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Contributors

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BOROUGH OF CHATHAM.

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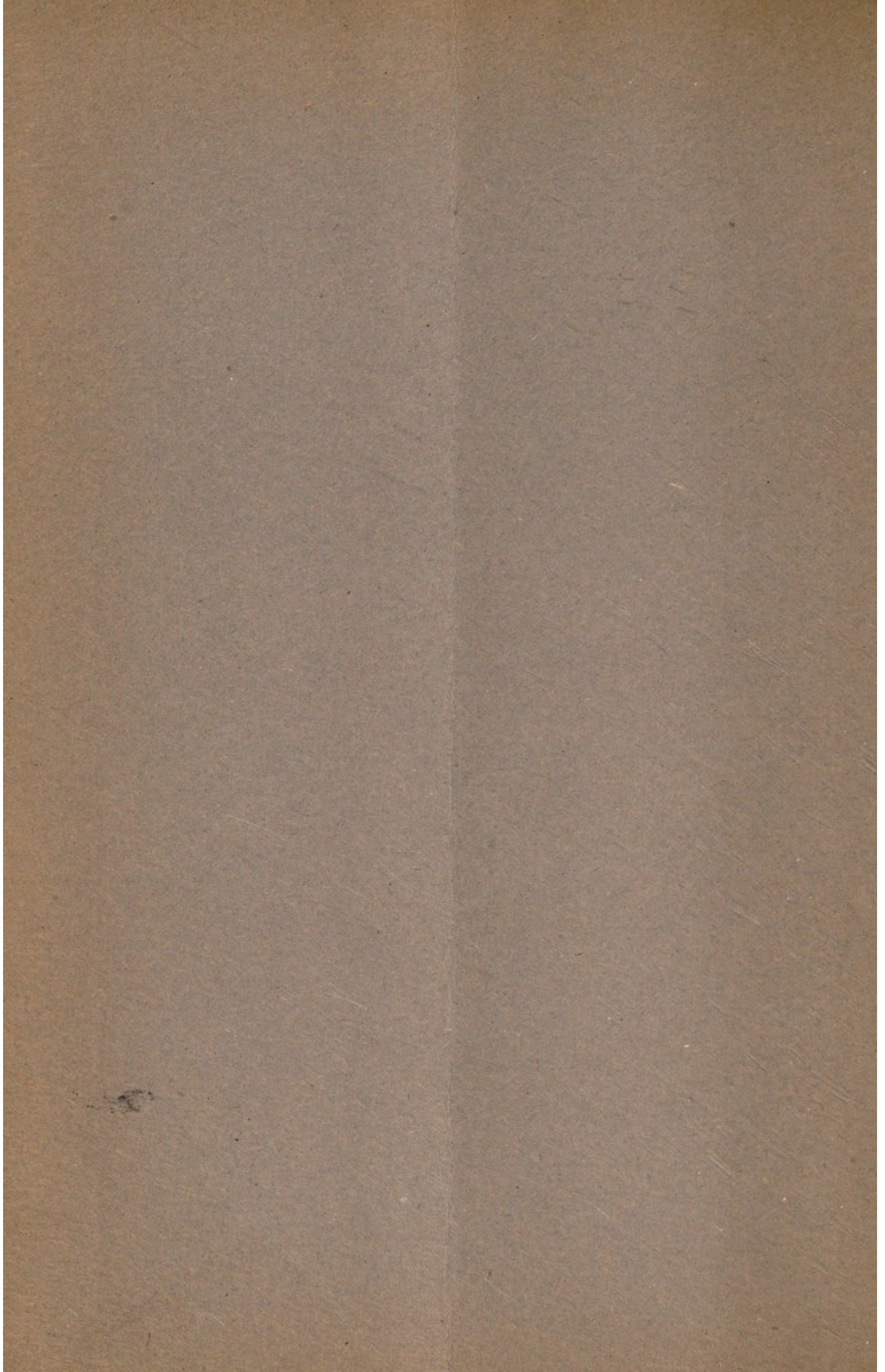
Sanitary Inspector's

REPORTS

1910.

CHATHAM :

PARRETT & NEVES, LTD., 30, HIGH STREET.



Borough of Chatham.

TO THE MAYOR AND CORPORATION OF THE BOROUGH
OF CHATHAM.

GENTLEMEN,—

In submitting for your consideration my 23rd annual Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Borough of Chatham, I am again able to congratulate you on an excellent standard of public health. During the year ending December 31st, 1910, there has been no serious outbreak of infectious disease, no severe illness due to climatic change, or to the circumstances and environment of the population. There is less evidence of unemployment, the sanitary condition of the district has been closely supervised, and especially has attention been paid to the adequacy and fitness of house accommodation. The result, as regards the health of the town, is distinctly encouraging, but it would be unwise to be too complacent. Progress in sanitary administration must be continuous, and those who best know Chatham and who can appreciate the improvements that have been brought about in recent years at the initiative of your Council, will not be content until such further changes occur as will place Chatham in the very front rank of well planned and administered towns. The Annual Report of a Medical Officer of Health is a document which chiefly concerns itself with such influences as affect injuriously the public health of his district, of what has been done, and of what is needed to be done in combating these influences. His duty is to inform the Council of the presence of detrimental conditions, and there his responsibility ends—the application of remedies is theirs.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1910.

Area in Acres	4444.298
Population (Census 1901)	37,057
Population (estimated)	45,428
Births registered	1,052
Birth rate per 1,000	23.2
Nett Deaths registered	510
Death rate per 1,000	11.2
Zymotic Death rate	.88
Infantile Mortality per 1,000	92
Annual Rateable Value	£146,300

Chatham is situated on the southern bank of the River Medway. It chiefly extends in two directions—to the south-east and the south-west. The district is very hilly, most of the older houses being in the intervening valleys, whilst the newer ones are built on the higher ground. The geological formation is chalk with a varying depth of overlying soil. In the Luton valley a bed of clay overlies the chalk. Near the river the level of ground water is only about 8 feet from the surface. Most houses, even in the worst parts of the town, have small yards or gardens, and there are very few back-to-back houses. There is a large amount of open space in the district, forming a most valuable asset from a health point of view, although I have heard many people express regret that it is not available for building purposes.

POPULATION.—During the present year there will be a numbering of the people, and the ages, sexes, condition of life, infirmities, etc., of the population living in each locality will be ascertained and set forth with some approach to accuracy. At present we are at the end of an intercensal period, and all our estimates are founded on conjecture. Probably in small districts like this the margin of error will be so slight as not to materially affect the accuracy of our statistics, but in large centres of population the estimates have sometimes been inaccurate to such an extent as to render worthless published comparisons of sickness and mortality between towns. It is easy to conceive that if a district is shown by inaccurate estimates to be healthier than it actually is—it might result in a postponement of sanitary improvements, because their necessity would be less apparent. Sanitary progress is everywhere based on statistical returns, and if they are incorrect in the sense of showing a security which does not exist, then progress is retarded. The census ought to be taken every five years, and for public health purposes would be equally valuable, and certainly more readily obtained if it were less detailed in character at the intermediate enumeration than at the ten year period. My estimate of the population of Chatham up to the middle of 1910 is 45,428. The population is chiefly of the artisan class, mostly employed in the Dockyard, a considerable number of soldiers, sailors, and pensioners, besides which is the trading class and a few people employed in the manufacture of wearing apparel, and in the pursuit of such occupations as are requisite for the general wants of the community.

BIRTHS.—During the fifty-two weeks of the year 1910 the number of births registered was 1,052, of which 516 were males and 536 females. There were 40 illegitimate births—5 in St. Mary's Ward, 28 in Luton Ward, and 7 in St. John's Ward.

Birth Rate 23.2 per 1,000.

This low rate corresponds with the general decline throughout the country.

The following table shows the natural increase of population, that is the increase of Births over Deaths in each division of the Borough—

	Births.	Deaths.	No. of Births over Deaths.
St. Mary's Ward.....	228	117	111
Luton Ward	563	176	387
St. John's Ward	261	125	136
	1052	418	634
Deaths in Institutions		92	92
		510	542

The nett result is an increase of Births over Deaths of 542.

DEATHS.—The nett total of registered deaths during 1910 was 510. In order to arrive at this total it is necessary to correct the returns received from the Registrar, by excluding the deaths of those persons who died in Chatham, but who belong to other localities, and to include such persons as belong to Chatham, but whose deaths have occurred outside the Borough. The former class are known as “non-residents,” the latter as “residents.”

The deaths of “non-residents,” chiefly belonging to the neighbouring Boroughs of Rochester and Gillingham, occurred with one or two exceptions in the Medway Union Workhouse, whilst the deaths of “residents” were in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, St. William's Hospital, and Fort Pitt Military Hospital, all of which are situated in the Rochester registration district. The following table shows the number of deaths during each of the past ten years:—

Year.	Deaths.	Year.	Deaths.
1901	646	1906	560
1902	674	1907	581
1903	574	1908	558
1904	630	1909	517
1905	578	1910	510

The total number of deaths occurring in the Medway Union Infirmary and of a few persons belonging to other places was 178, out of which 95 were “residents” and 83 “non-residents.”

The rate of mortality is 11.2 per 1,000.

In my Report for 1909 I drew attention to the fact that the rate of mortality was the lowest yet recorded, but the record for 1910 is still lower. As will be seen by a reference to Table I., the past few years have shown a gradual and satisfactory decline in the death rate, and although the exceptionally low figures of 1909 and 1910 are pro-

bably due in some measure to the favourable climatic conditions, and to the absence of extremes of temperature leading in the winter months to a lessened amount of Respiratory disease, and in the summer to a lower mortality from Diarrhoeal diseases; still the gradual diminution for a series of years points to other influences, and I am confident that the efforts of the Corporation to deal with insanitary dwellings and surroundings, to destroy or amend the breeding places of disease, and to substitute more favourable conditions, have had a marked effect in the improvement which it is my pleasing duty to record. It is extremely unlikely that the mortality will continue to diminish at a like rate, but it is eminently desirable that effort should continue, that the sanitary welfare of the Borough should ever be the first and most important care of the municipality, and that not only should the present standard of administration be maintained, but that certain notorious omissions should be remedied with the least possible delay.

The following table shows the mortality in England and Wales during 1910, as compared with Chatham:—

	Annual Rates per 1,000 living.			
	Births.	Deaths at all ages.	Principal Epidemic Diseases.	Infant Mortality.
England and Wales	24·8	13·4	0·99	106
77 Great Towns.....	25·0	14·3	1·23	115
136 Smaller Towns	23·7	12·9	0·88	104
England and Wales, (less the 213 towns)	25·0	12·8	0·74	96
CHATHAM	23·2	11·2	0·88	92

The ages at which deaths occurred were as follows:—

Under 1 year	96
1 and under 5 years	48
5 and under 15 years	24
15 and under 25 years	14
25 and under 65 years	177
65 years and upwards	151

The number of deaths registered in different parts of the Borough was as follows:—

St. Mary's Ward	117
Luton Ward	176
St. John's Ward	125
Medway Workhouse	92

The numbers during each quarter of the year were:—

First Quarter	165
Second Quarter	103
Third Quarter	101
Fourth Quarter	141

The numbers registered during each month were:—

January 64, February 49, March 52, April 39, May 34,
June 30, July 33, August 30, September 38, October 50,
November 43, December 48.

In Table I. appended to the Report will be found a comparative statement of births, deaths, and rate of mortality during the past ten years.

By ascertaining the number of inhabited houses in each Ward, and allowing an average number to each house I am able to give an approximate estimate of the mortality in each Ward. Calculated on this basis, the death rate in the several Wards is as follows:—

St. Mary's Ward	11.3
Luton Ward	8.2
St. John's Ward	9.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—The Infantile Mortality, or number of deaths under one year of age to every thousand births registered is 92, as compared with 107 during 1909, 127 during 1908, 124 during 1907, 137 during 1906, 126 during 1905, and 178 during 1904.

I have dealt with the question of Infantile Mortality in previous Reports, to which I would refer you. The decline in the number of infant deaths is a conspicuous feature of the past five years, and whilst briefly indicating the general circumstances affecting infant mortality, I also purpose alluding to the measures which have been adopted in this District to bring about the decline. However good the surroundings, and however careful a mother may be, there will always be a proportionately heavy death rate amongst infants. Premature birth, malformations and congenital defects, hereditary disease, weakness and debility of the parents, account for much unavoidable mortality, and besides this it is obvious even to the most casual observer that amongst many people, especially of the poorer classes, infants do not receive as much care and attention as they require. They are frequently handed from one person to another to be looked after, whilst their responsible guardians are otherwise employed, they are irregularly and improperly fed, and often insufficiently clothed, and under such circumstances there is little wonder that many of them succumb.

Among remedies may be mentioned: greater municipal cleanliness by improved scavenging, the abolition of the old-fashioned ashpit, the more frequent removal of manure and household refuse likely to harbour flies, the paving of yards, and the improvement of much insanitary property, besides which leaflets of instruction on the care and management of infants have been freely distributed during the

past few years. This latter phase of work is now much facilitated by the adoption of the Notification of Births Act, 1907, which came into operation in this Borough on July 5th, 1910. Before entering on an account of the duties performed under this Act, I would say that all the work carried out by outside agencies of this character, although valuable, especially in its educational effect, is insignificant in comparison with the results that can be achieved by a careful mother who nurses her own infant. Over and over again it is noticed that the physical well-being of a child, whether its parents are rich or poor, is in direct proportion to the intelligent care and attention which is given to it, and especially as to whether it is breast-fed or bottle-fed, and I would place natural feeding and personal attention by the mother in front of all other agencies for the preservation of infant life.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT, 1907.—This Act has only been in force in your District for six months, and therefore the data available are not sufficient to enable one to form an accurate judgment as to its effects. By this Act the duty of notifying the birth of an infant is imposed on the father of the child, and on the person in attendance on the mother at, or within six hours after the birth, and in practice this duty falls on the medical attendant or midwife, who must send a prepaid letter or postcard (supplied by the Local Authority) to the Medical Officer of Health within thirty-six hours after the birth.

The Act is permissive in character, but when a Local Authority decides to adopt it, they must satisfy the Local Government Board that they have made suitable arrangements for carrying out its provisions.

This has been done by the appointment of the School Nurse, who, in addition to her duties as such, visits, makes inquiries, gives advice respecting management, and reports particulars of all cases notified under the Act. The procedure adopted, the period of and the number of visits to be paid, and the nature of the advice given, are all in conformity with a schedule of instructions which I drew up, and which received the approval of your Sanitary Committee. In all cases attended by Midwives, four routine visits are paid—first at the end of the first week, when particulars are obtained and recorded, again at the end of the second week, whilst the third and fourth visits are paid at the end of the first and second month. In doctors' cases this routine is modified—fewer visits are paid, and no cases are visited if there is any objection on the part of the parent or medical attendant, nor is advice as to management given during the attendance of the doctor, it being presumed that he is best able to judge of the requirements of the case under his care.

The leaflet issued by the Health Department on the bringing

up of a baby contains advice respecting both natural and artificial feeding, on the preparation and quantities of food, of weaning and feeding afterwards, of things to be avoided, of the proper methods of making and using barley water and lime water, and general directions respecting the eyes, washing, sleep, clothing, fresh air and sunlight, and advice to nursing mothers with regard to their own health.

The total number of Births registered from July 1st to December 31st was 535, and of this number 438 were notified, or 82 per cent. Of these 316 were attended by midwives, and 123 by doctors. The total number of visits paid by the nurse was 1,162. The number of deaths was 14, and there were 18 stillborn. In 11 cases the nurse was refused admission, and 11 removed during visitation, and could not be traced. Fourteen cases were unvisited, six owing to defective address, and eight doctors' cases amongst people of good social position.

Amongst the completed cases 209 mothers were occupied in their own housework only, 22 went out to work, and 16 took in sewing and machine work.

Amongst the finished cases, 27 were noted as showing distinct improvement during visits, and 14 unsatisfactory ones showed no improvement.

Out of the total number notified the Nurse reports 318 as being breast-fed, and this large number is accounted for by the fact that during the first few weeks of life there is nearly always an attempt at breast-feeding. Probably inquiries at the age of six months would show a much smaller proportion. As I have before intimated, the period during which the Act has been in operation is too short to admit of definite conclusions, but the present Nurse, who is most assiduous and painstaking in the discharge of her duties, is of opinion that good will result, and that a number of mothers welcome her visits, and endeavour to carry out the advice she gives.

SEX.—The number of deaths amongst males was 271, and amongst females 239.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.—From this class of diseases, excluding Phthisis, there were 60 deaths, and this low number is doubtless due to the favourable character of the weather, and the absence of extremes of temperature.

During the five previous years the numbers registered were:—

1909	.....	69
1908	.....	83
1907	.....	92
1906	.....	75
1905	.....	93

The deaths were due to the following diseases:—

Bronchitis	34
Pneumonia	24
Other Respiratory Diseases	2

PHTHISIS OR PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.—The number of deaths registered from this cause was 50. During the years 1904 to 1909 inclusive, the deaths were 73, 63, 56, 56, 51, and 39 respectively.

From Tubercular Disease of other parts of the body there were 10 deaths.

PHTHISIS MORTALITY.—1.1 per 1,000. The disease known as Tuberculosis is now receiving much attention, and a vigorous educational campaign is being carried on throughout the country in the hope of arousing the interest and co-operation of all classes in those measures of prevention and treatment which experiment and experience have shown to be of value in combating the ravages of what has not inaptly been termed "The White Scourge."

Tuberculosis is especially associated with insanitary conditions, such as overcrowding, close, dark, and damp dwellings, absence of fresh air circulation, want of sunlight, and the presence of a foul instead of a fresh atmosphere. Given these conditions, disease will flourish, whether they are in homes, workshops, or business premises. Its origin and its spread in individuals are fostered by all debilitating influences, and especially by poverty, intemperance, and insufficient food and clothing. It is propagated by an organism known as the Tubercle Bacillus, which is given off from the lungs, and is contained in the spit or sputum.

It may be also transmitted from animals to man by milk or meat, and the absence of proper air space and ventilation in cowsheds favour its spread amongst animals.

Some people are much more liable to transmit it than others are, and the degree of susceptibility also varies, and it may be very truly said that whilst the presence of a consumptive is always a source of danger, yet the danger can almost be eliminated by the observance of proper precautions on the part of the sufferer and those in association with him.

The root of the evil lies in the presence of vicious domestic conditions, and any attempt on the part of a municipality to abolish slums is an economical measure, because slums mean disease, and it is better to prevent the disease than to maintain the diseased person. The specific measures adopted here are voluntary notification, the distribution of leaflets of instruction, the disinfection of rooms and premises, the provision of bacteriological diagnosis, and of spit bottles

if desired. One great necessity is that of suitable provision for advanced cases, and owing to my recommendation in 1909, the Medway Guardians have made arrangements with their District Medical Officers to admit this class of cases into the Wards of their Infirmary. They may not be curable, but their power of infectivity is removed, and from the excellent results I have seen, I have been greatly impressed by the intelligent and satisfactory provision for Tubercular cases which have been made at that Institution.

The number of voluntary notifications received during 1910 was 40, and compulsory Poor Law cases 34.

In addition to the above information, notices of death are sent by the Registrar, and the houses are disinfected.

The Public Health Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908, provide for the notification to Medical Officers of Health of Sanitary Authorities of cases of Tuberculosis occurring amongst the inmates of Poor Law Institutions, or amongst persons under the care of District Medical Officers, and for the adoption of certain measures of precaution in such cases. Four separate persons are charged with the duties of notification, viz. :—The Medical Officer of a Poor Law Institution in the case of inmates; the District Medical Officer in the case of "poor persons," on whom they are in attendance; Superintending Officers of Poor Law Institutions, in the case of persons leaving the Institution, giving their intended addresses; and Relieving Officers, in cases of change of address.

Under Article IX. of the Regulations, Councils are empowered on the advice of their Medical Officers of Health to take similar measures of destruction or disinfection of infected material, as are authorised in other infectious diseases, and to assist or furnish apparatus to any poor person for the purpose of obviating, diminishing, or removing infection.

In concluding this brief review of the conditions associated with Tuberculosis, I may mention the two chief methods of treatment in vogue at the present day—first by residence in a Sanatorium, the effect of which is two-fold, in that it not only tends to the restoration of health, but that by the lessons learned during residence in one of these institutions, the patient becomes a means of inculcating the value of hygienic habits on others, and second by the formation of Tuberculosis Dispensaries, the underlying idea of which is suitable treatment combined with a system of domiciliary visitation and investigation either by voluntary or official visitors.

HEART DISEASES.—From this cause there were 115 deaths, as compared with 118 during the previous year. All cases of Cerebral Hæmorrhage, which is primarily due to disease of blood vessels, are included under this head.

Cancer and other forms of Malignant Disease caused 31 deaths.

Alcoholism caused 5 deaths.

Diseases of the Nervous System caused 28 deaths, and from Accidents and Suicides there were 23.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES OR ZYMOTICS.—In every Health Report this class of disease calls for special comment, and its prevention is one of the most important duties of a Medical Officer of Health. Table III, appended to this Report gives the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1910 in each division of the Borough. The total number of cases notified was 173. During the past eight years the yearly totals have been as follows:—

1903	.....	235
1904	.....	160
1905	.....	117
1906	.....	302
1907	.....	208
1908	.....	197
1909	.....	194
1910	.....	173

The following Table shows the mortality from diseases of this class and from Enteritis during 1909 and 1910:—

	1909.	1910.	Increase or Decrease.
Scarlet Fever	4	0	—4
Measles	0	0	
Whooping Cough	1	27	+26
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	16	8	—8
Enteric Fever	3	1	—2
Diarrhœa	9	3	—6
Enteritis	18	12	—6

In addition to the Diseases scheduled under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, there are certain non-notifiable diseases, respecting which information is desirable. This is obtained by an arrangement with the Education Department. The Head Teacher at each School forwards every week the names and addresses of such children as are absent on account of Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken Pox, and Mumps, and all children from infected houses are excluded from School until risk of infection is at an end. The spread of these ailments is thus curtailed, and the likelihood of School closure obviated.

With respect to books issued from the Free Library, the Inspector is instructed to enquire at every house where infectious disease is

reported, and if any books are in use they are disinfected before being returned. The Librarian is also informed every week of the names and addresses of such persons as are known to be suffering from infectious disease, and no books are issued to these houses until they are declared to be free from infection. I am not aware of a single instance in which infection is known to have been conveyed by books.

MEASLES.—For the second year in succession this disease was practically non-existent, but as its tendency is to recur about every two or three years this immunity is not likely to be maintained. Of late there has been much discussion in the public Press, not only about its serious and fatal character, which is not open to question, but as to the best means of dealing with it, and especially as to the desirability of making it compulsorily notifiable, and of providing means for the isolation of cases. In connection with the last proposition, there are two very great difficulties which render its attainment, except on a limited scale, an impossibility, one is that its infectivity is most marked in the period preceding the onset of the rash; the other is that it is frequently associated with Bronchitis and Pneumonia, rendering it dangerous to move the patient, and also especially the fact that very many of the cases occur in children of such a tender age that they could not be removed without also taking the mother. To my mind these are insuperable objections to the provision of Hospitals for the treatment of Measles. I do not feel at all certain that compulsory notification would of itself lessen the incidence of this disease. The real difficulty lies in the fact above alluded to, viz., that the disease is infective before the development of the characteristic rash. The plan in operation here has always worked well, and I am also sure that the rule of excluding from school attendance all children under five years of age is attended with benefit, because they are the most susceptible, and show the greatest mortality. As regards the question of school closure, I am of opinion that the greatest benefit is derived from a rigorous exclusion of all children from infected houses, which is of equal or greater service in the prevention of infection than wholesale exclusion of every child by closing the schools, and has the additional advantage of keeping the Medical Officer informed of the various households attacked by Measles.

WHOOPIING COUGH.—This disease, which was almost non-existent during 1909, became prevalent during the first quarter of 1910, and caused 27 deaths. Nearly the whole of these deaths were in children under 2 years of age, and half of them occurred below 12 months. This disease resembles Measles in this respect, viz., that it is most frequent and most fatal during the first two years of life, and also that its fatality is generally due to Bronchitis or Pneumonia, and also in both these diseases the attitude assumed by many parents is

most disastrous in its results, because their danger is not sufficiently realised and guarded against. In every case coming to the notice of the Health Department leaflets of instruction regarding the general management of Measles and Whooping Cough are supplied.

The next group of infectious diseases to be considered is the notifiable group.

SCARLET FEVER.—This disease is one that is never absent from the yearly records of an urban district, although its prevalence is subject to much variation, and it is satisfactory to note that the number of cases notified in 1910 was only 37, and that no deaths occurred. Of these cases 5 were in St. Mary's Ward, 28 in Luton ward, 3 in St. John's Ward, and 1 in the Medway Workhouse. Thirty cases were removed to St. William's Hospital. The following table gives details of Scarlet Fever in Chatham during the past 10 years:—

Year.	Population.	Total No. of cases notified.	No. under 5 years.	Deaths registered.	Treated in Hospital.	Attack rate per 1000 of population.	Mortality per 1000.	Percentage removed to Hospital.
1901	37057	41	10	—	23	1·1	—	56
1902	37732	74	31	1	50	1·9	·002	67
1903	38407	115	55	3	84	2·9	·008	73
1904	39179	61	21	1	47	1·5	·003	77
1905	40938	42	8	—	32	1·02	—	71
1906	41594	200	54	1	149	4·8	·002	75
1907	42134	81	33	4	67	1·9	·009	83
1908	42971	81	29	—	56	1·8	—	69
1909	43831	87	31	4	63	1·9	·009	70
1910	45428	37	5	—	30	0·8	—	81

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.—These diseases are similar in character, and the term Membranous Croup is used solely for cases in which the larynx is affected, and in which the sufferer is in imminent danger of suffocation. The number of cases notified was 77, and there were 8 deaths.

The numbers occurring in each locality were:—

St. Mary's Ward	10
Luton Ward	39
St. John's Ward	28

The numbers affected at different ages were:—

Under 1 year	1
1 to 5 years	21
5 to 15 years	50
15 to 25 years	3
23 to 65 years	2

The following Table shows the number of cases and deaths from Diphtheria during the past ten years:—

Year.	Cases notified.	Deaths.
1901	80	9
1902	35	7
1903	26	3
1904	26	2
1905	25	2
1906	29	3
1907	30	4
1908	34	7
1909	65	16
1910	77	8

Although there is a slight increase in the notifications as compared with 1909, the mortality is considerably less, and I am inclined to ascribe some advantage to two causes—first to the increasing use of Bacteriological diagnosis, and second to its logical sequence—the administration of Antitoxin. In 45 instances medical men have sent specimens for Bacteriological examination, and in 19 of these Diphtheria Bacilli were present, whilst in 26 there were no positive results obtained. Without the opportunity of verifying the diagnosis in this manner it is probable that all these cases would have been notified, and that many of them would have been removed for treatment at the Infectious Diseases Hospital. The saving to the community by the adoption of these measures is very considerable, and I am glad to note an increasing tendency on the part of the medical profession to avail itself of them. Whilst on this subject I may mention that the County Medical Officer of Health is proposing to establish a County Bacteriological Laboratory, the use of which will be available for all Local Authorities in Kent, without any charge, and as this scheme is practically certain of general support, there is every likelihood that it will be adopted and will shortly be in working order.

By the Diphtheria Antitoxin Order, 1910, Local Authorities are empowered to supply Antitoxin free of charge to all persons who are unable to pay but are not in receipt of parish relief. Your Council have decided to leave the question in the hands of the medical men, feeling confident that they can determine who is or is not appropriate, but in the event of the eligibility of anyone being questioned they reserve the right of inquiry. Supplies can be obtained at the Town Hall by application to the Sanitary Inspector, and in issuing Antitoxin free of charge it is the desire of the Council to facilitate its prompt administration. I cannot advocate too strongly the desirability of using Antitoxin as early as possible in suspected cases, for even if the disease turns out not to be Diphtheria it does no harm,

and when the diagnosis is correct the chances of recovery are much greater when Antitoxin has been administered in the early stages of the disease.

ENTERIC FEVER.—The number of cases notified was 25, and 21 were removed to the Hospital for treatment. There was 1 death. In 23 instances the blood was submitted for Bacteriological examination. In 12 cases a negative result was obtained, and 11 proved to be true Enteric Fever. Routine inquiries are made in all cases, and where insanitary conditions are found they are remedied. In connection with outbreaks of Enteric Fever the occasional presence of so-called "carrier cases" must be borne in mind. Recent investigations have shown that in some instances patients who have recovered from this disease continue to discharge in their stools abundant infective material, and this infectivity often lasts for prolonged periods without any symptoms in the individual.

DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS.—From these causes 15 deaths were registered, 3 being due to Diarrhœa and 12 to Enteritis. It is very satisfactory to be able to record such a marked decline in the incidence and mortality of these diseases, and doubtless this result is largely due to the low summer temperature, combined with increased rainfall, and in some measure to the vigorous efforts made to lessen its prevalence by removing insanitary conditions, and by instructing mothers in the management of their infants.

The great cause of these intestinal disorders amongst many young children lies undoubtedly in the method of feeding, putrefying food being the vehicle by which the specific poison is introduced into the stomach, and the more artificial feeding can be checked, and breast feeding substituted, the greater are the child's chances of avoiding Zymotic Diarrhœa.

Of Erysipelas there were 34 notifications, and 2 deaths.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—There are 80 beds available for the isolation of infectious disease, with separate blocks for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever. The Hospital is for the joint use of Rochester and Chatham. Its value is fully recognised by the public, and 72 per cent. of the cases notified were sent there for treatment. There is seldom any difficulty in getting people to avail themselves of this institution, nor is there any form of municipal expenditure in which the direct benefits both to the recipient and the community are more marked.

PLAGUE.—The occurrence of cases of Plague in the East of England has drawn attention to the possibility of an outbreak of this disease in other parts of the country, and two important memoranda

were issued in November by the Local Government Board and the Board of Agriculture respectively. The memorandum deals with the symptoms, diagnosis, method of spread, and source of Plague, and with the precautions required to prevent its spread. The disease has been shown conclusively to be one of rats, which occasionally attacks man through the agency of a certain species of flea which normally affects rats, but may also feed upon man, and the precautions to be taken against the disease consist of notification, Bacteriological diagnosis, the isolation and observation of contacts, the production of personal immunity by a prophylactic vaccine amongst those exposed to infection, the disinfection and destruction of infective material, the removal of garbage and all heaps of refuse from near houses, and, above all, the systematic and continuous destruction of rats. The memorandum summarises the most important recommendations as follows:—

1st.—Persistently and systematically destroy all rats.

2nd.—Remove and obliterate their nests, burrows, and habitual haunts, and

3rd.—Make each dwelling as far as practicable rat proof, and remove all known harbourage for rats in or near dwellings.

4th.—At the same time do not allow waste food (whether for human beings, chickens, or other animals) to accumulate in or about the house.

The other memorandum issued by the Board of Agriculture deals with the most effective methods of exterminating rats.

The Local Government Board have also issued Regulations empowering Local Authorities to take measures to carry out the recommendations of the memorandum, by appointing such additional officers or servants as they may deem necessary, and to count the expenses as part of their general expenses in the execution of the Public Health Acts.

DISINFECTION.—This is carried out as a routine measure in all notified cases of infectious disease. After the removal or recovery of a patient the rooms are fumigated with Formic Aldehyde or Sulphurous Acid Gas, and infected clothing or bedding is removed in a specially constructed van to the Disinfecting Station, where it is subjected to the action of superheated steam in a Thresh's Steam Disinfecting Apparatus. In all cases where it is found advisable to destroy infected material, adequate compensation is paid.

The Borough possesses its own Ambulance for the removal of patients, and the interior of the vehicle is fumigated and cleansed after the removal of every case. Should the entire disinfection of a house be necessary, a shelter is available for the temporarily homeless family. The total number of houses disinfected was 184, details

of which appear in the report of the Inspector of Nuisances, which is annexed.

SCHOOLS AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—There is no more important subject than that of the relation of schools to infectious disease, because it is at the School, where large numbers of susceptible children are aggregated, that the greatest facilities for the spread of infection exist, and the problem to be met is "How to prevent the spread of disease without interfering with the work of education." The first thing to be done is to exclude not only the infected child, but all other children from the same house, and such others as may have been in contact. It is very desirable that school teachers and school attendance officers should regularly supply to the Health Department lists of absentees, which, when epidemic disease is present, will materially help a Health Officer in taking measures for its suppression. Further, as teachers themselves are in the best position for noting the onset of illness amongst scholars, it is desirable that they should have some guidance as to the symptoms of commencing infectious disease, and to the appearances manifested by children who have recently passed through the acute stages. In 1909 a schedule was supplied to each school showing (a) mode of onset; (b) incubation period; (c) day of appearance of rash; (d) period of isolation. (1) for those attacked; (2) for those exposed to attack, in the case of all the commoner infectious diseases. In connection with the occurrence of several cases of Diphtheria during the months of November and December, the throats of several children attending the same school as some of the patients were examined, and in four cases swabs were taken for Bacteriological examination, which fortunately gave a negative result.

There has been no necessity to resort to School Closure during 1910, and if the measures above indicated are strictly observed, I do not think it likely to arise.

HOUSING.—This subject has as usual received considerable attention during the year, and the fact that insanitary property does and will exist in every district is not necessarily the fault of the Local Sanitary Authority, although it is their duty to so inspect and supervise that there shall be as little as possible of it. Houses are like individuals, that is they get the worse for wear, and when there is much old property such as we have in Chatham, each year brings greater difficulties in keeping it up to a decent standard of repair and cleanliness. Year after year I keep inspecting and reporting on the defects of certain houses, with the usual result that the owner is served with a notice to carry out measures of repair, etc., and it is astonishing what can be done in the way of amendment to apparently hopeless dwellings, but if he commits the error of letting them to dirty

tenants, one finds that after a short time the same insanitary and deplorable conditions are again present.

The real trouble as regards the question of suitable and sanitary house accommodation is that of the lazy, filthy, gossiping, and often intemperate occupiers. There is in the present day abundant denunciation of the evils of our social system, but the causes as well as the effects need inquiry. As regards the class of people just mentioned, the more that is done for them the less they seem to do for themselves, and they become increasingly dependent and unreliable. They are in constant need of inspection by sanitary officials, they are much looked after by religious and social workers, whose advice is kindly and well meant, and whose self-denying work is beyond all praise; but looking at the subject from a practical point of view I fail to see that these people try to respond to all the efforts made for their welfare, and are evidently imbued with the idea that the poorer, dirtier, and more degraded they appear, the more likely they are to secure the sympathy and help of the charitably disposed. Plenty of powers exist for the compulsory amendment and closure of insanitary dwellings, and the next legislative step should be the punishment of the wilfully filthy and neglectful tenant. I can see no other remedy for a condition which is becoming intolerable. They should be debarred from the privileges of other citizens, disqualified for outdoor relief, or other forms of charity, and from any office or employment paid for out of rates—in other words they ought to belong to a scheduled class—when perhaps they would learn to appreciate the many privileges which a cleaner and better mode of life would bring them. In saying this I must not be supposed to be in opposition to the cry for providing suitable dwelling accommodation—on the contrary I am convinced that the abolition of the so-called slum is a vital necessity, and I am equally confident that the work which has been done in the direction of improving house accommodation has been attended with the most beneficial results to the public health, and should be continued; but it is extremely disheartening to find that property which at considerable expense to the owner is put into a decent habitable condition soon becomes just as bad as ever, owing to reasons to which I have above alluded. For this the neglectful tenant deserves condemnation just as much as does the neglectful owner. In endeavouring to secure healthy dwellings, the following considerations must be borne in mind, and may be regarded as necessities:—Every house should have a good supply of light; there should be facilities for the free circulation of air, and it should be dry. Yards and passages should be properly paved and drained, closet accommodation should be of a suitable and sufficient character; there should be an adequate supply of pure water for each dwelling, with good drainage, and suitable arrangements for the disposal of ashes and refuse, and also a place where food can be decently stored.

It is clearly the duty of a Sanitary Authority to see that the above conditions are complied with, and it is only fair to say that the majority of owners will endeavour to comply with them, but there are others with whom difficulty arises, in a few instances from sheer obstinacy, but as a rule because of poverty. It is a fact that some of the worst property belongs to people who have very little means, and who are endeavouring to live on the difference between the rent and the interest payable on the mortgage, and it is obvious that people of this type allow their property to get into defective repair, because they cannot afford to do anything else. There is another class of small owner, who makes his houses quite a lucrative investment, by catering for a class of people who do not possess any goods of their own, and who can neither afford to rent or to furnish a house. This individual owns or rents a cottage with four or five rooms, which he lets separately as furnished tenements at sums varying from 2s. 6d. to 5s. a week. The usual furniture consists of a small deal table, a couple of chairs, a rickety iron bedstead, and a piece of dirty carpet, and your Sanitary Committee will recollect various instances of this character which I have brought before them. In connection with this form of habitation it is a matter for regret that your Council failed to adopt bye-laws for houses let in lodgings, and I trust that they will give further consideration to this important matter.

During the early months of the year all proceedings for the improvement of dwellings unfit for human habitation were taken under Sec. 32 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, but more recently since the issue of the Housing Regulations in September, 1910—dealing with the procedure to be adopted under Sec. 17, Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909—unhealthy houses have been dealt with under this latter section.

Under Sec. 17 of this Act it becomes the duty of every Local Authority to make inspections of their district, with a view to ascertain if any dwelling house therein is in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, and on the representation of the Medical Officer of Health, or other Officer designated, if a dwelling appears to be in such a state, it shall be their duty to make a closing order, until in the judgment of the Local Authority a dwelling is rendered fit for that purpose. The difference between the old Act and the new is that closing orders under the former were made by a Court of Summary Jurisdiction; now they will be made by the Local Authority. The closing order does not become operative for 14 days, and during that period the owner has a right of appeal.

Another Section (15) of the Housing and Town Planning Act is designed to secure that houses during the holding shall be kept by the landlord in all respects reasonably fit for habitation, and it provides machinery for remedying any default on part of the landlord.

Under Section 30 Housing of the Working Classes Act, 10 houses in Solomon's Terrace were put into a habitable condition, and the order discharged, and 1 house on The Mount was also made fit for habitation.

Total under Housing of Working Classes Act, 11.

Under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 32 houses were reported, 4 were pulled down, 6 put into a habitable condition, and 22 have been served with closing orders, but up to the 31st December no further action has been taken.

The work of house to house inspection commenced in 1908 has been continued, and the total number visited during 1910 was 1,026. Many defects have been remedied, and the following work has been carried out:—

Number of houses cleaned and limewashed ...	62
Yards repaired	79
Drains relaid	85
Bell traps replaced by gullies	26
Roofs repaired	30
Broken floors and ceilings repaired	38

One phase of housing accommodation in connection with Gipsies was the subject of a special report to your Committee, and advantage was taken of the Housing and Town Planning Act to declare four wooden sheds unfit for habitation and to make closing orders. There is a large collection of vans used as dwellings on the Ash Tree Road and on Beacon Road, and they are for the most part situated on privately owned ground. The occupiers of these vans usually disregard such sanitary requirements as are enforced in connection with ordinary dwellings, and if they adhered to their original habit of constantly moving from place to place there would be less objection to their occasional presence in the district. As it is, the majority of them are more or less permanent residents of a type and character that need constant supervision. In consequence of my report orders were given to carry out the provisions of the Bye-laws with respect to the promotion of cleanliness and a habitable condition, and for the prevention of nuisances. These people are invariably dirty in their habits, and live under conditions which would be very detrimental to health if they were not to some extent counteracted by the open-air life they lead. They can only be tolerated by a rigorous enforcement of such regulations and provisions of the Public Health Acts as are applicable to them.

WATER SUPPLY.—I am again able to report most favourably on the Water Supply of the district, which is abundant in quantity, and perfectly wholesome as a beverage, its only defect being that of hardness, which fortunately does not impair its quality for drinking

purposes. The supply is obtained from deep borings in the chalk, supplemented by an additional supply from the lower greensand. The borings are in the Luton valley, whence the water is raised by powerful pumps to the storage reservoirs, whose joint capacity is about 9,000,000 gallons. Two of these are situated on the Rainham Road, and one on the Maidstone Road. The supply is a constant one, and owing to the depth of the borings the risk of contamination is very slight, but too much care cannot be exercised in regard to cesspits constructed in the vicinity of the Waterworks. It is the custom to dig cesspools to a depth of 20 or more feet into the porous chalk, and in this area it is of the greatest importance that they should be made absolutely watertight.

There are no shallow wells remaining in the town. I believe the present consumption of water in the Borough averages about 16 gals. per head of population, but in the event of the adoption of a water carriage system of sewerage a much larger quantity would be required.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—Year after year this subject crops up for consideration, and there is a general concensus of opinion that the absence of a proper system of main drainage is the great blot upon this district. The present method of storing excrementitious matter in holes dug in the ground cannot be defended. It is true that considerable percolation takes place through the porous chalk, and that many cesspits go for years without requiring attention, and it is also true that a vast amount of time and labour is expended on emptying them. This work is carried on by day and night, because it is absolutely essential that when full they should be attended to as quickly as possible. Your Council is fully alive to its responsibilities in this matter, and I think it is owing to the efficient manner in which this work is carried out that untoward results as regards the health of the community have not occurred. One disadvantage of the present system is that it takes up at last 50 per cent. of an Inspector's time; another is the constant nuisance caused by the process of emptying and carting night soil through the streets, and I feel confident that its continuance can but retard the development of the locality. Your Main Drainage Committee has inspected various sites for sewage works during the year, and I believe are at present awaiting a reply from the Admiralty as to whether they object to the proposed site. Considering that the naval establishments in this district are at present putting a large quantity of crude sewage into the river, it would be ludicrous if they objected to a treated effluent. I venture to again express the hope that some decided action may soon take place, and would like to see a joint scheme inaugurated between the adjoining Boroughs of Rochester and Chatham.

With regard to house drains, great care is exercised in their construction and supervision. All plans are submitted to your Medical

Officer, and drains are inspected and tested by your Inspector before they are covered in.

CLEANSING AND SCAVENGING.—The removal of house refuse is carried out under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor. A daily removal takes place in the busier and more central parts of the town; in others the carts call three days a week. All fixed ashpits have been done away with, and it is the duty of the householder to keep a suitable covered receptacle for house refuse, and to place it on the footpath outside his dwelling before the time fixed for collection. I have constantly alluded to the objectionable and unsuitable nature of many of these receptacles, and either the owner or occupier of every dwelling should be compelled to provide a properly covered bin. The present method of removal is an admirable one in that it gets rid of much material which would rapidly putrify if stored near dwellings, and it is a pity that its efficacy should be marred for the want of proper sanitary bins. Your Council have at last taken action in this important matter, and have decided to enforce the provisions contained in the bye-laws with respect to the provision of suitable covered receptacles.

The refuse is disposed of by being carted to the confines of the Borough, where a portion of it is used for manurial purposes, and the rest is burned. The most sanitary method of dealing with town refuse is by a Destructor, but this we do not yet possess.

Fish offal is removed daily in covered bins, which are placed in a closed van. Each bin and the interior of the van is cleansed daily, and no nuisance results.

Under Sec. 49, P.H.A., instructions are given to proprietors of stables, etc., for a strict periodical removal of manure, at least once in seven days.

I look upon the frequent and efficient removal of refuse as one of the most important duties of a Sanitary Authority. Refuse and manure heaps are the breeding grounds of flies, and the presence of these insects in large numbers is a sure indication of filth in the vicinity. Not only do they convey filth to food stuffs, but they also carry the germs of infectious disease from the sick to the healthy. The spraying of manure pits with lime would be a useful measure, especially during the summer months.

The various proceedings taken for the amendment of nuisances will be found in the Inspector's report, which is appended.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—The number of these places on the Register is 16. As might be expected, they are in the poorest parts of the town, and are all in St. Mary's Ward. The majority of them provide accommodation for men only, and I think of late

years that the number of beds for married couples has declined. Many of the lodgers are more or less permanent, several of them being navvies or general labourers. Under the Bye-laws it is incumbent on every lodging-house keeper to at once report every case of infectious sickness to the Medical Officer of Health. During 1910 no such cases have occurred. All common lodging-houses are periodically inspected, and breaches of the regulations are very infrequent. Under the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907, greatly improved powers of control now exist. Not only must the owner be registered, but his deputy also, and the person in charge must be in attendance daily, from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. The Local Authority have power to cancel the name of any objectionable person from the Register, and if a keeper of a Common Lodging House is convicted of any offence under the Bye-laws his name may be removed from the Register. Of late years there has been an increase in the practice of sub-letting parts of houses, but as they are not registered I am unable to specify the exact number. At present we have 57 listed as being used in this way, 9 of them being back-to-back houses. I have alluded to this matter under the subject of Housing.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—There are 16 registered, of which 3 are not now in use. One slaughter house is licensed. All recently-erected slaughter houses are to be licensed, and subjected to annual renewal, which depends on the satisfactory observance of regulations by the occupier. They are all regularly inspected, and frequent surprise visits are paid. Generally speaking they are well kept, but when neglect has been apparent the matter has been reported to your Sanitary Committee, and the requisite action taken. It is regrettable that private slaughter houses continue to exist, and the provision of a Public Abattoir would be a great advantage, on the grounds of better supervision and more suitable construction, of doing away with the nuisance of sheep and cattle in the busy parts of the town, of the removal of blood and offal through the streets, and most certainly a check would be put on the slaughter of inferior and unsound animals, thus securing to the public a better guarantee of wholesome meat. A case which occurred during the year, and for which a conviction was obtained, was an object lesson as to the way in which an unscrupulous dealer can dispose of meat through the agency of a private slaughter house.

Two carcasses of beef were seized and condemned on account of Tuberculosis.

UN SOUND FOOD.—Under Sec. 117 Public Health Act, 1875, the following seizures of unsound food were made:—

- 2 Forequarters Beef.
- 2 Hindquarters Beef.

- 2 Carcases Beef (Tubercle).
- 32 Baskets of Potatoes.
- 25 Foreign Rabbits.
- 11 Trunks of Fish.
- 50 Geese.
- A Quantity of Bananas.

BYE-LAWS.—The following Bye-laws and Regulations are in use:—

1. New Streets and Buildings.
2. Drainage of existing buildings.
3. The cleansing of footways and pavements, the removal of house refuse, the cleansing of earth closets, privies, ashpits, and cesspools.
4. Nuisances.
5. The removal of offensive matter through the streets.
6. The duties of the occupier in respect of house refuse.
7. Offensive trades.
8. Slaughter houses.
9. Common lodging houses.
10. Tents, vans, sheds, and similar structures used for human habitation.
11. Mortuary regulations.
12. Dairies, cowsheds, and milkshop regulations.

In addition to the compulsory Acts concerned with Public Health the following adoptive Acts are in use:—

- Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1840.
- Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.
- Public Health Acts Amendment, 1907.
- Notification of Births Act, 1907.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILK SHOPS.—Number of registered Cowkeepers, 13; number of registered Dairymen and Purveyors of Milk, 47. During the year 3 registered Cowkeepers have ceased to keep cows, and 2 new dairies have been built.

The regulations issued by the Local Government Board in connection with the above are for prescribing and regulating the lighting, ventilation, cleansing, drainage, and water supply of Cowsheds and Dairies, and for securing the cleanliness of Milk Stores, Milk Shops, and Milk Vessels used for containing milk for sale by persons following the trade of Cowkeepers and Dairymen, and for prescribing precautions to be taken by purveyors of milk and persons selling milk by retail against infection or contamination.

The procedure adopted in regard to licensing and registration of

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops is unchanged, and is in accordance with the provisions of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Order, 1885.

Cowsheds, etc., have been regularly and frequently inspected both by myself and by your Inspectors during the year, and in addition your Veterinary Inspector reports every month on the condition of the milch cows.

These inspections are necessary in the interests of the consumer, and also in the interests of the honest trader who owns cows and who desires to conduct his business with a reasonable regard to the public welfare. This inspection and control can only be exercised over cowsheds situated in the Borough, but much of the milk sold in the town is either brought in from outlying rural districts or comes in by rail from long distances. Over this portion of the milk supply very little control can be exercised, and one of the greatest needs in connection with the production and distribution of milk is that of uniformity of control, because obvious unfairness is caused when the conditions in one district are rigorous and in another lax or non-existent. The pressure of public opinion would be of the greatest service in stimulating all those who are concerned in the production and distribution of milk to maintain a higher standard than now exists, but the average consumer is most apathetic about the handling of what he eats or drinks, and I should think it is a most rare event for anyone to visit the cowshed or dairy from which he obtains his milk supply.

The National League for Physical Education and Improvement have recently published three excellent leaflets, which ought to be widely circulated in every district. Leaflet A, addressed to Farmers and other Milk Producers, deals with the chief sources of contamination of milk and how to avoid them in the cow, the cowshed, the milker, the utensils, and the storage. Leaflet B, to Distributors and Retailors of Milk, gives instructions for ensuring the supply of clean milk to the consumer, and Leaflet C, to Housewives and all Consumers of Milk, deals with the sources of contamination in the home and their prevention.

Many small general shops sell milk, and although they are registered and inspected it is almost an impossibility to secure satisfactory conditions in them. Usually very small quantities are kept and sold, and as a rule it is stored in an open vessel with an inadequate cover. This stands in the shop along with the varied assortment of goods which these places usually contain, and in the course of the day must receive no small amount of deleterious matter. The following regulation is in force, and is designed to prevent this contamination:—
“Every purveyor of milk, or persons selling milk by retail, shall cause every vessel containing milk for sale to be kept properly covered, or the milk in such vessel to be otherwise sufficiently protected from contamination by dust and flies, or other deleterious matter.”

SCHOOLS.—Your Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Officer, and in both capacities is concerned with the sanitary conditions of the public elementary schools in his district. An account of these conditions is included in the Report of the School Medical Officer. The action taken in respect to the spread of infectious disease in schools is alluded to in the present Report when dealing with the subject of infectious diseases.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.—A factory is defined as a place where mechanical power is used for manufacturing processes.

A workshop includes premises (not being factories), in which manual labour is exercised, and over which the employer of the persons working there has right of control.

A workplace is a place where work is done permanently, and where people assemble together to do work permanently of some kind or other.

Under Sec. 132 of the above Act it is the duty of the Medical Officer of Health of every District Council to report specifically on the administration of this Act in Workshops and Workplaces, and to include his observations thereon in his Annual Report. A Table is issued by the Home Office, containing such particulars as lend themselves to statistical treatment, which has been filled in and appended to this report.

The chief points to be noted are in connection with the sanitary administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, so far as its provisions are concerned with the duties of District Councils.

They may be summarised as follows:—

1. Sanitary condition of Workshops and Workplaces, including:—

- (a) Cleanliness.
- (b) Air space.
- (c) Ventilation.
- (d) Drainage of floors on which wet processes are carried on.
- (e) Provision of suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences.

2. Special sanitary provisions for Bakehouses.

3. The prevention of home work being carried on in dwellings which are injurious or dangerous to the health of the workers through overcrowding, want of ventilation, or other sanitary defects, or in dwellings in which notifiable infectious disease exists.

4. The keeping of lists of Outworkers in certain branches of industry, which are furnished by employers, and the transmission of the name and place of any such Outworker who does not reside in the district, to the Council of the district in which he resides.

5. Keeping of a Register of Workshops.

In the Home Office Table, which is attached, will be found particulars of a general nature respecting the number of inspections made, and the defects found and remedied. The subjoined particulars respecting various industries carried on in the Borough are supplemented to those recorded in the Home Office Table.

The total number of Workshops registered at the end of the year is 393, including:—

Tenement Workshops	none
Retail Bakehouses	27
Domestic Workshops	67
Workshop Laundries	8
Other Workshops	291

In addition there are 3 Factory Laundries.

The total number of Non-Textile Factories on the Register is 31; of Workshops employing men only 162; and of Workplaecs 88.

The WORKSHOPS comprise the following trades:—Bootmakers, 6; Brass Finishers and Pewterers, 2; Blind Makers, 2; Clay-pipe Makers, 1; Coopers, 1; Cycle Works, 4; Coach Builders and Wheelwrights 8; Cabinet Makers, 10; Carpenters and Joiners, 20; Hoop Makers, 2; Masons, 2; Modellers, 1; Ornamental Masons, 2; Polishers, 7; Painters, 12; Picture Frame Makers, 12; Plumbers, 7; Saddlers, 10; Sweet Makers, 4; Smiths, 6; Tailors 26; Tin Smiths, 6; Upholsterers, 7; Undertakers, 2.

NON-TEXTILE FACTORIES.—Bakehouses, 2; Bootmakers, 2; Electrical Works, 1; Engineering, 1; Flour, 2; Joinery, 5; Laundries, 3; Mineral Water Works, 5; Printing, 6; Soap, 1; Sausage Making, 2; Tobacco, 1.

WORK PLACES.—Bottling, 5; Bootmaking, 23; Gate Making, 4; Wharves, 8; Hair Cutting, 36; Stables, 12.

Notices issued respecting defects, 31.

The following defects were remedied:—

Want of Cleanliness	19
Want of Ventilation	3
Overcrowding	2
Want of separate Sanitary Accommodation ...	2

OUTWORKERS.—These are mostly females, employed in the manufacture of wearing apparel. The supervision of their homes is most important, and is in order to secure cleanliness and to prevent infectious disease. Attention to domestic cleanliness is often lacking,

because of the time given to this work, and in many instances it is doubtful whether the small sums earned by the workers, if set against the loss caused by neglect of home duties, would not show a balance on the wrong side.

The total number of Outworkers registered during the year was 598.

The number of employers returning lists of Outworkers was 10, and of contractors 2. These lists have to be sent in twice yearly during February and August. In cases of omission comply notes are issued, and there has been no necessity for prosecution. The number of Outworkers residing outside the district was 86. Their names were notified to the respective Authorities of the districts in which they reside. From other Authorities 16 names of Outworkers residing in the district, but doing work for outside employers, were received.

During the year 536 visits were paid to the homes of Outworkers. No notices in respect of unwholesome premises were issued, but in 9 instances work was prohibited on account of infectious disease.

The number of Outworkers above given is exclusive of a large number employed by the Royal Marines. These are all relatives of men in the Corps, but the Local Authority are not in possession of their names and addresses, as in the case of other Outworkers. In the month of December a case of Diphtheria was notified, and owing to the fact that 3 women who received work from the Royal Marine Barracks were reported to have visited the infected house, I brought the matter before your Sanitary Committee, and at their request had an interview with the Colonel Commandant as to the desirability of supplying the Local Authority with the names and addresses of Outworkers, so that they might be inspected and supervised in the same manner as others. He expressed his concurrence with these views, and promised to submit them to the Authorities for their approval, but up to the present no definite reply has been received.

In the following return will be found particulars of various trades in which women and young persons are employed:—

	Women.	Young Persons.
Bookbinding	14	4
Clothing	349	72
Dressmaking	241	99
Fancy Needlework	1	1
Laundry	82	8
Millinery	52	56
Rag Sorting	9	0
Shirt Making	28	2

In the Act a young person is defined as one who is over 14 and under 18 years of age.

The Special Sections of the Act dealing with the question of Sanitary Accommodation are inoperative in this district, and all offences are dealt with under Section 22 Public Health Amendment Act, 1890. Under this Section the Borough Surveyor is the official specially charged with dealing with the provisions of the Section in regard to sufficiency and suitability.

BAKEHOUSES.—The number of Bakehouses on the Register is 27. There are 2 Factory Bakehouses and 10 underground Bakehouses.

Bakehouses are the subject of special sanitary regulations as set out in Sections 97 to 102 of the Factory and Workshop Act. Under these regulations Closets must not communicate directly with, nor must there be any drains opening into a Bakehouse, and the cistern supplying water to a Bakehouse must be separate and distinct from the w.c. cistern. The inside walls and ceilings of Bakehouses must be limewashed or painted with oil and varnished, and the limewashing and cleansing of paint must be done every six months. No sleeping place is permitted on the same floor as a Bakehouse, unless constructed according to the requirements of the Act.

The underground Bakehouses were all in use before the passing of the Act, but it was enjoined in Section 101 that no underground Bakehouses should be used after January 1st, 1904, unless certain stipulations as to light, ventilation, and construction, were carried out.

An average of six visits is made to each Bakehouse during the year, and the majority are clean and well kept. In 3 instances neglect of limewashing was found, and notices were issued.

In conclusion, I beg to thank the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee for the courtesy and consideration they have always shown to me personally, and for the manner in which they have received and acted upon the various recommendations I have brought before them. My thanks are also due to Mr. Coles Finch for particulars of rainfall during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

J. HOLROYDE, F.R.C.S.E., D.P.H.

Chatham,
February 14th, 1911.

Appended are Tables I., II., III., IV., and V., issued by the Local Government Board.

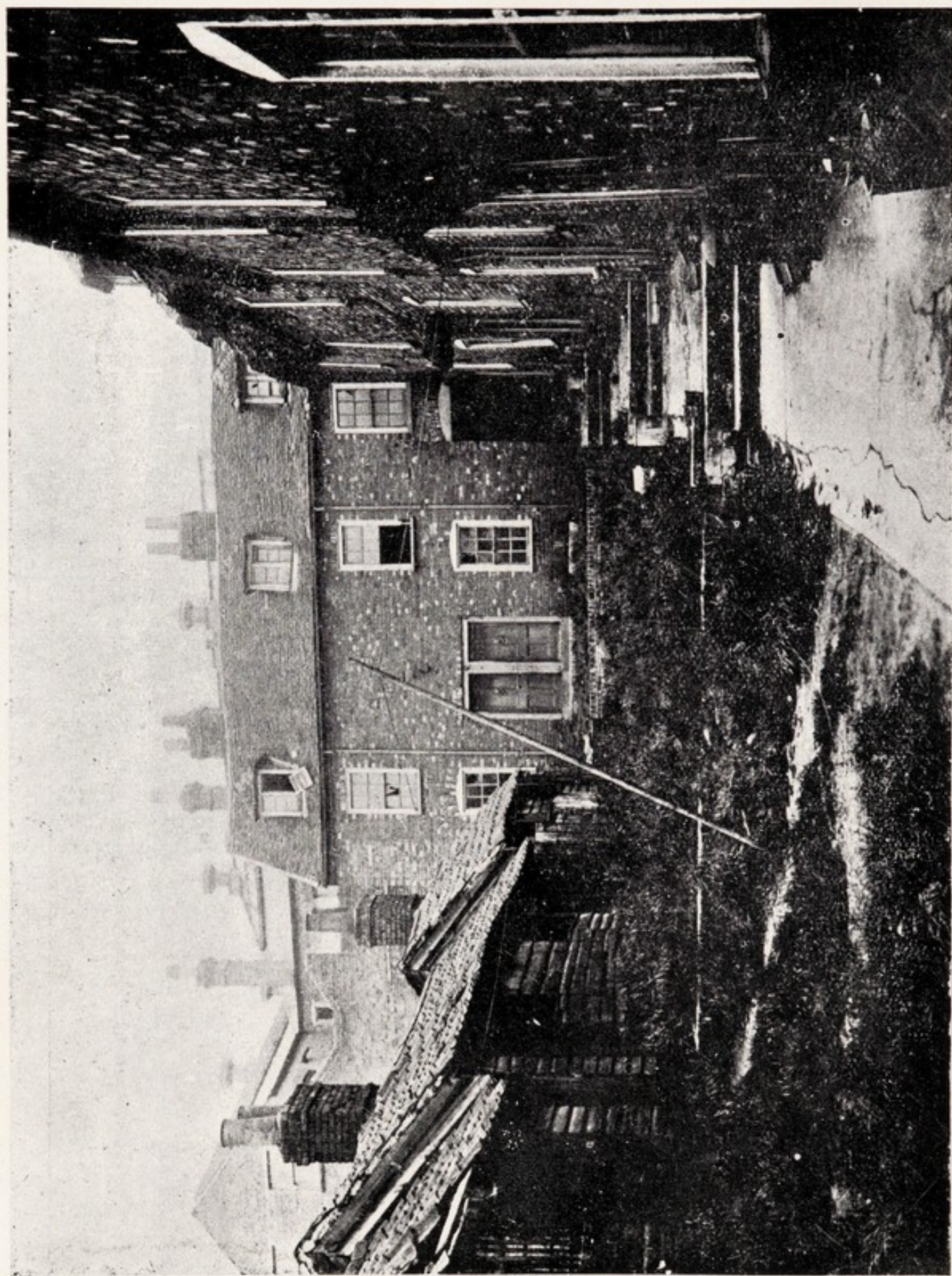
Home Office Table for returns under Factory and Workshop Act.

Statistics of Rainfall.

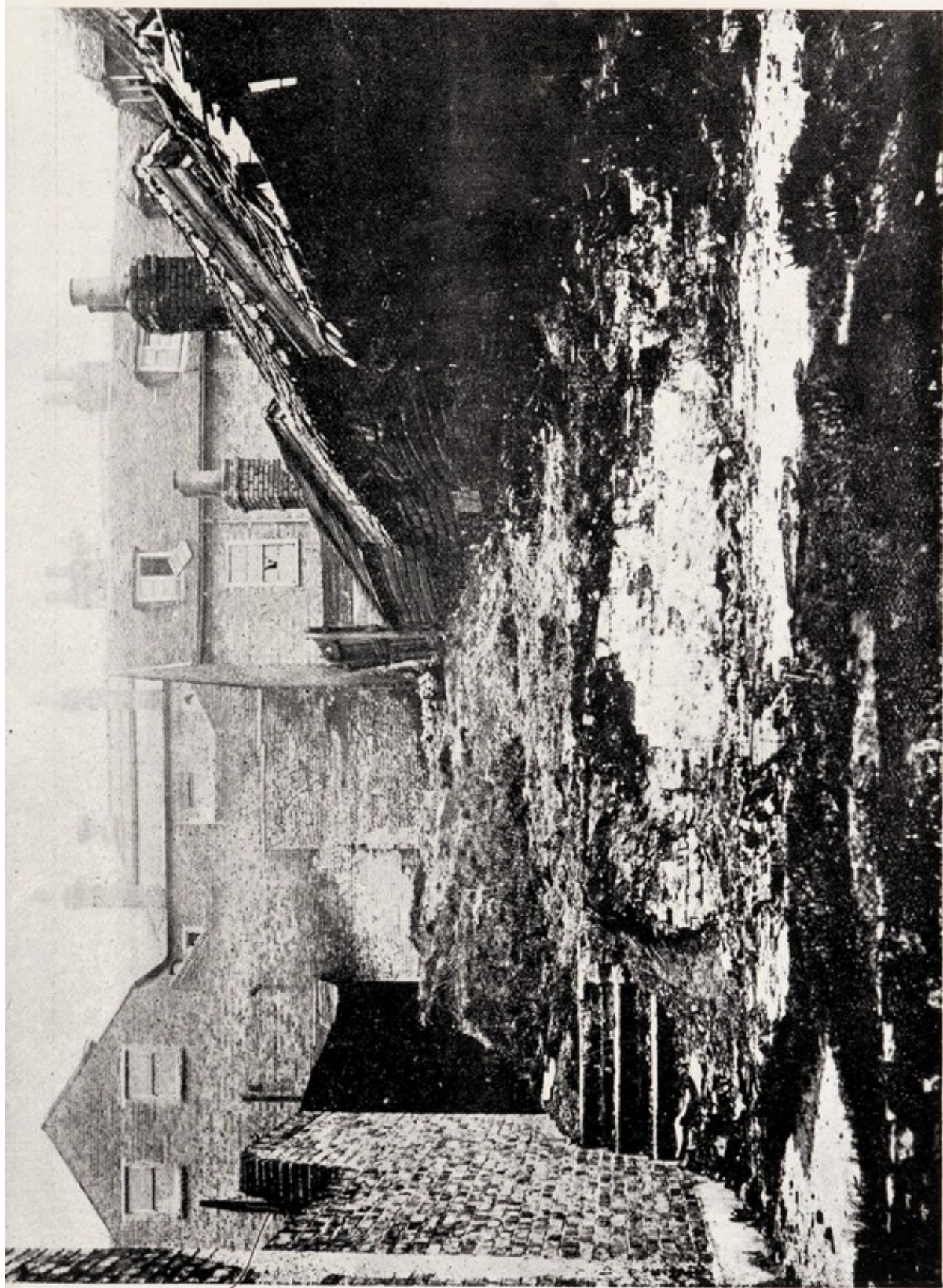
Report of Inspector of Nuisances.



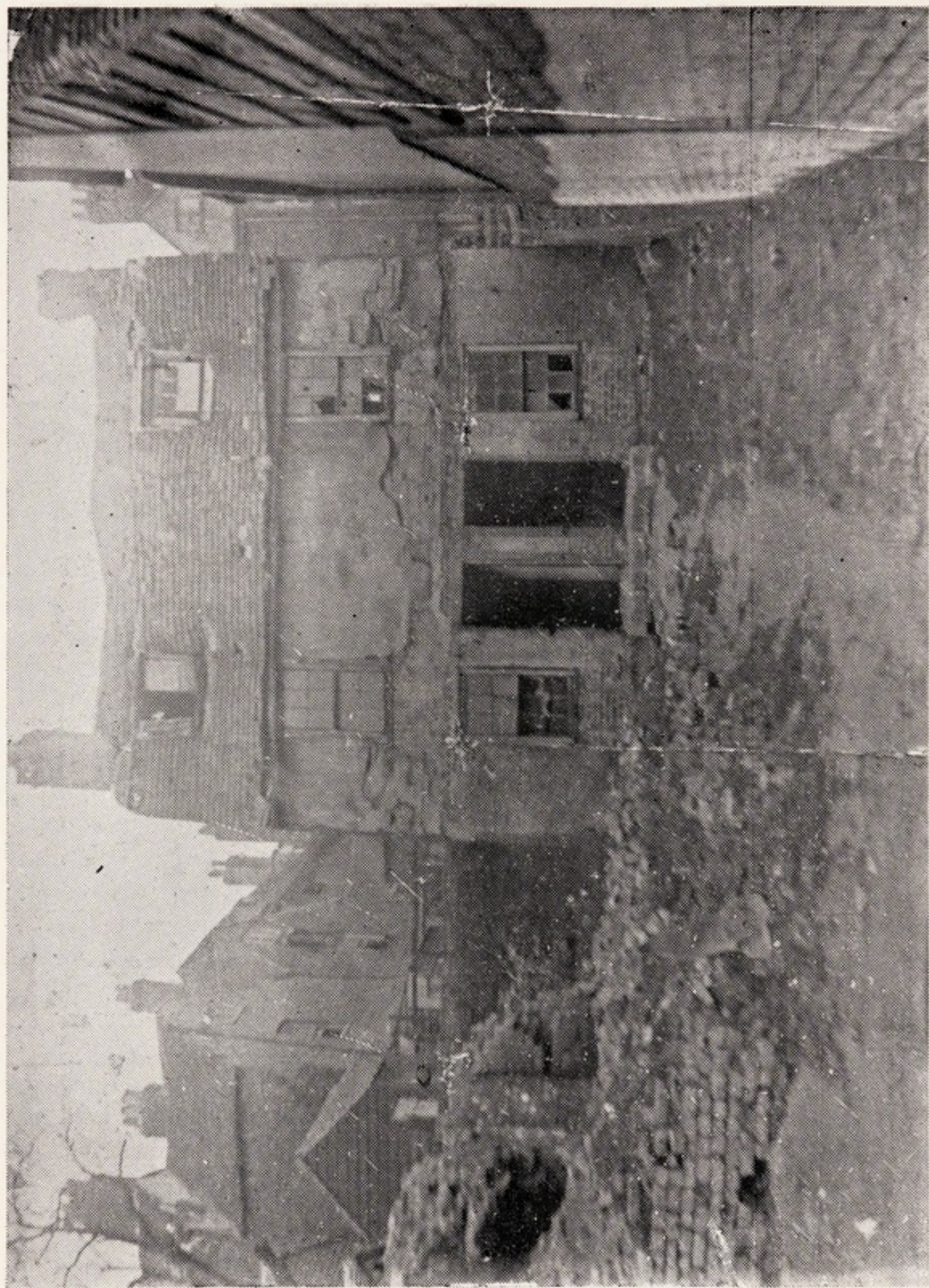
INSANITARY PROPERTY—ABOUT TO BE DEMOLISHED



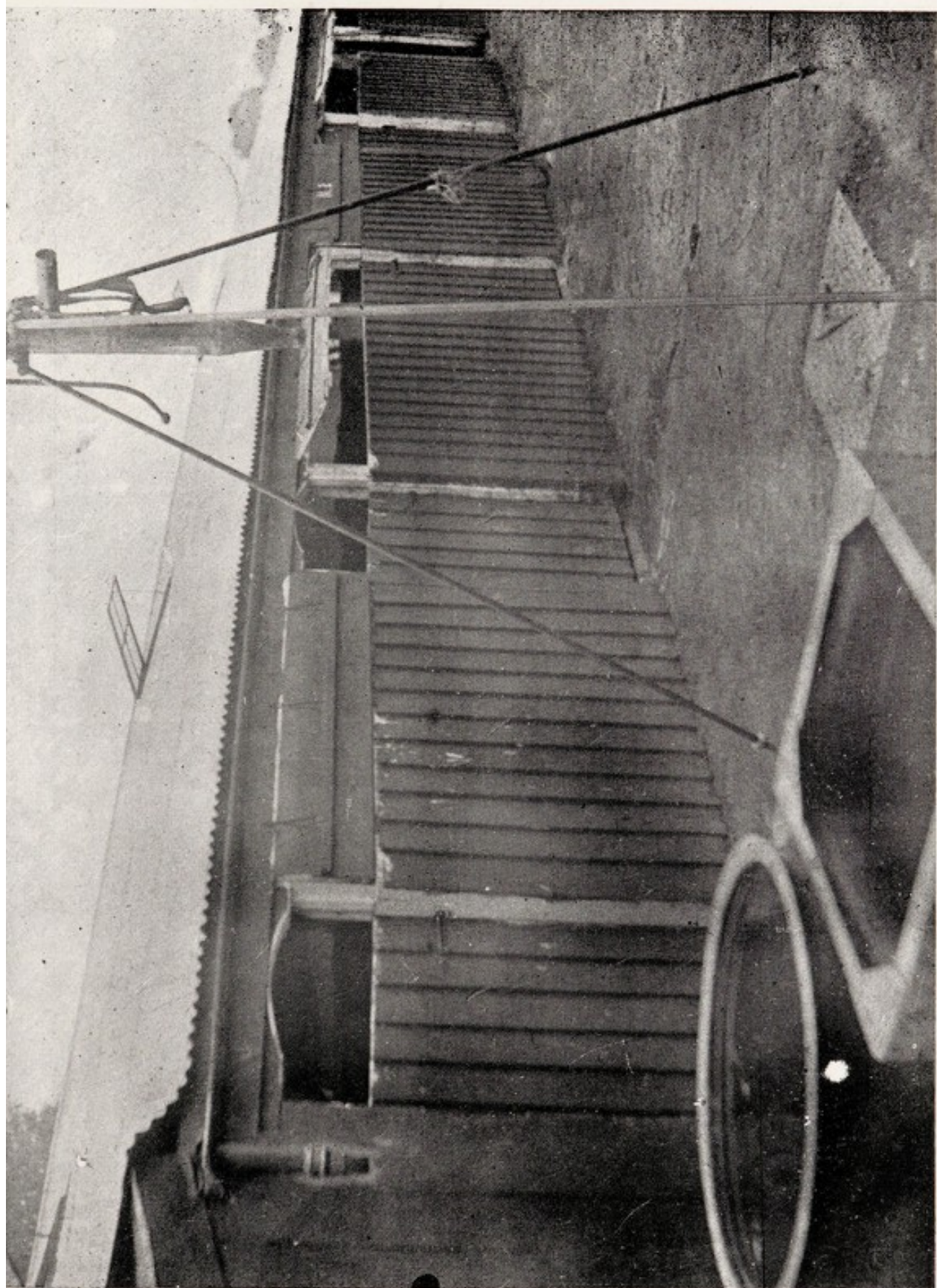
INSANITARY PROPERTY--DEMOLISHED,



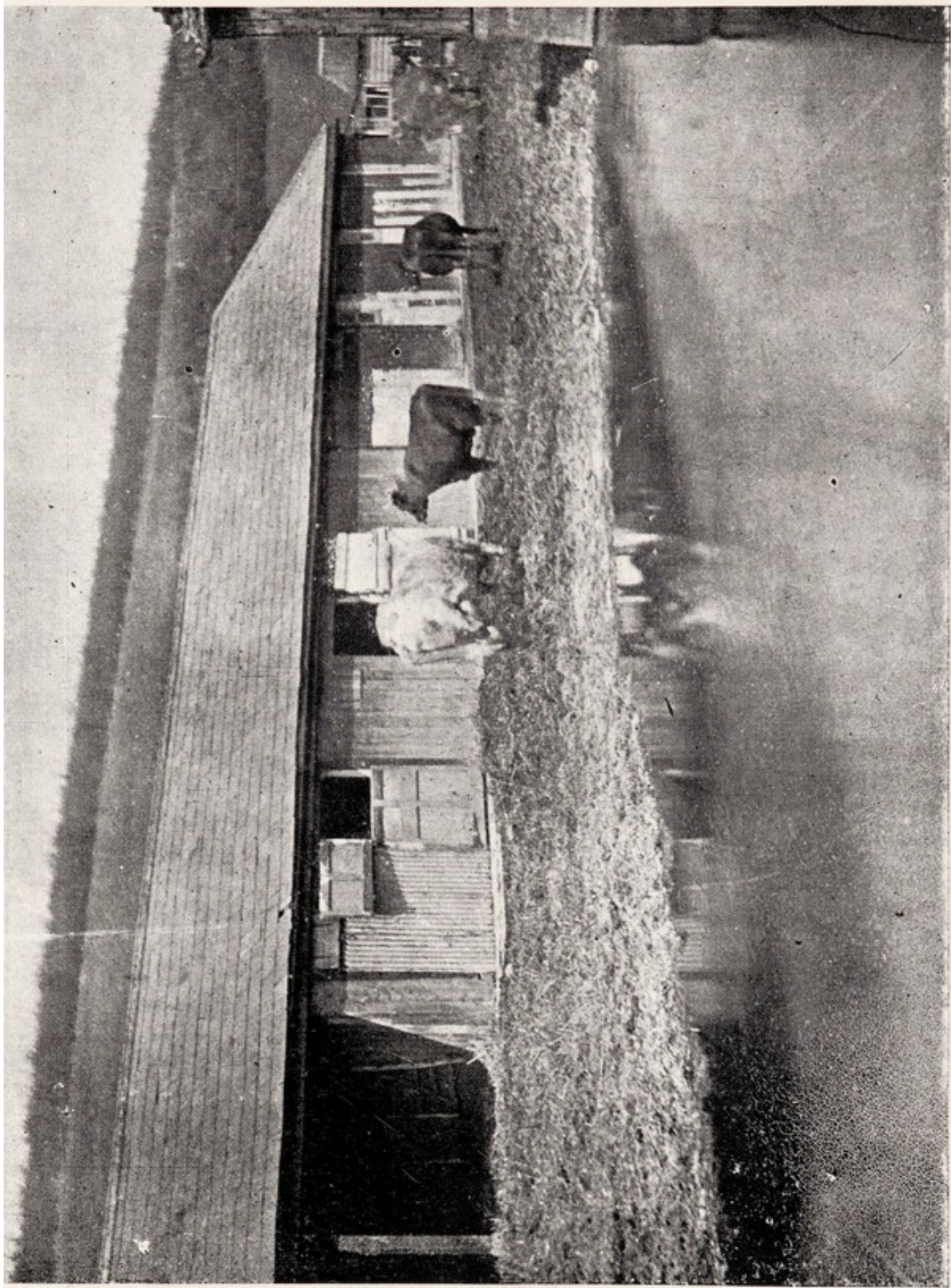
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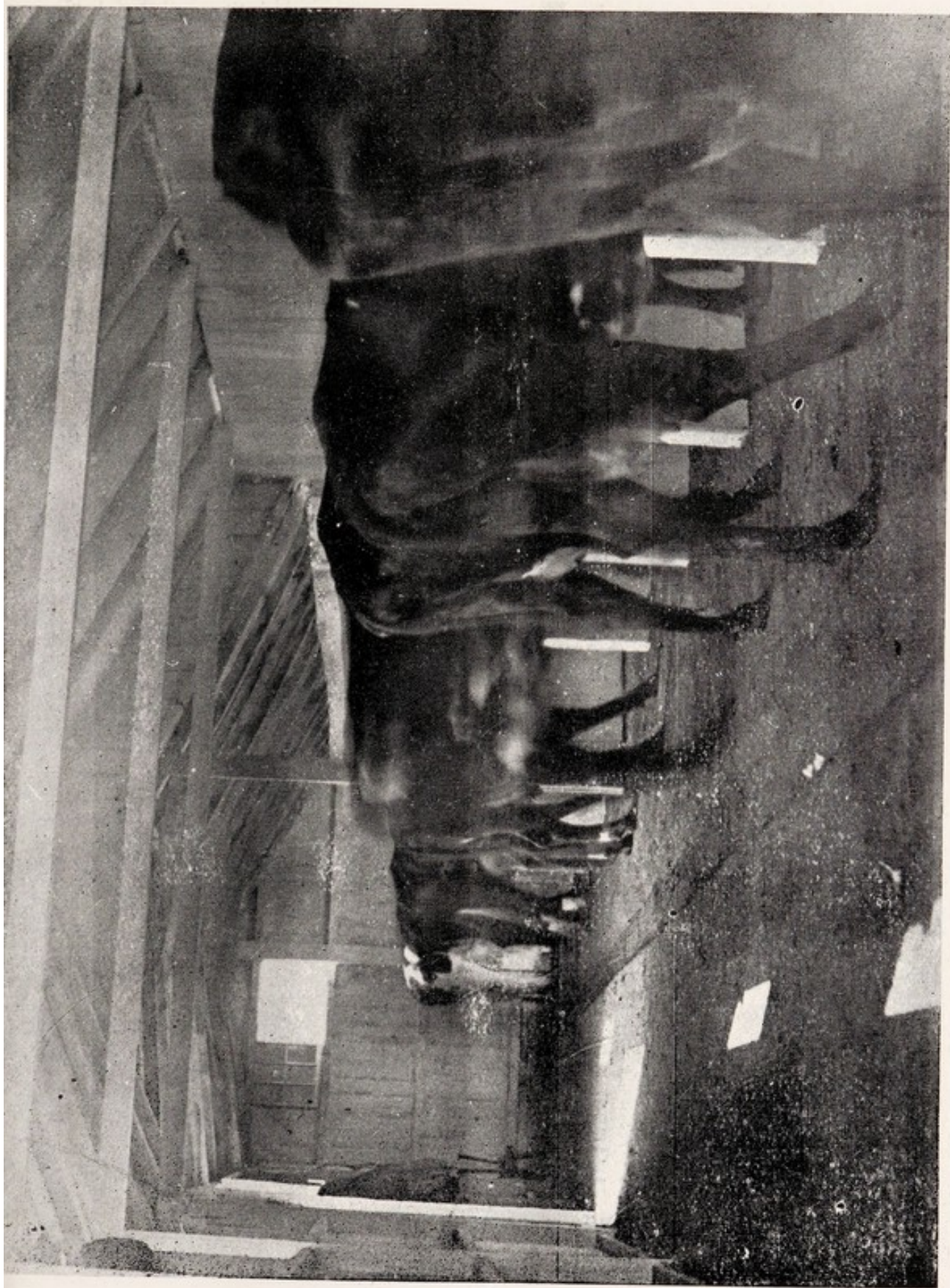
INSANITARY PROPERTY—DEMOLISHED.



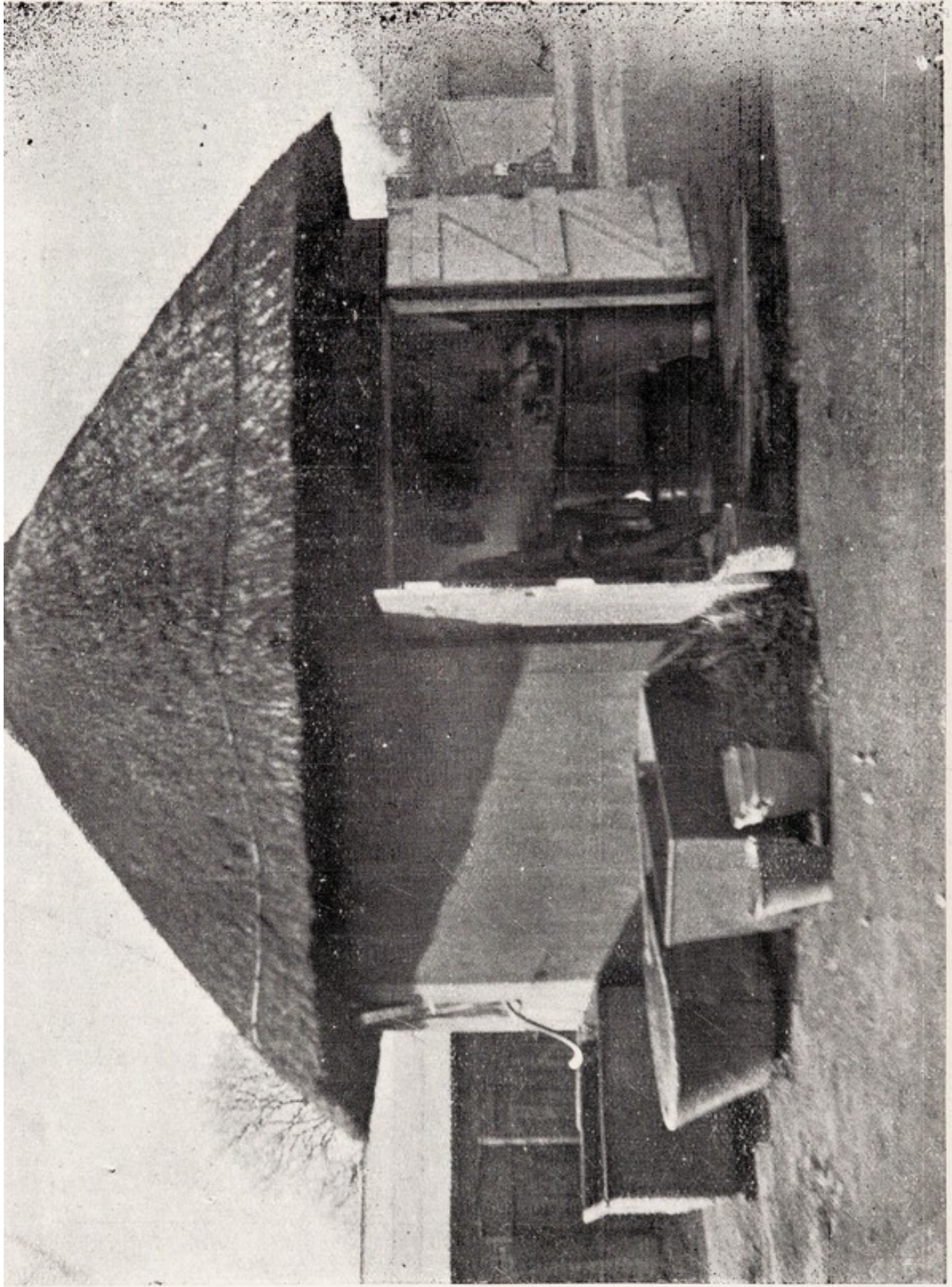
COWSHED NEAR OHATHAM.



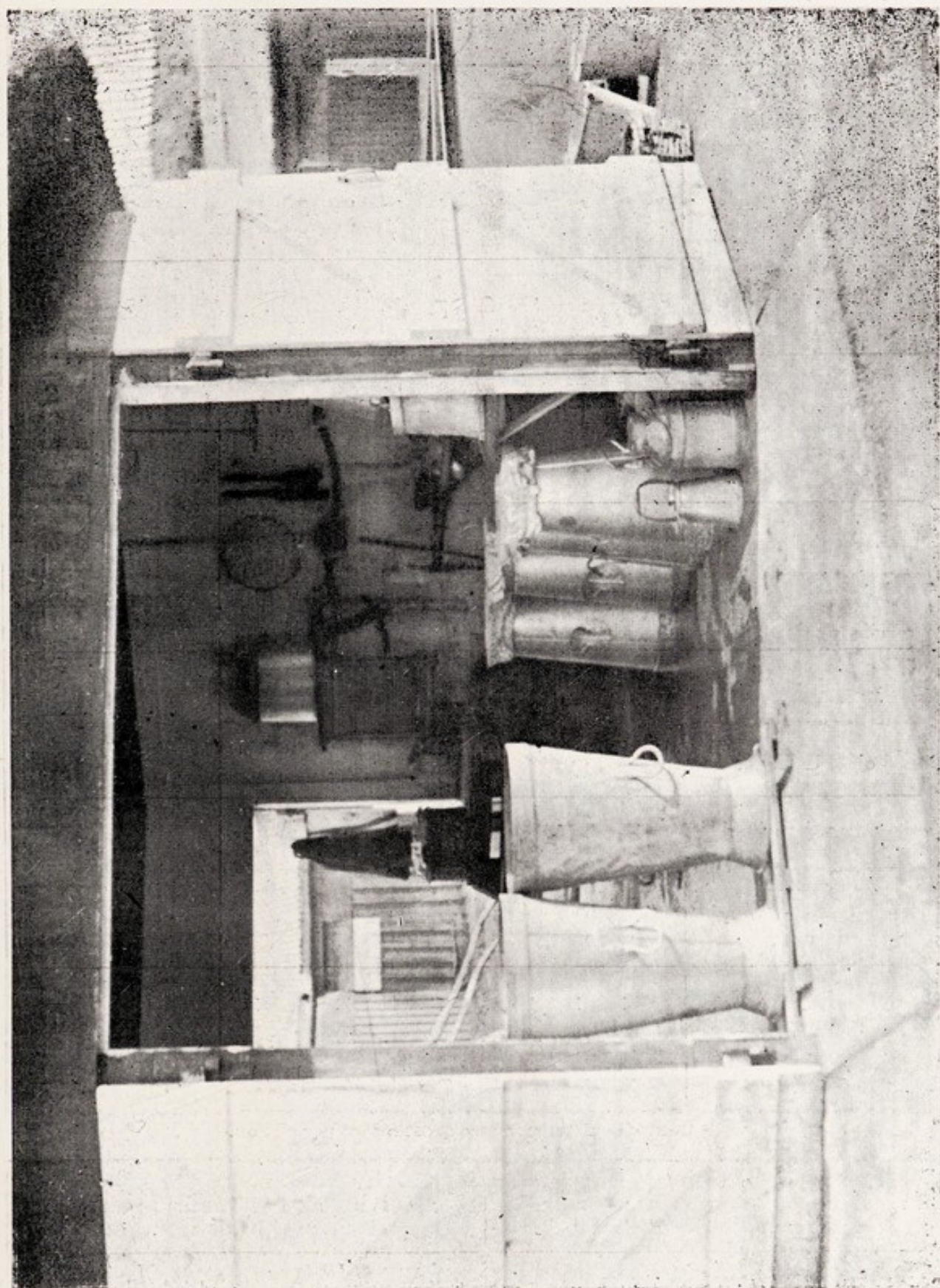
COWSHED NEAR CHATHAM.



INTERIOR OF A CHATHAM COWSHED.



EXTERIOR OF DAIRY NEAR CHATHAM.



INTERIOR OF DAIRY.

CHATHAM.—For Whole District.

TABLE I.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	No. of Births.	Birth Rate.*	Deaths under 1 Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births Registered.	Total Deaths at all ages.	Total Death Rate.*	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	Deaths at all Ages. Nett.	Death Rate* at all Ages. Nett.
1900 ..	36495	1065	29.02	168	165	702	19.4	188	50	63	715	19.5
1901 ..	37057	1022	27.9	157	154	648	17.4	149	45	37	638	17.2
1902 ..	37732	1066	28.2	174	163	676	17.9	163	53	51	674	17.8
1903 ..	38407	1112	28.9	143	129	583	15	155	40	31	574	14.9
1904 ..	39179	1172	29.9	209	178	659	16.8	175	71	29	630	16
1905 ..	40938	1134	27.7	143	126	615	14.4	77	63	27	578	14.1
1906 ..	41594	1107	26.7	153	138	593	14.2	143	58	25	560	13.4
1907 ..	42134	1100	26.1	136	124	591	14	140	59	49	581	13.7
1908 ..	42971	1038	24.2	132	127	578	13.4	136	62	42	558	12.9
1909 ..	43831	1093	24.9	117	107	538	12.3	143	63	42	517	11.8
Averages for years 1900 to 1910.	40033	1090	26.5	153	141	618	15.3	146	56	39	602	14.5
1910 ..	45428	1052	23.2	96	92	552	12.1	178	83	41	510	11.2

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District	Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.
Medway Union Infirmary.	St. William's Hospital, Rochester. St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester Fort Pitt Military Hospital, Rochester

NOTES TO TABLE I.

The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10, and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The "Public Institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses, and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 4444.298; total population at all ages, 37,057; number of inhabited houses, 7242; average number of persons per house, 4.8; at Census of 1901.

CHATHAM URBAN DISTRICT.

TABLE II.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	WHOLE DISTRICT.				ST. MARY'S WARD.				LUTON WARD.				ST. JOHN'S WARD.				WORK-HOUSE.		MEL. HOS.
	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.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.	Deaths at all ages.
1900 ..	36495	1065	702	168	10027	176	176	55	15107	199	199	57	11361	139	139	50	158	6	30
1901 ..	37057	1022	648	157	11706	176	176	63	15125	204	204	60	10226	152	152	31	82	3	24
1902 ..	37732	1066	676	174	10190	174	174	56	15310	209	209	62	12232	171	171	48	96	8	24
1903 ..	38407	1112	583	143	9555	137	137	42	17312	178	178	54	11572	144	144	41	86	6	27
1904 ..	39179	1172	659	209	9552	153	153	59	18000	214	214	88	11878	159	159	54	138	8	37
1905 ..	40938	1134	578	143	9784	148	148	43	18850	228	228	70	12304	125	125	27	70	3	7
1906 ..	41594	1107	560	152	9873	124	124	61	19152	221	221	70	12269	129	129	20	86	1	
1907 ..	42134	1100	591	136	9772	132	132	28	18819	215	215	61	13543	153	153	37	80	10	1
1908 ..	42971	1038	558	132	9860	122	122	30	20331	241	241	62	12780	121	121	37	74	3	cl's'd
1909 ..	43831	1093	517	117	10395	115	115	36	20546	192	192	50	12930	130	130	30	80	1	
Averages of Years 1900 to 1909.	40033	1090	607	153	10071	145	145	47	17885	210	210	63	12109	142	142	37	95	4	21
1910 ..	45428	1052	510	96	10300	117	117	27	21520	176	176	42	13608	125	125	23	92	4	

NOTES TO TABLE II.

(a) The separate localities adopted for this table should be areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts. Block 1 may, if desired, be used for the whole district: and blocks 2, 3, &c., for the several localities. In small districts without recognised divisions of known population this Table need not be filled up.

(b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are to be included in sub-columns *c* of this Table, and those of non-residents registered in public institutions in the district excluded. (See note on Table I. as to meaning of terms "resident" and "non-resident.")

(c) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased.

(d) Care should be taken that the gross totals of the several columns in this Table respectively equal the corresponding totals for the whole districts in Tables I. and IV.: thus, the totals of sub-columns *a*, *b* and *c* should agree with the figures for the year in the columns 2, 3, and 12, respectively, of Table I.: the gross total of the sub-columns *c* should agree with the total of column 2 in Table IV., and the gross total of sub-columns *d* with the total of column 3 in Table IV.

TABLE III.

CHATHAM DISTRICT.*Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1910.*

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District.							Total Cases Notified in each Locality.				No. of Cases removed to Hospital.				
	At all ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 & upwards.	ST. MARY'S WARD.	LUTON WARD.	ST. JOHN'S WARD.	MEDWAY WORKHOUSE	ST. MARY'S WARD.	LUTON WARD.	ST. JOHN'S WARD.	MEDWAY WORKHOUSE	Total Cases re-moved to Hospital.
Diphtheria	77	1	21	50	3	2		10	39	28		6	21	22		49
Erysipelas	34			1	5	19	9	7	15	5	7					
Scarlet Fever.....	37		5	29	3			5	28	3	1	4	22	3	1	30
Enteric Fever	25	1	2	10	4	8		14	7	3	1	13	8			21
Totals.....	173	2	28	90	15	29	9	36	89	39	9	23	51	25	1	100

NOTES TO TABLE III.

The localities adopted for this table should be the same as those in Tables II. and IV.

State in space below the name of the isolation hospital, if any, to which residents in the district, suffering from infectious disease, are usually sent, and the accommodation available for the district, afforded to it. Mark (H) the locality in which it is situated, or if not within the district, state where it is situated, and in what district. The name of the authority by whom the hospital is provided should also be given. Mark (W) the locality in which a workhouse is situated.

* This space may be used for record of other disease the notification (compulsory or voluntary) of which is in force in the district.

† These age columns for notifications should be filled up in all cases where the Medical Officer of Health, by inquiry or otherwise, has obtained the necessary information.

** Column 8 should be filled up with the Totals of cases removed to Hospital, whether the District is divided into separate localities or consists of only one area.

Isolation Hospital.—St. William's, Rochester.

Total available Beds.—80.

Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated.—3.

TABLE IV.

CHATHAM DISTRICT.*Causes of, and Ages at, Death during 1910.*

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at Subjoined Ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all ages).					Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All Ages.	Und'r 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	St. Mary's Ward.	Laton Ward.	St. John's Ward.	Med. Work-house.	Mel. Hos.	
Whooping cough.....	27	13	12	2				14	7	6			
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.....	8		2	5	1				3	5			
Enteric fever.....	1					1					1		
Diarrhœa.....	3	1	1				1		2	1			
Enteritis.....	9	4	3			2		1	6	2			
Gastritis.....	3	3						1	2				
Puerperal fever.....	2					2			2				
Erysipelas.....	2	1					1		1		1		
Phthisis.....	50	1	1	4	5	38	1	12	13	12	13		20
Other tubercular diseases..	10		4	4		2		5	3	2			1
Cancer, malignant disease	31					20	11	4	12	6	9		14
Bronchitis.....	34	4	2			7	21	7	14	7	6		7
Pneumonia.....	24	5	5	1	2	7	4	8	6	9	1		3
Other diseases of Respiratory organs.....	2		1			1		1		1			
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of Liver.....	5					4	1	2	3				
Venereal diseases.....	10	8				2		2		4	4		6
Premature birth.....	23	23						4	11	5	3		3
Diseases and accidents of parturition.....	2	1				1			2				
Heart diseases.....	115	1	1	1	3	47	62	19	41	24	31		50
Accidents.....	19	3	3	2	2	7	2	9	4	5	1		4
Suicides.....	4					4			3	1			
All other causes.....	126	28	13	5	1	32	47	28	41	35	22		70
All causes.....	510	96	48	24	14	177	151	117	176	125	92		178

TABLE V.

CHATHAM BOROUGH.*Infantile Mortality during the Year, 1910.*

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.		Under 1 Week.	1 to 2 Weeks.	2 to 3 Weeks.	3 to 4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1 to 2 Months.	2 to 3 Months.	3 to 4 Months.	4 to 5 Months.	5 to 6 Months.	6 to 7 Months.	7 to 8 Months.	8 to 9 Months.	9 to 10 Months.	10 to 11 Months.	11 to 12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
All Causes	{ Certified	26	3	6	5	40	15	7	5	4	2	5	1	4	2	3	3	91
	{ Uncertified.	2				2		2								1		5
i. Common Infectious Diseases.	Small-pox																	
	Chicken-pox.....				1	1												1
	Measles																	
	Scarlet Fever.....																	
	Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)																	
	Whooping Cough..							3	3			1	1	1	2	1	1	1	14
ii. Diarrhoeal Diseases. (See Notes to Table IV.)	Diarrhoea all forms						1											1
	Enteritis Muco-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis		1			1	2	1										4
	Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh						1	1	1									3
	Premature Birth ..	18		1	1	20	2		1									23
iii. Wasting Diseases.	Congenital Defects (See Notes to Table IV.)	6	1	2		9						1						10
	Injury at Birth	1				1												1
	Want of Breast-milk, Starvation																	
	Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus			1	1	2	1	1						1		1		6
iv. Tuberculous Diseases	Tuberculous Meningitis (See Notes to Table IV.)																	
	Tuberculous Peritonitis: Tabes Mesenterica																	
	Other Tuberculous Diseases (See Notes to Table IV.)											1						1
	Erysipelas ..				1	1												1
v. Other Causes	Syphilis			1	1	2	3	2				1						8
	Rickets ..																	
	Meningitis (not Tuberculous)									1								1
	Convulsions	1				1	2	1	1					1	1			8
	Bronchitis						1	1	1		1							4
	Laryngitis											1						1
	Pneumonia.....			1		1			1							2	1	5
	Suffocation..... overlying.....	2				2		1										3
Other causes.....		1			1												1	
		28	3	6	5	42	15	9	5	4	2	5	1	4	2	4	3	96

District of Chatham. Population, estimated to middle of 1910, 45,428.

Births in the year:—Legitimate, 1002; Illegitimate, 40.

Deaths in the year:—Legitimate Infants, 89; Illegitimate, 7.

Death from all causes at all ages, 510.

NOTES TO TABLES IV. AND V.

- (a) In Table IV., all deaths of "Residents" occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be included with the other deaths in the columns for the several age groups (columns 2-8). They are also, in columns 9-15, to be included among the deaths in their respective "Localities" according to the previous addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars. Deaths of "Non-Residents" occurring in public institutions in the district are in like manner to be excluded from columns 2-8 and 9-15 of Table IV.
- (b) See notes on Table I. as to the meaning of "Residents" and "Non-residents," and as to the "Public Institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables. The "Localities" in Table IV. should be the same as those in Tables II. and III.
- (c) All deaths occurring in public institutions, situated within the district, whether of Residents or of Non-residents, are, in addition to being dealt with as in note (a), to be entered in the last column of Table IV. The total number in this column should equal the figures for the year in column 9, Table I.
- (d) The total deaths in the several Localities in columns 9-15 of Table IV. should equal those for the year in the same Localities in Table II, sub-columns c. The total deaths at all ages in column 2 of Table IV. should equal the gross total of columns 9-15, and the figures for the year in column 12 of Table I.
- (e) Under the heading "Diarrhœa" are to be included deaths registered as due to Epidemic diarrhœa, Epidemic enteritis, Infective enteritis, Zymotic enteritis, Summer diarrhœa, Dysentery and Dysenteric diarrhœa, Choleraic diarrhœa, Cholera (other than Asiatic or epidemic) and Cholera Nostras.
- Deaths from diarrhœa secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.
- Deaths from Enteritis, Mucœ-Enteritis, Gastro-Enteritis, and Gastritis (see under the heading of Diarrhœal Diseases in Table V.) in Tables IV. and V. should be placed immediately below, but separately from, those enumerated under the heading Diarrhœa as defined by enumeration above. This is particularly important for deaths under one year of age, as many of the deaths in infancy returned as due to Enteritis are really caused by Epidemic Diarrhœa. In the course of years, by the adoption of this recommendation, it will be practicable to ascertain the probable amount of transfer between these different headings.
- (f) Under the headings of "Cancer" and "Puerperal fever" should be included all registered deaths from causes comprised within these general terms. Thus: Under "Cancer" should be included deaths from Cancer, Carcinoma, Malignant disease, Scirrhus, Epithelioma, Sarcoma, Villous tumour, and Papilloma of bladder, Rodent ulcer. Under "Puerperal Fever" are to be included deaths from Pyæmia, Septicæmia, Sapræmia, Pelvic Peritonitis, Peri- and Endo-Metritis occurring in the Puerperium.
- (g) Under "Congenital Defects" in Table V. are to be included deaths from Atelectasis, Icterus neonatorum, navel hæmorrhage, Malformations and Congenital hydrocephalus.
- (h) Under "Tuberculous Meningitis" are to be included deaths from Acute hydrocephalus.
- (i) Under "Other Tuberculous Diseases" are to be included deaths from Tuberculosis, Tuberculosis of bones, joints, and other organs, Lupus and Scrofula.
- (j) All deaths certified by registered Practitioners and all Inquest cases are to be classed as "Certified"; all other deaths are to be regarded as "Uncertified."

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III., IV. and V., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.

BOROUGH OF CHATHAM.

1.—Inspection.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	53	0	
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	411	10	
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report)	62	0	
Total	526	10	

2.—Defects Found.

Particulars.	No. of Defects			Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of cleanliness	21	19		
Want of ventilation	4	3		
Overcrowding	2	2		
Want of Drainage of floors	0	0		
Other Nuisances	0	0		
Sanitary Accommodation { insufficient	4	2		
{ unsuitable or defective				
{ not separate for sexes				
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act:—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse ..	0	0		
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses	0	0		
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)	0	0		
Total	31	26		

3.—Homework.

Nature of Work.	Sending twice in year.			Sending once in year.			Received from other Councils.	Forwarded to other Councils.		Instances.	Orders made.
	Lists.	Contractors.	Workmen.	Lists.	Contractors.	Workmen.					
Wearing Apparel— Outworkers. Lists received from Employers	10	2	598	2		8	16	86			
Addresses of Outworkers Inspections of Out- workers' Premises ..									536		
Outwork in Infected Premises										9	9
Total	10	2	598	2		8	16	86	536	9	9

4.—Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register at the end of the Year.	Number.
Tenement Workshops	0
Workshop Bakehouses	27
Domestic Workshops	67
Laundries (Workshop)	8
Other Workshops	291
Total number of Workshops on Register ..	393

5.—Other Matters.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act ..	0
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act:—	
Notified by H.M. Inspector	9
Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector ..	4
Underground Bakehouses:—	
Certificates granted during the year	0
In use at the end of the year	7

RAINFALL DURING 1910, TAKEN AT LUTON, CHATHAM,
 BY MR. COLES FINCH.

Months.	Total depth in inches.
January	2.50
February	3.20
March	1.48
April	1.63
May	2.90
June	2.44
July	2.80
August	2.39
September .....	.80
October	1.81
November	4.06
December	3.61
	—
Total	29.62 inches.

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES' REPORT, 1910.

Sanitary and Health Department,
Chatham.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SANITARY AND HEALTH
COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year 1910, dealing with the numerous sanitary matters carried out in the Borough.

DRAINAGE WORK.—The work carried out under this heading is divided into two sections, viz. :—

- (a) that in connection with new buildings.
- (b) that in connection with old property.

During this year the system of granting certificates in connection with new buildings has been adopted by the Council. Every builder is supplied by the Borough Surveyor with four Notice Forms, the same to be returned to him at various stages in the construction of the building. Since March the Surveyor has forwarded to your Inspector the Drainage Forms of completion of drains sent in by builders, the same having been returned on completion of the work, endorsed that the "drains have been tested and found sound."

A record is kept in connection with this work in the Office of the Sanitary Department, showing the dates of the drainage inspections in connection with each new building, and the date of the return of the builder's notice form to the Surveyor.

The following list shows the drainage work tested in connection with plans submitted to the Council:—

I.—NEW BUILDINGS (Houses):—

Old Road.....	1	Capstone Road	4
Dale Street	6	Curzon Road	4
Gordon Road	2	Luton Road	2
Beaconsfield Road	10	Maidstone Road	5
Walderslade	2	Glencoe Road.....	2
Rochester Street	2	Magpie Hall Road	2
Wyles Road	12	Hartington Street	7

II.—NEW BUILDINGS (other than Houses):—

High street, workshop and stable.
 High Street, stable and shed.
 Magpie Hall Road, milk store.
 Bryant Street, store and stable.
 Gibraltar Hotel, motor shed.
 Luton, new school.
 Walderslade, cowshed.

III.—NEW ADDITIONS TO OLD BUILDINGS:—

36, 38, Luton Road	Extension at rear and new sanitary accommodation.
18 Military Road	do.
16 Ordnance Street	do.
32 Henry Street	do.
7 Ordnance Terrace	do.
New Road	do.
Mission Church Walderslade ...	do.

The above lists show the drainage work actually completed, the whole of which has been tested by means of the drain testing machine. In carrying out the inspection of this work it was necessary to make fifty-one first visits, thirty-nine second visits, and eleven further visits.

In addition to the above a considerable amount of drainage work has been carried out in connection with old buildings, plans of which have not been necessary to be laid before the Council.

Your M.O.H. in his Report of last year gave the approximate number of open privies to be 2,464.

I have this year caused seventy-one open privies to be converted into panned and trapped closets, necessitating the relaying of all drainage in connection with the same.

I am able to state that the manner in which drainage work is now being laid is highly creditable, builders showing a greater interest in the construction of inspection chambers, also in the principles of ventilation.

The requirements of Bye Law XI. in connection with the Drainage of Existing Buildings has been generally observed.

This makes it compulsory that notice must be given of any sanitary work about to be commenced, and only in three cases was this not done. Ignorance of the Bye Law was the excuse, the three persons in default being warned as to a recurrence of such action.

CESSPOOL WORK.—In reporting under this heading your

Inspector has to deal with one of the most difficult sections of his duties.

During the year 2,823 applications to empty cesspools were received.

The number of liquid sewage loads removed was 5,159, and night soil 2,108, representing a total of 2,850,000 gallons removed in twelve months.

It is practically impossible to carry out this work without complaints, owing to fluctuations in the number of applications, the same varying from thirty some weeks, to upwards of a hundred in others.

Taking into consideration a population of over 44,000, with over 9,500 inhabited houses, and that 400 houses have required cesspools to be emptied this year that have never been emptied before, shows extending difficulties year by year.

To counterbalance the increasing number of cesspools requiring emptying, 61 shallow cesspools have been deepened, and 41 new ones provided.

MORTUARY.—The number of bodies placed in the Mortuary was 17.

Of this number 3 were women, 6 men, and 8 children.

Nine post-mortem examinations were held on, viz.—Women 1, men 2, children 6.

Nine bodies were buried at the expense of the parish, viz.—Women 2, men 1, children 6.

Eight bodies were buried by relatives.

During the year arrangements have been made by your Council for the provision of shells for the removal of bodies under Section 142 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and, further, the Coroner of the District has made the same arrangements where bodies are removed to the Mortuary for post-mortem examinations under Sec. 143 of the P.H. Act, 1875.

The Regulations framed for the good management of the Mortuary have been carried out, and a Register kept, showing name, age, and sex of deceased, cause of death, date of removal for burial, etc.

FISH OFFAL COLLECTION.—The fish offal still continues to be collected without cause for complaint.

The shops from which the offal is collected number 19, the amount paid per week averaging twelve shillings.

No objection has been received as to the place of deposit, although the amount collected averages from 2 to 2½ tons per week.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—The number of Common Lodging Houses registered is 16.

With the co-operation of your Medical Officer of Health, the two Lodging Houses, numbered 79-81 and 83, The Brook, have been termed one, as there is only one common kitchen, so that the requirements of Sec. 70 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act of 1907 have been met.

Registration has been granted to two additional houses, viz., 32, Best Street (for men only), and 73, The Brook (for men and women).

Section 70 of the P.H.A. Amendment Act devolves a duty upon your Inspector, inasmuch that it is his duty to see that the keeper or his deputy remain in the Lodging House between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.

131 visits were made during the year, and five warnings given.

A Register has been strictly kept as required by Sec. 71, and one change of keeper and five of deputies noted.

An Inspection of all Common Lodging Houses has been made during the year, and a Report under Sec. 74 made to your Council, with the result that instructions were given for the necessary alterations. These your Inspector has notified to the various owners, who are, in most cases, carrying out the work.

HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS.—Closely allied with Common Lodging Houses are Houses let in Lodgings.

Fifty-seven are known to your Inspector, and of these 9 are back-to-back houses.

In many cases one house alone gives a return of upwards of one pound per week for rent.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—The number of Notifications received by the M.O.H. were:—

Scarlet Fever	37
Diphtheria	77
Enteric Fever	25
Erysipelas	34

The number of cases moved to Hospital were 100, and 152 loads of bedding were disinfected.

184 houses have been disinfected, in which the following diseases occurred, viz.:—

Diphtheria	69
Scarlet Fever	30
Enteric Fever	23
Phthisis (Deaths)	33
Phthisis (Compulsory Notifications)	29

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The work under this heading has been carried out most assidu-

ously by those on whom this duty devolves, and every endeavour is made to check the spread of infectious disease by advising parents or relatives, or by the distribution of pamphlets drawn up by your Medical Officer of Health.

It will be seen that the number of cases of Scarlet Fever is remarkably low, and had not thirty-five cases of Diphtheria occurred during the last two months of the year, the figures would have been far lower than they have been for ten years.

UN SOUND FOOD.—The following foodstuffs were destroyed during the year, viz. :—

- 2 Forequarters of Beef.
- 2 Hindquarters of Beef.
- 2 Carcases Beef (Tubercular).
- 32 Baskets of Potatoes.
- 25 Foreign Rabbits.
- 11 Trunks of Fish.
- 50 Geese.
- A Quantity of Bananas.

Twelve condemned notes were given in all to the owners of the potatoes and fish.

During the year a small centre was established for the sale of fish by auction, but the venture failed.

The establishment of a Fish Distributing Centre is still an unaccomplished fact, and by the lack of such your Inspector is handicapped in the thorough examination of the fish supplies of the Borough.

I am, however, convinced that the quality of the fish imported into the town has improved year by year, one proof being the few complaints lodged with your Inspector.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.—Thirteen cow-keepers stand registered under the Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milkshop Order.

This shows a decrease of six during the year, four of whom have ceased to keep cows, and two have left the District.

The average number of cows kept in the District as recorded by the Veterinary Inspector is 211.

The registered milksellers are 47.

Two dairies have been constructed this year, and it is gratifying to report that the majority of the dairies are now fitted with "coolers."

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT.—The work carried out in connection with the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, will be found in the Report of your Medical Officer of Health.

It is, therefore, unnecessary for me to repeat the same.

A few points, however, are these, viz. :—

Visits made by your Inspector to Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces	526
Visits made by the Assistant Inspector to Homes of Outworkers	536
Infectious Cases in Homes of Outworkers	9
Women working in Factories affected by infectious Disease	6

During the year nine Notices were received from the Home Office, comprising :—

Overcrowding	2
Want of Ventilation	4
Foul Sanitary Conveniences	2
No Separate Accommodation	1

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—The Slaughter Houses registered number 16, and one licensed.

Of these, four were in disuse during the year.

I have ascertained that no less than 5096 sheep, 5200 pigs, 1664 oxen, besides calves and lambs, are slaughtered in the District annually.

The number of visits made to Slaughter Houses for the Inspection of Meat have not been so many as your Inspector would desire, owing to their scattered position and to killing taking place practically simultaneously.

BAKEHOUSES.—The registered Bakehouses number 27. Of these two are Factory and twenty-five Workshop Bakehouses. Ten are classed as underground.

162 visits were made, but the Bakehouses are generally well kept, and few notices required, viz. :—

Cleansing and Limewashing	3
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HOUSING AND WORKING CLASSES ACT.—Eleven houses in Solomon's Terrace, against which a Closing Order was made in 1909, had such Order discharged during the year.

These houses were all fitted with panned and trapped closets, and put into a habitable condition.

One house on The Mount was also made habitable.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT.—Thirty-two houses were reported by the Medical Officer of Health, and Closing Orders sealed by your Council.

Of these six were put into a habitable condition, and four were demolished.

The remaining twenty-two being reported on late in the year, Closing Orders only were served, and up till December 31st no further action taken.

POLICE COURT PROCEEDINGS.—23 Church Street (failure to abate a nuisance), owner fined 1s. a day for 64 days—£3 4s. Work finally carried out by the Council at a cost of £13 12s. 6d. Warrant issued for arrest. Total cost of work, fines, and costs, £18 4s. 6d.

Unsound Meat (2 forequarters and 2 hindquarters of beef), owner fined £4 and costs.

Books and records kept in connection with the Sanitary and Health Department.

LIST OF BOOKS, ETC.

Register of Cesspools emptied (Night Work).
 Register of Cesspools emptied (Day Work).
 Register of Cesspool applications received.
 Register of Infectious Disease (Scarlet Fever).
 " " (Enteric Fever).
 " " (Diphtheria).
 " " (Erysipelas).
 Register of Bedding & Houses Disinfected.
 Register of Notifications of Infectious diseases.
 Register of Phthisis Cases (Voluntary).
 " " (Compulsory).
 Antitoxin Account Book.
 Schools Disinfectant Account Book.
 Weekly Wages Account Book.
 Outworkers' Register.
 Slaughter House Register.
 Common Lodging House Register.
 Register of Bodies received in Mortuary.
 A Record of Plans.
 Journal.
 Register of Bakehouses.
 Register of Cowsheds, &c.
 Register of Factories and Workshops.
 Stock Book.
 House to House Inspection Books.

In concluding my Report, I beg to express my thanks to the Sanitary and Health Committee and Corporation for their kindness and consideration, also for the kind co-operation of the several Officers of the Borough.

I am, Gentlemen,
 Your obedient servant,

W. G. JOELS,
 Chief Sanitary Inspector.