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1889.



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE HEALTH

OF THE

Rural Sanitary District

OF THE

ISLE OF WIGHT.


BY

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE
HEALTH OF THE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT
OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT.
FOR THE YEAR 1889.

*To the Members of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary
Authority.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report on the Health of your District for the year 1889. As directed by the Local Government Board, it treats of—

1. Vital Statistics.
2. The Sanitary History of the Year.
3. The Sanitary State of the District generally at the end of the Year.

1. VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District in the middle of the year 1889 was 28,396, or 41 more than in 1888. This was the *actual* increase of the population for the year. The *natural* increase of the population, the excess of births over deaths, was 300. It was 238 in 1888 and 347 in 1887. There are 3.08 persons to the acre in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District, which contains 87,599 acres, but as the District includes a large urban population, the proportion to the acre in the strictly rural portion is considerably less.

During the year under review, 769 children—397 males and 372 females—were born. Of these 38—19 males and 19 females—were illegitimate. In 1888 there were 730 births, of which 50—25 males and 25 females—were illegitimate. 469 deaths were registered in 1889. The male deaths numbered 268, and the female deaths 201.

The births and deaths in each quarter were as follows:—

	Births.			Deaths.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1st quarter	87	85	172	61	58	119
2nd „	99	100	199	63	48	111
3rd „	100	92	192	67	42	109
4th „	111	95	206	77	53	130
	397	372	769	268	201	469

If the approximate estimate of population were the true one, which we will assume it is, the birth-rate in 1889 was equal to 27.08 per 1000, and the death-rate was equal to 16.51

per 1000. 77 of the deaths were those of persons who died within the District but who did not belong to it, and if we deduct these from the total number of deaths, the death-rate will be reduced to 13·80 per 1000, which is exactly 1·0 per 1000 less than in 1888.

Births and Deaths
in seven years.

During the past 7 years the following have been the births and birth-rate, and the deaths and death-rate in your District:—

	Births.	Birth-rate.	Deaths.	Death-rate.
1883	776	27·5	429	15·2
1884	834	29·6	386	13·7
1885	769	27·2	439	15·4
1886	861	30·4	445	15·7
1887	798	28·1	451	15·9
1888	730	25·7	490	17·3
1889	769	27·0	469	16·5

Birth-rate and
Death-rate in
England and
Wales.

In England and Wales the birth-rate in 1889 was 30·5 and the death-rate 17·9 per 1000 of the estimated population. The birth-rate was unprecedently low and showed a further slight decline from the rates in recent years; it was 2·5 below the mean rate in the ten years 1879—88. The death-rate, which in the eight preceding years had ranged from 19·6 in 1882 to 17·8 in 1888 (the rate in 1888 being considerably below the rate recorded in any previous year of civil registration), was 17·9 in 1889. The recorded death-rate in each of the nine years 1881—89, was lower than the rate recorded in any year prior to 1881. The mean annual death-rate in the first nine years of the current decennium (1881—9) did not exceed 18·9 per 1000, and was no less than 2·5 below the mean rate in the preceding ten years, 1871—80. This marked decline in the death-rate implies that more than 600,000 persons in England and Wales were alive at the end of last year, whose deaths would have been recorded during the nine years, 1881—89, had the rate of mortality equalled that which prevailed during the ten years, 1871—80. The death-rate among the people of England and Wales resident outside the boundaries of Urban Sanitary Districts, was equal to 16·5 per 1000 in 1889. The mean death-rate of the extra-urban population in the eight years, 1881—88, was 17·4 per 1000.

Comparison of the
Birth-rates and
Death-rates in the
I. W. R. S. D. with
those of England
and Wales.

Although the birth-rate in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District was not so low in 1889 as in the previous year, when it was 4·9 below the birth-rate of England and Wales, it was as much as 3·5 below the unprecedently low birth-rate of the year under review. The death-rate was 1·4 below the death-rate of England and Wales, or 4·1 below it if we deduct the deaths of those dying within the District who did not belong to it. The death-rate of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District compared with that of the country districts of England and Wales, was 0·2 above the average, or 2·5 below the average if we deduct the deaths of those who did not

belong to the District. As compared with the average death-rate of England and Wales, and with that in small towns and country parishes, the death-rate in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District during the past seven years was as follows:—

	England and Wales.	Rural Districts.
1883	4·3 below the average.	2·5 below the average.
1884	5·9 "	3·7 "
1885	3·6 "	2·1 "
1886	3·6 "	2·1 "
1887	2·9 "	1·3 "
1888	0·5 "	0·6 above the average.
1889	1·4 "	0·2 "

The death-rate of males at all ages was 18·3 per 1000, and of females 14·5 per 1000,

Male and
Female Death-
Rate.

61 infants died before they were a year old. The rate of infant mortality, measured by the proportion of deaths under one year to registered births, was equal to 79 per 1000 against 108 in 1888 and 87 in 1887. The corresponding rate in England and Wales in 1889 was equal to 144 per 1000 against 136 and 145 in the two preceding years. 90 children, or 19·1 per cent. of the deaths, died under 5 years. 169 persons, or 36 per cent. of the deaths, died at or over 60, of whom 48 were between 60 and 70, 69 between 70 and 80, 47 were between 80 and 90, and 5 were 90 and over. The widow of a dairyman at Gatcombe died at 92, which was the greatest age at death registered.

Infant mortality.

Mortality of the
aged.

77 persons who did not belong to the District either died within it or their bodies were cast up on its shores by the waves. Of those who died natural deaths, 40 came from different parts of England to the Hospital for Consumption at St. Lawrence, and 22, who were inhabitants of the Isle of Wight but not of the District, died in the Workhouse. In March, the dead body of a man was found on the shore at Niton, and in August another body, washed up by the sea, was discovered at the foot of the cliff at Compton. Nearly at the end of the year a disastrous collision between two steamers, the "Cleddy" and the "Isle of Cyprus," occurred off the Wight. The "Cleddy" sank, the crew escaping in two boats, one of which was swamped and all its occupants were drowned. The bodies of ten of them came ashore at Niton, and three at St. Lawrence.

Deaths of strangers
to the District.

28 persons died a violent death, and the deaths of two others, prisoners at Parkhurst Prison, were indirectly due to violence, one having died from the effects of a gun-shot wound self inflicted before imprisonment, the other from the effects of swallowing a raw potato. Two deaths were occasioned by falls, 1 from a scaffold, 1 from the Culver Cliff, 1, an infant, was starved by the neglect of a drunken mother, 2, a boy of two and a woman of sixty, died from burns, 3, a woman and two children, were accidentally suffocated, 1 com-

Deaths by violence.

mitted suicide by hanging himself, and 19 were drowned—13 of the officers and crew of the "Cleddy," 2, whose bodies were washed ashore at Compton and St. Lawrence, 2 yachtsmen, the mate of the "Corinne," which was capsized in a squall at Scratchell's Bay, and the other, whose body was found in the water in Brading Harbour, an artilleryman who fell off the pier at Cliff End, Freshwater, and a child who was accidentally drowned at Porchfield. 26 of those who died violent deaths were males, and two were females. The deaths from violence were equal to 5.9 per cent. of all the deaths, and to .98 per 1000 of the population. The corresponding rates for England and Wales were 3.3 per cent. and 0.59 per 1000. The per centage of deaths from violence during the past seven years, was as follows:—

1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.
3.0	2.5	3.4	3.3	4.2	3.8	5.9

The 469 deaths from all causes included—

1 attributed to measles.

4 „ „ diphtheria.

1 „ „ whooping cough.

3 „ „ fever.

3 „ „ diarrhœa.

—
12

The 12 deaths attributed to these principal zymotic diseases were equal to a death-rate of 0.42 per 1000, and were 2.5 per cent. of the deaths from all causes. The corresponding rates for these diseases in the preceding year were 1.6 per 1000 and 9.3 per cent. The rate in England and Wales in 1889 was equal to 2.10 per 1000. The mean annual death-rate from these principal zymotic diseases, which had been 3.95, 4.15, and 3.38 per 1000 respectively in the three decennial periods 1851–60, 1861–70, and 1871–80, was only 2.33 in the first nine years of the current decennium, 1881–90.

Phthisis.

88 deaths from phthisis or consumption occurred in your District in 1889. 40 of these deaths occurred in the Consumption Hospital. Of the 88 persons who died of phthisis 39 were not permanent residents in your District, of whom 38, who died in the Consumption Hospital, were strangers to the Island. The death-rate from consumption was 3.09 per 1000, or, deducting the deaths of 39 persons who did not belong to your District, 1.7 per 1000. The percentage of deaths from phthisis to all the deaths was 18.7, or, excluding the deaths among strangers, 10.4.

Lung diseases.

The mean percentage of deaths from phthisis to all the deaths in England and Wales is 9.3

45 persons, of whom 3 did not belong to the District, died from other pulmonary affections. These 45 deaths would be equal to a rate of 1.5 per 1000. The mean death-rate for

Mortality from
certain diseases.
Zymotic diseases.

England and Wales in lung diseases is 3·3 per 1000.

41 deaths from heart disease were registered, 3 of which Heart disease. occurred among persons who did not belong to the District. The death-rate from heart disease was equal to 1·5 per 1000. The mean death-rate from heart disease in England and Wales is 1·3 per 1000.

The daths from cancer reached 18. This corresponds to a Cancer. death-rate of 0·63 per 1000, and is equal to 3·8 per cent. of all the deaths. The mean percentage of deaths from cancer to all the deaths in England and Wales is 2·7.

Scrofula and tuberculosis caused the deaths of 9 persons, Scrofula. or 1·9 per cent. of the deaths from all causes. The mean percentage of deaths from scrofula in England and Wales is 3·6.

The high percentage of deaths from different forms of Particular death rate, violence in your District in 1889 was due to the lamentable accident to the "Cleddy's" boat. A large number of homeward bound ships make the Isle of Wight, and although by the aid of the powerful electric light and fog syren at St. Catherine's, and the proposed telephonic communication between the different coastguard stations, we may reasonably hope for diminished loss of life from wrecks on our coast, it is probable the returns of deaths from violence will always include those of persons who have perished in the English Channel, for, with the ever growing number of ships, the almost universal use of steam, and the increased speed of ocean going ships which the exigencies of modern commerce seem to demand, collisions are not likely to be less frequent.

The death-rate from heart disease was higher in your District than in the country generally in 1889. This was due to the fact that of 15 deaths which occurred in Parkhurst Prison, 7, or 46·6 per cent., were caused by disease of the heart.

The percentage of deaths from consumption, after excluding those of strangers, was higher than that of England and Wales. Doubtless many phthisical persons, attracted by the geniality of the climate, have settled here and have transmitted a tendency to the disease, and marriages among relatives in the past have tended to degeneracy, but, probably, insanitary conditions in the present, and especially residence in damp houses, are not without their influence in determining the prevalence of consumption in your District.

The deaths from cancer are in excess as compared with the rest of the country by more than 1·0 per cent. of all the deaths. Cancer, it is true, is one of the diseases which are slowly increasing in England and Wales, but its prominence in the Isle of Wight must be occasioned by local causes which, while still operating, are to be sought in the circumstances and habits of life of former generations.

(A) Table of Deaths during the Year 1889, in the Rural Sanitary District and showing also the Population of such Localities

Names of Localities adopted for the pur- pose of these Statis- tics; public institu- tions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.								
	Census 1881.	Estimated to middle of 1889.		At all ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 60.	60 and upwards.		
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	
NEWPORT.			146	48	8	6	2	1	9	22	Under 5 5 upwds.	
WORKHOUSE.	405			44	1				14	29	Under 5 5 upwds.	
PARKHURST PRISON	1159			15					11	4	Under 5 5 upwds.	
PARKHURST BARRACKS.	618			9	3	1	1	3	1		Under 5 5 upwds.	
COWES.			81	23	4		1		7	11	Under 5 5 upwds.	
RYDE.			199	116	21	8	5	12	30	40	Under 5 5 upwds.	
GODSHILL.			168	85	8	4	3	9	31	30	Under 5 5 upwds.	
ROYAL NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION.	126			42				17	25		Under 5 5 upwds.	
CALBOURNE.	6396		175	87	16	10	1	8	19	33	Under 5 5 upwds.	
TOTALS.....			769	469	61	29	13	50	147	169	Under 5 5 upwds.	
The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the mortality of this Division of the Sanitary Dis												
Deaths occurring outside the division or district among persons belonging thereto .				.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Under 5 4 upwds.
Deaths occurring within the division or district among persons not belonging thereto.....				.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Under 5 5 upwds.
				77	1			21	43	12		

LE OF WIGHT, Classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES,
e Births therein during the Year.

RTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER
FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

5.	6.	7.	8.	Cont. Fevers.				9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	32.	33.
				Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Other or Doubtful.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.																									
	1		1																										4			7
	1																											8	7	4		15
																																1
							2																					2	3	5		31
																												1	1	7		6
																													1			3
	1																											1	1	1		1
																																4
																												4	2	2		11
	1					1				1																			4		1	21
					1		1			1																		14	16	9	4	41
		1																											1		2	8
					1							2																10	5	5	14	35
																												40	2			
																													10		1	15
										1																		8	8	8	6	30
	2	1	1			1				1																			20		4	59
	2				2		3			4																		88	40	41	24	170
																																1
							1																					39	3	3	15	15

2. THE SANITARY HISTORY OF THE YEAR.

Zymotic diseases.

As the preceding year waned, there was a general subsidence of zymotic disease in your District, and, as the year 1889 dawned, it seemed to die out with the recovery of those who had been affected by it. In a district such as yours, however, constantly resorted to by convalescents from acute disease, who often too early seek here renewal of their vigour, and with sanitary conditions by no means perfect, periods of immunity from catching disorders are not of long duration. But although many cases of zymotic disease occurred, the zymotic death-rate was low, and, save in one or two localities, there was a satisfactory freedom from epidemic diseases in your District in 1889, which contrasted strongly with the severity of their incidence in recent years. In the course of the year scarlet fever was present at Freshwater and Totland Bay, and at Chale and Blackgang, and there was an imported case at Bonchurch. Measles was epidemic at Freshwater, and there were cases at Gurnard and Haylands. Diphtheria was present at Freshwater, Binstead, Newport, Haven Street, and Duxmore. There were cases of mild whooping cough at Northwood and elsewhere, and a child of two months died from it at Little Briddlesford. Enteric fever was present at Freshwater, Totland Bay, Wellow, Wootton, Binstead, Lowtherville, Little Chessell, and Porchfield, and there was a doubtful case at Brading.

Scarlet Fever.

A case of scarlet fever occurred in a lodging-house at *Alum Bay*, in September. A servant of the house visited her family at Colwell, the children of which attended the Freshwater Parochial Schools. In October there appear to have been cases at *Freshwater*, and in November and early in December scarlet fever became so prevalent in Freshwater and *Totland Bay* that my attention was called to the epidemic, and I recommended the closing of the Sabbath and Day Schools of the District, which was done. In December my attention was called to children suffering from scarlet fever at *Blackgang*, who were unattended medically, and as I had reason to believe there were other cases in the neighbourhood, I subsequently advised the managers to close the Chale Schools. Early in December a visitor from London developed scarlet fever the day after she arrived at *Bonchurch*. isolation was efficient, and the disease did not spread there.

Measles.

There was an epidemic of measles of a mild type at *Freshwater* in the summer. In July a child died from measles at Haylands. It was an isolated case, and the disease was probably contracted at the Bettsworth Road Schools. In August a child from Brixham, in Devonshire, fell ill with measles a day or two after arriving at *Gurnard*. One or two children in the house took the disease, but it did not spread beyond it.

At the beginning of January several persons were getting better from diphtheria at Tichborne Terrace, *Freshwater*, in houses into which the sewage from the privy cesspits leaked; and in December there were cases of the disease in Dowty's Terrace and at Norton Green, in houses in which it had previously occurred. There were cases at *Binstead* in May, and a child died in a damp thatched stone-floored cottage, close to which was a foul pit, into which the privy drained and the house slops were thrown. In September cases occurred, and a child died, at *Westminster*, just beyond the *Newport* boundary, in a damp house close to a mill-pond, below the level of which the floor is built. In November and December there was an epidemic of what was called "mumps" at *Haven Street*. I saw some of the patients who were the latest attacked, and they were suffering from well marked, but mild, diphtheria. In December my attention was called to cases of diphtheria of a more severe character at *Duxmore*, a damp situation on the Tertiary beds just at the northern foot of Mesley down, among children attending the Haven Street Schools. One particularly severe case in Duxmore farmhouse was that of a boy who attended a school in Newport, and who came into contact with children from Haven Street each day on his way home.

In several places in your District, as at *Northwood*, cases of whooping cough occurred, the remains of the epidemic of the previous year, which was so fatal at Freshwater. An infant died of it at *Little Briddlesford*.

A girl was ill with enteric fever at *Wellow* in February. It was difficult to speak accurately of the source of the poison, but the water of the public "dip" well from which she drank was not above suspicion at the time, it having become contaminated by soakage from the soil, and by impurities which fell into it from the surface, or were carried to it by dirty buckets. In February, also, a girl attending the Calbourne School had enteric fever at *Little Chessel*. The source of water supply of the cottage in which she lived was the polluted Shalcombe brook. In the Spring there was a case of enteric fever at *Wootton*, and in the Summer another person fell ill with it in the same house. It is probable a polluted well, the water of which was supposed to be used only for domestic purposes, was the source of the disease. In April there was a doubtful case at *Brading*. Just outside the patient's living room was an untrapped opening into one of those drains which, running at their backs, receive the slops of several houses. In July there were two cases of enteric fever at *Lowtherville*, one of which ended fatally. The patients were, one a hawker, and the other a deliverer of goods for a tradesman of Ventnor. Both, when hot and thirsty on their journeys, had drunk from springs issuing from the broken ground into which sewage from leaking cesspits soaks. In

May a woman died at *Binstead* from hæmorrhage in the course of enteric fever, and in June her sister was attacked. In the same month two children in a neighbouring cottage were also down with the disease. The closets of each house were connected with the sewer. They were without flushing arrangement, and the slop drain in the back-room of the second house, which was covered by a broken bell trap and joined the closet drain, was not disconnected. The patients had in common that they drank from a pump which supplied many persons of the locality with their drinking water. The pump-trough, which was immediately over the well, was used as the receptacle for the slops of several cottages, and, as the drain was imperfect, the slops soaked into the well. In July a boy was ill with enteric fever at *Porchfield*. The water supply of the house, a dairy place, was obtained from a hole in the garden dug out of the clay, which was supplied by soakage from the garden soil and from the ditches of adjoining cultivated fields. At the end of September there was another case at *Porchfield*. The house had a rainwater supply, but the patient went to school, and he admitted that he occasionally drank from ponds and by the roadside. In September a child was taken ill with enteric fever at *Totland Bay* immediately after her return from a visit to Bournemouth, where she contracted the disease. In December a case occurred at Norton Green, *Freshwater*. The patient was a plumber from Totland Bay, and in the course of his business had been exposed to the emanations from drains and cesspits.

Diarrhoea.

Two cases of diarrhoea and one of dysentery were registered, but they were without significance. A man of eighty-six had diarrhoea in the Workhouse, and a man with liver disease was said to have dysentery. A woman of seventy-six died at Rookley, after having had diarrhoea for twelve hours.

Information of
the existence of
Zymotic disease.

There were, doubtless, cases of zymotic disease in your District which escaped my observation altogether, and in other instances its existence did not come to my knowledge until the time had passed within which my intervention would have been beneficial. I should have been less well informed had it not been for the kindness and public spirit of several members of my profession and of your Authority, and of some of the clergy and masters of primary schools and others, to all of whom my grateful acknowledgments are due.

Compulsory
notification of
infectious diseases.

For several years I have pointed out to you the importance of safeguarding the public well-being by compelling the early notification of the presence of communicable diseases to the medical officer of health, and you have more than once signified your approval of this recommendation. During the year under review the Legislature enacted that notification to the medical officer of health by the head of the family and the medical practitioner attending, of certain diseases—viz. small pox, cholera, diphtheria, membranous croup, scarlet

fever, typhus, typhoid, relapsing, continued and puerperal fevers, and such other diseases as a Sanitary Authority shall at any time decree—may be rendered compulsory by a Sanitary Authority within that Authority's district. Consistently with your conviction you were one of the first authorities in the kingdom to adopt this beneficent law. The Act came into operation in your District on January 1st, 1890, and, speaking after three months experience of its working, I can testify to the success which has attended its adoption. Like so many other beneficent changes which were opposed as though the very existence of human society were threatened, it seems likely the application of this enactment will quickly prove that the gloomy forebodings of those who feared it had no foundation in fact, and future generations will wonder why a measure so just to the community at large should have been so long delayed. It will be of especial service in safeguarding the public health in your District, but it will not provide against those unrecognised cases of illness which although mild in form are potential in spreading disease. Such cases are frequently unrecognised because people are careless and indifferent, and if Sanitary Authorities do their duty, upon the discovery of such cases, by taking legal proceedings against the head of the family, it will be found that greater vigilance will be exercised. Some alteration is necessary in Sec: 126, P.H.A. 1875, to enable sanitary authorities to proceed against persons who go from their sick-rooms to watering places during the period of desquamation in scarlet fever, for example, even though they have the sanction of their medical men.

You have often given expression to your appreciation of the importance of isolation in communicable disease, and, by a resolution of your Board, you have decided that further provision of a more permanent character than the tent you possess, shall be made for the isolation of cases of infectious disease. Upon the Committee appointed by you to ascertain the probable cost of such provision reporting that it would not be less than £2000, you determined to postpone the consideration of the question. My impression was your committee were mistaken in the interpretation they placed upon your instructions when they estimated the cost of a brick building. My strong opinion is that the different sanitary authorities of the Island outside the Borough of Ryde, which already possesses an isolation hospital, should combine to provide a hospital in some central position, and if they did so at a cost of £2000 or £3000, the expenditure would be appropriate; but having regard to all circumstances I did not anticipate your Authority would contemplate the provision of other than an iron or wooden structure, or a greater outlay than £500 or £600, which would probably be sufficient to pay by way of insurance, and I look upon the provision of

an isolation hospital of some kind pretty much as a prudent man of business views the premium he pays in order to insure himself against loss by fire. I am aware there are members of your Authority opposed to the idea of a hospital who would support it if they were certain it would be used; but I apprehend it would be satisfactory to your Authority if the occasion for using it did not occur, as it would be to a business man if his premises were not burned. If a hospital served to isolate only one case of infectious disease which but for it would have caused an epidemic, as single cases often have done, its existence would be justified from a pounds shillings and pence point of view. It has been estimated the average money cost of sickness per case—we may almost say the average money loss, if the question of insurance did not come in in connection with medical men and nurses—amounts to £25. I need scarcely point out that if we were to base our calculation upon less than one-fourth of this amount, the epidemics of recent years must have cost the Isle of Wight community a very considerable sum of money, and, in such a matter, it is not the individual, but the community who have to be considered.

Money cost of
Sickness.

Spread of catching
disorders at
School.

Opinion differs as to the expediency of closing schools as a means of preventing the spread of epidemic diseases, and some people suppose they will not be closed in future in districts in which the Notification of Diseases Act has been adopted. My experience teaches me that epidemics among children are immediately checked by closing the schools, and I am of opinion that it is precisely in those districts in which notification is in force that the question of closing the schools will have early consideration, lest its benefits should be nullified by unattended and unrecognised cases. It was my duty to recommend the managers to close the Day and Sunday Schools at Freshwater in connection with the epidemic of scarlet fever in the Winter.

Disinfection.

As during the existence of communicable disease isolation should be complete and germicides be constantly applied, so at its termination cleansing and disinfection should be thorough. In every case to which attention has been called, the friends of the patient have been advised as to the precautions which should be taken, and at the end of the illness the inspectors have superintended the disinfection of the sick room, which they should always do. I have not received a copy of the report of your Committee appointed to obtain information with regard to a suitable portable disinfector for your District, which another Committee of your Authority, in 1887, recommended you to provide.

Wholesome.
water

Sec. 3 P.H.(W.)A., 1878, decrees that "It shall be the duty of every Rural Sanitary Authority, regard being had to the provisions in this Act contained, to see that every occupied dwelling-house within their District has, within a

reasonable distance, an available supply of wholesome water, sufficient for the consumption and use for domestic purposes of the inmates of the house." During the year 1889 twelve cases of enteric fever came to my knowledge, in which I had little doubt that typhoid poison was conveyed by unwholesome water. Two of these cases occurred at Porchfield. Porchfield.

The Committee appointed to consider my annual report for the year 1888 recommended that "A report might be made by the Inspector as to possible water supply at Porchfield." As in previous years, I had reported that the people in this district drank from brooks and ponds fouled by cattle, in Winter, and that in Summer they obtained their water from polluted streams as far as two miles from their homes. I had advised that a public well or wells be bored beneath the Bembridge Limestone, which is there some 90ft. or 100ft. beneath the surface. After consultation with the Inspector I decided it would be a simpler, although more expensive, plan to compel the proper storage of rain water at each house, and this has been done under your directions, filters being provided through which the water passes before it enters the tanks. Your Committee also reported, "It is desirable to obtain a water supply from neighbouring towns, where possible to do so, for such districts as require it. Negotiations are already in hand with regard to Gunville and Binstead." Gunville. You reopened negotiations with the Corporation of Newport for the supply of Gunville, and the terms agreed upon are that your Authority should lay the pipes and provide a meter; that the supply should not be constant or for longer than 8 or 10 hours a day; that a sum not less than £7 a quarter should be guaranteed, and that after the first 140,000 gallons guaranteed the charge should be 1/- per 1,000 gallons. To provide for the cost of pipes and meter and the works connected therewith it was necessary to have a contributory place. In sec. 229, P. H. A. 1875, the parish is the first contributory place named; but it was objected that the parish of Carisbrooke in which Gunville is situated is very wide, and that persons residing some miles from Gunville ought not to be called upon to contribute to expenses from which they derived no benefit. As there was no reason, if the whole parish did not contribute, why any portion of it not directly benefited should do so, you constituted to be the contributory place, a special drainage district by the power given you under sec. 277 P. H. A., 1875, with an area so restricted that only the property directly benefited, or which would be benefited in the near future, was included. But the Local Government Board refused to sanction such a narrow drainage district, and you have now constituted a wider area, a drainage district, which you propose shall be the contributory place not only for the supply of Gunville with water, but for the laying down sewers in Carisbrooke and making payment for the passage

of its sewage through the sewers of the Borough of Newport. This proposed drainage district awaits the sanction of the Local Government Board.

Contributory
places of Sec. 229,
P. H. A. 1875.

Sec. 229 P.H.A., 1875, decrees that the expenses incurred by a Rural Authority in executing the Public Health Act are divided into general and special. The provision of sewers, water supply, &c., are special expenses. The *general* expenses come out of the General District Poor Rate, but the *special* expenses are provided for by a "contributory place." The contributory places named are the parish, a special drainage district, the portion of a parish outside a special drainage district, and the portions of a parish outside an Urban District. The principle of the Local Government Board that the contributory place chosen should have as wide an area, as possible is a very good one, because in poor districts the expenses attending the provision of water and sewers would be ruinous, or would be so irksome that the inhabitants would, if they could, refuse to have them, and the sanitary state of these places would be a constant menace and danger to the public health of the surrounding district. On the other hand, if you once extend the contribution to any not directly benefited, you are acting arbitrarily, and the only excuse you can urge is that those living nearest the place to be benefited are those who would receive the greatest indirect benefit by the improvement, or would suffer most if it were not brought about. Hence, the parish is the more satisfactory of the contributory places named by the Act. It is unfortunate, perhaps, that the law does not provide for the whole of a Sanitary Authority's district being the contributory place for special expenses as it is for general expenses, as in the case of the highways. The argument against such a provision is that too little care would be taken to avoid expensive works, the cost of which would be a burden upon the community for a generation. As matters stand, I fear much needed sanitary improvements would be too long delayed if the boundaries of the special drainage areas were made to extend far beyond the properties benefited. At the present moment the Gunville people are casting about for another source of water supply in order that they may escape their proportion of the rating for the heavier work of sewerage Carisbrooke if they are linked with it in a special drainage district.

Totland Bay.
special drainage
system.

The whole of the inhabitants of Totland Bay applied to you to constitute the district supplied with water by the Totland Bay Company a special drainage district under the Act. The Local Government Board refused sanction, because the intention was not the constitution of a contributory place to meet the expenses of certain works. Since then, however, it has been determined to sewer Totland Bay, a much needed sanitary improvement. I have frequently regretted it was

my duty to call attention to the fact that, notwithstanding an intelligent sanitary control, as evidenced by the provision of a good water supply and an anxiety to do everything suggested for the protection of the public health, the people of Totland poisoned the sub-soil beneath their houses with their sewage. Another application to constitute Totland Bay a special drainage district will probably be made to the Local Government Board by you, and, doubtless, your request will be granted. Totland Bay is an example of a watering place which has supplied itself with an independent water-supply, and in which sanitary control in the construction of new buildings has been exercised, geographically connected with another watering-place in which sanitary obligations have not been efficiently met. Although its rating contribution is only one-third of that of the two places combined, the community which has had the foresight to safeguard itself in a sanitary sense, at considerable outlay, naturally objects to a partnership which will presently involve the ministering to the sanitary necessities of its less enterprising and less prudent neighbour. During the year an additional storage reservoir of 100,000 gallons capacity has been added to the works from which Totland is supplied with water, and both reservoirs have been properly protected and roofed in.

Cases of diphtheria at the gardener's cottage at the Convent directed your attention two years ago to its insanitary condition, about which I had long been anxious not only as medical officer of health, but as the physician in attendance upon its inmates. The water was obtained from a well more than 100ft. deep, which was usually dry in Summer, and some of the rainwater from the roof was collected in cisterns. The sewage passed into a huge cesspit, from which there was an overflow pipe which discharged on the surface of a meadow. The poverty of water prevented the systematic flushing of the drains, which were not disconnected. Your Authority could not provide a sewer for the establishment to drain into, and as the high level reservoir of the Newport Water Works is below the level of the Convent, a supply of Carisbrooke water, was impossible even if it were available. Other arrangements had to be made, therefore, and during the past year extensive and very important sewage and water works—which may well serve as models in your District, and for which reason I have called attention so prominently to them—have been carried out under the direction of the Rev. Father Williams, the chaplain: the waterworks by Messrs. Wood & Horspool, of Newport, from plans prepared by Mr. W. Stratton, and the sewage works by Mr. Bevis, of Newport. To the south of the Convent, and sloping to the south, is that Upper Greensand field which is the envy of Island agriculturists. At the southern boundary of this field, from just above the junction of the Upper Greensand with the Gault, a perennial rivulet of

St. Dominic's
Priory at Caris-
brooke.

the purest water issues. Headings have been driven into the hill which have increased the volume of this little stream to 5 gallons a minute. A fall of 20ft. leads it into a tank in which is a Warner's hydraulic ram, which drives from 1200 to 1500 gallons a day a height of 136ft. to storage tanks in the Convent, which is 600ft. distant. In connection with this supply are troughs in different meadows, from which the Convent cows, and those of the dairy farm, drink the same pure Upper Greensand water. In addition, a large rainwater tank of 7,000 gallons capacity has been constructed in the field to the north of the Convent for the storage of rainwater from the roof, which passes through a filter before it enters the tank. The drains have been disconnected and reconstructed, and ventilating shafts and flushing chambers have been erected; the cesspit has been abolished, and on its site a disconnecting chamber, trapped on the sewer side, has been made. The sewer discharges at the bottom of the meadow on the west of the Convent into an open tank, the contents of which will be placed on the land from time to time. The works have cost over £500, of which those for the water supply cost £400. It would seem scarcely fair to include in any special drainage district this Institution, whose inmates are pledged to poverty and who dispense any surplus they may have in charity.

Medina Cement
Works.

It will give me much pleasure to describe the process when the proprietors of the Medina Cement Works apply the means for the abatement of the nuisance they cause.

Binstead.

Four cases at least, of enteric fever, one of which died, occurred from drinking polluted water at Binstead, in connection with which place your committee stated negotiations were already in hand for the supply of water from Ryde. Other sources of independent water supply at Binstead have been suggested, and the break in the negotiations to which your committee refer may have been due to this fact. Several houses in the upper part of Binstead are supplied with water from the gravel beds which cap the hill, and this supply may be rendered more widely available, but I very much doubt if it would prove sufficient, the year round, for the whole of the population to be supplied.

Wellow.

One of the twelve cases of enteric fever to which I have referred, occurred at Wellow. Although there was no other case in the neighbourhood, so far as I know, I have strong suspicion that the water of the public well, which was polluted at the time, caused the disease. I think it possible that the enteric poison may have been sufficiently attenuated to be resisted by most people, but not by the delicate weakly girl who had the fever. You ordered the well to be cleansed and thoroughly protected, and a pump to be fixed, the trough of which could be used for cattle and other animals to drink from. It is not only humane to provide these troughs, it is also a most important sanitary measure. The time will come

when it will not be permitted to sell the milk of cows which do not drink pure water. From year to year I have advised you to protect and affix a pump to this well, and it may as well have been done before as after a person had been struck down by typhoid fever.

I have also urged you to cover down and affix a pump to the public well at Adgestone. You ordered this work to be done, and the well to be deepened and properly protected. It is to be regretted you cannot prevent the drainage from the neighbouring farm yard flowing into the road gutter, and lodging there within two paces of the well, and rendering the water-bearing stratum liable to pollution *

Two of the cases of enteric fever occurred at a part of Wootton considerably above the reservoir from which the lower part of the village is supplied. The water-main was extended over the bridge during the year, and now serves the houses on the other side of it.

Of only secondary importance to a pure supply of water is a pure milk supply. The Inspectors have paid attention to the cowsheds, dairies, and milkshops, and I hope it will be possible to inspect them systematically in future. I requested your senior Inspector to furnish me with his opinion as to the more prominent sanitary deficiencies in connection with the cowsheds, dairies, and milkshops of your District, and I find it corresponds very generally with my own. I would particularly call your attention to the fact, that many purveyors of milk have no kind of proper accommodation for storing it, if it be necessary to do so. You sometimes find it standing in buckets by the side of the pigs' wash-tub in the yard, or in a kitchen in which the family take their meals, or in the only living room in the house. The accommodation in dairies is frequently very deficient. The dairy is too often used as a larder, or vegetables and fruit are kept in it, or it is, apparently, the general store-room of the house. The cowsheds are very deficient as regards ventilation and lighting, and are not kept properly cleansed; and the cows are too generally permitted to drink impure water and water polluted with sewage. I advised you to adopt bye-laws for the regulation of cowsheds, dairies, and milkshops. You did not consider it necessary to do this, but in place of them, you requested me to prepare a few plain and simple directions to dairymen. In obedience to your orders I have drawn up the following suggestions which, when they are printed, I will cause to be circulated throughout your District.

A. DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

1. To secure the health and good condition of the cattle, every dairy and cowshed should be well lighted and ventilated.

* Pumps have recently been affixed to the public wells in Yarmouth.

a. Each cow should have, at least, 800 cubic feet of free air space. *b.* There should be openings or windows in the walls on two opposite sides of the building, or in the wall on one side and in the roof, to secure effectual ventilation by direct communication with the external air. *c.* If such openings or windows are made to close, there should be, in addition, openings in an external wall which cannot be closed, in order to secure constant ventilation.

2. The ceiling and internal surface of every wall of any dairy or cowshed should be lime-whited, or coloured, or thoroughly cleansed, in March and October of every year, or more frequently, if necessary.
3. The surface of the floors of every dairy and cowshed should be properly constructed and properly drained by open channels leading to a trap outside, so that all urine and liquid filth may be carried away. There should be no drain inlet within any dairy or cowshed.
4. Every cowshed should be thoroughly cleansed before 10 a.m. every day; and the manure should be stored in a properly constructed dung-pound away from the stable.
5. There should be provided for every dairy and cowshed a sufficient supply of pure water. The receptacles from which the cows drink should be frequently emptied and cleansed; and if the water is stored in cisterns, they should be so constructed as to allow of ready access for cleansing, and should be properly covered to prevent the fouling of the water. Cows should not be permitted to drink impure water in farmyards, fields, by the roadside, or elsewhere.

B. MILK STORES, MILK SHOPS, AND MILK VESSELS.

6. The ceiling and the internal surface of the walls of every milk store or milkshop should be lime-whited, or coloured, or thoroughly cleansed, in March and October of each year, or oftener, if necessary.
7. *a.* Every milkcan or other milkvessel should be scalded and thoroughly cleansed with pure hot water immediately after use. *b.* Every milkcan or milkvessel returned by customers should be at once scalded and thoroughly cleansed with pure hot water. *c.* Every milkvessel when not in use, should be kept thoroughly clean.
8. No milk should be stored or kept in any cellar or room in which there is a drain opening, or in communication with living or sleeping rooms, or where other things are stored or kept.
9. No milkvessel which has been in the possession of any person suffering from scarlet fever, or any other infectious disease, or which has come from any house in which there is, or has been recently, infectious disease, should be used again until it has been thoroughly

cleansed with boiling water and disinfected.

As the summaries of the work of the Inspectors will show, Filth Nuisances.
a large number of nuisances, from which the air is polluted,
were dealt with during the year.

The refuse from the towns is a source of frequent com- Town Refuse
plaint, and will continue to be until you regulate its deposit
in your District.

The sewers of your District were in several instances, from Sewers.
absence of efficient flushing, sources of air pollution. In the
absence of bye-laws your officers have done their best to se-
cure disconnection of houses from cesspits and sewers by means
of disconnecting chambers, trapped on the sewer side, or by
causing house drains to discharge on open channels leading
to trapped gulleys.

I have watched the progress of the proceedings in connec- Newport Sewers.
tion with the scheme propounded by Mr. Baldwin Latham,
C.E., for the more perfect sewerage of Newport, because the
inhabitants of your District are much concerned about the
sanitary state of adjoining districts, and because it is desirable
portions of your District in the neighbourhood of that town,
and more especially Carisbrooke, Fairlee, and the rural part
of Tinpit Lane, should be drained by sewers which should
connect with the Newport system; and because the sewage
of Newport will be discharged into the Estuary of the Medina,
the greater part of which is within your District. It is in-
tended to treat the sewage with lime and alum, which will be
sufficiently effectual, before it is discharged into the tide-way.

Your attention has been called to the desirability and Carisbrooke
necessity of sewerage Carisbrooke. Mr. Baldwin Latham has
considered the question, and after visiting Carisbrooke, he
has provided in his scheme for the discharge of its sewage
into the Newport sewer. One of the existing sewers at
Carisbrooke, that at the bottom of the village, has been re-
constructed, the old brick sewer having been taken up and
socketed pipes substituted. The sewer was obstructed. The
sewage, after soaking beneath the adjoining houses and
poisoning a well of good water, burst up in the road. The
cause of the obstruction was found to be the Newport water-
main, which was carried from the Waterworks across the
middle of the sewer, that is to say through it!

At Brading several of the drains which connected with the Brading.
old road drain, known as the Highway Commissioners' drain,
have been connected with the sewer. Action has been taken
with a view to channelling the High Street, and taking up and
relaying this storm-water drain. The effect of this improve-
ment ought to be the permanent abatement of the nuisance
which has existed so many years in the withey-bed ditch.
Other old standing nuisances and difficulties in connection
with slop drains at the backs of the houses, which are
sewers inasmuch as they drain more than one house, in

Street sewer ventilators.

the High Street and near the Bull-ring, have been met by your Authority making the connections with the sewer. As the sewer ventilators on the surface of the roadways are such an intolerable nuisance that the people close them, it has been resolved to erect additional ventilating shafts. The wonder is that the Local Government Board ever permitted road ventilators without insisting upon the daily flushing of sewers. I am forced to attribute some of the sickness in Brading to these street ventilators in what is, practically, an unflushed sewer.

Shanklin.

You repaired the sewer in the Atherley Road at Shanklin again, the basement of a house having been flooded because it was blocked. This is a 6in. sewer, and it ineffectually drains some 40 or 50 houses. You have taken action also, in connection with the proposed sewer, to abate the nuisances in the Landguard road, which have caused you so large an expenditure of time, and your officers so much trouble. Since you approved the plans of the sewer, there has been great delay, apparently caused by the conditions required by the Shanklin Local Board, with whose sewer system it will connect.

Wootton.

At Wootton two additional ventilating shafts have been added to the sewer, which has had the effect of diminishing the nuisance from the existing shafts; and the road-gulley near the Drinking Fountain has been efficiently trapped, and a dangerous nuisance abolished.

Haylands.

It has been decided to abate the nuisance at the outfall of the Salter's Road sewer at Haylands, which has occasioned your Authority and your officers so much trouble, by carrying the sewer by a tunnel through the hill to the east, and connecting it with the Ryde system. The scheme includes sewerage School Lane and Colenutt's Road, which will admit of the proper drainage of many houses at which there have been constantly recurring cesspool nuisances, and will greatly improve the sanitary state of that neighbourhood.

Yarmouth.

A portion of the badly constructed Yarmouth sewer has been relaid, with properly socketed pipes, near Mill Terrace. The sewer leaked, and the sewage, after saturating the soil round it, flowed into the public well from which the inhabitants of Mill Terrace obtained their water.

National Hospital for Consumption.

It is always satisfactory to be able to place on record an account of sanitary works in your District which have not been initiated directly by, or carried out under the direction of your Authority. I am indebted to Mr. John I. Barton of Ryde, for the following account of the heating and ventilation of the Consumption Hospital at St. Lawrence, which has been carried out by him during the year under review. On the recommendation of the late Prof. De Chaumont, F.R.S., a supply of 5000 cubic feet of fresh air per head, per hour, has been adopted as the standard, and the apparatus erected

delivers that amount of fresh air at a temperature of 62° F. The ventilation is accomplished by a fan of 6ft. diameter driven at a speed of 300 revolutions per minute by a 14 h.p. vertical engine. The fan chamber is connected with each block of the hospital by a horizontal channel beneath the subway which runs the whole length of the building. From this channel vertical flues, fitted with regulating valves, are connected with each room. As the velocity of the fan is 28 miles an hour, 5000 cubic feet of air can readily be extracted from each room. The blocks are heated by steam radiators of the most approved type. Under each radiator is a fresh air inlet so arranged as to admit exactly the quantity of air required, which is heated by contact with the radiator before it is distributed to the rooms through openings placed on the side of the room opposite to the extracting flue. Two large Galloway boilers generate the steam used for cooking, heating, and driving the engine used in ventilation.

Your committee appointed to consider my annual report for 1888, reported to you that "two or more sets of bye-laws are absolutely necessary in the Rural Sanitary District for the health and prosperity of the Island. By resolution, your Authority determined there should be one set of bye-laws for the whole of your District, and another set, of a more stringent character, for the more populous places. With some alterations, you adopted a set of bye-laws applicable to the whole of your District, drawn up by a committee appointed for that purpose. As I have not a copy of these proposed bye-laws, which you have submitted to the Local Government Board for approval, I am unable to criticise them fully, which I do not regret, for although, as you know, they are not so comprehensive as I desired, and will not meet some of the sanitary difficulties of your District, I am unwilling to say a word which may hinder for one day the adoption of bye-laws, so impressed am I with the necessity for them which exists.

The change in your mode of procedure is a feature in the sanitary history of the year which demands special reference. By handing over to a committee the consideration of the routine portion of the Inspectors' reports, you have time to discharge the functions imposed upon you by the Public Health Acts, some of which, if properly exercised, would remove the causes upon which many of the matters reported by the Inspectors depend.

After reviewing the work of 1889, I think I may fairly congratulate you upon the year having been one of sanitary advance and permanent improvement, inasmuch as you have adopted the Notification of Diseases Act, you have finally decided upon the question of bye-laws, you have taken measures to properly complete the drainage of Haylands, you have in view the sewerage of Totland Bay and of Carisbrooke, you have protected the water supply of several public wells by affixing

pumps, you have negotiated for the supply of water to Gunville, you have, in the Porchfield district, taken up the duty which the law imposes upon you, to see that every occupied dwelling-house within your District has an available supply of wholesome water, sufficient for the consumption and use for domestic purposes of the inmates of the house, and you have altered your mode of procedure.

Inspection Work.

As bearing directly upon the interests of the public health, it is my duty to refer to the satisfactory recognition by your Authority of the claims of your senior Inspector, after seven years of able and conscientious service. The Inspectors have furnished me with the following summary of their work:—

	WEST MEDENE.	EAST MEDENE.
Number of nuisances and other matters reported	385	289
„ „ abated without final notice	239	194
„ „ final notices served ...	22	21
Houses reported unfit for habitation ..	3	4
Houses placed in habitable repair... ..	1	4
Houses closed by order	2	—
Houses cleansed and disinfected	19	7
Legal proceedings taken	—	—
Cases of overcrowding reported	3	3
Cases of overcrowding abated	3	3
Privy cesspools provided and properly constructed	53	35
Privies put on the pail system	65	29
Wells sunk and improved supplies of water obtained	52	27
Wells cleansed	13	10
Wells closed... ..	—	—
Defective pumps repaired	2	2
Pumps provided	25	18
Houses drained and connected with the sewer...	25	42
House drains repaired and trapped	66	53
Refuse accumulations from towns removed ...	11	5
Swine fever cases	—	5

Houses built and occupied in 1889.

WEST MEDENE.			EAST MEDENE.		
	With Certificate	Without Certificate		With Certificate	Without Certificate
Carisbrooke ...	10		Brading	11	
Freshwater ...	21		Newchurch ...	4	
Yarmouth ...	7		Shanklin	5	
Thorley	1		Godshill	1	
Calbourne ...	2		St. Lawrence	1	
Shalfleet	1		Niton	8	
Northwood ...	3		Arreton	8	
			Whippingham	2	
	45			40	

I am indebted to the Rev. E. W. Watts, M.A., for the following meteorological summary for the year 1889, taken from the observations of temperature and rainfall made at Lugley House, Newport, about 44ft. above the level of the sea, and some two miles North of the centre of your District.

Month.	Maximum of Month.	Minimum of Month.	Mean Daily Maximum.	Mean Daily Minimum.	Mean Temperature.	Rainfall for Month.	No. of Wet Days.	Greatest fall in one Day.
Jan. ..	51.3 on 31st	27.0 on 23rd	43.5	34.3	38.9	1.38	9	0.93 on 9th
Feb. ..	53.2 on 20th	22.8 on 13th	43.8	33.8	38.8	1.66	16	0.43 on 10th
Mar. ..	63.2 on 29th	23.7 on 6th	48.4	34.8	41.6	2.38	17	0.90 on 7th
April ..	61.0 on 18th	32.0 on 1st	53.8	40.0	46.9	1.85	17	0.58 on 8th
May ..	75.8 on 24th	43.1 on 11th	65.3	48.9	57.1	1.98	10	1.33 on 26th
June ..	81.0 on 7th	43.0 on 17th	68.0	52.1	60.0	0.54	7	0.33 on 10th
July ..	79.0 on 5th	46.8 on 19th	69.7	53.4	61.5	2.85	17	0.47 on 22nd
Aug. ..	80.0 on 30th	40.8 on 27th	68.3	51.0	59.6	2.97	17	0.71 on 14th
Sep. ..	80.2 on 12th	32.0 on 23rd	65.9	47.8	56.8	0.79	7	0.26 on 24th
Oct. ..	60.0 on 14th	31. on 13th	56.4	42.2	49.3	7.83	22	1.11 on 3rd
Nov. ..	58.0 on 15th	27.7 on 30th	51.2	40.7	45.9	1.71	8	0.63 on 24th
Dec. ..	50.7 on 24th	21.0 on 12th	45.1	34.0	39.5	2.40	16	0.39 on 21st

The rainfall at Newport in 1889 was 28.34 inches against 29.02 inches in 1888, 24.43 inches in 1887, 38.07 inches in 1886, and 29.32 inches in 1885. The number of wet days in 1889 were 163 against 179 in 1888, 141 in 1887, 202 in 1886, and 159 in 1885.

3. THE SANITARY STATE OF THE DISTRICT GENERALLY AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

There was, comparatively, only a small amount of zymotic disease in your District at the close of the year. Health of the District.

There were cases of diphtheria at Duxmore and Haven Street in the East Medene, and there were convalescents from this disease at Freshwater and Norton Green in the West Medene. Diphtheria

Scarlet fever was epidemic in the Freshwater District, where the schools were closed, and at Blackgang and Chale, where the schools were also closed. As a result of the precautions taken the disease did not spread beyond the infected districts. There was an isolated case of scarlet fever at Bonchurch. Scarlet Fever.

There was a case of enteric fever at Norton Green, Freshwater. Enteric Fever.

Sanitary state of
the District
generally-

I shall conveniently describe the sanitary state of the District generally, if I give what must necessarily be a very brief account of the sanitary condition of the more important localities included in it.

East Medene.

Bembridge

The great sanitary requirement of Bembridge is a good independent water supply. What well water there is is collected in the Plateau Gravel, which caps the hill upon which a large part of Bembridge stands. At Lane End, where several houses have been erected, water is abundant in the Old Shingle Bed upon which they stand. It is unfortunate pumps are not more generally used at Lane End, for dipwells are necessarily insanitary. In Bembridge proper, rainwater may be more generally collected and properly stored after filtration. Until Bembridge has an independent water supply the sewers will not be efficiently flushed, although the Parochial Committee do their best in this matter, by means of a water cart in the Summer. The nuisances from the road ventilators are becoming less as more shafts are erected. Seymour Place and Harbour View, which are frequently on the Inspector's book, were in a more satisfactory state than usual when I visited them at the end of the year.

Brading

The chief source of water supply at Brading are the old public wells sunk in the Bagshot Beds. You certify some of the new houses upon a rainwater supply, care being taken that it is rendered wholesome by passing through a filter before it is stored. There are a few deep wells in the Chalk in the New Road, and between it and the Mall. The collection of rainwater from the cottage roofs on the Mall should be attended to; it is painful to see old people toiling up the hill with buckets of water from one of the town pumps. In the Back Lane is a perennial stream, which may be rendered very serviceable to the people in that neighbourhood. The sewer ventilators are a constant source of complaint, and several of them have been closed. In the absence of proper flushing, it seems probable it will be necessary to follow the example of Yarmouth, where they closed all the road ventilators and erected shafts in their place. Several of the old nuisances in Brading have been abated, and the old difficulties connected with house drainage got rid of. The relaying the storm-water drain and channelling the High Street will be a great improvement in Brading. The piggeries at the slaughterhouse in Back Lane, notwithstanding their connection with the sewer, are a constant nuisance which recurs immediately it is abated.

Yarbridge.

Yarbridge is much sweeter since the old slop drain by the roadside was covered in and carried to the meadow beyond the railway, but some means should be adopted for flushing it.

Adgestone.

The deepening and reconstruction of the well by the roadside, known as Mew's well, and the affixing a pump to it, has

improved Adgestone in a sanitary sense ; but some of its foul ditches continue pretty much as they have been, and especially that opposite the pump, which threatens the well. A great improvement in house sanitation, due to the more constant visits of the Inspector, has taken place at Adgestone.

Lake is another place the sanitary condition of which has been greatly improved by a better water supply, the main of the Sandown Waterworks having been continued for its supply. The wretched property on the right of the road leading from Sandown, practically drains still into the little stream at the back, although the overflow pipes have been removed from the cesspits. The house drainage of some of the dwellings in Lake, and the cesspits into which they drain, are very insanitary.

Gatten is a place of leaking cesspits in porous soil from which the water is drawn. It is very desirable that the Sandown water main be continued to Gatten from Lake.

Great improvement has been brought about at Shanklin, but at the close of the year much remained to be done in the way of disconnecting drains, protecting wells, and providing proper sewers. The sewer in the Atherley Road—a 6in. drain with which some fifty houses are connected—is not infrequently blocked. The nuisance arising from the sewage of houses in the Landguard Road flowing on to the highway, was unabated at the end of the year. There has been a most unaccountable delay in carrying out the only effectual remedy, since it has been agreed upon, but at the time of writing the sewer is about to be proceeded with. It is satisfactory to be able to report that houses in the Wilton Road, in which there has been much illness, have at last been made fairly sanitary by the provision of water to indoor closets, and by disconnecting the house drains and carrying them in concrete by the side of the well. You have obtained the urban power to make bye-laws, and it would be a great benefit to Shanklin and other urban places in your District, if you would obtain leave to put in force in them the urban secs. 47 and 49 P.H A. 1875.

Wroxall is one of the places in which these sections of the Public Health Act should be in force. At the close of the year much of the filth of Wroxall, although less than formerly, was making its way to the stream. By dint of much inspection Wroxall, in a sanitary sense, is cleaner than it was, but houses in Castle Lane continue in a wretched condition, and old nuisances constantly recur in other parts. By the provision of earth closets at the houses in the Ventnor Road, only the urine and soapy water pass into the cesspit in the meadow, across which the principal water supply of Wroxall is conveyed. This cesspit has been a constant nuisance and a great worry, but your Authority have not seemed able to deal with it.

Lowtherville.

Lowtherville was not quite so insanitary as usual, because some of the water cisterns inside the houses have had covers put to them ; but the pan closets without water supply, the cesspits full to overflowing close to the houses, the house slops stagnating in puddles about the dwellings, pigs and other animals kept so as to be a nuisance from infrequent removal of the manure, often present a squalid picture which is a discredit to your District,

Bonchurch.

Bonchurch is supplied with Ventnor water or its plan of drainage would influence considerably its zymotic death-rate. The aim at Bonchurch is to make its sewage soak away in the subsoil by discharging it into disused wells and leaking cesspits. Sometimes this aim is not accomplished and the cesspits overflow the surface and create a nuisance.

St. Lawrence and the Undercliff.

The same plan of drainage is but too common in the Undercliff. It is a melancholy satisfaction to refer to the good work of one who had the best interests of humanity so much at heart ; whose conception it was, and who did more than any other to give Whitwell an independent water supply, and who has shown on his own property how the sanitary difficulties of the Undercliff can best be met.

Niton.

Niton, and Whitwell, and Wroxall, and Shorwell came to be placed upon the Gault because it is the clay stratum which keeps up the water of the Upper Greensand, and is the occasion of the spring, or well, by which it bubbles to the surface. The earlier inhabitants of these places probably did not poison their water with their filth. They would not do so now, perhaps, if it would soak away in the subsoil beneath their houses, but this is what it will not do, and Niton, consequently, drains into the stream which passes through it. Although filth nuisances are greatly reduced, some of the old ones frequently recur. The cesspits leak for the most part, and the water is obtained from surface soak wells, excepting in the cases of a few houses in the lower part of the village which are supplied by a pipe from the neighbouring Upper Greensand. An independent water supply for Niton would be comparatively a simple matter. It has been urged in connection with Niton that water will not flow up hill ; but if a reservoir were made at a height which would command the whole village, it would be easy to supply it from a well at a lower level by means of an automatic windmill pump, such as that of the United States Wind Engine and Pump Co., of Batavia, Illinois.

Whitwell.

Its pure and abundant water is a great blessing to Whitwell. As in most of the villages which have a subsoil of clay, and in some which have not, the disposal of slops is a constant difficulty. They run off into the ditches and road gutters and are flushed into the stream, but in dry weather they stagnate and decompose, and create an abominable nuisance. The gutter on the east side of the main road through the village is very

offensive in Summer. If it were covered in, a sewer would be created. Probably the best way of remedying the nuisance would be to construct a proper sewer, with an outfall in a field to the north of the village, care being taken that cows have not the opportunity of drinking the sewage.

The sanitary state of the village of Godshill has been Godshill. greatly improved during the past five or six years, but the superficial dip wells are very liable to pollution. The giving Godshill an independent water supply would not involve a large outlay. It would be necessary to sink a well in the Greensand, to protect it from all chance of contamination, and pump from it, by means of an automatic windmill pump, to a reservoir placed on high ground above the village. The slop and other filth nuisances were not so acute at the end of the year as I have known them in Godshill.

It is most difficult to contend with the gutter nuisances in Newchurch. your District, occasioned by the soapy washing water and slops. They are abated for the moment after notice, to recur immediately the Inspector's attention is relaxed. Your Authority are divided in opinion upon the subject. Some members think the road gutter the proper place to throw the dirty water on washing day, while others contend that no filth of any kind should be allowed to flow from the premises. The question is one of the rights of the body of ratepayers: the individual is protected at the cost of the community. One or two foul gutters at Newchurch are an example of the permanent character of these nuisances. If a house is overcrowded you compel the occupier to abate the overcrowding, either by diminishing the number of occupants of his house, or by moving to more spacious premises. It seems to me if a householder cannot dispose of her soapsuds because her premises are too narrow, she should cease to wash at home, or seek a habitation with a larger garden.

One or two of the old houses in Arreton, which I have Arreton. pointed out to you as almost unfit for habitation, are closed and will disappear. The ditch in front of three or four cottages will continue, I fear, to receive the slops, and carry them to the Yar, until it is filled in.

The Hamstead Beds upon which Haven Street stands are, in Haven Street great part, of clay uncapped by gravel save at the summit of the hill, and the supply of water is indifferent. In many respects the sanitary condition of this place has improved. The foul state of the ditch by the footpath to the east of the graveyard, into which the cesspit and slops of the adjacent cottages drained, has been remedied by reconstructing the privy and making the vault tight.

The sanitary arrangements of the west of Haylands, including Haylands. Colenutt's Road, Salter's Road, and School Lane were eminently unsatisfactory, but this will be remedied by the

sewer, the contract for which is let. It would be more satisfactory if the sewer were flushed, and with an independent water supply this ought not to be difficult of attainment. You require the urban powers of secs. 112, 113, 114, P.H.A., 1875, at Haylands, as offensive trades are carried on there.

Binstead

The continuation of the Binstead sewer to the sea and to low water mark, has been a great sanitary improvement. During periods of heavy rain the sewer cannot discharge its contents quick enough, and the lower manhole overflows. It ought not to be difficult to remedy this. A considerable amount of sewage from the Ryde district is deposited on the shore at Binstead. There can be little doubt that cesspit overflows on the Ryde side of the boundary stream are connected with it. The pig nuisance is less formidable than it was, but I frequently receive complaints, especially in hot weather. It is not simply the pigs and their manure which smell offensively, but the decomposing slaughterhouse refuse upon which they are often fed. The great sanitary want of Binstead, to which I have previously referred, is an independent water supply. The Borough of Ryde are willing to supply the water at 1/3 per 1000 gallons, the pipes being laid by your Authority. It is to be hoped this very desirable addition to the sanitary safeguards of Binstead may be speedily accomplished.

Fishbourne

The protection of the public well, and the lengthening of some of the drains which, draining more than one house, have become vested in your Authority, have benefited Fishbourne. There is now less nuisance on the foreshore, but it is not creditable that the expense of what is virtually a private improvement should have been forced upon the ratepayers of Binstead.

Wootton.

By the supply of the public water to the houses on the east side of the Creek, and the additional ventilating shafts to the sewer, the sanitary condition of Wootton has improved since my last annual report was written. The disconnection of house drains and the substitution of proper gulleys for bell traps, to which your Inspectors are giving increased attention, have rendered some of the houses in Wootton more healthy.

Fairlee.

I would strongly urge upon you the desirability of laying down a sewer at Fairlee to connect with the Newport system, as the only means of effectually abating the nuisances there.

West Medene.
Gurnard.

At the close of the year Gurnard was neither better nor worse, in a sanitary sense, than at the end of 1888, excepting that the arrangements of one of the larger houses have been made more healthy by disconnecting the drains and doing away with a large cesspit close to the back-door. Although there are several earth and pail closets in Gurnard, and the rainwater is stored in separate tanks in such a manner as to be fit to drink in many instances, the sewage for the most part is run into the natural cistern, from which much of the drinking water is drawn.

There is a dearth of water at Tinker's Lane. I have often pointed out that an independent supply could be obtained from Ruffin's Copse. This supply is now utilized for new cottages in Pallance Lane. When the rainwater, which in many cases is badly stored, is exhausted, the polluted stream at the foot of the hill is too much resorted to. By the public-spirited foresight of one of your number, who is the clergyman of the district, a large rainwater tank has been provided to store the rainwater which falls on the roof of the Parish-room, and this is available when the water of the hamlet runs short.

Tinkers Lane.

The only water safe to drink at Horsebridge Hill is rain-water. The filters through which this is passed are not properly attended to in some cases. They should be cleansed and the filtering material renewed once in six months, or oftener. The rainwater supply of some of the houses has been increased by providing larger tanks. The old houses unfit for habitation have been closed. Horsebridge Hill is one of those places in your District the sanitary condition of which has been greatly improved, a result the inhabitants are indebted for, in no small measure, to the gentleman referred to before.

Horsebridge Hill

Complaints still reach me, especially from the ratepayers on the eastern bank of the Medina, of the nuisances arising from the Cement Works. The proprietors are large employers of labour, and it would be most unfortunate if you were compelled to proceed against them under sec.: 91 P.H.A., 1875; but the example of Southampton proves that the Cement Works' nuisances can be abated when legal pressure is brought to bear by a Sanitary Authority. The Medina firm, who, I know, are anxious to do what they can, will probably examine, with a view to adopting, the system in use on the other side of the water.

Medina Cement Works.

There was a death from diphtheria in the Barracks in 1889, the probable source of which I do not know, as Government establishments are independent of the control of the local Sanitary Authority; but the reproach no longer exists, at least at Parkhurst, that our soldiers may have to drink poisoned water—for the Barracks as well as the Prison are now supplied from Carisbrooke—and that the sewage arrangements are a nuisance to the neighbourhood.

Parkhurst Prison and Barracks.

The description given of the sanitary state of Carisbrooke at the close of 1888 would exactly correspond with its description now. The portion of the sewer which I then spoke of as a leaking brick drain, has been properly reconstructed with socketed glazed pipes since it burst from the block in it, caused by the watermain from the Newport Waterworks. The black stream of filth still runs down the channel by the road-side, and the stench from the gulley by which it finds

Carisbrooke.

its way to the stream is still as great.* A parochial committee appointed by your Authority to consider the question of a special drainage district, with a view to the sewerage of Carisbrooke, have reported to your Authority, who have submitted to the Local Government Board a proposal for a district somewhat more restricted in area than that recommended by the committee.

Gunville.

With its road gutter nuisances, which in all parts of your District are apparently beyond your power to control, and its dearth of water, Gunville could not be said to be in a satisfactory condition at the close of the year. But great improvements have been effected there, more especially in connection with the property situated in what is known as Gunville Back or Gunville Place. As I have previously stated, it is proposed the Carisbrooke drainage district shall provide for the water supply of Gunville. It was in contemplation to draw this supply from the Newport reservoir on Alvington down by tapping the main near the Board Schools. It is now suggested to bring the water from a spring beyond Alvington farm near the highway to Calbourne, and which is the head of one branch of the Gunville stream, which finds its way into the north side of the Towngate pond at Newport. I am not certain if the spring issues from above the London Clay, or from the Bagshot beds, but I think the proposition worth consideration. In any case Gunville will scarcely escape inclusion in the special drainage district.

Porchfield and
Lock's Green.

Whatever the outward aspects of Porchfield and Lock's Green may be, there has been, since I last wrote, a remarkable change in its sanitary condition as regards diminution of risk to life—the result of from house to house inspection, and the putting in force the provisions of the Public Health (Water) Act. This change may as well have been made before cases of enteric fever and deaths from diphtheria occurred. At the close of the year there was no change in the state of a foul ditch near the Lock's Green School, into which the sewage of Lock's farm drained, and which has frequently occupied the attention and time of your Authority with no permanent result. On account of the insanitary condition of this ditch, the Education Department has withheld the School grant pending its abatement. At the time of writing the sewage is being diverted to a meadow at the back of the farm. More has been done in a week by the simple report of an Inspector of Schools to his Department in London than your Authority, with all the powers with which you are endowed by the Public Health Act, have been able to effect during the years you have existed as a Sanitary Authority.

*The abominable practice of emptying the contents of privy cesspits into this roadside channel ought to be stopped.

The ancient borough of Newtown, now decayed to the dimensions of a mere hamlet, cannot get water from the Bembridge Clay on which it stands. Excellent water is obtained from the only well in the place, which probably pierces the Bembridge Limestone at a depth of 60 or 70 feet, but it is not available for the general use. Save at thatched cottages which have no water at all, rainwater is stored, but without filtration. Unless a public well, similar to that described above, be sunk, the only plan for providing water at Newtown for those of the population who live in thatched houses would appear to be to collect in a large tank the water which falls on the roof of the Church. Between Newtown and Shalfleet a dairy farm is almost entirely without water on the premises, and the usual result of such a condition of things, resort to a polluted stream, obtains.

Although it would be such a simple matter to bore a well which would give an unfailing wholesome supply of water at Shalfleet, the apathy about sanitary matters is so great before disease comes, though it alters after, that it is hopeless to expect such a work. I strongly advise you, therefore, to adopt the plan, which is far more expensive to individual owners, of putting in force sec: 3 P.H.A. in Shalfleet and in other parts of your District, as you have done at Porchfield. In the meantime the people will continue to drink from the stream polluted by human and other excrement.

The people of Calbourne ought not to go to the stream for water, as so many of them do, seeing that an independent supply from its immediate vicinity could be brought to a stand-pipe in Winkle Street and to another in the village, at little cost.

There are a few soak wells liable to pollution at Newbridge, but many of the inhabitants drink from the Calbourne stream. There are not many, and there ought not to be any, foul privies or filth nuisances at Newbridge, as the gardens are extensive enough to dispose even of the soapy water of the laundress.

So long as the deep well supply at Ningwood House is available, the people of Ningwood may drink wholesome water.

Permanent improvement at Wellow can be reported. Instead of an open well, the water of which was constantly polluted by dirty buckets, by impurities falling into it, and by surface soakage at the close of 1888, there is a closed well protected from soakage and with a pump fixed at the end of 1889. The more easy of access water is the more it will be used. It is a much simpler matter to pump a pail of water than to pull up heavy buckets from a deep well. There are several dip wells in Wellow and Thorley, but the public pump is very much used.

Yarmouth.

There has been yet another length of well constructed sewer substituted in Yarmouth for that which will always be an incubus until the whole of it gradually disappears. The cost, it is true, has been a heavy one—the pollution of a public well which supplied a whole terrace of houses. The buildings erected in the new streets drain into the sewer and have their slop drains, which sometimes run too near the wells, disconnected. The closets in Mill Terrace no longer drain on to the foreshore, and it seems scarcely fair to the owners of the houses that the Schools should be allowed to do so. The slaughterhouses in Yarmouth and other parts of your District require regulating, as I have so often pointed out. The nuisances arising from them, however, often depend upon the pigs kept to consume the blood and refuse, and the offal upon which they are fed. The affixing pumps to the public wells of Yarmouth is a permanent sanitary improvement, upon which the inhabitants, as well as the Parochial Committee and your Authority are to be congratulated. The appointment of a reliable person to attend to the penstock, the manhole, and other matters connected with the sewers at Yarmouth, has been of great sanitary utility.

Freshwater.

In no part of your District, perhaps, has the absence of bye-laws been more unfortunate than at Freshwater. Already the undoing much which has been done must have cost a large amount of money. In a rapidly growing place sanitary control should be exercised very strictly if the community are to be saved heavy taxation in the future. At the end of the year there were fewer obvious nuisances in Freshwater than in recent years. The from house to house inspection in 1888, consequent upon the prevalence of zymotic disease, effected a large amount of good in Freshwater and Norton Green; but several of the dwellings are still insanitary. One of the great needs of the place is an independent water supply. To provide this a well has been sunk in the Bagshot Beds in a field just north-east of the railway crossing near the church, from which it is proposed to pump water to a reservoir at a high level; and I am informed a company is about to be launched to carry out the scheme. It is to be regretted the people of Freshwater allowed the opportunity to slip of doing the work themselves. There can be no doubt in the minds of those who read the signs of the times that in the near future the community will have under their own direct control matters so essential to their well-being as their water supplies; but the cost of buying out the monopolists will be enormous. As building operations increase and land becomes more valuable, houses each year will be more crowded upon area, and it will be imperative, and is, in my opinion, necessary now, to scavenge Freshwater under the provision of sec. 42 P.H.A. 1875.

With an independent water supply, and with well flushed, Totland Bay. and properly ventilated sewers, and with drains disconnected from the interior of houses, Totland Bay promises to lead the Isle of Wight as regards sanitation. It will be necessary, however, to guard the milk supply. Cows ought to drink as pure water as human beings do. The pond near the Post Office at Totland Bay does not receive so much sewage from the farm yard as it did, but it would be better if milch cows did not drink from it. It is always desirable that cows should drink from troughs if they are giving milk, for they foul water when they enter it. The regulation of hackney carriages is badly needed at Totland Bay.

The disadvantage of its situation on the Wealden is Brook. compensated at Brook by an independent water supply, which is almost universally available. The old nuisance in connection with pig keeping has ceased. Cows can no longer drink from the polluted water-course on the west of Brook Green, as the stream is now carried through drain pipes.

The alterations made in this little hamlet have greatly Hulverstone. improved its sanitary condition.

As so many of the people of Brighstone drink from the Brighstone. stream after it has become seriously polluted, it would be a good thing if its water were accessible to them before pollution takes place. An independent water supply, brought from the head of the stream has long been a recognised want at Brighstone. Much human and other filth which formerly fouled the Brighstone stream, is now kept out of it, but it cannot be expected that water flowing through arable land and past inhabited houses will continue pure enough to drink, indeed, there is not such a stream in the Isle of Wight the water of which is safe to drink until after it has been boiled. At the same time it would be well if the Rivers Pollution Act, which appears to be a dead letter, could be enforced in your district for the protection of milk. The consumption of impure water by cows is a matter of daily observation. Some nuisances of old standing have disappeared from Brighstone, and the drainage arrangements at the schools have been improved, but there is no security for the public health there while people drink from the stream.

The blessings of an independent supply of wholesome Shorwell. water could be far more readily obtained for Shorwell than it was for Brook in the first instance. Much improvement in the sanitary state of this district has been secured during the past two or three years.

At the end of 1889 the sanitary state of Chillerton and Gatcombe. was much the same as at the close of 1888.

As he makes a general survey of his district at the close of the year, it is very encouraging to the Medical Officer of Health if he can point to conditions of a permanent character. which did not obtain at the end of the previous year, and Matters bearing upon the interests of the public health

which are destined to affect beneficially, the public health in the future. Such conditions were present at the close of 1889 in the alteration of your procedure, in your decision to have bye-laws for the whole of your District, and in your adoption of the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act. I have already referred to the provision of wholesome rain-water at every house in a district in which people had previously drunk from ditches, and from ponds, and streams fouled by cattle; and to the protection of public wells by covering them down and affixing pumps. The conditions of which I speak, however, were potentially rather than actually present. You came to decisions in 1889, which, if carried out, cannot fail to lead to great improvement in the sanitary condition of the District under your charge. For several years I have advised you to alter your mode of procedure, either by availing yourselves of the provision of sec: 201 P.H.A., 1875, to delegate your sanitary functions to a committee, or by permitting the routine portions of the Inspectors' reports to be taken by a committee earlier in the day, matters of importance being reserved for the general meeting of the Authority. By adopting the latter suggestion you have found time for the consideration of questions of general policy, while you have had brought before you the more important matters reported on by the Inspectors, and any upon which it is necessary to obtain the legal advice of your Clerk, and, at the same time, a number of gentlemen are becoming more intimately informed about the sanitary state of the District, who, as they begin to recognise its needs, will, it is to be hoped, initiate reforms.

Procedure.

Bye-laws.

I agree with your Committee who considered my last annual report that "bye-laws are absolutely necessary in the Rural Sanitary District for the health and prosperity of the Island." It is somewhat remarkable that in a large district like yours, made up not only of rural but of urban areas, in which speculative building operations have gone on without the slightest control, a district on the borders of which are considerable towns which shoot a good deal of their filth into it, a district in which road gutters, ditches, and streams in too many instances are fouled by sewage, you have not thought it necessary to take legal proceedings for more than two years.

Legal proceedings

Some of the offenders are not particularly amenable to the advice or opinion of your officers. Some of them clear up their nuisances when the final notice is served, and allow them to begin re-accumulating the next day. If you refer to the Inspectors' books you will find that some half-dozen filth nuisances have, in the aggregate, occupied an enormous amount of time, and yet they are as likely to be on the books again next week as they have been at any moment during the past four or five years. There would appear to be a kind of timidity lest, if you proceed against offenders, you may not

get a conviction. This certainly cannot apply in the case of offences against the bye-laws, to which you are committed, and they will enable you, therefore, to compel obedience where it is now withheld. Bye-laws will also prove useful as a means of education; many persons are anxious to do what is right, but they do not know what is right. The list of proposed bye-laws may come up again for further consideration. In past discussions it has seemed to me there was too great disposition to consider in what manner particular bye-laws would affect the individual, rather than how far they would be efficient for the protection of the community. I would most respectfully venture to remind you that, as a Sanitary Authority, you exist for one object, and one object only, the prevention of disease and death. To this end you employ officers to carry out your instructions and the requirements of the law. You make bye-laws simply that the law may be more quickly and perfectly applied. The aim is the comfort and happiness of the people, and the conservation of their wealth, in a word, the general well-being of the community. The community pay for these advantages, and they are their right. It is your bounden duty, and the bounden duty of your officers, to use every known method to secure them the possession they have purchased; and it should not be forgotten that bye-laws, if they are directed against anyone, are directed against those who selfishly deny to others the rights which, as citizens, are theirs.

Although the Act for the Notification of Infectious Diseases did not come into operation until the 1st of January, 1890, you adopted it in 1889, and at the close of the year it was a potentiality which altered the sanitary complexion of your District enormously, as compared with the close of the year 1888. Even in these few months of its working one can see how great a protection it will be to the community against disease and the money cost of it, and how it will add to the burdens of the Medical Officer of Health.

Notification of Diseases.

I will not repeat what I have said already about the cowsheds, dairies, and milkshops of your District. Speaking generally, their condition is far from satisfactory. The recommendations which are to be issued may do some good, but I anticipate you will issue them eventually as bye-laws.

Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops.

In my opinion the bakehouses should be looked after as well as the milkshops. Secs. 15 and 16 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1883, and Secs. 3, 33, 34, and 35 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1878, ought to be enforced.

Bakehouses.

Examples have come under my own observation, and that of the Inspectors, which prove that it is desirable the adulteration of articles of food should be the subject of enquiry in your District.

The Adulteration of Food Act.

Possibly the work of the Inspectors may be better regulated when bye-laws are in force. At present it is

Inspection.

not sufficiently systematic. Inspection is of greatest service when every house in a district is periodically examined. It is only occasionally that the Inspectors can inspect from house to house in any section of the District. They should visit every cowshed, dairy, and milkshop, and every bakehouse, but I know how difficult they find it to do this regularly.

The County
Council.

Since my last annual report was written, the Isle of Wight has been separated from the County of Southampton for administrative purposes, and it now possesses a County Council of its own. The intention of the Legislature would appear to be to leave the administration of the Sanitary Acts in the hands of the present sanitary authorities or of the district councils which may replace them, and to give to the County Council a power of direction and control in sanitary matters over the sanitary authorities within the areas over which its jurisdiction extends. The medical officer of health is required to send a copy of his annual report to the County Council, who are charged with the duty of examining it and of making representations to the Local Government Board, if it should appear to them from such report, that the Public Health Act, has not been properly put in force within the district to which the report relates, or if they think that any other matter affecting the public health of the district requires to be remedied. The medical officer of health has still to inform the Local Government Board directly as to the sanitary state of his district, and if he fails to send them a copy of his annual report by a date within which it is impossible to write it, they have the power to fine him an amount equal to half his salary. All this seems a very cumbersome process for forcing a sanitary authority to do its duty. I cannot help thinking the object would be better attained if the Legislature would have the courage to avoid permissive legislation in matters which concern so closely the lives, as well as the health and general well-being of the people.

Your Authority will naturally wish to avoid the loss of dignity involved in being reported for dereliction of duty; but the hope is that, uninfluenced by such consideration, you will willingly continue and bring to fruition your labours of 1889 for the benefit of your District, the sanitary condition of which is of interest to a population far wider than that of this Island, a population which embraces many nationalities.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. GROVES.

Carisbrooke.