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Contributors

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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

Urban and Rural Sanitary Districts,

WITHIN THE COUNTY OF DORSET,

For the YEAR ended 31st DECEMBER, 1907.

Extracts from General Order of Local Government Board, 1891,

AS TO

Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health.

PART 1.

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, cowsheds, 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 2.

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.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICTS.

Blandford—Mr. G. W. Daniell.

The Area of the District is 145 acres.

The Population (census 1901) is 3649, and, estimated to the middle of 1907, it is 3655.

Births.—There were 72 births. The birth-rate is 20·6.

Deaths.—There were 70 deaths. The death-rate is 20·1.

The rate of Infantile Mortality is 97·2.

The rate of Zymotic Mortality is 0·8.

The average Age at Death is 56·5.

Fourteen persons died in the Workhouse and three in the Cottage Hospital who belonged to parishes in the Rural District. By the deduction of these "non-residents" (17) from the original number of deaths recorded, the corrected death-rate is 15·2.

Three children born in the year were illegitimate.

The number of inhabited houses is 832, and the average number of persons per house is 4·3.

The ages at which deaths occurred are—

Under 1 year of age	..	..	..	..	7
Aged 1 year and under 5	..	..	..	..	3
" 5 " 15	..	..	..	..	0
" 15 " 25	..	..	..	..	2
" 25 " 65	..	..	..	..	26
" 65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	32

The Mortality from every cause has been as follows:—

From Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	1
" Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	1
" Influenza	..	..	..	..	1
" Diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	1
" Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	1
" Phthisis	..	..	..	..	5
" Other Tubercular diseases	..	..	..	..	1
" Cancer	..	..	..	..	1
" Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	9
" Pleurisy	..	..	..	..	1
" Heart Diseases	..	..	..	..	17
" Accidents	..	..	..	..	2
" All other Causes	..	..	..	..	29

The rate of Infantile Mortality has again somewhat risen. Last year it was 54·7, and the year previous to that 30·7. Seven infants died under 1 year of age, two of these being illegitimate.

Two infants of the seven lived less than one week.

One infant lived more than 1 and less than 2 weeks.

"	"	1	"	2 months.
"	"	2	"	3 "
"	"	3	"	4 "
"	"	5	"	6 "

Of the seven infants—

1	Died from Whooping Cough.
1	" Congenital defects.
1	" Atrophy.
2	" Convulsions.
2	" Bronchitis.

The deaths of the infants from Atrophy, as well as those from Convulsions, might have been caused by improper feeding. It is so far satisfactory that three only of the seven deaths can be attributed to this cause.

I received eight notifications of Infectious Diseases—

1	Erysipelas.
4	Scarlatina.
3	Enteric Fever.

The case of Erysipelas occurred in an elderly woman, a native of Hilton, who died of this disease in the Workhouse.

I was unable to account for the origin of either of the four cases of Scarlatina. All proved to be of a mild type, and were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

With regard to the three cases of Enteric Fever, I have every reason to think that two of the number received the infection outside the Borough, as, from the nature of their occupation, they were called upon to travel and sleep away from home. One of the two, a young man aged 18, died in the house of his parents, to which he was removed in the early stage of his illness. The second was taken to the Cottage Hospital as soon as the nature of the malady was decided upon, and did well. Insanitary defects were discovered in the cottage where this last-mentioned resided, which, I am given to understand, have not been remedied. The third case was that of a young man who lived in the Market Place. Here I found serious insanitary defects in the drainage, which, I have reason to think, have been the cause of much illness amongst the inhabitants of this house. Most of the defects have been remedied, but not all of them. Only one death is returned as having taken place from Cancer, which is an extraordinary fact. The large number of deaths returned under Heart diseases is somewhat excessive. The majority of these took place in very elderly persons in the Workhouse. Two of them reached 96 years of age.

The Bakeries and Dairies and Milk Shops are all in a sanitary condition. The Bakeries have all been supplied with coal boxes, according to an order to that effect by the Government Inspector. Many cottages are still not supplied with water from the Waterworks, which is of such excellent quality. I consider that no inhabitant of the town should be compelled to depend upon water derived from wells, an endless number of which have been proved to be contaminated. I am pleased to state that a large number of privy vaults have lately been abolished. I regret, however, to say that many are still allowed to exist, notably that in Alfred Street, which I have repeatedly condemned. This can only be characterised as an abominable nuisance to those who live in the locality. The Factories and Workshops number 79 altogether. They have been inspected by Mr. Barnes, the Inspector of Nuisances, on 170 occasions.

The Common Lodging House is conducted in as decent a manner as I think is possible.

Bridport—Mr. Walter E. Manby.

The Area of the District is 668 acres.

The Population is 5959.

Births.—The number registered was 97, as against 105 in 1906. Of these 47 were males and 50 females.

The Birth-rate works out at 16 per 1000 of the population. This is slightly below the average rate for the previous 10 years.

The Deaths registered were 98, as against 97 in the preceding year.

The Death-rate was 16, the average for the last 10 years being 16·4.

In Table IV. the causes of death and the ages at which they occurred are duly shewn. The incidence in regard to definite periods of life is as follows :—

Under one year 7, as compared with 10 in 1906			
1 and under 5 years	3	"	4 "
5 "	15 "	4 "	3 "
15 "	25 "	7 "	6 "
25 "	65 "	37 "	34 "
65 and upwards	41	"	40 "

Thirteen deaths occurred in Public Institutions in the district. Of these six were non-residents. If we review the causes of death we find that at least 30 can be directly attributed to old age. If we add to that number those arising through disease in advanced life, it is seen that 40 per cent. took place in old age. The next feature of striking importance is the mortality arising through malignant disease.

Eleven deaths were caused by Cancer. This record is in keeping with those of other districts, that disease being on the increase. To Consumption and other Tubercular diseases 16 deaths were due, and it is clear that we shall always be confronted with a large proportion of deaths from that cause whilst it remains unrecognised that a free supply of fresh air is necessary inside the house, and until a proper knowledge regarding the true nature of this disease, and the way in which one case may give rise to others, has become more general.

Apart from the diseases I have referred to, I am glad to say that the general health of the Borough has been remarkably good. This, I think, was due in part to the heavy rains which prevailed, and which carried away the dust from the atmosphere and our surroundings.

The Infantile Mortality rate was 82·4, as compared with 95 (per 1000 births registered) in 1906. There were seven deaths, which were due to prematurity and malnutrition, one only arising through pneumonia. It is highly satisfactory to note such a complete absence of mortality from respiratory affections, summer diarrhoea, and other diseases fatal to infancy. Our position in this connection is in keeping with a general improvement throughout the country.

The Medical Officer of Health for Kensington has informed me that the Infantile Mortality rate for that Borough was the lowest on record, and that the same held good for London as a whole. In Huddersfield, a town specially prominent in this respect, the rate was as low as 97—a figure representing a reduction of 18 per cent. on the previous 10 years' rate. The improvement in that place is the more encouraging in view of the efforts which have been made to stem the hitherto heavy mortality. In accordance with the wishes of the Council a pamphlet, in which I have given some hints to mothers in the rearing of their infants, has been printed, and will be shortly distributed.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act.—One case of Scarlet Fever, two of Puerperal Fever, and one of Erysipelas were notified. The case of scarlet fever was treated at the Isolation Hospital. The latter institution has been well attended to.

The Water Supply was augmented early in the year by boring further into the hill from whence it springs. This resulted in a continuous supply. The quarterly reports on the samples sent were satisfactory. In the last return a slight excess of fixed ammonia was recorded, but not to an extent to render the water harmful for drinking purposes.

Scavenging and Flushing has been regularly carried out, the sewers being irrigated more effectually through the improved water supply. The whole of the St. Andrew's district has now been connected with the main sewers, and supplied with water for drinking and flushing purposes.

The Slaughter Houses, Bakehouses, Cowsheds, and Dairies have been inspected during the year. They were severally well conducted, and, with one or two exceptions, in good condition.

The Housing of the Working Classes.—I have had but few complaints in this respect. Instances of defective sanitation have been brought to my notice, and others I have personally observed. In these cases I conferred with the Sanitary Inspector, and they have been rectified.

Pollution of the River Brit.—This matter is still being investigated. In the course of the year samples of water were taken from various parts of the stream, and these were sent to the Clinical Research Association for analysis.

The reports which were sent us did not yield any certain information regarding the poisonous agent which led to the wholesale destruction of fish sometime back, and which still destroys them. We are now, therefore, taking samples of the effluents themselves, and hope thus to clear up the matter. When I reported fully on this subject I pointed out that the Bothenhampton and Walditch streams were conveying sewage into the river Brit. Since then a more complete survey of these tributaries has been made. As a result it has been decided by the Rural District Council that the Bothenhampton section shall be drained, and their sewer connected with the Borough sewers. It has been further decided that the need for connecting the Walditch section is not sufficient to warrant the extra expenditure. In that view I entirely concur.

The Port of Bridport.—The number of ships in foreign trade entering the port has been eight, and of coasting vessels there were 74. Eight inspections were made in the year, but there was no sickness to report, nor other sanitary defects.

Dorchester—Dr. E. J. Day.

Acreage.—The Borough contains 1653 acres (including the 1092 acres which were added to it in 1900).

Population.—The population I estimate to have been at the middle of 1906, 10,500, the Census of 1901 showed it was then 9458, taking into consideration the excess of births over deaths (which amounted to 80), and the new houses which have been built, at this figure this estimate must be well within the mark.

Births.—The total number of births was 228 (males 112, females 116, giving a birth-rate of 21·7 per 1000), against 229 in 1906, 228 in 1905, 245 in 1904, 228 in 1903, 222 in 1902, 249 in 1901, and 195 in 1900. The birth-rate for England and Wales in 1907 was 26·3 per 1000 of the population (which is ·8 per 1000 below the rate in 1906, and lower than the rate in any other year on record; compared with the average in the ten years 1897-1906 the birth-rate in 1907 showed a decrease of 2·1 per 1,000).

Deaths.—The total number of deaths registered was 159, to these must be added five who died outside this district, and from these the 16 must be deducted who died within this district but did not belong to it, the nett deaths therefore amounted to only 148, giving a death-rate of 14 per 1000 against 15 per 1000 for England and Wales in 1907 (which was ·4 per 1000 below the rate in 1906, and lower than the rate in any other year on record; compared with the average rate in the ten years 1897-1906, the death-rate in 1907 showed a decrease of 1·7 per 1000).

The following is the death-rate since my appointment in 1879 :—

1880, 18·9	1881, 15·7	1882, 18·1	1883, 15·9
1884, 15·9	1885, 16	1886, 21·7	1887, 17
1888, 13·8	1889, 14·9	1890, 16·3	1891, 16·1
1892, 19·5	1893, 15·5	1894, 12·8	1895, 13·6
1896, 15·7	1897, 11·4	1898, 14·6	1899, 13·8
1900, 10·9	1901, 15	1902, 12·7	1903, 9·4
1904, 11·2	1905, 11·5	1906, 12·8	1907, 14

From these figures it will be seen that the average death-rate of the first eight years was 17·4 against 12·7 the average for the last eight years, this is indeed satisfactory.

Average age at death.—The average age at death was 43 against 56 in 1906, 42 in 1905, 39 in 1904, 45 in 1903, 44 in 1902, 35 in 1901, 43 in 1900, 37 in 1899, 44 in 1898, 38 in 1897, and 34 in 1896.

Zymotic death-rate.—The Zymotic death-rate was ·01 per 1000 against ·38 in 1906 (only two deaths having occurred, from diarrhoea), this is indeed a very low death-rate, against ·1 per 1000 in 1905, 1·06 in 1904. The Zymotic death-rate for England and Wales was 1·26, and for the 142 smaller towns 1·29 per 1000.

Child Mortality.—The rate of Child Mortality measured by the number of deaths of children over one year of age but under 5 years was 30 per 1000 births, against 17 in 1906 and 77 in 1905.

Infant Mortality.—The rate of Infant Mortality measured by the number of deaths of children under one year of age to births registered was 161 per 1000 births, against 60 in 1906, 81 in 1905, 73 in 1904, 51 in 1903, 90 in 1902, 148 in 1901, and 109 in 1900, the rate for England and Wales 118. As the rate is much higher than usual, I append the causes of these 23 deaths :—

Debility 5, convulsions 4, asthenia 3, pneumonia bronchitis, enteritis, accident, 2 each, diarrhoea, erysipelas, jaundice, one each; it will be seen that most of these were not preventible.

No death was due to smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough, diphtheria, croup, typhus fever, typhoid fever, cholera, plague, nor pleurisy. The chief causes of the deaths were heart disease 16 (18 in 1906), pneumonia 15 (10 in 1906), cancer 10 (10 in 1906), bronchitis 10 (5 in 1906), phthisis 9 (10 in 1906).

No less than 27 were between 70 and 80 when they died (26 in 1906), 15 between 80 and 90 (13 in 1906), three were over 90, namely 92, 93 and 94 (90 and 92 in 1906), making 46 over 70 years of age (against 41 in 1906).

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Dorchester (Urban)—continued.

The following table shows how favourably this Urban District compares with the rest of England and Wales:—

Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Chief Zymotic Diseases. Cols. 4 to 10.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Deaths under one year per 1000 Births.
Columns—(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
England & Wales, 07	26·3	15	1·26	..	·36	·09	·16	·29	·07	·29
142 smaller towns, 07	25·7	14·5	1·29	..	·41	·08	·15	·23	·07	·29
Dorchester 07	21·7	14	·01	..	..	..	..	..	·01	100

Infectious Disease.—Fifty-one cases of Infectious Disease were notified (63 in 1906), of these 43 were mild cases of scarlet fever, 3 of diphtheria, 3 of erysipelas, and 2 of puerperal fever. 28 of these were treated in the Hospital.

Isolation Hospital.—This institution was built in 1896. Since that time 233 cases have been under treatment there, with only three deaths, two of these being infants. The following are the particulars:—

	Diphtheria.	Typhoid.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Totals.
1896	.. 1	.. —	.. —	.. 20	.. 21
1897	.. 1	.. —	.. —	.. 28	.. 29
1898	.. 1	.. —	.. 1	.. 2	.. 4
1899	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. 9	.. 9
1900	.. 1	.. —	.. 1	.. 5	.. 7
1901	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. 46	.. 46
1902	.. —	.. 1	.. 1	.. 20	.. 22
1903	.. 4	.. —	.. —	.. 5	.. 9
1904	.. 1	.. —	.. —	.. 2	.. 3
1905	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. 14	.. 14
1906	.. 1	.. —	.. —	.. 40	.. 41
1907	.. —	.. —	.. —	.. 28	.. 28

The system of engaging trained nurses has been superseded, on my suggestion, by the Hospital Committee recommending the Council to engage the services of a married trained nurse-matron, her husband to act as caretaker. The Committee have now the satisfaction of seeing their system of engaging a nurse already trained (with additional help as required) working very well, and what is more, as economically as is possible with efficiency.

Water Supply.—The Water Supply is above question, as my frequent analyses sent to your Council demonstrate. It is a hard water, however (20 grains per gallon of solids), and would be all the better if it were softened. The well is 210 feet deep, the last 90 feet being a boring through chalk, and is far away from any source of contamination, the Council having most wisely some years ago purchased the adjoining land to prevent any buildings being erected thereon.

Earth Closets.—There are still a few Earth Closets in this district, which are kept in a satisfactory manner. The Earth system is the one adopted at the Isolation Hospital, where Ives' patent disinfecting tank is in use.

Phthisis.—The deaths from Phthisis numbered nine (against 10 in 1906), equal to a death-rate of ·8 which is a very low rate and will compare well with other Urban districts.

Factory Act.—Under the Factory Act, 81 inspections have been made and two written notices have been served. In two instances want of cleanliness was noticed and in due course remedied. Five lists were received from employers for making wearing apparel. Twenty-one workmen were employed. As regards the outworkers' premises twenty-one inspections were made. In this district there are 108 registered workshops and three underground bakehouses. There was not sufficient reason for notifying any matters to H.M. Inspector of Factories. No notifications were received from the Inspector of Factories.

Housing of Working Classes.—No cases of overcrowding have been reported, several houses at a cheap rental have been built during the year.

Sewage Treatment.—The treatment of the Sewage is by Bacterial beds, a full description of these have been given in former reports, they have been under the care of Mr. D. Cameron, the inventor of the Septic tank, who has considerably improved them.

Midwives' Act.—Five Midwives are registered on the books. I had occasion to report one to the Central Midwives' Board, with the result that she was severely reprimanded; at the time of writing, a second report (this time for intemperate habits whilst attending a patient) has been made against her, this matter is still sub judice, so I need not say anything further concerning it at present. One midwife has not done anything for many months, being too feeble, being considerably over 80 years of age.

Cowsheds, Dairies, &c.—The Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops have been duly inspected, some of the workers were cautioned to keep their Dairies and themselves in a more cleanly state, but it is very difficult to make much impression on them. The Bakehouses (3 of which are underground) have been regularly whitewashed, and so have the Slaughter-houses. Twice weekly I have myself inspected the Cattle Markets with a view of tracing to its destination any animal sold which is unfit for human food. When one considers that one-third of the whole number of cows are said to be suffering more or less from consumption or other tubercular disease, it is indeed marvellous that the death-rate from tubercle in some form or another is not higher than it is.

Looking back on the past year, the worst feature has been the outbreak of scarlet fever, which began to abate as soon as the affected schools were closed. It is satisfactory to note that the Zymotic death-rate has been reduced, also the consumption death-rate, and that 46 of the deaths were over 70 years of age (three being over 90).

Copies of Tables I. to V. and the Returns relating to Sanitary work are appended, also those relating to the Factory Act.

Lyme Regis—Mr. James Spurr.

Area.—1237 acres.

Population (Census 1901) 2095. Estimated to the middle of 1907, 2126.

Births.—The number of births registered during the year was 41—20 males and 21 females. Birth-rate, 19·5 per 1000. Birth-rate for 1906 was 18·4 per 1000.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered during the year was 22—13 males and 9 females. Death-rate, 10·3 per 1000. Death-rate for 1906 was 17·06 per 1000.

The average age at death was 53·5.

The ages at which death occurred were—

Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	3
Between 1 and 5 years	..	..	..	..	0
.. 5 .. 15	..	..	..	..	1
.. 15 .. 25	..	..	..	..	1
.. 25 .. 65	..	..	..	..	5
Over 65 years	..	..	..	..	12

Of those over 65, six were between 70 and 80, and six were over 80.

The various causes of death were as follows:—

Heart Disease	..	4	Senile Decay	..	8
Bronchitis	..	1	Nephritis	..	1
Erysipelas	..	1	Sudden Death	..	2
Malignant Disease	..	1	Other Causes	..	4

Three inquests were held during the year.

Zymotic Mortality.—One death occurred from Erysipelas, giving a zymotic mortality of ·47 per 1000. The zymotic mortality for 1906 was nil.

Infant Mortality.—Three children under one year of age died during the year, giving an infantile mortality of 73·1 per 1000 births. The infantile mortality for 1906 was 51·2 per 1000 births.

Prevalence of Disease—Notification.—One case of Erysipelas represented the whole of the notifications I received during the year. The case was a child aged one month, who died from the disease. The past year, therefore, like the preceding one (1906) was a most healthy one. During August and September there were a few cases of measles in the town. The infection probably came from Uplyme, where there were some cases at this time. It is always a misfortune for an epidemic to break out during the holiday months, viz., August and September, but fortunately this was not a serious one, and caused no deaths. The National Schools were not opened until a fortnight after the day settled for re-assembling (September 3rd) in consequence of measles.

Water Supply.—The water supply has been constant throughout the year, except during a few months in the summer, when it was turned off during the night. At the old supply from Colway Lodge field the old glazed ware pipes were replaced by 4-in. iron pipes for about half the distance between tank at Railway Station and Kent Cottage.

Sewerage and Drainage—Excrement Disposal.—There have been several complaints of nuisance caused by drain smells in the vicinity of the Cottage Hospital. On inspection we found that they probably all arose from the old barrel sewer from Monmouth Street to Poole Court. The lower part of this was improved last year by ware pipes being laid in concrete in it. At the time of writing I understand that the remainder of the sewer is to be treated in a similar manner, which should stop the escape of sewer gas.

The new house, "Southernhay," in Pound Road, has been connected with the main sewer in Silver Street by a new 6-in. ware pipe drain.

"Springfield" drains, which had previously discharged into a cesspit, have been connected with the new sewer in the Woodmead Road.

At my suggestion the two closets used by the workmen at the Cement Works have been removed from the edge of the beach, on which they discharged, to the side of the cliffs, and converted into ash closets.

Flushing tanks have been fixed to six closets which did not formerly contain them.

Isolation Hospital.—The two rooms at the Cobb Buildings, set apart for the reception of infectious cases coming in by sea, have, fortunately, never been used.

Sunshine and Rain.—The Rousdon report is: Rainfall for the year, 31·24 inches, which is 0·93 inches below the average. Sunshine for the year, 1735 hours, which is 16 hours above the average. I registered 31·9 inches of rain during the year.

Housing of the Working Classes.—Under this heading things have much improved during the last few years. New cottages have been built and old ones repaired.

Slaughter-houses, Bakehouses, and Milk-houses.—These have all been periodically inspected, and, with the exception of white-washing being required in a few cases, were found in a very satisfactory condition. The new slaughter-house at Messrs. Loud & Sons, in Broad Street, is a great improvement on the old one. A special inspection of the cowsheds was made in July and reported upon. There is a new cowshed at Haye Farm which would probably conform to the new regulations, but the others are for the most part old and small. These are, however, situated in the fields, which must tend to keep the cows in a healthy condition.

Common Lodging House and Fried Fish Shop.—Both are very well managed.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.—There are four factories (including Steam Laundry) and 16 workshops in the town. These were all found in a satisfactory condition. No home work is done from any workshop in the town. Brush making, from an Axminster firm, is done in one house, which was inspected and found satisfactory.

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Poole (Urban).

Poole—Mr. G. H. Carrington.

The area of the Borough is 7931 acres (not including 2200 acres of tidal water and foreshore), distributed amongst the different parishes as follows:—

						Acres.
Parish of St. James	..	..	..	..	..	153
„ Longfleet	..	..	..	..	..	1265
„ Parkstone	..	..	..	..	..	2838
„ Hamworthy	..	..	..	..	..	1077
„ Branksome	..	..	..	..	..	2598
						<hr/> 7931

Borough of Poole (less inland water) 7852 acres.

The number of houses and the population of the Borough at the census of 1901 were as follows:—

		No. of Houses.	Population, 1901.	Population estimated to middle of year 1907.
St. James'	..	1031	7670	8000
Longfleet	..	915	4159	4950
Parkstone	..	1338	6550	8100
Hamworthy	..	242	1084	1500
Branksome	..	2170	8095	9950
Total	..	<hr/> 5696	<hr/> 27558	<hr/> 32500

Average number of persons per house 4·8.

Population.—Assuming that the rate of increase continues, as it has done during the last ten years, I estimate the population of the Borough to be 32,500 to the middle of the year 1907.

Births.—The number of births registered during the year was 895—442 boys and 453 girls including 30 illegitimate births. The birth-rate was 27·5 per 1000, in 1905 it was 26·7, and in 1906 30 per 1000. The natural increase, that is, the excess of births over deaths during the year, was 468; in 1905 it was 403; in 1906, 476.

The monthly returns of births were as follows:—

			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
January	..	..	26	40	66
February	..	..	36	47	83
March	..	..	36	42	78
April	..	..	31	41	72
May	..	..	41	40	81
June	..	..	37	30	67
July	..	..	53	40	93
August	..	..	34	34	68
September	..	..	25	34	59
October	..	..	43	41	84
November	..	..	44	36	80
December	..	..	36	28	64
Total	..	..	<hr/>442	<hr/> 453	<hr/> 895

The total births registered in different parishes were:—

Poole (St. James')	..	..	..	..	221
Parkstone	..	..	..	..	198
Longfleet	..	..	..	..	113
Branksome	..	..	..	..	319
Hamworthy	..	..	..	..	44
					<hr/> 895

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered during 1907 was 427—223 males and 204 females. The death-rate was 13·1 per 1000, and the corrected death-rate, after deducting ten deaths of non-residents occurring in the district, 12·7. The death-rate in 1906 was 15·1; during 1907, there were 66 births, and 58 deaths less than in 1906.

The average age at death was 43 years, as compared with 40 years in 1906.

Infantile Mortality.—There were 68 deaths of children under one year of age, which gave an infantile death-rate of 75.9 per 1000 registered births. In 1906 the rate was 118.6 per 1000. In my opinion the decrease is due to the cold wet summer, which led to the diminution of cases of diarrhoea, whooping cough and measles. Nearly half the deaths (26) were premature births, and 13 were due to debility and atrophy, caused, for the most part, by the ignorance of mothers in the proper feeding of their children.

Ages at death:—

Between 1 year and 5 years there were 33 deaths.					
„	5 years	15	„	25	„
„	15	25	„	19	„
„	25	65	„	140	„
65 years and upwards			„	142	„

The various parishes and hospitals were credited with the following number of deaths:—

	1907.	1905.	1906.
Poole (St. James')	115	128	113
Parkstone	123	103	112
Longfleet	40	57	45
Hamworthy	18	11	14
Branksome	78	100	142
Poole Harbour	1	2	2
Alderney Fever Hospital	11	2	2
Cornelia and Union Hospitals	41	41	55
	427	444	485

The earliest age of death certified was 3 minutes. There were 3 deaths over 90 years of age (the oldest 94 years), and 30 deaths between 80 and 90 years of age.

The Monthly Return of Deaths were:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
January	16	21	37
February	31	19	50
March	18	16	34
April	18	18	36
May	18	15	33
June	17	11	28
July	15	11	26
August	12	12	24
September	18	18	36
October	22	22	44
November	17	23	40
December	21	18	39
	223	204	427

The vital statistics of whole district for the years 1906 and 1907 are shewn in table I.

In table IV. the causes of death at all ages are tabulated, and in table V. the infantile mortality.

The following table shews the birth-rates, death-rates, zymotic death-rates and infantile death-rates of England and Wales in 1907, and the corresponding rates for the Borough of Poole:—

				Annual Rates per 1000 living.			Infantile Mortality.
				Births.	Deaths from all causes.	Deaths from chief Zymotic Diseases.	Annual Death-rate of Infants under 1 year per 1000 Births.
England and Wales	..	..	26.3	..	15.0	..	118
76 Great Towns	..	..	27.0	..	15.4	..	127
142 Smaller Towns	..	..	25.7	..	14.5	..	122
England and Wales (less the 218 towns)	..	..	25.6	..	14.7	..	106
Borough of Poole	..	..	27.5	..	13.1	..	75.9

The birth-rates are all lower than for 1906, as are also the death-rates, with the single exception of the death-rate in the smaller towns.

Zymotic Death-rate.—This is calculated upon the seven principal zymotic diseases, viz.: small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria and membranous croup, whooping cough, fever (typhus, enteric and other continued), and diarrhoea. During 1907 two deaths were registered from measles, one from whooping cough, nineteen from diphtheria and membranous croup, four from enteric or typhoid fever, and two from diarrhoea, total 28, as compared with 42 in 1906. The zymotic death-rate was 0.86 per 1000, in 1906 the rate was 1.31 per 1000.

Phthisis caused 32 deaths, as compared with 41 in 1906. The death-rate was .98 per 1000, other tubercular diseases caused 11 deaths,

M.O.H Reports, 1907, Poole (Urban)—continued.

Respiratory Diseases other than phthisis caused 58 deaths, giving a death-rate of 1.78 per 1000. In 1906 there were 73 deaths, with death-rate of 2.27; these deaths included 40 from bronchitis (20 of which occurred in persons above 65 years of age), nine from pneumonia, two from pleurisy, and seven from congestion of the lungs.

Cancer caused 25 deaths, with a death-rate of .76 per 1000. In 1905 it caused 36 deaths. There were 40 deaths from diseases of the heart.

Notification of Infectious Disease.—The diseases that must be notified as soon as possible to the Sanitary Authority under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act are small-pox, cholera, diphtheria or membranous croup, erysipelas, scarlet fever, typhus, enteric, relapsing, and continued fevers, puerperal fever and plague.

The total number of notifications received during 1907 was 93, comprising 49 diphtheria, 7 of erysipelas, 23 of scarlet fever, 13 of enteric fever, and 1 of puerperal fever. In 1905 the number was 121 and in 1906, 106. The ages of the cases notified and the districts where they occurred, as well as the number of cases removed to the infectious hospitals, are shown in Table III.

The following table shows the monthly distribution of Infectious cases in the different parishes of the Borough:—

Month.	Locality.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Ery- sipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Membran- ous Croup.	Total.
January	Poole	..	1	..	2	..	..	3
	Parkstone	..	2	..	1	..	..	3
	Branksome	..	4	1	..	..	1	6
	Longfleet	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
								13
February	Longfleet	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
	Branksome	..	2	..	..	1	..	3
								4
March	Poole	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
	Parkstone	..	1	1	..	..	..	2
	Branksome	..	..	1	1	..	..	2
	Longfleet	..	4	..	1	..	1	6
								11
April	Branksome	..	5	..	..	..	..	5
	Longfleet	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
								7
May	Poole	..	..	..	2	..	..	2
	Longfleet	..	3	..	1	..	..	4
								6
June	Parkstone	..	1	1	..	..	1	3
	Branksome	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
								4
July	Parkstone	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
	Branksome	..	3	..	..	..	..	3
	Longfleet	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
								5
August	Poole	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
								1
September	Poole	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
	Parkstone	..	2	1	1	..	..	4
	Branksome	..	5	..	..	..	..	5
								10
October	Poole	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
	Branksome	..	1	2	..	..	..	3
								4
November	Parkstone	..	2	..	1	..	..	3
	Branksome	..	2	6	1	..	1	10
	Hamworthy	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
								14
December	Poole	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
	Parkstone	..	3	..	..	..	..	3
	Branksome	..	7	1	..	..	..	8
	Longfleet	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
								14
Total		..	23	45	7	13	4	93
	
Poole		..	3	1	7	..	..	11
Parkstone		..	3	10	3	..	1	19
Branksome		..	19	20	3	1	2	46
Longfleet		..	1	12	2	..	1	16
Hamworthy		..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Total		..	23	45	7	13	4	93
	

The total numbers in different parishes for the years 1905, 1906, and 1907 are as follows:—

	1905.	1906.	1907.
Poole (St. James')	50	36	11
Parkstone	30	17	19
Longfleet	17	14	16
Branksome	18	37	46
Hamworthy	6	2	1
	<hr/> 121	<hr/> 106	<hr/> 93

The diminution is especially noticed in the Parish of St. James', only seven cases of typhoid fever being notified in 1907, as compared with 26 in 1905, and 20 in 1906. In Branksome the increase is due to cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever; several of the cases were visitors to the district. In 1904, when there was an epidemic of scarlet fever, principally in St. James' Parish, 329 cases were notified.

Scarlet Fever.—Twenty-three cases were notified, three in Parkstone, one in Longfleet, and nineteen in Branksome. The case notified in Longfleet was a young lady visitor, she was removed to the Boscombe Infectious Hospital. Eight cases were notified in January and February from the neighbourhood of Gas Works Road, some of these were scholars at the Bournemouth West School, and as there had been cases of scarlet fever removed from the school, no doubt the infection was caught there. Five cases occurred in June and July, one a visitor to a house in Parkstone. Ten cases occurred in October, November and December, chiefly in the York Road district, four of one family and two of another being notified. Nineteen cases were removed to Alderney Hospital; no fatal cases.

Erysipelas.—Seven cases were notified, mostly of slight character, one severe case from Poole was admitted to the Alderney Hospital. The only infectious case notified in Hamworthy was one of slight erysipelas.

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.—Forty-nine cases were notified, of which three were in Poole, eleven in Parkstone, thirteen in Longfleet, and twenty-two in Branksome; twenty-eight cases were removed to Alderney Hospital, and of these ten were fatal. Antitoxin was used in all cases. The fatal cases only lived on an average about thirty-six hours after admission. During March three cases occurred in children attending Oakdale Schools; cases occurred at intervals during the next two months. The only cause to be found was the cesspool overflowing very quickly after emptying, the ground being waterlogged. During the later months of the year several cases occurred in the Branksome district, the same cause, overflowing cesspools, was found, and there is no doubt that the earth closets and urinals are too near to the infants' department of the Heatherlands School. As soon as the school and houses are connected with the new drainage scheme, we may hope that these causes may be removed. Five of the cases were among non-residents. A family came to Branksome from Croydon, the same day two children were removed to the hospital, notified as diphtheria, both proved fatal. The other child who was kept at home, but was given antitoxin, developed a mild attack about a week later. A woman and child, visitors from Kent for Christmas, were also admitted to the hospital.

Owing to the advancement in school hygiene, it is now a recognised fact that all schools should be built on the plan of hospitals, that is, have a cement floor, the corners of the walls rounded off, the walls tiled, and large windows to admit plenty of sunshine and fresh air. No brushing should be allowed, except after sawdust damped with some disinfectant has been scattered on the floor, all ledges, etc. should be dusted with damp cloth. With tiled walls and a cement floor, it is possible to give a thorough cleansing with a hose at intervals. It has been proved that the dust of schoolrooms contains germs of many of the infectious diseases, such as diphtheria and tuberculosis. In time, no doubt, paper will take the place of slates, as there is great danger to children licking and spitting on the slates to clean them. In most of the cases of diphtheria the children had enlarged tonsils, which rendered them more liable to be infected. The cold winds and wet weather rendered the children's throats more susceptible to the invasion of the diphtheria bacillus. In two cases admitted to the hospital, the diphtheria bacillus was not found on bacteriological examination. An inquest was held on a child who died suddenly and was notified as diphtheria, the jury brought in a verdict of syncope. In the hospital there were ten fatal cases out of twenty-nine admitted, and of those nursed at home nine cases died out of twenty.

Puerperal Fever.—One case was notified at Branksome, and was sent at once by the medical attendant to the Cornelia Hospital, where the woman recovered. The midwife who attended the case held the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board, but had never procured a book of the rules. I again advise your Council to adopt the Midwives' Act, 1902, so that the midwives who at present are certified and practising in the Borough may be visited and supervised, very few send in their intention to practise in the district at the beginning of each year to the Local Authority, as they are bound to do by the rules of the Central Midwives' Board.

Typhoid or Enteric Fever.—Thirteen cases were notified in the Borough, seven in Poole, three in Parkstone, two in Longfleet, and one in Branksome. In 1906, 27 cases were notified, and in 1905, 39 cases. In three cases there was an history of eating oysters. Two friends partook of two or three dozen each at a public house, brought in by a fisherman. In the third case a young man paid one penny per dozen for three dozen oysters, which had been dredged a week previously. I am still of opinion that the greatest danger of infection is not in eating Poole oysters which have just been caught, but in partaking of those which have been hawked about the district, perhaps for days, until they are half dead, and then are consumed in large quantities and washed down with copious supplies of beer. Taking into consideration that one fisherman can dredge 3000 or 4000 oysters per week at the beginning of the season, if there is so much contamination, as other authorities say there is, it is a marvel we do not get an epidemic of typhoid fever in this district. Four cases were removed to Alderney Hospital, one a German sailor who brought the infection from Germany. Two cases were admitted to the Cornelia Hospital, one a stranger, who only arrived four days before admission, from London. One case, a man who had been working at Sherborne, died in the Union Hospital. Four cases out of the thirteen were fatal. The following form the history of the thirteen cases:—

CASES OF TYPHOID FEVER.

1.	M.	Age 24	..	Admitted Cornelia Hospital January 5th. Died January 6th—Stranger from London: no oysters.
2.	M.	Age 5	..	January 1st. Nursed at home—Been suffering from measles and congestion of the lungs: no oysters.
3.	M.	Age 21	..	January 28th. Nursed at home. Died—Suffered from pneumonia: no oysters.
4.	F.	Age 13	..	March 14th. Nursed at home. No history of eating oysters.
5.	M.	Age 14	..	March 30th. Died. Alderney Hospital—Had heart disease: not eaten oysters.
6.	M.	Age 16	..	May 17th. Nursed at home: not eaten oysters.
7.	M.	Age 24	..	May 25th. Alderney Hospital: history of eating oysters.
8.	M.	Age 23	..	May 25th. Alderney Hospital: history of eating oysters.
9.	M.	Age 25	..	August 20th. Died. Union Hospital—Been working at Sherborne: no oysters.
10.	M.	Age 16	..	September 16th. Nursed at home: no history of eating oysters.
11.	M.	Age 17	..	October 16th. Cornelia Hospital: history of eating oysters.
12.	M.	Age 15	..	October 24th. Alderney Hospital. Sailor from German ship in Poole Harbour.
13.	F.	Age 52	..	November 7th. Nursed at home: no history of eating oysters.

A public notice warning persons of the danger of consuming uncooked shell fish (oysters, cockles, mussels, &c.) was again issued at the beginning of September. There is no doubt this notice induced persons to be more abstemious in the consumption of any kind of shell fish.

The pollution of Poole Harbour by sewage cannot be altogether avoided, on account of the shipping at Poole Quay, the pleasure steamers and yachts, and the surface water drains opening into it. Many fishermen are dependent on the oyster fishery during the winter months, and anything that can be done to revive the confidence of the public ought to be tried. The only solution of the difficulty, in my opinion, is that the harbour may still be used as a fattening ground, but that the oysters, after being dredged, should be taken to a specified place by the fishermen, near Old Harry, for instance. The oysters should then be re-laid in pure sea water for two or three weeks before sending to market. It has been proved by Dr. Klein that oysters rapidly cleanse themselves from typhoid bacilli and other germs if kept in a sufficient quantity of pure sea water.

Diarrhœa.—Only two deaths were registered, both infants under one year of age. The immunity is due to the cold and wet summer, as the summer rise of diarrhœal mortality does not commence until the mean temperature recorded by the 4-foot earth thermometer has attained 56° F.

Measles.—Very few cases occurred during the year. Two were fatal. One case, a patient in the Cornelia Hospital, was removed to Alderney Hospital, and no other case occurred amongst the patients.

Phthisis.—Thirty-two deaths were registered in the district from pulmonary tuberculosis—giving a death-rate of .98 per 1000. This compares favourably with the deaths in 1906—41, which gave a death-rate of 1.28 per 1000. In all cases, if notice of the death is sent to the Sanitary Officials, the rooms occupied by the patient are disinfected.

Respiratory Diseases other than Phthisis caused 58 deaths, giving a death-rate of 1.78 per 1000.

Cancer caused 25 deaths, with a death-rate of .76 per 1000, as compared with 36 deaths, with a death-rate of 1.12 per 1000 in 1906.

Infectious Hospitals.—The Borough possesses two Isolation Hospitals, the Alderney Hospital at Newtown, and the Baiter Hospital at Poole.

Alderney Hospital.—During the year, 55 cases were admitted, 3 from Poole, 11 from Parkstone, 8 from Longfleet, 29 from Branksome, 1 of Measles from the Cornelia Hospital, 2 from the Poole Rural District Council, and 1 from the Port Sanitary Authority; of these, 29 were diphtheria and membranous croup, 1 erysipelas, 20 scarlet fever, 4 enteric fever and 1 measles. The Hospital has been in use all the year, and I am indebted to the Matron, Mrs. Nippard, and the Nursing staff for the efficient manner in which the Nursing was carried out. The duties were very onerous at times, as the patients were mostly very young children. Owing to the Dorchester Hospital being full, a case of scarlet fever, a girl at a Boarding School at Dorchester, was admitted to the Hospital by your permission.

Cost of provisions for patients at the Alderney Isolation Hospital, Poole, from 1st January to 31st December, 1907:—Milk, £11 4s. 1½d.; Groceries, £38 14s. 8½d.; Meat, £12 9s. 8d.—Total £62 7s. 6½d. 56 Patients—Total stay 1182 days; Average stay per patient, 21 days; Average cost per patient, 21 days, £1 2s. 3d.; Average cost per patient, per day, 1s. 0½d.

Baiter Hospital.—This Hospital is only now used for cases of Typhoid Fever, when there is not room for them at Alderney. Owing to the number of Scarlet Fever and Diphtherial cases admitted to Alderney at the end of November, a German sailor suffering from typhoid was transferred to Baiter, and discharged at the beginning of 1908.

Cornelia Hospital.—Two cases of typhoid fever were admitted during the year, one proved fatal. Our best thanks are due to the medical and nursing staff for the efficient manner in which the cases were looked after. The Hospital Committee have now decided that no more cases of typhoid fever will be treated there.

Water Supply.—The supply has been constant and of very good quality. Fewer complaints have been received of its discolouration. The Borough, with the exception of that part of Branksome, which is supplied by the Bournemouth Water Company, is now supplied by the Corporation Waterworks, your Council having taken over the Poole Waterworks Company's Works in October last. Under the Poole Corporation Water Act, 1906, your Council acquired powers to execute further works, which will furnish a supply from the chalk, at Corfe Mullen; these works are now well in hand, and when completed, the existing supplies will cease as per section 20 of the Act.

Sewerage and Drainage and Excrement Disposal.—The majority of the houses in St. James', Parkstone and Longfleet are now connected with the public sewer, which has its outfalls into the sea off Branksome Chine and Shore Road, Sandbanks. The system of sewerage during the year has worked well; complaints have been received of offensive gases being given off from the vent pipes. The high-vent pipe at Seldown has been taken down, and a patent gas standard fixed. No complaints have since been received. In Hamworthy, earth closets are used; these are emptied regularly by a contractor. Owing to the near completion of the Branksome Drainage Scheme, the houses in several roads are now being connected to the Main Sewer. Many cesspools, about which complaints of their overflowing are constantly received, are being done away with. The emptying of these cesspools at Branksome is also done by contract. The houses at Sterte will soon be connected with the Main Sewer.

During the year 1907, the following lengths of new sewers have been constructed :—

Sewerage—By the Authority—1,730 yards of soil sewer.
1,700 yards of surface water sewer.
By owners in forming new roads, etc.
1,790 yards of soil sewer.
508 yards of surface water sewer.

New Buildings—262 Houses have been erected during the year.
484 Old, and 145 New Houses, etc., have been drained in connection with the sewer.

The work done by the Sanitary officials, etc., re Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops, Slaughter-houses, Common Lodging Houses, Bakehouses, Housing of the Working Classes, Factory Act, and Food and Drugs Act, etc., is contained in the report of Mr. R. Smith, Chief Sanitary Inspector, which is appended to my report. During the year, a house to house inspection of the district has been carried out, many defects have been found and remedied. The Cowsheds and Dairies are in a better condition than they were a few years ago. I should like to draw the special attention of the occupiers of Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops to the new regulations adopted by your Council, and which come into force on April 1st, 1908. Special notice will be taken on our visits not only to the cleanliness of the cowshed itself, but also the cleanliness of the cattle, the milkman, and the utensils used. For many years especial attention has been given to getting a pure water supply, and why should not the same care be taken to see that the milk is pure in quality, and kept under cleanly conditions, since it is both the food and drink of both children and invalids.

Factories and Workshops Act, 1901.—There are 334 registered workshops in the Borough (95 Domestic Workshops, 198 Workshops, and 41 Bakehouses). These have been inspected on 508 occasions, and the following defects have been found and remedied—want of cleanliness 9, overcrowding 3, other nuisances 14, and sanitary accommodation not separated for sexes 1. One factory has had a new system of drainage with main sewer. For further details see the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Alleged Gas Nuisance at Branksome and Poole.—During the year constant complaints have been received from residents in Branksome and Poole of noxious smells arising from the Gas Works. Your Council have received a report from Dr. Reece, Medical Officer of the Local Government Board, saying that at the time of his visit he could not find any cause for the complaints. From my observations the chief cause is the opening and emptying of the purifiers. A Sub-Committee met Mr. Woodall, the Manager, who informed them he was trying a new process of passing steam through the contents of the purifiers before opening, so that most of the gas may be absorbed by the steam. Your Committee were invited to see one of the Poole purifiers opened, and there is every hope that the new process may put an end to the serious nuisance these smells are to invalids, etc.

Below will be found a short history of the alleged nuisance since the year 1903 :—

TO THE SANITARY COMMITTEE.
GENTLEMEN,

Re Gasworks Nuisance.

Borough of Poole,
Sanitary Department,
16th November, 1907.

I should like to give a short history of the particulars relating to the above :—

1903. In September I received the first complaint from a resident in Branksome Park in which he states that he had already complained to the Bournemouth Corporation, the Branksome District Council, the Poole Town Council, and the Local Government Board.

1904. I received several other complaints. The Branksome Council had received more than I had, and Dr. Stewart reported to them that he did not consider the circumstances to be such as to call for a prosecution.

1904. Dr. Alexander subsequently reported that he had received a petition signed by 69 residents, and in

1905. Dr. Alexander made an exhaustive report to his Council, and among other things expressed an opinion that the smell was caused by the escape of noxious gases given off from the water gas plant.

1906. Dr. Reece, from the L.G.B., visited the works with me on January 25th and in March, 1907. I forwarded to him a list of the complaints received during the year 1906, and certain particulars that he had asked for. During this year I received 31 letters of complaints and other complaints over the telephone, and made some visits.

In July, a memorial from residents in Poole was received complaining of the stench, and it appears that while the gas was being manufactured and purified at the new works at Poole, no complaints whatever were received from Branksome until December, when work was again transferred to the Branksome works.

1907. Up to date I have received 77 letters from Branksome residents complaining as before, and I have also received many verbal complaints and letters from residents in Poole of the discomfort caused by escape of gas from the works and from the purifiers.

With the exception of emptying the purifiers, the nuisance generally is of short duration, but while the purifiers are being emptied and the contents are spread on the ground for oxidation, the nuisance is a serious one for many of the occupiers of the business premises in the High Street.

I have reported the receipt of the complaints at most of the Committee meetings during the year, and I trust that some means will now be found to remedy the nuisance complained of.

I have come to the conclusion that these stinks (which are quite distinct from drain or sewer gas) are injurious to the health of some people, especially invalids, who reside near the works, and that they are annoying to many others.

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Poole (Urban)—continued.

If no remedy can be found, the purifiers both at Mount Street and Bourne Valley should be removed to a position a mile or two north of Branksome Station. The purifiers in Poole are placed in a most unsuitable position, being so near the main thoroughfare.

With regard to the escape of the noxious gases from the works, only an expert in gas manufacture can tell the cause, and the remedy required.

Pigs' Stys.—The pig-keepers are mostly in the Newtown and Rosemoor district. Visits have been paid by the Inspector and myself. Whether the smell from pigs is an antidote to the germs of infectious disease or not, it is remarkable that no cases of infectious disease occurred in the Newtown District last year, and only one this.

Disinfection.—I must again bring before your Council the great need of a steam disinfecter; however well disinfection in rooms may be carried out, it is a question whether bedding and other large articles can be thoroughly disinfected by the dry method and without the great penetrating power of saturated steam.

Housing of the Working Classes Act.—During the year several dilapidated houses in Old Orchard and Strand Street have been pulled down and new ones built. Three houses obstructive to light and air in Carter's Lane have been pulled down, and notices sent to Landlords to put houses in a habitable condition; if not attended to, closing orders are asked for.

Medical Inspections of Children in Elementary Schools.—Dr. W. H. Power, Medical Officer of the Local Government Board in the Memorandum as to Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health says: "In reference to schools, it is desired to draw particular attention to the Memorandum on Medical Inspection of Children in Elementary Schools issued by the Board of Education in November of this year, dealing with the new duties thrown upon the Local Education Authorities in this respect by Section 13 of the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act, 1907. This Act does not confer powers in supersession of those heretofore exercised generally in a public health sense by Sanitary Authorities under previous enactments; rather it is supplementary to existing Public Health Law in that it requires supervision of the health of the individual child. The arrangements to this end to be made by Local Education Authorities will no doubt vary with the diverse circumstances of different districts, but it is anticipated that in most districts the work will, in accordance with the advice of the Board of Education, be carried out in conjunction with that of the Medical Officer of Health, or at least under his supervision. When the Medical Officer of Health is also School Medical Officer, it may be convenient that the annual report which he is required to make in the latter capacity, should be issued together with his annual report on the health of his district. It is the desire alike of the Local Government Board and of the Board of Education that the relation of the Local Public Health Authority and the Local Education Authority, whether or not these bodies or their officers happen to be identical, should be intimate and cordial in order that the administrative procedures of both bodies may be reciprocally helpful."

This Act comes into force on January 1st, 1908. Each child on entrance to school life, and at periods of three years after, has to be examined by an appointed Medical Officer, and records kept, on forms sanctioned by the Board of Education, of the health of the child from its entrance to its leaving school. The home life of the child has also to be enquired into in special cases, and the parents advised on defects found either in the health, cleanliness or nourishment of the child. One of the foremost objects of this scheme is that of bringing home to the parents their responsibilities where physical defects occur in their children.

It is only with the hearty co-operation of the teachers, and of the parents, that the duties of this memorandum can be carried out.

The first point of enquiry on the examination form, that of history of previous diseases, including infectious disease, will form a record of great use in epidemic periods.

In an epidemic of measles, for instance, instead of the need of general school closure arising, it may suffice to close the infant schools, while excluding, in the upper departments, only those unprotected by a previous attack.

Inspection of District.—With the Inspectors I have made systematic inspections of the district. I have visited the bakehouses, cowsheds, slaughter-houses, lodging-houses, and many of the factories, laundries and workshops. A house to house inspection of 688 houses, has been made during the year, many defects in the sanitary arrangements have been found and remedied. Special visits have been made to schools, when infectious cases have occurred, and children who had been in contact examined. If any suspicious symptoms were found these were sent home.

I have to acknowledge the very valuable assistance rendered me by Mr. R. Smith, jun., the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. Ramsden, the Assistant Inspector.

I have again to congratulate your Council on the many measures carried out by you for the amelioration of the sanitary state of the District. The birth-rate is rather lower than last year, but is still above that of the towns of England and Wales. The death-rate is the lowest recorded during the last ten years, and is 2 per 1000 below that of England and Wales.

The zymotic death-rate in 1906 was 1.31 per 1000; in 1907 it is 0.86 per 1000, much lower than that of England and Wales.

The infantile death-rate, 75.9 per 1000 births registered, is exceptionally low; the average rate for England and Wales was 118 per 1000.

Considering the extent of the slum area in St. James', and the amount of distress during the year owing to slackness of trade, I consider the above are records to be proud of.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The premises registered are—

Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	41
Slaughter-houses	..	..	..	..	17
Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	33
Milkshops	..	..	..	..	64
Common Lodging Houses	..	..	..	..	4
Workshops, Workplaces (not including Factories)	..	..	..	..	198
Domestic Workshops	..	..	..	..	95
					<hr/> 452

The Bakehouses have been inspected half-yearly. In May 27 were marked good and 14 fair; in October 32 were marked good and 19 fair as regards general cleanliness. These have to be lime-washed in March and September of each year, or, if painted, walls to be washed with soap and water.

The Slaughter-houses are visited frequently, one in Longfleet being discontinued. The bye-laws require that these shall be lime-washed quarterly, and the offal removed daily. Generally they are kept in a satisfactory condition.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—Some of the cowsheds are not in a satisfactory condition. They have been inspected half-yearly. No steps were taken in the matter, as new regulations were under the consideration of the Council.

These are now adopted, and will be enforced during the present year.

The Common Lodging Houses are frequently visited. They are kept clean and generally well conducted, but on two or three occasions complaints have been received of the noise and bad language used by the lodgers and those in charge of the premises. If the bad behaviour cannot be prevented the keepers should be removed from the register.

House to House Inspection.—688 visits have been made, with a view of detecting nuisances, defective sanitary arrangements, and overcrowding. Written notices have been sent to the occupiers, calling their attention to matters noted, and they have been remedied.

Disinfection.—Premises in which notifiable infectious diseases have occurred have been disinfected in the usual way, on the application of the Medical Practitioner or the occupiers.

Sanitary Certificates.—We have received 38 guineas during the year for the inspection and special testing of drains at various times in the Borough. These have been reported on. The defects found consisted of leaky drains, defective ventilating pipes, untrapped sinks, and lavatories.

Certificates have been granted for those houses that have been put in a satisfactory sanitary condition.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.—Under these Acts 39 samples have been purchased and submitted to the Public Analyst. Owing to the death of Dr. Comyns Leach we were without an analyst for some months, hence the small number of samples taken. Three cases of adulteration were reported by the Analyst, but the adulteration was of a very slight nature. The offenders were cautioned.

Unsound Food.—A carcase of a pig, five boxes of mackerel, and two boxes of herring were seized and condemned as unfit for human food, and afterwards destroyed.

Disease of Animals Act.—One case of suspected glanders was reported, viz., a pony at Longfleet. This pony was examined and tested by the Borough Veterinary Surgeon, and declared not to be suffering from glanders.

One case of suspected rabies occurred at Branksome Park in June. The dog was killed and sent to the Browning Institute, London, for examination. This was declared not to be a case of rabies.

Nine outbreaks of swine fever occurred between February 12th and August 7th, causing the death of 23 pigs. The usual notices were served on the owners, and each outbreak reported to the Board of Agriculture.

On April 29th the Swine Fever Order came into operation, which enforced that no pig should be moved without a licence. This has caused a considerable amount of attention all through the year on account of the necessity of having a signed declaration from the owners of the swine before granting the licence. 480 licences have been issued.

Ruinous Buildings.—The old property included in the Poole Improvement Scheme has not yet been demolished. Some of this property is becoming dangerous to the public. It would be advisable to purchase some of the buildings and clear the site at once.

Cesspools.—The emptying of the cesspools in the Branksome district has been carried on as heretofore. It is expected that during the year 1908 there will be a great reduction in this work, as many houses are being drained into the new system of sewerage, and other sewers are being laid.

In 1905	..	1935 cesspools were emptied.
" 1906	..	2276 " "
" 1907	..	2885 " "

The following table shows the number of times the cesspools were emptied:—

262	Cesspools were emptied once	..	..	262
130	" "	twice	..	260
88	" "	3 times	..	264
46	" "	4 " "	..	184
46	" "	5 " "	..	230
33	" "	6 " "	..	228
24	" "	7 " "	..	168
21	" "	8 " "	..	168
17	" "	9 " "	..	153
14	" "	10 " "	..	140
14	" "	11 " "	..	154
6	" "	12 " "	..	72
9	" "	13 " "	..	104
5	" "	14 " "	..	70
5	" "	15 " "	..	75
2	" "	16 " "	..	32
2	" "	17 " "	..	34
1	" "	18 " "	..	18
1	" "	19 " "	..	19
2	" "	20 " "	..	40
2	" "	21 " "	..	42
2	" "	22 " "	..	44
1	" "	23 " "	..	23
2	" "	24 " "	..	48
1	" "	26 " "	..	26
1	" "	27 " "	..	27

2885

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Poole (Urban)—continued.

The cesspools and earth closets in the other parts of the Borough are attended to by another contractor. This work is increasing considerably.

One cesspool at Oakdale has been emptied 16 times, one at Upper Parkstone 19 times, and one at Sterte 84 times. The number emptied was 527.

The total cost of emptying cesspools throughout the Borough during the year has been £1130.

The table prepared for the County Authority is appended, showing the number of visits in the ordinary work of the department, in addition to the visits to various registered premises.

Poole Port Sanitary Authority—Mr. G. H. Carrington.

The general health of the seamen has been very good. One case of typhoid fever was removed on October 25th to the Isolation Hospital from the German ship "Marie Linneman," of Harburg. He was discharged cured. The fore-castle was disinfected and the drinking cisterns cleansed.

On November 21st the captain of the Swedish ship "Valeska" (last port Portsmouth) was found, on my inspection, to be suffering from influenza. He was removed to the Cornelia Hospital.

The number of vessels with "inwards" cargoes was—

Foreign	..	113	Tonnage	..	21,930
Coasting trade		619	"	..	88,265

Many of the coasting ships pay frequent visits, often weekly, during the year.

The chief ports from which the foreign vessels come are Frederickstadt, Olmsund, Archangel, Riga, Hamburg, Harburg, Antwerp, Cherbourg, Brest, &c. The principal cargoes are timber, salt, oil cake, onions, and potatoes.

The chief unwholesome conditions found—dirty ceilings and floors in the fore-castles, and dirty w.c.'s—are principally in the coasting trade ships. So many of the coasting steamers and sailing ships bring coal, and much coal dust is carried into the cabins.

I have accompanied the Port Sanitary Inspector and inspected 105 vessels. The health of the floating population being so good during the year, there is no cause for special report. No deep sea fishing vessels come to the port.

Whilst at the Port the ships invariably fill up their tanks with the town water, of which there is a constant supply from the mains on the Quay.

The boarding station for Customs officers is opposite Brownsea Castle, at the entrance to the Harbour, and the mooring place for medical inspection of suspected ships is in the Wareham channel, to the westward of Stakes Buoy.

The number of ships inspected by the Sanitary Officials was 179—26 more than last year. The ships were classified as—

		Good.	Fair.	Dirty.	Total.
English	..	102	34	5	141
Foreign	..	36	2	0	38
		<u>138</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>179</u>

Verbal notices were given of the nuisances and defects and complied with, except in one case, where a written notice was sent to the captain.

I have received particulars from Port Medical Officers of Health of passengers and sailors discharged from ships which have infectious diseases on board. These have been visited and enquiries made.

One death was registered as having occurred in the waters of Poole Harbour—a female, aged 50 (inquest), found drowned.

Portland—Mr. T. Howard.

Area.—The area of the district is 2897 acres, less inland water 2894 acres.

Population.—This was 15,262 at the census of 1901. I have estimated the population to the middle of 1907 to be 12,500. The population, which has steadily declined since the census year 1901, has now I hope, reached its low water mark.

Vital Statistics.—In order to facilitate comparison, I here give the different rates for England and Wales :—

				Annual Rates per 1000 Living.			Infantile Mortality.	
				Births.	Deaths.	Principal Epidemic Diseases.	Annual Death-rate of Infants under 1 year per 1000 births.	
England and Wales	..	..	..	26.3	15.0	1.26	..	118
76 Great Towns	..	..	..	27.0	15.4	1.54	..	127
142 Smaller Towns	..	..	..	25.7	14.5	1.29	..	122
England and Wales (less the 218 Towns)	..	..	..	25.6	14.7	.91	..	106

Birth-rate, etc.—The births registered in the district for the year are as follows:—

1907.		Girls.	Boys.	Total.
January	..	12	9	21
February	..	4	14	18
March	..	12	9	21
April	..	8	14	22
May	..	17	9	26
June	..	16	15	31
July	..	14	15	29
August	..	18	2	20
September	..	7	9	16
October	..	5	8	13
November	..	6	16	22
December	..	7	12	19
Totals	..	126	132	258

This represents a birth-rate of 20.64 per 1000 inhabitants. The rate is below the average for the past 10 years, which is 23.1. It is indeed the lowest for the ten years with the exception of 1901, when the rate was 19.4. The birth-rate for the district is also much under that for England and Wales, which for 1907 is 26.3. This decreased birth-rate is to some extent accounted for by the removal of young married people from the district owing to the scarcity of work.

The births for the four quarters of the year were respectively 60, 79, 65, 54. Of the births, one was illegitimate, forming 0.38 per cent. of the total births, whilst in 1906 this percentage proportion was 1.6. There was a decrease of 55 births as compared with 1906.

Death-rate, etc.—The deaths registered in 1907 were distributed as follows:—

January	..	..	10
February	..	..	9
March	..	..	19
April	..	..	11
May	..	..	15
June	..	..	9
July	..	..	7
August	..	..	3
September	..	..	7
October	..	..	7
November	..	..	9
December	..	..	9
Total	..	..	115

This represents an uncorrected death-rate of 9.2 per 1000. This crude rate has, however, to be corrected. The deaths of residents who have died outside the district have to be added and those who died in public institutions in the district, but belonging to outside districts, have to be deducted. To the courtesy of Dr. Barclay, Medical Officer of Health, Weymouth, I am indebted for particulars respecting the deaths of seven Portland inhabitants who died in public institutions in the Borough of Weymouth. One non-resident died in one of the institutions in the district.

The corrected number of deaths is therefore 121, and the corrected death-rate is 9.68 per 1000.

The corrected death-rate for the whole population offers the best basis for comparison with previous years. The figures for 1897 onwards are given in Table I. of the Local Government Board (see end of this report). This table shows that the corrected death-rate is well below the average of the previous ten years, and considerably below that of England and Wales, which for 1907 is 15.0.

Some of the deaths which are included in the returns, and on which the death-rate is not calculated, do not properly belong to the district, yet it is not permissible to make deductions for these deaths. For examples, a sailor accidentally killed on the high seas, a seaman who died of pneumonia at sea, an engineer drowned in the West Bay on November 21st, 1906.

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Portland (Urban)—continued.

Deaths in Public Institutions.—

Royal Naval Hospital	..	12	} Within the district.
Military Hospital ..	..	1
Prison Hospital ..	..	1
Royal Hospital, Weymouth	..	3	} Outside the district.
The Workhouse, Weymouth	..	4	

The chief causes of death were as follows :—

Measles .. .. .	..	1 case.
Scarlet Fever .. ..	..	1 "
Diphtheria .. .. .	..	2 "
Puerperal Fever .. ..	..	1 "
Phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis)	..	9 "
Other Tubercular diseases	..	5 "
Cancer and Malignant disease	..	8 "
Bronchitis .. .. .	..	5 "
Pneumonia .. .. .	..	16 "
Alcoholism, cirrhosis of liver	..	3 "
Premature Birth .. ..	..	7 "
Diseases and Accidents of parturition	..	1 "
Heart Diseases .. ..	..	13 "
Accidents .. .. .	..	11 "
Kidney Diseases .. ..	..	5 "
Apoplexy .. .. .	..	4 "
Old Age .. .. .	..	11 "
All other Causes .. ..	..	18 "
Total .. .. .	..	121 "

The age distribution was as follows :—

Under 1 year .. .. .	..	13 deaths.
1 Year and under 5 years	..	14 "
5 Years " 15 "	..	5 "
15 Years " 25 "	..	10 "
25 Years " 65 "	..	46 "
65 Years and upwards ..	..	33 "
Total .. .. .	..	121

The Natural Increase of Population.—This means the excess of births over deaths, and amounts to 137. The following are the figures for previous years :—1904, 162; 1905, 197; 1906, 146.

The Average Age at death.—The average age at death is $37\frac{1}{2}$ years for the whole district. In 1903, 1904, 1905, and 1906 the average age at death was respectively 40, 33, 32, 37.

Zymotic Death-rate.—This is calculated upon the seven principal zymotic diseases, viz., smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, fever (typhus, enteric, and other continued) and diarrhoea. During the year there were four deaths, distributed as follows :—Two to diphtheria, one to measles, and one to scarlet fever. The zymotic death-rate was, therefore, 0.32 per 1000 inhabitants. The rates for 1904, 1905, and 1906 were respectively 0.44, 0.74, 2.3. The rate for England and Wales for the present year is 1.26 per 1000. This is a very satisfactory feature of the year's report, and is particularly gratifying, following the high rate of last year. No deaths were recorded from either diarrhoea or enteritis during the year.

Infantile Mortality.—The number of deaths under one year was 13, as compared with 49 for the previous year.

The rate of infantile mortality is measured by the proportion of deaths of infants under one year of age to every 1000 births. This is a reliable basis of comparison, and is uninfluenced by any possible error in estimating the population. Measured in this way the rate for 1907 is 50.38. Table I. shows that the average rate for the ten years (1897-1906) was 128.1, so that this rate is greatly below the average, and is the lowest yet recorded in the district.

This is one of the most satisfactory features of the year's report, and compares well with the rate of mortality for England and Wales, which for 1907 is 118.

An analysis of the causes of death in accordance with Table V. brings out some points of interest. This table is a very important one; it gives the infantile mortality during 1907 and the deaths from stated causes in weeks and months under one year of age.

Premature birth	..	..	..	1
Congenital defects	..	..	..	1
Want of breast milk	..	..	..	1
Meningitis (not tuberculous)	..	..	..	1
Pneumonia	..	..	..	1
Other causes	..	..	..	2

Seven of the 13 deaths were ascribed to premature birth, representing 54 per cent. of the whole. These deaths occurred at the following periods of pregnancy, viz.: Three at the sixth month, three at the seventh month, and one at the eighth month. This leads to the important question of the conditions operating before the birth of the child, and must be greatly influenced by the general physical condition of those members of the community who are at the child-bearing period of life.

Premature and weakly or unhealthy children are produced by unhealthy or weakly parents. The remedies in many instances are obvious, but not easy to carry out. I may say that as a general practitioner one becomes painfully aware year by year how readily married women are instructed through the diffusion of immoral literature in the principles of that "domestic economy" which teaches them how to keep a family within desirable limits.

Infantile Diarrhoea.—Epidemic infantile diarrhoea, which caused the death of seven children during 1906, for the year under review is not responsible for a single death. As I pointed out in my report last year, the main factors with which the disease is always associated are dryness and a high temperature, and the disease is most prevalent in hot, dry summers, the majority of the cases being always in the third quarter of the year. A comparison, therefore, between the meteorological statistics for 1906 and 1907 for the third quarter of the year should be of interest. This is shown in the following table:—

Where Observed.	Meteorological Data.	1906.	1907.
H.M. Breakwater	Mean Temperature for July	60.7°	58.2°
Ditto	Ditto August	62.6	60.0
Ditto	Ditto September	59.4	58.70
Ditto	Rainfall in Inches for July	1.5 ins.	1.83 ins.
Ditto	Ditto August	.78	1.09
Ditto	Ditto September	.77	.83

A consideration of the figures in this table shows that as regards temperature the two years are very similar, but it will be noticed that 1907 was not such a dry year as 1906. We do not know the precise agent or agents of infection in this disease. Flies probably play a part in the transmission of the germs of the disease, and they were certainly conspicuously less numerous than in the previous year. There can be very little doubt that, in the vast majority of cases, the infection is acquired through the food of the infant. The disease is directly associated with improper and dirty feeding, combined with an absence of proper storage room for the food, and other means of preventing food infection. Part of the great difference in the mortality from infantile diarrhoea between 1906 and 1907 may be ascribed to the measures of prevention taken during the year: since as far as figures are as yet available the death-rate from this disease in other parts of the county and the country generally do not show such a marked diminution. This is a matter which must be highly satisfactory to you as a Sanitary Authority, and shows that the interest you have taken and the money you have spent in trying to lower the appalling mortality of last year has borne fruit, and this reduced infantile death-rate represents to some extent the profits you have earned on your sanitary expenditure.

Last year I pointed out the paramount importance of proper feeding of infants, and showed that diarrhoeal deaths were almost entirely among children hand-fed. Cards and pamphlets giving simple advice as to the feeding of infants were printed and have been sent to the parents of every child born since June, 1906. At present there is a weekly return of births, but unfortunately births need not be registered for six weeks, and as many of the children are weakly and ailing from the time of birth, this help should be given as soon as possible, and the interval of six weeks which often elapses not seldom renders the information useless.

It will be seen from Table V. that 10 out of the 13 deaths occurred during the first two months. The adoption of the Notification of Births Act, 1907, would remedy this defect, and in connection with this I have suggested that a Female Assistant Sanitary Inspector be appointed, who would also act as a Health Visitor.

During the month of August I have made enquiries as to the feeding at 15 houses where infants under one year were suffering from diarrhoea, and the results were as follow:—

Breast fed entirely	..	..	..	0
Breast fed and other foods	..	..	..	1
Cows milk only	..	..	..	10
Condensed milk	..	..	..	2
Other foods	..	..	..	2

It will be seen that 10 out of the 15 cases were fed on cows milk only, and of these four had long-tube bottles which may be considered as an aid to early death. Neglecting these four cases, there are still six cases where the instructions as to feeding seemed to be carefully carried out. I made enquiries as to the milk supply and found that the same milk was supplied to other houses where the children were perfectly healthy and well. There was, however, one point in common in all six cases, and that was the insanitary condition of the houses and the yards either back or front.

I know the figures are too small to draw a conclusion from, but yet I think the question as to where contamination of the milk occurred might be raised. Is it at the cowsheds or on the milk seller's premises, or is it at the home itself? The cowkeeper and milk seller have so far borne their share of the blame they justly deserve, but that dirt in the cowsheds is responsible to anything like the degree of that of dirt in the home, I do not believe. Milk fetched in dirty vessels, and allowed to stand in dirty and stuffy rooms (the dread of a draught keeps the windows closed), the air of which rooms is reeking with micro-organisms and usually swarming with flies; the unpaved backyard at its maximum condition for bacterial growth is much more likely to be the cause of the mischief.

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Portland (Urban)—continued.

In six of the above cases and in 58 per cent. of the children who died from diarrhoea in 1906, as I pointed out in my last report, a long-tubed bottle was used. Every effort should be made to discourage the use of these bottles; they are veritable death traps, it is impossible to keep them clean, and they are fertile sources of diarrhoea and disease in general. That they still continue to be used points to the laziness and indifference of some mothers. These bottles have the support of old customs, and old bad customs die hardest in the nursery where the sayings of those "who have had 12 children and buried 11 of them and so ought to know" are often more treasured and their precepts more practised than the combined knowledge of the medical profession and the wisest utterances of science.

The root problem of the whole matter is the inability and, I regret to say in my district, the unwillingness of mothers in many instances to suckle their children.

Last year I strongly advocated that the elder girls attending our elementary schools should be instructed in such subjects as household management, simple cooking, cleanliness, sick nursing, and the care and feeding of infants, and I pointed out that these subjects could be substituted for others which are of much less practical and vital value. Unfortunately no result has come from my proposal. I think there can be no doubt that the steps taken to prevent these diarrhoeal and other deaths, associated with bad feeding, have done great good, but the education of the mothers of these children is a slow process, and greater success is to be looked for in the education of the mothers of the future.

PREVALENCE OF DISEASE, NOTIFICATION.

The notifications were as follows:—

Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	29
Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	16
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	6
Puerperal fever	..	..	..	..	1

The notification rate was, therefore, 4.16 per 1000. The rate for 1906 was 13.5 per 1000 inhabitants.

The following notifications were received during the year by me from the Medical Officers of the Royal Naval Hospital, H.M. Prison, and the Military Hospital.

			Royal Naval Hospital.	Military Hospital	H.M. Prison.
Measles	..	..	18	1	0
Mumps	..	..	2	0	0
Enteric Fever	..	..	4	0	0
Scarlet Fever	..	..	9	0	1
Diphtheria	..	..	1	0	0
Erysipelas	..	..	0	1	0

In Table III. the notifiable infectious diseases are tabulated in detail for 1907, whilst in the two following tables the number of cases notified since 1899 and the deaths from the chief infectious diseases are recorded.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED, 1899-1907.

		1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907
Small-pox	..	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	..	2	59	59	7	8	32	6	2	16
Diphtheria	..	12	8	7	0	1	5	9	169	29
Croup	..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Typhoid Fever	..	48	21	8	1	0	1	5	3	0
Typhus Fever	..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Erysipelas	..	12	27	11	10	17	9	14	2	6
Puerperal Fever	..	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
		75	117	85	19	27	48	35	176	52

DEATHS FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT, 1899-1907.

		1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907
Scarlet Fever	..	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	0	1
Diphtheria and Croup	..	3	2	0	0	0	3	4	10	2
Typhoid Fever	..	7	3	5	0	1	0	0	1	0
Erysipelas	..	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Puerperal Fever	..	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Measles	..	0	9	0	0	1	0	2	0	1
Whooping Cough	..	9	4	2	2	0	1	4	14	0
Phthisis	..	10	9	8	10	4	0	10	9	9

Small-pox.—No case notified. The means of preventing and controlling this disease are vaccination, re-vaccination, isolation and disinfection. The first two of these means would undoubtedly protect the whole community if efficiently carried out; but what is the state of the law on this? Vaccination and re-vaccination are not compulsory, and so year by year we are having an increasing number of susceptible persons ready to contract the disease and infect others. Any ignorant person may go before a magistrate and say he has a conscientious objection to the vaccination of his child, and so plays his little part in rendering futile our preventative measures; our district is one very liable to be visited by small-pox, as it is a seaport town, and is also subject to sudden fluctuations in relation to work. The question now is whether the Council ought not to seriously consider the necessity of providing a Hospital for small-pox. For should an outbreak occur unless very prompt action is taken it will become widespread from the causes I have mentioned, and the cost to the ratepayers will be considerable.

Diphtheria.—In 1906 there were 169 cases notified, distributed as follows:—

Underhill	..	..	..	..	127
Tophill	..	..	..	..	42
					<hr/> 169

As I stated in my last report, these cases were principally confined to the children attending St. John's and the Wesleyan Schools, in the Underhill district, and St. George's, in the Tophill district. As the disease had spread into all departments of the Underhill schools, the children, class by class, were bacteriologically examined in both schools. The schools in the Underhill district were closed on November 19th, and continued to be closed until January 18th, 1907.

In a well organised, sanitary school I do not believe in school closure for diphtheria, for the following reasons:—(1) It removes the suspects from ready observation, and simply scatters them in their various homes to sicken one by one. (2) The necessary bacteriological examination of a suspected class is much more easy to carry out. (3) It would require a considerable amount of well organised medical assistance to follow the children to their homes, and examine them for evidence of obscure disease. In the circumstances detailed in my last annual report I felt compelled to advise the closing of St. John's and the Wesleyan Schools, but before doing so, as I have already stated, the children throughout both schools were bacteriologically examined, and the result of this school closure, combined with bacteriological examination of the children, has proved highly satisfactory.

During 1907 29 cases were notified, occurring amongst 21 different families. These cases were distributed as follows:—

			Underhill.	Tophill.	Total.
First quarter	..	..	6	1	7
Second "	..	..	1	4	5
Third "	..	..	0	8	8
Fourth "	..	..	1	8	9
			<hr/> 8	<hr/> 21	<hr/> 29

It will be seen from Table III. that only seven cases were removed to hospital; the others were isolated in their homes until their throats were free from bacilli. There were two deaths, which gives the low case mortality of 6.8 per cent.

On January 28th I found a child suffering from a well-marked attack of diphtheria, who had been sent from Weymouth on the same day to its friends at Portland. The child was at once removed to the Port Sanitary Hospital at the expense of the Portland ratepayers. On March 16th a case was notified from Avalanche Road, a district which consists of about 30 houses. The school where this child attended was visited and the scholars examined, but no suspicious cases were found. On May 3rd a further case was notified from the same district, and, on my report to the Committee, a house-to-house examination was ordered, and a circular letter was sent to the parents, informing them of the steps about to be taken. This examination was carried out with great difficulty, and gave no results, several of the children being absent at the time of my visit. On May 25th I was informed by one of the surgeons of the Royal Hospital, Weymouth, that he had noticed a child from my district with suspicious symptoms. On the following day this child was followed to its home in the same district, and found to be suffering from a mild form of diphtheria, and, as a result of bacteriological examination, a further case was notified in the same household on May 31st. Since then no further cases have been notified from this district. On July 30th a child attending the Easton School was notified as suffering from diphtheria. The class fellows of this child were examined, and three showed the presence of diphtheria bacilli in their throats or noses. Three children attending the Easton Schools were again notified to me on October 30th, November 9th, and December 2nd respectively. I made enquiries at the school, and visited several suspicious absentees. On the 6th I again visited the school, and made a note of all absentees from the particular classes, whilst 83 children were examined and swabs taken from the throat and nose of suspicious cases, with the result that three showed the presence of diphtheria bacilli in their throats or noses, and one of Hoffman's bacilli (pseudo-diphtheria). The brother of one of the children who gave a positive result was absent from school, and, on being traced, was found to be suffering from a well-marked attack of diphtheria, although the parents were quite unaware of the nature of the illness, and had not called in a doctor. Three of the cases were removed to hospital, and one was isolated at its home and not allowed to return to school until he was free from bacilli. This school, or even this class, was not closed, so that no interference with the school took place. It is extremely probable that without this examination extensive spreading of the disease would have taken place, and possibly a widespread epidemic, since those children who acted as carriers of the bacilli showed no evidence of their presence apart from bacteriological examination.

We have here again illustrated, as I have also mentioned in my last report, the considerable influence of close contact in school in spreading the disease, and there can be very little doubt that the infection was acquired in the school, with the exception of the first case or contact. No doubt this method of dealing with diphtheria involves a considerable amount of labour, but the results are highly satisfactory. The usefulness of such work is difficult to prove, for if absolute success was obtained there would be no outbreak or epidemic, and the public would be quite unaware of any special danger. But the gain to the public in life and money, though unappreciated, is no less substantial.

In connection with the two deaths the following particulars are of interest from the point of view of antitoxin administration:—

Case I. Male aged five years, only received antitoxin after being ill for four days.

Case II. Female aged three years; received antitoxin after being ill four days.

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Portland (Urban)—continued.

Neither of these cases could be said to have been treated with antitoxin. It was given in the hope that it might be of benefit, for both children had been ill four days. These cases, as in the previous year, illustrate the importance of early administration of antitoxin.

In four of the 29 cases the type was laryngeal with little or no membrane. They were assumed by the parents to be cases of croup, and treated by home remedies before a medical man was called in. The laryngeal type of diphtheria is the most fatal of all. Croup as a distinct disease does not exist; it is merely a symptom of several other diseases, of which the most important is diphtheria, and it would be well if this non-existence of croup as a disease was more widely known than it is among the public.

Scarlet Fever.—During the year 16 cases were notified, 15 in the Underhill district and one in the Tophill district. There was one death, giving a case mortality of 6·2 per cent. The distribution was as follows:—

			Underhill.	Tophill.
First quarter	..	..	0	0
Second "	..	..	1	1
Third "	..	..	4	0
Fourth "	..	..	10	0

All the cases were isolated in their own homes, and in only one instance did a second case occur in the same household. On July 13th I was informed by an anonymous letter that there were two cases of scarlet fever in the house of a visitor who came from Portsmouth. On the same day the house was visited, and I found two children convalescent from an attack of scarlet fever. The mother was apparently quite innocent of the nature of the complaint, and consequently no prosecution followed. The children were isolated and the Medical Officer of Health for Portsmouth communicated with. On September 5th a case was notified at Mallams, the mother of the child being employed at the laundry attached to the Royal Naval Hospital. As there were no other cases in the district at the time, I communicated with the Medical Officer in charge of the Royal Naval Hospital, who kindly supplied me with a list of the employees. Their homes were visited and all the inmates examined, but no evidence of disease was found. On the 12th a further case of scarlet fever was notified in the family of an employee at the same laundry, but no further light was thrown on the source of infection.

The influence of school attendance was very fully enquired into, but apart from the exclusion of individual scholars, and children from infected homes, no further action was considered necessary.

The source of infection in many cases is very difficult to trace. There is very little doubt that in many cases the infection is brought about—(1) by mild, unrecognised cases; (2) by discharge of convalescents before they are fit. A simple comparison with diphtheria is instructive. In this disease it is well known that persons apparently in good health and patients perfectly convalescent may harbour diphtheria bacilli in their throats. No one can say by ordinary medical examination whether a contact or a convalescent is harbouring bacilli. It is equally true of scarlet fever, while for this disease no bacteriological examination is available. The late peeling is no evidence of the existence of infectiousness, and freedom from any evidence of peeling is no evidence of freedom from infectivity. The public, and some medical men, I regret to say, appear to find it hard to abandon the belief that this disease and diphtheria are not simply matters of bad drainage, and this erroneous belief is very awkward at times to deal with.

Typhoid Fever.—No case of typhoid fever was notified during the year.

Erysipelas.—Six cases were notified during the year, four in the Tophill and two in the Underhill district. No death occurred.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles.—Measles was prevalent in the Underhill district in May and June. Every effort was made by the teachers to keep me fully informed. The necessary precautions were taken in each case. One death was registered from this disease. The fatal result was due to broncho-pneumonia following measles.

Whooping Cough.—I had knowledge of some cases throughout the year, but there was no interference with school attendance.

Chicken-pox.—Several cases were sent to me by the school teachers during the year, but there has been no interference to any extent with school attendance.

Tubercular Diseases.—During the year nine deaths from phthisis and five from other varieties of tubercular disease were registered in the district. The deaths from consumption and other varieties of tuberculosis for the past five years are set out in the following table:—

Year.	Total Deaths.	Deaths from Phthisis.	Deaths from other varieties of Tuberculosis.	Death Rate from Phthisis and other varieties of Tuberculosis.
1903 ..	8	4	4	·57
1904 ..	12	9	3	·88
1905 ..	12	10	2	·88
1906 ..	11	9	2	·84
1907 ..	14	9	5	1·12

This table clearly shows two things: First, that the death-rate for phthisis and other forms of tuberculosis is distinctly low, with the exception of the present year. Secondly, although the death-rate is low, yet the death toll from tuberculous disease is a terrible one, causing during 1907 three and a half times as many deaths as were caused by smallpox, scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhoid fever, measles, and whooping cough put together. The voluntary notification of phthisis has been a failure, for the following reasons:—

First.—That medical men naturally object to notify cases in the early stages, and the early recognition of the disease is the most essential factor in the cure of the patient, and, to make voluntary notification a success, early notification is also important.

Secondly.—There is no accommodation for the treatment and cure of acute and chronic cases of consumption either in this district or in the county.

The deaths from one or the other forms of tuberculosis are so deplorably numerous that every effort should be made to diminish them.

Tuberculosis as a Preventible Disease.—To prevent it we have two lines of defence—

- (1) To provide good drainage, improved housing, diminution of alcoholism, etc., such as generally improve the conditions of life.
- (2) To provide sanatoria for the education, treatment, and care of sufferers, so as to prevent these cases acting as centres for the spread of infection.

Under the first heading much has been done in Portland. The dwellings of the people have been gradually much improved, damp walls and floors are being rectified, windows which formerly could not be opened for ventilation purposes have been made to open, and, above all, people are now being brought to recognise the benefits to health conferred by the admission of fresh air and sunlight to their dwellings.

Under the second heading nothing has been done, but much good has resulted from the awakening of the people to the fact that consumption is a disease due to a germ derived from a previous case of the disease. In consequence those responsible are now taking some steps to prevent the infectious expectoration from doing harm. Cards have been hung up in all the factories and principal workshops, and cards and pamphlets bearing directions for the necessary precautions to be observed have been sent to the houses of sufferers. Disinfectants have been freely supplied, and regular and systematic disinfection has been carried out where permission is granted. One of the recognised places where consumption is spread is in the public bars of the public-houses, and in this connection I would suggest that the Council ought to approach the Licensed Victuallers' Association, with a view to having cards sent to their members dealing with spitting and the prevention of consumption. The public do not recognise that consumption is well developed long before the persistent cough, wasting, and expectoration are manifest, and care should be taken to impress them with the fact that if they have consumption they can only be cured if the disease is recognised in its very early stages. The diagnosis of early cases is frequently not easy, but the Council have offered examination of the expectoration for tubercle bacilli free of charge to medical men practising in the district.

THE SCHOOLS.

The memorandum on the medical inspection of children in public elementary schools makes it incumbent on the County Council to appoint a County Medical Officer of Health to carry out this new work, which must necessarily be guided from a central county organisation. This is a matter, apart from the medical inspection of school children, which the local Medical Officers of Health look forward to with much satisfaction. The advantages of this medical inspection, if acted upon in the spirit of the memorandum, will be—

- (1) That Medical Officers of Health will be brought into direct official relation with all the elementary schools in their district.
- (2) The examination of the scholars will greatly facilitate any steps necessary for the prevention of infectious diseases.
- (3) In cases of an outbreak of infectious disease classes can be examined, suspicious cases excluded, swabs taken for bacteriological examination in cases of diphtheria, and sanitary defects investigated.

A considerable amount of this work has been already done by myself under existing arrangements.

During the year the schools have been systematically visited in connection with infectious diseases, and whilst much improvement was noticeable in the condition of cleanliness of some of the class-rooms, and the general absence of slates, yet I should like to again point out to you that practically very little results have followed on my report of last year.

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL.

Infants' Department.—Lighting and ventilation defective, more thorough cleansing required.

Other Departments.—No cross-ventilation is provided in either the boys' or girls' rooms. When the various windows are closed there is a down draught from the hole in the roof. The heating is also defective in the boys' classroom. Fresh air inlets, generally only from windows, which are too high; Tobin's tubes and Boyle's roof extractors are strongly recommended for all departments of this school.

Sanitary arrangements.—Insufficient lavatory accommodation, defective paving under lavatory basins and in the surrounding area.

A two-seat trough closet in proximity to the school is provided for over 300 children (girls and infants), the light and ventilation of which is very defective.

A three-seat trough closet in close proximity to the school is provided for nearly 200 boys, the light and ventilation of which is very defective and smelling offensively at the time of my examination. Inside this closet is an absorbent stone slab which acts for a urinal. The condition in the summer time can better be imagined than described. Since my last report a few notches have been cut into the top of the doors, which are meant, I suppose, to supply the necessary ventilation, and short pieces of pipe have been placed in the roof. It is urgently necessary that steps should be taken to provide proper sanitary accommodation.

As I stated in my last report, I have invariably found the teachers of this school making use of the means of ventilation which are available.

WESLEYAN SCHOOL.

Main rooms: windows partially open. Fresh air inlets (generally closed) at floor level. These should be converted into Tobin's tubes with openings six to seven feet up the walls.

In the other departments of the school fresh air inlets from windows only, which are too high. Tobin's tubes and Boyle's roof extractors recommended for all the classrooms. In one of the cloakrooms I have usually found the hats and clothes thrown about the floor in confusion.

Sanitary arrangements.—Closet accommodation sufficient. Yard unpaved.

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Portland (Urban)—continued.

ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL.

Infant Room.—Fresh air inlets from windows, which are too high. Tobin's tubes and Boyle's roof extractors very strongly recommended. Gallery at end of room should be removed: more thorough cleansing is required.

Other Class Rooms.—More thorough cleansing required; fresh air inlets by windows only, which are too high. Tobin's tubes and Boyle's roof extractors recommended. In the classroom the heating is very defective.

Sanitary arrangements.—No lavatory accommodation, and this is a matter which urgently requires attention.

Closet accommodation insufficient, otherwise in good order.

EASTON SCHOOL.

Infant Room.—Fresh air inlets provided.

Babies' Room.—Lighting defective, ventilation very deficient.

Main Room.—More thorough cleansing required; fresh air inlet by windows, which are too high. Tobin's tubes and Boyle's roof extractors very strongly recommended. The same remarks apply to the other classrooms.

Sanitary arrangements.—Closet accommodation sufficient, but not kept in good order. Within a few yards of the classroom is a dark unventilated urinal, which was smelling offensively at the time of my visit. This is a matter which requires attention as soon as possible.

GROVE SCHOOL.

Boys' Room.—Fresh air inlets provided, but their position is such that under the most favourable circumstances no perceptible action was noticeable. There are holes in the roof leading up into an air space. On the top of this space are several shafts, which act as air exits.

More thorough cleansing is required. Cloakroom accommodation is insufficient.

The same remarks as to ventilation and cleansing apply to the girls' and infants' rooms.

It is satisfactory to note that in the past some attempt has been made to improve the ventilation of this school apart from the doors and windows, but this system is antiquated and defective, and Tobin's tubes and Boyle's roof extractors are now recommended for all departments.

Sanitary arrangements.—Lavatory accommodation is an urgent necessity. There is a basin of water with soap and towels within the girls' and infants' rooms, which is neither satisfactory nor cleanly. There is one roller towel, changed once a week for an average daily attendance of 97 boys.

Closet accommodation for the different departments is sufficient, but there is a very defective area around the two urinals, which should receive attention.

GENERAL RECOMMENDATION.

Cleansing.—Whilst much improvement was noticeable on my last visit, yet I consider there is much to be desired as far as cleanliness is concerned. It would be easy to get proper cleanliness of schools if the responsibility of it was vested in a head master or head mistress and the caretakers sufficiently paid. At present the caretakers are responsible only to the managers, and it does not seem to be the duty of anyone to see that the work is done properly. In two schools the walls, windows, window ledges and desks were found in such a state as to make it difficult to believe that any systematic dusting is done. I would again call attention to the necessity for more frequent scrubbing of the floors—this ought to be done at least once a month, and the cleansing of the schools should be done with damp brushes and dusters. One system of cleansing should be adopted for provided and non-provided schools in the district. To compel children to attend schools that are not at least as clean as the homes they come from does not seem right, and the tendency of public opinion is to demand that in cleanliness, as in other sanitary matters, the school should be an object lesson.

Ventilation.—No improvements have been made since my last report except at the girls' room of St. John's School, where three fresh air inlets have been provided at the base of one window, and one Boyle's roof extract ventilator has been fixed. Apart from the Grove School and one room at the Grove and Wesleyan Schools, the only fresh air inlets are from windows and doors, and when these are closed in wet and stormy weather there is a down draught from the roof. It is very necessary in these rooms without through ventilation that (a) outlets should be provided for carrying off heated or impure air; (b) means for admission of air at the ordinary temperatures should be provided direct from the outer air, independent of the windows and doors. A card should be placed in each schoolroom giving directions as to ventilation, and stating the number of scholars which it is desirable should not be exceeded, and the head teacher should see that these directions are carried out.

Heating.—This is by no means satisfactory. Thermometrical records have been kept throughout all departments of the Grove School, and in some class rooms of the Easton and St. George's Schools. In the other schools and class rooms I regret to say no readings have been taken, and consequently it is impossible for me to make any suggestions. In St. George's the records show that the temperature varies from 33° F to 45° F—a temperature which very few men and women would enjoy in their living rooms; whilst in the Easton School the readings are shown to be over 60° F, which with the imperfect ventilation gives rise to a feeling of stuffiness. I would again recommend that a thermometer be placed in each schoolroom and the temperature be recorded on charts to be provided for the purpose, the readings to be taken at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., and the head teacher should be responsible for the keeping of the records. In no department of the schools are these records more necessary than the infant departments, where apparently there is a total lack of them. As I have previously stated, the best theoretical teaching is vastly inferior to the smallest amount of practical instruction, and in the daily life of the school the sanitation, ventilation, light and warming should be object lessons.

Infectious Diseases.—I would again recommend that a card should be placed in each room giving the symptoms of the commoner infectious diseases, the duration of infection, the date on which the patient may return to school, and the duration of quarantine of children exposed to infection. During the year the head teachers notified me of any suspicious infectious cases, which is particularly valuable, and their co-operation has been most useful and cordial.

Cloak Rooms.—These are generally very inadequately ventilated, and the pegs provided for the hats and clothes are not numbered. On several occasions I have found the children's hats and clothes thrown in confusion on the floor of the cloak room.

Infant Schools.—The educational or other advantages to children under five years attending school must be very great indeed if they are equal to the obvious disadvantages and the danger to public health which must ensue upon the aggregation in ill-lighted, worse ventilated, and often dirty rooms of children at the most susceptible age for becoming infected with such diseases as diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough. I do not suggest that the disease is contracted in the schools in every instance, but that it is so in many cases no one can doubt. One case this year particularly impressed me where a child aged three years was sent to school on a Monday, and five days afterwards contracted diphtheria and died. There are other conditions short of actual disease, such as the restraint of school life, and the work put upon the eyes and nervous system may cause permanent mischief. The Local Education Authority has now complete discretion under article 53 to refuse admission to any particular school or schools of children under five years of age, and I would again recommend that the Council should make representations to that authority that children under five years of age should be excluded from attending our schools.

Rainfall.—The following is a record of the rainfall and wet days as taken at H.M. Breakwater, Portland, for 1907:—

Month.	No. of Wet Days.	Rainfall, in inches.
January	10	1.43
February	12	1.27
March	9	0.49
April	17	3.43
May	20	1.86
June	17	1.99
July	11	1.83
August	11	1.09
September	7	0.83
October	27	10.08
November	18	3.17
December	23	3.79
	182	31.26

For these figures, as well as the thermometrical records given under infantile mortality, I am indebted to the courtesy of G. P. Hayes, Esq., Superintending Civil Engineer H.M. Breakwater.

Water Supply.—The main water supply is obtained from a deep well in the lower chalk. The well is situated in Gould's bottom, near the village of Upwey. The average daily consumption during 1907 was 301,066 gallons, a decrease of 1.27 per cent. on the previous year. As I have stated in previous reports, this well has failed to yield the quantity of water expected—about 200,000 gallons per day is now the maximum yield. In order to make up for the deficiency the Council have made use of a spring known as the lower well. This well is a surface well (not being more than 18 feet from the surface), and although it has been found from chemical and bacteriological examination to be a water of excellent quality for drinking purposes, yet, from the nature of the surrounding area, I consider it to be a water liable to pollution, and should be discontinued as soon as possible. The Council, acting on the advice of Mr. Baldwin Latham, propose to sink a well in the Portisham valley, and have decided to purchase land to the extent of 12½ acres around the site of the well, and to restrict an area of about 80 acres upon which no buildings whatever are to be erected. The restricted area is not to be defined until a bore-hole has been put down and the nature of the strata ascertained. On December 5th a Local Government Board inquiry was held in connection with this preliminary bore-hole, but, as the proper notice had not been given and advertised in the local papers, the Board withheld their sanction until this had been complied with. On the advertisement appearing in the papers objections were raised by the mill owners on the river Wey, and on November 27th, 1907, a Local Government Board inquiry was held to consider these objections, and we are now awaiting the result of the Board's decision. I would again urge on the Council, as I have in my last report, to seriously consider the position of the proposed site, which is in close proximity to the allotment gardens, and not to hesitate in acquiring an area sufficient to make all risks of contamination an impossibility. Subjoined is an analysis of the water from the lower well, which I stated in my last report was liable to pollution:—

The results obtained indicate that the mineral constituents are combined as follows:—

	Grains per Gallon.
Sodium Chloride	3.300
Calcium Sulphate	2.574
Calcium Nitrate	1.259
Calcium Carbonate	15.839
Magnesium Carbonate	0.900
Silica and Ferric Oxide	Traces
Organic matter	Traces

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Portland (Urban)—continued.

To these data may be added the following :—

Total hardness—			
Calculated	..	..	19°57
Found (soap test)	..	..	16°7
Temporary hardness—			
Calculated	..	..	16°91
Found (Hehner)	..	..	16°10
Permanent hardness—			
Calculated	..	..	2°66
Found (soap test)	..	..	4°2
Grains per Gallon.			
Saline Ammonia	..	..	Nil
Yield of Albuminoid Ammonia	..	..	0·002
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C	..	..	0·005
Nitrogen as Nitrates	..	..	0·21
Nitrites	..	..	Nil
Lead and Copper	..	..	Nil

"This is a water of a high degree of organic purity. It is a good water for drinking and general use. The results of the bacteriological examination show that neither *Bacillus Coli Communis* nor *Streptococci* can be found in quantities of water varying from 2 to 30 C.C. There is no evidence of sewage pollution, and from a bacteriological point of view the water is of good quality."

Sewerage and Drainage.—Much difficulty has been experienced during the year in many parts of the district in connection with our sewerage system.

Castletown.—The Adam's lift still continues to be overpowered, and, as I pointed out in my last report, its work has got to be supplemented by a gang of men pumping out the sewage at night. In connection with this pumping at night many complaints have been made to me during the year. The Council, fully alive to their responsibilities in this matter, have decided to erect an air-compressing station at the Gas Works in connection with an ejector scheme at Castletown. On October 9th, 1907, a Local Government Board inquiry was held in relation to this scheme, and it was then decided that under the existing Act we had no power to appropriate a portion of the land bought for gas works purposes and utilise it for sewerage purposes. However, Section 95, Public Health Amendment Act, 1907, gives the Local Government Board the necessary power to approve. The Council have now decided to adopt this Act, and I hope no further delays will occur in remedying the unsatisfactory state of things existing at Castletown.

Chesil.—Here again the Adam's lift has been unable to deal with the sewage during the year, causing the sewage to be backed up in the Chiswell sewer. During the time the lift was out of order I received many complaints as to the nuisance arising therefrom. The lift has now been repaired, and is working satisfactorily.

During the year serious flooding has occurred on several occasions at Easton Square and Chesil. A portion of the surface water found its way into the main sewers, and, these becoming charged under pressure, sewage found an entry into some of the houses. In Easton Square, the difficulty arises owing to the sewer at Park Road not being large enough to deal with the increased volume of sewage. The Local Government Board have held an inquiry in connection with a scheme to prevent the flooding, and their sanction to proceed with the work has been obtained. Unfortunately at the last moment some difficulties have been raised by some of the owners through whose land this sewer must pass relative to compensation, and in consequence the work has not been started.

A storm overflow is to be constructed to relieve the flooding at Chesil, but this work remains in abeyance at present owing to negotiations not yet having been completed with the War Department as to the purchase of a small plot of land, and to the Local Government Board requiring more particulars.

The syphon at Park Road still continues troublesome; it is cleaned out every 14 days to prevent chokage. Some of the sewage still continues to be discharged into an adjacent quarry during stormy weather, in connection with which complaints have been made.

Southwell.—The new sewerage system has worked well at Southwell during the year, and all the houses have now been connected up.

New Sewers.—No new sewers have been constructed during the year.

Flushing of Sewers.—This is accomplished by means of hydrants fixed near the head of the sewers, which are regularly flushed once a month. This is very necessary as it has been found that if the monthly flushing is neglected the flow in the sewers becomes very sluggish owing to the accumulation of faecal matters in the pipes. Two automatic flush tanks have been placed at Southwell and one at Easton Square, which discharge once every 12 hours. These have been found to be much more efficient than a hose pipe attached to a hydrant, as is done throughout the other parts of the district.

Ventilation of Sewers.—There are thirteen up-cast shafts (five at Easton, four at Southwell, and four at Weston). As I stated in my last report, non-ventilating gratings have been substituted for the surface gratings owing to complaints of offensive smells arising. As a consequence the only sewer ventilation in the Underhill district is by means of ventilating shafts to the house drains. This cannot be considered a very efficient method of sewer ventilation, especially in the low-lying parts of the district, and I consider it highly necessary that up-cast shafts should be provided at Chesil, Castletown and the higher parts of Fortuneswell.

Public Conveniences.—Nothing further has been done in connection with the provision of sanitary conveniences, which are so badly needed in both the Tophill and Underhill districts. The matter has been carefully considered by the Council, sites have been selected and plans prepared; but owing to the depressed state of trade the Council did not feel justified in proceeding further with the matter.

Removal and Disposal of House Refuse.—The following is a summary of a report made at the monthly meeting of the Sanitary Committee:—

The collection and disposal of house refuse is under the Surveyor's department, though any lack in its being efficiently done, or any nuisance arising thereby, is reported to the Sanitary Inspector or myself. Many complaints have been made to me as to its inefficiency during the past two months. The scavenging is so arranged that every house in the district is visited once a week. This period is too long, and results in the refuse being scattered over the yards, and so giving rise to a nuisance. Again, at the end of a week the so-called receptacles are usually filled to overflowing, and the refuse on its removal is not infrequently allowed to escape over the footpaths, where it remains until the scavenger, at a future date, removes it. The state of the receptacles used by the community for the storage of house refuse is most unsatisfactory. The bye-laws distinctly state that "a suitable vessel or receptacle, properly constructed and furnished with sufficient covering to prevent the escape of the contents, shall in every case be used." It is positively disgusting to walk down Fortuneswell on the day the refuse is collected and see this heterogeneous collection of uncovered receptacles outside some of the houses. The same remarks apply also to Easton Square. More particularly must attention be directed to the fact that an unsightly collection of boxes is placed outside St. John's and the Wesleyan Schools, which is certainly not a very desirable object lesson in hygiene for the children.

The refuse when collected is tipped into a quarry at Wide Street, about 250 yards from the highway, and in proximity to a factory. A huge collection of refuse cannot be other than a nuisance to those who find themselves in its proximity. Complaint has also been made to me that some of the refuse is tipped over a wall at the side of the New Road, not far from the Council offices. Since writing my report I have been informed that this "tip" is used only for road scrapings, but undoubtedly, for the reasons I have mentioned before, it must contain house refuse.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

- (1) That the scavenging be so arranged that every house in the district be visited twice a week, and in the two main business streets, viz., Fortuneswell and Easton Square, three times a week.
- (2) That the bye-laws be enforced as to covered receptacles, and that they must be enforced as a whole. It is not just to take a few offenders and allow the majority to escape; otherwise the bye-laws will become as at present, a dead letter, with the consequent insanitary state of the yards and streets, and its resultant diseases.
- (3) That no receptacle, covered or uncovered, be placed outside the houses in the two main business streets, viz., Fortuneswell and Easton Square, nor outside any public or private school.
- (4) That steps should be taken to have the refuse destroyed by a refuse destructor.

Means of Disinfection.—Disinfection has been carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The disinfectant used has been Formic Aldehyde gas, evolved by a special lamp. The walls have also been sprayed with formalin. In every case the floors, furniture, woodwork, and all articles in the room have been washed with a solution of cyllin. In many instances re-papering of the walls and lime-washing of the ceilings has been secured in addition. We have as yet no disinfecting apparatus for the treatment of infected bedding and clothing, and I would again urge on the Council the vital necessity there is for a suitable steam disinfecter.

Isolation Hospital.—At the close of last year the question of building a suitable hospital for infectious cases was referred to a small sub-committee. Plans were ordered to be prepared by the Surveyor, in conjunction with the Medical Officer of Health. Unfortunately these plans were never presented, for at a later meeting of the Council it was decided to take no action, as they considered we were amply provided with hospital accommodation by having the privilege of sending our infectious cases to the Port Sanitary Hospital, and in the next place that, owing to the great depression in trade, the ratepayers would feel very acutely the burden of such an undertaking. The real reasons no doubt influencing the Council were that the epidemic of diphtheria in the Underhill district was almost stamped out by the vigorous methods employed in dealing with the scholars and the schools, and, secondly, the popular outcry against an increase in the rates. Now it may be taken for granted that any public health action influenced by popular clamour is, in nine cases out of ten, certain to be wrong, and in this instance undoubtedly is. The provision of hospital accommodation at the height of an epidemic I consider to be useless, but, had there been a small hospital provided, the earlier cases would have been isolated, and the probability is that the outbreak would be limited, and many lives might be saved. If there has been one section of the public more than another to whom a hospital would be of more value, it is that which has been most hostile, and in whose windy schemes for social betterment sanitary matters play so small a part. For the present I know the question of an infectious hospital is closed, but let me again impress upon you as strongly as I can the vital necessity there is for providing a hospital for your district, and not waiting for another epidemic, which will probably come in the course of years, when you may find yourselves altogether without means of providing isolation for your infectious cases, for, if a single case of smallpox, plague, cholera, or yellow fever is present in the Port Sanitary Hospital, you cannot send your patients there. Again, should a case of infectious disease occur at a dairy or a milkshop, or at any place where food is prepared, and the Port Sanitary Hospital is occupied by cases as already mentioned, what action do you intend to take? I may here again remind you that I stated in my special report on diphtheria, and which may also be applied to other infectious diseases, that "The policy I have formulated of dealing with an outbreak of diphtheria is, I believe, the scientific one, and, if it fails, it will only do so from the lack of means placed at my disposal for isolation of infected persons, and the disinfection of their clothes."

Public Mortuary.—During the year the Coroner has called the attention of the Council to the necessity of providing a public mortuary. At present there is no legal obligation on publicans or others to receive the body of a dead person. Much difficulty has arisen at Castletown, where the bodies of sailors who have died on merchant ships, or have been drowned in the harbour, were conveyed to the shore. People are naturally reluctant to have the corpse in their homes or offices. From the public health point of view it is indeed a very serious matter that we should be still unprovided with a mortuary, and it is a matter which requires the urgent attention of the Council. I need not dwell on how loathsome it must be to the friends of the deceased to have a post-mortem examination performed in a small-roomed cottage, and how insanitary such a proceeding is from the public health point of view. To show the urgency for steps to be taken in regard to this matter, I here give the deaths from accident and suicide on which inquests have been held during the past five years:—

			Accidents.	Suicides.	Total.
1903	..	..	13	2	15
1904	..	..	15	1	16
1905	..	..	9	3	12
1906	..	..	8	0	8
1907	..	..	11	0	11

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Portland (Urban)—continued.

Besides these deaths the Coroner holds inquests, and may have a post-mortem examination on all sudden or suspicious cases of death.

There is a mortuary and inquest room at the Royal Naval Hospital, but these are only available for naval cases.

Housing of the Working Classes.—Housing accommodation is on the whole ample, but there is still a great lack of houses for the working man with a family, whose income varies from 18s. to 25s. a week. This is the class which it is most difficult to provide for. What is required is to plan a house which will be healthy and sanitary, sufficiently roomy to accommodate a family of, say four to six people, with a rental not more than four shillings a week, and which will yet give a sufficient return to pay the interest on the outlay on the building and land. The price of land being so high in Portland makes it a matter of very great difficulty to build a house fulfilling these requirements. As a consequence the working people are forced either to take a house and sub-let the rooms, or become themselves sub-tenants. It is in such houses that practically all the overcrowding takes place, and this year, although the number of empty houses has increased owing to the scarcity of work, yet the number of persons in individual houses has not diminished, whole families, as many as ten people, have been found occupying a single room. When notice was served some of the tenants moved out; probably in a week or two I shall find that others, equally as numerous, have taken their places. Many of the older houses I referred to in my last report as being damp, badly lighted, badly ventilated, with windows made not to open, and back yards badly paved, or devoid of any paving whatever, have received much attention during the year, and steady progress has been made. This paving and draining of yards front and back I look upon as a matter of considerable importance. Decaying animal or vegetable matter is thrown or falls on the earth, and so contaminates the soil. This polluted soil in hot weather becomes dry and powdered, and in consequence a fine dust, full of germs, is permitted to be disseminated over any food-stuffs in its vicinity. Dampness of the dwelling also results. These are the two great factors in the causation of diarrhoea and consumption, and, apart from these diseases, the effects of improvements around the houses must be good for the tenants both morally and physically. At the beginning of the year there were about 450 houses without flushing cisterns, and at the end of the year 160 of these had been provided with a flush. These improvements in the dwellings of the people and their surroundings have not been accomplished by the wave of a magic wand—they had to be carried out in the face of much opposition. But until these defects are remedied you will have done about as much to prevent disease as the man who invented armour plating has done to prevent war. It seems a prevailing idea amongst a certain number of property owners that house property never depreciates. They seem unwilling to accept the doom of all earthly things. They refuse to make any attempt to keep their wretched houses in repair or in a sanitary condition until they are compelled to do so. Their conduct is palliated, because in some cases it is said the owners are dependent on the rents for a living, but owners of house property, whether rich or poor, must reckon with depreciation and decay. Their duties are co-ordinate with their rights. I have full sympathy with the owners referred to, but I have tenfold more sympathy with the long-suffering tenants. Men of all ranks take their tone largely from their surroundings, and, if you improve the dwellings of the poorer classes, you improve them morally, physically, and intellectually.

Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milkshops.—There are now 26 cowkeepers and dairymen on the Council's register, and all of their premises have been regularly inspected throughout the year. Many improvements in regard to structure have been secured. These relate chiefly to improved lighting, drainage, ventilation, and structure of floors. Notices reminding the occupiers to lime-wash the sheds were sent on May 1st and October 1st, and these well repaid the trouble. A detailed statement, setting forth the condition of each individual cowshed, has been printed and presented to the Council. Much as we felt constrained to do so, six summonses were served on two cowkeepers in relation to sheds without a proper water supply, and two sheds without proper drainage, which resulted in a penalty of £1 and costs being inflicted. The remaining summonses were allowed to stand over on the defendants undertaking to lay on a proper water supply. This having been done, the summonses were withdrawn. Whilst improvements already referred to have taken place during the year, yet I consider the conditions under which milk is produced throughout the district deplorable. Structurally many of the buildings are fairly good, but the chief trouble does not lie in the character of the buildings; it is in the method in which the business is carried on that calls most urgently for reform. In very few instances are the cattle groomed, and at the times of my visits I have usually found the hind quarters of the animals caked in manure and filth from the cowshed. In a number of cases the floors were coated with layer upon layer of filth, and one cowkeeper gravely informed me that the manure was left on the floor to prevent the cows from slipping. The walls, too, in many cases were in a filthy state, and in several cases the window is used for throwing the manure out of the shed. The lighting and ventilation in a few cases is still sadly defective, the superficial and cubic area per cow being very scanty. The yards are generally without paving, and in some instances were found covered with extensive heaps of manure right up to the doorway of the sheds. In only two cases is a receptacle provided for the manure, and that is uncovered. The milk is usually poured from pails into a large can, which stands in the walk of the cowshed, where it is allowed to remain until the milking process is completed. Very few of the cowkeepers have dairies. In only one instance is the milk cooled after milking. One cowkeeper informed me that he made use of a dirty old stone water trough in the backyard, not far from the yard gulley, for cooling his milk in the summer time. The milk is frequently stored in the kitchen, scullery, or in dark, unventilated cupboards. The strainers that were presented to me for inspection were both weird and wonderful, and the condition they were in after use is eloquent testimony to the need for reform. The regulations require that all vessels should be cleansed with steam or boiling water. In a few cases where I was able to see the cleansing process indifferent tepid water was substituted. I have found the cans on several occasions stored in wash-houses or the back kitchen, near to a not over-clean sink or in close proximity to the family linen awaiting a wash. When I have watched the milking process during the daytime I have seen not infrequently pieces of excrement and straw floating on the milk. It is easy to imagine the condition of the milk where the milking is done in the early morning by the aid of candle light.

Such are the conditions under which milk is produced 16 months after the new regulations came into force. What then is the cause of the present state of things? The principal reason lies with the cowkeeper himself. There is no class of men who regard any change of precedent with more suspicion than the farmer. What was good enough for his grandfather is good enough for him, he says. All this talk about grooming cows, washing udders, cooling milk, etc., is, in his opinion, so much new-fangled humbug. It would seem the only way to overcome his conservatism is by compulsion, and it is just here where our weakness becomes most apparent. The ordinary cowkeeper may not have a highly-developed sense of cleanliness, but he has a vote, and the man with a vote has been made a ruler over us. At present, unfortunately, there is only a limited demand for pure, clean milk. The consumer concerns himself rather with quantity than quality, and, as a consequence, there is very little encouragement to the progressive cowkeeper to spend the necessary money and attention in maintaining a decent standard of cleanliness. A large part of the milk sold in the Island comes from outside country districts, where cleanliness in relation to the collection, storage, and distribution of the milk is looked upon as a theoretical or visionary ideal. Apparently the only chance of obtaining genuine reforms throughout the country by mere inspection lies in transference of the law relating to milk to some central authority such as the Local Government Board. During the coming year I hope, by thorough supervision and instruction of the cowmen, to effect more improvement.

Milkshops.—I have visited the shops where milk is sold, and have usually found the larger ones well kept, clean, and the milk covered. In the smaller ones, where milk is sold along with other things, there has been much difficulty. These places are a constant source of trouble and danger.

Slaughter-houses.—There are only two registered slaughter-houses in the district, and both have been used as such for a great number of years. Neither of them comes up to the most moderate standard of modern requirements. Both are without a blood hole, and are in proximity to dwelling-houses. Much improvement as far as cleanliness is concerned is noticed in one of them by the fixing of white glazed tiles, to the height of five feet, around the internal walls. Both slaughter-houses have been regularly visited throughout the year.

Fried Fish Shops.—These are four in number. Two have been discontinued, but two others have been opened in their places. During the hot weather in the summer months the fried fish shops and the shops where wet fish is sold were inspected. Particular attention was directed to the manner and place in which fish was kept before being cooked or sold. The occupiers' attention was called to the need for speedy and daily removal of fish offal and the thorough cleansing of the premises and the purifying of all receptacles which tend to keep them sweet and free from effluvia. The yard in connection with one of the premises mentioned in my last report as being defective has had a new concrete impervious surface laid down.

Common Lodging-houses.—There are no common lodging-houses in the district.

Licensed Premises.—These are 42 in number, and have been periodically visited during the year. They are all in fairly good sanitary condition, the owners and occupiers having shown themselves very agreeable in carrying out any suggested sanitary reforms. In one case complaint has been made as to a urinal attached to a licensed house, but I think the complaint originated from the bad position and insufficiency of the urinal rather than from its defective construction. There is reason to believe, however, that an amicable arrangement will be come to by the owners, and further cause for complaint obviated.

Unsound Food.—Owing to complaints particular attention has been directed to hawkers of fish. On July 26th a quantity of mackerel was seized by the Sanitary Inspector, which, by consent of the owners, was destroyed. On November 22nd a quantity of herrings and kippers in a state of decomposition were seized and destroyed. In this case the Council decided to take legal proceedings, with the result that fines and costs amounting to £1 7s. 6d. were imposed on the two fish hawkers.

Admiralty Slaughter-house.—A new departure has been made this year in connection with the inspection of diseased meat at the Admiralty slaughter-house. Formerly I was notified by the master butcher in charge of the slaughter-house that he had a diseased carcass of meat. A certificate was asked for, and usually given, stating that such meat had been inspected by me and found to be diseased. This was very unsatisfactory, as I had no knowledge of the ultimate destination of the meat, and I took up the position that the same course should be followed as if the meat was seized outside. As a result of correspondence between the Superintendent of the Royal Clarence yard and the Council the following agreement has been arrived at:—"That the Medical Officer of Health inspect carcasses notified as being diseased, and condemn any which are, in his opinion, unfit for food." The expense incurred in the destruction of the same will fall on the contractor, and the master butcher in charge of the slaughter-house has been instructed to notify when such carcasses are destroyed. This arrangement will, I think, prove satisfactory. Two carcasses of meat found to be infected with tubercle were condemned and destroyed during the year.

Offensive Trades.—No offensive trades as legally defined are carried on within the district.

Ice Cream Shops.—Several ice cream shops were opened during the summer. All the premises were found in a good sanitary state.

Nuisances.—These have been dealt with generally by the Sanitary Inspector, and 371 orders have been issued during the year. Where difficulties have arisen my advice has been sought, and we have visited the premises requiring attention together.

Factories and Workshops' Act.—The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, makes the Council responsible for the regular supervision of all workshops and work-places in the district. The factories come under the control of the Home Office. There are at present 88 workshops on the Council's register, made up as follows:—

Bakehouses	11
Dressmakers and Milliners	18
Tailors	2
Boat Builders	2
Carpenters and Builders	12
Hairdressers	7
Painters and Plumbers	6
Saddlers	1
Shoemakers	6
Smiths and Farriers	10
Photographers	4
Laundries	1
Bicycle Workshops	1
Monumental Masons	1
Lime Burners	2
Watchmakers	4
Total	89

During the year 111 visits have been made. No lists of out-workers have been supplied, and from inquiries at the different establishments I cannot obtain information that any such workers are employed.

Dressmakers and Milliners.—These were usually found clean and well kept. A few were dirty as to the walls, and improvement in ventilation was required in one. In the colder weather I have often found the ventilation very defective from the habit of workers closing up all the openings.

Bakehouses.—There are eleven workshop bakehouses and five factory bakehouses in the district, all of which have been regularly inspected. Lime-washing and cleansing of the premises are systematically carried out. Some of the workshop bakehouses are very old, and it is very difficult to keep them clean. With the exception of the want of properly covered receptacles for the coal and the nuisances arising from the ashes, I consider them, on the whole, fairly well kept and clean.

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Portland (Urban)—continued.

Factories.—In two of the larger factories the sanitary conveniences are still most unsatisfactory. As no sewers were available for connection with the premises it was not thought wise to press the matter. An inquiry in connection with these sewers has been held, and sanction to do the work received. I may say that the owners have promised to carry out the necessary improvements when the sewers have been laid.

In conformity with the directions of the Local Government Board I have made systematic inspections of the various parts of the district, and have made myself acquainted, as far as possible, with the conditions affecting the public health of the Island.

I have again to acknowledge the very valuable assistance rendered to me by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. H. Smith, who continues to perform the duties of his office with tact, thoroughness, and courtesy.

Shaftesbury—Mr. H. F. S. Blucke.

Area of District.—100 acres.

Population.—2,215.

Births.—Total number 61. The number of Births in the Urban District was—1st quarter, males 7, females 10; 2nd quarter, males 7, females 9; 3rd quarter, males 12, females 7; 4th quarter, males 4, females 5; giving a birth-rate of 27 per 1000.

Five of these births were illegitimate.

The number of births for the preceding ten years were—

1906	..	31	1901	..	42
1905	..	34	1900	..	37
1904	..	35	1899	..	45
1903	..	36	1898	..	53
1902	..	52	1897	..	41

Deaths.—The number this year is larger than during the last ten years, and nearly double the number last year. The number of deaths occurring in the Urban District was 22, giving a death-rate of 10 per 1000. The number of deaths is lower than any during the last ten years.

The number of deaths for the preceding ten years were—

1906	..	23	1901	..	41
1905	..	26	1900	..	31
1904	..	27	1899	..	29
1903	..	28	1898	..	38
1902	..	41	1897	..	37

The deaths registered for the various months of 1907 were as follows :—

January	..	..	5	July	..	..	1
February	..	..	3	August	..	..	1
March	..	..	0	September	..	..	1
April	..	..	1	October	..	..	2
May	..	..	4	November	..	..	1
June	..	..	0	December	..	..	3

The chief causes of death were as follows :—

Tubercular Disease	..	2	Heart Disease	..	5
Cancer	..	3	Apoplexy	..	0
Influenza	..	2	Bronchitis	..	0

The age distribution of deaths is—

Under 1 year	..	..	..	..	0
1 Year and under 5 years	..	..	..	..	0
5	..	15	..	..	0
15	..	25	..	..	0
25	..	65	..	..	7
65 Years and upwards	..	..	..	..	15
Total	..	..	..	..	22

There were only two deaths under 50 years, one being caused by phthisis (acquired abroad), the other by heart disease.

The infantile mortality is nil.

Zymotic Disease.—I have received only one notification of infectious disease, viz., typhoid fever, and this was evidently imported. Adequate steps were taken to prevent the disease spreading, and no other case occurred.

The Water Supply.—Obtained from wells, and stored in a reservoir on Little Down, has been constant and excellent throughout the year.

Drainage.—Has been satisfactory. It is on the irrigation system. The sewage is carried to a farm about half a mile from the town. A few cesspools still exist.

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

The Common Lodging-houses have been regularly visited and inspected, and found in a satisfactory condition; also the workshops.

The Bakehouses and Slaughter-houses have been visited and inspected, and found in a satisfactory condition. New Bye-laws relating to slaughter-houses have been passed and confirmed by the Local Government Board.

In presenting this my annual report I would point out the satisfactory number of births, and also that the large proportion of the deaths occurred in persons of advanced age. The general health is satisfactory, as in the absence of zymotic diseases.

Sherborne—Mr. Horace Nutt.

Area of District.—922 acres (about).

Above Sea Level.—250 ft.

Population.—As per Census 1901, 5760. Estimated to middle of 1907, 6043.

Number of Inhabited Houses.—1193. Average number of persons per house, 4.40 (according to Census 1901).

Births.—There were registered, as births occurring within the district, as follows:—

		Males.	Females.	Total.
1st Quarter	..	10	15	25
2nd "	..	21	11	32
3rd "	..	17	20	37
4th "	..	9	12	21
		57	58	115

The Annual Birth-rate.—19.03.

Mortality.—There were registered of deaths, as occurring within the district during the year, as follows:—

		Males.	Females.	Total.
1st Quarter	..	13	26	39
2nd "	..	14	10	24
3rd "	..	11	7	18
4th "	..	9	10	19
		47	53	100

Thirteen of the above deaths were of persons not belonging to the district.

Deaths of persons not belonging to the district:—

1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.
3	3	4	3	13

The General Death-rate is 16.54. *The Actual Death-rate*, 14.39.

Deaths occurring in Institutions:—

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.
The Yeatman Hospital	nil	1	3	2	6
The S.S. Johns' A. House	2	0	1	1	4
The Union Workhouse	8	5	2	4	19
	10	6	6	7	29

Ages at which death occurred:—

	Under 1 year	1 year and under 5	5 years and under 15	15 years and under 25	25 years and under 65	65 years and upwards.	Total.
1st Quarter	.. 2	2	0	1	11	23	39
2nd "	.. 5	2	0	0	6	11	24
3rd "	.. 1	1	0	1	7	8	18
4th "	.. 2	1	0	0	5	11	19
	10	6	0	2	29	53	100

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Sherborne (Urban)—continued.

Deaths of persons of 80 years and upwards :—

1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.
12	7	3	2	24

Average age at which death occurred.—55·87 years.

Cause of Death :—

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.
Bronchitis and Pneumonia ..	14	1	0	4	19
Phthisis	0	2	0	1	3
Cerebral	0	2	3	3	8
Heart Disease	5	5	4	2	16
Influenza	4	0	0	0	4
Typhoid	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer	0	1	2	2	5
Diarrhœa	0	0	2	0	2
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0	0	0	0
Measles	0	2	1	0	3
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	0	0
Debility from Birth	0	0	0	1	1
Accidents	2	0	0	0	2
Suicide	1	0	0	0	1
Old Age and General Causes ..	14	10	6	6	36
	40	23	18	19	100

Seven inquests were held within the district during the year, with the following verdicts :—Accidental, 2 ; suicide, 1 ; natural causes, 4 ; total, 7.

Prevalence of Disease.—The following table will show the number of certificates received under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, which was adopted in the district by the Local Board in March, 1890 :—

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

	1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0	0	1
Measles	2	288	49	1	340
Whooping Cough	3	0	1	0	4
Membranous Sore Throat	0	0	1	0	1
Diphtheria	0	0	0	1	1
Erysipelas	1	0	0	1	2
	7	288	51	3	349

By a resolution of the Council, and approved by the Local Government Board, measles and whooping cough were struck off the list of Diseases for Notification during the last quarter of the year.

Notification of Measles.—With regard to the withdrawal of measles from the list of Notifiable Diseases I cannot but express my regret, and consider it is somewhat a retrograde action in the matter of sanitation.

I admit it is somewhat difficult to show how it operates, but I am of opinion, since it was made notifiable, the mortality has decreased from this disease. The disease itself is not so fatal, but it is the complications which may ensue that so frequently kill, especially young children. It is undoubtedly an infectious disease, and the contagion is much spread by the congregating of children, and the infection is very often taken from school. I have always found that whenever there has been a serious epidemic of this disease the closing of the Elementary Schools has had a wonderful effect in stamping it out. In too many cases I have found the poor have been very negligent in regarding this disease, especially in mild cases, often leading to serious results. I have found that notification has given more control over the disease, enabling one to give better supervision in many cases, with the result of stopping the progress of the epidemic, but of course the effect varies with different epidemics.

I have from time to time noticed the high death-rate from measles in England and Wales, showing the serious nature of the complaint. In the recent epidemic in this district 340 cases were notified, of them three only resulted in death. One was a child aged six months, and suffered previously from marasmus ; the second was a child aged three years, and the third aged 16 months. Of course the death-rate varies with different epidemics and other circumstances, but the average death-rate might be considered as 1 in 15, so that the rate for Sherborne (three deaths in 340 cases) cannot be considered otherwise than satisfactory for a disease which is, and has been, considered a fatal complaint, especially with young children. Without notification I cannot see how I am to be made aware of the invasion of measles, and in making my reports and getting information I should be very much embarrassed.

Zymotic Death-rate.—If it had not been for these three deaths from measles this rate would have been nil.

There was only one case of scarlet fever throughout the year, and this occurred in the first quarter.

With regard to the other diseases prevalent, I have nothing to remark except as regards phthisis, of which there were three deaths, ages as follows :—50 years, 47 years, 34 years (2 males, 1 female).

In 1906 there were six deaths, in 1905 eleven deaths from this dire complaint. Now that bacteriological science shows how the disease is more readily spread by disease germs, it is necessary that more precaution should be taken to prevent the spreading of so dreadful a disease, and I think it would be well if it was made "notifiable"; anyhow, on being made aware of its existence, I wish it to be known I am always ready to have disinfection thoroughly carried out, and especially in houses where death has occurred from this cause. This would also apply to cancer and other malignant diseases.

The Isolation Hospital.—What I said in my last year's report, I am sorry to say, will apply to this. It is still in a very incomplete state, most unsatisfactory, whereby its utility is very much curtailed. Additional rooms and a permanent caretaker should be provided. It is two miles away from the district, and altogether, at present, may be considered to be a failure for the purpose for which it was wanted.

Housing of the Working Classes.—There has been continual and progressive improvement in this respect. During the year a row of cottages have been built in a high and healthy situation within the district, which are much appreciated; but there is still room for improvement, for, if overcrowding is to be prevented, there must be more provision of suitable cottages, at a moderate rental, for the working man. I have not had to deal with any cases of overcrowding during the year, and, compared with a few years ago, this is most satisfactory.

Scavenging and frequent flushing of the drains has been well carried out, and I have not had any complaint on this ground throughout the year. The principal street, which is narrow and much frequented by traffic, is now swept and cleansed twice a day. I regret to note that the covered and sanitary dust carts have discontinued.

The Milk Shops, Dairies, and Cowsheds have been frequently inspected, and marked improvement is observed in their management, and the whole may now be considered to be satisfactory.

Bakehouses.—These have been frequently visited, and during the last few years, with few exceptions, have been remodelled, well fitted up on modern scientific principles, and there is now no underground bakehouse within the district; but they are all light, well ventilated and drained, and altogether the sanitary arrangements may be considered as most satisfactory.

Slaughter-houses.—These have been frequently visited, and were found to be kept in a sanitary state. Lime-washing and drainage well attended to. During the year new bye-laws have been drawn up by the Council for the management of these places, and approved by the Local Government Board, which will promote a more humane method of slaughtering animals, and their general sanitary condition.

Disinfection.—All houses where infectious disease has been prevalent have been thoroughly disinfected by the Sanitary Inspector. Bedding, clothing, and other articles requiring it have been removed to the Isolation Hospital premises to be treated by the steam disinfectant, which continues to do its work well, and is a great boon and the most useful aid in the prevention of the spreading of infection.

Factories and Workshops' Act.—In accordance with the requirements of this Act inspections have been made periodically and frequently as well by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. Attention has been specially directed to cleanliness, ventilation, and that sufficient cubic space is ensured. Especially in the workrooms we found generally the requirements of the Act are well observed, and sanitation thereby promoted. I keep a strict supervision on the list of out-workers, with a view to the outbreak of any infectious disease. There were two new workshops placed on the register during the year. Fifteen workshops were cleansed and repaired under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector.

I am glad to say throughout the district there appears to be no opposition to the working of the Act, but, on the contrary, a readiness to comply with its requirements.

The Sale of Food and Drugs Act.—Samples have been taken for analysis by the Inspector, under the above Act, very regularly each quarter of the various articles required, and all were found to be unadulterated. Upon enquiry I ascertained that all the samples of milk were taken from the supply when it was being delivered, and in all cases they were found to be unadulterated and of normal quality.

Fried Fish Shops.—As far as I know there is only one of this class within the district. It is clean, well managed, and ventilation observed, so there can be no cause of complaint, or in any way be considered a nuisance to the surrounding neighbourhood.

Offensive Trades.—At present there is nothing carried on within the district to which this term would apply in a legal sense.

Unsound Food.—On no occasion has my attention been required to be directed to anything of this kind throughout the year.

Common Lodging-houses.—There is nothing under this class within the district. The tramps are all provided for at the Union Workhouse. I am very suspicious that infectious disease may often be brought into the district by these unwelcome visitors.

Water Supply.—This continues good, abundant, and continuous by day and night. In all my previous reports I have stated it may be considered as excellent for potable and domestic purposes. It is principally obtained from deep springs, and entirely free, as shown by every analysis I have seen, from organic contamination or pollution. Nevertheless, although I believe it is beyond suspicion, at the present time I consider it would be well periodically to have a bacteriological examination, to see that it is kept from bacilli of every kind, or disease germs. If nothing more, this would give greater confidence to the public.

There are two capacious reservoirs. In 1906 they were cleaned out three or four times; in 1907 only once. At any rate, I consider they should be thoroughly flushed, if nothing more, every six months, in the interest of the public health.

General Sanitary Work.—From the Sanitary Inspector's Report I note 1405 inspections were made during the year, and 104 orders issued for sanitary improvements to houses and premises. 37 houses and premises were cleansed and repaired, four houses were disinfected after infectious disease, eight new privies and w.c.'s were provided, 36 privies and w.c.'s repaired and cleansed, 15 removals of manure accumulations, 203 defective water fittings repaired, 31 new water services applied, three drinking wells cleansed or closed, 239 additional water fittings fixed, seven houses supplied with water, and in no case were legal proceedings required to be taken.

Improvements, New Drainage, &c., &c.—During the year new sewers have been placed in the Marston Road and Coombe, a district much requiring it, to further the sanitation of this part of the district, also a new water main, as follows:—114 yards of 4-inch sewer and 334 yards of 6-inch, 448 yards of 3-inch water main, with all necessary hydrants and sluice valves; also 120 yards of 3-inch water main in the King's Road, which road has also been sewered. This road is now in course of construction, and soon will be completed. It is a new street, in a high and healthy situation, north-east of the town, in which several good houses of the villa class have been erected, and are now occupied. Others are in progress, and when finished will be readily taken. This is one of the greatest improvements that has taken place.

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Sherborne (Urban)—continued.

The Priestlands Estate.—Opposite to the King's Road, on a high piece of ground somewhat similar to the King's Road, has also been appropriated for building purposes. Houses of a good class, one of which has been erected, may be termed a mansion, a good road well drained and laid, which is now completed and taken over by the Urban Council.

Plans.—The following 15 plans have been approved during the year, which include 16 cottages, two pairs of semi-detached villas, two villa residences, one block of stabling, nine alterations and additions to pre-existing buildings.

I have no hesitation in acknowledging the courteous and able assistance I have received from Mr. F. J. Brown, the Sanitary Inspector, and Mr. Duncan Brown, the Assistant Surveyor, in the discharge of my duties, and which I fully appreciate.

Tables, &c.—I have completed Tables I., III., IV., and V., in accordance with the instructions of the Local Government Board, and also Table (Home Office) re Factories and Workshops, and Tables of Sanitary Work required by the Dorset County Council, all of which will be sent, with copies of this Report, to the various authorities stated.

In conclusion I would state that, with my other increasing duties, I now get more enquiries by letters, from all parts, asking for information as to the Sanitary and Meteorological conditions of the place, from persons contemplating removal or placing their children out to school, and I am pleased to be able to show the great sanitary improvements that have taken place during the last few years, and that we have a Council who take great interest and are indefatigable in their endeavours to promote the sanitary condition of the town by the adoption of any improvements, and working up-to-date with the modern progress in sanitary science, which will—as for many reasons Sherborne is now better known, and has lately developed into a centre of public education—result in the progress and advancement of this good and old historic town.

Swanage—Dr. A. McCausland.

Population.—The population of the district last Census (1901) was 3408, and the inhabited houses 735. I estimate the present population at 4000, there being nearly twelve hundred houses occupied.

Birth-rate.—There were 98 births during the year, making a birth-rate of 24.5 per 1000.

Death-rate.—There were 40 deaths, making a death-rate of 10 per 1000.

Average Age at Death.—The average age at death has increased to 54½ years.

Zymotic Death-rate.—There were no deaths from any of the zymotic diseases.

Infantile Mortality.—Two children died under one year of age, making the mortality 20.3 per 1000 registered births.

Prevalence of Disease.—We had no epidemic of any sort during the year, which was exceptionally healthy. There were only five cases of notifiable disease, four of which were imported cases.

Water Supply.—The water supply from Ulwell was abundant, and of the same excellent quality that Swanage is famous for.

Sewerage.—The sewerage and drainage has been carried out most efficiently.

Isolation Hospital.—We do not yet possess an isolation hospital, and, fortunately, have not required one.

Disinfecting Apparatus.—We still disinfect with formalin and sulphur, and destroy those things which it is impossible so to disinfect.

Slaughter-houses.—There are two outside the town, from which no nuisance arises.

Bakehouses and Dairies.—These have been inspected, and are in a satisfactory hygienic condition.

Common Lodging-houses.—There are none in the district.

Factories and Workshops.—There are 41 in the district on a small scale. There have been no complaints respecting them.

General Remarks.—This has been a most satisfactory year from a sanitary point of view, the death-rate being very low and the birth-rate high, the death-rate 10 per 1000 and the birth-rate 24 per 1000. More than half the deaths were in persons over 65 years of age. There was only one death from phthisis.

There was no epidemic of any sort, and the five cases of notifiable disease imported into the district did not spread, owing no doubt to the excellent quality of the water and the satisfactory state of the drainage.

Wareham—Mr. K. J. Courtenay.

Area.—The district comprises 251 acres.

Population.—According to the Census of 1901 this was 2003, and is estimated to the middle of 1907 at 2000.

Death-rate.—Including the Workhouse there have been 39 deaths, 12 of which were non-residents. This gives a death-rate of 13·5 per 1000, an improvement on last year. Including the Workhouse the average age at death was 57 years 4 months.

Four of these deaths were due to Heart Disease; 4 to Pneumonia; 2 to Malignant Disease; 1 to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, the rest to general causes.

Infant Mortality.—There were three deaths of infants under one year, giving a rate of 65·2 per 1000 births registered.

Birth-rate.—There were 44 births during the year, giving a birth-rate of 22 per 1000.

Zymotic Disease.—No deaths occurred under this heading.

Infectious Disease.—I am pleased to say I have not received any Certificates under the Notification of Diseases Act.

Water Supply.—The town has a splendid supply of water at Worgret which has been most regular and satisfactory.

Sewage and Drainage.—The system of drainage is not good, being by vault privies. Improvements are being made by substituting earth closets as occasions arise. Private house owners might assist the Sanitary Authorities by having their cesspools emptied more regularly, and thus preventing the overflow going into the main gutters, the horrible odours from this cause being sufficient to cause disease.

Dairies, Slaughter, Lodging and Bakehouses.—All these are making improvement but still more ventilation and whitewashing are needed.

General.—The new Alms Houses are now in the course of erection and will be a great boon to the inmates in every way, giving more room and better air space. Several alterations have taken place in the workshops and nuisances have been abated.

I have made a systematic inspection of the Borough and paid special visits when necessary. The health of the town at the end of the year was most satisfactory.

Weymouth and Melcombe Regis—Mr. W. B. Barclay.

In accordance with Section XIV. of the Local Government Order as to the Duties of the Medical Officer of Health, I have the honour of submitting to you my third annual Report on the health of the district, together with its vital statistics, and a general *resumé* of the sanitary work, etc., done during the year. I have this year added a short report of the health and condition of the Elementary Schools from July to December, to bring this work up to the end of the year, as in future, under the Memorandum of the Board of Education dealing with the inspection and examination of children under the Education Act, 1907, this work is to be included in the Medical Officer of Health's annual Report.

I have in this, as in my former reports, endeavoured to speak plainly, though I trust not discourteously, as to the sanitary condition of your district, believing, to speak figuratively, that when the cancer exists the surgeon's knife must be used, and that nothing is to be gained by concealment of the ailment.

In carrying out my duties I am continually indebted to the medical profession for assistance and co-operation. My sincere thanks are due to the Members of the Council in general, and the Sanitary Committee in particular, for their kindness and support throughout the year.

Area of the Borough in statute acres, 1616½.

Population, Census 1901, 19,843; estimated to middle of June, 23,300.

Number of Inhabited Houses, Census 1901, 3881; 1907, 4456.

Average number of Persons per house, 1901, 5·1.

Density of Population, persons per acre, 17·8.

Uncorrected Death-rate, 13·3.

		Borough, 1907.	England and Wales, 1907.	76 Large Towns.	142 Smaller Towns.	England and Wales, less the 218 Towns.
Birth-rate	..	21·8	26·3	27·0	25·7	25·6
Death-rate	..	12·8	15·0	15·4	14·5	14·7
Zymotic Death-rate	..	0·68	1·26	1·54	1·29	0·91
Infantile Mortality	..	104·3	118	127	122	106

The Borough.—The Borough is formed from the union of the two ancient and separate boroughs of Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, separated by the Harbour and its prolongation—west and north—the Backwater.

Melcombe Regis lies to the east of the Backwater and north of the Harbour. It is the more level of the two, the maximum height above sea level being 108 feet. It is divided into two wards, north and south. The geological formation of the greater portion of Melcombe Regis is Oxford clay, but that portion facing the bay has an overlying strata of shingle and sand to a depth of 8 or 10 feet.

Weymouth, lying to the west and south of the Harbour and Backwater, is the more hilly portion, the gradients being steeper, the maximum height being 175 feet. The geological formation is clay and coral rag.

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (Urban)—continued.

The area of the Borough was considerably enlarged in 1895 by including a portion of the Radipole Parish in Melcombe Regis and of Wyke Regis in Weymouth.

The area, as given me by the Borough Engineer, is—

				Acres.
Old Borough	{	Land ..	..	452½
		Tidal Waters ..	..	311
				763½
Extension ..	{	Radipole ..	..	437
		Wyke Regis ..	..	416½
				853½
Total				1616½

Meteorology.—Full details of the Meteorology of the Borough will be found in the appended Report of the Honorary Meteorologist, Mr. I. J. Brown, F.R.Met.Soc., but the following summary of his report may be of interest :—

Highest maximum temperature	..	78 on July 16th.
Lowest minimum	..	22 on Jan. 25th.
Mean maximum	..	56·4
Mean minimum	..	44·8
Mean of maximum and minimum	..	50·6
Difference from average	..	—0·2
Number of days on which rain fell	..	173
Total fall in inches	..	27·44
Mean relative humidity	..	79
Number of hours of bright sunshine	..	1784·67
Day on which sun shone	..	303

Climate.—The Naples of England, as it aptly has been termed, possesses one of the most equable climates in the country.

Its rare geographical position, situated at the extremity of a promontory, sheltered from the north by the Dorset hills, with the Crescent Bay facing the east, and with the pure, fresh, and invigorating breezes of the English Channel fanning it from the west; with its wealth of bright sunshine, its small rainfall, its soft yet mildly invigorating atmosphere, free from any oppressive humidity, Weymouth equals, if it does not excel, any other health resort in the country.

Although in easterly winds the Esplanade is somewhat exposed, yet one has only to travel to another portion of the Borough, where the outlook is to the south and west and the English Channel, and this drawback vanishes.

Boating and bathing are of the safest and best. Public gardens are dotted here and there, whilst the many places of historical interest, and the diversified scenery of land and seascape—some of these unique—are easily accessible by numerous steamers and coaches.

The prevailing westerly winds, and the sheltered position of the town, give to the winter a mildness and salubrity which it is to be regretted are not more widely known.

Population.—As in all years, except the Census year, this has to be estimated, and, in consequence of the extension of the Borough in 1895, the usual method of estimation by calculating the rate of increase as being the same in each decennial period is not available.

It is somewhat difficult to arrive at a correct estimate, and I have taken all the various methods and struck an average, correcting this by means of the number of inhabited houses and the average number of persons to each house as at the Census in 1901.

The estimation has to be made for the normal population as at the end of June, and as there is a decrease in the number of inhabited houses, I have estimated the number as similar to last year, viz., 23,300.

This does not take into consideration visitors or the men belonging to the Royal Navy. Were these estimated for, and the latter are with us during a large portion of the year, the numbers would be greatly increased.

Births.—During 1907, 508 births were registered, a number practically similar to last year. Of this number 12 were illegitimate, equal to 2·3 per cent. of the whole. This is a considerable decrease on last year's number, and is less than the average, 3·3, for the three previous years. The total number of births, as can be seen in Table I., is above the average for the last ten years.

The distribution and rates for each portion of the Borough, and for the whole, are as under :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000.
Weymouth ..	149	161	310	26·2
Melcombe Regis ..	98	100	198	16·7
	247	261	508	21·8

The great disproportion in the rates between the two portions of the Borough still continues. The birth-rate, as a whole, is considerably under that of England and Wales, which is 26·3.

Deaths.—The total number of deaths registered in the Borough is 311, equal to an uncorrected death-rate of 13·3. Both of these are an increase on last year, and the numbers are in excess of the average for the past ten years.

This is the uncorrected death-rate, but to get the true or corrected death-rate, we have to eliminate the deaths of people dying in Public Institutions or Hospitals, who were not residents. There are 19 of such who died in the Eye Infirmary, Princess Christian Hospital, Royal Hospital, and Workhouse. To these we have to add the deaths of residents of Weymouth dying in Public Institutions in other districts, and of these we have seven; one from Bath Workhouse; one in the Isolation Hospital, and five from the County Asylums.

The corrected number of deaths is therefore 299, and is equal to a rate of 12·8 per 1000 for the Borough. For Weymouth the rate is 14·2, and for Melcombe Regis 11·4 per 1000.

There were 18 deaths certified by the Coroner. The average age at death is 46 years.

It is noticeable that the greater portion of the increase in the deaths, is at the age periods 1 to 5 and 5 to 15, and that the increase at these periods is mostly from tubercular diseases.

There is an unfortunate increase in the number of deaths from accidents, from 4 to 13.

Infantile Deaths.—There were 53 deaths of infants under one year of age, equal to a rate of 104·3 per 1000 births.

The number of deaths is the same as last year, but the fewer births render the rate slightly higher. The number of illegitimate infants dying during the year is equal to a rate of 250 per 1000 illegitimate births. The enormous disproportion between these two rates gives one cause to ponder.

On analysing the causes of death (which may be seen in Table V. in the Appendix) it will again be noticed that over 41 per cent. occur during the first month. Of these 27 per cent. are from premature birth and are due to maternal causes, 13·6 per cent. are from diarrhoeal diseases, and 18 per cent. from wasting diseases, whilst 9 per cent. are due to overlying or suffocation.

These latter may be all classed as more or less preventible causes, and if the percentage of these is so high in the first four weeks of life, it does not lessen much during the whole of the first year. The percentage of these being, diarrhoeal diseases 13·2 per cent., wasting diseases 15 per cent., suffocation (overlying) 7·5 per cent., or a total of preventible diseases during the first year of life of 36 per cent. I have excluded from these tables and figures all deaths which cannot be properly classed as "preventible."

Convulsions are always a suspicious cause of death, and might fairly be included, as they are so frequently brought on by injudicious feeding.

On further analysis we find that the two different parts of the Borough differ greatly in the incidence of these diseases, and going further still, that the Wards differ as greatly. Weymouth district being responsible for the greater number in both diarrhoeal, wasting diseases, and overlying, in a proportion greater than the difference in the population accounts for, being as 13 to 6. All the premature births, and all overlying cases occurred in Weymouth.

Tuberculous diseases account for 9·4 of the deaths, in the proportion of 3 to Melcombe Regis to 2 to Weymouth. The need for further action to lessen the causes of this mortality is apparent.

I reported upon this fully in November, 1906, shewing, that a Health Visitor could be found ample opportunities for work. No action was taken. In October, 1907, on the Notification of the Births' Act becoming law, I again asked that a Health Visitor and Sanitary Inspector (combined office) should be appointed, but again the Council did not deem it necessary. Perhaps the third application may be successful.

As the great majority of these infantile deaths from "preventible" causes occur in districts where the mothers have not the necessary knowledge of the hygiene of the infant, and err in feeding, etc., from ignorance, the advent of a Health Visitor, who, where necessary, could give practical instruction to such mothers, should have some effect.

All cases of death from diarrhoeal diseases were personally investigated. In each case the feeding was artificial, and in each case, good could have been done had special knowledge been obtainable by the mother. When bottles with long rubber tubes are used, and imperfectly cleaned, with milk stored either in a scullery or kitchen, exposed to contamination by flies (and in one case with the milk always kept in a bedroom where three adults besides an infant slept), it is no wonder that the delicate stomachs of little children go wrong and death results; to which may be added the addition of preservatives to milk, so unnecessary, if proper precautions were taken by the dairyman.

Infectious Diseases (Notifiable).—The returns furnished to me under this Act shew that the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1907 was:—Diphtheria 24, Erysipelas 8, Scarlet Fever 34, Enteric Fever 3, Phthisis Pulmonalis 3—Total 72, as compared with 90 in 1906. The above is the number of supposed cases of infectious disease. Further observation in a certain proportion of these have led to a revision in the diagnosis, and in some few cases to a withdrawal of the notification. Four cases were officially withdrawn, viz.: 1 Diphtheria, 3 Scarlet Fever, while some 9 others—5 Diphtheria and 4 Scarlet Fever—proved not to be the disease notified. The official number, however, as returned week by week to the Local Government Board is 68, Weymouth being responsible for 41, Melcombe Regis 27. This is equal to a rate of 2·9 per 1000 of the estimated population, or excluding Phthisis for purposes of comparison with former years, 2·7. The following tables give the notifications for each month and the rates for the last ten years.

	Diph- theria.	Erysi- pelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Phthisis.	Totals.
January ..	4	2	6	0	0	12
February ..	3	0	2	0	0	5
March ..	2	0	0	1	0	3
April ..	1	0	4	0	1	6
May ..	0	3	1	0	0	4
June ..	0	0	7	0	0	7
July ..	0	1	2	0	0	3
August ..	1	1	2	0	1	5
September ..	0	0	0	1	0	1
October ..	6	1	2	0	0	9
November ..	6	0	4	0	0	10
December ..	0	0	1	1	1	3
Totals ..	23	8	31	3	3	68

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (Urban)—continued.

1897	..	1.7 per 1000	1902	..	8.8 per 1000
1898	..	0.8 "	1903	..	1.3 "
1899	..	1.1 "	1904	..	0.3 "
1900	..	5.9 "	1905	..	1.4 "
1901	..	14.0 "	1906	..	3.7 "

Of the total number of cases reported, 50 were removed from their homes and treated in the Isolation Hospital, viz.:—Diphtheria 19, Scarlet Fever 30, Enteric Fever 1.

All the cases treated at the Hospital—with the exception of one diphtheria case—recovered and were returned home fully convalescent. The Hospital death-rate is therefore equal to 2 per cent of the cases admitted, or .04 of the population.

The Zymotic Death-rate excluding phthisis and epidemic influenza is 0.68 per 1000.

Small-pox (Variola).—No cases or suspicious cases were reported.

Cholera.—No cases were reported.

Diphtheria.—Twenty-four cases were notified, one being withdrawn later, 12 being attributed to each part of the Borough. This is equal to an attack rate of 0.9 per 1000 estimated population.

The actual number proved by Bacteriological Examination and continued observation, is really 18, giving a rate of 0.7 per 1000.

The deaths from this disease were three, giving a death-rate of 0.12 per 1000 population, or 166 per 1000 proved cases; a heavy mortality indeed. One case died before the notification was received, a second was too ill to move and died in about 36 hours, the third case died in Hospital from syncope. In each case of death, medical attendance was not called for until many days had passed, and this I firmly believe is, in the majority of cases, the cause of the fatal result. Where diphtheria cases are treated with antitoxin at an early stage of the disease, a favourable result is generally anticipated. Each day's delay renders the case more and more hopeless.

In the early months of the year, the cases were confined nearly entirely to the Weymouth portion of the Borough, and principally to the Chapelhay portion of it. My report in February was to the effect, that a large number of sore throats were prevalent in that district, that no direct foci of infection could be traced, and school influence had been of late eliminated. In practically every house affected there are sanitary defects. The disease seems to follow, in some degree, the disturbance of the soil in laying the surface water drainage. I learn that the soil in very many places is sewage soaked from the presence of old brick or mason's traps, and though it has never been proved that the diphtheria bacillus is aerially conveyed from such a source, it is known that septic sore throats are thus caused, and that these are a strong predisposing cause. Twice before in my experience, I have had strong reason to suspect that diphtheria is caused from the disturbance of sewage polluted soil and the presence of heaps of street sweepings, etc.

Until October the district was free, when three cases were notified in one day, one case which had been ill several days, before medical advice was sought, was notified as "Diphtheritic sore throat." From the vagueness of this notification I asked permission to examine the girl, and with the Deputy M.O.H. decided, that as the clinical symptoms were so decisive, the case so bad, and the house so unfitted for isolation, the child should be removed at once. She died in Hospital from syncope four days later. A brother was notified two days after the girl was removed, and recovered. The other cases were all in the Park District and attended St. John's School. Again in November there was a recrudescence of the disease in the Park District, confined to children from St. John's Girls' School. All necessary steps were taken, and during December the district was entirely free. The Park District, like the Chapelhay District, though so different in their general characteristics, will always be prone to such diseases as diphtheria, until there is a radical alteration in their drainage and sanitary system. The sins (of omission) of the past are being visited upon the present.

Erysipelas.—Eight cases were notified, principally in elderly people. One case was traumatic in origin and entirely due, in my estimation, to the insanitary surroundings of the workshop in which he was employed. Notice was served and to some extent carried out, but not entirely. The usual question of whether a w.c. in the closest proximity to the workshop required an efficient flushing cistern or not cropped up, and my opinion in this case was over-ruled, though nuisance was provable. No deaths resulted from Erysipelas.

Scarlet Fever.—Thirty-four cases were notified as such, three cases were officially withdrawn at a later date, and four proved, finally, not to have been Scarlet Fever, giving the absolute number of proved cases as 27, equal to an attack rate of 1.1 per 1000.

No deaths were due to Scarlet Fever.

Early in January some five cases were notified, limited to two houses. One of the cases had been ill some weeks, and was the cause of the outbreak amongst the others. The original case could not be traced. Sporadic cases were notified during each month, but until June, most of the cases proved, on further observation, not to be scarlet fever. In the beginning of June cases were reported from widely separated portions of the Borough, and no common source of origin could be traced.

At the end of June, two cases were notified in one house. As the children developed the disease within a few hours of their arrival in town, the source of infection was obviously an outside one, and on communicating with the district they had come from—also a seaside resort—it gave the authorities there the first intimation of that disease being in their district. In July and August the few cases notified were principally imported into the Borough, or directly infected from importations.

At the end of October and beginning of November some six cases occurred within a very few days. The only probable source of infection—common to all—was the presence in the infected houses of sailors from one of H.M. Ships in Portland Roads. Enquiry there, however, did not show any known cases of the disease. During the latter part of the year, scarlet fever, I am informed, has been prevalent in the surrounding districts to such an extent as to require the closing of the schools, but the Borough has remained free, the one case notified in December being doubtful, and was only kept under observation in the Isolation Hospital for a period of 18 days, being discharged then, free from discharges or desquamation.

The schools of the Borough were closed, as regards all children from the Parish of Chickereil in the Rural District of Weymouth, from September 12th to 30th, in consequence of an outbreak of scarlet fever and the closing of the schools in that district.

Enteric Fever.—Three cases were notified. No deaths were due to the disease.

One case in March, a boy of 14, an "under butler," he termed himself. No probable source of infection could be traced, the only suspicion being the use of water from a well, intended for garden purposes only; but as no case of enteric had ever been known in that vicinity (a large private residence), the case can only be considered obscure. It did not respond to the "Widal" examination. It was removed and treated at the Isolation Hospital.

The second case in September, a school teacher, aged 16, was even more obscure in origin, the history could only be obtained second hand, and of course is not very reliable.

The third case in December, a boy of 14, employed at a bookstall. In this case also all inquiries as to source of infection were negative.

The two latter cases were treated at home.

Tubercular diseases.—Voluntary notification of Phthisis Pulmonalis has now been in force two full years. The returns made from it have been so meagre, and the cases notified generally so far advanced in the complaint, that the benefits expected to be derived from notification have not been realised. Unless the notification is compulsory I do not expect any fuller information to reach me in the future. The object intended by the notification was the treatment of suitable cases in an early stage of the disease at the Isolation Hospital, and their instruction in the methods of precaution and disinfection of sputum, etc., so that on their return home after a short stay they could intelligently continue these methods. The cases notified have not been suitable. They have been visited and given instruction, but little hope can be entertained of this being properly carried out after only one lesson. Whenever consent has been obtained, rooms, personal clothing, and bedding have been disinfected after death.

The deaths from all tubercular diseases have been 49, those from Phthisis Pulmonalis 33, equal to a rate respectively of 2.1 and 1.4 per 1000. This is a considerable increase upon last year and upon all previous years, excepting 1905, which it equals.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles.—An epidemic of measles was prevalent at the end of last year in the Westham district. Every precaution was taken during the Christmas holidays to prevent the extension of the disease into other districts, and Sunday School Superintendents and all Churches were asked to assist by closing Sunday Schools and postponing Christmas and New Year festivities.

All willingly responded in the affirmative, but the disease spread. It was ascertained later that a large children's party had been given by a private resident, at which children from infected houses and some children in the premonitory stage had been present, with the direst results. Being prepared for the outbreak in Melcombe Regis, it was kept under control and soon died out.

During the rest of the year it was absent, with the exception of a minor outbreak in a private school towards the autumn.

Six deaths are recorded as being due to measles and the immediate sequelæ. This is equal to a rate of 0.25 per 1000 population. This is the highest rate for many years.

Whooping Cough (Pertussis).—Whooping Cough was absent throughout the year. A few cases were brought to my notice from the Elementary Schools on suspicion, but proved not to be that complaint.

Rötheln (German Measles).—In June many cases of this disease were reported as occurring in St. John's Infant School. These were investigated by the Deputy M.O.H., who could find no definite evidences of this disease. Cases kept being reported, and were all promptly visited during the early days of July, but of all seen by myself only two could possibly be termed Rötheln. All suspected cases were excluded from school, and the reports soon ceased.

In November this complaint suddenly appeared at St. Mary's Girls' School, four houses being affected in two days. From the promptness of the teacher's notification the second crop consisted of only one case, and what at first seemed likely to be an epidemic was checked in the bud.

Odd cases were reported from Holy Trinity Infant School, but, as in June, the evidences were not sufficient.

Varicella (Chicken Pox).—This disease became prevalent in the "Babies" room of Cromwell Road Infant School in October. When first reported to me, and examination made of the scholars, over 50 per cent. of the scholars were found suffering from it. The disease was of so mild a type, and the rash being confined in nearly all cases to the body, made it difficult to find the affected children, and this room being used principally as a "Creche," the mothers insisted on sending their children back to school, necessitating a daily inspection of the class, which, in the absence of any female assistance, told heavily on my time and upon that of the teachers, who did their best to assist. To remedy this I closed the room, but owing to some lack of technicality (my not calling the Sanitary Committee together to sanction the proceedings) it only remained so one week. The complaint spread and practically affected every child in that room, and several in the class immediately above it. Some cases were also found attending St. Paul's School, and in December a few cases were noted at Holy Trinity Infant School, but the disease has been kept under control.

The difficulty found with this mild complaint is that it is nearly invariably in an infant school that it appears, that mothers generally look upon the infant school as a "creche" to relieve them of the trouble of looking after young children; that they will persist—the child not feeling ill—in sending them back to school day after day, to be as promptly returned home again, and cannot be got to see the necessity for isolation at their own homes.

Further powers against this action are given by Sect. 57 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, and will be enforced as soon as the Local Government Board have sanctioned the adoption of the Act.

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (Urban)—continued.

Diarrhoea and Enteritis.—Whether owing to the comparatively mild and wet summer, or to the alteration for the better in that portion of our milk supply derived from within the Borough, or from a combination of the circumstances, together with the better sanitation which is being slowly evolved, these diseases were not present to any great extent. Careful enquiry through the summer months found few cases being attended. Only seven deaths were recorded, all of these in infants. All were hand fed and living in congested districts, and—it may only be a coincidence—all had their source of milk supply from outside the Borough.

The death-rate is 0·3 per 1000 of the population.

Cancer.—Fifteen deaths were registered as due to Cancer—11 from Weymouth, four from Melcombe Regis. This gives a death-rate of 0·64 per 1000 inhabitants.

The corresponding rates for former years, as far back as can be ascertained, were—

1900	..	0·50	1904	..	0·97
1901	..	1·05	1905	..	0·71
1902	..	0·59	1906	..	0·9
1903	..	0·63	1907	..	0·64

Isolation Hospital.—The Borough Isolation Hospital is outside the Borough boundary, near Chickerell, in the Weymouth Rural District. It is situated in an enclosed piece of ground 5½ acres in extent. It is built of galvanized iron, wood lined, and heated by slow combustion stoves.

It consists of a central administration block and two detached ward blocks, connected by a covered passage-way with the central block, a laundry block, and other outbuildings. Accommodation is provided for 20 patients in each block, and two rooms have been converted in the administration block into a ward for two beds, which may be used either for enteric cases or for observation purposes in doubtful cases.

During 1907, 50 cases have been admitted into the hospital, and these may be classified as under :—

Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	15
Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	25
Enteric fever	..	..	..	..	1
Suspected diphtheria	..	..	..	..	4
Suspected scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	5

One death from syncope following diphtheria occurred in the Hospital.

The permanent staff consists of matron, probationer nurse, porter and wife, who acts as cook. A laundress is temporarily provided. Assistance in nursing is provided from the Trained Nurses' Institute when required. Such has only been necessary during a period of eight weeks in the first three months of the year.

The re-organization of the staff, which took place towards the end of 1906, has been most successful, tending towards greater efficiency and greater economy in extra nursing.

Maintenance alone of patients and staff is at the rate of 9d. and a fraction per day per head, a sum much under that usually allowed.

During the year £23 12s. 6d. has been received in payment from patients at the hospital.

The Smallpox Hospital adjoins the Fever Hospital, but is separated from it by an unclimbable iron fence. It contains eight beds, with separate administration offices, and is a complete establishment of itself. It is kept ready for patients, but has not yet been used for such. Under directions from the Local Government Board the Town Council have passed a resolution that it must not be used for smallpox patients simultaneously with other infectious diseases in the adjacent hospital.

Disinfection of clothing and bedding is carried out by means of super-heated steam at the disinfecting station, adjoining the Corporation Yard, in Commercial Road. A special building of the most modern type has been erected, and is kept entirely for that purpose and the housing of the ambulance wagon.

During the year 2512 articles have passed through the disinfecter. No complaints of damage to any article have been received.

Disinfection of houses is carried out by means of formalin vapour discharged from a pneumatic sprayer, and its efficiency may be judged by the fact that no secondary cases have occurred in any house during my term of office. 121 houses and 13 schools were disinfected during the year.

Water Supply.—The Borough is supplied throughout by a private company, which also supplies various villages in the adjacent Rural District. The water springs from the upper green sand below the chalk at the foot of a hill beyond the village of Sutton Poyntz, 3½ miles from the town.

A large number of springs issue from the side of the hill and run directly into a small reservoir or collecting pond, partly concrete and partly soil. It is not stored here, but flows at once through a strainer to the pumping station.

The whole source is surrounded for about four acres by an unclimbable iron fence, and is uninhabited for a considerable distance round. The height of the reservoirs and springs is about 80 feet above sea level. The water flows by gravitation to the pumping station, 40 feet below, where, partly by turbine engines and partly by steam, it is pumped to the covered reservoirs at Preston 160 feet higher, and at Wyke 185 feet higher. From the Preston reservoir it flows by gravitation to a covered reservoir at Rodwell at 142 feet, and these (Rodwell and Wyke) supply the town of Weymouth, the latter serving the higher parts of the town. The supply is on the constant system, and the quantity is sufficient, averaging 25½ gallons per head per day. It is of excellent quality, though rather hard. The accompanying analysis has been given me by the Company as having been made by their Analyst :—

(COPY).

Western Counties Laboratory,
Bristol,
November 5th, 1906.

To the Board of Directors of Weymouth Water Co.

Gentlemen,

I beg to hand you herewith the results of analysis of a sample of Weymouth water received from your Manager on the 29th ult., as follows:—

			Grains per gallon.
Saline Ammonia .. ..	..	..	None.
Albuminoid Ammonia .. ..	..	..	·0007
Nitrogen as Nitrate .. ..	..	..	·31
Nitrates .. ..	..	..	Absent.
Chlorine as Chloride .. ..	..	..	1·80
Oxygen absorbed in four hours at 80° F. ..	..	..	·005
Total dissolved solids .. ..	..	..	22·0
Earthy Carbonates .. ..	..	..	13·0
Earthy Salts other than Carbonates .. ..	..	..	1·0
Hardness (by soap test) .. ..	..	..	14·0
Deposit .. ..	..	..	Slight vegetable and mineral debris.

These results are perfectly satisfactory.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) F. WALLIS STODDART, F.I.C., F.C.S.

Cowsheds, Dairies and Workshops.—There are seven cowsheds registered as being situated within the Borough, a reduction of one on former years. It is with pleasure that I am able to report a general improvement in the sanitary state of all of them, and that the persistent inspection, accompanied by monitions and advice, has also much improved the conditions under which the milking is carried out.

Three of the older cowsheds have been entirely re-modelled during the year, two of these after legal proceedings—pending at the end of last year—had been successfully taken against them. In two of these a certificate of fitness has been granted that proper provision has been made for the lighting, ventilation, cleansing, drainage, and water supply. In the third, the certificate excluded lighting and ventilation. Summary proceedings had been taken at the end of last year, and adjourned in the case of a third cowshed kept in a grossly insanitary state. At the adjourned hearing the cowshed was declared to be closed, and proceedings were withdrawn on payment of costs. During the summer this place was re-opened without notice. As soon as it became known the Sanitary Committee sanctioned legal proceedings and it was again closed. At the close of the year notices are pending against two cowkeepers to have the immediate surroundings of their cowsheds brought into a more sanitary state. I do not apprehend any difficulty in having these orders carried out, as the determination of the Sanitary Committee to enforce their requirements—by legal proceedings if necessary—has had a most salutary effect.

My drastic action of last year in making public the condition of many—if not all—of the cowsheds in the surrounding district, has had, I believe, some remedial effect. I understand that Bye-laws for the regulation of Dairies and Cowsheds have been made, and theoretically at least, something has been done. Whether it will be of practical benefit time alone can shew. I have information that one at least of the cowsheds—the whole of the milk supply of which is brought into the Borough—has been entirely renovated. May it be an omen of further progress during the present year.

The standard of cleanliness I expect from Cowkeepers and Dairymen is, for a beginning, a moderate one; compared with that enforced in many places it is as the positive is to the superlative. During this summer a great portion of my holiday was spent in viewing cowsheds in dairy districts in Scotland and the Midlands. With this knowledge, and with a personal knowledge in recent years of the dairy and produce farms of different parts of Canada, the States, Germany and Holland, I have no hesitation in stating that the dairy farmer in this district is hopelessly behind-hand. In the most of cases he is, to the modern sanitarian, a veritable Rip Van Winkle. He looks upon the Health Officer as his greatest enemy, whereas the countries which are cutting him out in the dairy line have come to look on this official as their friend. Will he shake off his lethargic slumbers, put his hand—not alone to the plough—but to the brush and water bucket, leave off platitudes as to the benefits or otherwise of Free Trade or Protection, extend his view of the horizon beyond his own immediate neighbourhood, learn that the world moves faster now than in the “good old days,” and once more take the first place in the world, or be content to sink into decrepitude?

Dairies and Milkshops.—The larger milkshops are well kept, but as in the case of the cowkeepers the means for *scalding utensils* are sadly deficient. In no case is there a sufficient supply of boiling water, and it is a common custom to use the same water for two or three utensils.

Steam is not used in any of the Borough Dairies, but I have the promise of one of the largest and most progressive dairymen to provide a boiler and steam jets at an early date.

The practice of using bottles for regular customers, is becoming more prevalent, and when properly carried out, with proper means for cleansing and sterilizing the bottles before filling, is to be recommended. I hope to see the full plant in the Dairy, before mentioned, ere my next report—if any—is issued.

The smaller milkshops, where milk is retailed, ancillary to other business, are, as in past years, not to be commended. The occupiers are full of promises as to carrying out instructions for keeping the milk covered and free from risk or contamination, but very chary of keeping these promises. The quantity of milk they sell is generally so small that one hesitates to take legal proceedings against habitual offenders, but it must come, and shortly, for the sake of example. One has waited and hoped for a New Dairies, etc. Act, which would sound the death-knell to this class, and our hopes seem about to fructify.

The number of Dairymen and Furveyors of Milk registered in the Borough is 47.

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (Urban)—continued.

Ice Cream Trade.—It is insisted upon that all purveyors of Ice Cream should comply with the provisions of the Dairies and Cowshed Act. Inspection during the summer season is frequent, and cleanliness in every stage of the manufacture is stringently enforced.

Fish Frying Establishments.—There are six of these in the Borough. All are well conducted, the majority of them have had their pans recently renewed, and these are of the latest construction, reducing the escape of noxious effluvia—excepting through the chimney—to a minimum. The places and the fish, and other comestibles are frequently inspected. The empty fish cases are returned daily in practically every establishment, and complaints of nuisance from this cause have been entirely absent.

Food Inspection.—Under this heading we have a dual authority. The Health Department, as is usual, controls the usual inspection of meat, fish, and perishable articles, but the administration of the Food and Drugs Act is under the direction of the Watch Committee and the Chief Constable.

Many complaints have been made to me, and samples sent me concerning milk, butter, etc., all of which complaints have to be referred to the police. Certain samples of milk and cream have at times been brought to me with complaint of added matter in quantities, and of filth and dirt or other impurities being present, and from curiosity I have inspected and tested and microscopically examined these, and found the complaints justified. No action could be taken.

At an inspection of slaughter-houses a tuberculous carcass was seen, and the affected portion seized, and by order of a magistrate destroyed. As this was the first seizure of the sort, prosecution was not pressed. Towards the last days of the year, information was received of the recent establishment of a trade in what is termed in some parts of the country "slink meat," sent by rail, and consigned principally to a district outside the Borough. Combined action is being taken to render the trade a risky one.

The Chief Constable forwards me the following return of his action under the Food and Drugs Act.

Chief Constable's Office,
Weymouth,
January 4th, 1908.

Samples taken under Food and Drugs Act.

Dear Sir,

I beg to inform you that during the year ending December 31st, 1907, the number of samples taken by me under the Food and Drugs Act, for the purpose of Public Analysis, was 57. For which I received from the Public Analyst, certificates certifying that 53 of same were genuine samples. The remaining four, otherwise than genuine, viz.:—one of milk as deficient of fat to the extent of 12 parts per cent. In this case proceedings were taken and case dismissed. Three of milk adulterated with eight, five, and seven parts per cent. of added water respectively. The persons offending in the three cases last named were dealt with by the Watch Committee.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK EACOCK, C.C.

Slaughter-houses.—There were at the close of last year ten slaughter-houses in occupation. As noted in my report for 1906, no licences seem to have been applied for since 1893, and notice to that effect was forwarded to each occupier, with the request that formal application be made for licence.

On April 1st all the licenses were renewed for one year, with, in two cases, a notification that after March 31st, 1908, such licences would not be renewed, the buildings and general arrangements, etc., rendering them totally unfit for the purpose. In one other structural alterations were ordered to be carried out as a condition of the renewal of the licence, which was postponed for a month. The required alterations have not been carried out after repeated reminders, and further action is pending.

Much improvement is manifested in the state of cleanliness in which all are now kept. Walls and utensils are kept free from coagulated blood.

I should not be doing my duty did I not once more bring forward that hardy annual—a municipal abattoir. Some of the principal butchers have now asked for it, and in my opinion it should be the next public undertaking to be considered. It is an essential that our food supply should be produced and kept under better conditions than at present, and our meat should be free from any suspicion of tubercle or other disease.

Eight places are on the Register of Factories and Workshops as being engaged in the preparation of sausages, etc. Four of these are factories.

All are kept in a cleanly state, and the work, so far as can be judged at the time of inspection, carried out in a proper manner. It is very advisable that in this trade, as in bakeries, no phthisical patient should be employed. In some of the slaughter-houses in the district a reprehensible habit has been for some time in use of boiling offal for pigs food in open boilers, and in some cases within the buildings. This is distinctly an offensive trade, and during the year notices have been served to have this discontinued, excepting under proper conditions as to surroundings and consumption of offensive or noxious vapours.

Offensive Trades.—There are seven places occupied as such—gut scraping, 1; artificial manure making, 1; tripe boiling, 2; fat rendering, offal and blood boiling, 3.

With two exceptions all have complied with the requirements that noxious fumes arising from pans or boilers must pass through the fire and be consumed before escaping into the air. These two are under notice.

Housing of the Working Classes.—Reporting at the end of 1905, it was stated that action had been taken under Part I. of the Housing of the Working Classes Act as regards Horsford Street, concerning which a petition had been received from certain inhabitants. At the end of 1906, again reporting on this street, it was stated that the Town Council had refused to take action under the Act (Part I.) as being an insanitary area. During the year I have attempted to take action as regards individual houses, and one of the worst has been closed. Another, even worse, is at the end of this year under statutory notice.

My attention has been called to Silver Street and the neighbourhood of North Quay as being an insanitary area, and steps have been taken, as far as possible, to have defects remedied, but the only efficient remedy is demolition of some portion; but, as I understand this has been before the Council on previous occasions, it seems useless under present conditions to again bring up the subject.

The paving of yards in an insanitary state is being gradually proceeded with—Rose Terrace, Pretoria Terrace, and part of Rock Terrace being finished.

Systematic inspection of the district is carried out at intervals when the congestion of more urgent work allows of it, but very little has been done during the year. Those streets that are now systematically inspected are followed up by action, and no further street is taken until all defects in the previous one have been remedied. I have been led to adopt this action from finding that during past years a record has been made of defects, notices served of these, but in the vast majority of cases nothing further done, and much of the inspection work done in 1904 and 1905 has now to be again gone over. I fail to see the benefit gained by making an exceptionally large record of inspection done if not followed by action. I have no faith in the mere serving of notices for remedying defects; steady and persistent pressure must be kept up, and followed by legal proceedings when necessary. The paving of a lane at the back of North View, referred to in last year's report as being transferred from this department, has not yet been carried out. All houses against which unexpired notices were pending at the end of last year have been either remedied or closed. One house in Old Castle Gardens has been closed as being unfit for habitation; one house on the Marsh was closed under Sect. 33, Public Health Acts Amendment Act, action being enabled to be taken under that section.

Overcrowding to a certain extent in the houses of the artizan class is still rife, from the fact of the high rentals compelling two families to share one house. Some six cases of a bad type were dealt with during the year, but under present conditions it is difficult to remedy, as, when moved from one house, the overcrowding is generally transferred to another. Further remarks on this subject are continued under Lodging-houses.

Lodging-houses.—There are three common lodging-houses in the town, all intended for males only. One of these is kept in a satisfactory manner, and is clean and well conducted.

One is a licensed public-house, and at each of my visits I have had to report breaches of the bye-laws to the Sanitary Committee. The third is also inefficiently conducted, and is reported against at each visit.

This Council having adopted the sanitary provisions of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, which gives further powers regarding common lodging-houses, will, I hope, be able to remedy abuses to a greater extent during the present year.

Apart from registered common lodging-houses there are a large number of houses that receive seamen of the Royal Navy for a night's lodging.

My attention has been frequently called to cases of alleged overcrowding of such houses, which, I have no reason to believe, were in any way exaggerated, though I have been unable personally to verify them.

I am advised that these houses should come under the Act as common lodging-houses, but it is considered inadvisable to take steps to bring them in as such.

I have some considerable time since brought the subject of bye-laws for houses let in lodgings before the Sanitary Committee, and was asked to prepare such. On going into this, and communicating with other towns, I found that such bye-laws, to be of any benefit, would also affect houses legitimately let during the season, and that invidious comparisons would require to be made if such houses were excluded from the operation of the bye-laws, and to include all such would be demurred at by the public at large.

The opening of the Sailors' Home was a step in the right direction, but it has not had any appreciable effect on the type of houses to which I refer, for which touting to a considerable extent goes on.

Another Act, the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, has come under my review, which might possibly meet our requirements if applicable to seamen from the Royal Navy. This Act gives power to a local authority whose district includes a seaport to make bye-laws, with the approval of the Board of Trade, for the licensing, inspection, and sanitary condition of seamen's lodging-houses, etc., etc., etc., and for the exclusion from such licensed houses of persons of improper character.

The subject is one of great difficulty. We have knowledge of overcrowding at these times, but are incapable so far of bringing legal proof of such. I had one house watched, and was convinced that serious overcrowding was prevalent. On attempting admission, late at night, I was refused, and before further steps could be taken the house was closed for other reasons.

Under the various Public Health Acts action in such cases is tedious in the extreme and generally futile.

There are two lots of tenement dwellings in the district which require careful watching. During the past year Burdon's Buildings has caused comparatively little trouble, but Arch Villas have got into such a condition that action had to be taken. This has been, however, postponed until use can be made of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, which will allow the Sanitary Authority greater powers of dealing with this noxious sore.

Collection and Disposal of House Refuse.—The collection of house refuse is done by the Corporation direct, and is under the Borough Surveyor's department.

The scavenging is so arranged that every house shall be visited three times a week, and the two main business streets daily. The refuse so collected is conveyed in covered carts to Westham, where it is destroyed in one of Meldrum's destructors. The steam generated by the destructor is used for working the engines which pump the sewage of the Borough to the outfall in the bay.

In accordance with the bye-laws every house is to be provided with a "suitable covered receptacle" for house refuse. In the past this bye-law has been more honoured in the breach than in the observance, few of the heterogeneous articles used as a receptacle being either suitable or covered, with a consequent unsightly and unsavoury display, and a littered street or path daily in evidence. "Notices calling attention to the bye-law have during this summer been delivered to every householder, and steps are now being taken to take the names of all offenders, for report to the Sanitary Committee, with a view to further action."

The last paragraph is a quotation from last year's report, and certain offenders were reported. No further action was sanctioned. The householder who wishes to conform with the law complied with the notice sent, the householder who defies the law does so with impunity; the law keeper is penalized, the law breaker escapes.

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (Urban)—continued.

House Drainage.—As in former years, house drainage not connected with the main sewers has been detected. One house on the Wyke Road, formerly draining into a cesspit, has, at considerable expense, been connected with the sewer in Chickereil Road. Four houses in Icen Road, Radipole, were found to discharge their drainage into a ditch. One house, though attention was called to it as far back as 1905, still continues to discharge into the harbour. One house, under consideration at the close of last year, has been closed as having been occupied contrary to Sect. 33, Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.

The system introduced in 1906 of the testing by water and smoke of all drains of new houses, and of all reconstruction of old drains by the Sanitary Staff, has met with a success much greater than was expected.

When first enforced, in the middle of June, 1906, the quality of work found was, in nearly every case, bad in the extreme, examples of this being given in last year's report. This year, owing to the knowledge that the inspection was thorough, the quality of work has been in nearly every case first class. The gravest faults found now are such as are due to a want of knowledge of the science of sanitation, and many of which are due to overights in the planning. A means of lessening these oversights, which become a source of expense and worry to the builder at being detected on completion, was suggested to the Sanitary Committee, but failed to meet the approval of the Building Committee when referred to them, was the inspection of all plans, so far as the sanitary arrangements were concerned, by the M.O.H. before being sanctioned by the Council.

The drainage of the Park district has again been reported to the Sanitary Committee, and the special need of this district to have each w.c. fitted with a flushing system and water supply. I must again repeat my warning of last year, that neglect to enforce this requirement is a grave menace to the public health. Testing of drainage for prospective tenants of houses is performed by the Sanitary Staff for a nominal sum. By this means many of the older houses have had their drainage system brought into line with modern requirements. For the majority of boarding houses a sanitary certificate is a *sine qua non*, and very many along the sea front now possess such.

The main sewers—one for Weymouth and one for Melcombe Regis—convey the sewage to a tank at Westham, in proximity to the destructor, whence it is pumped during ebb tide to a point in the sea 1150 feet from the Nothe Point, and 25 feet under the low water level of ordinary spring tides. There are two local sewers—in the Belfield and Old Castle districts—which take the drainage of some 80 houses, and at present discharge into Portland Roads.

The sewers are ventilated by 66 upcast shafts and 13 Webb's lights.

The Backwater and Harbour.—This sheet of water, familiarly known as the Backwater, has an acreage of about 250 acres and is tidal.

The Western boundary is partly in the Rural District, and the River Wey enters the lake at its upper or Northern end. The Southern boundary is formed by a masonry dam, with a lock gate, by means of which the waters are held up during ebb tide. Situated towards the Northern and Western boundaries is an island, upon which the Corporation have established a swannery, and a large number of swans tend to still further increase the natural beauty and picturesqueness of the scene.

The major portion of the lake is shallow, with the exception of a channel meandering through it, and when the lock gate is opened extensive flats are seen at low water. Upon these flats grow various species of Algae, locally termed "weed," and the presence of this fungus growth during the months of August and September—and later occasionally—is apt to cause an obnoxious smell if laid bare and exposed to the sun's rays, unless great care is taken to have all that may be exposed promptly removed.

The remedy for this occasional nuisance has been one of the problems troubling the Corporation for many years. It seems that at one time the deposition of sewage matter was blamed for the nuisance that was undoubtedly present, but at the present time, so far as the Borough is concerned, no sewage matter is now allowed to enter, though it still receives the whole of the drainage of that part of the Rural District comprising Radipole, Nottingham, Broadwey, and Upwey villages. The presence of sulphurous waters from Nottingham Spa and Radipole, as also from certain points on the Western side, may tend to some very slight extent to increase the obnoxious effluvia occasionally present. For many years past the only remedy used has been the removal of the "weed" by manual labour, raking it into floats and on to the banks and carting it away. An expensive method of treatment, which, while at times successful has also at other times tended to increase the nuisance, from the quantity collected being beyond the means of quick disposal. The method of treatment has been temporarily remedial but not curative.

During the past year—the first I am informed for a long period—no nuisance was complained of from this cause. Whether we shall be able to continue this pleasant state of matters remains to be seen. The continuation of the Backwater below the dam to the sea is technically the Harbour, and over this portion, the Borough Authorities or their officials have no control. It is under a separate administration with a separate M.O.H. and Sanitary Inspector, surely one of the greatest anomalies this Borough possesses. During the past year, on several occasions, this division in the Sanitary control of the Borough, caused considerable delay in the abatement of nuisances, brought naturally to the attention of the M.O.H. of the Borough, but which he was powerless to directly interfere with.

The unification of the Sanitary control of the district seems an urgent necessity.

Factory and Workshops Act.—There are 19 Factories and 252 Workshops in the district with some 40 workplaces, all of which have been inspected. The record of workplaces is not complete.

497 Visits have been paid under the F. and W. Act, and 90 written notices issued to remedy defects. The great bulk of the notices are divided between want of cleanliness—in most part neglect of lime washing—and insufficient sanitary accommodation. Under the F. and W. Act, 1901, every Workshop and Factory must be provided with sufficient and suitable sanitary accommodation. The standard of sufficiency and suitability enforced, or attempted to be enforced, is that each w.c. must be provided with a water supply for flushing purposes, and that the place provided must be in accordance with the Bye-laws. Steady and continued pressure is being exerted to bring all into conformity. Bakehouses were started with, and at the close of this year, all are now remedied. One prosecution under Section 22 Public Health Act's Amendment Act was required.

Dressmakers and Milliners were, generally speaking, in good order, defects found were minor.

Tailors.—As in other years want of ventilation is the general defect. When inlets and exits are provided they are generally blocked up by the workmen. One case of overcrowding was found.

Laundries.—Sanitary defects of a grave character were found in one Factory Laundry and were referred to the Surveyor's department, the remaining were satisfactory with one slight exception.

Bakehouses.—There are 40 in the district, a decrease of one. In no other department has there been noticeable such a steady and continued improvement and recognition of the need for cleanliness and ventilation.

Three of the older bakehouses have been entirely demolished and re-built with all the most modern improvements in ovens, machinery, and means of ventilation.

The action taken last year requiring all plans of Factories and Workshops to be submitted to the M.O.H. as well as to the Surveyor, has resulted in buildings being erected of a suitable type.

Each of the plans first submitted, though in accordance with the building bye-laws, were not considered by the M.O.H. as having suitable provision for ventilation, or for cleanliness as regards firing the ovens; with the result that the plans were altered in accordance with the suggestions of the Health Department before the buildings were erected, and in one case a new site was required to be found to provide suitable means for ventilation and for access to the stokehole.

Under the former regime the buildings would have been completed and occupied before the Health Department had notice, when alterations would have been necessary, causing friction, worry, and expense to the owner, and probably at the end unsatisfactory from a sanitary point of view.

One bakehouse has been closed under Section 98 F. and W. Act, on the order of the Magistrates as being, on sanitary grounds, unfit for occupation. Another has been voluntarily closed on the same grounds, and action is pending in two other cases, expiration of lease being waited.

There are two underground bakehouses in occupation, neither can be considered satisfactory.

Special mention is not necessary of the remaining workshops.

Homeworkers.—The perennial difficulty of having the lists of such forwarded still continues. I have adopted the plan of forwarding a list to each likely employer of such, immediately before the dates of delivery with the request that they should be filled in and returned to me, yet I have frequently to write once or twice again before the return is made; all acts of courtesy on my part.

38 Lists have been received from 20 employers, and 81 inspections of Homeworkers premises have been made. The number of workmen or women employed is given as 120, but the actual number, deducting pluralities, is 74.

In seven cases the houses were insanitary to such a degree that notices had to be served to cleanse and purify before further work could be permitted to be taken in.

Midwives Act.—There are 12 Midwives who gave notice of their intention to practise within the district. Of this number 10 are registered under "prior practice," and two under certificates of an examining body.

One Midwife on the register of 1906, gave notice that she did not intend to practice as a Midwife, but there is a grave suspicion that this was done simply to evade inspection. If sufficient evidence is forthcoming, this woman should be severely dealt with.

It has been found practically impossible to the present to get the majority of the Midwives registered from prior practice to conform with the regulations of the Midwives Board. Most of them are illiterate, and although every assistance has been rendered them collectively and individually, at the end of the year I felt compelled to officially report eight of the ten to the Local Supervising Authority, and the cases are now pending.

Registers are not kept or so imperfectly, as to be valueless. Bags with utensils, when called for unexpectedly, are found being used for other purposes. In no case since the Act came into force, has any Midwife sent a notification of having required medical aid, or of having attended a still-birth or dead born child, all of which are clearly evasions of their duties.

Because of their illiteracy, leniency has been shown to these women in the past, and the leniency, as is usual, has been taken advantage of and interpreted as weakness.

I had hoped, had the Notification of Births' Act been adopted at the unanimous recommendation of the Sanitary Committee, to have had some check on the Midwives through it, but the failure of the Town Council as a whole to ratify the adoption, has closed this means for the time being.

At the close of the year I learn, vicariously, that the Board of Guardians have agreed to pay for medical attendance in certain cases where a Midwife has called for such.

As is stated previously, no such call has been notified during the space of two years and eight months in which the Act has been in force. It will be of great interest to see the rates during the next year between the cases paid for by the Guardians and the cases notified to the Inspector under the Act, viz., the Medical Officer of Health.

Elementary Schools.—There are six such within the Borough. A full report was made upon these in July last, dealing with the examination of children, sickness, infectious diseases, sanitation, and heating.

Summarizing this Report, the health of the schools generally was good. Considerable trouble was found with cases of ringworm and verminous complaints, and strong steps were urged to deal with parents who neglected medical attendance in such cases. Attention was called to the matter of cleansing of schools and the suggestion thrown out that uniformity was necessary, and that the Sanitary Authority might supervise the methods and give directions. Complaints had been general throughout the previous winter of low temperatures in most of the schoolrooms.

The sanitary state of the various schools was entered into, Holy Trinity, St. Mary's, and St. Paul's being particularly referred to. The ventilation of Holy Trinity, St. Mary's, St. John's, and St. Paul's was stated to be insufficient.

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Weymouth and Melcombe Regis (Urban)—continued.

During the six months ending December 31st, the health of the schools has again been good. The special steps taken to deal with the cases of ringworm and verminous cases have had some effect and the majority of cases now proceed to have medical advice, though it is strongly suspected do not carry the treatment out at their own homes as directed.

Verminous cases have been on the decrease, due entirely to the close supervision exercised by the teachers and the Medical Officer.

School Closure.—It was found expedient to close for a period of 18 days (September 12th to 30th) the whole of the schools as regards children from the parish of Chickerell in the Rural District of Weymouth, in consequence of an outbreak of scarlet fever and the closing of the schools in that district. The Babies' Room in the Infant School of Cromwell Road was closed for a period of one week, from an outbreak of Varicella.

The sanitary defects noted at Holy Trinity School have been temporarily remedied, a full and comprehensive system of drainage of the most modern type has been planned and sanctioned by the School Managers, and will be carried out during the Easter and Summer holidays.

St. Mary's Girls and Infants' School latrines are being reconstructed. At the end of the year they were so far completed that one may state that the system is a good one. When completed in their entirety one may give a fuller judgment on the scheme. In former reports on these latrines the situation immediately under the windows of the Technical School was criticised, and this situation has been repeated in the new building, with the added disadvantage that all the openings for ventilation purposes, doors, and passages, are now next the Technical School wall, and will render the windows of that latter worse than useless for ventilation purposes.

Nothing has been done to remedy the grave defects in the Boys' School.

St. Paul's School.—An entire relaying of drains and general reconstruction of the sanitary system has been carried out, and is satisfactory.

St. John's School.—The very minor deficiencies in this school have been remedied.

Ventilation.—The recommendations for improved inlets and exits at Holy Trinity School have been to a great extent carried out. The same applies to St. John's School and to St. Paul's. St. Mary's is as previously reported.

Nothing has been done in Holy Trinity, St. Mary's, and St. Paul's as to removal of galleries in infants' schools. St. John's has been remedied.

The suggestions as to cleansing have not yet been considered.

After prolonged observation in all states of the barometer and thermometer attention was called to the deficiency in the exits for vitiated air in two of the class-rooms at Cromwell Road Boys' School, and this subject is still under consideration.

The heating of many of the class-rooms in the various schools is still defective. The thermometer readings show at 9 a.m. in St. Mary's Girls' School frequently 52° Fahrenheit. In the Infant School a few degrees below "temperate" is the report; in exceptionally cold weather much less. The same applies to Holy Trinity Girls, but here 48° and 50° more frequently recur. In Holy Trinity Infants 46°, 48°, and 50° are fairly constant temperatures. The minimum temperature at 9 a.m. should be 55° to 60° Fahrenheit.

Staff of the Health Department.—The normal population of the Borough is stated at 23,300. The average population throughout the year will be over 25,000. For such a population residing in an ancient borough, and with the importance of the town as a health resort and as a home for the "personnel" of the divisions of the Royal Navy during many months of the year, much would be expected from the above heading. An analysis of the staff, however, and comparison with other health resorts, show that it is meagreness itself.

Sanitary work is a science, and, like all other sciences, requires a special training not to be acquired by mere "rule of thumb," as is so commonly considered. Apart from the Medical Officer of Health the only other official is the Inspector of Nuisances, non-certificated, but with many years' experience of the ordinary work of the department.

The unskilled labour is represented by the man in charge of the disinfecter, who also has the drain testing, sewer flushing, cleansing of courts and passages, and any of the heterogeneous work of a sanitary department to perform, with one more man to take charge of the public urinals and assist generally, and certain males and females in charge of lavatories, etc. Further unskilled labour is requisitioned in emergencies and for the cleansing of the backwater during the summer.

From the above it is palpably evident that, with the amount of work requiring special training in sanitary science, one non-certificated inspector cannot possibly fulfil the duties. In the past much of the work has fallen into arrear, much of it has had to be done by the M.O.H. (work entirely outside that he is expected to perform).

To those who have intelligently followed the Annual Reports issued during the last six years it is plain that many years of these arrears, to use the mild term, have still to be made up.

In 1905, in a report on infantile mortality, I mentioned the need of further assistance in the Sanitary Inspector's department. During this year I made a specific request for a female sanitary inspector, which request, as is mentioned elsewhere, did not seem to meet the approval of the Council, though unanimously passed by the Sanitary Committee.

In view of the many Acts, affecting directly and indirectly the sanitary department, that have come into force on January 1st, I must again press for a female inspector at an early date.

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

I beg to submit to you my Report, as Medical Officer of Health for your Authority, for the year ending 31st December, 1907, and in so doing have much pleasure in being able to give a satisfactory account of the health of the Seamen of the Mercantile Marine whose ships have visited the Authority's area during the past year; in fact during the whole period I have had the honour of acting as your Medical Officer of Health, now extending over 30 years, there has never been a year with such an immunity of infectious disease as 1907, and this notwithstanding a considerable increase in the number and tonnage of vessels entering the Authority's area.

I give below statistics of the vessels which entered Portland Roads during 1907:—

	Number.	Tonnage.
Steamers from Foreign	797	1,026,542
Sailing Vessels from Foreign	235	77,350
Steamers Coastwise	235	77,350
Sailing Vessels Coastwise	166	10,990
Total ..	1,433	1,192,232

Vessels which entered Weymouth Harbour during 1907:—

	Number.	Tonnage.
Steamers from Foreign	422	101,719
Sailing Vessels from Foreign	22	2,745
Steamers Coastwise	218	20,357
Sailing Vessels Coastwise	96	5,775
Total ..	758	130,596

Grand Total Ships—2,191. Tonnage—1,322,828.

The following is a Return of Steamships and Sailing Vessels boarded and duly inspected under Port Sanitary Acts, in Portland Roads and in Weymouth Harbour during the year 1907:—

Number of Steamers	234
Number of Sailers	75
(of which 135 were under Foreign Flags).	

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

British	6
Foreigners	13
Water ordered to be pumped out, tanks cleansed and fresh water supplied ..	16
Seamen removed to Hospital sick	0
Number of Vessels disinfected	3
Bedding, etc. destroyed	0

The number of patients in the Hospital during the past year was 19. These consisted of three cases of enteric fever, all of which were admitted from shipboard, and 16 cases of diphtheria admitted from the areas of the Portland Urban District Council and Weymouth Rural District Council. The enteric cases all recovered although one had a very protracted illness and was in Hospital for 14 weeks. The diphtheria cases all did well, and there remain in the Hospital at this present date four cases which all promise to make a good recovery.

During the past year the Hospital has been thoroughly repaired and re-decorated and a new boiler has been placed in the South Block to ensure a more abundant supply of hot water to the baths in both blocks which had become somewhat defective.

As you are aware, the time for my resignation after my long connection with the Hospital is drawing near, and although I should have liked to have seen the entire debt on the buildings paid off before my retirement, I believe that in about 1½ years from this date the total amount of the loan will have been liquidated and the Ratepayers will be in possession of this fine Hospital which will in future cost a very small annual amount to maintain.

The Caretaker and Mrs. Dodge continue most zealous in their attention to the patients under their charge and as heretofore keep the Wards clean and ready for any emergency.

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 cargo Steamers of the Great Western Railway engaged in the traffic between this Port and the Channel Islands; also the Excursion Steamers of Messrs. Cosens and Company and have always found them clean and well cared for and the sanitary conditions satisfactory.

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Wimborne (Urban).

Wimborne—Mr. C. H. Watts Parkinson.

Area of District, 507 acres, exclusive of area covered by water.

Population (Census 1901) 3696. Estimated to middle of 1907, 3750.

Births, 66—17·6 per 1000 population.

Infantile mortality per 1000 births, 45·4.

Deaths registered, 62, or 16·5 per 1000, but, adding deaths of Wimborne residents occurring outside the district, and deducting deaths of non-residents (in the Workhouse, Infirmary, and Cottage Hospital) the corrected mortality is 39, or 10·4 per 1000.

The natural increase of population is 27.

The average Age at death, 50 years. Of the 39 deaths, 25 were under and 14 over 65.

Zymotic death-rate, nil.

Deaths registered, 62, an increase of six; but, deducting deaths of non-residents (39) three less than in 1906.

Infants, 3—one premature birth and two debility from birth, &c.

1 to 15, 4—one enteritis, one tubercular disease, and two from other causes.

15 to 25, 3—one tubercular disease, one pneumonia, and one from other causes.

25 to 65, 15—three phthisis, two tubercular disease, two alcoholism or cirrhosis of liver, two heart disease, one pneumonia, and five from other causes.

Over 65, 14—two cancer, three bronchitis, three heart disease, and six from other causes.

Zymotic diseases.—There were seven cases notified, as compared with 44 in 1906, but 32 of these were due to the milk epidemic of diphtheria, and no death occurred. The seven cases were—two scarlatina, two diphtheria, and three erysipelas.

Phthisis.—Three deaths occurred, as against two in 1906.

Cancer.—Two deaths, as compared with five in 1906.

Scarlet Fever.—Only two cases of a mild type, one in June at Rowlands, contracted probably from a case in the Rural District, and the other in December in the West Borough, which was removed to Blandford Infection Hospital.

Diphtheria.—Only two mild cases, one in February in King Street, and the other in July in the West Borough. In the latter case the infection was believed to have been taken from a pet dog, a swab from the dog's throat having been reported on as suspicious.

Erysipelas.—Three ordinary cases reported.

The only other cases requiring comment are the four cases of death from "other tubercular diseases," which is unusual, and the case entered as "enteritis." This was a child of 4 years, and registered as "dysentery 14 days and exhaustion."

The year 1907 was remarkable for an absence of zymotic disease, and probably the cool summer was an important factor, and there has been no death from notifiable disease for years. Although the total deaths were increased, this was due to a larger number of deaths among non-residents in the Cottage Hospital and public institutions, and also strangers coming to the town fatally ill; and the true mortality is satisfactory, only 10·4. The birth-rate, however, continues to diminish, being only 17·6, as compared with an average for the last 10 years of 18·7, and the only consolation is that the infantile mortality per 1000 births, which has averaged 76·2 for the previous 10 years, has in 1907 fallen to 45·4.

Water Supply.—The water supplied by the Company is of good quality and the supply sufficient, and the works are kept in good order.

Sewerage and Drainage.—The scavenging removal of refuse and supply of earth for closets is carried out efficiently, and the streets are, on the whole, clean and well looked after.

The drainage is attended to, many improvements effected, and faulty conditions remedied.

Isolation Hospital.—Arrangements with the Blandford Infectious Isolation Hospital are satisfactorily carried out, and are all that is required.

Housing of the Working Classes.—Owing to the opening of a large factory, employing over 50 hands, there has been a greater demand for house accommodation, but it is generally sufficient and satisfactory.

Dairies, Milk Shops, and Cowsheds.—The regulations adopted by the Council last year will greatly help your Officers in improving the existing conditions. I have pointed out to the dairymen the provisions laid down and penalties for not carrying out the orders.

There are only two dairies registered in the Urban area, and I have reported on these to your Council, but the difficulty still is that the great bulk of the milk supply comes from outside the district, and your officers have no control over these, while the Rural Council has not, I believe, adopted the Model Regulations, and there is little supervision and no penalty for offences such as dirty milkers or cows, and milk polluted with filth of all kinds; and, although cases have been reported, no action has been taken to punish offenders, and the necessity for drawing up regulations not recognised.

The milk supply of the country will never be satisfactory until the Central Authority recognises the fact that it is useless to pass good Sanitary Laws unless they are made compulsory on all Authorities, and as long as the adoption of such measures is left to the Local Authorities very often nothing will be done, and only recently we have had an example of this in Dorset.

A notification of Disease Act is required for all Dairy Cows, and under penalty, a notice should be sent to a Veterinary Surgeon and his certificate required before the milk is allowed to be used for human consumption.

Slaughter-houses, Bakehouses and Common Lodging-houses.—These require a reminder occasionally as to white-washing, &c., but are kept clean generally.

Owing to the enormous number of tramps coming to the town and the accommodation at the Workhouse being insufficient, a very large proportion have to sleep out and the lodgings are sometimes crowded. It is doubtful whether the large number of vagrants passing through is not in a measure due to the knowledge that the Workhouse accommodation is small, and I have heard of habitual vagrants hanging about until they think the Workhouse is full and so being boarded out and thus avoid the bath and the labour task.

The lodging-house keepers do the best they can and provide what should be sufficient accommodation and when the beds are full the vagrants are allowed to sit in the kitchens and day-rooms and are quite content to do this.

Factories, Workshops, and Homeworkers.—A large factory has been erected in the New Borough, employing some 50 hands. It is built on modern lines and is an addition to the local industries.

There have been few complaints and they have been attended to readily and there is nothing special to report.

I hope the Council will consider this report a satisfactory one as upholding the good reputation of the town and suburbs as a desirable residence, and I hope that more enterprise may be shown in the way of building good houses for which there are frequent enquiries, and every year people come seeking houses but find none to let.

RURAL SANITARY DISTRICTS.

Beaminster—Mr. F. P. Kitson.

Area and Population.—The area of the district is 57,017 acres, with a population at the last census of 9184. The present population is estimated to the middle of the year at 9150.

Birth rate.—The birth-rate is 20·9 per 1000 population, against a rate last year of 20·7. The number of births was 191, of whom 98 were males and 93 females.

Death-rate.—The death-rate is 12·4 per 1000 population. The average age at death was 49. The number of deaths was 113, against 108 in 1906, when the rate was 11·6. There were 10 deaths under one year of age, and 63 persons had reached the age of 65 years and over. There were no deaths from any infectious disease. Bronchitis was the cause of death in 10 cases, heart disease in nine, and phthisis in eight.

Infant Mortality.—The infant mortality is 52·3 per 1000 births.

Zymotic Rate.—The zymotic rate is nil.

Prevalence of Disease.—The number of notifications of infectious disease received during the year was 11 as against 73 last year.

The diseases were :—

Erysipelas	..	..	..	4
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	2
Diphtheria	..	..	..	2
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	3

The schools at Melbury Osmond and at Halstock were closed owing to an epidemic of measles and the school at Evershot owing to chicken pox for one week.

Water Supply.—The water supply for Beaminster has been carried out, and connections with houses will be shortly commenced. The water supply for the rest of the district is satisfactory except at Burstock, I consider that the spring should be protected from any possible contamination by cattle and the water conveyed to the village in a properly constructed pipe.

Sewerage and Drainage.—The Beaminster Committee are still considering this question and have had several schemes before them. Messrs. Beesley, Son & Nichols, of London, the Engineers for the water supply, have submitted a scheme for a water carriage system of drainage by gravitation to a field on the South side of the town, with septic tanks, and about two acres of land for treatment.

The objections to this scheme are :—

- (1) The opposition of a large landowner, on the grounds that it would be a nuisance and detrimental to his property to have the works so near his mansion.
- (2) The high price asked by the owner for the necessary land.
- (3) A footpath runs through the field by the river and leads to the neighbouring village of Netherbury, and is much used.
- (4) As our prevailing winds are south or south-west, and the town is surrounded by hills, any smell arising from the works will be conveyed to the town.
- (5) The cost of the scheme would be very large, considering the amount of sewage to be dealt with.

The Committee agreed that there were so many difficulties and objections to this scheme that they decided to consult Mr. F. Cooper, of Bridport, who has prepared plans for draining the town in sections, dealing with groups of houses. These plans were sent to the Local Government Board without Mr. Cooper's knowledge, and the Board at present decline to consider them. It is possible that, if Mr. Cooper was asked to lay his plans before the Board himself, they might reconsider their decision.

Isolation.—The agreement with the Bridport Rural District Council for the use of their Isolation Hospital is still in force, but the hospital has not been used during the year.

Housing of Working Classes.—The housing of the working classes is in the same condition as last year. Three cases of overcrowding have been dealt with, and three houses unfit for habitation. One house was pulled down, one burnt down, and the other repaired.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—These have been reported on during the year and a further report will be furnished when the necessary information has been ascertained.

Slaughter and Bakehouses.—The slaughter and bakehouses are well cleaned and regularly whitewashed.

Health of District.—The health of the district has been very satisfactory during the year. The death-rate and infant mortality are both low even for a Rural District. It is satisfactory that there have been no cases of diphtheria in Beaminster during the year.

Factory and Workshops.—I have nothing to report under this Act.

Blandford—Mr. G. W. Daniell.

The Area of the district is 61,568 acres.

The Population (Census 1901) is 8808, and estimated to the middle of 1907 it is 9830.

Births.—There were 168 births. The birth-rate is 19·07.

Deaths.—There were 107 deaths. The death-rate is 12·1.

The Zymotic death-rate is 0·1.

The Rate of Infantile Mortality is 121·6.

The average Age at death is 48·2.

Four children born in the year were illegitimate.

There are 2081 inhabited houses in the district, and the average number of persons per house is 4·2.

Fourteen persons died in the Workhouse and three in the Cottage Hospital who belonged to this district. By the addition of these 17 ("residents") to the original number of deaths recorded, the corrected death-rate is 14·07.

The ages at which deaths occurred were—

Under 1 Year of age	..	..	..	..	13
Aged 1 Year and under 5	..	..	..	..	4
" 5 " 15	..	..	..	..	3
" 15 " 25	..	..	..	..	5
" 25 " 65	..	..	..	..	29
" 65 and upwards	..	..	..	..	53

The mortality from every cause has been as follows :—

From Whooping Cough	..	..	..	1
" Phthisis	..	..	..	10
" Other Tubercular diseases	..	..	..	4
" Cancer	..	..	..	6
" Bronchitis	..	..	..	11
" Pneumonia	..	..	..	6
" Premature Birth	..	..	..	2
" Accident in Parturition	..	..	..	1
" Heart diseases	..	..	..	25
" Suicide	..	..	..	1
" All other causes	..	..	..	40

The rate of infantile mortality is somewhat lower than it was for the year 1906, 13 infants having died this year less than 1 year of age, and 16 in 1906, the rates being 153·9 and 121·6.

Five of these infants died less than 1 week of age.	
Two " " aged between 1 and 2 weeks.	
Three " " 1 and 2 months.	
Two " " 2 and 3 "	
One " " 4 and 5 "	

The causes of death being returned as from—

Whooping Cough	..	..	..	1
Intestinal Catarrh	..	..	..	1
Premature Birth	..	..	..	2
Injury at birth	..	..	..	2
Atrophy	..	..	..	2
Convulsions	..	..	..	4
Bronchitis	..	..	..	1

Seven of the 13 infants might possibly have met with their deaths as the result of improper feeding, as intestinal catarrh, atrophy, as well as convulsions, might be caused, and certainly would be aggravated thereby.

Two infants of the above number were illegitimate.

I received 15 notifications of infectious diseases during the year :—

Diphtheria	..	..	..	4
Scarlatina	..	..	..	7
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	4

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Blandford (Rural)—continued.

The cases of diphtheria were reported at :—

Pimperne	..	..	..	2
Winterborne Clenston	..	..	..	1
Tarrant Hinton	..	..	..	1

The infection of one was contracted outside the district. I could discover no insanitary causes during my inspections to account for any of the others.

The cases of scarlatina were reported at :—

Bryanston	..	..	..	2
Tarrant Gunville	..	..	..	1
Winterborne Clenston	..	..	..	2
Spetisbury	..	..	..	1
Turnworth	..	..	..	1

The infection of the case from Gunville was received outside the district, the origin of the remainder was quite unaccountable.

The cases of enteric fever were the continuation of an outbreak in the family at Charlton Marshall, which I commented upon in my annual report last year. The family consisted of a man, his wife and seven children, every one of the nine being prostrated by the disease. The man as well as the children were removed to the Isolation Hospital, but the wife was assiduously nursed at home by the Parish Nurse, and all eventually recovered. As I stated last year the origin of the malady was most mysterious and unaccountable.

The water supply of the district is almost entirely derived from wells, and the quality is very rarely otherwise than good. Water from Blandford Water Works is largely made use of in the neighbouring parish of Blandford St. Mary, as well as at Bryanston and Littleton in the parish of Langton.

Drains are fortunately not common in country cottages.

The excrement disposal is generally carried out by the pail and dry earth system, by my advice privy vaults are disappearing.

We are fortunate in being provided with two Hospitals. The Cottage Hospital having been built by the philanthropy and munificence of the late Miss Portman, and the Isolation Hospital by the kindness of Lord Portman. Both of these admirable institutions are of the greatest service and thoroughly appreciated. They both have been largely made use of by neighbouring districts who are unprovided with such necessary buildings for the treatment of disease. I regret that we have no Hospital for the treatment of tuberculosis in the county. Phthisis pulmonalis in a small cottage is a spectacle pitiable in the extreme, as well as an almost certain factor in propagating the disease. Several very sad cases have occurred in the district of late. When one has to be a witness of such, it is forced upon one's mind that under different circumstances there might be hope.

The cottages of the working classes in the district are many of them good, but in some there is much to be desired.

The Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, as well as Slaughter-houses and Bakehouses are all in a sanitary condition.

There is no Common Lodging-house in the district, nor are there any Factories or Workshops.

Bridport—Mr. W. A. E. Hay.

Area of District.—30,899 acres.

Population.—Census 1901, 6,998, estimated middle of 1907, 7,020.

Births.—Registered 118, equal to a rate of 16·8 per 1000.

Deaths.—Registered 104, equal to a rate of 14·8 per 1000.

Average Age at Death.—54·98 per 1000.

Zymotic Rate.—0·45 per 1000.

Infant Mortality.—84·7 per 1000.

Prevalence of Disease, Notification.—Notifications 5; diphtheria 1, erysipelas 4.

The case of diphtheria occurred at Penn Farm, Monkton Wyld, at the extreme West end of the district, on 11th January. The case was in a child three years of age and proved fatal. It was notified to me after a post mortem had been made.

With your Inspector of Nuisances I at once inspected the place and found the drainage of the premises very unsatisfactory. I noticed a bad smell from a grating in an outhouse and was informed by the parents that the child had been in the habit of playing there. Disinfection was at once carried out and the insanitary state of the drainage remedied.

As regards the four cases of erysipelas, one was traumatic. They require no comment.

Water Supply.—An analysis of water was taken in six cases, and in three proved unsatisfactory, as follows :—

At Chideock, on premises occupied by Messrs. Eli Bartlett & Treacher. The well was closed, and a supply obtained from the Chideock Water Company's mains.

At New House, Broadoak, on premises occupied by Mr. Broomfield. The well closed and a new one sunk on a fresh site.

In the Village of Litton Cheney. A stream of water used for drinking purposes, on the east side of the highway, was found to be of doubtful purity, and could not be considered a safe water for drinking. In place of this an ample supply of excellent drinking water has been conveyed by pipes from a spring above this stream.

The annual analysis of the waters from the Charmouth and Chideock supplies proved them, as usual, excellent for dietetic use, and the plans for an additional supply for Charmouth are nearing completion.

Sewerage and Drainage.—Excrement Disposal.—Much attention has been given to defective slop drainage, house drainage, and removal of nuisances, as reported to you at your monthly meetings, and I append a summary of work done.

A new system of drainage for the houses at Little Verse has been carried out, which prevents any pollution of the river Symene from there. Two open drains on the sides of the main street in the Village of Chideock have been converted into underground sewers. The plans for an efficient system of drainage for the whole Village of Charmouth are nearing completion, and provisional permission has been granted for the drainage of Bothenhampton into the Borough sewers, the plans for which are also nearing completion.

Isolation Hospital.—Means for Disinfection.—No cases have been admitted into the Hospital during the year; it is in excellent order, and the wards are ready to receive patients whenever required.

Disinfection is carried out in the same way as described in my previous reports.

Housing of the Working Classes.—Fairly good, and, I believe, up to the average of similar rural districts. Overcrowding is uncommon.

There are no Common Lodging-houses in the district.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops come under your bye-laws. There was nothing in their condition to complain of.

The Slaughter-houses were inspected, and found to be kept in a cleanly manner.

Workshops and Bakehouses.—A register is kept. They were in a satisfactory condition.

There are no offensive processes of trade carried on in the district.

The Factory Act does not much affect the district. The factories, on inspection, were found to be in a satisfactory condition as regards all matters appertaining to the Council.

Two cases of anthrax were reported to me during October by the County Police. One at Coombe Farm, Litton Cheney, in a cow. The other at Ridge Farm, Wootton Fitzpaine, in a swine. On inspection I found that in both cases the carcasses had been cremated and the premises disinfected.

Pollution of the River Brit.—The new system of drainage carried out at Little Verse prevents any pollution of the river Symene, a tributary of the Brit, from that place. Analysis of the water from the Walditch stream, another tributary, proved that it was not polluted by the drainage from Walditch. The owner of the Hyde is taking measures to prevent any pollution of this stream at Hyde Corner.

Provisional permission has been granted for the drainage of Bothenhampton to be connected with the main sewers of the Borough, the plans for which are nearing completion. This will prevent any pollution from the village of Bothenhampton.

Regarding Dr. Spencer Low's report of the district your attention has been drawn to the sanitary defects pointed out by him and his recommendations carried out.

I have supervised the work of the Inspector and obtained from him reports of his inspections and records regarding the work he has carried out.

Cerne—Mr. E. E. Dalton.

Area.—The area of the district (exclusive of area covered with water) is 46,724 acres.

Population (1901 Census) 5064. Estimated to middle of 1907, 4510.

Births.—During the year 1907, 120 births have been registered in the district—57 males and 63 females—being two more than the previous year. This gives a birth-rate of 26 per 1000 of the estimated population, as compared to 21·7, the average of the previous ten years.

Deaths.—There were 78 deaths registered—38 males and 40 females—an increase of 11 deaths on the previous year. This will give a death-rate of 17·2 per 1000, or an increase of nearly 3 per 1000 upon that for the previous year, and I can only consider this as quite accidental, as the increase was not in any way caused by local conditions. The average rate for the previous ten years was 13·9, and the average age at death was 52·2, as compared with 53·3 in 1906.

The ages at which death occurred were—

Under 1 year	..	..	..	10
1 and under 5 years	..	..	..	2
5 "	15 "	..	..	3
15 "	25 "	..	..	5
25 "	65 "	..	..	18
65 and over	..	..	..	40
				78

To examine more closely the deaths over 65 years of age I find 33 were over 70 years of age, 10 over 80, and two over 90, and the deaths certified as due to old age of the number registered were 34, as compared with 29 of the previous year. In the Workhouse at Cerne Abbas six deaths occurred, with an average age of 74·8.

The causes of death as certified were as follows :—

Measles	..	..	..	..	1
Phthisis	..	..	..	..	2
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	1
Premature Birth	..	..	..	..	4
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	5
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	2
Pleurisy	..	..	..	..	1
Accidents	..	..	..	..	1
Influenza	..	..	..	..	1
Cancer	..	..	..	..	5
Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	7
All other diseases	..	..	..	..	48
					78

Zymotic Disease.—One death only was registered under this head, and this was due to measles, which gives the very low rate of ·022 per 1000 of the population of the district. Looking at the increase of the general death-rate on the year it is most satisfactory to find that deaths from what are considered to be preventable diseases, and due to local conditions, give such a low rate. This must be taken as a confirmation of my remarks, made under the heading of deaths, that the increase in the general rate was quite accidental.

Infantile Mortality.—The ten deaths under one year of age gives an infantile mortality rate of 83·3 per 1000 of the total births registered, and of this number four were certified as due to premature birth.

Prevalence of Disease Notification.—During the year I received 26 notifications of infectious diseases, the particulars of which are given in the form for that purpose appended hereto.

To summarise them they are as follows :—

Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	2
Enteric	..	..	..	..	2
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	2
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	20

The enteric cases occurred in the Parish of Cattistock. The mother was first ill; the daughter, who came home to nurse her, then contracted the disease, and I consider the origin of the disease is very probably due to the condition of the house.

Of the cases of diphtheria, one was in the Parish of Sydling St. Nicholas, the other in the Parish of Frome St. Quintin, and of each of these cases the cause is uncertain.

With regard to the outbreaks of scarlet fever, they were of a very mild nature, and were in the Parishes of Sydling St. Nicholas and Cerne Abbas, and I have reason to think that the disease had existed in both these localities for some little time. At both places I visited the schools to inspect the children, but deemed it necessary only to close the Cerne School, which was closed for four weeks from the 25th November. It gives me great pleasure to remark that no cases of typhoid fever were notified in the Parish of Sydling St. Nicholas during the year.

The following other schools were closed during the year :—

Pulham, two weeks from 6th May, for whooping cough.

Godmanstone, three weeks from 7th May, for measles.

Melcombe Horsey, three weeks from 13th June, for measles.

Minterne Magna, for two weeks from 9th December, for measles.

Water Supply.—The chief work under this heading has been done in the Parish of Sydling St. Nicholas, where during the past year every owner and occupier asked has made an effort to meet the difficulty there in a satisfactory manner.

I find 27 wells have been cleaned and deepened, and, where required, fittings repaired. Four new supplies have been obtained by means of artesian wells, and I have examined the water of all these and found them to be satisfactory in every way. During the coming Summer and Autumn I trust much further good work will be done as may be found necessary.

The other parts of the district are in the same condition as in former years, and I know of no serious lack of water in any part.

Housing of the Working Classes.—No cases of insanitary dwellings were reported, and the cottage accommodation remains fairly satisfactory.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—These have been inspected throughout the district, and on the whole may be considered fairly satisfactory. Only in four instances was anything requiring attention, and this has been done as requested.

Slaughter-houses and Bakehouses.—These have been regularly inspected, and notices to whitewash and clean have been served, and on the whole they are in good condition.

Factory and Workshop Act.—The workshops on the register have all been found on inspection to be in a satisfactory state, and no prosecutions have been necessary. There are certain out-workers in the district receiving work from outside the district, but no lists have been received, although applications have been made for same.

There are no Common Lodging-houses in the district.

I think the Council will agree with me that this is a very satisfactory report, and I respectfully offer my congratulations to the Council upon the same.

Dorchester (Eastern)—Dr. E. J. Day.

Acreage.—I beg to hand you my Annual Report on the health of the Eastern Division of the Rural Sanitary District of Dorchester, which comprises an acreage of 30,307, with a population which I estimate to be 3,982.

Population.—The Census of 1901 showed it to be 3,982, with 924 inhabited houses, giving an average of 4 persons to a house. During the decade between the last census and the previous one there was an annual decrease of 105, but then one must take into consideration the houses that have been built since that time, especially the new dairies. For the purpose of calculating the birth-rate, death-rate, &c., I have taken as last year, the figures as 4,000.

Births.—The total number of births registered is 61 (males 35, females 26) against 84 in 1906, 95 in 1905, 73 in 1904, 95 in 1903, 61 in 1902, 96 in 1901, 110 in 1900, 133 in 1899, and 127 in 1898. This shows the birth-rate to be more than 50 per cent. below what it was ten years ago.

Birth-rate.—The birth-rate therefore is 15·2 per 1000, that for England and Wales in 1907 being 26·3 per 1000, which is ·8 per 1000 below the rate in 1906, and lower than any other year on record. Compared with the average in the ten years 1897-1906 the birth-rate in 1907 shows a decrease of 2·1 per 1000.

Death-rate.—The death-rate (12·5 per 1000) is practically the same as in the previous year, when it was 12·2, the total deaths in 1907 amounting to 50, including those belonging to this division who died outside it. This death-rate compares favourably with that for England and Wales in 1907, viz., 15 per 1000, which is ·4 per 1000 below the rate in 1906, and lower than the rate in any other year on record: compared with the average rate in the ten years 1897-1906 the death-rate in 1907 showed a decrease of 1·7 per 1000.

Average Age at Death.—The average age at death was 58, against 54 in 1906, 52 in 1905, 48 in 1904 and 1903, 46 in 1902, and 44 in 1901. This is indeed most satisfactory, and must compare favourably with other districts, for the age at death has thus been raised no less than 14 years since 1901.

Zymotic Death-rate.—The Zymotic death-rate, which is inclusive of the seven chief zymotic diseases, was ·75 per 1000, against 1·2 for England and Wales (and ·9 for England and Wales, less the 218 towns), one child only having succumbed to measles and two children to diphtheria.

Infant Mortality.—The rate of infant mortality, measured by the number of deaths of children under 1 year of age to births registered, was only 32 per 1000 births, against 118 for England and Wales, and 106 for England and Wales less the 218 towns, only two infants having died in the whole of this Eastern division, which consists of 15 villages. This, again, is most satisfactory, for it is one of the chief points showing whether a district is healthy or not.

Child Mortality.—The child mortality, that is, the death-rate of children over 1, but under 5 years of age, was 1 per 1000 of population (65 per 1000 births).

Phthisis.—The death-rate from consumption is "nil," against ·25 per 1000 in 1906 and in 1905, and ·5 in 1904. The fact of no death having occurred from phthisis, nor from any other tubercular disease, should be noted with satisfaction, as these are amongst the most widely spread and fatal of all diseases.

The following table shows how well this division compares with England and Wales generally, and with England and Wales less the 218 towns:—

	Births.	Deaths.	Chief Zymotic Diseases. cols. 4 to 10	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Deaths under 1 Year per 1000 Births.
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
England and Wales ..	26·3	15	1·2	—	·3	·09	·16	·29	·07	·29	118
Ditto, less 218 towns	25·6	14·7	·9	—	·25	·06	·15	·21	·06	·18	106
This Division ..	15·2	12·5	·75	—	·25	—	·5	—	—	—	32

Prevalence of Disease.—Twenty cases of infectious illness were notified—diphtheria 15, scarlet fever 3, erysipelas and enteric fever one each. All the diphtheria cases were of a mild type excepting the two fatal cases—one at Whitcombe and the other at Broadmayne. The Doctor in attendance on these cases told me that the immediate cause of death was heart failure, due to the children sitting up in bed at too early a stage, the throat in each case having become almost free from the organism. (One of these children I saw myself, and can verify the statement). As regards the cause of this outbreak, it is next to impossible to say how much is due to geological conditions. There is, however, much to be said for the theory that it is due to dampness of the soil, for it is well known that this particular organism, when mixed with ordinary garden soil and kept damp, will, when the temperature is about 14 degrees centigrade, flourish for nearly twelve months, if kept in the dark, but if the temperature is raised to say 30 degrees C., and the soil is dry, then the germ will die in a few days. Some authorities think it is due to the rise and fall of the subsoil water, that is, when the normal rising and falling is altered suddenly it then becomes stagnated at a high level, and these germs are forced with the ground air into the cottages. When once established there is no doubt but that it spreads rapidly by means of schools, consequently I recommended the closure of the schools concerned, with the result that the disease began soon to abate. There was one case of typhoid fever, which was proved to be due to drinking contaminated water. How the well in question became so cannot be discovered for it is situated far away from any source of contamination.

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Dorchester, Eastern (Rural)—continued.

Water Supply.—One well at Burlestone was found on analysis to be unfit for drinking purposes, and it was closed accordingly; also a well at Dewlish was proved on analysis to be the cause of a case of diarrhoea. This well also has been "closed." The water supply is receiving our attention, in every case of doubt an analysis will be made at once.

Earth System.—The earth system is chiefly in vogue, and is satisfactory, but it requires attention. One has often to impress the villagers with the necessity of keeping the buckets clean.

Hospital.—As regards Hospital accommodation, I am pleased to know that you are about to consider if anything can be done in the matter, for, having seen for many years the great benefit derived in the Urban District of Dorchester, of which I am the Medical Officer of Health, from the early removal of cases to the hospital, in nearly every instance the other members of the family did not contract the disease. These facts having been impressed on me, I felt it my duty to strongly recommend to you the hospital system. The experience of the past year, in not having been able to properly isolate the cases, is additional evidence, if such be needed, of the want of a hospital.

Factory Act.—As regards the Factory Act, there are only 25 workshops on the register and there are no out-workers. Four bake-houses required special attention, with these exceptions the bakehouses have been kept in a sanitary condition. It was not found necessary to report anything to the Inspector of Factories. There were no prosecutions.

Anthrax.—No cases of anthrax were notified to me.

Housing of Working Classes.—As regards Housing of the Working Classes, some of the cottages have been found to be damp, owing chiefly to defective thatch, which is being remedied. There have been no cases of overcrowding, indeed, the villagers seem to be leaving the villages and going into the towns.

Dairies, &c.—The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops have received attention during the year, and a special visit has been made by a Medical Officer from the Local Government Board (Dr. R. W. Johnstone), whose report you have already perused; this Government official pointed out several matters to the Sanitary Inspector and myself which are still receiving our attention, but it is most difficult to persuade those who work in the Dairies to keep everything in a cleanly state, they want constant watching in order to prevent the milk from becoming contaminated. It is however most satisfactory to note that *not a single death* was due to consumption nor to "tubercle" in any form, nor to diarrhoea. These diseases being frequently caused in children by "dirty" milk, and milk contaminated with the tubercle bacillus; this seems marvellous when one considers that one-third of all the cows in the kingdom are said to be suffering more or less from consumption.

Slaughter-houses.—The Slaughter-houses have been duly whitewashed, the owner of one, however, had to be cautioned to keep it in a better state.

Common Lodging-houses.—There are no common lodging-houses in this division.

The following are matters for congratulation—

1. The low Death-rate, 12.5 per 1000 (against 14.7 for England and Wales less the 218 towns).
2. The low Zymotic Death-rate, .75 per 1000 (against .9 for England and Wales less the 218 towns).
3. The extremely low rate of infant mortality, only 32 per 1000 births (against 106 for England and Wales less the 218 towns).
4. Average age at Death raised from 54 to 58 years (a gain of 4 years since 1901).
5. Cancer death-rate reduced from 1.25 to .5 per 1000 (only two deaths).
6. Consumption death-rate including all tubercle diseases reduced from .25 per 1000 to "nil."

Dorchester (Western)—Mr. W. Rendall.

Area of District.—38,648 acres, exclusive of area covered by water.

Population.—1901 census, 5497; estimated to middle of 1907, 6248.

Number of Inhabited Houses.—Census 1901, 1073.

Average number of persons per house, 5.

Births.—The births registered were 86, giving a birth-rate of 13.7 per 1000. The average birth-rate of the preceding ten years being 18.2.

Deaths.—The deaths registered were 151, and of this number 83 occurred in the County Asylum amongst persons not belonging to this division, and should be left out in estimating the normal death-rate. This would give a death-rate of 10.8 per 1000. Including the 83 deaths the death-rate is 24.1.

The average age at death of the 68 deaths belonging to this division is 54.

The average age of the non-residents is 59. Last year the averages were 46 and 56.

Zymotic Death-rate.—Three deaths are registered as due to Diphtheria. Two occurred in the village of Charminster and one in Winterborne Steepleton.

Cause of Death of the 68 deaths which occurred in this division :—

3	are due to	Diphtheria.
5	"	Phthisis.
8	"	Cancer.
9	"	Bronchitis.
5	"	Pneumonia.
8	"	Heart Disease.
1	"	Premature Birth.
1	"	Accident.
28	"	Other Causes.
—		
68		
—		

Infantile Mortality.—Six infants died under the age of one year, giving a death-rate of 66·3 per 1000 births registered. Premature birth, convulsions, marasmus and bronchitis being the causes certified.

Prevalence of Disease and Notifications.—Twenty cases were notified to me during the year :—

In January	2	cases of Diphtheria at	Winterborne Abbas.
"	2	"	Winterborne Steepleton.
"	2	"	Scarlet Fever at Stratton.
In February	7	"	Diphtheria at Charminster.
"	1	"	Erysipelas at Winterborne Abbas.
"	1	"	Scarlet Fever at Frampton.
In March	1	"	Maiden Newton.
"	4	"	Charminster.

The first case of Diphtheria which occurred at Winterborne Abbas was contracted at Weymouth, and in consequence of the case not being notified in time the patient was not isolated, and the disease was communicated to another family at Winterborne Steepleton (the adjoining parish). All the other cases of infectious disease were confined to the houses in which they originated, which goes to prove that when early notification is given, prompt isolation and the use of disinfectants will often prevent the spread of disease.

The cases of Diphtheria at Charminster, which all occurred in one family, were due to a foul drain in close proximity to the house.

Frampton School was closed for six weeks in consequence of a case of Scarlet Fever occurring in the Schoolmaster's house.

Water Supply.—There has been no change during the year. The supply has been sufficient, and particular attention has been paid to prevent the pollution of wells by surface water.

If, as Dr. Johnstone suggested in his report, samples of suspected water should be taken for analysis, as a matter of routine, then I would recommend that an analysis should be made of every private supply in the district, for after repeated analyses, both in Maiden Newton and Toller Porcorum, it has been proved that not more than one sample in six is fit for drinking purposes.

Would it not, therefore, be better in future if complaints are made, or if any cases of illness occur which are attributable to drinking water, to save the expense of analysis, and take steps at once to procure a public supply. The provision of a new water supply at Toller Porcorum is now under your consideration.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—A full report as to the condition of our milk supplies, cowsheds and milkshops was made by Dr. Johnstone during the year, and he fully confirmed the remarks which I had previously made to you in my annual reports.

General Sanitary Work.—A detailed account of the work done during the year is appended. A large number of inspections have been made, and all matters requiring attention have been remedied without recourse to legal proceedings.

Housing of the Working Classes.—There is no overcrowding. The dwellings which I pointed out to Dr. Johnstone when he visited Maiden Newton, and which he mentions as without through ventilation, are very old and belong to small owners. They are mostly occupied by old people who have lived in them for years, and as their health has not suffered thereby I have not reported the houses as unfit for habitation. If any action is taken to improve the older kind of working-class dwellings, it would result in many of them being pulled down, or left to decay, and this would lead to overcrowding in the better class of dwellings, as new cottages are not likely to be built in the rural districts.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.—There are 14 workshops on the register. Two written notices have been served during the year and complied with.

Slaughter houses and Bakehouses have all been inspected during the year, and where necessary, cleaned, repaired and whitewashed.

In conclusion, I should like to say with regard to Dr. Johnstone's remark that there would be an advantage in having only one Medical Officer of Health for the whole district, that I think such an arrangement would be impossible. A medical man in general practice could not satisfactorily undertake the sanitary work of both districts. If any alteration is made, it will be necessary to appoint a Medical Officer of Health who would devote his whole time to the work.

Poole—Dr. W. T. Gardner Robinson.

Area.—The area of the whole district is 17353 acres (exclusive of 94 acres covered by water), made up as follows :—

					Acres.
Canford Magna	..	..	..	..	7846
Kinson	..	..	..	..	2769
Lytchett Matravers	..	..	..	..	3413
Lytchett Minster	..	..	..	..	3325
					<hr/>
					17,353

Population.—The population of the district according to the census of 1901 was 4779. The estimated population at the middle of 1907 was 5302, the increase being mostly in Broadstone and Wallisdown.

The number of inhabited houses at the census of 1901 was 1081, the average number of persons per house being 4·4.

Birth-rate.—The number of births registered during the year was 128—73 males and 55 females. The average rate per 1000 of the population was 24·1, which is 2·3 below last year, and 1·2 below the average of the previous 10 years.

Death-rate.—The total number of deaths registered during the year was 53—31 being males and 22 females, giving a death-rate of 10 per 1000. This is our lowest recorded death-rate; it is 3·9 below the decennial average.

The average age at death was 49·4 years.

The principal causes of death were :—

					Deaths.
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	10 equal to 1·9 per 1000
Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	10 „ 1·9 „
Pneumonia, Bronchitis, and other Respiratory affections	..	..	..	..	9 „ 1·7 „
Cancer	..	..	..	..	3 „ 6 „

Infant Mortality.—The number of deaths under one year was four, the smallest recorded, being seven below the decennial average. The infantile death-rate per 1000 births was 31. Premature births was certified as the cause of death in two out of the four.

Zymotic Diseases.—Twelve notifications were received, viz. :—

Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	..	..	..	..	5
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	5
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	1
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	1
					<hr/>
					12

These were notified from the various parishes as follows :—

Canford Magna	..	..	..	..	4
Kinson	..	..	..	..	5
Lytchett Minster	..	..	..	..	3
					<hr/>
					12

One death took place from membranous croup, which makes the zymotic death-rate for the year 2 per 1000 living.

Diphtheria.—Of the five cases notified, three occurred in Broadstone and two in Lytchett Minster. The three cases in Broadstone were of a mild nature, were all isolated and treatment given in their own homes with such good effect that the disease did not spread any further. One of the cases could be traced to direct infection from a visit to a similar one in a neighbouring place. I could not find anything in the sanitary condition of the premises to account for the other two; but many cases of sore throat were prevalent at the time. On inspecting the schools, however, all was found satisfactory.

The two Lytchett Minster cases occurred at a cottage on the Common. The first proved rapidly fatal, and the second one was removed (as soon as notified) to the Infectious Hospital, where she recovered. The sanitary defects of the cottage were many and serious, and steps were taken at once to remedy them. No further cases occurred.

Scarlet Fever.—This disease was chiefly confined to Kinson, four out of the five cases occurring there. There was abundant evidence of the complaint having spread from a neighbouring village. One case was removed to the Hospital, the rest being managed at home; all did well. The disease throughout was of a mild type, and did not cause a single death.

Puerperal Fever.—One case of this disease was notified, happily recovery took place. Its origin was explained to me by the notifying medical attendant.

Erysipelas.—One case was notified of an ordinary mild type.

Tuberculosis.—Ten deaths from this cause during the year, six of them being about the age of 25.

Water Supply.—A few more houses have had the public water supply laid on, but most of the district obtains water either from wells or running streams. The system of wells at present in vogue has many faults; it cannot be impressed too much on the users of the same the necessity for boiling the water for drinking purposes. They should also see that the well is kept clear of every possible pollution, more particularly from privies, pig-styes, and refuse heaps.

Sewerage and Drainage.—We have none.

Excrement Disposal.—Much improved since last report, and no complaints.

Housing of the Working Classes.—One bad case of overcrowding received attention and has been remedied. Sanitary defects in a few places have been pointed out and seen to.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, &c.—The results of inspections here are incorporated in Mr. Barnes' report. I have also visited several; one, however, at Wallisdown, was a poor old woman who knitted about three or four pairs of stockings per year.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—On the first day of October the new Bye-laws came into operation. Many dairies were registered both before and since this date. Have visited throughout the district and find all, or rather nearly all the premises are clean, and there is nothing to complain of. Have seen the men milking in many instances, inspected their hands, as well as the cows. All the utensils everywhere were satisfactory. In some of the small sheds the air space was rather cramped, and whitewashing indifferently done.

We have not had any epidemic due to milk this year.

Slaughter and Bakehouses.—These have all been duly inspected, and on the whole are in good condition. A slaughter-house at Waterloo has been reported during the year; both Mr. Barnes and myself have visited the place with a view to getting the smell remedied.

Infectious Hospital.—This is situated within the Poole Urban District. Two cases were sent in during the year; each stayed for six weeks.

Schools.—These have been inspected as occasion required. At Broadstone, a severe epidemic of measles delayed the opening of the schools for three weeks after the Christmas holidays; and for a similar reason, the Upton and Lytchett Minster Schools had their re-opening delayed for two weeks. I recommended exclusion of certain children from Creekmoor and Hillborne (about 40 altogether) from Broadstone Schools on account of Mumps, in March.

The year, on the whole, has been a most healthy one, and I trust this very satisfactory state of affairs may long continue.

Shaftesbury—Mr. Thomas F. Hanly.

Area.—The area of the whole district is 41,105 acres, exclusive of an area of 239 acres of water.

Population.—The population of the district according to the Census of 1901 was 10,928. The estimated population to middle of 1907 was 11,258.

The number of inhabited houses, according to the Census of 1901, was 2,594, giving an average number of 4.2 persons per house.

Birth-rate.—The total number of births registered during the year for the whole district was 213 (114 males and 99 females), giving a birth-rate of 18.9 per 1000 of the estimated population. Of these 207 were legitimate and six illegitimate. The births in the different districts were—Shaftesbury 32, Fontmell 48, Gillingham 133. This is the lowest birth-rate for the last 10 years, the average for that period (1897–1906) being 237 for the whole, giving a rate of 21.04 per 1000 of the estimated population.

Death-rate.—The total number of deaths registered during the year for the whole district was 141 (68 males and 73 females), giving a death-rate of 12.5 per 1000 of estimated population. The deaths in the different districts were—Shaftesbury 37, Fontmell 19, Gillingham 85. This is a lower death-rate than the average for the last 10 years, which was 147, being at the rate of 13.22 per 1000 of the estimated population. Deaths registered for the various months were—January 21, February 14, March 18, April 23, May 10, June 7, July 8, August 11, September 5, October 8, November 6, December 10.

The chief causes of death were—Heart disease 24, brain disease 21, bronchitis 17, cancer 10, tuberculosis 10. There are also included amongst the causes of death four cases of suicide.

Average Age at death, 52 years; exclusive of children under one year, 58.5 years.

Zymotic death-rate, 0.44.

Infant Mortality.—The total deaths of children as certified under one year were 16. This gives a death-rate of 75.1 per 1000 births. All were legitimate children, and the ages at death were—

Under 1 month ..	..	..	..	9
From 1 to 2 months ..	..	..	..	1
" 2 to 3 " ..	..	..	..	1
" 4 to 5 " ..	..	..	..	4
" 7 to 8 " ..	..	..	..	1

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Shaftesbury (Rural)—continued.

Prevalence of Disease.—There were 28 cases of official notification. Scarlet fever, 20 cases, of which two were in Shaftesbury district, one in Fontmell district, and 17 in Gillingham district; none fatal. Erysipelas, four cases, one in Shaftesbury district and three in Gillingham district; none fatal. Diphtheria, three cases, two in Shaftesbury district and one in Gillingham district; none fatal. Enteric fever, one case in Gillingham district, which proved fatal.

In the spring of the year there was an epidemic of measles in Gillingham, which necessitated the closing of the public elementary schools. The infants department of the Gillingham Schools was closed from April 29th to June 3rd, and the other departments, Gillingham and Wyke, from May 6th to June 3rd. The Gillingham Boys' Grammar School was also closed from May 17th to June 1st. I am pleased to say that, although the outbreak was severe, only one case proved fatal.

Water Supply.—This is fairly satisfactory, and I am not aware of any serious contamination in the well supplies, which is the principal supply for the district. I must, however, add that I believe an improved system would be beneficial in the district where it could be procured.

Sewerage and Drainage—Excrement Disposal.—Speaking generally, this is fairly satisfactory for an agricultural district. In many cases improvement is desirable, and in an important part of the district, with an improved water supply, there might be added an improved sewerage and drainage system, but without the former the latter suggestion is hopeless. The direct mode of emptying privies on the gardens in front of, and in close proximity to, the cottages and houses, to my mind, cannot be too strongly condemned, as I consider it a prominent and permanent source of grave infection.

Isolation Hospital.—There is no isolation hospital in the district, but the Sanitary Authority rents a cottage, with the object of using it as a place of isolation in the event of a serious outbreak of infectious disease demanding urgent need for isolation.

Housing for the Working Classes.—This is generally good, although in some of the older cottages the accommodation is so scant and the outdoor conveniences so exposed that they are unsatisfactory from a moral as well as a sanitary point. However, improvements are being made in all new built houses and cottages, with a view to increased accommodation and improved sanitary arrangements.

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, etc.—These are, on the whole, in an improving satisfactory condition, and I am pleased to state that in this district the great majority of the farmers are evincing a strong and practical desire towards aiding in obtaining a pure milk supply.

When we recognise the fact that milk is an almost absolute necessity for the general population, that it is the national food of the infant and the mainstay of the invalid, then the importance of a pure milk supply can be seriously understood. I may say that perhaps, of all food, milk is the most easily contaminated and the most liable to convey infection and spread disease, therefore it is of paramount necessity to take every reasonable precaution to preserve the good health of the cows and to procure the milk under conditions most likely to ensure its freedom from all deleterious germs. Towards this desirable end I quite anticipate a further kindly and hearty co-operation from the many farmers and cowkeepers within the district.

Slaughter-houses, Bakehouses, Common Lodging-houses, etc.—The slaughter-houses and bakehouses have been inspected and found to have been cleaned and whitewashed, and generally in a satisfactory condition. There are no common lodging-houses in the district.

Factory and Workshop.—This being an almost exclusively agricultural district, the Factory Act does not seriously affect it. In the workshops, factories, and work-places the accommodation was found to be satisfactory and the sanitary conveniences sufficient.

Many complaints have been received and a number of nuisances abated during the year. Some of the complaints were trivial, while others were more serious, the principal ones being—

1. An open cesspool at East Stour.
2. An insanitary state of outdoor accommodation at West Stour.
3. An open sewerage drain on the side of the road at Enmore Green.
4. An insanitary, filthy state of premises at Alcester.
5. An insanitary state of affairs at Ashmore through pigs being kept in a sty erected against an inhabited house.
6. An insanitary condition of the outdoor conveniences at the East Orchard Schools.
7. An insanitary condition of outdoor premises at Gillingham.

There was one case of overcrowding at Gillingham.

Two cases of anthrax occurred in the district, both being treated with the necessary orthodox stringent precautions.

There was one case of condemned meat, the carcass of a pig, which was certified as unfit for human food, and destroyed accordingly.

Beyond the matters mentioned the district is otherwise in a satisfactory state.

Sherborne—Dr. G. R. Rickett.

Area of District.—37,482 acres.

Population.—Census 1901, 5725. Estimated to middle of 1907, 6025.

Births.—During the year 1907, 101 births have been registered in the district; 52 males and 49 females.

Deaths.—83 Deaths have been registered; 40 males and 43 females; making an increase of population during the year of 18. This gives a birth-rate of 16·57, and a death-rate of 13·61 per 1000 population. The average age at death is 55·44 years.

The average age at death is 55·44 years.

There have been 15 deaths from bronchitis, 1 from pneumonia, 4 from phthisis, 5 from influenza, 14 from heart disease, 1 from cancer, 2 from accidents, and 1 suicide. Thirty of the deaths were of persons over the age of 70 years, of these eight exceeded 80 years, four males and four females, and two exceeded 90 years, both females.

Nine of the deaths were under one year, giving an infant mortality rate of 89·10 per 1000 births. Of these one was from broncho-pneumonia, one from convulsions, two from bronchitis, one from croup, one congenital defects, two from vital inertia, and one acute yellow atrophy of liver.

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

Deaths under 1 year	..	..	..	9
„ from 1 to 5 years	..	..	..	1
„ „ 5 to 15 „	..	..	..	3
„ „ 15 to 25 „	..	..	..	2
„ „ 25 to 65 „	..	..	..	24
„ „ 65 upwards	..	..	..	44
			Total	83

The subsoil of the district is inferior oolite and the character of the country undulating, lying near head of water-parting between Bristol and English Channel. Average height from 200 to 500 feet above sea level.

The chief occupation of the inhabitants of the district is agricultural. There are no factories, but in about 40 houses women work at glovemaking, 68 women being thus employed.

The house accommodation of the working classes is sufficient and generally good. Four new houses have been erected during the year. One cottage in Holwell has been condemned and pulled down. During the past year Bye-laws have been submitted to the Local Government Board, but so far they have not been approved. Several cottages are unsatisfactory and should be pulled down when provision can be made for their inhabitants, who are in several cases aged persons.

Sewers and sewage disposal.—During the past year in Bradford Abbas the drainage has been improved by substituting a 12 inch covered in pipe for the pre-existing open ditch which ran down Grove Lane.

In Trent, in Rig Lane, a 9 inch sanitary glazed pipe has been put down. It discharges into a brick tank situated in an orchard below the lane and has an overflow into an open ditch.

The river Yeo is still polluted at Darkhole by untreated effluent from Sherborne, at Compton Mill by the Yeovil Sewage Works (concerning which complaints are always arising) and at Goathill by the Milborne Port sewage.

Excrement disposal.—The disposal of excrement is usually by cesspools, privy middens and buckets. The two former are emptied about once or twice a year, the buckets once or twice a week. The excrement is spread on gardens and allotments. The cesspools and privy middens are gradually being replaced by the bucket system, about twenty privy middens and cesspools have been closed during the year.

Water supply of the district.—Upland water and shallow wells. Most of the houses in Chetnole are now supplied from the town main, and some houses in Holwell by Colonel Digby's waterworks. Trent has been given a new water supply during the past year. The reservoir is fed by a spring and is said to hold 30,000 gallons. The water supply of Holwell, Leigh and Holnest still needs consideration.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—A register of these has been completed during the past year. In the district there are 136 dairies of which 68 sell the milk. Several of the dairies and cowsheds are dirty and illkept, but there has been improvement during the past year. In two cases the bartous have been cleaned and drained properly. The walls of the sheds are cleaner and limewashing has been periodically carried out. Personal cleanliness on the part of the milkers is being enforced. Supervision is now carried out more frequently than formerly and regulations are better complied with.

Public Elementary Schools.—The condition of these is fairly good.

Infectious diseases.—There has been no epidemic during the last year, and no death has resulted from infectious disease.

Isolation Hospital.—The unsatisfactory nature of this continues the same. It is ill conceived and badly built and has no accommodation for Nurse or Caretaker. It cannot be got ready for use without considerable delay. In its present condition it is well nigh useless. An apparatus for the disinfection of bedding and clothing is provided.

Inspection of the district is made systematically with the Inspector of Nuisances.

Sturminster Newton—Mr. Bernard S. Hollick.

My annual Report will necessarily be a short one, as I have only been in office for the period of eight months, but I have endeavoured to investigate the work done by the late Medical Officer of Health in the earlier months of the year, in order to make my report as concise as possible.

Area of district, exclusive of area covered by water, is 39,151 acres.

Population (Census 1901) 8,804; estimated to middle of 1907, 8,673.

Births.—The births registered during the year numbered 146. Of these 69 were males and 77 females. The average number of births for the preceding 10 years was 187.

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Sturminster Newton (Rural)—continued.

Birth-rate.—This is 16·8 per 1000 persons living, as compared with the decennial average of 20·7.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered from all causes was 150. Of these 69 were males and 81 females, the decennial average being 132·9.

Death-rate.—This is 17·2 per 1000 persons living, the decennial average being 15·1.

Average Age at death.—This was 58·4, therefore higher than last year, when it was 55·4, and well above the decennial average of about 50.

Zymotic rate.—There have been two deaths under this heading, viz., from diphtheria. This makes the zymotic death-rate ·2 per 1000 persons living.

Infantile Mortality, or the proportion of deaths under one year of age to births registered, is 40·8, which is extremely low when compared to the decennial average of 83·3.

Prevalence of Disease Notification.—There have been 18 cases of infectious disease notified, viz. :—

Nine cases of diphtheria, all from Child Okeford, occurring in five different houses.

Three cases of scarlet fever, two from different houses in Marnhull and one from Hanford.

Six cases of typhoid fever from three different houses in Sturminster Newton.

I have made careful enquiries and investigations to discover the cause of the outbreak of diphtheria at Child Okeford. The only possible explanation I can find is that a child had been staying at the house in which the disease first appeared, whose home was somewhere in the suburbs of London, and she left the day before the disease showed itself. I think without doubt that the other cases arose from the original one. The affected houses derived their milk and water supplies from different sources, and the drains and other sanitary arrangements on the premises were in a satisfactory state, except for a few minor matters, which have since been attended to.

With reference to the cases of enteric in Sturminster, two, without doubt, arose from the drinking water of a well, which, when examined, showed marked pollution from sewage. Another case had contracted the disease before coming to stay in the town.

Schools.—The schools have been closed in two separate districts during the year, once at Stalbridge, owing to an outbreak of chicken pox, and once at Child Okeford, owing to the prevalence of diphtheria.

Phthisis.—There were seven deaths from phthisis registered during the year. Of these one died between the ages of 15 and 25, four between the ages of 25 and 65, the remaining one being over 65 years of age. Five of these died at Stalbridge, one at Shillingstone, and one at Stourton Caundle.

Water Supply.—Works to this end are in progress at Sturminster Newton, and I hope by the summer months we shall have a plentiful supply in the town.

Isolation Hospital.—There is not one within the district, and I do not see that one is needed, as arrangements can always be made for the removal of any cases to the Isolation Hospital in the neighbouring district of Blandford.

Housing of the Working Classes.—With some exceptions this remains fairly satisfactory. In those cases where overcrowding has been found, six in number, steps have been taken to remedy this, and the dwellings have been improved from a sanitary point of view.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops, etc.—During the summer and autumn I have inspected a number of dairies and cowsheds. I found on the whole that the dairies are well kept, cleanliness, ventilation, and drainage being well attended to. Great improvements had been carried out in many places as regards the cowsheds. Two of the latter I found quite unfit for the housing of cattle, and the owners of both of these have been served with notices to rebuild. In other cases I found minor insanitary conditions. In each case an order has been served to have the matter attended to. In a number of instances I found that the cows lie out all the year round, except in very cold weather or in cases of illness. A register is now kept, and a number of cowsheds and dairies have been registered during the year.

Slaughter-houses, Bakehouses, Common Lodging-houses, etc.—The slaughter-houses are satisfactory. The bakehouses are, on the whole, satisfactory. In one instance, however, the state of things were found to be unsatisfactory, and measures have been since taken to make the necessary improvements. There are no common lodging-houses in the district.

Wareham—Mr. Kilcoursie J. Courtenay.

Area.—The district comprises 93,098 acres, and is the largest in Dorset.

Population.—According to the Census of 1901 this was 10,574, and is estimated to the middle of 1907 at 10,575, a gradual increase on last year.

Birth-rate.—There were 246 births during the year—an increase of 29 on last year—giving a birth-rate of 25·2 per 1000. The previous year the rate was 20·6 per 1000.

Death-rate.—There were 131 deaths registered, including those which occurred beyond the district, giving a rate of 12·3 per 1000, an improvement on last year.

Average Age at death, 54½ years. This is also an improvement on last year, when the average age was 51 years 30 days.

Zymotic disease.—One death occurred from enteric fever.

Infant Mortality.—There were 17 deaths of infants under one year, giving a rate of 69·1 per 1000 births registered. This is a great decrease on last year, when the rate was 92·1 per 1000.

General.—Seven deaths occurred from malignant disease, a decrease of three on last year. Twelve deaths were due to phthisis and other tubercular disease, a slight increase on last year.

Of the other deaths 32 were due to heart disease (an increase of four on last year), four to bronchitis, four to premature birth, six to pneumonia, three to epidemic influenza, two to accident.

Of the accidental deaths, one occurred at Stoborough from congestion of the lungs and exhaustion following a fractured thigh, and the other at Bere Regis, where a man was crushed between a traction engine and wall.

Notification.—I have received 64 certificates under the Notification of Diseases Act. 54 were due to scarlet fever, of which 47 cases occurred in the Swanage district. This outbreak was due to a woman from London bringing a child to Langton who had not finished peeling. It was of a mild type, and no deaths occurred. It is very difficult to isolate in such a number of cases, and the parents, in spite of frequent warnings, would not take sufficient precautions. In one case proceedings were threatened for not obeying instructions.

The remaining cases occurred in the Bere Regis district. One case at Moreton was contracted at Dorchester; the others were due to a hawker, whose children were suffering from scarlatina unknown to him.

Water Supply.—New wells are being dug, but there is still room for improvement in some parts. The supply at Corfe Castle was deficient at times, but this is now to be remedied shortly. At Knighton the quality of the water has been found unsatisfactory, but this also has been taken in hand.

Sewage and Drainage.—Improvements are being made as opportunities occur. Vault privies are gradually being converted to earth closets, and I hope the former will eventually be abolished.

Cottage Accommodation.—Improvements are still to be desired.

Dairies, Slaughter-houses, etc.—I am pleased to say there is a general improvement. I have made a general inspection of dairies, especially of purveyors of milk, and suggested alterations have been carried out.

General.—I have made a systematic inspection with the Sanitary Inspector, and paid special visits when required.

Physical Features and General Character.—This is a purely agricultural district, and thinly populated. There is no regular system of drainage. The night-soil is dug into the ground, the only feasible plan when there is no public scavenger. New cottages have been erected, but more are still desired. The water supply has generally improved, and fresh additions are being made. A good number of new wells are being sunk.

I am glad to say we have not needed to make use of the Isolation Hospital this year. The case of enteric fever, which proved fatal, was due to oysters. I have had notices printed and sent round the district with regard to shell-fish generally. The case was thoroughly isolated and all precautions taken.

We have no lodging-houses or offensive trades in the district. The dairies are frequently inspected, and remedies effected when necessary. The general condition at the end of the year was satisfactory.

Weymouth—Mr. W. Hawkins.

The area of the district is 29,995 acres, and when the inland water is subtracted 28,969 acres.

The population at the last census was 7884 and is not much increased at the present time.

The number of births for the year is 179, giving a rate of 22·5 per 1000 of population.

The number of deaths is 103, giving a death-rate of 13 per 1000 of population.

The average age at death is 41 years.

The zymotic death-rate calculated upon the seven principal zymotic diseases is ·6.

Infant mortality.—Nineteen children died under the age of one year, giving a rate of 106 for every 1000 births registered.

Prevalence of disease and notification.—Thirty-eight cases of infectious disease were notified:—

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	28
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	8
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	1
4th Disease	..	..	..	..	1

One of the cases of scarlet fever turned out to be of the mixed type which is called 4th disease.

Scarlet fever occurred at Upwey in January, and at Broadwey in December, these small outbreaks were successfully dealt with by sending the children to the Isolation Hospital and closing the schools, but in Chickerell Parish from March to December cases have occurred at intervals, 15 altogether.

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Weymouth (Rural)—continued.

Five cases of diphtheria were also notified from Chickerell, one from Monte Video Terrace near which a foul ditch was a likely cause. This ditch was cleared but will require attention in the future. Three cases of diphtheria from Putton Cottages (a row of eight houses) these are built in a low damp situation in an old disused brickyard, and have been the subject of a notice from your Inspector to the owner.

One case of diphtheria came from Howard's Terrace and the drainage of this terrace has been improved since the outbreak. It must be noted that nearly all of the scarlet fever cases were found in the same cottages, or rows of cottages.

Water Supply.—This is generally good, the larger part of the district being supplied from the Weymouth Water Company, and from the reservoir of the Portland District Council; these are upland waters and of good quality. In other places there are wells and springs and the supply is both abundant and satisfactory.

Sewage and drainage, excrement disposal.—This is generally satisfactory and is mostly effected by means of earth closets, privy vaults or cesspools, the contents of same being afterwards used on the land.

At Wyke Regis the new sewerage system of filtration and land irrigation is most successful and satisfactory and the effluent which afterwards is allowed to discharge into the tidal waters of the Portland Harbour is very clear and satisfactory both in appearance and upon analysis.

During the summer some of the larger parishes in the district are a little troublesome in regard to the satisfactory disposal of waste and slop water and require constant and strict supervision.

Isolation Hospital, means for disinfection.—The Isolation Hospital has been in almost constant use this year owing to the prevalence of scarlet fever. We have now 16 beds. The patients have done remarkably well, and there have been no return cases after removal to their homes.

My thanks are due to the caretaker and his wife both for their kindness to the patients and loyalty in carrying out my directions.

Disinfection.—Disinfection is carried out by means of carbolic acid, sulphurous acid and formaline vapour.

Housing of the Working Classes.—Five cases of overcrowding were dealt with, new houses have been built at Chickerell and Broadway, but at Preston good cottages are badly wanted.

Bye-laws regulating buildings and dwellings are recommended for adoption and are only waiting the approval of the Local Government Board.

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, etc.—These have been inspected regularly during the year, they are much improved and in many cases are satisfactory. New floors and drainage have been instituted in several dairies and one cowshed in particular having been condemned, the owners are building a new one to take its place.

The Bye-laws recently adopted and which came into force last January will be useful in dealing with these premises in the future.

Slaughter-houses and Bakehouses.—There are six slaughter-houses in the district. These have been regularly inspected and are well kept and properly cleansed as required. The bakehouses have been inspected and much improvement can be observed in the way they are kept. New concrete floors and improvement in the drainage have been laid down in two cases.

Factory Act.—There are twenty-nine workshops on our list. Two written notices have been served on account of want of drainage of floors, and these have been complied with.

The Public Elementary Schools are in fairly good sanitary condition, some improvements have been effected at Chickerell and recommended at Preston.

Systematic Inspection of the district has been made by your Inspector and myself and some good work has been done.

Wimborne and Cranborne—Mr. C. H. Watts Parkinson. (JANUARY—SEPTEMBER.)

In response to a request from the District Council to report for so much of the year as had expired when I ceased to hold office—January 1st to September 29th—I send this report, which is as full as I am able to make from my memoranda, the books having been returned to the office by direction of the Council.

I am unable to prepare any statistics, not having received any forms for the purpose, and must confine myself, therefore, to the incidence of notifiable disease and general inspection.

Notifiable disease.—I received altogether 24 notifications—one typhoid, eight diphtheria, ten scarlatina, four erysipelas, and one phthisis.

WIMBORNE (nine cases).

Scarlatina, 5. Two at one house in Ringwood Road, January and February, of a very mild type, probably contracted outside the district.

Three at Colehill in May, very mild. There had been an outbreak some two years before in the same house, and these were the children not then attacked, and possibly, as there was no other case, may have been infected from some article of clothing not fully disinfected then.

Typhoid, 1 case. Patient came home ill from Southampton, where she was a school teacher. It was of a mild type.

Diphtheria, 2 cases. One at Longham in July, a visitor from Portsmouth. She was taken ill on arrival, and there was a case next door to her home.

One at Colehill in September, a very mild case, source not known. The drainage, etc., was not perfect.

Erysipelas, 1 ordinary case.

CRANBORNE (15 cases).

Diphtheria, 6 cases. All at Alderholt, on the border of the district. This outbreak was of an unusual character, and caused me a good deal of anxiety and trouble. The facts are as follows:—

February 7th. I received a notification from Alderholt. The case was fatal at once, and no time to take a swab. The woman had been outside the district, and, as I could not find any other case of sore throat, I concluded it was contracted outside.

A brother of the deceased woman was notified on February 20th. He lived with a married sister some distance away, but had attended at the funeral.

On March 27th a child living at Blackwater came home from school, and was "in extremis" when the doctor saw him the same night.

Every care was taken in these cases to isolate and disinfect, and, although there were other children, no further case occurred in these houses, and no other children were found suffering from suspicious throat at the school.

On April 12th I received a notification of another rapidly fatal case at Camel Green. The child was taken ill on the 10th, and died the next morning. Tracheotomy was performed.

The mother was confined the beginning of March. She was attended by a midwife. The infant had ophthalmia neonatorum, and the doctor found a few scattered circumscribed papular eruptions on the body. On April 4th the infant became worse, a profuse thin nasal discharge appeared, and it died exhausted on the 9th.

Although I could not get any evidence that the midwife had any connection with the other cases, it seemed possible that the infant, being by reason of the ophthalmia very susceptible, might have been infected through the midwife, and she was cautioned to thoroughly disinfect herself and suspend work.

On April 21st a man was notified at Camel Green. The houses were all inspected, and some cases of sore throat found, so mild that the people had gone about as usual. Stringent orders were issued, and children from the houses forbidden to go to school until the doctor certified, and suspicious cases of sore throat to be bacteriologically examined.

On May 1st the father of the two fatal cases, who had moved from his own house to the Post Office, was notified.

This was reported to the Post Office authorities. The case was well isolated, and no further case occurred.

I find there had been no case of diphtheria in the adjoining district, so that the source of infection is very obscure.

It was not a question of milk or of school infection, as the case at Blackwater, some distance off, was the only school case.

Possibly the other cases might somehow have been connected with the cases in February, and there is great carelessness shown by the people in visiting each others houses when infectious diseases are present, notwithstanding frequent instructions.

There were six cases notified, and three fatal within a few hours, and no doubt the infant also died from diphtheria.

I have seen two previous outbreaks of this character, and the outbreak has been without warning, and no trace of any antecedent case; and I believe there must be some atmospheric conditions (heat, light, moisture) that have a special action on the germs of disease lying dormant in the soil.

Scarlatina, 5 cases of the mild type. One at Cripplestyle in June, one at Jordan Hill in July, and one at Alderholt in July. These were children attending school, and, as the doctor thought they might be connected with the school, the holidays were begun a week earlier than usual, and no further cases occurred, except a further case in the same house at Alderholt, in September, which, in my opinion, was infected by the former one. The last case was at Gussage All Saints, in July. Some 30 Waif and Stray children from London were boarded out in the village, and one child was found to develop scarlatina. The Vicar called in the doctor at once, and moved the child to a room at the Vicarage, the cottage was fumigated, and, thanks to the prompt action taken, no further case occurred.

Erysipelas.—Three cases were notified of the mild type.

Phthisis.—One case was notified.

Measles were very prevalent and the schools were closed at St. Giles, Horton, Cranborne, Woodlands, and Verwood. *Whooping cough* at Handley, and *Chicken pox* at Verwood.

These diseases not being notifiable, nothing is heard of them until the school managers apply for permission to close on account of attendance; so little can be done to check an outbreak, but I hope the medical inspection of schools will, when in working order, enable something to be done to prevent the spread of these epidemics, which carry off more victims than the notifiable, and so more manageable diseases.

Influenza was prevalent, but not of so serious a character.

General.—The case of scarlatina among the Waif and Stray children, is the first I have known to occur in these children, and coming as they do from the crowded slums, it shows the great care that must be exercised by the London Officials.

It is well in my last report to call attention to the satisfactory condition of the district as to incidence and mortality from notifiable disease, and the improvement has been specially marked during the last seven years, for while the average number of notifications received during the 10 years 1891-1900 was 78, from 1901-1907 it has been only 43, and many of these are erysipelas, which in my opinion might be omitted in favour of the notification of the first cases of the milder zymotics.

M.O.H. Reports, 1907, Wimborne and Cranborne (Rural)—continued.

Typhoid fever which was endemic is unknown except for an occasional imported case. Scarlatina is generally of such a mild type that it is often unrecognised, and when an epidemic occurs it is generally due to the fact that these mild cases have been allowed to go about and mix with other children, and an instance of this occurred at Woodlands, two or three years ago and then fully reported on.

Diphtheria is generally of a milder type and more amenable to treatment, and the now constant use of anti-toxin has lowered the case mortality, but it is still responsible for nearly all the deaths from zymotic disease, and appears to be especially severe in certain districts, as Alderholt and Verwood, where there is much clay and ill drained land with a scarcity of good water supply, and as reported this year the cases are sometimes taken and dead before any treatment can be given. The remedy in my opinion lies in the adoption of proper building Bye-laws, efficient land drainage and the provision of a good water supply from artesian wells, as the surface-water is never very good.

Puerperal Fever though not occurring often is frequently fatal and sometimes traced to want of cleanliness, etc. on the part of the midwife. It is to be hoped when the old midwives die off the new highly trained ones will take their place and take proper precautions.

Water Supply.—I am glad to report that at last it has been arranged with the Bournemouth Water Company to supply water to the Longham and Ferndown District, as I advised long since steps should now be taken to induce the people to lay on the water and many wells of an unsatisfactory character closed. A public pump or two would be a boon to the poorer classes in that neighbourhood.

The Poole Water Company is now busily laying down pipes at Corfe Mullen, and I would again impress on the Authority (if it has not already been done or if not too late) to make provision for compulsory power to supply the houses en route.

I have referred previously to the difficulties in the Alderholt and Verwood districts, and this applies more or less to that side of the district and the heath country. The water is however free from sewage pollution as there are few privies if any, but the pail or earth system of some sort.

Sewerage and drainage, Excrement disposal.—This is as last year. Doctor Fletcher, the Local Government Board Inspector, has visited the places and seen the pail system and will no doubt report on the matters I complained of, and I hope I may receive a copy to make my remarks on.

Isolation Hospital.—None provided, and I cannot say if arrangements have been made to remove any exceptional cases to a neighbouring Isolation Hospital as I advised, and as is arranged in the Urban District.

I would however state that I agree with the growing doubt as to the moving of scarlatina cases, unless under some especial circumstance.

Housing of the Working Classes. Generally good on the large estates and farms and any recommendation is at once attended to by the Agents without reporting to the Council, but the absence of bye-laws is prejudicial to the proper construction of new houses erected by speculating builders or poor owners and there is no control over these matters.

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, etc.—I have been constantly occupied in endeavouring to improve the conditions of the milk supply in this extensive dairy district and as hitherto I have made my recommendations direct to the Agents, and I would take this occasion to thank these gentlemen for the courteous manner in which they have treated me and carried out my wishes to the utmost of their power. Large sums of money have been thus expended during the last few years and of course these improvements could not be done all at once, but where a promise has been given, I have always found the work has been done, and I have not had occasion to put pressure on through the Council.

On the few occasions I have reported to the Council perhaps a notice has been served, but little done, and I called the Inspector's attention to cases of this description.

On one large estate alone no less than eight dairies have been attended to, new cowsheds built, drainage improved, and in some instances the whole practically reconstructed; and on another large estate three, while several are about to be attended to, and I think the dairies generally are fairly satisfactory, although some of the smaller ones, or belonging to poor owners, are defective and very difficult to manage.

There is greater care and cleanliness in milking, and provision made for washing hands, but this is still far from satisfactory, and two cases have occurred this year where milk has been found to contain pus and blood, etc., and traced to milking a cow with an inflamed quarter. Of course when the analysis was made, and by the time the fact was reported, the cow was alright again, and it was useless to stop the supply, and nothing was done beyond censuring the dairyman; but surely there should be some means of punishing a person for selling contaminated milk, as of course where one case is detected many escape, and I believe there are many illnesses due to milk, and the remedy would be to have a compulsory notification of disease in milking cows, to include inflamed udder, wasting (tubercle), febrile, or eruptive disease, and to appoint a veterinary medical officer to inspect and report on these cases; and, further, both the farmer and the dairyman should be held responsible for the cleanly and healthy condition of their milk, so that the one might be careful to choose a capable dairyman and healthy cows, and the other take care that the milkers under his supervision are clean and careful, as too often there is little or no supervision, and the work is hurried over as quickly as possible by the smallest number of hands; and if the milk cost more the public health would not suffer as it often does now.

I hope the Council will adopt and carry out the Dairy, etc., Act, and that the registration, which is now a farce and only just begun, will be made complete, and that registration may be some evidence of a sanitary condition.

I am glad to make this report, although necessarily incomplete, and give up a post I have held so many years with some regret, as I know the district and its wants so thoroughly.

The work has always been grossly underpaid, and a Medical Officer of Health, in doing his duty honestly and fearlessly, must make many enemies, and get little thanks or encouragement from his Authority or support from the Central Authority; but I am glad to be able to point to the improved sanitary condition of the district generally, as shown by the low death-rate, the low infantile mortality, the reduced number of cases of notifiable disease, and the low zymotic death-rate, all of which, over a series of years, will compare favourably with any in the country, and to believe, as I do, that I have been the agent in stamping out typhoid and the more preventable diseases by stopping the pollution of rivers by privies, and introducing generally the earth system in some form, and prompt action in all cases of notifiable disease; and have also been instrumental in pointing out the causes of lead poisoning and the means of prevention, so that, formerly so prevalent, it is now seldom or ever heard of, while I have saved the ratepayers the useless heavy cost of an isolation hospital.

In conclusion I wish to record my thanks to my medical brethren practising in the district, past and present, who have rendered me every assistance during the quarter of a century, and have treated me always with the greatest kindness and confidence, which I hope I have never abused. I am afraid I have in difficult cases often given them a lot of trouble, but I can assure them the information and assistance they have always given me has been most gratefully received, and I am glad to think I have never had any friction over a case.

I am proud to think that my work has met with the approval of those best qualified to judge, both from special knowledge and experience, and the fact that I have received a testimonial from every medical man practising in the district (and others who have now left it) some of whom I have never even seen, is the best evidence I could desire that my work has been successful.

I hoped that Dr. Fletcher's report might have been made before the end of the year, and hope in common fairness I may have a copy sent me when presented to the Local Government Board.

Wimborne and Cranborne—Dr. T. Telfordsmith. (OCTOBER—DECEMBER.)

I have the honour to submit to you my report covering the period from the date of my appointment, October 25th to December 31st, 1907.

I have however worked out the statistics covering the whole year.

Area.—81,011 acres, or deducting inland water, 80,725 acres.

Population.—1901 Census, 13,414. Estimated to middle of 1907, 13,450. Natural increase in 1907, 113. Inhabited houses Census 1901, 3158.

Births.—303 or 22·6 per 1000 estimated population.

Infantile Mortality.—31, being 94 per 1000 births.

Deaths.—190 or 14·1 per 1000.

Average age at death 48 (Wimborne 49·1, Cranborne 47).

Zymotic death-rate.—Six deaths from notifiable disease, four diphtheria and membranous croup (Wimborne one, Cranborne three). Erysipelas one (Cranborne), enteric fever, one (Wimborne).

The zymotic death-rate is ·43 per 1000.

There were no deaths from scarlet fever or puerperal fever. There were two deaths from whooping cough, one from measles, and ten directly due to the effects of epidemic influenza.

Notifiable Disease.—42 cases were notified including two from phthisis; 12 diphtheria (Wimborne three, Cranborne nine); seven erysipelas; 19 scarlet fever (Wimborne 14, Cranborne five), two enteric fever (Wimborne).

WIMBORNE RURAL.

Population.—1901 Census 7576. Estimated to middle of 1907, 7700.

Births.—188 (males 104, females 84) or 24·6 nearly, per 1000.

Infantile Mortality.—15.

Deaths.—95 or 12·4 per 1000.

Zymotic Mortality.—2 or ·26 per 1000.

There were two cases of enteric fever notified in the Holt district, both mild cases.

CRANBORNE RURAL.

Population.—1901 Census, 5832. Estimated to middle of 1907, 5750.

Births.—127 (males 61, females 66), 22 per 1000.

Infantile Mortality.—16.

Deaths.—95, or 16·5 per 1000.

Zymotic Mortality.—4, or ·78 per 1000. Diphtheria three, erysipelas one.

GENERAL REPORT.

It is interesting to note that 30 of the deaths are registered as due to senile decay, occurring at ages from 75 to 94.

Thirty-three deaths were due to heart disease, 15 bronchitis, 13 pulmonary tuberculosis, five to other tubercular diseases, nine to cancer, and 13 to premature birth.

With regard to the cases of scarlet fever which occurred in the Hampreston district during November and December, as the focus of infection seemed to be the schools, I considered it advisable to close them for a period of seven weeks. I also recommended the closing of the Sunday schools, but this was not fully carried out. In this connection I would beg to point out that, in refusing to fall in with the recommendation of the M.O.H. as to the closing of Sunday schools, the authorities of these schools incur a grave responsibility in regard to the spreading of infectious disease. It is in the early stage of an epidemic that this measure is so effectual, therefore to wait till the epidemic is of a serious nature before acting is distinctly detrimental to the public health of the district.

Scarlet Fever is a very infectious and a dangerous disease. A mild case is infectious in the same way as a severe one, and scarlet fever is never so mild that it may not in the long run prove dangerous to life, or even fatal.

There is also a popular idea that scarlet fever is only infectious during the peeling stage. This belief is not entirely correct, and often leads to carelessness. The infection of scarlet fever is probably drawn in with the in-breathed air. It does not enter the system through the lungs, but rather by the throat and tonsils, which belong to the digestive tract. In all likelihood it is through the same channel that the infection is introduced by milk. In the individual infection lies chiefly in the breath and material from the throat and nostrils, and in the scales from the skin. It may be conveyed either directly from the patient or mediately, especially by body clothing and bedding, and even by letters or other articles transmitted to a distance. Scarlet fever is most infectious when the body temperature is at its highest. In scarlet fever the patient may continue infectious for several months, and, though the time varies greatly, very few cases can be regarded as free from infection in less than six weeks.

Housing of the Working Classes—As a rule sufficient and good, but I have visited several houses where there is a considerable degree of overcrowding. These cases occur chiefly in cottages built on lifeholds or small freeholds, where the owners do not think it worth the expense, or are too poor to enlarge the premises or even keep them in proper repair.

Slaughter-houses, Bakehouses, &c.—I have visited several of these, and in most cases have found them clean and in good general condition.