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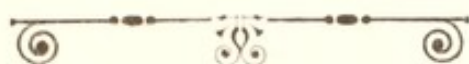
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1899.



ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE HEALTH

OF THE

RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT

OF THE

ISLE OF WIGHT.


BY

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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE
HEALTH OF THE RURAL SANITARY
DISTRICT OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT,
FOR THE YEAR 1899.

*To the Members of the Isle of Wight Rural District
Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my annual report on the health of your district for the year 1899. It includes a summary of the vital statistics of the year, of the sanitary history of the district during the year, and of its general sanitary state at the end of the year.

1. VITAL STATISTICS.

The population of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary **Population.** District in 1891 numbered 29,747. At the previous census (1881) it numbered 28,008. Since the last census was taken 2,515, or 8.45 per cent. of the rural population have been added to the towns. It is estimated that but for this interference the population of your district in the middle of 1899 would have numbered 31,138. What it is now is only an assumption, but for the purposes of this report it is taken at 28,920 in the middle of the year.

The natural increase of population, by excess of births over deaths was 179.

Population to acreage.

The acreage of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District is 85,114. In 1891 it was 87,599. 1,785 acres, much of it agricultural land and rural in character, have been included within the urban areas. The average population to the acre in the middle of the year was 0·339, or one person to 2·94 acres.

Births and deaths.

619 births and 440 deaths were registered as having occurred in your district during the year. The births numbered 328 boys and 291 girls. Of the births 28 were illegitimate. Of these 16 were boys and 12 were girls. Of the 440 deaths 264 were those of males and 176 those of females.

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

	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1st quarter	95	67	162	59	39	98
2nd „	69	84	153	60	45	105
3rd „	82	69	151	65	36	101
4th „	82	71	153	80	56	136
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	328	291	619	264	176	440

Birth rate and death rate.

In 1899 the birth rate in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District was 20·7 per 1,000 of the population, which is lower than the very low birth rate of 1898, and is the lowest recorded birth-rate of your district. It was 21·0 per 1,000 in 1898, 24·2 in 1897, 24·8 in 1896, 36·2 in 1895, 22·5 in 1894, and 25·9 in 1893.

The death-rate was 15·2 per 1,000 living. But 78 persons who were temporarily resident in the district are known to have died within it, and there were probably others. Deducting these 78 deaths the death rate is reduced to 12·5 per 1,000 living.

The mean birth-rate in the ten years 1889-98 was 24·5 and the mean death-rate was 15·6 per 1,000 living. If we compare the mean birth-rate and the mean death-rate for ten years with the birth-rate and death-rate of 1899 we find the birth-rate was 3·8, and the death-rate was 0·4 below the average.

Mean birth rate
and death-rate
in ten years.

The birth-rate in England and Wales in 1899 was 29·3 per 1,000 of the population, which is lower than that of any other year on record; compared with the average in the ten years 1889-98, the birth-rate in 1899 shows a decrease of 1·0 per 1,000. The death-rate in 1899 was 18·3 per 1,000 living, which is higher than the rate in either of the three years immediately preceding, but 0·1 below the average rate in the ten years 1889-98.

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

The death-rate in country districts—the area outside the boundaries of urban sanitary districts—was 16·3 per 1,000 of the population of the rural districts of England and Wales. The mean death-rate in these districts in the ten years 1889-98 was 16·8 per 1,000.

The birth-rate in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District in 1899 was 8·6 below the birth-rate of England and Wales and 9·6 below the mean birth-rate in the ten years 1889-98. The death-rate was 3·1 below the death-rate of England and Wales and 3·2 below the mean annual death rate of the ten years 1889-98. Deducting the deaths among strangers in the district, the death-rate was 5·8 below the general death rate of the

Comparison of
the birth-rate
and death-rate
in the I.W.
Rural Sanitary
District with
those of Eng-
land and Wales.

year, and 5·9 below the average death-rate of the ten years 1889-98. The death-rate of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District was 1·1 below that of the rural districts of the country generally, or deducting the deaths among temporary residents 3·8 below it, and it was 1·6 below the mean annual death-rate in rural districts in the ten years 1889-98, or, deducting the deaths among strangers, 4·3 below it.

Comparing the death-rate of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District in each of the ten years 1890-99 with the death-rate in England and Wales, and with that of the rural registration sub-districts in the same years we find it was in

	ENGLAND AND WALES.		RURAL DISTRICTS.	
1890	4·1 below the average.		2·4 below the average	
1891	3·7	„	2·0	„
1892	0·7	„	0·2 above	„
1893	4·6	„	2·8 below	„
1894	0·3 above	„	1·3 above	„
1895	1·9 below	„	0·2 below	„
1896	3·6	„	1·8	„
1897	4·2	„	2·6	„
1898	3·1	„	1·3	„
1899	3·1	„	1·1	„

Male and female death-rate.

In 1899-91, 9·1 males per 1,000 of the population of your district died, and 6·0 females.

Infant mortality

57 of the deaths registered were those of infants who died under one year of age. The proportion of deaths under one year of age to registered births was 92 per 1,000. The mean proportion of deaths under one year to registered births in the ten years 1889-98 was 92·6 per 1,000. The rate of mortality among infants under

one year of age to 1,000 registered births in England and Wales was 163, which is 12 per 1,000 above the mean proportion in the ten years 1889-98. In your district it was 0.6 per 1,000 below the mean of the district. Excluding 100 larger towns the mortality under one year of age in England and Wales was equal to 124 per 1,000. In 1899 the infant mortality in the Isls of Wight Rural Sanitary District was 71 per 1,000 below that of the country generally, and 32 per 1,000 below that of the country generally after excluding 100 larger towns.

97 children, 22 per cent. of all the deaths, died under five years of age, and 20 children, or 4.5 per cent. of the deaths, died between one and five years. The deaths between one year and sixty-five numbered 210, or 47.7 per cent. of the deaths.

173 persons died at 65 and upwards, which is equivalent to 39.3 per cent. of the deaths at all ages. Of these 40 died between 65 and 70, 74 between 70 and 80, 54 between 80 and 90, and five died over 90. Three of these were men and two were women—the greatest age at death—that of a farm labourer at Shalfleet—was 99.

Mortality of the aged.

The deaths included those of 78 persons who were not permanently resident in the district. Of these 46 died in the workhouse who had come there from the urban districts of the Island; 17 died in the County Lunatic Asylum at Whitecroft, 11 of whom were Island town residents, and six were from the mainland; 13 died in the National Hospital for Consumption at St. Lawrence, who were strangers to the Island; a visitor at Bonchurch was drowned while bathing, and the body of a stranger was found on the shore at Brighstone.

Deaths of strangers in the district.

Deaths from violence.

Of the deaths, eight occurred from some form of violence. There were three cases of suicide, two of them in Parkhurst Prison, where one convict cut his throat and another hanged himself, and a young agriculturist, residing near Godshill, shot himself. A man died in the workhouse after having been knocked down by a horse. A visitor was drowned while bathing on the south-east coast, and the body of a man was washed ashore at Brighstone, probably from some wreck in the Channel. A child of three fell from the cliff at Freshwater and was killed, and a youth was crushed to death by a founder of the cliff at Colwell Bay. In 1899 1·8 per cent. of the deaths were due to violence, and 0·27 per 1,000 of the population. In 1898 the deaths from violence were 2·1 per cent. of the deaths and 0·31 per 1,000 of the population. In 1897 they were 1·8 per cent., and 0·24 per 1,000 respectively; in 1896 4·9 per cent. and 0·66 per 1,000; and in 1895 2·6 per cent. and 0·47 per 1,000. The mean percentage of deaths from violence in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District in the ten years 1889-98 was 3·2. In England and Wales the deaths referred to different forms of violence in 1899 were in the proportion of 0·64 per 1,000 of the population against 0·66 and 0·61 in the two preceding years. In 6·3 per cent. of all the deaths in England and Wales inquests were held.

Mortality from certain diseases. Zymotic diseases.

The 440 deaths from all causes included—

1	attributed to	scarlatina.
3	„	diphtheria.
1	„	membranous croup.
2	„	enteric fever.
1	„	erysipelas.
2	„	whooping cough.
15	„	diarrhœa.
—		
25		

These 25 deaths from zymotic diseases were equal to a death-rate of 0·86 per 1,000 of the population, and to 5·6 per cent. of all the deaths. The zymotic death-rates of the three previous years were 0·70, 0·77 and 0·87 per 1,000 of the population of your district. The mean zymotic death-rate in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District in the ten years 1889-98 was 1·05. The zymotic death-rate in England and Wales in 1899 was 2·21 per 1,000 living, against 2·21, 2·17, and 2·22 respectively in the three preceding years. The average annual zymotic death-rate in England and Wales during the decennium 1881-90 was 2·30 per 1,000 living against 3·95, 4·15 and 3·38 per 1,000 respectively in the three decennia comprised in the period 1851-80.

Fifty-five persons died of consumption, equal to a death-rate of 1·90 per 1,000 of the population. Twelve of these died in the Royal National Hospital for Consumption, who were strangers to the Island; seven died in the work-house, who were Island residents, but not inhabitants of your district; and three died in the Asylum at Whitecroft, one of whom was an inhabitant of the Island, but not of your district, and two of whom were strangers to the Island. Deducting these the death-rate from phthisis was 1·13 per 1,000 living in your district. It was 1·41 per 1,000, if we exclude only strangers to the Island. The percentage of deaths from phthisis to all the deaths was 12·50, or deducting the deaths among visitors from the mainland 9·31, and of Island visitors to your district as well, 5·00. The percentage of deaths from phthisis to all the deaths in England and Wales is 9·3

Bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy were the registered causes of 51 deaths, 11 of which were those

of children under five years of age. Four of the persons who died from one or other of these lung diseases did not belong to your district. This is equal to a death-rate of 1·7 per 1,000 living, and to a percentage of 11·5 of the deaths. 3·3 is the mean death-rate in these diseases.

Heart disease. Heart disease caused the deaths of 51 persons, five of whom were strangers to your district. The deaths from heart disease were equivalent to a rate of 1·7 per 1,000 living, and to a percentage of 11·5 of the deaths. The mean death-rate from heart disease is 1·3 per 1,000.

Cancer. 30 cases of death from the different forms of cancer were registered, which is equivalent to 6·8 per cent. of the deaths from all causes. The mean percentage of deaths from cancer to all the deaths in England and Wales is 2·7.

Tuberculosis. Six deaths were registered as due to some form of scrofula other than pulmonary tuberculosis or consumption. This is equivalent to a percentage of 1·3 of the deaths. The percentage of deaths from tuberculosis to all the deaths in England and Wales is 3·6.

Notified diseases. 96 cases of infectious disease in your district were notified in 1899. They were equal to 3·31 per 1,000 of the population. They included 56 cases of scarlatina, 11 cases of diphtheria, 1 of membranous croup, 18 of enteric fever, 10 of erysipelas.

Zymotic death-rate. I am of opinion the zymotic death-rate of your district is not correctly given. It is calculated from the deaths from certain diseases, including erysipelas and diarrhœa. The single case of death from erysipelas arose from inflammation of the mamma in a woman of 69, the skin becoming eventually involved in the inflammation. In-

deed, the few cases of erysipelas notified of those which occur are not cases of infectious zymotic disease with which one was formerly familiar in the surgical wards of hospitals, but to disease confined to the individual and known in medicine as idiopathic erysipelas. As regards *diarrhœa*, we rarely have in your district outbreaks of diarrhœa due to zymotic causes such as occur in large towns. Many of the cases of diarrhœa among children have a nervous origin, and are often associated with dentition, while other cases arise from improper feeding. It is not generally known how impossible it is for the peasantry to obtain milk in some sections of a rural district. Diarrhœa in young children is sometimes caused by milk, as is proved by its disappearance when the milk is boiled or when it is obtained from another source. The milk vended by "small" dairymen who have not proper facilities, and who do not appreciate the necessity of the most careful precautions in collecting it, is more frequently the cause, apparently, of diarrhœa in young children. But, speaking generally, the eleven cases of children under five years whose deaths were registered as having occurred from diarrhœa, did not die of a zymotic disease. As old age comes on the powers decline and diarrhœa is often present. Frequently cases are registered as having died from senile decay and diarrhœa. The two cases of adults were registered as having died of exhaustion from diarrhœa pure and simple, and they were included among the deaths from diarrhœa. One was the case of a man of 70, the other that of a woman of 62. It is very doubtful if these cases were of zymotic origin. Five deaths were registered as having occurred from gastro-enteritis. These are included among "all other diseases" in Table A.

(A) Table of DEATHS during the Year 1899 in I.W. Rural Sanitary

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; public in- stitutions being shown as different localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES AT SUBJOINED AGES.							(i)	1	2
	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)		Smallpox	Scarlatina
(a) NEWPORT.	43	11	2	1	1	10	18	Under 5 upwds.		
WORKHOUSE.	64	1	1	1	1	22	38	Under 5 5 upwds.		
PARKHURST PRISON.	17						12	5	Under 5 5 upwds.	
PARKHURST BARRACKS.	8	1	2	1	1	3			Under 5 5 upwds.	
LUNATIC ASYLUM.	20						12	8	Under 5 5 upwds.	
COWES.	43	10	2				11	20	Under 5 5 upwds.	1
RYDE.	35	6	2				13	14	Under 5 5 upwds.	
BRADING.	44	8	3		2	14	17		Under 5 5 upwds.	
GODSHILL.	60	6	2	2	2	25	23		Under 5 5 upwds.	
CONSUMPTION HOSPITAL.	14			1	5	8			Under 5 5 upwds.	
CALBOURNE.	92	14	6	4	6	32	30		Under 5 5 upwds.	
TOTALS	440	57	20	10	18	162	173		Under 5 5 upwds.	1
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 be- longing thereto.	78		1	2			37	32	Under 5 5 upwds.	

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
Membranous Croup	FEVERS.					Cholera	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia & Pleurisy	Heart Disease.		Injuries.	All other diseases.	TOTAL
	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.													
										2			1				10	13
												3	6	4			17	30
												1					1	2
										1		7	3	4		1	45	62
												3	1	6		2	5	17
													1				2	3
		1										2	1				1	5
		1										3	2	1			13	20
									2	3		1	3				2	12
											1	3	6	11			10	31
										2			2				4	8
												1	2	4			20	27
										3			2				6	11
												3	5	7			18	33
										1							7	8
										7	1	6	8	4		2	30	52
													12				2	14
										2			2			1	13	20
1							1					10	6	10		2	42	72
									2	13		2	11			1	45	77
1	2						1			9	9	53	40	51		7	293	363
												1						1
		1								1		21	4	5		3	41	77

(B) Table of POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS during the year 1899, in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary

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.	1		2	
	Last Census.	Estimated to middle of 1899.			Smallpox	Scarlatina.		
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)				
NEWPORT.			107	Under 5 5 upwds.			1 5	
WORKHOUSE.				Under 5 5 upwds.				
PARKHURST PRISON.				Under 5 5 upwds.				
PARKHURST BARRACKS.				Under 5 5 upwds.				
LUNATIC ASYLUM.				Under 5 5 upwds.				
COWES.			77	Under 5 5 upwds.			6 15	
RYDE.			58	Under 5 5 upwds.			5	
BRADING.			89	Under 5 5 upwds.			14 30	
GODSHILL.			108	Under 5 5 upwds.				
CALBOURNE.			180	Under 5 5 upwds.			3 10	
TOTALS	29,747	28,920	619	Under 5 5 upwds.			24 65	

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory above-mentioned Diseases, insert in the columns with blank headings columns accordingly. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated.—No

KNESSES, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, District; classified according to DISEASES, AGES, AND LOCALITIES.

NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.			
		Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.					
1											
1			1					1			
1											
			1								
			8								
			1								
			8					1			
4											
								1			
								4			
	1		4								
								1			
2								1			
5	1							1			
3								1			
11	2		23					9			

AREA AND POPULATION OF THE DISTRICT.
 Area in Acres 85,814
 Population (last Census) 29,747
 " (estimated to middle of 1897) 28,750

the District.—Yes. Since when? January 1st, 1890. Besides the names of any diseases that are notifiable in the District and fill the by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is Isolation Hospital,

2. THE SANITARY HISTORY OF THE YEAR.

In reporting to you upon the sanitary history of your district during the year under review, it would appear to be necessary to state that the local Government Board require the annual report of the medical officer of health to be carefully made in accordance with the official instructions, and to restate that these instructions direct him to report upon the conditions affecting health in his district, and with the means for improving those conditions, and to consider these subjects with reference to the past and future as well as to the particular year. He has no choice, therefore, in whatever direction his report may tell, and whether the consideration of these subjects with reference to the past and future as well as to the present involves the action of the Council he serves or that of other authorities.

Zymotic
diseases.

The principal zymotic or preventible diseases present in your district during the year were scarlatina, diphtheria, membranous croup, enteric fever, measles, and chicken pox.

An epidemic of *measles* which started in 1895 spread over the Isle of Wight, and finally died out in the Calbourne area at the beginning of 1898. It was of a particularly severe type. So far as your district was concerned it did not appear again till the spring of 1899, and then in a milder form. It was present at Wootton, Freshwater, and Gurnard, and later in the year at Yarmouth, Bembridge, Merstone, Whitwell, and Wootton again.

Whooping Cough prevailed at Yarmouth and at Lock's Green in the spring, and in the autumn it appeared in the southern-centre and south of the district from Rookley to Niton.

Chicken Pox was epidemic at Bonchurch and Brading in May and June, at Northwood in June, at Godshill in May, June and July, at Carisbrooke in August, at Rookley and Chillerton in September, at Totland Bay there were cases in October, and in November and December it was widespread in the Brighstone area.

Apparently there was an absence of *Scarlatina* from your district until March, when a case at Bembridge was notified. It was that of a boy who played football with boys from St. Helens, where the disease prevailed. In April and May there were cases of sore throat associated with rash at Brading among children attending schools at which children from St. Helens also attended, and in June several cases of *Scarlatina* were notified, and the schools were closed. In August two cases were notified. In September there was a fresh outbreak of *scarlatina*, which died down and ceased in December. In May a case occurred at Werrar, Northwood, the poison having been brought from East Cowes. In August there were cases of the disease among the children at the Whippingham Parochial Schools at which children from East Cowes attended, and in November a fresh outbreak occurred. Unconnected with this, a household in Whippingham Parish became infected from Ryde apparently. In December a girl went home from school at Ryde to Brighstone and had *scarlatina*, three other members of the family becoming infected. In October there were cases of *scarlatina* at the Haylands Police Station, and a boy at Smallbrook,

who attended the Bettsworth Road Schools—closed shortly after on account of scarlatina—had the disease ; and in December a child at Upton attending the Ashley Schools was affected. In October there was an imported case at Golden Hill Fort, Freshwater, and two other cases occurred in the house from which she was nursed in November. About the same time a case occurred at Freshwater Bay, and later there was a case at Cliff Hill, there having been communication between the different houses. In July a whole family were infected at Carisbrooke, the mother having visited an infected house in Portsmouth.

A case of *Diphtheria* occurred in a child attending the Carisbrooke Board School, Hunnyhill, at Horsebridge Hill. There were several unnotified cases of throat affection in the neighbourhood. In February a case occurred in the Infirmary Buildings at Parkhurst Prison, an insanitary place notorious for diphtheria. In March a case was admitted to the Workhouse from Sandown. In August a case at Head Down, Niton, was notified. In January two cases were notified in the same house at Middleton, Freshwater ; and in November a child died from the disease at Church Place, Freshwater. In November a girl had diphtheria at Hurstake on the Medina, who attended the Hunnyhill Schools, other members of her family having had bad throats about a fortnight previously. In November a child had diphtheria immediately after returning home from Werrar, Northwood. In the same month a boy who went to school in West Cowes had diphtheria in Rew Street in the same parish, and at the beginning of December a case at Gurnard was notified. The boy attended the Gurnard School. There were other cases of throat affection in Gurnard at the time,

In October a case notified as *Membranous Croup* died at Freshwater.

A case of *Enteric Fever* at the well-known and admirable convalescent home at Bonchurch was notified in May. The child was sent from the London Hospital as convalescent from broncho-pneumonia. He had evidently had enteric fever, from a relapse of which he was suffering. In September another child in the Home, from the Evelina Hospital for sick children, developed the disease. She was supposed to have suffered from a chest affection also, but at the time she was in the "Evelina" her mother was in a London Hospital suffering from enteric fever, and another member of the family had the disease just previously. There was a third case in October among these supposed convalescing children from London hospitals. One does not like to be severe in one's criticisms of an error in diagnosis in such a disease as enteric fever, but one cannot avoid the impression that gross carelessness alone can account for cases of enteric fever remaining unrecognised in large London hospitals, and the correspondence I have had upon the subject does not diminish that impression. In December a gardener at St. Lawrence living in the village of Whitwell had, and subsequently died of, enteric fever. It was difficult to trace the source of the poison as the patient did not take milk and was supposed to rarely drink cold water; but, as I have often said, there is no knowing where the sewage of the Undercliff finds its way, and all underground water there which is not beyond any risk of contamination should be boiled before drinking. In June a young gamekeeper living at Lynn Cross, Briddlesford, had the disease. It was hot weather, and the supposition was he had drunk polluted water while at work in

that clay district. In July a convict had enteric fever in Parkhurst Prison. These cases of enteric fever at the Prison are usually difficult to trace, but a stream runs through the grounds; it is a clay district, and one can imagine contaminated water being drunk by convicts when at work in the fields in hot weather. In September three cases were notified in the family of a prison warder—who also had the disease—resident in Parkhurst Terrace, Horsebridge Hill. A sanitary official of the Corporation of Portsmouth in ill-health had been visiting at the house. Subsequently I had correspondence with the Portsmouth Medical Officer of Health about the case of this man, who developed enteric fever after he returned to his home. My own view was he was suffering from the disease when he went to Horsebridge Hill. There was an abominable stench in the w.c., and in an adjoining outhouse whenever the closet was used, which was found to be due to a broken pipe of an imperfectly ventilated drain. In September there were two cases in a cottage leading to the Medina Cement Works. One of the youths worked at and the other visited West Cowes, and had been to no other place for months. A soak-well on the premises was dry, and water was obtained from the Cement Works, but it was so short there that the family of six persons had only 48 gallons a week for all purposes. In October a girl attending the Northwood Schools had enteric fever in Tinker's Lane. She began to be ill a fortnight after drinking water at school, and at the time she told her mother it had a nasty taste. The children are forbidden to drink the water, but she was very thirsty. In September there were three cases of enteric fever in the Station Hospital at Parkhurst Barracks. A case had previously died there, and a woman had been sent from

the married quarters in the Barracks to the Ryde Infirmary, whose case was diagnosed there as one of enteric fever. In October two other cases were notified; and a soldier died in South Africa from enteric fever evidently contracted in the Barracks. By the action of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary Authority a polluted deep well and surface pipes in Parkhurst Forest, from which the water supply of the Barracks was formerly obtained, were no longer used, and the Carisbrooke water of the Corporation of Newport was laid on. When this supply caused an epidemic of enteric fever, the local supply was again used, and has been continued since for cleansing purposes. Unfortunately this water was supplied to the ablution rooms, tanks in which were marked "for drinking"; and, moreover, the valves between the two sets of water pipes—that which carried the independent supply, and that which carried the local supply—were imperfect, and in the case of an inconstant supply, which the Newport supply formerly was, and the consequent vacuum in the pipes, the water of the local supply could, to some extent, pass into them. I am happy to say that as a result of the representations made the polluted deep well is closed, and the pipe is removed from it, and the Carisbrooke water, as I am informed, circulates throughout the Barracks. An inmate of the Isle of Wight Lunatic Asylum died in October from enteric fever, the source of which was not clear.

The ten cases of idiopathic erysipelas notified were distributed in different sections of your district.

The compulsory notification of infectious diseases—which came into force in your district at the earliest possible moment after the passing of the Act, and which

Compulsory
notification of
Infectious
diseases.

has operated with as great smoothness and absence of friction as in other districts—does not make the Medical Officer of Health acquainted with the existence of every case of infectious disease in his district, and was never expected to do so. In many mild cases no medical man was in attendance, and in some the disease is not recognised and its existence is not suspected until it is communicated to others. But if the patient be of school age he will probably be detained from school, and his absence will come under the notice of the schoolmaster or mistress and the cause of it ascertained. If the information thus gained throughout a sanitary district be communicated to the Medical Officer of Health, it must greatly assist him in his work.

You adopted my suggestion that forms in stamped wrappers should be issued to every master or mistress of a public elementary school, that opportunity may be afforded of voluntary notification to the Medical Officer of Health, of any child absent from school because of scarlatina, diphtheria, typhoid fever, measles, whooping cough, influenza, chicken pox, mumps and sore throat. These forms were issued at the beginning of the year, and have been largely made use of. In nine months more than 100 notifications have been made. I first learnt from these voluntary notifications the existence of scarlatina at Whippingham and Brading and of diphtheria at Totland Bay, diseases which are compulsorily notifiable; and but for them, unless a death occurred, I should not have known that measles chicken pox and whooping cough were present in the places I have already named.

As in the Isle of Wight almost every schoolmaster and mistress of a public elementary school is directly interested in the Government Grant, the making these

notifications is of importance to them, as, if they notify, I certify under Clause 101 of the Code, and credit is given at the rate of the average attendance during the year of the absent child during his absence on account of infectious disease. The ratepayers benefit to even a larger extent, and the cost to them of the notifications is infinitesimal.

There is, of course, only one object in notification, **Isolation.** that knowing where disease exists its spread may be prevented. This can alone be secured by the isolation of the patient. In small cottage homes it is almost impossible to secure efficient isolation, and yet it is astonishing in how many instances the efforts made, and the self-sacrifice of the mother prove successful. But the presence of infectious disease is an enormous burden to the poor, and however willing they may be to make effort it is absolutely impossible in many instances to prevent its spread to other members of the household.

Your predecessors decided twelve or thirteen years **Isolation hospital.** ago to make permanent provision for the isolation of cases of infectious disease, and from that time the question of securing isolation hospitals or a hospital for your district has been under consideration. Having given fully the history of the question in my annual report for 1898, I need not refer to the subject further than to say that having chosen a site in a suitable position and with a good water supply available, and having received the sanction of the Local Government Board to borrow the money required on the condition always insisted on that you should give an undertaking not to isolate smallpox in the proposed hospital, you resolved to abandon the site, having passed a resolution that no

site would be suitable upon which a smallpox hospital could not be built. You then adopted another site on the summit of Alvington Down, quite unsuitable from the sanitary standpoint. You applied for sanction to purchase the land. A Local Government Board Inquiry was held, and sanction was refused on the ground that the site chosen was unsuitable. You have now been requested to select another site. The most desirable arrangement for the isolation of infectious disease in the Isle of Wight would have been by the provision of two hospitals, one for each Medene, available for the towns and your district. For this the Rural Sanitary Authority strove; but obviously without the co-operation of the towns two hospitals could not be provided. In selecting a site for one hospital for your district it should be situated at its geographical centre and should be readily accessible. If possible an independent water supply should be available, and the subsoil should be porous.

**Isolation of
smallpox.**

You have given expression to your desire to make provision for the isolation of small-pox. In order to do that you must build a hospital with an administration block on a site a quarter of a mile from any building. The few occasions on which such provision has been required in your district would hardly justify the outlay. But there should be a small-pox hospital in the Isle of Wight available for the whole of the inhabitants.

Disinfection.

In your district disinfection by means of sulphurous acid gas has been proved to be entirely efficient, and I cannot but suppose in the face of recent criticism that

sufficient sulphur is not used by those who have found it fail. As Table B will show, a large number of disinfections were done by the Inspectors during the year.

Upon the subject of the spread of infectious diseases at school I have nothing to add to my remarks in my annual report for 1898. It is to be hoped the managers of public elementary schools are becoming educated in this matter, as there has been much less friction than in recent years and some of the School Boards have suggested to me the advisability of closing their schools before I considered it absolutely necessary. In the Isle of Wight—where the personal element enters so largely into every question, and suspicion of the motives of individuals, whether official or private, so generally prevails—it is most desirable that members of public bodies should inform themselves about the matters upon which they have to decide and not trust to the judgment of two or three of their colleagues.

Spread of
Infectious
diseases at
schools and
closure of
schools by the
Sanitary
Authority.

During the year under review the public elementary and Sabbath schools were closed at Brading and Whippingham on account of the prevalence of scarlatina, at Wootton on account of measles and whooping cough, at Chale on account of measles, and at Godshill and Brighstone on account of chicken pox.

In my annual report for 1898 I endeavoured to explain that scavenging in populous places, even though there be considerable curtilage to the houses, is necessary because accumulations of filth are permitted near the dwellings, and because people living under these conditions are more liable to the influence of the poisons

Scavenging.

which produce disease than others. In my opinion there is no money better spent by you than in scavenging. Complaints were made during the year that it was not efficiently done in some districts. As I dwelt so fully upon the subject in my last annual report I will not enlarge upon it now, but I may say that the parochial committees may render you real service by giving attention to the scavenging in their parishes. It would probably be better to have a double tender for scavenging, one for the emptying of cess-pits and the other for the removal of house refuse. In my last annual report I referred to the more populous places in your district which should be scavenged. You referred the question to the respective parochial committees, and at Wroxall a Parish Meeting was called to consider the question. The issue was a little confused by a proposition to sewer Wroxall, as it has an independent water supply instead of scavenging it. It would be of immense sanitary benefit to Wroxall to possess a sewer, but a sewer is not an alternative to scavenging. If Wroxall were sewered, the removal of house refuse would still be necessary. Sanitary reform, like other reforms, is sometimes better for being gradual, if it be not too gradual. After an expenditure in providing a water supply a rest may be desirable while the increase of assessable value it has stimulated is accumulating, and in an inland place, unless the necessity is very pressing, it may be wise at the present time to wait a little for the results of the experiments now being made with a view to obtaining a cheaper method of the disposal of sewage by bacterial treatment. The Parish Meeting were of opinion Wroxall should be scavenged, but the Parochial Committee have asked for delay in the matter,

As regards five-eighths of the population of the Isle of Wight—that of the towns—and as regards that portion of the remaining three-eighths—that of your district—with which you deal, the scavenging refuse is deposited within the area you administer. You have acted upon the recommendations made to you, and, accepting your suggestions, the urban authorities by a clause in their scavenging contracts regulate the deposit of refuse, and for the most part they use covered carts. You require covered carts to be used, and your inspectors have instructions to see that your scavengers deposit the refuse in such a manner as to avoid nuisance. The result has been a large diminution of the danger and annoyance which formerly obtained. I have only received one complaint from town residents or visitors during the year under review, and that had reference to the Ventnor town refuse deposited near the highway. But complaints have reached me of the nuisance arising from the refuse of Yarmouth, and particularly complaint has been made of the deposits of the contents of the sewage cart at Freshwater, more especially of those made in the field at the side of the parochial schools.

The disposal of scavenging refuse.

Among the obligations incumbent upon you under the law, the most important are the provision of sewers and independent water supplies. These obligations are being met to a larger extent than at any time during the seventeen years I have had the honour to be the medical officer of health of your district.

Sewerage and water supply.

The complement of a sewer is an independent water supply, the provision of which should precede its construction. During the year 1899 sewers which have been for years in contemplation have been laid and other works of sewerage have been decided upon. It

Sewers.

is highly satisfactory, and not less so because much of the sanitary engineering work of your district in the past has been open to criticism, that your Inspectors acting as Surveyors under the Act have designed and carried out, or will carry out, some of the schemes you have adopted. I referred in my last annual report to the very creditable production of a scheme for the extension of the Wootton sewer, which, at the time of writing, is about to be laid under the superintendence of the Inspector who had the principal part in its design. The more difficult Gurnard sewer of the West Medene Inspector, which has been designed with the assistance of his colleague, is equally satisfactory, and I have no doubt the water supply of Chale and Blackgang will be carried out by another of your Inspectors in a thoroughly competent manner. But it is a curious anomaly that while you give the more difficult work of sewerage—which demands much time and attention not only in designing but in carrying out—to your Inspectors, you have employed others to do the simpler works of water supply as in Northwood, the extension of the Haylands drain to Haven Street, the extension of the Binstead main to Kite Hill and Fishbourne, and the proposed water supply of Niton.

**Discharge of
sewage.**

When sewage can be discharged into the sea directly many of the difficulties of sewage discharge are overcome. If the currents do not carry it immediately towards the shore it is rapidly acted upon and changed by the chemical constituents and bacterial life of salt water. When sewage has to find its way either directly or indirectly from the sewer to a watercourse its character has to be changed. This is done by chemical treatment, which causes the deposit of its solid con-

stituents, known when so deposited as sludge. The disposal of this sludge in such a district as yours must necessarily be a troublesome matter. In my last annual report, I briefly described the effort which is being made to apply the methods of nature to the destruction of sewage. Practically it is discharged into a cess-pit in which it is subjected to the action of microbes which flourish in the absence of air and light, and which break up and alter its character. At the same time it is rendered most offensive to the sense of smell. It is then acted upon by a different set of microbes which flourish in the presence of light and air, to which it is fully exposed, and if this action is complete it ceases to be sewage. But the position must be suitable, and as at present applied this method can only be used in favourable positions. This system of sewage disposal is at present only in the experimental stage. When it passes from this the hope is it may be in such a form as to facilitate the sewerage of some of the more populous villages of your district.

There is nothing to add to what I said in my last annual report with reference to Haylands sewer. It does not empty itself, but it has continued to work through the year. There is an *impasse*. The Local Government Board called upon you to relay the sewer, but refused a loan for that purpose. The assessable value of the parish of Ashley does not admit of the cost of relaying being provided in one year; the paying the cost by the whole of your district would be illegal although not inequitable. In the meantime the School Lane houses remain unconnected, and their laundry water is not, therefore, available for flushing. As you cannot force their connection and as the Parochial Committee will not consent to your making the connection,

Haylands
Sewer.

but suggest you should flush the sewer by means of an automatic flushing tank supplied by Ryde water, and as the Ryde Corporation will not supply you with the water, it would seem that nothing can be done.

**Upton Road
Sewer.**

The sewer in contemplation so many years for draining houses properly in the Upton Road has at last been laid, the upper part of the Mitchell's Road Sewer with which it connects having been at the same time extended and reconstructed. It is fortunate for the district that the Local Government Board would not permit the sewer to be laid at the backs of the houses as intended.

**Fairlee Road
Sewer**

All the trouble of years in the Fairlee Road has ended by laying the sewer to the Newport sewer. It would be interesting to calculate the money value of the time spent in connection with the Sanitary Authority about the nuisances which have suddenly ceased by a payment of £35 a year by the parish of Whippingham for thirty years.

**Carisbrooke
Sewer.**

Carisbrooke was sewered during the year, and old-standing nuisances which could not be abated have ceased to exist.

**Wootton
Sewer**

You applied to the Local Government Board for sanction to borrow £800 for the extension of the Wootton sewer, an Inquiry was held, and sanction was given. At the time of writing the contract has been let, and the work is about to be commenced. The rule that provision of an independent water supply should precede sewerage has been departed from at Wootton, but it was inevitable, and the gradient of the proposed sewer is for the most part very steep.

**Freshwater
Sewer.**

I need not repeat the long history of your attempts to sewer Freshwater, which has been fully given in

previous annual reports. You are bound by your undertaking to sewer the place. If you fail to fulfil your obligations the probability is the work will be done for you, and the cost of it will probably fall upon your district as a whole. This would be as it should be, for the sanitary needs of a district should be provided out of the common fund as the highway expenses are, but the law does not provide for this excepting in cases of default. As the result of a Local Government Board Inquiry upon the petition of a large ratepayer, you were declared in default. After this, pressure was made on you, and you applied for sanction to borrow £20,000 in order to carry out the scheme you had adopted in principle. After the Inquiry the Board suggested to you the advisability of collecting the sewage of the district—Freshwater and that part of Totland which lies on the eastern slope of the hill which bounds the valley of the Yar on the West—at one point, and pumping it into the sea at Warden Ledge to the east of Totland Bay. You at once agreed, subject to consent, to purchase about an acre of land most admirably situated near the railway station for the purposes of a pumping station. The original scheme contemplated an engine station for working Schone's ejectors, and land for sewage treatment. It was found impossible to obtain a site for these purposes by agreement, and you have applied for a provisional order for compulsory purchase. On account of the very strong opposition to sewage works, the Local Government Board required a more perfect treatment of the sewage, and this with other requirements would increase the cost of the original scheme to over £26,000, not including the cost of the land. The scheme to pump to the Solent it is roughly estimated would cost £24,000, apart from the cost of the pumping station and its site. The strongest opposition to the pumping station is threatened by some of the inhabi-

tants. Since I have known Freshwater there has seemed to be nothing but opposition. Every suggestion for the good of the place has been flouted. If the Rural Sanitary Authority had done their duty and saved Freshwater from itself by giving it an independent water supply when they were advised it was urgently needed, the present inhabitants would have reason to be thankful. The people of Freshwater would not hear of it because of the expense, and their representatives vetoed the proposition. It would appear to be more consistent with the spirit of good citizenship to quietly consider without hostility schemes put forward by the responsible authority in fulfilment of their obligations than to reject them forthwith because they cannot be carried out for nothing, or because they do not harmonise with preconceived notions. If, instead of assuming a sewage pumping station is an intolerable nuisance, sewage pumping stations on the mainland were visited the duties of citizenship would be better fulfilled. A proposition to avoid any kind of pumping by submitting the sewage of each section to bacterial treatment, the effluent being discharged into the water-courses, has found much favour, and plans for that purpose have been submitted to the Local Government Board. If anyone will study the history of the Freshwater sewerage question, they must see that your Council, who are not experts in such matters, have been guided indirectly by the Central Authority. The subject which is one of very great difficulty has been carefully considered by a great many experts of eminence and wide experience, and the wisest course to pursue is to accept and carry out the suggestions you may receive, being assured that Freshwater will not have imposed on it a burden which it is unable to bear.

Although from the point of view of the medical officer of health progress in providing for the sanitary needs of your district has been exceedingly slow, I am bound to say you have been practically unable either to sewer Freshwater or Gurnard before. It is unfair and contrary to fact to charge you with dereliction of duty in this respect, and to do so implies malice or ignorance. At Gurnard an independent water supply was not available, and if you had been successful in obtaining a surface supply from the gravel it would have been an actual misfortune having regard to the arrangements you have now made. A scheme for the sewerage of Gurnard was prepared by your Inspector with the assistance of his colleague; an Inquiry was held upon your application to the Local Government Board to borrow £2,550, and consent was given. You are under obligation to commence the work as soon as the arrangements for the water supply are completed. An application has been made by the Northwood Parochial Committee to form a special drainage district at Gurnard, and you have submitted the application to the Central Authority with a statement that you offer no objection. It is not likely the application will be granted. At first sight it seems hard that land miles distant should contribute to the cost of sewerage of an urban area in the parish, but the boundaries of a special sanitary district must include more than the area actually benefited or the burden would be too onerous, and if any of the agricultural land must contribute all should, and it must not be forgotten that the provision of sewers and water supplies stimulates building and increase of assessable value, rendering these urban areas a valuable asset of the parish. But, my opinion is, as I have already said,

Gurnard
Sewer.

that the whole of a sanitary authority's district should contribute to the cost of every sanitary improvement within it.

**Bembridge
Sewer.**

In driving piles the railway company broke some pipes of the Bembridge outfall sewer. It has long been felt that this outfall should be improved. If it could be carried along the foreshore to low-water mark, picking up the house drains which discharge upon the beach, it would be of great advantage to the place. But this could only be done at considerable cost, and any money Bembridge can borrow should be devoted to its most pressing need, a water supply. Instead of the Company repairing the damage it was suggested to them to contribute a fixed sum. They have agreed to pay £25. You propose to make a better outfall. This improvement will cost the parish only about £80.

**Plans of
Sewers.**

You have obtained the 25 in. Ordnance sheets of your district, on which the Inspectors are indicating the direction of all existing sewers and water mains and the connections with houses. Whenever possible to ascertain the depth beneath the surface at which they are laid it should be marked.

Water Supply.

Only those thoroughly familiar with the sanitary features of your district can fully appreciate the inestimable value in the protection of the public health of your quickened appreciation of your obligations under the law with reference to wholesome water supplies. A large amount of time was given by you during the year to the consideration of schemes of independent water supply, some of which have long been in contemplation, while others have been more recently initiated.

Having failed in your application to the Local Government Board for leave to borrow in order to purchase the Brading Harbour Company's Gasworks and Waterworks with a view to supply Brading and Bembridge with water, you have endeavoured to carry out the suggestions made to you. You had previously ascertained the terms of the Isle of Wight (Sandown) Water Company, which were not acceptable to the Brading Parochial Committee. You applied to the Corporation of Ryde for terms for the supply of Brading and Bembridge. Being pressed by the Local Government Board you have renewed your application, but as yet you have not received them. A very wide area on the north side of the downs is already supplied from the Ryde waterworks. You are large customers, paying the somewhat extravagant rate of 1s. 3d. per 1,000 gallons. In the future the whole of the population north of the downs from St. Helens to Wootton, and, perhaps, Wootton itself, will look to be supplied from this source. The Corporation have recently increased their supply, and they wish to be certain of the amount of increase they have obtained. The question is a very serious one, for they must first of all see to it that the needs of their town are fully provided for, and after that they must be assured they have sufficient for the present and probable future needs of the districts adjacent to Ryde before they can decide to supply districts south of the downs. But a considerable time has elapsed, and it is desirable to have their decision, for the want of water, especially at Bembridge, is a very urgent matter, and one in which its material as well as sanitary prosperity is involved.

**Haven Street
Water Supply.**

Another of those sanitary improvements which go to alter the character of a district permanently was completed by leading a main from the Ryde supply to Haven Street through a waterless district.

**Binstead
Water Supply.**

After a Local Government Board Inquiry you obtained sanction to borrow £1,120 in order to extend the Binstead water main for the supply of water from the Ryde waterworks to Fishbourne and Kite Hill. This permanent sanitary improvement—as that of the water supply of Upton and Haven Street, affording protection to a considerable population, which will increase as time goes on—is mainly due to the energy and courage of a good citizen who occupies the position of Clerk to the Parish Councils of Ashe and Binstead. The simplest plan of supplying Wootton above the New Road would seem to be by extending the Binstead main.

**Fairlee
Water Supply.**

In my last annual report I referred to the prospect of the Corporation of Newport laying a larger main in the Fairlee Road and extending it to Fairlee and ultimately to Whippingham. In this part of your district the Osborne clay is at the surface, and there is a dearth of wholesome water. As yet nothing has been done, and I would advise you to lay the main and purchase the water if the population were not so sparse.

**Northwood
Water Supply.**

The long vexed question of the water supply of Northwood has at length been settled by the decision of the Local Government Board that you are to lay the mains and purchase the water from the Corporation of Newport. This is as it should be. You have agreed to pay 10d. per 1,000 gallons for the water, a far more reasonable sum than the 1s. 3d. per 1,000 gallons at

which you have hitherto bought water from the Corporations, and it will pay Newport well in the future. You have sanction to borrow £4,200 for laying the mains, but the work cannot be proceeded with until the Corporation's new reservoir on Alvington Down is built from which Northwood will be supplied by gravitation. The value of this supply to Northwood, where water is so scarce, will be inestimable.

Incidental to the Corporation's new water supply in the Bowcombe Valley there is an independent service to the cottages and farms of the estate as far as Idlecombe as part of the agreement with the owner; and this has afforded water supplies to houses in Carisbrooke and on the road to Bowcombe belonging to different owners.

Carisbrooke
Water Supply.

Arrangements have been made by the enlightened owner to supply Apse Heath independently with water from the Upper Greensand, south of Shanklin.

Apshe Heath
Water Supply

You have arranged to lay a water main from this supply to Newchurch. The Agreement is not quite complete, but, as would be expected, the terms are to be very liberal. You are greatly indebted to the representative of Newchurch for his assistance in this matter.

Newchurch
Water Supply.

The same gentleman took an active part in the early efforts to give Wroxall the protection of a water supply, efforts which were brought to a successful issue by his successors. During the year £150 have been expended in extending the Wroxall water main towards Whiteley

Wroxall
Water Supply.

Bank, and in time this extension will be continued. It is only right that a small sum expended by a ratepayer of Wroxall in connection with the initiation of the present Wroxall water supply should be paid.

**Whitwell
Water Supply.**

You extended this supply to Southford. The water should be laid on to the houses there and to cottages in Redhil Lane.

**Niton
Water Supply.**

You had arranged to supply Niton from the strong spring from the Upper Greensand from which the Eastern Yar takes its rise, by pumping to a reservoir on a neighbouring hill. But for the expense involved it would have been more satisfactory to place the reservoir on the top of High Down. You could not accept the conditions offered, and you negotiated for a spring at Downcourt, a considerable distance to the north of Niton, but legal difficulties intervened, and you have practically relinquished that source of supply and have returned to that at Niton. Had you been able to obtain water from Downcourt or in the neighbourhood, as from the headwaters of the Medina at the Hermitage, it would have been preferable as it could have been supplied to the whole parish by gravitation, and the annual cost of pumping would have been saved.

**Chale and
Blackgang
Water Supply.**

Prospecting at the highest possible elevation for water to supply Chale and Blackgang has been carried on by the earnest representative of Chale on your Council and the rest of the Parochial Committee, and probably a sufficient supply may be found. Before the current year closes it is to be hoped the inhabitants of Chale and Blackgang will be protected by an abundant supply of wholesome water which will most certainly add to the material prosperity of these unrivalled health resorts.

There has been no advance during the year towards the realisation of an independent water supply for Arreton. The matter is in the hands of the Arreton Parochial Committee, and the delay would appear to rest with the agents of the estate from which it is proposed to take the water. Arreton
Water Supply.

After the scheme for supplying the parishes of Calbourne and Shalfleet jointly with water from the powerful Chalk spring at Calbourne in the centre of the joint area, at an estimated cost of £3,000, was abandoned, your Inspector prepared a scheme for the supply of the village of Calbourne and part of the parish beyond which was submitted to the Parochial Committee. They requested an estimate of the cost of supplying the whole of Calbourne parish, and when it was presented to them they reported that the sum was too great. Calbourne
Water Supply.

The source of water supply for Shalfleet at Churchills chosen by the Parochial Committee was altogether unsuitable in a scientific sense, and it must have been abandoned in the end, but, fortunately, the terms proposed by the owners were unacceptable to the Parochial Committee, and the Shalcombe spring at the head of the western branch of the *Calbourne* was substituted for it. A well has been dug to the north-west of the Shalcombe pond, which has proved the water to be abundant, but the chemical analysis has not realised expectations. It is difficult to understand this as there are no possible sources of contamination, and there would appear to be some source of error. You have negotiated with the owners of the land, and there will, apparently, be no difficulty in coming to an arrangement. Shalfleet
Water Supp'y.

**Brighstone
Water Supply.**

The village of Brighstone, the inhabitants of which drank from the polluted brook which runs through it taking much of its sewage, has been abundantly blessed by its water supply. At first confined to the village, the mains have been gradually extended beyond it to the boundaries of the parish. A condition imposed by a mill-owner that the water should not be distributed beyond the parish, a condition which should never have been assented to by a sanitary authority—the sanitary authority, unfortunately, simply registered the decisions of the Parochial Committee—has apparently been waived, and the water main has now been continued in the parish of Mottistone. If in the other direction it were extended to Limerstone, it may in time be continued to give Shorwell a water supply.

While congratulating you upon the work of the year in the matter of independent water supplies, I would again venture to point out to you the very serious nature of your responsibilities in the protection of the population of your district from the dangers of unwholesome water. You have great difficulties to contend with on this hand and on that for many of which you are not responsible; but you are responsible for the opposition of many of the parishes to every scheme of betterment proposed, because you submit the proposition at the commencement. If you ordered schemes to be prepared and estimates to be made, and having approved them, submitted them to the parishes for their opinion, you would get on faster. The parochial method of dealing with questions is a real danger. Every member of your Council is member for the whole district, and the affairs of every parish are as much his business as those of the parish he represents. It has been found that efficient

parish sanitary administration in rural districts is impossible, and the whole sanitary law as regards rural districts is founded upon the principle of administering a wide area by a body made up of representatives of different sections of it. I make these remarks in this place particularly because in several instances independent water supplies have been in the main the result of the perseverance, independence and courage of the representatives of the parishes concerned. I know the trouble and opposition they have had, and I have felt their position would be less difficult if they had a scheme from the District Council to support, instead of having to contend with the two or three or fewer men who control affairs in most parishes, for the acceptance of a proposition as to water supply or sewerage or some other matter of benefit to the people for which they will have in part to pay.

As I have already stated, the form which my annual report shall take does not rest with me. I am directed to report upon the conditions affecting health in my district, and with the means for improving those conditions, and to consider these subjects with reference to the past and future as well as to the particular year; in fact, I am directed to give an account of my district from the sanitary standpoint, and in order to do this I am bound to consider all circumstances which in my opinion may now or in the future affect its sanitary well-being. Among these circumstances have been interferences with its area, population and value for rating purposes, and with the extent of your jurisdiction. In my opinion the sanitary interests of your districts both now and in the future have been prejudiced by the action of the County Council, and I have

County Council
Inquiries.

so reported, pointing out that in every case in which petitions have been presented to that Council, the effect of which was adverse to the interests of your district, they have been granted with one exception in which the County Council declined to endorse the report of its Committee that a part of one parish should be handed over to another parish. Strong exception has been taken to my reports on these matters, I would venture to remind you, however, that it is not my duty to write to please individuals, but to report honestly upon the circumstances before me. My annual report would not indeed be worth the paper upon which it is written if it did not reflect my deliberate opinion upon all questions which affect or may affect the sanitary well-being of the important district which you administer, and which I have the honour to serve.

An explanation has been given of the singular uniformity of the decisions of the County Council. It is that the prayer of the petition is accepted and an Order granted on principle; you having the power of appeal to the Local Government Board. If this be so, it is essential you should secure the supervision of the Central Authority in every instance.

You did not obtain the supervision of the County Council Order which annexed a part of the parish of Brading to the Urban District of St. Helens, I will not report upon the Inquiry which preceded the granting of the Order as no good purpose would now be served, but the conclusion at which I arrived was that the granting of the Order could only have been recommended upon the principle to which I have referred. The other instance in which you did not appeal was when a large agricultural part of the parish of Brading was annexed to the Urban District of Sandown.

Upon your appeal an Inquiry was held and the Order annexing Gurnard to Cowes was disallowed by the Local Government Board.

Cowes and
Gurnard
Inquiry.

Although the County Council Inquiry upon the petition of certain inhabitants of Freshwater to constitute that parish an Urban District was held in the current year, the subject was much discussed and the petition presented during the year under review. The first petition prayed that the area comprised in the present sewerage scheme, which includes part of the parish of Totland, should be constituted an Urban District. As the parish of Totland opposed, a second petition, omitting the part of that parish proposed, was presented. The Committee who held the Inquiry have reported in favour of granting the Order. In 1893, a similar Order having been made, a Local Government Board Inquiry was held upon the appeal of your predecessors, and the Order was disallowed upon conditions, which were accepted, that the place should be sewered, that certain urban powers should be applied for, and that building bye-laws should be adopted and enforced, as I reported in my annual report for 1893, pp. 42. Two of these conditions were already under consideration, and were fulfilled at once, but Freshwater is not yet sewered. You are technically in default, therefore, in this matter. That you are not actually in default the petition itself proves, for it was presented to escape your action by a section of the inhabitants, some of whom have consistently contended from the first that the drainage of Freshwater was unnecessary. Even when a witness at the County Council Inquiry in 1892 estimated the cost of sewerage at £6,000, it was urged that Freshwater could not possibly bear the expense.

Freshwater and
County Council
Inquiry.

Now that the lowest estimate of the petitioners is double that sum they are prepared for the additional expense of local administration, for sewerage cannot be avoided. By those who have studied it many years—I have myself been intimately associated with it officially for seventeen years, and have reported upon it year by year during that time—Freshwater can scarcely be regarded as an ideal place for self-government. It has no homogeneity as a place or in its population. It consists of separate hamlets in parts of some of which houses have been crowded upon area with the arable and pasture land of several farms between them. It is attractive to town dwellers because of its rural character and its broad stretches of downs and not as a marine watering place, for its access to the sea, at Freshwater Gate, is very limited. Assuming its sanitary needs can be met its prosperity will depend upon its maintaining its present characteristics as long as possible. The administration of a rural district suits the place for there is an apartness and aloofness maintained by the inhabitants of the different sections towards one another greater than is usually found between the inhabitants of villages more remote from one another. Perhaps because of their insistence, perhaps because of the inherent difficulties and the desire to avoid responsibility, both your predecessors and you have permitted the Freshwater Parochial Committee even greater power of control and veto than parochial committees usually have. They have been of little assistance, they have made few recommendations, but their energy in opposition has been great. They would not have a water supply, and it fell into private hands; they would not consent to scavenging, although the loan of a horse and cart was offered; they would not accept adequate bye-laws, but

insisted upon one which would have sanctioned the soaking away of the sewage into the subsoil from which the drinking water was drawn; and they opposed sewers. Much of this is in the past, and there have always been the exceptions which prove the rule; but I refer to these matters because they go to prove that with ample freedom there has not been manifested in those who have practically held rule in Freshwater the capacity to appreciate the conditions which obtained or the ability to cope with them, but only the power to oppose. In my opinion those who have encouraged Freshwater to seek to manage its own affairs, and there has been encouragement from outside, are not its true friends, and they know little of the circumstances of the place.

But apart from local conditions in this case, it is always a mistake to create little towns. The difficulties of efficient administration become very great for reasons I need not specify. You are able from your more recent experience to form a pretty good opinion of what would probably be the result of local administration if the two extremes of your district—Bembridge and Freshwater—were constituted urban areas. The time will come when those places will have considerable populations and large assessable value, and will be able to manage their own affairs, but that time is not yet.

The three principal enactments affecting the interests of the Public Health made by the Legislature in 1899, and which are now in operation, were, the Seats for Shop Assistants Act, the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, and the Infectious Diseases (notification) Extension Act. In all premises, including public houses and refreshment rooms, in which goods are retailed to the public, and

Sanitary Legis-
lation of the
Year.

where female assistants are employed for that purpose, the employer must provide seats in a convenient position in the proportion of not less than one to every three female assistants. The Sale of Food and Drugs Act strengthens the law as to the importation and sale of adulterated dairy produce and other food stuffs. The Infectious Diseases Act makes universal the adoptive Notification Act passed in 1889. Another important Act raises the ages at which children may work half time.

Regulations for
Dairies,
Cowsheds and
Workshops.

A part of the useful and progressive work you did during the year was the consideration and adoption of regulations for Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops. You very wisely, on the recommendation of your Committee, practically accepted the model regulations of the Local Government Board, which are the outcome of wide experience. Conditions vary in different parts of the country, especially in winter when the cows in your district live in the open, but it is always better to have widely embracing regulations to meet every contingency, and they are not made use of where they do not apply.

Your committee also considered the question of regulations for slaughter-houses and bakehouses.

Legal
Proceedings

You took legal action twice against the same offender, once for non-compliance with the building bye-laws, and once for occupying the house without having first obtained your certificate, known as the "water certificate." In each case a penalty was inflicted.

Inspection.

With the consent of the Local Government Board, who granted you permission to try the experiment for twelve months, you have merged your sanitary work so far as inspection and surveying goes. Your sanitary inspectors were already surveyors for sanitary work and they become surveyors of highways as well; and your surveyors of highways have become sanitary inspectors. For administrative purposes your district was formerly divided into two sub-districts—the East and West Medene—both for highways and sanitary inspection. It is now divided into four sub-districts—the north-east, south-east, south-west and north-west—the former sanitary inspectors having the north-west and north-east sub-districts respectively.

Three of the Inspectors have hitherto lived in Newport, and the other at Newchurch. It was, I believe, his intention to live in Newport also. You have, however, decided they are to live as nearly as possible in the centres of their respective sub-districts.

The Inspectors have supplied me with the following summaries of their work. As the new arrangement came into operation only during the last quarter of the year, the summaries are made to apply to the former sub-divisions.

EAST MEDENE DISTRICT
SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING 1898.

Number of nuisances and other matters reported	...	712
" " abated without final notice...	...	159
" re-inspections <i>re</i> nuisances	... ..	348
" final notices served	... ..	3
" houses reported unfit for human habitation...		2
" " placed in repair	... ..	2
" " closed	... ..	—
" " cleansed and disinfected	... ..	32
" legal proceedings taken	... ..	—
" cases of overcrowding reported	... ..	—
" " " abated	... ..	—
" privies and cesspools provided and properly constructed	... ..	35
" privies put on pail system	... ..	7
" wells sunk and other improved supplies obtained	... ..	40
" wells cleansed	... ..	1
" " closed	... ..	—
" pumps repaired	... ..	1
" " provided	... ..	9
" houses drained and connected with sewer	... ..	14
" house drains repaired and trapped	... ..	36
" refuse and accumulations removed	... ..	15
" dairies inspected and re-inspected	... ..	30
" " limewashed after notice	... ..	6
Districts scavenged—Brading and Bembridge	... ..	2
Plans of new buildings approved by R.D.C.	... ..	40
Inspection made of new buildings	... ..	301
Extension of the Wroxall water main		
Construction of the Fairlea sewer		

NEW HOUSES ERECTED, 1899.

Ashey	...	Haylands	...	1
Bembridge	...	Bembridge	...	4
Godshill	...	Godshill	...	3
Newchurch	...	Apse Heath	...	2
Niton	...	Niton	...	2
"	...	Undercliff	...	1
North Arreton	...	Wootton	...	11
Whitwell	...	Whitwell	...	2
Whippingham	...	Staplers	...	1
Wroxall	...	Wroxall	...	8
				—
		Total		35

WEST MEDENE DISTRICT.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING 1899.

Number of nuisances and other matters reported...	...	665
" " abated without final notice...	...	140
" re-inspections made	... ..	329
" official notices served	... ..	12
Houses reported unfit for human habitation	... ..	1
" placed in habitable repair	... ..	1
" closed	... ..	1
" cleansed and disinfected	... ..	18
Legal proceedings taken	... ..	2
Cases of overcrowding reported	... ..	2
" " abated	... ..	2
Privy cesspools provided and properly constructed	... ..	50
Privies put on the pail system	... ..	42
Wells sunk and other improved supplies of water obtained	... ..	26
" cleansed	... ..	6
" closed	... ..	2
Defective pumps repaired	... ..	6
Pumps provided	... ..	4
Houses drained and connected with sewer	... ..	20
House drains repaired and trapped	... ..	42
Refuse accumulations removed	... ..	8
Dairies inspected and re-inspected	... ..	55
" limewashed after notice	... ..	2
Bakehouses	... ..	1
Districts scavenged—Totland, Freshwater, Yarmouth, and Carisbrooke	... ..	4
Number of plans approved by R D.C.	... ..	47
Number of houses	... ..	93
Building inspections	... ..	261

NEW HOUSES ERECTED, 1899.

Freshwater	... Church	...	16
"	... Pound Green	...	2
"	... Easton	...	1
"	... High Street	...	5
Calbourne	... Lock's Green	...	1
Yarmouth	...	...	4
Northwood	.. Horsebridge Hill	...	2
"	... Chawton	...	1
"	... Gurnard	...	4
"	... Nr. Hillis	...	2
"	... Furzyhurst	...	2
Totland	...	...	13
Chale	...	...	1
Shalfleet	... Ningwood	...	1
"	... Bouldnor	...	1
Carisbrooke	... Gunville lane	...	10
"	... Claterford	...	1
"	... Parkhurst	...	2
Brooke	...	...	1
Total	with certificate	...	70

The following summary of meteorological observations were made at the Post Office, High Street, Newport, about 50 ft. above sea level, by Alfred N. Le Messurier, Esq., and for which I am much indebted to him.

Month.	Maximum for month.	Minimum for month.	Mean Daily Maximum.	Mean daily minimum.	Mean Temperature	Rain-fall for month.	Number of wet days.	Greatest fall in one day.
January ..	54·6 on 18th	27·6 on 25th	48·5	38·8	43·5	3·91	18	0·72 on 1st
February ..	60·2 on 10th	24·0 on 4th	49·8	37·1	43·4	3·08	11	0·73 on 6th
March	61·2 on 15th	22·0 on 21st	51·4	33·4	42·4	·73	10	0·29 on 8th
April	60·6 on 26th	31·2 on 19th	55·7	41·7	48·7	2·56	15	0·93 on 13th
May	71·2 on 31st	35·0 on 5th	61·9	43·8	52·8	·91	9	0·25 on 24th
June	83·3 on 5th	39·3 on 15th	73·7	50·4	62·0	1·43	8	0·46 on 30th
July	88·6 on 30th	48·0 on 4th	77·8	56·6	67·2	·73	8	0·29 on 11th
August	89·0 on 15th	48·2 on 22nd	78·3	57·1	67·7	·91	6	0·39 on 28th
September ..	85·7 on 5th	37·8 on 29th	69·1	51·1	60·1	2·37	16	0·73 on 29th
October ..	68·3 on 12th	30·8 on 14th	59·4	43·7	51·5	2·40	8	0·65 on 4th
November ..	61·0 on 4th	30·6 on 19th	54·3	43·4	48·8	4·64	9	1·56 on 5th
December ..	55·5 on 6th	19·0 on 15th	43·9	33·5	38·7	1·62	19	0·25 on 11th
For year ..	89·0 Aug. 15th	19·0 Dec. 15th				25·29	137	1·56 Nov. 5th

In 1899 the total rainfall at Newport, which possesses the semi-marine climate of the centre of Isle of Wight, amounted to only 25·29in. In 1898 it was 28·24in; in 1897, 28·96in.; in 1896, 27·32 in.; in 1895, 29·15 in; in

1894, 39·74in.; in 1893, 28·53in.; in 1892, 24·97in.; in 1891, 38·96in.; in 1890, 26·31in.; in 1889, 28·34in.; in 1888, 29·02in.; in 1887, 24·43in. The mean rainfall in Newport in the ten years 1890-99 was 29·74in.

At Ryde, on the north-east coast, with a marine climate, and removed some miles from the influence of the chain of chalk downs which affects the rainfall of Newport, 25·49 in., of rain fell in 1899.

There were 137 wet days at Newport. In 1898 there were 150; in 1897, 172; in 1896, 153; in 1895, 149; in 1894, 183; in 1893, 146; in 1892, 172; in 1891, 172; in 1890, 153; in 1889, 163; in 1888, 179; in 1887, 141, in 1886, 202; in 1885, 159. The mean number of wet days in the ten years 1890-99 was 158·7

The minimum temperature of the year was 19·0 on December 15th; and the maximum was 89·0 on August 15th.

The mean temperature for the year was 52·3

January was a warm wet month for the most part, but it became colder during the last week. The mean temperature for the month (43·5) was two-tenths above the mean temperature of January, 1898, which was a dry month, 3·91in. of rain fell at Newport in 18 days, and 3·81in. fell at Ryde.

February during the first few days was cold, and again during the last week, but on the whole it was a mild month. The mean temperature was 43·4. 3·08 of rain fell at Newport in 11 days, and 2·81in. fell at Ryde.

March was a cold, very dry month. The mean temperature was only 42·4, 1·1 below the mean temperature of January, which is supposed to be the coldest month of the year. The days were sunny and the nights bitterly cold until after March 25th, when the weather became genial and spring-like. The minimum temperature was 22·0 on the 21st. ·73in. of rain fell at Newport in the course of ten days, and ·85in. fell at Ryde.

April was a wet, cold, backward month, although it was not so cold as April, 1898. The arrival of the earliest migrating birds was a week later than the average date. 2·56in. of rain fell at Newport in 15 days, and 2·95in. fell at Ryde.

May was not a genial month. The first and last weeks were cold and dry ; the rest of the month was cloudy with occasional showers. There was no frost, and although the mean temperature (52·8 deg.) was only a tenth lower than that of May, 1898, it was some two degrees lower than the average of the month. Vegetation was backward ; ·91in. of rain fell on nine days at Newport ; and 1·06in. fell at Ryde.

June. The beginning of June was warm and sunny. It was dry from May 25th to June 18th. The mean temperature (62·0 deg.) was 2·1 deg. higher than the mean temperature of June, 1898. 1·43in. of rain fell at Newport on eight days, and 1·07 fell at Ryde.

July was a very dry, hot, sunny month. The mean temperature (67·2 deg.) was the highest mean temperature in July for at least sixteen years. ·73 of rain fell at Newport on eight days, and ·40in. fell at Ryde.

August was very dry and hot, a splendid harvest month. The maximum temperature of the month was 89·0 deg., which was the highest temperature of the year. The mean temperature (67·7) was the highest mean temperature in August for 16 years, and probably for many more years. ·91in. of rain fell at Newport on six days, and ·55in. fell at Ryde.

September was a typical September month until towards the end, when it became stormy, cold and wet. The maximum temperature was as high as 85·7 deg. on the 5th. The mean temperature (60·1 deg.) was a degree lower than the mean temperature of September, 1898. 2·37in. of rain fell on 16 days at Newport, and 2·34in fell at Ryde.

October was a warm, pleasant month characterised by absence of strong winds. The mean temperature (51·5 deg.) was lower than that of October, 1898 (55·0). 2·40in of rain fell in eight days at the beginning and end of the month, and 2·68in. fell at Ryde.

November was an exceptionally warm, still month. With the exception of nine days there was absolute drought. 4·64in. fell at Newport in the first days of the month—1·56in. fell on the fifth, which was the greatest rainfall on one day during the year—and 5·19in fell at Ryde.

December was a dull, cold month. The lowest temperature of the year, 19·0, was reached on the 15th. The mean temperature was 38·7. The mean temperature of December, 1898, was 46·3. 1·62 of rain fell at Newport during 19 days, and 1·68 in. fell at Ryde.

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

- Health of the District.** Zymotic diseases were present in different parts of your district at the end of the year.
- Scarlatina.** Cases of Scarlatina were convalescing at Whippingham, Freshwater, Ashley, and Brighstone.
- Diphtheria.** A case of Diphtheria was convalescing at Gurnard, and there were one or two cases of the disease at Totland and Freshwater associated with prevailing sore throat in that section of your district.
- Whooping Cough.** At Wootton Whooping Cough was epidemic.
- Measles.** Measles was epidemic at Wootton also at the end of the year, and there were cases at Merstone and Whitwell.
- Enteric Fever.** There was a case of enteric fever at Whitwell.

EAST MEDENE.

Bembridge.

Bembridge, a visitors' resort in the extreme east of your district, has rapidly increased. During the past twelve years nearly a hundred new houses have been built. It is sewered and scavenged. The sewers are flushed by emptying sea water from barrels into the manholes, It requires 17 barrels of water to clear the High Street sewer. For want of efficient flushing the sewer is offensive in summer. A private independent water supply from the Bembridge limeston e

is made use of on the Brading Harbour Company's Estate, and this supply is laid to their houses. It is supplied to other consumers, but the charges are high. There was a water famine in Bembridge last summer as in previous dry seasons, and you arranged with the Harbour Company for a supply from standpipes placed in different roads; but for this the position would have been very serious.

The ancient borough of Brading, situated between **Brading.** two and three miles north-west of Bembridge, is stationary in development. Six new houses were built in 1896, and these were the last houses built. It is in part sewered, and one branch of the sewer is automatically flushed by the water from the trough of a public pump, but the gradient is steep for the most part. The sewer discharges on to filtration beds, which have been in part reconstructed under the direction of your Inspector, and arrangements have been made to secure them greater attention than they have had in the immediate past. The water supply derived from public and private wells is wholly unsatisfactory.

Adgestone is a hamlet south of the down a mile west **Adgestone.** of Brading. It has a public well, but it requires another to the south-west of the scattered hamlet.

The next collection of houses in your district in the **Alverstone** valley of the Eastern Yar is the hamlet of Alverstone, about a mile south-west of Adgestone. Its cottages, substantially built and of superior character, are supplied with water from wells in the lower greensand which have not pumps affixed.

Knighton is the site of the Ryde Waterworks, from **Knighton,** which the cottages and farm are supplied,

Langbridge.

Going west, the next collection of cottages and one or two larger houses is Langbridge, on the Yar, at the foot of the hill on which Newchurch stands. It is supplied with water from a shallow dip well in a garden. The independent water supply in contemplation from Apse will be better than the properly constructed public well, which was the alternative suggested to you.

Newchurch.

Newchurch is an ancient village of no great extent, situated upon an outlier of the Upper Greensand. Many of its filth nuisances have disappeared, but pig-keeping is offensive to the inhabitants in summer. The water supply is insufficient and unwholesome. The supply which you have arranged for will change the sanitary aspect of Newchurch.

Apse Heath.

Between Newchurch and Apse Heath—a prosperous little village of small, substantially built houses, upon the Newport and Sandown Highway—are several cottages and farmsteads for which the Upper Greensand water will be available. There is every probability of the water supply from Apse being laid to Apse Heath during the current year. There was an addition of two houses in 1899.

Wroxall.

Wroxall, one of the larger villages of your district, is rapidly progressing under the stimulus of its new water supply. Eight houses were built during the year. It is about to be scavenged.

Bonchurch.

Bonchurch, east of and adjoining Ventnor, is one of the most picturesque and popular health resorts of your district. It has an independent water supply from the Ventnor waterworks. It drains by leaking cess-pits into the broken subsoil characteristic of the terrace known as the Undercliff which has been so frequently described.

The Undercliff will in time become far more largely populated than at present, as it has communication by rail. I do not wish to offend rather sensitive susceptibilities, but I have again to point out that the houses drain into the subsoil as at Bonchurch, but unlike Bonchurch, only a few of them are supplied with water independently. As it is dangerous to drink underground water liable to sewage contamination until it has been boiled, the sooner water is supplied from the Upper Greensand independently to all the houses in the Undercliff the better it will be in a sanitary sense. One house was built at Niton Undercliff in 1899.

St. Lawrence,
Whitwell and
Niton Under-
cliff.

The village of Whitwell is placed upon the Gault Clay, and its filth does not readily soak away when it does not find its way to the stream. It will soon be necessary to scavenge Whitwell as its rate of progression becomes more rapid, and ultimately to sewer it. Its water supply helps its progress, and railway communication stimulates it. Apparently, the water supply is at present sufficient, although when you proposed to carry it farther it was protested it was not. It can be readily improved. Two new houses were built during the year, and three in the previous year.

Whitwell

You did your duty in extending the Whitwell supply to Southford, as a protection to the people who were drinking from a polluted stream, and for which they are not sufficiently grateful. It should be carried to Redhill and Ford. Had a large main been laid, the supply may have been extended north to the ultimate pecuniary profit of Whitwell.

Southford and
Redhill.

Niton.

The village of Niton is also placed on the Gault. Niton will require scavenging and sewerage as it increases in population and assessable value. Three houses were added to it during the year, making twelve new houses in three years. The most pressing sanitary need of Niton is the water supply to which the Parochial Committee has assented, and which you are doing your best to bring about.

Godshill.

Godshill is a considerable agricultural village with railway communication. It is beginning to move forward. Three houses were built during the year. If I were asked what places which have not an independent water supply had most improved in a sanitary sense since I had known your district officially, I should say Godshill and Niton. The obvious nuisances have disappeared to a large extent, but satisfactory protection will not be secured until Godshill has a water supply.

Merstone.

In agricultural hamlets such as Merstone, the glaring sanitary defects having been reduced to a minimum, periodic from house to house inspection is all that is necessary.

Arreton.

Arreton is a progressing agricultural village with railway communication. The independent water supply in contemplation would afford it protection from the risk arising from taking drinking water from the subsoil into which the sewage passes, and particularly in the case of houses with small curtilage such as those which have been recently built in Arreton.

Blackwater.

The stationary hamlet of Blackwater would be improved in a sanitary sense by a water supply which could be easily and inexpensively obtained from the plateau gravel on St. George's Down,

A small collection of houses at Shide, just outside the ^{Shide.} boundary of the borough of Newport, in the parish of Whippingham, are supplied with water from the Newport supply. They drain into the stream.

At the end of the year the insanitary area known as ^{Fairlee} Fairlee Road had become sanitary as the result of the completion of the sewer you have provided.

Eleven houses were built in Wootton in 1899, making ^{Wootton.} thirty-six new houses in six years. These houses require a sewer to drain into, and this you are about to provide. There is a water supply taken from the gravel at an elevation which does not admit of a wide distribution. There is a public well at Wootton Bridge and another on the highway some distance up the hill; there is, also, a deep well to the Bagshot sands which supplies a few cottages near the railway station. The other sources of supply are surface wells. The provision of an independent supply which would reach the highest elevation should engage your attention in the near future.

The collection of houses on the highway immediately ^{Kitehill.} to the east of Wootton Creek, known as Kitehill, are some of them in the parish of North Arreton, and the remainder in the parish of Binstead. Several of them drain into the creek, and the nuisance arising from this you have remedied. An inch pipe carries water to them from the Wootton public supply. The Ryde supply is to be extended to Kitehill by the parish of Binstead.

The remote village of Fishbourne on the east side of ^{Fishbourne.} the entrance to Wootton Creek is to have the benefit of

this supply. The next important work for Binstead is the provision of a proper sewerage system in place of the irregular drains of Fishbourne.

Binstead.

The village of Binstead, just beyond the western boundary of Ryde, is sewered and has a water supply from the Ryde waterworks. It has been progressive, and at the end of the year was in a satisfactory state. It has, however, a most serious burden to bear in a pig fattening industry which is carried on there. It is intolerable that a whole community should suffer as Binstead does, and has done for years, from this nuisance.

Haylands.

At the end of the year Haylands was in a more sanitary state than I have known it, as a consequence of the provision of the Upton Road sewer. It requires from house to house inspection, and every house should be supplied with water from the Ryde water main.

Haven Street.

The sanitary state of the Clay village of Haven Street has been entirely changed by its independent water supply. A sewer would be of great benefit to Haven Street.

**WEST MEDENE.
Freshwater.**

I beg to refer you to my description of Freshwater at the end of 1898 as an exact description of its state at the end of 1899. It differs only in the fact that it has twenty-four more houses than at that date, a new district adjoining the Parish Church in which land is being let for building having contributed thirteen of these. The action of the Sanitary Authority, and the thorough attention which has been given to Freshwater for many years is, I am aware, responsible for the state of things which exists. It is an unclean place because

of the efforts made to render it sanitary in the presence of the severe incidence of zymotic disease. Your bye-laws compel tight cess-pits, and although cess-pits are rarely tight, those into which new houses drain are much smaller than those of the old days, and require more frequent emptying. The overflows to cess-pits which were almost universal, have been most methodically cut off, and many of them have not been replaced, and the gradual appreciation of the requirements of the laws of health has led to the more general use of the bath as a sanitary necessity. This, together with the increase of laundry work with a growing population, and the larger consumption of water which results from an independent water supply, has augmented the bulk of sewage enormously. Bye-laws for hackney carriages have proved of great service, and you are only too anxious to apply for any urban powers which the necessities of the place require. The scavenging of Freshwater costs from £400 to £500 a year. If the provision of a sewer is much longer delayed, you must scavenge Freshwater and Totland yourselves directly. The letting the contract for scavenging year by year and the almost certain acceptance of the lowest tender, proves too often that the low-priced thing is the most expensive.

Totland has two districts, that of Totland Bay, which ^{Totland.} lies on the northern slope of the hill to the sea, the houses of which are of a superior class; and the Avenue district on the northern slope of the hill, which has villa residences and smaller houses. This part of Totland is continuous with Freshwater. Totland Bay is sewerred, and the whole of Totland is supplied with water independently in part from the local

supply on Headon Hill, and in part from that of the Freshwater Company. The sewage nuisance in the Avenue is the most acute of all. The inhabitants suffer much also from the smoke nuisances of some pottery works, particularly at certain seasons. Thirteen houses were built in Totland during the year.

Colwell Bay.

The indentation in the coast which follows that of Totland Bay on the east is Colwell Bay. It is supplied with water from the Freshwater waterworks, and by arrangement with one of the landowners the sewer which drains Golden Hill Fort into the Bay is available for houses built on his land. Colwell Bay is destined to be built over.

Yarmouth.

Four houses were built in Yarmouth in 1899, making twenty-seven houses in five years. It is supplied with water from Freshwater, and is sewered and scavenged. It would probably be more satisfactory if you scavenged Yarmouth yourselves instead of letting the scavenging by tender annually.

Bouldnor-on-Sea.

One house was built at Bouldnor. It is supplied with water from Freshwater. The absence of sewerage hinders its development. In laying out a building estate the additional expense of sewerage, curbing and channeling should be incurred by the owners. I have always held broad views in this matter, for the increase in rateable value which the successful development of a building estate means, is of great importance especially to an agricultural parish. At the same time, the community cannot speculate and the development may be a work of years. When, however, the new houses are built on the ordinary highway it is a different matter.

As is the case in every part of your district, the sanitary aspect of the adjoining hamlets of Wellow and Thorley, so far as obvious nuisances are concerned, has entirely changed for the better during the past ten or fifteen years. Wellow has a public well to the Bembridge Limestone close to the highway. It will greatly benefit by the contemplated water supply as will other villages in the parish of Shalfleet.

Another hamlet, Ningwood, in Shalfleet parish, to the north-east of Wellow is even worse off for water.

The populous hamlet of Newbridge, between Ningwood and Calbourne, is waiting for its water supply, as the majority of the inhabitants drink from a polluted stream.

The ancient village of Calbourne was in much the same state at the end of the year as at the end of the previous year. Its water supply is drawn from the open brook, from wells in the alluvial gravel and sand, from shallow chalk wells, from a deep public well in the chalk, and from rainwater tanks.

The inhabitants of the village of Shalfleet, which is situated partly in the parish of Shalfleet and partly in the parish of Calbourne, drink from the polluted stream which divides it.

The ancient borough of Newtown, now a tiny hamlet, has its public well to the Bembridge Limestone, from which, during the summer, water is carted to the surrounding district,

Although water is scarce in the clay hamlets of Porphfield and Lock's Green, and was particularly so

during the height of the summer, the people are in some measure protected by their rainwater supplies now, and there is a small public well at Porchfield in a pocket of sand and gravel. An independent water supply would be a blessing to this district and to the rest of the parish of Calbourne.

**Gunville Lane
and Forest Side.**

Gunville, and Forest Side on the Yarmouth Road, with which it is continuous, are supplied with water from the Newport waterworks. As compared with former times, the gutter nuisances at Gunville are at a minimum, although they still exist. Gunville is developing: ten houses were built there in 1899.

The Workhouse.

At the end of the year the sewerage arrangements at the workhouse appeared to be working fairly well, but complaints of nuisance at the river side have been made to me. It obtains its water supply from a well and bore-hole to the Bagshot Sands.

**Parkhurst
Barracks and
Prison.**

The sewage of the Barracks and Prison is treated, and the solids precipitated, the pressed sludge being utilised on the Prison land, and the effluent is passed into a watercourse which empties into the tidal estuary near the Cement works. The arrangements appear to be better than they were, as there was no complaint of nuisance during the year. Both establishments are supplied from the Newport waterworks, but at the Barracks, as I have already stated, old local supplies which had been discontinued were again made use of at the end of the year. I am informed these have now been given up.

**The Medina
Cement Works.**

As compared with the former state of things, the smoke nuisance at the Cement Works may be said to

be abated. The Northwood water supply will be a great blessing to the residents employed there and their families.

One of the most insanitary places in your district a few years ago was Horsebridge Hill. It has now a water supply and irregular sewerage, the sewage being carried into a cess-pit in a clay meadow to the east of the highway, which was supposed to be irrigated by its overflow; but there is no subsoil drainage and a nuisance was created. You have now resolved to scavenge Horsebridge Hill. Two houses were built in 1899. When the water supply can reach a higher level building operations will be stimulated, accommodation being required by those employed at the Prison.

The new houses near the "Horse-shoe" which attract the attention of the passer-by have a very indifferent water supply from wells in the gravel. Two houses were added to them during the year.

Another place which will have its sanitary character changed by the coming Northwood supply is Tinker's Lane or Pallance Road, and the Parochial Schools will share in this change. The obvious nuisances and the houses unfit for habitation are no longer in evidence.

Gurnard was at the end of 1899 with the addition of four houses as at the end of 1898. With sewerage and water supply its sanitary character will be entirely changed, and its future will be assured.

Eleven new houses were built in the parish of Northwood in 1899, making thirty-two in two years,

Carisbrooke.

The village of Carisbrooke is rapidly increasing—thirteen houses were built in the parish last year, and its sanitary needs are provided for. Its independent water supply was supplemented by a sewer at the end of the year, and at the close of the current year its gutter and other nuisances which have given your predecessors and you so much trouble for a quarter of a century and more will have entirely disappeared.

Chillerton and Gatcombe.

The Parish Council district of Chillerton and Gatcombe, in two parishes, has abundant water from the Upper Greensand, but it is not sufficiently available for the population in a wholesome state. It may be made so without difficulty or great expense.

Chale and Blackgang.

Both Chale and Blackgang on the Gault clay are badly supplied with water. The independent supply from the Upper Greensand which you are about to provide for these places will protect the inhabitants and help forward the development of attractive localities.

Atherfield.

The small hamlet of Atherfield, between Chale and Shorwell, has a very inadequate water supply.

Shorwell.

Shorwell was in a better sanitary state at the end of the year than I have hitherto known it. There is a public pump which supplies water from the Upper Greensand at the north of the village, and another to which water is piped from the head of the stream at the south of it. In Newbarn Lane there is an old well now closed. If this were reconstructed and a pump affixed it would be of great service to the occupants of the adjacent cottages, who have to go more than a reasonable distance for their water.

The little hamlet of Limerstone, between Shorwel and Brighstone, is supplied with water from the Upper Greensand which is piped to a tap by the roadside. This supply should be laid on to the cottages or the Brighstone supply should be carried to them.

Limerstone.

At the end of the year, the satisfactory condition of Brighstone, with its abundant water supply remained unchanged.

Brighstone.

The Brook water supply is continued to Hulverstone and Mottistone, little hamlets of a few cottages, the inhabitants of which need protection no less than those of larger places. The Brighstone supply is carried into the parish of Mottistone on the east.

Mottistone,
Hulverstone
and Brook.

The farm and cottages at Compton are now supplied from the Upper Greensand in the neighbourhood. In other clay districts the owners of farms and cottages could supply them from this formation at no great expense.

Your district is protected by Building bye-laws. Your bye-laws are not perfect, but their general revision at present is inadvisable. Before the Justices you have not been always successful in enforcing your bye-laws, and it may be your duty in the future to appeal. In my report for 1898, page 118, I pointed out in what manner your bye-laws may be amended in certain directions with advantage.

Bye-laws.

You possess regulations for sewer connections. While writing you have added an important regulation at the suggestion of one of your inspectors for junctions between the closet pan and soil pipe by means of a brass or other approved joint.

Sewer
Connections

**Regulations for
Cowsheds,
Dairies and
Milkshops.**

The painstaking sub-committee who have considered the subject of regulations for cowsheds, dairies, and milkshops have prepared satisfactory regulations for submission for sanction to the Local Government Board.

**Slaughter-
houses and
Bakehouses.**

Regulations for slaughterhouses and bakehouses are to be made. They should be registered and systematically inspected.

**Regulations for
Hackney
Carriages.**

You have regulations for hackney carriages at Freshwater and Totland Bay.

**Notification of
Infectious
Diseases.**

Notification of infectious diseases is now universal. Your district was protected by it on the day the Act came into operation. You also have voluntary notification by the masters and mistresses of public elementary schools.

Isolation.

You do not possess an isolation hospital.

Inspection.

In my last annual report, pp. 121, 122, I stated the position as regards inspection work. Since then you have sub-divided your district into four sub-districts for administrative purposes. With the sanction of the Local Government Board you have given each sub-district in charge of one of the four officers you employed as the sanitary and highway authority—two sanitary inspectors and two surveyors of highways—with common duties. That is to say, there was a certain amount of sanitary and highway work done by four officers; there is precisely the same amount of work—or, rather, there is a larger bulk of work each year than there was the year before—which has to be done by the same officers, but each does now a quarter of the

sanitary work and a quarter of the highway work, instead of, as formerly, half of the sanitary work in one case and half of the highway work in the other. You have also directed the inspectors to reside as nearly as possible in the centres of their sub-districts.

As the new arrangement commenced in the last quarter of the year, and as it takes a certain time to settle to the new order of things, it is difficult to judge of the effect of it. I have, however little confidence in the success of the experiment. I think as regards the sanitary work the insistence that the inspectors shall reside in the centres of their sub-districts will be fatal. You cannot administer a rural district upon urban lines. The Medical Officer of Health is required by the Central Authority to direct the Inspectors in their work, and the Inspectors are equally bound by their orders to look to the Medical Officer of Health for direction in their work. This is subject, of course, to the superior authority of the Sanitary Authority. But the Sanitary Authority are not always sitting, and the separation by many miles of the Inspectors from the Medical Officer of Health renders proper direction impossible. The law may be wrong, and skilled direction may be unnecessary, but while the law stands it must be obeyed. The experiment was formerly tried, and it was found to be so inconvenient that the Inspector was directed to live in the centre of the Island. He had to leave home before his letters were delivered, communication between him and the Medical Officer of Health was difficult, and it was evident the public interests suffered. The idea seems to be that time on the road will be saved by the arrangement. Practically this is not so. The Inspectors must be constantly making the journey to Newport

where the Offices are, and to attend the meetings of your Council and your Committees, the meetings of the Highway Committee and sub-committees, to all of which they are summoned, and to meet people by appointment on Saturday when much of the business of the Island is done at the central town. Those familiar with your district, which extends throughout the Isle of Wight, know that the most convenient, and the only possible place of residence for those who do its work day by day is Newport or its neighbourhood. If the Island were a level plain it might be different, but the roads, which converge to the centre, run up the valleys between the downs, and residence in the geographical centre of a sub-district is impracticable. I can imagine that for highway purposes there may be advantages in the arrangement you have made; but the Inspectors say it is not so. Having the railway and their bicycles, they will no more quickly reach given points in their sub-districts from a place within them than from Newport. In all but the north-west sub-district the downs interpose between one part of them and another. In the north-west sub-district, the present residence of the Inspector, Carisbrooke, must be, with the railway, as nearly central a place of residence as could be found. It is palpably the most convenient place of residence for all purposes of the Inspector of the south-west district. The railway gives the same advantage of a residence in Newport to the Inspectors of the north-east and south-east sub-districts. I am expected to report fully upon this important subject, and I would venture to say, therefore, I believe the Inspectors have worked very hard, and I can only conclude the efficient supervision of the highways, and the increase of building operations, and the necessity of frequent visits to houses in course of

erection have taken up so much of their time that systematic house to house inspection has been impossible. I would remind you their districts are still very wide. Whether when the roads are brought into a better state their highway duties will be diminished I am not in a position to state. That your Inspectors acting as Surveyors should do your sanitary engineering work I consider most important; and carefully reviewing the whole subject, I have come to the conclusion the interests of your district would be best served by all your Inspectors residing in the centre of the Island, and by the appointment of a thoroughly capable and certificated junior inspector, who would not be expected to attend the meetings of your Council and committees regularly, and whose time would be devoted to systematic inspection work, and who could be made available during special pressure in one of the sub-districts. For example, he would have had sanitary charge of the south-west sub-district while the regular inspector of that sub-district was occupied with the Yarmouth Common Road recently. I have had considerable experience of the administration of your district, and I regret I was not consulted before you determined on the changes you have made.

You now have monthly meetings of your Council, any pressing sanitary business being taken at the intermediate meeting of the Highway Committee. The Inspectors' Reports Committee sits fortnightly and the General Purposes Committee monthly. You have also Special Committees for specific objects, and Parochial Committees, of which there is one for each parish, the members of which are the members of the Parish Council, and the District Councillor or Councillors of the Parish,

Procedure.

In my last annual report, pp. 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, I described fully the work of your Council and of your committees, and particularly of the Parochial Committees.

Your request, so courteously conveyed by your Chairman, that I should curtail my annual report, I have endeavoured to observe. But it is difficult to avoid detail in writing under a sense of great responsibility about a sanitary district with the welfare of which one is practically charged. Through long years of toil and disappointment I have endeavoured to do my duty to its interests honestly, and when these interests are in my opinion hindered or assailed the only opportunity of defence not infrequently is that afforded by the annual report which the law requires at my hands, and in which it directs me to treat of such matters. It is difficult also to avoid enlarging upon the advances made, particularly in such a year as that under review, during which prospective protection to the health of the people has been afforded by schemes of water supply completed, as at Upton and Haven Street, or initiated or advanced a stage as at Newchurch, Chale and Blackgang, and in the parishes of Shalfleet and Northwood, and by the sewerage of Carisbrooke, Fairlee, Wootton, and at Upton Road, and the contemplated sewerage of Gurnard, and by the scavenging of Horsebridge Hill, and the proposed scavenging of Wroxall.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Carisbrooke.

J. GROVES.