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THE TWENTY-THIRD  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
ON THE  
**SANITARY CONDITION**  
OF THE  
**BOROUGH & PORT OF IPSWICH**  
FOR THE YEAR 1900.

BY  
**GEORGE SAMPSON ELLISTON,**  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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1901.

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

LAND OFFICE

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# MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

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TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF IPSWICH.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the following as my Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Borough and Port of Ipswich during the year 1900.

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## STATISTICAL RETURNS, HOUSES, AND POPULATION.

The vital statistics for the past year are somewhat disappointing, the birth-rate being again very low, and the death-rate higher than in any one year during the past seven. The increase in the death-rate was not due to any one specific cause, but rather to a large amount of general sickness, the causes being more influenced by climatic changes than defects in sanitation.

The year was ushered in with an immense amount of sickness, consisting principally of Influenza and fatal diseases of the respiratory organs; so great was the mortality during the first quarter of the year that the births only exceeded the deaths by thirty. It is thought in some quarters that the population of Ipswich has lately increased at a greater rate than the estimate on which the vital statistics in this Report are calculated, and that consequently the death-rate may not be so high as it at first sight appears.

We are now on the eve of the taking of the Census of 1901, when all doubt on this subject will be cleared up. I have estimated the population of the town in the middle of the year

1900 to be 63,552; this estimate is arrived at on the basis of the rate of increase ruling between the two preceding Census periods. In the year 1890 the population was rather over-estimated, the total at the Census which followed being nearly a thousand less than was expected, but from the statistics I have before me I believe the town to have been steadily growing, and although the increase will not be so great as some people anticipate, I have little doubt the population will number just over 64,000.

During the year 176 new houses were erected, against 598 in the previous year, which was altogether an exceptional number, plans being rushed through to avoid new building regulations which were about to be adopted. There were 27 old houses pulled down, making 252 old and dilapidated houses that have been demolished since the last Census, to make way for sanitary and public improvements. It is on the estimated population of 63,552 that the general death-rate and vital statistics in this Report will be calculated.

#### MARRIAGES.

Compared with the last five years there was a marked falling off in the marriage-rate during 1900, only 473 marriages being registered against 515 in 1899. The marriages are 2 above the average of the preceding ten years; 310 of them took place in Churches, and 163 in Chapels, Roman Catholic Churches, and at the Register Office. There has been an increasing tendency of late years to celebrate the marriage ceremony in the Established Church.

#### BIRTHS.

The number of births registered in Ipswich during the year 1900 amounted to 1,800, against 1,785 in the previous year. Of the 1,800 births, 788 were registered in the Western Sub-district, and 1,012 in the Eastern. The births are 15 more than in the previous year, but 31 above the average of the ten years, 1890 to 1899.

The birth-rate in Ipswich for the year 1900 was equal to 28·3 per 1,000 of the population living, that for England and Wales during the same period amounting to 28·9 per 1,000, both of which are the lowest rates on record.

## MORTALITY.

During the year 1900 the total number of deaths registered in Ipswich from all causes amounted to 1,276, against 1,248 in the previous year. The deaths are 28 more than in 1899, and 137 above the average of the preceding ten years, 1890-99. On the estimated population of 63,552, the 1,276 deaths give an annual rate of mortality of 20·0 per 1,000 living, the rate for England and Wales during the same period being 18·3 per 1,000.

There were 55 strangers belonging to other districts who died in the various Public Institutions in the town. If the deaths of these "non-residents" be deducted from the total of deaths from all causes the death-rate is reduced to 19·2 per 1,000.

Of the 1,276 deaths 672 were males and 604 females, 492 were registered in the Western Sub-district and 784 in the Eastern, the latter half of the district having again the larger death-rate.

The deaths of 208 persons were registered as taking place in Public Institutions during the year, viz.:—64 in the East Suffolk Hospital, 31 in the Borough Asylum, 100 in the Union Workhouse, 9 in the Borough Fever Hospital, 3 in St. John's Home, and 1 in H.M. Prison.

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 ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The number of deaths under this class amounted to 126 during the year 1900, against 193 in the previous year. The annual death-rate from these seven principal Zymotic Diseases, was equal to 1·98 per 1,000, the rate in England and Wales for the same period being 2·00 per 1,000.

## SMALL-POX.

No death was registered from this disease during the year, nor has any case occurred in the town or neighbourhood for the last four years.

## WHOOPIING COUGH AND MEASLES.

Eighteen deaths from Measles and 16 from Whooping Cough were returned during the year. Without being present in an epidemic form, these infantile complaints interfered with school attendance. It was not necessary to close any of the Board or Voluntary Schools, the Managers preferring to exclude scholars from infected houses.

## SCARLET FEVER.

Two deaths were returned from this disease during 1900, against 6 in the previous year.

There was a marked decrease in this fever all through the year, 105 cases being notified against 311 in the previous year. Of the 105 cases notified 59, or 56 per cent were isolated in the Fever Hospital; in the previous year there was only room to isolate 39 per cent., many deserving cases being refused admission owing to the extra pressure of Typhoid Fever.

## DIPHTHERIA.

Eight deaths from Diphtheria were returned during 1900, against six in the previous year. The number of cases notified amounted to 45, which is 7 less than in 1899; there were also 8 cases of Membranous Croup notified. The cases were all investigated at the time, and with the exception of a small group connected with Rose Hill Road School they appeared to be sporadic cases and not connected in any way with each other. Six cases were admitted to the Fever Hospital, but several had to be refused during the prevalence of Typhoid Fever owing to the want of separate accommodation. In the case of those who could not be admitted I urged the use of antitoxic serum, and where this was done early in the illness, and the dose injected of sufficient strength, good results followed; this was also the experience of the use of antitoxic serum in the Fever Hospital.

## ENTERIC FEVER (TYPHOID).

Following the epidemic of Typhoid Fever in 1899 there was a recrudescence of the disease during the Summer and Autumn months. The outbreak was nothing like so extensive as in the previous year, but the severity of the type which so characterised the illness in 1899 was even more marked last year.

In the last annual Report a special chapter was devoted to the outbreak of 1899 ; it dealt very fully with the subject, and the matter it contains applies equally to the Typhoid Fever so prevalent last Autumn.

Early in the summer there was a separate group of twelve cases of Typhoid Fever, which were associated with the consumption of cheap oysters from boats and stalls in the neighbourhood of the wet dock. The illness attracted the attention of the Local Government Board at the time, who called for a special report on the subject, a copy of which will be found later on in this Report.

Thirteen deaths were returned, against 33 in the previous year, and the number of fresh cases notified amounted to 92, against 284 in 1899. Of the 92 cases, 60 were removed to the Fever Hospital, so that, roughly, 65 per cent. were isolated and treated in the Hospital, whereas during the epidemic in the previous year only 38 per cent. could be isolated in Hospital.

#### DIARRHŒA.

Diarrhœa was again very fatal during the Summer and Autumn months, it is one of the penalties that a town like Ipswich has to pay for hot weather accompanied with a small rainfall. Last year it was suggested that the improper feeding of infants and carelessness in storing the milk in warm weather were fruitful sources of the disease, and that leaflets containing instructions concerning the feeding of infants might be sent with advantage to all houses in which births were registered.

The number of deaths returned from Diarrhœa during 1900 amounted to 69, against 143 in the previous year. The bulk of the cases were infants under one year of age and living in the close, confined parts of the town.

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### CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES.

#### CANCER.

Sixty-six deaths were registered from this disease during 1900, which is a large increase on the two previous years, when 47 and 49 were returned in each.

## TUBERCULAR DISEASES.

Phthisis or Pulmonary Consumption was thought to be decreasing in Ipswich a few years ago, but during the last two years there has been a decided tendency to increase again.

During 1900 107 deaths were returned from Consumption, 21 from Tuberculosis, 8 from Tubercular Meningitis, and 6 from Tabes-mesenterica and other tubercular complaints, or a total of 142 deaths from Tubercular Diseases. In the previous year 124 deaths were returned in Ipswich, viz.:—Consumption 89, Tuberculosis 21, Tubercular Meningitis 12, and Tabes-mesenterica 2.

From these figures it will be seen that last year the deaths from Tubercular Diseases were in the proportion of 1 in 9 deaths from all causes. In the Annual Report for 1898 this subject was fully dealt with and some preventive measures were suggested, but the time does not appear to have arrived yet for carrying them out. The British Congress on Tuberculosis is to meet in London in July, 1901, when possibly this national movement for the prevention of the disease will stimulate Local Authorities to put in force the manifold powers they now possess for improving the public health.

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 LOCAL DISEASES.

## RESPIRATORY ORGANS.

During the year 1900 there was a large increase in the number of deaths from the various Diseases of the Lungs, and they, together with the deaths from Influenza, fully account for the increased mortality during the year.

The total number of deaths registered from diseases of the respiratory organs amounted to 209, against 156 in 1899. Of the 209 deaths 120 were due to Bronchitis, 82 to Pneumonia and Broncho-Pneumonia, and 7 to other Diseases of the Lungs. In addition to these 42 deaths were registered as directly due to Epidemic Influenza.

## OTHER DISEASES.

During the year 122 deaths were returned due to Old Age, 90 from Heart Disease, 111 from Wasting Diseases of Infants, and 52 from Convulsive Diseases of Infants, including Teething and Convulsions.

## DEATHS FROM VIOLENCE.

Fifty-four persons met with Violent Deaths during the year; 28 of these were due to Accidental Injuries, 4 to Accidental Burns, 1 to Scalds, 1 to Gunshot Wound, 8 to Accidental Suffocation, 2 to Drowning, and 6 were Found Drowned. Four persons committed suicide, viz.:—2 by Hanging, 1 by Cutting the Throat, and 1 by Poison.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There has been a substantial reduction in the amount of infantile mortality during the past year, the number of deaths of children under five years of age being returned at 385, against 426 in the previous year. Of the 385 deaths 280 were returned under one year of age and 105 between one year and under five. The rate of infantile mortality, measured by the proportion of deaths under one year of age to registered births, was equal to 155 per 1,000, that for England and Wales during the same period being 154 per 1,000.

## AGED PERSONS.

The deaths of 454 persons over 60 years of age were returned during 1900, against 396 in 1899. Of these 172 were between 70 and 80, 97 between 80 and 90, and 10 upwards of 90 years.

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 THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE BOROUGH.

The high death-rate of the past two years is a little disappointing considering the large sums that have been expended in sanitary improvements, and the question has more than once been asked whether the result is worth the outlay. As I remarked at the commencement of the Report, the increase in the death-rate was due to the large amount of general sickness more depending upon climatic changes than upon defects in sanitation.

In analysing the foregoing statistics it will be seen that the extra number of deaths from Tuberculosis, Diseases of the Lungs, Influenza, and Diarrhœa, more than make up for the excess in deaths from all causes. There can be no doubt that the repeated outbreaks of Influenza during the last ten years have had a very marked effect upon this district, and that the saving of health and life from improved sanitation, has been more than counter-balanced by sudden and sharp visitations of this insidious disease.

Ipswich was violently attacked by Influenza in December, 1899, and the fatal effects of the epidemic lasted well into the opening months of 1900. It was not so much the number of deaths directly due to the disease that caused the damage, but the way it undermined the health of children and old people causing them later on to fall victims to comparatively trivial complaints.

In reviewing the amount of sanitary work carried out during the last few years special notice must be taken of the great benefit the town has derived from the excellent system of sewerage it possesses. With the completion of the drainage of the Stoke and Marsh Districts, many congested localities were relieved, and during the last three years houses along the line of the new sewers have been systematically connected with them under the supervision of the sanitary staff. The sewerage of the St. John's district has been attended with good results and the rapid growth of the district has necessitated continued extensions in many directions. Now that the town itself is thoroughly sewered, the Surveyor has been able to direct his particular attention to the suburban districts where new sewers have lately been constructed at the rate of from two to three miles a year. Work of this kind must be good from a sanitary point and will eventually greatly benefit the public health.

Unquestionably the work we expect to derive the most benefit from is the wholesale conversion of middens into the water carriage system. During the past year 998 of these old-fashioned middens were re-constructed and converted into water closets. It was an exceptionally active year and we can scarcely expect to complete so many in the ensuing one, but our aim is, as near as possible, to do away with them at the rate of 1,000 a year. During the epidemic of Typhoid Fever in 1899 a census was taken of these middens and the result showed that there were still remaining 6,225 in the town, these

are now reduced to 5,227, so that within the next five years we may look for the total abolition of that which may be looked upon as the great blot on the sanitation of Ipswich.

In one of my reports on the prevalence of Diarrhoea a year or two ago I drew attention to the defective paving of many of the back yards and courts in the thickly populated parts of the town. If there is anything in the theory of foul ground air playing an active part in the causation of this disease, then it is still more important that the insanitary parts of the town should have well-paved yards with an impervious surface.

We do not appear to have much power to compel owners to repair or relay pavement in the vicinity of dwellings, either under the Public Health Act or under the Borough Bye-laws. But under the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Section 23, it appears that Urban Authorities may make bye-laws with respect to the following matters:—

“The keeping water closets supplied with sufficient water for flushing.

“The structure of floors, hearths, and staircases, and the height of rooms intended to be used for human habitation.

“The paving of yards and open spaces in connection with dwelling-houses; and

“The provision in connection with the laying out of new streets of secondary means of access where necessary for the purpose of the removal of house refuse and other matters.”

All these clauses appear to be of a useful character, and if possible it would be well to obtain the powers they confer.

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## ANNUAL REPORT ON THE SANITARY CONDITION OF THE PORT OF IPSWICH.

The limits of the Port of Ipswich are the same as set forth in the order of May, 1892, and extend to the boundary limit in the river of the Port of Harwich. The Port Sanitary Authority is the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Ipswich, acting by the Council. It exercises Port

functions in waters abutting upon the Ipswich Urban Sanitary District, and upon the Woodbridge and Samford Rural Sanitary Districts.

#### SHIPPING TRADE.

The trade of the Port during 1900 shows a further increase, both in the number of steamers and tonnage from foreign ports, and also in the tonnage brought by sailing vessels. There were 14 more steamers carrying 5,654 more tons from foreign ports than in 1899.

During the year 1900 there entered the Port 213 vessels coming foreign, with a gross tonnage of 68,456, and 2,316 coastwise vessels, with a gross tonnage of 161,609 tons.

Of the 213 vessels arriving from foreign ports 69 were steamers of 39,981 tons, and 144 were sailing vessels of 28,475 tons.

The following list tabulated by the Harbour Master, Capt J. Wing, will show the countries from which they came, and the cargoes they brought:—

No. of Steam Vessels.	Cargoes.	Where from.	No. of Sailing Vessels.	Cargoes.	Where from.
12	Maize	Morocco, Black Sea, and America	5	Barley	South America
			3	Oats	Germany and Russia
9	Oats	Russia and Prussia	1	Wheat	Germany
			3	Locust Beans	Mediterranean
7	Wheat	Russia, Germany, and Black Sea	15	Oil Cake	France, Germany, Holland, and Russia
1	Peas	Morocco			
1	Oats and Peas	Prussia	16	Sugar	France
1	Wheat and Oats	Prussia	1	Salt	Germany
			2	Onions	France
1	Oilcake and Oats	Prussia	9	Granite Stone	France and Germany
3	Cotton Seed	Egypt	1	Guano	South America
2	Oilcake	Germany	21	Wood	Norway, Sweden, and Russia
1	Locust Beans	Mediterranean			
1	Sugar	France			
7	Pyrites	Spain	62	Phosphate of Lime	France, Belgium, and West Indies
4	Phosphate of Lime	France and Mediterranean			
10	Granite Stone	France and Guernsey	1	Slates	Germany
			2	Moss Litter	Holland
3	General	Prussia	1	Manure	Germany
4	Wood	Norway, Sweden, and Russia	1	Ballast	France
2	Light, &c.	Norway and France			

Of the 2,316 vessels arriving coastwise 738 were steamers with a registered tonnage of 72,262, and 1,578 were sailing vessels with a gross tonnage of 89,344.

Those cargoes consisted of maize, wheat, barley, oats, beans, peas, locust beans, linseed, cotton seed, oilcake, sugar, pyrites, phosphate of lime, guano, coals, timber, paraffin oil, pig-iron, and granite stone.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN THE PORT.

The crews of all vessels entering the Port during the year were declared by the Masters to be free from sickness, and no case of Infectious Disease was reported under the Notification Act. There was no case where an Ipswich bound vessel arrived off Harwich flying the quarantine flag, consequently the Customs Authorities had no occasion to call upon the services of the Deputy-Medical Officer of Health at Harwich.

Dr. Reece one of the Medical Inspectors of the Local Government Board visited the Port in July, with reference to the inspection of vessels arriving from Ports infected with Bubonic Plague. He subsequently visited Harwich, and on August 25th the Deputy-Medical Officer of Health for the Port of Ipswich at Harwich wrote and informed me that the Local Government Board expected him to board and inspect any vessel coming from a plague-infected Port and bound for Ipswich. As this extra work did not come under the terms of his original appointment, he asked that a certain fee should be allowed for each visit, and in the case of having to accompany an infected ship to Butterman's Bay the old agreement should stand good. The letter was laid before the Public Health Committee who declined to sanction Mr. Gurney's application.

The Local Government Board appear to attach much importance to the medical inspection of vessels arriving from Ports like Rosario, and I wish to point out to the Port Sanitary Authority, that medical inspection of vessels from plague-infected Ports, to be of any value to Ipswich should be made immediately on arrival off Harwich. Large Ipswich bound steamers laden with grain, after passing Harwich are often delayed a considerable time at Butterman's Bay, either for lightering or waiting for a favourable tide, and they sometimes slip up into the dock late at night or early in the morning, and the crews get ashore before the medical inspection can be carried out.

Indirectly connected with the Port was an outbreak of typhoid fever, which was traced to the eating of cheap foreign

oysters sold on boats moored at the St. Peter's end of the Wet Dock. This subject is dealt with in another part of this Report, and from the bacteriological examination of the Dock water made at the time it was found to be so much polluted with sewage as to be quite unfit to use for washing or storing oysters in. With the increase of large steamers from foreign ports, the water in the Dock must of necessity be more contaminated than formerly, and it ought to be fully understood by the Sanitary Authority that the amount of sewage discharged into the Dock from vessels with crews of from 20 to 25 persons is very considerable.

During last summer complaints were made of the repeated pollution of the Dock water by the foul bilge water which was pumped out from the grain lighters. This bilge water is of a very offensive character, and certainly ought to be prohibited from being emptied into the Dock. The old hulks and lighters should not only have their bilges disinfected before pumping, but should be towed out into the river for that process.

A case of typhoid fever was notified in July at 3, New Cut, East; the drainage of this and other houses adjoining discharge direct into the Wet Dock. In view of the danger of a pollution of this kind some special provision should be made for disposing of the drainage of these New Cut houses.

#### SANITARY WORK.

In addition to the usual periodical inspections of shipping in the Port, the large vessels arriving from foreign ports reported to be infected with plague, were specially inspected from August down to the end of the year.

The following is the list specially notified by the Customs Authorities for inspection from August 21st to December 31st:—

Name of Vessel.	No. in Crew.	Cargo.	Where from.
s.s. "Ariadne" ..	23	Maize .. ..	Rosario, River Plate
s.s. "Resolution" ..	22	Ditto .. ..	San Lorenzo, River Plate
s.s. "Earsdon" ..	20	Copper Ore ..	Huelva
s.s. "Goldcliffe" ..	22	Ditto .. ..	Huelva
s.s. "Asunta" ..	25	Maize .. ..	Rosario, River Plate
s.s. "Tyne" ..	13		Casa Blanca
s.s. "Niord" ..	23	Cotton Seed ..	Alexandria
s.s. "Somerhill" ..	21	Grain .. ..	Newport
s.s. "Heelsum" ..	17	Copper Ore ..	S. fax Fossee
s.s. "Cassia" ..	20	Ditto .. ..	Huelva
s.s. "Tockwich" ..	22	Maize .. ..	Marmopole
s.s. "Trevorian" ..	23	Ditto .. ..	Sulina

The first steamer on the list, the "Ariadne," arrived from Rosario towards the end of August, and on boarding her I was informed that several rats had been found dead amongst the maize. The Inspector, who was with me, hearing that the rats had been thrown into the Dock, issued an order that in future they should be cremated in the furnace. The steamer was lying off in the middle of the Dock, and we ordered a tin or wire used at Rosario to be fixed on the warp connected with the shore. It was not till more than a month after this that public attention was drawn to the danger of dead rats amongst grain by the supposed infection of the Cardiff patient, through the discharge of maize from the "South Garth" from Rosario. While on the subject of rats infecting grain or in turn becoming themselves infected from grain, I wish to point out that when a steamer is discharging maize into lighters in the middle of the Dock there is nothing to prevent the rats on the steamer or lighters exchanging from one to the other and intermingling. It is very important that the rats on these lighters should be kept under, or as far as possible exterminated.

The s.s. "Asunta" arrived about the time of the Cardiff case from Rosario. On being inspected the crew's quarters were found to be in anything but a good sanitary state, and notices were served by the Inspector for sanitary amendments to be carried out before the vessel left port.

The Local Government Board issued an order on September 17th, requiring the notification by medical practitioners of all cases of Plague in Port and other districts. A circular notifying the same was sent to all medical practitioners in this district.

#### FLOATING HOSPITAL.

The Hospital Ship has not been required during the year, but has been kept in the Dock ready for use. In the Spring the caretaker gave her a coat of paint and varnish, which will require renewing at the end of the Winter; she also requires a second anchor and cable before being moored at Butterman's Bay.

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#### TYPHOID FEVER AND OYSTERS.

In August a group of patients in the Fever Hospital, suffering from Enteric Fever, strongly pointed to a suspicion, that the illness might be due to eating oysters brought into Ipswich from outside sources. The Typhoid Fever cases

suspected to be due to oysters were duly reported to the Health Committee, and the Local Government Board hearing of the outbreak through the press, desired to be furnished with further information on the subject, the result being that the following Reports from the Public Analyst and myself were forwarded to the Board :—

*To the Public Health Committee of the Borough of Ipswich.*

GENTLEMEN,

During July and August my attention was drawn to a group of cases of typhoid fever under treatment in the Borough Fever Hospital where it appeared that uncooked oysters had been consumed from boats in the dock at some period before the illness. It seemed more than a coincidence, for on August 9th of seven cases of Typhoid Fever under treatment in one wing five admitted to having partaken of cheap oysters from these boats before they were attacked, the dates varying from July 8th to August 8th.

For the last two or three summers I had noticed a large consumption of cheap foreign oysters going on at the St. Peter's end of the dock. One or more small fishing boats were moored alongside the quay fitted up as oyster stalls with notices up "Oysters 6d. per dozen," the idea being, no doubt, to convey to the public that these boats had just come into dock, having recently dredged the oysters on board. As a matter of fact these boats were stationary and the oysters which are known in the trade as "Portuguese," were brought by rail daily from Brightlingsea Creek.

During last July the boats increased to three and the traffic in August much increased, especially on fine evenings when large numbers of people frequent the promenade by the river side. On arrival the oysters are placed in tubs filled with water either drawn from the river near a former sewer outfall or from the dock itself alongside the boats. The men in charge assured me they never took water from the dock, but from what I have seen and heard this statement appeared extremely doubtful.

Between August 27th and September 13th four more cases of Enteric Fever came under my notice where there was a history of these oysters having been eaten, and in some of the bad cases it transpired that one particular oyster had a putrid taste about it.

Of these nine cases no less than three have died, the last one to succumb being a lad aged 13, after eight weeks' illness. He was engaged occasionally as an opener on one of the boats, and frequently helped himself to one or two.

In August, 1896, I was engaged with Drs. Thresh and Cook in investigating an outbreak of Typhoid Fever, traced to the consumption of oysters from Brightlingsea Creek. At that time certain parts of the Creek were polluted with sewage, but since that Brightlingsea has become an urban district and the pollution removed.

In view of this fact, I am inclined to believe that these foreign or Portuguese oysters are free from pollution when they leave Brightlingsea, but that in transit by rail they get somewhat damaged by laying about in bags on platforms in a hot July sun. On arrival at the boats they are laid in the tubs, which are not too clean, and fed on the more or less sewage polluted water drawn from the river or Dock.

A bacteriological examination of the water and oysters is now being made by the Public Analyst whose Report I believe will support my theory.

I am of opinion that either the Port Sanitary Authority, or the Dock Commissioners should endeavour to prohibit the sale of these cheap foreign oysters in this particular locality, and that stalls should only be allowed where a plentiful supply of town water can be easily obtained.

GEORGE S. ELLISTON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

OCTOBER 9TH, 1900.

OCTOBER 9TH, 1900.

*Report to the Medical Officer of Health, Ipswich, on the Bacteriological Examination of Oysters taken from Floating Stalls in the Dock, Ipswich.*

On August 31st last, in company with Inspector Hicks, I collected samples of oysters from two floating stalls lying in the Docks. The oysters displayed for sale were lying in water in tubs. From each stall 6 of these were chosen, and the contents of each shell, both "liquor" and oyster, carefully transferred to a sterilized bottle. Those from one stall were

put into one bottle and labelled "947," those from the other stall were collected in another bottle and marked "948." Three shells were also taken from each stall unopened. They had the characteristic gnarled appearance of the Portuguese variety. They were, in fact, said to be the so-called "Anglo-Portuguese," *i.e.* imported into this country from the Tagus and "fattened" in the Essex creeks for the English summer trade.

For the purposes of bacteriological examination with a view to the detection of pollution by specifically infective or by potentially infective material, the contents of the sterile bottles were mashed up with proper precautions and sown on phenol-gelatine, then incubated at 20° C. By this means the growth of the organisms natural to shell-fish was inhibited, whilst that of organisms of excrementitious origin, *e.g.* *B. coli communis* and *B. typhosus*, was encouraged.

It is necessary to remark here that Klein and others have proved that *B. coli communis* is not normally present either in the interior or on the exterior of the oyster-shell. The oyster is, however, capable of taking up this or the typhoid bacillus if exposed to water infected with these organisms.

#### RESULTS OF EXAMINATION.

No. 947.  $\frac{1}{2}$ -cubic centimetre of the macerated contents of the sterilized bottle, *i.e.*, the mixture of  $\frac{1}{2}$ -dozen oysters and their "liquor," gave rise to the growth of 2,100 colonies on phenol-gelatine. A very large number of these had the typical appearance of coli. Extensive sub-cultivation and careful study of cultural characters and reactions by means of hanging-drop, gelatine-shake, milk-culture, flagellae-staining, and indol experiments, proved the identity of a large number of the suspected colonies with typical *B. coli communis*. As the result of very many experiments it was found impossible to identify any organism present as typhoid.

In my opinion the bacterial condition of these oysters undoubtedly points to pollution by sewage matter. They must, therefore, be regarded as potentially capable of producing specific infection, although specific poison (in this case *B. typhosus*) was not actually found in the batch examined.

No. 948.  $\frac{1}{2}$ -cc. of the macerated contents of this batch contained 600 organisms capable of growing on phenol-gelatine. One or two of these only had the characters of typical coli, none were typhoid.

Bacteriologically, therefore, this batch is open to suspicion, but cannot be so positively condemned as No. 947.

In connection with this same inquiry samples of the Dock water and of the river water at a point on the opposite side of the quay were taken for chemical and bacterioscopic examination.

The results of analysis are as follows:—

No. 949. *Dock Water*, taken from side of floating stall.

The chemical results are—

	Grains per gallon.
Free Ammonia ... ..	.008
Albuminoid Ammonia ... ..	.020
Chlorine ... ..	679.0
Nitrogen as Nitrates ... ..	0.03

The sample was filthy in appearance, and had a bad smell on warming.

The bacterioscopic examination showed the presence of organisms, including *B. coli communis* derived from sewage.

This water is undoubtedly polluted with sewage and is quite unfit to be used in connection with the storage or preparation of any article of food. The sample was taken from one of the floating stalls at the extreme dead end of the Dock and was very foul. If this water is ever brought in contact with oysters the fact would amply explain any infection apparently arising from their consumption.

No. 950. Water taken from the river opposite a sewer-outfall at 4.5 p.m., three-quarters of an hour after high tide.

The results of chemical analysis are—

	Grains per gallon.
Free Ammonia ... ..	.029
Albuminoid Ammonia ... ..	.010
Chlorine ... ..	1148.0
Nitrogen as Nitrates ... ..	.01

The bacterioscopic examination showed entire absence of organisms of suspicious origin.

This water affords no evidence of sewage pollution, although of course it is not fit for dietetic purposes, containing as it does a high proportion of sea-water, as well as surface drainage.

To prove the presence of sewage in the sewer it would be necessary to take a sample of the effluent itself before admixture with the river water.

W. LINCOLNE SUTTON, F.I.C.,

*Public Analyst for Ipswich, Norwich,  
Bury, and East and West Suffolk.*

There seems to be little doubt that the persons referred to in these Reports came by their infection by partaking of oysters either direct from the boats or from stalls in connection with the boats. In view of these facts it is to be hoped that the Sanitary Authority will exert their powers to the utmost to carry out the suggestion of prohibiting the sale of these oysters, except from stalls where a supply of town water can be conveniently obtained.

During the inquiry into this outbreak of Typhoid Fever from eating oysters it was more than once suggested that some of the illness might have been caused by the large consumption of ice creams from stalls in the neighbourhood of the Cornhill. The Health Committee, therefore, ordered samples to be taken and submitted for analysis, the result of which will be found in the following report from the Public Analyst :—

*To the Sanitary Committee, Borough of Ipswich.*

*Report on Two Samples of Ice Cream taken in sterilized bottles  
by Inspector Hicks on August 31st, 1900, and received  
at the Laboratory on September 1st.*

The samples were subjected to a careful chemical and bacteriological examination for the presence of substances injurious to health and of materials or ingredients in so unsound a condition as to be unfit for human consumption.

*Sample No. 951* was white and of gelatinous consistency when melted. It was free from poisonous metals, such as arsenic, copper, lead, or tin. Some of these might be introduced by the use of common glue for producing the jelly. The bacteriological examination revealed the presence of 9,600 micro-organisms per cubic centimetre. This is not high for an article of this kind. The nature of the organisms is of infinitely more importance than their number. They are so ubiquitous and multiply with such rapidity that all articles of food, especially those which have been artificially prepared, are bound to contain bacteria in large numbers. From a study of the nature of the bacteria present in this sample I am of opinion that it had been prepared from fresh and sound ingredients in a cleanly manner, and was not in any way injurious to health. An extra point in its favour was the absence of added colouring matter.

*Sample No. 952* was also in my opinion not injurious to health, although not by any means so good a sample as No. 951. It contained 60,000 organisms per cubic centimetre. This indicates that the article had not been made with the same amount of care as No. 951, especially as there were present what may be called "filth-bacteria," probably derived from dirty hands.

The sample was of a thin consistency when melted, was artificially coloured yellow, and was free from poisonous metals.

I would recommend that street vendors of ice cream be advised to boil their ingredients just before freezing. This would sterilize them. The use of over-day stuff is also strongly to be deprecated. Happily their turn-over is most rapid in hot weather when the risk of decomposition is greatest.

W. LINCOLNE SUTTON, F.I.C.

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#### SALES OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

It will be seen by the following tabulated list that 53 samples were taken for analysis under the above Acts and submitted to the Public Analyst. Fifteen samples were found pure, one slightly adulterated, and five adulterated. In the case of the slight adulteration the vendor was written to.

In the five cases of adulteration legal proceedings were taken, with the result that the Magistrates convicted in each case, the total fines and costs amounting to £20 10s. 6d.

In July the Inspector called my attention to a large quantity of cheese being offered for sale on the Ipswich Cattle Market as being unfit for food. I examined the cheese, and about 100 lbs. were condemned, and a Magistrates' order was obtained for it to be destroyed. The remaining portion was immediately sent to the Station to be returned to the Merchant, at The Wharf, London Bridge.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The Corporation water supplies have received special attention during the year, and instructions were given to the Inspector by the Public Health Committee for samples to be taken more frequently for analysis, with the result that 60 samples were taken, against 38 in the previous year.

Samples from 13 private pumps and wells were taken and submitted to the Public Analyst; 5 were reported polluted, and orders were issued for closing them.

#### SAMPLES TAKEN UNDER THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Description of Samples.	No. of Samples	Pure	Adulterated to a small extent.	Adulterated.	Results.
New Milk ..	21	15	1	5	Fined £10 11s. 0d. Costs £5 3s. 6d.
Butter .. ..	3	3			
Margarine ..	2	2			
Lard .. ..	1	1			
Oysters .. ..	2	2			
Sweets .. ..	6	6			1 Written to for being dirty
Beer .. ..	12	12			
Ice Creams ..	2	2			
River Water (Orwell)	2				Polluted with sewage
Dock ditto ..	2				Polluted with sewage

One prosecution was taken for refusing to supply sample of milk, fined £3 10s. 0d., costs 10s. 0d.

Two prosecutions were taken for not having name and address on can, fined 7s. 0d., costs 9s. 0d.

The two samples of oysters, 2 ice creams, 2 river water, and 2 dock water were submitted to the Public Analyst for a bacteriological examination.

SAMPLES OF WATER TAKEN.

	No. of samples.	Pure.	Polluted.
Corporation supplies	60	60	None
Private supplies	13	8	5 wells closed.

BOROUGH FEVER HOSPITAL.

There were 160 patients under treatment in the Fever Hospital during the year, against 247 in 1899; although the number was less, there was a larger proportion of Typhoid Fever, and of a type even more severe than in the previous year.

In the last annual report it was mentioned that the re-organisation of the nursing staff was in progress. The Matron, Miss Mumford, succeeded in completing the staff of 12 nurses, viz.:—4 charge nurses and 8 probationers early in the summer, and was able to deal with the Typhoid Fever which became prevalent somewhat earlier than usual. The bricklayers strike delayed the completion of the new wing, and it was not till the end of September that it was ready for occupation. The furnishing was rapidly completed and the new wards were opened just in time to relieve the pressure of Typhoid Fever which took place in October.

The thanks of the Sanitary Authority are again due to Miss Mumford and the Nursing Staff for the highly efficient manner in which they have carried out their arduous and dangerous duties. Unfortunately three nurses or one fourth of the whole staff contracted Typhoid Fever in the discharge of their duties, they were exceptionally long and severe cases, and although they happily escaped with their lives, the health of two was so shattered that they had to give up nursing as an occupation.

To bring the Hospital up to modern requirements, two or three heavy outlays will have to be faced by the Town Council during the ensuing year. The present system of drainage by

sub-irrigation has worked fairly well for eighteen years, but latterly the soil has been unable to take up the increased amount of sewage, and during the last six months the system has completely broken down. The Health Committee are about to recommend the extension of the Foxhall Road sewer to the Hospital to reconstruct the drainage and to discharge it bodily into the main sewer.

The provision of sleeping accommodation for the Nurses, and the erection of an up-to-date Public Disinfecting Station at the Hospital are also engaging the attention of the Health Committee; as these subjects are under the consideration of a sub-committee I need not refer to them further in this Report.

On January 1st, 1900, there were 35 patients under treatment in the Hospital, 125 fresh cases were admitted, 117 were discharged cured, 8 died, and 35 patients remained in the Hospital at the close of the year.

The following is a summary of the number of cases treated in the Hospital during 1900, with their results:—

Disease	Number under treatment.	Discharged.		Remaining in Hospital Dec. 31st, 1900.
		Cured.	Died.	
Scarlet Fever .. ..	76	58	0	18
Typhoid Fever .. ..	78	54	7	17
Diphtheria .. ..	6	5	1	0
Total .. ..	160	117	8	35

In May a new modern Ambulance Brougham well fitted up took the place of the old fever cab, it adds immensely to the comfort and safety of the patient in transit to the Hospital, and when necessary a nurse is sent to superintend the removal.

### SUMMARY.

The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, has worked smoothly during the year, and has been the means of early removal to Hospital of persons suffering from dangerous infectious diseases in crowded localities. It has also been the

means of initiating sanitary improvements by bringing to light defects, which has resulted in whole streets and areas being dealt with in a wholesale manner. In some urban districts difficulty has been experienced in obtaining notifications of "Puerperal Fever." This has not been the case in Ipswich, and every assistance has always been given in following up the cases and the nurses in attendance.

During the year 1900 the number of cases of Infectious Disease notified by the Medical Practitioners in the town amounted to 332 against 749 in the previous year.

The diseases reported and inquired into were as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	...	105	Typhoid Fever	...	92
Diphtheria	...	45	Erysipelas	...	77
Membranous Croup		8	Puerperal Fever	...	5

There was a marked decrease in the amount of infectious diseases reported during the year, and the increased accommodation at the Fever Hospital allowed a larger percentage of the cases to be safely isolated.

In the appendix to the Report will be found a new table, which takes the place of the old tables I. and II.; it not only gives the birth-rate and death-rate for the past year and ten years preceding, but also the rate of infant mortality for the same period.

It will be seen by the Report of Mr. George Moss, the Manager of the House Refuse and Night Soil Removal Department, that while the collection of dry house refuse is on the increase, the amount of night soil is steadily decreasing, so much so that on November 2nd he was able to reduce the night soil gangs by 8 men and 4 horses. Mr. Moss foreshadows an increase in the dry refuse staff early in the ensuing year, owing to the rapid conversion into the water carriage system.

The annual report of Mr. Arthur Hicks, the Sanitary Inspector, will also be found in the Appendix. It is a long and carefully prepared tabular statement of the amount of sanitary work carried out during the year. The work of this department has been for years steadily growing, and in August an Assistant Inspector of Nuisances was added to the staff.

A notable feature in the Inspector's report is that only four cases of over-crowding were dealt with during the year. This supports the theory, which no doubt the forthcoming Census will confirm, that the working classes of Ipswich are living under healthier conditions, and are better housed than they were twenty years ago.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE SAMPSON ELLISTON.

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## APPENDIX.

TABLE I.

For Whole District.

Year.	Popula- tion estimated to middle of each Year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in District.	Death at all Ages. Nett.	
		Number	Rate.*	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births regis- tered.	Number	Rate.*			Number	Rate.*
1890	57,400	1,705	29·7	217	127	1,126	19·6	121	..	..	..
1891	57,081	1,784	31·2	228	127	1,087	19·0	157	..	..	..
1892	57,904	1,710	29·5	266	155	1,193	20·6	136	..	..	..
1893	58,610	1,713	29·2	284	165	1,322	22·5	138	..	..	..
1894	59,316	1,705	28·7	207	121	1,010	17·0	131	29	981	16·5
1895	60,022	1,871	31·1	337	180	1,157	19·2	147	32	1,125	18·7
1896	60,728	1,794	29·5	292	162	1,076	17·7	115	24	1,052	17·3
1897	61,434	1,762	28·6	241	136	1,086	17·6	144	33	1,053	17·1
1898	62,140	1,861	29·9	304	163	1,087	17·4	131	38	1,049	16·8
1899	62,846	1,785	28·4	333	186	1,248	19·8	184	49	1,199	19·0
Avergs. for years 1890 to 1899.	59,748	1,769	29·6	270	152	1,139	19·0	140			
1900	63,552	1,800	28·3	280	155	1,276	20·0	208	55	1,221	19·2

\* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

*At Census of 1891:—*

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) .. .. .	8,395
Total population at all ages .. .. .	57,081
Number of inhabited houses .. .. .	12,237
Average number of persons per house .. .. .	4·6

TABLE II.

Showing the Number of Deaths from the Seven principal Zymotic Diseases in the year 1900, and in the ten years 1890 to 1899.

Disease.	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890
Small Pox .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Measles .. ..	18	2	47	1	50	4	6	42	11	7	80
Scarlet Fever ..	2	6	1	2	4	2	18	8	3	5	1
Diphtheria .. ..	8	6	8	6	14	35	16	6	8	14	37
Whooping Cough ..	16	3	31	20	22	32	43	12	8	5	37
Fever .. ..	13	33	7	6	8	11	4	19	7	15	6
Diarrhœa .. ..	69	143	129	55	52	122	11	92	33	23	30
Total .. ..	126	193	223	90	150	206	92	180	70	69	191

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ANALYST.

MARCH 23RD, 1901.

*To the Health Committee of the Corporation of Ipswich.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my second annual report as Public Analyst for the Borough of Ipswich, I have the honour to state that during the year ending December 31st, 1900, forty-five (45) samples were submitted to me for analysis under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, and 72 samples of water for report as to their fitness for drinking purposes.

The results of analyses under the Food and Drugs Acts may be tabulated as under:—

Nature of Sample.	Genuine.	Adulterated.	Total.
Milk .. ..	16	5	21
Butter .. ..	3	0	3
Margarine .. ..	2	0	2
Lard .. ..	1	0	1
Sweets .. ..	6	0	6
Beer .. ..	12	0	12
	—	—	—
	40	5	45
	—	—	—

All the adulterated samples were milks, which contained respectively 26 %, 17½ %, 15½ %, 13½ %, and 16 % of added water. All but one of these samples were submitted in the first quarter of the year, during which also one half of the total number of milks submitted were taken. Eight milks, of which one was adulterated, were submitted during the 2nd quarter, one milk in the 3rd quarter, and one milk in the 4th quarter of the year.

Of the 24 samples other than milk, 18 were taken in December; in other words, during eleven months of the year only 6 samples other than milk were purchased, and those all in one batch.

I feel it my duty to point out that this is a very ineffective method of working the Acts. For the protection of consumers and of honest traders, regular and constant inspection of the

food supply, spread over the whole year, and comprising a representative range of articles, is necessary. In view of the immense importance of a pure milk supply to our child population and its undoubted influence upon infant mortality, it is worth considering whether the purchase of 19 samples in the first half of the year and 2 samples only in the last half-year affords adequate protection to the milk consumers of Ipswich.

The large amounts of added water present in the detected cases of adulteration show that the milk supply of the town is not absolutely immaculate.

Under these conditions it is hardly fair to compare the certified per centage of adulteration for Ipswich during the year with that for the country as a whole. I give the figures, however, for what they are worth:—

	Ipswich. 1900.	England and Wales. 1899.
Total per centage of Adulteration	11	9·4
Per centage of Adulteration of Milk	25	10·5

In my last Annual Report I mentioned that a Departmental Committee had been appointed by the Board of Agriculture to enquire, in accordance with Section 4 of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1899, what deficiency in any of the normal constituents of genuine milk and milk products shall for the purposes of the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts raise a presumption, until the contrary is proved, that the sample is not genuine. That Committee has now reported, and its chief recommendations with regard to milk are that 12 % of total solids, 3·25 % of fat, and 8·5 % of non-fatty solids shall be the lowest limits respectively to be recognized as consistent with normal milk.

Any figures below these shall create a presumption of adulteration. The Committee was so strong and representative that there is every prospect its recommendations will be carried into effect. If so, a great benefit will be conferred upon all milk consumers, and the hands of the Public Analysts will be much strengthened.

The Committee upon the use of preservatives and colouring matters in food has not yet reported. Its report is urgently needed.

In the late summer 2 samples of ice-cream, purchased from barrows, were submitted for chemical and bacteriological analysis. This is a kind of article very likely to be prepared and stored under insanitary conditions, and likely to contain dirty or decomposed materials. As a matter of fact, serious illness is known to have been caused by the consumption of these delicacies. The samples in question were passed as not injurious to health.

I also made a special report upon oysters as sold from "floats" in the Dock, suspicion having been thrown upon shell fish from this source.

In December, owing to the serious epidemic in the North of England, undoubtedly due to the use of arsenical glucose in brewing, every Public Analyst in the country was busy examining beer and other articles of food likely to be manufactured from glucose. Such articles include sweet confectionery, jellies, jams, syrups, mamalade, lemonade, and vinegar. Twelve samples of beer and six samples of sweets were submitted and found to be free from arsenic. Beer, as well as the articles I have just mentioned, should in future be purchased from time to time under the Act and submitted for analysis. After examining some 210 samples of beer purchased in all parts of the county, I feel justified in stating that there is no arsenical beer now on sale in Ipswich or any part of Suffolk.

Of the 72 samples of water submitted to me during the year for analysis, 60 were samples of the public supply taken from the deep wells, water-heads, and reservoirs under the control of the Waterworks Committee, and 12 were taken from private wells within the Borough. Of the latter, 5 were condemned as unfit for drinking purposes and injurious to health.

All my reports upon the town supply during the year have been good. The water is very constant in character, and invariably of great organic purity.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

W. LINCOLNE SUTTON.

## COUNTY BOROUGH OF IPSWICH.

### REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES FOR THE BOROUGH AND PORT AND INSPECTOR UNDER THE SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS FOR THE YEAR 1900.

Number of complaints received	..	..	..	361
Number of houses and premises inspected	..	..	..	6,441

#### RESULT OF INSPECTIONS.

Orders issued for sanitary amendments	..	..	..	582
House drains reconstructed, cleansed, and trapped	..	..	..	1,467
New W.C.'s erected	..	..	..	81
Old privies converted into W.C.'s	..	..	..	917
W.C.'s in hand December 31st	..	..	..	193
Old privies pulled down	..	..	..	82
New urinals erected	..	..	..	11

#### INFECTIOUS HOSPITAL.

Three hundred and thirty-two notifications of Infectious Disease were received during the year, and a copy of each sent to the School Board Office, British School, Blue Coat School, St. Matthew's School, and Free Library

	..	..	..	..	..	332
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One hundred and twenty-five patients were removed to the Infectious Hospital, viz. :—

Typhoid Fever	..	..	..	..	..	60
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	59
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	6

On May 24th a new Ambulance Brougham was delivered from Messrs. Botwood's Works, Woodbridge Road, to Messrs. Canham's Yard, St. Matthew's, and was first used on May 26th.

The old cab has been broken up, the underworks and old iron sold for 25s., and the body burnt.

I also sold the old material from the pulling down of the old Disinfecting Chamber at the Authority's Yard, Wolsey Street, viz. :—Iron £1 18s. 3d., wood £1 3s. 6d.

The two carts for the removal of infected bedding are kept at Mr. Woolnough's, Commercial Road, at a cost of 1s. per week, Mr. Woolnough horseing same when required at 3s. per journey.

One hundred and sixteen certificates of discharge from Hospital were received by me and notice of same forwarded to residences of patients.

#### DISINFECTING.

Number of rooms fumigated after Infectious Disease ..	109
Board Schools fumigated .. .. .	17
Private Schools fumigated .. .. .	1

The Ambulance Brougham has been fumigated after the removal of all Scarlet Fever cases, and thoroughly washed out with disinfectants after Typhoid and Diphtheria cases.

Number of articles sent to Disinfecting Chamber at Infectious Hospital .. .. .	386
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After the removal of a case of Typhoid Fever from Short Lane the rooms were thoroughly fumigated, but the bedding was found to be so filthy, saturated, and rotten, that I was obliged to remove them to be burnt, replacing same with some second-hand bedding at a cost of 15s.

#### MORTUARY.

Twenty-three bodies were removed to the Mortuary during the year .. .. .	23
--	----

The premises have been well kept by the Caretaker.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Samples taken from Corporation well, reservoirs, and water-heads .. .. .	60
Samples taken from private supplies .. .. .	13
Polluted wells closed .. .. .	5
Houses required per notice to lay on town water ..	9

## SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Samples of Milk taken for Analysis	..	..	21
„ Butter „ „	..	..	3
„ Margarine „ „	..	..	2
„ Lard „ „	..	..	1
„ Oysters „ „	..	..	2
„ Sweets „ „	..	..	6
„ Beer „ „	..	..	12
„ Ice Cream „ „	..	..	2
„ River Water „ „	..	..	2
„ Dock Water „ „	..	..	2

Five purveyors of Milk were prosecuted for adulteration, the Magistrates convicting in each case and one was cautioned by letter. One purveyor was prosecuted for refusing to supply a sample of Milk when requested, also for having wrong name and address on cart. On visiting Cattle Market in July I saw a consignment of one hundred and eleven Gouda Cheese being delivered for sale which I found in a rotten state, whereupon I called in the Medical Officer of Health who condemned about one hundred pounds and a Magistrates order was obtained to destroy same.

Eight seizures of internal organs of Cattle and Sheep were made during the year, and in one suspicious case of Tuberculosis it was found necessary to call in the Veterinary Inspector whose opinion confirmed the action of the Medical Officer of Health and myself, all the internal organs were seized and burnt but the carcase was passed as fit for human food.

Under the requirements of the Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts, 1899, a register has been kept of wholesale dealers in Margarine and Margarine Cheese, eight having registered during the year .. .. . 8

## BAKEHOUSES.

The bakehouses throughout the Borough are generally satisfactory; some of them are old and low, but are otherwise well kept.

Several sanitary amendments, viz.:—Drainage, floors, limewashing, and general cleansing have been carried out.

There are at the present time three underground bake-houses not in use, and in my opinion should not be allowed to be re-occupied as bakehouses.

#### SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are thirty slaughter-houses and one knacker's yard in the Borough, which have been found upon inspection to be well kept.

Complaints having been made to the Public Health Committee of the knacker's yard, a recommendation was sent to the Council for a closing order, which was made, the same to expire December 25th, 1900.

An application was then made by Mr. H. Binks for permission to erect a new premises some distance beyond the old site. The Health Committee visited the proposed new site and a recommendation was sent to the Council, who granted the application, the old buildings were then pulled down and the new built. The new buildings are substantially built, a fair concrete floor, lofty, and well ventilated.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

Washhouses repaired, limewashed, &c.	..	..	27
Overcrowding reduced	..	..	4
Removal of animals improperly kept	..	..	53
Removal of accumulation of manure, stagnant water, and other refuse	..	..	28
Smoke nuisances	..	..	3
Legal proceedings	..	..	12

#### PUBLIC URINALS.

In April a new public urinal was opened in Church Street next the "Vine Inn," making eight in the Borough, viz. :—Town Hall Passage, St. George's Street, High Street, Old Cattle Market, Stoke Bridge, Custom House, Church Street, and Spring Road, these are washed down daily, and thoroughly cleansed as required.

Several complaints were made to me during the Summer of the stench from the Old Cattle Market and Stoke Bridge Urinals; the nuisances complained of are, in my opinion, caused by the structural defects.

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS.

I have received twenty-three intimations from H.M. Inspectors of Factories. All the premises named therein have been inspected and notices served where necessary for sanitary amendments, limewhiting, &c., which have been complied with.

The Register of Outworkers has been revised during the year, and there are now thirty-seven firms employing outworkers, eight sub-contractors, and seven hundred and twenty-two outworkers.

## PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

The Hospital Ship has not been required during the year, no Infectious Disease having been reported in the Port.

I have made several visits to same and always found her clean, well kept, and ready for use at few hours' notice.

Several vessels were boarded during the year, including the S.S. Resolution from San Lorenzo, River Plate, Ariadne and Assunta from Rosario River Plate, Ersden and Goldcliff from Huelva, all from plague-infected Districts. With one exception they were all in satisfactory state and crews all well, but the fore-castle and w.c's on the S.S. Assunta were very dirty; notice was served on the Master, Capt. Merli, and the sanitary amendments required carried out before she left Dock.

In May several complaints were made of the stench from a quantity of maize in hulk on Shotley shore. Upon investigating the complaints, I found it was as stated; notice was served on the owner, the maize removed, and the hulk broken up.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR HICKS,

*Inspector of Nuisances.*

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR UNDER THE DAIRIES  
COW SHEDS AND MILK SHOPS ORDER, AND  
MANAGER OF HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL AND  
NIGHT SOIL DEPARTMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1900.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report as to the above Departments. Frequent inspections of the Dairies, Cow Sheds and Milksellers premises have been made during the year.

Generally, I found they were clean and well kept; the periodical lime washing has been well attended to. I found no occasion to serve any notices. Two Cow Sheds have been built during the year, one in Sidegate Lane and one at the rear of No. 269, Woodbridge Road.

Twenty Cowkeepers have been registered and re-registered during the year. One large Cowkeeper has given up and sold off his Cows.

Thirty-six milksellers have been registered and re-registered during the year on removals, &c.

One large milkseller has given up and left the town.

There are at the present time about 356 cows kept within the Borough.

#### DRY HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL.

Ten dust carts are now used daily for collecting.

And at the rate new houses are being erected and old privies converted into W.C.s two more carts will have to be put on, one on the 1st of April and one on the 1st of September, 1901.

	£	s.	d.
Wages .. .. .	584	7	3
Horse Keep .. .. .	408	17	0
Three New Horses .. .. .	102	0	0
Share of Pony Keep .. .. .	8	0	0
Horse Hire .. .. .	8	15	0
Two New Carts .. .. .	43	1	0
Shoeing and Repairs .. .. .	96	15	0
Rent of Depôt, Bramford .. .. .	20	0	0
"    "    Handford Hall .. .. .	3	0	0
Half Rent, &c., of Office .. .. .	14	0	0
	<u>£1,288</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>3</u>

#### NIGHT SOIL DEPARTMENT.

This department was worked from January 1st to November 2nd with 24 men and 18 horses, and from November 2nd to December 31st with 16 men and 14 horses.

3,536 wagon loads of night soil have collected and of these 3,066 sold to Farmers and 400 to Handford Hall for which I debit the Farm.

30 loads to Mr. T. M. Rudland for hire of land as a depôt.

40 loads to Messrs. Hunt and Son, ditto ditto.

17,064 emptyings of soil bins were attended to during the year.

When applications are made they are attended to the same night.

123 dead wells were emptied during the year, of which a large majority have been done away with, and the drains connected with the sewer.

30 tanks and tubs are now periodically emptied and charged for.

59 pail closets still exist in the Town, which are emptied weekly.

*Sales and Earnings.*

	£	s.	d.
2,683 waggon loads at 4s. 0d. .. ..	536	14	0
94 ,, ,, 4s. 3d. .. ..	19	19	6
194 ,, ,, 4s. 6d. .. ..	43	13	0
282 ,, ,, 4s. 9d. .. ..	66	19	6
250 ,, ,, 5s. 0d. .. ..	62	10	0
33 ,, ,, 6s. 8d. .. ..	11	0	0
123 Dead Wells .. ..	59	14	0
30 Tanks and Tubs .. ..	3	0	0
Sale of 3 Old Horses .. ..	17	9	6
	<hr/>		
	£820	19	6
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*Summary.*

Wages .. ..	1,715	12	9
New Horse .. ..	26	5	0
Horse Hire .. ..	21	0	0
Horse Keep .. ..	740	7	0
Pony Keep .. ..	8	0	0
Repairs, Shoeing, &c. .. ..	357	0	2
Half-rent, Rates, and Gas of Office .. ..	14	0	0
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Expenditure .. ..	2,882	4	11
Sales and Earnings .. ..	820	19	6
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Balance .. ..	£2,061	5	5
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I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GEO. MOSS.