

[Report 1885] / Medical Officer of Health, Combined Rural Sanitary Authorities of the County of Hereford and the Urban Sanitary Authority of the City of Hereford.

Contributors

Herefordshire Combined Rural Sanitary Authorities.

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TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
COMBINED RURAL AND THE URBAN
SANITARY AUTHORITIES
OF THE
CITY AND COUNTY OF HEREFORD,
1885.

By H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD M.D., &c.

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PREFACE.

In submitting the following Twelfth Annual Report of the Sanitary Condition of the City and County of Hereford, I am influenced by a desire to extend the appetite of all classes to the necessity of promoting Sanitation, thereby increasing the health and consequent wealth of this City and County.

Several of my former reports disclosed serious deficiencies in the way of how people had been living for years on the brink of a precipice, death at any moment making its appearance, through the commonest sanitary deficiencies, which death, until the Public Health Act of 1872, and former Acts, was returned "as emanating from the visitation of the Almighty." The word blood poisoning, from offensive gases and polluted water, therefore was not made known until recent years; and not before the loss of the much-beloved Consort of her Gracious Majesty from such poisoning did the horrors of insanitary houses and dwellings burst upon the minds of the public. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and other members of the Royal and beloved family were within an ace of losing their lives from pernicious gases and insanitary dwellings. Others of great social eminence followed. These facts being before the Legislature, the Public Health Act, 1872, became law. Now, let me ask my readers has this Act, coupled with the Amended Public Health Act, 1875, been of any use in arresting the dreadful loss of life from home-made disease? Let me publish the review from the *Lancet* of January 2nd, 1886, upon the statistics made by Dr. Ogle, the Registrar General, upon this subject. I write this that the poorest person in the County may understand, to show that it was not ordained that however poor the party might be, he or they were the only persons that typhoid, typhus, and enteric fevers attacked. The cause of these fevers was home made, and in many instances made by the highest in the land, and not intended to be set down as emanating from Divine will. How often have I been told on visiting fever-stricken people, that it was the Almighty's will that such fever cases were sent to them, and that they must not rebel against such; when, perhaps, not ten yards (nay, feet at times) away, the cause of such fever lay at their doors and in their houses, quite within the compass of man to have removed had he only been made acquainted with the grave and deadly consequences of living in proximity to long accumulated and unnoticed insanitation; all, bear in mind, if removed as soon as made visible, would have been the remedy to have prevented a visitation of fever, originating, as all these

fevers do, from filth and foulness alone. I, therefore, ask all who are able to read to peruse Dr. Ogle's remarks upon the wonderful saving of life from sanitation being carried out within the last ten years, and from Dr. Ogle's statistics to turn to the pages and tables of this twelfth sanitary report, I have now the pleasure of presenting, wherein will be ascertained that there has not been a death registered either in city or county for the last twelve months as originating from home-made fevers, *i.e.*, Typhus, Typhoid, or Enteric.

[EXTRACT FROM THE "LANCET," JANUARY 2ND, 1886.]

DECREASE OF ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

THE Supplement for the decennial period 1871-80, which has been recently issued by the Registrar-General, affords a remarkable confirmation of the value of the sanitary measures which now form so important an element of imperial and local administration in England and Wales. According to Dr. Ogle, the general rate of mortality has, when compared with that which prevailed during the ten years 1861-70, so far lessened as to exhibit a saving of 1144 lives annually to each 1,000,000 persons living; and the saving has to a large extent been effected by a decrease in the more preventable of the zymotic diseases. The scarlet fever mortality fell considerably, the annual deaths per 1,000,000 having diminished from 972 to 716; diphtheria exhibited a decrease from 185 per 1,000,000 to 121, but the loose nomenclature used in connexion with this disease makes the returns under this heading unsatisfactory. The deaths from "fever," a term which includes typhus, enteric fever, and the ill-defined forms which are placed under such headings as "simple continued fever," fell from an annual average of 885 per 1,000,000 to 484. Enteric fever is essentially our English fever; it is the disease of all others the mortality from which affords a test of efficient sanitary administration, and a fall of no less than 45 per cent. is a testimony to a vast amount of excellent work. The deaths from diarrhoea also fell from an annual rate of 1076 per 1,000,000 to 935; in other words, there was an annual gain of 141 lives for each 1,000,000 persons living. The diminution in measles and whooping-cough was much less marked, and these are diseases which are hardly subject to such sanitary control as can be exercised. One disease, however, forms an exception to this general decrease—namely, small-pox, the mortality of which rose from 163 per 1,000,000 to 236. This rise was largely due to the fact that the serious epidemic of 1871 and 1872 is

included in the decennial period referred to; but it has been partly due to an increase in adult small-pox amongst persons who have not been revaccinated, a subject to which we referred at length in our recent comments on the last annual report of the medical officer of the Local Government Board. This increase, too, occurring as it has done in the face of a general decrease in the zymotic diseases which are essentially preventable ones, shows how incorrect it is on the part of those who deny the value of vaccination to assert that the general diminution of small-pox since the Vaccination Acts came into operation has been the result of improved sanitary administration. Apart from the protection afforded by vaccination and revaccination, small-pox is as deadly a disease as it ever was.

The Hawthorns, Hereford,
January 11th, 1885.

TO THE URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY OF THE
CITY OF HEREFORD AND THE COMBINED
RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITIES OF THE
SAME COUNTY.

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH.

(Pursuant to the Regulations of the Local Government Board).

THE URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY OF THE CITY
OF HEREFORD.

Population (Census 1881) 19,822.

Area in acres, 2,417.

Houses, 4,000.

Aggregate number of people to a house, 5.

Parishes, 6.

December 31, 1885.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

Taking as a guide the order, dated March, 1880, issued by the Local Government Board, and by the 18th article, section 14 of that order, it is prescribed that the Medical Officer of Health shall "prepare an annual report, to be made to the end of December in each year," &c., &c., I have the honour now to place before you my twelfth report made in compliance with the above-quoted order.

I shall adhere to the plan I have hitherto adopted in such annual reports, and therefore commence with the usual formal record of the births and deaths occurring in the city for the past twelve months.

During the year 1885 the number of deaths registered for the whole of the city was 363, this is inclusive of the 34 in the Infirmary and 34 in the Workhouse, and, calculated on a population of 19,954, gives a rate of mortality of 18·19 per 1,000, but deducting the 68 in the Infirmary and Workhouse and 2 executed in the County Gaol, the rate is 14·68 or Group 2.

The Births numbered 521, giving a birth-rate of 25 per 1,000.

With reference to sex, 252 were males, and 269 females.

Of these 521 Births, 30 were illegitimate.

The following table epitomises the ages at which the Deaths occurred throughout the city:—

*Deaths in the City, including Infirmary and Workhouse,
from January 1st to December 31st, 1885.*

Deaths under 1 year of age	65	} 92 under 5 years.
" over 1 "	and under 5 years		27	
" " 5 "	" "	15	13	} 271 over 5 years.
" " 15 "	" "	25	29	
" " 25 "	" "	60	94	
" " 60 "	up	"	135	

Total of all ages, 363

The grouping into various ages in the above table is in accordance with the ages fixed in the tables furnished by the Local Government Board, which are duly filled in and accompany this report, and taken as a standard the annexed table, published by the eminent hygienist, Dr. Richardson, in his report upon the death rates of Urban districts, states in same that—

“At the present moment there are varying death-rates in English towns from the model low to the unnatural or excessively high. These may be divided into groups as follows:—

Group 1.	Death-rate from 8 to 12 in the 1,000
" 2.	" " 12 to 16 " "
" 3.	" " 16 to 20 " "
" 4.	" " 20 to 24 " "
" 5.	" " 24 to 28 " "
" 6.	" " 28 to 32 " "

There are very few towns as yet which have attained to the perfection shown in the first of these groups, perhaps none that through a series of years have done so. A few towns especially favoured in respect to population, situation, and wealth have attained to the position of the second group.”

Table showing the number of Deaths in each year for the last eleven years ending 1885 from the eight chief zymotic diseases, including those in Workhouse, Infirmary, and the whole of the City:—

The Eight Chief Zymotic Diseases in	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	12	6	8	5	1	—	29	1	—	16
Scarlet Fever	7	75	11	4	—	5	13	12	9	1	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	4	4	1	2	—	3	1	—
Whooping Cough	3	12	2	7	27	1	—	9	—	1	1
Typhus Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric, Typhoid and Continued Fevers	3	2	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	2	1
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	8	9	5	15	5	28	4	6	8	14	8
	25	110	24	38	43	36	21	56	21	19	26

Table showing Total Number of deaths from all causes for the eleven years ending December 31, 1885, in the City of Hereford, including those in the Infirmary and Workhouse

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
	401	447	342	335	456	352	307	368	386	365	363
Rate per 1,000	21.8	28.8	18.0	17.6	23.8	18.3	16.4	18.2	19.4	18.3	18.19

From this Table I would draw your attention to the following table of deaths of infants and those under five years of age,

Table showing the number of Deaths of Infants and those under five years from all causes, for the eleven years ending Dec 31, 1885, in the City of Hereford, including those in Infirmary and Workhouse

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
	119	160	85	100	158	141	98	133	89	100	92
Rate per 1000.....	6.0	8.3	4.1	5.0	8.0	7.0	4.7	6.4	4.0	5.0	4.1

Table showing Number of Births for the last eleven years ending Dec 31, 1885, in the City of Hereford, including those in the Workhouse

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
	400	446	386	480	555	553	532	500	500	478	521

I beg to submit with this Report the tables furnished by the Local Government Board. The first, or Table A, deals entirely with the mortality of the district, divided into localities and showing the deaths in detail for each separate disease classed over and under five years. Table B deals only with cases of sickness. For table A, I can claim accuracy, but for Table B, I fear the results are less reliable, due to difficulties in the way of obtaining exact information.

On analysing these tables of sickness and deaths and the cause thereof I will take first the deaths from

MEASLES, which amount to 16. This fearfully infectious disease has spread all through the county amongst children, many hundreds of cases receiving no medical attention until fatal pulmonary symptoms set in, the deaths from which ought not to have been recorded as from "Measles."

CROUP shows one death.

WHOOPIING COUGH also one.

CONTINUED FEVER also one case following hepatic disease, and in no way attributable to insanitation.

Diarrhœa and Dysentery caused only eight deaths this year, against fourteen last year. This low mortality is mainly owing to the great sanitary measures instituted in anticipation of

TABLE B.
TABLE OF NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1885, in the Three Divisions of the Urban Sanitary District of the City of Hereford; classified according to Localities and Diseases.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, IN PERSONS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT, DISTINGUISHING THOSE IN CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.													Other Diseases such as Chicken Pox, or the commona, which the Medical Officer thinks well to record.				
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		25	26	27	28
	Continued Fevers.	Continued Fevers.	Continued Fevers.	Continued Fevers.	Continued Fevers.	Continued Fevers.	Continued Fevers.	Continued Fevers.	Continued Fevers.	Continued Fevers.	Continued Fevers.	Continued Fevers.	Continued Fevers.	Continued Fevers.	Continued Fevers.	Continued Fevers.	Continued Fevers.	
	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Other or Typhoid.	Dysentery.	Diarrhoea.	Dysentery.	Cholera.	Rheumatic Fever.	Krysipelas.	Pyæmia.	Parotid Fever.	Agno.						
1																		
City of Hereford and Out-paupers ... 5 upds.	20	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Workhouse Infirmary under 5 upds.	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Infirmary ... (To January, 1885.)	2
Private Practice ... under 5 upds.	...	1	100	3	4	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Totals ... 5 upds.	...	3	122	3	4	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
			123					...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.
 The figures of the columns following column 12 will have been derived from the returns of the Poor Law Medical Officers, from the practice of public institutions in or near the Sanitary District, and from other medical practices.
 The Officer of Health, making this report, is desired to state below the number of persons belonging to this division or district, who have during the year newly contracted ALL KINDS of disease and injury, and of whose cases he has had information.

64 in Workhouse and Workhouse Infirmary.
 300 among Out-door Paupers.
 447 as In-patients of Infirmary.
 (To January, 1885.)
 3008 as Out-patients ditto.
 4941 as Out-patients of Hereford Dispensary.
 (For 12 months ending July, 1885.)
 220 in other Practice.*

* This refers to cases of sickness not included in the previous classes, if the Medical Officer of Health has information of such cases from other sources.

cholera visiting our shores, and amply repays the costs of such precautions.

Erysipelas caused a death, supervening on other disease, and not connected with insanitation.

Phthisis still shows a large mortality, no less than 34 deaths therefrom, 3 being in the Workhouse and 2 in the Infirmary; all having an hereditary tendency.

Bronchitis, *Pneumonia* and *Pleurisy* caused 57 deaths. This increase I set down in some measure as connected with "Measles;" very many cases receiving no medical attention until too late, and only in time to give certificates of death, which, in a majority of cases, are erroneous and void of nomenclature, and one of which I now print for the Registrar-General's edification:—

"I attended Sarah ———, at _____, aged *six* months.
"Cause of death, *Measles three* months; *Phthisis three* months.

"Signed _____

"M.R.C.S., and L.S.A."

Heart Disease returns about the same number as last year.

Injuries about the same, the majority emanating in the Infirmary.

Other causes of disease and death are slightly less than last year, and include two deaths from the extreme penalty of the law—for murder.

Referring to Table B.—

Small Pox occurred in three cases, two of which were tramps (father and son) who were admitted into the Workhouse with the rash visible, the father 40 years of age, the son 14; both had been vaccinated in infancy; the boy had a mild attack, the father a more severe one, assuming a semi-confluent type; both recovered, but the father's case was protracted by pulmonary symptoms supervening, rendering it unsafe to give a discharge from the Workhouse for some considerable time. I would further observe that I am of opinion that the procrastination of the father's recovery was mainly owing to the wretched accommodation at the Hereford Union for such cases. The place is little better than a tool house and place to stow away onions and other garden produce, with very imperfect ventilation, void of fire grate or stove; and had not the Master obtained temporary heat by burning a lamp night and day the man's case might have ended badly. These facts before you, I make an urgent appeal for better accommodation for such cases. The other case was that of a male visitor coming to spend a

short time with a relation of his, who was keeping a ready-made clothes shop in this city—a trade which (if it had not been for the greatest precautions and the patient kept from the shop) might have been productive of disastrous consequences amongst those purchasing goods therefrom; for a more convenient means of spreading broadcast the germs of this loathsome disease could not be mentioned. Fortunately, this patient had been vaccinated in infancy. The case was, therefore, somewhat of a mild type. The want of a Hospital for Infectious Disease renders the inhabitants of this city liable to be attacked by Small-Pox at any moment.

Scarlet Fever made its appearance amongst some private patients, but was, by timely information, kept to the two houses and stamped out.

Diphtheria showed very slightly in a case.

Croup of a mild form also appeared amongst well-to-do people; four cases, all recovered.

Whooping Cough, from which I have had information of three cases amongst private practice.

Fevers, one only reported to me. This case was a well-to-do builder living on his own property, in a house built by himself, with every known sanitary arrangement; the cause, I have reason to believe, being hepatic Disease and Hemorrhage.

Diarrhœa and Dysentery need but little comment from me. That 36 cases have come to my knowledge is certain; but what is this number compared to other towns in England and on the continent? This great reduction in the total 36 I maintain is entirely owing to the unceasing sanitary precautions being enforced during the hot weather, as ordered in my Quarterly Report for June last—copy of which is attached.

Erysipelas shows in six cases, three of which were in the Infirmary, following cases after admission, needing no comment from me.

Ague is reported to have shown in the Infirmary, one case having been returned. I would observe that this is the first case I have had reported for thirteen years in this county.

This ends the Analysis of Table A and B.

I now present you with a copy of my four Quarterly Reports, wherein is made visible the routine work for the year.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY COMMITTEE.

Annexed hereto is the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the quarter ended the 31st March last, which the Committee are pleased to say is of a very satisfactory character.

Hereford Urban Sanitary Authority,
Hereford, March 31st, 1885.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,—My report for the quarter ending to-day is satisfactory, not having had a case registered as dying from infectious or contagious disease, and gratifying it is for me further to state that the total number of deaths from all causes and at all ages amount to 96 only, against the corresponding quarter for last year, which was 112; and, further, that the total number of deaths of infants and those under five years of age for this quarter, amount to 16 only, against 27 for the March quarter of 1884.

I would mention that the prevailing ailments consist principally of a pulmonary type, with the exception of a case of small-pox imported from Newport.

By the speedy notification of this disease from the medical gentleman attending, I was enabled to stamp it out without its spreading to any other member of a large family to whom it was brought.

A mild type of measles prevailed at Holmer, and other districts, but from which no fatal results emanated.

General subjects only require to be mentioned by me bearing upon the purity of the water, which from analysis shows: Total solids, 7 grs. per gallon; oxydisable organic matter, 0.2 per gal.; hardness, 7 degrees; albuminoid ammonia, nil; colour, bright, and free from smell or taste; and the examination of samples of food and drugs, none of which call for further action.

The house-to-house sanitary inspection is being continued to my satisfaction and with good results to the public.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD, M.D., &c.

The Hawthorns, Hereford, March 31st, 1885,

Hereford Urban Sanitary Authority,
Hereford, June 30th, 1885.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,—I have to inform you that your city death-rate is a fraction over 16 per 1,000 from all causes and all ages for the quarter ending to-day. This rate includes 11 deaths taking place in the Infirmary and 7 in the Workhouse.

The infantile mortality has increased this quarter owing to an epidemic of measles, no less than 12 deaths having resulted from pulmonary affections following measles. These, with one from croup and two from diarrhœa, constitute the chief zymotic cases to be reported.

I am instructed to point out to the public the absolute necessity of everyone instituting precautions against diarrhœa by keeping in a sanitary condition everything bearing upon health by carrying out the following recommendations:—I would advise you to institute special precautions for keeping in a sanitary condition everything bearing upon health within your city, and, further, that every public drain and gully in the streets be especially flushed with water and carbolic acid early every morning for the next six weeks; also that instead of dustbins, &c., being emptied once a week they be cleaned out and emptied twice a week, and as soon as emptied and before used again, such dustbins be sprinkled with carbolic acid or powder, and that instead of vegetable offal being thrown in such bins, such offal be burnt daily so as not to allow any vegetable accumulation and consequent fermentation; also any cesspool existing in your city, the same to have two table-spoonsful of carbolic acid mixed with a gallon of water thrown down such cesspool twice or three times a week for the next six or eight weeks; and, further, that the Inspector of Nuisances and Market Constable be specially instructed not to allow the sale of any kind of rotten or over-ripe fruit, or any slightly tainted fish, meat, or poultry. These precautions, I am of opinion, should all be strictly enforced by your sanitary authority without delay.

Strict attention must be given by your Inspector of Nuisances in making a house-to-house survey, that nothing be allowed to accumulate on any premises likely to cause smell or vitiate the air, such as pig tubs, tubs of grain or swill, filthy cowsheds or pigstyes; bones allowed to be kept in cellars (cook's perquisites) to be strictly prohibited; the same precaution to be enforced upon rag and bone collectors and sellers; also that all body linen (soiled) be kept at the top of the house, and not stowed away in a dirty clothes closet, or in bags or baskets, near to or in a sleeping room until the laundress fetches them (as is the custom). All stained linen should be at once washed out in cold water with a little

Condy's Fluid added, then dried and kept by themselves until taken away to be properly washed. On no consideration should bedroom vessels have fluid remain in them longer than the night, and to be well washed out in the morning. After the use of the slop pails wash them out, and stand them in the open air with the cover off, not turn the pail down as is generally done. Cabbage and other vegetable water must not be thrown down slopstone sinks and drains fixed inside of a kitchen or scullery, but thrown down outside of the house, or on open land. All traps and drains ought to be washed out and flushed twice a day, and where outside premises whitewash with lime, &c.

No tainted meat, fish, or poultry should be made use of. Poultry may be kept by first drawing them and then putting some charcoal in a muslin bag and so place it inside the bird.

Tainted fish will often cause (if made use of as a diet) diarrhoea, and this may lead to a more serious character of disease not very far from our shores. It therefore behoves everyone to use every precaution to prevent even simple diarrhoea, which, if neglected, may assume cholera. These precautionary hints, will, I trust, meet with approval by everyone interested in public health, and here let me make one remark: if diarrhoea attacks any member of a family which cannot be attributed to errors in dietary let them carefully examine their premises to ascertain if some sanitary deficiency does not exist and blood poison be the cause.

Of general subjects the most important is the water from the works supplying now nearly every house—the last analysis made the end of this month is as follows:—

Total solids 6·45 grains per gallon.
 Oxydisable organic matter of 0·9 per gallon.
 Hardness 6·40 degrees.
 Albuminoid ammonia, a trace only.
 Colour bright, and free from taste and smell.

It will be seen that nothing can be more satisfactory than the purity and excellence of this water.

Food comes next, and out of 22 samples of food and drink, none do I detect adulterated with anything injurious to health. Milk does not show so great an amount of total solids the last two months, none coming up to 11 per cent (not fat).

All stray dogs ought to be prevented from running about the streets.

I am, Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, yours obediently,

H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD, M.D.,

L.R.C.P. London, Surgeon, &c, &c.

The Hawthorns, July 6th, 1885.

REPORT OF THE SANITARY COMMITTEE.

Annexed to this report is the report of the Medical Officer of Health, for the quarter ended 30th September last, which will be seen to be of a most satisfactory character, and the committee are glad to report that this excellent sanitary condition has been maintained from the end of the past quarter to the present time.

THOMAS CAM, Chairman.

Hereford Urban Sanitary Authority,
Hereford, September 30th, 1885.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,—My report for the quarter ending to-day is of so satisfactory a nature, as regards the health of the citizens of your city, that it only needs my mentioning that the total number of deaths from all causes, at all ages, and from every class of disease, amounts to 73 only, including those in the Work-house and Infirmary, giving a death-rate of 3·50 per 1,000 for the quarter; and, with the exception of four deaths of infants, and those under five years of age, resulting from pulmonary disease following measles, and three deaths from diarrhoea, to children teething, and convulsions, I have nothing else to record. This remarkably low death-rate I consider is mainly owing to your Sanitary Committee's so willingly and energetically carrying out my suggestions, in keeping in a sanitary condition your pretty and healthy city, and most sincerely do I tender my sincere thanks to the worthy Chairman and members of such committee for their great assistance in doing so.

I have to mention that your water works continues to supply every ratepayer with a good and sufficient quantity of dietetic water, as shown from the following analysis:

Total, solids, 9·9 per gallon.
Hardness, 7 degrees.
Oxydisable organic matter, ·4 per gallon.
Free Ammonia a trace only.
Albuminoid ammon: none.
Colour bright, without smell or taste.

This analysis was made by me September 27th, 1885.

As regards the examination of different samples of food, drink, and drugs, it is with pleasure I state that I have nothing to complain of although minute tests have been applied to over 30 vendors of the same. I would suggest that another House to House Sanitary Survey should be commenced without delay,

feeling assured that it is the only real and positive means of arresting and preventing the spread of zymotic disease, and by such means were we enabled during the hot weather to return so low a death-rate from diarrhoea and other threatened allied diseases. For your assistance allow me to again return your Sanitary Committee my sincere thanks.—I am, Mr, Mayor and Gentlemen, yours obediently,

H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD, M.D., &c., &c.

The Hawthorns.

Hereford Urban Sanitary Authority,

Hereford, December 31, 1885.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

My Report for the quarter ending to-day is most favourable, I having only one case to report to you from Whooping Cough, three from Diarrhoea, and one from Erysipelas, the balance being made of Pulmonary, Heart, and other non-zymotic Disease, making a total of 81 only. Being shortly in a position to lay before you my Twelfth Annual Report of our City, I will not take up your time further than to state, on examination of many samples of Food, Drugs, and Drink, I can find none to warrant my asking for further proceedings.

The Water Works are supplying an excellent quantity of water to the inhabitants, the analysis of which bears the same results as my September Report thereon.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. V. SANDFORD, M.D., L.R.C.P., Lond., &c., &c.

Annexed is an abridged Report placed in tabular form from Mr. B. Bridgwater, Inspector of Nuisances, as required by the Local Government Board's order for the year 1885:—

NUISANCES.

From water closets, privies, and drains removed	...	...	...	185
From dung and ashes	...	...	...	73
From pigs' wash and offal	...	...	...	37
From sundry other causes	...	...	...	49
				<hr/>
				344

Private Slaughter-houses, Lodging-houses, Dairies, and Bakehouses have been inspected and ordered to be lime-washed twice a year, as required by Act; also Public Markets inspected on such market days regularly; also a condemned carcase of a diseased bullock buried.

Thus ends my twelfth annual Report of the sanitary condition of your much favoured city; and I only regret the healthful characteristics of this locality, coupled with its educational advantages, are not more generally known throughout the kingdom: for if such were the case, I feel assured that many good sanitary-built houses at present vacant would not long remain unoccupied.

In conclusion, allow me to sincerely thank our worthy Chairman and the Sanitary Committee for their able assistance to me in fulfilling my duties.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD, M.D.,

L.R.C.P. Lond., &c., &c.

THE HEREFORD RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Population (Census 1881), 17,482.

Parishes, 42.

Area in Acres, 70,974.

December 31st, 1885.

GENTLEMEN,—Keeping in view the order of the Local Government Board, dated March, 1880, and by direction of Article 18, Section 14, I now present you with my Annual Report, made the end of this year. wherein is set out a summary of all matters comprised in such order ; but before going into it I am of opinion that it would be more conducive to adhere to my plan in former reports to state that the total number of births amount to 460 this year throughout your 42 parishes.

The deaths in such parishes are 296.

Table showing the number of deaths in each year for the last 11 years, ending December 31st, 1885, from the eight chief zymotic diseases :—

The Eight Chief Zymotic Diseases in	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	1	6	1	3	—	—	—	19	5	—	11
Scarlet Fever ...	7	45	11	1	2	—	2	18	13	2	2
Diphtheria ...	1	—	3	1	4	4	2	3	2	—	1
Whooping Cough	3	12	—	—	7	—	—	6	—	—	—
Tyhus Fever...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever and continued Fevers ...	6	3	2	2	1	4	—	1	1	1	—
Diarrhœa and Dysentery..	8	13	2	7	3	10	2	1	8	11	4
	26	79	19	14	17	18	6	48	29	14	18

By deducting the 20 deaths that took place in the County Asylum as not being the population proper of your Union

District, it will leave a total of 276 deaths, giving a rate of 15.7 per 1,000 as under:—

Table showing total number of Deaths from all causes in the eleven years ending Dec. 31, 1885, in Hereford Rural Sanitary Authority.. ..

1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
323	336	287	274	364	286	239	301	296	236	276

Rate per 1,000. 21.3 22.7 19.3 16.0 21.0 14.8 13.6 17.0 16.9 13.3 15.7

Of these 296 deaths no less than 130 occurred to those over 60 years of age in no way attributable to infectious disease.

Table showing the number of Deaths of Infants and those under five years from all causes for the 11 years ending Dec. 31, 1885

1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
69	107	70	54	92	64	54	108	87	46	72

Rate per 1,000. 4.7 7.2 4.7 3.1 5.3 3.3 3.0 6.21 4.4 2.6 4.1

From this table I proceed to analyse the Tables of Deaths and Sickness in the respective divisions or districts set out by order of the Local Government Board. Taking Table A first:—

Measles, from which is recorded 11 deaths.

Scarlet Fever was the cause of two deaths, one in the Burghill District, the other in the Dewchurch, both being accounted for by germs existing from last year's epidemic.

Diphtheria, from which a death is recorded; no sanitary deficiencies were made visible on my visit to the house. I am of opinion that this child, being illegitimate and out at nurse, privation was mainly the illness.

Croup records one death; the reason I cannot assign.

Diarrhoea and Dysentery, the deaths from which are much less, being only 4 against 11 for last year.

Rheumatic Fever caused a death.

Erysipelas caused 4 deaths, all being in the Asylum. I have little or no jurisdiction over this establishment, the same being under a very skilful physician, who is well versed in sanitation.

Phthisis returns 17 deaths distributed amongst your three

TABLE B.
TABLE OF NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1885, in the Four Divisions
of the Rural Sanitary District of the Hereford Union; classified according to Localities and Diseases.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, IN PERSONS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT, DISTINGUISHING THOSE IN CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Croup (not epidemic).	Whooping Cough.	Typhus.	Krystic or Typhoid.	Other or Doubtful.	Dysentery and Cholera.	Rheumatic Fever.	Krystipelas.	Pyæmia.	Puerperal Fever.	Ague.	Other Diseases such as Chicken Pox, or Pneumonia, which the Medical Officer thinks well to record.	
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dewchurch ...	under 5	60	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	5 upds.	40	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Fownhope ...	under 5	30	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	5 upds.	50	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Barghill ...	under 5	30	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	5 upds.	20	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
County Asylum ...	under 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	5 upds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	under 5	120	5	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
	5 upds.	110	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.
 The figures of the columns following column 12 will have been derived from the returns of the Poor Law Medical Officers, from the practice of public institutions in or near the Sanitary District, and from other medical practices.

The Officer of Health, making this report is desired to state below the number of persons known to this division or district, who have during the year newly come under treatment for ALL KINDS of disease and injury, and of whose cases he has had information.

700 among Out-door Paupers.

250 in Other Practice.*

* This refers to cases of sickness not included in the previous classes, if the Medical Officer of Health has information of such cases from other sources.

districts, with two in the asylum; those in districts are mainly owing to hereditary predisposition.

Bronchitis, Pucumonia, and Pleurisy are less than last year, and demand no comment from me.

Heart Disease is considerably on the increase, causing 38 deaths.

Injuries are a little over the average.

Other Diseases run up to 161 deaths this year, against 124 for last.

Having fully accounted for all deaths as specified in Table A. to the best of my ability, I will refer to Table B., wherein new cases of sickness for the last twelve months in the respective four Divisions of your Union District are specified. In presenting you with this statement, you must bear in mind that I apply the same reservation as to the *accuracy of these* cases on Table B., as I have hitherto done; and until compulsory notification of infectious disease existing be enforced, so long will these Tables B. be erroneous and misleading.

Measles.—I really am at a loss to give anything like an accurate estimate of the number of cases in all districts of your Union of this infectious child's disease. I do not believe there have been three parishes out of your 42 that have escaped—rendering it necessary to recommend the closing of nine public schools in order to stamp out the disease, ordering disinfection therein, and dividing the infected from the healthy children, being the only means of doing so. The type of disease (generally speaking) has been very mild, rendering medical skill unnecessary in hundreds of cases. I am, however, happy to state that the epidemic is, I believe, at an end.

Scarlet Fever.—I have had information of, and inquired into, about ten cases of this infectious disease, also some of which were complicated with the before-mentioned epidemic measles, the fever cases being remnants of the late epidemic in 1883-84—all of which, I trust, have disappeared.

Diarrhœa and Dysentery cases are much less this year, being only 28 reported against 80 for last year.

Erysipelas clings to the Asylum so far as reports go.

Pneumonia, &c., demands no comment, and this brings Table B to an end.

It only remains for me to add that the house to house sanitary survey is being carried out with the best results, which is proved by the total absence of any *Typhus, Typhoid, or Enteric*

case of *Fever*, being on Table A or B, this year; and although the rate of Mortality is higher by 2 this year than last, still it is satisfactory to state that this increased rate is mainly owing to the large number of deaths that have visited those over 60 years of age, which shows an increase of no less than 27 over last year's returns.

Herewith I beg to present you with a statement of the work done by Mr. F. Fowles, your Inspector of Nuisances, for the last twelve months, which is satisfactory :—

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES' REPORT.

Offensive Privies, Ditches, and Cesspools	...	170
do. Pigsties and Stale Wash	... ..	20
Accumulation of Offensive Soil and Bad Drains		84
New Privies Erected	... ..	6
Bad Privy Accommodation repaired	... ..	23
Cottages Repaired and Cleansed	... ..	42
Overcrowding abated	... ..	7
Houses Washed and Disinfected	... ..	19
		371

Thanking the worthy Chairman and Sanitary Committee for their co-operation in carrying out my duties,

I am, Gentlemen, yours obediently,

H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD, M.D.,

L.R.C.P., Lond., &c.

The Hawthorns, Hereford, January 12th, 1886.

THE LEDBURY RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Population (Census 1881) 12,605.

parishes, 22.

Area in Acres, 48,783.

December 31, 1885.

Gentlemen,—Pursuant to the order of the Local Government Board, London, dated March, 1880, I have pleasure in presenting you with my Twelfth Annual Report of the Sanitary condition of your Town and Union district. In doing so hitherto, it has been my custom to first ascertain, by returns furnished me, the increase or decrease of the rate of mortality, and proceed to inquire personally the cause and influences of either such increase or decrease. This scrutiny leads me to the conclusion that the rate of mortality for the year 1885 has increased 2 per 1,000 from all causes in your Union district.

This increase of the death rate is at once seen to be from 105 people dying, whose ages were over 60 years, as is shown by the accompanying epitomised table.

The following table epitomises the ages at which the Deaths occurred throughout the Ledbury District:—

Deaths in the Ledbury Rural Sanitary Authority, including the Workhouse, from January 31st, 1885.

Deaths under 1 year of age	...	47	} 70 under 5 years.
„ over 1 „ and under 5 years		23	
„ „ 5 „ „ 15	„	5	} 179 over 5 years.
„ „ 15 „ „ 25	„	7	
„ „ 25 „ „ 60	„	62	
„ „ 60 „ up	„	105	

Total of all ages, 249

Thus accounting for the high rate as shown in the following table :—

Table showing total number of Deaths from all causes for the eleven years ending December 31, 1885, and in the Workhouse

1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
260	211	211	219	247	201	223	196	229	213	249

Rate per 1,000	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
	19.8	16.1	16.1	16.5	18.7	15.9	17.6	15.0	17.9	16.1	18.1

From this table I would draw your attention to the rate of mortality from all causes in infants and those under 5 years of age hereto attached :—

Table showing Deaths of Infants and those under five years from all causes, for the eleven years ending Dec. 31, 1885, in the Ledbury Rural Sanitary Authority and Workhouse.

1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
60	56	42	38	56	44	45	43	59	46	70

Rate per 1,000	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
	4.6	4.2	3.2	3.0	4.2	3.3	3.5	3.0	4.3	3.5	5.9

Having furnished you with these important facts, I now proceed to lay before you a table showing the number of Deaths in each year for the last eleven years, ending December 31, 1885, from the eight chief zymotic diseases in the Rural Sanitary District of the Ledbury Union :—

The Eight Chief Zymotic Diseases in	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
Small Pox	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Measles...	2	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	9	9
Scarlet Fever	0	10	0	7	0	0	1	8	3	1	0
Diphtheria	1	5	2	3	5	2	8	3	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	4	1	0	3	0	1	0	10	1	1
Typhus Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Enteric Typhoid and Continued Fevers	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	0	4	2	1	0	1	2	3	4	4	4
	3	24	8	11	11	3	12	15	18	8	15

TABLE B.

TABLE OF NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1885, in the Three Divisions of the Rural Sanitary District of the Ledbury Union; classified according to Localities and Diseases.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, IN PERSONS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT, DISTINGUISHING THOSE IN CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.													Other Diseases such as Chicken Pox, or Pneumonia, which the Medical Officer thinks well to record.				
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		25	26	27	28
	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Croup (not spasmodic)	Whooping Cough.	Typhus.	Katarrh of Typhoid.	Other Typhoid.	Doubtful.	Dysentery.	Cholera.	Rheumatic Fever.	Kryffelias.	Pyæmia.	Paratyphoid Fever.	Ague.	
1																		
Ledbury ...	under 5	110	...	...	...	2	...	...	16	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
Workhouse ...	5 upds.	30	...	...	...	1	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Yorkhill ...	under 5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	5 upds.	6	1	...	4	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	under 5	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	5 upds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	under 5	116	1	...	4	2	...	...	22	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
	5 upds.	35	3	...	2	1	...	...	18	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	...

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

The figures of the columns following column 12 will have been derived from the returns of the Poor Law Medical Officers, from the practice of public institutions in or near the Sanitary District, and from other medical practice.

The Officer of Health making this report is desired to state below the number of persons belonging to this division or district, who have during the year newly come under treatment for all kinds of disease and injury, and of whose cases he has had information.

70 in Workhouse.

1200 among Out-door Paupers.

96 in Other Practice.*

* This refers to cases of sickness not included in the previous classes, if the Medical Officer of Health has information of such cases from other sources.

Having gone through the Death rate, I beg to submit the births for the eleven consecutive years :—

Table showing the number of Births for the last eleven years ending Dec. 31, 1885, in the Ledbury Rural Sanitary Authority and Workhouse.

1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
336	341	319	224	318	335	305	356	341	326	338

Without further comment, I will proceed to analyze the Local Government Board's Tables A and B ; but before doing so, permit me again to remark that I can only vouch for the accuracy of Table A. In Table B, the Table of cases of sickness, I have compiled the facts therein stated to the best of my ability.

Referring to Table A,

Measles, from which nine deaths are registered—eight in the Ledbury district, and one in the workhouse. In all the villages this epidemic has spread, much of a very mild type. I can only apply the same remarks, that, where death had taken place, in a great majority of cases medical aid was not obtained till too late to arrest pulmonary disease.

Croup only records one death, and this case supervened upon measles; *Whooping Cough* also followed measles, one death.

Continued Fevers point to one case in no way attributable to insanitary measures. The case was that of a young man who worked during hay harvest in a severely hot sun, drank a large quantity of hard cider which caused diarrhoea, and which for two months was allowed to take its course. The man came home a distance of ten miles, took to his bed and died, more from exhaustion, typhoid symptoms only showing a few hours before death.

Diarrhoea and Dysentery deaths are less than for years, being only four infants, and those teething, &c.

Phthisis is much less this year, being only 10 cases, against 16 for last year.

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy has been much on the increase, being nearly double those of last year, principally affecting the aged and infirm, and coupled with measles.

Heart Disease also increased last year's returns by eight.

Injuries are in excess, being eight; the majority originating from extensive railway works carried on in the district.

Other Diseases show one hundred and thirty-nine cases, needing no comment from me than out of this 139 cases 105 were over sixty years of age.

I now refer to Table B, with the same reservation that I cannot vouch for it as being authentic.

Measles were very prevalent throughout your sanitary district; the total number it is impossible to estimate. All, I am happy to say, have disappeared. Where necessary the public schools were closed, disinfected before re-opening, and the disease thereby in great measure stamped out.

Scarlet Fever still made its appearance through the year in the Yarkhill district, but of a very slight type, and all now, I believe, to have subsided, the cause of its appearance being members of the same family who had it last year.

Diarrhoea and Dysentery are much less, and need no comment.

Rheumatic Fever cases are set down at being seven, all very slight but one, which ended in heart affection and death.

Erysipelas only points to one case that has been reported to me. This ends Table B.

I now beg to hand report of Mr. Dingley, Inspector of Nuisances, of work carried out for the last twelve months by him.

Houses limewashed and out of repair	...	...	20
Offensive Privies and Cesspools	...	...	14
Dilapidated Privies	...	...	6
Pigs kept near the house and filthy	...	...	6
Drains stopped up, &c.	...	...	20
Wells out of order	...	...	6
Overcrowding	...	...	7

Total	...	...	79

Having accounted for all deaths within your Union district it only remains for me to call upon your Sanitary Authority to exercise your powers in ordering a better supply of water during the dry season for the town of Ledbury. Many days during

August and September last, such supply only amounted to half an hour per diem, delivered by an inch pipe only, scarcely sufficient for dietetic demands. There can be no difficulty in obtaining this extra supply by simply obtaining another tank and filling same during the rainy season, as I have stated.

Thanking the Chairman and Committee for their able assistance at all times in putting the Public Health Act in force.

I am, Gentlemen, yours obediently,

H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD, M.D.,

L.R.C.P., Lond., &c.

The Hawthorns, Hereford,

January 11th, 1886.

THE LEOMINSTER RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Population (Census, 1881), 9,840.

Area in Acres, 64,316.

December 31, 1885.

Gentlemen,—Pursuant to the order of the Local Government Board of March, 1880, I now present you with my eleventh annual report of the sanitary condition of your Union district. In carrying out their order, it is necessary to attach Table A of the deaths that have taken place in your district, the cause, and respective ages. In table B I have to give an account of all new cases of sickness that have occurred for the last twelve months.

Table showing the number of deaths in each year for the last eleven years ending December 31st, 1885, from the eight chief zymotic diseases :—

Eight Chief Zymotic Diseases in ..	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	4	1	4	—	—	6	4	1	3	1	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	2	—	2
Whooping Cough	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	5	—	—
Typhus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric, Typhoid and Continued Fevers ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	5	2	1	5	3	4	—	1	2	3	1
	10	4	5	8	5	15	5	3	12	5	3

From this table refer to the next (the total from all causes).

Table showing total number of Deaths from all causes for the last 11 Years, ending Dec. 31, 1885

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
1885	157	164	146	129	187	144	134	113	124	129	130
Rate per 1000	16.5	16.7	15.2	13.4	19.6	14.7	13.6	11.6	12.6	12.7	13.0

TABLE B.
TABLE OF NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1885, in the Three Divisions of the Rural Sanitary District of the Leominster Union; classified according to Localities and Diseases.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, IN PERSONS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT, DISTINGUISHING THOSE IN CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																	
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Other Diseases such as Chicken Pox, or Pneumonia, which the Medical Officer thinks well to record.
1																		
Leominster ...	under 5 5 upds.	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bodenham ...	under 5 5 upds.	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Kingsland ...	under 5 5 upds.	...	40	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Totals ...	under 5 5 upds.	...	53	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
			56	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
																		2
																		9
																		4
																		6
																		2
																		2
																		...
																		...
																		8
																		17

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

The figures of the columns following column 12 will have been derived from the returns of the Poor Law Medical Officers, from the practice of public institutions in or near the Sanitary District, and from other medical practice.

The Officer of Health making this report is desired to state below the number of persons belonging to this division or district, who have during the year nearly come under treatment for ALL KINDS of disease and injury, and of whose cases he has had information.

290 among Out-door Paupers.

70 in Other Practice.*

* This refers to cases of sickness not included in the previous classes, if the Medical Officer of Health has information of such cases from other sources.

Again, by referring to the following Table of Infantile Mortality, it shows a slight decrease.

Table showing the number of Deaths from Infants and those under 5 years for the 11 Years ending December

31, 1885	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
	22	34	40	35	40	39	31	26	30	30	27
Rate per 1000	2.2	3.4	4.0	3.5	4.3	4.3	3.1	2.5	3.0	3.0	2.7

These tables, with one showing the Births, must satisfy all that your Sanitary District is very fair.

Table showing number of Births for the last 11 Years, to

Dec. 31, 1885	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
	280	285	310	274	212	227	231	217	204	202	203

Referring to Table A,

Diphtheria points to two deaths, one above 5 and the other below, in the Kingsland District. This district I have in former reports drawn your attention to concerning the want of proper drainage. The village of Kingsland extends nearly a mile in length, containing a population of about 1,200 residing on a gravel soil. Shallow wells are the principal source of water supply. The drainage consists of surface, or open shallow ditches, running parallel with the high road or street, first on one side and then the other. These ditches I do not believe have a fall of more than one foot in 300, and in some portion of their course not that. Up to about 18 months ago these ditches were kept fairly empty and safe by flushing them at will, from water let down for that purpose from the river Lugg, situated and running a short distance from the village, through land belonging to a party owning a Mill, fed by this river. This flushing power has been in existence over thirty years, and the inhabitants, for that period, have resorted to it, when necessary, for flushing, &c., without let or hindrance. For some unknown cause the flush gates have been destroyed, and the flushing of the village cut off, the result being that these ditches were, last summer, very offensive in some places, and eventually will become pestilential, if not flushed or done away with, and a Special Drainage District established, to meet the requirements of the people. I have repeatedly pointed out to this Sanitary Authority the necessity of at once obtaining flushing power, as hitherto, or insisting upon the village being made a Special Drainage District. They, however, do not see their way clear to do this. I, therefore, have no alternative left but to appeal to the Local Government Board for advice and help in this matter, fearing some epidemic of a typhoid kind breaking out. This appeal is with the approval of members of this Sanitary Authority.

Puerperal Fever is the cause of one death, emanating from childbed and peritonitis.

Pulmonary disease shows an excess of deaths this year, accounting for a slight increase in the total death rate. From this table of deaths I now revert to Table B, or that of sickness, and in doing so it only remains to record the epidemic of *Measles*, which has visited all your districts, but from which, I am happy to say, no death has resulted. As regards stating the number of cases it is simply out of the question with anything like accuracy; suffice it to say that this epidemic was stamped out in a very short time by my recommending the closing of public schools, and the usual other sanitary precautions.

Herewith is attached the report of Mr. Stephens, the Inspector of Nuisances of routine work within your Sanitary Authority for the last twelve months:—

Removed Overflowing Cesspools	...	...	10
Repairing Privies	...	...	6
Drains stopped...	..	...	10
Offensive Offal and Wash	...	...	4
Pigs removed	...	...	4
Houses repaired, &c.	...	...	6
Wells cleaned, &c.	...	...	7
Over-crowding removed	...	...	4
			—
			51

It only remains for me to state that this report of the Inspector's is satisfactory, and to thank your Chairman and Committee for their co-operation in working the Public Health Act for the last twelve years.

I am, Gentlemen, yours obediently,

H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD, M.D.,

L.R.C.P., Lond., &c.

The Hawthorns, Hereford, January 11th, 1886.

THE BROMYARD RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Population (Census, 1884), 11,054.

Area in Acres, 61,659

December 31, 1885.

Gentlemen.—Keeping in view the order from the Local Government Board of March, 1880, I now (by such order) beg to present to you my Twelfth Annual Report of the sanitary condition of your Town and Union district.

Table showing the number of Deaths in each year for the last eleven years, ending December 31, 1885, from the eight chief zymotic diseases in the Bromyard Rural Sanitary Authority.

The Eight Chief Zymotic Diseases in	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	1	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	2	—	—	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	1	3
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	2	2	—	2	1	3	—	—
Typhus Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
Enteric, Typhoid, and Continued Fevers	—	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
Diarrhœa and Dysentery	7	—	2	1	1	6	2	1	2	1	2
	10	No Returns for this year.	4	6	3	14	14	5	9	4	7

Having laid before you my calculations of the total deaths from zymotic disease, I now present you with a table showing total deaths in each year for the last 11 years, less for the year 1876 :—

Table showing total number of Deaths from all causes in the 11 years ending Dec. 31, 1885, including the Work-house

1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
206	*	160	190	234	219	184	175	170	162	190

Rate per 1,000 17·2 13·4 15·7 19·3 18·1 16·6 15·2 15·3 14·0 16·9

* No Returns

I also present you with a Table of Infantile Mortality, and those under five years, for the last year:—

Table showing number of Deaths of infants and those under 5 years from all causes for the 11 years ending Dec. 31, 1885....

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
	38	*	25	50	56	62	46	25	48	36	45
Rate per 1,000 ...	3.1		2.0	4.1	4.6	5.1	4.1	4.5	4.2	3.1	4.2

* No Returns.

Having done this I proceed to lay before you the Births for the last nine years, none having been furnished me for the years 1875-76.

Table showing number of Births for the last nine years ending December 31, 1885.

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
	0	*	300	330	406	298	310	317	295	309	319

* No Returns.

I will now proceed to analyse Table A., or cause of death, required by the Local Government Board's order.

Scarlet Fever shows two deaths—both in the Bromyard district—no doubt emanating from direct infection, the houses being in a fairly sanitary condition, the case in the town of Bromyard assuming a very malignant type, the child dying in 24 hours. Every sanitary precaution was ordered by me with the best results.

Diphtheria caused three deaths, two of which are in the Bishop's Froome District; the cause of one being the insanitary condition of the surroundings of the public schools in this parish; the other case proceeded entirely from contact with the first, to a lady visiting and performing good work in this district. Her loss will be much felt. I am pleased to report that after considerable delay (from illness of the Vicar) these school offices have at last been put in a sanitary state. The third case was of a sporadic nature. The house, however, was very insanitary, and was ordered to be repaired, situated in the Brockhampton District.

Diarrhœa and Dysentery only show two cases throughout your town and district.

Phthisis caused 16 deaths this year against 8 for last year, two of which took place in your Union Workhouse.

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, &c., caused 43 deaths, a great increase upon former returns, more particularly to those under five years of age, being 16 against five for last year.

Heart Disease caused twenty deaths.

TABLE B.
TABLE OF NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1885, in the Four Divisions of the Rural Sanitary District of the Bromyard Union ; classified according to Localities and Diseases.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, IN PERSONS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT, DISTINGUISHING THOSE IN CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	under 5	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Group (not "spasmodic").	Whooping Cough.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Other or Doubtful.	Dysentery and Cholera.	Rheumatic Fever.	Krysipelas.	Ryemia.	Paratyphoid Fever.	Ague.	
1																	
Bromyard ...	under 5	...	9	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bishop's Froome ...	5 upds.	...	12	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Brockhampton ...	under 5	...	7	5	7	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Workhouse ...	5 upds.	...	10	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other Practice ...	under 5	...	2	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
	5 upds.	...	5	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
	under 5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	5 upds.	...	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
	under 5	...	6	5	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	5 upds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	under 5	...	21	18	8	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...
	5 upds.	...	33	26	6	...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...	...	...	11

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.
 The figures of the columns following column 12 will have been derived from the returns of the Poor Law Medical Officers, from the practice of public institutions in or near the Sanitary District, and from other medical practice.
 The Officer of Health making this report is desired to state below the number of persons belonging to this division or district, who have during the year resly come under treatment for ALL KINDS of disease and injury, and of whose cases he has had information.

38 in Workhouse and Workhouse Infirmary.
 400 among Out-door Paupers.
 60 in Other Practice.*

* This refers to cases of sickness not included in the previous classes, if the Medical Officer of Health has information of such cases from other sources.

Injuries caused two deaths, needing no comment.

Other Diseases stand about the same. This closes analysis of first table.

Table B. demands some notice, but I supply it with the usual reservation of accuracy.

Measles, from which 54 cases are set down, all of a mild type, corresponding to those already alluded to in other sanitary districts.

Scarlet Fever shows also in all your districts, as also in this town, all but two of a very mild form, many of which are so mild as to cause reckless exposure during desquamation; and in one instance that of an adult private patient going to church in this infectious state, to the danger of the congregation. Proceedings and enquiry were instituted; the result being that ignorance of the serious consequences was substantiated before this Sanitary Authority, and the party let off with a severe reprimand.

Diphtheria caused three deaths, as before alluded to, from serious insanitation. In one house in the Bishop's Froome district four in the family were attacked, the cause being made at once visible by a filthy half dried-up stagnant pond being within ten feet of the house.; all these cases assumed a spurious type and recovered. The other cases in this district assumed a more malignant character, killing both cases in a few days, as mentioned in Table A. Three more cases were returned to me as of a doubtful type of this disease; although the wash leather patches were visible on all their throats, the constitutional disturbance not being great, they soon recovered upon receiving prompt treatment. In the Brockhampton district three cases were investigated, two of which originated from serious sanitary deficiencies in the house in which they resided; the other case I set down as being sporadic, and taking place in the Union Workhouse.

Diarrhoea and dysentery were much less this year throughout the Union district.

Thus ends Table B, and it only remains for me to thank the Chairman and members of the Sanitary Authority for assistance rendered in carrying out my duties.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD,

M.D., L.R.C.P., Lond, &c.

Herewith is Mr. Barrs, the Inspector of Nuisances' work for the last twelve months :—

Dilapidated Houses Repaired, &c.	-	-	-	-	27
New Privies	-	-	-	-	9
Removal of Offal, &c., &c.	-	-	-	-	11
Defective Drains put right	-	-	-	-	7
Filthy Pig Cots, &c., removed	-	-	-	-	15
Overcrowding removed	-	-	-	-	1
Pumps put in order	-	-	-	-	7
On hand	-	-	-	-	21
					<hr/>
					98

The Hawthorns, Hereford,

January 11th, 1886.

WEOBLEY RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Population (Census, 1881), 8,178.

Area in Acres, 48,959.

December 31, 1885.

Gentlemen,—The same order from the Local Government Board, as I have before mentioned, will apply also to your Sanitary Authority, and for such purpose Tables A and B have to be filled up by me, but before doing so I would observe that your total deaths from all causes amount to 140, giving a death-rate of 17·0 per 1,000 as shown by the following:—

Table showing total number of Deaths from all causes for the eleven years ending December 31, 1885, including those in the Workhouse.

	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
	150	123	113	145	170	153	118	164	153	124	140
Rate per } 1,000	16·4	13·6	12·5	16·0	17·7	16·9	14·4	17·1	16·9	15·1	17·0

Table showing the number of Deaths in each year for the last eleven years ending December 31, 1885, from the eight chief zymotic diseases:—

Eight Chief Zymotic Diseases in	1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever	1	5	5	—	3	6	—	16	7	3	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	8	5	7	1	—	—	1	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric, Typhoid, and Continued Fevers	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Diarrhoea and Dysentery	1	3	1	2	1	4	2	2	2	—	2
	4	9	6	11	9	18	3	33	9	4	5

It will be seen that your district is only one in advance of last year's returns, or not one per 1,000 from these diseases, although the annexed table shows a large increase of infantile mortality from non-zymotic disease. This increase, coupled with those above 60 years of age, will account for the increased general rate of mortality.

Table showing number of Deaths of Infants and those under five years of age, from all causes for the 11 years ending Dec., 1885, including the Workhouse.

1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
47	34	21	28	42	41	21	45	45	24	33

Rate per 1,000 - 5.0 3.7 2.3 3.0 4.5 4.4 2.4 4.7 4.7 2.9 4.0

From this I now produce Table of Births for the last eleven years :—

Table showing the number of Births for the 11 years ending December 31, 1885, including Workhouse.

1875	1876	1877	1878	1879	1880	1881	1882	1883	1884	1885
220	229	223	224	266	230	210	217	208	233	204

This evidence before you I will, without further remark, proceed to investigate, and, as far as practicable, account for such deaths on Table A, taking first

Measles, from which two deaths are assigned, and when you take into consideration the large number of cases of illness that have occurred in this district and throughout the county from this fearfully infectious disease, I am of opinion that you are fortunate in so few deaths.

Diphtheria caused one death to a child in the Weobley district. Where it occurred there was enough insanitation and poisoned water to account for it and other cases. All, however, by my directions have been put right.

Diarrhoea and Dysentery only caused two deaths to infants under five years of age.

Phthisis stands about the same, being eight.

Bronchitis, &c., &c., are slightly on the increase.

Heart disease on the decrease, being only 14 against 22.

Injuries about the same.

Other diseases much increased by 20 to old people over 60, thus accounting for the excess of total deaths.

TABLE B.
TABLE OF NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1885, in the Three Divisions
of the Rural Sanitary District of the Weobley Union; classified according to Localities and Diseases.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS, IN PERSONS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT, DISTRIBUTING THOSE IN CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.												Other Diseases such as Chicken Pox, or Pertussis, which the Medical Officer thinks well to record.					
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		24	25	26	27	28
	under 5	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Group (not "spasmodic").	Whooping Cough.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Other.	Dysentery.	Cholera.	Rheumatic Fever.	Krypselam.	Pyæmia.	Fæbrile Fever.	28	
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Weobley ...	5 upds.	...	40	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Workhouse ...	5 upds.	...	3	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dilwyn ...	5 upds.	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Paactice ...	5 upds.	...	10	7	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
Totals ...	5 upds.	...	62	12	2	1	...	...	...	...	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	2

SOURCES OF INFORMATION.
 The figures of the columns following column 12 will have been derived from the returns of the Poor Law Medical Officers, from the practice of public institutions in or near the Sanitary District, and from other medical practices.
 The Officer of Health, making this report is desired to state below the number of persons belonging to this division or district, who have during the year newly come under treatment for ALL KINDS of disease and injury, and of whose cases he has had information.

58 in Workhouse.
 310 among Out-door Paupers.
 100 in Other Practice.*

* This refers to cases of sickness not included in the previous classes, if the Medical Officer of Health has information of such cases from other sources.

On working up Table B,

Measles shows a large percentage of sickness, but this total, I believe, does not comprise all cases that have occurred, many districts having had it without any medical attendance to record it.

Scarlatina made its appearance in different districts. I have knowledge of 24 cases, all without any severe symptoms, and no deaths have resulted therefrom; strict isolation was enforced by me.

Croup—I heard of two cases, both mild.

Diarrhœa and Dysentery only show 14 cases, against 32 for last year.

Rheumatic Fever—Only two cases, one accompanied with cardiac disease. And thus ends Table B. I have compiled this Table to the best of my ability; but I must here enter my same precaution, that I cannot vouch for the following being the total number of cases.

It only remains for me to add the Inspector's routine work, which in the Weobley district is as follows:—

Removal of General Nuisances	44
Overcrowding done away	4
Houses condemned as unfit	3
	—
	51

From the Inspector of Nuisances of the Dilwyn District I have returned as follows:—

Drains New and Repaired, &c., &c.	63
Pigstyes removed	3
Privies repaired and altered	5
Pumps repaired	6
	—
	77

And to remark that I think it desirable that another house to house inspection should be made as early as possible this spring, as I am convinced that this is the only means of checking and preventing disease. Thanking you for your assistance to me in carrying out my duties,

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD,

M.D., L.R.C.P., Lond. Surgeon, &c.

The Hawthorns, Hereford,

January 11th, 1886.

SANITARY HINTS.

I am of opinion that it is still advisable to add to my report the usual hints on home sanitation as, when followed, they are often the means of preventing and arresting disease.

PURE DRINKING WATER.—Avoid, as far as you can, every water which can even be *suspected* of contamination with the filth from sewers, house drains, privies, cesspools, and the like. See that cisterns and water butts are clean, and especially that the overflow pipes do not open direct into any drain. Water should be clear, colourless, and without smell. Water can only be really tested by a difficult and careful analysis. Drinking-water is the better for being filtered. A costless filter may be thus made:—Take a flower pot and plug the hole, not too tightly, with a piece of sponge; add a layer of powdered animal charcoal about one inch thick, then the same quantity of clean sand, and on that some coarse gravel. The charcoal should be occasionally re-baked or washed with Condy's Fluid; in epidemics of typhoid fever or cholera, the water should be boiled before filtration.

DRAINS, CLOSETS, &c.—Flush and, if possible, scrub and cleanse once daily with plenty of water, containing some disinfectant, as crude sulphate of iron, chloride of zinc, carbolic acid, or Cooper's patent salts. See that the traps are well charged with water, that they do not allow bad smells to escape in the house, and that the main house drain is ventilated by the rain water pipe, by charcoal air filters, or otherwise. The pan of every W.C. ought to have a tube or shaft attached to the soil pipe just below the trap of the pan; this tube ought to be carried rather above the roof or outside the house, not near any window or water cistern. A two-inch zinc pipe will answer every requirement to allow the gases to pass up such tube that may generate or be driven in the soil pipe from a main sewer or cesspool that the soil empties into; thus preventing any party using such W.C. from inhaling and being poisoned by such gas when the pan has been used and the handle is being pulled up for flushing, cleansing, and emptying.

ASH AND PRIVY PITS.—Cover, so as to keep them dry, well drained, thoroughly spread over with ashes or dry earth, frequently emptied, sprinkle with a disinfecting powder—McDougall's or Cooper's—and be careful that no slops are thrown in. Decaying animal and vegetable refuse are sources

of danger, and should be buried or dug into the earth away from houses. Remove all pigs, poultry and rabbits, some distance from living rooms.

VENTILATION.—Keep rooms and passages sweet by opening doors and windows for admission of air. Fires greatly promote ventilation. Overcrowding is exceedingly dangerous. Whenever possible, 500 cubic feet of air breathing space should be allowed to each individual in any sitting-room, bedroom, or work-room. Gas lights contaminate the air very rapidly. Pure air is less dependent on cubic space than on efficient ventilation, which may be secured by the following simple and economical method:—Raise the lower sash of the window two or three inches, and fill in the opening underneath the bottom rail with a piece of wood; this leaves a corresponding space between the meeting rails in the middle of the window, through which a current of air enters and is directed towards the ceiling, whence it should escape by a valvular opening. The fewer persons and things in a sick room the better. Beds should be freely exposed to the air during the day, and soiled linen should not be kept waiting for washing in unventilated closets.

CLOTHING, FOOD, &c.—While warmth is kept up, transpiration should be free; in summer and autumn a broad flannel bandage should be worn round the abdomen, and the linen should be constantly changed. The food should be plain, fresh, wholesome, and sufficient; avoiding intemperance in both eating and drinking. Bodily weakness favours cholera, typhus, typhoid, and other fever—therefore, avoid exhaustion, over-fatigue, and fear as much as possible. Milk, rice, meat, soups, potatoes, beans, peameal, bacon, entire wheaten bread and cheese are the cheapest nourishing articles of food. One of the most frequent causes of the early death of young children is improper feeding. The proper food of children is breast milk. When the mother and the child are both healthy no other food is required for the first six months. When the child is first born no food is required, and the practice of giving gruel, butter, honey, and castor oil to new-born babes is prejudicial to their health. When the mother has a deficiency of milk, cow's milk or Swiss milk is the best substitute. It should be given with a third of warm water and a little sugar. For the first six weeks the child should be suckled every two hours in the day and every three or four hours at night. Gradually as it gets older the intervals of feeding may be prolonged. Children should not be fed to keep them quiet, but at regular intervals. Mothers should never fall asleep when suckling their babes, as this is one of the most frequent causes of suffocation in bed. A child should not be weaned suddenly, but by degrees, and ought not to have the breast after the ninth month. When the child has cut its front teeth it

may have some light food, such as bread, baked finely ground wheaten flour, or milk biscuits, added to its milk, or Liebeg's Food;" and once a day meat broth or beef tea, with bread or biscuits soaked in it; or the yolk of an egg lightly boiled; when it is a year and a half old, some fine chopped meat—but milk should form the principal part of its food. Solid meat and potatoes, fat pork and fish, which form the food of grown-up people, should on no account be given to children.

THE SICK ROOM.—Keep sweet by a small fire and a plentiful supply of fresh air, as above described. Remove bed-curtains, window-hangings, and carpets. Sweep rooms daily, and let the floor be frequently rubbed with a damp cloth, or dry rubbed, and, when necessary, chloride of lime or acetic acid sprinkled from time to time on the floor. Keep within reach of the patient a basin charged with disinfectant for him to spit into; and have close at hand a tub or pail of diluted disinfectant fluid, into which should be immediately thrown any article of clothing removed from the patient. Instead of a pocket handkerchief use small pieces of rag, to be burnt immediately after use. A piece of mackintosh sheeting placed beneath the sheet or blanket of a bed prevents discharge soaking through. A tea-cup full of green copperas solution, 2lbs. to a gallon, put into a night pan before it is used by the patient renders the discharge harmless. Matters discharged from the body should be received in a vessel containing active disinfectants, as about half a pint of either of the following solutions, namely:—Of 2lbs. of sulphate of iron in a gallon of water; one quart of chloride of zinc to three quarts of water; four fluid ounces of carbolic acid (Calvert's No. 5) to a gallon of water. Glasses, cups, and other utensils of the sick room should be cleansed before they are used by other persons. Hang, outside door of room, a sheet or old counterpane, and keep it moistened with some disinfecting solution.

INFECTED CLOTHING AND BEDDING.—Soiled linen, bedding, and such woollen articles as admit of washing, on being removed from the patient should be plunged into boiling water before they are taken from the room, and, in addition, for an hour or two, into a tub of solution of four fluid ounces of carbolic acid (Calvert's No. 5) to a gallon of water; after this they can be boiled and washed. Cloth clothes, mattresses, beds, pillows, &c. (in the absence of a proper public disinfecting establishment, which should be so constructed that its temperature can be well regulated and maintained at from 240 deg. to 250 deg. Fahr. for four or five hours), should be disinfected by smoking with brimstone, exposure in the open air, to the sun, if possible, or, if raining, in front of a large fire. Washing and lime-whiting of premises should be attended to periodically.

THE PATIENT.—Separate the sick person from the healthy as soon as possible. In cases of scarlet fever, on the seventh and eighth days, anoint the surface of the body twice a day with camphorated lard or palm oil, or wash with diluted Condy's Liquid. When the patient is sufficiently strong let him take a warm bath, and afterwards be well washed with carbolic acid-soap and water. During a week or ten days from this time he may be kept apart repeating every two or three days the disinfecting ablutions; after which he can, with safety, mix again with his family. Scarlet Fever and Small Pox seldom spread beyond the sick-room when separation and disinfection have been properly used. Whenever children have sore throats or an eruption on the skin, they should be separated from the rest of the family until they have had medical advice or those symptoms have disappeared. Measles and Whooping-cough are contagious, and cases should be more carefully isolated and nursed than is usually done. In the event of death early burial is very desirable. Powdered charcoal, 2 lbs., Cooper's Patent Salts, or good Carbolate Powder, or sawdust nearly saturated with a solution of chloride or sulphate of zinc, placed in the coffin, retards decomposition and putrefaction, or takes away offensive smells by absorbing noxious gases.

NURSES AND ATTENDANTS.—Woollen dresses are to be avoided, and preference given to washing materials. Prevent contact, as much as possible, between attendants and inmates of the house. After handling the sick or things connected with them, let the nurse be careful immediately to wash her hands in diluted Condy's liquid, or with carbolic acid-soap,

DISINFECTANTS.—For *Nuisance Prevention*, as detected by the nose test, those most generally used are Chloride of Lime, Cooper's Salts, Condy's Fluid, Burnett's Liquid, Chloralum, Carbolic Acid, and its compounds. Chloride of Lime and Chlorine require care and experience in management; when used too freely in inhabited rooms, they give rise to irritation of the lungs and air passages. Burnett's Fluid and Carbolic Acid are most efficacious, but are poisonous, and the latter possesses a very strong smell, which to many persons is extremely offensive. Ten pounds of sulphate of iron, five gallons of water, and half a pint of common carbolic acid form a good and cheap disinfectant for drain. Iodine, volatilized on a heated surface, is an excellent disinfectant, but is expensive. Carbolic Acid, Chlorozone, or Condy's Liquid improve the air when diffused by means of a large brush, a scent spray or the hydronette syringe with rose. For *Infection Prevention* should be thorough, not diluted, applied in considerable strength; while the room is occupied by the living it is impossible to use volatile or aerial disinfectants in such quantity as to be of real service. When the room is vacated, to disinfect thoroughly,

close the windows, stop up the chimney and every aperture and outlet from the room, and use sulphur in the proportion of $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. for every 100 cubic feet of space. The sulphur may be safely burnt in a shallow pipkin or coarse earthenware saucer containing some live coals or coke; the saucer should be supported on a pair of tongs laid across a pail of water, so that in case of accident the burning sulphur may fall into the water and do no injury. The room should be closed for twelve hours—then the wall papers should be removed, stripped off, and burnt; the walls, ceiling, floor, painted parts of the room and articles of furniture washed with solution of carbolic acid, and the ceilings and walls limewashed; the room should be unoccupied and freely open to the external air for a fortnight, if possible, for plenty of fresh air is the truest, best, and cheapest disinfectant.

VACCINATION.—Every child should be vaccinated before the third month; if delayed beyond that period, it may increase the irritation of teething. Skin rashes are often erroneously said to be caused by vaccination. All persons should be re-vaccinated after eight years of age—and when Small Pox prevails in a family or neighbourhood.

Clergymen, medical practitioners, Scripture readers, and other persons interested in Sanitary reform living in the district, are invited to inform the Medical Officer of Health, and the Inspectors of Nuisances, of any nuisances which they discover in the neighbourhood—such communications to be considered strictly confidential. Every ratepayer has a right of complaint, and it is only by such co-operation that Sanitary Officers have a power of remedying nuisances and of checking the ravages of epidemic disease.

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