been analysed by the County Analyst, and only in one case was the water regarded as open to suspicion. As this water was obtained from a catchment area where contamination might possibly result, repeated visits were made, and as an additional safeguard the water from this source is now treated by processes of sedimentation and filtration through sand. The whole of the houses in the district without the Council's water have been visited and reported upon. Those

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within a reasonable distance of the water mains are being urged to obtain a supply therefrom, while others less favourably situated are asked to provide a sufficient and available supply where the existing supply is found not to be satisfactory. The supply during the year has been constant, and no complaint other than the hardness of the supply from Shaley Brow has been heard of.

Death-rate	...	...	...	...	11.4
Birth-rate	...	...	...	...	27.4
Zymotic Death-rate	...	...	...	...	1.4

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. O. MATHER, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 23rd, 1914.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, FOR THE YEAR 1913, FOR THE  
URBAN DISTRICT OF BILLINGE,

ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901, IN CONNECTION WITH  
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

## 1.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries) ...	4	None	None
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)..	16	—	—
<b>Total ... ..</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.—None.

3.—HOME WORK.—None.

## 4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (S.131) at the end of the year.	Number
Dressmakers ... ..	4
Bootmaker ... ..	1
Clog Makers ... ..	2
Bakehouses ... ..	4
Shoeing Smiths ... ..	2
Joiners ... ..	3
<b>Total number of workshops on Register ... ..</b>	<b>16</b>

5.—OTHER MATTERS.—None.

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TABLE I.  
VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1913 AND  
PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		Transferable Deaths		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett. Number.	Nett. Rate.	Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the district.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.	
								Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number.	Rate	
1908	4600	143	...	31.08	77	16.73	...	3	21	146	80	17.39
1909	4650	139	...	29.89	52	11.18	...	4	14	101	56	12.04
1910	4750	148	...	31.15	112	23.57	49	0	17	115	63	13.26
1911	4924	148	...	30.08	233	47.32	155	2	21	142	80	16.24
1912	4950	179	139	28.08	217	43.83	160	3	15	108	57	11.51
1913	5000	163	137	27.4	222	44.4	166	1	17	125	57	11.4

Area of District in acres (land and inland water 4,596.

Total population at all ages, 4,904 at census of 1911.

Number of inhabited houses 971                    "

Average number of persons per house, 5.05    ,,

TABLE 2.—CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1913.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT								TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				
	At Ages—Years.								Billinge-Chapel-End.	Billinge-Higher-End.	Winstanley.	Total Cases Removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of Patients Removed from this District.
	At all Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.					
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Enteric Fever	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	8	0	0	0	0	6	2	0	1	6	1	0	0
Other forms of                    "	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Totals	13	0	1	0	4	6	2	0	4	8	1	0	0

Isolation Hospital, Brownlow Cottage, Billinge Higher End.

Sanatoria, &c., None.

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TABLE 3.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1913.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES									Total Deaths whether of Residents or Non-Residents in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 3.	5 and under 13.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	
All causes										
Certified ... ..	55	15	7	3	2	2	6	9	11	167
Uncertified ... ..	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
Measles ... ..	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria and Croup ... ..	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	13
Other Tuberculous diseases ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
Rheumatic Fever ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis ... ..	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Organic Heart Disease ... ..	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	27
Bronchitis ... ..	11	0	5	0	0	1	1	1	3	40
Pneumonia ... ..	5	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	2	16
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ... ..	6	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Alcoholism ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Nephritis and Bright's Disease ... ..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8
Puerperal Fever ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ... ..	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ... ..	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ... ..	4	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Suicide ... ..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Other Defined Diseases ... ..	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	46
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ... ..	2	2	0							
TOTALS ... ..	57	17	7	3	2	2	6	9	11	167

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TABLE IV.  
 INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1913.  
 Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
<b>All Causes—</b>											
Certified	...	4	0	0	0	4	5	3	3	0	15
Uncertified	...	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
<hr/>											
Small-pox	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chicken-pox	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria and Croup	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Convulsions	...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Laryngitis	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bronchitis	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diarrhœa	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteritis	...	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	5
Gastritis	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Syphilis	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rickets	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffocation, overlying	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Injury at Birth	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Atelectasis	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Premature Birth	...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Atrophy, Debility, and Marasmus	...	1	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	4
Other Causes	...	3	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	4
<hr/>											
Totals	...	6	0	0	0	6	5	3	3	0	17

Nett Births in the Year { Legitimate 132  
                                   Illegitimate 5  
 Nett Deaths in the year of legitimate infants, 17 ; illegitimate infants, 0.

10TH MARCH, 1914.

**Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year ending  
December 31st, 1913.**

*To the Urban District Council of Billinge.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting a report of the sanitary work carried out during the year 1913.

The Medical Officer and myself have made at different times an inspection throughout your district, with the following results:—

The ashpits have been attended to regularly, and the drains been kept in proper order. In cases of any infectious diseases extra precautions and disinfectants have been freely used, and the houses fumigated.

**BAKEHOUSES.**—These have been visited by your Medical Officer and myself, and we found them to be in a satisfactory state. In two cases the stop pipes were defective, and the owners promised to get them made right without delay.

During the year the Medical Officer, Surveyor, and myself have met several owners of insanitary property, who have agreed to remedy defects without the necessity of sending notices.

Circulars have been distributed in cases of Tuberculosis and for fly pest, with good results.

Where roofs and chimney stacks have been thought dangerous to the public, the owner's attention has been called to the same, and they have been repaired.

**NEW PROPERTY.**—Chapel End 2 houses, Higher End 5, Winstanley 3.

**COMMON LODGING HOUSES.**—None in the district.

**SLAUGHTER HOUSES.**—One licensed.

**SHIPPONS AND DAIRIES.**—These have been inspected, and in most cases kept limewashed regularly. Those that were not satisfactory have had attention called to and notified.

Notices Served	...	...	...	...	39
Defective Sanitary Conveniences	...	...	...	...	9
Defective Drains	...	...	...	...	12
Defective Spouting	...	...	...	...	7
Defective Ventilation	...	...	...	...	1
Defective Yards	...	...	...	...	3
Defective Roofs	...	...	...	...	2
Defective W.C. Pipe	...	...	...	...	1
Defective Cesspools	...	...	...	...	4

Notices complied with, 27.

The notices not complied with are having attention.

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Cowkeepers Registered	...	...	...	28
Cowsheds that have had attention	...	...	...	1
No. of Water Closets	...	...	...	51
No. of Privy Middens	...	...	...	603

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**RICHARD POWELL,**

Sanitary Inspector.

*[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible due to fading and bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. It appears to be a list or report of various items, possibly related to the sanitary inspection mentioned in the header.]*