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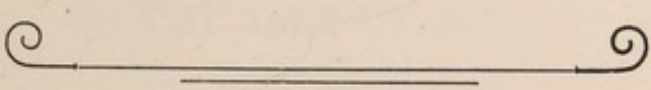
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1892.



# Annual Report

ON THE HEALTH

OF THE

Rural Sanitary District

OF THE

ISLE OF WIGHT.

BY


JOSEPH GROVES, M.B., B.A., LOND., F.R. MET. SOC.,

FELLOW OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,

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 1892.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you the accompanying Report on the Health of your District in the year 1892, which, in obedience to Art. 18, sec. 14 of the General Order of the Local Government Board, dated March 23rd, 1891, contains tabular statements of the sickness and mortality within the District; it records the action taken as to various matters and the progress made during the year; and it gives an account of the Sanitary State of the District generally at the end of the year.

## 1. VITAL STATISTICS.

On April 1st, 1881, the population of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District, which contains 87,599 acres, that is to say, nearly fifteen-sixteenths of the area of the Isle of Wight, was 28,008; on the same date in 1891 the population numbered 29,747, an increase of 1739. Assuming this rate of increase has been maintained, it is calculated there were 29,964 persons living in the District in the middle of 1892. The *natural* increase of population measured by the excess of births over deaths was 195. The average population to the acre is 2.92.

741 births were registered during the year, of which 46 were illegitimate. 373 of the children born were boys and 368 were girls. 18 boys and 28 girls were illegitimate.

546 deaths were registered. The deaths of males numbered 316 and those of females numbered 230.

In each quarter the births and deaths were as follows:—

	Births.			Deaths.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1st quarter	103	91	194	121	107	228
2nd „	74	106	180	76	46	122
3rd „	103	97	200	53	37	90
4th „	93	74	167	66	40	106
	<hr/> 373	<hr/> 368	<hr/> 741	<hr/> 316	<hr/> 230	<hr/> 546



Birth-rate and  
Death-rate.

Assuming the correctness of the estimate of population, the birth-rate in 1892 was equal to 24·7, and the death-rate was equal to 18·3 per 1,000 living, which is the highest death-rate for ten years. 71 deaths occurred within the District among persons not belonging thereto, and, deducting these, the death-rate is reduced to 15·9 per 1,000.

Births and  
Deaths in ten  
years.

During the past ten years the following have been the births and birth-rates and the deaths and death-rates 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
1890	714	24·1	448	15·1
1891	756	25·3	494	16·5
1892	741	24·7	546	18·3

During the ten years from 1883 to 1892 the births have averaged 774·8 and the deaths 459·7 per annum; the average annual birth-rate has been 26·9 per 1,000 living, and the average annual death-rate has been 15·9 per 1,000 living.

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

In 1892, the birth-rate in England and Wales was 30·5 per 1,000 living, a lower rate than that of any previous year, excepting 1890, and 1·7 per 1,000 below the mean rate in the ten years, 1882-91. The death-rate, which in the previous four years had been successively 18·1, 18·2, 19·5, and 20·2 per 1,000, fell again last year to 19·0, and was 0·3 per 1,000 below the mean rate in the ten years, 1882-91. The death-rate in Country Districts outside the boundaries of Urban Sanitary Districts existing in 1886, was 18·1 per 1,000 living. The mean death-rate per 1,000 of the ten years, 1882-91, in Extra-Urban Districts, was 17·5.

Comparison of  
the Birth-rate  
and Death-rate  
in the I. W.  
Rural Sanitary  
District with  
those of England  
and Wales.

The birth-rate in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District in 1892 was 5·8 below the abnormally low birth-rate of England and Wales in that year, and 7·5 below the mean birth-rate in the ten years, 1882-91. The death-rate was 0·7 below the death-rate of England and Wales, or, deducting the deaths which occurred among persons not belonging to the District, 3·1 below the general death-rate. The death-rate of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District, compared with the death-rate in the Country Districts of England and Wales, was 0·2 above the average, or, deducting the deaths among those not belonging to the District, 2·2 below the average. When compared with the mean mortality per 1,000 living of the ten years, 1882-91, in the Country Districts, the death-rate in 1892 was 0·8 above the mean death-rate, and 1·6



below it if the deaths among strangers be deducted. 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 ten 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            ,,
1890	4.1            ,,	2.4 below the average.
1891	3.7            ,,	2.0            ,,
1892	0.7            ,,	0.2 above the average.

In every 1,000 of the inhabitants of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District, 10.5 male and 7.6 female persons died in 1892. Male and Female Death-rate.

The deaths of 106 infants under one year of age were included in the 546 registered deaths. The proportion of deaths under one year of age to registered births was 143 per 1,000. In the seven previous years, it was 79, 108, 87, 73, 89, and 85 per 1,000. In England and Wales, the proportion of deaths under one year to registered births was 148 per 1,000, the mean proportion in the previous ten years, 1882-91, having been 144. 146 children, or 26.7 per cent. of the deaths, died under 5 years; and 40 children, or 7.3 per cent. of all the deaths, died between one and five years of age. 195 persons, or 35.7 per cent. of the deaths, died at 65, or upwards, of whom 34 were between 65 and 70, 104 between 70 and 80, 53 between 80 and 90, and 4 were over 90. The greatest age at death registered—that of a labourer, of Carisbrooke, who died in the Workhouse—was 93. Infant mortality. Mortality of the aged.

71 deaths occurred in the District among persons not belonging thereto. 46 of these who were permanently resident in the Island, but did not belong to the District, died in the Workhouse; 18 died in the Hospital for Consumption, at St. Lawrence, of whom 17 died of phthisis; a gentleman died on board a yacht at Bembridge; the captain of a German vessel was landed at Yarmouth, and died soon after from phthisis; and 5 of the crew of a ship which was wrecked on the Shingles in March were drowned, and their bodies were washed ashore at Totland. Deaths of strangers to the District.

12 deaths occurred from different forms of violence; 5 of these deaths were from drowning as above-mentioned; a female of 9 months was scalded at Wroxall by the accidental upsetting of a can of boiling water; another, a male infant Deaths from violence.



of 4 months, was accidentally suffocated in bed at Godshill; a man fell from a load of straw and was killed at Thorley; an artilleryman was crushed by the slipping of a rope attached to a gun in Sandown fort; a convict was killed by a mass of earth falling upon his neck and back at Parkhurst; and 2 men committed suicide, one by cutting his throat at Northwood, the other by swallowing strong solution of ammonia at Osborne. The deaths by violence were equal to 2·1 per cent. of all the deaths, and to a rate of 0·4 per 1,000 of the population of the District. The deaths from violence in England and Wales were equal to a rate of 0·62 per 1,000 living. The percentage of deaths from violence in your District during the past ten years was as follows:—

1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
3·0	2·5	3·4	3·3	4·2	3·8	5·9	3·4	1·4	2·1

Mortality from  
certain diseases.  
Zymotic diseases

The 546 deaths from all causes included.—

2	attributed to	scarlatina.
8	„	„ diphtheria.
1	„	„ membranous croup.
6	„	„ enteric fever.
7	„	„ measles.
12	„	„ whooping cough.
7	„	„ diarrhoea.

—  
43

Zymotic death-  
rate.

The 43 deaths attributed to these principal zymotic diseases were equal to a death-rate of 1·43 per 1,000 living, and were 7·8 per cent. of the deaths from all causes. The zymotic death-rate in the four preceding years was 0·42, 1·6, 0·67, and 1·64 per 1,000 respectively. In England and Wales the deaths attributed to these zymotic diseases corresponded to a rate of 1·90 per 1,000 living, against 1·86, 2·22, 2·14, and 1·83 in the immediately preceding four years. The average annual death-rate from zymotic diseases in England and Wales during the last decennium (1881-90) was 2·30 per 1,000, against 3·95, 4·15, and 3·38 per 1,000 respectively in the three decennias comprised in the period 1851-80.

Phthisis.

64 deaths from phthisis were registered. 20 persons, of whom 17 were strangers to the Wight, died from this disease in the Hospital for Consumption. Of the six deaths from phthisis in the Workhouse, five occurred among those who did not belong to the District. The death-rate from phthisis in 1892 was equal to 2·16 per 1,000, or, deducting the deaths from consumption which occurred among strangers, 1·40 per 1,000. The percentage of deaths from phthisis to all the deaths was 11·7, or, excluding the deaths among strangers, 7·6. In 1892, 9 per cent. of the deaths which took place in your District among Isle of Wight people occurred from consumption. This is 0·3 per cent. below the mean percentage



of deaths from phthisis to deaths from all causes in England and Wales.

115 persons, 13 of whom did not belong to the District, Lung diseases. died from bronchitis, pneumonia, or pleurisy. The deaths from these forms of lung disease were equal to a death-rate of 3·8 per 1,000. The mean death-rate in these pulmonary affections in England and Wales is 3·3 per 1,000.

42 persons, five of whom did not belong to the District, Heart disease. died from heart disease. The deaths from heart disease were equal to a rate of 1·4 per 1,000. The mean death-rate from heart disease in England and Wales is 1·3 per thousand.

Cancer caused 17 deaths; 3·2 per cent. of the deaths among Cancer. inhabitants of the Isle of Wight, which occurred in your District in 1892, were due to cancer. The mean percentage of deaths from cancer to all the deaths in England and Wales is 2·7.

11 deaths—2·0 per cent. of the deaths—occurred from Scrofula. certain scrofulous diseases. The mean percentage of deaths from scrofula in England and Wales is 3·6.

42 deaths from influenza were registered.

Influenza.

In 1892, 192 cases of infectious diseases were notified, a Notified diseases. number equal to 6·4 per 1,000 of the population. They included 136 cases of scarlatina, 18 of diphtheria, 1 of membranous croup, 28 of enteric fever, and 9 of erysipelas.

With the exception of the year 1890, the birth-rate was the lowest of the decennium, 1883-92, as was that of England and Wales. I have not yet been furnished with the returns of marriages, which it would seem are difficult to supply, because many of the Rural District marriages take place in the towns; but ordinarily, a low birth-rate means a low marriage-rate. Without the marriage returns, it is difficult to account for the fact that the birth-rate in your District was as much as 5·8 below the low birth-rate of England and Wales, and 7·5 below the mean birth-rate. Doubtless, a large number of young people of both sexes leave the Island to find employment, and many girls in domestic service marry soldiers. On the other hand, a certain number of married soldiers settle here. The death-rate was the highest of the decennium, 1883-92. The highest number of deaths occurred in the first quarter of the year among persons under one year of age, and during the middle period of life. The principal increase in the mortality table was under heading 18 (pulmonary affections). During the early part of the year the weather was severe, and Russian influenza was epidemic.

Low birth-rate  
and high death-  
rate.



(A) Table of DEATHS during the Year 1892, in the Rural Sanitary District

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; public institutions being shown as separate localities.  (a.)	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							(i.)	1 Smallpox.
	At all ages. (b.)	Under 1 year. (c.)	1 and under 5. (d.)	5 and under 15. (e.)	15 and under 25. (f.)	25 and under 65. (g.)	65 and upwards. (h.)		
NEWPORT.	88	18	8	3	3	25	31	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	.....
WORKHOUSE.	68	5	2	3	1	16	41	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	.....
PARKHURST BARRACKS.	3	2	1					Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	.....
PARKHURST PRISON.	13					10	3	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	.....
COWES.	41	13	6	3	4	10	5	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	.....
RYDE.	37	10	3	1	2	9	12	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	.....
BRADING.	81	12	9	8	2	21	29	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	.....
GODSHILL.	96	25	5	4	1	17	44	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	.....
ROYAL NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION.	21			1	6	14		Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	.....
CALBOURNE.	98	21	6	3	4	34	30	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	.....
TOTALS.....	546	106	40	26	23	156	195	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	.....
The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.									
Deaths occurring outside the District among persons belonging thereto.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	.....
Deaths occurring within the District among persons not belonging thereto.	71	4	2	1	6	30	28	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds.	.....



TABLE OF WIGHT, classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

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

4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Croup.	FEVERS,					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	TOTAL.
	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.													
								1	3	1				5			14	26
		2								1			9	13	6		31	62
														5			2	7
													6	13	8		34	61
									1					1			1	3
														3	2	1	7	13
														8			10	18
													6	5		2	9	23
									1	2				3			7	13
		1									2		1	11	1		8	24
								1	2					3			12	21
		2									1		5	6	3	1	38	60
								3	3					6		2	16	30
								1					8	17	13		27	66
													20		1			21
								1	2	3				2	1		18	27
1		1									1		9	14	7	6	32	71
								6	12	6				33	1	2	80	145
1		6						1		1	4		64	82	41	10	186	401
														3			2	5
													22	10	5	5	24	66



(B) Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES OF INFECTION during the year 1892, in the Rural Sanitary District of the Isle

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.
	Census 1891.	Estimated to middle of 1892.		
(a.)	(b.)	(c.)	(d.)	(e.)
NEWPORT.			144	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds
WORKHOUSE.				Under 5 ..... 5 upwds
PARKHURST PRISON.				Under 5 ..... 5 upwds
PARKHURST BARRACKS.				Under 5 ..... 5 upwds
COWES.			65	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds
RYDE.			61	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds
BRADING.			134	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds
GODSHILL.			140	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds
CALBOURNE.			197	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds
TOTALS .....	29,747	29,964	741	Under 5 ..... 5 upwds

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings the names of any that of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality is situated.—No Isolation Hospital.

KNES, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health,  
ght: classified according to DISEASES, AGES, and LOCALITIES.

W CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO  
HE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.		
			Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.				
7	1										
35	1			3					4		
1											
6				2							
6											
21				1					1		
3											
6				4							
4	3			1							
20	9			11					4		
3											
12	2			1							
5	1			3							
21	2			5							
29	5			4							
121	14			27					9		

istrict.—Yes. Since when?—January 1st, 1890. Besides the above-mentioned  
fiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly. State here the name  
which such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it



## 2. THE SANITARY HISTORY OF THE YEAR.

To report upon the incidence and progress of the preventable diseases which have prevailed in any District during the year under review, and to describe the measures taken not only to limit their spread in the present, but to afford protection against them in the future, is, necessarily, to give an account of the District viewed from the sanitary standpoint, and to inform the Sanitary Authority, and those whom it may concern, how far the obligations imposed by the sanitary laws are observed in that District.

**Zymotic diseases** At the beginning of the year 1892 there were cases of scarlatina in the Warders' quarters at Parkhurst Prison and at Marks' Corner, and there was an isolated case at Horsebridge Hill, one at Wootton, and another at Fairlee Road, Newport, and there were cases of measles at Bembridge, Brading, Lake, Chillerton, and Whitwell, and of whooping-cough at Carisbrooke and Arreton.

**Scarlatina.** At the beginning of January a child desquamating after scarlatina, whose case had not been notified by the medical man in attendance, was discovered at *Fairlee Road, Newport*, and later in the month a case in Fairlee Lane was notified. These children attended the Barton (Newport) Board School, among the scholars of which scarlatina was prevalent at the time. The case in Fairlee Lane was not isolated, although it was a dairy place, and in February two other members of the family took the disease. In June a young lady at Fairlee Farm, who taught in the Barton Sunday School, had scarlatina.

In July a child at Little Israel, *Staplers*, attending the Barton (Newport) Board School, had scarlatina; he was not isolated, and four other children of the family took the disease.

In the same month a child at Mornhill, *Staplers*, after attending the Barton Sunday School treat, developed the disease. She was not isolated, and the remaining four children of the family had scarlatina.

In October a boy attending the Barton (Newport) Board School had scarlatina at a dairy place at *Staplers*. He was carefully isolated, and the disease did not spread.

In December a child attending the same school had scarlatina at *Staplers Lodge*. He was carefully isolated and the disease did not spread.

In March a young man living at *Wootton Common* had scarlatina after visiting Newport.

In April a girl attending the Newport Board School had scarlatina at *Shide*, and subsequently an infant was infected. The children while peeling were permitted to occupy another room, which, unfortunately, was not disinfected, and two other children who returned home in June took the disease.



These cases came under the particular notice of your Authority, and the carelessness manifested is sufficiently accounted for.

A child at *Rowborough* had scarlatina in March, the poison having apparently been conveyed from Newport by a man who delivered groceries, and whose children at the time were desquamating after scarlatina.

In November a boy at *Forestside*, attending the Newport Board School, had scarlatina. The case was not notified, and his sister took the disease.

In December a girl living in *Parkhurst Forest*, who was a weekly boarder in a private school in Newport, had the disease.

In July a boy living at Alvington, *Carisbrooke*, had scarlatina after attending the school treat of a Newport Sunday School. His brother subsequently took the disease.

In August a boy at Clatterford, after having his hair cut at Newport, had scarlatina. In the same month a child died from scarlatina at Valleys, after visiting a house and attending service in a chapel at Newport.

In November a domestic servant came home to Carisbrooke ill with the disease from an infected house in Newport.

In December a girl at Carisbrooke, who was a pupil at the private school in Newport above mentioned, had scarlatina.

In January, a young man, a cowman, had scarlatina at *Gatcombe*, after visiting Newport. The case was not notified. He returned to his work and milked the cows. As children in the same household, also medically attended, became ill, attention was called to him, and he was found to be desquamating. When the cottage was visited upon notification, the whole family of five or six children in different stages of the disease were taking their supper together in the living-room.

In December a boy at Garstons came home from Chillerton Board School with sore throat and rash. He was not isolated, and two other children of the family subsequently had the disease. Having regard to the period of incubation, it appeared probable that the disease was brought from Newport by a youth who delivered bread at the house. This view was confirmed by the fact that the scarlatina appeared in other cottages where the bread was delivered by the same baker.

From October to December, 1891, scarlatina was present in the Warders' quarters at *Parkhurst Prison*, the first case having been that of a child attending the National Schools, Newport.

In January, 1892, two fresh cases in one of the infected families occurred.

In April there was a case in a family in the next Block, and between that time and the end of June three other children in this family were attacked.

In August a case occurred in another family living in an adjoining Block; and in November there was a case at the



Prison Gas-house. The children of one of the men working there had previously had scarlatina in Newport.

In July a case occurred at *Horsebridge Hill*, in the family of one of the prison warders. The child was carefully isolated, and although there were several children in the house, the disease did not spread.

In the middle of January the case of an infant living at Three Gates, *Northwood*, whose father worked in West Cowes, was notified: while this case was being investigated, cases of rash and sore throat at Mark's Corner were discovered. It appeared there had been two cases in November, 1891, which a medical man had seen and pronounced to be desquamating after scarlatina, but which he did not notify because he did not send them physic, and therefore did not consider himself in attendance. A family who were relatives, occupying an adjoining cottage, were constantly in the house, and five of these had the disease, the last case occurring in January.

In July there was an outbreak of scarlatina at *Gurnard*, the origin of which was by no means clear. Two children, one of whom attended the Parochial School, had, apparently, scarlatina in April after going to West Cowes. While peeling he returned to school. These cases were not notified or treated medically. A boy attending the same school had scarlatina in June. He came from school on June 15th, he was removed to Wellow on June 18th, and returned to Gurnard on July 2nd, a child in the house at Wellow having developed scarlatina. He was then peeling, but the case was not notified, and no precaution whatever was taken. A child with whom he played had scarlatina on July 7th, which was notified on July 13th. About the middle of June another child attending the Parochial School had a sore throat and rash. On June 21st a boy of 14 in the same family, who attended the Northwood Parochial School, became ill. He went back to school on July 4th. Four other children in this family had the disease, and returned to school as soon as the fever passed off up to July 13th, upon which date it was notified, three children becoming affected after this date. It would appear as if scarlatina was introduced into Gurnard either from Cowes or Newport direct about April, or from Northwood by some of the children attending the Northwood Parochial School, which is also attended by some of the children from Parkhurst Prison, to which place it was first carried from Newport in November, 1890.

In September there were three cases of scarlatina in Gurnard among children attending the Gurnard Parochial Schools, two of which cases were notified. In connection with one of these the greatest carelessness was manifested by the grandmother who nursed the child. In October three cases attributable to this woman, in different families, were notified, but



the disease did not spread beyond the individuals attacked. There was a fourth case in October less clearly traceable to the same source. It was that of a child who attended the Northwood Day and the Gurnard Sabbath Schools.

At the end of April two children who attended the Parish School at *Binstead* had scarlatina, but the source of the contagion could not be discovered.

In January a child attending a private school in Ryde had scarlatina at *Haylands*. A week after, two of her sisters attending the Bettsworth Road School were attacked, and, subsequently, two other children in the same family.

The case of a young married woman was notified in November. She had not left her room from the time of her confinement a month previously. A lodger in the house was employed in a grocer's shop at Ryde.

Another case at Haylands, that of an infant of two years, was notified in December, but the source of it could not be discovered.

On September 17th the case of a child living near Hardingshute and attending the *Ashey* School, who had a rash and sore throat at the end of August, was notified because it was peeling. She was visited from Brading by a different medical man in August. The poison was apparently picked up among some children at Duxmoor, several of whom appear to have had scarlatina, and, although medically attended, their cases were not notified.

In May a child resident at Yarbridge, *Brading*, had scarlatina. Seven days before she took ill she had been in the company of a child of Alverstone, who had the disease a year previously. Six days before the illness commenced she went to stay at Ryde, and occupied a bedroom which had been tenanted apparently by a child who had suffered from some contagious affection.

In August a girl living in the New Road, Brading, developed scarlatina a week after returning from a visit to Kingston, near Portsmouth. Scarlatina was prevalent at the time at Sandown, which place she visited, and where her father was engaged in business. She was isolated at the Ryde Infirmary on August 23rd. On October 9th her sister had the disease, and was removed to the Infirmary on October 13th, she being still there.

At the beginning of April, a child in Alfred Road, *Lake*, who attended the Sandown National School, into which scarlatina was said to have been introduced from Newport, had the disease. About the same time, a young man was removed for isolation to a cottage in Newport Road, Lake, from his home, at Sandown, whither he was brought with scarlatina from the College at Ryde.

At the end of April and the beginning of May five children in a family living in Stag Road, Lake, and attending the



Gatten Board School, were down with the disease. They attended a Sunday School in Lake, which was also attended by children from Sandown, where scarlatina prevailed.

In the middle of May, two children in Newport Road, Lake, who attended the same Sunday School, had the disease. These children also went to the Gatten School. Four other children who were removed from the house, and who did not attend the Sunday School, but who attended the Gatten School, escaped.

Two children, visitors from Willesden, were removed from a hotel in Sandown to Newport Road, Lake, in September, for isolation. The disease appeared, in the first case, six days after arriving in the Island.

Early in October, three children in Brownlow Road, Lake, two of whom attended the Sandown National School, had the disease. About the same time, a child living in Alfred Road, Lake, who also attended the Sandown School, had scarlatina; and in the beginning of November, another child attending this school, and living in Newport Road, was attacked.

In July a child attending the National School, Sandown, had scarlatina at the *Sandown Waterworks*. Three other children in this family did not take the disease.

In August a Sandown child attending the Sandown National School was isolated at another cottage at the Waterworks.

In the middle of September a case occurred at *Borthwood* farm. The child attended the Alverstone School, but had visited Sandown.

A case occurred in a cottage at Queen's Bower, Borthwood, about the same time, a day after the patient returned from a visit to Cowes, where she had been a fortnight.

Towards the end of July, two children attending the Wroxall School had scarlatina at *Whiteley Bank*, and a month later, as isolation was not continued, another child was attacked. About the same time, two children living in Castle Lane, *Wroxall*, and attending these Schools, had the disease. The cases were not notified, and no precautions were taken, and a month later a brother, employed in Ventnor, took scarlatina.

At the beginning of August, shortly after the Wroxall Schools were closed for the holidays, one of the pupils living in Clevelands Road, had the disease. Two other children living in the Span Road, who attended the Schools and the Bible Christian Sunday School, had the disease, one towards the middle and the other at the end of the month. Two young men employed in Ventnor and living in the Span Road were attacked; one, who delivered milk, at the end of August, the other, who delivered coal, at the beginning of September.

A case at Roude, *Whitwell*, was notified in the middle of August. The child attended the Whitwell School, which had been closed some time when she was taken ill.



In the beginning of November a girl of Whitwell, staying at Ventnor, had scarlatina there. She was sent home, and a week later her sister developed the disease. At the beginning of December another sister was attacked.

In June, as I have previously stated, a child was taken from Gurnard to *Wellow*, suffering, as afterwards appeared, from scarlatina, and four children were infected in the house to which he went.

At the beginning of November an isolated case, that of a young woman, occurred at Yarmouth, the origin of which could not be traced.

The source of two cases which occurred at *Norton Green* in July could not be discovered. One of the children attended the Freshwater Parochial School.

At the end of February a child of three years, who had not been off the Station since his arrival there two months previously, had scarlatina at the *Brooke* Coastguard Station. The source of the poison could not be traced, but it was thought probable it may have been delivered with goods from Newport. The isolation was not maintained for a sufficient length of time, and at the end of March two other cases occurred in the family.

In the middle of April a case occurred in the family of another of the Coastguardsmen, and a month later there was another case in the same family from the same cause.

At the beginning of April a case occurred in a cottage at Compton Grange. A man to whom a case at Rowborough was attributed, as his children had scarlatina at the time in Newport, delivered goods there. About the same time a case occurred at Grange Farm, close by, and seven other cases quickly followed in the same family.

On December 10th a girl returned to her home at Sutton, *Thornecross*, near Brighstone, from the Portsmouth Isolation Hospital at Milton, convalescent from scarlatina. On December 16th her mother was taken ill, and on December 17th four of her brothers and sisters. This case illustrates the fact that persons convalescent from scarlatina sometimes continue poisonous longer than is supposed.

A child who attended the *Bembridge* Parochial School died of diphtheria in January at Byfleet Cottages, where a case of the disease was fatal in the same family five years previously. A little later two children in one family attending the school, who resided at the Coastguard Station, died of diphtheria. The Admiralty claim all the functions of a sanitary authority and of sanitary officers, but as they neglected such simple duties as those of fumigation and disinfection in these cases, another child in this family had the disease in February. At the end of January two sisters at the Coastguard Station had diphtheria. They attended the school, the sanitary condition



of which at this time was thoroughly bad. About the same time another pupil resident at Foreland had diphtheria. She returned to school on February 22nd. In the middle of January three of the school children who lived at the Lodge had what was thought to be ulcerated throat. On March 1st a child of this family who had remained from school a week died of diphtheritic croup. In the middle of March there were two other cases among the scholars. One of these resided in Seymour Terrace, and the other at the Porter's Lodge at the Lodge. At the same time another member of the family living at Foreland went home from school ill with diphtheria. On April 1st her sister was attacked, and by April 4th four other children were down with the disease.

A boy attending the National School at *Sandown* had diphtheria early in April, in Alfred Road, Lake, where the drinking water was bad. After he got well of the diphtheria he had scarlatina.

In an insanitary old thatched stone cottage in Lacey's Lane, *Niton*, a young man had diphtheria in February. Several members of the family had bad throats five weeks previously. The soapy water from a laundry found its way into the drinking water at this cottage.

In November a case was notified as having occurred at *Niton* farmhouse. Upon investigating the origin of this case, it was discovered that there had been several cases of bad throat at *Niton* in the Spring and early Summer, and that some who had been affected suffered from loss of power after. One of these cases was that of a child whose voice became affected. She lived at a house of business at which one of the Lacey's Lane family was employed.

A child died at *Wootton Common* at the beginning of April. A few days previously he had been taken to a house in Oakfield, Ryde. An infant in this family was also affected.

In August a case, that of a young farm labourer, was notified as existing in an old thatched stone cottage at *Arreton*.

In April an outbreak of diphtheria occurred in Fairlee Road, *Newport*, the insanitary condition of which place, from the discharge of sewage from cesspits into the road gutter, had frequently occupied your attention. I saw five cases in three houses, but probably others were affected. None of these cases were notified, and only one of them was medically attended.

A girl attending the National Schools, *Yarmouth*, and living in St. James' Street, died of diphtheritic croup in February. There were a great many cases of bad throat in *Yarmouth* at this time. On February 23rd a case of diphtheria in Wheat-sheaf Lane was notified. It was that of a woman in middle life, and a week later her son, a youth of fourteen, was down with the disease. The dwelling was particularly insanitary. The leaking soil pipe of the closet used by these people passed



through the living-room of the occupants of the other side of the house. At the end of November a girl of four attending the National School was ill with diphtheritic croup at the Coastguard Station, in the same house in which a child died of diphtheria in November, 1891.

There were thirty-one cases of enteric fever in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District in 1892, and six of them died. Enteric Fever.

At the end of February a girl aged thirteen, who flushed the closet on the girls' side of the Parochial School, *Bembridge*, began to sicken with enteric fever, although the disease was not recognised at that time. She died in April. Her brother, who also attended the school, was taken ill in June.

At the end of June the child of a visitor from Kent sickened nineteen days after reaching *Bembridge*.

At the beginning of August a child attending the school, who resided at *Point*, had enteric fever.

In August a visitor at *Foreland Farm*, where the water supply was impure, went to his home in *Surrey*, and ten days after developed the disease.

At the end of September a visitor became ill eleven days after standing near the sewer outfall, the stench from which she noticed was very offensive.

About the same time a girl became ill with the disease at a house the drinking water of which was seriously polluted.

At the beginning of October an old woman of 73 had enteric fever.

Six of these eight cases had in common that they resided in the same neighbourhood, in the same road, and within a short distance of each other. With two exceptions—that of the visitor, who attributed her illness to the stench at the sewer outfall, and who was unable to take milk in any form, and that of the visitor at *Foreland Farm*—all drank milk from the same dairy. The water supply at this dairy was polluted, and the cows drank from a pond into which the farmyard drained. In three of the cases drinking water was obtained from North-wells, in one case rain-water was drunk, in another case unboiled water was never taken, in another case water was obtained from a neighbour's well which supplied several houses, and in two cases the water drunk was contaminated by sewage.

A youth at *Brading*, an agricultural labourer out of work, had enteric fever in August. His habit was to stand in the street near one of the ventilating shafts which was a source of great nuisance. It has since been lengthened.

At the end of July a delicate woman was taken ill in the *Wilton Road*, *Shanklin*, with what proved to be enteric fever.

In the middle of August a servant in a house adjoining began to sicken; and a young man residing a few doors off also had the disease, from which he died on September 4th.



There was common to these cases only the fact that the houses in which they lived were connected with an unventilated and unflushed sewer, and while the houses were not disconnected, the stackpipes, which leaked at the joints, were connected with the house drains.

In January a servant in a house at *St. Lawrence* had enteric fever. She had recently come from London, and it appeared probable she took the poison before she entered upon her situation.

At the end of April and the beginning of May the cases of two ladies residing at *Binstead* were notified. The first of these went to lodge at Chapel Corner, Wootton, on April 11th, in an insanitary cottage. On April 18th she began to be ill. On the night of April 18th or 19th, when she had diarrhoea, her sister nursed her, and ten or twelve days after she also manifested symptoms of the disease.

The cottage at Wootton had an indoor closet with leaden D trap, the water supply of which was not in order; the unventilated soil-pipe passed down inside the house to the cesspit from which sewer gas escaped freely into the house; and the "but" pipe drain from the pump trough, into which the bedroom slops were thrown, crossed the well and leaked into it. An overflow pipe from the unventilated cesspit discharged on to the foreshore of Wootton Creek above low water mark, and created a nuisance there. This cottage has been made sanitary, and sanitary defects at the house at *Binstead* have been made good.

In September a man residing in Cemetery Road, *Binstead*, died of enteric fever. The patient had complained of the stench arising from a sewer ventilator situated in the neighbourhood of his residence, the drainage of which was insanitary.

At the end of September one of the boys of the training ship "*Mercury*," who lived at the Lodge, *Binstead*, was taken ill, but the origin of the disease could not be discovered.

The case of a youth residing at *Newport* was notified as having occurred at Palmer's Brook on September 24th, in a house the drains of which were not disconnected.

At the end of August a prison warder's son residing at Worsley Road, Hunnyhill, *Newport*, became ill with enteric fever, the source of which was not apparent. He was a pupil of the *Newport* Board School, and about a fortnight before the commencement of his illness, he was present at a children's treat at Parkhurst Prison.

In October one of the convicts died of the disease; and in the middle of the month, the case of the wife of one of the warders was notified, but the source of the disease was not traced.

In November a man died in a dilapidated insanitary cottage at *Dodnor*, which you have since closed. There was a most



foul midden privy on the premises, and the water of the dip-well from which the patient drank was seriously polluted.

At the end of November a member of your Authority, whose valuable life the sanitary interests of the Isle of Wight could ill spare, fell a victim to the disease at Newclose. His professional work in Newport was carried on in an unwholesome atmosphere, in a building to which sewer gas found access; and his dwelling was insanitary, inasmuch as the closets were of old form with metal containers and with imperfect fittings, and the scullery and other drains were not disconnected in a satisfactory manner; but there was an open air disconnection on the line of drain between the cesspit and the house.

A young man died of enteric fever at Calbourne in November. Both the house in which he lodged in Newport, and the business premises in which he was employed there, were said to be very insanitary.

In July a young man, a farm labourer, was taken ill at Chessell Cottage, close to *Shalcombe*, the farmyard of which drains into a stream which is the only source of water supply of this and other cottages in which there have been cases of enteric fever. His sister, who nursed him, had the disease in August.

There was an outbreak of enteric fever at Colwell Bay Inn, *Freshwater*, in October. The family of an artilleryman came to lodge at the Inn, from Liverpool, in August. On the day before they left the North, one of the children was taken ill. He had fever for a month or more. At the beginning of October his mother and a youth employed at the Inn became feverish, and a fortnight later two other children were taken ill. The house was dirty and insanitary. The closets, one of which was a pail closet, were outside the house, but the dejecta of the child first taken ill, whose case was not recognised, were disposed of in them.

Nine cases of idiopathic erysipelas were notified, of which Erysipelas. one occurred at *Brading*, three at *Lake*, one at *Wootton*, one at *Arreton*, one at *Rookley*, one at *Carisbrooke*, and one at *Gurnard*.

Measles was epidemic at *Godshill* early in the year, and Measles. there were cases at *Shorwell*, *Freshwater*, *Brooke*, *Brading*, in the neighbourhood of *Newport*, and elsewhere. There were seven deaths from this disease, six of which occurred in children under five years of age.

Whooping-cough prevailed at *Brading*, and there were cases Whooping-cough. at *Binstead*, *Haylands*, *Newchurch*, *Arreton*, *Wootton*, *Shorwell*, *Freshwater*, and in other places. Twelve infants under five years of age died from whooping-cough.

There were seven deaths from diarrhoea in different parts Diarrhoea. of the District. One of these was a case of senile diarrhoea, and six were cases of infantile diarrhoea.



Compulsory  
notification of  
infectious  
diseases.

It was fortunate your District was protected by notification during a year characterised by the invasion of zymotic disease. But for the knowledge of its existence, which enabled means to be taken to prevent its spread, the population would have suffered to a far greater extent from the introduction of the poison of scarlatina, more particularly from Newport, which town, in the very centre of the District, continues unprotected to the great detriment of the whole of the Isle of Wight. Notwithstanding the efforts made from time to time to create friction, the Act continues to be very popular; and that its administration is attended by so few difficulties, is in great measure due to the loyal support given almost universally by the members of the medical profession. While cases of infectious diseases are, for the most part, notified forthwith by the medical attendant, the head of the family rarely notifies, and in no instance has infectious disease been notified in the absence of medical attendance.

Isolation.

Under present conditions, it is often difficult to secure efficient and prolonged isolation of those suffering from infectious diseases, more particularly in cases of scarlatina. In this affection the patient is apparently well weeks before he ceases to be poisonous, and it is not surprising, therefore, that vigilance is relaxed, especially in poor homes. The time during which the poison may be transmitted varies, but in your District the period adopted as the minimum isolation period in scarlatina is six weeks from the commencement of the fever. Even after such term the disease has been transferred in rare cases, although no trace of desquamation had been observed with the naked eye for eight or ten days. A girl sent to her home from an isolation hospital on the mainland, admirably administered, infected the whole family, presumably because hers was one of those cases in which the poison lingers in the system. That the spread of scarlatina after notification should have been so limited is remarkable. There were instances in which the disease was confined to one member of a small cottage household, notwithstanding that the mother nursed the case, and at the same time attended to her other children, and washed their clothes, and prepared the food of the family. I have observed that this immunity has been associated, usually, with the practice of bathing the patient night and morning. On the other hand there were cases in connection with which all went well for three or four weeks, when either from weariness, or over confidence, or on account of the restlessness of the child, laxity supervened, and as a result the disease was communicated to the other children. While writing, a case of scarlatina has been notified in a small cottage containing a living room and two bed rooms, in Carisbrooke. The staircase opens into one of the sleeping rooms, which is a passage room to the other.



There are five children in the family, and the mother is expecting her confinement. Scarlatina has appeared in similar cottages during the year; but having regard to the condition of the mother, you directed me to find a lodging or a house in which to isolate the patient, as you do not possess a hospital, and to engage a nurse to attend it. Unfortunately your good intentions were frustrated, and the responsibility no longer rests with you, as it would be ill-advised to take legal steps in the matter. The case serves, however, to illustrate the extreme difficulty in many cases of securing the isolation of the poison of infectious diseases without a hospital.

By the resolution of your Authority some years ago "that further provision of a more permanent character shall be made for the isolation of infectious disease," you are committed to the principle of an isolation hospital. Your Committee reporting upon my annual report for the year 1891, said:—

"The question of isolation in cases of infectious disease remains in the same position; they have no further recommendation to make."

In reporting upon the report for 1890 they say:—

"The Committee have considered the reference to an isolation hospital. The difficulties are great and well known to the Authority. The Committee do not make any further recommendation, remembering the very lengthy consideration already given to the subject, and the hitherto insurmountable difficulty in coming to a joint arrangement with the urban authorities."

The Committee of the County Council appointed to consider and report upon the annual reports of Medical Officers of Health, in their report as to the annual report of the Medical Officer of Health of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District for the year 1891, remarked that:—

"No means of isolating cases of infectious diseases are provided by the Authority. The Authority is probably one of the most important Rural Authorities in England. It is a matter for surprise that no such provision has hitherto been made."

You have in the past discussed the practicability of establishing one hospital in conjunction with the Urban Sanitary Authorities in some central position; but, after reconsidering the whole subject during the past year, you concluded that it would be more advantageous to build two such hospitals, one for each Medene. With this end in view a Committee of your Authority upon the invitation of the Shanklin Local Board met delegates from that Board and from the Local Boards of Sandown and Ventnor. You accepted the recommendations of the meeting, that an isolation hospital containing not less than sixteen beds, four for each Authority, should



be established in the neighbourhood of Apse Heath or Whiteley Bank; that each Authority should contribute one-fourth of the cost of the building—which was limited to the sum of £2,000 and the site—and one-fourth of the up-keep; and that if at any time either Authority required more than the four beds allotted to it, there being unoccupied beds in the hospital, they should pay to the general fund such sum as may be determined by the joint Committee for the use of the extra beds. If the other Authorities have adopted this proposed general agreement, as you have done, there only remains to carry it out. But as your contribution will be paid out of the general district rate, it is desirable, if there were no other reason, that the other hospital for the accommodation of the central, northern, and western sections of your District should be built at the same time. Your Authority hoped to establish this second hospital in conjunction with the Local Boards of East and West Cowes, and the Corporation of the Borough of Newport; but as the West Cowes Local Board have decided to make separate provision, and as East Cowes will probably join them, you must act alone, or come to an agreement with the Sanitary Authority of Newport to establish a joint isolation hospital. As sanitary advance is so often hindered by the undue prominence given to some matter of detail, I may say you would not necessarily allocate the two hospitals to particular sections of your District, but, that each would be available for any section as may be convenient at the time. You would do your best to encourage the use of the hospitals by all classes of the community. To this end the arrangements would be adapted to secure the greatest amount of privacy and comfort, and admission would be free of charge even to mother or friend who may wish to remain with the patient. An isolation hospital is a place provided by the community for its own protection, in which it may isolate a poison which threatens its well-being, and to do which it would be more sensible to make payment than to exact it.

#### Disinfection.

This principle is acted upon in your District in the matter of disinfection. Disinfectants are supplied at the public expense in every case of infectious disease, and the Inspectors disinfect, with sulphurous acid gas, rooms, bedding, and clothing at the end of the case. Verbal directions are given by your officers to the occupiers of houses in which there are persons suffering from infectious disease as ordered by the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, sec. 14. Your Committee recommended that:—

“Directions for disinfection should be printed, and served by the Inspectors in every case of infectious disease, the Medical Officer of Health having satisfied himself that the directions are perfectly efficacious.”



I do not know by whom it was intended that these directions should be prepared.

The spread of infectious diseases at school is so marked, Spread of infectious disease at school. that I have usually deemed it necessary to advise the managers to close both Day and Sabbath Schools during its prevalence. In 1892 the Schools which were causing the spread of scarlatina in your District were beyond my jurisdiction, and in only one instance did I suggest the closing of Schools. Extreme unwillingness to do so was manifested, and as the epidemic was then subsiding, I did not press it. The disinclination to close the Voluntary Primary Schools is often very great, and I am informed the Education Department now recommend managers not to close their schools during the prevalence of infectious disease unless ordered to do so by the Sanitary Authority. I am not aware you have the power to make such an order.

The possibility of the importation into your District of a Cholera. case of cholera engaged your serious attention, and as the Local Government Board in a circular letter suggested that medical officers of health should be called upon by the sanitary authorities they served, to report to them upon the question of taking such measures of precaution as the sanitary condition of their respective Districts may demand, in view of the appearance of cholera on the continent of Europe, I made such a report to you. I pointed out that the special sources of danger to your District at the moment were the proximity of the Port of Southampton, which was in intimate communication with infected continental towns; the existence of an area unprotected by notification in the centre of your District; and the too general accumulation of filth about dwellings within it. I named certain localities in which cholera was most likely to prevail should the disease be introduced and spread, places in which the people drink from surface wells and from streams, and in which scavenging is neglected, and I detailed the measures it was desirable to take should a case of cholera occur; and as in the year 1893 the danger is likely to be at least as great as in 1892, these matters continue to be of the greatest possible moment.

The most obvious of the measures which it is desirable to take is the isolation of the patient. If this could be accomplished on board a floating hospital it would be most satisfactory. The Port Sanitary Authority of Cowes are provided with such a hospital. The Port of Cowes includes the estuary of the Medina, of which you are one of the Riparian Authorities; the others being the Corporation of Newport and the Local Boards of East and West Cowes, the Port Sanitary Authority consisting of representatives of these bodies. The Port Sanitary Authority refused to entertain an application from you to have apportioned to you two beds



in the floating hospital, you proposing to bear a proportionate share of all the expenses. As you have as yet no isolation hospital it would be necessary to isolate a cholera patient on the spot. In order to do this the other inmates would vacate the infected house and be located in quarantine elsewhere, while two trained nurses would be engaged. If other cases occurred similar measures would be taken. As your District is a wide one, a medical man in each section would act for me until I could be present, which would be as soon as possible after a summons by telegraph reached me. Excepting that a floating hospital would be available, and in many cases this may be too remote for use, there would appear to be no sanitary necessity for extending the jurisdiction of the Port Sanitary Authority to the coast of your District, and if there be no sanitary necessity, such an extension would doubtless occasion complications and be most objectionable. If an infected person landed at any point, it is not likely information of the fact would be conveyed through any other channel than the coastguard, and action could be taken more promptly from the centre of the Island, probably, than by the Port Sanitary Authority at Cowes. If information came from other sources it would in the natural course of things reach your officer first.

If cholera were present in any place provided with sewers they would be as effectually flushed and disinfected as may be, at least once a day; notices would be issued to the inhabitants cautioning them to boil all drinking water not derived from an independent source, and milk, and to throw away the boiled water and milk if not consumed within twelve hours. More strenuous efforts should be made to abate all nuisance, and especially to remove from the neighbourhood of dwellings all refuse and accumulations of filth; foul privies should be cleansed and disinfected, and dirty houses, of which there are too many, should be cleansed and limewhited. Should your District have the misfortune to be invaded by cholera, other special measures, such as engaging, temporarily, additional inspectors may be necessary.

There is still much debate as to epidemic cholera, and some insist that locality is an important factor; but former invasions have proved that it prevails especially in those places where the air which people breathe is polluted by the emanations from accumulations of filth, particularly about dwellings. In the bye-laws which you submitted to the Central Authority presumably, one would suppose, with the view of applying them in your District, certain obligations are imposed upon occupiers to remove filth from their dwellings periodically. The Local Government Board on receiving the draft of the proposed bye-laws reminded you that under sec. 42, P.H.A., 1875, you have the power to undertake



scavenging, and they have intimated to you that it is your duty to avail yourselves of this section of the Act in populous places in your District. The section runs: "Every local authority may, and when required by the Local Government Board shall, themselves undertake or contract for . . . the removal of house refuse from premises; the cleansing of earth closets, privies, ashpits and cesspools, &c."

You referred the question of scavenging to a Committee of Scavenging. your number appointed to draw up bye-laws, who recommended you to undertake scavenging in the more populous parts of your District, in which it was proposed to apply a second set of bye-laws, which should include building bye-laws. You did not adopt this recommendation, but you referred the question to the Easter Vestries for their opinion. Judging from the newspaper reports of these meetings there would appear to have been confusion as to the subject to be discussed, and the decisions come to in some instances had reference to the acceptability of bye-laws, about which you did not seek an opinion. There are thirty parishes included in your District, eighteen of which enter wholly or in part into the above-mentioned bye-law Districts, which contain populous places. The vestries of only nine of these parishes approved of public scavenging in any part of their respective parishes, namely Brading—in Bembridge, Brading, Lake, and Gatten; Carisbrooke—in Carisbrooke and Gunville; Freshwater—in Freshwater and Totland; Godshill—in Upper Ventnor and Lowtherville; Ventnor—in the rural part of the parish; Northwood—in Gurnard, Tinker's Lane, and Horsebridge Hill; Ryde—in the populous parts of the rural portion of the parish; Shanklin—in the rural part of the parish; and Yarmouth.

You again referred the question to the Bye-laws Committee, who at the time of writing have recommended you to undertake scavenging at Bembridge, Brading, Lake, and Gatten,—in the parish of Brading; at Shanklin—in the parish of Shanklin; at Ventnor and Lowtherville—in the parishes of Ventnor and Godshill; at Bonchurch; at Wroxall—in the parishes of Newchurch and Godshill; at Whitwell; Niton; Freshwater and Totland Bay—in the parish of Freshwater; Yarmouth; Carisbrooke and Gunville—in the parish of Carisbrooke; at Fairlee and Shide—in the parish of Whippingham; at Gurnard, Tinker's Lane and Horsebridge Hill—in the parish of Northwood; at Wootton—in the parishes of Wootton and Arreton; at Binstead; and at Haylands—in the parish of Ryde. You have adopted this recommendation and have directed that the Local Government Board be informed of the fact. There remains now to put your decision into operation. Upon the Sanitary Authority and not the Vestry the responsibility in these matters rests, and the result of the



reference proves how important in the interests of the public health it is that the Sanitary Laws should be administered by an authority having jurisdiction over a wide area. When the members of those Vestries which disapproved of public scavenging understood the subject upon which they were giving an opinion, they appeared to be wholly influenced by financial and personal considerations. It was thought to be unjust that a ratepayer whose dwellinghouse had a curtilage sufficiently large for the disposal of refuse, should pay for the scavenging of a house the curtilage of which was restricted. The fact did not seem to be appreciated, that the liability to zymotic disease of persons occupying a dwelling about which filth must necessarily accumulate was a danger to the whole community, and therefore to the individual ratepayer, however large his curtilage, and however perfect his own sanitary arrangements may be.

Town refuse.

It has been reported to an Island Urban Authority by one of its officers that the arrangement by which the refuse of that town is disposed of in the Rural District answers admirably. It would be well if you took action against the Urban Authorities, to prevent the shooting of their filth into your District, which during the year under review, as in previous years, has suffered from the deposit in it, too near dwellings and the highway, of the refuse from the towns. That pigs, and even cows, should be permitted to feed upon the garbage of these rubbish heaps is scarcely credible; but the law is, apparently, powerless to prevent it. You agreed to the recommendation of your Committee, that:—

“Stringent measures should be taken to immediately prevent danger or annoyance from the deposit of town refuse in the Rural Sanitary District from the Urban Districts.”

Decaying seaweed.

Deposits of seaweed, more particularly in Colwell Bay, constitute a recurring nuisance in your district. All such nuisances should be prevented by the rigid application of bye-laws.

Bye-laws.

In connection with my last annual report, your Committee reported to you:—

“It is a matter of regret that the adoption of bye-laws is still in abeyance, due in great measure to the difficulties raised by the Local Government Board.”

Wherever the fault may lie, and I am afraid I cannot altogether agree with your Committee that the delay is chiefly due to the difficulties raised by the Local Government Board, it is detrimental to the interests of the public health that your District should remain year after year without the protection of bye-laws. For more than ten years the question of bye-laws has been before you. After various attempts to solve it, a Committee of your Authority met early in 1888 and



debated the following propositions. 1st. It is desirable that a few simple bye-laws be applied to populous places. 2nd. It is desirable that bye-laws be applied to the whole District, and more severe ones to the populous places within it. No recommendation was made, but the second suggestion received most support, and in the end you adopted it. In 1891 your Committee proposed two such sets of bye-laws, and they defined certain districts as places in which the second set, containing building bye-laws, should have effect. These sets of bye-laws were printed and laid before you, together with maps upon which the defined Districts were indicated, and you agreed that they should be submitted to the Local Government Board for approval. The Local Government Board, in reply, as I have already stated, pointed out to you that in their opinion you should avail yourselves of the powers conferred upon you by sec. 42, P. H. A., 1875, to scavenge the more populous places. You referred the question to the Easter Vestries, and then again to your Committee, whose recommendations you have adopted; and it is only now that the Local Government Board have been made aware that you intend to avail yourselves of the powers conferred upon you by sec. 42, to scavenge populous places.

In order that you may worthily sustain your very serious responsibilities, and that you may faithfully safeguard the important interests confided to you, not only are bye-laws necessary to you, but you require also the assistance of powers which the law places within your reach, but of which you have hitherto failed to avail yourselves to the extent which those interests demand. After a given area such as that of the Isle of Wight has been divided up for purposes of sanitary administration, the arrangements made cannot be interfered with without occasioning awkward dislocation, more especially of a financial character, and without causing considerable detriment to the interests of the public health in your District. It may be desirable, and even necessary at a given time, to readjust the arrangements of the whole area; but any partial interference must be accompanied by great inconvenience, and any general rearrangement could only take place at long intervals. It must follow, therefore, that population will concentrate in different places in such a rural District as yours, and that the population of Urban Administration Districts will overflow into it; indeed, the tendency in all classes occupied with the business of life in towns is to seek suburban homes. It becomes obligatory, therefore, upon Rural Sanitary Authorities to have at command the powers, or very many of them, possessed by Urban Authorities; and for this the law provides. The power to make bye-laws is one of these, and this you have obtained; but you also require power to deal with new streets, with their road-



ways and side walks and their lighting, to regulate hackney carriages, to license slaughterhouses, and generally to place the ratepayers of your District residing in populous places in a position at least as advantageous in every respect, as regards matters dealt with by the Sanitary Law, as they would occupy were they resident within a District ably administered by an Urban Authority.

Sanitary  
legislation of  
1892.

The legislation of each year tends in a greater or less degree to render the Sanitary Law, which ought to be codified, more perfect. The Sanitary Legislation of the past year was of less importance than that of 1890, in which year the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) and the Public Health Amendment Acts were passed, and which you adopted; but it is likely to prove useful, and the principal Act, the Private Street Works Act, 1892 (55 & 56 Vict., cap. 57), should be adopted by you.

The Private  
Street Works  
Act.

This Act gives power to the Sanitary Authority where any street, or part of a street, as defined by the Act, is not sewered, levelled, paved, metalled, flagged, channelled, made good, and lighted to their satisfaction, to do any one or more of the above-mentioned works; that is to say, to sewer, level, pave, metal, flag, channel, or make good, or to provide proper means for lighting the street, or part of a street, without previously calling on the owners to do the work. The Sanitary Authority may contribute the whole or any portion of the expenses of any private street works. The Local Government Board, when conferring on a Rural Sanitary Authority powers with respect to private street works, except the provisions relating to sewerage, unless the circumstances are exceptional. As some of the speculative enterprises undertaken in different parts of your District may give rise to difficulties in the future, this Act may be of considerable service to you.

The Alkali, &c.,  
Works Regula-  
tion Act.

The Alkali, &c., Works Regulation Act, 1892 (55 Vict., c. 3a.), adds 13 different kinds of works to those specified in the schedule to the Act of 1881; but as the Act appears to contemplate only those works in the processes of which sulphuretted hydrogen is evolved, it is at the moment of no special interest to you. The Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act Amendment Act, 1892, and the Forged Transfers Act, 1892, do not, I believe, concern you, although they are of importance to Rural Sanitary Authorities.

The Mortmain  
and Charitable  
Uses Act  
Amendment Act.  
The Forged  
Transfers Act.

Sewers.

You adopted last year, but have not given effect to the first paragraph of, the following resolution:—

“Plans of all sewers in the Authority’s District should be made, and tracings provided for the use of the Medical Officer of Health and the Inspectors; and enquiry should be made as to improved patterns of ventilator.”



Under sec. 19, P.H.A., 1875, every local authority is required to ventilate its sewers. Hitherto the shaft ventilator used in your District was supported by an unsightly baulk of timber. In future, when a shaft cannot have the support of the wall of a building, the ordinary column ventilator will be employed, and you have already sanctioned its use in connection with the Binstead, Brading, and Bembridge sewers.

Under the same section it is your duty to keep your sewers so as not to be a nuisance or injurious to health, and to cause them to be properly cleansed and emptied. Your Committee in 1891 reported to you :—

“That special attention of the various Parochial Committees, in places where sewers exist, should be drawn to the great desirability of better means of flushing.”

The cleansing of your sewers continues inefficient. This should not be, more particularly in places provided with an independent water supply. You have, from time to time, had this subject under consideration during the year.

There would appear to be doubt in some minds as to your obligations under sec. 15, P. H. A., 1875, which require you to cause to be made such sewers as may be necessary for effectually draining your District. It has been thought that where land on a main road is laid out for building the owners should be required to make a sewer in the road. There is clearly a distinction, however, between a main road and a private road, or such roads as are constructed by the owners when an estate is divided up for building.

Such a question arose at Bembridge, where houses were built in the Church Road. In fulfilment of your obligations under the section you reconstructed the portion of the sewer in the Point Road, and extended it up the Church Road. You have also had under consideration the construction of a sewer to drain Lock's Lane and Lane End. The owner of the land on each side of Lock's Lane, upon which houses of a superior class are being erected, is willing to contribute to this desirable improvement. Your Committee reported to you in the report which you adopted, that the nuisance at Point “arises from the main sewer, and should be remedied by extending the sewer outfall.” This has not been done.

Bembridge  
Sewers.

The malthouse ventilator near the Bull Ring which caused a nuisance has been lengthened, and a column ventilator is to be placed at the highest point of the sewer on the Mall, if the School Board continue to refuse facilities for the erection of a shaft. This important public improvement has been delayed year after year by the refusal of permission by the Brading School Board to place a shaft against the wall of the School building, notwithstanding the suspicion that outbreaks of sickness among the children have been due to the sewer emanations from the road ventilator. Your Authority should

Brading Sewers.



use all the powers you possess when your efforts for the public good are obstructed by public authorities.

Shanklin  
Sewers.

The sewer in the Wilton Road, in which road there were cases of enteric fever in the Summer, being unventilated and unflushed, you have ordered shaft ventilators and fire hydrants to be placed, and the work is about to be commenced. The waste water from the flushing of the water mains will be discharged into the sewer, but it would be more satisfactory if this were done by means of an automatic flushing tank, in order that the water may enter the sewer with considerable force.

Haylands Sewer.

As a deposit of sewage and grit had occurred in the new sewer at Haylands, requiring special measures to remove it, you determined to reconstruct that portion of it which deviated from the original plan. For this purpose you applied for sanction to borrow an additional sum of £245, and a Local Government Board enquiry was held by Col. Halstead, C.E. Having received his report, the Local Government Board have informed you the sewer was not laid in accordance with the plan submitted to them, that it was carelessly laid, and that in consequence, among other defects, there is, practically, for a considerable distance no outfall at all in it. They, therefore, are not prepared to sanction a loan, and they further inform you it is your duty to render the sewer efficient forthwith. The Ryde Parochial Committee appealed to you to relieve the Special Drainage District of Haylands from the additional outlay of this work; but this the Local Government Board have informed you you have no power to do. Whatever the legal aspects of the case may be, under sec. 229, P.H.A., 1875, it cannot promote the interests of the public health to impose upon a section administration expenses incurred by the representatives of the whole District, even though they be incurred in connection with work done in that section. These costs include losses of uncertain amount due to administration errors, and the possibility of such losses, in addition to the cost of work done, must deter the ratepayers of contributory places from acquiescing willingly in the initiation of sanitary improvements within them. Indeed, if under the section (229) outlays on sanitary improvements were treated as general instead of special expenses, sanitary advance would be facilitated, for the sanitary question is very much a question of finance; and there would be no injustice in making them general expenses, inasmuch as the Sanitary condition of any portion of a Sanitary District is matter of deepest concern to the entire District.

Totland Bay  
Sewer.

There has been considerable delay, for which you are not responsible, in commencing the Totland Bay Sewer. As the result of the Local Government Board enquiry, the loan you applied for was sanctioned; but it was very properly directed



that the sewer outfall should be extended, and this necessitated application for a larger loan. A tender for the work by a local contractor was accepted, but it was subsequently withdrawn because of an error in estimating the cost. The sureties offered by another contractor were deemed unsatisfactory, but the contract has now been let.

The drain which drained two hotels into Freshwater Bay, and which was a sewer vested in your Authority, therefore, has been altered so that each house is now sewered by a separate drain. This is fortunate, as you were previously responsible for that which is fast becoming a serious detriment.

Freshwater Bay  
Sewer.

A project which, if it had been carried out, would have greatly benefitted Colwell Bay and its neighbourhood, has been for a time only, it is to be hoped, set aside. The subject has not been brought under your notice before, save as regards the outfall. The War Office proposed to drain Golden Hill Fort by a sewer which was to discharge into the Solent. While negotiating with the owners of land through which it was intended the sewer should pass, a condition was arranged to the effect that it should be available for all houses erected upon their land which could be conveniently drained into it. Moved by the Totland Parochial Committee, you complained to the War Office that the proposed outfall of the sewer was not intended to be carried a sufficient distance seawards, and that the sewage when discharged by it would come back into Colwell Bay and be deposited by the tide upon the beach. To this objection it was replied, that a series of experiments made by means of floats went to prove that the point at which it was proposed to discharge the sewage was at sufficient distance from the land to prevent injury to the shore.

Colwell Sewer.

The very serious increase of an old nuisance caused by the leaking of cesspits into the road gutter at Fairlee Road, Newport, and which has given rise to much sickness, including an outbreak of diphtheria, caused you to determine to sewer the road. Facilities for connecting the proposed sewer with the Newport system were not afforded you, and you resolved to drain into a cesspit. The Whippingham Parochial Committee very strongly opposed the making a sewer, to the cost of which the whole parish would contribute; and while you were hindered by these objections and by negotiations for a place in which to make a cesspit, the properties from which the sewage flowed passed into other hands, and the nuisance appears to have been abated for the time being.

Fairlee Road  
drainage.

The Carisbrooke Parochial Committee have called your attention to the desirability of obtaining plans for the properly sewerage the village. You have communicated with the Corporation of Newport with a view to discharging the Carisbrooke sewage into the Newport sewers, and have been

Carisbrooke  
Sewers.



told they do not possess a sewer into which you can drain. A sewer is, however, being constructed which will reach the boundary of that Borough at Carisbrooke. Sec. 28, P. H. A., 1875, provides for the connection of one Authority's sewers with those of another, and, in case of dispute as to terms, for settlement by the Local Government Board. Your sewer at Haylands joins that of the other Island Borough, the Borough of Ryde, from the Sanitary Authority of which town you have always received every assistance in sanitary matters. You pay a capital sum of twenty shillings to the Corporation of Ryde for every house connected with the sewer. This would appear to be a fair and reasonable contribution. It is certainly bad policy, to say the least, for one Sanitary Authority to drive hard bargains with another in sanitary matters, for the health of a community is almost as important to its neighbours as to itself.

Drainage of  
Parochial  
Schools.

It will be within your recollection that you have had reported to you frequently the insanitary state of the Parochial Schools. The managers of some of these schools have, in the most commendable manner, exerted themselves forthwith, and, often at considerable personal sacrifice, have placed their schools in a sanitary condition. Others have pleaded their want of funds, and your Authority have been unable or unwilling to press matters to the extreme. The Education Department have now come to your aid, and, by refusing the grant until you were satisfied with the sanitary condition of the schools, have enabled you to remove what has undoubtedly been a most serious source of disease in your District. The schools of which you complained, which have been dealt with during the year, have been those of Bembridge, Binstead, and Yarmouth. The sanitary arrangements of the National Schools at Brading, which were less unsatisfactory, have been also reorganised, but without the intervention of your Authority.

Water supply.

The provision of wholesome water is incumbent upon you. It is one of the most powerful means you possess of safeguarding the public health: such a prime necessity of life should be in the hands of the community; and it is unfortunate you have not always taken the initiative in securing this. Although the first outlay may be considerable, the cost to the consumers is less than when the provision is left to private enterprise. In too many places in your District danger to the health of the inhabitants arises from the unwholesomeness or insufficiency of the existing supply of water, and your efforts during the past year, as in previous years, have been directed to improvement in this respect, and especially by providing independent supplies.

Horsebridge Hill  
water supply.

Your prolonged negotiations with the Corporation of Newport have resulted in an agreement to pay them  $1\frac{1}{3}$  per



thousand gallons, you undertaking to lay a water main from Parkhurst Barracks to Horsebridge Hill, a place as insufficiently supplied and with almost as unwholesome water as any in your District, and to provide a reservoir to hold a supply for two days. It is proposed to adopt a scale of charges similar to that in use at Binstead.

Through the Northwood Parochial Committee, who have displayed much energy and done good work, you have been in communication with the owner of the spring in Ruffin's Copse. At one time it seemed probable he would undertake the supply of Tinker's Lane; but his agents were not satisfied they would receive what they considered an adequate return for the outlay involved. If the parish be the contributory place, it is always difficult to bring about sanitary improvements, such as that of water supply, in which the whole of the parish will not directly participate. In the present instance it would be difficult to form a Special Drainage District about Tinker's Lane, because it would necessarily include parts of the estate upon which the spring referred to is situated, and to which its water is, perhaps, already supplied. Since your existence as a Sanitary Authority, the question of the supply of the hamlet from this source has been before you, but it has been shelved from time to time by the opposition of persons resident in other parts of the parish. Some means of solving it should be found by you. In matters of water supply, the disinclination to make the parish the contributory place is unreasonable, because the responsibility is not great, seeing that the annual rentals paid by those using the water may be usually so adjusted as to provide for interest and sinking fund.

Tinker's Lane  
water supply.

The Committee who considered my report for the year 1890, reported to you:—

“It is to be desired that the specially appointed Committee to consider the water supply at Fivehouses, Calbourne, Newbridge, and Shalfleet should be able to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement.”

Calbourne, New-  
bridge, Ning-  
wood, Shalfleet,  
and Fivehouses  
water supply.

A scheme was prepared for the supply of Calbourne, Newbridge, Ningwood, and Shalfleet from the Chalk at Calbourne at a cost of £2,000. The water would have been pumped from a shallow well by means of a turbine placed in the stream, to a reservoir on the hill behind the church, and from thence it may have been led by gravitation not only to the places named, but to Newtown and any other locality on the north side of the Island wanting water, as Porchfield; and if the reservoir had been placed on the top of the Down, Brighstone may have also been supplied from it. The parishes of Calbourne and Shalfleet would have been the contributory places, and it is not unreasonable to suppose that the £120 representing interest and sinking fund would have been more



Calbourne.

than provided by the water rentals. The Committee rejected this scheme, which was one which your Authority would have done well to consider thoroughly. They visited Calbourne, Newbridge, and Shalfleet. As regards *Calbourne*, they recommended you to use the water issuing so abundantly from the Chalk at the edge of the Tertiary Strata in Lynch Lane for the independent supply of the village; and in the end, after adopting this recommendation, you obtained sanction to convert a shallow well over a strong spring, already much resorted to, into a reservoir from which a pipe was to be led. You established a Parochial Committee at Calbourne and referred the plan to them, who, instead of reporting upon it, advocated that which you had already rejected as undesirable. They applied for sanction to clean the polluted well situated in the highway below the churchyard, and which passes through the Tertiary beds into the Chalk, without submitting any estimate of cost. I am not aware of your reasons for granting this without rescinding your previous resolution, and without giving further consideration to the matter. The cost of cleaning the well was £26, of an analysis of the water £2 2s., and of the pump which you have ordered to be fixed and the reconstruction of the erection over the well, £40. To this must be added for incidentals, say £5, making the total cost from £70 to £80. The estimate of the plan your Committee recommended, and which you adopted, was £25. The well is 75ft. deep; the water was found to be 30ft. from the surface, and there were 18ft. of mud containing all kinds of impurities at the bottom of the well. Notwithstanding the fact that the water is now pure, it cannot but be matter of the deepest possible regret from the sanitary standpoint that you hastily and apparently without sufficient reason or without further communication with the new Parochial Committee, and in spite of the strong representations I considered it my duty to make, abandoned your intention of providing Calbourne with an independent water supply. Not a drop of water can now be obtained without the labour of pumping, and the people of Winkle Street will continue to drink from the stream. Water is bubbling from the rock in Calbourne Bottom in sufficient quantity to supply the whole of the Isle of Wight; but it is not available for many of the inhabitants until it has become a contaminated stream.

Newbridge.

At *Newbridge* your Committee were met by a considerable number of the population opposed to the provision of any public water supply. Some of these persons possess wells at the top of the village, while others professed a preference for the water of a stream polluted with farmyard sewage and human excrement, from which a large number drink, and to the drinking of which several cases of enteric fever are attributable. The Committee recommended that a public



well should be sunk halfway up the hill. In my last annual report I said, in speaking of the alternatives, if the comprehensive scheme for bringing water from the Chalk were not adopted: "At Newbridge, a well should be sunk to the Bembridge Limestone, at the top of the hill, from which the water would be pumped by means of a windmill-pump to a reservoir at the surface; from this reservoir a pipe would lead the water to a standpipe by the roadside on the hill, to another standpipe halfway down the hill, and to a third standpipe at the bottom of the hill, where it is most needed. Or, water may be led from a well or underground reservoir, formed as low down the hill, short of the outcrop of the Bembridge Limestone, as is practicable, to a standpipe at its base. Or, a well could be sunk, and a pump affixed, simply. From a sanitary point of view, this would be the least desirable alternative." This last, "the least desirable alternative," was adopted, but the boring experiments at the point selected, half-way down the hill, have yielded no water, it being apparently beyond the Bembridge Limestone. There is yet another alternative: to dig a well at the top of the hill and syphon the water out of it down the hill.

North of the high road from Newbridge to Wellow are *Ningwood*. wells of good water in the Bembridge Limestone. If a well were sunk in a field east of the new cottage, and adits were driven from it into the limestone, a sufficient supply of water could be obtained, probably, to supply *Ningwood*, to which it would be led by gravitation in pipes.

It was decided to bore to the Bembridge Limestone at *Shalfleet*. *Shalfleet*, where the whole population drink from the polluted stream. It seems desirable that some site to the east of the stream should be chosen in order to avoid proximity to the churchyard; but the stream divides the parish of Shalfleet on the west from the parish of Calbourne on the east, and if made on the east of the stream the well will be in the parish of Calbourne.

It should not be difficult to find water at *Fivehouses*, as the *Fivehouses*. outcrop of the Bembridge Limestone is immediately to the north of the hamlet. There were formerly wells on the adjacent moor, and the lane leading to it from the Newport Road is still known as Pump Lane. It was understood that the owner of Fivehouses intended to do the work of providing water himself.

In my annual report and elsewhere, I have continually pointed out to you how readily and at comparatively small cost many little communities in your District could be provided with an independent water supply; and apart from the safeguarding of health in the popular sense, the matter deserves more attention than it has received. Any person acquainted with a poor household in which the mother and



wife does all the work—the cooking, the cleaning, the clothes-making and mending, the nursing, the washing, and ironing,—must know how much labour is saved and comfort obtained if water can be drawn from a tap in the house or garden, instead of being carried from a distance in buckets, or even pumped or dipped from a well. I have been told that such considerations are “no business” of sanitary authorities. I do not agree. Many a poor woman among the peasantry goes to her grave because she is overworked, and if you can save her labour you may help to prolong her life.

Limerstone  
water supply.

One of the small communities I have named to you, which could be so supplied, is that of Limerstone; and during the year the trustees of the estate have led water from the Upper Greensand to the farm, and to a tap by the roadside for the use of the cottagers.

Brighstone water  
supply.

A scheme has been prepared for giving Brighstone an independent water supply from the Upper Greensand. Some delay has occurred on account of a claim of right to the water in the rock on the part of the occupant of Brighstone Mill. If it be substantiated a sum as compensation must be paid. But for this claim a reservoir may have been constructed to arrest the water of the Buddlehole springs, which, with the exception of Northcourt, is the strongest Upper Greensand spring in the Island. The comparatively small amount of water taken for the supply of Brighstone would have no appreciable influence on the volume of the stream. It is difficult to decide upon the site of a reservoir under the circumstances, as the strata appear to dip on both sides to Buddlehole. The water has been generously given by the owner, and the Brighstone Parochial Committee have recommended you to apply for leave to borrow £500, which is the estimated cost of the work.

Freshwater  
water supply.

The Freshwater water main has been extended to Norton Green and Colwell, and it is to be hoped it may reach Yarmouth in 1893. The preparation used for coating the inner surface of the pipes gave the water a disagreeable taste for a time, which militated against its use for drinking.

Wroxall water  
supply.

Your Committee, in reporting upon the annual report for 1891, expressed the opinion that:—

“Schemes to supply Brading and Wroxall with water should be devised by the respective Parochial Committees.”

The Brading Parochial Committee have stated to you that they desired more definite information before proceeding to devise a scheme. The Wroxall Parochial Committee have not taken action; but in the Autumn a public meeting of the inhabitants was called by the Vicar Designate of Wroxall, to consider this important question, which from time to time you have attempted to solve. The meeting instructed the



Engineer who so successfully carried out the water supply of Whitwell, and appointed a committee. A suitable source of supply from the Upper Greensand has been found near Cook's Castle, and a water scheme has been elaborated, which it is estimated will cost about £1,200 to carry out. It was intended to provide Wroxall with water by private effort, as was done at Whitwell; but the springs, which are of no use whatever to the proprietors, are in the hands of their trustees, and the Committee, finding the best terms they could obtain included a lease of only twenty years, have appealed to you to take up the work, and complete it with the aid of your compulsory powers of purchase. I need scarcely point out to you that this is your duty, for you have accepted it; but I may remark, that a body of private citizens, who have been thoroughly in earnest, have accomplished more in six months than a powerful Sanitary Authority and their Parochial Committee have effected in more than as many years. The question of the possible boundaries of the Special Drainage District, which has been permitted by you too much prominence, is in great measure responsible for the reproach, it having served to wreck previous schemes. You referred this last scheme to the Parochial Committee for their opinion of it, and it would have been wrecked also by the hostile motion to defer its consideration for six months, had not you added to the Committee the names of the members of the Committee who were the authors of the scheme. As it was, your directions were not attended to, and instead of reporting upon the scheme, they requested you to define the Special Drainage District which was to be the contributory place for carrying it out, the very rock upon which all previous schemes have split. The Newchurch Easter Vestry appear to have proposed a large number of names to be added to the Parochial Committee in order to counterbalance your action, and it will be your duty to secure yourselves against the operation of sec. 299, P. H. A., 1875, as regards Wroxall, lest you be declared a defaulting Authority. Whether a narrower Drainage District than that of the Ecclesiastical District of Wroxall is desirable will be settled by the necessary Local Government Board enquiry; but it is practically of little moment as regards the water supply, for, if not immediately, the amount of interest and sinking fund of the loan will, before long, be almost if not entirely met by the contributions of those who use the water.

The water main of the Isle of Wight Waterworks Company which was extended at your request from Lake through Gatten to Shanklin, within your District, has supplied a large number of houses which have been connected with it during the year. It is about to be continued to the Shanklin Gas Works and to the houses in the Landguard Road. The water

Shanklin,  
Gatten, and  
Lake water  
supply.



is soft, and although a river in a highly cultivated district cannot be the most satisfactory source of supply, chemical analysis has again and again shown that the processes to which it is subjected remove from it the bulk of the organic matter and render it wholesome.

Knighton water supply.

For many years it has been reported to you that several cottages and a farmhouse near the Ryde Waterworks at Knighton, formerly abundantly supplied by wells sunk in the Lower Greensand, were without water. This was due to the lowering of the underground water level by pumping for the supply of the Town of Ryde, which caused the wells to become dry. You called upon the owner, under sec. 3, P. H. (W.) A., 1878, to provide water, and in April, 1891, an informal enquiry upon the subject was held at Newchurch by Mr. S. T. Smith, C.E., of the Local Government Board. A delay of six months was agreed upon to enable the owner to make arrangements with the Corporation of Ryde to supply his property. An agreement was not arrived at for eighteen months. Further delay, for which the Corporation were apparently responsible, occurred, and it is only now, at the time of writing, that the scandal is ended by the water being laid on to these houses.

Private water supplies.

At Knighton there were several houses to be supplied, and the circumstances were somewhat exceptional, for there were legal complications which controlled the freedom of the owner; but in the case of isolated cottages there is often the greatest difficulty in compelling the provision of a wholesome water supply; and even large landed proprietors are sometimes not above claiming by their agents the limit of expense laid down in the P. H. (Water) Act. But, although absenteeism is not helpful in sanitary matters, it is only right to say, large amounts of money have been expended on the estates of non-resident landlords in your District in effecting sanitary improvements, such as building new cottages, rendering old ones more healthy, and in providing water supplies. There has been evidence, too, that while the professional gentlemen representing absent proprietors have shown themselves to be most faithful stewards, they have not been indifferent to what is due from men holding the social position of their principals. At the same time, it would be well if the kind of antagonism which appears to possess persons whose properties adjoin did not manifest itself in the presence of the public good, and if they showed themselves more willing to assist one another in promoting the sanitary well-being of their respective tenants. Owing to the geologic structure of the Wight, there may be abundance of the purest water running to waste on one estate, and within a few hundred yards on another estate it may be impossible to supply a thatched cottage with a drop of water fit to drink.



It is nothing less than a scandal and a reproach that there should have been three cases of enteric fever within twelve months in a farm labourer's cottage, and any person who has had experience of the money cost of prolonged sickness knows what that means to a poor family, the inmates of which drink from a stream polluted with sewage, when within a stone's throw of that cottage the purest water is flowing from the rock in sufficient abundance to supply a great city. But this water, which is of no pecuniary value to the owner of it, finds its way to the surface on another estate, the proprietors of which think the existence of typhoid fever in a humble cottage just on their borders is no business of theirs, which is the modern form of expression for "Am I my brother's keeper?"

You appointed during the year another Parochial Committee, that of the parish of Calbourne, of which I have spoken in connection with the water supply of that village. The utility of Parochial Committees has sometimes been canvassed, and there would appear to be in the minds of many a certain amount of confusion as to their powers and functions. A Parochial Committee may be composed wholly of members of the Authority, or partly of members of the Authority and partly of persons paying the poor rate and qualified in such other manner as the Authority may determine. After a Parochial Committee is formed the Authority may either add to or diminish the number of its members, or may dissolve it. The Authority may impose upon a Parochial Committee any regulations and restrictions it may decree. A Parochial Committee is to be deemed the agent of the Authority, and the appointment of a Parochial Committee does not relieve the Authority from any obligation imposed on it by Act of Parliament or otherwise. The Parochial Committee has no separate powers whatever; its function is to act as an agent of the Authority in any manner the Authority may direct. The obligations of the Authority are precisely the same as if no Parochial Committee existed; and if one were to venture to offer a criticism it would be, that your Authority have sometimes appeared to regard the Parochial Committee somewhat as a minor authority, such as a Parish Council would be, rather than as a Committee of your Authority; and members of Parochial Committees have sometimes seemed to claim almost separate jurisdiction in the places for which they act. And, although in many instances the recommendations of Parochial Committees have not been acted upon, their decisions—influenced, perhaps, largely by rating considerations—have occasionally been accepted without sufficient discussion and enquiry, notwithstanding that their effect has been to stay the fulfilment of the obligations imposed upon you by Act of Parliament, while it has seemed

Parochial  
Committees.



that too great deference was occasionally paid to the conclusions of Parochial Committees. You have sometimes omitted to obtain their opinions upon questions affecting not only the locality to which they more particularly referred, but the whole of your District. There can, however, be no doubt whatever of the usefulness of Parochial Committees which have serving upon them those who are familiar with the conduct of public affairs, who understand your legal obligations, and who, in giving effect to your instructions, act up to the spirit of those obligations. It is not necessary to particularise, as you are well aware of the great assistance you have received from them in carrying out important sanitary improvements in different parts of the Isle of Wight, and in conducting the ordinary administration work of your District. Such Committees enable you to be in closer touch with various localities, and they benefit the localities by saving them the expense of separate Local Government.

Parish and  
District  
Councils.

It is difficult to form an opinion of the effect of District and Parish Councils upon sanitary administration. The Rural District Council will be, apparently, a Rural Sanitary Authority elected by ballot instead of by the present unsatisfactory method. The provision of a three years' tenancy of office will not materially affect your body, as in but a few parishes, and, as a rule, in those only which contain a large body of urban voters, do contests take place. If all those who will elect the Rural Parish Council paid tribute in the form of rates to the community, which in this case would represent the lord, it would appear to be a kind of revival of the old Court Leet. Should the control of such matters as those of water supply be transferred from you to the Parish Councils, it will probably not be for the general well-being of your District. Is there a parish in the Island which would willingly pay for the provision of an independent water supply to a portion of it? The fear is, that the control of the Parish Council will fall into the hands of the small owners in many parishes, and that sanitary progress will not be accelerated by the establishment of these Councils.

Freshwater  
proposed Local  
Board District.

In October a County Council enquiry was held at Freshwater in consequence of a memorial signed by 49 ratepayers of the locality, who prayed that a Local Board District, containing about 600 acres, should be formed there. The County Council, upon the advice of the Committee who held the enquiry, resolved to grant the petition; and they have taken the measures necessary to give effect to their resolution. The attitude of your Authority was a neutral one. Your Clerk attended the enquiry to watch your interests, but he was instructed neither to oppose nor to recommend the formation of a Local Board District at Freshwater. The parish of Freshwater contains 4,836 acres. Totland Bay Special Drain-



age District contains 600 to 800 acres. The proposed District of 600 acres is estimated by some to contain a population of 2,000, and by others of between 1,700 and 1,800, that is to say, of rather more or rather less than three to the acre. For three months in Summer the population is considerably augmented, Freshwater being a watering place. The assessable value of the parish is £15,938; of Totland Bay Special Drainage District £5,400; and that of the proposed District is variously estimated at from £4,500 to £6,600. Outside the Totland Bay District, Freshwater contains five sections in which population may be said to be concentrated, namely, Freshwater Bay, including Easton and Victoria road; School Green—the largest section—including the Church District, School Green, High Street, New Road, Pound Green, Compt Lane, and Middleton; Colwell; Norton Green; and Norton. Freshwater Bay and the School Green sections are included in the proposed District. Speaking generally, the School Green section, the old Village of Freshwater, unanimously oppose the formation of a Local Board District, while the majority, perhaps, of the inhabitants of Freshwater Gate approve it, although 25 of the ratepayers there, whose names were included among those of the 49 who signed the memorial to the County Council, subsequently signed a petition urging that a Local Board District be not formed. It is said that 80 per cent. of the ratepayers of the proposed District signed this petition. Sanitary reasons were the most important of those advanced at the enquiry in support of the proposition. It was represented that a system of sewers was needed, and that the District required scavenging; that bye-laws were necessary to control building operations and other matters. It was mentioned that hackney carriages and bathing machines should be regulated; and it was pointed out that a Local Board could provide lighting, could repair the sea wall, and could prevent the removal of sand and shingle from the beach.

While you have effected as large an amount of good in Freshwater as in any part of your District almost, you are still responsible for any sanitary defects which exist there. The provision of sewers is one of your obligations; but you have not yet formulated a scheme for the drainage of the place, a considerable undertaking, having regard to its small rating value. You were in default in not providing Freshwater with an independent water supply, which could have been so readily obtained; but that supply has now been furnished by private enterprise. You obtained urban powers to make bye-laws for the parish, and you adopted such bye-laws as the Parochial Committee would consent to, which were far behind the requirements of Freshwater, for which building bye-laws have long been necessary, as has been so frequently reported to you; but the Local Government



Board would not sanction them because some of them were not authorised by the Statute, and others gave sanction to insanitary arrangements, and the Parochial Committee have never moved in the matter since, although some of them complain they have no bye-laws. You require power to make regulations for hackney carriages and bathing machines in such a place as Freshwater, and Totland Bay has more than once requested them of you. You had resolved to scavenge Freshwater, the Easter Vestry of which parish having been one of the assenting Vestries. It should not be forgotten that the Parochial Committee some time ago were not willing you should scavenge, although the use of a horse and cart was offered. You probably have power to arrange for public lighting, and for doing other things which a Local Board could do. It would be the duty of the Highway Commissioners, one would suppose, to repair the sea wall, and of the owners of the foreshore to prevent the removal of sand and shingle. It could scarcely have been anticipated that, without the slightest deliberation, you would decide not to oppose the separation of a portion of your District from your jurisdiction. You neither discussed the subject, nor appointed a special Committee to report to you upon this important question, nor even referred it to the Freshwater Parochial Committee for their opinion. It would seem to have been your duty to most carefully consider the subject from the point of view, first of all of the welfare of Freshwater itself, and then from the point of view of the well-being of your District as a whole. This was a portion of your District which has occupied a great deal of your attention for many years, and its future prosperity could scarcely have been a matter of indifference to you.

Many of the people complain that the proposition was sprung upon them suddenly, that the only publicity given of the intention of the County Council to hold an enquiry, and of the objects of the enquiry, was by an advertisement in two newspapers and a notice upon the church doors, which the majority of the inhabitants did not see, and which the majority of those who saw did not understand. They say that had you discussed the subject or sought to obtain the opinion of the ratepayers generally, public opinion would have been aroused, and would have asserted itself earlier. They think, too, you would have arrived at the conclusion that the time has not come for separate government, and that the future of Freshwater would be seriously prejudiced by premature action in that direction. They say the probable income of the proposed Local Board has been over-estimated, that more than half the houses in the proposed District are of £10 rental and under, and that the rating of the large amount of agricultural land included, at one-fourth of the assessable value, will yield less than is supposed. They believe the cost



of making several miles of sewers will be more than the rate-payers can bear; and if they are necessary, they think they should avail themselves of the difference in annual charges under your Authority and under a Local Board, estimated by them at £360, which would provide the interest and sinking fund of a loan of £6,000. Had you considered the matter from the point of view of your District generally, you would have seen that the most obvious effect of the separation would be the diminution of your income and the increase of the rating of the remainder of your District. You would have asked yourselves if it was absolutely necessary to add another to the eleven already existing Sanitary Authorities of such a small area as that of the Isle of Wight; and you would have decided if the boundaries of the proposed District, which left to you Colwell, Norton Green, and Norton, were satisfactory; and this latter was a very important question for you to decide, if only because, if Norton Green or Norton were sewered it must necessarily be in conjunction with the sewer system of the Local Board District, and you have had experience of the difficulties attendant upon negotiations with other Sanitary Authorities in these matters. If the population of Freshwater were homogeneous, and if public sentiment had favoured a change of Government, your Authority would scarcely, under any circumstances, have resisted the experiment being made; but in its present stage of development, the interests of Freshwater, as a whole, would probably have been better served by your Authority; with the assistance of a strong and active Parochial Committee representing the different sections of the place, than by a Local Board.

The power possessed to move the County Council to establish Local Board Districts and to extend the Urban Boundaries is one which, in the future, may occasion you much anxiety, and may prove very detrimental. It is useless to ignore the fact, that some believe every little village and hamlet should have its Local Board, and that others think if they can only get their land within an urban boundary its value will be increased by the augmented expenditure of the urban community; but, unless the question is agitated from outside, it is not likely there will be many applications for Local Boards and their attendant expenses for some time to come, as the example of Freshwater will be sufficiently deterrent. The fear is, that Urban Authorities may seek to increase their incomes at your expense, and, if they succeed, that your administration may be disorganised. Take for instance Shanklin, which has already appealed to the County Council for extension of District. You had nothing whatever to do with drawing the boundary of the Local Board District of Shanklin; but the boundary having been drawn, you had to administer that section of your District, which you

Powers of the  
County Council.



did by forming a Special Drainage District. This Special Drainage District has been the contributory place for sanitary works done at Shanklin within your District, for which, therefore, Gatten and Lake have had to help pay. Urban Shanklin wishes to appropriate, not the whole of the Lake Special Drainage District, but that part of it of highest rateable value and in which the money has been spent, leaving the part of it of least rateable value to contend alone with its own sanitary difficulties, should any arise. There should be no piecemeal disturbance of existing boundaries, and, if alterations are to be made, it should be by a general readjustment of boundaries and obligations throughout the Isle of Wight, to last for several years. It is most unfair that imprudence should be compensated and financial exigencies met by taking rateable value from you in order that the towns may increase their borrowing powers. If *you* commit follies the rate-payers of your District have to pay higher rates. The sanitary condition of the suburban portions of your District will compare favourably with that of the towns they adjoin, notwithstanding interested statements to the contrary, and, if you wish to maintain the power to keep them in a good sanitary state, you must resist to the utmost the arrangements which are even now being made to alter your boundaries, and take from you your income. But it behoves you to provide for the suburban populations under your jurisdiction all the advantages which it is within your powers to furnish.

Legal  
proceedings.

For the first time in your experience as a Sanitary Authority you have been refused access to premises for inspection purposes, and you have been compelled to apply to the magistrates for an order under sec. 102, P. H. A., 1875, which was granted. An inspection having been made and certain works having been ordered by you to be done in the usual course, access to the premises was again refused to your Inspector when he visited them in the course of ordinary routine to ascertain if your directions had been obeyed. You directed a further appeal to the Court under sec. 103, P. H. A., 1875, and the decision was that the magistrates' order continues in force so long as a nuisance exists.

A case of diphtheria at a farmstead was notified, and at the same time an intimation was given that the patient had been removed into the Urban District of Shanklin. Following the ordinary routine the Inspector was instructed to inspect the premises and report. It was found that the scullery drain, covered by a bell trap, was not disconnected; that a midden privy with a large cesspit existed beneath the scullery window; that the soil drain of a metal-container pan closet—opening out of a conservatory which communicated with the house, and with a second door leading into the open air—was unventilated



and had no open air disconnection between the house and the open ditch into which its contents and the remainder of the house sewage were discharged at a short distance from the house. The ditch empties into the Yar, the water of which is used for drinking and domestic purposes. The Inspector reported that a dip-well, situated close to the farmyard and yielding abundant water for the supply of the premises, was insufficiently protected from surface pollution and soakage.

You also took action under the Notification Act against a medical man and the head of the family he attended. The case of illness out of which the prosecution arose was notorious as one of enteric fever, the relations and friends having described it as such, and the neighbours having discussed its possible source. As apparently the drains and water supply had been examined, and as it was said the dejecta of the patient were buried, the Inspector was instructed to enquire of her father the nature of the child's illness. He reported to you that he said she had typhoid fever. Upon this you resolved to take legal action. The partner of the medical attendant, who had seen the case, gave evidence to the effect that the patient had not suffered from a notifiable disease; whereupon your Clerk withdrew from the prosecution.

Two new houses were occupied, one at Yarbridge the other at Bembridge, without the necessary certificate of provision of water, and you took proceedings under sec. 6, P. H. (W.) A., 1878. In the Yarbridge case you summoned the agent of the owner, who was abroad. The decision of the Bench was in favour of the defendant, as they did not consider the case proved. In the Bembridge case you obtained a conviction.

It is obligatory upon the County Council to ascertain from the annual report of the Medical Officer of Health if the Sanitary Laws are being properly administered in the District to which it refers, and to report the fact to the Local Government Board if they find there is neglect in this respect. The report of the Committee of the County Council proves, as the previous one did, that this duty is performed in no perfunctory manner.

The report of  
the County  
Council.

If it were honest to do so, it is not my business to report to you in *couleur de rose*; but I think I may fairly say the sanitary history of the year shows that epidemic disease was successfully combatted, and that, although its work made manifest some laxity of administration, and some want of due appreciation of the seriousness of your responsibilities, the year 1892 was one of distinct progress, marked by the execution of sanitary undertakings such as the extension of the Bembridge sewer, and by preparation for carrying out works such as the independent water supply of Horsebridge Hill and of Brighstone, the construction of sewers at Totland Bay, and the improvement of the Wilton Road sewer at Shanklin,



which will be of great utility in safeguarding the public health in your District. The settlement of the vexed water question at Knighton bears testimony, too, to your persistence in performing your duty as a Sanitary Authority.

The Inspectors have furnished me with the following summary of their work:—

### EAST MEDENE DISTRICT.

#### SUMMARY OF REPORTS MADE DURING THE YEAR 1892.

Number of Nuisances and other matters reported...	...	...	423
"          "          abated without final notice	...	...	205
"          "          final notices served	...	...	19
Houses reported unfit for habitation	...	...	15
Houses placed in habitable repair	...	...	7
Houses closed by order	...	...	8
Houses cleansed and disinfected	...	...	74
Legal proceedings taken	...	...	3
Cases of overcrowding reported	...	...	2
Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	2
Privy cesspools provided and properly constructed	...	...	27
Privies put on the pail system	...	...	11
Wells sunk and improved supplies of water obtained	...	...	34
Wells cleaned	...	...	21
Wells closed	...	...	—
Defective pumps repaired	...	...	11
Pumps provided	...	...	9
Houses drained and connected with the sewer	...	...	15
House drains repaired and trapped	...	...	64
Refuse accumulations from towns removed	...	...	3
Dairies inspected and re-inspected	...	...	51
Dairies limewashed after notice	...	...	14
Bakehouses limewashed after notice	...	...	3
Sewers extended and relaid	...	...	3
Water mains laid	...	...	1
Persons selling milk without being registered	...	...	1

#### HOUSES BUILT AND OCCUPIED IN 1892.

Village of	Parish of	With Certificate.	Without Certificate.	
Brading, Yarbridge	Brading	...	1	
Bembridge	"	...	1	
Ditto	"	14		
Alverstone	"	1		
Shanklin	"	4		
Lake	"	1		
Newchurch	Newchurch	2		
Whitwell	Whitwell	1		
		23	2	Total 25



## WEST MEDENE DISTRICT.

## SUMMARY OF WORK DONE FOR YEAR 1892.

Number of Nuisances and other matters reported...	...	...	438
„ „ abated without final notice	...	...	189
„ final notices served	...	...	22
Houses reported unfit for habitation	...	...	4
Houses placed in habitable repair	...	...	—
Houses closed by order	...	...	3
Houses cleansed and disinfected	...	...	40
Legal proceedings taken	...	...	—
Cases of overcrowding reported	...	...	5
Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	5
Privy cesspools provided and properly constructed	...	...	39
Privies put on the pail system	...	...	17
Wells sunk and improved supplies of water obtained	...	...	43
Wells cleaned	...	...	12
Wells closed	...	...	—
Defective pumps repaired	...	...	6
Pumps provided	...	...	19
Houses drained and connected with sewer	...	...	9
House drains repaired and trapped	...	...	79
Refuse accumulations removed	...	...	5
Dairies inspected and re-inspected	...	...	73
Dairies limewashed after notice	...	...	21
Bakehouses limewashed after notice	...	...	4
Persons selling milk without being registered	...	...	2

## NEW HOUSES.

Parish.	With Certificate.
Freshwater	15
Northwood	4
Yarmouth...	9
Carisbrooke	6
Shorwell	1

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 35
 

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The following meteorological summary for the year 1892, taken from the observations of temperature and rainfall made at Lugley House, Newport, which is about 44 feet above the



sea level, has been kindly furnished to me by the Rev. E. W. Watts, M.A.

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. ..	52.5 on 31st	14.9 on 10th	43.0	32.1	37.5	0.94	11	0.38 on 16th
Feb. ..	54.1 on 24th	22.0 on 17th	46.4	35.4	40.9	1.24	10	0.30 on 19th
March	59.0 on 31st	19.0 on 9th	45.7	31.2	38.4	1.14	9	0.65 on 15th
April ..	72.5 on 6th	23.0 on 15th	59.6	34.6	47.1	0.81	8	0.29 on 20th
May ..	73.8 on 12th	26.0 on 7th	65.0	43.4	54.2	0.97	6	0.59 on 25th
June ..	80.1 on 28th	37.5 on 18th	67.2	48.0	57.6	1.44	12	0.43 on 4th
July ..	77.8 on 29th	42.6 on 1st	69.6	57.5	60.5	2.49	10	1.08 on 29th
Aug. ..	76.5 on 7th	41.0 on 5th	70.5	52.6	61.5	2.37	13	1.00 on 28th
Sept. ..	70.5 on 19th	31.2 on 18th	65.1	48.1	56.6	2.78	13	0.98 on 29th
Oct. ..	59.5 on 4th	25.1 on 24th	53.8	39.1	46.4	4.88	20	1.14 on 30th
Nov. ..	58.9 on 14th	27.8 on 8th	52.2	40.3	46.2	3.20	18	0.69 on 15th
Dec. ..	54.5 on 15th	16.8 on 27th	44.4	33.4	38.9	2.71	11	0.84 on 2nd

The rainfall at Newport in 1892 was 24.97 inches against 38.96 inches in 1891, 26.31 inches in 1890, 28.34 inches in 1889, 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 1892 were 172 against 172 in 1891, 153 in 1890, 163 in 1889, 179 in 1888, 141 in 1887, 202 in 1886, and 159 in 1885.

The weather of  
1892.

As regards the weather, 1892 was another exceptional year. In *January*, the mean morning temperature was 2.0° F. below the average of twenty years. For the first half of the month the weather was fine and cold. On the 10th, the minimum temperature was 14.9° F. From the middle to the end of the month it was mild, and on the last three days the temperature rose to 51° and 52° F., it having been 52.5° F. on the 31st. There were four wet days in the month, during which 0.94 inches of rain fell. The weather in *February* was variable, but, on the whole, it was a cold month, and it was particularly cold from the 16th to the 20th. The minimum temperature on the 17th was 22.0° F. The mean morning temperature of the month was 0.4 below the average of twenty years. In *February* 1.24 inches of rain fell in ten days. *March* was a fine, dry, cold month. The mean morning temperature was more than 3.0° F. below the average of twenty years, and with the exception of 1886, it was the coldest March for that period.



1.49 inches of rain fell in nine days. *April* was another dry month, only 0.81 inches of rain having fallen in eight days. The mean temperature of the month was slightly above the average. The changes of temperature were abnormally great, the heat of the days from the 6th to the 11th, and the coldness of the nights from the 15th to the 20th, being unprecedented in twenty years. The mean morning temperature of *May* was 1.0° F. below the average of twenty years. The last days of the month were warm. It was a fine, dry month. 0.97 inches of rain fell in six days. *June* was the sixth consecutive month with deficient rainfall, and the result was a very light hay crop. The nights were cold, and the mean morning temperature was more than 1.0° F. below the average for June of twenty years. 1.44 inches of rain fell, and there were twelve wet days. The mean morning temperature in *July* was 2.0° F. below the average of twenty years. Rain fell on only ten days, but there were 2.49 inches in that time. From the 19th to the end of the month, during which N.E. winds prevailed, the weather was for the most part fine and bright. *August* was a warm, variable month, the mean temperature being about the average. Rain fell on thirteen days to the amount of 2.37 inches. *September* was a showery, warm month, the mean temperature being about the average of twenty years. There were thirteen wet days, during which 2.78 inches of rain fell. *October* was a cold, wet month, the rainfall having been 4.88 inches, and there were twenty days on which rain fell. The mean temperature of the month was the lowest for twenty years. *November* was a mild, wet month. The mean temperature was more than 1.0° F. above the average of twenty years. The mean minimum temperature was 1.0° F. above the mean minimum of the month. 3.20 inches of rain fell in twenty days. *December* was a variable month, with a mean temperature somewhat below the average. The last ten days of the month were cold and fine, but the weather was showery during most of the month. 2.71 inches of rain fell in eleven days.

The weather of 1892 was not favourable to health, speaking generally. The remarkable range of temperature during the early months was unfavourable to health, and the mortality was high among young children and persons of the middle period of life, many of whom died from pulmonary affections. The Spring was cold and dry, and not on the whole unhealthy. June was a healthy month, but the low level of the underground water in the Summer was unfavourable to health. A cold, wet October was unhealthy; but a mild November, although somewhat wet, was more favourable than the variable temperature of December. The mortality in England and Wales, which had reached its maximum in 1891, when it was 20.2 per 1,000 living, after having been 19.2 per 1,000 in 1892, and 17.9 in 1889, fell in 1892 to 19.0, the death-rate



among persons aged 60 years and upwards being 75·5 per 1,000, after having been 81·6 in 1891, 75·3 in 1890, and 68·1 in 1889.

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

Health of the  
District.

As the year 1892 advanced, the health of the District improved, and at its close zymotic diseases had almost disappeared from it.

Scarlatina.

There were isolated cases of scarlatina, one at Carisbrooke and another at Parkhurst Forest, from a Newport School. A servant sent home from her situation in Newport was convalescent from the disease at Carisbrooke. A pupil of the Barton (Newport) Board School was also convalescent from scarlatina at Staplers. There were two or three cases in a family at Garstons, above Gatcombe, and two children were sickening at Little Gilmans, near Blackwater. A family were suffering from the disease at Sutton, in the Brighstone District, who were affected by a member of it who had scarlatina at Portsmouth. Three children were convalescent at a house in Whitwell, the poison having been introduced from Ventnor, in November, and there were two cases convalescent from the disease at Haylands.

Sanitary state  
of the District  
generally.

The main sanitary features of the District, as described from year to year, are so familiar to you that I need only pass them briefly in review; but I may remark, in passing, that no part of it is without evidence of improvement, when one compares its present state with its condition even four or five years ago.

*East Medene.*  
Bembridge.

Bembridge at the extreme east, and Freshwater and Totland Bay at the extreme west of the Isle of Wight, are increasing more rapidly than any places in your District. Fifteen houses, some of them of superior character, were erected at Bembridge during the year, as compared with ten houses built in other parts of the East Medene, within your District. Its water supply is the most unsatisfactory feature of this rising watering-place. It was hoped that the boring made to the Headon beds by the Bembridge Harbour Company, for the supply of their Lodge Estate, would prove ample for the present requirements of Bembridge; but the yield is not sufficient, and the rate charged is prohibitive in many instances. A more abundant supply may be obtained by continuing the boring to the Bagshot beds, but under present circumstances this is not likely to be done; and it is most desirable, therefore, that you should take the matter of the water supply of Bembridge into your very serious consideration, as the supplies from surface wells and rainwater tanks, upon which the population depend, and



which fail in dry seasons, are most unsatisfactory. At Lane End, abundant water can be obtained from the old shingle bed, upon which it is built; but as the sewage is disposed of on the small gardens attached to the cottages, and readily reaches the porous subsoil, the contamination of the water is only a question of time. You closed the old Coastguard Station, known as Harbour View, at the beginning of the year, as it had long been unfit for human habitation. It has since been a nuisance, as it provided a place for refuse deposit for Seymour Place and other houses in the neighbourhood, which have no outlet. The reconstruction of part of the Point Road sewer and its extension up the Church Road is an important improvement. The construction of a sewer at Lock's Lane and Lane End, which is engaging your attention, should not be delayed. The extension of the sewer outfall should also be undertaken. The reconstruction of the closets at the Girls' Parochial School, and the relaying and ventilating the drain which connects them with the sewer, will, it is to be hoped, have a good effect upon the public health of Bembridge. You have called the owner's attention to the pond at Wallsend Farm, from which the cows of the dairy drank, from which nearly all the persons who suffered from enteric fever at Bembridge last year were supplied. The drainage of the farmyard should be discharged into the sewer, and the water of the yard should be used for flushing it. The sewer at Point should be frequently flushed, as it is almost level, and has already been nearly choked by deposit. As is the case in your District generally, the Bembridge sewers are not sufficiently flushed, a result of not providing an independent water supply before constructing sewers.

This remark applies to the sewers of Brading. It is said Brading. that if the sewers of Brading were effectually flushed, the filtration beds would be swamped; but a very large body of water reaches them through the sewers during heavy rain. You have lengthened the sewer ventilators when complaint has been made of them. The Malthouse ventilator, which you have had lengthened during the year, is no longer a nuisance. There would appear to be better prospect of the ventilation of the sewer at its highest point, on the Mall, than heretofore. The road ventilator has been closed, as a protection to the children attending the Board School, and it would be but reasonable of the School Board to permit the use of the School wall as a support for a shaft carried sufficiently high. The abatement of the gutter nuisance at Yarbridge, by carrying a drain beneath the railway, has removed the pressing necessity for a sewer; but should building operations be resumed in that part of Brading, the southern portion of the original sewage scheme ought to be completed, more especially as some of the ratepayers in Yarbridge think faith



has not been kept with them in the matter. Brading formerly had many public wells, but one after another they have been abandoned, as they became contaminated, until only two or three remain. I would not advise the revival of any of these wells, but I think the time has come for the consideration of the possibility of providing an independent supply of drinking water for Brading. In my annual reports, and at other times, I have referred to the fact that I have seen people in the Back Lane dipping water from a little pool by the roadside, which is fed by a perennial rivulet from the hill above, which issues, I expect, from the Upper Greensand. The pool is usually polluted by surface filth. I have suggested the construction of a reservoir at its source, from which a pipe may be led to a standpipe in the Back Lane, and, perhaps, if the supply were sufficient, to other places. You called the attention of the Parochial Committee to the subject, who replied that the information furnished was insufficient. If it were possible to carry out the suggestion, it would be a small but substantial sanitary benefit. The chief sanitary improvement in Bembridge since I have reported to you is one which I am gratified to place on record. I refer to the reconstruction of the closets at the National Schools, which are provided with ample water supply and proper flushing arrangements.

Adgestone.

The public well at Adgestone is of great benefit to the place. As sand was sucked up with the water, you have had the pipe shortened at small expense.

Lake.

Several houses at Lake have been supplied from the Sandown water main since I last reported to you. Some of the wretched tenements on the right of the highway from Sandown, which have occasioned you so much trouble, are now in ruins. Only three are occupied. All that is possible is being done to prevent the small stream at the back of them being contaminated from the cesspits. This is important, as cows drink from it in the lower part of its course.

Gatten.

The independent water supply has altered the sanitary condition of Gatten, as it has done that of Lake. You have had communication with the Sandown Local Board respecting the terms upon which the sewage of Gatten and Lake would be permitted to be discharged at the Sandown sewer outfall. It would be of great sanitary advantage to Gatten and Lake if a sewer could be provided for those places to drain into, but it would be a greater undertaking than the present rating value of the Lake Special Drainage District could sustain; and until that increases, you have resolved to do the next best thing to making a sewer, to scavenge the District.

Shanklin.

The part of Shanklin within your District is situated in the parishes of Brading and Shanklin. The Brading section enters into the Lake Special Drainage District. It is



sewered, and by your efforts it is now independently supplied with abundant water from the Sandown Waterworks. You have arranged with the Shanklin Local Board to flush your sewers at Shanklin, at a cost of £1 for six flushings. On account of the small gradient, the Landguard Road sewer will require most frequent flushing. The waste from the flushing of the Sandown water main will assist in flushing the Atherley Road sewer. Street lighting is badly needed. The Shanklin Gas Company are willing to supply standards and gas from sunset to 11 p.m., from the end of July to May 20th, and to light and clean the lamps, for £2 15s. per lamp per annum, or by meter affixed to each lamp. About twelve lamps would be needed to light the District contained in this part of the Lake Special Drainage District. It ought to be possible to accomplish this work, as the owners and occupiers of houses desire it. In the Shanklin parish section the houses drain into cesspits, and are supplied with water from wells, or from the Shanklin town supply. In the New Road, the villas recently built are of a superior character, with large gardens; overflow pipes connect the cesspits with a ditch which bounds the gardens to the east, and which usually carries a rivulet which helps to feed the stream. This arrangement is likely to cause a nuisance. There should be public lighting in the New Road. The manner in which these recently built new houses are drained, proves how mistaken you are to permit builders and architects to control such matters. In the interest of the public health, they should be strictly regulated by you.

Standing upon the Gault, with the Upper Greensand above Wroxall. it, Wroxall is in the position of Whitwell, Niton, and Shorwell; its filth will not soak into the soil, so it runs off into the stream. Water fit to drink can be obtained only from beds of sand and gravel in the Gault, but it issues in large quantity and of the purest quality from the Greensand rock, just above its junction with the Clay. Doubtless, the early people settled near the springs or wells of the places I have named, because of the existence of the streams and brooks, which afforded them a water supply. These streams are now polluted almost to their sources. At Wroxall, a stream is made, in the absence of public scavenging, the receptacle for all kinds of house refuse; but the pollution of the stream has been greatly diminished, and as I am writing you have ordered overflow pipes from several cesspits which connect with it to be removed; and you have decided to scavenge under sec. 42, P. H. A., 1875. Had you taken powers to control such matters, you probably would not have permitted the establishment of a large bacon factory, and the keeping of a great number of pigs in the midst of the village. In spite of the efforts of the proprietor, this factory and its



pigs have been, undoubtedly, a source of nuisance and annoyance to the people of Wroxall. I have already referred to the scheme for supplying Wroxall with water. An independent water supply is, and has been for many years, its most pressing need. The proposal before you is calculated to meet that need, and there should be no delay in carrying it out, seeing that numerous houses in the village have no water supply, and that Wroxall has been again and again afflicted by outbreaks of zymotic diseases.

Bonchurch.

The suburban village of Bonchurch, a popular place of health resort, has an independent water supply from the Ventnor Waterworks. It has public lighting, managed by a local committee. It drains for the most part into deep cesspits and unused wells, and it is free from obvious nuisances.

Upper Ventnor.

The part of Ventnor situated in the parish of Godshill is included in your District. You know it by the name of Upper Ventnor, which distinguishes it from Ventnor proper. Its water supply is obtained from the Ventnor Waterworks, and would be more satisfactory if it were constant, which remark applies to any place in your District which has not a constant water supply. It is sewered in part by a sewer which discharges into Steephill Cove. This sewer continues without proper ventilation, and it is not flushed.

Lowtherville.

The collection of small houses known as Lowtherville, on the north-western slope of St. Boniface Down, and adjoining Upper Ventnor, is much improved since I described it three years ago as presenting a squalid picture which was a discredit to your District. But the pan closets are still without flushing arrangements, which is the almost universal condition of the cottage hopper closet in your District; the cesspits, which are close to the houses, are unventilated and too infrequently scavenged, and house slops stagnate in puddles too often near the dwellings. The manure from pigs and other animals does not accumulate to the extent it used to do, and the people are more careful to prevent collections of house refuse near their back doors. In the absence of constant water service, the cisterns are far too small to afford sufficient supply for drinking and domestic purposes. The public scavenging of Lowtherville, upon which you have determined, will greatly benefit the place. You proposed that Ventnor should annex Lowtherville, as you proposed Sandown should annex Lake; but the permission to do so was promptly declined. It makes all the difference, if with territory the Urban Districts can annex rateable value as well.

St. Lawrence and the Undercliff.

The greater facilities of access which are about to be provided will help forward the development of St. Lawrence and the Undercliff, and it is most desirable you should very



strictly control building operations, more particularly as regards drainage and water supply. Several of the houses, especially in the neighbourhood of Old Park, are supplied with water from the Upper Greensand which forms the cliff at the back, and every house beyond the reach of the Ventnor water main should be so supplied. Every cesspit should be tight, as I have so frequently pointed out to you. If there should be a large increase in the number of houses built, and if the present plan of draining into leaking cesspits be followed, the future of this beautiful District will be greatly prejudiced.

The Gault village of Whitwell has a magnificent water supply with constant service. The water is brought from a reservoir of 4,500 gallons capacity, which collects it as it leaves the Upper Greensand at Bierlay—in which hamlet there is a standpipe—in 3in. socketed iron pipes, a distance of 3,900 yards at a cost of 3/6 per yard including everything but engineer's fee. A smaller pipe carries the water from Whitwell to Nettlecombe. This water supply may well serve as a model in your District, although it was not provided by your Authority. As at Wroxall, the filth of Whitwell does not soak readily into the land, so it stagnates on the surface or finds its way directly to the stream.

It is to be regretted you did not continue the Whitwell water main to Southford, where diphtheria is not unknown, and which is supplied with water from a well probably fed from the polluted stream. An independent supply for Southford may be found in the immediate neighbourhood; but it would be a simple matter to lay a 2in. pipe from Whitwell, and if the funds cannot be found in any other way, a Special Drainage District could be formed to contribute the £3 12s. per annum, which is the sum which represents the repayment of the loan of £60 required.

Niton is one of the places you have resolved to scavenge. As with other villages which stand upon the Gault, filth nuisances have given much trouble at Niton. They are greatly reduced, and several of the old recurring nuisances have entirely disappeared. Pigs are not kept so as to be a nuisance to the same extent as formerly. The water supply is from surface wells for the most part, but rainwater is also stored, and you have certified houses in Niton possessing only this supply. Several of the dwellings in the centre of the village are supplied by means of a small pipe from an Upper Greensand spring. The whole of Niton may be supplied from a similar source, or from the Whitwell supply at Bierlay. The rateable value of the parish has increased during the past few years, and the cost of bringing water into the village would not be oppressive.

Godshill has plenty of good water, but the wells sunk in



the Lower Greensand are not yet sufficiently protected from surface and subsoil soakage. The improvement in the sanitary state of Godshill, in which some of the old properties were formerly in a very neglected state, is as marked as in any place in your District.

Newchurch.

Newchurch, situated on an outlier of the Upper Greensand, is badly off for water. A deep well should be bored here at a sufficient distance from the graveyard. You closed the old village well, which was almost close to the churchyard wall, but you did not provide another supply in lieu of it. It would, of course, be more satisfactory to obtain a supply from the Ryde Waterworks at Knighton. The gutter nuisances, which are always recurring here as in other villages, were less in evidence than usual at the end of the year.

Arreton.

Arreton is one of those villages in which great improvement has been effected. Old dilapidated stone houses, to which I have referred in former reports, have been replaced by substantial slated brick cottages. From the æsthetic point of view, one regrets the gradual disappearance of the old stone thatched cottages, often covered by roses and other flowering climbers, which characterised, and still to a considerable extent characterise, the Island villages, and render them so picturesque; but with their stone floors and damp walls they do not correspond with the modern ideal of a sanitary house; and if more stone cottages were replaced by such as those to which I have referred, Arreton would possess a large number of sanitary dwellings. For the semi-public well constructed several years ago at considerable expense, which you closed, an independent water supply, which will be available for a certain number of the cottages, has been brought into the village. It would have been to the advantage of the population as a whole, had the two principal owners combined to bring an independent supply from Cherrywood. The majority of the houses have unprotected dip-wells sunk in the Lower Greensand in the highly cultivated and heavily manured gardens.

Blackwater.

The water brought in agricultural drain pipes from the high-level gravels on St. George's Down to the stream, affords a supply for drinking to many of the inhabitants of Blackwater. From this source water may be laid on to any house in the Blackwater district. Some of the people drink from the polluted stream, and others from a private well, while others, as in Sandy Lane, drink from unprotected and polluted wells on their premises.

Haven Street.

Haven Street, which stands on the Hamstead Clay, has been a place of gutter nuisances; but, although some of them are liable to recur, several have been permanently abated. Haven Street is badly supplied with water, which is obtained from a few surface wells, and from rainwater tanks in which



water is badly stored. A private effort to sink to the Bagshot Sands failed because the boring tool broke. The top of the hill is capped by gravel and sand in a sufficiently deep pocket of the clay, probably, to admit of the supply of the village with drinking water, at least, from this source.

Haylands has upon it so great a weight of trouble and anxiety, for which the ratepayers are in no sense responsible, and in which they are absolutely helpless, that one hesitates to refer to its sanitary shortcomings. There has been much "penny wise and pound foolish" sanitary management in the past in the Isle of Wight, and Haylands is not an exception. When the first sewer was made there many years ago, the "brick-on-edge" drains, which drained the houses at the back, and still drain them, and which are sewers vested in your Authority, should have been abolished, and the sewer should have been continued up the Upton Road for some of these houses to drain into. I will not remark upon the new sewer, which passes under the hill; but whatever its present state may be, and that would appear to have been settled by the Engineer Officer who held the Local Government Board enquiry, and who personally inspected it, it will, doubtless, in the end prove of great sanitary benefit to Haylands; but it has not been made use of as yet to the extent intended for the drainage of School Lane, Colenutt's Road, and Salter's Road. Haylands is supplied with water from the Ryde Waterworks; but there are several private wells which are insufficiently protected.

The change in the sanitary aspect of some places in your District in a short space of time is so extraordinary, that it seems little less than miraculous. Binstead is one of these places. There are nuisances and recurring nuisances at Binstead still, although they are as nothing when compared with the old times; but the people are no longer compelled to drink from polluted wells, and they do not breathe the foul gases from filthy drains and open cesspools, because you have done for Binstead in these later days that which the Law says it is your duty to do for every place in your District situated as Binstead was: you have given it sewers and an independent water supply. The time spent by your Authority in considering periodically the sanitary state of Binstead would have been sufficient to enable you to place every locality in your District in a proper sanitary condition. The sanitary arrangements of the Parish Schools have been reconstructed since my last report was made, and another reproach has been removed. The water supply of the houses in the Newnham Road, which may have been properly protected, continues to be anything but satisfactory.

The irregular and insanitary sewers of Fishbourne are, unfortunately, vested in your Authority. It has a public well



of good water drawn from the Bembridge Limestone. Fishbourne has continued in much the same condition since the landlord of the place cleansed and protected this well at the time there were cases of diphtheria there.

Wootton.

Its independent water supply from the gravel, which the villagers and their friends provided, has greatly improved the condition of Wootton. As the result of lax sanitary administration and indifference, Wootton was five or six years ago one of your difficulties. Houses discharged their sewage into the stormwater drain in the main road and occasioned a nuisance at the outfall, and sewer gas found its way to the houses. You laid a sewer to take these house connections and ventilated it by means of shafts. It discharges below the mill-race, but it is not properly flushed. It should be continued up the road at once, and eventually it should be made available for the drainage of the houses erected in recent years, just beyond the commencement of the old road to Newport. There are two other sewers unrecognised by you, but which are vested in you; one is in the New Road and the other is in the Red Road. They discharge into a water-course which runs to the Creek. The Wootton Parish Schools are in a better sanitary condition than a year ago, inasmuch as a trough closet has been constructed for the use of the boys. It has been decided by the managers to reconstruct the girls' closets, which are horribly insanitary, in the same manner.

Fairlee Road.

The houses in the Fairlee Road, which are supplied with water from the Newport Waterworks, are not efficiently drained. Some of them drained into the road gutter; but at the close of the year the nuisance had ceased.

Gurnard.

The sanitary condition of Gurnard at the end of the year was unchanged. Gurnard is built over a great basin of clay, filled with sand and gravel. When it rains the water passes through the gravel and sand, and is stored in the basin. When the Gurnard people want to drink, they either go to rainwater tanks, or they dip up some of the water stored in the clay basin; and when they wish to get rid of their filth I was under the impression they made a hole and shot it into the basin along with their drinking water; but I am told I am quite mistaken. In any case it is just as well to store universally the water which falls on the roofs in *tight* tanks after it has passed through a filter; and the public scavenging you have determined upon will remove a lot of filth out of the way of doing harm in Gurnard. But filth should not be brought into Gurnard in the shape of Cowes town refuse, as has been frequently done. It is most important to safeguard the water, for it would be difficult to provide an independent supply, unless, indeed, it were brought from the Chalk, from which source all the villages and urban places in the Isle of



Wight to the north of the Central Range of Downs should have been supplied.

The old filth and gutter nuisances of Tinker's Lane were in abeyance at the end of the year, which closed without seeing accomplished that which I foreshadowed in my last annual report—the independent water supply of the place from Ruffins Copse. The population continue, therefore, to drink badly-stored rainwater and the water from surface-wells. It would cost £100 to lay a pipe from the point at which the water now reaches Tinker's Lane. As there are about twenty houses which require the water, the return would probably be at least ten per cent.

There is in the parish of Northwood a collection of more or less scattered houses, including the “Horseshoe” and “Flowerpot” publichouses on the Newport Road, which are very badly supplied with water. Land is being opened up for building, and two houses have been commenced at Furzyhurst in this district; but I do not know how it is proposed to supply them with water. There is a shallow well a few paces from the highway, in a meadow opposite to the entrance to Medham Lane, which would appear to be the principal source of water supply for drinking in this neighbourhood. In my last annual report I reported to you fully upon the dearth of water and upon this supply, but nothing has been done. This well, which was formerly protected, is now uncovered. The old broken iron pump is still *in situ*. After the longest drought there is water in this well, but it is polluted by surface impurities. It may be reconstructed, and, if a windmill pump were fixed, the “Horseshoe” and other houses at some distance may be supplied. It would be a simple matter to place a pump by the roadside. This well is on private land; but it is possible a similar supply may be obtained from below the highroad.

It is rarely that black smoke is now seen issuing from the Cement Mills, and in so far the improvement has been very great; but the white smoke and steam are always in great abundance, and the nuisance is still much complained of.

You are about to meet the dearth of water at Horsebridge Hill by an arrangement with the Corporation of Newport, and you have obtained sanction to borrow £450 for the work. There is some difficulty about the site of a reservoir; but a site may be found on the dip of the hill on the Noke Common Road, on the rise of which a site was first chosen. It is very desirable to continue the independent supply to Noke Common, and if the level will not admit of the water rising to the surface, it can be discharged into an underground tank, and pumped from it. Several new houses have been built at Horsebridge Hill since my last annual report was written. Some of these are awaiting the certificate under sec. 6, P. H.



(W.) A., 1878. The Corporation of Newport are to supply the water by meter. Water meters are most unsatisfactory, being in my experience quite unreliable, and it is desirable you should dispense with them in your District as soon as is practicable.

Parkhurst  
Barracks and  
Prison.

Complaints are again made of a nuisance arising from the sewage of Parkhurst Barracks and Prison. There is no reason why there should be a nuisance if the sewage be properly treated. It is satisfactory that a larger amount of Carisbrooke water is used at the Barracks, and that the Prison is fully supplied with it. The sanitary condition of Government establishments, of which there are so many in your District, is of no little interest to you, and, although they are beyond your jurisdiction, as is so often remarked at the meetings of your Authority, they are not beyond your influence. The recent epidemic of scarlatina has brought into prominence the fact, that there is no means of isolating properly cases of infectious disease at the Prison, and this constitutes a danger to the public health of your District.

Porchfield and  
Lock's Green.

The sanitary condition of Porchfield and Lock's Green has been greatly improved, as the result of your insistence that every cottage should have, at least, a rainwater supply. The stored water is not so good as it ought to be, because the filters are not properly attended to, but it is infinitely better than that of the ditches and the ponds and little pools in the bed of the stream fouled by cattle, and one of the soak-wells from which the inhabitants formerly drank.

Newtown.

The only well at Newtown, that at the Coastguard Station, is not generally available. Rainwater is badly stored if the roofs of the houses are slated or tiled; but, if they are thatched, their inmates drink from puddles and ditches. Rainwater from the roofs of the Church and Townhall may be passed through filters into a large tank to which a pump may be affixed, as I have so frequently pointed out, or the tank may be built above ground and may be provided with a waste-preventing tap. The best plan for providing Newtown with water would probably be in connection with a scheme for supplying the villages and farmhouses of the District with water from the Chalk; but, failing this, a well may be bored to the Bembridge Limestone, and a public pump be affixed to it.

Fivehouses.

A group of thatched cottages known as Fivehouses, some half-mile from Calbourne, continue unprovided with water other than that collected in dip-holes and puddles in the gardens.

Calbourne.

Much good sanitary work has been done in Calbourne, and the change, as regards obvious nuisances and the pollution of the stream by sewage, is remarkable. The Parish Schools,



too, have been placed in a proper sanitary condition. The public well having been cleansed, it will be resorted to, probably, by people living in the immediate vicinity; but the inhabitants of Winkle Street will continue to drink from the stream, and those who have been in the habit of fetching their drinking water from Streets well will most likely do so still. On the north of the village water is obtained from the Post Tertiary gravels deposited there. I have already reported to you upon the course you have taken in the matter of the water supply of Calbourne.

The polluted stream which runs at the foot of the hill upon Newbridge. which Newbridge stands is the source of water supply of the majority of the inhabitants. At the top of the hill are several badly-protected wells. It is here, where water is abundant, that the Shalfleet Parochial Committee propose to dig a well by the roadside and affix a pump. I beg to represent to you once more, that what is required at Newbridge is that some of the water at the top of the hill should be brought in pipes to its base for the use of the people who now drink from the stream fouled by human excrement.

The inhabitants of Shalfleet also drink from the same Shalfleet. polluted stream. A well seems the only means now of providing a better supply.

At Ningwood water is obtained from the streams and ponds Ningwood. for domestic purposes, and rainwater is stored also; but the deep well at Ningwood House is resorted to for drinking purposes. This is not likely to be available permanently, and I have suggested bringing water from the Bembridge Limestone nearer its outcrop to the south. The Shalfleet Parish Schools at Ningwood are in a satisfactory sanitary condition, and the drainage at the Green Farm has been improved.

You will probably remember that in my annual report for the year 1891 I considered very fully the question of the water supply of the villages of this part of your District.

The public well by the roadside at Wellow, which was Wellow and Thorley. reconstructed by your Authority a few years back, continues to be of great benefit to the inhabitants. The general sanitary condition of Wellow and Thorley, which has been so greatly improved by the abolition of some of the filth nuisances, continues to be fairly satisfactory.

I am glad to be able to report that, although the sewers of Yarmouth. Yarmouth, which have but little fall, are not properly flushed, and although the water supply is derived from wells, some of which are obviously polluted, its sanitary condition has improved during the year by the connection of the Coastguard Station with the sewer, and by the reconstruction of the closets of the Parochial Schools and their connection with the sewer. The foreshore of the estuary is no longer fouled



by sewage, and the children of Yarmouth will have a better chance of keeping in good health. It is desirable that the sewer should be extended for the houses near the Railway Station to drain into. The water main of the Freshwater Waterworks is to be extended to Yarmouth as soon as possible.

Freshwater.

Freshwater has now an independent water supply. At the close of the year it was probably in a better sanitary condition than it has known hitherto. The efforts of your Authority have certainly borne fruit in Freshwater; but old nuisances recur there from time to time. The question of sewers is a most serious one. Freshwater Gate should be sewered, and the sewage now discharged into the Bay should either be carried farther out or discharged to the north; and this opens up the very difficult matter of the direction the sewer should take. In my opinion no sewage should be discharged into Freshwater Bay, having regard to the future of the place; but to carry a sewer down the bank of the estuary of the Yar to the Solent would be such a serious undertaking for a place of the population and rating value of Freshwater, that a conclusion should be arrived at only after the greatest possible deliberation. Seven new houses have been built in the Freshwater proposed Local Board District during the year under review. The operation of bye-laws and of regulations for hackney carriages and bathing machines is much needed at Freshwater.

Totland Bay.

Having already an independent water supply, the sewer, which it is in contemplation to make, ought to place Totland Bay in as sanitary a condition as any place in your District. Regulations for hackney carriages and for bathing machines are particularly requisite here also. Three houses were built at Totland, and four at Colwell, during the year.

Brooke,  
Hulverstone,  
and Limerstone.

Brooke has an independent water supply provided by the owner of Brooke House. Hulverstone, the next hamlet, is in want of water. It may be provided from the Brooke supply, or independently, probably, from the Upper Greensand which outcrops on the hill to the north of it. This source has provided a supply for Limerstone, brought by the trustees of the estate to a tap by the roadside. It should be laid on to each cottage and continued to Thorncross, where cottagers drink from the polluted stream.

Brighstone.

At the present time the majority of the inhabitants of Brighstone drink from the stream, as their progenitors have done for many generations, when it was probably less contaminated by sewage. There are wells from which others drink, some of them sunk in the Lower Greensand, and others in superficial deposits of gravel and sand, and there are a few slated houses which have an insufficient rainwater supply. The independent supply of Brighstone from the Upper Greensand has long been contemplated, and your Authority



are about to carry out the work at an estimated cost of about £500. At a place called Buddle Hole there are very strong springs, and this should be the site of the reservoir; but the owner of Brighstone Mill claims the right to prevent water being taken from the head of the stream. The purchase of the mill at a price, the sinking fund and interest of which would be provided by the rent and the balance of the water income, would meet the difficulty.

The improvement in the sanitary condition of Shorwell Shorwell. continues. Some of the inhabitants drink from the stream which is polluted almost to its source. A private pump to the north of the village supplies several cottages from the Upper Greensand. The head of the stream is formed by very strong Upper Greensand springs on private grounds within the village. It would be a very simple and comparatively inexpensive matter to give Shorwell an independent supply of water.

At Blackgang, the majority of the houses are supplied Blackgang and Chale. independently from the Upper Greensand Cliff, and their sewage finds its way to the shore, via Blackgang Chine. Chale, on the Gault, may be supplied with the water it so much needs, from the same formation.

With the exception of one or two gutter nuisances at Chillerton and Gatcombe. Chillerton, which recur occasionally, the sanitary condition of Chillerton and Gatcombe is greatly improved as regards obvious nuisances. Situated in valleys of the Upper Greensand, water is abundant, but the wells are nearly all "dip" wells, and are not sufficiently protected.

The provision of an independent water supply for Gunville Gunville and Forest Side. and Forest Side should have been made by your Authority. The benefit of the supply is limited in certain places in which you have been negligent of your duty in this respect, because the rate insisted on is larger than that permitted by the Act, and, consequently, you cannot compel owners to lay on the water to their cottages. In Gunville, many of the tenements are small, and the water rate charged by the Corporation of Newport is prohibitive in many instances. It is upon the poor cottagers that the suffering falls, and the subject ought to engage your very serious attention. With the water main running through Gunville Lane, carrying water obtained in the parish, and at the cost of the water supply of the parish, for the wells are being lowered in parts of it, it is lamentable to see persons—sometimes old and decrepit, sometimes children, sometimes poor women worn with the labour of a large family—toiling a quarter-of-a-mile with buckets to get impure water from "dip" holes by the roadside. When water is supplied outside their District by an Urban Authority, it should be done through the Authority of the District



supplied. In no case should any Authority or Company be permitted to supply water in a District until they have undertaken to furnish cottage property at the rate prescribed by the Law. These valuable monopolies of such necessities to life as pure water, whether held by other Authorities or by private Companies, may be most antagonistic to the general good, if not very strictly controlled. In all matters affecting health, the community should be, and, so far as the Law goes, to a great extent are, protected against the cupidity of individuals. Gutter nuisances are appearing in connection with the new houses built on the Alvington land at the south of Gunville. It will be necessary to include this part of the hamlet, at least, in the scheme for sewerage Carisbrooke.

Carisbrooke.

The sanitary condition of Carisbrooke at the end of the year did not differ from its state at the end of the previous year. It would seem as if you had done as much in the way of sanitary improvement there as is possible without properly constructed sewers, which you have decided to make, and which are even of greater importance to Newport than to you: for Carisbrooke to the south of the Freshwater Road drains into the Chalk, from which the water for the supply of that town is drawn. Many of the houses on the south side of Carisbrooke are supplied from deep wells in the Chalk; but as the water in these is lowered by the pumping at the Newport Waterworks, or contaminated by the equally deep cesspits, water is being laid on to them from the Newport water main. A most offensive nuisance, which I have reported to you before, is occasioned by a cesspit in the Chalk, into which the sewage of several cottages in the Pit at the top of Carisbrooke is discharged. The Chalk about it is so saturated that the sewage does not readily soak away, and it overflows on the surface. A pump is fixed, and the mode of scavenging is to open a hole in the Chalk, and pump the contents of the cesspit into it; but the owner does not have this done with sufficient frequency.

Bye-laws.

At the end of the year your District continued unprotected by bye-laws. As I have said, you submitted two sets of bye-laws to the Local Government Board for their approval, one set to apply to the whole District, and the other set to apply only in populous places. The Local Government Board pointed out to you, that in populous places, where you had proposed by bye-law to impose upon occupiers the obligation of removing house refuse, it was your duty to scavenge. After much delay you have resolved to scavenge in populous places. You are now awaiting from the Local Government Board an expression of opinion upon or approval of the bye-laws submitted to them.

Regulations for private drains.

As you did not succeed in a prosecution to compel the owner of two houses to connect each with the sewer by a



separate drain, because you had no directions for these matters, you adopted certain regulations. This was an important step in advance, and I suggested in my last annual report that, when it was proposed to build a new house in your District, notice should be given to you or to one of your sanitary officers by the owner and the builder, and that the Inspector of the particular Medene should thereupon furnish to the owner and the builder copies of these regulations, and see to it that they are observed; and that to this end no new drain should be covered in until it has been inspected. You adopted this suggestion, but you have not given effect to it.

With certain alterations you adopted regulations for dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops, which you directed me to prepare, and which were published in my annual report for the year 1889. You wished them to be regarded simply as suggestions, as you did not think it necessary to compel their observance. Your District, therefore, is not protected in this important matter, as I pointed out in my last annual report. Your Committee appointed to consider this report expressed themselves satisfied with the administration of the regulations for dairies, bakehouses, and slaughterhouses. While pointing out that you have no regulations for dairies, but only suggestions, and that your Committee were mistaken with reference to bakehouses and slaughterhouses, I must admit that the periodic inspection of dairies in your District has produced a vast improvement in their condition. Seventy-three dairies were inspected and reinspected last year in the West Medene, and fifty-one in the East Medene; while twenty-one dairies were limewashed after notice in the West Medene and fourteen in the East Medene. Dairies are registered, and this facilitates inspection. Three persons, two in the West Medene and one in the East Medene, were discovered selling milk without being registered.

Regulations for dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops.

Neither slaughterhouses nor bakehouses are registered in your District; but the proposed bye-laws provide for the registration and regulation of slaughterhouses. Your Committee appointed to consider my report for the year 1890 were of opinion that bakehouses should be registered and regularly inspected. Neither slaughterhouses nor bakehouses were registered at the close of the year.

Regulations for slaughterhouses and bakehouses.

Your District has the advantage of protection by notification against infectious diseases. It has been of immense service during the year under review when infectious disease was frequently imported into your District from some of the towns. It was also a means of protection to the towns, for by its assistance it was possible to take as much care to prevent the importation of infectious disease into the Urban Districts as to prevent its spread in your District. It is quite impossible to understand the objection to notification. There

Notification.



is no matter in connection with which the presence of your officers is so anxiously looked for and so heartily welcomed as that of the notification of infectious disease.

Inspection.

As soon as bye-laws are operative in your District, inspection work ought to be more systematically done; indeed, this is one of the principal reasons why bye-laws are so desirable. No District is properly inspected in which inspections are not made systematically from house to house, and no systematic inspection of a District is thorough which does not bring about the inspection of every house in that District, at least once a year. Of course, many premises must be visited much more frequently. At present, the reports of particular nuisances remain so long on the Inspectors' books, that much time is used up between Board day and Board day in making journeys to see how they are getting on. There must, of course, be some delay in obtaining the abatement of nuisances, and there has been a great deal of improvement in this respect since the routine sanitary work was taken by your Committee; but, from every point of view, it is most desirable nuisances should be abated as quickly as possible, and particularly as every year greater demands are made upon the time of the Inspectors for other than inspection work. They are your Surveyors under the Act, and there are distinct advantages in this. Small matters of sanitary improvement are kept more under your control; they appear less formidable when they are carried out by your own officers, and expense is minimised; but the surveys and the plans and estimates can only be made by the expenditure of a large amount of time.

You equalised the salaries of the Inspectors last year. As one of them has passed the examination of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain, I strongly urged you to mark the fact by making a difference in the income derived from the office of Inspector. Instead of this, you intimated to your uncertificated officer that you expected him to pass the same examination. I did not advise you to make one salary less, but the other salary more; and this it seemed to me was not only just to your Inspector, but right policy on the part of a Sanitary Authority. While some do not appreciate the importance of employing highly-trained men in sanitary work, many will agree it is not sound policy to keep the remuneration of sanitary officers too low. Year by year their duties become more onerous, and, although an upright man will not fail to do his duty under all circumstances if his additional services receive no recognition, that duty may be performed under an oppressive sense of injustice which the members of Sanitary Authorities do not always realise. The Inspectors did not contract with you to act as Surveyors, and you have done well to recognise this by the increase of salary you have



given them, and which is still not large as compared with the salaries paid in less important Districts, and in which the expense of getting about is far less.

My report would scarcely be completed if I made no reference to the course you adopt in the conduct of your business. The subjects which engage your attention come before you through the minutes, the agenda, the correspondence which the Clerk reads, and which includes communications from Parochial Committees, and the Inspectors' books. Your Committee deal with the routine work of inspection and give directions to the Inspectors, but matters involving expenditure or possible legal action, or the granting certificates, or subjects arising out of the fortnightly reports, which they think it desirable you should consider, are referred to you. Individual members of your Authority give notice of questions they wish to bring before you, or, by making enquiries at your meetings, they often initiate important discussions. Propositions are debated, and by the votes of the majority you arrive at certain decisions, or you adopt reports submitted to you, or you refer matters to the Parochial Committees. Not infrequently nothing more is heard of these decisions, and they are not acted upon. There should be some method adopted which would facilitate the introduction of measures, and commit their charge to individual members who would be responsible for them, and which would also keep alive your decisions and give effect to them. Procedure.

Looking back through ten years upon your District viewed from the sanitary standpoint, one becomes conscious of a keen sense of disappointment and discouragement that more has not been accomplished; but as one proceeds to compare the present with the past, one cannot fail to note the enormous improvement which has been brought about, not only as regards obvious nuisances and works of sewerage and water supply, but also as regards administration and the earnestness and appreciation of duty manifested in connection with it. This it is which affords encouragement for the future, seeing that much remains to be done before your obligations under the Law to the people of this Island will be fulfilled.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. GROVES.

*Carisbrooke.*



