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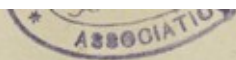
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The Local Government Act, 1888, Sec. 24 (2) c, and the Orders of the Local Government Board.

REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officers of Health

FOR THE

Rural and Urban Sanitary Districts,

WITHIN THE COUNTY OF DORSET,

FOR THE

YEAR 1898.

EXTRACTS FROM

General Order of Local Government Board, 1891.

AS TO

Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health.

Part I.

Art. 18, par. (14.) He shall also make an annual report to the Sanitary Authority, up to the end of December in each year, comprising a summary of the action taken, or which he has advised the Sanitary Authority to take during the year for preventing the spread of disease, and an account of the sanitary state of his District generally at the end of the year. The report shall also contain an account of the inquiries which he has made as to conditions injurious to health existing in the District, and of the proceedings in which he has taken part or advised under any Statute so far as such proceedings relate to those conditions; and also an account of the supervision exercised by him or on his advice, for sanitary purposes over places and houses that the Sanitary Authority have power to regulate, with the nature and results of any proceedings which may have been so required and taken in respect of the same during the year. The report shall also record the action taken by him, or on his advice during the year in regard to offensive trades, to dairies cow-sheds, and milk-shops and to factories and workshops. The report shall also contain tabular statements (on Forms to be supplied by Us, or to the like effect), of the sickness and mortality within the district, classified according to diseases, ages and localities.

Provided that, if the Medical Officer of Health shall cease to hold office before the 31st day of December in any year, he shall make the like report for so much of the year as shall have expired when he ceases to hold office.

Art. 18, par (16.) At the same time that he gives information to Us of an outbreak of infectious disease or transmits to Us a copy of his annual report or of any special report, he shall give the like information or transmit a copy of such report to the County Council of the County within which his District may be situated.

Part II.

In regard to every Medical Officer of Health, no part of whose salary is intended to be payable to an Urban Sanitary Authority by a County Council or by the Town Council of a Borough in pursuance of the Local Government Act, 1888, We do hereby Order :—

Art. 20. The following shall be the duties of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the District for which he is appointed :—

- (1) He shall within seven days after his appointment report the same in writing to Us.
- (2) He shall perform all the duties prescribed by Article 18 of this Order for a Medical Officer of Health in respect of whose salary a payment is intended to be made by a County Council as aforesaid.

RURAL SANITARY DISTRICTS.

Beaminster—Mr. F. P. Kitson.

The area of the Rural District of Beaminster is 57017 acres divided into the following districts namely:—

					ACRES.
1.	Beaminster	...	...	...	11530
2.	{ Netherbury and	...	...	...	13111
	{ Marshwood	...	...	...	7089
3.	Evershot	...	...	...	16229
4.	Mosterton	...	...	...	3727
5.	Thorncombe	...	...	...	5331

Population. Census 1891—10631. Estimated to middle of 1893—9846.

				1891	1898
	Beaminster	...	...	3020	2810
	Netherbury and Marshwood	...	...	3687	3372
	Evershot	...	...	2286	2146
	Mosterton	...	...	696	647
	Thorncombe	...	...	941	871

Birth Rate. 23·8 per 1000 population. Number of births registered 235.

				Males.	Females.	Total.
	Beaminster	...	...	37	31	68
	Netherbury and Marshwood	...	...	36	39	75
	Evershot	...	...	36	25	61
	Mosterton	...	...	8	4	12
	Thorncombe	...	...	8	11	19
				125	110	235

Death Rate. 14·5 per 1000.

	Beaminster	...	...	...	32
	Netherbury and Marshwood	...	...	...	62
	Evershot	...	...	...	27
	Mosterton	...	...	...	8
	Thorncombe	...	...	...	14

Deaths in Union house 10.

Zymotic Rate. Nil.

Infant Mortality. 59·5 per 1000 births.

Prevalence of Disease.

Notifications:—Scarlatina	...	...	...	...	4
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	6
Typhoid	...	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	6
					18

The four cases of Scarlatina notified occurred in the following Districts:—

Beaminster 1 on August 20th.
Netherbury & Marshwood 2 on August 19th.
Thorncombe 1 on January 28th.

The cases in Thorncombe and Beaminster could not be traced to any cause.

In the two cases in the Marshwood District the infection was introduced from outside the District.

Diphtheria.

Netherbury 2 on January 3rd, 1898.
" 3 " 10th "
Evershot 1 on July 18th "

No cause could be found in any of the 5 cases in the Netherbury District.

In the Evershot case the drains were put in a satisfactory condition.

The number of new cases of Sickness reported during the year amount to 516. During the 1st quarter 146 cases of Influenza, 4 of Whooping Cough and 4 of Mumps.

In the second quarter there were 30 cases of Whooping Cough and 15 of Mumps.

In the third quarter 21 cases of Whooping Cough and one case of Measles.

In the fourth quarter 3 cases of Whooping Cough and 2 of Influenza.

There must also have been many other cases of Mumps in Beaminster and Whooping Cough throughout the districts of Beaminster Netherbury and Mosterton who either did not come under treatment or were treated privately.

In all cases of Infectious Disease the houses and surroundings have been inspected and the premises disinfected after recovery.

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Water Supply.—The whole of the water supply being derived from springs and wells during the very dry summer the amount of water in some places was very small. In Beaminster the question of providing a water supply for the town has long been under consideration but up to the present nothing has been done. New supplies have been provided at Wytherston and Beer Hall Farms where cases of Typhoid Fever have occurred.

Sewerage and Drainage.—A new drain has been laid at Salway Ash and work has been begun on a new pipe drain in Broadwindsor in place of the old brick drain.

The Isolation Hospital.—Has not been used during the year. There is no public means of disinfecting in the district.

Housing of the Working Classes.—Three cases of overcrowding have been dealt with throughout the year. Throughout the district the cottages are in a fairly good state many of the worst ones through not being repaired have become ruins.

Slaughter Houses, Bake-houses, Common Lodging Houses and Dairies.—Satisfactory—All the Slaughter Houses are private ones and situated in the town.

In many of the Dairies the Milkhouses are used for other purposes such as larders as well as for storing milk. This should be prevented and proper larders insisted on.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK.

Number of complaints received during the year	...	1
Inspections of Houses, Premises &c.	...	150
Result of Inspections.		
Orders issued for sanitary amendment of houses & premises	...	36
Houses, Premises, &c. cleaned and Whitewashed	...	13
Disinfected after infectious disease	...	8
Privies—Defective, foul or deficient	...	40
Water supplies	...	2
Sewers—New provided	...	1
Piggeries and pigs in an unclean state	...	17
Removal of accumulation of manure	...	24
Cases of overcrowding	...	3
Number of lodging houses registered	...	1
Water certificates to 3 new houses	...	3
Public pumps repaired	...	0
Chalk pit unfenced	...	1
One case of anthrax in a cow inspected	...	1

General Remarks.—During the year the number of notifications have again fallen and there has not been a single death from any of the principle Zymotic Disease.

One death was caused by Erysipelas at the age of 72.

Five children under 5 years of age died from Whooping Cough. Notwithstanding the great number of cases of this disease during the year the infant mortality is very low i.e. 59.5 per 10.0 births.

The death rate is lower than last year i.e. 14.5 against 16.4.

The number of deaths caused by Heart Disease is 9 this year against 19 in the preceding year.

Blandford—Mr. G. W. Daniell:—

The area of this District is 61462 acres. The population (census 1891) is 9679 estimated to the middle of 1898 is 9600.

The birth rate for the year is 19.01, as there were 184 Births in the district

There were 125 deaths, and the death rate is 12.9.

The Zymotic death rate is .02, the Infant Mortality is 59.7.

I would point out how favourably these figures compare with those of the year before when the death rate was 16.1, the Zymotic death rate .25, and the infantile Mortality 136.1

OF THE 125 DEATHS.

11	took place in infants under 1 year of age
1	" " " a child aged 1 year and under 5
3	" " " children aged 5 " 15
9	" " " persons aged 15 " 25
35	" " " " aged 25 " 66
66	" " " " aged 65 years and upwards.

The Mortality from every cause has been:—

From Enteric or Typhoid fever	...	2	deaths
" Phthisis	...	8	"
" Bronchitis and Pneumonia	...	29	"
" Heart Disease	...	27	"
" Injuries	...	3	"
" Influenza	...	2	"
" All other causes and diseases	...	54	"

Many of the deaths resulting from Bronchitis and Pneumonia had their origin from Influenza.

Scarlatina was very prevalent in the Western part of the district during the year. I have no doubt the infection has in some manner remained in that locality for several years. No death has resulted therefrom.

Two cases of Diphtheria were reported to me, they were both mild and did well. In June a case of Enteric Fever was reported to me at Tolland Farnham and through the courtesy of Dr. Pearson, the Medical man in attendance, I saw the patient with him. It was a question with both of us, whether the illness might not arise from tuberculosis, although the majority of the symptoms pointed to Enteric Fever. The man was a weakly ill-nourished individual and he eventually died. No local cause could be discovered by the Inspector of Nuisances or by me. In October four cases of Enteric Fever occurred at Long Ash in the parish of Milton Abbas. As I reported to you at the time, it appears that a sister of Mrs. Raymond came there from Hendon on a visit. Mrs. Raymond lives with her husband and family in one of two cottages at Long Ash, this woman fell ill and a daughter of Mrs. Raymond who was in service at Bournemouth came home for the purpose of assisting to Nurse her Aunt. Shortly after this the girl returned to Bournemouth, she developed Enteric Fever, and subsequently Raymond as well as three of his children were prostrated with the disease, by the help of two Nurses who you were good enough to sanction my providing, with careful attendance, all recovered, otherwise they would have succumbed. In November two cases of Enteric Fever developed at Langton Lodge, in Langton parish one of which unfortunately proved fatal. In my report to you at the time I mentioned my suspicion that the disease must have been in some way imported by the military, who had lately been encamped close by, otherwise in such an isolated spot it seemed hardly possible for such a formidable malady to develop. Having since heard that one Soldier at any rate was removed from the camp with pronounced Enteric Fever upon him, I have no hesitation in ascribing the death of the man Vincent and the illness of the boy Burton to this cause. Moreover I consider that in the future some one in Authority should give the local Medical Officer of Health notification of any Infectious Disease, which was not done in this instance. The water taken from the well used by the inhabitants of the two cottages in which the disease existed was submitted to ordinary as well as to Bacterial Analysis, with negative results.

The water supply in the district is principally derived from wells, and as the labourers' cottage as a rule, is not troubled with drains, the water is seldom polluted.

I am still of opinion that the pail system is the best in this district for the removal of excrementitious matter. It is far superior and was less mischievous than the privy vault, and it is now almost invariably adopted in this district.

I am desired to allude to the question of an Isolation Hospital, and I consider it a source of great congratulation that through the kindness and liberality of Viscount Portman, we shall shortly be provided with such a necessary and useful addition to our means for stamping out Infectious Disease, probably in the near future it will be necessary to provide a Small-pox Hospital on a much larger scale.

With regard to the housing of the labouring class in the district, generally they are good, on some properties, very good. For the sake of morality they should always contain three bed rooms, two of which at least should be provided with fire places, in case of illness.

There are not many slaughter houses in the district, those in existence are suitable and cleanly, the same remark applies to bakeries. No common Lodging House exists.

Summary of Sanitary Work.

No. of Complaints received during the year. ...	8
No. of Inspections of Houses, Premises, &c. The whole district has been Inspected once, Milton Abbas twice, and four special inspections.	
Results of Inspections.	
Orders issued for Sanitary Amendment of houses and premises	23
Houses, Premises &c. Cleaned, Repaired, Whitewashed &c.	5
Houses disinfected after infectious illness	10
House drains	
New provided to houses ...	3
" " " yards ...	4
Privies, &c.	
New Provided privies ...	2
" " earth buckets	6
Repaired	8
Water supplies	
Water from Blandford works laid on to houses in Pimperne	8
At Hilton from Hatherly	2
Wells have been cleaned and deepened at Spettisbury, Charlton, Winterborne Clenston, Milton Abbas, Hilton, and Milborne	
Certificates of good water supply have been given to owners of new houses at Pimperne	6
Bryanstone	4
Stourpaine	1

Bridport—Mr. W. A. E. Hay.

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1898.

The total number of births registered was 170, and deaths 116, equal to rates of 22.6 per 1000 and 14.5 per 1000 respectively.

Scarlatina caused 1 death, Diphtheria 1, Measles 1, Whooping Cough 4, Diarrhoea 3, (Diarrhoea was secondary to other Diseases.)

Out of the total number of deaths 19 were 80 and upwards years of age.

Prevalence of Disease and Notification.

The two cases of Diphtheria were notified in January and February.

The case of Enteric Fever was contracted outside the district. On account of an Epidemic of Influenza together with Whooping Cough it was necessary to close the Schools at Burton Bradstock during a part of February and March.

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19 Notification Certificates were received. The Premises and Houses were inspected, the children in the infected houses ordered not to attend school or mix with other Children. Disinfectants supplied and the necessary Sanitary instructions given to the responsible persons so as to prevent the spread of Infection.

After the cases had recovered the clothes, etc., were disinfected and Bedding, etc., burnt when necessary and the rooms disinfected and limewashed.

Water Supply.—Analysis of water was taken in 12 cases, in 4 cases it proved unfit for dietetic purposes and the wells were ordered to be closed and a fresh supply obtained.

A good supply of water has been found for Charmouth and the necessary works to bring it into the Village are nearing completion.

All new buildings have been visited, and unless the water was obviously above suspicion an Analysis was taken before a Certificate was granted.

Sewerage & Drainage-Excrement disposal.—The Authority have obtained permission to drain the Bradpole Road and St Andrews well premises into the Urban District Sewer. The excrement disposal is dealt with in the Monthly Reports after the house to house surveys.

Isolation Hospital, Means for Disinfection, etc.—There is no Isolation Hospital for the District. Disinfection has been carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector by means of Sulphur fumigation, also by washing the floors, walls, and furniture, with Corrosive Sublimate Solution. Washable articles disinfected by boiling water, unwashable materials soaked in a solution of Corrosive Sublimate, in some cases it has been necessary to burn the bedding, etc., and the Authority have replaced the loss. When the work was done the Ceilings and walls have been lime-washed or painted.

The Housing of the Working Classes, Slaughter-houses and Bake-houses, have been dealt with in the house to house surveys and there are no Common Lodging-houses in the district.

Summary of Sanitary Work.

Number of Complaints received during the year 1898	...	7
" of Inspections of houses, Premises, etc.	...	192
Result of Inspections		
Orders issued for Sanitary Amendment of Houses & Premises, etc.	121	
Houses, Premises, etc., Cleaned, Repaired, Whitewashed, etc.	41	
Houses, Disinfected after Infectious Illness	...	13
House Drains		
New provided	...	4
Repaired, Cleaned, trapped, etc.	...	32
Privies, and W.C.'s		
New provided	...	4
Repaired etc	...	55
Water Supplies	...	4
Miscellaneous.		
Removal of Accumulations of Manure, Animals, & other refuse	32	
Animals Removed, being improperly kept	...	3
Cases of Overcrowding	...	2
Number of Lodging houses Registered	...	0
Legal Proceedings (Summonses)	...	1

In company with the Sanitary Inspector I am making a house to house survey of the District and reporting to you monthly Notice to remedy Sanitary defects has been served to the persons responsible, a great number have already been remedied and others are receiving attention. There are no offensive processes of trade carried on in the district, and I have not been called upon to examine any Animal or Article of diet that is diseased, unwholesome, or unfit for the food of man.

Your Inspector has faithfully brought to my notice all matters requiring my intervention and has helped me in my Inspections. Accompanying this Report are tabular statements of the sickness and mortality during the year.

Cerne.—Mr. E. E. Dalton.

As Medical Officer of Health, I beg to hand you my report upon the Vital Statistics and Sanitary condition of your district for the year 1898.

Area of District.—46741 acres.

Population.—Census, 1891, 6122 and estimated to middle of 1898 is 5922.

Birth Rate.—The number of births registered during the year was 122, which gives a birth rate of 20.6 per 1000.

Death Rate.—This I find to be 14·18 per 1000. The number of deaths that occurred in the year was 84. This was 18 less than in 1897, and I am pleased to say gives us a death rate of 3 per 1000 of the population lower than in that year.

Of the 84 deaths that occurred 30 were of persons over 70, 14 over 80, and 1 over 90 years of age.

24 deaths were certified as being due to old age and 3 to accidents.

The average age at death of those who died being 49 years, as against 48 for 1897.

The classification of the deaths according to ages is as follows:—

(1) Deaths under 1 year of age	...	...	...	11
(2) „ over 1 and under 5 years	...	...	...	5
(3) „ over 5 and under 15 „	...	...	...	3
(4) „ over 15 and „ 25 „	...	...	...	4
(5) „ over 25 and „ 65 „	...	...	...	22
(6) „ over 65 years of age	...	...	...	39

The deaths (classified according to form A,) were certified as being due to:—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	2
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	1
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	4
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	2
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	7
Heart Disease...	...	...	...	...	5
Injuries	...	...	...	...	3
All other diseases	...	...	...	...	59
Total	...	...	...	...	84

Zymotic Death Rate.

This death rate I find to be ·50 per 1000 living. It is a very fairly low one and compares favourably with that of the preceding year, which was ·66, and also with that for the whole County, which was 1·09 for the same year.

Infantile Mortality.

During the year there were 11 deaths of children under one year of age, which gives us a death rate of 90 per 1000 births registered. This rate for the whole of the county in 1897 was 106·1.

Prevalence of disease.

During the past year the district has been fairly free from Infectious diseases, only 20 cases being notified to me, as against 37 in 1897.

The Diseases notified were:—

- (1) Scarlet Fever, in the parishes of Melcombe Horsey, and Minterne.
- (2) Measles, in the parish of Sydling St. Nicholas.
- (3) Erysipelas, in the parishes of Buckland Newton, and Piddletrenthide.
- (4) Diphtheria, in the parishes of Buckland Newton, Mappowder, and Minterne.

Schools closed for Infectious diseases.

- (1) *Sydling St. Nicholas*—This school was closed in September, owing to an epidemic of Measles.
- (2) *Minterne*—This school has been closed since the 5th of December, several cases of Diphtheria being in the district.

Water Supply.

During the year continued efforts have been made to still further improve the water supplies in the different parts of the district. Several new supplies have been obtained, and in many cases existing supplies have been made good.

Housing of the Working Classes.

This is gradually improving.

Sanitary Work.

Continued good work has been done, both by your late Inspector, until he left us, and by Mr. J. Northover since his appointment by you, and it is from him I get the following cases which have been dealt with during the year:—

(1) Number of Inspections of Houses, premises, etc.	...	...	131
(2) Orders issued for Sanitary amendment of Houses & premises	...	...	38
(3) Houses, premises, etc., cleaned, repaired, whitewashed, etc.	...	...	38
(4) Lime washing orders under "Bakers Acts"	...	...	27
(5) Houses disinfected after Infectious disease	...	...	10
(6) House drains, new provided	...	...	6
repaired, etc.	...	...	21
(7) Privies & W.C.'s	...	...	...
new provided	...	...	1
repaired	...	...	9
foul closets cleaned	54
(8) Removals of accumulations of Manure,
Animal and other refuse.	3

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Dorchester (Eastern)—Mr. E. J. Day.

The details in this my 22nd Annual Report on the Health of the Eastern Division of the Rural Sanitary District of Dorchester have been taken in the order suggested by the County Council. The *acreage* is 28495, with a *population* of 4947 (census 1891) which has increased by excess of births over deaths to 5309—since 1891 more than 200 houses have been built, allowing 5 to a house, the population is estimated to be at least 6250. The total number of *births* was 127 against 129 in 1897, 128 in 1896, 134 in 1895, 119 in 1894, 116 in 1893, 130 in 1892, and 107 in 1891, giving a *birth-rate* of 20·32 per 1000 against 21·5 in 1897, (and 29·4 England and Wales, 1898, which is lower than that in any other year on record). Only 65 *deaths* were registered, 42 males, of these 4 occurred outside this division among persons belonging thereto and 9 occurred within it among persons not belonging thereto, consequently the *death-rate* is only 9·6 per 1000 against 13·6 in 1897 (and 17·6 England and Wales, 1898). The average age at death was 51 years against 39 in 1897 and 38 in 1896.

The following is the death-rate since my appointment :—

1878	...	17·4	1879	...	22·2	1880	...	17·2
1881	...	15·4	1882	...	15·0	1883	...	16·4
1884	...	12·4	1885	...	16·5	1886	...	15·8
1887	...	14·8	1888	...	17·0	1889	...	10·9
1890	...	10·8	1891	...	12·6	1892	...	14·2
1893	...	11·6	1894	...	11·8	1895	...	13·8
1896	...	14·3	1897	...	13·6	1898	...	9·6

The deaths were registered as follows :—

1st Quarter	...	22—January 4, February 12, March 6.
2nd "	...	17—April 2, May 8, June 7.
3rd "	...	9—July 1, August 4, September 4.
4th "	...	17—October 7, November 5, December 5.

No death was due to Small-pox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Croup, Typhus Fever, Typhoid Fever, Puerperal Fever, Cholera, Measles, nor Rheumatic Fever. The following are particulars of the 9 deaths which occurred within the Division among persons not belonging thereto :—

SEX.	AGE.	FORMER RESIDENCE.	CAUSE.
M.	64	Martinstown	Influenza, etc.
M.	6	Dorchester	Tubercular
M.	70	"	Ulcers
M.	75	"	Paralysis
F.	49	Bradford Peverell	Pneumonia
M.	67	Dorchester	"
M.	57	"	"
M.	73	Gosport	Old Age
M.	72	Dorchester	Bronchitis

The following are the particulars of the 4 deaths which occurred outside the Division among persons belonging thereto :—

SEX.	AGE.	FORMER RESIDENCE.	CAUSE.
M.	52	Broadmayne	Influenza, etc.
F.	50	Warmwell	Cancer
M.	41	Woodsford	Bronchitis
M.	54	West Stafford	Accident

The principal causes of the deaths were—Influenza, etc., 8; Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy, 8; Heart Disease, 7; Phthisis, 7; Cancer, 3; only 4 were registered as having died of Old Age, although 26 were over 70, and 8 over 80.

Annual death-rate per 1000 from all causes and from the principal Zymotic Diseases :—

	All Causes.	Principal Zymotic Diseases	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Deaths under one year of age per 1000 births.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
England & Wales, 1898	17·6	2·2	·01	·41	·11	·24	·31	·18	·96	161
This Sanitary Division, 1896	14·3	3·2		·54	1·9		·54		·18	140
Ditto, 1897	13·6	·16		·16						107
Ditto, 1898	9·6	·16				·16				31

The following death was not certified :—(1 in 1897 and 1896).

LOCALITY.	SEX.	AGE.	SUPPOSED CAUSE.
Higher Woodsford	F.	5 months.	Convulsions.

Only 1 child having succumbed to Whooping Cough the *Zymotic Death-rate* is very low indeed—·6 per 1000. The following are particulars of 9 deaths of importance from a sanitary point of view :—

LOCALITY.	SEX.	AGE.	CAUSE OF DEATH.
Workhouse	M.	64	Influenza, etc.
Fordington	M.	1	"
Piddlehinton	F.	4	Whooping-cough
Broadmayne	M.	37	Influenza, etc.
Tincleton	F.	64	"
West Knighton	M.	18	"
Dewlish	M.	35	"
Broadmayne	F.	20	"
Dewlish	F.	76	Erysipelas

To which should be added the 7 deaths from Consumption now that this disease is preventable to a great extent.

LOCALITY.	SEX.	AGE.	DURATION.
Piddletown	M.	75	6 months
Dewlish	M.	35	3 "
West Stafford	F.	53	2 years
Winterborne Came	M.	19	2 months
"	F.	40	8 "
Fordington	M.	52	9 "
Stinsford	F.	48	2 years

The rate of *Infant Mortality* (measured by the number of deaths of children under 1 year of age to births registered) is only 13·4 per 1000, births against 107 in 1897 and 140 in 1896. This is very satisfactory.

As regards the prevalence of disease of an infectious nature, the following 6 cases were notified to me :—

DATE.	SEX.	AGE.	LOCALITY.	DISEASE.
May 17	F.	Over 5	Stinsford	Typhoid Fever
July 25	F.	"	Fordington	Erysipelas
Oct. 15	F.	"	Dewlish	"
Nov. 17	F.	"	Woodsford	Scarlet Fever
"	F.	"	"	"
"	M.	"	"	"

With the exception of the fatal case of Erysipelas at Dewlish, all the above were of a very mild type. The usual precautions having been taken there was no further spreading of the disease. The 3 Scarlet-Fever cases were members of the same household. No cause could be found for the *Typhoid Fever* case, the water, on analysis, was found to be good. There was no sanitary defect in the house, and the milk supply was above suspicion. The *Water Supply* has been improved in 16 instances (several being new wells), and is as good as in most rural districts. Particulars of the Sewerage and Drainage will be found below. The *Earth System* is adopted in the Main. The *Sanitary Hospital*, situated in this Division, has been the means of isolating two cases of Scarlet Fever, one of Diphtheria, and one of Erysipelas; the three former recovered, the last-named is still in the Hospital. None of these were removed from any part of this Division. (For further particulars concerning the Hospital see my Urban Report.

The chief provision made for *Housing the Working Classes* has been in Fordington, adjoining the Borough of Dorchester, where less than 58 houses have been built and occupied, many more are in the process of being built. The *Slaughter-houses and Bakehouses* have been inspected and whitewashed to the satisfaction of Mr. Hinchclyffe, the Sanitary Inspector appointed in the early part of the year, from whom I have received assistance. There are no Common Lodging Houses.

Summary of Sanitary Work.

Number of Complaints received	...	...	...	14
" Inspections of Houses	...	...	...	478
Results of Inspections.				
Orders issued for Sanitary Amendment of Houses	...	...	...	1
Houses Repaired, Whitewashed, etc.	...	...	...	18
" Disinfected after Infectious Illness	...	...	...	1
House Drains.				
New provided	...	...	...	10
Repaired, Trapped, etc.	...	...	...	6
Closets.				
New provided	...	...	...	18
Repaired, etc.	...	...	...	4
Supplied with Water	...	...	...	—
Water Supplies	...	...	...	16
Sewers, New provided	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous.				
Removal of Accumulations of Refuse, &c.	...	...	...	24
Animals Removed, being improperly kept	...	...	...	—
Cases of Overcrowding	...	...	...	3
Number of Lodging-houses Registered	...	...	...	—
Legal Proceedings (summonses)	...	...	...	—

Nothing was condemned as unfit for human food. The River Frome is still polluted with Dorchester Sewerage, but the Urban District Council have purchased land on which to erect their new Sewage Works, and the Borough Surveyor is preparing the necessary plans; we are, therefore, within a measurable distance of seeing the scheme for treating the sewage in operation. The chief matters for consideration are the Drainage of the South Court and the Victoria Park Estates. The matters for congratulation are :—

1. Lowering the death-rate from 13·6 to 9·6 per 1000. This is the lowest since my appointment in 1878, and probably the lowest in the whole county.
2. Keeping the death-rate from the principal Zymotic Diseases at '6, a very low figure (that for England and Wales being 2·2).
3. Lowering the Infantile death-rate from 107 to 31 per 1000 births. This also is probably the lowest in the whole county.
4. Raising the average age at death from 29 to 51.
5. The absence at this time of all Infectious Diseases from this Division.

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Dorchester (Western).—Mr. W. Rendall.

I have the honor to present you with my Annual Report on the health of the Western Division of your district; area 37045.

Population (census 1891) 5578, estimated to middle of 1898, 5894. Birth-rate per 1000 19.51. Death-rate per 1000, including 56 deaths which occurred at the Asylum, 21.88. Normal Death-rate, corrected by leaving out 56 deaths which occurred at the Asylum among persons not belonging to this Division, 12.55.

Zymotic Death-rate *nil*.

Infant Mortality, 60.34 per 1000 births registered. Two deaths being due to premature birth, and 4 to bronchitis. I wish particularly to draw your attention to the fact that no death has occurred from Zymotic disease, and to the small number of new cases of Infectious sickness notified to me during the year, viz.—two cases of Scarlet Fever and six of Erysipelas, of the two cases of Scarlet Fever, one occurred at Maiden Newton in the same house as one had occurred a few months previously, and was probably due to the first disinfection not having thoroughly destroyed the germs of infection.

The other case occurred at Littlebredy and was an imported one from Salisbury. In both cases steps were taken to isolate the patients, and to prevent the spread of the disease, with most satisfactory results. The six cases of Erysipelas were all of a mild type and my experience leads me to believe that serious cases of Erysipelas are seldom met with in country practice, and I should therefore be in favour of cutting out Erysipelas altogether from the list of notifiable diseases, and introducing measles instead.

You will notice, I have stated in Table B, that the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the district is situated in Dorchester, fortunately, I have not found it necessary to send a case of Infectious disease there, yet I imagine the Hospital would be available in the event of any serious outbreak and on this point I should like your opinion.

Occasional cases of Scarlet Fever, such as has occurred in this division during the last few years, we can deal with as before but in the event of Small Pox appearing, which we must anticipate in the course of a few years, what steps are to be taken.

On receiving notification of a case, a Medical Officer of Health must be prepared to act at once, for the benefit of the patient and to allay the fears of the panic-stricken anti-vaccinationists, he will have no time to communicate with this authority, and will possibly find himself left alone with the patient. Would it not then be advisable to fully consider the matter at once, and give your Officers directions how to deal with such cases when they occur. The most important causes of death are Phthisis 5, Bronchitis 13, Heart Disease 14, Cancer 5, the two latter being a very high proportion of the total number.

Inquests were held in 9 instances, when the following verdicts were returned 2 Suicides, 1 Apoplexy, 1 breaking of Blood Vessel in Stomach 4 Heart Disease of long standing, 1 Natural Causes.

Such verdicts as Apoplexy, Breaking Blood Vessel in stomach, and Heart Disease of long standing, are necessarily in the absence of a Post Mortem purely a matter of guess work, and utterly unreliable. The only verdict which seems to be reasonable in the case of sudden death without a Post Mortem is death from Natural causes, and this I take it would be sufficient to satisfy the Registrar General.

Water Supply.—In some parts of my District water was very scarce during the Summer owing to the long drought, and this was particularly felt at Maiden Newton.

I regret to say that my anticipations as to the Maiden Newton water supply being commenced in the Summer of the year have not been realized owing to the refusal of the Local Government Board to sanction the scheme which you submitted to them. Their objections were however found to be groundless, and have since been withdrawn, and I believe there is now every probability of the work being commenced.

The Great Toller water supply seems to be abandoned for the present, but sooner or later with the present supply, Typhoid Fever will re-appear.

The following variation of an old rhyme seems to be one most appropriate.

Bad water and the Fever we alike abhor,
When on the brink of danger, not before,
The danger past, both are alike requited,
The fever is forgotten, and the water slighted.

The Sewerage and Drainage of this Division are not carried out on any particular plan, each house or groups of houses being drained according to requirements, position and surroundings.

Details of the work done will be found in the appended summary of the sanitary work for the year.

The housing of the working classes is more satisfactory than it used to be. There is no overcrowding, more attention has been paid of late years to whitewashing and the disposal of refuse matters. The Slaughter-houses and Bakehouses in this division are regularly inspected and I am able to report favourably on their condition, but with regard to Cowsheds and Dairy Yards I cannot speak so favourably.

I have in my former reports called your attention to their condition, and I cannot say any improvement has taken place. Dairy Yards require to be improved in their construction, and not allowed to be as they now are open cesspools. Cowsheds require more space, better ventilation, and should be so constructed as to allow of their being properly cleansed. Such Cowsheds can be found on some properties but they are the exception.

I venture to suggest that a small committee be appointed to go round this district and report to the County and Rural District Councils on the subject. I notice that the Public Health Acts Amendment Bill now before the House of Commons contains clauses dealing with diseases of milch cows and Infectious diseases amongst dairy workers, but it is useless trying to deal with such matters until something has been done to improve the conditions under which they live, prevention is better than cure, and under present conditions it is to be wondered at if we find Tuberculosis in cows and Fever in swine.

Summary of Sanitary Work.

Number of Complaints	...	...	...	...	15
.. of Inspections of Houses	...	...	...	...	486
Results of Inspections					
Houses &c. Cleansed, Repaired &c.	...	...	...	...	9
Houses disinfected after Infectious illness	...	...	...	...	2
House Drains					
New	...	...	...	...	2
Repaired &c.	...	...	...	...	4
Privies and W.C's					
New provided	...	...	...	...	5
Repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous					
Removal of Manure and Refuse	...	...	...	...	13

Poole.—Mr. J. R. Philpots :—

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Thirteenth Annual Report on the sanitary conditions and vital statistics of the Rural District of Poole, which includes Canford, Kinson, Lytchett Minster and Lytchett Matravers.

The Acreage of the whole District 18853, made up as follows:—

Canford	...	...	...	...	...	7679
Kinson	...	...	...	...	...	4714
Lytchett Minster	...	...	...	...	...	3173
Lytchett Matravers	...	...	...	...	...	3287

The Population of the whole district from June 30th, 1897, to June 30th, 1898, was 4303, an increase of 68.

The Births from January 1st to December 31st, 1898, 131—75 males and 56 females, or 32.7 per 1000.

Table showing Births in the whole district in each month.

Distribution	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Tl
Canford	2	3	1	1	4	1	5	2	2	6	2	4	33
Kinson	3	1	8	7	4	4	3	7	6	4	6	3	56
Lytchett Minster	2	1	1	5	2	2	2	5	5	1	1	3	30
Lytchett Matravers	1	2	1	4	2	—	2	3	3	1	1	2	22
Totals	8	7	11	17	12	7	12	17	16	12	10	12	141

The Deaths in the district numbered 59 equal to 13.7 per 1000.

Ten cases of Infectious Disease have been notified to me during the year, as against eighteen in the previous one.

Two of Infectious Cases in the whole district notified to me during the year 1898:—

Date.	Initials.	Age.	Locality.	District	Disease.
Jan. 12	T.A.	22 years	Headless Cross	Kinson	Scarlet Fever
" 12	J.A.	15 "	"	"	"
" 24	E.C.	30 "	"	Canford	Erysipelas
May 1	H.B.	78 "	"	Lytchett Minster	"
" 7	E.G.	58 "	Beacon Hill	"	Diphtheria
Aug 13	L.L.	11 "	The Marsh	"	"
" 13	H.L.	16 "	"	"	"
" 13	R.L.	6 "	"	"	"
Nov 26	M.S.	30 "	"	"	Erysipelas
Dec 12	E.B.B.	11 "	Upton Grove	Canford	Scarlet Fever

The Notification Act came into force in the district on the 1st March, 1892.

Scarlet Fever.—The three cases that occurred were of a mild type. Isolation and disinfection were carried out.

Diphtheria.—Four cases. The 1 notified in May was doubtful. The 3 in August occurred in the same family; of these 1 died and the other 2 were removed to the Alderney Fever Hospital. All the children drank surface water which had been condemned.

Erysipelas.—Three cases—one in Canford and 2 in Lytchett Matravers.

Mumps.—In consequence of a severe epidemic of this disease in Broadstone and surrounding district it became necessary to close the school for 5 weeks from April 1st. Before re-opening the buildings were thoroughly fumigated.

Water Supply.—This important subject has much occupied the board during the year, and considerable progress has been made towards a solution of the many difficulties which have presented themselves. It may be useful to review the work of the year in each district separately.

Canford.—The greater portion of this district derives its supply from wells and springs which may at present be said to be adequate and satisfactory. With regard to the remaining part—Broadstone—which is supplied from Waterloo Pond, whence the water is pumped to a tank situated on the highest point in the district, and distributed by gravitation through a series of iron pipes, the present condition of the supply is by no means satisfactory, and is now under the consideration of the Board. Complaints have been made by the inhabitants that the water contains too much iron, and possesses an unpleasant taste. Now this water having its source in the Bagshot sands, is necessarily a soft water, and therefore has a greater affinity for impurities than would be the case if it were harder in character, and it is a well known fact that a soft water flowing through iron pipes invariably becomes charged with a certain amount of corroded iron. As a farther explanation it may be mentioned that this particular water contains certain bog acids (crenic acid, &c.) in solution, which, when brought into contact with iron, form insoluble compounds (crenate of iron &c.). An efficient remedy for this is filtration through scrap iron (not iron filings) powdered coke and fine sand. The excess of acid is then taken up and deposited held back, thus rendering the water as pure and wholesome as could be wished for. The slight unpleasant taste is due to the comparative newness of the pipes and will wear off in time. Finally, the pipes ought to be regularly flushed from the tower, and this the board at their last meeting decided should be done three times a week.

Kinson.—At the present time this district is mainly supplied from an open stream, wells and springs; a small portion however is supplied by the Bournemouth Water Co. The open stream supplies a large area, and is especially liable to contamination. It cannot, therefore be considered pure and wholesome for dietetic purposes. This the Board after personal inspection, have fully recognized, and negotiations are at present pending with the Bournemouth Gas and Water Co, with the object of inducing them to carry their mains through this district. A sample of well water recently submitted to the County Analyst has been condemned.

Lytchett Minster derives its supply entirely from streams and wells. Acting on my last report a Committee appointed by the Board inspected the district, and in their report suggested that a new well should be sunk near the centre of the village, and that in the case of another spring, iron pipes should be substituted for the ordinary drain pipes in use for the purpose of carrying away both spring and surface water together. It may here be mentioned that the three cases of diphtheria which occurred here in all probability resulted in drinking this polluted water. It was also advised that several shallow wells should be deepened, and that the supply of drinking water to the school house should have constant attention.

Lytchett Matravers. The whole of this area is supplied by wells, of which no complaint has been received during the year.

Sewerage and Drainage.—In this district there is neither.

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Excrement Disposal is mainly carried out by privies and the dry earth system. There are a few cesspools in Broadstone.

Isolation Hospital is under the control of the Kinson Urban District Council.

Means for Disinfection.—Sulphur fumigation is adopted in the case of all infectious diseases.

Housing of the Working Classes.—There have been two complaints of unsanitary dwellings and one of overcrowding during the year.

Slaughter Houses are now in a satisfactory condition. One has been closed. I am still strongly in favour of Public Abattoirs.

Bakehouses.—These have been regularly inspected and in three cases suggestions for improvement have been made. One bakehouse I have condemned.

Summary of Sanitary Work.

Coroner's Inquests.—Six were held in the district during the year.

1. Number of complaints received during the year 1898.

One overcrowding, 1 for repair of cottages, 3 nuisances from manure heaps, 2 water supplies.

2. Number of inspections of houses and premises &c.—

Seventy-eight, these are independent of the regular inspection of Bakehouses, Slaughter-houses, Board School premises, and erection of new buildings.

3a. Orders issued for sanitary amendment of houses and premises—2

3b. Houses, premises, &c. cleaned, repaired, whitewashed &c.—

Twenty cottages repaired, 6 cottages enlarged, 2 closed unfit for habitation, one slaughter house closed.

3c. Houses disinfected after Infectious Illness—7.

4a. House Drains.—

No system of drainage in the district, best class houses drain to cesspools.

4b. Repaired, cleaned, trapped &c.—

One drain taken up, re-arranged and new w.c's. &c. fitted and drain to cesspool.

5. Privies and W.C.

5a. New provided—One new privy

5b. Repaired—Two new privies.

5c. Supplied with water

6. Water supplies—

Much work and correspondence has been done re water supplies for Lytchett Minster and Kinson, which will appear in the Medical Officers Report.

7. Sewers, new provided.

Two wells close 1, 3 new wells sunk, 3 deepened, 4 samples of water analysed by the County Analyst, one sample condemned.

8. Miscellaneous.

8a. Removal of accumulation of manure, animal and other refuse—

Verbal notice and directions are given for removal when visiting the districts, and are attended to. Formal notice was only once required to be given.

8b. Animals removed being improperly kept—None.

8c. Cases of overcrowding—Three.

8d. Number of Lodging Houses registered—None in the district.

8e. Legal proceedings (summons)—None.

9. General remarks—

Plans for 6 new buildings and for 4 alterations and additions have been approved.

Shaftesbury—Mr. R. H. Sawyer:—

It is my duty to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1898, with the tables of Deaths and Births, and sicknesses from Infectious Diseases, etc., occurring within the District, which have been notified to me or come to my knowledge.

The Area of the District is 41036 acres

The Population according to the Census of 1891 was 11630 and estimated to the middle of 1898 would be 11760.

The Total number of Births registered during the year were 271, and the total number of deaths were 185. The Births registered being somewhat lower and the Deaths higher than those during the year 1897.

The Birth Rate per thousand being 23.2 and the General Death Rate 15.7. The Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per thousand of registered Births 55.3 and the Zymotic Mortality 51.

The number of Deaths from the various Diseases being 1 from Diphtheria, 1 from Membranous Croup, 1 from Enteric Fever (introduced from outside the district), four from Whooping Cough, three from Diarrhoea, fifteen from Phthisis, three from Rheumatic Fever, twenty-three from Pulmonary Diseases, and thirty-one from Heart Disease, four from Injuries and ninety-nine from all other causes, making a total of one hundred and eighty-five.

Alcester was the locality in which the one case of Membranous Croup succumbed, Fontmell, that in which the imported case of Typhoid fever took place, one case of Diphtheria at Gillingham. Whooping Cough resulted fatally in two cases at Gillingham and two in Bourton. Diarrhoea was responsible for one death at Gillingham, one in the parish of Cann, and one at Buckhorne Weston. Rheumatic Fever was fatal in one case at Gillingham one in Stour Provost and one in Buckhorne Weston. Phthisis was fatal in one instance in the Union House in Alcester, two in Motcombe, one in Melbury Abbas, one in Compton Abbas, one in Fontmell Magna, two in Iwerne Minster, four in Gillingham, one in Stour Provost and two in Bourton. and Heart Disease caused one death in Cann, two in the Union House in Alcester, four in Motcombe, one in Ashmore, two in Melbury Abbas, one in Compton Abbas, four in Fontmell Magna, one in Iwerne Minster five in Gillingham, one in West Stour, four in Stour Provost, one in Todber, one in Kington Magna one in Buckhorne Weston and two in Bourton. Bronchitis and other Pulmonary Ailments accounting for four in Cann, three in the Union House in Alcester, four in Motcombe, one in Ashmore, one in Compton Abbas, one in Fontmell Magna, seven in Gillingham one in Stour Provost and one in Bourton.

Taking into consideration the persistent drought for so long a period during the early months of the year the water supply was fairly good.

With regard to Sewerage and Drainage, outside the localities personal excrementitious matter is disposed of by means of catch pits and cess pits, which are emptied periodically and used as Manure, after being mixed with other material. Within the towns and in places where there is a greater congregation of human beings, the drainage has on the whole, been thoroughly carried out, and when the privies, etc., were out of repair, and not fulfilling the objects for which they were erected, notices have been served on the owner or occupier and the necessary repairs, etc., has generally been carried out. In one case, however, in the parish of Gillingham there has, so far, been a failure to obtain the carrying out of the orders that have been given. Overcrowding and dilapidations has also been brought to the notice of the owner and occupier of houses, and has, in most cases been successful in abating nuisances and remedying the evils complained of.

In all cases of Infectious Disease coming to my knowledge, the occupier has been instructed to enforce thorough isolation and to disinfect, there being no isolation hospital available in the district, but in one case in Gillingham, a case has quite recently come to my notice where a member of an infected family was allowed to come home and to return to a neighbouring County after a short stay at his home, and in that way there is every reason to believe conveyed the infection with him, which would probably not have taken place had an Isolation Hospital been provided in this district or neighbourhood.

Bakehouses, Slaughterhouses, and Factories have received due attention during the year, and the Common Lodging-House (which is outside the Rural District) has been, on several occasions, visited and inspected by me, and the necessary whitewashing, &c., carried out at my request.

Whooping Cough was prevalent in the parish of Bourton at the extremity of the District necessitating the closing of the school for three weeks, which was the only school closed by your order within the district during the year.

Influenza has also been prevalent in different portions of the year, and has even lately been very prevalent amongst children.

At Hardings Lane, Gillingham, I examined the water supply and found that it was satisfactory.

In the table of Deaths occurring within the District of those belonging to another district there were four which occurred before the end of the year from Gillingham, the infection being introduced from the bordering district of Mere, and two in Buckborne Weston, making a total of nineteen cases of Scarlatina in the District. One case of Diphtheria was notified in Gillingham. One case of Enteric Fever (imported from Scotland probably) in Fontmell. One case of Erysipelas in Cann, and two in Bourton.

I would suggest that special forms of notice be supplied to me for calling the attention of the Sanitary Inspector of Nuisances, to any matters in which I might consider it desirable or necessary for him to inspect, and likewise that he should be supplied with special forms that would enable him to inform me of the result of complaints or of notices made by him.

Notification has been adopted in the Rural District of Shaftesbury, which resulted in two cases of Scarlet Fever being notified to me in the Parish of Motcombe, evidently introduced there from the Parish of Donhead St. Mary, in Wiltshire. 15 cases were notified before the end of the year from Gillingham, the infection being introduced from the bordering district of Mere, and two in Buckborne Weston, making a total of nineteen cases of Scarlatina in the District. One case of Diphtheria was notified in Gillingham. One case of Enteric Fever (imported from Scotland probably) in Fontmell. One case of Erysipelas in Cann, and two in Bourton.

Considering that Infectious Diseases have been prevalent in the Districts and Counties surrounding, through the means of which we have in certain parts of our District received the infection of Scarlet Fever, I consider that the District is in a fairly healthy condition, and although we are still receiving notifications that the Scarlet Fever still is in existence, the notifications are gradually decreasing; but I nevertheless feel that it is a matter of great importance that the disinfection of cottages, and buildings generally, should be undertaken by the Council itself, and not left to the imperfect mode adopted by the Villagers and others for themselves.

Sherborne—Mr. W. H. Williams.

Area of the District 39049 acres. Population 6604. Occupation :—Agricultural and Glovemaking.

During the year 1898, 126 births have been registered in the district 70 males and 56 females, being 32 less than last year, and 75 deaths 35 males and 40 females; being 5 less than last year. This gives a birth rate of 19.08 and a death rate of 11.35 per thousand population. The mortality for the year is thus satisfactorily low. There has not being any epidemic of infectious disease during the year. There was only one death from any of the specific Febrile diseases viz.—Whooping Cough. There were four deaths from Phthisis 8 from other diseases of the Respiratory Organs, 13 from Heart disease, 5 from Cancer and 1 the result of an accident. 23 of the 75 deaths were of persons over the age of 70 viz.—18 over 70 and 5 over 80. 14 of the deaths were under one year giving an infant mortality rate of 11.11 per 1000 births. Eight of these deaths were registered as due to premature birth.

The following table epitomises the ages at which the deaths occurred throughout the district.

Death under 1 year of age	...	...	18
„ over 1 and under 5	...	...	8
„ „ 5 „ 15	...	...	1
„ „ 15 „ 55	...	...	4
„ „ 25 „ 65	...	...	19
„ from 65 upwards	...	...	30

Total 80

Prevalence of Disease.

The Notification Act adopted in March, 1890, continues to work well.

During the past year only 8 cases of infectious disease were reported giving the very low rate of .15 per 1000 population. There was 1 case of Typhoid fever in Sandford. 1 case of Scarlet fever in Clifton Mabank. 3 cases of Continued Fever in Compton. 1 ditto in Bradford Abbas. 2 ditto in Wyke. There is no infectious hospital in the District and there is no apparatus for the disinfecting of bedding and clothing.

The Water Supply.

This remains very much in statu quo. The supply in Osborne has been much improved. This year there was again great scarcity of water in those villages to which I have repeatedly directed your attention in former reports, viz.—Longburton, Holnest Leigh and Packers Hill, Holwell. The dwellers in these localities suffered much distress and had great difficulty in obtaining even sufficient water for their barest necessities. I again urgently impress you with the absolute necessity of energetic action this most important matter, I would also suggest the desirability of directing the attention of the various Parish Councils to the advisability

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of their preserving and improving their existing sources of water supply. At Yetminster for instance there is a pump which can provide a continuous supply of good water which has been out of order and unusable for the past two years and which might be repaired for a few pounds.

Pollution of River.

The River Yeo is still polluted at Compton Mills by the untreated Yeovil effluent, and I had occasion to send you a pressing report on the horrible condition of the river in July. The Yeo is also polluted at Darkhole by the untreated Sherborne effluent.

Sewerage, Drainage and Excrement Disposal.

This remains in the same condition as in former years.

The Housing of the Working Classes.

There is nothing fresh to report on this subject. There is a very general want for lime washing throughout the villages.

Routine Work.

Houses and premises inspected 95.

Premises having no sufficient drainage, nuisances injurious to health arising in consequence 15.

Houses with insufficient closet accommodation 12.

Defective foul ill constructed drains, closets and cesspools 23.

Deficient water supply 81.

Wells unfit for use 3.

I have also visited and inspected the outfalls of the Yeovil, Sherborne, and Milborne Sewerage Works several times during the year.

Sturminster—Dr. Comyns Leach.

The sanitary history of this district for the year ending December 31st, 1898 is eminently satisfactory. The record of the various statistics, almost without exception are by far the best of all my previous reports, and to show the better its relation to them I have added to each statistic for comparison, the average of the five previous years.

Area of district, 39342 acres. Population (census 1891), 9583. Ditto (estimated middle of 1898), 9635.

Births:—The number of births registered was 216, being 28 below the five years average, of these 112 were males, and 104 females

Birth-rate:—This was 22.7, the quinquennial average being 25.1.

Deaths:—The number registered was 117, the average being 151, of the 117, 63 were males, and 54 females, also 51 were over 65 years of age, and 12 under 1 year.

The average age at death was 49.5 years.

Death Rate:—This is the very low one of 12.1 per 1000 of the population, the quinquennial average being 16 per 1000, this is by far the lowest death-rate ever recorded in this district, the next lowest being that of 1895 when 14.2 was recorded.

Zymotic Death-rate:—This being reckoned by the number of deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases per 1000 of population is for 1898 .52, that for the previous 5 years being .98.

The deaths from zymotic diseases were 5, and consisted of 2 cases of Diphtheria, 1 of Enteric Fever, and 2 of Diarrhoea. The cases of Diphtheria occurred at Weston in the parish of Stalbridge, and no definite cause could be assigned for the outbreak. The case of Enteric happened at Hinton St. Mary, and the patient was a girl of 13 years of age, here the water used by the family came from a well which on analysis, was condemned as polluted. Of the two cases of Diarrhoea, one was that of an infant at Fifehead Magdalen, who had had it from birth, the other was a man of 70 years of age and the origin of the attack dated from the time when he emptied a very offensive cesspool in his garden.

Infant Mortality:—The number of infants dying under one year of age was only 12, and their proportion to births registered works out at 5.5 per 1000 births, a very low rate the same rate in 1897 being 12.4 and the quinquennial average 9.8.

Special Diseases:—I have to report 9 deaths from Phthisis, as compared with 19 in 1897, an average for 5 years of 11.

In view of the recent interest taken by the public in the provision of measures for the prevention of Phthisis it will not be out of place for me to indicate briefly what may be done in this matter. Phthisis is a disease due to the presence in the body of an organism called the bacillus of Tuberculosis which is capable of living under suitable conditions outside the body, and which, having obtained admission by the air we breathe or by means of Milk or food, will in a susceptible person produce some form of tuberculosis. The conditions favourable to its life in the atmosphere are want of ventilation and the absence of light. It has been proved conclusively that the bacillus is rendered inert by two days exposure to light and air, or by one hours exposure to direct sunshine.

Again it has been frequently shown that the bacillus is present in the milk obtained from tuberculous cows, and in the flesh of the slaughtered animal. It is a popular idea that Consumption is inherited, but I should like to emphasise the fact that it is the liability to Consumption that is inherited, the specific agent finding a suitable home for growth in a susceptible individual.

I think rather that it is the surroundings that are inherited viz:—The inhabiting of rooms infected by previous cases of the disease aided by poor ventilation, want of light, and perhaps occupation under similar conditions.

The measures likely to diminish the spread of the disease are :—

1. Checking the marriage of persons tainted with this disease.
2. Increased facilities for ventilation and the access of light in dwellings,
3. The inspection of milk supplies and meat markets.
4. The isolation of infected persons.
5. Disinfection of rooms occupied by those suffering or who have died from the disease.

I would recommend for your consideration that where possible attention should be paid to the ventilation and admission of light to dwelling rooms, the regulations relating to dairies should be applied to rural districts, and that the District Authority should undertake the disinfection of rooms occupied by cases of Consumption and other allied diseases.

Notification of Diseases:—Very few cases of infectious disease have been notified during the past year, and these few have been isolated ones, and there has never been threatening of an epidemic.

Water Supplies:—The want of a proper water supply in certain parts of the parishes of Hazelbury and Lydlinch has many times occupied your deliberations, and whilst I think the difficulty will soon be solved as regards Hazelbury, the difficulties met with in the case of Lydlinch are almost insuperable. The new water supply for the parish of Okeford Fitzpaine has proved very successful, and there is a constant supply of excellent water.

Sewerage and Drainage:—No special system of drainage or sewerage has been carried out in the district during the year, and for other information as to removal of nuisances, &c. I beg to refer you to the Report of your Sanitary Inspector appended hereto. It is the first time this report has been made independently, and I feel sure it will as years go on prove of value.

There is no Isolation Hospital in the district or in the immediate neighbourhood.

The housing of the working classes has certainly improved in the last few years, but much is still required especially with reference to overcrowding, want of proper water supply &c.

No complaint has reached your officers as to either Slaughterhouses or Bakehouses, and there is no registered common lodging-house in the district.

I have frequently made visits of inspection to the different parts of my district, and I consider that good conditions of health are maintained therein.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK.

Number of complaints received during the year	...	21
" of Inspections of Houses, Premises &c,	...	15
Result of Inspections		
Orders issued for sanitary amendment of houses &c.	...	0
Houses &c, cleansed, repaired whitewashed &c. ...	...	0
Houses disinfected after infectious illness	...	1
House Drains.		
New provided	...	0
Repaired &c.	...	4
Privies and W.C.'s		
New provided	...	0
Repaired &c.	...	1
Supplied with water	...	0
Water supplies...	...	6
Sewers, new provided	...	3
Miscellaneous.		
Removal of accumulations of manure, &c	...	3
Animals removed, being improperly kept	...	2
Cases of overcrowding	...	1
Number of lodging houses registered	...	0
Legal proceedings (Summonses),	...	0

General Remarks.—Many cases of nuisances in addition to the above have been abated without reference to my Council. The Sanitary condition of the whole district is altogether satisfactory.

Wareham—Mr. F. D. Lys.

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1898, which I have prepared as far as possible in accordance with the suggestions of the County Council.

The District comprises 93,098 acres and the population according to the Census of 1891 was 11,799—Estimated to the middle of 1898 it is 12,614.

There were 274 births registered during the year, 10 more than last year, giving a birth-rate of 21·72 per 1,000 compared with 21·0 in 1897.

There were 150 deaths, including 4 belonging to the District who died in the Workhouse and excluding 2 who, though dying in the District did not belong to it, giving a death-rate of 11·88 per 1,000 compared with 12·7 last year. Of these no less than 66—more than

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a third of the total number were above 65 years of age. Six deaths were due to *Zymotic Diseases* viz: 1 from Scarlatina, 2 from Diphtheria, 2 from Measles, and one from Whooping Cough, a death-rate of '47 per 1,000 compared with '95 in 1897. There were 20 deaths in *infants* under 1 year of age—8 less than last year, giving a death-rate 72'99 per 1,000 births compared with 106'0 last year—This satisfactory reduction is to be accounted for in part, from the better knowledge of the proper mode of feeding infants, and perhaps more so from the absence of prolonged low temperature which is so inimical to the lives of the young as well as the old and feeble.

Only 11 deaths has been registered as due to Phthisis, 8 less than last year, and 25 from Inflammation of the Respiratory Organs.

There was an extensive epidemic of Measles and Influenza in the Isle of Purbeck in the first quarter of the year, necessitating the closure of the Schools at Stoborough, Corfe Castle, and Langton Matravers.

I have received 38 certificates under the "Notification of Infectious Diseases Act."—27 of Scarlatina, 6 of Diphtheria 2 of Typhoid Fever, and 3 of Erysipelas. The 6 were cases of Scarlatina at Corfe Castle in January, which by isolation and disinfectants were confined to four houses. During the past half year there have been several cases in Bere Heath, their mildness making it difficult to ascertain in which cottages it existed, especially as no medical treatment was needed in many cases—notice were posted in various parts of the Parish directing attention to the provisions of the "Notification Act"—No fresh cases have occurred for some time past and I believe the outbreak is at an end. Only 6 cases of Diphtheria have been notified, and the four of these at Winfrith were due to contagion brought by a boy, who had been ill, from Southampton.

A case of Typhoid Fever occurred at Worgate, near Wareham, in November but there was no local insanitary condition to account for it. There was also a case at Roke in the parish of Bere Regis in December, in this instance the woman had visited her brother-in-law at Langton, near Blandford who died of the Disease, and there contracted it.

The houses in these cases of infectious Diseases have been disinfected by sulphur fumes, and afterwards by the exposure of the furniture and bedding to the air as soon as convalescence was sufficiently complete.

Water Supply.

There is still an urgent need of an adequate supply of water at Langton Matravers. At Tadnoll Dairy and Mill, an attempt to obtain good water by boring has failed—River water is the only supply available, and as this is liable to contamination with animal and other impurities I have advised its filtration through sand.

A proper supply is also needed at some Cottages at Burton in the parish of Winfrith, and at the brick-yard, Bere Regis. In other parts of the district the supply is satisfactory and derived from wells, except at Wool, West Lulworth, Winfrith, Church Knowle, Kimmeridge and Studland where it is laid on, there are but few water closets in the district, earth closets have in many instances taken the place of the old vault privy, and this has been especially the case where the vault with its large accumulation has appeared to me to be a source of danger from its proximity to a dwelling or water supply.

Isolation Hospital.

The district does not contain an Isolation Hospital, and I do not see any centre where it could be available for all parts.

With the co-operation of School Managers which has been freely accorded in exclusions from school, I have hitherto been able to confine the outbreaks of infectious diseases within narrow limits, and have not found the want of the Institution which is no doubt invaluable in more populous and less scattered districts.

Cottage Accommodation.

There is undoubtedly better cottage accommodation than there was formerly, but there still remains room for considerable improvement especially as regards the size and ventilation of bedrooms, a very important matter with the modern views as to Consumption.

Slaughter Houses.

I have inspected the Slaughter Houses which are generally clean and well ventilated, and so are the Bakehouses with the exception of one at Cold Harbour, which I have reported to you and which you have ordered to be amended.

I have made a systematic inspection of the whole district with the Inspector of Nuisances.

The health of the district and its Sanitary condition have been very satisfactory during the year, as shown by the general and still more so, by the Zymotic death-rate.

Appended hereto is a table of Sanitary Work as suggested by the County Council, and the usual table A and B.

Summary of Sanitary Work.

Directions for Sanitary Improvement	...	...	29
Houses disinfected	...	...	11
New House Drains	...	...	4
Repaired	...	...	2
New Closets	...	...	8
Repaired	...	...	6
Water Supplies Improved	...	...	14
Removal of Accumulation	...	...	5
Overcrowding	...	...	1

Weymouth—Mr. J. W. Pridham.

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1898. The area of the District is this year unaltered, and the population remains much the same as previously.

The mortality is exactly the same as it was in 1896, namely 126 or 14'6 per 1,000, and the Births were 227 or 26'5 per 1,000.

Deaths from Zymotic diseases were not numerous—Diphtheria and Membranous Croop 1 each, Measles, 1, not a death from Typhoid or Scarlatina.

In the Port Sanitary Hospital an imported case of Typhoid died, and also one each of Diphtheria and Measles. The Infantile mortality numbered 28 under one year, compared with 39 the previous year.

Water Supply.

There is a progressive improvement in this important matter. In Upway, Broadway, Chickereil and Wyke, the pipes of the Weymouth Water Company are now laid through the streets, and the Inhabitants shew a progressive appreciation of the boon, and are taking it in, in great numbers. The value of this cannot but be beneficial to the health of the population, as the wells from which they previously depended in for their supply were all liable to contamination.

Those in Wyke have been analysed and have been condemned as unfit for dietetic purposes. They have all to be closed by your orders. I desire to refer to a matter that indirectly concerns the district, and that is the water supply that is being obtained from the chalk at Upway, for the supply of Portland.

The wells that have been sunk are yielding an abundant supply of the purest quality, and will when conveyed to the Island effectually stamp out the epidemic of Typhoid that occurred there, and which was occasionally exported into this district.

Sanitary Work.

The drainage of Wyke has occupied your attention during the past year and a scheme has been drawn up for the purpose, but the question of the outlet has hitherto been a bar to its adoption.

The closet accommodation has been much improved, and the earth system is in general use throughout the district.

During the past year 85 new closets have been erected, and the old ones inspected and repaired. Eighteen written complaints of Sanitary matters and 30 verbal have been received.

The Sanitary Inspector has made 178 special journeys in the district for the inspection of houses, premises, drains, &c.

There are 7 slaughter houses within the District, and they are in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Sixty new houses have been built, principally in Wyke, and they have been all provided with Water Closets.

Sixteen defective house drains have been relaid or repaired.

The water from five wells in the Parish of Wyke have been separately analysed and the samples have been all condemned, with the result that you have ordered their closure.

I am glad to say that no legal proceedings have been necessary during the past year. I find that firmness and tact on the part of your Inspector have been successful in every case. He has carried out his duties very well, and the inspections of, and erection of, so many new closets has occupied nearly the whole of his time.

The question of the adoption of bye-laws for the regulation of dairies has been suggested to you by the Urban Authority of Weymouth. The subject is such an important one that I think there has been no time to give it adequate consideration, and delay will prevent the adoption of hasty measures that might subsequently require revision.

Of the new Vaccination Act I will only say that the old Acts were working very well. No legal compulsion was ever required, and harmony prevailed. What will now occur, the future will alone determine, but I look forward to it with dread.

Wimborne and Cranborne—Mr. C. H. Watts-Parkinson.

Area, 8255 acres. Population, 1891, 14236, estimated to middle of 1893, 15000. Births, 360—24 per 1000. Deaths, registered, 179, corrected, 182—being 12·2 per 1000. Zymotic rate, ·06 per 1000. Infantile mortality per 1000 births, 66·6—Natural increase, 181.

During 1893, 360 births were registered, 12 more than in 1897; while 179 deaths were registered, but deducting 13 deaths of persons not belonging to the district and adding 16 deaths of persons belonging to the district occurring outside, 182, being 12·2 per 1000. The deaths registered were 32 less than in 1897, and the corrected number 43 less.

Only 1 death from Zymotic Disease, viz., Scarlatina, and the Zymotic mortality is only ·06 per 1000 population.

Only 24 deaths of infants (and these include 5 deaths from Whooping Cough) being only just half the number in 1897, and the Infantile mortality per 1000 births has fallen from 132·5 to 66·6 per 1000 births, while the natural increase of population is 181.

WIMBORNE RURAL DIVISION.

Population, 1891, 7605, estimated to middle of 1898 (with Almer and Mapperton) 8200. Births, 199, 24 per 1000. Deaths registered, 97, corrected, 93, being under 12 per 1000. Zymotic, ·12 per 1000. Infantile mortality per 1000 births, 46. Natural increase, 101.

199 births were registered (97 males and 102 females), being 4 more than in 1897, being just over 24 per 1000; while 97 deaths were registered (40 males and 49 females), but deducting 10 deaths of persons not belonging to the district, and adding 11 deaths of persons belonging to the district, occurring outside, the corrected number is 98, and of these 10 were due to the extensive outbreak of Influenza in the early part of the year, being 32 less than in 1897, and at the very low rate of under 12 per 1000; while only 1 death from Zymotic disease, viz., Scarlatina, the Zymotic mortality being only 12 per 1000.

Only 9 deaths of infants were registered, as compared with 25 in 1897, the Infantile mortality per 1000 births being at the very low rate of 46 instead of 128, and the natural increase of population 101.

Deaths.—Infants, 9—4 Bronchitis, &c., 3 Convulsions, 2 Premature Birth, &c.

Age 1-5, 4—1 Phthisis (came ill), 2 Bronchitis, 1 Convulsions.

„ 5-65, 35—1 Scarlatina, 1 Pneumonia (after confinement), 5 Influenza, 5 Phthisis (1 came ill), 1 Convulsions (came ill), 5 Cancer (1 came ill), 3 Injury (1 a soldier from the Blandford Camp), 1 Bronchitis, &c., 4 Heart, and 1 Brain Disease.

„ Over 65, 49—5 Influenza, 1 Phthisis, 2 Cancer, 7 Bronchitis, &c., 4 Heart (1 came ill) and 10 Brain Disease.

Of the 49 deaths over 65—1 was over 90, 17 over 80, and 22 over 70, while out of the total number 10 were due to Influenza and 2 to Bronchitis, &c., 7 to Cancer and 3 to Injury, and 7 to Phthisis.

CRANBORNE RURAL DIVISION.

Population, 1891, 6681, estimated to middle of 1898, less Chettle, &c., 6800. Births, 161, 23·7 per 1000, nearly. Deaths registered, 82, corrected, 84, 12·3 per 1000.

Zymotic mortality, nil. Infantile mortality per 1000 births, 94, nearly. Natural increase of population, 79.

161 births were registered (87 males and 74 females), being 8 more than in 1897, and nearly 23·7 per 1000 population, while 82 deaths were registered (30 males and 52 females), but deducting 3 deaths of persons not belonging to the district, and adding 5 deaths of persons belonging to the district, occurring outside, the corrected number is 84. Of these, 7 were due to Whooping Cough and 10 to Influenza, being 11 less than in 1897, and at the low rate of 12·3 per 1000, while there was no death from the chief Zymotic diseases.

15 deaths of infants were registered (5 from Whooping Cough), as compared with 21 in 1897. The Infantile mortality per 1000 births has gone down from 137·2 to 94, about. The natural increase of population is 79.

Deaths.—Infants, 15—5 Whooping Cough, 3 Convulsions, 2 Bronchitis, &c., 3 Premature Birth, &c.

Age 1-5, 10—2 Whooping Cough, 1 Croup (not Membranous), 2 Influenza, 2 Bronchitis, and 1 Convulsions.

„ 5-65, 22—1 Enteritis and Diarrhoea, 1 Convulsions, 2 Cancer, 2 Influenza, 7 Phthisis (3 came ill), 1 Injury, 2 Bronchitis, &c., 3 Heart, and 2 Brain Disease.

Over 65, 35—1 Diarrhoea, 6 Influenza, 1 Cancer, 1 Injury, 7 Bronchitis, &c., 5 Heart, and 5 Brain Disease.

Of the 35 deaths over 65, 1 was over 90, 10 over 80, and 12 over 70; while out of the total number, 7 were due to Whooping Cough, 10 to Influenza, 7 to Phthisis, 13 to Bronchitis, &c., 3 to Cancer, and 2 Injuries.

There was also a remarkable mortality among females, 52 deaths being registered, as compared with only 30 males.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES, NOTIFIABLE.

The year 1898 was remarkable for the small number of cases of notifiable diseases, indeed, during the first 8 months only 8 cases were notified, and no case was notified during the year from the No. 4, or Handley district.

Wimborne Division—No. 1 District	...	11 cases	...	2 in first 8 months.
„ 2 „	...	20 „	...	4 „
Total	...	31 „	...	6 „
Cranborne Division—No. 3, or Cranborne	...	11 „	...	2 „
„ 4, or Handley	...	0 „	...	0 during the year,
Total	...	11	...	2 in first 8 months.

The total number of cases during the year was 42 as compared with 117 in 1897 and only 1 death from Acute Nephritis after Scarlatina in the number 2 Wimborne District.

Diphtheria.—Only 4 cases of a very mild or doubtful type were reported, 3 in the Wimborne, and 1 in the Cranborne division. Those in the Wimborne division were 1 at Pamphill, 1 at Wareham Road, and 1 at Gaunts Common, and the 1 in the Cranborne division was at Alderholt. In no case did the disease spread beyond the person first attacked, and in every case the premises were inspected and any Sanitary defects attended to. These cases were probably not true Diphtheria but infectious sore throat and it is in my opinion desirable to take precaution in these cases.

Scarlatina.—35 cases were notified, 25 in the Wimborne and 10 in the Cranborne division. The disease was of the usual mild type, and prevailed as an epidemic in three districts, Shapwick, Hinton Martell, and Chalbury; in the Wimborne division and Cranborne town and neighbourhood. These outbreaks commenced soon after the manœuvres, and probably the disease was communicated by some of the many visitors to the district.

Of the cases in the Wimborne division, 3 occurred in one family in February and March at the Ringwood Road, Longham. 1 at the Wareham Road, Corfe, a child recently came there in September. 6 cases at Shapwick during October in 4 families. 6 cases at Chalbury Hill in October in 2 families and 7 cases at Hinton Martell in November and December in 2 families, and 1 death from Acute Nephritis with one case at Row, and 1 at Gaunts Common in December.

Of the 10 cases in Cranborne district No. 3, 2 occurred in one family at Alderholt in May, 7 in five families at Cranborne in September, and 1 at Verwood in November. As the cases at Cranborne came on rapidly and the school children were the victims the schools were closed, fumigated, and lime-washed and the outbreak stopped at once.

Erysipelas.—1 case of an ordinary character was notified.

Continued Fever.—A case reported at Holt Wood. There were no insanitary conditions and the water was good.

Whooping Cough.—Was very prevalent in Cranborne district, and 7 deaths were registered. There have been some cases in other parts of the district but no deaths.

Measles.—A few cases at Sturminster Marshall were all I heard of.

Chicken-pox.—Has been prevalent especially in the Sturminster district, also many cases of Mumps.

Influenza of a severe type was prevalent throughout the District during the early months of the year, and 20 deaths were registered from this dread scourge, 10 in the Wimborne and 10 in the Cranborne division.

Phthisis.—Fourteen deaths were registered but 5 of these came to the district from outside, Phthisis being now recognised as infectious disease it has been proposed to include it in the list of notifiable diseases. The objections to the inclusion of a lingering disease like Phthisis are obvious but something should be done to ensure the disinfection of all rooms tenanted by Phthisical persons before re-occupation, and in the event of a death being registered from Phthisis the Registrar should be directed to notify the same to the Local Sanitary Authority and a notice to disinfect served and enforced by the Authority. It seems somewhat doubtful if this can be done under the existing Acts unless under the heading of a nuisance injurious to health, but some amending of the law in this direction is urgently necessary.

Water Supply.—The water supply of this Rural District has been severely tried by the prolonged drought and many deep wells have for the first time in the memory of the inhabitants gone dry. There is only 1 village which has water supplied by a system, viz. — Hinton Martell, and generally the district depends on well water, deep wells in the chalk, shallower wells in the gravel districts and some surface water and from small streamlets and springs while a very few are dependant on rain water tank supply.

The water supply is being improved and fresh wells sunk where required and it is satisfactory to know that no cases of illness have been traceable to defective water supply, with possibly one exception where a deep well was suspected and cleaned out, and that no case of typhoid has originated in the District for many years. This is due to the good sanitary condition of the district and the special steps taken to prevent pollution of water supply and the abolition of privies emptying on water courses.

Sewerage and Drainage.—There is very little public sewerage in the district but the drainage has been overlooked and attended to and new drains, &c., provided for 10 premises and 30 more improved and trapped, &c.

Excrement Disposal.—The earth system is the general one now in use and most of the old vault closets have been done away with. In a few cases water closets have been introduced and approved and many new closets provided and others repaired.

I have had occasion to object to the erection of closets in and adjoining pig sties, the excrement from both passing into a common receptacle and the pigs and tenants exposed to the mixed effluvia. This is in my opinion a nuisance and injurious to man and pigs. A model of one of these erections has been produced to you and I have asked you to refer the matter to the Local Government Board for their decision which of course I shall submit to and which is necessary for my future guidance as hitherto. I have insisted on a separation between pigs and men.

Isolation Hospital.—The only Isolation Hospital in connection with the district is at the Union. The district is such an extensive one and the population so sparse and scattered that one Hospital would be quite useless. In my opinion the best thing would be for the Council to take a number of healthy good cottages in various parts of the district, and appoint some deserving poor person as caretaker, so that in the event of an outbreak of infectious disease in a crowded cottage where isolation is impossible, the healthy inmates might be at once removed, or, if nursing could be provided, the affected person. The removal would be especially desirable in cases of Scarletina as has been shown only recently.

Housing of the Working Classes.—The district generally has been inspected, 1045 houses and premises have been visited, 67 orders have been issued to owners to repair and put in sanitary condition, and 47 formal notices given. 9 notices under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, and 11 under the Public Health Act, and 43 houses have been disinfected by the Inspector. Cottages at Cranborne and Handley have been condemned as unfit for habitation and in 2 cases the owner summoned and fined, and the premises closed. Cases of overcrowding also reported and abated at St. Giles. Although the housing of the poor has been much improved, there is much to be done, and in many cases the great difficulty is the dirty habits of the people themselves, and the consequent unwillingness of owners to let them good houses.

Slaughter-houses and Bake-houses.—These are in fair condition and have been white-washed, etc., when required. 1 bake-house at Verwood was in a bad condition and has been repaired by the owner.

General Remarks.—In obedience to a request received from the Clerk of the County Council, I have arranged my report as requested (which is virtually the same as I have hitherto adopted) and I am glad to have such a remarkably good report to make.—The very low infantile mortality, and the small number of cases of Zymotic disease and especially the non-existence of any of the diseases due to defective sanitation is noteworthy, especially considering the long continued drought. The epidemics of Influenza and Whooping-Cough with 20 and 7 deaths respectively raised the general mortality nearly 2 per 1000, while 14 deaths from Phthisis, and 10 from Cancer of various kinds were registered, and I trust the time will soon arrive when we shall be able to check the ravages of these two diseases, and that they may be added to the increasing list of preventable diseases.

Summary of Sanitary Work.

No. of complaints received during the year	...	...	...	...	29
„ Inspections of houses, premises, &c.	...	...	...	...	1045
Results of Inspections.					
Orders issued for Sanitary Amendment of Houses and Premises—47 Formal Notices, 9 under the H.W.C.A. and 11 under the P.H.A.					
Houses, Premises, etc., cleaned, repaired, white-washed, etc.	...	...	...	...	67
Houses disinfected after infectious illness	...	...	...	...	52
House Drains.	...	...	...	...	43
New provided	...	...	...	...	10
Repaired, cleaned, trapped, etc.	...	...	...	...	30
Privies and W.C.'s.	...	...	...	...
New provided	...	...	...	...	22
Repaired, etc.	...	...	...	...	13
Supplied with water	...	...	...	...	4
Water Supply.	...	...	...	...
New wells provided	...	...	...	...	26
Wells cleaned out, repaired, etc.	...	...	...	...	8
Sewers new provided	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous.	...	...	...	...
Removal of accumulations of Manure, etc., (Leigh)	...	...	...	...	1
Animals removed, being improperly kept, (Cranborne)	...	...	...	...	2
Cases of overcrowding (Monkton St. Giles)	...	...	...	...	1
Number of Lodging-houses registered	...	...	...	...	—
Legal Proceedings (Summonses)	...	...	...	...	1
2 cottages at Dean Handley unfit for habitation—fined £1 and 9/6 cost—cottages since closed.					

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICTS.

Blandford.—Mr. G. W. Daniell.

I have the honour of presenting you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health to the Blandford Urban District for the year 1898.

The area of the District is 363 acres. The population Census 1891 is 3985 estimated to the middle of 1898 is 3972. The Birth-rate is 24.0 as there were 96 births in the year. There were 62 deaths, the death rate is 15.5. The Zymotic death rate is nil. The Infantile Mortality is 93.7.

These figures compare very favourably with those of the previous year when the Death rate was 17.1. The Zymotic death rate 3.0, and the Infantile Mortality 121.2.

Of the 62 Deaths—

9	took place in infants under 1 year of age
4	" " children aged 1 year and under 5
1	" " a child " 5 " " 15
3	" " persons " 15 " " 25
21	" " " " 25 " " 65
24	" " " " 65 and upwards.

The Mortality from every cause has been—

From Diarrhoea	...	...	2	deaths
" Phthisis	...	...	2	"
" Bronchitis and Pneumonia	...	...	16	"
" Heart Disease	...	...	12	"
" Influenza	...	...	1	"
" Injuries	...	...	4	"
" All other causes	...	...	25	"

Many deaths registered as taking place from Bronchitis, and Pneumonia had their origin from Influenza.

During the year I received nine Notification certificates of Infectious disease, one case of Erysipelas and eight of Scarlatina.

The water supplied to the Borough by the Blandford Water Company continues to give every satisfaction, but it is a source of regret that many of the owners of house property still decline to make use of it.

Up to the end of the year 1898, there were 494 connections with the Mains.

I am still of opinion that where water closets are not available the pail system as now adopted and carried out, is the best for the disposal of excrementitious matter.

During the year 10 new pail closets have been provided. 28 new earth pails have been sent out, making a total of 325 now in use. They are changed and disinfected once in every week.

Through the kindness and liberality of the Viscount Portman we are shortly likely to have an Isolation Hospital in the locality. This will be a incalculable boon and benefaction to the Town and Neighbourhood.

With regard to the housing of the Working Classes, in some Cottages there is much to be desired in the way of improvement but no very bad dwellings are in existence.

The Slaughter houses are inspected four times in the year, and surprise visits are occasionally made.

Summary of Sanitary Work.

The No. of complaints during the year were	...	...	...	45
" " received by the Inspector	...	...	...	58
" " anonymous	...	...	...	3

The whole of the town was inspected once and reported visits otherwise.

Results of Inspections :—

Nuisances discovered and all abated or remedied.	...	...	...	58
Orders issued for Sanitary amendment of houses and premises	...	...	...	4
Houses disinfected after Scarlatina	...	...	...	2
House drains new provided	...	...	...	10
Drains repaired, trapped and cleansed	...	...	...	28
Removal of accumulations of Manure, etc.	...	...	...	15
Removal of Animals	...	...	...	3
Cases of overcrowding	...	...	...	2

There is one lodging house in the borough which is about to be closed.

The main drain about 300 feet was cleared, as it was choked by detritus from the road.

Branksome—Mr. J. S. Stewart.

I have the honour to submit to you my annual Report on the sanitary condition of the Branksome Urban District for the year ending 31st December, 1898.

Area of district, 2590 acres.

Population—Census of 1891 gave 6572, estimated to middle of 1898, 7200.

Birth-rate, 31.25 per 1000. Total number of births, 225.

Death-rate, 13.8 per 1000. Total number of deaths, 100.

Zymotic death-rate, 1.25 per 1000. Total number of deaths, 9.

Infant mortality, 160 per 1000 births.

The Notification of Infectious Diseases Act came into force in this district on 25th March, 1893. The following is the number of Notifications received, according to sub-division of district:—

Branksome, 8; Heatherlands, 6; Newtown, 0—Total, 14.

Of these, 6 were Scarlet Fever, 3 Diphtheria, 2 Enteric, 1 Membranous Croup, 1 Puerperal Fever, 1 Erysipelas.

In Branksome the cases were:—Scarlet Fever, 2, Diphtheria, 2, Enteric Fever, 2, total, 6.

In Heatherlands:—Scarlet Fever, 4, Diphtheria, 1, Membranous Croup, 1, Puerperal Fever, 1, Erysipelas, 1, total, 8.

Of these 3 were removed to Hospital, viz, from Heatherlands, 2, Branksome, 1, all Scarlet Fever.

The Isolation Hospital stands by itself on a Common a long way from any other building of any description. I consider that it is well suited to its purpose. The only means of disinfecting the patients' clothes, etc., at the Hospital, is by placing them in a room in an outhouse and subjecting them to the fumes of burning sulphur.

Water Supply.—Most of the houses have a constant supply, some being supplied by the Poole Company, from its reservoirs at Lilliput, others by the Bournemouth Company. A few old wells still exist in Newtown. The owners of 11 cottages were obliged to lay on water from the mains, owing to a bad or insufficient supply.

Drainage.—I strongly recommend that the whole of the district be thoroughly drained, as far as possible. Heatherlands and Newtown still have the old cess-pool, or dry-earth closet system, which gives rise to many justifiable complaints.

Drainage of premises executed.—

New buildings, 60; Old buildings, 25; total, 85.

3016 yards of new sewer have been constructed during the year. This makes the total length of sewers in this district about five miles.

Surface water-main drains to the extent of 900 yards have been constructed, making total length of such drains about 2½ miles.

Number of houses erected during year, 38; additions to houses, 18; other buildings, 23; total number of erections, 79.

The housing of the working class is fairly good. There are no common lodging houses.

Number of complaints of various natures received—27. 10 of these were in reference to dust contractors not having removed refuse regularly. All complaints were gone thoroughly into, and steps taken to abate nuisances when necessary.

Number of inspections by Sanitary Inspector	...	194
" " Assistant "	...	293
Total	...	487

Orders for sanitary work complied with, 53; houses disinfected, 5.

There has been no record kept of the number of times slaughter and bakehouses have been limewashed and cleaned, but all are in good working order.

As to the accumulation of manure, etc., I find that nuisances from that cause most frequently occur in Newtown, where most of the inhabitants keep pigs, but as there is plenty of open cultivated land in that district it is easily disposed of.

Bridport—Dr. Clibborn.

I beg to present to you my Ninth Annual Report on the Health of the Bridport Urban Sanitary District for the year ending the 31st December, 1898.

The Area of the district is 573 acres.

The Population as recorded by the census of 1891 is 6611, and as estimated to the middle of 1898, 6700.

Births.—The number of births registered during the year was 72 males and 68 females, making a total of 140. Hence the birth-rate for the year was 21.1 per 1000, against 18.3 per 1000 in 1897.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered during the year was 70 males and 57 females, making a total of 127, which gives a death-rate of 19.3 compared with 15.2 per 1000 in 1897. Out of this number 14 died in public institutions, 4 the result of accident and 3 from suicide.

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The Zymotic death-rate was nil.

Comparative table of Births and Deaths—

Year.	Births.	Deaths.
1890	170	113
1891	140	130
1892	147	120
1893	148	105
1894	137	120
1895	147	127
1896	131	130
1897	121	101
1898	140	127

In Table A you will find the various ages at which death occurred:—

Under 1 year.		22 compared with 8 last year.	
1 year and "	5 "	7	15 "
5 years	" 15 "	7	" 8 "
15 "	" 25 "	7	" 5 "
25 "	" 65 "	31	" 29 "
65 "	" and upwards	53	" 36 "

and of these 53 no less than 36 reached an age ranging from 75 to 95.

The rate of Infant mortality is 157 per 1000 births registered.

Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act the following cases were reported—2 Diphtheria, 2 Enteric Fever, 1 Continued Fever, 6 Erysipelas.

The 2 Diphtheria cases were reported in February and March, and were both in East Street. The 2 Enteric were reported in June and July, and were both in North Allington. The cause of the disease could not be traced in any of the cases.

The water supplied to the district by the Bridport Water Company is analysed every quarter, and the report is invariably excellent.

In common with many other towns, during the latter months of the year, the supply was insufficient to meet the requirements of the district. The system of sewerage adopted is that of discharging into the sea. The Housing of the Working Classes is fairly well provided for, with a few exceptions. The Slaughter-houses and Bake-houses have been inspected and are in fairly good condition.

Summary of Sanitary Work.

No. of complaints received during the year	...	...	...	12
" inspections of houses, premises, etc.	...	...	...	205
" " ships at West Bay	...	...	...	35
Results of inspections.				
Orders issued for sanitary amendment of houses and premises	...	...	...	6
Houses, premises, etc., cleaned, repaired, white-washed, etc.	...	...	...	5
Houses disinfected after infectious illness	...	...	...	2
House drains.				
New provided	...	...	...	3
Repaired, cleaned, trapped, etc.	...	...	...	49
Privies and W.C.'s.				
New provided	...	...	...	15
Repaired, etc.	...	...	...	5
Supplied with water	...	...	...	18
Water supplied	...	...	...	2
Sewers new provided	...	...	...	4
Miscellaneous.				
Removal of accumulations of manure, animal and other refuse..	...	...	...	18
Animals removed, being improperly kept...	...	...	...	3
Cases of overcrowding	...	...	...	0
No. of Lodging-houses registered	...	...	...	0
Legal proceedings (summonses)	...	...	...	0

Dorchester—Mr. E. J. Day.

The details in this my 20th Annual Report on the sanitary condition of the Borough of Dorchester are framed according to the suggestions of the County Council.

The area is 571 acres with a population of 7946 (1891 census). The births have exceeded the deaths since that time by 835, and more than 200 houses have been built, allowing 5 to a house the population cannot be less than 9781. The total number of births registered during the year was 205, exactly the same number as in the previous year, of these 104 were males—giving a birth-rate of 21.1 per 1000—against 29.4 for England and Wales. The deaths numbered 152 (78 males) 6 of these occurred outside the Sanitary district and 15 belonging to outside districts died within it, the death-rate therefore calculated on 143 deaths is 14.6 per 1000—against 11.4 in 1897 (17.6 for England and Wales) which is lower than the rate in any previous years excepting 1894, 1896, and 1897.

The following is the death-rate since my appointment:—

1880, 18.9	1885, 16.0	1890, 15.8	1895, 12.8
1881, 15.7	1886, 21.7	1891, 15.2	1896, 14.9
1882, 18.1	1887, 17.0	1892, 18.3	1897, 11.4
1883, 15.9	1888, 13.8	1893, 15.5	1898, 14.6
1884, 15.9	1889, 14.6	1894, 11.9	

Although the death-rate is higher than in the previous year (when it was only 11.4, the lowest recorded during the past 19 years) the Zymotic death-rate has been reduced from .4 to nil—not one death having occurred from the seven principal Zymotic diseases, this indeed is most satisfactory—the Zymotic death-rate for England and Wales is 2.2.

Twenty-eight infants having died, the rate of Infant mortality (measured by the number of deaths under one year of age to births registered) is 136 per 1000 births—against 120 in 1897 (and 161 in England and Wales in 1898). The causes of these deaths were—Debility 10, Bronchitis 8, Convulsions 6, Tubercular 3, Hemorrhage 1.

The following are particulars of the six deaths which occurred outside this district amongst persons belonging thereto:—

SEX.	AGE.	FORMER RESIDENCE	DISEASE.
M.	6	All Saints	Tubercular
M.	70	St. Peter	Ulcers
M.	57	"	Paralysis
M.	67	All Saints	Pneumonia
M.	57	"	"
M.	72	"	Bronchitis

The following are particulars of the 15 deaths which occurred within this district among persons not belonging thereto:—

SEX.	AGE.	FORMER RESIDENCE	DISEASE.
F.	60	Maiden Newton	Apoplexy
M.	69	Weymouth	Hernia
F.	62	Cerne Abbas	Cancer
M.	52	Broadmayne	Influenza
M.	72	Portesham	Erysipelas
F.	50	Warmwell	Cancer
M.	40	Ringwood	Accident
M.	41	Woodsford	Bronchitis
M.	77	West Lulworth	Gangrene
M.	60	Owermoigne	Cancer
M.	54	West Stafford	Accident
M.	47	Burton Bradstock	Cancer
M.	22	Wool	Phthisis
M.	32	Wareham	Brain Disease
F.	11	Church Knowle	"

The 152 deaths were registered as follows:—

1st quarter	50—January 22, February 13, March 15.
2nd "	39—April 13, May 13, June 13.
3rd "	34—July 8, August 7, September 19.
4th "	29—October 7, November 4, December 18.

No death was due to Small-pox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Croup, Typhus Fever, Typhoid Fever, Puerperal Fever, Cholera, Measles nor Whooping Cough.

The chief causes of death were certified as follows:—old age 21 (34 however were over 70, 15 over 80, 2 over 90); Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy 19, Heart Disease 15, Consumption 13, Cancer 11, Influenza 7.

The following are death-rates per 1000 from all causes, and from the seven principal Zymotic diseases in England and Wales compared with this Urban District:—

	All Causes.	Principal Zymotic Diseases Cols. 3 to 9	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Deaths under one year per 1,000 births.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
England and Wales 1898.	17.6	2.2	.01	.41	.11	.24	.31	.18	.96	161
This Sanitary District 1896.	14.9	2.2	—	1.8	.1	—	.2	.1	—	130
Ditto 1897	11.4	.4	—	—	.2	—	.1	—	—	120
Ditto 1898	14.6	nil.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	136

The average age at death was 44 years, against 38 in the previous year, and 34 in 1896—this is very satisfactory.

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As regards the prevalence of Infectious diseases there have been 19 cases of Erysipelas (3 fatal), 6 of Diphtheria, and 1 each of Typhoid Fever and Scarlet Fever—all of a very mild type. The following are the particulars, with dates of their notification.

DATE	SEX	AGE	LOCALITY.
<i>Erysipelas.</i>			
January 1	F.	Over 5	St. Peter—High West Street
" 5	M.	"	" The Grove.
April 23	M.	"	All Saints—Friary Lane.
<i>Diphtheria.</i>			
May 15	F.	"	St. Peter—High West Street
" 17	F.	"	All Saints—High East Street.
" 24	F.	"	" Acland Road.
<i>Scarlet Fever.</i>			
" 28	F.	"	St. Peter—High West Street.
<i>Erysipelas.</i>			
June 6	F.	"	"
" 6	M.	"	All Saints—York Terrace
August 2	M.	"	St. Peter—Glyde Path Road
" 5	M.	"	"
" 9	M.	"	All Saints—High Street.
" 9	F.	"	"
" 10	F.	"	Wollaston Road.
" 31	M.	"	High East Street
Sept. 15	M.	"	River View
Oct. 4	M.	Under 5	St. Peter—Trinity Street
<i>Diphtheria.</i>			
" 7	F.	Over 5	" Princess Street
" 7	F.	Under 5	All Saints—Monmouth Road
<i>Erysipelas.</i>			
" 19	F.	Over 5	St. Peter—High West Street
<i>Typhoid Fever.</i>			
Nov. 7	M.	"	All Saints—High East St.
<i>Erysipelas.</i>			
" 17	F.	"	St. Peter—Colliton Street
<i>Diphtheria.</i>			
" 27	M.	"	All Saints—Icen Way
<i>Erysipelas.</i>			
Dec. 1	M.	"	All Saints—High East Street
" 7	M.	"	St. Peter—Orchard Street
" 17	F.	"	" Colliton Street
" 21	F.	"	" "

The Water Supply remains excellent, both as regards quality and quantity. It is, however, rather "hard," containing no less than 20 grains of total solids per gallon. It would therefore be all the better for being softened. The well is sunk in chalk 120 feet, with a boring of 90 feet, making a total depth of 210 feet.

As regards the Sewerage, an application for a loan of £16,000 has been made to the Local Government Board for the purposes of a New Sewerage Scheme so as to prevent the further pollution of the river Frome. The Surveyor is preparing the plans for the new works, and the site for the new pumping station, &c., has been secured; so we trust the new works will very soon be commenced at the outfall. There are not many earth closets within the Borough.

The following cases were received from the Borough for treatment in the Sanitary Hospital:—

ADMITTED.	DISEASE.	SEX.	AGE.	DISCHARGED.	RESULT.
May 23	Scarlet fever	F.	19	July 4	Recovered
Aug. 5	Diphtheria	M.	5	Sept. 1	"
Dec. 23	Erysipelas	F.	67	Still in Hospital	"

The manner in which the caretaker and Mrs. Wintle have discharged their duties was satisfactory, and so was the nursing, although of course it could not for a moment be compared with Nurse McIlroy's splendid work in the previous year. The means for disinfection at the Hospital is a chamber for fumigation.

The housing of the working classes has been improved by building a large number of suitable dwellings. The slaughter-houses and bake-houses have received our attention, the Sanitary Inspector insisting on proper cleansing and white-washing.

Summary of Sanitary Work.

Number of complaints received	...	...	None
" " Inspection of houses, premises, &c.	...	...	No record kept
Results of Inspections:—			
Orders issued for Sanitary amendment of houses, &c	...	...	None
Houses and premises, cleansed, whitewashed, &c.	...	...	10
Houses disinfected after infectious illness	...	...	1
House drains:—			
New provided	...	...	None
Repaired, cleaned, trapped, &c.	...	...	13
Closets:—			
New provided	...	...	16
Repaired, &c.	...	...	10
Supplied with water	...	...	8
Water supplies	...	...	None
Sewers, new provided	...	...	None
Miscellaneous:—			
Removal of accumulations of refuse, &c	...	...	8
Animals removed, being improperly kept	...	...	7
Cases of Overcrowding	...	...	7
Number of lodging houses registered	...	...	None
Legal proceedings (summonses)	...	...	None

Six inquisitions were held (5 in 1897, 3 in 1896).

Locality.	Sex.	Age.	Verdict.
Hospital	M.	49	Result of a fall.
St. Peter	F.	36	Natural causes.
All Saints	M.	59	Exposure to cold.
ditto	M.	47	Railway accident.
St. Peter	M.	40	ditto.
Hospital	M.	35	Wagon accident.

The following are particulars of the ten deaths of importance from a sanitary point of view (8 in 1897, 21 in 1896.)

Date.	Locality.	Sex.	Age.	Cause.
Jan. 31	St. Peter	M.	68	Influenza, &c.
Feb. 11	"	F.	35	"
Mar. 18	"	M.	51	"
April 14	"	M.	67	"
" 27	All Saints	F.	35	"
" 27	County Hospital	M.	52	"
May 8	"	M.	72	Erysipelas.
Aug. 11	All Saints	F.	74	"
Dec. 8	"	M.	68	"
" 24	St. Peter	M.	58	Influenza, &c.

In addition to these, notice should be taken of the 13 deaths which were due to Phthisis, now that this disease is regarded as preventable to a great extent.

DATE.	LOCALITY.	SEX.	AGE.
Feb. 2nd	All Saints	M.	61
" 4th	"	M.	53
" 16th	St. Peter	M.	67
" 21st	"	F.	51
" 25th	"	F.	14
Mar. 6th	"	M.	18
April 20th	All Saints	F.	37
June 22nd	"	M.	39
July 3rd	"	M.	38
Aug. 2nd	St. Peter	F.	19
Oct. 13th	All Saints	M.	39
Nov. 11th	County Hospital	M.	22
Dec. 6th	All Saints	M.	26

One-eleventh of the total deaths being due to this disease, it behoves everyone engaged in sanitary work to make known how the ravages of this "White Fiend" may be curtailed.

In 1838, the death-rate from Phthisis was 4 per 1000 (England and Wales), but in 1895 it was less than 2. Other forms of Tubercular disease, however, have not decreased in like manner—indeed there has been an increase in the number of cases of Consumption in children, produced, no doubt, by drinking milk from tuberculous cows, hence the paramount importance of boiling all milk. Tubercular disease is far more likely to be transmitted by the milk than by eating the flesh. All meat should nevertheless be well cooked. Other methods must be adopted if we are still to reduce the death-rate from this fell disease (no less than 60,000 dying yearly from it in England), such as healthier dwellings, dissemination of sound information concerning it, segregation of those suffering from the disease, by means of sanatoria; the cows also should be tested with tuberculin at the Government expense, and should each have at least 800 cubic feet of air space. In New York there is compulsory notification, and those suffering from it are treated voluntarily at the Seton House for Consumptives. This has effected a decrease in the death-rate of about 50 per cent, in ten years. Several Sanitary Authorities have applied to the Local Government Board to add this to the list of notifiable diseases, but the sanction of the Board has been refused, Dr. Thorne, the chief Medical Officer, being of opinion that it would interfere with the consumptive patient gaining his livelihood. In Russia, the Tsar has recently founded a sanatorium at his own personal expense. In

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Switzerland, there is more provision made for poor consumptive patients than in any other country. In Germany there are about 30 or 40 of these Sanatoria. In England, the work has recently received great impetus from the interest the Prince of Wales has taken in it, lately presiding over a meeting of the National Association for the Prevention of Consumption, at Marlborough House; indeed, a Sanatorium is about to be started on a self-supporting basis (the limited company finding the capital will receive only a maximum rate of 3 per cent. interest, the remainder to be invested in building other Sanatoria for the "open air" treatment of the disease, as at Bournemouth). There is no doubt that isolation would greatly reduce the death-rate from Consumption if it could be carried out, but there are many difficulties in the way—to say nothing of the expense. Probably, after a time, the Government will help to bear this burden, in order to carry out the suggestions of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis. The chief causes are re-breathed air (everybody should keep the bedroom window open winter and summer), dark and damp dwellings, "drink," and contaminated milk supply. Sunlight and fresh air are its greatest enemies. It was until late years regarded by the medical profession as hereditary, but since the discoveries of Professor Koch, our knowledge of the etiology and pathology of the disease has been changed, we know now that it is chiefly spread by means of the sputum when in a dried state, for instance, when the patient expectorates upon the floors of rooms, theatres, etc., it becomes dry and is carried through the air, mixed with the dust, into the lungs of those who are delicate and predisposed to the disease, healthy people would not contract the disease, only those below par (it is not communicated by the breath of the patient). Disease germs in dust are so small that Professor Crookshank has estimated that there is room on a penny stamp for more than 400 million, all these, however, are not the tubercle of Phthisis. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that the vessel in which the expectoration is received should always have some disinfectant in it—this simple precaution would be of great value. I hope that in the next Annual Report there will be great diminution in the number of deaths from this disease.

Having quite recently made an inspection of the sanitary condition of the Urban District with Mr. A. L. T. Tilley, I need only recapitulate our chief recommendations, which were that public abattoirs should be provided, that no pigs should be kept within 150 feet of any dwelling—as at Bournemouth—and that the Bye-laws relating to sanitary matters should be revised.

The Borough Surveyor informs me that during the year 27.9 inches of rain fell (36.1 in 1897 and 29.9 in 1896). The instrument is a "Glaisher" 8 inch, the height of the top of it from the ground is 14 inches, and 315 feet above the sea level. There is no sunshine recorder.

Nothing unfit for human food has been condemned.

There are no noxious trades within this district.

The Sanitary Inspector has assisted me in seeing that the provisions of the Factory Act were carried out.

The drainage of the Maumbury Way district as well as the New Drainage Scheme, will require your careful attention.

Matters for congratulation.

1. A first-class water supply, both as regards quantity and quality.
2. Raising the average age at death from 38 years (34 in 1896) to 44.
3. Lowering the death-rate from the principal Zymotic diseases from 4 per 1000 to nil.
4. Purchase of land, preparation of plans, etc., for the new drainage scheme, previous to the extension of the Borough.
5. Now there is entire absence of all infectious diseases from this sanitary district.

Lyme Regis—Mr. J. Spurr.

I beg to hand you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary condition of the Borough during the year 1898.

Area of Borough 1394 acres.

Population.—The population for 1891 was 2364, and estimated to the middle of 1898 is 2373.

Birth Rate.—There were 53 births registered during the year, 26 Males and 27 Females, which gives a birth rate of 22.3 per 1000 of the population.

Death Rate.—The total number of deaths registered during the year was 46, 24 males and 22 females, which gives a death rate of 19.3 per 1000. The death rate for 1897 was 16.8. I attribute this increase to the unusually large number of deaths of old people, as table A. shows, for out of the total number of 46 deaths, 18 were over 65 years of age, and 11 of these 18 were over 80 years.

The various causes of death were as follows:—Pneumonia 1, Bronchitis 5, Pleurisy 1, Phthisis 2, Whooping Cough, 1, Heart disease 2, Senility 11. There was no death from any Zymotic disease. One inquest was held during the year, the verdict was death from natural causes, probably heart disease. Two deaths occurred within the Borough of persons from outside.

Infant Mortality.—Five children died under the age of one year, giving an Infant Mortality of 94.3 per 1000 children born alive during the year.

Prevalence of Disease.

Typhoid Fever.—In the early part of January an isolated case of this disease occurred in a house in Church St. the patient, a boy aged 8 years, was removed to our Cottage Hospital, and after a tedious convalescence made a perfect recovery. I think that it was owing to the prompt removal from his home and the careful nursing he received whilst in the Hospital that the disease did not spread, the drains and closets of the surrounding cottages were inspected and found very defective, and notices being served upon the owner Col. Henley, the necessary repairs were carried out.

Scarlet Fever.—Two cases of this disease occurred at Little Park in August, a child and his mother who were visiting there, they both recovered. On examination the drains here were found in good order, with the exception of the outfall which discharged into the adjoining field. At my request the owners made two cesspools to receive the sewage from this house and the cottage, to overflow to run down to the river in an open ditch. There was no spread of this fever.

Erysipelas.—Three isolated cases of this disease were notified during the year, all recovered.

Water Supply.—Our excellent supply of good water withstood the strain of an exceptionally dry summer in a very satisfactory manner. In March new three-inch iron pipes were laid from the Main in Broad Street, Sherborne Lane, Horse Street, and Monmouth Street to supply the adjoining houses.

Rainfall and Sunshine.—Through the kindness of Sir Cuthbert Peek, I am enabled to give you the amount of rain registered during the year at the Rousdon Observatory, which is situated about three miles to the West of this town, and about 500 feet above sea level. There were only 26·8 inches of rain for the twelve months. The average annual fall for the years 1886-1895 was 32·3 inches. There were registered 1673 hours of sunshine for the year. The average for the years 1886-1895 was 1682 hours.

Sewerage and Drainage.—In May, Messrs. Witts and Phillott, of Cheltenham, made an examination of the drainage of the town, and reported :—

" We examined the existing drains in several places, and found them to consist partly of old stone culverts of varying sizes, and partly of earthenware pipes. Some of the old stone culverts are well constructed, and are in good condition, although hardly in accordance with modern ideas of sanitation. In every place, however, in which the old drains were examined, we found them free from deposit. There was a sufficient quantity of water flowing through them to keep them clean. The gradients are for the most part very steep, and there was a remarkable absence of sewer gas.

" Under the circumstances we do not feel justified in recommending the abandonment of the entire system as a whole, but suggest that the sewers may be altered and improved, and, at the same time, relaid, in some places.

" We recommend that a new ' Intercepting Sewer ' be placed under the bed of the River Lim, to take the drainage of the houses on either side, which now flows directly or indirectly into the river ; and receiving also the drainage from Broad Street and Marine Parade sewers, which at present have an outfall near the Assembly Rooms, on to the shore. The Intercepting Sewer should discharge through a 24-inch iron pipe at the level of low water at the Eastern side of Broad Ledge.

The Cobb.—We recommend that another new Intercepting Sewer be constructed from a point on the Parade, where the water-course, below Mr. Preston's house, crosses the path or roadway. This drain would be laid under the Parade for some distance ; then, just outside the sea wall, protecting the houses near the Cobb, picking up all the drains, discharging on to the beach, together with the New Road sewer, and continuing by means of an 18-inch iron pipe to the level of low water, at a point about 250 yards West of the end of the Cobb.

" In laying out these new outfall sewers, ample provision should be made for a probable increase of population, which as Lyme Regis will shortly be served by a railway, is extremely likely, and for a possible new system of sewers throughout the town at any future time.

" Our rough estimate for carrying out these works is as follows :—

Alterations and repairs to existing sewers, and relaying where necessary	...	£1500
New outfall sewers in bed of river, discharging to the East of Broad Ledge	...	£2900
New outfall sewer to take drainage of the Cobb district	... ..	£1800 "

Housing of the Working Classes.—One case of overcrowding has been remedied, viz., a cottage in George's Court, owner, Mr. W. Wallis, occupier, Jas. Hodges. This cottage contained two bedrooms ; Hodges' family consisted of himself, wife, and seven children. Not being able to obtain a house with sufficient bedroom accommodation, he has gone to Charmouth to live.

Another case of overcrowding has been remedied, viz., a cottage in Coombe Street, owner, Mr. Farnham, sen., tenant, Mr. Toms. Toms was able to obtain a larger house in the town.

Slaughter-houses, etc.—The three slaughter-houses were inspected twice during the year, and each time they were all found in a very clean condition.

Bakehouses.—The five bakehouses were visited twice. At the first visit, in April, three were found in good sanitary condition one required white-washing, and in one the drains were defective. At the second visit, in December, the defects had all been remedied.

Milk-houses.—The nine milk-houses were inspected twice, and I considered them all to be in a very satisfactory condition.

Improvements.—New drains and closets have been made at the " Mason's Arms " and " Crown " Inns, by the owners, in a very efficient manner. A new drain has also been made from the cottages behind the " Victoria " Inn to join the " Crown " drains.

Poole.—Dr. H. A. Lawton.

I have the honour to submit to you my report of the health of the Poole Urban Sanitary District for the year ending December 31st, 1898.

Population.—Assuming that the rate of increase in the decade, 1881-1891 still continues, I estimate the population of the district to be 18214 to the middle of the year, and 18410 to the end of the year. The Borough Surveyor calculating on the number of inhabited houses, estimates the population to be 19500.

Births.—The number of births registered during the year was 273 males and 253 females, making a total of 526. Hence the birth-rate was 28·76 per 1000. There was an increase of 15 as compared with 1897.

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Deaths.—The number of deaths registered during the year was 138 males and 140 females, making a total of 278. Hence the death-rate was 15·31 per 1000. There was an increase of only 1 as compared with 1897. Calculating on the Borough Surveyor's estimate, the death-rate would be 14·25 per 1000.

The Infantile death-rate was 145·3 per 1000.

The Zymotic death-rate was 0·43 per 1000.

The monthly returns of births and deaths were as follows :—

MONTH.	BIRTHS.	DEATHS.
January	43	30
February	44	25
March	40	26
April	41	21
May	40	25
June	56	23
July	54	32
August	39	20
September	42	22
October	46	21
November	41	17
December	40	17

The various Districts, Parishes, and Hospitals were credited with the following number of deaths :—

St. James', Poole, West side of High Street, &c....	...	54
" " East " "	...	59
Poole Harbour	...	3
Longfleet	...	49
Parkstone	...	69
Hamworthy	...	12
Union Workhouse	...	19
Fever Hospital...	...	0
Cornelia Hospital	...	13

The ages at which death occurred were :—

Under 1 year	...	76
Between 1 and 5 years	...	29
" 5 " 15 "	...	8
" 15 " 25 "	...	13
" 25 " 65 "	...	83
Over 65 years	...	69

Of those over 65 years, 24 were between 80 and 90 years, and 1 over 90.

According to the returns forwarded me, the deaths registered were credited as follows :—

	TOTAL.	UNDER 5 YEARS.	OVER 5 YEARS.
Small-pox	none		
Scarlet Fever	none		
Diphtheria	3	2	1
Croup (Membranous)	2	2	0
Typhus Fever	none		
Typhoid Fever	none		
Continued Fever	none		
Puerperal Fever	none		
Cholera	none		
Erysipelas	1	1	0
Measles	none		
Whooping Cough	2	2	0
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	6	6	0
Rheumatic Fever	none		
Ague	none		
Phthisis	24	5	19
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, etc.	43	18	25
Heart Disease	14	1	13
Injuries	10	2	8
All other Diseases	167	66	107

In reviewing the Health History of the District for the past year, it will be well, according to my usual custom, to follow the foregoing analysis.

Diphtheria caused 3 deaths, viz :—

- 1.—Male, aged 2 years, Taylor's Buildings, Poole, February 6th.
- 2.—Female, aged 5 years, South Road, Poole, March 19th.
- 3.—Female, aged 2 years, St. Mary's Home, Parkstone, May 15th,

Membranous Croup caused 2 deaths, viz :—

- 1.—Male, aged 4 years, Church Street, Parkstone, February 6th.
- 2.—Male, aged 3 years, Ashley Road, Longfleet, July 22nd.

Erysipelas caused 1 death, viz :—

- 1.—Female, aged 6 months, Gordon Buildings, Parkstone, November 5th.

Whooping Cough caused 2 deaths, viz :—

- 1.—Female, aged 21 months, New Street, Poole, May 7th.
- 2.—Male, aged 4 months, Nile Row, Poole, October 1st.

Diarrhoea caused 6 deaths, viz :—

- 1.—Female, aged 1 year, Avenue Place, Poole, August 18th
- 2.—Female, aged 1 month, Towngate Street, Poole August 23rd.
- 3.—Female, aged 1½ years, West Street, Poole, September 11th.
- 4.—Female, aged 3 months, Hamworthy, September 19th.
- 5.—Male, aged 3 months, Florence Road, Parkstone, September 24th.
- 6.—Male, aged 1 month, Ashley Road, Parkstone, October 19th.

Phthisis caused 24 deaths, giving a death-rate of 1·31 per 1000. This number is 1 more than in 1897, and 5 more than in 1896.

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy, etc., caused 43 deaths.

Heart Disease caused 14 deaths.

Injuries caused 10 deaths. Four of these were cases of drowning (2 accidental, 1 suicidal, and one found drowned); 3 were accidental falls; 2 were cases of burning; 1 was a railway accident.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act.—Under this Act 63 certificates notifying 61 cases were received from medical practitioners and 29 notices from householders or relatives of persons affected with notifiable infectious diseases. The following is an analysis of localities and diseases. :—

Month.	Locality.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Typhoid Fever.	Membranous Croup.	Puerperal Fever.	Total.
January	... Poole ...	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
	... Parkstone ...	1	1	0	0	0	0	
February	... Poole ...	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
	... Parkstone ...	0	0	1	0	1	0	
	... Longfleet ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	
March	... Poole ...	0	1	1	0	0	0	10
	... Parkstone ...	1	2	0	0	0	0	
	... Longfleet ...	0	4	1	0	0	0	
April	... Poole ...	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
	... Parkstone ...	1	0	0	0	0	1	
May	... Parkstone ...	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
June	... Poole ...	0	3	1	1	0	0	5
July	... Poole ...	0	2	1	0	0	0	8
	... Parkstone ...	1	1	1	0	0	0	
	... Longfleet ...	0	0	1	0	1	0	
August	... Poole ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
September	... Poole ...	0	2	1	0	0	0	8
	... Parkstone ...	1	2	0	1	0	0	
	... Longfleet ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	
October	... Poole ...	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
	... Parkstone ...	0	1	1	0	0	0	
	... Longfleet ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	
November	... Poole ...	0	0	2	0	0	0	7
	... Parkstone ...	1	1	1	0	0	0	
	... Longfleet ...	0	1	1	0	0	0	
December	... Poole ...	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
	... Longfleet ...	0	0	1	0	0	0	
		9	26	21	2	2	1	61
	Poole ...	3	10	10	1	0	0	24
	Parkstone ...	6	11	4	1	1	1	24
	Longfleet ...	0	5	7	0	1	0	13
	Hamworthy..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
		9	26	21	2	2	1	61

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Summary of notifications received during the years 1893—1898.

DISEASE	1893 (10 months)	1894	1895	1896	1897	1-98	Total.
Small Pox	0	0	9	1	0	0	1
Scarlet Fever	7	33	25	22	43	9	139
Diphtheria	9	39	18	10	30	26	132
Croup (Membranous)	0	3	0	0	2	2	7
Typhoid Fever	17	11	5	6	6	2	47
Puerperal Fever	1	0	0	1	0	1	3
Erysipelas	41	19	27	22	25	21	155
	75	105	75	62	106	61	484

DISEASE	Poole	Parkstone	Longfleet	Hamworthy	Total.
Small Pox	0	0	0	1	1
Scarlet Fever	65	42	24	4	139
Diphtheria	47	63	20	2	132
Croup (Membranous)	2	2	3	0	7
Typhoid Fever	31	9	5	2	47
Puerperal Fever	1	2	0	0	3
Erysipelas	89	35	30	1	155
	235	153	86	10	484

Scarlet Fever.—As will be seen by reference to the first table that there was no epidemic of this disease, the cases that occurred being isolated cases occurring at intervals. No death occurred.

Diphtheria.—Twenty-one of the twenty-six cases of this disease occurred during the six months, March to September. Four cases proved fatal, including one which was removed outside the district.

Membranous Croup.—Two cases occurred, one in February, the other in July. Both proved fatal.

Typhoid Fever.—Two cases were notified, one in June, the other in September. Both recovered.

Puerperal Fever.—One case was notified in February. The patient had been attended in her confinement by a midwife. I forbade, both verbally and in writing, this midwife from attending any other patient for at least a month.

Erysipelas.—April and May were the only two months during which no case of this disease was notified. Of the twenty-one cases notified only one proved fatal.

From the foregoing it will be seen that there was no real epidemic of any kind during the year. The Zymotic sick and death-rates being very low.

Fever Hospital.—Eight patients were admitted during the year. The admissions were as follows:—

SEX.	DISEASE.	ADMITTED.	DISCHARGED.
1. Female ...	Scarlet Fever ...	Jan. 31st ...	Feb. 26th ...
2. Male ...	Diphtheria ...	Mar. 14th ...	March 9th ...
3. Female ...	" ...	May 18th ...	June 4th ...
4. Female ...	Scarlet Fever ...	July 22nd ...	Sep. 9th ...
5. Male ...	Diphtheria ...	Sep. 12th ...	Oct. 8th ...
6. Female ...	" ...	" " ...	" " ...
7. Female ...	" ...	" 28th ...	" 15th ...
8. Female ...	Scarlet Fever ...	Nov. 21st ...	Dec. 10th ...

There was no death in the Fever Hospital.

I will now proceed to review the sanitary work done during the year.

Scavenging, Flushing, etc.—The scavenging and flushing of the streets, and the removal of the night soil, have been regularly and satisfactorily carried out.

Water Supply.—The Poole Water Works Company's supply during the past year has been the same, as regards quantity and quality, as in previous years. Four samples from wells in out-lying parts of the district were submitted to me for analysis, two proved good and two proved to be polluted with sewerage; in one of the latter the Poole Water Works Company's supply was laid on, in the other the polluting cause is being removed. The four cottages at Tatnam mentioned in my 1897 report have had the Poole Water Works Company's supply laid on, so also have some of the dairy farms mentioned in the same report.

Slaughter-houses.—These were inspected half-yearly by myself and the Inspector of Nuisances. At the April inspection 9 were visited, and were noted as follows:—Very good 2; good, 6; fair, 1. At the October inspection 8 were visited, and noted as follows:—Very good, 2; good, 4; fair, 1; locked, 1.

Bakehouses.—These were inspected half-yearly by myself and the Inspector of Nuisances. At the April inspection 38 were visited, and noted as follows:—Very good, 5; good, 23; fair, 3; dirty, 5; locked, 2. At the October inspection 39 were visited, and noted as follows:—Very good, 4; good, 21; fair, 10; dirty, 0; locked, etc., 4.

Factories and Workshops.—These were inspected at intervals during the year by the Inspector of Nuisances, and were found generally to be in good condition.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—These were visited half-yearly by myself and the Inspector of Nuisances. At the May inspection 24 were visited, and were found in the following condition :—Good, 14 ; fair, 3 ; dirty, 7. At the November inspection 29 were visited, and found as follows :—Good, 12 ; fair, 9 ; dirty, 7 ; closed, 1. Three (2 in Longfleet and 1 in Parkstone) were marked dirty at each inspection. With one exception the Parkstone dairies were in a dirty condition when inspected in November. There is, however, in many instances a decided improvement in the general condition of cowsheds. The special report presented in November, 1897, has been considered, and it has been decided (a) that the amount of necessary cubic space for each cow shall be 800 cubic feet for cowsheds in the parish of St. James', Poole, and 700 cubic feet for cowsheds outside this parish. (b) That the Poole Water Works Company's water supply must be laid on to several cowsheds where the supply was deficient or dangerous.

Premises in an Unsanitary Condition, etc.—The Inspector of Nuisances has visited several premises in an unsanitary condition, besides all houses in which infectious diseases were notified as occurring, and gave the necessary directions for cleaning, etc. My personal inspection was made in all cases where requested by the Inspector.

Unsound Food.—In one instance only was it necessary to condemn food as unfit, viz :—A consignment consisting of 15 small boxes of bloaters and 3 large boxes of sprats deposited at the L. & S.W.R. goods shed yard, on November 19th.

Disinfection.—The disinfection of premises where infectious diseases were notified as having occurred was thoroughly carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances and his assistants. During the summer the courts and alleys in the town were cleansed and white-washed as in previous years.

Nuisances.—These were dealt with ordinarily by the Inspector, to whom all complaints were referred for enquiry, etc. Where necessary he appealed to me for advice and instructions.

Sewerage Scheme.—Contract No. 4 is now practically completed. The districts now sewered (with the exception of portions of the Sandecotes, Court Hill, and Heckford Park Estates) are Branksome Park, Parkstone, and Upper Longfleet. Most of the sewers have been ready for use for some time past, but up to the present only about 260 houses have been connected with the sewers, this number is only about a quarter of the houses which abut on the roads sewered. Some immediate steps should be taken to compel owners of property to connect with the system, and so prevent the ground around the existing cesspools (which in many cases are in close proximity to the dwelling-house) becoming saturated with sewage.

In conformity with the requirements of the Local Government Board, I have, as in previous years, made frequent inspections of the various parts of the district.

I have again to acknowledge the very valuable and careful assistance rendered me by the Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. Richard Smith, jun., who carries out the duties of his office with courtesy, zeal, and thoroughness.

Poole Port Sanitary Authority.—Dr. H. A. Lawton.

I have the honour to submit to you my report as Port Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st, 1898, and in so doing have again much pleasure in being able to give a very satisfactory account of the healthy condition of the seamen on board of the vessels which have entered and left the Port of Poole during the year.

No case of Infectious Disease has been either certified or notified.

The same Inspection of Vessels by the Harbour Authorities, Board of Trade and Customs Officials, have been made as in previous years.

Inspections.—The number of vessels inspected by the Sanitary Officials was 113, of this number 87 (i.e., 75 British and 12 Foreign) were classed as "good"; 22 (i.e., 21 British and 1 Foreign) were classed as "fair"; while 4 (all British) were classed as "dirty." Those classed as dirty were cleansed without notices being served.

Deaths. Three deaths were registered as having occurred within the Port of Poole, viz:—1.—Male, aged 17 years, accidental drowning, June 9th. 2.—Male aged 43 years, accidental drowning, July 15th. 3.—Male, aged 42 years, found drowned, September 17th.

Portland.—Dr. D. J. Lawson.

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ended 31st December 1898.

The area of the Portland Urban Sanitary District is 2897 acres.

Population.—The population in 1891 was 9,443. Since that time it has increased considerable, as the result of extensive government works etc. There is a good deal of fluctuation in the numbers employed; so that it is very difficult to form a correct estimate of the true population. It was probably about 10,000 in the middle of 1898. The statistics given in this report have therefore been based on this figure.

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Birth-rate.—248 births have been registered. Of these 135 were males, and 113 females. This gives a birth-rate of 24·8 per thousand.

Death-rate.—This is 13·8 per 1,000. The total number of deaths during the year was 142, four of these were deaths of non-resident leaving a total of 138 from which to calculate the death-rate. (The non-residents were as follows two sailors on board two Norwegian barques, suffering from bereberi); a man who died of typhoid fever at sea, whose dead body was brought into Portland Roads, and a sailor belonging to H.M.S. "Cleopatra", who died of broncho-pneumonia, the deaths were distributed through the year as follows:—

January	...	...	...	9
February	...	...	...	17
March	...	...	...	22
April	...	...	...	9
May	...	...	...	14
June	...	...	...	14
July	...	...	...	6
August	...	...	...	11
September	...	...	...	3
October	...	...	...	9
November	...	...	...	7
December	...	...	...	21
Total				<u>142</u>

The deaths are classified in the following table under their respective diseases.—

Scarlatina	..	...	...	3
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	5
Whooping Cough	..	...	...	5
Diarrhoea & Dysentery	...	...	...	4
Phthisis	..	...	...	11
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, & Pleurisy	..	...	...	27
Heart Disease	..	...	...	21
Injuries	...	...	...	10
All other diseases	..	...	...	56
Total				<u>142</u>

Among these are included eight deaths caused by Influenza, two deaths from Cancer, and one from Tetanus. The death rate from Phthisis is 1·1 per thousand.

The mortality from all causes at the different age-groups is as follows:—

Under 1 year	...	...	...	40
1 year and under 5 years	...	...	...	11
5 years and under 15 years	...	...	...	3
15 " " 25 "	...	...	...	16
25 " " 65 "	...	...	...	44
65 " and upwards	...	...	...	28
Total				<u>142</u>

Infant Mortality.—The number of births registered during the year was 248, the number of deaths in children under 1 year of age was 40. The infant mortality (deaths under 1 year per thousand living births) is therefore 161·29. It is to be regretted that this rate is so high. Last year it was low, being only 101·265, and it is difficult to explain why it is so high this year. There is no doubt, however, that a great deal of the mortality among infants generally is due to the lamentable ignorance of the very elements of infant feeding which is so prevalent among the mothers of the working classes. Something might, perhaps, be done to remove this ignorance by making Domestic Training a subject for technical teaching, by duly qualified ladies, under the auspices of the Technical Education Committee, as a knowledge of how to feed young children would come under this subject.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Scarlatina.—Twenty one cases were notified. Three deaths.

Enteric Fever.—Thirteen cases notified, with five deaths.

Erysipelas.—Six cases notified.—No death.

Zymotic death-rate.—This is calculated according to the method of the Registrar General, on the deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, and is based in the present instance on three deaths from Scarlatina, five from Enteric Fever, five from Whooping Cough, and four from Diarrhoea. This gives a rate of 1·7 per 1,000.

Five of the Scarlatina patients and one suffering from Typhoid Fever were removed to the Port Sanitary Hospital.

VACCINATION.

I regret to have to report that the condition of the Island is far from satisfactory with regard to Vaccination. With such a large shifting population as we have at present, the probability of the introduction of Small-Pox is greatly increased, and there is every reason to fear that, should it unfortunately make its appearance among us, the death-rate among the younger members of the community would be a very heavy one. It remains to be seen whether the recent changes in the regulations relating to public vaccination will increase or diminish the percentage of vaccinated children. I am inclined to hope that the substitution of calf lymph for humanized lymph, and the arrangements for vaccinating children at their own homes, instead of making their parents bring them to some central station for the purpose, may increase the number of the vaccinated.

RAIN-FALL.				Inches
January	...	...	...	0.46
February	...	...	...	2.00
March	...	...	...	0.94
April	...	...	...	1.15
May	...	...	...	3.24
June	...	...	...	1.03
July	...	...	...	0.07
August	...	...	...	1.16
September	...	...	...	0.59
October	...	...	...	2.75
November	...	...	...	2.83
December	...	...	...	2.71
Total				18.93

The greatest fall in 24 hours occurred on the 21st February, when 1.21 inch fell. (For these figures I am indebted to the Rev. W. R. Waugh, F.R.A.S., The Observatory Portland.)

Water Supply:—Owing to the prolonged drought during the Summer and Autumn, the scarcity of water was very severely felt in the Island. The District Council tried to relieve the water famine by sending round water carts, and though this was insufficient to meet the wants of the populace, the action of the Council was much appreciated, as it mitigated the difficulty.

The contract for carrying the new water works to completion was signed on the 7th April. Since then the work has been actively proceeded with the only exception being the delay in sinking the shaft at Upwey. Principally owing to difficulties in connection with the temporary pumping machinery, this portion of the work has proceeded very slowly. The additional sinking of the shaft, however, is now nearly completed to a depth of 165 feet. It is satisfactory to know that in spite of the excessively dry season the yield of the well has not been appreciably affected, and as the sinking of the shaft is proceeded with the quantity of water yielded has considerably increased, especially since the last 15 or 20 feet were reached. It was not anticipated that the well would give us a sufficient amount of water without some galleries being driven, as very little water is obtained from the body of the chalk itself, practically the whole of the supply being obtained from fissures. Provision is therefore made in the contract for driving 900 feet of galleries if required.

The reservoir, with a capacity of about 600,000 gallons, has been completed, and the main delivery pipe from the reservoir to Portland railway station is practically completed. The work of laying the distributing pipes in the Island has also begun. The Contractor has been allowed about a fortnight extra time on account of public holidays, &c., so that the date for the completion of the contract is now about the middle of June.

Drainage:—Mr. Elford, the Surveyor to the Portland District Council, in an able report, has submitted a scheme prepared by him for carrying out the drainage of the district. This scheme which is estimated to cost about £25,000 has been adopted by the Council subject to certain modifications viz:—that an alternative route for one sewer, and an alternative position for the under-hill out-fall should be submitted to them. The Local Government Board and the Admiralty have both signified their approval of the scheme in its general outlines, and the latter have stated that when the scheme is prepared in detail they will be willing to consider the advisability of making a contribution towards the cost.

The District Council Offices are still in an insanitary condition, and the Council Room is small, badly ventilated and unsuited for the purpose.

Nuisances:—A large number of nuisances have been attended to and abated during the year.

I have to acknowledge the help afforded me in carrying out the duties of my office by Mr. E. J. Elford, Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances.

Shaftesbury—Mr. R. H. Sawyer.

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the Sanitary condition of the Borough during the year 1898 together with the tables A. and B. concerning the deaths that have occurred within the Urban District during the year, and also the cases of Infectious Disease that have come to my knowledge during the same period.

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The area of the Borough or Urban District of Shaftesbury extends over about 77 acres.

The population according to the the last census taken in the year 1891 was 2122, the estimated population for 1897 was 2240 and estimated to the middle of 1898 would be about 2270.

The number of births during the year was 53 the previous year having been 47. The birth-rate per 1000 being 23·3

The number of deaths was 38, being 1 more than those in 1897. The death-rate per 1000 of the population will therefore be 16·7.

Infant Mortality amounts to a rate of 113·2 per 1000 registered births.

The deaths from the more infectious ailments appear to be conspicuous by their absence. One death only in a child under 5 years of age being registered as due to Diarrhoea. There were also 4 deaths from Phthisis and 5 from Pulmonary Affections, 6 also were ascribed to Diseases of the Heart, and 1 was due to injuries received and died in the Cottage Hospital, while 21 were ascribed to other diseases.

Of the 33 deaths occurring in the district, 6 were of those under 1 year, 2 were above 1 year and under 5 years, 3 were above 15 and under 25, 13 were of those above 25 and under 65, and 14 were of those above 65 years of age

Six deaths occurred of those who died within the district of those who did not properly belong to the district.

There were two cases of Scarlet Fever that came to my knowledge as existing within the Borough and Whooping Cough was very generally prevalent throughout the district at various times of the year, but, as I regret to say, I have not yet been able to induce you to adopt the Act for the Notification of Infectious Diseases, it is most difficult to form a correct estimate of the number of children who have been affected by that and other Infectious Diseases.

The Water Supply has been good and sufficient during the year, being derived from the artesian well at the water works on Barton Hill and less waste of it has appeared to be the case from the different taps placed in various parts of the streets in the lower parts of the town than has often been the case formerly, and thereby enabling the assurance of a sufficiency during the more dry season of the year.

It is satisfactory that further arrangements have been made for the removal of sewage on the more Northern portion of the town which will be utilized in the irrigating of the land at that part of the outskirts of the town, and it is desirable that all those situated within the boundaries of the Borough, who have not already done so shall be connected with the system of sewerage with as little delay as possible and the old cesspits and privies, &c., within the Borough which have been the source of so much trouble and mischief in this and other Boroughs in former times should cease to exist.

With a Town so well and favourably situated as Shaftesbury, there should be no reason which should prevent the whole of the Urban District from being well and thoroughly drained and the drains effectually ventilated.

In our visits and inspections of the different parts of the town, we have found accumulations of manure, and garbage and filth in or near the poorer parts of the centre of the town which in due course has been brought to your notice.

Cases of overcrowding have also been pointed out. It would also be a desirable matter for consideration whether bye-laws should not be adopted which would forbid the keeping of pigs within a certain distance of any residence.

The bakehouses and slaughterhouses and also the factories within the district have frequently being visited and inspected by me and the common lodging house on Gold Hill has also been inspected by me on several occasions, and whitewashings and similar matters have been recommended when necessary, and have been carried out at my request.

Your Inspector of Nuisances has been vigilant in attending to the drains within the district, and has seen that the streets were kept clean, well watered when necessary and otherwise attended to.

It is a matter of congratulation that whilst Scarlet Fever has been so prevalent in the surrounding districts, that Shaftesbury has so little of it, but I would nevertheless take this opportunity of begging you once again to adopt the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, whereby the first case of any outbreak could at once be dealt with and measures taken for the immediate isolation of the infected ones.

Sherborne—Mr. H. Nutt.

In accordance with the instructions of the Local Government Board, it is again my privilege to present you with my Annual Report for the year 1898 of the Sherborne Urban Sanitary District,—and, as it is my usual custom, and now also by the desire of the County Council—I will commence with what are termed the VITAL STATISTICS, which includes the Births, Deaths, and prevailing Sickness, to the best of my knowledge throughout the year.

Tables A. and B with reference to them will accompany this Report.

Mortality.—Deaths as Registered during the above year,—

	MALES.			FEMALES.			TOTAL.
1st quarter	14	16	30
2nd "	13	11	24
3rd "	8	4	12
4th "	9	14	23
Totals ...	44	—	—	45	—	—	89

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DEATHS OCCURRING IN INSTITUTIONS.

	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total.
The Yeatman Hospital	1	2	0	2	5
The Alms House ...	2	0	0	0	2
The Union Workhouse	6	3	2	2	13
Totals	9	5	2	4	20

DEATHS OF PERSONS NOT BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.

1st Quarter 5; 2nd Quarter 3; 3rd Quarter 7; 4th Quarter 2; Total 17.

AGES AT WHICH DEATH OCCURRED.

	Under 1 year.	1 year & under 5	5 years & under 15	15 years & under 25	25 years & under 65	65 years & upwards.	Total
First Quarter	1	1	1	0	9	18	30
Second "	0	1	4	1	7	11	24
Third "	4	1	1	0	4	2	12
Fourth "	5	1	1	0	9	7	23
Totals	10	4	7	1	29	38	89

Over 80 years.

1st Quarter 5—(highest being 86 years)

2nd " 3—(" 99 ")

3rd " 1

4th " 5—(" 92 ")

Total—14, 83 years and upwards, 2 being over 90 years.

CAUSE OF DEATH.

	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	8	4	0	4	16
Phthisis ...	2	3	1	0	6
Cerebral ...	2	6	1	4	13
Heart Disease ...	4	3	1	2	10
Influenza ...	2	0	0	0	2
Cancer ...	0	1	0	0	1
Typhoid ...	0	0	0	0	0
Diarrhoea ...	0	0	0	2	2
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0
Measles ...	0	0	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0	0	0
Old Age & General Causes ...	12	7	9	11	39
Totals	30	24	12	23	89

There were no deaths due to accident, the result of violence, or suicide throughout the year.

The Annual Death-rate is 16.18 per 1000, and after deducting deaths of those not belonging to Sherborne 13.09 per 1000.

The Infant Mortality was 1 per cent of Registered Births.

BIRTHS.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1st Quarter ...	16	13	29
2nd " ...	16	13	29
3rd " ...	19	19	38
4th " ...	14	11	25
Totals	65	56	121

The Annual Birth-rate being 22 per 1000.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
Measles ...	63	10	1	10	84
Continued Fever ...	5	0	0	0	5
Erysipelas ...	3	3	0	2	8
Whooping Cough ...	2	0	0	0	2
Scarlet Fever ...	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	73	13	2	12	100

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SICKNESS DURING THE YEAR. During the 1st Quarter following the severe epidemic of Measles at the end of the year 1897 were 63 cases of Measles, and these were all in the School House, or houses connected therewith, and it is very remarkable that in the first part of the epidemic, when it was severe throughout the town, and the Elementary Schools were closed for a month, there was not a single case of Measles in the big School. I am pleased to add although there were so many cases among the scholars, not a single death resulted. During the last quarter of the year there were again a few cases of Measles, and these were mixed with the other irregular cases, which were not serious, and as stated before, no death resulted from Measles throughout the year, this also applies to Whooping Cough, which in past years has been very prevalent and more or less a frequent source of fatality. There were only two cases of Whooping Cough during the whole year, and as this disease is well known to be an insidiously infectious and fatal disorder, I think it points to the sanitary vigilance exercised.

"Scarlet Fever."—I am pleased to add there was only one case throughout the year attributed to this too fatal malady. It occurred in the case of a young lady visiting in the town from London; she was taken ill suddenly in Church, and removed to her friend's residence. A Medical man was called in, who soon, by the rash and other symptoms, detected the cloven hoof of Scarlet Fever. Isolation, disinfection, and the greatest possible care was observed by the medical attendant, nurses and others in any way connected with the case, to prevent its spreading in the town, and I am happy to state, after seven weeks, the patient returned quite convalescent to her London home. It would appear the infection was brought with her, as there was no evidence pointing to any other conclusion.

Thorough disinfection of the house was carried out under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health, and it is satisfactory to add no other case of this disease occurred.

"Continued Fever."—Three well marked cases occurred at the commencement of the year, and two of these were decidedly of the ENTERIC type. They consisted of the father, mother and daughter—aged about 13 years. It was a case of overcrowding in an insanitary dwelling, which had been condemned by the Medical Officer of Health, and endeavours had been made to get the family a larger house, but from exceptional circumstances, were not successful, and the severe illness followed, and the general health of all the children was much affected. This case strongly exemplified the necessity of obtaining an Isolation Hospital, which I have strenuously urged in most of my previous Reports. On this occasion, it was quite impossible to get isolation, but with the assistance of your Board, in sanctioning my getting nurses, and liberal treatment in the management of the cases for the time, "the house itself being a Fever Hospital," in the course of time the disease was overcome, and after a protracted convalescence, the "bread-winner" was enabled to return to his labour.

Under the head of "Sickness" I have nothing further to add otherwise than that, in my opinion, in due time the great advantages of the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act will be fully realized.

I feel there can be no doubt from the preceding part of my Report dealing with the STATISTICS, no other inference can be drawn from a sanitary point of view, otherwise than that the Sherborne Urban District has been exceptionally satisfactory in its history for the year 1898.

It will be observed that there has not been throughout the year a single death recorded belonging to the Zymotic class of diseases and this, coupled with the low rate of Infantile Mortality, and the average yearly decreasing Death-rate points conclusively to the sanitary condition of the district.

During the many years I have resided in Sherborne as a medical practitioner, I have been strongly impressed with a favourable opinion of the healthiness of the district, illustrated by the numerous cases of extreme longevity, that have come under my notice, especially marked at the present time, for whilst engaged in writing this report my attention has been directed to two cases, one of which has lately attained the great age of 102 years, the subject I believe at present in good health, and with wonderfully preserved faculties: the other is that of a man in the Workhouse, who during the past month has reached and duly celebrated his 100th birthday. I believe he is " hale and hearty " whilst to my knowledge there are several other cases of 90 years and upwards.

REMARKABLE COINCIDENCES.—First, that the number of deaths in public institutions and of persons not belonging to the district are for the year precisely the same as in 1897, viz:—20 and 17 respectively. Secondly, that the births for 1st and 2nd quarters of the year 1898 are exactly the same as to number and sex, viz:—1st quarter, males 16, females 13—total, 29; 2nd quarter males 16, females 13—29; and for the 3rd quarter they are identical as to number and sex viz: males 19, females 19—38.

WORK DONE.—I supervised the Inspectors Journal, and find that the ordinary routine has been carried out. This applies to nuisances arising from stopped drains, and inefficient w.c.'s, and in 1 case to overcrowding, all of which have been remedied by the interference, without the necessity of taking stronger measures. Milkshops, Dairies, Slaughter-houses, &c., have been duly inspected and reported on with very little cause of complaint. During the year I have written 4 reports (quarterly), and also by your instructions, a Report to the Local Government Board on the Epidemic of Measles in 1897 and 1898, which was duly courteously acknowledged.

Vaccination has been thoroughly and efficiently performed throughout the district. It is now many years since that dreadful and loathsome disease Small-pox invaded the District. With the exception of one case and that of a tramp, who brought it into the town; he was isolated by the Authorities, cured, and sent on his way. No doubt the great freedom in late years from this dire disease is attributable to the protective power of Vaccination—a boon which, from my experience, has been fully appreciated by the inhabitants of this district, and I hope will continue to be so.

Improvements either effected or in contemplation:—Some few years ago, in my Annual Report treating upon the Sanitary condition of the town, I referred especially, to the state of overcrowding, and the great want of cottage accommodation. I am pleased to state that this is now to a great extent remedied owing to the enterprise of private individuals and co-operation. Many new houses have been built, both of the cottage and better class; but I feel it my duty specially to refer to what is known as the Sherborne Cottage Building Company, and to whom the public thanks is specially due, for during the past year they have completed the erection of 36 cottages, opposite to a line of 36 which they built about 2 years ago, and now forms a good street in the healthiest part of the town, of useful and sanitary dwellings for the working class, the comforts of which are much appreciated. The only fault I have to find, or rather, I would say my regret is, that a good useful cottage cannot be produced at a less cost, for I feel that to the ordinary labourer, 3/- a week is as much as he can honestly afford for rental. I hope to live to see the day when good cottages may be provided in Sherborne for the labourer, who I consider is the "back bone" of the Country, at a rental he can afford to pay.

The Conduit Water.—For several centuries this has been a water supply of the highest repute, and traditional history as to its health giving powers and natures cool restorer, and enjoyed freely by the inhabitants of Sherborne of every grade, without cost, continuously day and night uninterruptedly pouring forth its pure and crystal stream, a blessing to the weary travellers, both man and beast and to passers by it seemed to echo those well known words:—

Men may come and men may go,
But I go on for ever.

Unfortunately at the beginning of the year its character was somewhat assailed, and there was a suspicion that the water had in some way become contaminated and tainted with impurities. Your Authority very properly with the experience of the sad occurrence at other towns, under similar circumstances at once determined to remedy it and for this purpose the water was cut off for a time, and your town supply substituted. The spring head was found to be in a filthy state from the penetration of noxious matter. It was thoroughly cleansed and the reservoir cemented and made proof against pollutions by extraneous matter. Before it was sealed up I visited and inspected it, and never saw a specimen of more beautiful water, to all appearances. Although it was 8 feet deep, it was so clear and pellucid, I could see to pick up a pin, if necessary, at the bottom of the tank. It was again restored to its proper channel and the conduit much to the joy of the inhabitants and especially true born Shirburnians. I would suggest that to be on the safe side a periodical examination and analysis of the water should be taken, and now I hope I may be acquitted of the charge of presumption if I unhesitatingly say that you as a Council, have assiduously endeavoured honestly to carry out the work of your predecessors for the promotion of the public health. Collectively and respectively you have taken the greatest interest in the work during the past year. You have frequently discussed various plans as to the improvement of the system of sewerage and though, as far as I can understand your deliberations have not at present led to any definite result, the delay is not due in any part to a desire to shirk such an onerous and difficult duty, but to await the result of certain experiments and trials in other places by which the maturity of some scheme may be developed, and cautiously not to waste the money of the ratepayers. I trust your labours in the end will be rewarded by the application of such a system that will prove a lasting boon, not only for the present generation of rate-payers, but to those who are still unborn.

Bye-Laws.—A revision of these I believe is at present under your consideration, and I expect great improvements in the matter of sanitation when these take effect. As I have never been able to possess a copy of the original, I am led to the conclusion that they were almost obsolete.

There are one or two other matters I would refer to before concluding this report. First, the danger there is to the public by the careless practice of throwing orange peel about the pavement, a dangerous risk to life and limb. I would earnestly call your attention to it, and at present, if it is not practicable to pass a law to prevent it, I hope referring to it in this Report may have some indirect influence in mitigating the nuisance; and I would ask individuals to use their personal endeavours to prevent it, and as far as possible to remove the offending pieces when opportunity occurs, as by so doing they may avert a serious accident to someone, or at any rate lessen the danger.

Secondly, the other is a matter I feel, as a public Medical Officer, I should not be doing my duty if I feared or failed to mention, although by doing so, I know I shall incur the displeasure of some. It is in reference to the increased habit of "juvenile smoking" which I am sorry to say is much in evidence at Sherborne, probably due to the cheapness and all-convenience of the cigarette of to-day. It must be understood I am referring especially to children, and it is no unusual thing to see them now attempting this pernicious habit in the streets. These precocious boys are doing themselves infinite harm, developing early abnormal disease, and distorted constitutions and conditions of life unfitting them for everything, and most frequently leading to a premature grave. If the discipline of the parent or schoolmaster is impotent in the matter, I feel it is high time the question is taken up by the custodians of the Public Health.

NOMENCLATURE IN THE TOWN.—I would again urge the necessity of some attention being paid to this. At the present time it is very confusing. Some houses have two names, also streets the same, and others are not named at all. It would facilitate public business and render it less puzzling to visitors and strangers, and more in accordance with modern times if the defect was rectified by your Authority.

The main features of this Report, I hope as it has been my endeavour, will show that Sanitation in Sherborne is "progressive," and that the year 1898 is marked by many various improvements. Foremost among these is the attempt to provide better houses for the working-class. This I consider satisfactory and laudable, as I fear it cannot be considered that building houses for the poor is 'commercially' remunerative. The difficulty is to give them such a comfortable house as they can pay for. The wages and means of the poor are very precarious, but their physical wants are very much the same as those of other men, and it is vain to look for more morality and a more healthy state of the community, unless we can manage to provide the poor with dwellings containing the first conditions of delicacy and health. I have to thank you and your Officers for all the courtesy and assistance I have received during the year in the discharge of my duties.

Swanage.—Dr. A. McCausland.

Population.—The population of the Swanage Urban District (census 1891) was 2,600. Estimated to middle of 1898—3,600.

Birth-Rate.—The Birth-rate 22·7 per 1000.

Death-Rate.—The Death-rate 13·6 per 1000.

Zymotic-Rate.—Nil.

Infant Mortality.—122 per 1000 registered births.

During the year there has been no epidemic of any sort.

The Notification of Infectious Diseases Act was adopted at the end of the year, to come into force January, 1899.

Water.—The water supply is excellent and abundant and though we had such a long dry summer, the supply was only partially restricted, since then additional borings have been made which will add considerably to our stock of water.

Sewers.—It was thought advisable to carry the Main Sewers out to Peveral Point so as to avoid any contamination of the Bay and also to lay down drains for the benefit of Herston and the Ulwell Road Estate, this work is now being carried out, and when all the houses are connected will practically complete the drainage of Swanage.

Isolation Hospital.—No Isolation Hospital or Public Disinfection has so far been considered necessary.

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Bake-houses and Dairies.—There is but one Slaughter-house in the Town. The Bakehouses are all above ground and kept in fair condition. The Dairy shops are as a rule suitable but the buildings where the cows are kept are in many instances unsuitable.

This report has been drawn up under the headings suggested by the Dorset County Council.

Among other work done by Mr. Senior, Sanitary Inspector, were the following:—

- 15 Cesspits emptied
- 3 Offensive ditches cleaned
- 28 Defective drains remedied
- 15 Offensive Ash and manure heaps removed
- 12 Closets and privies repaired and cleaned
- 1 Summons for closing unsanitary house.

Wareham.—Mr. K. F. Courtenay.

I have the honour to submit for your perusal my Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Borough of Wareham for the year ending December 31st, 1898.

I have made a careful inspection of this Borough on several occasions. At four cottages in Church Lane I condemned the vault closets which were thoroughly out of repair and advised the use of earth closets which are about to take the place of those condemned.

The gutter under the footpath leading from Brewery Lane which was constantly flushed when the Brewery was in working order but has since become a nuisance has been replaced by a new gutter which has remedied the evil.

The drain to take away the surface drainage round the Red Lion Corner is not sufficient to take it away and I strongly advise a relief drain to go down South Street.

During the year 1898, 29 deaths occurred in the entire Borough which gives in a population of 2141 a death-rate of 13·5 per 1000. In Wareham alone not including the Workhouse only 19 deaths occurred which makes the death-rate at the low figure of 8·8 per 1000 which I am sure speaks for itself as to the health of the town and upon which we ought to congratulate ourselves.

Of these deaths,

	2	were under the age of	1 year
	3	"	" 25 years
	8	"	" 65 years
	16	of the age of	65 and upwards
Also,	5	were due to	Heart Disease
	4	"	Bronchitis and Pneumonia
	1	was	" Phthisis

One death which occurred in the Workhouse was from Typhoid contracted outside the district. The remainder were from old age and ordinary diseases.

There have been 47 births during the year.

The Drainage of this town is carried out under the cesspool plan. A new and commodious water-cart for flushing purposes and watering the streets is a great improvement on the old one.

I am very glad to report that a water supply has been found for the town, good in quality and quantity and it is now only a matter of time before the town will be supplied with such water. The source is at the top of Worgret Hill 1½ miles from the town.

The health of the town for the whole year has been almost unequalled.

Weymouth and Melcombe Regis.—Dr. B. Browning.

In accordance with the circulars of the Dorset County Council (the last instructions I received on the matter), I submit to you my Eighth Annual Report on the Vital Statistics, Health, and Sanitation of our Borough during 1898.

I am flattered by finding that the general suggestions thus given to our Dorset Health Officers are based on the lines of my previous Reports to you, copies of which were duly forwarded to our County Council, and should any of you think that, in complying with them, I have slightly erred on the score of brevity, I have, at your service, a special supplemental Report, which will not, I imagine, be found devoid of interest both to you and the Public at large.

(A).—ARRANGEMENT OF REPORT.

Area of Weymouth Urban Sanitary District—1616 two-fifths acres.
 Population, Census 1891—Not estimated.
 Population, estimated to middle of 1898—27,572.
 Birth rate—17·3 per thousand.
 Death rate—8·3 per thousand.
 Zymotic Disease—(non-tuberculous)—0·2 per thousand.
 Infant Mortality—120 per 1000 births.
 Prevalence of Disease and Notification—Little; Notification in force.
 Water Supply—From Chalk and Greensand, good, pure, and clear.
 Sewerage and Drainage—New Drainage Scheme in partial operation, not completed.
 Excrement Disposal—Into sewers, some into temporary cesspools, and slightly into Backwater (these last two errors will shortly, I trust, be abated).
 Isolation Hospital—At Ferry Bridge, outside the Borough; here is very good Medical skill, nursing, and complete isolation.
 Houses of the Working Classes—Fair for an historic town; the high rents drive many poor into ancient and objectionable dwellings which cannot be closed for want of other homes at a price which they could pay. The Housing of the Working Classes Act is now being put in force, but for many reasons cannot yet be well carried out.
 Slaughter-houses, Bake-houses, Common Lodging-houses, etc.—Slaughter-houses all badly situated, and with few exceptions not in good order; Bake-houses, on the whole, in fair order; Common Lodging-houses, in very bad order, for want of Bye-laws to regulate their keepers and lodgers.

(B).—PARTICULARS AS TO SANITARY WORK.

(Carried out with the regular aid of the Inspector of Nuisances, whose zeal and assiduity now as always heretofore, I most thoroughly commend, and frequently done, on emergency, by myself alone).

IN THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF WEYMOUTH.

Number of Complaints received during the year—187.
 Number of Inspections of Houses, Premises, etc.—259.
 Results of Inspections—Not very satisfactory in the end.
 Orders issued for Sanitary Amendment of Houses and Premises—246.
 Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease—53.
 New House Drains provided—135.
 House Drains Repaired, Cleaned, Trapped, etc.—122.
 Privies and W.C.'s. (new) provided—15 W.C.'s.
 Repaired, etc.—130.
 Supplied with Water (newly)—15 only, this past year.
 Water Supplies—From Chalk and Greensand at Sutton Poyntz.
 Sewers (new) provided—New Drainage Scheme in operation and now partially completed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Removal of Agglomerations of Manure, Animal and other Refuse—327 heaps.
 Animals removed, being improperly kept—7 lots.
 Cases of Over-crowding—9.
 Number of Lodging-houses Registered—None.
 Legal Proceedings (Summonses)—5, all successful.

GENERAL REMARKS.

We may look forward to a visit from the Sanitary Congress and Society of Medical Officers of Health in August next, at your invitation.

I have to thank you, for affording me, as one of your Delegates to the late Sanitary Congress held at Birmingham, an opportunity of making Weymouth's claims as an all-round Health Resort (second to none in England) known to such a large and influential Assembly, and of improving myself in my own speciality.

I have in all former reports, spoken so highly, and with the authority of my practical knowledge, of our climatic, hygienic, and general attractions, that I need hardly repeat them now but will conclude by appending the usual Tables A and B with other information demanded by the Local Government Board.

M.O.H. Reports, 1898, Urban.

Weymouth Port Sanitary Authority.—Dr. R. Palgrave Simpson.

I have the honour to submit to you my Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year ending 31st December, 1898, and in so doing have much pleasure in again being able to give a very satisfactory account of the generally healthy condition of the seamen on board the very numerous vessels which have entered Portland Roads and Weymouth Harbour during the past year.

The ships of the Mercantile Marine which entered Portland Roads were :—

From foreign—Steamers	...	...	819
Sailing Vessels	...	...	82
From coastwise—Steamers and Sailing Vessels...	...	...	1195
Total	...	...	2096

The number which entered Weymouth Harbour during the same period :—

From foreign—Steamers	...	...	572
Sailing Vessels	...	...	21
From coastwise—Steamers	...	...	130
Sailing Vessels	...	...	160
Total	...	...	883

Total entering the Authorities' area .. 2979

The above does not include all the local excursion steamers, or the tugs of Messrs. Cosens & Co., and the Portland Coaling Company's.

The No. of vessels inspected by the Sanitary Officials was as follows :—

No. of Steamers	...	...	312
„ Sailing Vessels	...	...	48
Total	...	...	460

Of the above, 118 were under foreign flags, and the remainder British.

Notices served on captains to cleanse closets, forecables, cabins, etc :—

British	...	...	10
Foreigners	...	...	19
Total	...	...	29

Drinking water to be pumped out, tanks cleansed, and fresh water supplied—10.

Seamen removed either for sickness or accident—16.

Ships cleansed and disinfected—13.

Bedding, etc., destroyed—1.

16th January, 1898.—Summoned by H.M. Customs to visit the S.S. Cairngowen, of Newcastle, bound from Rupsque (West Africa) to Bremen. Left port on 29th December, all well, nor had there been any sickness in port. On the 11th January Andrew Lawrenson complained of fever, and gradually grew worse, and when seen by me presented all the symptoms of Typhoid Fever, and by my direction was removed to the Port Sanitary Hospital. The cabins and that part of the ship occupied by the sick man was thoroughly cleansed and disinfected, and the ship was allowed to proceed.

20th January.—Visited the S.S. Ruby, of London, and saw the A.B. Thomas Butler, and as he was not suffering from infectious disease he was forwarded to the Seamen's Hospital, at Greenwich.

17th August.—Summoned by H. M. Customs to visit S.S. Pencalwick, of Falmouth, bound from Galatz to Bergen, with grain. No one ill at Galatz, which port was left on 30th July. Drinking water supplied at Constantinople. On the 7th August, Fireman Harold was unable to work, suffering from Diarrhoea, and subsequently two others, A.B. Adamson and Cook Pingelly, suffered from Fever, and were unable to work. On examination they were all found to be suffering from Danubian Malarial Fever, and were removed from the ship and sent to the Seamen's Hospital.

8th October.—Summoned by H.M. Customs to visit the S.S. Bishopsgate, of London, from New Orleans to Hamburg, with general cargo. Left New Orleans on the 14th September a'l well, no sickness in port. On the 24th, Seaman A. P. Williams declared sick, suffering from Diarrhoea, temperature 105 degrees, with headache and delirium. Treated him according to instructions, and gave him milk, beef tea, and chicken broth. He, however, got gradually worse, and the captain bore up for Portland to procure medical assistance. The patient was evidently suffering from severe Typhoid Fever, and was ordered to be removed to the Port Sanitary Hospital, where he died five days afterwards. The crew of 24 were mustered and examined, and all found in good health. The ship and cabins disinfected, and leave given to proceed to sea.

23rd October.—Applied to by H.M. Customs for permission to land 19 passengers (7 of whom were soldiers of the West African Frontier Force) from the S.S. Volta, belonging to the British and African Steam Navigation Company, then lying in Portland Roads. Two deaths had occurred during the voyage, and the Medical Officer of the ship, Mr. R. D. Cox, attended before me and assured me that the deaths were due to Malarial Fever, and that nothing of an infectious nature existed on board, permission was therefore given.

29th October.—Summoned by H.M. Customs to visit the barque Ocean, of Tredstrand in Norway, on a voyage from Mexico to St. Petersburg with logwood. All well in port. Sailed on the 29th September. Two or three days afterwards a sailor named Oloph Gunderson fell sick with Beri-beri, and gradually sank and died on the 10th October, and was buried at sea. Ole Tallacksen, the carpenter of the ship, fell ill on the 7th October, presenting the same symptoms, with inability to keep down his food, and increased debility, marked anæmia, and swelling of the legs and lower part of abdomen. The man gradually got worse, and died when the ship was off Portland, on the 28th October, and the captain, therefore, came into the Roadstead. All the crew were mustered (9 in all) and found in good health.

An inquest was held before Sir Richard Howard, Coroner for South Dorset District, on the same afternoon, and after the necessary examination a verdict was returned in accordance with the medical evidence.

21st December.—Summoned by H.M. Customs to visit the S.S. Cairnlyon, of Newcastle, bound from the West Coast of Africa to Antwerp. When at Conakry, in French Guinea, on 11th November, the captain reports that he had one man, named James Neil, ill for two days with Diarrhoea, and he subsequently became ill again with Fever about the 13th December. He continued in the same condition for about three days, getting gradually weaker, and then Diarrhoea and delirium set in and he died on 19th December when off Ushant. The captain then bore up for Portland. On the 13th December a seaman, Andreas Johnson, sickened in the same way, and also on the 15th two others, H. Griffiths and W. Christiansen, were similarly attacked. All three men presented the symptoms of Typhoid Fever, the latter two of a mild type. They were all ordered to be removed to the Port Sanitary Hospital, and an inquest was held on the body of James Neil, the cause of death being certified as Typhoid.

A very considerable number of patients have been under treatment in the Port Sanitary Hospital during the year 1898, of whom two were in the Hospital on the 1st January, and six remain at this date. They may be classified as follows:—

From the Port Sanitary area	...	6 cases
" Weymouth Urban District	...	37 "
" " Rural	...	13 "
" Portland Urban	...	7 "
Total	...	63 "

Two of the cases admitted from the Weymouth Urban Sanitary District were visitors to the town.

The diseases from which these patients suffered were:—

Typhoid Fever	...	10	Deaths	...	2
Diphtheria	...	16	"	...	1
Scarlatina	...	35	"	...	1
Phthisis	...	1	"	...	1
Erysipelas	...	1	"	...	0

The period over which these illnesses extended was:—

Typhoid Fever—average of 24 days per case; longest, 55 days. Two cases terminated fatally soon after admission, and three were in Hospital on 30th December.

Diphtheria—average 25 days per case; longest, 42 days; shortest, 3 days.

Scarlatina—average 31 days per case; longest, 51 days; shortest, 3 days.

The Hospital is in thorough good order, and has not suffered from the late tempestuous weather, and the patients have experienced considerable comfort from the introduction of gas, which gives a bright, cheerful light, contrasting favourably with the oil lamps formerly employed.

I have again to thank both Mr. and Mrs. Dodge for their excellent and zealous attention to the patients. It has been necessary to provide extra nursing almost continuously, and in twelve cases of children sent into the Hospital the mother of the patient has been admitted to look after them; but it is for the Board to consider, taking into consideration the increasing use made of the institution by the contributing Authorities, whether it would not be desirable to secure the services of an additional permanent female Nurse, to act under the direction of Mrs. Dodge.

I have, as usual, paid visits of inspection to all vessels entering Weymouth Harbour from abroad, and have periodically gone on board the passenger and potato steamers of the Great Western Railway, plying between this Port and the Channel Islands; also the excursion steamers of Messrs. Cosens & Co., and have always found them clean and well cared for, and the sanitary conditions satisfactory.

Wimborne—Mr. C. H. Watts-Parkinson.

Area 400 acres (about). Population, 1891, 3546, estimated to middle of 1898, 3900. Births 76, 20 per 1000 (nearly). Deaths registered, 50, 12·5 per 1000, corrected, 44, 11·3 per 1000 (nearly). Zymotic mortality 26 per 1000, Infantile mortality per 1000 births 92. Natural increase of population 26.

During 1898 only 76 births were registered (46 males and 30 females) being 10 less than in 1897, being just under 20 per 1000 population, while 50 deaths were registered (23 males and 27 females) being 2 more than in 1897, or 12·5 per 1000, but deducting 10 deaths of persons coming to the district in ill health, and adding 4 deaths of persons belonging to the district occurring outside or in the Union Workhouse, 44, being at the very low rate of 11·3 per 1000, while only one death from Zymotic Disease (Diphtheria) was registered, the Zymotic mortality being only 26 per 1000. Seven deaths of infants were registered, as compared with 11 in 1897, and the Infantile mortality per 1000 births fell from 128 to 92, while the natural increase of population was 26.

Deaths.—Infants 7—1 Influenza, etc., 1 Diarrhoea, 2 Convulsions, and 1 Premature Birth.

Aged 1—5, 3—1 Diphtheria, 1 Influenza, 1 Debility from Birth.

" 5—65, 19—4 Influenza, 5 Phthisis (3 came ill), 1 Cancer, 2 Injury (1 from Wimborne Rural District), 1 Bronchitis, etc., and 2 Heart Disease.

" Over 65, 21—1 Influenza, 5 Cancer, 1 Bronchitis, etc., 2 Heart, and 5 Brain Disease (4 came ill).

Of the 21 deaths over 65, 2 were over ninety, 2 over 80, and 12 over 70, and while the male deaths exceeded the females by 6, the male births were 46, as against only 30 females, and the birth-rate altogether was very low.

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Out of the total number of deaths, 7 were due to Influenza, and 6 to Cancer, 2 to Injuries, and of the 5 deaths from Phthisis, 3 were those of persons coming to the district in ill health.

Zymotic Diseases.—33 cases were notified during 1898, and 1 death, the Zymotic mortality being '26 per 1000 estimated population. Of the 33 cases, 19 were Scarletina 70 Diphtheria or Diphtheritic Throat, and 4 Erysipelas.

Diphtheria.—10 cases of Diphtheria or Diphtheritic Throat were notified, with 1 death. The final case was notified in the West Borough, on March 3rd, but the source of infection could not be traced. On March 27th, 2 more were notified in West Row. The house was in an unsanitary condition, this was subsequently rectified. April 8th, a fatal case in Chapel Row. April 13th, a case in West Row and 1 in East Borough. These cases were all somewhat severe, and possibly infection took place at school, but there had been 2 cases in 1897 at the same house in East Borough, and also 2 cases at the house in West Row in 1896, and it is possible the disease was contracted from some article of clothing, etc., not thoroughly disinfected after the former cases. The other 4 cases were probably not true Diphtheria. One in West Row in May and another in August, one at New Borough in July and another at Leigh Road in November. Only at one house, viz, in West Row, two cases occurred, and the premises were unsatisfactory, and cases had occurred at the same house before.

Scarlatina.—19 cases were reported, all of a mild type. One case Leigh Road, January, one King Street, February, one West Borough, May, one Leigh Road, July, and one High Street, August. These cases were all isolated ones, and had apparently no connection with each other, and I can only believe the disease must have been contracted away from the district. The remaining 14 cases were notified during the last 3 months, beginning with a case in Prior's Walk, on October 24th. They were chiefly children attending the National Schools, and I believe the disease was spread chiefly by the children meeting at school or play. The cases were all of a very mild type, and caused the Sanitary Officials much trouble, as there was little or no rash, and very little fever or sore throat, and the parents refused to believe the medical men's diagnosis, and I feel sure some cases occurred and assisted in spreading the infection, because the children only ailed for a few days, and no medical man was consulted. In one case the disease was communicated in all probability by clothing. A case of Scarletina was notified in a washerwoman's family, and although cautioned in every way by the medical man in attendance and Sanitary Officials, the woman continued to carry on her washing on the premises. In another case a woman was suspected of having children ill, and stoutly asserted they had only slight colds, afterwards, on examination being insisted on, three children were found to be peeling. I quite believe in some cases ignorance is the real excuse, but too often the fear of the long quarantine, and the fear of being prevented following the usual avocation, and the knowledge of the probable loss of earnings is the real cause, and I think some means should be provided to compensate poor people who do their duty to their neighbours and the community by notifying these diseases, and then punishing those who neglect to notify. These 14 cases occurred: 2 in Prior's Walk, 2 in Leigh Road, 4 in Old Road, 2 West Borough, 2 East Borough, and 1 Church House. I think it would be well to have disinfection carried out by the Sanitary Official, of course making a charge where persons can afford it, as I fear in many cases it is only a nominal disinfection, and thus we get cases recurring in the same houses after a time.

Erysipelas.—4 cases were notified, but not apparently connected with any unsanitary condition, and I consider there are diseases not liable to notification now, that might well be added to the list, even if Erysipelas was left out.

Phthisis.—The mortality from Phthisis is as usual low, and of the 5 deaths registered 3 were those of persons coming to the district in the last stages of the disease. All deaths from Phthisis should be reported at once to the Sanitary Officials by the Registrar, and the Sanitary Authority should be empowered to insist on the disinfection of rooms occupied by Phthisis patients.

Cancer.—6 deaths from the various forms of Cancer were registered, and I am convinced the time will soon come when this horrible disease will be recognised to be, at any rate in some degree, amenable to sanitary measures, as Phthisis is now.

Water Supply.—The water supplied by the Company continues satisfactory, and arrangements have been made with the Bourne-mouth Water Company to guarantee to make good any deficiency resulting from their new well, interfering with the Company's supply. There are some deep wells in the district with good water, and the surface wells are becoming fewer. It is satisfactory to find there was no great scarcity during the recent drought, and although the wells were many of them very low, I did not hear of any failing, or of any case of disease traceable to bad water.

Sewerage and Drainage.—The drainage has been greatly improved during the last few years. Many of the drains have been taken up and re-laid, and new ones provided on improved principles, and the trapping and ventilation of sewers attended to.

Excrement Disposal.—The scavenging of the town has been carried out satisfactorily, under the supervision of the Surveyor, by the men employed for that purpose, and many new earth closets substituted for vault closets. The very general use of earth closets is most satisfactory, and with the improved water supply, has been instrumental in entirely banishing Typhoid Fever, which was so prevalent in the town twenty years ago. It is most important that the removal of excrement and supply of earth should be carried out regularly and carefully, and any complaints will be inquired into by the Officials.

Isolation Hospital.—The only provision for isolation of infectious diseases is at the Union Hospital, but the matter is under the consideration of a committee, appointed by the Board. The Sanitary Inspector supervises the disinfection of premises.

Housing of the Working Classes.—Many new cottages have been built of late years, and much improvement effected. The few old cottages remaining are mostly in fair condition, and on account of being cheaper are useful to the poorest classes.

Slaughter-houses, Bake-houses, and Common Lodging-houses.—These are in fairly good condition, and have been cleansed and lime-washed, etc., when required. Three cases where manure and other refuse had accumulated have been reported, and the nuisance abated.

General Remarks.—A good deal of work generally has been done during 1898, and many improvements effected, but in some instances the sanitary measures have been carried out against much opposition, and in five cases it was necessary to issue summonses.

I am glad to believe that very few people have taken advantage of the "Conscientious Objection" clause in the new Vaccination Bill, and believe as time passes the public will appreciate the benefits conferred by the Act, which, while fully protecting against Small Pox (when re-vaccination is also compulsory), ensures the use of germ-Free Calf Lymph—and removes any possibility of communication of disease.

Union Workhouse.—18 deaths (8 males and 10 females) were registered in 1898—4 of persons belonging to Wimborne Urban, and 11 to Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District. The 4 have been accounted for in the reports for the Wimborne Urban, and Wimborne and Cranborne Rural Districts. The remaining 3 were strangers passing through—1 from Poole, 1 Bristol, and 1 a suicide) from London.

Deaths—Infants, 1, Bronchitis.

Aged 1—25, none.

„ 25—65, 10—1 Suicide (while insane), 3 Phthisis, 1 Cancer, 1 Heart Disease, 1 Bronchitis, &c.

„ Over 65, 8—2 Influenza and Bronchitis, 2 Bronchitis, and 2 Brain Disease.

Of the deaths over 65, 1 was over ninety, 3 over eighty, and 4 over seventy.

Victoria Cottage Hospital.—One death, the result of an Accident, a man from Cranborne Rural District.

Summary of Sanitary Work.

No. of complaints received during the year 1898	...	9
„ Inspections of houses, premises, etc.	...	132
Results of Inspections—		
Orders issued for sanitary amendment of houses, etc.	...	31
Houses, premises, etc., cleaned, repaired, white-washed, etc.	...	16
„ disinfected after infectious illness	...	9
House Drains—		
New provided	...	17
Repaired, cleaned, trapped, and ventilated	...	32
Privies and W.c's.—		
New provided (earth closets)	...	18
Repaired, etc.	...	7
Supplied with water	...	5
Water supplies	...	15
Sewers, new provided	...	
Miscellaneous—		
Removal of accumulation of manure, animal and other refuse	...	3
Animals removed, being improperly kept	...	—
Cases of overcrowding	...	—
No. of lodging-houses registered	...	—
Legal proceedings (summonses)	...	5



SUMMARY
OF THE
ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH
FOR THE
YEAR 1898.

Prepared by J. COMYNS LEACH, M.D., D.P.H. &c.

In preparing for the sixth time a summary of the Annual Reports and tables of the Medical Officers of Health of this County, I shall, for the purposes of comparison, adopt the same method of classification which I have hitherto followed and which has been made much more easy through the almost unanimous compliance of the Medical Officers with the suggested outline report.

With regard to the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, I am glad to report that Swanage has at last adopted the Act; the Shaftesbury Urban District now stands alone in its refusal to adopt this most beneficial Act, much to the regret of its Medical Officer, but this anomaly will be removed by the "Infectious Disease (Notification) Extension Act, 1899," which as from the 1st January, 1900, puts the Act of 1889 into force in every Urban, Rural, and Port Sanitary Authority in England and Wales, whether the Act has or has not been adopted therein before that date.

I have, in the more important of the following statistics, worked out for comparison the averages of the preceding five years, viz:—1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, and 1897, which I shall call the quinquennial average.

Deaths.—2984 deaths were registered from all causes in 1898, the quinquennial average being 3275

Death-rate.—This has been reckoned upon the total population, estimated by the various Medical Officers to amount, in the middle of 1898, to 217,256 persons, as compared with 196,802 according to the census of 1891, an increase of 20,454. It is one of the disadvantages of our census being taken only once in 10 years that towards the end of that period the statistics of population become less reliable, and I can hardly think our Urban Districts have increased to this extent (the estimated increase in the Rural Districts being only 788), an increase especially noteworthy in the case of Weymouth, and such as to render their very low rates a matter of doubt.

The Death-rate on this estimate then becomes 13·7 per 1000, for the quinquennial it averaged 14·1, but, if reckoned on the census of 1891, it is 15·1 per 1000.

The three Districts (Rural and Urban) having the lowest death-rates are :—

	per 1000		per 1000
Sherborne	Rural 11.3	Weymouth	Urban 9.0
Wareham	" 11.7	Wareham	" 13.5
Wimborne & Cranborne	" 11.9	Swanage	" 13.6

The three highest are similarly:—

	per 1000		per 1000
Shaftesbury	Rural 15.7	Lyme Regis	Urban 18.4
Weymouth	" 14.6	Bridport	" 16.7
Beaminster	" 14.5	Shaftesbury	" 16.3

Infantile Mortality. This rate being the proportion of Infants dying under 1 year of age to births registered comes out at 101.5, the quinquennial average being 97.8 per 1000 births. There is a marked contrast however between this rate in the Rural Districts where it was only 76.0 per 1000, and in the Urban where it was nearly double, viz.—132.0 per 1000 births.

The Districts showing the highest Infantile Mortality are Branksome 160.0, Portland 161.3, and Bridport 157.0, all Urban, whilst the lowest rates are returned from Dorchester E. (Rural) 31.4, Wareham (Urban) 42.5, Shaftesbury (Rural) 55.3, and Sturminster (Rural) 55.5.

Births. The number registered was 4902, the quinquennial average being 5636.

Birth-rate. This rate calculated on the estimated population works out at 22.5 per 1000 persons living, if on the 1891 Census it becomes 25.0 nearly, whilst the quinquennial average is 24.6.

The three Districts (Rural and Urban) having the highest birth-rates are:—

	per 1000		per 1000
Poole	Rural 32.7	Branksome	Urban 31.2
Weymouth	" 26.5	Poole	" 28.7
Wimborne & Cranborne	" 24.0	Portland	" 24.8

Whilst similarly the three lowest are:—

	per 1000		per 1000
Sherborne	Rural 19.0	Weymouth	Urban 16.7
Blandford	" 19.1	Wimborne	" 19.5
Dorchester W.	" 19.5	Bridport	" 20.8

Natural increase of Population. This increase is measured by the number by which the births exceed the deaths, and this for 1898 was 1918, for the quinquennial period it was 2351.

The actual increase of population is dependent upon the balance of births and immigration on the one hand, and deaths and emigration on the other.

Zymotic Mortality. This death-rate is a term applied, not to the mortality from all zymotic diseases but to that from the seven principal zymotic diseases viz:— Small-Pox, Scarlatina, Diphtheria, 'Fever,' Measles, Whooping Cough, and Diarrhoea. I find that some of the Medical Officers do not include Diarrhoea in their calculation of the zymotic death-rate, but as long as these cases are returned by them under the heading of 'Diarrhoea and Dysentery' in Table A, I, who have no other means of discrimination, am bound to include them as 'zymotic,' if they are not zymotic but only one of the causes of death, then I am of opinion they should be returned under the heading of 'All other diseases,' or as the case may be.

The rate of this mortality for 1898 is .36 per 1000, a very low rate, which compares well with the quinquennial average of .98 per 1000.

The highest rates occurred in Branksome (Urban) with 1.94, and Portland (Urban), with 1.70 per 1000, whilst the following had no deaths from zymotic diseases during 1898, viz.—Dorchester W. (Rural), Dorchester (Urban), Bridport (Urban), and Swanage (Urban).

Summary M.O.H. Reports, 1898.

The following are a few of the more interesting points with reference to the above diseases.

1. Small-Pox. No case of illness or death has been reported in the County during the year.

2. Scarletina. A considerable decrease both in cases and mortality has to be noted, for, whereas in 1897 there were 580 cases with 28 deaths, last year there were only 245 cases with 7 deaths, giving a proportional or case mortality of 2·8 whilst the same percentage was 4·8 in 1897 and 3·5 in 1896.

3. Diphtheria. There is also a decrease in this fatal disease, as in 1898 there were 115 cases with 17 deaths, giving a case mortality of 14·7 per cent, whereas in 1897 there were 200 cases with 38 deaths or a percentage of 19·0.

Cerne, Sturminster, and Wareham (Rural), had 2 deaths each, and Poole (Urban), 3.

4. Typhoid Fever. 54 cases and 12 deaths is the record for 1898, a percentage mortality of 22·2, which compares unfavourably with 1897 and 1896 with percentages respectively of 14·7 and 9·7.

Portland again heads the list with 13 cases and 5 deaths, but it is to be hoped, when the new water supply, which is near its completion, and the new drainage scheme, which has been adopted and approved are accomplished facts, this unenviable notoriety will be a thing of the past.

5. Puerperal Fever. 9 cases with 2 deaths show a much diminished mortality, 22·2 per cent as compared with the percentages of 1897, 1896, and 1895, which were 40·0, 55·5, and 100·0 respectively.

6. Erysipelas. 106 cases were notified in 1898, and of these 7 were fatal, giving a case mortality of 6·6 per cent, which in 1897 was 5·4 and in 1896, 4·4.

Dr. Rendall of Dorchester W. advises the exclusion of Erysipelas from the list of notifiable diseases, as he says serious cases are rarely met with in Rural Districts, and to substitute the notification of Measles in its place; I, with many others, agree with him in this recommendation.

7. Measles. For the reason just stated, that it is not a notifiable disease, no statistics can be given of this very prevalent disease. Several of the Reports speak of its prevalence, and of Schools closed in consequence, but the mortality from Measles was very low, only 5 deaths occurring as compared with 52 in 1897 and 68 in 1896.

8. Whooping Cough. The same holds good with Whooping Cough as in the case of Measles, through its not being a notifiable disease. There were however many epidemics throughout the County, and 37 deaths were registered from it. In 1897 there were 58 deaths and in 1896, 68.

Phthisis. There were 211 deaths referred to Phthisis, the average for the quinquennial period being 229, a reduction although a slight one.

The prevention rather than the cure of Phthisis has become one of the great questions of the day, and the International Congress, which has lately been held on this subject, has served to make the fact still more clear; the disease, experts are agreed, is not hereditary, and the more healthy our surroundings are the less danger we run of contracting it. Many recommendations to this end occur in the Reports, the Dorchester Medical Officer enumerates the following preventive measures, healthier dwellings, more cubic space for ventilation, the dissemination of sound information concerning the disease, and the segregation of those suffering by means of Sanatoria. The Sturminster Health Officer recommends for its prevention, amongst others, increased facilities for ventilation and the accession of light in dwellings, inspection of milk supplies and meat markets, isolation of infected persons, and disinfection of rooms occupied by those suffering or who have died from the disease. Dr. Parkinson, with others, recommends that all deaths from Phthisis should be reported at once to the Sanitary Officers by the Registrar, and the Sanitary Authority should be empowered to insist on the disinfection of rooms which have been occupied by Phthisical persons.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Public Schools. There did not seem to be the same necessity for the closure of the Schools in 1898 as in 1897 and some previous years. They were however closed at Burton Bradstock and Bourton for Whooping Cough, at Winstone for Diphtheria, at Broadstone for Mumps, and at Sydling St. Nicholas, Stoborough, Corfe Castle, and Langton Matravers, for Measles.

Water Supply. The Beaminster Medical Officer remarks on the shortness of supply in many places, during the summer, also that nothing has been done at Beaminster although for some time under consideration, but, that new supplies had been provided for two farms where cases of Typhoid had occurred. The Bridport Authority has again given great attention to the quality of the water supply in their district, closing 4 wells out of 12 in which the water had been analysed. The water supply for Charmouth in the same district is reported to be nearly completed. The report from Dorchester East, is that water supplies in 16 instances have been improved. The Poole Rural Medical Officer reports much progress made, but regrets that the Broadstone supply contains so much iron, steps are however being taken to remedy this by filtration &c. In Kinson a supply is being obtained from the Bournemouth Water Co. The Shaftesbury Report states that the water supply in the district is fairly good. The Sherborne (Rural) Medical Officer reports a great scarcity in Longburton, Holnest, Leigh and Holwell, and impresses upon his Council the urgency of taking energetic action. He also reports strongly upon the pollution of the river Yeo by the untreated effluent from the Sherborne and Yeovil drainage. In the Sturminster Rural District the Hazelbury and Lydlinch water supplies are still awaiting amendment. The late Dr. Pridham reports favourably of the progressive improvement in the water supply in Upwey, Broadway, Chickerell, and Wyke, and he states that the wells sunk in the chalk, for the supply of water to Portland, are yielding an abundant supply of the purest quality. The Wimborne and Cranborne Report speaks of a failure of the wells generally throughout the district, but that the water supply is being generally improved, and he could trace no cases of sickness directly to defective water supply. The Blandford (Urban) Medical Officer regrets that so many decline to take the Company's water, which is very good. The Dorchester (Urban) Report speaks of its water supply as excellent in both quality and quantity. The water supply of Lyme Regis is also referred to as excellent. The new Portland Water Works are to be completed by June. At Swanage the water supply is stated to be excellent and abundant, whilst at Wareham a good supply has been found, and its completion is only a question of a little time. The Wimborne water supply is also reported upon as satisfactory.

Sanitary Work.—The recommendation of your Council and the issue of a tabular scheme for the Reports of the Sanitary Inspectors of the County have resulted in a partial success. All the Rural Districts have made most satisfactory returns under the different headings, with the exception of Shaftesbury and Sherborne, the former not making any return and the latter not using the table recommended. The Urban results are not so satisfactory, six only of the thirteen sending reports, viz, Blandford, Branksome, Bridport, Swanage, Weymouth, and Wimborne. To be of any comparative value, all the districts should make returns, and I would suggest that those who have not complied this year should be specially reminded to do so next year, and I think the suggestion of Dr. Clibborn an excellent one, viz, that the Particulars B should be printed on a separate sheet, and sent to each Medical Officer of Health; the form could then be filled in and attached to the Annual Report, thus affording absolute uniformity, and at the same time a saving of labour to the Medical Officer.

It would appear, from the returns which have been sent in, that good sanitary work is done in those districts, and that arising out of 490 complaints and 3950 inspections, 2966 cases of remedial work have resulted, and, so satisfactory so, that in only 13 cases were legal proceedings necessary. Another important point is, that in only 32 instances was overcrowding observed.

TABLE A.—Deaths Classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

DISTRICT.	Medical Officers of Health.	Population (Census 1881)	Population as Estimated to Middle of 1898.	Average.	Total Deaths.	Death-rate, calculated on estimated population.	Death-rate, excluding deaths in Public Institutions of persons not belonging, etc.	Total Births.	Birth rate per 1000.	Infantile Mortality.	Zymotic Mortality.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhoid Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Krysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea & Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Diseases.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Totals.			
RURAL.																															
BEAMINSTER	DR. KITSON	10630	9846	57017	143	14.5		235	23.8	59.5	71							1	6	1	1	8	26	9	4	87	143				
BLANDFORD	" DANIELL	9679	9600	61462	125	13.0		184	19.1	59.7	40												8	29	27	3	56	125			
BRIDPORT	" HAY	7955	7955	30899	116	14.5		170	22.6	105.8	125												6	17	18	2	63	116			
CERNE	" DALTON	6122	5922	46741	84	14.1		122	20.6	90.0	50												4	7	5	3	59	84			
DORCHESTER (EAST)	" DAY	4947	6250	28495	65	10.4	9.6	137	20.3	31.4	16												7	11	7	5	38	65			
DORCHESTER (WEST)	" RENDALL	5578	5894	37045	129	21.7	12.5	116	19.5	77.5	00												6	13	14	...	96	129			
POOLE	" PHILPOTS	3827	4303	18853	59	13.7		141	32.7	70.9	46												1	8	8	9	29	59			
SHAFTESBURY	" SAWYER	16300	11760	41036	185	15.7	15.5	271	23.2	55.3	76												15	23	31	4	99	185			
SHERBORNE	" WILLIAMS	6553	6604	39049	75	11.3		126	19.0	111.1	15												9	18	4	9	12	48	75		
STURMINSTER	" LEACH	9583	9635	39342	117	12.1		216	22.7	55.5	52												2	1	9	18	21	6	57	117	
WAREHAM	" LYS	11799	12614	93098	148	11.7	11.9	274	21.7	72.9	47												11	25	13	7	86	148			
WEYMOUTH	" PRIDHAM (late)	10566	8560	30000	125	14.6		227	26.5	123.3	90												8	27	3	2	76	125			
WIMBORNE & CRANBORNE	" PARKINSON	14286	15000	82550	179	11.9	12.1	360	24.0	65.6	66												14	25	16	5	109	179			
URBAN.																															
BLANDFORD	" DANIELL	3985	3972	365	62	15.6		96	24.1	93.7	56												2	16	12	4	26	62			
BRANKSOME	" STEWART	6572	7200	2590	100	13.8		225	31.2	160.0	94												13	6	22	9	48	100			
BRIDPORT	" CLIBBORN	6611	6700	573	127	18.9	16.7	140	20.8	157.0	44												12	25	12	4	70	127			
DORCHESTER	" DAY	7946	9781	571	152	15.5	14.6	205	21.1	136.0	00												13	19	15	5	97	152			
LYME REGIS	" SPURR	2364	2373	1394	46	19.3	18.4	53	22.3	94.3	42												2	7	2	...	34	46			
POOLE	" LAWTON	15438	18214	5333	278	15.2		526	28.7	144.4	60												24	43	14	10	173	278			
PORTLAND	" LAWSON	9443	10000	2897	138	13.8	13.4	248	24.8	161.3	70												11	27	21	10	56	138			
SHAFTESBURY	" SAWYER	2122	2270	77	38	16.7	16.3	53	23.3	113.2	44												4	5	6	1	21	38			
SHERBORNE	" NUTT	5500	5500	561	89	16.1	13.0	121	22.0	82.6	36												2	1	6	16	10	...	54	89	
SWANAGE	" MCCAUSLAND	2600	3600	2923	49	13.6	13.0	82	22.7	122.0	00												8	3	8	...	29	49			
WAREHAM	" COURTENAY	2141	2141	124	29	13.5	13.0	47	21.9	42.5	46												1	4	5	...	18	29			
WEYMOUTH	" BROWNING	15379	27572	1616	249	9.0		461	16.7	120.0	47												1	1	5	27	14	7	180	249	
WIMBORNE	" SIMPSON	3546	3990	340	69	17.2	11.3	76	19.5	92.0	76												2
TOTALS	...	196802	217256	624949	2984	13.7		4992	22.5	101.5	96												2	7	537	58	1221	459	31888	1751	2984

TABLE B.—New Cases of Sickness in each district coming to the knowledge of the
Medical Officer of Health.

DISTRICT.	Small Pox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Croup.	Typhoid.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Erysipelas	Measles.	REMARKS.
RURAL											
BEAMINSTER	4	6	...	2	...	...	58	6	1	Whooping Cough was epidemic especially in the 2nd and 3rd quarters of the year.
BLANDFORD	26	2	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	Scarlatina very prevalent in the Western portion of the District.
BRIDPORT	13	2	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	Influenza and Whooping Cough epidemic at Burton Bradstock.
CERNE	5	11	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	Schools Closed.
DORCHESTER (EAST)	...	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	Schools closed through prevalence of Measles at Sydling St. Nicholas, and Diphtheria at Winstone.
DORCHESTER (WEST)	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	
POOLE	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	
SHAFTESBURY	19	1	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	Severe epidemic of Mumps at Broadstone, Schools closed in consequence.
SHERBORNE	1	...	...	1	6	...	...	...	...	Whooping Cough prevailed at Bourton, necessitating closure of Schools.
STURMINSTER	9	3	...	2	...	...	...	5	...	No epidemic in district.
WAREHAM	27	6	...	2	...	...	...	3	...	Whooping Cough very prevalent in Cranborne district with seven deaths.
WEYMOUTH	5	11	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	
WIMBORNE & CRANBORNE	...	36	4	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	Extensive epidemic of Measles in Isle of Purbeck, Schools closed in consequence at Stoborough, Corfe Castle and Laughton Matravers.
URBAN											
BLANDFORD	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	
BRANKSOME	6	3	1	2	...	1	...	1	...	
BRIDPORT	2	...	2	1	...	...	6	...	
DORCHESTER	1	6	...	1	...	...	...	19	...	
LYME REGIS	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	
POOLE	9	26	...	2	...	1	...	21	...	
PORTLAND	21	...	...	13	...	...	...	6	...	
SHAFTESBURY	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
SHERBORNE	1	...	...	...	5	...	...	8	84	Notification of Infectious Diseases not adopted, the only district in the County.
SWANAGE	
WAREHAM	2	...	...	...	...	...
WEYMOUTH	8	...	...	4	2	...	...	...	...
PORT SANITARY HOSPITAL	...	35	16	...	10	...	...	...	1	...	
WIMBORNE	19	10	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	
TOTALS	...	265	115	2	54	15	2	58	106	85	

