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SEVENTH

Annual Report

ON THE
PUBLIC HEALTH
OF THE



For the Year 1899.

CONSTITUTING THE

Third Annual Report

OF

FREDERIC WILLIAM MARTIN,

M.R.C.S. Eng., L.R.C.P. Ed., etc.

Medical Officer of Health to the Borough.


Medical Superintendent of the Brighouse Joint Hospital.

Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health.

Brighouse :

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1900.



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BOROUGH OF BRIGHOUSE.

SANITARY COMMITTEE, 1898-9.

Mayor:

COUNCILLOR JOHN WILLIAM CLAY, Esq., J.P.

Chairman:

ALDERMAN WILLIAM PILLING, J.P.

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR THOMAS BUTTERWORTH.

Members of Committee:

ALDERMAN ROBINSON,	COUNCILLOR HARDAKER,
COUNCILLOR ARMITAGE,	„ G. HEALEY,
„ BARNETT,	„ INMAN,
„ CROSSLEY,	„ HALL,
„ NETTLESHIP,	„ PICKERSGILL.

Councillors France and Hepworth served on this Committee in place of Alderman Robinson and Councillor Hall from the ninth of November, 1899.

INTRODUCTION.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES,

BRIGHOUSE,

MARCH, 1900.

To the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting to you my Third Annual Report on the Health of Brighouse—a duty which gives me a great amount of pleasure—I beg firstly to draw your attention to the marked smallness of the natality returns. Less and less, year by year, have been the recorded numbers of Births, and though it is a generally recognised fact that the Birth Rate throughout England and Wales has for some time past been steadily on the decrease, the knowledge that this rate for this Borough is the lowest for many years is anything but pleasing, and the causes of this state of affairs one does not care to go too fully, or particularly into, even if one could be sure of solving the problem. Trade is good in all its branches, at least I am given to understand such is the case, and although I do not get official returns of the number of marriages, still judging by the column devoted to this subject in the weekly papers, there seems to be no marked diminution in this quarter. I have seen it mentioned that in one portion of the Borough there are fewer children, by a great number, at the present day, than was the case a few years ago, and when one comes to reckon the actual number of births—legitimate or illegitimate, matters not for the purpose—and then deducts the actual total of Infantile deaths, the wonder seems to be that we get any actual increase of population at all. Yet judging by the number of new houses built during the year, there must be a steady increase, dependent probably on the number of adult new comers to the town.

On the other hand, the Death Rate has been very low, and whilst not able to advertise the Borough as a health resort—I am afraid the factory smoke will prevent Consumptives coming here for a change of air—I still consider it very satisfactory. Though the past year was an exceedingly busy one as far as the Sanitary department was concerned, and a great amount of sickness prevailed throughout the whole twelve months, still the number of deaths was small. The amount of sickness did not seriously affect the death rate, and I take it that the condition of the town is, from a sanitary point of view, very satisfactory indeed.

In common with most other towns, we failed to escape the outbreak of Scarlet Fever, which kept us very busily engaged during the greater part of the year, but compared with many other localities, we got off very lightly indeed.

For this result, I am sure we can appreciate the fact of having at our resource a well equipped Hospital, which though at one time sheltering over 50 patients was never the slightest crowded.

I have seen it stated that in some of the districts joined with this Borough in the maintenance of the Hospital, the friends of patients stricken with fever were very averse to their being removed from their homes. Well, this is usually the case for a time in all country districts when newly supplied with an institution of the kind, and it often takes a little while to overcome the prejudices of some few people. Speaking, however, of the inhabitants of my own district, I can say I have had very little trouble in getting their consent to the removal of their sick ones. I feel sure that the Medical Practitioners in this town give all the encouragement they can for the use of the Hospital—especially is this the case with Scarlet Fever—and I here take the opportunity of thanking them for their support in this matter, of such service to me in clearing away the objections that occasionally have arisen.

Only twice in 217 cases of admissible Infectious diseases, notified since the Hospitals opening, have I had to threaten the enforcement of the power of removal, and consent was given without further proceedings. One great point the friends or relatives seem to lose sight of is the difference in the treatment of the patients in the convalescent stage when isolated at home, and when removed to Clifton. In the home case, the patient must be confined to one room for many weary weeks, often eight, until all fear of infecting others is removed; whilst in the case of the Hospital patient, walking and playing about in the open air when the weather is fine, can usually be indulged in in about two weeks after admission. There can be no two opinions as to which is the happier state of existence, and at the same time the most beneficial for the patient. These remarks apply principally to the Scarlet Fever cases, the majority of sufferers from such ailment being children and young adults.

I sincerely hope for the sake of the public generally, and for the benefit of those particularly in the outside districts, who are supporting the Hospital by their cheques, that whatever aversion is felt towards the Hospital may be speedily swept away. Personally, I think it more economical to make every available use of such an institution when occasion arises, than only to pay the allotted precept towards the maintenance of the buildings and the administration staff.

Smallpox, ~~un~~fortunately, did not make its unwelcome presence in this immediate district, though at one time of the year it was very prevalent in the East Riding. There were, however, a few scattered cases notified in the West Riding. Our County Medical Officer of Health introduced a system of special weekly notification from each of the districts under his jurisdiction by means of which every Medical Officer of Health was kept well posted as to any fresh cases of this disease. Increased supervision was exercised by your Sanitary Inspector and myself on the canal traffic; especially was attention paid to the boats coming into this district from Hull and Goole.



Municipal Offices.

Brighouse

AP 3

1900

Fred. W. Martin.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.M. R. C. S. Eng.
L. R. C. P. Ed. & C.

Sir.

A slight error in my report on Page 6 might be misinterpreted so I forward you another copy with the error crossed out. If you will kindly return the other I shall be obliged

Yrs faithfully
Fred W Martin.

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On November 9th last, at your monthly Sanitary meeting, my report contained the following paragraph:—"It is my duty to call your attention to the fact that Smallpox is slowly but surely extending in the West Riding. I am having extra watchfulness exhibited with regard to the canal boats plying through this Borough, especially those coming from Hull and Goole, where the disease is most prevalent. I may mention that we have no building in which we could isolate any such case occurring in the Borough, and I would urge this Committee to take such steps as would prevent the causation of a scare, such as was created a few years back." For some reason or other, it was unanimously decided by your Committee, and very quickly decided too, that these remarks should not be allowed to appear in the minutes, and accordingly they were excised and not permitted to go forth to the public.

Well, we escaped the visitation of Smallpox last year, but I do not suppose anyone thinks its appearance in our midst was prevented by the shelving of the warning, for in adjacent districts in which the Medical Officer's remarks on the same subject, and practically to the same point, were allowed to be published, the ~~same~~ result was identical. So in this matter we remain exactly as we were.

The Sewerage of this district has been progressing, if not rapidly, yet steadily towards the treatment of the Sewage at the works now almost completed at Cooper Bridge.

Many have been the scathing remarks about the extravagance exhibited in the construction of these works, but if the works are necessary to the Sanitary requirements of the district, and I presume the ratepayers are satisfied that they are necessary, then I say the better they are built and the more fully they are equipped, the more satisfactory will be the ultimate result. It is understood that these works are provided not only for this year and next year, but also to suit the requirements of future generations of inhabitants of this part of the country.

I may here express the hope that in due time all the houses in the Borough, wherever possible, will be placed on the Water Carriage System of excreta removal—undoubtedly the most cleanly and sanitary of all methods.

I wish I could state that equally satisfactory progress was being made in the installation of a Refuse Destructor and Electric Light Generator. To destroy with the least trouble and injury to health the great mass of ashpit refuse which steadily increases in bulk year by year is one of the great aims of sanitation. There are many Destructors in different parts of England and Wales which do this work satisfactorily. I have been informed that members of the Council—selected from the Sanitary and Gas Committees—on occasions in the past year or so officially visited some of the towns and inspected the Destructors at work, and it is to be hoped as the result of their visits that soon a Refuse Destructor may be a reality in Brighouse. If constructed so that at the same time Electricity may be generated for the better and more cleanly lighting of the Borough, so much the better; but Electric Lighting or no, let us have the Destructor. Get rid of the great nuisance now caused by the present inadequate treatment of refuse at any cost; if it can be accomplished at a profit, as it indubitably is in some places, then so much the better.

The question of Public Baths for this district is one which I am loth to conclude must be left in abeyance until other schemes have developed. I do not wish to draw down upon my head the wrath of the Ratepayers in asking for too many improvements at one time. "Example is better than precept," and when our neighbour Elland shows what it can do in this respect, no doubt the residents of Brighouse will not rest content until they are equally provided for.

As in previous reports various tables are appended, and to table II, comparing Brighouse with other towns, I beg to refer you. It will show how favourably this district stands, as regards its health statistics, with other places of about the same general surroundings—especially is this the case with the Zymotic Death Rate.

To the Medical Officers of Health of the towns enumerated I cordially tender my thanks for their promptness in favouring me with the particulars desired.

The Sanitary Congress at Southampton, which I attended last year, has received a short notice at my hands; it will be found immediately preceding the Report for the year from your Inspector of Nuisances.

In conclusion, Gentlemen, I thank you for the courteous manner which has characterised your dealings in the past, and I hope the future may tend to further increase the support you have given me.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

FRED. W. MARTIN,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL & SANITARY MEMORANDA, 1899.

Population.—Population of Borough, 1881 ... 16,909

“ “ “ 1891 ... 20,666

Estimated Population
of Borough to 1899 (middle of) 24,000

Inhabited Houses at end of 1899 ... 5,160

Acreage of the Borough, 2,224 (Brighthouse 403)

(Rastrick 1371)

(Hove Edge 450)

Average density of population, per acre 10·79

Mean Altitude.—Brighthouse 276 feet above sea level.

Hove Edge 357 “

Rastrick 410 “

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Population ... 25·12.

Death Rate.—General corrected ... 15·46

Other death rates—

Zymotic 0·96

Respiratory (excluding
Phthisis) ... 3·07

Phthisis 1·41

Infantile Mortality 121 per 1,000 Births

Vital Statistics for the Year 1899.

	Eng. & Wales.	33 Great Towns.	67 other Large Towns.	Eng. & Wales less than 100 towns
Birth Rate ...	29·3			
Death Rate ...	18·3	... 20·2	... 18·0	... 17·1
Zymotic Death Rate ...	2·21	... 2·81	... 2·45	... 1·71
Infantile mortal- ity per 1000 births	163.	... 181.	... 178.	... 121.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICAL REPORT.

Births.—The number of Births registered during the past year was 503; of this total, Males preponderated in the proportion of 272, to 231 of Females.

Compared with any of the last five years, this return is the smallest recorded, as a glance at the table for the past five years will show, the falling off being most marked in the female sex, there having been 47 less births of this sex than was the case for the year 1898. Taking the totals of each sex born during the five years enumerated, the males exceed the females by 55.

	Males.		Females.		Total.
1895.....	283	.....	290	.....	573
1896.....	274	.....	273	.....	547
1897.....	300	.....	273	.....	573
1898.....	271	.....	278	.....	549
1899.....	272	.....	231	.....	503
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
	1400		1345		2745

In the years 1895 and 1897 the number of births reached the same total, and were the highest of the series.

The yearly birth-rate, 1899, 25·12, compared with that of England and Wales, viz., 29·3, is decidedly low; in comparison with that of other towns in the West Riding—a table of which appears in the Appendix—it is also lower than the majority.

Deaths which actually took place within the Borough amounted to 336, of which 180 were of males and 156 of females, equal to a death-rate for the year of 14·0 per 1,000 per annum of the population, but the deaths of persons belonging to the Borough, and happening at places outside the district, such as Wakefield Asylum, Huddersfield Infirmary, Halifax Infirmary, Halifax Workhouse, and the Brighouse Joint Hospital situated at Clifton, have amounted to an additional 35. Of these extra deaths, 17 were of males and 18 of females, and the corrected death-rate now reads as 15·46 per 1,000 per annum of the population.

Comparing only the deaths of those actually registered in the Borough with same list of the preceding four years the table reads as follows :—

	Males.		Females.		Total.
1895.....	182	.....	167	.....	349
1896.....	185	.....	161	.....	346
1897.....	146	.....	153	.....	299
1898.....	195	.....	205	.....	400
1899.....	180	.....	156	.....	336
Totals.....	888		842		1730

The periods of the years in which the deaths took place are tabulated below :—

First Quarter	Males	47	...	Females	45
Second „	„	50	...	„	43
Third „	„	31	...	„	34
Fourth „	„	52	...	„	34
		180			156=336.

The death-rate for 1899 is very satisfactory.

The **Infantile Death-rate** was equal to 121 per 1,000 of the children born, and I am pleased to be able to state that is the lowest rate recorded in the past five years.

Still as it stands it means that out of every 17 children born, two have died before they reached the age of 12 months. Compared with the rate of the year 1898, it is a very great improvement, and I trust this death-rate may still be lower in each succeeding year.

Of the 61 deaths during this age period, more than one-half are attributed to causes which if not actually preventible are at all events greatly accelerated in their ravages by want of attention on the part of the mothers. Inflammation of the Lungs is accountable for 12 of these deaths, Inflammation of the Bowels for 10, and Inflammation of the Brain and Convulsions for 11. In the first list, want of proper attention as regards suitable clothing, and exposure to the cold air, may in some cases have determined the affection which proved fatal, whilst in the two latter classes, very probably improper feeding hurried on the end of these little ones.

The Registrar of Births still continues to distribute “Hints on Feeding, &c., of Young Infants”; a plan adopted in a great many towns at the present time, with, I am given to understand, beneficial results.

Following the Table referring to Infantile Deaths is one of the next age period—years 1-5, the deaths in which totalled 36 as against 52 in 1898.

Pneumonia here again tops the list with 12 deaths.

INFANTILE MORTALITY, Years 0-1.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Pneumonia, or Inflammation of Lungs.....	12
Inflammation of Brain—Convulsions, &c.	11
Enteritis, or Inflammation of Bowels	10
Premature Birth—Congenital Malformation, &c.	9
Bronchitis	5
Tabes Mesenterica, or Consumption of the Bowels ...	2
Heart Disease 2, Scrofula 1, Rickets 1, Septicæmia 1	5
Diarrhœa 2, Mal-Nutrition 1, Dentition 1	4
Accidental Suffocation 1, Ill-defined 2	3
	<hr/>
	61

Mortality, Years 1-5.

Pneumonia.....	12
Bronchitis	5
Inflammation of Brain and Convulsions	5
Whooping Cough 2, Scarlet Fever and Erysipelas 1 ea.	4
Inflammation of Bowels	2
Tabes Mesenterica, Rickets, and Dentition 2 each.....	6
Congenital Malformation 1, Ill-defined 1	2
	<hr/>
	36

Inquests have been held in eight instances during the year—exactly the same number as in 1898. Of the eight deaths inquired into five were recorded as having been caused by accident, two by suicide, whilst an open verdict was returned in the remaining case.

Strangulated Hernia or Rupture 1	}	Accidental.
Suffocation 1		
Crane, Injury from, 1		
Drowning 1		
Skull, fracture of, 1	}	Suicidal.
Shooting 1		
Hanging 1		
Cut Throat 1		?

Uncertified deaths or those for which no Medical Certificate could be obtained amounted to six as against eleven in the previous year.

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

A.—Defined and Specified Causes, comprising 7 Classes.

B.—Ill-defined and Causes Not Specified.

A.

CLASS I. SPECIFIC FEBRILE OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—All Epidemic, Endemic, Contagious, or Infectious.

CLASS II. PARASITIC DISEASES.—Or those caused by Animal or Vegetable Parasites.

CLASS III. DIETIC DISEASES.—Including those caused by the Want of Food, by Intemperance, &c.

CLASS IV. CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.—Or those caused by a Bad Habit of Body.

CLASS V. DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES : *e.g.*, Premature Birth, Old Age, &c.

CLASS VI. LOCAL DISEASES.—Or those of the Nervous, Circulatory and other Systems.

CLASS VII. VIOLENCE. — Comprising Accident, Homicide, Suicides, &c.

B.

Ill-defined, or Death arising from any cause not specified in above group.

ANNUAL SUMMARY OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

(Of those actually dying in the Borough).

I.—SPECIFIC FEBRILE, OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

(a) <i>Miasmatic</i> —Scarlet Fever, 1; Enteric Fever, 1; Whooping Cough, 3; Diphtheria, 1	...	...	6
(b) <i>Diarrhæal</i> .—Diarrhœa	...	...	5
(c) <i>Septic</i> .—Septicœmia, 2; Erysipelas, 1	...	...	3

II.—PARASITIC DISEASES

III.—DIETIC DISEASES

IV.—CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.—

Phthisis	...	...	33
Cancer	...	...	14
Rheumatism	...	...	5
Rickets, 2; Tabes, 2	...	...	4
Other Causes	...	...	8
		...	64

V.—DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.—

Old Age, 16; Premature Birth, 8; Congenital Malformations, 2	26
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VI.—LOCAL DISEASES.—

Nervous System	52
Circulatory System...	43
Respiratory System	89
Digestive System	...	...	24
Urinary System	...	...	9
Bones and Joints System	...	...	1
		...	218

VII.—VIOLENCE.—

Accident, 5; Suicide, 2; Doubtful Cause, 1	8
--	-----	-----	---

VIII.—ILL-DEFINED

Total	336
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Mortality from Various Causes of all Brighthouse Inhabitants dying within or without the Borough precincts :

1. SPECIFIC, FEBRILE, OR ZYMOTIC DISEASES :

- (a)—Miasmatic —, Scarlet Fever 9, Enteric Fever 2,
Whooping Cough 3, Diphtheria 1
- (b)—Diarrhœal ... Diarrhœa 5
- (c)—Septic ... Septicœmia 2, Erysipelas 1 ... 23

Zymotic Death Rate : 0·96 per 1,000 of population.

This is the lowest recorded rate of this class in this Borough during the past five years. The rate per 1,000 of the population of England and Wales being 2·21, and compared with the other towns referred to in the appendix this is very favourable indeed.

2. PARASITIC DISEASES ... Nil.

3. DIETIC DISEASES (Malnutrition) ... 1

4. CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES :—

Phthisis (or Consumption of the Lungs) was answerable for 33 deaths within the Borough during the year, comparing very well with the list in 1898, which amounted to 41. From returns received from outside districts of deaths of persons belonging to this town, I have to add 4 such, increasing the total to 37, and the Phthisical Death-rate to 1·54 per 1,000 of the population.

Of these deaths 28 were of males and 9 of females, the classification of the death periods and occupations of such during life being as follows :—

Years.....	5-15	15-25	25-35	35-45
Male	—	4	1	12
Female	2	—	3	1
Years.....	45-55	55-65	65-75	
Male	8	3	—	
Female	1	1	1	

OCCUPATIONS OF ABOVE :—

Stoneworkers, 10; Labourers, 6; Cotton Operatives, 4; Engine Tenters, 2; Silk Worker, 1; Carrier, 1; Teamster, 1; No Occupation, 12.

In continuing the practise of writing to the relatives of persons dying, *within my district of this affection*, I am pleased to report that my offers to disinfect the houses and rooms, in which such deaths have taken place, have been met with much readier compliance than formerly. This I trust is due to the greater publicity, which has generally been given throughout the country to the dangers of this disease by means of the press. Hardly a paper can now be taken up without there being some reference to the onslaught of this affection, and I purpose with the sanction of your Committee, framing and issuing a short pamphlet on "precautions against the communication of Consumption,"—such to be forwarded to each householder in the Borough, in the same manner that notices relating to Scarlet Fever, Measles, etc., have been distributed in times of outbreaks.

By this means I feel assured a further diminution of the power of this terrible scourge will be recorded in the near future.

Cancer during the year claimed 14 victims, which with one to be added as having died at Halifax, still makes the total show a slight improvement on the return of the preceding twelve months. Of these 15 deaths, 13 were of females and two of males.—The age periods are as below:—

Years.....	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75
Males.....	1	—	—	1
Females.....	1	2	6	4

Tabes Mesenterica (or Consumption of the Bowels) was accredited with two deaths, as against seven in 1898.

5. **Developmental Diseases** have caused 26 deaths, *e.g.*, old age 16, as against 22 in the preceding year; whilst to Premature Birth are attributed eight, as compared with 16 in the year 1898. The two remaining deaths were due to Congenital Malformations.

6. **Local Diseases** (Deaths from) amounted to 218, as against 236 in the year 1898.

In this list the number of Nervous System cases is slightly lower than in the preceding year, whilst those of the Circulatory System are almost exactly equal in number to those recorded in that year.

Respiratory affections again are at the top of the list in this class, there being very little numerical difference in the past year's returns with any of its predecessors.

I have included in this section the 6 deaths attributed to Influenza, and though, of course, this is not a very startling return, still it behoves us to remember that though the form of this affection at present in our midst is not of the severe character of the true "La Grippe," still it is sufficiently depressing in its effect as to expose those attacked by it to very readily contract any other disease following in its wake. Pneumonia, Bronchitis, &c., following on unguarded seemingly slight attacks of this form of Influenza have caused deaths which would most probably have been prevented if seasonable precautions had been observed.

Of the 89 deaths under the heading of Respiratory Diseases Pnéumonia comes first with a total 39, Bronchitis being very close up with 38, whilst the six credited to Influenza leave six deaths to be accounted for under the general heading of other respiratory diseases.

The Respiratory Death Rate was 3·07 per annum per 1,000 o population.

The other causes of death under this section (Local diseases) do not need special mention. To anyone particularly interested in such the tables arranged as in each of the previous reports are recommended for easy reference.

7. **Violence.**—Beyond mentioning that number of deaths under this heading was exactly the same as in the year preceding, the only difference being there was one suicide more in 1899, nothing need be said.

8. **Ill-defined Deaths.**—These numbered 5 as against 9 in 1898.

Mortality in relation to Season.

1. The **General Death Rate** was highest in March: 19·0, and lowest in July: 8·5 per 1,000 population.

2. The **Zymotic Death Rate** was highest in October and December, when it reached 1·50 in each month. It was lowest in February, March, and July. No deaths under this heading having been recorded in those months.

3. The **Respiratory Death Rate** (excluding Phthisis) was at its maximum in December: 8·0 per 1,000 per annum, whilst the minimum records were in June and July, namely, 1·50 per 1,000 per annum in each month.

4. **Phthisis** failed in one month only to be credited with a death, this being the case in April, whilst the highest rates were registered in the months of February and March, viz., 3·0 per 1,000 per annum of the population.

DEATH RATES FROM VARIOUS CAUSES DURING THE
DIFFERENT MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

Month.	General Death Rate	Zymotic.	Respiratory.	Phthisis.	Infants ¹ (per 1,000 Births).
Jan.	14.0	1.0	3.5	1.5	253
Feb.	13.0	—	3.0	3.0	48
March	19.0	—	7.5	3.0	200
April	16.0	0.50	6.0	—	80
May	17.0	0.50	2.5	0.5	57
June	13.5	0.50	1.5	1.0	119
July	8.50	—	1.5	1.0	24
Aug.	11.66	0.50	2.0	1.0	205
Sept.	12.50	0.50	2.5	1.5	166
Oct.	12.50	1.50	3.5	2.5	102
Nov.	14.0	0.50	3.0	1.5	55
Dec.	16.50	1.50	8.0	0.5	180
For Year corrected	15.46	0.96	3.07	1.41	121
Eng. & Wales.	18.3	2.21	—	—	163
33 Great Towns	20.2	2.81	—	—	181
67 Other Towns	18.0	2.45	—	—	178

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

243 Notifications of above have been received by me during the year, exactly 96 more than in 1898. This increase was due to the outbreak of Scarlet Fever—general almost throughout the country—which commenced in this district as far back as October, 1897, and has been fairly well notified since with the exception of a few months in the year 1898, and February and December of the past year.

The following is a complete list of such Notifications :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	195
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	17
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	11
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	20
					—243

Of the 195 cases of Scarlet Fever, 55 occurred in children under five years of age, the remaining 140 including a few patients well on towards the middle age period. Of the whole number 158 were removed to Hospital. Of the cases not admitted to Hospital, to which no objection could be raised to their being kept at home on the ground of want of room, etc., the majority of such were cases affecting the only child of the family, and in these instances isolation could be thoroughly carried out if—and this is a big if—the parents will endeavour to isolate. With only one child to look after, and a room provided and kept purposely apart from the rest of the house in which the patient can be nursed until all signs and dangers of the disease have passed away, such isolation should be easy. The danger of non-removal to Hospital, of Scarlet Fever cases especially, is most manifest in the large houses of the better classes, where spare bedrooms are plentiful, but unfortunately for the proper carrying out of the usual precautionary measures, young children are likewise plentiful. Unless at the outset two nurses are engaged, one for day duty and the other for night, who can have entire control of the room and patient during the whole illness, the attempt at preventing the spread of the infection becomes a mere farce.

I have in my records, of all cases occurring in my district, notes of a house in which five cases occurred within a period of six months. As soon as one was convalescent and about to be discharged as free from infection, another member of the family became ill, and so on through half the year until the fifth patient recovered.

This was not the only house where others in the same family were attacked through the non-removal of the first sufferer, but it will serve as a good example.

I do not mean to infer from these remarks that first cases which have been removed to Hospital have never been followed by other members of the family becoming affected. This at times will occasionally happen, especially in the class of dwellings in which the majority of the patients reside; where three or four children sleep in one room—often in the one bed—the marvel is that in these houses every person in them does not contract the disease.

In making up my death returns under the various sections I have included in my Zymotic death list the number of those who have died in the Clifton Hospital—belonging to this Borough—with the addition of these the rate under such heading only reaches 0·96 per 1,000 of the population per annum.

It may be of interest to some to compare the monthly notifications of Scarlet Fever in the years 1898-1899 :

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1898	5	10	8	4	7	14	4	9	8	4	5	8
1899	19	4	22	32	23	24	19	12	7	12	18	3

Distribution of Scarlet Fever cases as regards the number of houses infected, arranged in Wards :

West, 37	Central, 26	Bonegate, 20
Hove Edge, 12	Calder, 14	North, 15
East, 11	South, 5	

The great number of Scarlet Fever cases occurring during the year, as is easily to be understood, threw a great deal of extra work on the Sanitary officials.

The **Sanitary Inspector** invariably made it his rule to be present whenever possible at the removal of a patient to the Hospital, in order that he might see that articles of clothing, curtains, and bed linen were promptly dispatched to the disinfecting apparatus at the Hospital. Houses or rooms were disinfected as soon as possible after such removal, and I may here say that any day came alike to him when necessity arose. When it was thought advisable to take a patient away from his home on a Sunday, the disinfecting process was not put off until the Monday. In this illness "The better the day, the better the deed" was well illustrated, and I must add that great credit is due to your Inspector for carrying out all this extra work with such cheerfulness and alacrity.

Enteric, or Typhoid Fever, has only been brought to my notice 17 times, as compared with 21 in 1898, 21 also in 1897, 30 in 1896, and 25 in 1895. The one disease more specially than any other, due to bad drainage, impure water supply, or contaminated milk, is Enteric Fever, and I am able to state that in none of the cases reported has the water or milk been at fault, and in only one house did more than one case occur. At this particular house, the drainage was very faulty, though the owner had in years gone by been at great expense in having everything put into proper order as he concluded. Some of the cases were very mild indeed, and of the whole number, 11 were removed to the Hospital, two of which died, but not from this disease. One had been suffering from Pneumonia of both lungs previous to admission, and from this complaint he never rallied, whilst the other was affected with an affection of the Kidneys of previous long standing.

In all the cases in which I found unsatisfactory drainage, or other imperfections, which undoubtedly accelerated if they did not actually cause these illnesses, the owners of the property in question were only too willing to remedy such, according to my suggestions.

There were two deaths from Enteric Fever in 1899.

Diphtheria Notifications.—

Received in 1899	...	...	...	...	11
„ 1898	...	...	...	...	5
„ 1897	...	...	...	...	6
„ 1896	...	...	...	...	5
„ 1895	...	...	...	...	7

These figures show that we were not much troubled with this complaint during the years quoted, although in the year just closed, the number is very much larger than in any of its predecessors. This is often noticed to be the case after a prolonged visitation of Scarlet Fever. Damp and Insanitary surroundings of the dwellinghouses, are however, the chief factors in determining the presence of Diphtheria, and of the cases reported, each house infected had some defect in connection, either with drainage, dampness, or contiguity to a midden privy. The ages of the patients ranged from $2\frac{1}{2}$ years to 65 years, and of the two very adult patients, one was already suffering from blood poisoning of a severe form, whilst the other was literally dying of Consumption, at the time he contracted Diphtheria.

Only one case was removed to Hospital. The severity in some cases, associated with other complications, as in the two persons above referred, and the mildness of others, contra-indicating the advantages of removal, with the exception of the two cases referred to, the remainder made good recoveries.

One death from Diphtheria was registered during the past year.

Erysipelas notified, in all 20 times, was much less in evidence than in former years, *e.g.*, 1899 20, 1898 33, 1897 36, 1896 24, 1895 16, being the number of notifications during the past 5 years.

This disease, whilst undoubtedly infectious, cannot be looked upon as being of a highly infective character, and it is now generally recognised by the profession that there must be some abrasion of the skin or mucous membrane for the poison to be transmitted from one person to another. Overcrowding, poor ventilation, general want of cleanliness, and faulty drainage will originate the disease and help its spread.

There was one death registered from Erysipelas during 1899.

Puerperal Fever was not notified once during the past year, the record of this disease in the last five years being :

1899, 0	1898, 1	1897, 5	1896, 2	1895, 2
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Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases,

Or those *not* included in the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889.

Measles.—Compared with the year 1898, the district is to be congratulated on being very much less troubled with this complaint. During the first six months of the past year very few cases indeed were brought to my notice—perhaps Scarlet Fever was paying too much attention to the neighbourhood—but in June we began to have a few families affected, about 20. Then in July about 60 families had one or more members down with the illness, and no doubt the month of August was equally prolific in this respect. On account of the schools being closed during the greater part of this month for the summer vacation, few cases became known to me, but in September 12 families, in October 25, in November 21, and in December 41 families were more or less suffering from Measles and its concurrent chest affections.

The districts mostly affected were, in the summer, the Rastrick portion of the Borough, it being found necessary to order the closing of the Church Infant School here a week before the summer holidays commenced, and in the winter the Brighthouse portion of the Borough represented chiefly by the North and Calder Wards. The School of St. Andrew's was very seriously affected by the withdrawal for weeks of children suffering from this ailment during the months of November and December. In fact, at one part of the latter month so many families had members suffering it was suggested this school should be closed for the Christmas Holidays a week earlier than usual. However, the fall in the number of cases became more marked, and this proceeding was not entertained. There was no death attributed to Measles during the year, a contrast to the year preceding, when 12 deaths from this affection were recorded.

Whooping Cough was slightly prevalent in February, more markedly so in July and very prevalent in November. This affection principally restricted its attention to the children of the Hove Edge district, but St. Martin's School in this Borough also suffered slightly from non-attendance of children through its occurrence. No schools were closed on account of it, and 3 deaths were attributed to it during the twelve months, as against one such death in 1898.

Diarrhœa was not very prevalent in the district during the year. The notices relating to this disease were as usual circulated in the Borough previous to the setting in of the hot weather. No doubt to a very great extent the inroads of this disease were checked by means of this warning, and there were only 5 deaths placed to its account as against twelve in the year 1898. Of these five deaths the ages of the victims were as under:

0—1	25—35	45—55	65—75
2	1	1	1

Chicken Pox was only noticed on a very few occasions, the cases being of a very mild character and not restricted to any particular locality. Only about 20 families had children affected.

Influenza has already been discussed, and it remains only to mention that during the past year about thirty cases of Ringworm, forty cases of Skin affection of Scalp and Face, and about half-a-dozen cases of Mumps were brought to my notice, in addition to those affections already mentioned.

The majority, if not all, these cases referred to occurred in children attending school, or living in houses where other children were day scholars. In very many instances domiciliary visits had to be made by me to verify or refute the truth of the notices, but in all cases a certificate for non-attendance at school had to be given. As many children from one house divided their attendance to as many as three schools, I found it necessary to acquaint only Mr. Hepworth, the school attendance officer, that I thought it expedient to prevent the school attendance of such children for a period of time, commensurate with in my opinion, the recovery of the patients. He in his turn would notify the school teachers of having received a certificate from me, and by this means the children were kept away for varying lengths of time, and the school grants were not jeopardized on account of my certificates.

In cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and other notifiable diseases, it has been my custom to send duplicate, and often times triplicate copies of these certificates, and in regard to these diseases also, I ask that no child from a house where any such disease has occurred should be allowed to return to school without a return certificate. This, I find, though entailing a great amount of trouble, is very beneficial in preventing the spread of such infections.

All the Schools in the Borough were disinfected during the twelve months at least on one occasion each, and in addition the majority of them were disinfected two and three times according to the prevalence of illness in the neighbourhood in which they were situated. The Schools in the district had between them twenty-eight disinfections, and allowing for one school which was not disinfected on one occasion, the average number of times each School was disinfected in the year was equal to three.

I may here take the opportunity to remark that the School Attendance Officer, Mr. J. Hepworth, has taken very great care in acquainting me with cases of non-attendance of children at school on account of illness—real or feigned. When a medical man has been in attendance I at once give Mr. Hepworth a certificate, justifying the child's absence, agreeing with the doctor's diagnosis. In other cases I pay a visit myself when possible, and sometimes a case looked upon as Measles, or a mere cold, develops into something much more serious. In this manner, I am able to exercise supervision over many families, and I accord him my hearty thanks for his promptness and courtesy in dealing with these cases.

SANITARY REPORT.

Buildings.—101 have been erected during the past year, the majority, as in 1898, being in Brighthouse, a few only in that part of the Borough called Rastrick.

Most of these houses were of the artizan dwelling class, and, of course, are built on the through principle, but I would have been better pleased if every house so built had been obliged to be fitted with a water-closet. In the early part of the year, after visiting other towns, and having had special reports from the Borough Surveyor and myself on the subject, it was, I thought, understood that all new houses where practicable should be supplied with closets on the water carriage system. New houses have been built in one part of the Borough in which water-closets have been erected, whilst immediately opposite to them are also other new houses supplied as of old with tubs or pails. If the water carriage system is the best means of disposal of domestic sewage—the majority of people are agreed on that point, I think—it seems strange that one set of houses should be built having these improvements whilst their neighbours are supplied with the less sanitary conveniences.

Slaughter-houses have engaged a great deal of my attention, it being my custom to pay frequent visits at very irregular times—when killing is being carried on, and also when it is not. There were a few complaints regarding foul smells emanating from the Public Slaughter-house at various times, especially during the warm weather. On this matter being brought to your notice, it was resolved by your Committee that the drains of this Slaughter-house should be thoroughly examined, and if necessary be re-laid. This was found to be the means required to mitigate the evil complained of, and since the work was carried out over six months ago we have had no further complaint.

In my opinion the Slaughter-house is well attended to by the Manager—it is kept clean, and I am at once informed by him of any beast being brought to slaughter which in his opinion is a bit off colour.

During the year four carcasses of beasts and two carcasses of pigs all badly affected with Tuberculosis were condemned and destroyed according to the Regulations of the Public Health Act. Another carcase found on a butcher's premises was also surrendered by the owner on its condition being pointed out to him, and this likewise was cremated.

With regard to the two private slaughter houses, one is only used I believe for the owners' private business. The other, as I informed you last year, is at times resorted to by other butchers in the town for the purpose of killing. This I hardly think is the proper thing to be allowed. All the butchers should use the Public Slaughter House which is centrally situated, and where all the meat to be used in the town can be inspected by the proper authority. The cost of this establishment falls upon the town, and to make it pay its way all should use it. Hot water is provided in great abundance, and the slaughter-house is open for many hours during each day, sufficiently long for any business premises.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops have been from time to time during the year visited by your Sanitary Inspector—on some occasions I have been with him—and your attention has been called to any defects we have at times found. Though the greater number of such are well kept there are others though actually not to be classed as dirty or unfit for cattle occupation, still might very easily be kept in nicer condition. If the owners of such could only realize the fact that animals of this class require fresh air, light, and ventilation to keep them in good health, the solution of the matter would be very easy, but the idea is very strong in this county that “What was good enough for my people before me is good enough for me.” But unbiassed people who know anything at all of the matter will agree that the best dairy products are imported into this country from Denmark, and the great reason of the high superiority of such is the strict cleanliness exhibited in all the details of the cowsheds and the dairies.

Smoke Nuisance.—The nuisance arising from the excessive output of dense smoke at various times is very great, and on account of the great increase in extra duty involved by the outbreaks of sickness during the year, I am afraid your Inspector has not been able to pay as much attention to this matter as I would have wished. Walking along the main thoroughfare one can pretend not to be able to see much smoke diffusion. But on any day of the week (Sunday*excepted) let anyone stroll up to Clifton and look down upon the town, and there can be noticed the heavy black pall overhanging the place. The remedy of this evil is in the hands of the manufacturers to a very great extent—the nuisance can be abated, and at very little expense and trouble; but you have been told this on many occasions before. Repetition, however, is unavoidable. I for one would not be astonished if the County Council took into its own hands the inspection and control of Factories with regard to this trouble in the same manner in which the West Riding Rivers Board deals with the rivers and becks in the County.

APPENDIX I.

INCLUDING VARIOUS TABLES,
Statistical and Otherwise.

(B) TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS

coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health,

during the Year 1899, in the

BRIGHOUSE URBAN DISTRICT,

Classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		New cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health											Number of such Cases Removed from their Homes in the several Localities for Treatment in Isolation Hospital (Brighouse.)														
a	b	c	Registered Births	Aged under 5 or over 5	FEVERS.											Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas					
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11												
BOROUGH ...	20666	24000	d	c	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Group	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas	Under 5	40	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Group	Typhus	Enteric or Typhoid	Continued	Relapsing	Puerperal	Cholera	Erysipelas
	...	...	503	...	Under 5	55	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
					5 upwds	140	7	...	...	17	...	...	...	18	...	...	118	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
					TOTALS	195	11	...	...	17	...	...	...	20	...	TOTALS	158	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Notification of Infectious Disease compulsory in the District since 1890.

Brighouse Joint Hospital, situated at Clifton (in Halifax Rural District). The Hospital was opened for the reception of Patients March 30th, 1898.

TABLE C, 1899.

BRIGHOUSE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, FRED W. MARTIN,
M.R.C.S., Eng.; L.R.C.P., Ed., etc.

SANITARY INSPECTOR, RALPH MARSDEN.

WATER SUPPLY—

Quality? Excellent.

Action on Lead? None.

Any extensions or change during 1899? Extension to houses built during year.

Any inadequacy in any part? No.

Any information as to the number or proportion of dwellings with baths? 312.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL—

Extensions or Improvements during 1899? Works nearing completion.

SCAVENGING—

Are the Privy middens, &c., cleansed by the Sanitary Staff, by Contractors, or by Owners and Tenants? By the Sanitary Staff.

ADOPTIVE ACTS—

Parts Adopted and Date.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890? All. 1895.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890? All. 1893.

What was the amount paid to practitioners during
1899 under the Infectious Disease (Notification)
Act? } £30 7s 6d.

BYE-LAWS—

Any adopted or sanctioned during 1899? No.

Are they properly enforced? Yes.

Any deficiency? Offensive trades not in our bye-laws.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	Number.		General Condition.	Legal Proc'dings (if any).
	Regis- tered.	Inspec- ted.		
Common Lodging Houses	2	2	Examined about twice monthly. 1 good. 1 moderate	
Canal Boats		42	Good. 2 Contraventions only.	
Slaughter Houses	3	3	Public Good. 1 Private good. 1 Private fair.	
Bakehouses	7	7	Good.	
Dairies	44		On the whole satisfactory	
*Cowsheds				
Milkshops				
	*62		*This number includes the 44 cowsheds, which practically are large milk shops.	
Offensive Trades	3	3	Good.	
2 Tripe Boilers. 1 Soap Boiler.				

*D.C.M. ORDER—

Have any Regulations been framed under Article 13 of this Order? Yes.

If so, what date? May 24th, 1899.

Please append copy if printed? Copy enclosed.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL—

At Clifton, Halifax Rural District.

Disinfecting Apparatus? At Hospital. Type of same? Illingworth.

Compensation paid for infected articles destroyed during 1899?
None destroyed.

Has the Sanitary Authority in emergency during an outbreak of disease provided Nurses for home isolation? No.

DWELLINGS—

Number of Houses built during 1899? 101.

General character? Artizans' Dwellings.

Any houses unfit for habitation? Two. One closed; the other will be.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses? One.—Rectified without legal proceedings.

Any overcrowding of houses on area? No.

Any action taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890? No.

What illuminant is generally used in the houses? Gas.

GEOLOGY—

Nature of Soil? Clay. Subsoil? Millstone grit, overlying coal measures.

MISCELLANEOUS—

Is House-to-house Inspection systematically made? No.

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1898? 23. At close of 1899? 68.

Reported during 1899? 236. Abated during 1899? 191.

Total No. of Summonses or other Legal Proceedings? None.

No. of Sink wastes disconnected during 1899? 139.

„ „ trapped „ 15.

No. of Closets newly constructed during 1899? 117. Kinds? Pails, 60; Fresh Water Closets, 20; Waste Water Closets, 37.

No. of Closets re-constructed during 1899? 3. Kinds? Midden privies converted to W.C.'s.

Any diseases peculiarly endemic in the district? No.

Any information as to number of deaths from Cancer of all kinds during 1899? Yes.—14 deaths.

Any information as to number of deaths from Tabes Mesenterica? Yes.—2.

Vaccination—Any improvement in efficiency under the new Act? —Not very much.

Is a public Mortuary provided? No. Any necessity for a public Abattoir? One already.

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN IN REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING MATTERS?

Seizures of Unsound Food? 7 Carcases—5 Beasts, 2 Pigs destroyed. Prosecutions? None.

Samples under Sale of Food and Drugs Acts? 20. Prosecutions? None.

Are Food preservatives much in use in summer time, especially in milk? I think not.

River pollution? Odd cases.—Regulations restricting output of effluent from Manufacturers drawn up, but not yet adopted.

Smoke Abatement.—No. of observations taken? 12.

Inspection of Factories and Workshops? Periodically.

Schools.—No. in District? 10. No. closed on account of outbreaks of disease? 1. Total duration of closure from this cause? One week only.

Burial Grounds.—No. in District? 2. Any need for extension? No.

Any work done by the M.O.H. under the Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1890, Sec. 26 (2)? No.

BIRTHS.—Males, 272; Females, 231.—Total 503.

Number illegitimate, included in the above (?)

Any information as to number of Still Births? None.

DEATHS.—Males, 180; Females, 156.—Total 336.

Number uncertified, included in the above? 6.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF DISTRICT, AND SUGGESTIONS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:—

Destructor for Town's Refuse.

Increased Lighting by Electricity.

Water Carriage of Domestic Sewage to be enforced wherever practicable.

TABLES SHEWING THE POPULATION OF BRIGHOUSE AND RASTRICK
AND THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS FROM 1876 TO
1899; ALSO THE BIRTH RATES AND DEATH RATES IN THESE YEARS.

Table 1.

A.—BRIGHOUSE.

Year	Population	Births		England and Wales Birth Rate	Deaths		England & Wales death rate
		Number	Rate per 1000 of Population		Number	Rate per 1000 of Population	
1876	7,290	262	35.9		151	20.7	
1877	7,400	276	37.2	36.1	163	22.0	20.4
1878	7,500	291	35.2	35.9	165	20.0	21.7
1879	8,300	282	34.6		178	21.4	
1880	8,385	287	34.2	34.6	180	21.4	20.4
1881	7,962	263	33.0	33.9	137	17.2	18.9
1882	8,120	314	38.6	33.7	138	16.9	19.6
1883	8,280	280	33.0	33.2	152	18.3	19.5
1884	8,340	289	34.6	33.5	179	21.4	19.6
1885	8,505	292	34.3	32.5	199	23.3	19.0
1886	8,700	260	29.8	32.4	185	21.2	19.3
1887	7,780	304	34.6	31.4	169	19.2	18.8
1888	8,880	301	33.9	30.6	139	15.6	17.8
1889	9,100	279	30.6	30.5	155	17.0	17.9
1890	9,226	275	29.8	29.7	201	21.8	19.2
1891	10,276	321	31.7	31.4	199	19.2	20.2
1892	10,507	282	26.8	30.5	199	18.9	19.0
1893	10,610	286	26.6	30.8	194	18.2	19.2

B.—RASTRICK.

1876	6,540	281	42.9		146	22.2	
1877	6,695	304	45.4	36.9	153	22.8	20.4
1878	9,000	294	32.6	35.8	179	19.8	21.7
1879	9,060	305	33.6		171	18.8	
1880	9,135	299	32.7	34.6	201	22.0	20.4
1881	8,036	327	40.6	33.9	163	20.2	18.9
1882	8,252	292	35.3	33.7	168	20.3	19.6
1883	8,465	280	33.0	33.2	167	19.7	19.6
1884	8,680	290	33.4	33.5	222	25.5	19.5
1885	8,285	306	34.6	32.5	159	18.0	19.6
1886	8,950	268	29.9	32.4	178	20.7	19.0
1887	9,075	293	33.3	31.4	179	19.7	18.8
1888	9,592	285	30.7	30.6	159	16.6	17.9
1889	9,865	276	30.8	30.5	100	18.5	17.9
1890	9,981	280	28.1	29.7	164	16.4	19.2
1891	9,279	311	33.4	31.4	212	22.9	20.2
1892	9,448	270	28.5	30.5	172	18.2	19.0
1893	9,583	276	28.8	30.8	159	16.5	19.2

C.—BOROUGH.

1894	22,030	571	25.9	29.6	312	14.16	16.6
1895	22,570	573	25.38	30.3	349	15.46	18.7
1896	22,960	547	23.8	29.7	360	15.57	17.1
1897	23,440	573	24.44	29.7	322	13.73	17.4
1898	23,750	549	23.16	29.4	418	17.6	17.6
1899	24,000	503	25.12	29.3	371	15.46	18.3

Table II.—Shewing Population, Births, &c., in other Towns in the West Riding from which Returns were received.

City or Town	Population, 1899	Births		Deaths		Zymotic Death Rate	Phthisis Death Rate	Respiratory Disease Death Rate	Infant Deaths per 1,000 Births	No. of Notifica- tions Received
		Number	Rate per 1,000	Number	Rate per 1,000					
Leeds	..	12,939	30'6	8,105	19'2	2'8	1'4	3'7	172	4,502
Sheffield	..	12,459	34'50	7,975	20'08	4'56	1'38	3'87	196	5,791
Huddersfield	..	2,374	23'02	1,671	16'20	1'87	1'56	2'83	151	774
Halifax	..	2,239	22'9	1,772	18'1	1'5	1'5	3'6	162'1	900
Barnsley	..	1,353	31'83	767	18'11	3'04	1'60	3'82	165	295
Keighley	..	1,127	27'5	778	19'0	2'70	1'7	4'6	170	544
Batley	..	867	26'7	539	16'6	2'4	1'9	2'1	170	212
Pudsey	..	387	26'1	309	20'9	3'3	1'5	4'2	214	115
Liversedge	..	416	28'53	229	15'70	1'16	1'1	1'16	173	91
Sowerby Bridge	..	257	21'0	166	13'6	0'18	0'11	0'19	—	57
Ossett	..	336	26'04	214	17'7	1'15	1'15	2'72	137	81
BRIGHOUSE	..	503	25'12	371	15'46	0'96	1'41	3'07	121	243

Table III.—Deaths at Various Age Periods.

	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-65	65 and upw'ds	Total
Jan.	11	2	—	—	9	6	28
Feb.	2	2	1	—	16	5	26
March	9	4	5	2	10	8	38
April	4	4	3	1	10	10	32
May	3	2	2	—	17	10	34
June	5	1	1	—	13	7	27
July	1	3	—	—	9	4	17
Aug.	7	2	1	2	7	4	23
Sept.	8	3	1	—	8	5	25
Oct.	4	1	2	1	9	8	25
Nov.	2	4	2	2	11	7	28
Dec.	5	8	1	—	12	7	33
Total	61	36	19	8	131	81	336

TABLE IV.
MONTHLY BIRTHS, 1899.

	Males.	Females.	Rate.
January	30	13	21·5
February	17	24	20·5
March	33	12	22·5
April	27	23	25·0
May	30	22	26·0
June	24	18	21·0
July	22	19	20·5
August	13	21	17·0
September ...	24	24	24·0
October	18	21	19·5
November ...	17	19	18·0
December ...	17	15	16·0
Totals	272	231	25·12

MONTHLY DEATHS, 1899.

	Males.	Females.	Rate.
January	16	12	14·0
February ...	12	14	13·0
March	19	19	19·0
April	18	14	16·0
May	17	17	17·0
June	15	12	13·5
July	8	9	8·5
August	10	13	11·66
September ...	13	12	12·5
October	15	10	12·5
November ...	19	9	14·0
December ...	18	15	16·5
Totals	180	156	14·0

Table V.—Monthly Notification of Infectious Diseases.

	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Erysipe- las	Diph- theria	Total
January	19	—	4	1	24
February ...	4	2	—	—	6
March	22	4	—	3	29
April	32	2	1	—	35
May.....	23	—	2	2	27
June	24	—	2	—	26
July	19	1	—	—	20
August	12	2	1	1	16
September ...	7	4	1	—	12
October	12	—	3	2	17
November ...	18	—	3	—	21
December ...	3	2	3	2	10
Totals	195	17	20	11	243

REPORT

OF THE

Sanitary Congress,

Held at Southampton, on August 29th, 1899,
and following days.

To the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Members of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

It having been decided at your meeting in July last that your Medical Officer of Health should attend at the above meeting as a Delegate from the Brighouse Corporation, I formed one of the great number of visitors to Southampton, which number would undoubtedly have assumed greater proportions, if the accessibility of the town in question had been convenient for the more northerly situated towns in England. However the attendance, though not constituting a record, was esteemed a highly satisfactory one, and as the Borough Surveyor and your townsman, Alderman Sugden, who was a delegate from the West Riding County Council, were also present, this Borough was duly represented.

The proceedings proper commenced with the inaugural address of the President of the Conference, Sir William Henry Preece, K.C.B., his subject being "Sanitation up-to-date," and this he classified under six headings.

Pure Air.—In his remarks upon this subject, he drew our attention to the fact that pure air was valued from the earliest ages, and that it was recorded, Moses was the first originator of destroying refuse, so that it should not be a nuisance to the people. There was no elaborate destructor erected, nor was there any need for such, as it was a simple matter to carry away the refuse and destroy it by fire, away from any dwellings, so that the fumes in those early days had no chance of annoying the nostrils of the Israelites.

In the course of his remarks on this section he very forcibly pointed out that the Legislature has taken care that Lunatic Asylums, Hospitals, Workhouses and Gaols should be provided with proper air space for each person, and he contrasted the non-efficient ventilation of places where the free and better classes of our population mostly do congregate—churches, chapels, theatres, railway carriages, etc.—and the balance of his teaching was certainly in favour of the restricted classes, at least this is true as regards the period of their confinement. We all know, on the other hand, that the periods of liberty enjoyed by the majority of this large class are not as a rule spent in the most healthy surroundings, as anyone may learn who troubles as to the housing of the poor and of the working classes generally throughout the country. Great strides are however being made everywhere nowadays in the building of better houses for the accommodation of the artizan classes, and no doubt better ventilation of all buildings where large masses of people at times assemble would shew good results in the lessening of many infectious diseases.

Pure Water. In speaking of pure water, the President mentioned "It would be well if every water supply could have its own protected area, free from the contamination of man," and instanced Maidstone's epidemic in 1897 as having been caused by accidental pollution of its water supply by the typhoid bacillus.

Rivers, he said, were polluted not alone by the excretions of humanity, but by the refuse of trade and of manufacture. And the residents in the neighbourhood of this Borough have daily ocular proofs that his statements are verified by facts. But such I have no doubt will soon cease to be the case here, for if I am to understand aright the manufacturers around us are only too willing to lay down plant and material in the way of settling tanks, and assist the endeavours of the West Riding Board in preventing the further pollution of our rivers.

As regards the water supplied in this town for dietetic purposes, I may again repeat what I have said in the past two years, that the water is very good indeed. The Lecturer drew attention to the fact that whilst in most English cities the average consumption of water rarely exceeded 25 gallons per head per day, in New York it reaches 60, and in Philadelphia 90 gallons. He asked the question, "Should there not, instead of using carefully purified water to lay the dust, flush sewers, etc., be a duplicate supply, one for domestic and the other for public purposes?" This was already the plan adopted at Richmond and St. Helens, and sea water is used at Great Yarmouth and Bournemouth. London, he advocated, could be easily supplied with sea water for cleansing purposes, and so save to a great extent the use of the London water, which though much as it has been maligned in the past is of excellent quality.

Pure Food was the next item in this discourse, and he said that though Parliament does not order our daily food, still it does legislate against impure food. The enormous importation of food into this country renders it imperative that strict and rigid inspection should be exercised upon its condition. We rarely nowadays take up a newspaper without reading of the seizure of diseased meat, or of fruit and fish unfit for food, followed in many instances by exemplary punishment. Cold storage, or the artificial production of cold, has rendered possible the importation of meat from our most distant Colonies, and few of us know

whether the most delicate and tender saddle of mutton on our table is as asserted from Wales, or from New South Wales, or from New Zealand. The probability is that it comes from the latter place, for imported is generally of higher quality than home-grown meat. This, no doubt, is a bitter pill for English farmers and dealers to swallow, but the statement evidently was thoroughly believed in by the Lecturer.

Milk, the President reminded us, is the most important and most general form of food, for it is used by all ages and both sexes, but especially by the young. Unfortunately, milk is a greater medium than is meat for transmission of germs of disease, especially the bacillus of Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever, and Tuberculosis. Unclean milk is too common, and, unfortunately, inspection and examination of cows, cowsheds, dairies, and milk cans is thoroughly inefficient.

Much, he continued, depended upon the householder protecting his family from the enumerated dangers by at all events heating the milk up to a temperature of 160 deg. F., which is considerably under boiling point, does not alter the taste so much as in boiling, and is quite sufficient to destroy any germs. He regretted that the co-operative system of Denmark had not been introduced into this country. There, a large central dairy, creamery, buttery, and cheese-making establishment is managed by a small board of management, elected from the contributing farmers, who are scattered over the district, and who send to this establishment their milk to be inspected, measured, and treated, and each of whom draws his pro rata share of the profits. Curiously enough their best customer is England. The amount of farm produce imported into this country from our more progressive and enlightened neighbours over the sea is enormous, and disgraceful to our bigoted and ignorant agriculturists.

It is the enforcement of the regulations, the control of supervising powers, the appointment of inspectors that is weak, and chiefly is this the fault of little towns and scattered districts. The little towns are too often the arena of personal squabbles, party spirit, ignorance, and self interest. Tennyson said, "If God made the country and man the town, the devil made the little country town."

Pure Soil the Lecturer next passed on to, and stated it depended upon the care exercised by ourselves upon the disposal of our excreta and refuse. The earliest form of so doing enjoined by Moses was the natural and effective one of returning such to the earth. This, a natural and effective system, had required modification on account of the growth of the people, and their concentration in great towns had rendered the system impracticable. The Romans constructed great sewers, and discharged their sewage into the Tiber; whilst the Chinese have from time immemorial utilised their excretions to enrich the land with the matter which vegetation has withdrawn from it. He said it was only within our own experience that the pail, the cesspool, and the ashpit have been exorcised. Indeed they were even now often to be found in isolated dwellings. The water closet, he stated, was the introduction of this century, but I may here state the President would hardly say the old systems were found only in isolated cases if he visited many of our north country towns. In considering the treatment and disposal of sewage

under the three headings—Mechanical, Chemical, and Biological, he very minutely touched on the salient points of each, and concluded by showing that the tendency of all these systems was ultimately to restore the balance to nature.

He gave great credit to Sir Frederick Bramwell for the Portsmouth Water Carriage System, where, assisted by the direction and velocity of tidal currents of the Solent, the crude sewage was so disposed of as to avoid any possible nuisance to sojourners at Southsea, whilst the same good effect was noticeable also at Torquay, Brighton and Margate. He said, however, it was not economy or wisdom to make too much use of the sea for it was not so good a natural purifier as a river, being deficient in bacteria and the stuff discharged therein was wasted. A distinction must be drawn between the requirements of great towns, villages, hamlets, and isolated houses—every case must be dealt with on its own merits—there was no one process equally suitable for every Sewage.

Chemical treatment was well illustrated in the case of London, where the crude sewage is admitted into precipitating tanks and treated with lime and sulphate of iron in definite quantities. The effluent flows into the river at Barking and Crossness; the sludge amounting to over 2,000,000 tons yearly is conveyed fifty miles out to Barrow Deep, and deposited in the sea. A marked improvement has been made in the condition of the Thames in consequence, and further purification of the effluent was now under the consideration of the London County Council.

Speaking of the Biological treatment, the President said this system had clearly come to stay, though still in the experimental stage. Dividing this treatment into two classes, that dealing with sewage clarified by precipitation and filtering, and that which attempted to deal with crude sewage, he said the former plan appeared to be the most effective. It had recently been applied to Merton, where unsuccessful have been converted into successful works. The second plan was much simpler, and if the simultaneous action of the different bacteria could be relied upon, it might possess the method of practicability as well as of economy, but more experience was really needed. A Royal commission was at present considering the whole question, but some time must elapse before its report was ready.

Pure Dwellings. People suffered not alone from ignorance, but from carelessness and filth. The lower the social scale, the greater the weakness of education, the more callous and indifferent human beings become to cleanliness and comfort.

The legislation of recent years, by which local authorities can improve the dwellings of the working classes, and inspect and control common lodging houses, has had a beneficial influence upon the community by clearing away slums, preventing overcrowding, building well-designed, conveniently-arranged houses, and constructing new streets.

But, unfortunately, local authorities are much hampered by the restrictions of the Act of 1890, empowering them to improve the dwellings of the working classes, and they are checked by the greed of vested interests. Edinburgh, by spending £560,000 on improving the housing of the poor, has brought down the death-rate from 28 to 17 per

1,000. Legislation, though often half-hearted, tends very much to increase the responsibilities of the local authorities. They are encouraged to acquire and conduct certain trading operations which affect the interests of the whole community, especially the supply of water, of gas, of electrical energy, and of tramways. Electric light is the greatest boon and it is essentially the poor man's light. Tramways, by withdrawing the working classes from the interior of towns to the more open and purer air of the suburbs, solve the question of improved dwellings, and by working these tramways by electricity they so reduce the cost of generation of the energy that the supply of electric light can be made the most economical source of artificial lighting. Glasgow has very strangely separated the Tramway Power House from the Electric Light Central Station, and has thus deprived its light customers of a reduction of at least one penny per Board of Trade unit; Manchester is wiser in its generation.

Pure Bodies. Broadly speaking, every section of the address has reference to health. Hygiene is the most important knowledge for everyone to possess. It is perhaps the least acquired. It is not generally taught in our schools; it is not preached from our pulpits, and yet the lungs, the heart, the nerves, the skin, and the stomach, are as important to our present life as the mind and even the soul. The wealth and strength of a nation rest with the health of its people. Cleanliness is next to Godliness—this is the keystone of Hygiene. It promotes cheerfulness, and after all, cheerfulness is the greatest doctor we have. Moses prescribed cleanliness above everything. Lepers were to be washed, shaven and cleansed, their garments were to be rent and burnt, and they were to be isolated outside the camp. Their houses were to be shut up, disinfected, cleaned, and even in some cases, to be pulled down, the materials removed out of the city and destroyed by fire.

How far is disease carried about in clothes, and how can we best wash and dry them? Can we not utilize the electric current to bleach them? Chlorine and alkali so much used now destroy clothes.

An important feature of the introduction of electricity into our homes, is its cleanliness; it neither vitiates the air nor deposits dirt, nor destroys gilding or curtains, or book bindings. Reports are occasionally circulated in the press that it injuriously affects the eyes: this is erroneous. If any inconvenience arises, it is largely due to the adaptation of the fittings and the arrangement of the lighting.

This is a brief resumé of a very interesting and most attentively followed discourse by a crowded audience, and Sir William Preece was, at its termination, most loudly cheered and suitably thanked for his brilliant address.

In the evening the opening of the Health Exhibition by the Mayor engrossed the attention of the members of the Congress, and here were to be found the various exhibits of the now so well known firms which are always to be found at these meetings. Messrs. Doulton, Jennings, Oates & Green, Albion Clay Co., Duckett & Sons, Cliff & Sons were the principal firms showing specimens of their art as applied to sanitary, house, and drain fittings of every description. One exhibit which attracted a great deal of attention was an hospital sink at Doulton's stall, and Messrs. Oates and Green introduced a novelty as far as these exhibitions are concerned by showing a sanitary manger for use in cow-sheds.

Turning to the general exhibits, the display of gas ranges, baths, and other articles of domestic use were really splendid, and the same remarks apply to other articles too numerous to mention. One great source of attraction to the general public was a hospital ward, in which a professional nurse illustrated the treatment of invalids. A model working dairy, with four cows, excited considerable interest, and there were also demonstrations of the Röntgen rays, coloured photographs, etc. Disinfectants were here, there, and everywhere, and altogether this Exhibition was, as far as excellence of exhibits, a decided success.

On Wednesday, there were no fewer than seven Conferences, and proceedings were commenced in the Medical Officers of Health Section, with an address by Dr. T. Orme Dudfield, who reviewed the progress that had been made in measures for ensuring the public health since 1865. This was to a very great extent the life history and work, if one may so describe it, of the Metropolitan Asylums Board, and I must refer you to a more detailed account, provided you in the October number of the *Journal of the Sanitary Institute*.

Each member of the committee, is I believe, furnished with a copy. It may be of interest to some if I pointed out, that in this address, Huddersfield was awarded the distinction of being the first authority to obtain powers of compulsory notification.

The first paper read after this address, on "Sewage Disposal in Rural districts," does not call for any special comment, but the one that followed on the "Isolation of Infectious Disease," by Dr. Groves, of the Isle-of-Wight, evoked considerable discussion.

One speaker referred to the opinion expressed by a good many people to the effect, that in case of any outbreak of infectious disease amongst children, the closing of the schools did not have the desired effect in-as-much as the children in playing about the streets, were rather more likely to become infected, than if they remained at school. This was refuted by many medical officers, who testified that they had found the closing of schools most efficacious in stamping out epidemics of measles. Children, they argued, were more liable to catch infection, when crowded in the school-rooms than when playing in the streets with plenty of fresh air around them. One or two, however, were of opinion that in the case of measles, the closure of the infants' department was all that was required.

Dr. Chalmers, of Glasgow, next spoke upon the subject of "Bacteriology and Public Health," and was followed by a brief discussion; but the most interesting paper of this day was that read by Dr. Newsholme, of Brighton, on "Notification of Consumption: its pros. and cons." Overcrowding, he said, was the central problem in public health. It was one which surpassed our present ability completely to solve. Gradually some palliative measures against it were being adopted, and cheap trains and trams for those who could, and block dwellings of an improved type for those who could not afford to migrate to the suburbs would doubtless help in time to relieve the stress, though they do not entirely meet the requirements of the case. But in the meantime, for many years to come, a large amount of overcrowding must continue in our crowded centres of population. Is it not better

that in connection with this state of matters we should have official knowledge of cases of Phthisis than that we should be blindly attempting to abate such casual cases of overcrowding as are detected by our Sanitary Inspectors? Knowing of cases of Phthisis, we can take intelligent precautions against its spread in overcrowded houses; while ignorant of them, we are spending and exhausting our energies on overcrowded houses of much less importance, from the standpoint of the prevention of the spread of the disease.

At the conclusion of this paper, Dr. Scurfield, of Sunderland, read another allied to this subject on "The question of Sanitary Authorities providing Sanatoria for Consumptives," and he stated that a small sanatorium would achieve for a big town in the course of a few years a very appreciable reduction in the prevalence of consumption—a not very easily communicated disease. He believed there were thirty-three such institutions for the people in Germany. In England it seemed likely that Boards of Guardians would in the course of time combine to establish sanatoria for paupers who were suitable cases for the treatment, but the establishment and maintenance of sanatoria for people of limited means who were not paupers would be left to philanthropic efforts and voluntary subscriptions, including workmen's subscriptions.

At the conclusion of this paper, Dr. Newsholme moved "That this Conference of Medical Officers of Health is strongly of opinion that Phthisis—which causes more deaths in England than any other disease, one-fourth of the total deaths at ages 15-55 being due to this cause—is preventable by measures which are completely within the range of personal and public hygiene. That, of such measures, the disinfection or destruction of sputa of phthisical patients, and the abatement of the insanitary condition of dwelling houses and work places, especially those associated with overcrowding, hold the first place. That, for the carrying out of such measures, notifications of cases of Phthisis to the Medical Officer of Health are indispensable to secure economy of effort and the maximum benefit. That this Conference recommends the notification of Phthisis for adoption in all sanitary districts, the question as to whether it be voluntary or compulsory being left to the discretion of the local sanitary authorities: and that the Local Government Board be urged by the Council of the Sanitary Institute to take the necessary steps to legalise such notification."

This was seconded by Dr. Niven, of Manchester. Several of the speakers, in discussion, whilst favouring voluntary, were opposed to the compulsory notification of the disease, but eventually the motion was carried by a large majority.

In the section devoted to Medical Officers of Schools, a paper read by Dr. Shelley mainly on the subject of prevention of disease in schools, dwelt also upon a point which cannot fail to be of special interest to parents. Summed up in a few words, the crux of the subject was that whilst the studies of pupils nowadays had enormously increased, not sufficient attention was paid to the extra dietary required in order to keep up strength commensurable with the mental exertions. Children who seemed to run the risk of being overworked should at all events be made to carry on their work under the best hygienic conditions and on a dietary sufficient in amount and duly varied in kind.

Following on this came "The Treatment of Teeth during School Life," and it was suggested—

- (1) That dental treatment should be compulsory in all poor law schools.
- (2) That in board schools, it should at first be optional, and later on obligatory.
- (3) That in public and private boarding schools, there should be compulsory inspection on arrival, with reports to parents when necessary.
- (4) That for all scholars, the use of the tooth-brush after the last meal of the day should be enforced.

On Thursday, the various sections of the congress again met, but chief interest, was undoubtedly, centred in the address of Professor Frankland; the largest audience of the week being drawn together in anticipation of a striking address. This anticipation was verified to the letter, and at the outset the professor drew attention to the fact that the continued success of the Sanitary Congress was an eloquent testimony to the public interest now taken in sanitary matters.

England was well to the fore in practical sanitation, but was a little behind in sanitary science.

Referring to three subjects: 1—The admixture of water gas with coal gas; 2—The use of lead in manufacture of pottery; and 3—The evils resulting from the employment of phosphorus in the making of matches. He approved the recommendations made by those who were deputed by the Government to inquire into these things, and in regard to the suggested prohibition of women from employment in trades which were liable to produce disease in the offspring of women so engaged; he contended such prohibition was only just in looking at the welfare of future generations. The obvious duty of everyone was to vanish common matches, both from homes and pockets, and in this connection he especially appealed to smokers, who were the largest consumers of matches, and the worse offenders in this respect.

Referring to the application of Biology to Sanitary Science, and specially as to Bacteriology, he said that bacteriological examinations were of great value in testing and controlling the filtration and purification of a water supply. As to the same treatment of sewage, now so much talked about, there was nothing new under the sun. All sewage purification was entirely due to bacterial agency, and all along they had been relying upon bacteria without knowing it. What was new was the invention of methods by which the micro-organisms were enabled to do their work most effectively.

Sewage purification was really a fermentative industry, ranking with brewing, with this important difference—that whereas brewing and distilling were amongst the most remunerative modern industries, it was impossible to hold out any hope that the purification of sewage would ever be carried on at a profit.

Another very interesting contribution was provided by Mr. Malcolm Morris, F.R.C.S., on Tuberculosis, treated in a very exhaustive manner. Mr. Morris expounded in broad lines the policy of the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, a disease responsible for one-eighth of our mortality. He commended the tuberculine test, and speaking of the fact that some of the poor dairymen had rebelled somewhat against the loss of their animals, he said the answer given them was final and complete, viz., that no matter how poor they were, or what financial injury may be brought to them, still they had no right to furnish milk which would probably produce disease and death. It would not be a bad policy, he thought, for the State to pay one-half the value of the cattle slaughtered on account of Tuberculosis.

Amongst other remarks he directed a tirade against the practice of public spitting, and said he would be glad to see made, and strictly enforced, a regulation prohibiting the filthy practice of spitting in public. Our streets, our omnibuses, our railway carriages are at present befouled by spittle in a manner which was always disgusting and often dangerous. The only remedies for Consumption were air and sunshine, rest, and abundance of good food,—points aimed at in the construction of Sanatoria.

On Friday, the concluding day of the Congress, papers were read on "The Tubercle Bacillus as a Saprophyte," by Dr. A. Ransome, and Dr. Rideal exhibited various methods for generating formaldehyde for disinfecting purposes, and the discussion that followed the demonstration occupied some hours. This disinfectant, I may here state, has since the Congress at Leeds, been practically the only one used in this borough, at least for the fumigation of infected rooms.

Dr. A. E. Cope, of London, read a paper on the Vaccination question, and urged that the present official standard of the public vaccination of individuals was inadequate, because it did not recognise the need of re-vaccination,—did not contemplate the imperfection of much which was certified as successful vaccination, and they had now to deal with a conscientious objector, as well as a vaccination defaulter.

The standard set for realization was—

- 1.—Primary vaccination in infancy, or before entering school.
- 2.—Re-vaccination in the 12th year, or before leaving school.
- 3.—Power of inspection of children in school at stated intervals, or during epidemics of Smallpox; and—
- 4.—The affording of every facility and inducement for adult re-vaccination in presence of Smallpox. He suggested that the Educational aspect of vaccination should be impressed upon the public by the National Health Society, and other kindred bodies.

Dr. Bushell Anningson read some "Notes on Guarantees of the Purity of Milk Supply." He said the less grave injurious qualities of milk could be checked by ordinary analytical methods, but unless each quantity as it was distributed had been submitted to antecedent exam-

ination—an impossible procedure—nothing in the sense of a guarantee could be given. None the less, from the absence of official effectual guarantees, it did seem desirable that all possible safeguards should be adopted.

Dr. Scurfield proposed that the Council of the Institute be recommended to urge the Government to undertake a scheme for the reduction of the prevalence of bovine tuberculosis. He said the only result of two Royal Commissions was the order of the Board of Agriculture excluding the milk of cows suffering from tuberculosis and diseased udder. There was no regulation to carry out this order, which was really waste paper.

Dr. Glover Lyon remarked that if they could get rid of tubercular disease in animals, they would be pretty sure of its disappearance in the human subject.

A very interesting paper was read by Dr. Sidney Marsden, of Birkenhead, on the "Necessity of Public Slaughterhouse for Urban and Rural Districts," in which it was contended that all private Slaughterhouses should be done away with.

This paper was only a short one, but it called for a good deal of discussion, the speakers (prominent amongst whom was your townsman, Alderman H. Sugden,) being very much in support of the opinions of Dr. Marsden, which, summed up, amounted to this:—"That Rural Public Abattoirs are practicable and desirable, and that it is only by the institution of such places in both Urban and Rural Districts that any really efficient inspection of the meat supply of the country can be obtained."

Alderman H. Sugden thought recommendations should go from that meeting to the Government that all private Slaughterhouses should be done away with, and that some such system as suggested by Dr. Marsden should be adopted.

Dr. Francis Vacher, the Cheshire County Medical Officer of Health, discoursed on the subject of "Control and Inspection of Imported Meat," and after stating that imported meat reaches our shores in various ways—

- (1) As Cattle, &c., discharged at a Foreign Animals' Wharf.
- (2) As Cattle, &c., discharged at a Free Landing:
- (3) As Carcases, &c., mainly frozen or chilled.
- (4) As Meat hermetically sealed in tins or otherwise preserved.

Proper arrangements, he contended, must be made for the inspection of animals imported for food, no less than for carcases and tinned meat, etc. Every animal should be subject to inspection while it is being dressed, or shortly after it is dressed, and the viscera, as soon as removed, should be displayed close to the carcase that has been inspected. The Inspector should stamp each side of a carcase with his official stamp, and thus every side of meat would carry a mark indicating two things—that it came from a Foreign Animals' Wharf, and that it has been passed as sound.

Inspection at a Foreign Animals' Wharf is for the purpose of keeping the Board of Agriculture informed of the cases of infected disease imported, but unless animals are from countries scheduled as infected, they may be landed practically anywhere. There is nothing to prevent an animal thus imported being sold to a butcher, and slaughtered and dressed in a private Slaughterhouse, and sold as human food without any inspection of the carcase taking place. What then is required? The general provision of Public Abattoirs, and the gradual closing of all private Slaughterhouses.

Referring to the inspection of Carcases, mainly frozen or chilled, Dr. Vacher said this was not sufficiently thorough, and should be carried out by competent men, who have proved their knowledge by passing an examination. But with the absence of the viscera of these frozen Carcases, the inspection can never be as certain and as satisfactory as in the case of freshly-killed Carcases. However important, dead meat is mostly from cattle fed in the open air, and not as liable to tuberculosis as cows which have been kept in town-byres, and used for dairy purposes. The marking of such Carcases would rather entail a difficulty, if it had to be done in such a way that retail consumers would know the portions of meat they were buying belonged to an animal which had been imported dead and preserved by freezing or chilling. The difficulties of inspecting frozen sheep and sides of beef were nothing as compared with the difficulty of inspecting meat enclosed in tinned iron cans. A Carcase with which there are no viscera is pretty well a conundrum. What then is a closed tin of meat? A riddle past finding out. All that can be done here is to make a rough and ready examination of meat tins hermetically sealed and reject the bulged ones. He thought also that the canning firms should be required to stamp their name and address and the date of sealing on each tin.

In summing up, Dr. Vacher especially insisted on the following points :—

1. That the public who have no proper guarantee as to the inspection (good, bad, or indifferent) of home-bred and killed meat cannot count on any inspection of imported foreign meat.
2. That such inspection of imported meat as takes place is often fortuitous and necessarily superficial.
3. That inspection of carcasses without the viscera belonging to them is of comparatively very little value.
4. That what constitutes efficient inspection should be authoritatively declared, and that the standard regulating the passing or condemnation of meat intended for the food of man should be a uniform standard.
5. That as far as is practicable foreign meat should be inspected under some central control, by trained inspectors, at the port of debarkation and the port of arrival.

Dr. E. P. Manby, the assistant Medical Officer of Health, read a paper on "Parliamentary Powers for the Sanitary Supervision, and Control of Ice Cream Manufacture," and he stated that Liverpool was the only local authority in England which had obtained these powers. It will be in the recollection of many people in this Borough, that cases of death from poisonous ice cream occurred at Bradford, and that some youths of this town were at the time affected, though, fortunately, not fatally through the same source. The epidemic of Typhoid Fever a short time back at Batley was also demonstrated to have been caused by the consumption of this enticing, though highly dangerous luxury, and many were the victims, directly or indirectly, traced to it.

The Liverpool Authority had many objections raised to the power asked for, but in the end the Corporation Act of 1898 received the Royal Assent, and the work done by its means has been of great service. Informations have been laid and convictions obtained with fines and costs following, and Dr. Manby was of opinion that each local authority, in whose district any considerable trade of this kind exists, should gain the same powers as Liverpool, but if possible on better lines.

The exhibition of plans of two typical premises where ice cream was being manufactured under insanitary conditions brought this interesting contribution to a close. Following came a short discussion, in which Councillor Wilson, of Newcastle, said his Authorities had obtained the power requested during the last Parliamentary Session. They had certain powers, but not enough, and he was afraid it would take some time to obtain more control.

Dr. Pakes, of London, said he had had an opportunity of examining ice creams and had been associated in prosecutions, but in London it was difficult to get the Magistrates to convict.

APPENDIX II.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES,
RALPH MARSDEN.

Borough of Brighouse.

Report of the Inspector of Nuisances for the Year ended December 31st, 1899.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee acting by the
Council as the Urban Authority for the Borough of Brighouse.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting you with my Seventh Annual Report on the operations of the Sanitary Department for the year ended 1899.

NUISANCES.

Number unabated at the beginning of the year	...	...	23
„ reported as per Journal	...	...	236—259
„ abated during the year	...	...	191
			<u>68</u>

Amongst the unabated Nuisances are cases of defective drainage at Gooder Street, Schofield Yard (see Report for 1898), Mellor Square, and Thomas Street, which have been taken in hand by the Highways Committee.

CASES ABATED.

Number of accumulations removed	..	..	7
„ Ashpits repaired	..	..	13
„ Bath Waste Pipes disconnected	..	..	5
„ Drains opened	..	..	17
„ „ repaired	..	..	3
„ „ trapped	..	..	8
„ „ within buildings removed	..	..	20
„ „ re-laid with iron pipes	..	..	2
„ Fall pipes disconnected	..	..	50
„ Fish shops drained	..	..	1
„ Houses re-drained	..	..	77
„ House drains opened	..	..	11
„ „ repaired	..	..	15
„ „ trapped	..	..	6
„ „ ventilated	..	..	18
„ Lavatory waste pipes disconnected	..	..	24
„ Offensive accumulations removed	..	..	2
„ Overcrowding cases abated	..	..	1

Number of Poultry removed	2
„ Privies cleaned	5
„ „ converted to water closets	3
„ „ repaired	7
„ Privy middens done away with	2
„ Sink pipes disconnected	139
„ „ ventilated	4
„ „ trapped	15
„ Soil-pipes within the building removed outside	4
„ Soil-pipes ventilated	4
„ Stables re-drained	3
„ Swine removed	7
„ Water closets repaired	3
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It should be understood that several Sanitary defects are sometimes included in one nuisance, hence the extra number of **Cases abated** above the number of **Nuisances**.

Improvements in house drainage have been carried out at houses occupied by the late Mr. John Heaton, Elland Road. 22 houses Closes Road. The Tofferies, River Street. Houses occupied by Mr. John A. Cheetham and Mr. H. J. Lister, Nos. 106 and 76, Huddersfield Road. In order to remove Sewage from the cellar of a dwellinghouse in Bramstone Street, 19 houses have been entirely re-drained, at a considerable cost, by the owners, and the Highways Committee has decided to construct a new pipe Sewer in Thomas Street.

Inspections, Visits, &c.

Number of houses and premises inspected ...	293
„ houses and premises re-inspected ...	270
„ notices issued (preliminary) ...	163
„ „ (contravention of bye-laws) ...	7
„ „ (statutory) ...	7

Examination of Drains.

Number of drains tested and found defective ...	43
„ „ „ „ satisfactory ...	8
„ after alterations ...	17

Disinfection.

Number of houses in which Infectious diseases have occurred ...	183
Number of visits made to Infectious houses ...	428
„ houses disinfected ...	173
„ houses „ after Phthisis ...	12
„ rooms „ ...	312
„ beddings, &c., disinfected ...	222
„ schools disinfected ...	28
„ rooms „ ...	212

Common Lodging Houses.

Number of houses registered in the Borough...	...	2
„ lodgers registered to receive	...	181
„ lodgers reported as being received	...	108
„ visits ...	...	40
„ notices (preliminary)	...	6

Common Lodging House, Commercial Street.—The attention of the owner has on one occasion been drawn to the dilapidated condition of the yard, and to Mr. Bottomley himself on five different occasions for neglecting to carry out the Bye-laws.

Freeman's Lodging House is always clean.

Smoke Abatement.

Number of observations	...	12
„ notices (preliminary)	...	4
„ „ (statutory)...	...	1

No.	DATE.	TIME.	MINUTES	
			BLACK.	MODERATE
1	June 19th	1 Hour	12½	5½
2	„	„	7	2½
3	„	„	5	1
4	„	„	9½	1
5	Sept. 29th	„	Nil	Nil
6	„	„	„	2
7	„	„	„	1½
8	„	„	„	Nil
9	„	„	3	1
10	Oct. 9th	„	27½	4
11	Oct 16th	„	10	3
12	„	„	8½	4

Time allowed by the Committee in each case is 10 minutes black, and 20 minutes moderate: two of moderate to equal one of black.

Canal Boats.

The following is a copy of my Annual Report as forwarded to the Local Government Board:—

Public Offices,

Brighouse, Yorks.,

January 17th, 1900.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

During the year I have inspected 42 Canal Boats, using the Calder and Hebble Navigation Company's Canal in this district, and have only

met with two boats infringing the Act. The first, April 28th, which required cleaning and painting was remedied in reasonable time, the second, November 4th, which required painting and extensive repairs; these repairs, on account of the owner being away from home at time, have been somewhat delayed but were proceeding at the end of December, and have been since finished.

I have the honour to be,

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

The Local Government Board,
Whitehall, London, S.W.

RALPH MARSDEN,
Inspector.

Canal Boats Acts, 1877 and 1884.

*STATISTICAL SUPPLEMENT to the (1899) Annual Report of the
Brighouse Sanitary Authority.*

Have you Hospital Accommodation for any case of Infectious Disease
met with on a Canal Boat in your Sanitary District? Yes.

Is Inspector's remuneration inclusive with payment for other duties? Yes.

42 Number of Boats Inspected in 1899

40 Number of Boats conforming to the Acts and Regulations

2 Number of Boats Infringing the Acts and Regulations

Total Number for which the Cabins were registered 227½

Total Number occupying the Cabins ... 109

Details of Occupation:—Male Adults... 62

Female Adults ... 17

Children of School Age ... 17

Children under School Age 13

— 109

Number of Cases
met with.

Number of Cases
Remedied.

Details showing Numbers Infringing in respect to—

	Registration ...	...	...	...	...
	Notification of Change of Master ...	...	...	...	...
	Absence of Certificate ...	...	...	...	...
	Certificate not Identifying Owner with Boat ...	...	...	...	...
	Marking ...	...	...	...	...
	Overcrowding ...	...	...	...	...
	Partition (Regn. 8, b. ii.) ...	...	...	...	...
	Females over 12 Improperly Occupying ...	...	...	...	...
I	Cleanliness and Painting ...	...	...	...	I
I	Painting and Repairs ...	...	...	...	...

Ventilation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Dilapidation ... ..	...	...	...	...
Removal of Bilge Water ... ..	...	...	...	...
Without Pump ... ..	...	...	...	...
Refusal of Admittance to Inspector ... ..	...	...	...	...
No proper Water Vessel ... ..	...	...	...	...
Without requisite Double Bulkheads ... ..	...	...	...	...
Non-notification of Infectious Disease ... ..	...	...	...	...
Number of Boats detained for Cleansing (not for I/D.)				

2	Total Cases met with.	Total Cases Remedied	1
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Number of Legal Proceedings taken	None
Number of printed Notice Forms issued...	2
Number of Notices attended to ... ..	...	...	...	...	1
Number still corresponding about ... ..	...	...	...	...	1

Offensive Trades.

Number of places to be visited ... ..	...	...	...	3
„ applications to establish trade ... ..	...	...	...	1
„ visits... ..	...	...	...	11
„ notices (preliminary) ... ..	...	...	...	4

Mr. S. Hirst, of George Street, Rastrick, made arrangements and for a few weeks carried on the trade of a tripe boiler, on the premises of a private slaughterhouse at Bridge End, in close proximity to a Confectioner's shop. On being informed that he must have permission from the Sanitary authority, he applied at once, but the application not being granted the business was discontinued.

Slaughterhouses.

Number of Public Slaughterhouses ... ..	...	...	...	1
„ Private Slaughterhouses ... ..	...	...	...	2
„ Visits ... ..	...	...	...	91
„ Seizures ... ..	...	...	...	7

LIST OF SEIZURES.

January 2nd ... ..	...	The Carcase of a Cow.
March 15th ... ..	...	The Carcase of a Cow.
May 24th ... ..	...	The Carcase of a Cow.
„ ... ..	...	The Carcase of a Bullock.
November 24th... ..	...	The Carcase of a Cow from a Butcher's Shop.
December 20th... ..	...	The Carcases of two Pigs.

Portions of the Internal Organs and other meat unfit for the food of man was destroyed by the owners at the request of the M.O.H., Aug. 29th, Nov. 15th and Dec. 6th.

Dairies, Cow-Sheds and Milk Shops.

Number on the Register	...	...	...	...	83
„ of Visits	...	...	...	...	55
„ Notices (preliminary)	...	...	...	...	8

The No. 83 is made up as follows :—

Cow-keepers	...	...	...	...	44
Milk Shops and Purveyors of Milk	...	...	...	...	18
Purveyors of Milk from outside the Borough	...	...	...	...	21—83

A copy of the new regulations, which came into force on the 1st July, has been supplied to each person in the trade.

The Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

Number of samples of New Milk	...	...	...	...	20
Distinctive marks	...	...	...	...	21 to 40

The Analyst certified as follows :—

Genuine Milk of superior quality...	...	...	...	...	2
Genuine	...	...	...	...	4
Fair quality...	...	...	...	...	12
Broken in transit	...	...	...	...	1
Special sample, test for Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1—20
(This latter Sample was sent to the County M.O.H.)					

Scavenging.

COLLECTED.

	Ashtubs.	Ashpits.	Wet Ashpits.	Tubs.	Tanks.	Total.
1895	7937	3533	1529	115,850	52	128,902
1896	7219	4223	1788	127,458	20	140,708
1897	7604	4744	1550	135,090	38	149,026
1898	7490	5161	976	140,184	40	153,751
1899	8267	4978	1145	142,920	23	157,333

DEPOSITED.

Date.	Vans.	Depot. Carts.	Brick Co.	Recreation Grounds.	Other places.	Total.
1895	6425	4194	879	309	2399	14,206
1896	7081	3904	926	822	1825	14,558
1897	7505	3081	2328	1057	1883	15,854
1898	7788	2133	2873	2161	1378	16,333
1899	7940	3037	2730	1520	1236	16,463

ACTUAL COST.

Date.	Depot.	Tubs.	Nightsoil.	Slaughterhouse.	Total.
1895 ...	119 14 6	664 15 7	478 15 3	95 3 8	1358 9 0
1896 ...	109 10 0½	726 18 3½	505 18 9	74 10 0	1416 17 1
1897 ...	149 14 9½	791 0 4	513 9 2½	74 2 6	1528 6 10
1898 ...	171 19 5½	820 10 2	543 6 1	82 6 2½	1618 1 11
1899					
Team lab'r	16 12 9	562 14 5	379 13 9		959 0 11
Manual „	243 19 3	268 2 11	130 4 5	79 9 9	721 16 4
Tipping	1 16 6		50 5 3	0 1 9	52 3 6
By Sales	262 8 6	830 17 4	560 3 5	79 11 6	1733 0 9
	82 17 11½				82 17 11½
	179 10 6½	830 17 4	560 3 5	79 11 6	1650 2 9½

APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF CLOSETS.

Pail Closets	...	2679	Increase during the year	...	60
Water Closets	...	291	„	„	20
Waste Water Closets	...	135	„	„	37
Privy Middens	...	490	Decrease	„	2

Pail Closets	...	Emptied weekly.
Ashtubs	...	„ fortnightly.
Ashpits	...	„ monthly.
Privy Middens	...	„ monthly.

The Pail Closets, Ashtubs, Ashpits, and Privy Middens are emptied by the Sanitary staff.

The Team Labour is supplied by two Contractors, viz., 1st, Pail Closets, emptied at 1s. 5d. per van of 18 pails; this Contract has been extended to March 31st, 1903. 2nd, Ashtubs, Ashpits, and Privy Middens; for this work the price is 6s. 3d. per day for man and horse; this Contract ends March 31st, 1900. The arrangement seems to work very well. Complaints lodged at the Office are attended to at once.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours truly,

RALPH MARSDEN.