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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

— OF —

EAST KERRIER.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

—
1899.
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ANNUAL REPORT

For 1899.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF EAST KERRIER.

GENTLEMEN,

During the past year 217 births have been registered, 109 of which were males, and 108 females, giving an annual birth-rate of 25·49 per thousand inhabitants.

During the same period 124 deaths have been registered, 61 of which were males, and 63 females, giving an annual death-rate of 14·57 per thousand inhabitants.

As usual, I again append a list of the birth and death-rates for each year for the past ten years; and it must also be kept in mind that the rates for the years 1889 to 1892, inclusive, are calculated on a population of 9,527 (before the amalgamation of Penwerris with Falmouth), whilst those for 1893 and the following years are calculated on a population of 8,510.

Birth-rates for past ten years.	Death-rates for past ten years.
1890—27·5	1890—20·7
1891—26·3	1891—20·9
1892—24·6	1892—14·1
1893—23·8	1893—19·6
1894—24·3	1894—20·6
1895—26·9	1895—18·2
1896—25·7	1896—14·3
1897—23·9	1897—15·2
1898—23·5	1898—21·03
1899—25·4	1899—14·5

The natural increase for 1899 was ninety-three; that for 1898 was only twenty-one.

It will be seen from the above lists that the birth-rate for 1899 is quite up to the average of recent years, whilst the death-rate is on a par with the lowest of the past ten years. Compared with the death-rate of the previous year, the death-rate for 1899 shows a very gratifying decline, but the death-rate for 1898 was unfavourably influenced by the wreck of the s.s. Mohegan, as well as by deaths at Mylor Dockyard among boys belonging to H.M.S. Ganges. Even excluding these, however, the death-rate of 1899 is a great improvement upon that of 1898, and will compare favourably with that of most rural districts.

Of the total number of deaths in 1899 twenty-three died from Phthisis and other diseases of the respiratory organs, seven died from Heart Disease, six from Injuries, and none from Influenza. When I say that in 1898 thirty-two died from diseases of the respiratory organs, fourteen from Heart Disease, sixteen from Injuries, and seven from Influenza, the explanation in the improvement in the death-rate of 1899 over that of 1898 will be evident to anyone. From a statistical point of view these details are most satisfactory; but they are still much more so when we realize how great must have been the difference between the two years in the amount of actual sickness and suffering, and how much better, therefore, throughout the year the general health of 1899 must have been than that of 1898. Deaths in any given class of disease, as a rule, imply the existence at about the time that such deaths occurred, of a greater or less number of other cases of the same class of disease which, however, did not have a fatal termination; so that when we say that in one year the deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs were much fewer than in the previous year, and that in the same year there were no deaths from Influenza, whilst in the previous year there were seven deaths from that disease, a good idea can be got of what the true general health of one year was as compared with the previous one.

With this Report I enclose Forms A and B, duly filled in, according to the requirements of the Local Government Board. Table A gives the number of deaths in each parish during the year, and these are grouped according to age and according to cause of death. Table B shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases which have arisen during the year. A study of both these tables affords a fair idea of the sanitary history of the district during 1899.

On reference to table A it will be seen that from diseases which are compulsorily notifiable under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, only one death occurred, and that was from Typhoid Fever. In this particular 1899 was precisely the same as 1898; for although four deaths occurred in 1898 under this heading, and all from Typhoid Fever, yet only one really belonged to the East Kerrier District, the remaining three being of lads belonging to H.M.S. Ganges, who died at Mylor Dockyard.

From diseases which we have not made notifiable and which yet come under the heading of "Zymotics," there were six deaths, one from Measles, and five from Diarrhoea. Under this class of diseases 1899 shows a marked improvement over 1898, for in the latter year there were eighteen such deaths; the difference is due to the total absence of Whooping Cough in 1899, (this disease in 1898 caused six deaths), as well as to the mildness of the visitation of Influenza as compared to that of 1898, which in that year caused seven deaths. The same table shows, what I have already mentioned, that there were twenty-three deaths from diseases of the Respiratory System, fifteen from Phthisis, and eight from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, etc., that there were seven deaths from Heart Disease, and that from Injuries six died. From Cancer ten died: in 1898 fourteen died from this disease, whilst in 1897 seventeen died. It is pleasant to note this gradual diminution in deaths from this terrible disease, especially when one has heard so much of late of its tendency to increase, rather than to diminish.

Table A as before explained classifies the deaths during the year according to ages, and it will be seen that there were twenty deaths of infants under one year of age, six of children between one and five years, three deaths between five and fifteen, nine between fifteen and twenty-five, forty-one between twenty-five and sixty-five, and forty-five from sixty-five years of age and upwards. There were fifteen deaths of people over eighty years of age. In 1898 there were thirty-two deaths of infants under one year of age, and nine deaths between one and five years, that is, forty-one deaths of children under five years of age. In 1899 there were only twenty-six deaths of children under five years. The infantile death-rate per thousand births, registered, was 92.16 in 1899; whilst in 1898 it was 160. It will therefore be seen that as regards deaths among infants and young children 1899 was a very great improvement upon 1898. I have before this said that there are many circumstances surrounding the lives of infants and young children which make against their chances of life, and which are practically unavoidable, do what we may. Epidemic diseases, such as Whooping Cough, Measles, etc., seem to come periodically and one scarcely knows when to expect them, or where they come from. Each visitation of such diseases claims sometimes a greater number and sometimes a lesser number of victims, according to the severity and the type of the disease, weather-conditions existing at the time, etc. The excessive death-rate among children in 1898 over that in 1899 is to some extent accounted for by the fact that Whooping Cough was very general in 1898, and that the Influenza epidemic was much more severe than in 1899. But after excluding these the fact remains that, at any rate of infants under one year of age, the number of deaths in 1899 was much less than in 1898. I am glad to welcome this as being, as far as it goes, possibly some evidence that the Cards of Instruction on the feeding and rearing of infants, which this Council has requested the different Registrars to supply to the mothers when registering the children, may at last be beginning to do good. I really think that the directions

contained in the cards are being taken to heart by many, and if so, good must come of it; for there is no doubt that even in this district lives of infants are yearly sacrificed which might be saved. I would strongly advise this Council to continue the issue of these cards, as heretofore. I know I am pretty well repeating what I have to say in this matter year after year, but if you could only see what I am constantly seeing, the gross mistakes which are made in the bringing up of infants, you would then see what a very important question this is, and what an important bearing it has not only on the general death-rate, but also on the health of the children themselves in after life.

In Table B. the total population, according to the census of 1891, is given, as well as that for each parish separately. In addition to this these same populations are given estimated to the middle of 1899. These estimations are required by the Local Government Board, and are made after the manner of calculation adopted and approved of by the Registrar General. Until a new census is taken, the population must show a yearly decrease when so estimated, there having been a decrease in population in this district from 1881 to 1891. The population, as given by the 1891 census, was 8,510; the population estimated to the middle of 1899 is only 8,154, when worked out as above mentioned.

From Table B. it will also be seen that during the year there were forty-nine cases of Zymotic diseases notified:—One case of Diphtheria, one case of Puerperal Fever, ten cases of Erysipelas, twenty-one cases of Scarlet Fever, and sixteen cases of Typhoid Fever.

The cases of Scarlet Fever were distributed pretty well throughout the year, as well as throughout all the parishes in the district, the only parish that escaped being Mawnan. In each parish the cases in each instance were confined practically to two houses, and in almost every instance I must say that I was able to get fairly good isolation, and that my instructions

were well carried out. I attribute the few cases that followed to this fact : in one instance, however, where nothing was known of the case until peeling was noticed in another child in the family and which child had been going to school regularly and mixing up with other children, it is a mystery that at least a mild epidemic did not follow. In all instances the premises were thoroughly disinfected and fumigated by Mr. Chubb.

The cases of Erysipelas were also fairly distributed throughout the district, but were confined practically to the first and last month of the year when east winds or cold and rough weather prevail; they were practically all facial cases.

The case of Diphtheria was in Mabe; the only probable explanation for this case was pollution of a well by sewage from some pigs-houses situated near the mouth of the well.

Of Typhoid Fever there were sixteen cases reported throughout the year; two of these were in January, but the remaining fourteen were confined to the last six months of the year, nine of these being in the months of August and September. The two January cases were both in the Parish of Mylor, one being at Flushing, the other at Carclew. The Flushing case was attributed to the same conditions which, in my opinion, gave rise to other cases in that village in the latter part of 1898. The Carclew case was not at all a clear one with regard to the cause. The next case that occurred was in Mabe. It was that of a lad who worked at Messrs. Freeman's Granite Works, Penryn. There was nothing at the house of the patient to account for the case, but I found on enquiring that about a fortnight before he began to sicken he had gathered some cockles from the mud in Penryn River, near to the stone-yard quay, and had eaten them, after partially cooking them. I believe that this case was the result of eating shell-fish, only partially cooked, taken from the bed of a river into which crude sewage is discharged. This case was notified to me in July. The next cases were in August, one in Ponsanooth and one in

Budock. The case at Ponsanooth was that of a man whose work was in Falmouth, and to which town he went every day. I could find nothing at his home at Ponsanooth to account for the fever, and considering that at the time he was taken ill there were a large number of cases of this fever in Falmouth, I think it is most probable that he contracted the disease in that town. The Budock case was at College, Budock. The house in which the case was derives its drinking water from the mains of the Falmouth Waterworks Company; and its milk from a dairy in College, which also is supplied with water from the same Company, and in which water the dairy utensils are washed and made clean. About the time of the appearance of this case, and for some time before, great complaints were being made of the water supplied by the Company, and justly, too, for when I visited the house, and also the dairy, the samples of the water drawn from the mains were quite unfit for drinking or any other purposes. Subsequent analysis of this water, however, showed a total absence of any pollution by sewage; and although other cases followed in the same house immediately upon the first case, yet I cannot think that any of these cases were caused by the drinking water, or by the milk from the dairy where this water was used for dairy purposes; simply because these were the only cases of fever for the rest of the year in this locality, although all the people of that locality derived their drinking water from the same supply, and a good many of them their milk from the same dairy. As I said before, other cases in the same house, three in number, followed close upon the first case, and this was the only house in that locality in which any case did occur. I am therefore more inclined to think that the fever was caused by something on the premises; the drains of the house were in good condition and had recently been thoroughly overhauled and attended to, and there was nothing inside the house that I could see likely to cause the fever. But outside, immediately in front of and around the house, the proprietor kept a large number of poultry of all kinds, and their

appearance at the time of my visit, as well as of that of the soil close up to the doors of the house, caused by the presence of so many poultry, gave me the idea that the immediate sanitary surroundings were far from what they ought to be, and were such as were likely to cause sickness of some kind or other.

In September seven cases of Typhoid Fever were notified to me; three of these at College, Budock, I have already accounted for. The next two cases were at Halvossa, Mabe, in one house, mother and son. Halvossa is a place in which one would not look to get a case of Typhoid Fever; the ground is high, the people clean, the houses good, with plenty of garden room, and privies and pits well away from everything. I could see nothing there to account for either of these cases; so then I made enquiries for the purpose of finding out whether the disease could have been contracted elsewhere. I then found that both mother and son had visited friends in Falmouth some two or three weeks before they were taken ill, that they did so more than once, and each time spent the day with their friends. At the time of their visits to Falmouth there was practically an epidemic of Typhoid Fever in that town, and that these two cases, which sickened on exactly the same day, contracted the fever at Falmouth seems to me, in the absence of other evidence, to be highly probable. The next September case occurred in the Workhouse; for this case I can give no cause.

The last of the September cases was at Antron, Mabe, and was, in my opinion, caused by eating cockles, taken from Penryn River. This patient only eat these cockles once, and about fourteen days afterwards she commenced to sicken. I am the more convinced in my opinion that cockles were at the bottom of the cause of the fever in this case, from the fact that at precisely the same date that this case declared itself two or three cases of the same fever commenced in Penryn, and in each of these cases cockles were at the bottom of the mischief. All these cases eat cockles about the 25th of August, and all commenced to be ill

on or about the 8th of September, and in all the cases cockles were eaten on one occasion only. I know that, especially with lads working at the Granite Works, it has for a long time been a practice to gather cockles and mussels from the mud and from the granite boulders forming the foundations of the quays and to eat them. On more than one occasion in previous years I have attributed cases of fever, for which I could discover no other cause, to this practice. What other result can be expected from such a practice, than every now and then a case of Typhoid Fever, I cannot see, considering that the cockles are generally only partially cooked, and are taken from mud which must be highly impregnated with sewage. Messrs. Freeman & Co. have done what they could to suppress this practice, at any rate among their employés, by putting up printed notices calling attention to the danger of eating such shellfish, and I have felt it my duty to call the attention of this Council to this matter in the hope that those of the general public who gather shellfish from other parts of the river may realise the dangers they incur.

In October there were two cases of Typhoid Fever; one was at Ponsanooth, and I could find no cause for this case. This case really began in September, and for a portion of August and the greater part of September there was a case of the same fever in the very next house, which I have already referred to earlier in this report. Although all precautions were taken in this first case with the excreta, yet in the absence of all other reasons for the second case, I am inclined to think there must be some connection between the cases.

The other case in October was at Treverva, Budock. I can give absolutely no reason for this case.

The last two cases were in December. One in Perran proved fatal, and for this case I can give no reason. The other case was at Carclew, Mylor, one of the footmen being attacked with this disease a little before Christmas. In this case, too, I attribute the illness to shell-fish, oysters, which if not actually

taken from the beds along the foreshore of Flushing were, at any rate, stored in the sea at that spot, before delivery to consumers. To support this statement I must refer to other cases of Typhoid Fever not actually occurring within our district, but still having a bearing upon the Carclew case. In November there was a shooting party at Carclew, and the members of the party eat freely of oysters during their stay at the house, and also on more than one occasion during covert shooting, from the cart of the person who supplies Carclew regularly with fish. On November 11th two gentlemen of the party left Carclew and took oysters away with them. About November 26th both these gentlemen, who had gone to different parts of the country, were taken ill with Typhoid Fever, and one of them has since succumbed to it. On November the 28th a lady left Carclew for Ireland, and she also took some oysters with her. On her arrival in Ireland one of her brothers eat some of these oysters, and on December 17th he, too, was laid low with Typhoid Fever. During the time that these oysters were being supplied at Carclew, the footman I have referred to above had some to eat on more than one occasion, as also had one of the maid-servants. I first saw the footman on or about December 24th, and a day or two after I saw the maid-servant. They then had high temperatures, both, although up and about and doing their work. In my opinion the onset of the fever in both these cases must be dated back for quite a week, which would make the date of onset about December 17th, the same date on which the gentleman in Ireland commenced to sicken. I had the maid-servant removed to her home near Truro, as she was leaving in any case for another situation the day after that on which I first saw her, and as at the time I was uncertain, both in her case and in that of the footman, whether the temperatures were not due to Influenza, especially as at this time I had cases of Influenza in the house under my care. The footman has made a good recovery, but the maid-servant died about three weeks or more after her arrival at her home. In addition to these five cases, which came more or less directly under my own immediate

notice, I must refer to a sixth case of Typhoid Fever, probably arising from eating oysters derived from the same source as those which, in my opinion, caused the five Carclew cases. A few days ago I had a letter from a gentleman unknown to me and living in a town eight or nine miles from here, in which he said that he had seen in the papers my report on the Carclew cases, and that he considered it to be his duty to afford any evidence which might strengthen me in the conclusions I had arrived at. He said that at the end of November, when passing the Norway Inn at Perran, the same purveyor of oysters supplied him with some oysters, which he eat, and that on December 16th too he was taken ill with the same fever, with the result that he was confined to his bedroom for eight weeks. I consider that this case, coming as it does from a totally independent source, is of peculiar significance. I have now completed the tale of these six cases, and I think that but few will doubt that in all six cases oysters were the cause. The oysters were in all six cases supplied from the same source, and in all six cases the interval of time which elapsed between taking the oysters and the appearance of the fever corresponds with the incubation—or hatching—stage of that particular fever. It will be seen that four out of the six cases commenced practically on the same day. It has been said that the oysters were not taken from the oysters beds on the Flushing foreshore: of even that I am not certain; but even if they were obtained from beds which are beyond the suspicion of sewage contamination, yet I know that before delivery to consumers they were stored in the sea over the site of the Flushing beds for a greater or less time. Whatever may be said to the contrary, I shall never think any other than that an article of food taken, as a rule, in its raw state, and without the protection which even cooking would afford, and at the same time from a site which is so freely exposed to sewage contamination, must be highly dangerous and calculated at any time to cause disease. It may be said why have there not been cases in other years, and why so many this year? I may say, with regard to previous years,

I have before this had cases of Typhoid Fever which I considered at the time to have been caused by eating shell-fish taken from that arm of the Falmouth harbour which runs up to and ends at Penryn ; and also that on more than one occasion, when for lack of sufficient evidence I have reported a case as "cause unknown," I have strongly suspected shell-fish taken from this locality as the true cause. With regard to why there were more cases in 1899 than in other years, it must be remembered that during the latter half of 1899 there was an epidemic of Typhoid Fever in Falmouth, and that for a considerable period sewage containing typhoid excreta must have been discharged into the harbour in considerable quantities. I have felt it necessary to enter rather fully into this matter, not only because it is my duty to do so, but also because in some quarters the possibility of any such thing ever happening is pooh-poohed. I may say that on the appearance of the cases at Carclew I had every drain, both inside and outside the house, tested most thoroughly, and they were all found to be absolutely perfect.

Of non-notifiable diseases in 1899, there was a case of measles which proved fatal ; there were probably other cases, but still I heard of no more, and the year was practically clear of this complaint. In the first three months and the last month or two of the year there was a good deal of Influenza, but the epidemic was never severe, or of a bad type ; there were no deaths from it, and in this respect 1899 compares favourably with 1898. This complaint in the last month of the year gave promise of increasing intensity. During August and September there were a good many cases of Epidemic Diarrhœa.

Throughout the year a good deal of sanitary work has been done, and though nothing of any very great magnitude has been undertaken, yet what has been accomplished was very necessary and is calculated to maintain and improve our sanitary condition. In Mr. Chubb I have a colleague through whose energy, tact and ability most of this work has been accomplished.

Several cases of overcrowding have been brought to the notice of this Council throughout the year, all of which have been effectually dealt with as far as possible. In nearly all these cases the chief difficulty, generally, is for the people to find more suitable houses to go into, when ordered to abate the overcrowding complained of. In some of these cases the people are clean, orderly and respectable, and cannot attend to the order for abatement simply because the remedy, a large and more commodious house, is not at hand; but in other cases the people are perhaps not desirable tenants for many reasons, and landlords will not let them have a house at any price. These, however, are the grosser and undoubted cases of overcrowding which, when brought to our notice, it is absolutely necessary to deal with in some way or other. But I can call to my mind at the present moment many such cases as the following:—A cottage with one living room downstairs, used as a sitting room, kitchen, &c., and two small bedrooms above, a cottage which was all very well for a young couple just married and for a year or two afterwards perhaps, whilst the family continued to be a small one; but which, as years rolled by and the number of children increased, the older ones grown to big boys and big girls, has now become totally inadequate for such a family. (It is marvellous, however, in many of these cases how beautifully clean and wholesome the cottage is). It is at this point, in addition to the matter of convenience and the cubic-space-side of the question, that the moral and the sanitary side arises, how to divide off the boys from the girls, and what to do when sickness comes and the small bedroom, which at other times accommodates perhaps three or four, has now to be reserved for the case of sickness only. What is to be done for cases like these? It is not the fault of these people that they are overcrowded, for they are many of them “good getters,” especially with the boys grown up and beginning to earn; and they will tell you that they would willingly go into a house with more accommodation and pay a higher rent, but that it is impossible to get such a house, and that so they must continue where they are. I know

that this question of the better housing of the working classes is a big and difficult one, but that there is a real want of better house accommodation is undoubted, especially in some parts of our district. Mrs. Stephens has brought this matter before this Council more than once of late. I do hope that success will attend her efforts, and that this Council will warmly support her in every possible way.

All the Dairies and Cowsheds throughout the district have been regularly visited by Mr. Chubb. They are all well attended to, and in a satisfactory state. Mr. Chubb tells me that a very great improvement has been made by various landowners throughout the district during the past twelve months, and that on their several dairy-estates the ^{dairies} ~~drains~~ and cowsheds have been re-constructed; and also that others have received notices of alterations in accordance with the Dairies and Cowsheds Act.

The various Slaughter Houses, too, have been regularly inspected, and are in a satisfactory state. From personal observation I can speak of the very great improvement which has come over the dairies, cowsheds, and slaughter houses generally, all of which is the outcome of the periodical visitations paid, and the ready manner in which all suggestions for improvements have been met by all.

DRAINAGE. No special drainage work has been carried out during 1899. Improvement to the drainage in Budock and connections of various houses to the main have been effected; and at Perranwharf improvements in connection with the drainage of several houses have been made. But if no very special drainage work has been accomplished in the past year, I look forward to very important and most necessary work under this heading being done in the present year. In consequence of my report upon the insanitary condition of the lower part of Treverva, and the possible danger which might arise in times of flood to the stream which forms the main feed of the Falmouth Waterworks Company's reservoirs from the state of things in

that part of the village, the Sanitary Committee of this Council met on the spot, and as a result of their recommendations this Council decided to lay a main drain there, and to connect all houses along its course to it, the main to discharge into a tank built in a field below the village. When this work is completed, and I believe it has been commenced, there ought to be a very great improvement, and the danger to the reservoir supply, which in the opinion of Dr. Buchanan, the Local Government Board Inspector, was a very real one, will be absolutely done away with. At Mabe Burnt House, too, a greater danger to the reservoirs exists than even at Treverva, as there is a total absence of proper drainage; and in times of flood and when the springs are high nothing can prevent the drainage from numerous pits from getting into streams which eventually flow into the reservoir. The Sanitary Committee has met at this village, and they have recommended the Council to instruct Mr. Chubb to prepare a scheme for thoroughly draining the village: they suggest that a main shall be laid through the village from top to bottom, and that every house and pit shall be connected with this, and also that the main shall discharge into a tank built in a field belonging to Mr. Shilson, and well away from any spring. When this is done a very important improvement will have been effected, and the complaint that Dr. Buchanan has made with regard to the present state of things will have been met.

During the past year the question of the drainage of Flushing, and of effecting an improvement in the sanitary condition of the village generally, has been a burning one. For years I have complained of a certain part of this village, the central, low-lying, flat part. I have always said that, with the exception of this part, I had nothing especially to complain of, and that the rest of Flushing would compare favourably with any other place of similar dimensions. With regard, however, to the central part of the village, a state of things has existed for a long time, and still exists, which is not allowed in any other part of our district, and I do not see why it should be allowed in the case of Flushing.

I will not enter into any details now, for I have often done so before, besides which this Council has satisfied itself by a personal inspection that what I have reported is only too true. As was to be expected, a great deal of exception has been taken to my statements, but I am glad to say that those who were at one time most strongly opposed to anything being done now agree that something must be done. As a great many difficulties surrounded this matter and opinions as to what ought to be done and how to do it were so many and various, this Council consulted two eminent sanitary engineers, Mr. Henderson and Mr. Bellamy, both of whom prepared and submitted schemes for draining the whole of the village, and otherwise improving its sanitary condition. Mr. Bellamy's scheme was considered the more feasible one of the two, but no decision could be arrived at. Finally an appeal has been made to the Local Government Board to send down an Inspector to enquire into the whole matter. Whether the Local Government Board will hold an inquiry or not I do not know. If they decide not to, then this Council must decide whether they will do the work themselves or drop the whole thing. Personally, I shall be glad of any scheme which will improve the sanitary condition of that part of the village referred to, and do away with the abominable pits which exist there, and which at the same time will not include those parts of Flushing against which no complaints have been made, and which also will throw as little expense upon the parish as possible.

WATER SUPPLY. I think there are very few Districts in which the water-supply to the various villages is better than in ours, or in which more attention is paid to this important matter. At Mawnan Smith, in which village in my previous Annual Report I stated there were many complaints by the inhabitants of the distance they had to go to fetch water, the supply has been extended to a point opposite the road leading to Carlidnick, as recommended in that report, a distance of 526 feet, and two standpipes have been placed on this extension, one in the centre of the village, and one at the end of

the extension. This improvement has proved to be a great boon to the inhabitants generally, and is greatly appreciated. I would recommend that this year a branch-pipe be carried to somewhere near the Wesleyan Chapel; such an extension of the supply would prove a great convenience to a good many houses in that part of the village. At Ponsanooth the supply has been extended and a new tank erected near the Stag Hunt Inn for the better supply of the lower part of the village. Improvements to the water supply at Passage Hill, Mylor, and at Gweek have been effected. In my last Annual Report I referred to the absence of a good supply of water at Tregew, Mylor, in consequence of the closing of two pre-existing wells there, the water of which was open to pollution. During the past year a new well has been sunk in a field at some distance away from and above the old wells, and at a spot where it is impossible for any pollution whatever to take place, and a pump has been fixed in the main road as near to the houses as possible. A bountiful supply has been struck, and Tregew is better off for water now than it has ever been. Nearly all the various water supplies in the district belong to this Council, and as I have said before we well look after our own. During the past year, however, we have been called upon to look after other people's as well, and what we have been asked to do we have either already done, or are about to do. I refer to the Falmouth Waterworks supply. This Company only supplies a very small portion of our district, namely—a part of Budock and Truro Hill, and Praze in St. Gluvias. Last summer the people in these parts of our district complained terribly of the water which they had to drink, as supplied to them by the Company, and certainly it was very bad; I never saw worse, and it was, of course, quite unfit for drinking or any other purpose. People in Falmouth and in Penryn made similar complaints; and at last this Council, together with the Urban Councils of Falmouth and Penryn, took the matter up. Meetings and inspections followed, and as a result of such inspections of the watershed, as well as of

suggestions made by Dr. Buchanan when he, too, inspected the watershed soon after, certain places in the watershed were considered to endanger the purity of the water flowing into the reservoir. The places specified and brought to the notice of this Council were Helland Mill, Rose Valley, Argall Mill, Mabe Schools, Treverva and Mabe Burnt House. This Council at once took the matter up, and at the four first places mentioned above have already done all that was asked of them, whilst, as will be seen from what I have already said earlier in this report, the work at Treverva is already in hand, and that at Mabe Burnt House will, I hope, soon be. We, as a Sanitary Authority, have therefore practically done, or are about to do, all that we possibly can do to protect the stream, which eventually runs into the reservoirs of the Falmouth Waterworks Company, from pollution. Where streams run, as these do, through farm-lands, etc., a certain amount of pollution of the water must take place, and this cannot be avoided unless pipes are laid from the very sources down to the reservoir. It now only remains for the Company, after we have done our share, to do theirs, and to so treat the water after its reception into their works by proper filtration, the laying of new mains when it is found that the old are corroded, etc., that those parts of our District which derive their supply from the Company's Works, and pay for it, shall have no such grounds for complaint in the future.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.—The system in vogue is well-known, but I am glad to say that this Council has determined that, where new closets are being erected in connection with the building of new houses, or to replace old and dilapidated ones, they shall be erected according to the Council's idea, and not according to the ideas of many, who think that anything will do. Mr. Chubb has given great attention to matters under this heading during the past year, and in many parts of the district a great improvement has taken place. There is still, however, plenty of room for more.

SCAVENGING. This is done regularly in Budock and Flushing, but in no other place in the district

The question of an Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases has come to the front again during the past month or two. At the invitation of the Urban District Council of Falmouth, this Council and the Urban District Council of Penryn have been asked to meet the Falmouth Council to consider the question of having such a hospital. A committee has been formed, consisting of a certain number from each Council, to collect information on the subject, to choose a site, &c. A suitable site has been selected, and I believe enquiries have been made as to whether the site could be obtained; beyond this I do not think there has been any further progress. I have before now, in other reports, stated my views on this matter of an Isolation Hospital, and, if we are to have one, have for years advocated joining hands with Penryn and Falmouth, so that the Hospital may be common to the whole Union.

Before bringing this report to an end I wish to state that, under the new Vaccination Act, vaccination is much more general than it has been for many years past.

I have the honour, gentlemen, to remain,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES BLAMEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 20th, 1900.



