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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 1901.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my report on the health of your district for the year 1901, which includes some account of the vital statistics of the year, of the sanitary history of the year, and of the sanitary state of of the district generally at the end of the year.

## I. VITAL STATISTICS.

The decennial census taken on April 1st. of the year <sup>Population.</sup> under review gave the population of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District as 28,462. In 1891 it was 29,747. There was considerable interference with the district during the decade, to its detriment, population, acreage, and rateable value having been taken from it. 2,515 of the rural population have become urban. In 1881 the population of your district was 28,008. It was taken as 29,000 in the middle of 1900, the over-estimate being 538. In the middle of 1901 it is estimated it was 28,500.

The natural increase of population by excess of births over deaths was 180 in 1901.

Population  
to the acre

The acreage of the district is 85,814. It was 87,599 in 1891, 1,785 acres, largely agricultural land, having been appropriated. The average population to the acre was 0·33, or one person to about three acres.

Births and  
Deaths.

630 births and 450 deaths were registered as having occurred in your district during the year. Of the births 339 were males, and 291 those of females, 34 of the births were illegitimate, of which 18 were males and 16 females. Of the deaths 250 were those of males, and 200 of females.

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

	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1st quarter	80	85	165	73	53	126
2nd „	89	69	158	76	42	118
3rd „	80	72	152	49	53	102
4th „	90	65	155	52	52	104
	<u>339</u>	<u>291</u>	<u>630</u>	<u>250</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>450</u>

Birth-rate  
and Death-  
rate.

In 1901 the birth-rate in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary district was 22·1 per 1,000 of the population. In 1890 it was 22·1 per 1000, in 1899 20·7, in 1898 21·0, in 1897 24·2, in 1896 24·8, in 1895 30·2, in 1894 22·5, in 1893 25·9, in 1892 24·7. The death rate was 15·78 per 1000 living, but the deaths included 103 among those who were only temporary residents in the district,

and deducting these, the death-rate was 12·17 per 1000. The deaths among strangers occurred for the most part in public institutions, only 16 deaths among strangers having occurred outside them so far as my information goes.

The mean birth-rate in the ten years 1891-1900 was 24·1, and the mean death-rate was 15·7 per 1000 living. Comparing the mean birth-rate and the mean death-rate with the birth-rate and death-rate of the year under review, we find the birth-rate was 2·0 below, and the death-rate corresponded with the average.

Mean-birth-rate and Death-rate in ten years.

The birth-rate in England and Wales in 1901 was 28·5 per 1000 of the population, which is lower than that of any other year on record. Compared with the average in the ten years 1889-1900, the birth-rate in 1901 shows a decrease of 1·4 per 1000. The death-rate in 1901 was 16·9 per 1000, which is 1·3 below the rate in the year immediately preceding, and the average rate in the ten years 1891-1900.

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

The death-rate in rural districts—the areas outside the boundaries of urban sanitary districts—was 15·3 per 1000 of the rural population. The mean annual death-rate in country districts in the ten years 1891-1900 was 16·7

The birth-rate in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District was 6·4 below the birth-rate of England and Wales in 1901, and 7·8 below the mean birth-rate in the ten years 1891-1900. The death-rate was 1·2 below the

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

death-rate of England and Wales, and 1.3 below the mean annual death-rate in the ten years 1901-1900. Deducting the deaths among strangers in the district the death-rate was 4.6 below the general death-rate of the year, and 4.6 below the mean death-rate of ten years 1891-1900. The death-rate of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District was 0.4 above the death-rate in country districts, and 1.0 below the mean annual death-rate in country districts in the ten years 1891-1900 ; or deducting the deaths among strangers, the death-rate was 3.0 below that of the year, and 4.4 below the mean annual death-rate in these districts.

Comparing the death-rate of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District in each of the ten years 1892-1901, with the death-rate in England and Wales, and with that of the country districts in the same years we find it was in

	ENGLAND AND WALES	RURAL DISTRICTS.
1892	0.7 below the average.	0.2 above the average.
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 „ „
1900	0.8 „ „	0.6 above „
1901	1.3 „ „	1.0 below „

Eight males per 1000 of the population and seven females died in your district in 1901. Male and Female death-rate

The 450 deaths registered in your district in 1901 included those of 53 infants, who died under one year of age. Infant Mortality. The rate of infant mortality under one year of age to 1000 registered births was 84·12. The mean proportion of deaths under one year of age to 1000 registered births in the ten years 1891-1900 was 86·7. In England and Wales the rate of infant mortality was 151, which is 3 per 1000 below the mean proportion of the ten years 1891-1900. In your district it was 2·5 below the mean of the district for ten years. It was 67 below the infant mortality in England and Wales, and 70 below the mean of ten years. Excluding 100 larger towns the mean rate of mortality of infants under one year of age to 1000 registered births was 137. In the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District the rate of infant mortality in 1901 was 52·88 below the mean rate for the country generally outside 100 larger towns.

69 children, 15·3 per cent of all the deaths, died under 5 years of age, and 16 children, or 3·5 per cent. of the deaths, died between one and five years. The deaths between one year and 65 numbered 255, or 56·6 per cent. of the deaths.

140 persons died at 65 and upwards, which is equal to 31·1 per cent of the deaths at all ages. Mortality of the aged. Of these, 25 died between 65 and 70, 75 between 70 and 80, 38 between 80 and 90, one between 90 and 100, and one



over 100. The widow of a labourer of Fairlee, Whippingham, died in the workhouse of old age at 93, and a widow of Newport died of apoplexy in the asylum at 103.

Deaths of  
strangers in  
the District.

In my last annual report I called attention to the fact that I was only able to ascertain the deaths among strangers in public institutions, although it was certain some deaths would occur among those who were temporarily sojourning in a health resort, which term applies to the whole of the Isle of Wight. During the year under review two of the sub-registrars have been good enough to mark these deaths in their returns as is evidenced by the fact, that whereas, this year I have given 103 as the number of these deaths, last year there were but 84. Of these 48 were from the mainland, 25 of whom died in the Consumption Hospital at St. Lawrence—23 from consumption, one from pneumonia, and one from bronchitis—and 2 in a private Sanatorium from consumption; and 10 died in the Asylum. Of the 37 persons who died in the Workhouse, 30 normally formed part of the urban population of the Island, and of the 37 deaths which occurred in the Asylum 20 were of those who formed part of the urban population, and 7 had been residents in the rural district.

Deaths from  
violence.

17 persons met their death by violence. Of these 6 were drowned, two by falling from boats off Bembridge and Freshwater respectively, and four bodies were found on the shore, one each at Bembridge and Binstead, and two at Gurnard. 2 were burnt. 2 were killed by falls, 4 by the bursting of a gun at Golden Hill Fort, 1 died

from injuries received in the football field, 1 person was suffocated while swallowing food in the Asylum, and a woman committed suicide at Bembridge. 3·7 per cent. of the deaths were due to violence in 1901, and 0·59 per 1000 of the population. In 1900 the deaths from violence were 1·9 per cent. of the deaths, and 0·31 per 1000 of the population. In 1899 they were 1·8 per cent., and 0·27 per 1000 ; in 1898 2·1 per cent., and 0·31 per 1000 ; in 1897 1·8 per cent., and 0·24 per 1000 ; in 1896, 4·9 per cent., and 0·66 per 1000 ; in 1895, 2·6 per cent., and 0·47 per 1000 respectively.

The mean per centage of deaths from violence in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District during the ten years 1891-1900 was 2·69. In England and Wales the deaths of 0·64 per 1000 of the population were referred to different forms of violence in 1901, against 0·64 in each of the preceding two years. In 6·7 per cent. of the deaths inquests were held.

The 27 deaths from epidemic diseases included—

	2	attributed to	whooping cough	
14	„	„	diphtheria	
4	„	„	enteric fever	
1	„	„	continued fever	
4	„	„	diarrhœa	
1	„	„	puerperal fever	
1	„	„	erysipelas	
<hr/>				
27				

Mortality  
from certain  
diseases,  
Epidemic  
diseases.

Zymotic  
death-rate.

The 27 deaths attributed to the different forms of the principal epidemic diseases were equal to a death-rate of 0.94 per 1000 of the population, and to 6.0 per cent. of all the deaths. The epidemic death-rates of the three previous years were 0.82, 0.86, and 0.70 respectively. The mean epidemic death-rate in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District in the ten years 1899-1900 was 0.97 per 1000 of the population. The epidemic death-rate in England and Wales in 1901 was 2.05 per 1000 living, against 2.21, 2.19, and 1.99 respectively in the three preceding years. But excluding 100 large towns, it was 1.56 per 1000 in 1901. The average annual epidemic death-rate in England Wales during the decennium 1881-1900 was 2.30 per 1000 living, against 3.95, 4.15, and 3.38 per 1000 respectively in the three decennia comprised in the period 1851-1880.

Phthisis.

76 persons died of consumption in your district in 1901, equivalent to 2.6 per 1000 living. Of these 23 died in the Royal National Hospital for Consumption, 2 in a private Sanatorium at St. Lawrence, and 2 in the Asylum, among visitors to the Island; 2 died in the Workhouse from phthisis who did not belong to your district. Deducting these, the death-rate from phthisis is reduced to 1.6 per 1000 of the population of your district. It was 1.7 per 1000 living if we exclude the deaths among strangers to the Island only. The percentage of deaths from phthisis to all the deaths was 16.8, or deducting the deaths among visitors 10.4.

Lung  
diseases

54 persons died from one of the different forms of lung disease, 13 of whom died under five years, and 8

of whom did not belong to the district. These deaths are equivalent to 1·8 per 1000 of the population, and to 12 per cent. of the deaths.

Heart disease caused the deaths of 45 persons, of whom 8 did not belong to your district. The deaths from heart disease were equal to a rate of 3·0 per 1000. The percentage of deaths from heart disease to all the deaths was 10·0.

32 deaths from different forms of malignant disease were registered, equivalent to 1·1 per 1000 living, and to 7·1 per cent of the deaths.

The deaths of 7 cases of different forms of scrofula other than phthisis were registered. This is equivalent to 1·5 per cent. of the deaths.

204 cases of infectious diseases were notified in 1901. They were equal to 6·9 per 1000 of the population. They included 103 cases of scarlatina, 79 cases of diphtheria, 8 cases of enteric fever, 1 case of continued fever, 1 case of puerperal fever, and 12 cases of erysipelas.

With the first year of another century the new tables, four in number which, at the suggestion of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health, have been substituted for the old tables A and B.—come into use for the record of statistical data.

In this connection I would venture to call your attention to the importance of securing the greatest possible accuracy in all returns. I have already

referred to the importance of indicating the deaths among the visitors to the Wight, who do not die in public institutions. It is also desirable that the nature of the accidents or suicides considered by the Coroner should be placed on record as addendum to the finding of the jury, such as "died by the visitation of God," or "destroyed himself while of unsound mind." These addenda may readily be made by the sub-registrars at the time of registration of death. Notification is often made of more than one case on the same form, and in a large majority of notification returns the age of the patient is not given as required. In most cases this is due to the fact that the old forms are faulty. They were not submitted for my approval before they were issued.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1901 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
				Under 1 Year of age.		At all ages.					Number	Rate
		Number	Rate*	Number	Rate per 1000 Births regd.	Number	Rate					
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
21.	29,790	756	25'3	67	88	494	16'5	83	66		428	14'3
22.	29,964	741	24'7	106	143	546	18'3	89	64		482	16'0
23.	30,124	783	25'9	62	79	441	14'6	89	69		372	12'3
24.	30,268	682	22'5	70	103	513	16'9	70	49		464	15'3
25.	29,493	785	26'2	73	92	496	16'8	94	68		428	14'0
26.	28,466	707	24'8	54	76	385	13'5	89	65		320	11'2
27.	28,275	686	24'2	55	79	375	13'2	89	73		302	10'6
28.	28,750	605	21'0	61	100	421	14'6	96	76		345	12'0
29.	28,920	619	20'7	57	92	440	15'2	98	76		364	12'5
30.	29,000	642	22'1	41	63	460	17'5	104	83		377	13'0
27-30 for 891.	29,305	700	27'7	64	91	457	15'7	90	68		388	13'1
1.	28,500	630	22'1	53	84'12	450	15'7	99	85		365	12'8

\* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total population at all ages .. ..	28,462	} At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses .. ..	5,956	
Average number of persons per house ..	4'77	

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) .. .. 85'114 acres.

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District:—Isle of Wight Union Workhouse, Parkhurst; Isle of Wight Lunatic Asylum, Whitecroft; Royal National Hospital for Consumption, St. Lawrence.













TABLE IV.  
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1901.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.										DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).						TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT. 16	
	All ages 1 year		5 and under		15 and under		25 and under		65 and under		9	10	11	12	13	14		15
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11								
Small Pox ...	1																	
Measles... ..																		
Scarlet fever ...																		
Whooping-cough ...	2		2									1			1			
Diphtheria and membranous croup ...	14		4	7	3					2			2		10			
Croup ... ..	1			1									1					
Fever { Typhus																		
{ Enteric	4			1	2	1				1	1		2					
{ Other continued	2		1										1					
Epidemic influenza ..																		
Cholera ... ..																		
Plague ... ..																		
Diarrhœa ... ..	3	3											1		2		1	
Enteritis ... ..	5	3		1									1		2			
Puerperal fever ...	1												1					
Erysipelas ... ..	1																	
Other Septic Diseases																		
Phthisis ... ..	49			1	15	30	3	13	5	3	2		12		14		29	
Other tuberculous diseases ... ..	7	2	1	1	1	2							2		3			
Cancer, malignant diseases ... ..	25									17	8	4	5	3	3	5	8	
Bronchitis ... ..	24		5	2			4	13	2	2	2	5	7	8	4		4	
Pneumonia ... ..	18	4	2		2	6	4	1	5	2	2	1	7		6		6	
Pleurisy ... ..	1																	
Other diseases of Respiratory organs ...																		
Alcoholism ... ..	5						4	1	2									
Cirrhosis of liver }																		
Veneral diseases ...	1	1																
Premature birth ...	7	7																
Diseases and accidents of parturition ...	2																	
Heart diseases ...	37	1		3	2	11	20	7	6	5	5		6		8		9	
Accidents ... ..	13		1		2	10		1	2	1	2	1	6		2		2	
Suicides ... ..	2																	
Addison's disease ...	2																	
All other causes ...	139	27	3	4	5	40	60	30	14	10	21	23	41		39			
All causes ... ..	365	54	16	19	33	133	110	66	45	32	53	56	113		99			



## THE SANITARY HISTORY OF THE YEAR.

The sanitary history of the year under review includes an account of the incidence of preventable diseases in your district during the year, and of the measures taken to protect the community from the effects of causes which, whether in the present or in the future may directly or indirectly prejudice the interests of the public health.

At the beginning of 1901 chicken-pox, measles, rotheln, <sup>Epidemic diseases.</sup> scarlet fever, whooping-cough and diphtheria were epidemic in different sections of your district.

*Measles* was wide spread. It was present during the year at Parkhurst, Northwood, Gurnard, Rookley, Godshill, Niton, Whitwell, Bembridge, Binstead in epidemic form, and there were sporadic cases in almost every part of the Isle of Wight.

*Chicken-pox* was also widely prevalent, more particularly at Bembridge, Brading, Whitwell, Totland, Freshwater, and in Carisbrooke and the central districts generally.

*Scarlet Fever* prevailed at Parkhurst, Totland, Freshwater, Yarmouth, Calbourne, Carisbrooke, Whippingham, Wootton, Haven Street, Ashley, Haylands, Binstead, Brading, Bembridge, Brighstone, Mottistone, Brooke, and there was an imported case at Blackgang, and one at Fairlee.

*Whooping-cough* was present especially at Chale, Niton, Godshill, Rookley, Carisbrooke, Porchfield, Lock's Green, Wellow and Thorley.

*Diphtheria* was severely epidemic at Brighstone and Brading, and there were many cases in different parts of the Island, especially in the clay districts, at Haven Street, Haylands, Freshwater, Totland, Yarmouth, Shalfleet, Calbourne, Gunville, Carisbrook and Parkhurst.

*Enteric Fever* caused four deaths. There were three cases in one family at Point, Bembridge, and a lodger in an adjoining cottage was removed to his home at Newchurch, where he died. There was a case at Niton, one at Totland Bay (imported), one at Calbourne, and one at Northwood.

*Continued Fever* in an infant was notified as having occurred at Langbridge.

*Puerperal Fever* caused the death of a young woman at Fishbourne.

*Erysipelas* was notified in fourteen cases, some of which were described as very slight, in different parts of your district.

Notification  
of infectious  
diseases

As infectious diseases were compulsorily notifiable in your district as soon as the Act came into operation, you have had considerable experience of its operation. There can be no doubt the effect has been most beneficial, but the Act has not secured all which was hoped for it. One of its provisions, that which requires notification by the head of the household, is rarely observed in your district, at least. This is of importance because a large number of cases of preventable sickness are not seen by a medical man, and such cases are often potential in giving rise to, or extending the spread of epidemic diseases.

You were wise, therefore, in soliciting the aid of public elementary school teachers by furnishing them with stamped forms on which they might notify to me the names and addresses of children absent from school, and said to be suffering from certain affections. In 1900 I received between four and five hundred such notifications, but in 1901 there were only about two hundred and fifty sent in. I fear that in some instances school managers have interfered to prevent head teachers giving the assistance solicited in the interests of the public health. H.M. Inspector of Schools would appear to have remarked upon the greater frequency of closure of schools on account of epidemic diseases in the west of the Island than in the east. In insanitary areas the schools are likely to be closed more frequently, and areas remain insanitary sometimes because your efforts to improve them are resisted. In future I propose to give certificates which will secure the grant under 101\* of the code, only to those schools from which I receive notifications. I am of opinion the greater prevalence of epidemic diseases in your district during the year under review was directly due to the fact that the public elementary schools were closed less frequently than heretofore, and because they are not closed in some of the towns. I believe in the future the more effectual control of these diseases will be brought about by thoroughly efficient sanitary supervision of the schools, when there comes to be due appreciation of what true education means.

Effort has been made to secure in every case of **Isolation.** infectious disease efficient isolation; but in small



houses occupied by large families efficient isolation is practically impossible. In scarlet fever, for example, after a week or ten days when the patient is comparatively well but continues poisonous, care is relaxed and other members of the household become infected and the disease runs through the family. Then those who were first affected are permitted to go out of doors, and, as they naturally consort with their companions, the disease is spread. In many instances when complaint is made, the sanction of the medical attendant is pleaded. The minimum period of isolation in your district is six weeks in scarlet fever, and four weeks in diphtheria. As I not infrequently receive intimation that sick rooms are ready for disinfection far earlier than this, it is possible that occasionally sanction may be given to go out prematurely, especially when a cottage is crowded with children. It may be well to remind the medical practitioners of your district from time to time by postcard, of the periods during which it is desirable isolation should be maintained.

Isolation  
Hospital.

During the year no further steps were taken to provide an isolation hospital or hospitals for your district ; but at the time of writing sanction to borrow £2,320 has been given after inquiry, to the Undercliff Isolation Hospital Committee for the purpose of providing an isolation-hospital at Ventnor for that district, which includes the town of Ventnor, and the rural parishes of Bonchurch, St. Lawrence, Whitwell, Wroxall, Godshill, and Niton. As with some other questions which have engaged the attention of the Rural Sanitary Authority of the Isle of

Wight for ten or fifteen years, the subject of making provision for the isolation of cases of infectious diseases is an exceedingly painful one. I do not hesitate to say that other considerations than those of the paramount interests of the public health, which should be alone regarded, have prevented such provision being made. I have already in my annual report for 1899, p.p. 31 to 38 so fully treated of this question that I will not pursue it further. I would, however, remind you that the number of cases of infectious cases notified do not represent the number which occur in any year. Of those which came to my knowledge in 1901, fully a third are not included in the notification returns.

It is the duty of the Inspectors to disinfect with sulphurous acid gas in every case. That it is effectually done is evidenced by the absence of recurrent cases.

For the past two years the public elementary schools have been closed less frequently than heretofore to prevent the spread of epidemic diseases in your district, and as a result they have been more in evidence than I have hitherto known them. With the exception of diphtheria in clay districts these diseases have been of mild type, and it is when the majority of cases are slight that the disease spreads more widely, because so many of them are unrecognised; and it is more necessary, therefore, that the schools should be closed early, for the children are not kept at home more than a day or two if at all, and they spread scarlet fever and diphtheria, especially, through the vitiated air, which in most of the public elementary schools becomes

Disinfection

Spread of infectious diseases in schools and closure of schools by the Sanitary Authority.

quickly loaded with the emanations from the bodies of the children. Their indifference to the matter of ventilation in the schools is a standing reproach to the managers. I know scarcely a school in your district, the air of which is fit to breathe after it has been occupied an hour or less, excepting when all the doors and windows are open in hot weather. It is maintained that if the schools are closed the children associate outside them. That is so, but they are not crowded together, and the pure air of the country and sunshine are inimical to the poisons which produce disease. I have been accused of talking politics in my reports. Whatever politics may mean, I have never talked imperial politics. Speaking from the sanitarian's standpoint, however, I will venture to say that in the future the education rate will be enormously increased by the provision of five or six times the air space per child which now obtains in some of the schools of your district, and this air space will be permanent, for school teachers and managers will not be permitted to diminish it by drawing children from other districts as at present.

**Scavenging.** Among your duties that of scavenging is not the least important. Filth conditions about dwellings are inimical to health, and cesspits must be cleansed and their contents properly disposed of, if nuisances are to be avoided in populous areas. During the year your scavenging difficulties at Freshwater were greater than ever, and if sewerage is much longer neglected, you will find it necessary in your efforts to overcome them, to very largely increase your expenditure to this end.

The scavenging of Wroxall is still delayed, and although you cannot hope to diminish greatly the amount of excrement which passes throughout its length into the stream and its branches, the water of which supplies a considerable population for all purposes, by emptying the cesspits of Wroxall, the pollution of the stream would be less in evidence.

Not only is the refuse of the more populous places in your district deposited within it, but also the refuse of the towns which it surrounds. With the exception of that caused by the deposit of the Newport town refuse, there was less complaint than usual of the nuisance arising from these deposits. This refuse should be burnt; but so long as it is brought into the country its deposit should be controlled by stringent regulations.

While your administration leaves much to be desired, there can be no doubt, notwithstanding the rampant parochialism which has barred progress so effectually in many instances, that year by year you have added greatly to the permanent safeguards of the public health by works of sewerage and water supply. The year under review has been no exception in this respect, and for years to come, your labours in the first year of the twentieth century will tell in increased protection to the health and the greater convenience and comfort of the people, who in the future will populate this area.

In any case the provision of independent water supplies should precede sewerage, that flushing may be provided for; but water is not only a prime

necessity of life, but is frequently the carrier of the poisons of disease. It is of the first importance therefore, that if it is to be used for drinking, it should be free from the possibility of contamination by these poisons. In order to this its source should be unexceptionable, it should be carried from thence in pipes properly laid, with joints as perfectly secure as may be, and the supply should be constant. The convenience and the saving of labour in connection with an independent supply is enormous, and this facilitates the use of water in larger quantities for all purposes, which is so essential for the maintenance of health. It also greatly facilitates the cleansing of dairies and the vessels used in them, and the supply of pure water to cows for drinking, and in many other ways provides constant safeguards to the public well-being. Fortunately, while large areas of your district suffer from want of water, and especially those in which the tertiary and secondary clays are at the surface, and while the soils of other areas are so porous that wells sunk in them are particularly liable to contamination, there is no part of it which cannot be supplied with the purest water at a minimum cost. You have made use of, are making use of, and it is to be hoped will continue to make use of these sources of supply until every house within your jurisdiction possesses wholesome water in abundance.

Bembridge  
water  
supply.

The pressing necessity of water at Bembridge, is emphasised every year, usually in August when the maximum of visitors are present. The surface wells

in the gravel give out, and if it were not for the independent supply of the Balfour Realization Co., there would be a water famine as in former years. In 1901 you arranged with the Company again to place stand pipes in convenient places for the use of the inhabitants, and this provision as heretofore, proved a blessing. Your previous application for leave to purchase this supply was rejected, apparently in part, at least, because of the determined opposition of a section of the inhabitants of Bembridge. At the suggestion of Bembridge itself, you renewed the application; a private inquiry was held, and leave to borrow was granted. But you also applied for leave to borrow an additional £1000, in order to purchase the gas works, the water being pumped by means of gas engines from the well in the Bembridge limestone, to a reservoir on the hill. The sanction of the Local Government Board to this very desirable and economical arrangement was refused. As a matter of fact, as the law stands, this sanction could not be given, but one would suppose the department might easily remedy such an obvious omission by enactment. It is quite absurd that the Bembridge parish council should be able to purchase these excellent gas works, if their rating powers were slightly less restricted, while you, whose legal obligation it is to provide the water, are debarred from the means of pumping it. Unless you choose to purchase the gas, you must sacrifice the gas engines and purchase a steam engine, because of a slight defect of the law. Bembridge is a place which requires and should have, the benefit of public lighting,

which would be most economically provided by gas. The official view would seem to be that in order to this Bembridge should be an urban district, which in its present stage of developement would irretrievably prejudice its future.

Brading  
water  
supply.

After many years, the people of Brading have come to agree with you that it must have an independent water supply, and you have been requested to obtain it from the Isle of Wight Water Works. You are of opinion, that when practicable the public water service should be in the hands of the consumers. A strip of the Upper Greensand, which formation has served you so well in other parts of your district, is at the surface at Yarbridge. You think it right to ascertain if it will yield a sufficient amount of water to supply Brading. To this end you have entered into a provisional agreement to purchase a piece of land in order that you may test the matter.

Water  
supply of  
Carpenters.

Carpenters is a small collection of houses north of Brading, near the boundary of the parish of St. Helens, which is practically without water. The Ryde Corporation have sanctioned the extension of the St. Helens main to Carpenters.

Apse Heath  
water  
supply.

The owner of Apse Heath has supplied that increasing hamlet with water from the Upper Greensand south of Apse Manor.

Newchurch  
water  
supply.

Having finally completed arrangements with the owner of the Apse Heath supply, you have, at the time of writing, laid on the water to Newchurch. The inhabitants are largely indebted for this great blessing to their representative on your Council.

For some years past you have had in contemplation the providing the village of Arreton with an independent water supply, and the matter was left in the hands of the parochial committee. The owner of Arreton farm, from which it was suggested to obtain the water, has given the farm cottages a better supply. Your committee visited the adjoining property with a view to another source, and the matter has remained in abeyance since. Arreton water supply.

It has been many times suggested that a perennial spring near Downend, on the Wootton Common road should be made use of for the supply of Arreton and the cottages at Downend. This "spring" is the point at which the water drains from the plateau gravel which covers so much of the high land of the Island, and it is doubtful if the yield would be sufficient for a populous village.

You have extended the Binstead supply from the Ryde waterworks to Fishbourne, and that part of Wootton east of the bridge, known as Kite Hill. The whole of the parish of Binstead has virtually an independent water supply now, a consummation largely due to the representative of the parish, and the clerk to the parochial committee. Binstead water supply.

Since the extension of the sewer at Wootton was completed, the water has drained from the gravel bed and the wells of the recently built houses in the Newport road, for which the extended sewer was needed, are frequently almost dry. You have applied Wootton water supply.



to the Corporation of Ryde to permit the Binstead main to be continued over the bridge, if only for the temporary supply of parts of Wootton; but in the interests of Ryde they have very wisely declined to increase their area of distribution. The want of water at Wootton may become very serious, and in the near future a supply must be given it. At the moment, the most feasible plan would seem to be to supply it from Newport, in conjunction with Whippingham. It would be impossible almost, to supply Wootton apart from the co-operation of the two parishes, for part of Wootton is in Whippingham and part in north Arreton.

Whippingham water supply.

East Cowes being badly off for water, applied to the Newport Corporation for terms of supply from their works. As East Cowes could only receive water from Newport through pipes laid in your district, and in the waterless clay parish of Whippingham, you entered into negotiations with the East Cowes Council. They supposed, however, they would be supplied at the same rate as Northwood, 10d. a 1000 gallons. It would appear that the Corporation agreed to pay the owner of the land from beneath which the water is taken, £100 per annum royalty, and they seem to have supposed they could take what water they required for this sum. But the agreement stipulated the area of supply should not be extended without the sanction of the owner of the land. When this sanction was sought, an additional amount in the way of royalty was demanded. This necessitated in the opinion of the Corporation, a higher charge for the water, but it did not amount to 1/- a 1000 gallons. In such a matter as that of good water,

it seems scarcely worth while to cavil about a penny more or less, but the whole subject points to the necessity of the community purchasing the water for its needs from the land owner out and out ; and of an alteration in the law which would enable sanitary authorities to obtain water for their public supplies by provisional order, as they obtain land.

Staplers from the Newport boundary has clay at the surface, but as you ascend the hill, the gravel which caps it begins to appear. This is of no great depth, and the wells sunk in it soon give out in dry weather. Although the water will not rise to the most elevated positions from the Alvington down reservoir, the majority of the houses could be supplied from that source, and the time would seem to have arrived for definite action in the matter.

In obedience to your pledge, you arranged to supply Gurnard with water, and the pipes were laid before the Corporation were ready to supply it. Not only will Gurnard have water, but a greater part of the waterless parish of Northwood, you having resolved to extend the main at Rew street. Thus has been met in a complete manner, a want which has occupied the attention of the sanitary authority and the parish, for more than a generation. The cost of the supply will prove to be a splendid investment. Great credit is due to the representatives of the parish for the careful attention they have unselfishly given to this beneficent work.

Calbourne  
water  
supply.

The parish which adjoins Northwood to the west is also to have its supply from the Chalk south of the village of Calbourne. It will be a great work for a poor parish, but the parochial committee have wisely advised you to carry the main throughout it. The chairman of the committee whose public spirit has been of so much assistance, will give the water; and the devoted service of the representative of the parish will at last have its reward when Calbourne receives the greatest blessing it ever had.

Shalfleet  
water  
supply.

Without the strenuous assistance of the present and past representatives of Shalfleet, another large and poor parish, its water supply would not now be near completion. It will be a magnificent supply of more than 3000 gallons an hour from the Chalk at Shalcombe. It will not only protect the public health in a district in which enteric fever has not infrequently occurred from drinking from polluted streams, but it will be a great convenience to the people; it will also add to the material prosperity of the parish in many ways, and especially by assisting the development of the building estates between the Newport and Yarmouth highway and the coast.

With the carrying out the Calbourne scheme, the whole of the north west of your district from the Medina to the Needles and south to the downs, will have an independent water supply.

Freshwater  
water  
supply.

The Freshwater and Totland parochial committees have requested you to take into consideration the

purchase of the Freshwater and the Totland Bay water works. This action on their part proves how desirable it is that sanitary authorities while consulting the parishes in the end, should prepare to fulfil their obligations under the law without reference to them. If the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary Authority had accepted the advice to prepare a scheme for giving a water supply to Freshwater many years ago, instead of sheltering themselves behind the plea that the parish did not wish it, and it certainly did not wish it, half of the sinking fund and interest would now be paid, and expensive sewerage would be regarded with equanimity. Obstructive parochialism usually comes from those who have already reached middle age, and it is not right the future should be prejudiced by those who will not reach it. The Totland Bay water works were part of the private undertaking of the Totland Bay Development Company. The Freshwater Water Company conferred benefit on Freshwater, and deserve the reward of their enterprise : but they were badly advised in the position they selected for their works, and although the water is not unwholesome, it is rather brackish and therefore less palatable than the other drinking waters of your district.

Another water scheme initiated by you during the year, was that for the supply of Chale and Blackgang from the Upper Greensand on the west of St. Catherine's Down. It has the great advantage of being a gravitation scheme like those of Brighthelm, Shalfleet and Wroxall. At the time of writing the <sup>Chale water supply</sup>

laying the pipes is reaching completion. This district is destined to be an important health resort, in the development of which the water supply will be of great assistance. It is pleasant to give the tribute of acknowledgement of service rendered, to the Chale parochial committee who have carried on the work in no half hearted spirit, and sometimes in the face of considerable discouragement when prospecting for a source of supply. This was, doubtless in part, due to the influence of their representative and confidence in him. It is seemly that your chairman should have originated and brought to completion such an important sanitary undertaking, and one which has such far-reaching possibilities.

It is a question how the hiatus between Chale and Brighstone is to be filled up. Atherfield in the parish of Shorwell is badly off for water.

Niton water  
supply.

For some years you have sought a source of water supply for Niton, one of the clay villages of your district. There is a powerful spring at the head of the Eastern Yar, in the immediate neighbourhood, for the use of which you negotiated, but the terms were onerous, and their acceptance would have been contrary to public policy. There is an enormous quantity of water in St. Catherine's Down, from which both the Medina and the Yar take their rise. On the eastern slope of the Down as you go north, the Upper Greensand is at a sufficient elevation to enable you to supply the whole parish, with the exception, perhaps, of High-down. I have not measured the height with the

aneroid, but possibly even the houses on Highdown could be supplied from the Hermitage. You selected however, Downcourt, south of the Hermitage as a convenient source of supply, and but for supposed legal difficulties which will shortly cease, Niton would probably have had its water before this.

But for the spirit of militant parochialism which characterises the Isle of Wight and which seems to render it impossible to combine two parishes for their common good, Whitwell and Godshill, or Wroxall and Godshill may have had one source of water supply. Whitwell and Wroxall are now supplied, and you have resolved to supply Godshill from within the parish from the Upper Greensand, and you selected a site for your reservoir at such a considerable elevation that the whole parish may be reached from it by gravitation. Your representatives met the agent of the owner of the land, and the delay which has occurred in settling terms is due, I conclude, to the fact that the owner has not yet reached his majority.

As a result of the Newport Waterworks at Idlecombe the wells of the Bowcombe Valley have been drained of their water, and the Corporation of Newport in obedience to the terms of their agreement with the owner of the land from which the water is taken, have laid a main up the valley for the gratuitous supply of the tenants of the estate. The main has been extended to the cottages south of Rowborough within a few hundred feet of Chiverton farm house. Unfortunately

other wells which are not on the estate have also become dry, and among them the deep well at Chiverton. It is your duty to see that Chiverton farm house and even the cottages beyond have a sufficient water supply, and it is to be hoped no obstacle will be raised to the extension of the main, at least to the farm house if only for dairy purposes.

Sewers.

The course you have pursued in providing your district with water supplies before sewerage, is a wise one. Pure water is more important to health than drainage. But in some instances it has been necessary to construct sewers first, either because of serious nuisances in populous places, which could not be otherwise abated, or because the inhabitants had provided themselves with an irregular sewerage system which was a nuisance, or because the difficulties in the way of obtaining a water supply were great from opposition of the inhabitants who were satisfied with their wells, or because there was no available source of supply. Nearly every year you add more or less to your sewerage, and 1901 was no exception.

Gurnard  
sewer.

You commenced to sewer Gurnard, and although there has been some delay for which the contractor was responsible, and more particularly in completing the outfall, which you were obliged to finish under the supervision of your Inspector, the work was completed before the water for flushing was laid on.

Binstead  
sewer.

You were able to improve the flushing arrangements of the Binstead sewer in connection with an extension

of it along a new road from Cemetery road to Ninham road, made in the process of developement of building. This sewer will assist in the drainage of the houses in Ninham road in which the incidence of epidemic disease has been severe.

In previous annual reports, I have given so fully the history of the drainage question at Freshwater, that it is unnecessary to refer to it further, than to say it does not reflect favourably upon any sanitary authority to allow its duties to be taken out of its hands, or to permit parochial agitations to hinder its efforts to fulfil the obligations imposed by the sanitary law. Under present conditions influences are at work which have no relation to the object in view, and too often the well-being of the community is sacrificed to the private interest of the individual whether it is recognised or not. Your experience has been, that after you have dedecided under full sense of responsibility what is the best plan of meeting the sanitary needs of a parish, you are opposed by certain individuals who tell you the expense attending your plan will ruin the parish, and that every rate payer is opposed to you. Another plan is brought forward and pressed upon you, and in the end you adopt this plan only to find there is no unanimity, and that the money spent, and the enormous amount of time and trouble expended are all thrown away; and if you consider the matter you will see it must be so. The majority in any parish you administer, are incapable of judging what is best for that parish as a whole. If they form a judgment they



are guided by what they suppose will be best, or what they are told will be best for their pocket interests. Your experience in Freshwater is not dissimilar from your experience elsewhere. You ask leave to borrow money for a sewerage scheme which has been altered and modified by the Local Government Board; and then under pressure from the parish you adopt another scheme to discharge the sewage into Freshwater Bay, and ask sanction to borrow about the same amount of money to carry it out. This is refused and you are told the scheme previously submitted is generally satisfactory. Then you adopt a further scheme to pump the sewage into an outfall sewer to discharge it into the Solent at Norton, instead of at Colwell. Totland now insists upon the section of that parish included in the schemes you have from time to time adopted, being drained separately by gravitation into the present Totland system. In the meantime the sanitary condition of Freshwater, which is so closely bound up with its material interests, is going from bad to worse.

Local Gov-  
ernment  
Board  
Inquiries.

Local Government Board inquiries were held at Freshwater with reference to pumping the sewage into the Solent at Colwell, and at Chale with reference to the water supply; and a private inquiry was held at Bembridge with reference to the water supply of that place.

Sanitary  
Inspectors.

Your Sanitary Inspector in the South West Medene division resigned his appointment at the end of the year, having done good work especially in connection

with the scheme of the Chale water supply which was eulogized by the Local Government Board Inspector at the inquiry.

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

ISLE OF WIGHT RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
NORTH EAST MEDENE.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING 1901.

Number of Nuisances and other matters reported	...	332
"          "          abated without final Notice	...	65
"          re-inspections <i>re</i> nuisances	... ..	209
"          final notices served	.. ...	5
"          houses reported unfit for human habitation	... ..	—
"          houses placed in repair	... ..	—
"          "          closed	... ..	—
"          "          cleansed and disinfected	... ..	35
"          legal proceedings taken	... ..	—
"          cases of overcrowding reported	... ..	—
"          "          "          abated	... ..	—
"          privy cesspools provided	.. ...	—
"          privies put on the pail system	... ..	5
"          wells sunk and other improved supplies of water obtained	... ..	7
"          wells cleansed	... ..	2
"          closed	... ..	—
"          pumps repaired	... ..	1
"          "          provided	... ..	—
"          houses drained and connected with sewers	... ..	12
"          house drains repaired and trapped	... ..	23
"          refuse and accumulatons removed	... ..	1

*Summary of work done during 1901—continued.*

Number of dairies inspected and re-inspected	...	...	16
"    "    limewashed after notice	...	...	3
"    Bakehouses    "    "    "	...	...	3
Districts scavenged—Brading and Bembridge	...	...	2
Plans of new buildings approved by R.D.C.	...	...	35
Inspections made of new building	...	...	127
Extension of High street sewer Bembridge, completed			

## NEW HOUSES ERECTED.

Ashey	...	Haylands	...	2
Bembridge	...	Dennet Road and Lane End	...	5
Brading	...	Mall and Bullring		5
North Arreton.		Wootton	...	4
Whippingham .		"	...	1
Yaverland	...	Sandown Road	...	2

## SOUTH EAST MEDENE.

## SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING 1901.

Number of nuisances and other matters reported	...	306
"    "    abated without final notice	...	72
"    re-inspected <i>vs</i> nuisances	...	134
"    "    placed in repair	...	11
"    cleansed and disinfected	...	19
"    privies put on the pail system	...	14
"    wells sunk and other improved supplies of water obtained	...	4
"    laid on from Lord Alverston's private main by him	...	9

*Summary of work done during 1901-2—continued.*

Number of drains repaired and trapped	...	...	16
„ refuse and accumulations removed	...	...	1
„ dairies inspected and re-inspected	...	...	14
„ „ limewashed after notice	...	...	2
Plans of new buildings approved by R.D.C.	...	...	19
Inspections made of new buildings	...	...	104
Newchurch water main works in progress.			

## NEW BUILDINGS ERECTED.

Arreton	...	...	5
Bonchurch (addition)	...	...	1
Godshill	...	...	2
Niton	...	..	1
„ (addition)	...	...	1
Wroxall	...	...	3
Newchurch (Apse Heath)	...	...	2
Whitwell	...	...	4

## NORTH WEST MEDENE.

## SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING 1902.

Number of nuisances and other matters reported	...	...	349
„ abated without final notice	...	..	102
„ re-inspections	...	...	266
„ final notice served	...	...	26
„ houses reported unfit, &c.	...	...	1
„ „ closed	...	...	1
„ „ placed in repair	...	..	—
„ houses cleansed and disinfected	...	...	36
„ legal proceedings	...	...	—
„ cases of overcrowding reported	...	...	—
„ „ „ abated	...	...	—
„ privy cesspools provided, &c.	...	...	19

*Summary of work done during 1902—continued.*

Number of privies put on the pail system	...	...	...	...	25
„ wells sunk, &c.	...	...	...	...	38
„ wells cleansed	...	...	...	...	—
„ wells closed	...	...	...	...	—
„ pumps repaired	...	...	...	...	4
„ pumps provided	...	...	...	...	5
„ houses drained and connected with sewer	...	...	...	...	20
„ house drains repaired and trapped	...	...	...	...	34
„ refuse accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	11
„ dairies inspected and re-inspected	..	...	...	...	37
„ „ limewashed after notice	...	...	...	...	—
Districts scavenged—Totland, Freshwater, and Yarmouth.					
„ sewered—Gurnard.					
„ being supplied with water—Northwood.					
Plans of new buildings	...	...	...	...	38
Number of buildings	...	...	...	...	65
Inspections made of new buildings	...	...	...	...	260

## NORTH WEST MEDENE.

## NEW HOUSES FOR YEAR 1901.

Freshwater	...	School Green...	6
„	...	Freshwater Bay	9
„	...	Church	5
„	...	High street	5
„	...	Norton	1
Yarmouth	...	...	3
Totland (avenue)	...	...	3
Northwood	...	Gurnard	6
Shalfleet	...	Cranmore	1

## SOUTH WEST MEDENE.

## SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING 1901.

Nuisances and other matters reported	...	...	...	342
„ abated without final notice	...	...	...	110
Re-inspections made	...	...	...	150
Final notices served	...	...	...	—
Houses reported unfit for habitation	...	...	...	—
„ placed in habitable repair	...	...	...	12
„ closed	...	...	...	—
„ cleansed and disinfected	...	...	...	25
Legal proceedings taken	...	...	...	—
Cases of overcrowding reported	...	...	...	—
„ „ abated	...	...	...	—
Privy cesspools provided and properly constructed	...	...	...	10
„ put on pail system	...	...	...	14
Wells sunk and other improved supplies of water obtained	...	...	...	25
Wells cleansed	...	...	...	2
„ closed	...	...	...	—
Defective pumps repaired	...	...	...	—
„ „ provided	...	...	...	—
Houses drained and connected with sewer	...	...	...	4
Number of house drains repaired and trapped	...	...	...	15
Dairies inspected and re-inspected	...	...	...	25
„ limewashed after notice	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses limewashed after notice	...	...	...	—
District scavenged—Carisbrooke.				
Plans approved by R.D.C.	...	...	...	
Houses and other buildings	...	...	...	9
Inspection of new buildings	...	...	...	102

## NEW HOUSES ERECTED.

Carisbrooke	...	Gunville Lane	...	5
Parkhurst	...	Heytesbury Road		2
Chale	...	Military Road		2

I am indebted for the following summary of meteorological observations made at the Grammar School, Newport, between 40ft. and 50ft. above sea level, to the head master, C. D. Vibert, Esq., B.A.

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.
						INCHES		INCHES.
Jan.....	54·0 on 27th	10·5 on 9th	45·4	35·1	40·2	1·52	13	·44 on 7th
Feb. ...	51·1 on 25th	23·2 on 16th	42·1	32·0	37·0	1·78	10	·52 on 28th
Mar. ...	55·5 on 12th	24·0 on 29th	46·5	35·6	41·0	2·81	15	·81 on 30th
April ...	71·7 on 24th	32·2 on 2nd	57·3	40·6	48·9	2·36	16	·64 on 3rd
May ...	78·5 on 29th	33·9 on 8th	66·3	44·2	55·2	·66	7	·29 on 30th
June ...	80·0 on 29th	41·4 on 13th	70·1	49·9	60·0	1·77	10	·54 on 30th
July ...	91·8 on 19th	44·9 on 6th	75·6	54·8	65·2	2·57	9	·67 on 25th
Aug. ...	83·1 on 19th	41·0 on 6th	71·1	52·8	61·9	1·64	7	·90 on 15th
Sept. ...	73·5 on 29th	41·0 on 16th	67·8	52·2	60·0	2·72	8	1·32 on 16th
Oct. ...	72·3 on 1st	30·9 on 26th	59·2	43·9	51·6	3·42	16	·68 on 4th
Nov. ...	57·3 2nd & 11	19·1 on 17th	49·4	34·7	42·0	·56	6	·19 on 21st
Dec. ...	53·8 on 8th	21·0 on 23rd	45·9	35·1	40·1	4·08	16	·98 on 12th
For year	91·8 Jly. 19th	10·5 Jan. 9th	58·1	42·6	50·3	25·89	133	1·32 Sep. 16

In 1901 the total rainfall at Newport, nearly two miles north east of the geographical centre of the Isle of Wight—the Asylum is placed at about the geographical centre of the Isle of Wight—and some half mile

north of the chalk range, and possessing a semi marine climate, was 25·89in. In 1900 it was 31·46in. ; in 1899 it was 25·29in. ; in 1898, 28·24in. ; in 1897, 26·96in. ; in 1896, 27·32in. ; in 1895, 29·15in. ; in 1894, 39·74in. ; in 1893, 28·53 in. ; in 1892, 24·97in. ; in 1891, 38·96in. ; in 1890, 26·31in. ; in 1889, 28·34in. ; in 1888, 29·02in. ; in 1887, 24·43in. ; in 1886, 38·07in. ; in 1885, 29·32in. The mean rainfall in Newport in the ten years, 1892-1901 was 28·75in.

There were 133 wet days at Newport. In 1900 there were 176 ; in 1899, 137 ; in 1898, 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 1892-1901 was 157.

The minimum temperature for the year was 10·5, on January 9th, and the maximum was 91·8 on July 19th.

The mean temperature for the year was 50·3.

In previous years I have called attention to the low night readings at Newport which effect the averages to so great extent. They are probably due to several causes, one of which is the gravitation of the cold air from the hills which surround it.

*January* was a cold month, with prevailing northerly winds, it was wet and stormy in the second half. The maximum temperature was 54·0 on the 27th, and the



minimum was 10·5 on the 9th, which was the lowest temperature of the year. The mean temperature 40·2 which was 1·8 lower than in 1900. 1·52in of rain fell at Newport in 13 days.

*February* was a cold winterly month, with variable weather. The mean temperature was 37·0 as compared with 40·0 in February 1900. The lowest temperature was 23·2 on the 16th. 1·78in. of rain fell at Newport in 10 days.

*March* was a cold disagreeable month with squally wet weather. The mean temperature (41·0) was 0·3 higher than in 1900. 2·81in. of rain fell at Newport in 15 days.

*April* was very wet for the first fortnight, windy and cold; but later in the month it was dry, with northerly and easterly winds. There was no frost, but vegetation was backward. The mean temperature was 48·9, 0·2 higher than that of April 1900. 2·36in. of rain fell at Newport in 16 days.

*May* was a dry sunny month with cold nights, until the last week, when the N. & N.E. winds changed to Southerly breezes. The cold nights were unfavourable to vegetation. The lowest temperature was 33·9 on the 8th. The mean temperature 55·2, was 1·7 higher than in May 1900. ·66in. of rain fell at Newport in 7 days.

*June* was warm during the first and last weeks, but it was otherwise cool, and vegetation did not progress. The mean temperature was 60·0, in June 1900 it was 60·9. 1·77in. of rain fell at Newport in 10 days.

*July* was a fine hot summer month, the third hot July in succession. Heavy showers fell towards the end of the month. The maximum temperature of the year was 91·8 on July 19th. The minimum of the month was 44·9 on the 6th. The mean temperature in July was 65·2. It was 66·7 in July 1900. 2·57in. of rain fell at Newport in 9 days.

*August* was a calm warm dry month. The maximum temperature was 83·1 on the 19th; the minimum temperature was 41·0 on the 6th. The mean temperature was 61·9. It was 62·8 in 1900. 1·64in. of rain fell at Newport in 7 days.

*September* was another fine, warm dry month. The maximum temperature was 73·5 on the 29th, and the minimum was 41·0 on the 16th. The mean temperature which was 58·8in. in 1900, was 60·0. 2·72in. of rain fell at Newport in 8 days, of which 1·32in. fell on the 16th, and 2·25in. fell at Ryde.

*October* was a mild month. The autumn was a very beautiful one, the flowers continuing in bloom and the leaves remaining on the trees in spite of the somewhat low night temperatures towards the end of the month. The maximum temperature was 72·3 on the 1st, and

the minimum was 30·9 on the 26th. The mean temperature was 51·6, which was 0·7 below the mean temperature of October 1900. 3·42in. of rain fell at Newport in 16 days ; and 2·82in. at Ryde.

*November* was a very dry cold month, the driest November for 30 years. The maximum temperature was 57·3 on the 2nd and 11th ; the minimum was 19·1 on the 17th. The mean temperature was 42·0. It was 47·3 in November 1900. 0·56in. of rain fell at Newport in 6 days ; and 0·36in. at Ryde.

*December* was a very stormy, cold wet month, the wettest December for many years. The maximum temperature was 53·8 on the 8th ; and the minimum was 21·0 on the 23rd. The mean temperature, which was 46·3 in 1900, was 40·1. 4·08in. of rain fell at Newport in 16 days ; and 3·60in. at Ryde.

The observations of rainfall at Ryde, were taken at Beldornie Tower, close to the sea.

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

Epidemic diseases were more than usually prevalent Health of the district.  
at the end of the year.

There were cases of measles at Parkhurst and in the Measles  
Newport district and at Binstead.

Scarlet fever was epidemic in the Freshwater district, Scarlet fever  
and at Brading and Haylands, and there was a case or  
two convalescing at Wootton.

There were cases of whooping cough at Niton and Whooping cough.  
Whitwell, Rookley and elsewhere.

Diphtheria was epidemic at Brading, there were Diphtheria  
several cases in one cottage at St. Lawrence, and there  
were cases at Parkhurst and in the neighbourhood of  
Newport, and it prevailed at Brighstone.

At the extreme eastern end of the Isle of Wight, EAST  
Bembridge, a scattered watering place which promises MEDENE.  
to become prosperous in the future, is in a fair way Bembridge.  
of becoming satisfactory as regards its sanitation. It  
is sewered, but the sewers are not properly flushed  
from want of a water supply. It is scavenged. The  
water supply from surface wells and stored rain water,  
is unsatisfactory in any case, and about August the

majority become dry, and there would be a water famine if you did not arrange for a supply from stand pipes from a small water service which has hitherto been in private hands. For long years an independent water supply has been a matter of urgent necessity at Bembridge. Five years ago you determined to supply Brading and Bembridge with water by a joint scheme, from the Bembridge limestone, which was fully described in my annual report for 1897 p.p. 47 to 51. There was the most determined opposition to it from both Bembridge and Brading. Sanction to borrow was refused. Sanction has now been granted to Bembridge alone to purchase and extend the present works. But to render the scheme complete, the gas works, which you are offered for £1000, are necessary as the pumping is done by gas engines. Gas is also necessary for lighting Bembridge. If the gass works were smaller and therefore less efficient and of less value, the Parish Council could purchase them ; but you may not do so. A great sanitary necessity, the want of which endangers the health and hinders the prosperity of a considerable community is delayed because of this anomaly. 5 new houses were built in Bembridge in 1901, and 8 in 1900.

Brading.

The ancient town of Brading on the western side of what was formerly the estuary of the Yar, and was a port until an apathetic population permitted a body of speculators to deprive it of its commercial prosperity, is sewered in greaterpart. Yarbridge, which has paid the sewage rate many years is not sewered. The sewage is discharged on to filtration beds which were

in better order, as the result of the attention of the S. E. Medene Inspector, at the end of the year, than for many years past. There is only indifferent flushing as Brading has not an independent water supply. It is scavenged. The water is obtained from public wells in the Bracklesham beds, from private wells, some of which are sunk in the Chalk, and at Yarbridge in the Upper Greensand, and from rain water tanks. As in many of the parishes of your district, little assistance in sanitary progress has come to aid the sanitary authority from Brading, notwithstanding that its representatives have done their best ; but there is no reason but the reverse, why the obligations of the law should not be fulfilled on that account and the health of the community protected. In 1892 the Brading parochial committee were requested to formulate a scheme of water supply. They asked for more definite information, which was not furnished them. Subsequently a considerable amount of public money was wasted in prospecting for water where it was not likely to be found, the sanitary authority exercising no control in the matter. Recently a committee of your Council reported to you that sufficient water for the supply of Brading would probably be found in the Upper Greensand at Yarbridge, and you entered into a provisional agreement to purchase land on which to sink an experimental well. You informed the Brading parochial committee of your intention. Of course you were opposed. A public meeting and the parochial committee were unanimously in opposition just as the Bembridge parochial committee, and public

meetings were unanimously in opposition again and again to the scheme now adopted for Bembridge. You accepted the decision of the parish and will now apply for permission to borrow money to lay pipes from the Sandown boundary to convey the water of the Isle of Wight waterworks to Brading. If the Isle of Wight waterworks were being initiated now, the promoters would not go to a river which receives the drainage of ten or twelve or more miles of highly cultivated land and farmsteads and villages for its source of supply ; but to the Chalk or Upper Greensand. If the Brading supply is to be taken from the stream, it may as well be taken directly and pumped to reservoirs on the down where it may be as effectually filtered as in the valley. The cost would be less, and in thirty years the parish would possess a valuable property.

Adgestone.      Going south along the valley of the *Yar* is the somewhat remote hamlet of Adgestone, supplied by a public well on the east, which and should have one or two other public wells which might be provided at no great outlay.

Alverstone      The next hamlet along the valley is Alverstone with its surface wells. It is said the owner of Alverstone is seeking to supply it independently from the Upper Greensand in the southern slope of the down to the north.

Knighton      A mile from Alverstone is Knighton, the site of the Ryde Waterworks from which it is supplied.

The next little hamlet, Langbridge, has its need of Langbridge. water at last supplied by the Newchurch water main.

The ancient village of Newchurch, situated on high Newchurch. land with an Upper Greensand sub-soil, has suffered from sanitary disabilities, as the result of which the incidence of epidemic diseases such as diphtheria, has been particularly severe in times past, has now a water main on its way to it which will give it abundance of wholesome water.

The growing hamlet of Apse Heath on the Newport Akse Heath. to Sandown highway is being supplied by its owner with water from Apse down, and it is being sewered by him. Two additional houses were built at Apse Heath in 1901.

The important village of Wroxall, which is assuming Wroxall. the dimensions of a small town, has increased enormously in sanitary security, and consequently in material prosperity as the result of its water supply. It ought to be scavenged, however, and this alone will delay the inevitable sewerage, now that Brading has elected to be supplied from the *Yar*, for it is into one of the largest branches of that river that the sewage of Wroxall passes. Three houses were erected in Wroxall in 1901, and four in 1900.

The picturesque health resort known as Bonchurch, Bonchurch almost continuous with Ventnor in the eastern section of the Undercliff, receives its water from the supply of that town. It drains into cesspits, a few of which are



“tight,” but the bulk of the sewage finds its way among the great masses of rocky débris which forms the terrace of the Undercliff, and no one knows whither it goes. This constituted a great danger until Bonchurch had a water supply. At the time of writing it is being scavenged at last, and this will constitute an additional security to the public health of the place. One of the houses of Bonchurch was enlarged during the year.

St. Lawrence  
Whitwell  
Undercliff,  
and Niton  
Undercliff.

The Undercliff west of Ventnor, known as the Undercliff proper, is more or less built over. Its terrace is of precisely the same character as that on which Bonchurch stands. It drains into the sub-soil in the same way, and for the most part draws its water in great measure from wells. Obviously the houses should be supplied independently, and this may be readily done from the cliff from which it derives its name, from almost any point. At Niton Undercliff, to the west, some of the houses are so supplied, but being carried in agricultural drain pipes the water is liable to pollution.

Whitwell.  
Nettlecombe  
and South-  
ford.

The village of Whitwell situated on the Gault clay is developing under the stimulus of railway communication. Having already an independent water supply, one of the principle obstacles to building operations is absent. There was an addition of four houses in 1901. The collection of the water for Whitwell was badly arranged, but some reconstruction has been done by the Parochial Committee lately. If the source at Berelay were at any time to prove insufficient for its

needs, there are other sources of supply available. The water supply was practically given to Whitwell, but it is vested in the sanitary authority. As development goes on, the village must be scavenged and then sewered. The small hamlet of Nettlecombe shares the water supply with Whitwell as does Southford, from which Redhill as well as Ford should be supplied.

Although only one house was built and one enlarged <sup>Niton.</sup> during the year, the village of Niton will go on developing. A large part of the old village is placed on the Gault clay and consequently much of its filth finds its way to the stream—the commencement of the *Eastern Yar*—which flows through it, the usual receptacle for the wastes of such villages. The greatest present needs of Niton at the moment, are a water supply and scavenging.

The village of Godshill, one of the most insanitary <sup>Godshill</sup> places in your district, has greatly improved in a sanitary sense partly by putting in order an irregular sewerage system. It needs the independent water supply you propose to give it, the indirect benefit of which will be seen in adding to the stimulus to its development which the railway has given it. It is already a place of resort from Newport in summer, and as it becomes known that they can be obtained there, lodgings will be sought by the inhabitants of the coast towns, but not until it has a water supply, for people are becoming too intelligent to drink from surface wells in populous places. Two houses were built in Godshill during the year.

- Merstone.** The small hamlet of Merstone was in fair sanitary condition at the end of the year, but like every other place in your district, it will not remain so if it does not receive regular systematic inspection. The exigencies of the roads do not permit this, and the exigencies of the roads seem to continue the year through.
- Arreton.** Arreton is gradually increasing its houses, and consequently its rateable value as a result of the stimulous of railway communication. Five houses were built in Arreton in 1901. The curtilage of these houses on the north side of Arreton street is too small for the disposal of sewage without risk to the wells sunk in the Greensand. The necessity of the public water supply which has been in contemplation so many years, becomes, therefore, more pressing each year.
- Blackwater.** The inhabitants of Blackwater, a hamlet about two miles south of Newport, obtain their drinking water from the polluted stream, from rainwater tanks and from badly protected wells sunk in the lower *Medina* river gravels, which in some instances become dry in times of draught. There are one or two satisfactory wells, and water brought from the higher plateau gravel on St. George's Down through agricultural drain pipes, is caught in buckets as it enters the stream. If there were more houses on the road to supply, the Newport water main might be extended to Blackwater with advantage.
- Shide.** About a dozen houses known as Shide, in the parish of Whippingham, are separated from the borough of

Newport by the *Medina*. These and the houses at Pan close by in the same parish, are supplied with water by the Corporation.

Just over the northern boundary of Newport east of <sup>Fairlee.</sup> the *Medina* estuary are some twenty small semi-detached villas in the district known as Fairlee. They are supplied with town water and are sewered into the Newport system. The small water main is continued for nearly a mile along the East Cowes road.

This road passes through a waterless district of <sup>Whipping-</sup> Osborne clay, and such surface wells as exist are ham. supplied by soakage in little pockets of gravel. The houses are scattered, but in the aggregate there are a considerable number, some of those on the Osborne estate being of superior character. It is unfortunate your negotiations with East Cowes were abortive, the majority of the East Cowes Council declining to pay an additional penny or penny half-penny to the tence a thousand gallons at first contemplated—which the Corporation of Newport considered necessary to meet an additional royalty claimed by the owner of the land from beneath which their supply is taken—as the arrangement proposed would have enabled you to supply Whippingham and probably Osborne. You will probably fulfil your obligations to a part of this district by carrying a main to the Brickfields, and thence by way of Palmers Brook to Wootton Common and Wootton.

Staplers. A residential district north east of Newport, Staplers has long required the water supply which the new reservoir of the Newport Corporation, will enable some of the houses to receive.

Wootton. Part of Wootton is in North Arreton and part in Whippingham. Water is obtained for the most part from the plateau gravel which covers a large portion of the district, but there are a few deep wells to the Bembridge Limestone and one to the Headon or the Bagshot sands. This is a public well on the roadside towards Wootton Common. One of the former is on the highway, part way down the hill in Wootton street, and another is at the bottom of the hill. There is also an independent supply from the gravel brought along the New road to a fountain by the highway, and continued to Wootton Bridge and across it to Kite Hill. This supply was provided by public subscription. The Binstead parish water main from the Ryde supply is also brought to Kite Hill and the east end of the bridge. The main road of Wootton is sewered. The sewer was recently extended towards Wootton Common because the wells in the gravel at the top of the hill were becoming contaminated. As I have previously stated, the effect of laying this sewer has been to drain the gravel and empty the wells. Continued drought must cause a water famine. The Corporation of Ryde will not consent to the extension of the Binstead main west of the bridge. No local supply will meet the necessities of the case, as with the inevitable extension of the sewer, as building increases the gravel will be

further drained. The supply, must, consequently, be obtained from Newport ; and it must be distributed to the Whippingham as well as to the North Arreton sections of Wootton. The short sighted policy which forced the absorption of the old Wootton parish by Whippingham will occasion many inconveniences as time goes on ; but this will be one of the least of them as the whole of Whippingham needs water. But it should serve as an object lesson. Even in the few years which have elapsed, the main underlying causes of the action taken have disappeared as the result of deaths and removals. Wootton is rapidly progressing ; and during the year under review five houses were built.

Wootton east of the bridge, known as Kite Hill is Kite Hill. partly in the parish of North Arreton and partly in Binstead. The Binstead water main gives it a better supply than that of the lin. pipe from the Wootton supply.

The Binstead independent supply has changed the Fishbourne. sanitary aspect of Fishbourne ; but its irregular sewerage system requires alteration.

Binstead is continuous with Ryde on the west. It is Binstead. a considerable village of mechanics' dwellings, and beyond it are large detached houses occupied by a leisure class. Binstead is supplied with water from the Ryde main, and the village is sewered but not scavenged. A new road has been made by the owner of the land, and other roads have been improved. Binstead

is one of the progressive places of your district ; but it is afflicted with a pig fattening nuisance which you appear unable to abate.

Haylands. To the south of Ryde and continuous with it, is Haylands in the parish of Ashe. It is inhabited chiefly by persons employed in Ryde, but it contains several houses of a superior class which stand in their own grounds. Haylands is sewered into the Ryde system, and is independently supplied with water. Two houses were built at Haylands in 1901.

Upton. Beyond Haylands to the south is Upton, at which are situated superior houses, several dairy farms and a few cottages. These are also supplied independently from the Ryde waterworks.

Haven street The Ashe water main has been continued from Upton to Haven Street, to which clay village it should be a great boon. But the water is not so freely used as it might be, as it has a rather disagreeable taste due to the preservation preparation with which the pipes are coated. It would be less persistent but for the fact that the coating was not applied when the pipes were hot. There is not much to complain of now, and the water should be laid on to the houses not yet supplied. Sewerage would be of advantage to Haven Street in the near future.

WEST MEDENE.  
Freshwater. The two extremities of the Isle of Wight were until quite recently, partly separated by two estuaries, those of the Eastern and of the Western Yar.

Commercial enterprise has reclaimed the land over which the waters of the eastern estuary flowed, and in course of time the western estuary will disappear. In more remote times these detached portions of the Isle of Wight were more completely separated by the sea, and later by marshes, and they were known as Bembridge and Freshwater Islands. I mention these facts of insularity and isolation, to in part account for, not to excuse, the extraordinary opposition you have received from sections of the population of both places in your efforts to fulfil your obligations for their good. For many years the filth nuisances of Freshwater have been a reproach to the sanitary authority. The resulting excessive mortality from epidemic diseases, which has been modified by an independent water supply provided by capital outside the place, has either been disregarded or has not been appreciated, and those whose premises most needed sewerage, have been the most violent opponents of a sewer; and now, after much fighting and opposition Freshwater remains unsewered. For this your council are responsible. Freshwater is scavenged—at a cost representing a capitalised sum of £10,000 or £12,000 or more—most imperfectly. As I have previously remarked, while Freshwater has a water supply which has happily been the means of reducing the death-rate from epidemic diseases, the quality of the water leaves much to be desired. The importance of Freshwater may be judged by the fact that 26 houses were added to it in 1901.



Totland. Totland consists of Totland Bay and the Avenue district. The former is sewered and both sections are scavenged and have an independent water supply. The avenue houses drain into cesspits, and the nuisances arising therefrom can only be controlled by sewerage. The latest proposition is to discharge the sewage of this district into the Totland Bay system by means of a tunnel. Totland and Freshwater are continuous, and the population practically forms one community. 3 houses were added to the Avenue section in 1901.

Colwell. Another place on the northern coast is Colwell, in the parish of Freshwater, which joins both Freshwater and Totland. Other detached portions of Freshwater are Norton and Norton Green. The sewer which drains Golden Hill Fort, between Colwell and Norton Green, passes through Colwell and will be available by agreement with the war department for the drainage of houses built on the land of one proprietor. Norton and Norton Green are unsewered; but they are supplied with water from the Freshwater waterworks as is Colwell.

Yarmouth. The ancient borough of Yarmouth on the eastern side of the mouth of the Yar estuary is sewered, scavenged and supplied with water from Freshwater. Its sanitary state has greatly improved although much remains to be done to remedy defects of old houses. In recent years Yarmouth has progressed greatly, and 3 houses were added to it in 1901.

The Bouldner building estate to the east of Yar-<sup>Bouldner-</sup>  
mouth in the parish of Shalfleet is slowly developing. <sup>on-Sea.</sup>  
The houses are supplied with water from Freshwater.

To the east of Bouldner another building estate <sup>Cranmore.</sup>  
known as Cranmore, is opening up. The new Shalfleet  
water supply is extended to it. An additional house  
was built there in 1901.

The villages of Thorley and Wellow were in a fairly <sup>Thorley and</sup>  
satisfactory state as regards filth nuisances at the end <sup>Wellow.</sup>  
of the year. The Shalfleet water supply will afford  
the inhabitants a security they have not hitherto had.

The hamlet of Ningwood will share this security, <sup>Ningwood.</sup>  
and the inhabitants will no longer resort to muddy  
pools in the bed of the stream for water in summer.

For many years while improvement in the sanitary <sup>Newbridge.</sup>  
state of Newbridge as regards filth nuisances has been  
marked from year to year, it has been necessary to  
point out the great risk to which the large majority of  
the inhabitants were subject by drinking from a  
polluted stream, on the banks of which enteric fever  
was not unknown. This risk was as great as ever at the  
end of the year, but this is the last time it will be  
reported. The independent water supply may as well  
have been provided fifteen years ago, when it was so  
strongly urged, as now, and other people may as well  
have been saved the toil of carrying their loads of  
water—frequently muddy and of ill flavour—up a

steep declivity for half a generation, and all the evil speaking and vituperation may as well have been avoided. But the pipes are being laid at last which will carry pure water from the rock and render it available at every cottage door by the turning of a tap.

**Calbourne**      The village of Calbourne—across the stream which divides the parish of Shalfleet from the parish of Calbourne,—while its filth nuisances and its stream pollutions have been to a considerable extent abolished, has a defective water supply. But it was never in so bad case as Newbridge, for water for drinking is obtained to a considerable extent from a comparatively safe source, a shallow well in the Chalk ; other sources of supply are a deep public well in the chalk, the stream and rainwater tanks. The new supply arranged for will be of the greatest benefit, not only to the village but to the whole parish of Calbourne.

**Shalfleet.**      The inhabitants of the village of Shalfleet both on the Shalfleet and Calbourne side of the polluted stream drink from it. In the near future they will drink the wholesome water of the underground springs from which the two branches of the stream take their rise.

**Newtown.**      The small hamlet of Newtown, the remnants of an ancient and important borough, the Bishop's town of the Isle of Wight, obtains its water supply from a deep well sunk to the Bembridge Limestone. This well has proved of the greatest utility to the inhabitants of Newtown, and of the surrounding district in summer ;

but the benefit is obtained at the cost of much labour. One of the chief of the sanitary advantages of an independent supply, which the parish of Calbourne will presently obtain, is to be found in the unrestricted use of abundant water.

The waterless clay district in which the scattered hamlets of Porchfield and Lock's Green are placed was one of the most unhealthy in the Isle of Wight in times past, much has been done by collecting rainwater and by instituting a small public well ; but the supply from Calbourne will add to the comfort of the population and give great sanitary security to the district.

Gunville continues to develop, five houses having been added to it in 1901. The southern section is sewerred. It is very desirable that existing sewers should be extended for new houses to drain into. It is the duty of the sanitary authority to provide sewers, and if this duty is neglected nuisances arise and expenses for scavenging are incurred ; moreover the occupiers have to pay scavenge rates without receiving the benefits their neighbours enjoy. Houses have been built in Gunville in the immediate neighbourhood of the sewer, and the provision of cesspits has been required. It is difficult to avoid gutter nuisances in the absence of sewers, especially when the land rises behind houses necessitating storm water drains, which the occupiers make use of for the disposal of slops. If slop water-tight cesspits are constructed, they have to be scavenged, and they usually overflow creating a

greater nuisance than in the road gutter. Although gutter nuisances have been largely abated, they are still in evidence in Gunville. Gunville is supplied with water by the Newport Corporation as are the houses to the north of it in the Yarmouth road, known as Forest Side.

**Hunnyhill** A developing district just outside the Hunnyhill boundary of Newport, is supplied from the borough water mains and in part drains into the Newport sewer. Two houses were added to this district during the year.

**The Workhouse.** The water supply of the Workhouse is obtained by a well and borehole from the Bagshot sands. It is drained to a tank in a meadow, the effluent from which finds its way to the Medina estuary.

**Parkhurst Barracks and Prison.** The sewage of Parkhurst Barracks and of the Convict Prison passes to subsidence tanks, before entering which it is treated with lime and iron alum. The affluent enters the upper reaches of Dodner Creek into which the tidal waters of the estuary rise. The Prison is supplied entirely with water from the Newport supply; the Barracks has also this supply, and in addition an old supply from the superficial gravels in Parkhurst Forest. The third source of supply from a deep polluted well has been discontinued since it gave use to an outbreak of enteric fever some three or four years back. It is extraordinary that the use of any water other than that from the waterworks at Carisbrooke should be permitted in Parkhurst Barracks.

The smoke nuisance at the Medina Cement works The Medina  
Cement  
Works. has been in a great measure abated. The Northwood new water supply which is carried to the works, will render them far more sanitary.

Fifteen years ago Horsbridge Hill was among the Horsebridge  
Hill and  
Noke  
Common. most insanitary places in your district. Though not properly sewerred the filth nuisance has been abated by carrying the sewage in pipes to a meadow, which, however, is not the best possible for the purpose, as the clay is at the surface. For some time Horsebridge Hill has had an independent water supply which has stimulated the developement of this district. It now merges into the Northwood general supply in which Noke Common shares.

Sanitarily, materially and in every sense the parish Northwood. of Northwood will benefit by the water supply you have given it. The parochial committee have recommended you to continue it to Rew street, advice which you are willing to act upon.

For many years the state of Gurnard has been a Gurnard. reproach to the sanitary authority. It has now an independent water supply and sewerage, and the reproach is removed. But you have not really been in default in this matter as your sewer was completed as soon as you could get water with which to flush it, and this could not be obtained until the high level reservoir of the Corporation of Newport was finished. It is surprising that land owners should obstruct such

beneficent public works as those of sewerage and water supply, which increase so enormously the value of their property. Compensation has again been claimed under threat of legal process in connection with the laying of the Gurnard sewer, when not one farthing real damage has been done. Six houses were built at Gurnard in 1901.

Carisbrooke. The important village of Carisbrooke, although not in a perfect state of sanitation, is, at the close of the year satisfactory from the sanitary stand point, as indeed it should be, seeing that it has sewerage and water supply and is scavenged. The water supply is in the hands of the Corporation of Newport; but they cannot now extend it, and you have guaranteed them 10 per cent on the outlay, to supply the houses in Castle street.

Chillerton and Gatcombe. The strictly agricultural villages of Chillerton and Gatcombe, are situated on the estate of one landowner who has given Gatcombe an independent water supply from the Upper Greensand. Water from the same formation flows abundantly through Chillerton, and could be made available for the population as at Gatcombe.

Chale and Blackgang. For many years I have reported to you that the Gault clay being at the surface over a large area in the parish of Chale, the inhabitants were insufficiently supplied with wholesome water. At the end of the year this

was the condition of things, but at the time of writing pipes are being laid through the parish to convey to every house water from the Upper Greensand. This supply will not only meet the principle sanitary defect of this district, but will add to the material prosperity of Chale generally and particularly to the Blackgang section of it. This is one of the most picturesque places in the Isle of Wight, and as it has peculiar recommendations in a climatic sense, it is not surprising it is much resorted to by visitors from the mainland and abroad.

The hamlet of Atherfield, between Chale and Atherfield. Shorwell is particularly deficient in wholesome water.

Shorwell is supplied with water by a public well in Shorwell. the Upper Greensand in the north of the village and by a pump at the south of it to which water is piped from the most powerful Upper Greensand springs in the Island. If it were not in private grounds, it would probably ere this have been made the source of an independent supply which would have availed both for Shorwell and Atherfield, and would have filled the gap in the water supply of your district between Brighstone and Chale.

The little hamlet of Limerstone between Shorwell Limestone and Brighstone has rather a grudging water supply in the shape of a tap by the side of the highway, which delivers water from an Upper Greensand pond high up on the side of the down. The cottagers use this supply for household purposes, but they go to the withey bed near Limerstone farm house for their drinking water.



Brighstone. The most important village on the south west coast of the Isle of Wight is Brighstone.\* Its sanitary character has been entirely altered since the people have drunk from the water piped to the houses from the source of the stream instead of from the stream after contamination by the sewage of the place. This supply has been continued into the surrounding clay district.

Mottistone,  
Hulverstone  
and Brooke.

The hamlets of Mottistone, Hulverstone and the village of Brooke are all supplied independently with water from the Upper Greensand. While gutter and other filth nuisances continue to exist in your district, and while house and dairy sanitation require much more attention than they receive, the provision of independent water supplies has raised it to an infinitely higher level of safety than it held a few years back. If there are serious defects and deficiencies, and there are, the fact that you have given heed to your obligations under the Public Health (Water) Act, is a most important and valuable make weight. I do not suggest by any means that there has not been an enormous improvement in the general sanitary state in your district during the last decade, for ten years ago scarcely a place in it was scavenged, but in such a district as yours much remains to be done after wholesome water is provided; and when all that the law requires you to do has been accomplished, there will still remain the duty of constant supervision.

Deficiencies  
of the Law.

But the law does not enable you to do all which you might do. Any person familiar with the conditions

which obtain in different parts of the country must come to the conclusion that country districts vary as greatly in character almost as town districts, and that in many instances the distinctions drawn by the law between urban and rural sanitary districts are almost grotesque. That such a district as yours, for example, with its forty or fifty miles of coast, with its towns and embryo towns closely growing into important watering places and centres of population, and with its suburban areas rapidly increasing, should have only the limited powers possessed by a purely agricultural district, possibly a district retrograding in population, would seem to be altogether anomalous. It is impossible to enlarge here upon what is a very wide subject, but I may venture to refer to two questions, one of which, that of pig keeping is constantly before you, and the other, that of inability to purchase gas undertakings, is hampering you at the moment—in connection with which you cannot adequately fulfil your obligations as a sanitary authority. Surely the ratepayers in a suburban district should be as much protected against the nuisance of pig keeping on a large scale as the ratepayers within a hundred yards, who happen to reside on the other side of a small rivulet which forms the boundary line between your district and an urban district. A seaside place is gradually growing under your jurisdiction, into what will become a considerable town. In order to fulfil your obligations to the place you require to purchase gasworks, but, apparently, the urban power to do so cannot be granted you as the law stands.

## Urban powers.

You have obtained urban powers to do many things, and it is necessary you should apply for them whenever necessary, more especially in the places of a more urban character which are being nursed during their development into towns. These places depend for their prosperity upon visitors who are attracted by their rural features. To launch them prematurely and give them urban government in order that they may obtain urban facilities would destroy their attractiveness and check their development.

## Bye-Laws.

You possess byelaws for new buildings, and for slaughterhouses, and dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops ; and you have regulations for house connections with sewers and watermains.

## Inspection.

You have four sanitary inspectors, who are also your surveyors under the Act and have charge of the highways as well. I reported to you upon the subject of inspection in my annual report for 1900, pp. 60 and 61, and more fully in my annual report for 1899, pp. 68, 69, 70 and 71. I have little to add to these reports, excepting to say I regret to find myself unable to agree with the opinion of your committee, who reported to you in such kind terms upon my annual report for 1900, that the arrangement by which your sanitary inspectors were made also surveyors of highways, and your surveyors of highways were made also sanitary inspectors, has worked fairly well. The object of the arrangement was, doubtless, to avoid the appointment of an additional inspector. I would venture to

point out to you, however, that twenty years ago you had two inspectors and that since that time the sanitary work of your district must have quadrupled. The area covered by each inspector is halved ; but the care of the highways in this area is exacting and absorbing, and systematic sanitary inspection is impossible. The sanitary inspector is also sanitary surveyor, but his work as such is confined by your resolution to the survey of new buildings under your byelaws. Curiously, the direction in which you might economise and in which you have economised is the one upon which the jealousy of the parishes has placed a veto. All the sanitary engineering work of sewerage and water supply designed and carried out by your surveyors has been exceedingly satisfactory. But some of the parishes have called in local architects to formulate schemes in opposition to those proposed by you. In the end you have yielded and the parish scheme has been carried out. In another parish the surveyor has naturally been called upon to get out a scheme which is eventually carried out by him, and engineers fees are saved. The parishes which have had to pay such fees object, and now sanction to do this legitimate work yourselves is refused. All sanitary engineering work in my opinion should be done under your direct control by your officers. You are responsible, not the parishes. Under the present circumstances there is no uniformity. The amounts paid away in fees would be sufficient to provide a good salary for a competent sanitary engineer. As highway surveyors the inspectors do engineering work even to building a sea wall, which takes

them away from their sanitary work, and no complaint is made. In my opinion this is a serious matter and one which will militate against the interests of the public health if the inspectors are not to be permitted to formulate schemes of sewerage and water supply, and to get out estimates, for poor parishes shirk the initial expense of calling in an architect.

**Procedure.**

An account of your mode of procedure will serve to illustrate further the obstacles to the performance of efficient sanitary inspection work in your district, by bringing to your notice the fact that a large amount of the time of the inspectors is absorbed in attending meetings. It will also serve to show how great are your activities and what a large expenditure of time and effort your services to the community involve. Although the highways are managed by a committee of the whole council and not nominally by the council, in effect the time given to them is little less than the time devoted to your sanitary duties, and the presence of the inspectors is even more necessary at all committees and sub-committees appertaining to the highways, than at the various meetings appertaining to your sanitary work. You meet four times a month as a public body, once as a rural district council and once as a general purposes committee of that council ; once as a highway committee, and once usually as a general purposes committee of highways known as the gravel committee. With the exception of the last committee, which is generally preceded or followed by the meetings of other committees either sanitary or highway,

urgent sanitary or highway business is taken, in one case after the highway meeting, in the other after the council meeting or its general purposes committee. A large amount of most important work is done, and a large amount of time is expended by numerous special committees and sub-committees which meet at Newport; and by other committees, especially in connection with the highways, which meet in different parts of the district, and these are among the most useful and necessary of your many meetings. To attend these meetings your members and officers have often to travel long distances. In each parish you have a parochial committee made up of the members of the parish council, and of the district councillor or councillors of the parish. To these committees you refer almost every sanitary matter connected with the respective parishes, the representatives of the particular parishes usually urging that the matters should be so referred. These references are often desirable and politic and sometimes necessary, but it is in connection with them the most obstruction and the greatest waste of time occurs. It is contended that the people of the parish know best what they want, and they will have to pay. But yours is the responsibility, and if you abnegate your powers and your authority in favor of, possibly, a parochial clique who view your legal obligations from quite a different standpoint, you may sacrifice the object for which you exist. These remarks do not apply of course to every parish, you have had sufficient evidence that in some of the parishes men of authority and influence have furthered your objects, and have been of the

greatest assistance to you ; while in other parishes when the composition of the parish council has happened to change, there has been a complete reversal of attitude, and opposition to your endeavours has ceased. Only recently a committee of your council made a recommendation to you which you adopted. The parochial committee objected and made another recommendation which you adopted. When it was pointed out to intelligent members of the parochial committee that the best interests of the place would not be served by their recommendation, the question was asked why you wished them to tell you how you were to carry out your duty. If you did that they chose what seemed easiest and cheapest to them. Permit me to say, with all deference, your duty is not simply to register the views of a few persons in a parish who have made up their minds in which direction their own private interests lie, with the idea you are "helping the parish", but to consider carefully what is best for the sanitary interests of the community both now and in the future, and so to fulfil the obligations imposed upon you by the law.

In concluding my annual report for the year 1901, which in obedience to your wishes I have curtailed so far as a strong sense of responsibility would permit me to do, I think I may say it presents to you a record of substantial progress which your efforts have made in

providing permanent security for the health of the  
people placed under your care.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant

J. GROVES.

Carisbrooke.



