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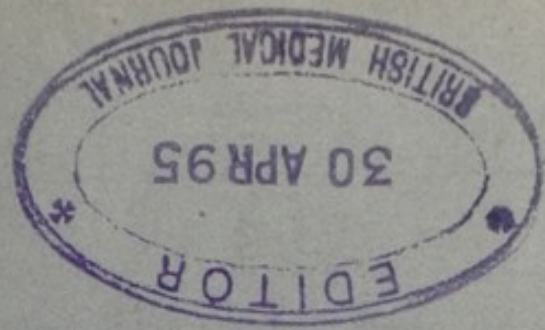
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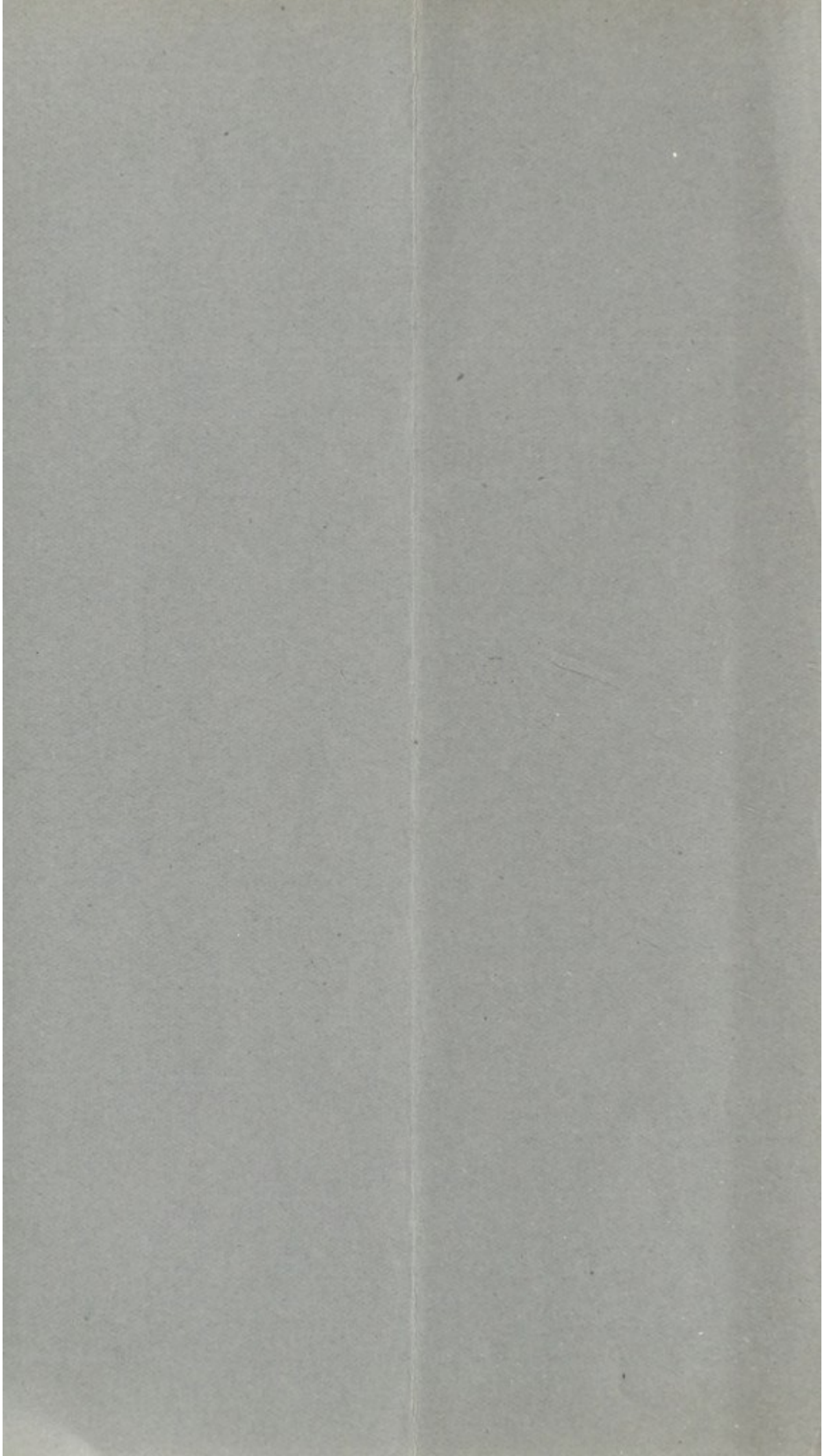
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MOSS SIDE.

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1894.



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R E P O R T

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council
of Moss Side.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have to submit to you a Report relating to the health of the district during the year 1894. During the year Mr. A. E. Sutcliffe, who for a period of twenty years held the appointment of Medical Officer of Health, died, and upon August 20th I was elected to the post which for so long a time he had honourably occupied. The data, therefore, upon which this Report is based consist of manuscript notes and official returns handed over to me by the late Mr. Sutcliffe's representatives, and of my own official work and observations since the date of my appointment.

During the year, 304 registered deaths occurred in the district, including in this number 10 which took place in the Chorlton Union Workhouse among persons admitted from Moss Side.

Estimating that since the Census of 1891 the population has increased from 23,833 to 25,000 in the middle of June, 1894, the death-rate amounts to 12.1 per 1,000. In only three instances during the past 16 years has the death-rate been so low, varying from 16.2 in 1891 (the highest annual death-rate recorded) to 11.8 in 1881 (the lowest rate).

The number of registered births during the year amounted to 463, which is equivalent to an annual rate of 18.5 per 1,000.

Table I. shows the population, deaths, death-rates, births, and birth-rates for the past 4 years.

TABLE I.

	1891	1892	1893	1894
Population	24,000	24,000	24,000	25,000
Total number of deaths	389	347	322	304
Annual death-rates	16·2	14·4	13·4	12·1
Total number of births	507	499	472	463
Annual birth-rates	21·1	20·7	19·6	18·5

The estimates of population for the years 1892 and 1893 are probably too low, and, if so, the death-rates as well as the birth-rates for the past few years have been declining to a greater extent than appears in the above table. The estimate of annual increase in the population may be taken as one-tenth of that proved to have occurred in the interval between the last two censuses.

The next table (Table II.) shows the age groups in which the deaths during the year have been classified.

TABLE II.

<i>Table of the ages at which the deaths occurred in 1894.</i>	
Under 1 year of age	66 or 21·7 per cent.
Between 1 and 5 years	30 „ 9·8 „
Between 5 and 15 years	11 „ 3·6 „
Between 15 and 25 years.....	19 „ 6·2 „
Between 25 and 65 years.....	110 „ 36·1 „
Over 65 years of age.....	68 „ 22·3 „

Rather more than one-fifth of the deaths occurred in children under one year old ; a similar proportion of the deaths occurred

in persons over 65 years of age—showing, as is usually the case, that the greatest mortality occurs at the extreme periods of life.

In Table III. are classified according to diseases the deaths in persons at all ages during the year 1894. In this is included ten deaths which occurred in Withington Workhouse.

TABLE III.

	Number of Deaths	Rate of Mortality per 1,000
Smallpox.....	...	...
Scarlet fever	2	'08
Diphtheria	2	'08
Croup .....	...	...
Typhus fever .....	...	...
Enteric fever	5	'2
Other fevers .....	...	...
Diarrhoea.....	3	'12
Measles	8	'32
Whooping cough	9	'36
Erysipelas .....	...	...
Influenza .....	...	...
Puerperal fever	1	'04
Rheumatic fever	1	'04
Phthisis	23	'92
Bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy	54	2'16
Heart disease	30	1'2
Injuries	6	'24
Diseases not classified	160	6'4
Total	304	12'16

From the above table it is seen that the total number of deaths from zymotic diseases amounted to 29 or 1.1 per 1,000 of the population, viz. :—

Measles	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Whooping Cough	Enteric Fever	Diarrhœa
8	2	2	9	5	3

Of these 29 deaths, 9 were of children under 1 year old, viz., whooping cough 3, measles 3, diarrhœa 3; whilst 14 were of children over 1 year but under 5 years of age, viz., whooping cough 6, measles 5, scarlet fever 1, diphtheria 2, making thus a total of 23 deaths from zymotic diseases under 5 years of age out of the full number 29.

The number of cases of infectious diseases reported in accordance with the Infectious Diseases Notification Act amounted during the year to 169.

The following is a classified list of these diseases notified during each month of the year 1894.

DISEASES	Smallpox	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever
Month of January	0	5	4	2	1
„ February.....	0	3	9	1	0
„ March	0	6	7	0	0
„ April	0	1	14	1	0
„ May.....	2	4	6	1	0
„ June.....	1	3	11	4	0
„ July	2	1	7	3	0
„ August.....	0	0	6	5	1
„ September	0	4	4	1	0
„ October	0	3	14	2	0
„ November	0	4	6	0	0
„ December	0	1	13	6	0
Total.....	5	35	101	26	2

Since the adoption of the Act by the Local Board in 1890, the notified cases of infectious diseases have occurred in the following numbers, arranged according to month and year.

YEAR	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894
Month of January .....	...	12	4	6	12
„ February.....	18	6	8	12	13
„ March.....	19	12	9	10	13
„ April	6	11	4	10	16
„ May.....	10	3	4	14	13
„ June.....	10	5	5	13	19
„ July.....	13	4	8	9	13
„ August.....	8	7	9	6	12
„ September	15	7	8	12	9
„ October	22	18	7	21	19
„ November	8	23	15	20	10
„ December	10	14	15	9	20
Total.....	139	122	96	142	169

Preventive measures adopted during the year against the spread of Infectious Diseases.

Smallpox.—There were five cases of this disease reported in the district during the months of May, June, and July; but in no case was there a fatal result. The persons affected were females from 18 to 26 years of age. All were removed to Monsall Hospital. Except in one case, in which the disease was contracted from a sister, no source of infection could be discovered within the district. Vaccination of all the inmates of the houses in which the disease had occurred was performed without opposition.

Cholera.—No cases of the disease occurred within the district. Two notifications were received, stating that two persons whose destination was in this district had been allowed to proceed thither under the Cholera Regulation Order. Full inquiry was made by your Inspector in reference to these persons, and observation was kept upon the houses where they were received.

Scarlet Fever.—This disease has been present throughout the year, but its incidence has varied greatly from month to month. The largest numbers of cases were reported in the months of April, June, October, and December. The months of July, August, and September presented the fewest number. The total number is too small to infer any seasonal influence. It is, however, highly important to notice the age incidence of this disease. Under 5 years of age there were 13 cases; over 5 and under 10 years of age 53 cases; so that nearly 65 per cent. of the 102 cases reported occurred in children under 10 years of age.

Of the cases which have occurred since the date of my appointment, I have ascertained that a large proportion received the infection whilst attending schools outside the district, and in these, as in all cases in which school attendance was concerned, I have caused notices to be sent to the schoolmasters advising special precautions to be taken against the attendance of children from the infected houses. Investigations of the milk supply showed that in every instance it was above suspicion as the cause of infection.

Measles.—This disease is not notified in the district. There were eight fatal cases, all under five years of age. An outbreak of the disease occurred in one of the schools in the district during the month of June. This was thoroughly investigated, and disinfection of the school premises was efficiently carried out. Since then there has been no extension of the disease to any serious degree.

Diphtheria.—The number of cases reported amounted to thirty-five. Of these, four occurred under five, and thirty-one over five years of age. Two only of the cases proved fatal, and both were under five years of age. The disease has been present every month except August. In most of the houses in which cases occurred sanitary defects were discovered, and prompt measures were taken for their rectification.

Whooping Cough.—Nine deaths from this disease were reported. The disease is not notified in the district; but it does not appear to have occurred in epidemic form during the year.

Typhus Fever.—No cases were reported.

Enteric Fever (Typhoid).—Twenty-six cases were reported, five of which proved fatal. Twenty-four of the cases were in persons over ten years of age.

Diarrhœa.—Only three deaths were referred to this disease, all of which occurred in children under five years of age. This mortality, equal to a death-rate of '12 per 1,000 of the population, is unusually low for this disease.

Patients Removed to Monsall Fever Hospital.

During the year thirty-nine patients were removed to Monsall. Two only of these patients died there.

Sanitary State of the District generally at the end of the year.

Since my appointment in August I have commenced a systematic inspection of the district, and although this inspection is not yet complete, I am able to report that so far the result is highly satisfactory. There are no back-to-back houses. The streets and passages are, without exception, of adequate width, well paved, and provided with sufficient drains. The street scavenging and the removal of house refuse are carried out with great efficiency. With regard to the house drainage and the method of disposal of house refuse there is room for much improvement. Over a large portion of the district, drains pass under the houses, and the ashpit privy

arrangement for the reception of excreta is in existence. To correct these arrangements, the removal of basement drains and the adoption of intercepting traps are systematically enforced as far as possible; but for the disposal of excreta it appears to me desirable that the water-closet system should be made compulsory in the erection of all new houses, and as far as possible substituted where the older privy system is in existence.

The importance of this branch of sanitation—the method of disposal of house refuse—can hardly be exaggerated in face of the increasing population. Estimating the population at 25,000, which is probably rather below the true estimate, the density of population already amounts to 59·8 persons per acre. Comparing this density of population with that of London in 1889 (average density 49 per acre), or that of Manchester in 1891 (average density 40), it must be apparent that the density of population in this district is unusually high.

Water Supply.—The water supply of the district is derived from the mains of the Corporation of Manchester, and is well known to be one of the purest in England. Complaints of its impurity have occasionally been made in the autumn season, and during the month of last October I received such complaints in this district. I made enquiries in various parts of the district, and examined several specimens of the water. Occasionally during that month the water supplied to some of the houses had a brown discolouration, a disagreeable taste, and an offensive smell, the smell being especially offensive when the water was heated. I consulted the Medical Officer of Health for Manchester upon the subject, and he assured me that the complaint would receive the attention of the Corporation. This assurance has been fulfilled, and I am able to present an extract from a report made upon the subject by Professors Dixon and Delépine, of Owens College, at the instance of the Manchester Corporation:—

“On October 2nd, the water drawn in Moss Side and the water drawn in Hulme were both of great organic purity as far as chemical tests can show. On November 10th, the waters drawn at

Withington and in Moss Side were exceptionally pure. So far as chemical tests are of value, the Manchester water supply during this period must be pronounced to be satisfactory.

“Several kinds of bacteria have been isolated from the various samples examined : some of these bacteria are capable of multiplying very rapidly, and of giving to the water in which they grow an unpleasant taste and smell. This occurs more especially where the water is not renewed sufficiently often, and may affect either large reservoirs or cisterns of private houses.

“There was no very great difference between the samples of water obtained from the mains connected with various reservoirs. It was found, however, that when samples of all these waters were kept in closed vessels for some days, the growth of bacteria was much more rapid in some than in others.

“No bacteria associated with infectious diseases could be found in any of the specimens examined, although they were carefully searched for. The chemical and bacteriological examinations are in substantial agreement : both methods show that there is no sewage contamination of the water supply.”

Bakehouses.—I have visited the bakehouses in the district, and for the most part found the sanitary conditions satisfactory. In two instances this was not the case, and directions were given for the necessary alterations. The prevailing custom of establishing bakehouses in cellars is open to serious objections, and it appears to me very desirable that the Council of this district should co-operate as far as possible with neighbouring authorities in discouraging the establishment of underground bakehouses.

Slaughter-houses.—The only slaughter-house in the district is that which exists on the premises of the Council, and has been provided for public use. I have carefully inspected this building, and have found it to be in a very satisfactory condition as regards cubic space, ventilation, water supply, and drainage. It is maintained in cleanliness by frequent limewashing, and the offal is promptly and regularly removed. The sanitary arrangements are under the constant supervision of your inspector.

Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milkshops.—There are 3 cowsheds and 45 dairies and milkshops in the district, and these have been regularly inspected. For the most part the sanitary arrangements have been found satisfactory.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.—The following samples have been purchased by your inspector during the year, according to the Act :—

74 Milk samples
 2 Butter „
 2 Pepper „

Some of these were submitted to the County Analyst for examination. There were no prosecutions under the Act.

Factory and Workshops Act.—I have inspected several of the workshops in the district, and found them for the most part satisfactory as to sanitary arrangements. In a few cases insufficient cubic space and inadequate means for ventilation were noted. In such cases the requisite instructions were given for the correction of these defects.

Your obedient Servant,

S. HOLGATE OWEN, M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.

Whalley Range,

April 22nd, 1895.

COUNTY OF LANCASTER.

SUMMARY OF MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1894.

Urban Sanitary District of Moss Side.

Area in Statute Acres, 418. | Population, Enumerated 1891—23,833.
Population, Estimated 1894—25,000.

Name of Medical Officer of Health: S. HOLGATE OWEN, M.D., M.R.C.P.Lond.

Date of Appointment: August 20th, 1894. Salary: £60.

Births registered : Male, 253 ; Female, 210—TOTAL, 463.

Deaths registered : Male, 154 ; Female, 150—TOTAL, 304.

Birth Rate, 18·5.

Death Rate, 12·1.

Rate of Infant Deaths, under one year, to 1,000 Births, 142·5.

Death Rate from the **seven principal** Zymotic Diseases per 1,000 of Population, 1·04.

Diseases prevalent ?—Scarlet Fever.

Period ?—April, June, October, December.

What Action taken ?—Special School Enquiry, and Precautions to Parents and Teachers.

Any Schools Closed ?—No.

What is the Character of the Hospital Accommodation ?—Manchester Fever Hospital.

Is it Joint or otherwise ?—By Subscription, and Special Payments by District Council.

No. of Beds ?—About 700.

What were the Cases Treated ?—Smallpox, 5 ; Scarlet Fever, 26 ; Typhoid, 7 ;
 Diphtheria, 1.

Deaths in Hospital ?—Two.

From what Causes ?—Typhoid.

How is Disinfection carried out ?—Fumigation and Stoving.

Apparatus used ?—Jars for Chlorine ; Metal Cylinders for Sulphur.

Is the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act in force ?—Yes.

Are any Diseases not specifically mentioned in the Act notifiable ?—No.

SUMMARY—continued.

What is the character of House Accommodation ?	Uniformly good ; adapted chiefly for the Middle Classes.
How many Back-to-back Houses?	None.
What action has been taken under "The Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890"?	None.
Water Supply	Manchester Corporation.
Is Scavenging carried out satisfactorily?	Yes.
By Sanitary Authority or Contract?	By Sanitary Authority.
How is the Refuse disposed of?	On Tips and at Farms.
What is the character of Drainage and the form of Sewage Disposal?	Good. Irrigation about to be adopted.
Canal Boats	None.
What is the condition of the Bakehouses? ...	For the most part satisfactory, excepting that they are chiefly Cellar Bakehouses.
Slaughter-houses?	No Private Slaughter-houses. The Public Slaughter-houses are on the Premises of the District Council, and are constantly supervised by the Sanitary Inspector.
Lodging-houses?	} There are no Common Lodging-houses.
Are they Registered?	
Are the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops periodically inspected?	Yes.
Have any Regulations been made by your Authority under the Order of the Local Government Board?	Yes ; but not during the Year.
Have the Factories and Workshops been inspected, and with what result?	Yes : Satisfactory.
Offensive Trades	None.
Sale of Food and Drugs Act :—	
No. of Samples Purchased	78.
Prosecutions	None.
Food unfit for Human Consumption—Amount seized?	None.
River Pollution	Ship Canal and River. Sewage Works nearly completed.
Any Special Report of Medical Officer of Health during the year?	No.
Department of Inspectors of Nuisances :—	
No. of Notices served	408.
No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result	None.
Smoke :—	
Do you suffer from this form of nuisance?	Occasionally.
No. of Observations	Many : 7 notices served.
No. of Legal Proceedings taken and result	None.
Give approximately the number of tall chimneys in connection with mills or large works	Four.
Has the Authority adopted—	
(a) "The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890"?	Yes.
(b) "The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890"?	Yes.
Has any special action been taken in respect of Cholera?... ..	Enquiries and supervision upon receiving notice from Port Sanitary Authorities.

