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CHARD  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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= **Annual Report** =

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1910.

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CHARD:

1911.

YOUNG & SON'S PRINTING WORKS.

CHARD

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

Medical Officer of Health

For the year ending December 31st 1910

CHARD

1911

Printed by the District Council

**RURAL DISTRICT OF CHARD,**  
IN THE  
**COUNTY OF SOMERSET.**

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**Annual Report of the Medical  
Officer of Health.**

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MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present you with the Annual Report of the vital statistics and sanitary condition of the Chard Rural District for the year ending December 31st, 1910.

The District is sub-divided into four registration sub-districts, viz., Ilminster, Chard, Crewkerne, and Combe St. Nicholas. It includes within its boundaries, but under different jurisdiction, the Urban Districts of Chard, Crewkerne and Ilminster.

Its geological formation may be briefly described as Greensand area, overlain here and there by Chalk overlies, and based on Lias Clays, which occupy the lower areas.

The extension of the Borough of Chard in 1892, the constitution of the Crewkerne and Ilminster Urban Districts in 1895 and 1899 respectively, combined with alterations in the area of the district consequent on the passing of the Local Government Act, 1894, affected the population of the Rural District, and there having been only one census taken of the District as now constituted, it has proved a difficult matter to calculate the rise or fall in the population.

The second decennial census of the district will be taken this year, and it will be interesting to see the result.

As far as I can judge, the population will be found very little different from the census of 1901, viz., 13,300, and I am using the same figures in the following statistics.

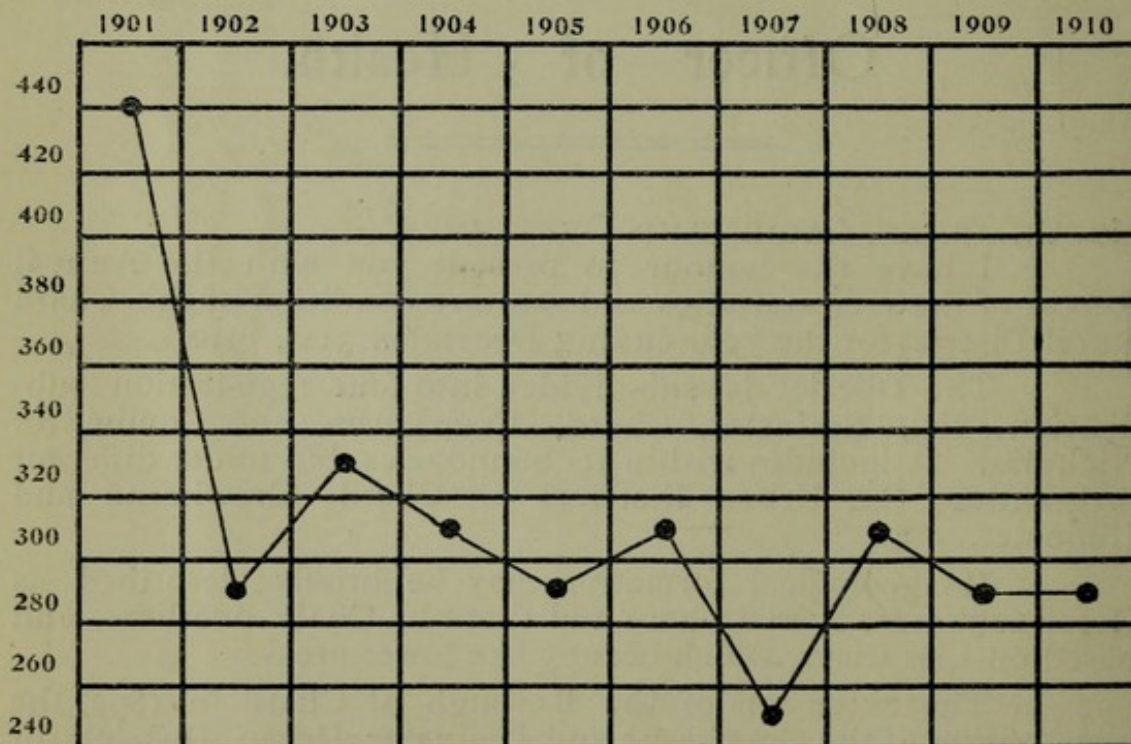
	Census 1901.	1910.
Estimated Population .. ..	13,300	13,300
Number of Inhabited Houses ..	3,079	3,109
Average number of persons per house	4.3	4.2
Acres ..		52,992

### Vital Statistics.

Details will be found in the several tables appended.

	per. 1,000	Average for ten years.
Birth Rate ...	21.0	23.8
Death Rate ...	12.4	13.0
Infant Death Rate	75.3	92.0

CHART, showing comparison of the number of Births during past ten years.



### Infectious Diseases.

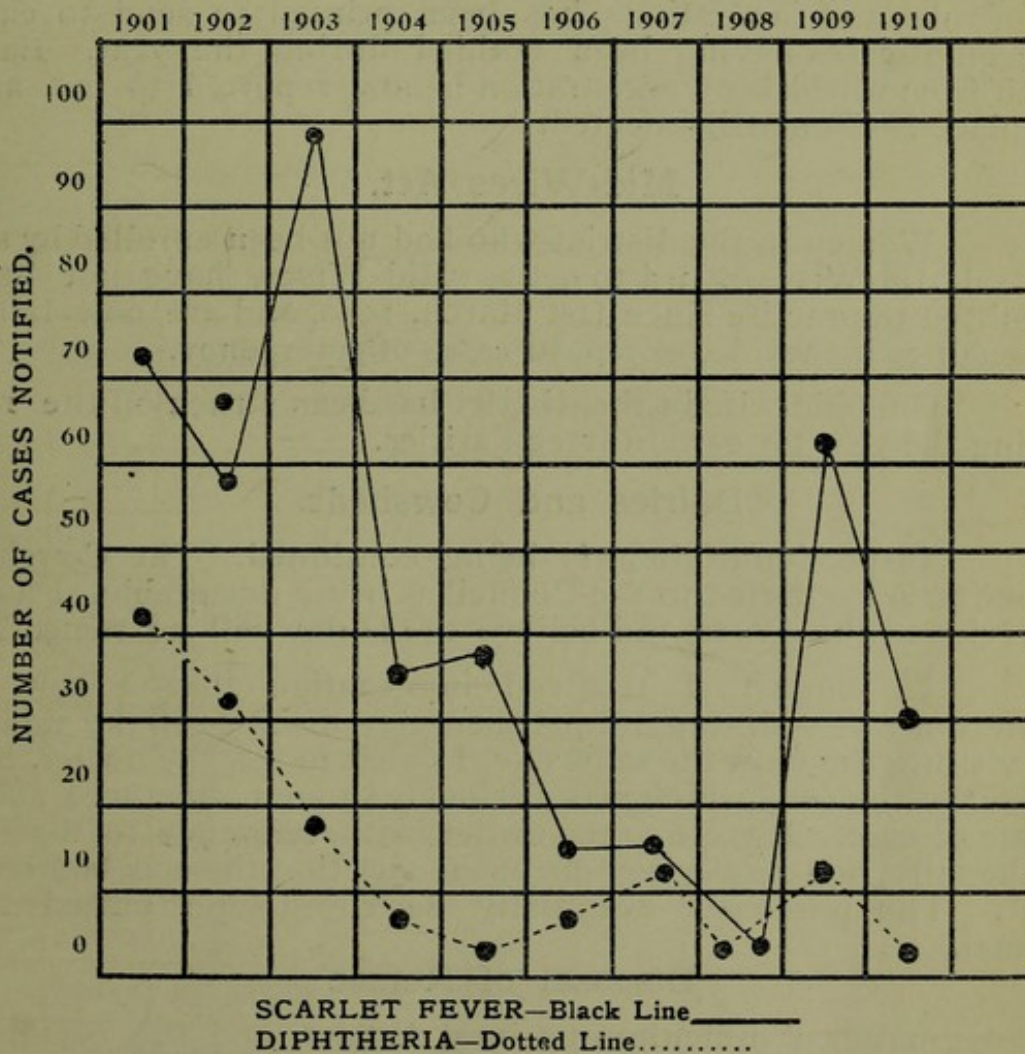
There have been less than half the number of notifiable infectious diseases that there were in 1909, viz., 36, compared with 82, these being chiefly scarlet fever in Ilminster and Crewkerne.

There have been only three cases which could be caused by insanitary conditions, two cases of diphtheria and one of typhoid fever. This speaks well for the district. Diphtheria, as will be seen from the accompanying chart, has been gradually decreasing for the past ten years.

When an outbreak occurs in any district, I have at once visited, and, if necessary, inspected each pupil at the local school. This is generally accepted as very important, especially in the case of scarlet fever.

I have been able in almost every outbreak to find the source of infection and so confine the cases to a limited number.

CHART, showing number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria in each of the past ten years.  
YEARS.



During the year there has been a great number of cases of measles and mumps among the children, which has necessitated the closing of several of the schools for a time. These are difficult outbreaks to deal with, as so many children are sent to school while in the acute stage of the illness, and

when the school is closed the children are allowed to mix with others, and not kept at home.

The past year has been an exceptionally wet one. The total rainfall was over 46 inches, compared with 36 inches average for the past nine years.

It would have been thought that the excessive damp would make a great increase in the mortality, but, as a matter of fact, there has been a decrease, only two out of the past ten years having so few deaths. There has also curiously been a decrease in the number of deaths from diseases of the chest.

There is now a great effort being made in the district to lessen the spread of consumption. All cases of phthisis in receipt of relief from the Parish are now notified to me, and a list of rules and suggestions has been printed to send to each case, eight cases having been notified during the year. Each death from phthisis on registration is now reported to me, and the place is at once disinfected.

#### **Mid-Wives Act.**

Women in the district who had not been enrolled by the Central Mid-Wives Board to act as Mid-Wives, have not been permitted to practise since 31st March, 1910, and are now liable to penalties if they do, except in cases of emergency.

One mid-wife in the district has been struck off the roll during the year for certain irregularities.

#### **Dairies and Cowsheds.**

Inspection of the dairies is being continued. The Cowshed in one farm I reported to the Council as being unsuitable. I have interviewed the owner, and believe the faults will be remedied.

In August, I received information that a cow in Misterton was suffering from tubercular disease of the udder. On visiting the farm the same day, I failed to see the owner, but inspected the cow, which was obviously in a far advanced stage of the disease. I wrote to the owner with reference to the use of the milk, and he advised me of the fact that the cow had been sold. The purchaser eventually destroyed and buried the animal.

#### **Disposal of Refuse**

is not a matter of difficulty in a rural district, and the occupant of each house arranges to have it removed to a convenient spot.

#### **Disinfection of Infected Houses.**

The following procedure is recommended by the County Medical Officer after death or removal of a phthisis case.

All pillow cases, sheets, and other washable articles should be well soaked in 1 per cent. of one of the under-mentioned disinfectants, or preferably boiled and washed.

Blankets should also be sprayed with the disinfectant and washed.

Where a steam disinfector is available, all mattresses, sheets, etc., should be disinfected by steam in preference to the above.

The walls and floor should be sprayed with a 1 in 50 solution (i.e., about 3 ozs. per gallon of water) of a powerful disinfectant. One of the three following is recommended: Izal, Kerol, or Cyllin.

The walls should be wetted thoroughly, and after disinfection re-papered or lime-washed.

Articles of furniture, etc., should be wiped over with cloths soaked in the disinfectant, and then well dried.

The spraying is preferably done with one of the portable apparatus now sold, but if not available disinfection can be satisfactorily done with a powerful garden sprayer, the disinfectant solution being mixed in an ordinary pail.

### **Disinfection after an Infectious Illness—such as Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria.**

The procedure was till lately to fumigate the infected room with sulphur, but this is considered inefficient, and I now recommend using a formalin lamp as being effective and portable.

### **Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.**

This is an Act of Parliament which has now come into force, whereby every house valued at less than £16 a year must be inspected within a reasonable time.

The Sanitary Authority is required to keep a full report of each house as to air space, sanitary condition, state of repair, sewage disposal, number of occupants and rooms, and many other particulars.

The report is to be kept up-to-date and the houses must be re-inspected from time to time.

This means the inspection of between 2,000 and 3,000 houses in your district, and the work entailed will fall on the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

Already we have inspected over 60 houses in Combe St. Nicholas, which practically means the whole village, but there are, I believe, 220 houses in the whole parish of Combe.



We were able, we found, to inspect eight houses per hour, but this will be impossible with the outlying houses.

The notes taken of each house have to be copied more fully on to special forms after each day's work is done, and what with keeping the books up-to-date, this will necessitate a large amount of office work.

The result obtained by our inspection showed a very satisfactory state of affairs in Combe, as the houses, with few exceptions, are in very good repair.

It seems to be the general opinion in the village that there are not enough houses, but we did not actually come across a single case of over-crowding.

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I append the usual Tables of Statistics, and the Annual Report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant

IAN G. SIBBALD.

St. Margaret's, Crewkerne,  
6th February, 1911.

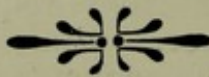


TABLE I.

*Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1910 & previous Years.*

Name of District, CHARD RURAL.

YEAR	Popula- tion esti- mated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.	
		Number.	Rate *	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births regis- tered.	Number.	Rate*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1900	12182	307*	22.3	35*	151.7	201*	14.7
1901	13300	440	33.0	25*	56.8	167	12.6
1902	13208	286	22.3	34	116.8	211	15.9
1903	13137	329	25.4	25	75.9	149	11.3
1904	13049	314	24.0	35	111.4	188	14.3
1905	12265	297	22.8	22	74.0	139	10.9
1906	12919	306	23.8	24	78.4	156	12.0
1907	12880	247	19.2	19	76.9	168	13.0
1908	12919	314	23.9	31	100.0	185	14.3
1909	12919	279	21.5	22	78.8	155	11.9
Aver- ages for years 1900— 1909	12950.8	311.9	23.8	27.2	92.0	171.9	13.0
1910	13300	292	21	22	75.3	166	12.4

\*Rates in Columns 4 and 8 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

\*The only figures available were for  $\frac{3}{4}$ , and these figures are calculated accordingly.

TABLE II. Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1910 and previous years. Chard Rural District

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	1. ILMINSTER.				2. CHARD.				3. CREWKERNE.				4. COMBE ST. NICHOLAS.				5. WHOLE DISTRICT.			
	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.
1900	4356	110*	66*	17*	1076	78*	45*	9*	4659	85*	62*	—	2091	34*	28	1	12182	307	201	27
1901	4281	118	58	11	2927	102	28	1	4241	154	57	7	1851	66	24	6	13300	440	167	25
1902	4259	87	63	11	2906	72	44	12	4217	92	65	7	1826	35	39	5	13208	286	211	35
1903	4238	94	51	10	2901	73	35	4	4107	112	44	10	1801	50	19	2	13137	329	149	26
1904	4219	102	66	9	2882	78	40	12	4173	96	41	9	1775	38	32	5	13049	314	188	35
1905	4193	98	48	7	2873	71	28	2	4149	89	43	9	1750	47	20	4	12265	297	139	22
1906	4147	110	38	5	2930	88	47	11	4142	77	49	6	1700	31	22	2	12919	306	156	24
1907	4155	69	59	9	2905	69	51	3	4137	68	40	4	1683	41	18	3	12880	247	168	19
1908	4147	93	70	8	2930	80	40	10	4142	95	53	9	1700	46	22	4	12919	314	185	31
1909	4193	74	46	2	2930	88	38	8	4142	83	54	9	1700	34	17	3	12919	279	155	22
Averages of Years 1900 to 1909.	4218.8	94.7	58.5	8.9	2628.4	79.9	40.5	7.4	4219.9	95.1	50.8	7.7	1787.7	42.2	24.1	3.5	12950.8	311.9	171.9	27.2
1910	4281	81	64	6	2927	90	35	6	4241	85	55	10	1851	36	12	0	13300	292	166	22

\* The only figures available were for three quarters, and these figures are calculated accordingly.

TABLE III.

CHARD RURAL DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1910.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Cases Notified in whole District.						Total Cases Notified in each Locality.			
	At all Ages.	At Ages---Years.					Ilminster Sub-district	Chard Sub-district	Crewkerne Sub-district	C'mbe S.N'h'l's Sub-district
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65				
Small-pox ...										
Cholera ...										
Diphtheria (including Membr'n's croup) ...	2		1	1				2		
Erysipelas ...	3	1	1		1		2	1		
Scarlet fever ...	30	6	22	1	1		8		21	1
Typhus fever ...										
Enteric fever ...	1				1				1	
Relapsing fever										
Continued fever										
Puerperal fever...										
Plague ...										
Totals ...	36	7	24	2	3		10	3	22	1

TABLE IV.

## Chard Rural District.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1910

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).				TOTAL DEATHS whether of "Residents" or "Non- Residents" in Public Insti- tutions in the District.
	All ages	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Ilminster	Chard	Crewkerne	Combe St Nicholas	
Small-pox ...												
Measles ...												
Scarlet fever ...												
Whooping-cough ...	2		2					1		1		2
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ...												
Croup ...												
Fever { Typhus... Enteric... Other continued												
Epidemic Influenza ...	2					1	1	1		1		2
Cholera ...												
Plague ...												
Diarrhœa ...	1	1						1				1
Enteritis ...	1	1							1			1
Gastritis ...												
Puerperal fever ...												
Erysipelas ...												
Phthisis, (Pulmonary Tu- berculosis) ...	6				4	2			2	3	1	6
Other tuberculous di- seases ...	3			1	2			2		1		3
Cancer, malignant di- sease ...	10					3	7	4		5	1	10
Bronchitis ...	9				1	3	5	3	3	2	1	9
Pneumonia ...	8	4	2			2			3	4	1	8
Pleurisy ...												
Other diseases of Res- piratory organs ...												
Alcoholism ...												
Cirrhosis of liver ...												
Venereal diseases ...	1	1								1		1
Premature birth ...	6	6						3	1	2		6
Diseases and accidents of parturition. ...	2	1				1		1	1			2
Heart diseases ...	23	2				13	8	7	5	8	3	23
Accidents ...	5					4	1		1	1	3	5
Suicides ...	2					2		2				2
Apoplexy ...	17					4	13	9	4	3	1	17
Senile decay ...	45						45	17	10	17	1	45
Kidney ...	5			1	1	3		4	1			5
Convulsions ...	7	4	2	1				3	1	3		7
All other causes ...	11	2	1			5	3	6	2	3		11
All causes ...	166	22	7	3	8	43	83	64	35	55	12	166

TABLE V.  
**CHARD RURAL DISTRICT.**  
**Infantile Mortality during the Year 1910.** Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH	Total under												Total Deaths under One Year.			
	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.		9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.
<b>All Causes.</b>																
{ Certified ...																
{ Uncertified ...																
<b>Common Infectious Diseases.</b>																
Small-pox ...																
Chicken-pox ...																
Measles ...																
Scarlet Fever ...																
Diphtheria: Croup																
Whooping Cough ...																
<b>Diarrhoeal Diseases.</b>																
Diarrhoea, all forms ...																
Enteritis, Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis																
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh ...																
<b>Wasting Diseases.</b>																
Premature Birth ...																
Congenital Defects ...																
Injury at Birth ...																
Want of Breast-milk Starvation ...																
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus ...																
<b>Tuberculous Diseases.</b>																
Tuberculous Meningitis ...																
Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica																
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...																
Erysipelas ...																
Syphilis ...																
Rickets ...																
Meningitis (not Tuberculous) ...																
Convulsions ...																
Bronchitis ...																
Laryngitis ...																
Pneumonia ...																
Suffocation, overlaying																
Other Causes ...																
	7	1	1	1	0	5	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	2

# Sanitary Inspector's Report.

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Sanitary Inspector's Office, Fore Street, Chard.

February 3rd, 1911.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Chard Rural District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report as Sanitary Inspector, Public Health Surveyor, and Inspector under the Petroleum Acts, for the year ending 31st December, 1910.

To a certain extent, this report is bound to be a repetition of previous years, but several great improvements have been made to Public Sewers and Water Supplies.

## Sanitary Defects Found and Reported.

The number of Inspections made during the year is 262, re-inspections 73, nuisances reported and dealt with 81. When first these nuisances are discovered, I write to either the owner or occupier (whichever appears to be responsible) pointing out the defects, and asking them to abate the nuisance, and I am pleased to say that in nearly all cases this is sufficient, but if on my second visit the nuisance is not abated, I report the same at the next Council meeting, and ask for permission to serve a Statutory Notice on the defaulter.

Journeys made during the year on business, other than stated above, 141.

## Statutory Notices Served.

Under P H. Act, 1875, Section 91	...	...	...	...	5
Under P.H. Water Act, 1878	...	...	...	...	1
Overcrowding cases dealt with	...	...	...	...	2

## Sewage and Drainage.

The villages which have Public Sewers, are :—

CHARD SUB-DISTRICT.	CREWKERNE SUB-DISTRICT.	ILMINSTER SUB-DISTRICT.
Buckland St. Mary	Dinnington	Ashill
Chaffcombe	Hinton St. George	Allowenshay
Combe St. Nicholas	Lopen	Broadway Hill
Forton	Merriott	Ilton (part of)
Tatworth	Misterton	Seavington St.
		Mary
Winsham	Wayford	Seavington St.
		Michael
		Shepton Be'ch'mp.
		Whitelackington

At Whitelackington the sewer has been extended another 60 feet, so that the nuisance complained of and caused by the bad smells through the sewer outlet being too close to the village, has been abated.

At Broadway Hill, this was reported as being in progress in my last report: it has since been completed, and is giving satisfaction.

At Tatworth the 6-inch agricultural pipe sewer which discharges on Lord Poulett's ground, has been taken up, and a 9-inch glazed socket pipe sewer is being substituted, for a distance of about 120 yards; this is being done so as to remedy the nuisance caused by the old sewer frequently choking; two manholes have been built on this section.

At Hinton St. George weekly scavenging of the streets is carried out.

In other villages things remain pretty much the same as in previous years.

All the sewers, outfalls, and disposal works are inspected from time to time.

Where there are no sewers the drainage discharges into cesspools, or runs into some ditch and is irrigated over adjoining land; some of the privies discharge into vaults, but I think the bucket system is becoming more general every year. I strongly recommended the bucket in preference to a privy vault, wherever possible.



## Water Supplies.

Very few alterations have been made with regard to these, and they are giving general satisfaction.

At Winsham a new scheme is being carried out for Fore Street and Back Street. A good spring has been enclosed (by the Police Station), and a small tank has been built around to protect this spring: from there it is conveyed (by means of galvanized iron pipes) to a reservoir of 800 gallons capacity, and from there it is piped down, and standpipes are placed in convenient places to supply about 30 houses.

I find that in previous Reports I omitted to mention the following two supplies which have been from time to time inspected :

At Donyatt, water is sent to the village by means of a Ram, and a good many houses are supplied by means of standpipes (with spring taps) fixed in the Street.

At Merriott several of the houses in the Broadway are supplied by means of water piped from Mr. Dyson's property, and a standpipe is fixed in the Broadway.

No other alterations have been made. All the public supplies are kept under observation, and any suspicious cases dealt with immediately. Seven samples of water have been taken for analysis, and sent to the Medical Officer of Health, and one to the County Analyst. Four were reported to be doubtful, two good, and one polluted; the one that was reported to be polluted has been done away with, and another supply found and piped to the house. All the defective supplies have been attended to.

## Infectious Diseases.

As before reported, immediately on receipt of notification from the Medical Officer of Health, I visit the infected house, and make enquiries as to isolation, water and milk supply, sanitary conditions, &c.

The County Medical Officer of Health considers the sulphur fumigation inefficient in some cases, and has recommended that the walls, ceilings, &c., should be sprayed with a solution of disinfectant, and enquiries are now being made as to the best spray to use.

A resolution has been recently passed by my Council that all infected rooms, bedding, &c., shall be disinfected after cases of consumption, and the Registrars of Deaths have been instructed to notify me whenever a death occurs from this disease. I have already disinfected after three cases.

## Building Plans Submitted and Passed for the Year.

No. of New Buildings erected during the year	..	..	7
Alterations and additions to buildings	..	..	11

As before reported, all plans for new buildings, and a good many for alterations and additions to buildings, have to be checked, and the buildings inspected as they are being erected, and this makes a good many journeys during the year. The procedure is the same as previously reported.

### Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

Regulations are in force under the Order of 1885, a register is kept, and 80 are registered. These are periodically inspected, and are generally satisfactory.

### Slaughter-houses and Bake-houses.

These premises are the same as reported previously, with the exception that a new bake-house has been built at Ashill. There are 17 slaughter-houses and 23 bake-houses: these premises are kept under observation, and a register of the same is kept.

### Stores Licensed under the Petroleum Acts.

Another license has been applied for at Catherine Wheel, near Ilminster; the premises are not in accordance with the requirements of the Act, so a new store is being built, when a license will be granted if suitable. Stores already licensed 9, which are regularly inspected.

### Factories and Workshops.

Factories:—

Lace (Bobbin net), Perry Street, Chard.  
 Lace „ „ Rose Mill (Ilminster Without).  
 Tooth-brush Factory, Nimmer.  
 Twine and Yarn Factory, Lopen.  
 Hemp Tow, Carpet Factory, Dowlish Ford.  
 Sailcloth Factory, Merriott.  
 Greenham Flax Mill, Wayford.

These are regularly inspected, and the ventilation, sanitary conditions, &c., are satisfactory. A Register of Workshops and Out-workers is kept, and a great many of them are inspected during my rounds of inspection. There are 56 workshops registered under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

**Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.**

Proceedings under this Act have been taken in respect of three houses, one at Ashill, and two at Winsham.

**Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.**

Over 60 houses have been inspected at Combe St. Nicholas by the Medical Officer and myself under this Act.

Some years since I made a house to house inspection of practically the whole of my District, when all defects found were reported on and remedied.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

EDWARD CARTER,

*Assoc. R. San. Inst. : Memb. San. Insp. Assoc.*

Sanitary Inspector.





