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Contributors

Herefordshire Combined Rural Sanitary Authorities.

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TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
COMBINED RURAL DISTRICT COUNCILS
OF THE
COUNTY OF HEREFORD,
AND THE
URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY
OF THE
CITY OF HEREFORD,
1898.

By H. CECIL MOORE, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.
Deputy for H. VAVASOUR SANDFORD, M.D., &c.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

HEREFORD:
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TWENTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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

HEREFORD URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

*Population (Census 1891), 20,267. Estimated census 1898,
21,500.*

Area in Acres, 5,031.

Parishes, 10.

Hereford,

January 1st, 1899.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,—

In conformity with the regulations of the Local Government Board, I present to you a Report of the Health of the City of Hereford for the year ending December 31st, 1898.

This Report would have represented the 25th Annual Report of your Medical Officer, Dr. Sandford, whose duties I was appointed to perform last November, as Deputy during his absence through illness.

I produce, as usual, Four Tables recording the Births and Deaths which have occurred in the City each year from 1875 up to the present time.

CITY OF HEREFORD.

TABLE 1.

Table showing total number of Deaths from all causes for the Twenty-four Years ending December 31st, 1898, in the City of Hereford, including those in the Infirmary and Workhouse:—

	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000.
1875.....	401	21·8
1876.....	447	28·8
1877.....	342	18·0
1878.....	335	17·6
1879.....	456	23·8
1880.....	352	18·3
1881.....	307	16·4
1882.....	368	18·2
1883.....	386	19·4
1884.....	365	19·3
1885.....	363	18·11
1886.....	425	21·1
1887.....	372	18·6
1888.....	379	18·4
1889.....	364	18·0
1890.....	347	17·0
1891.....	360	17·7
1892.....	374	18·0
1893.....	419	20·0
1894.....	391	19·0
1895.....	396	19·5
1896.....	385	18·9
1897.....	382	17·9
1898.....	364	16·9

CITY OF HEREFORD

TABLE 2.

Table showing the number of Births for the Twenty Four Years ending December 31st, 1898, in the City of Hereford, including those in the Workhouse :—

	No. of Births.		No. of Births.
1875.....	400	1887.....	492
1876.....	446	1888.....	510
1877.....	386	1889.....	499
1878.....	480	1890.....	487
1879.....	555	1891.....	460
1880.....	553	1892.....	472
1881.....	532	1893.....	507
1882.....	500	1894.....	548
1883.....	500	1895.....	578
1884.....	478	1896.....	548
1885.....	521	1897.....	553
1886.....	509	1898.....	544

Rate per 1000—25·3

CITY OF HEREFORD.

TABLE 3.

Table showing the Number of Deaths of Infants and Children under Five Years from all causes for the Twenty-four years, ending December 31st, 1898, in the City of Hereford, including those in the Workhouse and Infirmary :—

	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000
1875.....	119	6·0
1876.....	166	8·3
1877.....	85	4·1
1878.....	100	5·0
1879.....	158	8·0
1880.....	114	7·0
1881.....	89	4·7
1882.....	133	6·4
1883.....	89	4·0
1884.....	100	5·0
1885.....	92	4·1
1886.....	149	7·4
1887.....	82	4·1
1888.....	110	5·1
1889.....	130	6·0
1890.....	105	5·6
1891.....	87	4·2
1892.....	100	4·3
1893.....	119	5·0
1894.....	135	6·6
1895.....	118	5·5
1896.....	104	5·1
1897.....	102	4·8
1898.....	101	4·7

CITY OF HEREFORD.

TABLE 4.

Table showing the Number of Deaths in each Year for the Last Twenty-four Years, ending December 31st, 1898, from the Eight Chief Zymotic Diseases, including those in the Workhouse, Infirmary, and Isolation Hospital:—

Year.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric, Typhoid or Con- tinued Fever.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	TOTAL.
1875...	...	1	7	1	3	2	3	8	25
1876...	...	12	75	...	12	...	2	9	110
1877...	...	6	11	...	2	...	...	5	24
1878...	...	8	4	4	7	...	...	15	38
1879...	...	5	...	4	27	...	2	5	43
1880...	...	1	6	1	1	...	...	28	56
1881...	13	2	...	...	2	4	21
1882...	...	29	12	...	9	...	...	6	65
1883...	...	1	9	3	...	...	...	8	21
1884...	1	1	1	...	2	14	19
1885...	...	16	...	...	1	...	1	8	26
1886...	...	1	1	...	21	...	2	15	40
1887...	1	...	1	12	14
1888...	3	1	...	4	...	...	...	4	12
1889...	...	22	...	5	3	...	2	7	39
1890...	1	7	...	...	2	10
1891...	1	...	2	...	1	1	5
1892...	...	3	...	...	...	...	3	...	6
1893...	16	...	8	...	3	6	33
1894...	...	4	3	11	4	...	...	6	28
1895...	...	3	3	6	1	...	2	6	21
1896...	8	13	...	...	5	26
1897...	...	16	3	3	...	...	1	5	28
1898...	...	3	...	1	...	...	1	5	10

Table 1 gives the total Deaths and rate for each respective year.

Table 2 denotes the total Births and rate for each respective year.

Table 3 gives the Deaths of Children and rate for each respective year.

Table 4 shows the Deaths from Zymotic Diseases and rate for each respective year.

It is satisfactory to record that the death-rate for the past year—excluding the deaths in the Infirmary and Workhouse—was only 14·04 per 1,000 of the population of the City. (This calculation is based upon an estimated population at the end of 1898 of 21,500.)

During the year 1898 the total number of deaths registered in the City was 364. Of this number 35 occurred in the Infirmary and 27 in the Workhouse. Including the deaths in these institutions, the death-rate is 16·93 per 1,000, the lowest since 1875 with the single exception of the year 1881, when the death-rate was 16·4.

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, 1898.

Deaths under 1 year of age ...	76	} 101 under 5 years.
„ over 1 „ and under 5 years	25	
„ „ 5 „ „ 15 „	13	} 263 over 5 years.
„ „ 15 „ „ 25 „	15	
„ „ 25 „ „ 65 „	117	
„ „ 65 and upwards	118	
Total of all ages ...	364	

The Births for this year—including twelve which took place in the Workhouse—registered 544, giving a Birth-rate of 25·3 per 1,000. 287 were boys and 257 girls; of the total of 544, 49 were illegitimate.

I also submit two Tables in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board. The first, or Table A, deals

entirely with the Mortality of your district, divided into localities, showing the deaths from each disease. The second, or Table B, enumerates the Births in the City, and the cases of Infectious sickness notified.

These Tables may be briefly analysed as follows :—

TABLE A.—Deaths.

Scarlet Fever : No death.

Diphtheria : 1 death out of 18 cases notified—a highly satisfactory result.

Membranous Croup : 2 deaths,

Typhoid Fever : 1 death.

Measles : 3 deaths, comparing favourably with 16 deaths in 1897.

Whooping Cough : No death. In 1896 the number of deaths was 13.

Diarrhoea and Dysentery : 5 deaths.

Rheumatic Fever : 1 death.

Influenza : 5 deaths.

Phthisis : 30 deaths.

Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy : 38 fatal cases, compared with 54 in 1897.

Heart Disease : 30 deaths.

Injuries and Cases requiring Inquests : 14 deaths.

Senility and all other Diseases : 234 deaths.

TABLE B.—Sickness.

Scarlet Fever : 31 cases notified—34 less than last year.

Diphtheria : 18 cases were notified. The fact of only one death occurring in 18 cases, although some of the cases may have been of a mild type, indicates early diagnosis, prompt and effectual treatment, and points to a more favourable sanitary condition of the surroundings. Two cases treated at the Isolation Hospital recovered.

Membranous Croup : Only 2 cases were notified; they both proved fatal.

Typhoid or Enteric Fever : 4 cases, three of which recovered, including one case treated at the Isolation Hospital.

Erysipelas : 5 cases, all of which recovered.

Death Rate.—This has been steadily decreasing. The rate 16·9 per 1,000 in 1898, based on a census of 21,500, is the lowest for 25 years with the exception of 16·4 in 1881, when the average was based on a population of 18,355, as returned in the census of 1871.

Zymotic Diseases.—The low mortality, only 10, is highly favourable. Of these there were three deaths from Measles, a non-notifiable disease, which, however, if carelessly treated during convalescence may lead to complications producing low vitality, and predisposing to Tuberculosis.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—During the year 1898, 15 cases of Scarlet Fever, 2 cases of Diphtheria, and 1 case of Typhoid Fever have been successfully treated. The favourable results of not a single death during the year show the careful and skilful treatment of the patients, and should act as a wholesome encouragement to parents to allow their children to be removed without fear or hesitation. The City is to be congratulated upon the addition of another similar block, containing 16 beds, well built, well ventilated, and capable of ready administration from a convenient central position, whereby the advantages have been secured of the separation of different forms of infectious disease. The extension of infectious disease in your City has been much limited by your Isolation Hospital, and it must be borne in mind that this has been in a great measure abetted by the promptness of action of all the officials in the early removal of patients from their crowded insanitary dwellings, and the immediate fumigation of the latter and disinfection of the bedding, &c. The establishment of communication by telephone is desirable.

Tuberculosis.—It is incumbent on all County, Municipal, and Rural Councils to aid “The National Association for the prevention of Tuberculosis.”

Pulmonary Phthisis, or consumption of the lungs, is the predominant form of Tuberculosis, the mortality from which in Hereford in the year 1898 amounted to 30, out of a total of 364 deaths. Tuberculosis attacks other organs of the body, causing serious and fatal diseases of the brain and its coverings, of the bowels, and of the bones, skin, and lymphatic glands, and producing a condition commonly known as “scrofula.”

A microscopic organism, belonging to the lowest order of fungi, and known under the name of “tubercle bacillus” is associated with this disease. It is found in the expectoration or phlegm of patients affected, and when dried, in the form of microscopic living dust, is capable of conveying infection to others. The action of sunlight, free ventilation, dryness of the air, and of the subsoil are inimical to the

propagation of this organism. A person in an ordinarily healthy condition enjoying life under the surroundings of a pure dry air, no matter how cold it may be, and in a well ventilated dwelling, is in the highest degree insusceptible to the first attack. When an attack has been detected in its earliest stages, a cure has often been effected by removal to a pure mountain air, or by a long sea voyage. The results of *post mortem* examinations of persons dying from other causes frequently exhibit signs of previous tubercular lesions which have been cured.

On the contrary, the constant inspiration of foul air in badly ventilated crowded dwellings, a powerful factor in inducing a low state of vitality, renders a person not only susceptible to an attack, but places him under the most highly unfavourable prospect of recovery if attacked.

A protracted convalescence from measles, whooping cough, and from any chronic catarrh of the respiratory organs in children, renders them, in their lowered vitality, susceptible to tuberculosis.

It is an established fact that animals in confinement in insufficiently ventilated sheds are liable to Tuberculosis, whilst it is found that animals ranging freely over steppes, moorlands, and prairies enjoy a great comparative immunity. To give one instance alone out of numerous tests, Dr. Marsden, of Birkenhead, found only 68 tuberculous animals out of 60,000 practically wild cattle.

Of recent years there has been a declining phthisical death-rate of adults, and an increasing death-rate of children from the various forms of tubercular disease. Infants are very liable to attacks of intestinal catarrh—with their alimentary canals weakened by diarrhœa and other catarrhal conditions they are very susceptible to tubercular infection, which can be transmitted to them by drinking milk from a cow, even if the udder shows no signs of being affected.

The "bacillus" of Tuberculosis thrives within a limited range of temperature, and is rendered incapable of multiplication by exposure to heat under boiling point. Hence the necessity of thoroughly cooking our meat. Thoroughly boiling our milk ensures the destruction of the "bacillus."

Tuberculosis in its many forms is in great measure preventable, and its prevention amongst animals and human beings has now become a subject of national interest. The erection of separate sanatoria for the treatment of consumptive invalids, as practised elsewhere, has been initiated recently in our own kingdom.

Conscious as I am of the improved, and gradually improving, sanitary condition of your City, I am not prepared to call for a separate isolation hospital as a matter of urgency for a complaint of so chronic and protracted a character as Phthisis; nor do I consider a compulsory notification of all tubercular cases a matter calling for immediate legislation, but I would invite the co-operation of medical officers of public hospitals and dispensaries, and of parochial medical officers, by a voluntary notification, especially in such cases amongst the destitute where it may be in the power of the Sanitary Authorities to aid the medical attendant in ameliorating the condition of his patient by sanitation of his surroundings, or by the supply of disinfectants where necessary.

Your Sanitary Committee in ensuring a still more close inspection of all milk-shops, dairies, and cowsheds by irregular surprise visits, is advised, in addition to existing laws as to the sanitary requirements of such houses, to take into their consideration the prohibition, as dangerous to the health of the community, of tuberculous employés, in a similar manner as applies to the employment of persons suffering from any of the notifiable infectious complaints. The same remarks apply to bakehouses.

Every public institution in the City should be reached by the Sanitary Committee, and the co-operation of all dairymen and butchers should be invited. The famous cattle breeders in our county, in their own interests, may be depended upon for very careful supervision of their herds, and they are instructed by their own periodicals. Seeing, however, that a very marked diminution, or eventually the comparative abolition, of Tuberculosis may be confidently looked for by the formation of herds of tubercle-free cattle, and the careful protection of the succeeding generation from being affected, as has been done in Denmark, and in our kingdom by Lord Vernon of Sudbury, your Council might urge parliamentary legislation throughout the country.

Your Sanitary Committee can assist in the education of the community by the distribution of leaflets. The subjoined is suggested:—

CONSUMPTION, AND ALLIED FORMS OF DISEASE.

DIRECTIONS FOR THEIR PREVENTION.

With the view of diminishing the cases of consumption and other complaints, especially those to which children are liable, the conscientious attention of all parents and householders is called to the following short and simple directions.

1. Always thoroughly boil all your milk, and keep it boiling for half-a-minute.

2. Having boiled your milk, keep it carefully covered when laid by to get cool so as to prevent any dust getting into it.
3. As regards your food, be careful to have it all thoroughly well cooked.
4. Consumption is a disease which can be communicated to others, especially by the dried dust of spittle or expectorated matter. Refrain from spitting, indoors especially; and should any person be suffering from consumption, or any catarrhal condition of the lungs producing the accumulation of irritating phlegm, provocative of spitting, be careful that the expectoration is received in a small spitting-cup into which, according to the directions of your medical attendant, some fluid disinfectant has been placed: the same must be frequently emptied every day, and the contents thrown upon a hot fire, and never into the dust-bin, or on the ashes heap.
5. Always put the patients' handkerchief after use into boiling water. In preference to handkerchiefs small pieces of clean linen are recommended, to be burnt immediately after use. Very cheap handkerchiefs may be bought made of Japanese paper, to be burnt immediately after use.
6. Carefully avoid overcrowding in your dwelling rooms and bedrooms. Keep your houses, your outhouses, and all the surroundings supplied with plenty of fresh air, and free through ventilation, with the admission of as much sunlight as possible. Frequently inspect your sinks and drains and keep them open. A can of boiling water with some soda in it will prevent the stoppage often caused by grease.

7. *After a death from consumption, cause a fumigation of the dwelling, and cleaning with disinfectants.*

ST. OWEN'S IMPROVEMENT SCHEME.—The early removal of back-to-back houses and insanitary dwellings in this quarter of the city, with the insufficiency of sunlight, and absence of through ventilation, has been found imperative on sanitary grounds. The substitution of new buildings with the provision of more sunlight, air, and ventilation in and around them, cannot fail to be beneficial to the health of the community.

SEWAGE SYSTEM.—Your city is highly favoured with the natural character of the subsoil of your Sewage Works. It seems that nothing can surpass the favourable results obtained by your excellent intermittent downward filtration and irrigation, and the commendable economy of its working owes much to the management and forethought of your City Surveyor.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Water supplied to your City bears an excellent character for purity. The proposed early addition of

another filter bed will further aid in maintaining its excellence. We have it upon the high authority of Sir William Crookes and Professor Dewar, in the November report respecting the London water, "the bacteriological quality of the water supply does not depend on the use or rejection of flood water, but upon proper regulation and efficiency of the filtration of the water." Although the river Wye is on the whole a well oxygenated stream owing to numerous rapids in which the water gets well exposed to sunlight and aeration, nevertheless the necessity of improvement throughout its course must be impressed, and it is our bounden duty to trace and remove where practicable all sources of contamination. I have one recommendation to urge, namely, the removal of the intake to a site above Hunderton farm.

Analysis (tap water) made on the 16th December, 1898 :—

1. Perfectly clear, free from colour, odour, or taste.
2. Chlorine, 1 grain per gallon.
3. Poisonous metals, none.
4. Total oxidisable matter, .063 of a grain per gallon.
5. Solids, 7 grains per gallon on evaporation, very pale gray, no discolouration on being heated to excess.

THE PROPOSED LONDON WATER-SUPPLY FROM WALES.—Early steps must be taken for strenuous opposition to the proposed impounding of any more of the tributaries of the river Wye.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES, BAKEHOUSES, REGISTERED LODGING
HOUSES, &c., &c.

During my short tenure of office as Deputy for Dr. Sandford, I have a few times visited your public slaughterhouse, your 6 private slaughterhouses, several of your 27 bakehouses, and of your 8 registered common lodging houses. In company, or otherwise, of your Sanitary Inspector, I have inspected numerous nuisances reported by him, witnessed the satisfactory abatement of many, his detection of defects in the execution of others, and his withdrawal of approbation until the work had been efficiently completed. I can also bear witness to his prompt action in the removal of infectious cases to the Isolation Hospital. The early fumigation of houses from which the patients have been removed, and disinfection of bedding, &c., has also been carried out without delay. Your Sanitary Inspector has done a large amount of very useful work, as will be evident from his Report here appended.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. CECIL MOORE, M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES FOR
THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1898.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SANITARY COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,—

In submitting my report for the past year, I beg to state that the work done by my predecessor from the beginning of the year to the 25th March, the date on which I commenced my duties, and also that of Mr C. J. P. Nash, who was appointed temporary assistant during the summer, is included in this report.

During the year 182 complaints were received and investigated, and 2,794 inspections and re-inspections made; 310 preliminary notices were served requiring the abatement of nuisances, and I am glad to report that it was necessary to serve only 18 legal notices. Although your Committee authorised legal proceedings to be taken in a few instances under the Public Health Act, 1875, I have not found it necessary to resort to them. I am pleased to acknowledge the assistance rendered me by owners and citizens generally and the readiness to comply with my requests.

The following is a summary of the sanitary work done during the year.

Defective or obstructive drains and water-closets have been put in proper repair in 238 instances, and 130 stoneware gully traps have been fixed in place of open or improperly trapped drains. The drains inside 15 houses have been removed to the outside, and in 12 the system has been relaid. 15 inspection chambers, 8 disconnecting traps, and 7 ventilating shafts have been provided.

Twenty new water-closets have been fixed, the flushing apparatus to 16 put in proper working order, and a proper supply of water provided for flushing purposes to 10.

Defective roofs were made water tight in 19 instances, the eaves and fall spouting repaired or new ones provided in 22; 16 yards or courts have been paved or the existing paving repaired, and in 21 houses the slop-sinks have been rebuilt and waste pipes provided.

Forty-one houses, 17 washhouses, and 24 water-closets, used in common, have been cleansed and whitewashed, and 3 cases of overcrowding have been abated.

Forty-nine nuisances arising from offensive accumulations of manure, wash, and refuse have been abated, and in 27 instances nuisances caused by the keeping of swine and other animals have been dealt with.

One sample of well-water has been forwarded for analysis, which was certified as unfit for drinking purposes, and the town water has been laid on. Two houses which were without a supply of water have also had the town water provided. One dangerous disused well has been filled up.

Nineteen cases of water waste and ten dangerous buildings or street nuisances have been reported to the City Surveyor.

Under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, 10 houses have been reported to the Medical Officer of Health, who has represented them to be unfit for human habitation. Of these four are now closed, four have been improved and put into habitable condition, and two are still under consideration.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—There are eight registered common-lodging houses in the City, and special attention has been given them during the year, the number of visits amounting to 112. On the whole they have been well-conducted, only in three instances have I had to call attention to contraventions of the bye-laws.

There are on the Registers 27 Bakehouses (in use), 6 Private Slaughter houses, 40 Dairies and Milkshops, 19 Cowkeepers, and 472 Pig-keepers. These have been periodically visited to ensure the statutory requirements being complied with.

UNSOOUND FOOD. —There has not been any seizure of unsound food during the past year, but one quantity of unsound fish was voluntarily given up and destroyed, and four suspicious cases investigated.

FOODS AND DRUGS ACTS, 1875-9.—Under the provisions of the above Acts, 64 samples have been purchased for analysis—10 by Police-Constable Ovens and 54 by myself. The following Table shows the articles purchased, the number genuine and adulterated, and the action taken under the instructions of your Committee :—

Nature of Articles.	Number of Samples Purchased.	Genuine.	Adulterated.	Deficient of Cream.	Cautioned by order of Committee.	Prosecutions.	Result of Proceedings.					
							Fines.		Costs.			
							£	s. d.	£	s. d.		
Milk	21	20	...	1	...	1	1	0	0	1	4	0
Butter	13	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lard	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Coffee	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pepper	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mustard	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ground Ginger ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ground Cinnamon ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Flour	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tincture of Iodine ...	3	1	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tincture of Rhubarb	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Compound Tincture of Camphor ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Milk of Sulphur ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whiskey	5	3	2	...	1	1	1	0	0	0	19	0
Gin	4	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Brandy	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	0	0	0	18	0
Rum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	64	57	6	1	4	3	£3	0	0	£3	1	0

The extent of adulteration during 1898 was as follows:—

MILK.—One sample was deficient of 25 per cent. of cream.

TINCTURE OF IODINE.—One sample was slightly deficient in Iodine. One sample contained 27 per cent. of its chief constituent Iodine in excess, according to the proportions laid down in the British Pharmacopœia.

WHISKEY.—One sample was 28·96 degrees under proof; One sample was 37·91 degrees under proof.

BRANDY.—One sample was 39·1 degrees under proof (25 degrees under proof is the minimum strength allowed by the Act for the above spirit).

GIN.—One sample was 37 degrees under proof. (35 degrees under proof is the minimum strength allowed by the Act for the above spirit.)

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—During the past year 60 cases of infectious disease have been notified, and the circumstances attending each case reported to the Medical Officer of Health, *i.e.*, Scarlet Fever, 31 ; Diphtheria, 18 ; Membranous Croup, 2 ; Typhoid Fever, 4 ; and Erysipelas, 5.

The number of cases removed to the City Hospital was 18. The fumigation of 37 houses, and the disinfection of the infected bedding and articles from 29 have been efficiently carried out by the Hospital Porter.

I have from time to time supplied the Librarian with a list of cases, and notices have also been sent to the Head Teachers and to private schools requesting them not to allow children from infected houses to attend school until disinfection has been carried out.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

S. PROTHEROE, Cert. San. Inst.

TABLE A.
TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1898, in the Hereford Urban District, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (a)	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS FROM CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																						
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Con- tinued.	Relaps- ing.	Par- typhoid.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phtisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Inquests and Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.
City of Hereford ...	302	74	25	8	15	86	94	Under 5 5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	4	12	—	—	—	1	76	99
Workhouse ...	27	1	—	—	—	11	15	Under 5 5 upwds	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	21	17	25	5	8	120	203
Infirmary ...	35	1	—	5	—	20	9	Under 5 5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Isolation Hospital ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Under 5 5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	364	76	25	13	15	117	118	Under 5 5 upwds	—	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	4	13	—	—	1	77	101
									—	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	26	25	30	5	13	157	263

TABLE B.
TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of Medical Officer of Health during the Year 1898, in the Urban Sanitary District of the City of Hereford, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. <i>(a)</i>	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.			Aged under 5 or over 5. <i>(e)</i>	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.																							
	Census 1891. <i>(b)</i>	Estimated to end of 1898. <i>(c)</i>	Registered Births. <i>(d)</i>		1	2	3	4	FEVERS.							10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	FEVERS.					8	9	10	11	12	13							
					Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Euteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Fuero-petal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	TOTAL.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.	Euteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Fuero-petal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	TOTAL.													
					5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13																			
City of Hereford ...	20,267	21,500	532	Under 5	—	8	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	14	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	
				5 upwds	—	23	13	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	42	—	12	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	
Infirmary ...	—	—	—	Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
				5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Workhouse ...	—	—	12	Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
				5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total ...	20,267	21,500	544	Under 5	—	8	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
				5 upwds	—	23	13	2	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	46	—	12	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District.—Yes. Since when?—ABOUT 29TH FEBRUARY, 1891.

HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Population (Census 1891), 13,853.

Parishes, 39.

Area in Acres, 63,097.

Hereford, January 1st, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,—

In the following Report, I adhere to the plan adopted for the past twenty-four years, of first stating the number of births and deaths, and then of particularizing the causes of the deaths, in the respective districts.

The total number of births in 1898 was 311, giving a birth-rate of 22·4 per 1,000.

The deaths numbered 217, including those which occurred in the Burghill Asylum, giving a death-rate of 15·6 per 1,000 of the population.

Deducting the 12 deaths which took place in the County Asylum, as not being included in the population proper of your Union District, we have a total of 205 deaths in the year—or a rate of mortality of 14·7 per 1,000.

I reproduce the table showing the number of deaths and the rate of mortality in 1875 (the first Report issued), followed by similar figures in relation to the last two censuses and by those for 1898 also. The figures afford an estimate of the general advance in sanitation which has taken place during the last twenty-five years, that is to say, since the appointment of Dr. Sandford as your Medical Officer of Health.

HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Table showing the Number of Deaths in each Year for the Last Twenty-four Years ending December 31st, 1898, from the Eight Chief Zymotic Diseases, including those in the Asylum:—

Year.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric, Typhoid or Con- tinued Fever.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	TOTAL.
1875...	...	1	7	1	3	...	6	8	26
1876...	...	6	45	...	12	...	3	13	79
1877...	...	1	11	3	...	...	2	2	19
1878...	...	3	1	1	...	...	2	7	14
1879...	2	4	7	...	1	3	17
1880...	4	...	...	4	10	18
1881...	2	2	...	...	...	2	6
1882...	...	19	18	3	6	...	1	1	48
1883...	...	5	13	2	...	...	1	8	29
1884...	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	11	15
1885...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	4	8
1886...	9	...	1	6	16
1887...	7	2	...	...	3	12
1888...	...	5	...	...	...	...	1	...	6
1889...	...	6	...	3	1	...	1	1	12
1890...	2	7	2	...	4	15
1891...	1	1	1	...	...	...	3
1892...	...	2	...	2	...	...	1	2	7
1893...	...	2	5	4	4	...	...	2	17
1894...	1	3	2	...	...	...	6
1895...	...	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	5
1896...	...	1	2	2	4	...	...	4	13
1897...	5	3	...	...	2	10
1898...	1	...	...	...	1	4	6

The following Table shows the number of deaths (including those which took place in the Asylum) in the Hereford Rural District in each of the years mentioned :—

	1875.	1881.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898
Total									
Deaths	323...	239 ...	307...	280 ...	251...	216...	210...	219...	217
Rate per									
1,000	21·3...	13·6 ..	15·9...	13·1...	12·0...	12·8...	12·3...	12·8...	15·6

The following Table shows the number of deaths of infants and of children under five years of age, in the Hereford Rural District in each of the same years ; and the comparison is still a favourable one :—

	1875.	1881.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898
Total deaths	69...	54 ...	72 ...	74 ...	57 ...	37 ...	44 ...	54 ...	56
Rate per									
1,000	4·7...	3·0 ...	4·0...	4·0...	3·0...	2·17...	2·5 ...	3·1 ...	4·0

I append hereto the Tables prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board. Table A gives the total number of deaths in your District for the year, under the separate localities, showing the diseases causing such deaths ; and Table B gives the births, and cases of infectious sickness notified in the separate districts.

Briefly analysed these Tables show :—

TABLE A.

- Scarlatina* : One death only.
Diphtheria : Not a single death ; a circumstance unknown for nine years.
Typhoid Fever : One death.
Membranous Croup : No death.
Whooping Cough : No death.
Diarrhœa and *Dysentery* : 4 deaths.
Erysipelas : 2 deaths, including one in the Asylum.
Phthisis : 7 deaths, including one in the Asylum.
Rheumatic Fever : One death.
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy : 26 deaths, a considerable decrease.
Influenza : 14 deaths.
Heart Disease : 25 deaths.
Injuries resulted fatally in 9 cases.
Senile decay and all other Diseases are recorded as occasioning 127 deaths.

TABLE B.

As to notifications of infectious sickness :—

Scarlet Fever : 14 cases have been notified ; this is a continued decrease ; last year the number was 27 cases.

Diphtheria . 3 cases only, compared with 11 in 1897.

Erysipelas : 2 cases.

Typhoid Fever : 3 cases ; two in the Fownhope district, and one in the Burghill district.

In table B, the omission has occurred of information required by the Local Government Board, namely, that there is no Isolation Hospital in your Rural District.

Zymotic Disease.—Of notifiable cases there were only four deaths during the year—one from scarlet fever, one from typhoid fever, and two from erysipelas, including one case in the Lunatic Asylum.

The total number of cases notified during the year was only 22, which compares favourably with 47 in 1897 and 80 in 1896. Of these twenty-two cases, 14 were notified from the parish of Burghill, where an epidemic of scarlet fever occurred in the latter part of the year, necessitating the closing of the schools. The epidemic was traced to a mild case, which was not recognised or treated, and consequently not notified.

CLOSING OF SCHOOLS.—The Schools at Lugwardine, closed in the latter part of 1897, were re-opened in February. The Schools at Withington were closed for a short time in February on account of an epidemic of suspicious sore throat. In November the Schools at Much Dewchurch were closed on account of the great prevalence of whooping cough, and other ailments. The closing of Burghill Schools has been before mentioned.

WATER SUPPLY.—I have examined and analysed two samples of water in your district, and have taken the necessary steps for its improvement and for the provision of a better supply.

RIVER POLLUTION.—The necessity of preserving the River Wye from pollution, especially above the intake to the Hereford Reservoir, cannot be too strongly impressed. I earnestly solicit the attention of every individual member of your Council to the urgency of reporting any instances of improper drainage, especially into ditches and streams contiguous to the River Wye, so that immediate action may be taken for their abatement.

Phthisis, the predominant form of Tuberculosis.—In your district, during the year 1898, there were 7 deaths from this

cause, in 1897 there were 8, in 1896 there 12 deaths. I am not within reach of earlier returns to enable me to give further comparative statistics. To avoid repetition, I beg to refer you to the remarks on Tuberculosis on pages 10, 11, 12, 13, to which I add the following supplement as applicable to your own and other Rural Districts.

PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS.—In our Rural Districts we may safely rely upon our dairy farmers and cattle breeders, instructed as they are by the Royal Agricultural Society and the literature of their agricultural publications and associations, for their assistance in our endeavours to render our meat and milk supply free from taint of tuberculosis. In their own interests they will use every effort towards the abolition of tuberculosis from their herds. Should we not be forestalled by early legislation upon this subject through the Board of Agriculture, I would commend to your Council the consideration by a small select Committee of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on “controlling danger to man through the use as Food of the Meat and Milk of Tuberculous Animals,” calling attention to the inspection of slaughterhouses by qualified Meat Inspectors, of making regulations regarding tuberculous animals and carcasses, the notifications of diseases in the udder, the sites registration and regulation of dairies and cowsheds, with the view of eliminating bovine tuberculosis from our kingdom, the question now having become national.

HOUSE INSPECTION, SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS, ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES, &c.—Useful work has been done by your Inspector of Nuisances, a record of which will be found in the appended Report.

In conclusion, at the close of the year the Scarlet Fever epidemic in the district of Burghill shows signs of abatement, and with respect to the remainder of your Rural District, I have cause to congratulate you upon its healthy condition.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. CECIL MOORE, M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.,
Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

HEREFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF THE SANITARY WORK
COMPLETED IN THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31st, 1898.

Prevention of Infectious Disease under direction of Medical
Officer of Health.

Number of cases enquired into	19
Number of houses disinfected and cleansed ...	11

Houses.

Number made fit for habitation	3
Number cleansed and whitewashed	3

Privies.

Number additional privies and ashpits provided..	1
Number repaired	4

Scavenging.

Total number of privies and ashpits cleansed ...	173
--	-----

Water Supply.

Number of wells cleansed and repaired	1
Number of samples of water submitted for analysis	3

Animals kept so as to be Nuisances.

Number of cases of removal on notice	38
---	----

Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.

Number of removals	160
---------------------------	-----

REMARKS.

There are eight houses still remaining to be disinfected,
the infection not yet having passed away.

FREDERICK FOWLES,

Inspector of Nuisances, Hereford Rural District.

King's Thorne, near Hereford,
1st January, 1899.

TABLE B.
TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of Medical Officer of Health during the Year 1898, in the Four Sanitary Districts of the Hereford Rural District Council, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. <i>(a)</i>	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births. <i>(d)</i>	Aged under 5 or over 5. <i>(e)</i>	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.												
	Census 1891. <i>(b)</i>	Estimated to end of 1898. <i>(c)</i>			FEVERS.													FEVERS.												
					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.		
Burghill	5,103	—	108	Under 5	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
				5 upwds	—	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Lunatic Asylum	—	—	—	Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
				5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Dewsburch	4,526	—	104	Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
				5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Fownhope	4,224	—	99	Under 5	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
				5 upwds	—	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Total	13,853	—	311	Under 5	—	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
				5 upwds	—	7	3	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District.—Yes. Since when?—ABOUT 1ST FEBRUARY, 1891.

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Population (Census 1891), 10,104.

Parishes, 23.

Area in Acres, 48,696.

Hereford,

January 1st, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Twenty-fifth Annual Report of the sanitary condition of your District

The following Table shows the ages at which the deaths occurred throughout the Ledbury Rural District, including the Workhouse, from January 1st to December 31st, 1898:—

Deaths under 1 year of age	25	}	31 under	
" over 1 year and under 5 years	6		5 years	
" " 5 years	8	}	127 over	
" " 15 "	4			5 years.
" " 25 "	44			
" " 65 " and upwards	71			
Total of all ages	158			

The death-rate in the year 1875 was 19·8 per 1,000, in the year 1881 it was 17·6 per 1,000, but in 1891 (new census) it increased to 19·0 per 1,000. This year 1898, with West Malvern added to your district and Ledbury Urban taken away, the deaths and births are as follows:—

District	Deaths	Births
Ledbury Rural	62	144
" Workhouse	24	5
West Malvern	14	42
Yarkhill	58	93
	158	284

These figures calculated upon the census of 1891 give a death-rate of 15·6 per 1,000 and a birth-rate of 28·1 per 1,000.

I produce as hitherto the Table giving the number of deaths from Zymotic Disease since 1875.

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Table showing the Number of Deaths in each Year for the Last Twenty-four Years, ending December 31st, 1898, from the Eight Chief Zymotic Diseases, including those in the Workhouse :—

Year.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheri.	Whooping Cough.	Typhus Fever	Enteric, Typhoid or Continued Fever.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	TOTAL.
1875...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	3
1876...	...	1	10	5	4	...	...	4	24
1877...	1	...	...	2	1	...	2	2	8
1878...	7	3	...	...	...	1	11
1879...	...	3	...	5	3	...	...	...	11
1880...	2	...	...	...	1	3
1881...	1	8	1	...	...	2	12
1882...	1	...	8	3	...	...	...	3	15
1883...	3	...	10	...	1	4	18
1884...	...	9	...	...	1	...	2	4	16
1885...	...	9	...	...	1	...	1	4	15
1886...	2	7	9
1887...	1	2	1	...	1	4	9
1888...	3	2	...	1	1	7
1889...	...	2	...	...	4	...	...	2	8
1890...	3	...	...	4	7
1891...	...	8	4	9	...	...	...	1	22
1892...	2	4	...	...	1	1	8
1893...	...	1	3	1	5	...	2	5	17
1894...	...	1	...	1	3	...	...	4	9
1895...	4	4	8	...	2	3	21
1896...	...	1	...	1	6	...	...	5	13
1897...	2	1	1	...	...	1	5
1898...	..	2	...	...	...	...	...	3	5

I also give the Tables in accordance with the regulations of the Local Government Board. The following is a brief analysis of these Tables, which do not include the particulars relating to the Ledbury Urban District :—

TABLE A.

Gives the Deaths in each District under the head of various Diseases.

DEATHS.

Small-pox	0	Rheumatic Fever ...	1
Scarlet Fever...	0	Phthisis	8
Diphtheria	0	Bronchitis, Pneumonia,	
Membranous Croup ...	2	and Pleurisy	13
Typhoid Fever	0	Heart Disease	17
Erysipelas	0	Influenza... ..	15
Measles	2	Inquests and Injuries ...	3
Whooping Cough	0	Old Age and Other	
Diarrhœa and Dysentery ...	3	Diseases	94

TABLE B.

The following are the cases of Infectious sickness notified :—

Scarlet Fever : 7 cases notified ; a satisfactory reduction from last year, when the number was 44.

Diphtheria, too, has very much decreased, there being 7 cases compared with 16 last year ; they were of a very mild character.

Typhoid Fever : 2 cases notified.

Erysipelas : 2 cases, both being of a senile nature.

In Table B, the omission has occurred of information required by the Local Government Board, namely, that there is no Isolation Hospital in your Rural District.

Zymotic Disease.—Owing to the prevalence, in the early part of the year, of non-notifiable diseases of measles, influenza, and whooping cough, it was necessary to close several schools. In the autumn scarlet fever, re-appearing upon its apparent abatement, lingered about the neighbourhood of the Wyche, Colwall. In the absence of an Isolation Hospital, the engagement of a special nurse in that district assured proper nursing of the sick in their own homes, and the vigilance of your Sanitary Inspector in preventing communication with the isolated, aided considerably in preventing the extension of the infection.

The issue of your Circular educating the community in the symptoms of various infectious diseases, and containing an extract from the Public Health Act, 1875, Section 126, enlightening them upon the various penal offences, a very wise proceeding on the part of your Council, acted as a salutary effect in your rural district.

The low mortality from zymotic disease in your district presents a very favourable aspect, namely, 2 cases from membranous croup, 2 cases from measles, and 3 cases from infantile diarrhœa.

The total number of notifications, 18, bears a very favourable comparison with 65 in 1897, in the following proportions:—

Scarlet Fever: 7 cases in 1898, compared with 44 in 1897.

Diphtheria: 7 cases, compared with 16 in 1897. Of these seven cases five occurred in the district of Yarkhill.

Both of the cases of *Typhoid Fever* notified were imported cases; they were treated in the Workhouse Isolation building, and both recovered.

CLOSING OF SCHOOLS.—In the later part of 1897, owing to the prevalence of infectious diseases, several schools were closed. In the early weeks of 1898 the schools of Ashperton, Coddington, and Little Marcle were re-opened. Later on in the year, in consequence of the extension of the epidemics to Tarrington, Putley, Wellington Heath, Hope End, Colwall, Bosbury, and Much Marcle, it was necessary to close all these schools, and in most instances the period of closing was extended.

PHTHISIS, OR TUBERCULOSIS.—In your district, during the year 1898, 8 deaths from Phthisis were reported, 9 in 1897, and 15 in 1896. These deaths were those of adults. There are, however, numerous other organs of the body, besides those of the respiratory organs, liable to be affected by tubercular disease, and it is to the prevention of these, by greater attention to our meat and milk supply, and especially to the increasing prevalence of tubercular complaints amongst children, that I desire to call the attention of your Council.

To avoid repetition, I beg to refer you to remarks and suggestions on pages 10, 11, 12, 13, and to supplementary remarks applicable to Rural Districts on page 23.

HOUSE INSPECTION, ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES, &c.—The Annual Report of your Sanitary Inspector exhibits briefly the total amount of useful work and sanitary improvements effected during the year in your Rural District.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—Their ventilation, drainage, frequent cleansing, avoidance of vicinity of dwelling houses, will more specially engage the attention of Sanitary Authorities. Your

Sanitary Inspector has given a favourable report of their cleanliness.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS.—The report of your Sanitary Inspector is not so favourable. Their more frequent inspection, washing and repairing of floors where necessary, drainage and ventilation, to meet the requirements of the Sanitary Authorities, will engage the special consideration of your Council in their discussions on the subject of the prevention of Tuberculosis. Your Sanitary Inspector has very properly signified his intention of looking fully into their defects before he is in a position to report more fully.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. CECIL MOORE, M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.,
Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF THE SANITARY WORK
COMPLETED IN THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31ST, 1898.

Prevention of Infectious Diseases under Medical Officer of
Health.

Number of cases enquired into	16
Number of houses disinfected and cleansed	16
Lots of bedding, clothing, etc., destroyed	2
Cases of illegal exposure reported	1
Schools disinfected and cleansed	8

Houses.

Number erected	34
Number made fit for habitation	29
Number closed as unfit for habitation	12
Number cleansed and whitewashed	9

Overcrowding.

Number of cases abated	6
-------------------------------	---

Waterclosets.

Number of additional w.c.'s provided	32
Number ventilated and provided with flushing cisterns... ..	5

Privies.

Number of additional privies provided	7
Number converted to w.c.'s or slop closets	26
Number repaired	2
Number of privies cleansed	5

Water Supply.

Number of wells sunk	4
Number of wells cleansed and repaired... ..	10

Slaughter Houses.

Number regularly inspected	7
-----------------------------------	---

These are kept exceptionally clean.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Number of persons engaged in milk trade now on register and under supervision	7
--	---

Some of these dairies and cowsheds need a lot of improvement, being old and not ventilated as they ought to be, also floors dilapidated.

Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.

Number of removals	4
Number of stale wash buried	8
Number of manure heaps	3

Clerical Work.

Number of official letters written	87
Number of notices served	35
Number of notices complied with	35
Number of notices outstanding	3

REMARKS.

Slaughter Houses.—These have been thoroughly inspected by me. I might say they are kept thoroughly cleansed and whitewashed.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—I am sorry to say many improvements are required, and it is my intention in this forthcoming year to give them a thorough inspection now that I have other matters well in hand.

THOS. CAWSEY, C.S.I.,
Sanitary Inspector Ledbury Rural District Council.

P.S.—As Surveyor to the Colwall Parish I have had plans of 28 houses submitted to me and passed by the Council; also many houses connected to the new sewer which was completed this year in a portion of this parish called The Stone.

THOS. CAWSEY, C.S.I.,

BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Population (Census 1891). 8,151.

Parishes, 32.

Area in Acres, 61,114.

Hereford,

January 1st, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,—

In presenting you the Twenty-fourth Annual Report I have to state that the total number of deaths for 1898 registered 130, giving a death-rate of 15·9 per 1,000. The births numbered 218, giving a birth-rate of 26·7 per 1,000.

I append hereto the customary Table showing the deaths from Zymotic Disease in each year from 1875, and it will be observed that the number of deaths this year is again exceptionally small.

BROMYARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Table showing the Number of Deaths in each Year for the Last Twenty-four Years, ending December 31st, 1898, from the Eight Chief Zymotic Diseases, including those in the Workhouse :—

Year.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric, Typhoid or Con- tinued Fever.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	TOTAL.
1875...	1	2	...	7	10
1876...	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
1877...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	4
1878...	2	...	3	1	6
1879...	2	...	...	1	3
1880...	...	8	...	2	...	...	...	6	16
1881...	5	...	2	2	1	2	12
1882...	2	4	1	1	...	1	9
1883...	1	3	...	...	2	6
1884...	2	...	...	2	1	5
1885...	2	...	...	...	...	2	4
1886...	...	3	...	...	3	...	...	1	7
1887...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2
1888...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
1889...	...	6	...	...	...	...	1	1	8
1890...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	4
1891...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
1892...
1893...	3	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	7
1894...	...	3	1	1	6	...	...	...	11
1895...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	4
1896...	...	3	...	1	1	...	1	1	7
1897...	2	...	...	...	...	2
1898...	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	4

I also give the two Tables in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Board, viz :—Table A setting forth the deaths from all causes under the different localities, Table B giving in a similar manner the births and cases of Infectious sickness notified during the year.

Analysis of these Tables gives the following results ;—

TABLE A.

DEATHS.

Small-pox	0	Diarrhœa and Dysentery ...	0
Scarlet Fever	0	Rheumatic Fever	1
Diphtheria	2	Phthisis	2
Membranous Croup ...	0	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and	
Typhoid Fever	0	Pleurisy	11
Puerperal Fever	1	Heart Disease	12
Erysipelas	1	Influenza	13
Measles	1	Injuries and Inquests ...	3
Whooping Cough... ..	1	Old Age and other Diseases	82

TABLE B.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever	18
Diphtheria	12
Typhoid Fever	1
Erysipelas	4

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—18 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, about the yearly average ; there was no death registered from this disease. Of the 12 cases of Diphtheria, about the yearly average, two deaths were registered. Of the 4 cases of Erysipelas all recovered. The one case of Typhoid Fever notified was imported into your district, being that of a tramp passing through the country. The mortality from Zymotic Diseases is very satisfactorily low.

CLOSING OF SCHOOLS.—Bredenbury Schools were closed owing to an epidemic of influenza in the month of January. Stoke Lacy Schools were closed in May for an epidemic of measles. Whitbourne Schools were closed in July on account of an outbreak of scarlet fever, which re-appeared in the same district shortly before the Christmas holidays.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—The advantages of your Isolation Hospital were proved by the reception of cases of diphtheria, which cannot be favourably or conveniently treated in dark dwellings. By the early removal of the patients affected to the

more healthy surroundings of your Isolation Hospital, they were not only placed under more favourable conditions for recovery, but their removal from their crowded cottages where isolation was impracticable prevented the transmission of the dangerous disease to the other residents.

The number of cases enquired into, and other measures taken for the prevention of infectious disease will be seen on reference to the appended report of your Sanitary Inspector, Mr Thomas Barrs.

Phthisis or *Tuberculosis*: The mortality in your district from Phthisis Consumption) during 1898 registered only 2 cases ; in 1897 10 cases were registered, and 5 cases in 1896. It is recognised, and the public are, through the Press, now made generally informed, not only that Consumption is to a great extent preventable, but that it can be communicated from one person to another, and that it, and other forms of tubercular disease, are liable to be contracted from animals through our meat and milk supply.

In order to avoid exaggeration of the facts, and to allay needless fears of the community, I would urge upon your Council the expediency of issuing handbills of instructions how to act for the prevention of Tuberculosis, and at the same time taking measures for securing the co-operation of all cattle breeders and dairy farmers in eradicating the communicable complaint from their herds.

Further remarks upon this subject, with suggestions for your consideration, will be found on pages 10, 11, 12, 13, and 23 of this General Report.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, MILKSHOPS.—These have been inspected, as numerated in the Report of your Sanitary Inspector. In the remedying of any defects in drainage, ventilation, or the carrying out of the repairs to floors, walls, or roofs, your Council may confidently rely upon the co-operation of the owners or lessees in their own interests, now that public attention has been so generally called to new dangers to health from a tainted milk-supply. They must receive diligent and constant inspection.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—The same remarks apply to slaughter-houses.

In the general supervision connected in any way with the houses mentioned in the last two paragraphs, your Council will be assisted and guided judiciously by recommendations issued by the Royal Agricultural Society, pending any Parliamentary legislation upon the subject of Tuberculosis.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—On my entering upon my duties in the

month of November, I found that plans for the Septic Tank system of treatment of the Sewage of your Workhouse were awaiting the approval of the Local Government Board. This system has been in operation at Belle Isle, Exeter, for more than two years, and in a Report dated September, 1898, I read that "the results have been equally satisfactory, and no necessity has yet arisen for removing any deposit from the Septic Tank." This system has proved so practically successful at Exeter and Yeovil that it has been adopted elsewhere, *e.g.*, at Morecambe Bay, Andover, &c., and it has been recently proposed to apply it on a large scale at Manchester before discharging the effluent into a slow-moving body of water as the Manchester Ship Canal. After the initial outlay it will be found a comparatively economical working system.

In casting a retrospect upon the improved Water Supply, Sanitary work executed, and the abatement of nuisances, under the recommendation of your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Sandford, whose duties I was suddenly called upon to undertake as Deputy at the close of the year, I observe that a few wells have been cleansed, and with reference to Storridge Schools, that alterations conducive to the better sanitation of the surroundings have been carried out, and I trust that these, with the recommendation of a pump in substitution of the indiscriminate use by the public of the well on the property of H. B. Little, Esq, will prove valuable sanitary improvements of mutual benefit.

At the close of the year, with the exception of a few cases of Scarlet Fever at Whitbourne, the health of your Rural District is satisfactory.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. CECIL MOORE, M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.,
Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BROMYARD.
INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF THE SANITARY WORK
COMPLETED IN THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31st, 1898.

Prevention of Infectious Disease under directions of Medical
Officer of Health.

Number of cases enquired into	34
Number of houses disinfected and cleansed ...	9
Number of patients removed to Hospital ...	4
Lots of bedding, clothing, &c, disinfected ...	9

Houses.

Number cleansed and whitewashed	9
--	---

Overcrowding.

Number of cases abated	1
-------------------------------	---

House Drains.

Number laid or relaid	4
Number trapped	1
Number of defective waste-pipes rectified ...	1

Privies and Ashpits.

Number converted to pail closets or earth closets	4
Number repaired	1

Water Supply.

Number of wells cleansed and repaired... ..	2
Number of samples of water submitted for analysis	2

Slaughter Houses.

Number regularly inspected	5
-----------------------------------	---

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Number of persons engaged in milk trade now on register and under supervision	6
---	---

Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.

Number of Removals	2
---------------------------	---

Clerical Work.

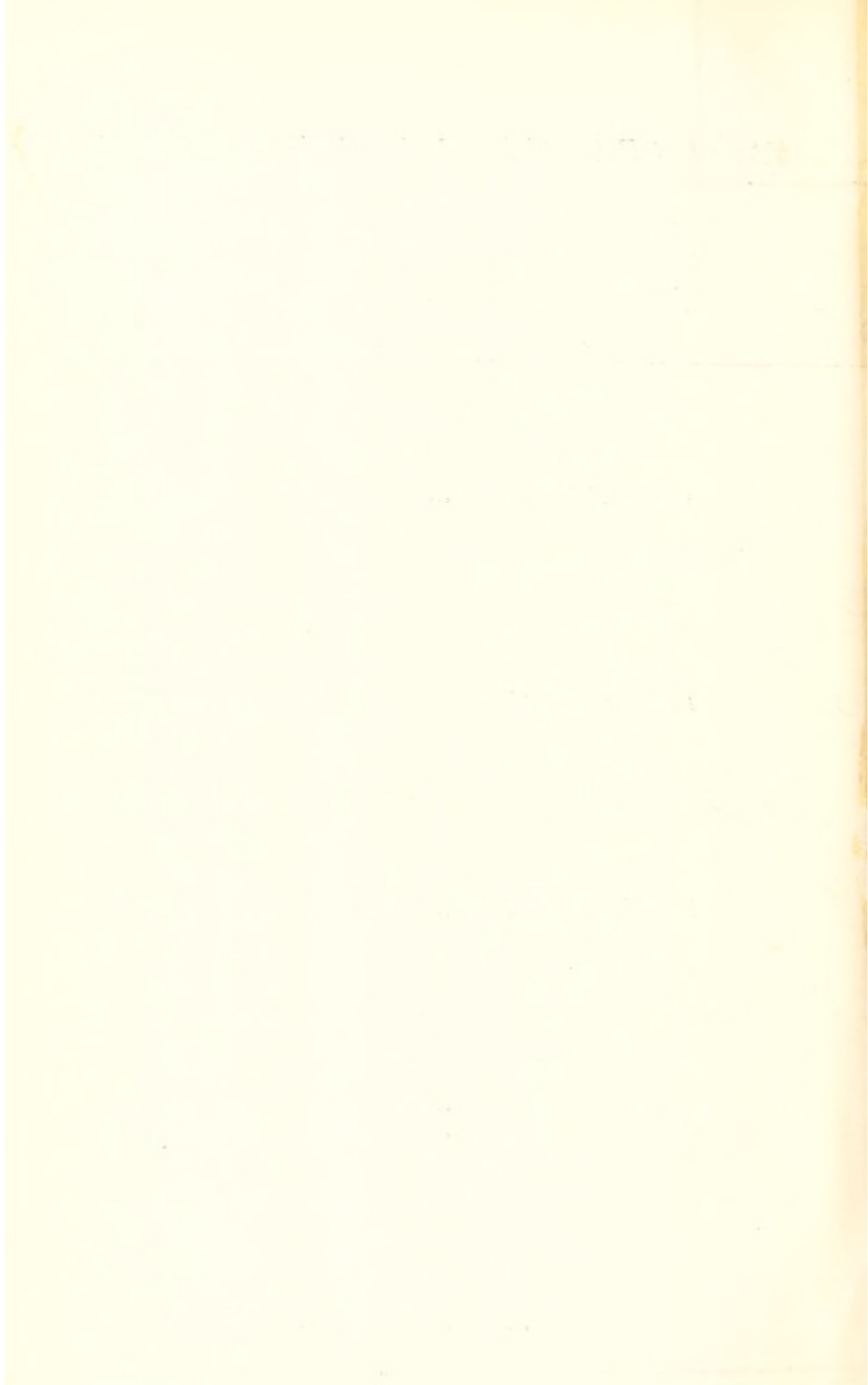
Number of official letters written	40
Number of notices served... ..	5
Number of notices complied with	4
Number of notices outstanding	1

(Signed) THOMAS BARRS,
Inspector of Nuisances, Bromyard.

January 20th, 1899.

TABLE A.
TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1898, in the Four Sanitary Districts of the Bromyard Rural District, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (a)	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS FROM CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																								
	At all ages. (b)	Under 1 year. (c)	1 and under 5. (d)	5 and under 15. (e)	15 and under 25. (f)	25 and under 65. (g)	65 and upwards. (h)	(i)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		
									Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Euteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Paratyphoid.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Pneumonia.	Bronchitis, Pleurisy and Pneumonia.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Inquests and Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.		
Bromyard Rural ...	30	7	3	1	1	9	9	Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	10	
								5 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	1	—	13	20	
Bromyard Workhouse...	14	—	1	—	1	3	9	Under 5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	13
								5 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	1	1	—	6	13	
Brockhampton...	42	9	1	2	2	11	17	Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	8	10	
								5 upwards	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	7	1	16	32	10	
Bishop Froome	41	9	2	1	—	11	21	Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	10	11		
Acton Beauchamp	3							5 upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	3
Total ...	130	25	7	4	4	34	56	Under 5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	28	32		
								5 upwards	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	9	12	13	3	54	98	



LEOMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Population (Census 1891), 8,384.

Parishes, 26.

Area in acres, 55,297.

Hereford,

January 1st, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,—

Pursuant to the Order of the Local Government Board, I present to you the Annual Report for 1898.

I include in it a Table showing the number of deaths in each of the 24 years ending December, 1898, from the eight chief zymotic diseases.

The total number of deaths from all causes for the year was 106, giving a rate of mortality of 12·6 per 1,000 in a population of 8,384. The births numbered 192, giving a rate of 22·9 per 1,000.

LEOMINSTER RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Table showing the Number of Deaths in each Year for the Last Twenty-four Years ending December 31st, 1898, from the Eight Chief Zymotic Diseases:—

Year.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric, Typhoid or Continued Fever.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	TOTAL.
1875...	4	...	1	...	...	5	10
1876...	1	...	1	...	...	2	4
1877...	4	...	...	...	...	1	5
1878...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	5	8
1879...	1	...	1	3	5
1880...	...	2	6	2	1	...	...	4	15
1881...	4	1	...	...	...	...	5
1882...	1	..	...	...	1	1	3
1883...	3	2	5	...	...	2	12
1884...	1	...	...	...	1	3	5
1885...	2	...	...	...	1	3
1886...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	..	4
1887...	...	1	...	1	1	...	1	1	5
1888...	1	1	2
1889...	2	2
1890...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	3	6
1891...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
1892...	2	...	...	...	...	1	3
1893...	...	1	4	5	...	...	1	2	13
1894...	4	4	...	...	...	8
1895...	1	1
1896...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	4
1897...	1	...	3	...	1	...	5
1898...	1	...	...	...	1

I also append hereto the Tables prepared for the Government Returns. Table A. shows the deaths from all causes in each separate locality. Table B. gives the particulars of cases of Infectious sickness notified under the "Notification of Infectious Diseases Act."

Analysis of these Tables is subjoined.

TABLE A.

DEATHS.

Small-pox	0	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	0
Scarlet Fever	0	Rheumatic Fever	0
Diphtheria	0	Phthisis	6
Membranous Croup	1	Bronchitis, Pneumonia,	
Typhoid Fever	0	and Pleurisy	8
Puerperal Fever	0	Heart Disease	18
Erysipelas	0	Influenza... ..	6
Measles	0	Injuries and Inquests	4
Whooping Cough	1	Old Age & Other Diseases	62

TABLE B.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever	39
Diphtheria	5
Membranous Croup... ..	1
Typhoid Fever	1
Erysipelas	11

DEATH-RATE.—The death-rate in your Rural District is, as usual, favourably low, especially in connection with the prevalence of Zymotic diseases in various parishes. The death-rate is 12·6 per 1,000, based upon a population of 8,384 in your 26 parishes. The low infantile mortality is especially marked in the 7 parishes of the Leominster Rural District, one case only being registered under one year of age, and two only under five years of age in the population of 1,859. There were nine registered deaths over 65 years of age. In the whole year there were only four deaths between the ages of 5 and 65; in the larger district of Bodenham, consisting of nine parishes, with a population of 2,502, there were only six deaths between the ages of 5 and 65.

Zymotic Diseases.—Including the non-notifiable cases of Measles, Whooping Cough, Influenza, and Chicken-Pox. There was a great prevalence of Zymotic Diseases rendering the closing of schools necessary in each of your four sanitary districts. In the Kingsland district 35 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, 1 case of diphtheria, and 11 cases of Erysipelas, or a total of 47 cases. In connection with Zymotic Diseases the very low mortality, only two cases registered, is remarkable. One child

two years of age died of Membranous Croup, and one child died of Whooping Cough, a non-notifiable disease.

Towards the close of the year I was suddenly called upon to act as Deputy for Dr. Sandford, your Medical Officer of Health, during his six months absence on account of illness. From correspondence which has been placed in my hands I feel it my duty to bear witness to the promptitude of notification and action, and to the assistance which has been given by Dr. Williams, of Kingsland, rendered more valuable by his local knowledge, in calling attention, where necessary, to the milk and water supplies of the families attacked by illness, and to other points of special interest to the Medical Officer of Health and the Inspector of Nuisances. The information thus supplied has contributed much, together with the medical treatment of the patients, to the above favourable issues, which, in the absence of any Isolation Hospital in your district, are highly creditable.

CLOSING OF SCHOOLS.—In February the schools at Orleton were closed for an epidemic of Influenza, Measles, and Scarlet Fever. During their closure the drainage system was improved and the drains were re-trapped. In June the schools at Bodenham were closed for an epidemic of Chickenpox. During June and July the schools at Kingsland were closed for Scarlet Fever. In July an epidemic of Measles, followed by Whooping Cough, rendered it necessary to close the schools at Kimbolton. In August Whooping Cough at Little Hereford called for similar measures, and in September and October the schools at Croft and Yarpole were closed for Whooping Cough.

WATER SUPPLY.—The subject of the quality of the drinking water has continued to receive the attention its importance demands. Six samples have been analysed; where necessary wells have been cleaned out or repaired, and a suspicious source of supply at Shirlheath Farm, Kingsland, has been closed.

HOUSE INSPECTION.—Your Inspector of Nuisances, Mr. J. T. Stephens, has supplied me with most valuable statistics of the water supply, drainage, and general sanitary conditions of about 940 houses inspected during 1898 in 16 of the 26 parishes in your Rural District, and he reports that the defects in drainage and water supply have been attended to. Such information is especially valuable to a stranger.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, DAIRIES, COWSHEDS.—Although there are few in your four Rural Districts, they will require more frequent inspection during the coming year, 1899, with the view of amalgamating with the other Sanitary Authorities in this county and in the kingdom in the general campaign for the prevention of Tuberculosis.

Phthisis or Tuberculosis.— There were 6 cases of mortality from Phthisis registered from your whole Rural District in 1898, only 1 case in 1897, and 8 in 1896.

My views on the subject of Tuberculosis, and suggestions as to how action may be taken, have been previously treated on pages 10, 11, 12, 13, and on page 23 of this general Report, to the perusal and consideration of which I respectfully beg to draw the attention of your Council, as it is a subject which at present is engaging the attention of the whole nation.

At the close of the year I have the pleasure of reporting that the health of your whole Rural District is very satisfactory.

The Report of your Inspector of Nuisances (Mr. J. T. Stephens) is appended.

I am, gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

H. CECIL MOORE, M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.,
Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF LEOMINSTER.
INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF THE SANITARY WORK
COMPLETED IN THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31st, 1898.

Prevention of Infectious Disease under direction of Medical
Officer of Health.

Number of cases enquired into	...	...	...	47
Number of houses disinfected and cleansed	...	...	...	25
Lots of bedding, clothing, &c., disinfected or destroyed	...	...	...	30

Houses.

Number erected	...	...	...	6
Number made fit for habitation	...	...	...	2
Number closed as unfit for habitation	...	...	...	0
Number cleansed and whitewashed	...	...	...	3

Overcrowding.

Number of cases abated	8
------------------------	-----	----	-----	---

House Drains.

Number laid or re-laid	...	...	...	...	10
Number cleansed, trapped, and ventilated	...	...	...	...	22

Privies and Ashpits.

Number of additional privies and ashpits provided	...	...	...	...	1
Number repaired	...	...	...	...	8

Water Supply.

Number of wells sunk	...	...	...	...	1
Number of wells cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	18
Number of samples of water submitted for analysis	..	...	...	...	6

Slaughter Houses.

Number regularly inspected	2
----------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Number of persons engaged in milk trade now on register and under supervision	2
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance.

Number of cases of removal on notice	2
--------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.

Number of removals	12
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Clerical Work.

Number of official letters written	156
Number of notices served...	75
Number of notices complied with	...	...	...	...	75

JOHN T. STEPHENS,

Inspector of Nuisances.

Leominster Rural District Council.

January 11th, 1899.

TABLE B.
TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of Medical Officer of Health during the Year 1898, in the Four Sanitary Districts of the Leominster Rural District Council, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (a)	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.			Aged under 5 or over 5. (e)	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.													NUMBER OF SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREATMENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.*												
	Census 1891. (b)	Estimated to end of 1898. (c)	Registered Births. (d)		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
					Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	TOTAL.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	TOTAL.		
					FEVERS.													FEVERS.												
Leominster	1,859	—	35	Under 5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
				5 upwds	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Bodenham	2,502	—	48	Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
				5 upwds	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Kingsland	3,038	—	83	Under 5	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
				5 upwds	—	24	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	36	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Little Hereford and } Brimfield }	425 560	—	26	Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
				5 upwds	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Total	8,384	—	192	Under 5	—	11	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
				5 upwds	—	28	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	11	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District.—Yes. Since when?—ABOUT JUNE, 1891.
 *There is at present no Hospital to which we can send Infectious Cases for Isolation.

WEOBLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Population (Census 1891), 7401.

Parishes, 25.

Area in Acres, 48,249.

Hereford, January 1st, 1899.

GENTLEMEN,—

In conformity with the Standing Orders of the Local Government Board, I beg to submit to your Authority tabulated forms of deaths and of cases of infectious sickness, which have taken place in the Weobley District during the year 1898. Table A classifies the deaths according to diseases, ages, and localities; and Table B enumerates in the same way those cases of sickness which have been notified during the year.

The total deaths from all causes registered 118, and represents a death-rate of 15·9 per 1,000 of population. The births during 1898 registered 183, or a rate of 24·7 per 1,000.

The following Table shows the ages at which the deaths occurred during the past year throughout the district, inclusive of 8 deaths in the Workhouse:—

Deaths under 1 year of age ..	16	}	22 under 5 years
„ over 1 „ and under 5 years	6		
„ „ 5 „ „ 15 „	5	}	96 over 7 years
„ „ 15 „ „ 25 „	4		
„ „ 25 „ „ 65 „	36		
„ „ 65 and upwards	51		

Total of all ages 118

The average death-rate of infants under 1 year of age is 2·16, and that of children under 5 years of age is nearly 3, being 2·97.

It will be seen from the annexed table of mortality from the eight chief zymotic diseases that there are seven deaths recorded as resulting from the diseases in question.

WEOBLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Table showing the Number of Deaths in each Year for the Last Twenty-four Years, ending December 31st, 1898, from the Eight Chief Zymotic Diseases :—

Year.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric, Typhoid or Con- tinued Fever.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery	TOTAL.
1875...	1	1	...	...	1	1	4
1876...	5	...	...	...	1	3	9
1877...	5	...	...	...	...	1	6
1878...	8	...	...	1	2	11
1879...	3	5	...	...	...	1	9
1880...	6	7	...	...	1	4	18
1881...	1	...	...	...	2	3
1882...	...	9	16	...	5	...	1	2	33
1883...	7	...	...	...	...	2	9
1884...	3	1	...	...	...	...	4
1885...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	2	5
1886...	...	1	...	...	5	...	...	...	6
1887...	1	...	...	...	1	...	2
1888...	1	2	...	...	...	1	4
1889...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	4
1890...	...	2	...	...	7	...	...	1	10
1891...	4	...	...	...	4
1892...	1	1
1893...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
1894...	...	4	1	1	...	...	1	...	7
1895...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	3	5
1896...	2	1	1	...	...	...	4
1897...	..	1	1	1	2	...	...	4	9
1898...	...	1	3	3	...	...	...	...	7

An analysis is given of the two Tables above referred to—

TABLE A.

DEATHS.

Smallpox	0	Diarrhœa and Dysentery...	0
Scarlet Fever	3	Rheumatic Fever	1
Diphtheria... ..	3	Phthisis	7
Membranous Croup	0	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and	
Typhoid Fever	0	Pleurisy... ..	11
Puerperal Fever	1	Heart Disease	10
Erysipelas	0	Influenza	9
Measles	1	Injuries and Inquests	4
Whooping Cough	0	Old Age and other Diseases	68

TABLE B.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever	62
Diphtheria	21
*Puerperal Fever	1
Erysipelas	9

* Following Scarlet Fever.

Zymotic Disease.—During the year there was a great prevalence of infectious sickness. The epidemic of scarlet fever lingered about the parish of Almeley from the early part of November to the close of the year, and we learn that it prevailed in adjacent districts bordering on Radnorshire, on the outskirts of our own district. So many as 93 cases of infectious sickness were notified. In addition to these were numerous cases of measles and other non-notifiable illnesses. There was 1 death from measles, 3 deaths out of the 62 cases notified of scarlet fever, and 3 deaths out of the 21 cases of diphtheria notified.

The Local Government Board requirements demand on Table B information as to the site of the District Isolation Hospital. In the absence of such in your district, everything that was practicable was done during any infectious epidemic, and it is a subject for congratulation that the mortality was so limited, when we bear in mind the numerous homes with limited number of bedrooms in which isolation was impracticable. Hence the dissemination of the various infectious complaints.

CLOSING OF SCHOOLS.—Norton Canon Schools were closed in February on account of measles, and again during March and April from a recurrence of the same illness. For the same

reasons the schools at Staunton-on-Wye were closed during June and July. It was also necessary to close the schools at Brinsop at the latter end of November, and the schools at Almeley were closed on account of an epidemic of scarlet fever. With reference to Eardisland, in the sub-district of Dilwyn, the scarlet fever occurred in isolated places, and the schools were not closed.

Phthisis (consumption, tuberculosis).—The mortality from Phthisis in your Rural District registered 6 cases in 1896, 4 in 1897, and 7 in 1898. Remarks on the subject of phthisis, the measures proposed, and in some places commenced, for its treatment in separate Sanatoria, the prevention of its dissemination, and its communicability from one person to another, have been previously made on pages 10 to 13, 23, &c., in the Report of the Hereford Urban, Hereford Rural, and other districts. The free out-door life of dwellers in our Rural Districts ensures far greater immunity from Tuberculosis, and other fatal forms of Tubercular disease to which children in urban districts are more liable. The following table shows how the greater mortality from Phthisis is coincident with the aggregation of the population in a more limited area.

Locality	Annual average mortality from Phthisis	Population	Area in Acres
Hereford Urban District	30·6	21,250	5,031
Hereford Rural District	19·0	13,853	63,097
Ledbury Rural District	10·3	10,104	48,696
Bromyard Rural District	5·6	8,151	61,114
Leominster Rural District	5·0	8,384	55,297
Weobley Rural District	5·6	7,401	48,249

* Based upon the deaths during the last three years.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, MILKSHOPS.—Owing to the national interest recently aroused in the prevention of Tuberculosis, legislation may be expected calling for a more stringent inspection of our milk supply.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—The same remarks apply to these buildings with reference to our meat supply.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS.—Pending the Report of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal, we must be prepared for a more rigid enforcement of the provisions of the Rivers' Pollution Prevention Act. The City of Hereford is dependent upon the River Wye for its water supply, and it is imperative that great diligence should be bestowed upon maintaining it in a condition free from contamination which comes within legislative powers of removal.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.—The drainage of Weobley has been

within recent years put in order, all houses have been connected with the main sewer well ventilated by manholes, and the removal of old and deep cesspits has been effected in all cases which came under the supervision of the Engineer of the Sewerage system. In the occasional heavy atmosphere of our climate sewer gases will not always be drawn up Boyle's Ventilating Shafts, even if a favourable site, not contiguous to any dwelling, could be found for such, nor is Weobley illuminated by gas, which would render practicable the use of sewer gas destructors. Under the existing circumstances if care be taken that the manholes are freely open, and that any old cesspits, the overflow from which may be liable to find its way into the sewers, are removed, with the fine open wide road of your main street I shall not expect any reasonable cause for complaint.

In times of storms much excellent water runs to waste above the Mill. Impounding of this source would provide sufficient storage for flushing the sewers on the lower level. A more ample storage above the higher level is advisable.

WATER SUPPLY.—Another reason for abolishing all old cesspits is because of the greater danger of your water supply, which is dependent upon your wells, being contaminated.

In conclusion, I rejoice to be able to report that the recent local epidemic is surely subsiding, and that the remainder of your district enjoys a favourable condition of health.

The appended reports of your Inspectors of Nuisances in the respective districts of Weobley and Dilwyn give a summary of the work executed by each.—

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently

H. CECIL MOORE, M.R.C.S.E., L.S.A.,
Deputy Medical Officer of Health.

P.S.—Since the above manuscript was in the press, I have been able to obtain a view of the vital statistics of Herefordshire since the year 1883, from which I have calculated the average annual mortality from Phthisis in our City and Rural districts, based upon the more fair estimate of 16 years. It is as follows:—

Hereford Urban District ...	...	...	28·9
Hereford Rural District ...	...	...	16·5
Ledbury Rural District ...	...	...	13·25
Bromyard Rural District...	...	...	10·3
Leominster Rural District	...	...	7·4
Weobley Rural District ...	...	...	6·6

H. C. M.

DISTRICT COUNCIL OF WEOBLEY.
INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF THE SANITARY WORK
COMPLETED IN THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31ST, 1898.

Prevention of Infectious Disease under direction of Medical
Officer of Health.

Number of cases enquired into	7
Number of houses disinfected and cleansed ...	18
Lots of bedding, clothing, etc., disinfected ...	18

Houses.

Number closed as unfit for habitation	7
Number cleaned and whitewashed	1

Overcrowding.

Number of cases abated	3
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House Drains,

Number laid or relaid	6
Number cleansed and trapped	3
Number of defective waste-pipes rectified ...	12

Scavenging.

Total number of houses from which refuse removable	11
Total number of privies and ashpits cleansed ...	3
Total number of loads of ashes and refuse removed	1

Water Supply.

Number of wells cleansed and repaired ..	1
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Slaughter Houses.

Number regularly inspected	4
Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance.	
Number of cases of removal on notice	2
Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.	
Number of removals	1

W. M. LLOYD,

Inspector of Nuisances,

Weobley.

January 4th, 1899.

SUB-DISTRICT OF DILWYN.
INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF THE SANITARY WORK
COMPLETED IN THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31ST, 1898.

Prevention of Infectious Disease under direction of Medical
Officer of Health.

Number of cases enquired into	...	..	...	39
Number of houses disinfected and cleansed	...			13
Lots of bedding, clothing, etc., disinfected or destroyed	...	...	...	10

Houses.

Number made fit for habitation	...	...	...	3
Number closed as unfit for habitation	...			1
Number cleansed and whitewashed	...			7

House Drains.

Number cleansed, trapped, and ventilated	...	...	...	4
Number of defective waste-pipes rectified	...			6
Number of insanitary lavatories, sinks, and urinals rectified	...	...	...	4
Number of dumb wells rectified	...	...	...	2

Water Closets.

Number of additional w.c.'s provided	...	...	...	3
Number repaired, ventilated, and supplied with flush cisterns	...	...	...	2

Privies and Ashpits

Number of additional privies and ashpits pro- vided	3
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Scavenging.

Total number of houses from which refuse removable	4
Total number of privies and ashpits cleansed	...				4

Water Supply.

Number of wells cleansed and repaired	3
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THOS. VAUGHAN,

Inspector of Nuisances for the Dilwyn
Division of Weobley.

10th January, 1899.

Tuberculosis, known also as consumption, wasting, and pining, is a contagious disease, and is spread by the introduction of the tubercle bacilli into the bodies of healthy animals along with the food or drink, and in other ways. Diseased cattle eject bacilli in coughing; also in the discharge from the mouth and nose, and in the manure.

The disease in the advanced stage may be detected by an expert from the outward symptoms, but in the majority of instances there are no characteristic signs. The Tuberculin test, although it does not afford any indication of the extent of the disease in the animal organism, is the only safe and almost certain method of discovering the existence of tubercle in the absence of outward symptoms.

When it is intended to employ the test, the owner of the cattle should apply to the Principal of the Royal Veterinary College, Camden Town, London, N.W., giving the name of his usual Veterinary adviser, to whom printed instructions will be sent. If desired, the name of a Veterinary Surgeon in the district will be suggested.

Animals which exhibit the well-known characteristic reaction to the test, should be treated as tuberculous animals and be separated from those which do not react: a slight partition covered with tarred felt, to divide a shed into two parts, will suffice.

Tubercular disease of the udder ought always to be suspected when a painless hard lump, slowly enlarging, can be detected in one or more of the quarters.

HINTS AS TO THE MEANS OF PREVENTING THE SPREADING OF THE DISEASE.

All animals which are affected with diarrhœa, cough, or wasting, should be removed from contact with other animals.

Insufficient food, or food of bad quality, overcrowding, imperfect ventilation, dirt, and darkness, and all other debilitating causes favour the spreading of the disease.

An open air life is the most desirable for milch cows, and under such conditions tuberculosis shows very little tendency to spread. The cows should not be allowed to feed out of troughs in the pastures, but be taken into the sheds to have their ordinary manger-food.

The cleansing and disinfection of cow-sheds is essential, and the free use of water is a most important part of the process. Sweeping and dry brushing, and the raising of dust, should be avoided.

As to the course which the owner should take with regard to the reacting cows, it can only be said that the sooner they are sent to the butcher the better. As it is impossible to determine at what particular moment the udder may be invaded, and the milk become infective, a strict regard to sanitary laws would exclude the milk of tuberculous cows as unsafe for food, unless it had been effectually sterilised before distribution or use.

That the decided effort which is now being made to arrest the spreading of consumption and other forms of tuberculosis in man will gradually lead to the enforcement of strict precautions against the sale of milk from Tuberculous cows cannot be doubted; and it is of the utmost importance that dairymen should realize the necessity of doing everything in their power to eradicate tuberculosis from their herds. It has been proved that much can be done in this direction by the owner, with the advice and assistance of his Veterinary adviser.

