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1896.

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THE TWELFTH

# Annual Report

OF THE

*Medical Officer of Health*

FOR THE

URBAN DISTRICT

OF

CROMER,

*Together with the Reports of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.*

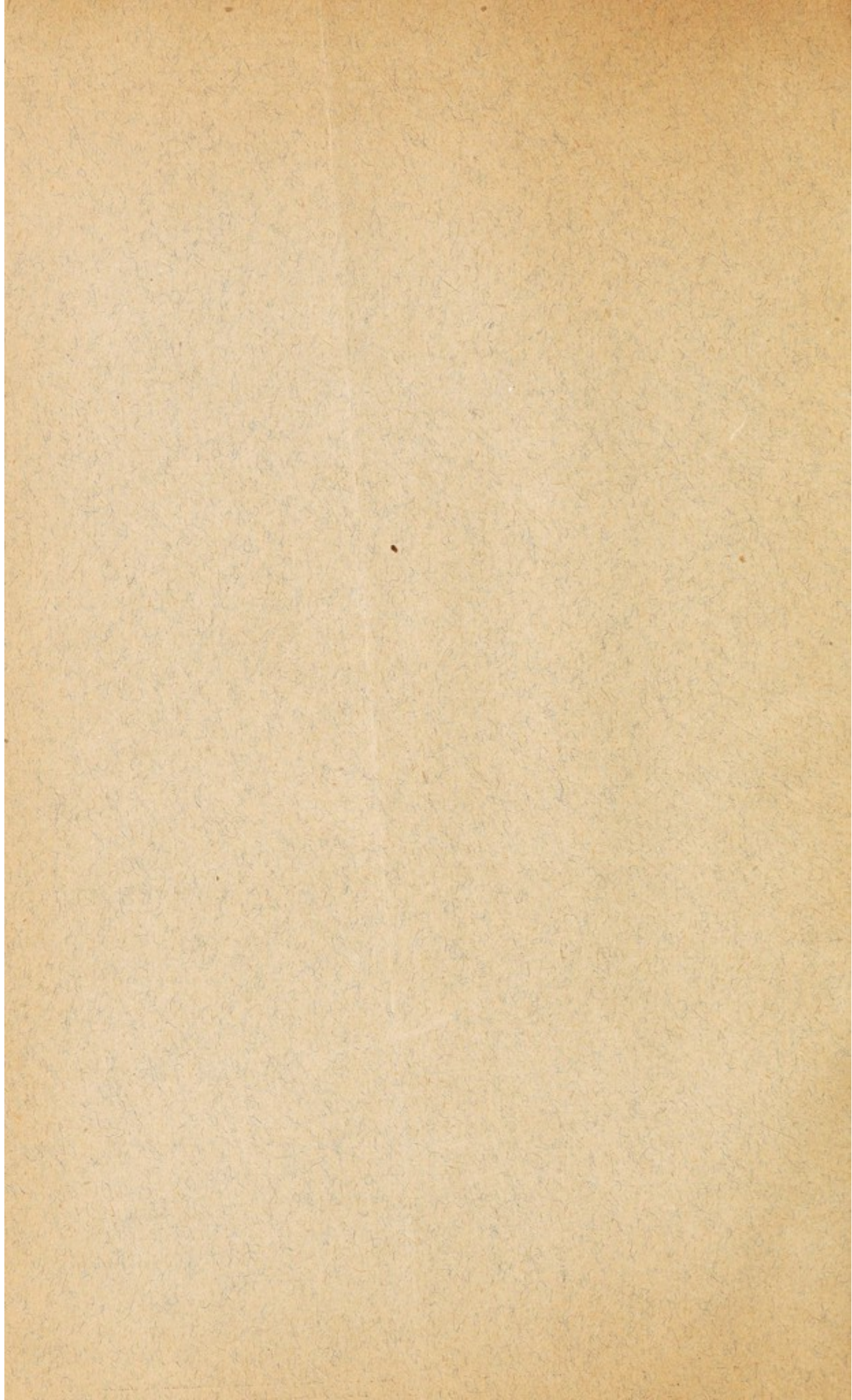
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1897.



# CROMER.

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## REPORT FOR 1896.

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In January the Overstrand Ward was added to the Cromer District. This increases the area by 136 acres and the population by an unknown quantity; so to estimate the entire population I have multiplied the inhabited houses by 4.5, which gives us 3,028 as the probable population. I found that in the census of 1891 there were 4.6 to each inhabited house.

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### Vital Statistics, 1896.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	1,007 Acres
Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	...	3,028
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	673
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£23,205

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### Birth Rate for 1896.

Males.      Females.

47          43          =          90; of these 4 were illegitimate.

Birth Rate = 30 per 1,000 population, against 32.6 for 1895.

Illegitimate Birth Rate, 44 per 1,000 births.

### Death Rate for 1896.

Males.	Females.	
18	20	= 38

This gives a Death Rate of 12·5 against 14·7 for 1895; but to get the correct Death Rate we must omit one case of a Norwich man, who died in the Fletcher Convalescent Home. This reduces the Death Rate to 12·2 per 1,000 against 13·4, corrected Death Rate for 1895.

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### The Causes of Death.

Diphtheria	...	...	...	4
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	2
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	1
Phthisis	...	...	...	5
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	...	...	...	4
Other Diseases	...	...	...	22
				—
Total	...	...	...	38
				—

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### Deaths at Different Periods of Life.

Under 1 year	...	...	...	3
Over 1 year and under 5 years	...	...	...	5
„ 5 years	„	15	„	4
„ 15	„	25	„	1
„ 25	„	65	„	13
65 and upwards	...	...	...	12
				—
				38
				—

### Infant Mortality.

Three deaths occurred under the age of 1 year, against 7 in 1895. This equals 1 per 1,000, and 33 deaths per 1,000 registered births, against 93·3 in 1895.

The 3 deaths are attributed to immaturity or weakness at birth.

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### Phthisis.

There were 5 deaths from Phthisis. This is nearly one-seventh of all the deaths, and is equal to a Death Rate from this disease of 1·66 per 1,000 population.

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### Zymotic Diseases.

There were 6 deaths from Zymotic Diseases—4 from Diphtheria, 2 from Whooping Cough.

#### DEATH RATE PER 1,000.

	1896.	1895.
Diphtheria ...	1·33	·43
Whooping Cough ...	·66	0

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### Cases Notified under Notification Act.

Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	19
Diphtheria ...	...	...	8
Erysipelas ...	...	...	1
			—
			28
			—

### **Scarlet Fever.**

We have not been free from Scarlet Fever for any length of time since July, 1895, since which time 65 cases were notified without one death. The mildness of the epidemic makes it all the more difficult to stamp out, as a doctor is not called in in many cases, and, consequently, no precautions are taken to prevent the disease spreading. Dr. Dent told me he was called in to see some child who had met with an injury, he found it desquamating; the parents denied that the child had been ill; so that in spite of every precaution the disease is still with us. We closed the School for this disease from October 30th to November 16th. It was then thoroughly cleansed and disinfected.

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### **Diphtheria.**

The 8 cases were scattered throughout the district, 2 cases only occurring in one house, namely, Rose Cottage, Suffield Park. Here we found that the house slops and refuse were thrown on a piece of ground at the back of the house, which emitted the most noxious smells. In future, all these houses in Suffield Park will be connected with the General Drainage System.

Most of the other cases were in old houses about the town. It was thought that the ventilation of the sewers was insufficient, and the Council gave orders for extra ventilating shafts.

I gave orders that no child should be allowed by the School Authorities to return to school from an infected house without a medical certificate, for which the Council have wisely decided to pay a small fee, and I trust this may be the means of checking the spread of Zymotic Disease amongst the school children.

If the town had been provided with an Isolation Hospital in July, 1895, in all probability the epidemic of Scarlet Fever would have been nipped in the bud, and a large amount of anxiety and expense saved. The risk to the commercial prosperity of the town runs every summer by not having such a hospital is incalculable.

During the year I made a house-to-house visitation of the insanitary rookeries, and the wonder to me was how half the inhabitants could get enough air to sustain life in those crowded yards. The Council have had many of my recommendations carried out, but they hardly touch the fringe of this evil, which can never be eradicated until proper accommodation is provided for the inhabitants.

Four houses were condemned as unfit for human habitation, and have been closed.

One public urinal has been erected in spite of great opposition. It is freely used and absolutely besieged on Bank Holidays. I trust the council may see their way this year to supply further accommodation for both sexes.

The water supply is good and plentiful, and held out well during the dry summer.

When the Overstrand Ward is fully connected with the Drainage System it will be well to bear in mind the higher elevation of that district, so that ventilating shafts will be very necessary.


I may say here that the General Drainage System has been extended to Suffield Park, and that early this year all houses will be compelled to be attached.

I wish to draw the attention of the Committee to the fact that we have no disinfecting chamber in Cromer, so that it is impossible to rid beds, blankets, etc., of infection, and until such a place is provided I don't see how we are to successfully put a stop to any infectious epidemic when once it has taken root in the place.

I beg to tender my thanks to the medical men practising in the district for all their kind assistance, without which my work would be most arduous.

**SAM. BARTON,**

*Medical Officer of Health.*



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# TABLE (

During the Year 1896, in the Cromer Urban District

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public in- stitutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							Smallpox.
	At all ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and up- wards	
CROMER ... ..	37	3	5	4	1	12	12	Under 5 5 upwds.
FLETCHER CONVALESCENT HOME	1					1		Under 5 5 upwds.
TOTALS	38	3	5	4	1	13	12	Under 5 5 upwds.

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken in

Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto.								Under 5 5 upwds.
Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto.	1					1		Under 5 5 upwds.

\* The heading of column 19 is left blank for the insertion of II

## TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during DISEASES, AG

	POPULATION AT ALL AGES			Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS KNOWLEDGE OF THE M					
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1896.				1	2	3	4	5	
						Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.
CROMER ... ..	2197	3028	90	Under 5 5 upwds.	3 16	1 7					
FLETCHER CONVALESCENT HOME		30		Under 5 5 upwds.							
TOTALS	2197	3058	90	Under 5 5 upwds.	3 16	1 7					





# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, CROMER.

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REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR YEAR  
ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1896.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee.*

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GENTLEMEN,

On the 1st of January, 1896, the annexation of Suffield Park took place, and immediate steps were taken to provide this district with a good drainage system, so that the insanitary condition of many of the houses in this part might be remedied.

The sewers are now completed, and the houses are being connected thereto, and the cesspools abolished.

The Water Company has laid water mains in most of the streets of this Park, and many of the houses are being supplied therefrom and the wells closed. These wells were, in many cases, only a few feet from the cesspools.

During the year the cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria reported have been dealt with from time to time, and disinfectants and "instructions" supplied to the occupiers of the infected

houses, and isolation of the patients, and disinfection of the premises and goods enforced as far as possible; but without an Isolation Hospital and a Disinfecting Chamber it is difficult to satisfactorily deal with infectious cases in small houses.

The Medical Officer, having closed the Board Schools for a time, in consequence of some infectious cases among the children, the old Girls' School (used as a Sunday School), the Lecture Hall, and the Wesleyan and Free Methodist Chapels and Schools, and the Board Schools were thoroughly disinfected with sulphur, and desks and floors, etc., washed with disinfectants.

The books from the infected houses, belonging to the Band of Hope Library, were also destroyed.

The water from the wells in the locality of two cases of Diphtheria having been analysed and found to be impure, the wells have been closed for drinking purposes and the Water Company's water laid on.

A site for an Infectious Hospital has been obtained at Roughton, and plans have been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Board requirements for a Hospital for 3 male and 3 female patients, with the necessary nurses' rooms and administrative block and laundry, mortuary, disinfecting chamber, etc.

The estimated cost of these buildings is £2,000, but the whole question stands in abeyance at present.

The House Scavenging for Cromer has been carried out during the year satisfactorily, except at Suffield Park, from which part a good many complaints were received until the Contractor

was changed. At present one Contractor is employed for both Cromer and Suffield Park.

A very strong effort has been made during the year to provide the town with the necessary public Urinal and W.C. and Lavatory accommodation.

Several sites have been thought suitable, and endeavours made to procure them, but up to the present not successfully.

With a view to show the class of buildings proposed, four different sets of plans for four different sites have been prepared.

The Sanitary Census of the parish begun last year has been continued, and the registration of the houses practically completed, and the work of testing the drains and serving notices, where defects have been found, has been proceeded with.

The nuisance of the empty fish boxes and kips placed on the gangway, and the depositing of baskets of fish bait thereon, has been a considerable source of complaint, and it has been necessary to send letters and serve warning and final notices on the persons concerned before it was abated.

During the year 76 sets of plans and sections have been submitted for new buildings and alterations to existing buildings and for road or sewer-making; of these 63 were approved.

The following notices have been served, and the necessary work carried out to comply with same:—

Closets without water supply ...	...	34
Drains and W.C. drains not ventilated ...	...	50
W.Cs. without ventilation ...	...	38
Sink waste connected direct to sewer ...	...	6
No eaves troughing ...	...	2
Remove soil pipes from inside houses ..	...	2
Remove fish bait, etc. ...	...	4
Unblock drains ...	...	2
Drain backyards ...	...	2
Ventilate rooms in houses ...	...	2
Overcrowding ...	...	1

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**A. F. SCOTT,**

*Sanitary Inspector.*

# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, CROMER.

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REPORT OF SURVEYOR FOR YEAR ENDING  
DECEMBER 31ST, 1896.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Highways Committee.*

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present herewith my annual report for the year ending December 31st, 1896.

On the 1st of January the district known as Suffield Park became a part of the Urban District of Cromer, thereby adding about 136 acres of land and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles of roads to Cromer. As the whole of this locality was without any sewerage system, steps were at once taken to provide for this deficiency, and plans were ordered forthwith.

The natural contour of the ground suggests that the sewer should be taken along in the same line as the small stream which runs from the Park through the fields to Mill Lane; and negotiations were opened with the owners with a view to arranging for a "way leave" for the main sewer through their property. These negotiations falling through, the Committee were compelled to

adopt the alternative of carrying the main sewer along the Overstrand Road and Cliff Road, necessitating a depth of 26 feet at the deepest point ; otherwise there would have been no chance of getting this work in hand and started during the year.

Every effort was made to lose no time, and plans were prepared and submitted to this Committee and Council, and application made to the Local Government Board for a loan, an enquiry held, loan granted, tenders advertised for and received, and the work commenced within 11 weeks of the annexation.

The Contractor proceeded with the work, and completed all the contract within the contract time, except 200 yards in the deepest part of Overstrand Road. Here we came into most difficult ground, and although specially skilled men were employed, and special appliances obtained, very slow progress could be made, it taking sometimes two or three weeks to lay even one pipe ; and it was nearly the end of the year before the pipes were all laid ; and even then a settlement occurred in the worst ground, making necessary the renewal of several pipes, which has since been done, and the sewer is now in use.

The total cost of this sewerage work in public and private roads has been £3,500, comprising 3 miles of sewers.

The extension of Mount Street through to Hans Place has been carried out, and though but a short length of street it is a very important one, as it completes a second roadway through the town, and helps to relieve the congested condition of Church Street during the season.

The Overstrand Road, opposite the Links Hotel, has been widened to 36 feet.

Alfred Road has been made up during the year.

The ordinary work of flushing and examining the sewers and cleansing gullies has been regularly attended to, and a number of additional gullies have been fixed in various parts of the town.

The street scavenging has received special attention, and an additional man has been employed. During the season pynerzone disinfectant was used for watering the streets in the town.

A number of new lamps have been put up in Suffield Park, also some additional lamps in the town (in all 24 new lamps). Incandescent lighting has been tried in different parts with a view to future adoption.

During the year steps have been taken to obtain land for a storeyard, and to erect cottages under the "Housing of the Working Classes" Act.

The question of improving the East Gangway approach to the beach, for which plans were prepared and land obtained last year, has not yet made any further progress, owing to certain objections which have been raised, and modifications have been discussed, which, it is anticipated, will be satisfactory.

A number of important buildings have been erected during the year, including the Board Schools.

The improvement of the churchyard, for which a faculty was applied for in 1895, has been carried out in a modified form, on account of the faculty having been granted for a reduced scheme only.

An average of 10 feet has been thrown into Church Street, High Street, and Tucker Street.

A low flint wall with Portland stone coping, with iron railing thereon, has been placed round the new boundary of the churchyard, with suitable octagon and carved panelled Portland stone piers to the entrances; and a granite curb and tar path put to the roadway, with hexagon lamps for lighting round the churchyard.

The cost of this work, including the widening of roadway, etc., has been £800.

In addition to the ordinary work of road and path maintenance, there has been considerable further work in connection with the £3,500 loan, granted last year for curbing and paving the footways and streets of the town. The Jetty Cliff has been curbed and footways paved with asphalt, and the carriage way laid with tarred granite. New Street has also been curbed and footway tar paved, and carriage way laid with tarred iron slag.

West Street also in its whole length has been curbed and footways tar-paved, and a portion of the street laid with tarred iron slag.

During the year a 10-ton roller has been purchased and has been found very beneficial in consolidating the roads. Without a steam roller such roads as New Street could not have been laid.

A 4-wheel water van was purchased during the year, which has been found a great improvement on the old carts.

The total number of gallons of water registered as used in street watering during the year was 850,000 gallons.

**A. P. SCOTT,**

*Surveyor.*





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