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THE  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF  
GREAT CROSBY.


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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1904.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1904.

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THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
GREAT CROSBY URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present you with my 31st Annual Report as to the health and sanitary conditions of the district. Appended you will find the report of the Sanitary Inspector, and an epitome of the work done by him and myself.

**Table of Notified Infectious Diseases.**

| SCARLET FEVER.                | No. of<br>Cases. | Deaths.   | No. sent<br>to<br>hospital. |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Abbotsford Road .. .. .       | 1                | ..        | ..                          |
| Bond's Lane .. .. .           | 2                | ..        | 2                           |
| Blundellsands Road W. .. .. . | 2                | ..        | 1                           |
| Burbo Bank Road.. .. .        | 2                | ..        | ..                          |
| Coronation Road .. .. .       | 1                | ..        | 1                           |
| Cyprus Vale .. .. .           | 2                | ..        | 2                           |
| Harrington Road .. .. .       | 1                | ..        | ..                          |
| Little Crosby Road .. .. .    | 3                | ..        | ..                          |
| Liverpool Road .. .. .        | 1                | ..        | ..                          |
| Me-sey Road .. .. .           | 1                | ..        | ..                          |
| Moregate Street .. .. .       | 1                | ..        | 1                           |
| Russell Road .. .. .          | 1                | ..        | ..                          |
| St. Anthony's Road .. .. .    | 1                | ..        | ..                          |
| York Road .. .. .             | 1                | ..        | ..                          |
| <b>Total</b> .. .. .          | <b>20</b>        | <b>..</b> | <b>7</b>                    |



|                                 | No. of<br>Cases | Deaths. | No. sent<br>to<br>hospital. |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| <b>DIPHTHERIA.</b>              |                 |         |                             |
| Agnes Road .. .. .              | 2               | ..      | ..                          |
| Cyprus Vale .. .. .             | 2               | ..      | 1                           |
| Liverpool Road (Nazareth House) | 1               | 1       | 1                           |
| Rabbit Road .. .. .             | 3               | ..      | ..                          |
| Total .. .. .                   | 8               | 1       | 2                           |
| <b>ERYSIPPELAS.</b>             |                 |         |                             |
| Cambridge Road .. .. .          | 1               | ..      | ..                          |
| Cyprus Vale .. .. .             | 1               | ..      | ..                          |
| Moor Place.. .. .               | 1               | ..      | ..                          |
| Richmond Terrace .. .. .        | 1               | ..      | ..                          |
| Victoria Road .. .. .           | 1               | ..      | ..                          |
| York Road .. .. .               | 2               | ..      | ..                          |
| Total .. .. .                   | 7               | ..      | ..                          |
| <b>TYPHOID FEVER.</b>           |                 |         |                             |
| Kilnyard Road .. .. .           | 1               | ..      | 1                           |
| Little Crosby Road .. .. .      | 1               | ..      | ..                          |
| Liverpool Road (Nazareth House) | 1               | ..      | ..                          |
| Sefton View .. .. .             | 1               | 1       | ..                          |
| Total .. .. .                   | 4               | 1       | 1                           |
| Gross Totals .. .. .            | 39              | 2       | 10                          |

The total number of Notified Cases was 39, of which 10 were treated in Hospital, one case of which died. One case of Enteric Fever was treated at home, and proved fatal.

#### Scarlet Fever.

Twenty cases of this disease were notified, none of these died. Seven were removed to Hospital; thirteen of these cases were of children—5 and 15 years of age—and were attending the various schools in the district. I cannot, however, attribute this to any sanitary defects in those premises.

#### Typhoid Fever.

Four cases were notified. These were treated at home; one died. One was removed to Hospital, and recovered.

#### Diphtheria.

Eight cases of this disease were notified, two of which were removed to Hospital, the others being treated at home; there were no deaths from this cause.

### Erysipelas.

Seven cases of this disease were notified ; all were treated at home, and there were no deaths.

The following table gives the number of patients removed to the Infectious Hospital during the last ten years :—

| 1895 | 1896 | 1897 | 1898 | 1899 | 1900 | Census<br>pop.<br>1901 | 1902 | 1903 | 1904 |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------------------------|------|------|------|
| 0    | 3    | 0    | 9    | 23   | 16   | 7                      | 17   | 16   | 10   |

The average number removed from this district to Hospital per year for the past 10 years is 10·1.

### Hospital Account.

The cost for hospital accommodation was as follows:—

|   |       |    |    |
|---|-------|----|----|
| Annual contribution for maintenance of hospital ... ..    | £171  | 0  | 0  |
| Cost of maintenance of patients and their removal ... ..  | 86    | 17 | 10 |
|   | <hr/> |    |    |
|   | £257  | 17 | 10 |
| <i>Cr.</i> —The amount received from patients or the West |       |    |    |
| Derby Union... ..   | £36   | 4  | 2  |
| Claim outstanding... ..                                   | 23    | 19 | 2  |
|   | <hr/> |    |    |
|   | 60    | 3  | 4  |
|   | <hr/> |    |    |
| Nett cost ... ..  | £197  | 14 | 6  |
|   | <hr/> |    |    |

### Health of the District.

During the year there has not been any serious epidemic or anything worthy of record in regard to preventible disease. However, for the last three months Measles caused some trouble, resulting in the closing of the Halsall's Girls' School Infants' department, from the 10th October to the 4th of November ; also the Girls' department of this school, from the 19th of October to the 4th November. Also SS. Peter and Paul's Mixed and Infants' School, from the 4th of November to the 28th.

### Inspection of the District.

The Sanitary Inspector and myself have systematically inspected the district periodically. I have also visited and inspected various premises with both the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.



## VITAL STATISTICS.

### Birth Rate.

The births registered in the district during the year ending December 31st were 181, being 90 males and 91 females; giving a birth rate of **19.79** per 1000, as against 174 in the previous year, a birth rate of 21.64.

### Birth Rate for the past 12 years.

| 1893  | 1894  | 1895  | 1896  | 1897  | 1898  | 1899  | 1900  | Census<br>pop.<br>1901 | 1902  | 1903  | 1904         |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------------------|-------|-------|--------------|
| 24.04 | 23.36 | 21.04 | 23.17 | 22.92 | 18.18 | 19.59 | 19.61 | 21.44                  | 17.89 | 21.64 | <b>19.79</b> |

Average birth rate for the past 12 years = **21.05** per 1000.

Of the 114 deaths (54 males and 60 females) which occurred this year, 46 were of children under 5 years, of these 26 were of infants under 1 year; 31 were of persons over 65 years, 23 of these latter were between 70 and 86 years of age—giving a death rate of 12.46, as against 9.81 last year.

### Death Rate for the past 12 years.

| 1893  | 1894  | 1895 | 1896  | 1897  | 1898 | 1899  | 1900  | Census<br>pop.<br>1901 | 1902  | 1903 | 1904         |
|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|------------------------|-------|------|--------------|
| 10.71 | 10.11 | 8.53 | 11.72 | 11.72 | 8.30 | 12.41 | 12.57 | 12.57                  | 11.19 | 9.81 | <b>12.46</b> |

Average death rate for the past 12 years = **11.00**.

### Table of Deaths.

|                       |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |            |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|------------|
| Under 1 year          | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 26         |
| 1 and under 5 years   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 20         |
| 5 and under 15 years  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4          |
| 15 and under 25 years | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1          |
| 25 and under 65 years | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 32         |
| 55 and upwards        | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 31         |
| Total                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | <u>114</u> |

### Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

The number of deaths from diseases of this class was 22, giving a death rate of **2.40**, as against 5 deaths last year, or a death rate of 0.62 per 1000. The causes of death were 9 from measles, 8 from whooping cough, 1 from enteric fever, and 4 from diarrhoea.

The increase this year has been from measles and whooping cough, occurring amongst school children, as stated previously in this report.

### Rainfall at Blundellsands, 1904.

I have again to acknowledge my indebtedness for the record of the rainfall, taken at Park Corner, Blundellsands, to T. Mellard Reade, Esq., C.E., F.G.S., F.R.I.B.A., supplied me by his son, Mr. Aleya Lyell Reade.

The gauge is a 5-inch one, taken at 1 foot above ground, 32.87 feet above Ordnance datum.

|              | 1900-1903        |                  |                  |                  | 1904.                            |        |   |            |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|--------|---|------------|
|              | 1900.<br>Inches. | 1901.<br>Inches. | 1902.<br>Inches. | 1903.<br>Inches. | Greatest<br>Fall in<br>24 Hours. |        | No. of Days<br>on which<br>'01 or more<br>fell. |            |
|              |                  |                  |                  |                  | Inches.                          | Depth. | Date.   |            |
| January ..   | 4.20             | 2.19             | 1.61             | 2.12             | 2.19                             | 0.39   | 12  | 18         |
| February ..  | 2.97             | 1.43             | 1.81             | 2.05             | 4.25                             | 1.49   | 3   | 18         |
| March ..     | 1.07             | 1.38             | 1.75             | 3.30             | 1.60                             | 0.31   | 13  | 14         |
| April ..     | 1.13             | 1.28             | 1.49             | 1.72             | 1.12                             | 0.20   | 2   | 18         |
| May ..       | .75              | 0.93             | 3.23             | 2.59             | 1.85                             | 0.62   | 31  | 13         |
| June ..      | 2.52             | 1.49             | 1.85             | 2.19             | 1.20                             | 0.45   | 9   | 8          |
| July ..      | 0.79             | 1.43             | 2.05             | 1.96             | 0.96                             | 0.37   | 23  | 13         |
| August ..    | 6.90             | 2.56             | 1.79             | 3.71             | 2.95                             | 0.70   | 21  | 17         |
| September .. | 0.80             | 0.94             | 0.72             | 4.41             | 2.66                             | 0.86   | 6   | 11         |
| October ..   | 3.29             | 2.87             | 2.85             | 6.88             | 1.96                             | 0.60   | 16  | 10         |
| November ..  | 3.69             | 3.35             | 1.62             | 2.90             | 1.70                             | 0.29   | 6   | 14         |
| December ..  | 3.01             | 3.31             | 2.05             | 1.58             | 2.85                             | 0.51   | 7   | 16         |
| Total Inches | <u>32.12</u>     | <u>23.16</u>     | <u>22.82</u>     | <u>35.41</u>     | <u>25.29</u>                     |        |   | <u>170</u> |

It will be observed that 1904 rainfall was nearly 5 inches below the average, and just over 10 inches below the fall for 1903.

Yet notwithstanding the comparative dryness, the February of 1904 was the wettest ever recorded here—4.25 inches. The next wettest February was in 1881, when 3.95 inches fell.

The year 1904 was also very remarkable for the absence of droughts. We never had more than eleven consecutive days without rain.



The following table shews the average rainfall for each month, during 28 years—1876-1903—at Park Corner, Blundellsands :—

|           |     |     |     |       |
|-----------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| January   | ... | ... | ... | 2'244 |
| February  | ... | ... | ... | 1'927 |
| March     | ... | ... | ... | 1'887 |
| April     | ... | ... | ... | 1'695 |
| May       | ..  | ... | ... | 2'001 |
| June      | ... | ... | ... | 2'184 |
| July ..   | ... | ... | ... | 2'698 |
| August    | ... | ... | ... | 3'347 |
| September | ... | ... | ... | 2'754 |
| October   | ... | ... | ... | 3'385 |
| November  | ... | ... | ... | 3'073 |
| December  | ... | ... | ... | 2'919 |

Average yearly rainfall for past 28 years 30'114

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. S. LIMRICK,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

# SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

## Disinfection.

The following table gives the particulars and the number of rooms fumigated with sulphur for infectious diseases, &c., in which the Council have disinfected the bedding, &c.

NUMBER OF ROOMS FUMIGATED.

| Scarlet Fever. | Typhoid Fever. | Measles. | Diphtheria. | Erysipelas. | Cleansing. | Rooms Total. |
|----------------|----------------|----------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 34             | 1              | 28       | 4           | 3           | 1          | 71           |

NUMBER OF TIMES STOVE USED, AND FOR WHAT PURPOSE.

| Scarlet Fever. | Typhoid Fever. | Measles | Diphtheria. | Erysipelas. | Cleansing. | Times Total. |
|----------------|----------------|---------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 20             | 1              | 0       | 3           | 2           | 2          | 28           |

The following is the description and number of articles subjected to the dry heat process, for which the stoves have been used :—

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Beds .. .. .                                      | 34         |
| Mattresses .. .. .                                | 27         |
| Blankets, Sheets, Counterpanes, Rugs, &c. .. .. . | 124        |
| Pieces of Bedding, Pillows, Bolsters, &c. .. .. . | 72         |
| Wearing Apparel .. .. .                           | 90         |
| Carpets, Rugs, and Curtains, &c. .. .. .          | 21         |
| Total .. .. .                                     | <u>368</u> |

## Mortuaries.

The College Road Mortuary was used once only, in February, for a case of suicide. Verdict : "Temporary Insanity."



## Sanitary Improvements.

## NOTICES SERVED.

|               |     |     |     |  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Under Section | 19  | ..  | ... | " P.H.A.A. Act."                       | ..  | ... | ... | 8   |     |     |     |
| "             | ... | ... | ... | " Quarries Fencing Act "               | ... | ... | ... | 2   |     |     |     |
| "             | 91  | "   | "   | " Abatement of Nuisance "              | ... | ... | ... | 94  |     |     |     |
| "             | 120 | "   | "   | " Cleansing after Infectious Disease " | ... | ... | ... | 6   |     |     |     |
| "             | 160 | "   | "   | " Dangerous Buildings, &c."            | ..  | ... | ... | 2   |     |     |     |
| "             | 62  | "   | "   | " Water Supply "                       | ... | ... | ... | 1   |     |     |     |
| "             | 97  | "   | "   | " Houses unfit for Human Habitation "  | ... | ... | ... | 1   |     |     |     |
|               |     |     |     |  |     |     |     | —   |     |     |     |
| Total         |     |     |     |  |     |     |     | ... | ... | ... | 114 |
|               |     |     |     |  |     |     |     | —   | —   |     |     |

Many of the above notices are of a comprehensive character, and apply in many cases to several premises; there are also many sanitary defects discovered and pointed out to the owners and tenants of premises, who at once had the same amended and put right without any notice being required—hence, these amendments do not appear in the following list; while general notices, in the shape of handbills or posters, have been placed throughout the district, calling upon persons to cleanse ditches, water-courses, &c., to remove offensive accumulations, and to repair dangerous fences, buildings, &c.

I am sorry to say that many of the farmers and others who have land abutting or adjoining on water-courses or ditches, still neglect the cleansing and bottoming of same at a time when in a low and fit condition—such neglect must entail considerable loss and inconvenience, as well as throwing a greater responsibility on the sewers.

It must be noted that in many houses where infectious disease occurred, the occupier was either the owner or a tenant of the better class, hence notice to cleanse, under section 120, was unnecessary, the work being done by the owner or occupier.

Details of the above notices are as follow :—

## DESCRIPTION OF THE SANITARY AMENDMENT.

## PRIVY DEFECTS.

- |  | No. Amended. |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Foul privies converted into properly constructed water-closets (complete) ... | 46           |

## ASHPITS.

- |   |    |
|---|----|
| 2. Ashpits deep and foul filled to ground level, and suitably paved or amended, &c. | 49 |
|---|----|



## WATER-CLOSET DEFECTS.

|   | No. Amended. |
|---|--------------|
| 3. Defective and broken water-closet basins opened up, repaired, or replaced ...        | 22           |
| 4. Foul water-closet basins and traps cleaned or replaced... ..                         | 3            |
| 5. Water-closets rejointed ... ..   | 13           |
| 6. Do. store cisterns cleansed ... ..   | 10           |
| 7. Do. provided with efficient water supplies ... ..                                    | 17           |
| 8. Do. soil-pipes refixed and ventilating shafts repaired, and joints re-caulked ... .. | 30           |
| 9. Do. soil-pipes base broken and defective ... ..                                      | 17           |
| 10. Do. do. provided with ventilating shaft ... ..                                      | 1            |
| 11. Do. constant ventilation provided ... ..  | 6            |
| 12. Do. and drain joints defective ... ..   | 50           |
| 13. Do. roofs reconstructed (and in progress) ... ..                                    | 46           |
| 14. Privies converted into water-closets, and ashpits filed up .. ..                    | 47           |

## WASTE PIPE, &amp;c., DEFECTS.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 15. Waste pipes defective, disconnected or trapped ... .. | 20 |
| 16. Do. brickwork, and pavement under same amended ... .. | 21 |
| 17. Sinkstone pipe defective, replaced . . . . .          | 4  |

## SUNDRY DEFECTS.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| 18. Defective system of drainage reconstructed and partially reconstructed, affecting several premises ... .. | 32 |
| 19. Intercepting traps inserted, and broken ones replaced ... ..  | 20 |
| 20. Airways to intercepting traps provided ... ..   | 10 |
| 21. Drains and water-closets choked or defective, opened and properly cleansed                                | 35 |
| 22. Defective and broken gullies, D. and wet traps replaced ... ..  | 5  |
| 23. Defective drains in basements or houses removed ... ..  | 1  |
| 24. Defective joints to water-closet drains and gullies repaired ... ..                                       | 32 |
| 25. Downspouts, &c., choked ; eaves, gutters, roofs defective repaired ... ..                                 | 8  |
| 26. Do. disconnected and repaired ... ..  | 10 |
| 27. Soft water cisterns cleansed of foul and stagnant water or abolished ... ..                               | 5  |
| 28. Basements cleared of sewage .. ..   | 4  |
| 29. Basements having defective floors, and foul ... ..  | 2  |
| 30. Foul and stagnant water on premises, land, &c., removed ... ..  | 2  |
| 31. Yard and passage pavements defective and made good... ..  | 13 |
| 32. Ventilation to premises and basements provided ... ..   | 2  |
| 33. Watercourses, ditches, pits, cleansed ... ..  | 1  |
| 34. Dangerous buildings, walls, roofs, &c. ... ..   | 4  |
| 35. Land without secure and sufficient fencing ... ..   | 1  |
| 36. Premises cleaned and whitewashed ... ..   | 6  |
| 37. Do. infested with rats cleared ... ..   | 1  |
| 38. Dead animals removed ... ..   | 2  |
| 39. Smoke nuisances abated ... ..   | 2  |
| 40. House walls (damp) re-pointed ... ..  | 1  |
| 41. Ashpits, delapidated walls, &c., repaired or removed ... ..   | 5  |
| 42. Depositing offensive matter on land removed ... ..  | 4  |
| 43. Defective lead sink trap and waste pipes amended ... ..   | 2  |
| 44. Houses closed ... ..  | 1  |
| 45. Drains under dwellings removed ... ..   | 2  |

SUNDRY DEFECTS—*continued.*

|     |   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |   |
|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| 46  | Domestic well cleansed, repaired and protected... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| 47. | Houses having a combined drainage separated ...   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| 48. | Intercepting traps choked removed or repaired ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| 49. | Premises cleared of manure, filth, &c. ...        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| 50. | Animals removed ...                               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |

In carrying out the above amendments in *all cases of default*, the Council instructed their Solicitor to write and urge the execution of the work demanded, with the result that proceedings were only required to be taken before the magistrates in one case, when order, with costs, was granted.

**Dairies.**

The Dairies and Cowsheds have been periodically visited and the Regulations duly enforced. One new dairy has been built and is now in occupation, this making eighteen dairy premises in the district.

**Bakehouses, &c.**

There are two underground Bakehouses in the district which have been altered and amended so as to comply with the regulations under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

The remainder of the Bakehouses have been visited, and the sanitary conditions have been improved and maintained.

**Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.**

This district being largely residential, though rapidly increasing, has not many Factories or Workshops, but what do exist have been duly visited, and sanitary amendments, where necessary, have been enforced.

One case of an outworker, where infectious disease occurred, was notified by Dr. Hope, the Medical Officer of Health, Liverpool. It was found that the mother was a Liverpool outworker; and her boy, suffering from Scarlet Fever, was duly removed to Hospital; the house and clothing disinfected and cleansed; and a volume ("In a North Country Village"), loaned from a Liverpool Lending Library, was duly disinfected and returned by hand to the Municipal Offices, Liverpool.

The Medical Officer and myself inspected the condition of many deep Ashpits and Privies, and reported on same to the Council who



also visited; after which, Notices were duly served for the filling up of the Ashpits, and the Privy conversions. I am glad to say that in nearly all cases the work has been done or is in progress.

### Schools.

Certificates as to closing of two Schools through the prevalence of Measles, &c., were duly issued, and the Managers, Board of Education and County Authorities duly notified. During the vacation, the Schools were disinfected and cleansed, and the drains flushed.

The Medical Officer and myself visited these Schools to ascertain the sanitary conditions of the conveniences and accommodation, and reported on same to the Council. We recommended the *daily* flushing and disinfecting of the drains, w.c.'s and urinals by the Council's staff, and that the cost of this be defrayed jointly by Council and Educational Committee.

### Analysis.

During the year the carbolic acid as supplied to the Council for sanitation purposes was analysed, and found to be satisfactory.

### House Unfit for Human Habitation.

A house and shop was inspected by the Medical Officer and myself, and a certificate issued as to its being unfit for human habitation, and it was accordingly closed.

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One house that was closed the previous year as unfit for human habitation was permitted to be re-occupied, after certain amendments and conditions were carried out.

During the early part of the year the drainage of the Merchant Taylor's Grammar School was reconstructed on new lines. The work was tested both by water and smoke on completion, when all the work proved satisfactory. This system of drainage may now be considered a sanitary acquisition to such an establishment, and the outlay a good and judicious expenditure.

The Congress of The Institution of Public Health was held at Folkestone, July, 1904.



### The Testing of House Drains by Smoke.

This work of testing the drains in new houses, as well as those where Infectious Disease occurred, also others at the request of tenants, owners, &c., has been carried out on 341 premises, resulting in the discovery of defects in almost every case, some serious, others trivial, at the same time of such a nature that the defects could only be discovered by some such method of pressure testing.

I have the honour to remain,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

SAMUEL WILSON,

*Assistant Surveyor, Nuisance Inspector, and  
Factory and Workshops Inspector.*

*January, 1905.*

