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THE TWENTY-SIXTH
Annual • **Report**

— OF THE —

**Sanitary Condition of Bridgwater
and the Rural Districts**

FOR THE YEAR 1898.

PREPARED BY

FRANCIS J. C. PARSONS, Medical Officer.

BRIDGWATER :—

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The Twenty-Sixth Annual Report

— OF THE —

SANITARY CONDITION OF BRIDGWATER AND THE RURAL DISTRICTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1898.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Many Annual Reports has it been my duty to present to you regarding the Vital Statistics of this Borough, and such Sanitary Measures that have for their object the preservation and increase of health among its inhabitants; yet no Report gives me greater pleasure in presenting to you than this for the past year.

Never has it been my good fortune to record so low a death-rate, and rarely can I remember so high a birth-rate. No epidemic has threatened us with its presence, although here or there a case or so of Scarlatina was notified to me, it was of a mild type, and quickly disappeared without spreading its injurious influence.

It has been a year of much congratulation in that which relates to the Public Health.

STATISTICS.

Area 923 acres. Population, 14,000.

			1898.	1897.
Birth Rate	—	...	36.2	34.9
Death Rate	...	...	18.2	20.2
Zymotic Rate	...	...	1.0	0.9
Infant Mortality per 1000 Births			115.9	100.2

I have made no difference in my estimate of the population, viz: 14,000, although the excess of Births over Deaths during the past two years,—459—or since the extension of the Borough, and the introduction of so many factory hands, are matters pointing very strongly to a sensible increase of the Population, and my statistics may therefore be received in a still more favourable light.

There were 256 deaths registered in the Borough during the past year as against 283 in 1897, representing an Annual Death-rate of 18.2, or 2 per 1000 less than in the year previous. Deducting 14 deaths that occurred in the Infirmary and 45 in the Union Hospital, 197 deaths remain, equivalent to an annual rate of mortality of 14.07, as against 16.3 in 1897.

Year.	Population.	Deaths.	Rate per 1000.	District.
1896	12,600	305	24.2	{ Western 131 Workhouse 37 Eastern 117 Infirmary 20
1897	14,000	283	20.2	{ Western 125 Workhouse 44 Eastern 104 Infirmary 20
1898	14,000	256	18.2	{ Western 110 Workhouse 45 Eastern 87 Infirmary 14

As regards the ages at which death occurred, 84 died aged 65 and upwards, and 59 under one year of age, or at the rate of 115.9 per 1000 of Births registered.

In the Urban Population of Somerset it was 130.7 in 1897. It is a matter of congratulation that our Infant Mortality compares so favourably, and leads us to the conclusion that mothers are becoming more alive to their responsibilities.

As regards the general causes of death, 14 resulted from Phthisis, 27 from Pneumonia, Bronchitis or Pleurisy, 22 from Heart Disease, and 16 from Injuries. In 15 cases inquests were held.

From the seven chief Zymotic Diseases, 14 Deaths were registered as against 13 in 1897.

Two died from Diphtheria, one of Typhoid Fever imported from without, one from Measles, four from Whooping Cough, and six from Diarrhœa.

The Zymotic death-rate is represented by 1.0 per 1000 of the population, or 54.6 per 1000 deaths.

Infectious Diseases' (Notification) Act, 1889.

The Act continues to work with much success and without the least friction.

The following Cases were notified to me during the year: Scarlatina 27, Diphtheria 4, Typhoid Fever 2, (contracted from without the Borough); Erysipelas 5.

Every Sanitary precaution was immediately taken with these cases to prevent their spreading.

INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL.

On two occasions during the year, advantage was taken of this Hospital to isolate a case of Scarlatina.

We would strongly suggest that the Hospital Committee frame rules for our guidance, as regards the reception, professional care, nursing, provision and payment of patients, and consider one or two little matters connected with the beds, bedding, and disinfection, which require attention.

And this naturally brings me to the consideration of a much larger scheme of isolation; how far, should occasion appear necessary, you would unite with the Rural District Council, and erect an Isolation Hospital for Bridgwater and the Districts surrounding?

It is uppermost in the minds of many that the Vaccination Act, 1898, has robbed us of the greatest safeguard, and most beneficial agent we possessed in the mitigation and prevention of small-pox. In Bridgwater 110 persons have been granted exemption under the Conscience Clause, and of 890 Children born during the past two years, and who now survive 520 remain unvaccinated.

Now should Small-pox break out in this Town, what a field is there here, where the germs of this terrible disease in its most malignant type would be thickly and widely sown! What extensive accommodation would be required, and from the

experience of other Towns where it has been tried, it has failed absolutely. Again, the conscientious objector to Vaccination may have a still more conscientious objection to the removal to an Infectious Hospital, and Section 124 of the Public Health Act merely says, "MAY," and not "SHALL" be removed.

We are confident that notwithstanding the many difficulties which surround us, we shall, should unfortunately Small-Pox visit this Town, find that the means at present at our command if employed with energy will be ample to check the spread of this terrible disease.

We strongly suggest your taking into consideration the provision of a Public Mortuary.

Administrative Sanitary Work.

With reference to the administrative Sanitary Work of the Town, we have the honor to report that during the year ending on the 31st December, 1898, 378 notices had been issued as against 382 in the previous year. These Notices may be classified as follows :—

Miscellaneous Notices	...	...	...	42
Notices brought before the Health Committee				207
Defective Water Fittings	...	...	...	129
				378

The Notices brought before the Health Committee had reference to a total of 287 defects which may be summarized as follows :—

	Reported.	Abated.	In hand.
Defective Drains	37	32	5
" Closets	48	33	15
" Gullies	12	3	9
" Shutting & rain water pipes	89	61	28
" Condition of inhabited houses	10	8	2
Dirty Condition of inhabited houses	24	15	9
Overcrowding	5	5	0
Accumulation of House Refuse, and Manure	22	19	3
Animals and Birds kept in an Unsanitary Condition	25	25	0
Dangerous Buildings	9	8	1
Improper Supply of Drinking Wells	6	6	0

Attention should be called to the fact of the great improvements lately carried out in what used to be the most insanitary properties of the Town, viz : Gold's Buildings, Honeysuckle alley, and Hamp street. Some of the old Cottages have been pulled down, and new ones are now being erected in their stead, while others have been thoroughly renovated inside and out. The Owner is to be much commended for the way in which he has dealt with this Property.

Slaughter Houses.

It is with great regret that no improvement can be recorded under this heading, and although frequent warnings have been given, no proper utensils are provided. The nuisance still continues as to boiling offal, and the blood is still allowed to discharge into the Sewers. The question of providing a Public Abattoir is attended with much difficulty, and until power is given you to close all Private Slaughter-Houses, a thing much to be desired, I fear it must remain in abeyance.

Dairies.

Occasional inspection of these places have been made from time to time and the premises found clean and wholesome. It might be advisable to consider the question of adopting the Model Regulations of the Local Government Board in respect of Dairies, Cow-Sheds and Milk-shops. Several samples of Milk have been sent to the Borough Analyst for examination, but all were found to be satisfactory.

Bake-Houses.

These have been inspected as usual during the year, and repairs carried out where required. Some are kept in excellent condition as to cleanliness and repairs.

Workshops and Factories.

One complaint have been made to the Sanitary Authority during the year, this has received attention, and proper Sanitary Appliances are now provided.

Drainage.

Amongst the many works taken in hand by the Town Council are the construction of the main sewer in Wembdon Road, thereby giving every facility for the proper drainage of the houses situate between the Brewery and the Borough Boundary on the Wembdon Road. Then the main sewer in the Taunton Road has also been extended, and the various properties in that District have now all been connected. Surface water sewers in Washington Terrace, Washington Gardens and Cranleigh Gardens have also been constructed.

The past year has also witnessed a large extension of sewers on private lands, such having been constructed in the development of various building estates. Under the present condition of the law, these Sewers must be maintained by the Town Council, and any work required in their cleansing flushing, etc., must be undertaken by that body. It would therefore be extremely advisable to consider the question of the protection afforded in such cases by the adoption of portions of the Public Health Act Amendment Act of 1890.

New Streets and Buildings.

During the past year 235 Plans affecting New Streets and Buildings have received the consideration of the Plans Committee. The various works may be summarized as follows:—

New Streets and Sewers	...	8
Dwelling Houses	...	191
Additions and Alterations	...	18
Stores	...	1
Additions to Factories	...	1
Warehouses	...	2
Workshops	...	2
Business Premises	...	3
Sheds	...	8
Club Room	...	1

The favourable remarks made last year in regard to the general construction of Property in and about the Borough may be repeated, but with some exceptions. Every care is still taken to render the Sanitary Work and Fittings thoroughly sound, and for that purpose all Drains, Sewers, and Fittings are tested previous to their being covered over. Under this heading attention should be directed to the fact that Bye-Law 98, provides for every new house, previous to occupation, being thoroughly inspected as to its fitness for human habitation, and intending tenants should make inquiries as to the result of such inspection at the Municipal Offices previous to entering into possession.

Rainfall.

As in past years, tables are appended, shewing the Rainfall at Ashford and Bridgwater, for the last of which we are again indebted to Mr. Henry Corder.

Water Supply.

It is a matter for great congratulation that in spite of the long continued drought, aggravated as it was by the deficiency of the rainfall during the preceding winter, no curtailment of the Water Supply to the Town was found to be necessary. It would however, greatly assist the Town Council, and also improve the property of the ratepayers, if more care was taken to prevent waste. We use far more water than is absolutely necessary, and when it is remembered that every gallon has to be raised from the Pumping Station by means of costly machinery, stricter regard to turning off taps, and more frequent inspection to prevent same leaking, would the sooner equalise income and expenditure, and thus tend to bring down the gross amount of the rate. It cannot be too strongly pointed out this matter is one which the consumers have very much in their own hands. You have a thorough good supply of water, both in quantity and quality, you have Machinery the best of its kind, and maintained in a state of thorough repair and efficiency, and it remains therefore with the consumers generally for me to add to my other remarks, that the Water Works are maintaining themselves.

During the past year, six of the old Well Supplies in the town were examined, and found to be impure, and in each case new supplies from the town's mains have been laid on.

Conclusions.

The year just passed has witnessed a still further extension of the Town, on all sides we see Buildings in progress, and these occupied as soon as finished. Perhaps the greatest improvement that has taken place is the making up of Washington Terrace, Washington Gardens and Lyndale Avenue, the work is well in hand, and the days of the wretched roadway and the still worse footpaths are at an end. It is well it is so, not only for passers by, but for the Sanitary Condition of the inhabitants of the District.

Your obedient Servants,

FRANCIS JNO. C. PARSONS,

Medical Officer of Health.

FRANCIS PARR,

Sanitary Inspector.

— RAINFALL IN 1898. —

Month.	ASHFORD.				BRIDGWATER.			
	Total Depth	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		No. of days on which 1 or more rain fell.	Total Depth	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		No. of days on which 1 or more rain fell.
	Inches	Depth	Date.		Inches	Depth	Date.	
January ...	·72	·19	20	8	1·17	·29	19	11
February ...	1·52	·23	4	17	·45	·23	3	17
March ...	·79	·38	7	10	·80	·30	6	13
April ...	1·31	·43	30	10	1·36	·52	29	10
May ...	3·63	1·16	21	20	3·62	1·12	20	20
June ...	1·42	·43	25	12	1·11	·36	26	11
July ...	·21	·09	29	3	·26	·12	28	3
August ...	2·46	1·70	7	11	3·01	2·05	6	16
September ...	1·10	·75	30	6	·94	·60	29	7
October ...	4·88	1·30	18	18	5·64	1·43	17	21
November ...	4·48	1·90	24	13	4·61	2·30	23	16
December ...	3·03	·95	7	13	2·67	1·07	6	18
Total ...	25·55	1·90	No. 24	141	26·64	2·30	No. 23	163

Births in the Urban Sanitary Authority,

During the Year 1897.

	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total.
Bridgwater...	134	122	131	102	489
Rate per 1000.....	34·9.				

BIRTHS DURING THE YEAR 1898.

Bridgwater...	132	132	127	118	509
Rate per 1000.....	36·3.				

Table shewing Birth and Death Rate, Infantile Mortality and Zymotic Death Rate.

	Birth Rate per 1000 Population	Death rate per 1000 Population	Infant Mortality.		Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.	
			Per 1000 deaths	Per 1000 births	Per 1000 Population	Per 1000 Deaths.
1897 }	34·9	20·2	173·1	100·2	0·9	45·9
1898 }	36·3	18·2	230·4	115·9	1·0	54·6

TABLE SHEWING THE VARIOUS CAUSES AND NUMBER OF DEATHS IN EACH MONTH.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	August	Septem.	October	Novem.	Decem.	Totals.
Scarlatina ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Apoplexy and Paralysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Convulsions ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Renal and Bladder Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Rheumatism ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Debility from Birth ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Old Age ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Accidents ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	20	15	16	16	16	10	13	18	12	15	12	14	177

ANALYSIS OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS REGISTERED IN BRIDGWATER DURING YEAR 1898.

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Total Births	50	40	42	46	41	45	42	43	42	53	33	32	509
Total Deaths	19	16	16	19	17	10	13	23	17	15	15	17	197
Died aged 65 and upwards	4	7	9	8	6	4	3	...	7	3	4	6	61
Under One Year	7	5	2	7	3	2	4	15	5	3	1	4	58
Of Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Of Scarlatina	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	4
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	5
Diphtheria	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Violence	3	...	1	2	2	1	1	...	...	2	1	1	14
Other Causes	14	16	15	12	15	9	12	19	15	12	14	14	171
Inquest Cases	3	...	1	2	2	1	1	...	1	2	1	1	15
IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS:—													
Bridgwater Infirmary	...	1	...	3	...	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	14
Union Hospital	...	3	6	4	5	1	5	7	2	2	...	4	45

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1898, in the Bridgwater Urban Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Registration District	Population at all ages.	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	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 & upwards	Diphtheria	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhea and Dysentery	Phtisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, etc	Heart Disease	Injuries	All other Diseases	Total
WESTERN		110	31	12	1	5	35	26	Under 5 } 5 upwards }	1		2	3		5		2	30	43
EASTERN		87	27	10	2	3	19	26	Under 5 } 5 upwards }	1		2	2	7	8		7	36	67
WORKHOUSE		45	1	...	...	1	14	29	Under 5 } 5 upwards }				1	3	2	3		1	1
INFIRMARY		14	...	...	1	4	6	3	Under 5 } 5 upwards }		1					2	2	9	14
TOTALS	12600	256	59	22	4	13	74	84	Under 5 } 5 upwards }	1	1	4	5		10		3	58	81
										1	1		1	14	17	22	13	105	175

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Number and Tonnage of Vessels belonging to the Port of Bridgwater for the year 1897-8.

	1897.	1898.
Number of Sailing Vessels	93	93
Tonnage of same... ..	5977 tons	6050 tons
Number of Steam Vessels	9	9
Tonnage of same... ..	406 tons	430 tons

Number and Tonnage of Sailing and Steam Vessels which entered Bridgwater River for trading purposes.

	1897.	1898.
Number of Sailing and Steam Vessels	2414	2118
Amount of Tonnage... ..	158,438 tons	162,629 tons

The number of foreign vessels in 1898 were 49 and the British 2069, making the above total of 2118.

During the past year the work in connection with the inspection of the vessels has been maintained, with the result that a much cleaner and healthier condition is kept on board ship. Many of the vessels being only small coasters, are not examined on each occasion of entering port, but all, more or less, are visited during the year.

The general statistics of the sanitary work may be summed up as follows:—

Number of Vessels Inspected ...	345
Number of Defects reported ..	17
No. of cases of Sickness reported ...	1
Number of Deaths reported ...	1

The Sanitary Defects reported to the Committee are as follows:—

Wet and Dirty Quarters ...	7
Ship's Stores in Forecastle ...	2
Dirty W.C.s	3
Bad Bilge Water	1
Want of Ventilation	1
Bad Water	3

With reference to the case of Illness hereinbefore mentioned, it was one of sickness from the extreme heat. One death was caused by Consumption which occurred at sea, one from Paralysis, one from Senile Decay, and one from Dropsy.

Your obedient Servants,

FRANCIS Jno. C. PARSONS, Medical Officer of Health.

FRANCIS PARR, Sanitary Inspector.

RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

It is with much pleasure I present to you my Annual Report for the Year 1898.

In its statistical value it compares very closely with that of the previous year, so favourable in character.

Area 60,168 Acres.		Population 19,000.	
		1897.	1898.
Birth Rate		26.0	24.4
Death Rate		13.2	14.0
Zymotic Rate		0.4	1.1
Infant Mortality per 1000 Births		78.6	90.3

The above table represents the general statistics of the two years 1897-98; no wide difference is found between them, the same healthy condition of the districts remain.

To analyse more closely these figures we learn as follows: that 267 deaths were registered during the year as against 252 in 1897, or 3 only in excess of the average number of deaths for the past 10 years. Of these deaths 114 died aged 65 and upwards, and 42 under 1 year of age.

In the western division of the district 139 deaths occurred and 128 in the eastern.

As regards the general causes of death—14 resulted from Phthisis, 35 from Pneumonia, Bronchitis or Pleurisy, and 30 from Heart Disease; In 8 instances Injuries proved fatal.

From the seven Zymotic Diseases 21 deaths were registered as against 14 in 1897. This increase is not dependent upon any epidemic, but upon the number of deaths resulting from Whooping Cough and Diarrhoea—7 and 6 respectively. Diphtheria claims 7 victims, and Typhoid Fever 1. The Zymotic death rate is 1.1 per 1000 of the population, and 78.6 per 1000 deaths.

The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act has been of much service to us during the year. The following cases were notified to me:—Scarlatina 17, Diphtheria 16, Typhoid 3, Erysipelas 4, Puerperal Fever 1. As regards the distribution of these Zymotics Scarlatina was present in a sporadic form in the Stowey and North Petherton Districts, 8 and 5 cases respectively; at Chedzoy 6 cases of Diphtheria were notified, 4 terminating fatally. In this village serious sanitary defects were found to exist—impure water, and a very unwholesome condition of the drains. At no time did this disease assume the proportions of an epidemic, but was confined to a very limited area where certain filth conditions existed which acquired a specific character; prompt measures, and that

successfully, were adopted to prevent the spread of this very fatal disease.

The Births numbered 465 only, or 31 less than in 1897, equivalent to an annual birth rate of 24.4 per 1000 of the population. This diminished birth rate points, I am sorry to say, to a decrease in the population.

Water. Much inconvenience was experienced in the various villages in obtaining water during the excessive drought that existed in July, August and September, and this especially so in the Eastern division of the district. It would be a great boon to many if the scheme to supply Dunwear, &c., from the Bridgwater Water Works could be carried out, and that with as little delay as possible. Cannington should also be supplied from a similar source. Nether Stowey will soon have a supply of its own. North Petherton should obtain a good and wholesome supply, and discard the use of the wells so liable to pollution.

I have referred to the provision of an Isolation Hospital in my remarks to the Urban Council; I think you would do well to allow this to remain in abeyance for a little while.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

—0—

To F. J. C. PARSONS, Esq.,

Medical Officer of Health for the Bridgwater Rural District Council.

Sir,

Herewith I hand you my Report as Inspector of Nuisances for the Bridgwater Rural District Council for the Year ending the 31st day of December, 1898.

During the year I have issued the following Notices to abate the Nuisances hereinafter named.

- 3 for Cottages Overcrowded
- 5 for Cottages requiring Cleansing and White Liming
- 1 for Dangerous Building
- 2 for Cattle and Manure kept in close proximity to Dwelling Houses
- 8 for Privies requiring Cleansing and Repairing
- 6 for Drains to be properly trapped with Doulton's Gully Traps
- 8 for Drains requiring Cleansing and Repairing
- 6 for Privies without Cesspits
- 8 for Privies requiring to be New
- 4 for Closets requiring proper Pans and Traps
- 8 for Cesspits requiring Cleansing
- 3 for New Cesspits
- 13 for New Drains

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During the year I have taken 38 samples of Water, and handed the same to you for analysis

- 4 of these samples were taken from wells at Horsey in the Parish of Bridgwater Without, 2 of these samples were returned by you as unfit for human consumption
- 1 sample was taken from a Well at Chilton Polden, this sample was returned by you as good

- 1 sample was taken from a Well at Cannington, this sample was returned by you good
- 9 samples were taken from Wells at Chedzoy, two samples only you considered good
- 1 sample was taken from a Well at Bawdrip, this sample was returned by you as unfit for human consumption
- 2 samples were taken from Wells at Fiddington, both samples were returned by you good
- 6 samples were taken from Wells at Moorlinch, only one sample returned by you as good
- 3 samples were taken from Wells at Othery, these samples were returned by you as unfit for human consumption
- 1 sample was taken from a Well at Otterhampton, this was returned by you good
- 1 sample was taken from a Well at Over Stowey, this was returned by you good
- 9 samples were taken from Wells at Wembdon, only two samples were returned by you good.

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Notices were served on owners of polluted Wells situated in the Parishes of Bawdrip, Bridgwater Without, Chedzoy, Othery, Moorlinch and Wembdon, all the owners but one have cleaned and protected these Wells.

The District Council are still trying to get a supply of water from the Corporation of Bridgwater Water Works to supply the Parish of Bridgwater Without, at the Eastern part of Bridgwater, viz:—Dunwear and Chedzoy Lane have no good water, neither can they obtain any from wells, as there are no pure springs in the District.

Many more Nuisances have been abated by the Owners and Occupiers by calling their attention to them without Notices.

On the 2nd May last I found in a Butcher's Shop at Cannington, occupied by William Pain, Butcher, one loin and part of a loin of Veal, undivided, which was dressed for human consumption, and hanging up in the shop with some carcasses of Sheep. On examining the said Veal, I considered the same was unfit for the food of man. I seized and carried away the said Veal, and had the same inspected by you, and one of the County Magistrates, who pronounced the said veal to be unfit for the food of man, and made an order for the said meat to be destroyed. From instructions I received from the District Council, I summoned Mr. Pain to attend before the Magistrates at Bridgwater on the 12th May last, and they fined him Ten Pounds and costs.

Mrs. B. J. Cornish was summoned before the Magistrates at Bridgwater, on the 29th September last, for not complying with notices respecting two polluted wells at Cottages situated at Skimmerton Lane in the parish of Wembdon, and her property. The Magistrates made an Order for the two wells to be closed, both as regards human consumption, and also for manufacturing purposes.

There are 76 Cowkeepers, Dairymen and Purveyors of Milk registered in the District. I have visited the greater portion of them during the year, and found the Dairies and Cowsheds kept in a very satisfactory condition.

I have during the year prepared Plans, Sections and Specifications for several sections of New Sewers that have been laid under my supervision in the undermentioned parishes.

(1) A New Section of 12 inch Glazed Stone-ware Socket Pipe Sewer and Manholes, Road Gullies, etc., in Bristol Road, in the Parish of Bridgwater Without, at a cost of £274.

(2) A Section of 12 and 9 inch Glazed Stone-ware Socket Pipe

Sewers and Manholes, Road Gullies, etc., in the parish of Shapwick, at a cost of about £30.

(3) A Section of 6 inch Glazed Stone ware Socket Pipe, Sewer and Manholes. Road Gullies, Cleaning and Repairing Stone Sewers, in the parish of Othry, at a cost of £23.

Several Sections of other Main Sewers in the District have been cleaned and repaired during the year. There have been many New Houses built in the Parishes of Bridgwater Without and North Petherton. These Houses have been built under the Council's Bye-laws, and carried out in accordance therewith to my satisfaction.

38 cases under the Notification Act have been reported this year, against 14 cases in 1897. Scarlatina and Diphtheria were the most numerous amongst these Zymotic Diseases. I have used every effort to stamp out these Diseases. Every infected house has been properly disinfected, cleansed, white-limed, and drainage made in a sanitary state. The Wells cleaned and protected, and Trained Nurses employed to look after the patients. There has been no case of Diphtheria reported since the 9th of December last.

I remain, yours obediently,

WILLIAM COLES,

Inspector of Nuisances.

2, Grosvenor Villa, Wembdon Road,
Bridgwater, 3rd February, 1899.

Births in the Rural Sanitary Authority during 1898.

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Total	Rate per 1000.	
		Qr.	Qr.	Qr.	Qr.		1898	1897
Stowey...	...	29	23	21	18	91	21.5	20.5
North Petherton	..	26	21	37	34	118	23.6	21.4
Middlezoy	...	16	19	16	9	60	32.8	37.6
Huntspill	...	25	22	18	18	83	18.8	20.6
Polden Hill	...	16	28	18	18	80	26.1	26.1
Durleigh	...	1	2	...	...	3	31.2	20.8
Wembdon	...	4	4	4	5	17	15.0	31.0
Chilton Trinity	...	2	...	...	...	2	14.1	35.4
Chedzoy	...	4	4	3	...	11	34.9	44.4
						465	24.4	26.0

Table shewing Birth and Death Rate, Infantile Mortality and Zymotic Death Rate.

	Birth Rate per 1000 Population	Death rate per 1000 Population	Infant Mortality.		Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.	
			Per 1000 deaths	Per 1000 births	Per 1000 Population	Per 1000 Deaths.
1897	26.0	13.2	154.3	78.6	0.4	39.6
1898	24.4	14.0	157.3	90.3	1.1	78.6

I am, your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS J. C. PARSONS.

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1898. in the Bridgwater Rural Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Registration District	Population at all ages.	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	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 & upwards	Diphtheria	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhea and Dysentery	Phtthisis	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, etc	Heart Disease	Injuries	All other Diseases	Total
Stowey	4229	58	7	6	2	1	14	28 5 upwards	1			4		2	10	2		5	9
Petherton	4995	67	14	7	3	1	14	28 5 upwards				2	1	2	4	1		10	49
Durleigh	96	3	...	...	..	...	1	25 upwards						3	8	6	4	24	49
Wembdon	1193	5	...	...	...	1	1	35 upwards						1		1		2	3
Chilton Trinity	141	...	...	...	..	...	...	5 upwards						1	2			2	5
Middlezoy	1826	28	6	1	...	1	10	10 5 upwards		1				1	1	3	2	13	21
Huntspill	4386	66	11	6	1	4	16	28 5 upwards	1					4	8	6	2	31	49
Polden Hill	3625	28	4	1	1	2	7	13 5 upwards					1	2	5	4		12	23
Chedzoy	351	12	...	3	4	1	2	25 upwards	4			1		1	1		2	1	3
TOTALS	267	42	24	11	11	11	65	114 5 upwards	5	1		4	4	14	35	30	8	107	208

Deaths in the Bridgwater Rural Sanitary Authority, DURING THE YEAR 1898.

1898	PARISHES.	Population.	Total Deaths from all Diseases.	Rate per 1000.	Total Deaths at ages 60, and above.	Total Deaths at under.	Croup.	Whooping Cough.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever.	Diphtheria.	Phtthisis.	Pneumonia.	Bronchitis.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.
DISTRICT. WESTERN.	Aisholt	74	...	14.2	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
	Over Stowey	422	6	17.3	2	4	...	3	...	...	...	...	1	2	...
	Nether Stowey	634	11	24.0	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Fiddington	249	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Stockland Bristol	122	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
STOWEY.	Otterhampton	478	2	4.1	1	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	5	1	...
	Cannington	1147	13	11.3	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Edstock and Bere	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
	Charlinch	191	2	10.4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	6	...
	Spaxton	912	18	19.7	14	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
WESTERN.	...	4299	58	13.4	31	7	...	4	...	2	3	4	6	12	...
	Enmore	285	4	14.0	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
	Goathurst	253	2	7.9	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Broomfield	384	1	2.5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Thurloxton	210	2	9.5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
PETHERTON.	St. Michael Church	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	NorthPetherton(pt)	3555	58	16.3	25	14	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	5	2
	Lyng	285	6	21.0	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	4295	73	14.6	35	15	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	7	5
	Durleigh	96	3	31.2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
BRIDGWATER. Western part.	Wembdon	1123	5	4.1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
	Chilton Trinity	141	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	1430	8	5.5	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL WESTERN		10654	139	13.0	72	22	...	...	6	2	5	7	9	15	20
EASTERN. MIDDLEZOY	Othery	575	10	17.3	4	2	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...
	Middlezoy	592	6	10.1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
	Westonzoyland	659	6	9.1	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	1826	22	12.0	8	5	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	2	...
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eastern HUNTSPILL	Bawdrip	646	10	29.4	4	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	1	...
	Puriton	733	13	17.7	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...
	Pawlett	483	11	22.7	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...
	Huntspill	2004	18	8.9	9	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	1	2
	Woolavington	283	10	34.1	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...
POLDEN HILL	Cossington	218	4	18.3	1	1	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	2
	Chedzoy (East)	315	12	38.0	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	...	438	78	17.7	36	11	...	...	1	...	5	3	10	6	4
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Eastern POLDEN HILL	Moorlinch	249	4	16.0	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
	Chilton Polden	363	3	8.2	3	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...
	Stawell	167	6	35.3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Sutton Mallett	119	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Edington	482	3	6.2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
TOTAL EASTERN	Catcott Burtle	559	5	8.9	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Shapwick (Part of)	352	2	5.6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	Greinton	108	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Ashcott	656	5	7.6	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL EASTERN		9267	128	13.8	55	20	1	1	1	5	1	8	5	15	43

