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ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE HEALTH  
OF THE  
RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT  
OF THE  
ISLE OF WIGHT.

BY

JOSEPH GROVES, M.B., B.A., London,  
F. R. MET. SOC.,  
FELLOW OF THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY,  
FELLOW OF THE ROYAL STATISTICAL SOCIETY,  
**Medical Officer of Health.**

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# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

## HEALTH OF THE RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT, FOR THE YEAR 1903.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health of the Sanitary District for the administration of which you are responsible.

### 1. VITAL STATISTICS.

On April 1st, 1901, the population of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District was 28,559, of whom 14,359 were males, and 14,200 females. At the previous census in 1891, the population of your District was 29,747. On April 1st, 1881, it was 28,008. The correction for the deprivation of population in the decennium 1891—1901 is made in the latest census returns by assuming your District contained only 27,218 persons at the time of the 1891 census. In the middle of 1903, it was estimated to be 28,827. At the 1901 census the whole of the Isle of Wight

Population.



was found to have a population of 82,418, of whom 37,803 were males, and 44,615 females; in 1891 it was 78,672.

The natural increase of population by excess of births over deaths in your District in 1903 was 127.

Population to  
the acre.

The acreage of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District in 1901 was 86,844, of which 90 acres were inland water, and these figures are those at the end of 1903. The whole Island contains 94,068 acres, of which 142 acres are inland water. The area of your District, therefore, is almost exactly twelve-thirteenths of the area of the Isle of Wight. The population to the acre averaged 0·33, or one person to about three acres.

Births and  
Deaths.

565 births and 438 deaths were registered as having occurred in your District in 1903. Of the births 280 were those of males, and 285 were those of females, of the births 24 were illegitimate, of which 15 were boys, and 9 were girls. 220 deaths were those of males, and 218 were those of females.

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

			BIRTHS.			DEATHS.		
			M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1st quarter	..		64	91	155	65	54	119
2nd	„	..	64	43	107	55	51	106
3rd	„	..	80	74	154	50	53	103
4th	„	..	72	77	149	50	60	110
			—	—	—	—	—	—
			280	285	565	220	218	438

Birth-rate  
and  
death-rate.

The birth-rate in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary

District in 1903 was 19·5 per 1000 of the population living. In 1902 it was 21·9 per 1000; in 1901 it was 22·1; in 1900, 22·1; in 1899, 20·7; in 1898, 21·0; in 1897, 24·2; in 1896, 24·8; in 1895, 30·2; in 1894, 22·5. The death-rate was 15·1 per 1000 living. But the deaths included those of 96 persons who were not permanent residents in the District. Of these 83 died in public institutions. Deducting the deaths among strangers from all the deaths, the death-rate is reduced to 11·8 per 1000, or deducting only the deaths among strangers which occurred in public institutions, to 12·3 per 1000. There were, doubtless, other deaths among the visitors which were not indicated when registered. On the other hand 9 persons belonging to the District died in the Isle of Wight County Hospital, in the Ryde Urban District, and adding these the above rates would be raised to 12·1 and 12·6 respectively. The death-rate was 15·0 per 1000 living in 1902. In 1901, it was 15·78 per 1000; in 1900, 17·58; in 1899, 15·2; in 1898, 14·6; in 1897, 13·2; in 1896, 13·5; in 1895, 16·8; in 1894, 16·9. Deducting the deaths among strangers, it was 12·6 in 1902; 12·17 in 1901; 12·96 in 1900; 12·5 in 1899; 11·8 in 1898; 10·5 in 1897; 11·0 in 1896; 14·5 in 1895; 15·2 in 1894.

The mean birth-rate in the ten years 1893—1902 was 23·5 and the mean death-rate was 15·3. Comparing the mean birth-rate and the mean death-rate of your District with the birth-rate and death-rate of the year under review, we find the birth-rate was 4·0 and the death-rate 0·2 below the mean of ten years. The mean death-rate excluding strangers was 12·5. The corresponding rate in 1903 was therefore 0·5 below the average, or, adding the deaths which occurred in the Hospital at Ryde, 0·2 below the average.

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



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

The birth-rate in England and Wales in 1903, was 28·4 per 1000 living, which is 0·2 per 1000 below the rate in 1902, and lower than the rate in any year on record; compared with the average in the years 1893—1902, the birth-rate in 1903 shows a decrease of 1·0 per 1000.

The death-rate in 1903 was 15·4 per 1000, which is the lowest rate on record; compared with the average in the ten years 1893—1902, the death-rate in 1903 shows a decrease of 1·0 per 1000.

The mortality among infants under one year of age to 1000 registered births was 132, which with the single exception of a rate of 130 per 1000 births in 1881, is the lowest rate on record, and is 22 per 1000 below the mean of ten years 1893—1902.

The death-rate in England and Wales, less 76 great towns and 103 smaller towns, was 14·8 per 1000; and of infants under one year of age, 118 per 1000 births.

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

The birth-rate in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District in 1903 was 8·9 below the birth-rate of England and Wales and 9·9 below the mean birth-rate in the ten years 1893—1902. The death-rate was 0·3 below the death-rate of England and Wales, and 1·3 below the mean annual death-rate in the ten years 1893—1902. Deducting the deaths among strangers, the death-rate was 3·6 below the general death-rate of the year, and 4·6 or 3·8 (correcting for the 9 deaths in the Isle of Wight County Hospital) below the mean death-rate of ten years, 1893—1902. The death-rate of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District was 0·3 above the death-rate in England and Wales—less the 179 towns; or deducting the deaths

among strangers the death-rate was 3·0, or 2·2, below that of the year.

Comparing the death-rate of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District in each of the ten years 1894—1903, with the death-rate in England and Wales, and with the country districts in the same years, we find it was in—

ENGLAND AND WALES.			RURAL DISTRICTS.		
*1894	0·3	above average	1·3	above average.	
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	„ „	1·6	below „	
1902	1·3	„ „	0·3	„ „	
1903	0·3	„ „	0·3	above „	

\* The year of enteric fever epidemic.

In every 1000 of the population of your District 7·6 males and 7·5 females died in 1903.

Male and female death-rate.

The 438 deaths registered in your District in 1903, included those of 47 infants who died under one year of age. The rate of infant mortality, under one year of age to 1000 registered births was 84·9. The mean proportion of deaths under one year of age, to 1000 registered births in the ten years 1893—1902 was 83·8 in your District. In England and Wales the ratio of infant mortality was 132, which is 22 per 1000 below the mean proportion of the ten years 1893—1902. In your District it was 1·1 above the mean of the District for ten years. It was 47·1 below the

Infant mortality.



infant mortality in England and Wales, and 69·1 below the mean of ten years. Excluding 179 larger towns, the mean rate of mortality of infants under one year of age, to 1000 registered births, was 118. In the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District the rate of infant mortality in 1903, was 33·1 below the mean rate for the country generally, outside 179 larger towns.

64 children, 14 per cent. of all the deaths, died under five years of age, and 17 children, or 0·38 per cent. of the deaths, died between one and five years. The deaths between one and sixty-five numbered 215, or 49 per cent. of the deaths.

Mortality of  
the aged.

176 persons died at sixty-five and upwards, which is equal to 40 per cent. of the deaths at all ages. Of these 36 died between sixty-five and seventy, 78 between seventy and eighty, 50 between eighty and ninety, 11 between 90 and 100, and one who was over 100. The greatest age at death, that of the widow of a retired farmer, who died at Roude, between Godshill and Whitwell, was 100. A gardener of Ryde, died in the Workhouse at 99, and a widow at 95 at Totland. Three died at 93: the widow of the captain of a revenue cutter at Chale, a master cooper at St. Lawrence, and a general labourer at Wroxall. Four died at 91: a gardener at Haven Street, the widow of a master builder at Godshill, widow of independent means of Niton, and a carpenter at Thorley. And three died at 90: a widow at Yarmouth, the widow of a gardener at Brading, and a housekeeper at Wroxall.

Deaths of  
strangers in  
the District.

In my last Annual Report I pointed out that the new death tables require the tabulation of the deaths of residents who have died in public institutions within the

District, and of residents who have died in public institutions outside the District. The public institutions within the District are the Isle of Wight Union Workhouse, the Isle of Wight Asylum, and the Royal National Hospital for Consumption at St. Lawrence. The Workhouse and the Asylum are common to your District and the towns of the Island, but into the latter are also received paying patients from the mainland. The Consumption Hospital receives patients who almost entirely are strangers to the Isle of Wight. The Sandown and Shanklin Isolation Hospital situated in your District receives patients from those towns, whose deaths (if any) are registered in your District. A certain number of residents in your District die in the Isle of Wight County Hospital, which is situated within the Borough of Ryde, and these deaths can be ascertained; but others die in London hospitals and in public institutions elsewhere, and of these deaths no information is available. The death tables cannot, therefore, be made complete until it is obligatory not only to register the ordinary place of residence, but to send a return of the death to the Medical Officer of Health of the District within which the ordinary residence is situated. In a health resort like the Isle of Wight, many strangers die. The ordinary place of residence of such persons should be sent to me with the death returns. Some of the sub-Registrars are good enough to help me in this manner, and I am thus enabled to attain a closer approximation to the true death-rate of your District.

Of the 96 deaths among non-residents included in the death returns, 83 died in public institutions. Of the 46 deaths which took place in the Isle of Wight Workhouse, 36 normally formed part of the urban population of the Island; of the 33 deaths which occurred in the Isle of



Wight Asylum, 24 were those of residents in Island towns, and one was a stranger to the Isle of Wight; and of the 22 deaths in the Hospital for Consumption, 21 from phthisis, and one from heart disease, all were among those who were strangers to the Isle of Wight; 4 inhabitants of one or other of the towns of the Island died while on a temporary visit to the Rural District. Five of the ordinary private visitors from the mainland seeking health died; and a temporary visitor to the Island died suddenly. A sailor who fell from aloft at sea was landed at Bembridge, and two young men spending their holidays there were drowned—one “by the sinking of a boat,” the other was “drowned at sea,” according to the verdicts of the juries.

Of the inhabitants of the Rural District treated in the Isle of Wight Infirmary and County Hospital at Ryde, 9 died there, 2 of these belonged to the Newport, 2 to the Ryde, 2 to the Brading, 2 to the Godshell, and 1 to the Calbourne Registration Sub-District.

Deaths by  
accident and  
suicide.

Thirteen persons died as the result of accident, and 3 by suicide in your District in 1903. Of those who died as the result of accident, 3 were knocked down—1 by a bicycle, 1 by a bull, and 1 by the train—2 were burnt, 2 were found drowned, 1 was drowned at sea, 1 by the sinking of a boat, 1 fell from aloft at sea, and 3 were suffocated—1 by a piece of meat, 1 while in a fainting fit, and 1 by a fall of sand in a sandpit. Of those who committed suicide, 1 cut his throat, and a prisoner at Parkhurst, and a woman in the Brading District hung themselves.

In 1903 3·6 per cent. of the deaths were due to violence, and 0·55 per 1000 of the population. In 1902 the deaths from violence were 2·3 per cent. of the deaths and 0·34 per



1000 of the population. In 1901 they were 3·7 per cent. of the deaths, and 0·59 per 1000 of the population; in 1900 they were 1·9 per cent. and 0·31 per 1000; in 1899 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; in 1894 2·7 per cent. and 0·46 per 1000; in 1893 5·6 per cent. and 0·83 per 1000.

The mean percentage of deaths from violence in your District in the ten years, 1893—1902, was 2·9, and the mean proportion to 1000 of the population was 0·44. In England and Wales the deaths of 0·58 per 1000 of the population were referred to different forms of violence in 1903, against 0·64, 0·63, and 0·59 in the preceding three years.

The deaths from epidemic diseases included —

1	attributed to scarlet fever.
10	„ whooping cough.
7	„ diphtheria.
2	„ enteric fever.
6	„ other continued fevers.
3	„ diarrhœa.
1	„ epidemic enteritis.
—	
30	

Mortality  
from certain  
diseases.  
Epidemic  
diseases.

The 30 deaths attributed to the different forms of epidemic diseases were equal to a death-rate of 1·04 per 1000 of the population, and to 6·8 per cent. of all the deaths. The epidemic death-rate of the ten previous years was, 0·90, 0·94, 0·82, 0·86, 0·70, 0·77, 0·87, 0·42, 1·6, 0·67, respectively.

Epidemic  
death-rate.

The mean epidemic death-rate in the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District in the ten years 1893—1902 was 0·85 per 1000 of the population. The epidemic death-rate in England and Wales in 1903, was 1·46 per 1000 living, against 1·99, 2·05, 1·64, 2·19, 1·99, and 2·15 respectively in the five preceding years. But excluding 179 large towns, it was 1·08 per 1000 in 1903. The average annual epidemic death-rate in England and Wales during the decennium 1893—1902, was 2·05 per 1000 living, against 3·95, 4·15, and 3·38 per 1000 respectively, in the three decennia 1851—81. The epidemic death-rate in your District in 1903 was 1·01 below the average of the country in decennium 1893—1902, and the average epidemic death-rate of your District is 1·2 below that of England and Wales.

Phthisis.

52 persons died of consumption in your District in 1903, equivalent to 1·8 per 1000 living; of these 21 died in the Royal National Hospital for consumption, all of whom were strangers to the Isle of Wight. 3 died in the Union Workhouse Infirmary, of whom all formed part of the Urban population, and 4 in the Asylum, of whom 2 belonged to your District, and 2 to one or other of the towns of the Island outside it. Deducting the deaths among strangers, the death-rate from phthisis is reduced to 0·9 per 1000 of the normal population of your District. It was 1·0 per 1000 living, if we exclude deaths among strangers to the Island only. The percentage of deaths from phthisis to all the deaths was 11·8, or deducting the deaths among visitors, 5·9.

Lung disease.

49 persons died from one or other forms of lung disease, 16 of whom died under five years; and eight of whom did not belong to the District. These deaths are equivalent

to 1·6 per 1000 of the population, and to 11 per cent. of the deaths.

Heart disease caused the deaths of 62 persons, of whom eight did not belong to your District. The deaths from heart disease were equal to a rate of 2·1 per 1000. The percentage of deaths from heart disease to all the deaths was 14·0. Heart disease.

32 deaths from different forms of malignant diseases were registered, 25 among residents and 7 among strangers to your District, equivalent to 1·1 per 1000 living, and to 7·0 per cent. of the deaths. Cancer.

The deaths of 5 cases of different forms of tuberculous diseases, other than pulmonary phthisis, were registered, equivalent to 1·0 per cent. of the deaths. Scrofula.

61 cases of epidemic diseases were notified during the year. They were equal to 2·1 per 1000 of the population. They included 30 cases of diphtheria, 2 of erysipelas, 20 of scarlet fever, 7 of enteric fever, and 2 of continued fever. Notified diseases.

In my Annual Report for 1902, pages 14—15, I gave certain statistics of your District contained in the corrected census returns of 1901 which may be useful for reference. Other statistics.

I also gave the population of parishes, their gross rental and ratable value, and the approximate yield of a penny rate in each of them. I have repeated the table. Population of Parishes and their value for rating purposes.



Parishes.	Population.		Gross Esti- mated Rental.	Ratable Value Agri- cultural Land.	Ratable Value, Build- ings, etc.	1d. Rate produces for					
	1891	1901				General Purposes about			Sanitary Purposes about		
			£	£	£	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Ashey	1587	1621	9937	2872	5518	26	5	0	20	15	0
Bembridge	1024	1127	9904	1022	7067	31	11	6½	29	3	10
Binstead	961	851	5164	802	3551	15	15	0	14	10	0
Bonchurch	638	539	6035	228	4601	20	2	4½	19	17	6
Brading	1704	1732	17317	4932	9675	49	0	0	31	0	0
Brighstone	528	493	3281	1142	1688	9	8	3½	8	4	5
Brook	250	221	1587	620	772	4	10	0	3	17	3
Calbourne	830	747	5628	2158	2685	15	13	8½	10	4	9
Carisbrooke	3543	3993	22312	5780	13180	65	0	0	54	0	0
Chale	607	543	4305	1720	1999	11	17	6	9	9	6
Freshwater	2652	3306	18659	2188	13030	58	10	0	50	0	0
Gatcombe	435	407	3561	1684	1461	9	11	11	7	16	10
Godshill	1037	906	10817	6738	2938	22	0	0	19	5	0
Kingston	68	68	1103	636	294	2	11	0	1	17	9
Mottistone	128	122	1119	408	539	2	18	6	2	13	5
Newchurch	740	711	6740	2688	3210	18	0	0	10	10	0
Niton	931	884	6483	1710	3754	19	4	0	17	8	5
North Arreton	840	884	6587	2286	3204	18	0	0	13	0	0
Northwood	1783	2016	12360	2818	7251	32	0	0	25	0	0
St. Lawrence	318	361	2924	266	2107	8	11	5	8	3	0
Shalfleet	887	798	5899	2078	2855	20	11	1½	11	17	7½
Shorwell	586	533	4707	2542	1649	12	3	5	9	10	0
South Arreton	907	897	11833	5810	4226	29	0	0	19	0	0
Thorley	177	129	1712	800	683	4	10	4	2	11	6
Totland	790	1328	10476	510	7985	32	3	2	30	16	9
Whippingham	801	855	9978	3008	5277	28	0	0	20	0	0
Whitwell	653	633	5689	1754	3070	16	0	0	14	12	4
Wroxall	786	775	7579	1688	4584	20	0	0	13	0	0
Yarmouth	903	948	4944	94	3832	16	3	3	15	16	3
Yaverland	94	131	1444	600	643	3	15	0	3	0	0

\* Brading Special Drainage District.

TABLE I.

## Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903 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*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1893	30,124	783	25.9	62	79	441	14.6	89	69		372	12.3
1894	30,268	682	22.5	70	103	513	16.9	70	49		464	15.3
1895	29,493	785	26.2	73	92	496	16.8	94	68		428	14.0
1896	28,466	707	24.8	54	76	385	13.5	89	65		320	11.2
1897	28,275	686	24.2	58	79	375	13.2	89	73		302	10.6
1898	28,750	605	21.0	61	100	421	14.6	96	76		345	12.0
1899	28,920	619	20.7	57	92	440	15.2	98	76		364	12.5
1900	29,000	642	22.1	41	63	460	17.5	104	83		377	13.0
1901	28,600	639	22.1	53	84	450	15.7	99	85		365	12.8
1902	28,692	631	21.9	42	67	433	15.0	81	63	10	380	13.2
Averages for 1893-1902	29,058	677	23.1	57	83	441	15.3	90	70	10	371	12.6
1903	28,827	565	19.5	47	84.9	438	15.1	101	83	9	364	12.6

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

Total population at all ages ...	28,559	} At Census of 1901.
Number of inhabited houses ...	5,952	
Average number of persons per house ...	4.30	

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... 86,754 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 ; Sandown and Shanklin Isolation Hospital, near Apse Heath.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District :—Royal Isle of Wight Infirmary and County Hospital, Ryde.

The Union Workhouse is within the District.



TABLE II.

## Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1903 and previous years.

Names of Localities.	ISLE of WIGHT RURAL DISTRICT.				NEWPORT REG. SUB-DISTRICT.				COWES REG. SUB-DISTRICT.				RYDE REG. SUB-DISTRICT.				BRADING REG. SUB-DISTRICT.				GOSHILL REG. SUB-DISTRICT.				CALBOURNE REG. SUB-DISTRICT.			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
Year.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.	a.	b.	c.	d.
1893																												
1894																												
1895																												
1896																												
1897																												
1898																												
1899																												
1900																												
1901	28,560	630	450	53	5594	109	124	5	3470	81	45	6	2475	52	32	5	3689	72	53	5	5248	104	81	6	8024	212	115	26
1902	28,692	631	380	42	5620	125	76	9	3480	86	36	4	2480	51	28	3	3716	60	56	6	5257	96	75	5	8139	204	109	15
Averages of Years 1893 to 1902.	28,626	630	415	47	5607	117	110	7	3475	83	40	5	2477	51	30	4	3702	70	54	5	5252	100	78	5	8031	208	112	20
1903	28,827	565	364	47	5648	114	80	10	3500	83	38	8	2488	36	36	3	3732	66	54	5	5276	85	62	4	8183	181	92	17

TABLE III.

## Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1903.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.							NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.						
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Under 1	1 to 5	5-15	15-25	25-65	65 and up-wards														
Small-pox .. ..	..								(w)												
Cholera .. ..	..																				
Diphtheria .. ..	30		6	17	3	4		30	7	7	4	7	1	4							
Membranous Croup ..																					
Erysipelas .. ..	2					2		2	2												
Scarlet fever .. ..	20		3	16	1			20	2	2	1	7	1	7							
Typhus fever .. ..																					
Enteric fever .. ..	7			2	3	2		7	1	1	2			3							
Relapsing fever .. ..																					
Continued fever .. ..	2			1		1		2	1					1							
Puerperal fever .. ..																					
Plague .. ..																					
Total .. ..	61		9	36	7	9		61	13	10	7	14	2	15							

No Isolation Hospital.





TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

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, 1916	
	All ages.		Under 15 years.		15 and over.		Under 15 years.	15 and over.	9	10	11	12	13	14		15
	2	3	4	5	6	7										
1																
Small-pox ..	..															
Measles ..	..															
Scarlet Fever ..	1			1									1			
Whooping-cough ..	10	6		2	1	1				4	1		2	2	1	
Diphtheria and membranous croup ..	7			2	5					7	1	3	1	1	1	
Croup ..	..															
Typhus ..	..															
Fever, Enteric ..	2				1	1				2	1	1				
(Other continued)	6	1					4	1		6	2		1	1	2	
Epidemic influenza ..	..															
Cholera ..	..															
Plague ..	..															
Diarrhoea ..	3	2						1		3	1				2	1
Enteritis ..	1						1			1	1					
Puerperal ..	..															
Erysipelas ..	1						1			1			1			
Other septic diseases ..	1			1						1				1		
Phthisis ..	24						8	14	2	24	7	1	1	1	5	9
Other tubercular diseases ..	5			3	1				1	5			4		1	
Cancer, malignant disease ..	25			1				17	7	25	4	3	4	4	6	4
Bronchitis ..	25	7	3					4	11	25	4	2	5	7	3	4
Pneumonia ..	13	2	3				2	4	2	13	5	2	2	2	2	3
Pleurisy ..	1								1	1	1				1	
Other diseases of respiratory organs ..	2	1					1			2			1		1	
Alcoholism ..	2															
Cirrhosis of liver ..	..						2			2				1	1	1
Veneral diseases ..	..															
Premature birth ..	8									8	2	2		1	3	
Diseases and accidents of parturition ..	1						1			1					1	
Heart diseases ..	54						1	4	25	54	16	8	7	8	6	9
Accidents ..	13						1		11	13	2	1		5	2	3
Suicides ..	3								3	3	2			1		
All other causes ..	157	20	4	3	2	41	86	157	29	15	17	16	32	47	45	
All causes ..	364	47	20	13	18	129	137	364	80	38	54	62	92		101	



## 2. THE SANITARY HISTORY OF THE YEAR.

The sanitary history of the year is not only an account of the incidence of epidemic disease in the particular District and the measures taken to prevent its spread, as well as the routine administration of the Public Health Acts and the meteorological conditions which obtained during the year, but also a description of those public works of water supply and sewerage, either completed or commenced, which raise the sanitary character of a District and add to the permanent security of its people.

The year 1903 commenced with much sickness throughout your District, but there were few cases of the more important forms of epidemic disease. The epidemic of *Diphtheria* at Totland had almost disappeared, leaving only one or two cases which were almost convalescent; a case of *Scarlet Fever* was convalescing at Godshill; there were cases of *Enteric Fever* in one family in the married-quarters at Parkhurst Barracks; cases of *Chicken Pox* in the Newchurch and Alverstone District; an epidemic of *Measles* at Whippingham; and *Whooping Cough* was widely prevalent along the coast from Chale to Brook and in the centre of the Island, especially at Arreton.

Epidemic diseases.

During January *Diphtheria* was apparently absent from the District, but in February a case occurred at Totland and another in March. There was a case at Standen, near Newport, on the Blackwater road, in February. In

March there was a case at Adgestone. In May a child died of the disease almost immediately after arriving at Atherfield on a visit from beyond your District; and in the same month there was a case at Brading. In June there was a case in Parkhurst Forest, and in July at Wootton, and at Freshwater and Carisbrooke. In August a case occurred at the Coastguard Station, at Bembridge, and one at Yarbridge. In September a case occurred at Carisbrooke. In October an adult had the disease at the School-house, Adgestone, and another at Buddle Inn, Niton, Undercliff. At the beginning of December the disease was epidemic at Wootton, cases occurring at Briddlesford at the same time, but it rapidly subsided after closing the Wootton Schools.

In March a case of *Scarlet Fever* at the Bembridge Coastguard Station was notified, and the same day a case in the village of Bembridge; and later in the month two other cases occurred there, one of them at the School-house. In March also a case of the disease occurred at Parkhurst Barracks, and two cases were notified at Freshwater. In April there was a case at King's Cottages, Northwood. In August the disease appeared at Newbridge in a family who had just arrived from Wiltshire, but it did not spread. In September a case occurred at Upper Bonchurch. In October a child had the disease at Horsebridge Hill, and a case was notified at Bembridge. In November there were two other cases at Bembridge. In October there was a case at the Totland Coastguard Station, and two cases were notified as occurring at Lymerstone. In December a case at Haylands and one at Arreton were notified.

In January a case of *Enteric Fever* from London died at



Whippingham. In February a series of cases of fever at Calbourne were notified, two as Enteric Fever and two as *Continued Fever*. Two other persons appeared to have had similar attacks. All these cases had in common that they had drank from the stream. In February an imported case was treated at Atherfield. In August a case of the disease occurred in the married-quarters at Parkhurst Barracks in a family in which there had been several cases during the previous year. In June a case at Haylands was notified, and in September another case in the same cottage.

Two cases of *Erysipelas* were notified during the year.

Among the non-notifiable epidemic diseases *Measles* prevailed at Whippingham and Arreton especially; *Whooping Cough* at Rookley, Godshill, Whitwell, St Lawrence, and Brighstone; *Chicken Pox* at Rookley, Arreton, Whitwell, Yarmouth, and Northwood; *Mumps* at Carisbrooke, Parkhurst, Northwood, Whitwell, and Brighstone; and "*Influenza*" at Totland and Godshill.

There were even fewer notifications of cases of epidemic diseases in your District in 1904 than in the previous year. They did not represent the full volume of the different outbreaks, of course, but approximately they did so in larger proportion than usual, probably because so few localities were affected. For example, when investigating Diphtheria in epidemic form it is discovered that many persons have had sore throats and some have had swelled glands, but they have not sought medical advice or remained indoors. Unless other symptoms, as some form of paralysis, follow, it is not possible to say these cases were due to the poison of Diphtheria, for the cases of

Notification  
of infectious  
diseases.

Diphtheria may have arisen because the membrane of the throat had been previously weakened and prepared, so to speak, for the reception of the poisons of that disease, as, for example, after Scarlet Fever. The type of Scarlet Fever, too, is so exceedingly mild that many cases of it are unrecognised, and these are often the means by which it is spread, and although notification by the head of the household is obligatory under the Act, people cannot notify that which they do not recognise.

I am much indebted to several of the head-teachers of public elementary schools for information of the presence of non-notifiable diseases. I received 226 such notifications in 1903, as against 373 in 1902 and 250 in 1901.

#### Isolation.

It is among the poor and in cottage homes that the incidence of epidemic disease is particularly severe, for in larger houses better means of isolation exist, and the assistance of trained nurses can often be obtained. I have continued to plead for some recognition, for some little sympathy on behalf of the women among the peasantry whose devotion to duty has done so much to prevent the spread of epidemic diseases in your District, and even in the family, with the most limited means of isolation. Assistance she has none as a rule, for her neighbours naturally shun the infected house, and the parish nurse may not concern herself about infectious cases. As I said in my last Annual Report, "that they should be permitted to endure the personal sacrifice involved for the protection of the public health—and their own families are as much the "public" as other people's families—is not creditable. Their services have a distinct money value which should be paid by the community in providing proper means of isolation." During the year under review, as in previous



years, the best has been done to secure efficient isolation of infectious cases, but it is only necessary to enter some houses, swarming with children, perhaps, to be assured of the impossibility of doing so.

In my first Annual Report, written twenty years ago, I pointed out the need for public provision of means of isolating cases of infectious disease, but it was not until 1888, I think, the Rural Sanitary Authority decided by resolution that an Isolation Hospital was a sanitary necessity in your District. Since that time many attempts have been made, and enormous time has been spent by different committees in the attempt to provide one. Three times your Council have accepted schemes, and as a result three Local Government Board inquiries have been held. You proposed to provide a hospital for the East Medene, in conjunction with Sandown, Shanklin, and Ventnor. At the inquiry Ventnor withdrew. Subsequently, Ventnor succeeded in forming the Undercliff Isolation Hospital District, which includes the parishes of Niton, Whitwell, St. Lawrence, part of Godshill, and Bonchurch, an area in which a penny rate produces about £80 for sanitary purposes, I believe. You attempted to proceed in conjunction with Sandown and Shanklin, but you were not able to agree to the terms offered, which you considered inequitable. You then determined to provide a hospital for the whole of the remaining portion of your District, and your scheme was sanctioned by the Local Government Board, after an inquiry had been held, but you were required to give the usual and very proper undertaking not to isolate cases of Small-pox in the proposed hospital. Opportunity was thus given to defeat the scheme, and the resolution was rejected. Again you selected a site sufficiently large to enable you to isolate Small-pox upon it, but the Local

Isolation  
hospital.

Government Board declared it unsuitable. Your Committee once more attempted to make provision for isolating cases of infectious disease in conjunction with East and West Cowes. They selected a site in every way suitable at the geographical centre of your District, which is the best position to be found in it for the purpose. It was proposed to purchase three acres of land for £500, and to build a small hospital, so arranged that it could be enlarged, if found necessary. It was intended not to borrow money, but to raise it by two 1d. rates in your District, and two 2d. rates in East and West Cowes, respectively. West Cowes postponed the consideration of the proposition, East Cowes approved the scheme, and your Council by a small majority decided to postpone the matter for three months. West Cowes subsequently withdrew. The proposed arrangement was apparently a very fair one, financially, but it was agreed by the Joint Committee there should be readjustment in the future, if it was found not to be in every particular just. It was also agreed your Council should be responsible for the building and upkeep of the hospital. The reasons urged for postponing the consideration of the scheme by your Council were that sufficient time had not been afforded for mature deliberation; that there would be a large education rate, and the ratepayers were not in a position to have a further burden thrust upon them; and that provision was not made for Small-pox, which was the infectious disease which most needed isolation. I have often pointed out it would be wasteful and difficult for your District, separately, to make provision for the isolation of cases of Small-pox. In twenty years such provision has only been twice necessary, and at the present time the Metropolitan Asylums Board has more than one substantial Small-pox hospital lying idle. Moreover, recent experience has shown that the County



Council are able to make excellent provision for the whole Island, for the isolation of Small-pox, at a minimum cost to each District. Probably, the most economical plan to make the provision you require, would be to borrow the money, or a 1½d. annual rate would provide, probably, sinking fund and interest and the cost of upkeep. Such a sum, as premium against risk of loss, no prudent man of business would hesitate to make for his own protection. If, instead, you adopted the joint scheme, it would mean two 2d. rates instead of two 1d. ones, and an annual rate for upkeep varying from ¾d. to 1d. It is scarcely conceivable that any responsible person of intelligence would grudge such small annual charges for the sanitary well-being of the people, and the indirect protection of his own family.

I beg to refer you to the remarks in my last Annual Report, pages 28—29, on Small-pox isolation and vaccination. Should the terrible scourge of Small-pox again threaten, I know no better methods of preparing for it than that which you so readily joined the County Council in adopting, and re-vaccination. With the reservations which now exist, an Act for protecting the more valuable periods of life by compelling re-vaccination at about 12 years of age cannot be delayed much longer.

Small-pox  
and  
vaccination.

No attempt has been made in your District to isolate cases of Phthisis. In Consumption, above all other infectious diseases, such an attempt would be strongly resented by the relatives. But in Public Institutions, as Workhouse, Prison, and Asylum Infirmaries, it is surely a most obvious duty to separate those suffering from advanced Phthisis from the rest of the patients. Sanatoria for the treatment of Consumption are being

Isolation of  
Phthisis.

provided by the Authorities of some of the larger cities ; and, in every County area there ought to be such a Public Institution, to which every inhabitant suffering from Phthisis should have access, not for isolation or prolonged treatment, but that he might be taught how to live, and acquire the habit of so living. A Sanatorium for Consumption would be of great benefit in the Isle of Wight. It is only occasionally that inhabitants of the Island can obtain admission to the Royal Hospital for Consumption, at St. Lawrence. If you possessed an Isolation Hospital it might be made available for Consumption, when not occupied by cases of epidemic disease.

Disinfection.      The rule in your District is to disinfect at the end of six weeks from the commencement of the case, in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, and in other notifiable diseases at the end of the case, with sulphurous acid gas. It is the duty of the inspectors to keep a record of the cases and to do the disinfection themselves, even though it has been done by others. The Sanitary Authority are responsible. If it is desirable the disinfection should be delayed the medical attendant informs me. When a case of epidemic disease is notified, the inspector at once supplies disinfectants. The principle is that it is the duty of the Sanitary Authority to protect the public health at the public cost, without reference to class.

Disinfection  
after other  
diseases.

It would be impossible under present circumstances to disinfect after cases of other epidemic diseases ; but when Public Elementary Schools are closed on account of epidemic diseases they are disinfected before being cleaned. I will refer you to what is said on pages 33—34 of my Annual Report for 1902 upon the subject of disinfection in cases of Phthisis. The whole question of the relation of the



Sanitary Authority to Phthisis in the present stage of advance is very difficult. In your District during the past, as in previous years, I have myself disinfected after the death of the patient, if requested, or when permitted at my own suggestion in connection with families in which the power of resistance to the tubercle bacillus was known to be especially feeble. In other instances it has been suggested to the medical attendant to advise that the windows of the sick room should be left open for a prolonged period. It is he who usually sees to the antisepticising of the expectoration, particularly in advanced cases, when often the presence of the Medical Officer of Health would be regarded as an intrusion.

As in previous years, so in 1903, attention was given to the Public Elementary Schools of your District, in connection with the spread of epidemic disease, and certain of them have been closed for a time. As a rule when Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria appears they are closed by request; but in the presence of the non-notifiable epidemic diseases, as the attendance shrinks, the advice of the Medical Officer of Health is sought or he is asked to recommend the closure.

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

The change which has taken place during the year in the administration of public education will probably greatly assist Sanitary Authorities in their duties. It was thought the expunging sec. 101\* of the late code would hamper or render powerless Sanitary Authorities when epidemic disease appeared, and strong representations were made to the Board of Education. The section provided for is the giving certificates of closure, which would entitle the managers to receive for the period of closure the Grant calculated on the average attendance of each child for the

year. As the teachers were often paid in part, in proportion to the Grant earned, it became a matter of importance to them that the schools should be closed before the attendances were depleted, and they were willing, therefore, to assist the Medical Officer of Health, by giving him early information. The Board of Education pointed out that if the managers of schools did not appreciate the importance of giving information and of accepting the advice of the Sanitary Authority, it was scarcely conceivable that the Education Committee of the County Council would not do so. The Committee which has jurisdiction over education in your District, at an early stage of their charge, took the wise step of having a survey made by an able and independent person, not resident in the Isle of Wight, of all the schools in which the children would be taught in obedience to the Education Act, which it was their duty to administer. The report was confidential, but as far as it dealt with the sanitation of the public elementary schools it judged it by high standards, no doubt. I freely admit that, so judged, no school in your District would in every respect answer to the test, and this fact has been from time to time reported to you in one form or other, and I accept full responsibility so far as I can be held responsible. Twenty years ago every school in your District was a menace to the public health. By the perseverance of the inspectors, and by the leverage which very fatal epidemic diseases afforded, all that is changed. No effort short of public exposure was spared, and again and again the Education Department was appealed to for assistance, which was freely given, by withholding the Government Grant until my certificate to the effect that the particular school was in a fairly satisfactory sanitary state, was received. But for the sake of the education of the children the schools had to be maintained, and it



would have been unwise to attempt to force the realization of an ideal impossible of attainment without immense expenditure, so long as the conditions gave promise of reasonable safety. It is only fair to say the most vigorous opposition to the demands made did not come from the managers of voluntary schools. The attempts to secure warming and efficient ventilation have almost entirely failed. It is difficult to keep the atmosphere of schools pure without draught, and with the small air space per head formerly required the only chance of keeping the atmosphere untainted for half-an-hour, was to keep doors and such windows open as are made to open, all the time. As I have often pointed out, it would be far better for the teachers and children to wear their cloaks and head-coverings, than to breathe impure air. In fine weather in summer they might be taught out-of-doors, and at other seasons more efficient work would be done if the children were permitted a run in the open air for five minutes every half or three quarters-of-an-hour, the doors and windows being set wide open to the outside air during their absence. I have not infrequently found the doors closed during the mid-school interval, and the teacher, who ought to be embracing the opportunity of rest, engaged in some clerical work. A want which may yet be supplied is a covered playground attached to every school. Where are the children to play in wet weather?

With an Education Authority administering a County area there should be no obstacle to your securing as perfect sanitation as is practicable for every school in your District. It is to be hoped, too, in the interest of the Public Health that before long the Board of Education may see fit to include in the Code among the compulsory subjects the teaching of the simple principles of personal



hygiene, including temperance, domestic hygiene, and physical training. Twenty-two million children are being thus taught in the United States of America, and the teaching of these subjects is compulsory in the majority of the British Colonial schools.

Scavenging. The completion of the sewer at Freshwater, including the Avenue District of Totland, will remove the only serious reproach as regards scavenging in your District, although the scavenging of Wroxall is still delayed. As the water rents at Wroxall exceed the amount required to meet the sinking fund and interest of the Waterworks loan, this delay is scarcely satisfactory. Probably, if the desire of Brading to be supplied with water from the Eastern Yar is granted the sewerage of Wroxall, a serious matter, will be prematurely forced. The scavenging of the remainder of the more populous areas in your District was efficiently maintained during the year.

Scavenging of the forts and other military establishments. You have been applied to by the War Office to scavenge the Government Establishments administered by the Military Authorities which are situated in your District. The amounts offered as contribution in the various parishes appear quite inadequate, and the subject is still under consideration, but it is desirable you should have control of the disposal of the refuse of these places; and it must not be forgotten their existence is of pecuniary value to the community, and they now contribute largely to the rates.

Scavenging refuse of the towns. With two or three exceptions there was less complaint during the year of nuisance from town refuse than usual. The Inspectors should keep lists of the scavenging contractors—your own and those of the towns—and immediately supervise the deposit of the refuse. As a rule

interference only takes place when complaint is made. Each town should have its refuse destructor, but as such a thing does not exist in the Isle of Wight, so far as I know, the Urban Authorities should protect the inhabitants of your District into which it is carried by stringent conditions in their scavenging contracts. The Newport refuse at Forestside has been a source of annoyance during the year. The evil of turning out pigs to grub and feed on the heaps has been revived here. In the past this has been the cause of swine fever and of epidemic disease arising in your District, and there ought to be some means of stopping it. The Bye-laws if strictly enforced would diminish the town refuse nuisance, but it will not be wholly met until it is spread at once on the land or the heaps made far away from the highway or any dwelling.

In my last Annual Report I said "year by year, in spite of many difficulties and halting methods and inherent weaknesses of administration, and although a narrow parochialism has been permitted to bar progress too often, you have added to the permanent safeguards of the Public Health in your District by works of sewerage and water supply," and it must be a satisfaction to you to record that the enormous amount of time in the aggregate—unnecessarily large—devoted by you to this work has been worth the sacrifice. The year 1903 was no exception, for in it important permanent public works were either initiated, partly carried out, or completed by you.

The geological structure and the topography of your District are peculiar. In the South the Secondary rocks are at the surface rising from the Wealden, the Lower Greensand, the Gault and Upper Greensand to the Chalk

Water supply  
and sewerage.

Water supply.



which forms the great mass of the Downs which traverse the Island from East to West. On their southern face the Upper Greensand and its underlying Gault Clay outcrop. Across the broad central Lower Greensand valley which the now comparatively insignificant Yar stream has carved out, are the southern Downs, skirting the South and South-East Coast, composed of Upper Greensand with the Gault beneath. North of the Central Downs, clays covered in part by Alluvial Gravel form the surface of the land. Abundant streams are the result of this structure and configuration, the heads of which are at no great distance from the villages, the situation of which was probably determined by the presence of the stream. You have availed yourselves largely of these advantages to give the population of your District pure, wholesome water, often at a minimum cost. In the year under review several water schemes occupied your attention, and it is to be hoped that in years to come the attention of your Council will be similarly occupied until the whole of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District is independently supplied with water.

Bembridge  
water supply.

In my Annual Report for 1902, pages 35 and 36, and in that for 1901, page 27, I fully described the position of the water question at Bembridge. You very wisely, as I think, decided to clear the old bore-hole of the deep well, and having done so and not finding what you considered a sufficient supply you let a contract for a further boring of 280 feet, if abundant water is not met with before that depth is reached. If the whole of the 280 feet is bored you will have a tube-well of 582, nearly 600 feet, and this ought to give you an ample supply from the Bagshot Sands, the water of which is soft, as compared with that from the Bembridge Limestone, which you are



using, and which is decidedly hard. This latter will always afford a good supplementary supply, however, and, if the deep well does not always yield all you need, the hardness will be greatly reduced if the two waters are mixed. One of the objections to the Bagshot Sands, as a source of water supply, is that the sand brought up with the water wears the pumps, and this necessitates frequent renewal. The "air lift" pump, which you propose to use, will obviate this drawback.

For long years the necessity of a water supply at Brading has been evident even to the inhabitants, inasmuch as years ago they spent some hundred pounds of the town funds in searching for it. In the Yarbridge district there are good wells of water in the Upper Greensand, and having regard to your responsibilities, you entered into a provisional arrangement to purchase a piece of land there, and you proposed to spend a limited sum in ascertaining the amount of water you were likely to obtain from the Upper Greensand at that spot. The Brading Parochial Committee declined to agree to your proposal. They admitted a water supply was necessary, and they requested you to obtain it by extending the Isle of Wight Water Company's main from Sandown. You have been negotiating with the Company, and have had a draft agreement submitted to you. When this is settled, you will, probably, apply for leave to borrow sufficient money to lay the main and construct a reservoir. As a matter of principle, you have decided that, when possible, the water supply should be in the hands of the people who use it; and your experience has taught you, and it has been a rather wide experience, that in every sense it is most desirable. You know, too, that later on communities purchase or endeavour to purchase, at an enormously increased

Brading  
water supply

cost, public water supplies which they, or their predecessors, have refused to provide for themselves. You have examples in your own District. In providing a supply for a parish, you have collected the water as it issued from the rock at the head of a stream, or you have made an underground reservoir in the rock itself, always seeking a sufficient elevation to enable you to distribute the water by gravitation. When you could not do this, you would sink into the rock, and taking every precaution to avoid possible contamination, you would raise it up by mechanical means to a height from which you would distribute it as you do, and propose to do at Bembridge. At Brading you propose to depart from your principle and previous practice. If Brading is to be supplied from the river, the water may as well be pumped from the Yar, at Brading itself. If it is to be brought from the Upper Greensand at Apse, as some say, the Upper Greensand, containing abundant water, is within its own boundaries.

Alverstone  
water supply.

The owner of the hamlet of Alverstone apparently proposes to supply it from a large reservoir, which has been constructed during the year at Bordwood.

Arreton  
water supply.

On account of the very great rainfall, it has been impossible to ascertain the probable amount of water obtainable in dry seasons from the sources you have chosen for the supply of Arreton by gravitation. The scheme will be revised as soon as the conditions are favourable.

Wootton  
water supply.

I beg to refer you to my last Annual Report, pages 38, 39, 40, upon the subject of the water supply of Wootton and Whippingham. You decided to supply Wootton by way of Whippingham, to distribute it to Wootton Common, and to link up this branch with that which will supply



Staplers directly; and at the time of writing, the pipes are on the road.

At the time of writing, the water main has been laid through Whippingham to beyond the East Cowes boundary by agreement with the District Council of that town. In my last Annual Report, I referred to the possibility of your being called upon to supply the Naval School, at Osborne, and Osborne House. This possibility has been realised, and while the country generally is to be congratulated upon its Naval School, and upon its possessing such an excellent water supply for it, the ratepayers, who have to pay the sinking fund and interest of their loan, may be congratulated upon the assistance they will receive from such large consumers. The amount per 1000 gallons you have agreed to pay the Corporation of Newport for the water, was arrived at apparently under a misapprehension. The owner of the land, from beneath which the water is taken, sold it to the Borough of Newport for a fixed rent-charge, on condition it was not to be distributed beyond that town, save to the parishes of Carisbrooke, Northwood, and Whippingham, without his sanction. He consented to its being supplied to Wootton, if a royalty of two-pence per 1000 gallons were paid. It was unnecessary, therefore, to charge the royalty upon the water supplied to Whippingham.

Whippingham water supply.

The majority of the houses at Staplers are on the eve of being supplied with water, as the main has been already laid. If a syphon, similar to that at the pumping station at Carisbrooke, were placed at the reservoir on Alvington Down, the whole of Staplers could be supplied, and the houses in Long Lane.

Staplers water supply.

As is usual, the water supply of Northwood has been somewhat extended during the year.

Northwood water supply.



Calbourne  
water supply.

There has been delay in carrying forward the scheme of water supply at Calbourne, as the owner of the water is also tenant for life of a large part of the parish.

It appeared scarcely fair to his advisers that he should bear so large a part of the burden, while other land-owners would benefit by his generosity. Doubtless an equitable arrangement will be made.

Shalfleet  
water supply.

In connection with the Shalfleet water supply, there has been some difficulty in getting houses at Wellow connected; and you closed the public pump, to which people resorted for their drinking water. As I have often pointed out, the prime sanitary object of an independent water supply is the provision of wholesome water for drinking; but this is not the only one. An independent supply, from which the water is drawn by turning a tap, facilitates its use for cleansing purposes, a matter of the greatest sanitary importance.

Thorley  
water supply.

During the year the question of the water supply of Thorley has been under consideration, particularly in connection with the sanitation of Thorley school. The well does not furnish a sufficiently satisfactory water for drinking; and as a more automatic arrangement for cleansing the closets is desirable, it would be well if the Shalfleet water mains were extended from Wellow, as it would not only supply the school, but the hamlet also.

Freshwater  
water supply.

The quality of the water supplied by the Freshwater Waterworks Company has distinctly improved during the year; but one must always regret its water supply is not in the hands of the people of Freshwater. I referred to the subject at length in my last Annual Report, page 42.

By your direction, the South West Medene Surveyor prepared a scheme for the independent water supply of Shorwell, which you submitted to the Shorwell Parochial Committee. You received a copy of the usual resolution, to the effect that the Committee did not consider a water supply necessary. You will, probably, revive the subject at no distant date.

Shorwell  
water supply.

The water supply of Atherfield, in the parish of Shorwell, has been spoken of again; and it will be your duty to give the subject your serious attention in the near future.

The legal difficulties having been removed, you have agreed to pay the owner of Downcourt £500 for the water in the Upper Greensand there, if sufficient is found for the supply of the village of Niton and Niton Undercliff. This is a gravitation scheme, and although you have agreed to pay a larger sum than has been demanded elsewhere, the economy of it altogether outweighs the additional annual charge of £10 or £15 for sinking fund and interest. It is somewhat surprising to find the Niton Parochial Committee in disagreement. Under the stress of fatal outbreaks of epidemic disease, practically the whole population demanded a water supply, and they virtually accepted a scheme which would have necessitated pumping. But your experience in the past will encourage you to be faithful to your responsibilities. In connection with the numerous public water supplies which characterise your District, and which constitute for its people such a powerful barrier against disease and death, I do not remember one which was not violently opposed by the "parish," and I do not know one for the possession of which the "parish" does not now claim credit.

Niton  
water supply.



Godshill  
water supply.

After selecting the site for a reservoir, from which to supply the parish of Godshill from the Upper Greensand, you entered into negotiations with the owner of the land. Since then, the property has changed hands, and you have not been successful in arranging terms with the present proprietor. Although the proposed site is the most desirable, on account of its great elevation, and because of the evidence of abundant water, you are by no means dependent upon it. There are sites on the lands of adjoining owners, from which you may obtain abundant water. The one in question, however, appeared particularly suitable, because it is of no manner of use for grazing or other purposes, and a water supply would enormously increase the prospective value of this particular estate.

Chillerton  
water supply.

Your surveyor prepared an outline scheme for the water supply of Chillerton, which was submitted to the owner of the proposed source of supply, and of the houses it is intended to supply. As yet no satisfactory reply has been received from him.

Rowborough  
water supply.

One of the conditions imposed upon the Corporation as part of the price of the water, by the owner of the estate from which it is taken, was that a main should be laid up the Bowcombe Valley, from their reservoir on Alvington Down, for the supply of his tenantry. The last of the houses to be supplied were Rowborough cottages, between Rowborough and Cheverton farms. As it was so near Cheverton, a dairy place, the water supply of which was altogether inadequate, it seemed most desirable the main should be extended for its supply. But Cheverton belongs to another owner, and is in another parish, the parish of Shorwell, and difficulties at once arose. These have at length been surmounted, and another dairy supply has



been protected by an abundant supply of wholesome water. Beyond Cheverton are Cheverton cottages, which have a rain-water supply only. It would be a benefit to their occupants if the water could be carried to them, which might be done at no great expense by means of an inch pipe. It is most satisfactory to you that the farms and cottages of the Bowcombe Valley should be supplied with abundant, wholesome water; but the circumstances serve to emphasise the great importance of the principle you recognise, that such a necessity of life as water should be in the hands and under the complete control of the Sanitary Authority. It is most anomalous that you should be helpless to provide water for people in your District, who need it, because you are barred by the boundary line of an estate or a parish.

You have had before you the settlement of water-rents in parishes recently supplied, as in previous years. Your custom is to arrange these in conjunction with the Parochial Committees. While your object should be to have the water used as widely as possible, you should have consideration for those ratepayers who have not the benefit of the supply, because to furnish them would involve the parish in considerable outlay. The water-rents, therefore, should be so arranged that they may meet as nearly as possible the amount required for the sinking fund and interest of the loan. Water-rents.

A letter from the Board of Agriculture to the Local Government Board has called attention to the question of planting trees over areas acquired by Sanitary Authorities, because the rain falling upon them feeds the underground reservoirs, from which they draw their water supplies. You cannot avail yourselves of this very valuable sugges- Aforrestation  
of water  
supply col-  
lecting areas.

tion, as you have not acquired such areas, which in several instances are down lands.

#### Sewers.

In my last Annual Report, pages 45, 46, I called attention to your obligation to provide sewers for people to drain into. Water supplies should precede sewerage, in order that means of flushing may be provided, and because a water supply is of greater sanitary importance. But water supplies force on sewerage, and you must be prepared for the necessity of sewerage the more populous places in your District, which are not already sewered. Few years pass without sewers being constructed or extended in your District, and 1903 was no exception. There is, perhaps, greater opposition to the providing of sewers than of water supplies, partly, no doubt, because of the difficulty of disposing of the sewage; but mainly because there are no "rents," and the whole of the cost must be borne by the rates. But the fact is lost sight of, that a sewer stimulates building operations, and consequent increase of rateable value, more than a water supply.

#### Binstead sewer.

An extension of the sewer in the Newnham road to the north, to take the sewage of a large house to the east of it, has been completed; but the extension in connection with the development of the estate, which, it was thought would provide for the draining of the houses south of the Newport road, has not taken place.

#### Totland sewer.

Another of the many extensions and alterations in the Totland sewer was completed during the year. The Totland sewer serves to emphasise the fact that your sanitary engineering should be done by your own officers, under the direct supervision of your Council.



After much discussion it has been decided, fortunately, that the sewerage of the Avenue District of Totland should form part of the sewerage system of Freshwater.

From year to year, for many years, I have reported to you on the sanitary condition of Freshwater and the Avenue District of the parish of Totland, and advised you of the urgent necessity of sewers. I revived the history of the question in my Annual Report for 1901, pages 37 and 38, and referred to the subject again in that of 1902, page 48. The Local Government Board, after long delay, a delay which in my opinion was not only justified, but necessary in the public interest, sanctioned the scheme submitted to them on condition the proposed outfall in the Solent, at Norton, was extended, and the sewage discharged at half ebb of the tide. The different contracts are let, and the works are in progress. Upon their completion the sanitary condition of Freshwater will be entirely changed for good, and with the change and the comfort which will follow, it is not unreasonable to hope in the interest of the common good, there may be oblivion of the past and its controversies.

Freshwater  
sewer.

On the west side of Gunville a house was built to the north of the termination of the sewer, and at some distance from it. As it was a small one-storied house, it seemed scarcely worth while to extend the sewer for its drainage. Subsequently another house was built nearer the sewer, the extension of which was opposed in the parish. Beyond the bungalow building a large house was then built, and you determined to fulfil your obligations, by extending the sewer and to meet the cost by a penny rate. To this the Parochial Committee objected, and you have now received sanction to borrow the money.

Carisbrooke  
sewer.



Wootton  
sewer.

Complaint has been made of nuisance in Wootton Creek at low tide, arising, it is alleged, from the sewage discharged by your sewer into the millrace, immediately north of the bridge at Wootton. I was not able to detect a nuisance; but if it were true that sewage settled on the mud flats, it was a serious matter, as oysters, dredged in the Solent, are deposited there.

Shell fish  
in creeks  
and estuary.

In my last Annual Report, page 69, I said, "The oyster beds in Wootton Creek are not likely to be affected by the sewage, if confined to their present position." I wish to withdraw this, as upon closer investigation, I found the facts were quite contrary to my previous opinion, that the Creek was entirely emptied at ebb tide, and that fresh sea water filled it at the flood. There is a double tide and subsidiary currents in the Solent, and although the Creek is emptied at low water, its contents do not get clear away, but are to some extent forced back by the rising tide. As a consequence, the proportion of sewage in it must be constantly, but very slowly on the increase. I saw the fishermen, and told them they must remove their oysters to safer ground. Shortly after I received notice from the Fishmongers' Company, that the water in oysters dredged in Wootton Creek was found to contain 25 per cent. of sewage. I gave information to the fishmongers and the fishermen of this fact, which I verified, and had interviews with Officials of the Harbour Department of the Board of Trade, and of the Fisheries Department of the Board of Agriculture, with a view to facilities for making beds in the Creek at King's Quay. But I have found it impossible to bring about the necessary combination of the fishermen for their common good. At the same time, they decline to place their oysters on the Solent foreshore, as they say they would be washed out of their pits during northerly

and nor'-easterly, and westerly gales, and that they would be poached. It is a very serious matter for them and for the interests of the public health. The matter is still under consideration, and, in the meantime, I am investigating other localities in your District, with the view to discover if there is risk to the public health from eating shell-fish taken from them. Among these is the Medina estuary, into which passes the effluent, after chemical treatment, of the Newport sewage, and the untreated sewage of Cowes and East Cowes, in part. The cockles from the Medina estuary have often been under suspicion. At present the significance of the presence of *bacillus coli communis* and like bacilli, in sea water and shell fish, unless in very large quantities, is uncertain; and as in drinking water the freedom from the risks of contamination is of infinitely greater importance than the absence of impurity as determined by the chemist, so the remoteness of a shell fish bed from any possible source of sewage contamination is probably a better test of wholesomeness than the occasional presence of the *bacillus coli*. Such a natural or sanitary test applied to the shell fish of the Medina estuary would seem to preclude their use for food as completely as the oysters in Wootton Creek.

<p>The most important of the inquiries held by order of the Local Government Board were in November, in connection with the apportionment of the respective contributions of the parish of Totland and the parish of Freshwater, of the loan for their joint sewerage; in August on your application to borrow £3,450 to defray the cost of the water supply of Whippingham, North Arreton (Wootton), and part of South Arreton; in June for sanction to borrow an additional £260 for works of water supply at Chale; and in February for sanction to</p>	<p>Local Government Board Inspections.</p>
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borrow £2,268 for the purposes of water supply for the parish of Bembridge. In August, also, a private inquiry was held by an Assistant Inspector of the Local Government Board, in connection with an application for sanction to appoint a Sanitary Inspector, who should also perform the duties of Surveyor of Highways in the South-East Medene, it being no longer the custom of the Board to sanction the dual appointment in any Sanitary District.

You disagreed with the views of the Local Government Board, founded upon the report made to them by their Assistant Inspector, and they have informed you they will order another private inquiry to be held by one of their Medical Inspectors.

Sanitary  
Inspector.

The Sanitary Inspector and Highway Surveyor of the East Medene resigned his appointment in order to take up a similar appointment in the town of Wallingford; and you selected, subject to the sanction of the Local Government Board, to take his place, from a large number of applicants, one of the Inspectors of the Rural Sanitary District of Pudsey, near Leeds.

Housing of  
the Working  
Classes Act  
and Work-  
shops Act,  
1901.

You have not had occasion to take action under either the Housing of the Working Classes Act, or the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, during the year.

The Mid-  
wives Act,  
1902.

I beg to refer you to my remarks on the Midwives Act, 1902, in my last Annual Report, pages 48, 49. As the subject has been under consideration in some of the parishes during the year, and as voluntary committees of ladies are likely to be formed, who will probably communicate with you, it would seem unnecessary for you to take any action at present.



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

### NORTH-EAST MEDENE.

#### *Summary of work done during 1903.*

	No.
Nuisances and other matters reported ... ..	187
„ abated without final notice ... ..	69
Re-inspections made ... ..	197
Final notices served ... ..	—
Houses reported unfit for habitation ... ..	1
„ cleansed and disinfected ... ..	15
Legal proceedings taken ... ..	—
Privy cesspools provided and properly constructed ... ..	2
Put on the pail system ... ..	6
Wells sunk and other improved supplies ... ..	11
Hand flushing to W.C.'s replaced by flush cisterns ... ..	10
House drains connected to sewer ... ..	2
„ „ repaired and trapped ... ..	18
Dairies and cow-sheds inspected and re-inspected ... ..	15
Limewashed after notice... ..	2
Bakehouses limewashed after notice ... ..	3

#### PLANS APPROVED BY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Houses and other buildings ... ..	14
Inspection of new buildings ... ..	73

#### NEW HOUSES ERECTED.

Bembridge ... ..	6
Brading ... ..	5
Haylands ... ..	4
Wootton ... ..	4
Binstead ... ..	4
Total ... ..	23

During the month of December 13 cases of diphtheria were reported and 2 deaths, and in consequence of such the Schools at Wootton were closed.

#### WHIPPINGHAM AND NORTH ARRETON WATER SUPPLY.

This scheme, involving an outlay of nearly £7,000, was started in October, 1903, the contractors being Messrs. Hayden, Sandown, and

Mr. G. Arthur, Newport. The mains to Osborne are now laid and water will shortly be turned on, the remainder of the work in the North Arreton Parish is proceeding satisfactorily.

#### BEMBRIDGE WATER. HOME FARM PUMPING STATION.

The work of boring at Bembridge is still proceeding, boring 150 ft. having been done, and lined with 6in. steel tubes to a depth of 450 feet. Many difficulties have arisen in the work, on account of the difficulty in keeping under the silt, which constantly rose in the tubes, thus necessitating extra work in moving same and shelling out borehole.

### SOUTH-EAST MEDENE.

#### *Summary of work done during 1903.*

	No.
Nuisances reported ... ..	239
Abated without notice ... ..	49
Houses placed in repair ... ..	3
Cleansed and disinfected ... ..	5
Privies on pail system ... ..	6
Wells sunk, including Newchurch water supply ... ..	11
Lord Alverstone's main ... ..	14
Drains repaired and trapped ... ..	7
Refuse and accumulations removed ... ..	3
Drains inspected and re-inspected ... ..	11

#### PLANS OF NEW BUILDINGS APPROVED.

Additions ... ..	4
Plans of new buildings approved ... ..	14
Inspections of new buildings ... ..	64
District scavenging—Bonchurch ... ..	1

#### NEW BUILDINGS.

Arreton, new building ... ..	2
„ additions ... ..	1
Godshill, additions ... ..	2
Niton, new building ... ..	1
Newchurch, new building ... ..	1
Whitwell, new building ... ..	1
Other new buildings in hand ... ..	—
Total ... ..	8

## NORTH-WEST MEDENE.

*Summary of work done during 1903.*

	No.
Nuisances and other matters reported ...	369
„ abated without final notice ...	73
Re-inspections ...	232
Final notices served ...	14
Houses reported unfit, &c. ...	1
„ closed ...	—
„ placed in repair ...	—
„ cleansed and disinfected ...	15
Legal proceedings ...	—
Cases of overcrowding reported ...	—
„ „ abated ...	—
Privy cesspools provided, &c. ...	28
Privies put on the pail system ...	22
Wells sunk, &c. ...	57
„ cleansed ...	—
„ closed ...	—
Pumps provided ...	—
Houses drained and connected with sewer ...	33
House drains repaired and trapped ...	44
Refuse accumulations removed ...	2
Dairies inspected and re-inspected ...	38
„ limewashed after notice ...	4
Districts scavenged—Totland, Freshwater, and Yarmouth	
Sewers extended—Totland (2), Yarmouth (1) ...	3
Petroleum licenses granted ...	1
Plans of new buildings ...	27
Number of buildings ...	48
Inspections made of new buildings ...	240

## NEW HOUSES.

Totland ...	Middleton ...	2
„ ...	Weston ...	8
„ ...	Alum Bay road ...	4
„ ...	Avenue ...	2
„ ...	Colwell ...	4
Freshwater ...	Clayton lane ...	2
„ ...	Church road ...	2
„ ...	Pound Green ...	4
„ ...	High street ...	4
„ ...	Colwell road ...	2
Northwood ...	Pallance road ...	1
„ ...	Mark's Corner ...	2
Shalfleet ...	Ningwood common ...	1
Total ...		38



## SOUTH-WEST MEDENE.

*Summary of work done during 1903.*

	No.
Nuisances and other matters reported...	365
„ abated without final notice ...	131
Re-inspections made ...	181
Final notices served ...	4
Houses reported unfit for habitation ...	2
„ placed in habitable repair ...	19
„ closed ...	2
„ cleansed and disinfected ...	9
Legal proceedings taken ...	—
Cases of overcrowding reported ...	2
„ „ abated ...	2
Privy cesspools provided and properly constructed ...	1
Privies put on pail system ...	27
Wells sunk and other improved supplies obtained ...	37
„ closed ...	—
„ cleansed ...	—
Defective pumps repaired ...	1
House drains connected to sewer ...	1
„ „ repaired and trapped ...	11
Dairies inspected and re-inspected ...	36
„ limewashed after notice ...	5
Bakehouses limewashed after notice ...	—
District scavenged—Carisbrooke	
Districts supplied with water ...	—

## PLANS APPROVED BY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Houses and other buildings ...	10
Inspections of new buildings ...	62

## NEW HOUSES ERECTED.

Carisbrooke ...	Alvington road ...	1
„ ...	Apse Down ...	1
Chale ...	... ..	2
Thorley ...	... ..	2
Brooke, additions		—
	Total ...	6

## NEW DRAINAGE SYSTEMS ADOPTED.

Whitcombe farm.	
Brighstone ...	Mr. E. Street.
„ ...	The Rectory.

I am indebted to the Headmaster of the Newport Grammar School, C. D. Vibert, Esq., B.A., Lond., for the following summary of meteorological observations taken by him at an elevation of from 40 feet to 50 feet above sea level:—

### NEWPORT TABLE.

Month.	Maximum for Month.	Minimum for Month.	Mean daily maxi- mum.	Mean daily mini- mum.	Mean Temp- erature.	Rain- fall for Month.	Number of wet days.	Greatest fall in one day.
						INCHES.		INCHES.
Jan. ...	53·3 on 5th.	24·9 on 15th.	46·4	38·8	42·6	2·69	19	·76 on 4th.
Feb. ...	54·7 on 19th.	24·0 on 18th.	49·7	40·7	45·2	1·66	15	·73 on 27th.
Mar. ...	65·2 on 25th.	27·0 on 11th.	53·4	40·9	47·1	3·46	20	·65 on 17th.
April ...	61·0 on 8th.	25·1 on 18th.	55·1	37·4	46·3	2·66	12	1·03 on 28th.
May ...	81·2 on 31st.	34·9 on 19th.	64·5	46·2	55·3	2·32	12	·86 on 2nd.
June ...	87·1 on 1st.	37·2 on 22nd.	67·4	48·5	57·9	2·40	10	·73 on 19th.
July ...	86·0 on 11th.	43·9 on 14th.	72·0	53·4	62·7	2·32	14	·57 on 25th.
Aug. ...	75·2 on 8th.	41·5 on 23rd.	69·0	52·2	60·6	4·57	15	1·05 on 11th.
Sept. ...	79·9 on 1st.	38·1 on 12th.	66·4	50·8	58·6	2·54	13	·86 on 4th.
Oct. ...	67·6 on 7th.	32·2 on 31st.	59·6	49·1	54·3	8·81	30	1·22 on 26th.
Nov. ...	56·9 on 14th.	25·0 on 20th.	51·4	39·9	45·6	1·74	13	·80 on 27th.
Dec. ...	52·2 on 9th.	20·0 on 3rd.	44·2	36·0	40·1	2·89	13	·56 on 12th.
For Year	87·1 June 1st.	20·0 Dec. 3rd.	58·3	44·5	51·4	38·06	186	1·22 Oct. 26th.

The following summary of meteorological observations taken at Aston House, Totland Bay, 150 feet above sea level and about 600 feet from the edge of the cliff, has been kindly furnished me by John Dover, Esq., M.A., Cantab., F. R. Met. Soc.



## TOTLAND BAY TABLE.

Month.	Maximum for Month.	Minimum for Month.	Mean daily maxi- mum.	Mean daily mini- mum.	Mean Temp- erature.	Rain- fall for Month.	Num- ber of wet days.	Greatest fall in one day.
Jan. ...	53.0 on 4th and 5th.	22.7 on 15th.	45.7	38.1	41.9	INCHES. 2.22	18	INCHES. .80 on 4th.
Feb. ...	51.8 on 21st.	32.2 on 2nd.	48.1	40.5	44.3	1.77	11	.72 on 27th.
Mar. ...	58.5 on 26th.	32.7 on 11th.	50.9	41.4	46.1	3.06	19	.48 on 17th.
April ...	57.0 on 8th.	28.3 on 18th.	51.0	39.2	45.4	2.74	9	.83 on 26th.
May ...	76.8 on 31st.	37.5 on 12th.	60.8	45.5	53.2	2.44	10	.96 on 2nd.
June ...	80.0 on 1st.	41.0 on 4th.	62.9	49.1	56.0	1.95	9	.61 on 15th.
July ...	75.9 on 10th and 11th.	48.0 on 8th.	66.4	55.1	60.7	2.40	11	.64 on 25th.
Aug. ...	70.4 on 2nd	50.0 on 7th.	64.6	50.0	60.0	3.80	13	1.19 on 23rd.
Sept. ...	72.9 on 1st.	42.1 on 15th.	63.6	52.6	58.1	2.32	11	.62 on 4th.
Oct. ...	64.8 on 1st.	45.8 on 31st.	58.5	51.5	55.0	8.40	28	.94 on 11th.
Nov. ...	55.8 on 2nd.	31.2 on 30th.	50.9	43.1	47.0	1.62	14	.70 on 27th.
Dec. ...	52.4 on 10th.	26.0 on 30th and 31st.	44.0	37.5	39.3	2.64	13	.81 on 9th.
For year	80.0 June 1st.	22.7 Jan. 15th	55.6	45.7	50.6	35.36	166	1.19 A'g. 23rd

The total rainfall in 1903, at Newport, which is about two miles north of the geographical centre of the Isle of Wight, from which it is separated by the high land of the central range of the Downs, was 38.06in.; at Totland Bay, on the north-west coast, it was 35.36in. In 1902, the rainfall at Newport was 26.19in.; in 1901, 25.89in.; in 1900, 31.46in.; in 1889, 25.29in.; in 1898, 28.24in.; in 1897, 26.96in.; in 1896, 27.32in.; in 1895, 29.15in.; in 1894, 39.74in.; in 1893, 28.53in.; in 1892, 24.97in.; in 1891, 38.96in.; in

1890, 26·31in.; in 1889, 28·34in.; in 1888, 29·02in.; in 1887, 24·43in.; in 1886, 38·07in.; in 1885, 29·32in. The mean rainfall in Newport in the ten years 1894—1903 was 29·83in. For twenty-two years it was 30·15in. Last year the rainfall in Newport was exceeded, during the time regular observations have been made since 1881, in 1886, 38·07in. in 202 wet days; in 1891, 38·96in. in 172 wet days, and in 1894, 39·74in. in 183 wet days.

There were 186 wet days at Newport, and 166 at Totland Bay. In 1902 there were 158 wet days at Newport. In 1901 there were 133 wet days; in 1900, 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 1894—1903 was 159.

The minimum temperature for the year at Newport was 20·0 on December 3rd, and at Totland Bay 22·7 on January 15th; the maximum temperature was 87·1 on June 1st, at Newport, and at Totland Bay, 80·0 on June 1st.

The mean temperature for the year at Newport was 51·4; and at Totland Bay, 50·6.

*January* was a mild month, excepting for a cold spell from the 13th to the 18th, the temperature was above the average of the month. 2·69in. of rain fell at Newport, 2·09in. at Ryde, and 2·22in. at Totland Bay.

*February* was a mild and comparatively dry month for February, and vegetation was remarkably forward; there



were, however, wide fluctuations of temperature, about the middle week of the month. 1·66in. of rain fell at Newport, 1·42in. at Ryde, and 1·77in. at Totland Bay.

*March* was a wild, stormy, very wet month; vegetation abnormally advanced; 3·46in. of rain fell at Newport in 20 days, 2·70in. at Ryde, and 3·06in. at Totland Bay in 19 days.

*April* was an abnormally cold month, with bitter northerly winds and night frosts during the middle fortnight. 2·66in. of rain fell at Newport in 12 days, 2·44in. at Ryde, and 2·74in. at Totland Bay in 9 days.

*May* was a variable month, cold and wet at the beginning, and warm and sultry towards the end. 2·32in. of rain fell at Newport in 12 days, 2·40in. at Ryde, and 2·44in. at Totland Bay in 10 days.

*June* for the most part was wet and cold. It was very hot on the 1st, which was the hottest day of the year in the Isle of Wight, and became warm and sunny again during the last ten days. 2·40in. of rain fell at Newport in 10 days, 2·17in. at Ryde, and 1·95in. at Totland Bay in 9 days. The wettest day in the Isle of Wight was the 2nd.

*July* was dry and warm at the beginning of the month, but the last half was very wet. 2·32in. of rain fell at Newport in 14 days, 1·95in. at Ryde, and 2·40in. at Totland Bay in 11 days. The 25th was the wettest day in the Isle of Wight.

*August* was a cold, wet, stormy month. 4·57in. of rain fell at Newport in 15 days, 3·71in. at Ryde, and 3·80in.

in 13 days at Totland Bay. 1.05in. fell at Newport on the 11th, and 1.19in. at Totland Bay on the 23rd, which was the wettest day of the year on the N.W. coast of the Island.

*September* was a warm, damp month. The 1st was the hottest day in the Isle of Wight. There was a terrific storm from the S.W. on the 10th, which left vegetation scorched. There was a cold spell from the 11th to the 17th; 2.51in. of rain fell in 11 days at Newport, 2.54in. at Totland Bay in 13 days.

*October* was a mild, excepting on the last three days, gloomy, and extraordinary wet month, rain having fallen almost every day. 8.81in. of rain fell at Newport in 30 days, 6.57in. at Ryde, and 8.40in. at Totland Bay in 28 days. The wettest day of the year at Newport was the 26th, when 1.22in. of rain fell.

*November* was drier than usual, and in spite of the number of wet days, was a mild pleasant month, until the 27th, when it became colder. 1.74in. of rain fell at Newport in 13 days, 1.45in. at Ryde, and 1.62in. at Totland Bay in 14 days.

*December* after the beginning was fairly mild, until the end of the month, when it was cold. It was wet and gloomy. 2.89in. of rain fell at Newport in 13 days; 2.47in. at Ryde, and 2.64in. at Totland Bay in 13 days.

The principal meteorological feature of the year was the excessive rainfall, which probably averaged 28 per cent. above the mean rainfall of the country generally. In the Isle of Wight it was 27.59 per cent. above the average



of ten years at Newport. At Totland Bay it was 18·53 per cent. above the Newport mean for ten years. The number of wet days at Newport were 27, or 16·89 per cent., above the mean of ten years, and at Totland Bay they were 7, or 4·4 per cent., above the Newport average.

The abnormally low death-rate of the country was, probably, due to the excessive rainfall.

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

At the end of the year, the District was fairly free from epidemic disease, and certainly from notifiable diseases.

Health of the  
District.

Cases of Diphtheria were convalescing at Wootton and Briddlesford, the embers of the sharp outbreak among the children attending the Wootton public elementary school, in November.

Diphtheria

Two cases of Scarlet Fever were convalescent at Bembridge, and one at Arreton, and another at Haylands.

Scarlet fever.

Whooping-cough and mumps were spreading in the Calbourne District.

Whooping-  
cough.

At the extreme east of the Isle of Wight, Bembridge, an attractive watering place, still progresses. Six new houses were added to it in 1903. It has a connection, constantly increasing, among a cultivated class; and, consequently, the higher the standard of sanitation maintained, and the more perfectly the rural character of the place is preserved, the more rapidly will its prosperity proceed. The great mistake in the past, was the constructing a sewer, twenty-five or thirty years ago, before giving Bembridge an independent water supply. It is true it discharged its filth into the gravel from which it

East Medene  
Bembridge.



obtained its wholly insufficient supply of water; but it did not occur, apparently, to those from whom advice was sought, that the underground water must still be polluted by the cesspits, which drained houses the sewer would not reach. In any case, however, had the choice laid between a sewer and water supply, the former would have been chosen, because of its smaller cost. A heavy toll in deaths from preventable disease has been paid. This is already changed and will be more completely changed when the new deep water supply is obtained, the works for which are in progress. Bembridge is scavenged.

#### Brading.

The ancient town and port of Brading, in anticipation, most likely, of a water supply at last, was increased during the year by six new houses. In 1902, no house was built, but in 1900 and 1901, there were added six, and five houses, respectively. During the previous three years—1897, 1898, 1899—no house was built in Brading. The revival of building corresponded with your revival of the water supply question; but when your proposition was opposed by the Parochial Committee, building ceased. The same mistake was made at Brading as at Bembridge, in constructing sewers instead of providing a proper water supply. I have been told a filth nuisance at the bottom of the High street was the principal cause of the sewer being made; but years after when I took office, this nuisance was as much in evidence as it ever had been. A compact was made to sewer Yarbridge, the western end of Brading, in a certain number of years, but that compact was not fulfilled. If anything will bring prosperity to Brading now it is a water supply, which will not only give wholesome water instead of the doubtful yield of the wells, but will render possible the proper flushing of the sewers. Brading gave up its future when it permitted

itself to be destroyed as a port without a struggle. It is scavenged. I refer you to my Annual Report for 1901, pages 50, 51, and 52, for further particulars of Brading.

A small hamlet near Brading, Yaverland, contains two Yaverland. farms, one of which supplies Sandown in part with milk. It has a very inadequate water supply. It should have been included in the Brading water scheme, or it may be supplied from the Sandown main which is carried to Yaverland Fort.

The small, somewhat "out-of-the-way" hamlet of Adgestone. Adgestone nestles under the Down a mile south of Brading, the schools of which the Adgestone children attend. The incidence of epidemic disease has been severe there in times past. The leverage of one epidemic secured the reconstruction of the public well, and the sealing it by a pump. It would seem that a similar leverage will be required to supplement its very inadequate water supply.

South of Adgestone, up the valley of the *Yar*, is Alverstone. Alverstone, which has surface wells and cesspit drainage. It is almost certain it will receive an independent water supply from its owner in the near future.

The next hamlet to the south is Knighton, which is in Knighton. part supplied from the Ryde Waterworks. The Ryde Corporation have secured certain "rights" over the area about its well. Every house in Upper and Lower Knighton should be supplied with water independently.

The little hamlet of Langbridge has now its water Langbridge. supply.

Newchurch will probably never again suffer from Newchurch. epidemic disease to the same degree as it has done in the



past. It seems quite recently the people were drinking from a deep well, into which the drainage of the graveyard passed, and from which the water was laboriously lifted by hand. It has now its wholesome water from the Upper Greensand, laid on to the houses, or, rather, it should be laid on to every house. The Newchurch Schools have, doubtless, been a source of danger in the past, but there can be no reason any provided school should be a danger in the future. Strictly rural places like Newchurch, possessing independent water supplies, only require, now, systematic from house to house inspection, with special attention to the dairies. In time their population may increase, and other means may be necessary, but that time is not yet. One new house was built in 1903.

Apse Heath. The growth of Apse Heath has been anticipated by its owner who has sewered it. It has its independent water supply, of which that of Newchurch and Langbridge is a continuation.

Whitely Bank. Between Apse Heath and Wroxall is Whitely Bank, a small hamlet to which the Wroxall water main may be extended with advantage. The objection urged to this proposal has been that a long length of the main would be "dead."

Wroxall. Wroxall, a populous semi-urban village, has its water supply, which should be laid to every house. It is not scavenged, as it should be. It stands on the Gault, and its filth cannot soak away, but finds its way to the stream unobtrusively. Complaint was again made of this during the past year by the Sandown Urban District Council. By your officers you have done all which I believe can be done to prevent the pollution of the stream, excepting the



insistance upon scavenging at Wroxall, and this is resisted partly, no doubt, to avoid the cost, but also because pneumatic carts and everything associated with them have an evil reputation in your District.

This question of the pollution of the *Yar* and its tributaries, always a serious one, will become pressing when Brading is supplied from it. The quality of its water has been greatly improved, as the result of your efforts; but forming as it does the natural outlet for the drainage of a large area, and flowing past homesteads and farmyards, it is impossible to preserve it from sewage contamination. You have insisted upon this before, and have pointed out that your predecessors and you were not responsible for the establishment of waterworks on its banks; but your position will be entirely changed when you supply the water to a section of your own District.

The village of Bonchurch, as it is still called, notwithstanding its urban character, is supplied with water from the Ventnor Waterworks. It drains into cesspits in the broken subsoil, which I have frequently described. Their contents soak away, and until lately have not been in evidence; but probably because of the excessive rainfall of the year, they have been carried down to the Gault, and appear, here and there, as black, evil smelling filth. Bonchurch.

The condition of the Undercliff is as it was described in my last Annual Report, pages 62, 63, to which I refer you. The question of the independent water supply of this part of your District will have to be met. The drainage is by cesspits as at Bonchurch, and the water supply of many of the houses is drawn from the soil into which their contents soak. St. Lawrence,  
Whitwell,  
Undercliff,  
and Niton  
Undercliff.

Whitwell,  
Nettlecombe,  
and  
Southford.

Whitwell, and the adjoining hamlets of Nettlecombe and Southford, are supplied independently with water from the Upper Greensand at Bereley. There is abundant water at the source, but on account of imperfect collection much of it, which should have entered the reservoir, escaped. You have had the defects remedied. The water supply should be extended wherever needed, as I have previously pointed out. The filth nuisances have greatly diminished in Whitwell and other clay villages, but they require periodic systematic inspection. One new house was built at Whitwell in 1903.

Niton.

One of the villages named above is Niton, which is in near proximity to Whitwell; but it has not the advantage of a water supply, which Whitwell has. For many years it has been pointed out and generally admitted by the inhabitants, that a water supply was the great sanitary need of the place, and now that such a blessing is within sight you are opposed by the Parochial Committee. In my last Annual Report I said, "The ultimate source of the *Eastern Yar*, much of the filth and refuse of the village proper, which stands on the Gault, finds a receptacle in the stream. It is time Niton was scavenged." Although one speaks of the "village proper," it is absurd to attempt to separate one part of Niton from another: Niton village and Niton Undercliff are interdependent, and for all practical purposes are one. A new house was added to Niton during the year.

Godshill.

The recent past and the present sanitary condition of Godshill offer as distinct contrast, perhaps, as does any place in your District. This change has been largely due to recognising the fact that the storm water drains were utilised as sewers, and treating them as



sewers, by extending them, trapping them and linking them up. Instead of the filth of the place finding its way slowly to the *Yar*, by open gutters which poisoned the air in dry seasons, it passes to it more quickly through closed channels which are not a nuisance, popularly speaking, and which are sufficient for the time being. Godshill was an agricultural centre in the eighteenth and previous centuries, the population of which was made up largely of peasant proprietors. Railway communication has restored it to something of its old importance. But that some who have pecuniary interests in its advance are so opposed to sanitary progress if it costs anything, one would look for great prosperity for Godshill. At the present time, obtaining its water from its shallow wells, as it does, the great sanitary need of Godshill is wholesome water, with which it might be supplied more advantageously, probably, than any place in your District. Two houses were built there during the year, and two in each of the two previous years.

The hamlet of Merstone was in about the same fairly satisfactory sanitary state at the end of the year as at the end of the previous year. It contains two or three dairy farms, and it should be periodically inspected. Merstone.

Like other of the large agricultural villages, Arreton has become something more, and two houses were added to it in 1903, and another house was enlarged. Such of its filth as does not soak away into the soil from which its water is drawn, finds its way to the tributary of the *Yar*, on which Arreton stands. A water supply will be of great service to Arreton. Arreton.

The description of Blackwater at the end of 1902, given in my Annual Report for that year, pages 65 and 66, Blackwater.

exactly applied to it at the end of 1903, excepting that the wells in the lower river gravel of which I spoke have plenty of water in them, as the result of the excess of rain.

Shide. In the parish of Whippingham, Shide, east of the stream, which separates the Rural District from the Borough of Newport, has an independent supply of water from Newport, and the people no longer drink from the polluted stream.

Fairlee. Another suburban district is Fairlee, on the Whippingham-East Cowes road. It is sewered by a drain which empties into the Newport sewer. The houses of Fairlee will now be supplied from the main, recently carried to Osborne, instead of the old pipe of small calibre to which I referred in my last Annual Report.

Whippingham. I have so often described that part of the parish of Whippingham, which lies between Newport and East Cowes, as practically waterless, that it is only necessary now to refer you to page 67 of my Report for 1902. It was hoped that East Cowes would join you in extending the Newport main, but the East Cowes Council, apparently because Newport asked for the water one penny per 1000 gallons more than was paid by Northwood, relinquished the proposal. Seeing that Whippingham was one of the parishes—the others were Northwood and Carisbrooke—included in the agreement between the owner of the water and the Corporation of Newport, which might be supplied by them for the price charged, East Cowes may have felt justified in claiming a lower sum, but Whippingham does not include East Cowes. Fortunately, the Naval School and Convalescent Home at Osborne required



a water supply, which you were able to provide at an equitable price, and at the same time to supply Whippingham generally, conjointly with Wootton. But in making your arrangements with the Corporation, the fact appears to have been lost sight of that they would not be required to pay a royalty for the supply of Whippingham. Osborne is already supplied, and as soon as the extension of the main to Wootton is completed, the connections in Whippingham will be made, and the sanitary aspect of that parish will be completely changed.

The main to Staplers is already laid, and, although the whole of the houses cannot be supplied at present, it is to be hoped the Corporation will see fit to make hydraulic arrangements, the result of which will be not only the supply of every house at Staplers, but of the cottages and farms in Long Lane. This will mean a most important sanitary advance in this part of your District. Staplers.

I beg to refer you to my remarks on Wootton contained in my Annual Report for 1902, pages 68 and 69, and for 1901, pages 58 and 59. At the end of the year it had four more houses than at the end of 1902. Wootton is sewered in part. I have already explained that the sewage is discharged into the mill-race, but, notwithstanding, it does not get right away to sea, and consequently the proportion of sewage in the water of Wootton Creek is slowly on the increase. Therefore, it is not safe to lay down oysters or other shell fish in any part of it. Wootton has two public wells, which it would be wise, perhaps, to close. It has also a public water supply from the gravel beneath a meadow to the north of it, which supplies a public fountain in the main street. This supply was provided by public subscription to commemorate the Wootton.

Jubilee of the late Queen, in 1887. It is vested in the Sanitary Authority, but it was managed by a Committee, as at Whitwell. Subsequently, a certain number of persons, members of the Committee chiefly, subscribed definite sums for extensions and thus created shares, and formed a "Limited Liability Company." The main extends, perhaps, half-way up Wootton Hill, to a point beyond which the water will not rise. They are, I believe, about to lay a larger main to this point. You proposed to lay the new main down the hill to this point. So far as I know you have not been consulted about laying a larger main for the local supply. It may be the best course to take, but it all seems very irregular. Practically, the Whippingham-Wootton supply will serve the new part of the parish of Wootton, and Wootton in North Arreton. As I have already said, the water-rents should, as far as possible, balance the amount necessary for sinking fund and interest of the loan; but in the case of Wootton, there must be a larger rate, which will be paid in part by those who have their supply from the old source. I do not know if you contemplate permitting larger mains generally, or further extensions of this supply, as for example, if additional houses are built in the New Road.

I have already reported that a serious outbreak of Diphtheria occurred towards the end of the year among the children attending the Wootton Parochial Schools. As the poison seemed to me to have its origin at the schools, I directed the sewer should be opened up, and the water of a well which supplied the school-house in part, and from which some of the school-girls drank, should be chemically examined, although I had frequently inspected the schools, and found them in apparently good sanitary condition. The other children drank from the independent



supply to which I have referred. The well-water was considered by those who drank it most excellent. It was polluted with sewage. The sewer was found to be almost as bad as it could be, irregularly laid, and leaking into the subsoil at the joints, which were of clay. It was constructed more than thirty years ago, when the Red Road was made, and was connected with the storm-water drain in the main road, which formerly served for a sewer. The school connection was worse than the sewer, and was supposed to have been made under the supervision of a former Inspector.

The Wootton Parochial Committee have reported to you their approval of the suggestion of your Inspector to substitute a sufficiently large sewer for the defective one in the Red Road, to admit of the diversion of a considerable part of the sewage, now discharged into the mill-race, in order to meet the complaint of the mill-owner of a nuisance there. This would seem to be advisable, but the outfall should be carried to the middle of the Creek.

Kite Hill, which is really Wootton beyond the Creek, is Kite Hill. supplied independently, and nuisance, caused by an old drain, has been abated by its reconstruction.

Fishbourne is supplied independently with water by an Fishbourne. extension of the Binstead main. It will be improved by a regular system of sewerage.

The condition of Binstead at the end of the year was Binstead. much the same as at the end of 1902, with the exception that it had four additional houses. It is not scavenged.

Haylands, a suburb of Ryde, has sewerage and water Haylands.

supply. It is not scavenged, but for the most part the houses have large gardens. The wells should be closed. Four houses were built at Haylands in 1903.

Upton. Upton, about two miles south of Ryde, supplies it largely with milk and dairy produce. It is supplied independently from the Ryde main.

Haven Street. The sanitary state of Haven Street is completely changed by its water supply, which should be laid to every house. In the future, Haven Street will need sewerage. The Parochial Committees of Binstead and Ashey have been a real help in getting their respective parishes placed in a satisfactory sanitary condition so far as it goes.

West Medene  
Freshwater. Of recent years it has been necessary to report so fully on Freshwater, which at the end of the year was much as it was at the end of the last and other years, that I have only to refer you to what I have previously said. But, potentially, its state was very different, for the sewerage was in progress which will supply its great sanitary need. It has an independent water supply and is scavenged. It has 14 more houses than at the end of 1902, in which year 18 houses were built, as against 26 in 1901.

Totland. The parish of Totland includes the westernmost part of the Isle of Wight from sea to sea, and is bounded by the parish of Freshwater on the east. It has two sources of water supply: the Totland Waterworks and the Freshwater Waterworks. It is scavenged and  $\frac{2}{3}$  sewered with the exception of the Avenue District, which is included in the Freshwater sewerage scheme. It had an increase of 20 houses in 1903.



Of the new houses mentioned, six—four in Totland and two in Freshwater—were built in the District known as Colwell, which, with Norton to the east of it, continues the coast line from Totland to the estuary of the Western Yar. Norton Green is a hamlet lying between Freshwater and Norton, which will be absorbed in Freshwater as building extends. These all have water from the Freshwater supply; and the advantage of the sewer outfall at Norton will be that the sewerage of Norton and Norton Green will be facilitated. They are scavenged.

Colwell,  
Norton, and  
Norton Green

Yarmouth was in about the same state at the end of 1903 as at the end of 1902. It has passed from an old to a new town, but no building was erected in 1903, the 14 houses built in the previous two years having, apparently, met the demand for the time being. Yarmouth is sewered, scavenged, and obtains its water from Freshwater. From year to year the sanitation of the old houses is gradually improved, and the year under review has been no exception.

Yarmouth.

Immediately to the east of Yarmouth is the building estate of Bouldner-on-Sea, in the parish of Shalfleet. It is supplied with water by the extension of the Yarmouth main.

Bouldner-on-  
Sea.

East of Bouldnor the building estate of Cranmore is opening up. It is supplied with water from the Shalfleet supply.

Cranmore.

The adjoining agricultural hamlets, Thorley and Wellow, are clean, as compared with their former state; but they differ in a sanitary sense, inasmuch as Thorley has no water supply, the Shalfleet main not having been extended

Thorley and  
Wellow.

beyond Wellow. The public pump at Wellow was closed at the end of the year, but you will probably see fit to re-open it, as it is useful for cattle and horses, when all the cottages are supplied from the Shalfleet main.

Two houses were added to Thorley in 1903.

Ningwood. The hamlet of Ningwood is now supplied, and the inhabitants have no longer to resort to the polluted stream for water. It is unfortunate the main is not extended to Hampstead.

Newbridge. The sanitary aspect of Newbridge has been completely changed by its water supply. There would probably have been cases of enteric fever there last summer, as at Calbourne, but for it.

Calbourne. In my last Annual Report I said, "The poison of enteric fever is always present in the *Caulborn*, from which so many people drink." These words were verified by the outbreak above referred to. One valuable life was sacrificed by the delay in providing Calbourne with wholesome water. The repair of a dilapidated house with an insanitary privy, the state of which was a reproach, was being proceeded with at the end of the year. It is to be hoped no question of parish boundaries will prevent the water supply of every house in the neighbourhood of Calbourne in the near future.

Shalfleet. At the end of the year some of the inhabitants, on the Shalfleet side of the village of Shalfleet, were still drinking from the polluted stream, because the Parochial Committee did not approve of the supply being extended to two or three houses: you have, as was your duty, overruled this,



and at the time of writing the water is being laid on. The bargaining with people to bear part of the cost of that to which they have a perfect right is carried a little too far. The parish of Shalfleet and its representatives deserve the greatest commendation for the manner in which they have taken upon themselves a heavy burden in order to obtain an enormous benefit; but your responsibility, under the law, is to see that every house in your District has wholesome water, and your object should be to remove all obstacles out of the way of the attainment of this end.

The deep well at Newtown has for some years now been of immense benefit to that hamlet and its neighbourhood. The Calbourne supply will deliver water to every house, and will not only save labour, but will facilitate the abundant use of water for domestic and dairy purposes. Newtown.

The Calbourne supply will also add the finishing touch to the sanitary redemption of Porehfield and Lock's Green. It is scarcely possible to realize now that Dr. Ballard's description was a true picture of this district twenty or twenty-five years ago, but it was so. Porehfield and Lock's Green.

Gunville and Forest Side are supplied from the Newport mains. A part of Gunville is sewered, and the sewer is to be extended. There are many old cottages, some of them almost hovels, in Gunville, which require frequent attention; but the place is greatly changed for the better in a sanitary sense. A town refuse nuisance to North Gunville and Forest Side at the end of the year is being remedied by spreading the refuse on the land. Gunville and Forest Side.

The Workhouse drains into a cesspit, the overflow of which finds its way to the *Medina*. It obtains its water supply from a deep well in the Bagshot Sands. The Workhouse.

Dodner and  
Dodner lane.

At the back of the Workhouse is Dodner Lane, leading to Dodner, districts which have no proper water supply. It would not cost much to lead the water from the main at the Workhouse, at least to the two dairy farms in Dodner Lane.

Parkhurst  
Barracks and  
Prison.

Parkhurst Barracks and Prison drain by a joint system, the effluent sewage, after treatment, being discharged into the *Medina*. The sludge is pressed and used on the Prison farm. The Barracks and Prison are both supplied with water from the Newport main, on its way north to the coast at Gurnard.

The Medina  
Cement  
Works.

As the result of improved processes the nuisance from smoke and steam at the Cement Works has greatly abated. They are now supplied with water from the Northwood main, and a great risk to the health of the people is thereby removed.

Horsebridge  
Hill and Noke  
Common.

The whole of Horsebridge Hill and Noke Common are now supplied with water independently. Part of Horsebridge Hill is drained by an irregular sewerage system, like Godshill, which causes no nuisance now, and which has been the means of abating nuisances of long standing.

Marks Corner.

The hamlet of Mark's Corner, formed, like the older parts of Gunville, by those who squatted upon Parkhurst Forest land, has now its water supply. By some curious error, or with the notion of saving expense by easier excavation, the water main was carried on the south side of the green, the houses being on the north side. Naturally the cottagers refused to connect. This has now been remedied, and the water should be laid on in, I think, every instance. It is not fair to the body of ratepayers if



those who have not wholesome water, and I know none who have, are not compelled to avail themselves of the supply provided. Two houses were built at Mark's Corner during the year; and with the difficulty about water now removed it is probable most of the remaining mud-walled cottages will gradually disappear.

The many scattered hamlets in the parish of Northwood, Northwood, as Furzyhurst, Wyatt's Lane, Tinker's Lane (Pallance Road), Rew Street, which have been such a source of anxiety in the past, when epidemic disease appeared, have now wholesome water; and this means protection of population beyond the parish by the assistance given in safeguarding milk supplies. It is disappointing to note that at the end of the year the condition of the school was again unsatisfactory. Much money has been spent by the managers, at the instance of your officers, in the past, and great improvement resulted; but the more recent work does not seem to have been properly supervised. However, orders have been given by the school authorities which it is to be hoped will remedy the sanitary defects. A house was built in Pallance Road in 1903.

Gurnard, which has a future before it as a seaside Gurnard, resort, is now protected by sewerage and wholesome water, and it is to be hoped that with these, long years of bickering and ill-feeling, with all their associated misery, which hinder sanitary progress and its accompanying prosperity, have come to an end.

There was a house built at Alvington Road, in the Carisbrooke, village, and another at Apes Down, in the parish of Carisbrooke, during the year. The farmsteads, the majority of which are dairy places, between Alvington

Manor and Great Park, and including the latter, are without wholesome water. Speaking generally Carisbrooke is sewered, scavenged, and has an independent water supply.

Chillerton  
and  
Gatcombe.

As I reported last year, with the Upper Greensand at the surface and strong springs, Gatcombe and Chillerton do not possess a proper water supply. The houses on the lower level at Gatcombe are supplied from a reservoir built over Greensand springs; but the remaining dwellings cannot be supplied until the water is lifted to a high level reservoir, which may be done by a powerful windmill pump. A similar arrangement should be adopted at Chillerton.

Chale and  
Blackgang.

The water supply you have given Chale and Blackgang from the Upper Greensand is a great credit to you. It is necessary that as soon as possible all the houses on the line of main should have the water laid on, for the majority stand on the waterless Gault; but some degree of patience is necessary, and a great deal has already been done in this direction. A house was built at Chale during the year.

Atherfield.

Although only a scattered hamlet Atherfield has dairy places from which butter is distributed, and the water supply is very indifferent, and this can only be remedied from outside.

Shorwell.

The picturesque village of Shorwell has to the north the lofty Chalk and Upper Greensand down. The Gault, upon which the village stands, is at the surface, also to the south of it. The Gault clay holds the water up in the Greensand, from which it escapes in great volume at Shorwell. Under these circumstances the people drink



from the stream, into which filth drains, as it cannot soak into the land to any extent. The conditions are, therefore, very favourable to a regulated water supply ; for although it may be necessary to raise the water for the supply of the village itself, this may be inexpensively done by means of a turbine, so abundant is the water. At present the cottages at the north of the village are supplied by a pump on a piece of roadside waste from a well in the Greensand, and to the south by a pipe by the roadside which leads the water from the spring. But the sanitary necessities of the people are not met by wholesome water for drinking merely, although this is of paramount importance ; they require abundant water for cleansing and household purposes, and this can only be satisfactorily furnished from a tap on the premises.

The water supply of the little hamlet of Limerstone is Limerstone.  
not what it might be, although it has been a blessing to the inhabitants. They go, however, for their drinking water to what is apparently a pocket of sand and gravel in the clay. If the water from the roadside tap is not good enough for them to drink, it is not good enough for travellers.

Brighstone has an independent water supply, which has Brighstone.  
been gradually extended to the waterless clay district beyond it. At the end of the year there were still sewerage difficulties, but these seem to be less every year. Constant vigilance is, however, requisite in every clay village, and especially that the stream from which dairy cows and cattle drink may be kept as free from pollution as possible. The sanitary arrangements of a large house have been reconstructed, it being intended to utilise the sewage in an extensive garden. Septic treatment of the

sewage of another large house had been completed at the end of the year, and the clear effluent only passes now into the stream, and that not directly.

Mottistone,  
Hulverstone,  
and Brooke.

West of Brighstone, the hamlets of Mottistone and Hulverstone have their water supplies in conjunction with that of the village of Brooke; and beyond Brooke farms and cottages are supplied directly from the Upper Greensand.

In concluding my last Annual Report I remarked, "It is satisfactory to be able to say that the sanitary state of the Isle of Wight Rural Sanitary District was never so good as at the close of the year 1902, because of the additional security afforded to the community by the permanent works of water supply which have been established during the year." I spoke thus, advisedly, and I regret to find my words have been misinterpreted.

I had no intention whatever of suggesting that wholesome water was the only sanitary necessity, however far it may go as a protective agent, and it goes far; and I said, speaking of your District, on page 80, "While house and dairy sanitation require far more attention than they receive, the provision of independent water supplies has raised it to an infinitely higher level of safety than it occupied 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." When I received the honour of appointment to your District, more than twenty years ago, I read the report on its sanitary state made by one of those very able Inspectors of the Local Government Board, with



whom many of you have made acquaintance. I looked broadly on the Isle of Wight as a whole; I considered the interdependence of town and country; and I made myself intimately acquainted with the conditions obtaining in the urban, as well as in the rural areas. My interest in each has never relaxed, and, while rejoicing over any indication of urban sanitary progress, I endeavoured to have remedied in the rural district, as quickly as possible, the most glaring defects pointed out by the Local Government Board Inspector; but, as a sanitarian, I saw clearly that, if the whole Island was to be benefited, if the towns were to be protected from any risks from the rural districts, there must be a change in the water supplies. To obtain this end I have devoted myself, with some measure of success, without, however, neglecting in the slightest degree the other essentials of perfect sanitation. The correction of structural defects of buildings, dairy sanitation, drainage, and ordinary nuisances, are very much matters of efficient inspection work. Upon this subject I have expressed myself very fully from time to time. There has been enormous improvement in every village, as there ought to be; but what I wish to emphasise is, that while there might be fluctuations, and even neglect, in ordinary sanitation, a wholesome water supply is, within certain limits, a permanent line of defence against possible disease and death.

In my Annual Reports for 1901 and 1902, I spoke of the manner in which the future of a District like yours may be prejudiced by the distinctions made by the law between an urban and a rural district. A purely agricultural district on the one hand, and an urban district on the other, are perfectly distinct; but a rural district which contains developing urban areas, to which it would be

Deficiencies  
of the law.

absurd to give separate government, should possess all the powers necessary to secure the best possible for the future of such areas. Having regard to the conditions which obtain in connection with the local administrative bodies, those best informed must agree that the strengthening of central administration in all expert matters is of the most vital importance to the community, and that the central authority should be able to bestow all powers needed to meet the particular necessities of any district. I beg to refer you to my Annual Report for 1902, pages 81, 82.

Bye-laws.        You possess bye-laws for new buildings, for dairies, cowsheds and milk shops, and for slaughterhouses; you have, also, regulations for house connections with sewers and water mains.

Uniformity  
of methods.        I beg again to call your attention to the inconvenience of the absence of uniformity throughout your District in all matters. In my last Annual Report, pages 83, 84, I instanced the absence of uniformity in fittings in connection with your engineering work; which has arisen, in part, from the fact that the Parochial Committees have chosen different architects for carrying out the sanitary engineering work of sewerage and water supply in their respective parishes. I referred to the subject of engineering work in my Annual Report for 1902, pages 84, 85.

Inspection.        You have four Sanitary Inspectors, who are also your Surveyors under the Act, and your Surveyors of Highways. As the subject of inspection is now *sub-judice* I will not add to the remarks I made in my last Annual Report, pages 85, 86.

Procedure.        In that Report I referred you to my Annual Report for 1901, pages 74, 75, 76; and I ventured to suggest smaller



committees; you made the experiment, but, with the exception of committees for special parish purposes, you prefer committees of the whole Council, and there is certainly the difficulty of selection, unless you decree that the same member should not serve on more than one or two committees.

In conclusion, I have once more to congratulate you upon the progress made during the year, in the initiation or completion of important works of sewerage and water supply, which will add to the well-being, not only of the people of your District, but of those who visit it, seeking health and recreation, from this and other lands.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. GROVES.

Carisbrooke.

