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Nantwich Rural District.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

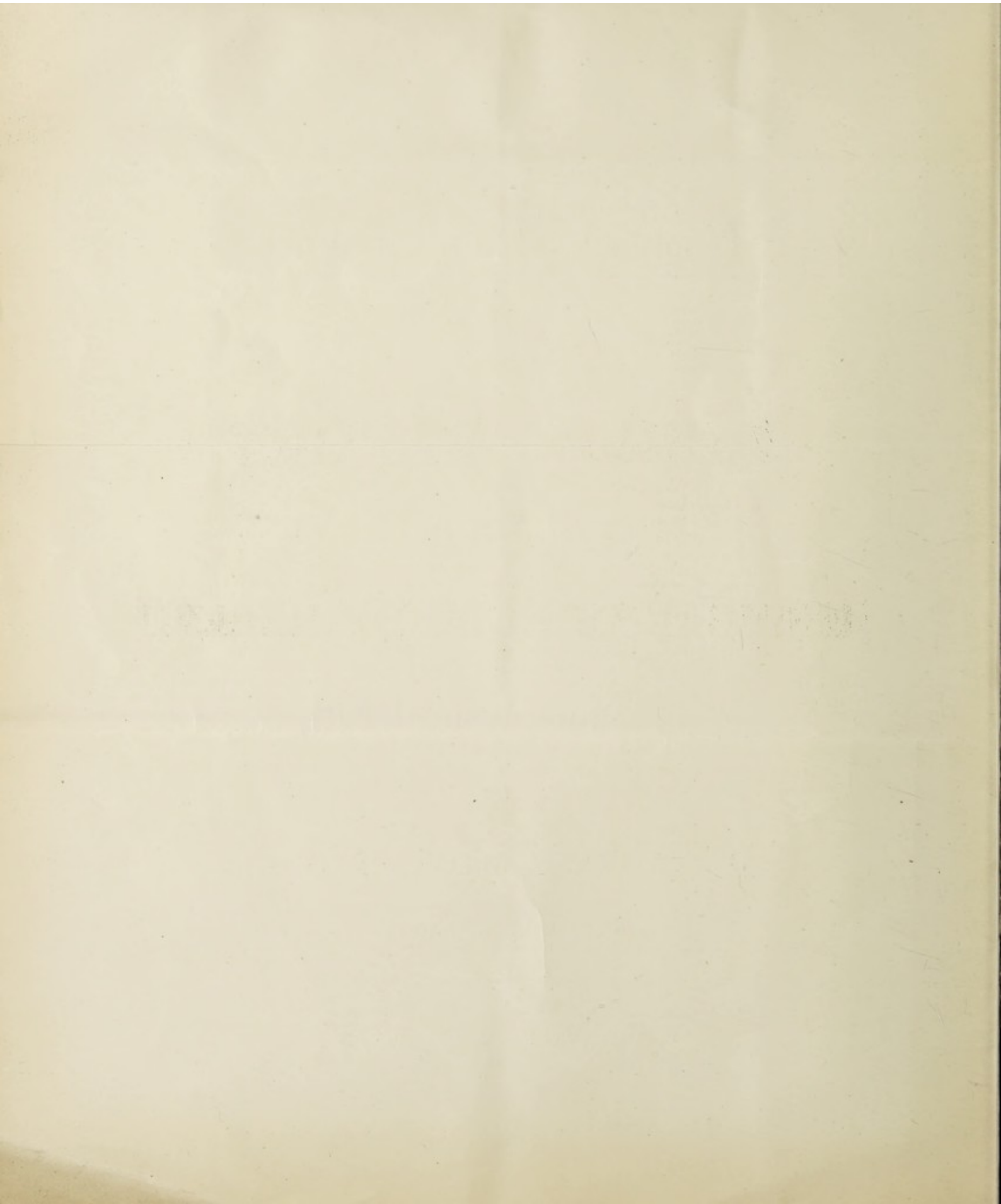
For the Year 1908,

BY

R. T. TURNER, M.D., Ch. B. (Vict.,)

Medical Officer of Health.

F. POOLEY & Co., Printers, Mill Street, Nantwich.



Nantwich Rural District.

Medical Officer of Health—R. T. TURNER.
Population at census 1901—23,196.
Estimated population at middle of 1908—24,084
Area in acres—98,458.

Birth-rate per 1,000 living—25·7.
Death-rate per 1,000 living—11·8.
Death-rate from principal Zymotic Diseases—0·24.
Deaths under one year per 1,000 births—57.

AREA AND POPULATION.—The District is situated in the south-east of Cheshire, and adjoins in the south the county of Salop and in the east the county of Stafford. It is part of the alluvial plain of Cheshire and surrounds the Borough of Crewe and the Urban District of Nantwich, both of which districts are situated near its centre. The occupation of the vast majority of its residents is dairy farming. In that part of the District contiguous to the Borough of Crewe and the Urban District of Nantwich of late years there has grown up a considerable population of a non-agricultural character, which population chiefly consists of railway employés and of tradespeople and their employés whose daily occupation is chiefly found in the towns of Nantwich and Crewe. The wives and daughters of the poorer members of this class are to a slight extent employed as workers in the clothing factories of Nantwich, Crewe, and Willaston, and a considerable number of them are employed as out-workers in this class of business. Of the four registration sub-districts into which the District has been divided, the Crewe sub-district contains practically all the industrial population, though even in this sub-district the preponderant element of the population is agricultural, whilst the sub-districts of Nantwich, Bunbury, and Wrenbury are practically exclusively agricultural in character. Agriculture in this Rural District may be considered to be fairly prosperous considering the state of the country generally from an agricultural point of view and the wages of agricultural labourers are probably above the average of agricultural England as a whole.

The District is largely drained by the River Weaver, which is a tributary of the Mersey, and which receives tributary streams from the counties of Stafford and Salop.

The London & North Western, the Great Western, and the North Staffordshire Railways run through the District, as also does the Shropshire Union Canal. A number of the employés of this Canal Company form a colony at a hamlet called Barbridge, situated in the townships of Stoke and Wardle.

The Rural District has been divided into the following registration sub-districts :—

- 1.—CREWE, having an area of 31,145 acres and an estimated population of 11,872. It includes Batherton, Barthomley, Basford, Blakenhall, Bridgemere, Checkley-cum-Wrinehill, Chorlton, Crewe, Doddington, Haslington, Hatherton, Hough, Hunsterson, Lea, Rope, Stapeley, Walgherton, Warmingham, Weston, Willaston, and Wybunbury, and parts of Church Copenhall, Shavington-cum-Gresty, and Wistaston.
- 2.—NANTWICH, with an area of 21,300 acres and an estimated population of 3,468, includes Acton, Aston-juxta-Mondrum, Austerson, Baddington, Brindley, Burland, Cholmon-

deston, Coole Pilate, Edleston, Faddiley, Henhull, Hurleston, Leighton, Minshull Vernon, Poole, Stoke, Woolstanwood, and Worleston.

3.—BUNBURY has an area of 20,979 acres and an estimated population of 4,122. It comprises the townships of Alpraham, Bickerton, Bulkeley, Bunbury, Calveley, Cholmondeley, Church Minshull, Egerton, Haughton, Peckforton, Ridley, Spurstow, Wardle, and Wettenhall.

4.—WRENBURY, which has an area of 25,034 acres and an estimated population of 4,622. It includes Audlem, Baddiley, Broomhall, Buerton, Chorley, Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley, Hankelow, Newhall, Sound, Woodcott, and Wrenbury-cum-Frith.

The Census returns for the Rural District were as follows :—

	Males		Females		Totals
Crewe	5,478	...	5,506	...	10,984
Nantwich	1,763	...	1,705	...	3,468
Bunbury	2,052	...	2,070	...	4,122
Wrenbury	2,278	...	2,344	...	4,622
	<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
	11,571	...	11,625	...	23,196

In calculating the death-rates of the District all deaths of non-residents dying in public institutions in the District have been excluded and all deaths have been referred to their proper sub-districts.

BIRTH-RATES. The birth-rates for the four sub-districts were respectively 27·2, 29·7, 21·1, and 22·7.

The illegitimate births numbered 40, which means that practically one birth in every fifteen was illegitimate.

The birth-rate for the district generally was 1·7 higher than in 1907. I hope that this improvement may be more than maintained.

DEATH-RATES. The death-rates for the four sub-districts were respectively 12·3, 14·7, 9·9, and 10·1.

The death-rate for the whole District was 0·4 higher than in 1907, but with the exception of last year and the year 1903 it was the lowest of which I have record.

Infantile Mortality. Thirty-six of the deaths registered as occurring among residents of the Rural District were those of children under one year of age. The numbers for the preceding ten years were 64, 68, 56, 54, 56, 53, 59, 52, 67, and 38. It will thus be seen that the number of infantile deaths is little more than half of what it was ten years ago. This is a matter for sincere congratulation. A marked feature of the infant mortality was the ENTIRE ABSENCE of diarrhoeal diseases from the returns. This may be accounted for to some extent by the wet weather of July but considering the phenomenally warm weather which we had in the autumn it is a matter of no little surprise and gratification to me. I can only suppose that knowledge as to how to bring up little children on correct principles is spreading among the mothers. It may be that mothers, seeing that they give birth to fewer children than formerly, set better store by those they do bear.

My booklet as to the feeding, etc. of infants is still distributed by the midwives, and I think does good.

Another gratifying feature of the returns is the small number of infantile deaths from tubercular diseases, only two such deaths being recorded.

The deaths of infants under one year of age were in the proportion of 57 per 1,000 births registered. This is a very low rate indeed.

The notification of Births' Act is not in force in the District.

Deaths from Zymotic Disease.

- (a) **DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.**—This disease was responsible for three deaths during the year. They were as follows:—one at Willaston on March 21st aged 10 years, one at Buerton on July 6th aged 2 years, and one at Calveley on December 21st aged 7 years.
- (b) **PUERPERAL FEVER.**—One death occurred from this disease. It was that of a young woman aged 32 years, who died at Haslington on January 5th.
- (c) **SCARLET FEVER.**—This disease caused two deaths both of which occurred at the Isolation Hospital. They were that of a child from Haslington aged 7 years who died on March 29th, and that of a girl aged 17 years from Calveley who died on July 9th.
- (d) **ERYSIPELAS.**—This disease caused the death of one person only during the year under review. It was that of a man aged 61 years, residing at Walgherton. He scratched his finger whilst making a broom and died a few days later from erysipelas which had evidently been inoculated into the small wound.

Phthisis. This disease caused thirteen deaths during the year. This is equivalent to a death-rate of 0·5 per 1,000 living at all ages. The rates for the preceding eight years were 0·75, 0·6, 0·38, 0·3, 0·6, 0·8, 0·7, and 0·3.

The mortality, though a little higher than in 1907, was still distinctly low. Low as it is it is not low enough. If only proper provision were made for the treatment of the early cases in a Sanatorium where many would be cured and where all would at least be educated in the care necessary to prevent danger to others, and if all advanced or rather dying cases among the poor (whose houses are generally quite unsuited for the care of dying consumptives without great danger to others) were segregated in Hospital, I believe that a great drop in the mortality would shortly take place.

Other Tubercular Diseases. Two deaths only were ascribed to this group of diseases, one being a case of intestinal tuberculosis and the other a case of tubercular joint disease.

Heart Diseases. Thirty-one deaths were ascribed to disease of the heart. This is equal to a death-rate of 1·2 per 1,000 living.

Inquests. During the year twenty-two inquests were held with regard to the deaths of residents of the Rural District. The following is a classification of the verdicts:—

Heart Disease	5 cases
Found Drowned	3 „
Drowning (suicide)	2 „
Drowning (accident)	3 „
Run over by Cart	1 „
Epileptic Fit	1 „
Erysipelas	1 „
Burns	1 „
Falls	2 „
Knocked down by cyclist	1 „
Carbolic Acid Poisoning	1 „
Gunshot Wound (suicide)	1 „
Total... ..	22 cases

No uncertified deaths were registered during the year.

Sickness. During the year 141 cases of infectious disease were reported to the Medical Officer of Health. They were as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	109 cases
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	22 „
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	2 „
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	8 „
Total	...	...	...	...	141 cases

The following Table shows at a glance the state of the District as to notifiable Infectious Disease during the past ten years.

NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS FROM NOTIFIABLE DISEASES during the years 1899—1908.

YEAR.	CASES NOTIFIED.								DEATHS.							
	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria	M. membranous Group	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Total Annual Notifications	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Membranous Group	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	TOTAL DEATHS
1899.....	...	59	27	...	11	2	14	113	...	2	4	...	...	1	...	7
1900.....	...	164	9	3	9	1	15	201	...	3	2	1	2	...	...	10
1901.....	...	79	30	1	7	5	6	128	...	1	8	1	2	2	...	14
1902.....	2	20	73	...	4	2	9	110	...	...	13	...	1	...	...	14
1903.....	2	33	24	1	4	...	10	74	...	...	5	1	2	...	...	8
1904.....	1	79	5	...	4	3	18	110	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	4
1905.....	...	123	14	2	3	2	11	155	...	1	4	...	...	1	...	6
1906.....	...	39	41	...	7	1	13	101	...	1	3	...	2	1	...	7
1907.....	...	149	42	...	1	...	18	211	...	4	2	...	...	...	1	7
1908.....	...	109	22	...	...	2	8	141	...	2	3	...	...	1	1	7

(a) SCARLET FEVER.—During the year 109 cases of this disease were reported. The following Table shows the cases for each township and the months of their occurrence.

Of the cases of Scarlet Fever given therein very few call for particular comment. The cases at Willaston in the early months of the year were cases belonging to the outbreak of Scarlet Fever which existed in the Nantwich Urban District in the later months of 1907 and the early months of 1908. The cases at Calveley occurred in a large farm-house. In all probability the infection was conveyed in the first place from Tilstone School which was attended by one of the children of the house. The cases, as soon as they occurred, were isolated in Hospital and careful disinfection of rooms and bedding was at once in each case undertaken. In spite of this cases continued to occur at intervals of about ten days until practically the whole household was in Hospital. I personally carefully inspected every member of the family and every servant employed on the farm and was unable to find any sign of infection; yet I am of opinion that some person in the household was in an infectious condition and was acting as a carrier of infection to the other members of the household. If it had been possible in this disease as it is in diphtheria to recognise the microorganism causing the disease it would have been comparatively easy to have found out the source of infection and by isolation of the carrier to have stopped at once any further spread.

SCARLET FEVER NOTIFICATIONS, 1908.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
Acton	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
Baddington	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	4
Barthomley	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Blakenhall .....	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3
Bunbury	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Checkley .....	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	5	...	1	...	...	9
Calveley .....	...	...	...	3	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Church Coppenhall...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Church Minshull...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Coole Pilate.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Crewe .....	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Chorlton .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Haslington	1	...	3	2	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	8
Hunsterson	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3
Haughton .....	...	1	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Newhall	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rope .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Shavington-c-Gresty...	3	...	...	...	3	2	1	...	...	...	1	4	9
Stoke .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Spurstow .....	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Willaston	3	1	1	1	...	...	1	...	4	...	...	...	11
Wistaston .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2
Weston	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	6
Worleston .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	...	...	...	6
Wrenbury	5	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	10
Woolstanwood .....	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Totals	21	9	10	11	9	9	6	8	12	5	3	6	109

Sixty-five (or 59 per cent. of the cases) were isolated in the Hospital.

(b) DIPHTHERIA.—During the year 22 cases were notified. The following table shows the Townships affected and the months in which the cases occurred.

DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS, 1908.

	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Dec.	Totals.
Audlem	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	4
Buerton.....	1	...	...	...	...	1
Bulkeley	1	...	1
Calveley	1	1
Dodcott	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Haslington	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	3
Shavington	1	...	...	1
Spurstow	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Willaston	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	7
Wistaston.....	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
Totals.....	1	4	4	1	1	2	1	2	4	2	22

Seven cases (or about 33 per cent.) were treated in Hospital.

The cases presented no special features with the exception of the one at Calveley, which was a very malignant case, and proved fatal very shortly after its occurrence. In no case was there any indication of a tendency to epidemic prevalence. In every case the Sanitary condition of the premises was carefully enquired into, and every effort was made to have any defects found remedied without delay.

As I have before pointed out, it is very difficult to account for the outbreak of cases of this disease at points far distant from each other, and at wide intervals of time. It is known that the bacillus of diphtheria may at times be found in the noses and throats of persons who appear to be perfectly well, or who at most show signs of very trivial illness, and it is probable that persons of this kind convey the infection from place to place, and that when the bacillus finds a congenial soil it sets up unmistakable and very often serious diphtheria.

(c) PUERPERAL FEVER.—Two cases of this disease were reported—one at Haslington, and one at the Workhouse Infirmary (Worleston).

It is difficult to account for these cases. The one at Haslington occurred in January, in the practice of a midwife who is certainly among the cleanest and most careful of the untrained midwives of the district. In this case I suspended the midwife from practice for three weeks, and had her clothing, bedding, and house carefully disinfected. I carefully examined her case book to see if I could find any trace of a pre-existing case, but without result. When the woman again started practice her cases without exception did well.

The case at the Workhouse was equally difficult to account for. I could find nothing to criticise in the management of the case.

(d) ERYSIPELAS.—Eight cases of this disease were reported. They occurred in six of the Townships of the District, viz:—Audlem, Edleston, Leighton, Shavington-cum-Gresty, Willaston, and Worleston.

No case of Enteric Fever occurred in the District.

Isolation. During the year 73 cases belonging to the Rural District were treated in the Nantwich Joint Isolation Hospital. They were as follows:—

Scarlet Fever.....	65 cases
Diphtheria	7 cases
Endocardites	1 case
	—
Total.....	73 cases
	—

Thus 59 per cent. of the cases of Scarlet Fever, and 33 per cent. of the cases of Diphtheria were treated in Hospital.

The case of Endocardites was that of a young servant girl, who was reported to me as a probable case of Scarlet Fever, and I was asked to take her into Hospital for observation. As she could not be properly isolated and nursed at the farm, and as her home was a small cottage which had to accommodate a large family of little children, I thought it wise to accede to the request to remove her. The subsequent history of the case proved it not to have been Scarlet Fever but one of acute Endocardites, the cause of which I was unable to discover. After a severe illness the girl recovered with a more or less permanently damaged heart.

The Hospital has been of great advantage to the District during the year, and in many cases has removed a load of anxiety from my shoulders in allowing me safely to dispose of cases where isolation at home could not properly have been carried out.

Disinfection. Articles of bedding and clothing from infected houses are now disinfected by Steam at the Isolation Hospital. The Inspector disinfects rooms by the same methods as in former years. Either he or I have personally supervised the disinfection of every case.

Sanitary Administration. My methods of dealing with infectious outbreaks have been the same as in the year last reported. In all cases where I have thought it necessary I have succeeded in getting the case removed to the Isolation Hospital. In all cases which have not been removed to Hospital I have given verbal instructions as to isolation, and have given the guardians of the patient printed instructions.

Disinfectants have been gratuitously supplied to every case notified.

Schools. A few of the Schools of the District have been closed with the consent of the Managers for short periods on account of outbreaks of infectious disease. There is a considerable improvement to be noticed in the sanitary condition of most of the elementary schools but several of the older schools are rather dark and difficult to ventilate without causing excessive draught. I am of opinion that the standard of temperature fixed by the Education Authority is impossible of attainment in winter time in many of the schools without the closing of practically all fresh air inlets and the consequent stoppage of ventilation.

Inspection of School Children. This work is undertaken by medical officers and nurses acting under the direction of the County Education Authority. I have received no communication of any kind from that authority during the year as to any case in which my services as Medical Officer of Health might be of use ; so I conclude that from a sanitary point of view they have found things fairly satisfactory. I have personally on several occasions made an inspection of the whole of the children at certain schools during the year with a view only to the discovery of infectious cases where I had reason to suspect that infectious outbreaks had originated at school.

I am pleased to report that already the medical inspection of children by the County Authority has borne good fruit in the correction of defects of vision by glasses, and by the removal of enlarged tonsils and adenoids from the throats of children, which defects I feel sure but for this inspection would in many cases have been overlooked or neglected by the parents.

Inspection of the District. Assisted by the Inspector I have made systematic inspections at Church Coppenhall, Burland, Willaston, Haslington, and Crewe. Besides this I have personally investigated a large number of complaints. The Inspector, as will be seen from his report annexed, has done a considerable amount of systematic work. The District is large, and his time and mine is so largely taken up in covering the distances that it is impossible for the whole of the area to be systematically inspected in any one year.

Rivers Pollution. The River Weaver is still polluted by the whole of the crude sewage of the Nantwich Urban District, and to a considerable extent by the sewage of Crewe Borough. The streams entering the District from Staffordshire still show evidence of pollution by mining refuse.

Drainage. The scheme for the sewerage of Haslington which was laid before the Local Government Board in the Autumn of 1903 did not receive the approval of the Board. The Rural District Council have engaged the services of Mr. Baldwin Latham as Consulting Engineer for this township, but his scheme is not yet to hand.

The condition of this township, and of the contiguous township of Crewe, is very bad indeed, and calls for improvement very urgently.

A scheme for the sewerage of Willaston is also in hand, but is delayed by the difficulty in obtaining land, at a reasonable price, for the disposal of the effluent. The condition of some parts of this township is simply deplorable. The part adjoining the Urban District of Nantwich should without delay be sewerage into the Urban Council's sewers, as also should Broad Lane, Stapeley.

Water Supply. Considerable progress has been made during the year in this matter ; but much still remains to do. I append a report from the Surveyor in which will be found full information with regard to this matter.

Slaughter Houses. These have been carefully supervised during the year. A very great step forward was taken when the Council obtained Urban powers with regard to these places throughout their District. They are all in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Diseased Meat. On November 11th I seized in a Slaughter-house at Wrenbury the carcass of an aged cow which was much affected with tuberculosis. This carcass belonged to the son of the licensee of the Slaughter-house. I subsequently charged the owner of the carcass with having deposited in a certain place the carcass of a diseased animal for the purpose of preparation for sale. I also at the same time charged the licensee of the slaughter-house with having the same carcass in his possession or on his premises. I secured a conviction in each case, the son being fined five pounds and costs and the father ten shillings and costs.

On the same day the same butcher was prosecuted by the County Authorities for sending the carcass of an animal affected with anthrax to Manchester. In this case it was shown that the animal had actually died before the butcher began operations and that the carcass was prepared as if for food. In this case a larger penalty was inflicted.

I would ask the Rural District Council seriously to consider at the proper time whether this man is a fit and proper person to hold a licence for a slaughter-house.

I have strenuously striven to put down this traffic in diseased meat and have had some measure of success especially since all slaughter-houses have had to be licensed in this District, but a considerable amount of traffic in inferior and diseased meat still exists.

I am of opinion that a man who knowingly sends away the carcass of a diseased animal for sale as human food should be prosecuted, whether he sends it for inspection or not. If the incentive to the traffic (*viz.*, the profit to be made out of it) were removed, the trade would die a natural death very shortly.

I have inspected a large number of carcasses during the year at the request of the butchers. In ten cases I have, with the butcher's consent, destroyed a portion of the carcass. In three cases I have destroyed the whole of the carcass. In all these cases the disease for which the meat has been destroyed has been tuberculosis.

Midwives. The registered midwives of the District are nineteen in number. They have been regularly visited and their registers and apparatus inspected. The Midwives' Act is doing good work by having these women kept under observation.

During the year the Nantwich Board of Guardians have undertaken to pay the fee of a registered medical practitioner called in by a midwife in any case of difficulty, such fee to be recovered where possible from the person legally responsible for it. Thus a very great difficulty in the working of the Act has been removed.

Factories and Workshops. These places have been systematically inspected. A tabular statement of the work done in this matter is annexed to this report. I have had to make serious complaints of the Sanitary condition of one bake-house (at Willaston) during the year, but succeeded very shortly in getting things put right.

The houses of home workers have been regularly visited either by the Inspector or myself.

Anthrax. A few cases in cattle and sheep have been reported. No case of infection of human beings has taken place. In all these cases the carcass has been cremated by the County Authorities. I find that people are now so alive to the danger of infection that they take precautions of their own accord.

Housing of the Working Classes. A few new cottages have been built during the year in the agricultural part of the District, but not so many as I should like to see. I am sure that in this Rural District the whole question of rural depopulation centres in the provision of good cottages at a reasonable rent.

Dairies and Cowsheds. This work has had careful attention from the Inspector under the Dairies and Milkshops Order during the year, and considerable progress is being made in bringing the Cowsheds up to date. Fuller information hereon is given in the Inspector's report which I append.

Canal Boats. The report of the Inspector under the Canal Boats Act is appended. I have received no reports of infectious disease occurring on a canal boat.

Sanatorium for Consumption. I much regret that the County Council have dropped their scheme for providing a Sanatorium for the County. The small addition which such a provision would have made to the County Rate would not have been felt and the benefits would, I feel sure, have been very great. I hope that the scheme will be revived.

Refuse Removal. This work is undertaken by the District Council through Contractors in Audlem, Church Coppenhall, Haslington, Shavington, Willaston, and part of Wistaston. In other parts of the District it is done by the occupiers of premises.

In the townships above mentioned where public scavenging is undertaken the closets are almost exclusively of the pail pattern. Very few water-closets exist in the District, these being chiefly to be found in large residences.

Hospital Accommodation. The Hospital accommodation of the District consists of the following Institutions:—The Workhouse Infirmary of the Nantwich Union at Worleston; the Nantwich Joint Hospital Board's Isolation Hospital, Worleston, where there is accommodation for twenty adult cases of infectious disease; the Small-pox Hospital at Ravensmoor, which belongs to the Nantwich Joint Hospital Board and which is always kept in readiness for a case of small-pox.

I append the statistical tables required by the Local Government Board and the Home Office, and also the reports of the Inspector of Nuisances, of Dairies and Cowsheds, and of Canal Boats, and that of the Surveyor.

In conclusion I wish to express my thanks to the Police of the Nantwich and Crewe Divisions for their hearty co-operation in my efforts to check the trade in diseased meat.

R. T. TURNER, M.D.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Nantwich,
February 19th, 1909.

TABLE 1.—NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT. FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Births		Total Deaths regis'd in the District				Total deaths in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of Non-resid'ts regis'd in Public Institutions in the District	Deaths of resid'ts regis'd in public Institutions beyond the District	Net Deaths at all ages belonging to the District	
		Number	Rate*	Under one Year		At all ages					Number	Rate*
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births regis'd	Number	Rate*					
1898	23580	613	25.6	64	104	...	...	...	...	...	344	14.1
1899	23777	609	25.6	68	112	...	...	...	...	...	355	14.2
1900	23777	597	25.1	56	94	...	...	...	...	...	361	15.5
1901	23200	608	26.2	54	88	...	...	...	...	...	295	12.7
1902	23230	611	26.3	56	91	356	15.3	35	27	9	338	14.1
1903	23268	604	25.9	53	87	291	12.5	30	26	5	270	11.6
1904	23304	651	27.9	59	90	304	13.0	25	21	11	294	12.6
1905	23376	589	25.1	52	88	303	12.9	17	26	8	285	12.1
1906	23612	645	27.3	67	103	385	16.3	62	47	0	336	14.2
1907	23848	573	24.0	38	66	301	12.6	43	29	1	273	11.4
Averages for years 1898--1907	23497	610	25.9	56	92	323	13.4	33	29	5	315	13.2
1908	24084	621	25.7	36	57	306	12.2	59	39	0	286	11.8

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

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 98,458

Total population at all ages	...	...	23,196
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	4,964
Average number of persons per house	...	...	4.9

 } At Census of 1901

TABLE II.—NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT SUB-DISTRICTS.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES	1 CREWE				2 NANTWICH				3 BUNBURY				4 WRENBURY			
	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
1898	11340	311	161	35	3538	90	64	8	3105	80	53	5	5597	132	66	16
1899	11547	308	163	40	3538	87	78	14	3105	99	49	6	5597	115	65	8
1900	11547	313	173	22	3538	79	58	12	3105	90	61	9	5597	115	77	13
1901	10984	312	130	25	3468	83	45	8	4059	94	53	12	4643	122	54	9
1902	11028	303	171	28	3468	82	52	13	4122	101	50	8	4622	125	65	7
1903	11056	320	120	30	3468	82	56	7	4122	81	39	6	4622	121	55	10
1904	11092	325	144	37	3468	84	51	15	4122	99	46	5	4622	143	53	2
1905	11164	307	144	30	3468	76	35	6	4122	85	49	7	4622	121	57	9
1906	11400	338	164	34	3468	90	51	4	4122	103	56	12	4622	114	65	13
1907	11636	282	115	16	3468	89	63	7	4122	85	41	6	4622	117	54	9
Averages of years 1898--1907	11279	311	148	29	3489	84	55	9	3810	91	49	7	4916	125	61	9
1908	11872	324	147	26	3468	103	51	3	4122	90	41	4	4622	104	47	3

TABLE III.—NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT. CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED IN 1908.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE	Cases Notified in Whole District							Total cases notified in each locality				No of Cases removed to Hospital from each locality				Total cases removed to Hospital
	At all Ages	AT AGES—YEARS						Crewe	Nantwich	Bunbury	Wrenbury	Crewe	Nantwich	Bunbury	Wrenbury	
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards									
Diphtheria	22	...	4	11	3	4	...	13	...	3	6	4	...	...	3	7
Erysipelas.....	8	...	...	...	1	7	...	4	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	109	1	19	74	9	6	...	68	13	16	12	39	11	9	6	65
Puerperal Fever ...	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS.....	141	1	23	85	14	18	...	86	17	19	19	43	11	9	9	72

Isolation Hospital—Nantwich Joint Hospital Board's Hospital, Worleston.
Total available beds—20. Number of diseases that can be concurrently treated—3.

TABLE IV.—CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1908.

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
	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	Crewe	Nantwich	Bunbury	Wrenbury	
Scarlet Fever.....	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	4
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup...	3	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...
Epidemic Influenza	6	...	1	1	...	1	3	3	...	...	3	...
Diarrhœa .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Puerperal Fever.....	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	13	...	1	...	3	9	...	4	2	4	3	3
Other tuberculous diseases	12	2	3	4	2	1	...	4	3	3	2	4
Cancer, malignant disease.....	21	...	...	...	...	12	9	11	3	2	5	2
Bronchitis	23	6	3	...	...	5	9	11	3	5	4	3
Pneumonia.....	23	3	3	...	5	6	6	12	7	1	3	3
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	1	...
Venereal diseases .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Premature Birth.....	8	8	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	1	...	...
Diseases and accidents of parturition	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...
Heart diseases	31	...	...	1	1	16	13	14	8	4	5	11
Accidents	13	...	...	4	1	4	4	3	4	2	4	...
Suicides	4	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	1	...	2	...
All other causes	120	17	5	3	7	30	58	69	20	17	14	23
ALL CAUSES	286	36	17	16	21	93	103	147	51	41	47	59

The Institutions taken into account for the purpose of these Tables are the Nantwich Union Men's and Women's Hospitals, and the Nantwich Joint Hospital Board's Isolation Hospital, Worleston.

The Union Workhouse is outside the District, but the Workhouse Infirmary is entirely within the District.

**TABLE V.—NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT—FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.
INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1908.**

DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES IN WEEKS AND MONTHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.												Total Deaths under One Year.			
	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months	2-3 Months	3-4 Months	4-5 Months	5-6 Months	6-7 Months	7-8 Months		8-9 Months	9-10 Months	10-11 Months
All Causes, Certified.....	11	4	2	1	18	4	2	3	3	2	...	...	1	2	1	36
Premature Birth	7	...	...	...	7	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Congenital Defects	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	2	2	...	...	4	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Tuberculous Meningitis.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculous Peritonitis, Typhus Mesenterica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Convulsions	1	1	1	...	3	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	5
Bronchitis .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Pneumonia .....	...	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Other Causes .....	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3

Population estimated to middle of 1908—24,084.

Births in the year } legitimate 581.
 } illegitimate 40.

Deaths in the year of } legitimate infants 34.
 } illegitimate infants 2.

Deaths from all causes at all ages 286.

NANTWICH RURAL DISTRICT.

Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces, and Homework

1—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR OR INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries.)	44	...	...
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries.)	187	6	...
TOTAL.....	231	6	...

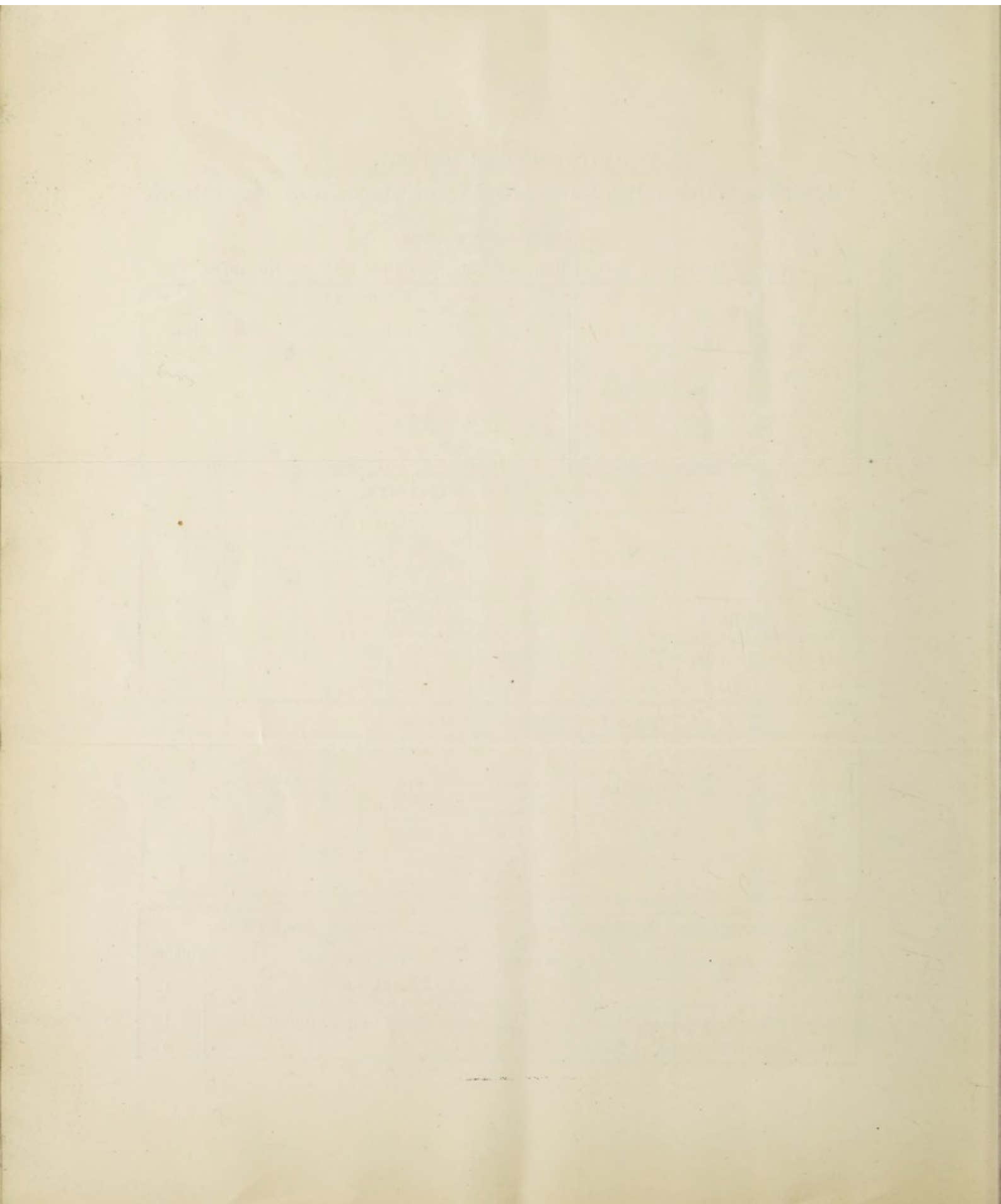
2—DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecut'ns
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness.....	6	6	...	...
Overcrowding	1	1	...	...
Sanitary accommodation } unsuitable or defective } not separate for sexes	1	1	...	...
	1	1	...	...
TOTAL.....	9	9	...	...

3—HOME WORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	Outworkers' Lists, Section 107.				Number of Inspections of Outworkers' Premises.
	Lists received from Employers—twice in the year.	Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers received from other Councils	Numbers of Addresses of Outworkers forwarded to other Councils	Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending Lists.	
Wearing Apparel— Making, etc	16	49	25	1	512

4—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.		5—OTHER MATTERS.	
Workshops on Register(sec.131)at the end of Year	Number.	Public Health Acts	Number.
Workshops	33	Notified by H.M. Inspector.....	1
Bakehouses	13	Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	1
Total number of Workshops on Register	46		2



SURVEYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1908.

WATER SUPPLY.—There have been five additional mains laid in the Rural District during 1908, namely:—Wybunbury Moss 401 yards, Mere Moor, Weston, 667 yards, Chorley 4,531 yards, and two short extensions in Haslington of 111 and 30 yards respectively. This is a total length of 5,740 yards of mains laid during the year. This amount if added to the length of mains laid prior to 1908 gives a total of 286,023 yards, or 162 miles and 903 yards of mains now laid in the District. Mains laid by private owners prior to 1901 have not been included.

Eighty-nine additional houses have been connected to the Council's water mains during the past year, which gives a total of 4,344 houses supplied from the Council's water mains in the Rural District since 1879.

The consumption of water throughout the whole of the District during 1908 was 77,645,000 gallons, of which 1,299,000 gallons were supplied to Bickley for the Malpas Rural District Council. The consumption of water per house per day for 1908 was 59·0 gallons, and the consumption per head of population per day was 11·0 gallons.

The new water main extension in Chorley has been carried out during the past year, and five farms and fourteen cottages in this Township are now provided with a satisfactory water supply. All the farms have, at the request of Mr. Charlton, been supplied by meter. Arrangements are being made with Major Hale for an extension to his farms at Chorley Green.

Negotiations have been in progress for the purpose of obtaining guarantees from owners of property for proposed extensions of the water mains in the townships of Brindley, Faddiley, and Burland, but the response has not been very encouraging up to the present.

The two short extensions in Haslington and the extensions to Mere Moor, Weston, and to the cottages on Wybunbury Moss, which were also carried out during the past year, have supplied houses where the previous water supply was very deficient.

The Stapeley Waterworks have continued to give satisfaction during the year, but the supply from the reservoir has been supplemented when necessary with water from other mains laid in the Township.

Numerous leaks on the various mains and service pipes have occurred during the year and have all received prompt attention. A strict supervision has been kept over the consumption of water in the various townships, but there are many townships in which the consumption is considerably in excess of what it ought to be, and I am seeing what can be done to bring about a more normal consumption. I think the difficulty arises to a great extent from the use of water for refrigerating milk, and in such cases the only remedy appears to be to grant such supplies by meter only. In some instances in the past two supplies have been given to farms, viz:—one by meter and the other for domestic purposes, but the result has been in many cases that only a very small quantity has been registered on the meter. This practice, however, is now being discontinued, and where a supply is required for other than domestic purposes arrangements have been made so that the whole supply will go through the meter.

The Kent Meters have occasioned a good deal of trouble and many of them have had to be taken out for cleaning and repairs much too frequently, so I am now trying a new meter called the "Exact" meter in order to see how it compares with the Kent, and five of them have been fixed at Chorley.

The water supply to the new houses in Dig Lane, Hough, was reported by the County Analyst to be very bad, and arrangements are now being made for extending the water mains to this property.

SEWERAGE.—The progress made during the past twelve months in respect to sewerage works in the various townships has been very small.

Negotiations have been going on with the Nantwich Urban District Council as to the terms upon which they will take sewage from Broad Lane, Stapeley, but these have not yet been agreed to. Similar negotiations are also in progress for the sewerage of the London Road and Crewe Road, Willaston, which is a matter of great urgency.

The plans for the sewerage and sewage disposal of Willaston were sent to the Local Government Board early in the year, and in compliance with their request that a provisional agreement should be

entered into for the purchase of the land for the proposed works, negotiations have been going on with Mr. Birchall, the owner of same, but these have not yet been concluded.

No further progress has been made with the Haslington scheme, the report of Mr. Baldwin Latham being awaited on same.

PUBLIC LIGHTING.—The public lighting in the townships of Audlem, Crewe, Acton, Willaston, and Shavington, has been duly carried out during the past year. The whole of the lamps in Audlem have now been fitted with incandescent burners.

An application has been received from the Willaston Parish Council for permission to negotiate with the Nantwich Urban Council for the conversion of the present oil lamps into gas lamps, and the supplying, lighting, and cleaning of same by the Urban Council. The Parish Council's request was granted and they have now entered into negotiations with the Urban Council for this purpose. A sample lamp has been fitted up, supplied with gas, opposite the Cheshire Cheese in Crewe Road, and it appears to be satisfactory. At the request of the Parish Council the period during which the lamps in Willaston are kept lighted has been extended by half an hour.

FACTORIES.—No new factories have been certified during the year.

LETTERS.—Seven hundred and ten letters have been written during the year.

NEW BUILDINGS.—Plans for 121 new buildings in the Rural District were passed by the Council in 1908 as follows:—

New Houses	...	...	...	86
New Outbuildings	...	...	...	15
Alterations and Additions	...	...	...	15
Schools and Public Buildings	...	...	...	4
New Factories	...	...	...	1
				121

Making a total of 2,853 plans for new buildings sanctioned within the Rural District since these Urban Powers were first obtained in 1875 as follows:—

Audlem	...	...	...	153
Shavington	...	...	...	296
Bunbury	...	...	...	106
Willaston	...	...	...	368
Haslington	...	...	...	393
Church Coppenhali	...	...	...	698
Other Townships	...	...	...	839
				2,853

The inspection of all new buildings is necessarily included.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS.—During the past year the Council appointed a Committee to revise the present building bye-laws. It was found that there were two entirely different sets of bye-laws in force in the District—some of the more stringent ones being in the less populous places, and many of the townships having no bye-laws at all. The Committee finally decided to have one set of bye-laws for the whole of the Rural District. I have gone through the existing bye-laws and have compared them with the Model Bye-laws of the Local Government Board both for Urban and Rural Districts, and have carefully considered how they might be adapted to this District. The result has been placed before the Committee and carefully considered and finally approved by them and the bye-laws are being submitted to the Local Government Board for their approval. It is hoped that the latter will see their way to consent to the adoption of one set of bye-laws for the whole of the District as the present system is found to work very unsatisfactorily and a more uniform system is urgently required.

CHAS. E. DAVENPORT,
ENGINEER.

February, 1909.

Report of INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES

FOR 1908.

I beg to submit a summary of the work done by the Inspector of Nuisances during the past year.

Inspection of District. The District has been systematically inspected and the results of the inspections journalised. House to house inspections were made in the hamlets and villages of Audlem, Alraham, Barbridge, Broad Lane, Burland, Buerton, Calveley, Coppenhall, Church Minshull, Dodcott-cum-Wilkesley, Englesea Brook, Haslington, Hough, Newhall, Pinsley Green, Rope, Stoke, Wardle, Weston, Willaston, Wistaston, Wrenbury-cum-Frith and Wybunbury respectively.

Statutory Notices. Eighteen statutory notices were served upon owners or occupiers of premises requiring them to abate nuisances arising from various causes and in each case steps were immediately taken to abate the nuisance complained of. Two hundred and seventy eight informal notices were served on persons responsible for the abatement of nuisances existing on premises either owned or occupied by them; with twenty-three exceptions the notices were complied with, the remainder still require attention.

Complaints received. Seventy-two written intimations complaining of the existence of nuisances were received; the complaints were investigated and satisfactorily dealt with.

Drainage. New systems of drainage have been provided in connection with twenty-one dwelling houses where the drains on inspection were found to be defectively constructed.

Pollution of Ditches. Eleven cases of pollution of ditches were satisfactorily dealt with. The ditch by the highway side at Crewe Green Schools still remains offensive, and will remain so until a proper sewerage system is provided for the village of Haslington.

Workshops and Bakehouses. The workshops and bakehouses have been regularly inspected and where in my opinion the walls and ceilings required limewashing informal notices were served upon occupiers calling their attention to the matter.

Homeworkers. Lists giving the names and addresses of persons supplied with home-work were duly sent to me by the managers of factories and workshops, also by the Clerks to the Nantwich Urban District Council and the Crewe Corporation respectively. The homes were periodically visited, and their sanitary condition noted. In homes where an infectious disease broke out immediate notice was sent to the managers of factories and workshops, and all garments properly disinfected before they were returned.

Offensive Trades. There is only one offensive trade carried on in the District, viz., tripe-dressing in the village of Haslington. The premises were frequently visited and found to be kept in a clean condition.

Ashpits and Privies. Fourteen insanitary privycesspits have been abolished and movable receptacles provided in lieu thereof. Twenty-four ashpits or ashbins have been provided at cottages where no provision had previously been made.

Paving of Yards. The kitchen yards in connection with fourteen cottages have been re-paved with blue paving bricks and properly graded so as to effectually carry all surface water on to a trapped gully.

Overcrowding. Three cases of overcrowding were satisfactorily dealt with.

Slaughter Houses. There are thirty-seven private slaughter houses in the District. They have been frequently visited and on inspection were found to be kept in accordance with the byelaws. Eight licences were renewed, three of which were for knacker purposes and two fresh licences granted to applicants.

During the year I have, by request, examined eight carcasses. In two cases one fore-quarter and the lungs were condemned; in six cases the lungs and livers only were condemned. The affected parts and organs were voluntarily destroyed. In each case the orders issued by the Local Government Board to Meat Inspectors were strictly carried out.

Petroleum Acts. One licence for the storing of carbide of calcium was renewed and one granted to an applicant after your Council had been satisfied that the proposed store-room complied with the regulations issued by the Secretary of State.

Infectious Diseases. All cases of infectious disease notified had prompt attention and every precaution adopted to prevent the spread of infection. The day schools at Acton, Broomhall, and Weston, which had to be closed owing to outbreaks of infectious diseases, were properly disinfected and fumigated with Chlorine Gas. At each school a considerable number of both reading and writing books were destroyed by fire.

Gipsies' Vans. Several of the living vans which visited the district during the year were inspected and found to be free from infectious disease, overcrowding, etc.

Water Analysis. Seven samples of water were sent to the public analyst for analysis; five of the samples were certified as being excessively hard and therefore objectionable, two were certified as being unfit for domestic use. Since receiving the certificates arrangements have been made for supplying four of the premises from the public mains.

Scavenging. The scavenging where the work is done by public contract (with one exception) has had proper attention. The number of ashpits, privies, etc., scavenged is as follows, viz:—

Audlem	...	...	...	169
Church Coppenhall	...	...	...	70
Haslington	...	...	..	320 (weekly)
"	...	...	...	42 (fortnightly)
Shavington	...	...	...	241
Willaston	...	..	...	566 (weekly)
"	...	...	...	60 (fortnightly)
Wistaston	...	...	...	73 (weekly)
"	...	...	...	18 (fortnightly)

Total closets scavenged ... 1559

Cowsheds and Dairies. Since my appointment in May, 1908, as Inspector of Cowsheds and Dairies over 200 inspections have been made. Surveys and rough sketches of 180 shippens have also been made shewing the arrangement of stalls, head-walks and feeding passages, dimensions of buildings, etc. Notes were also made of the character and construction of the walls, roofs and their coverings, disposal of roof and surface water, paving of floors, dung channels, means of drainage and disposal of liquid refuse, position and type of manure middens, formation and paving of yards, mode of lighting and ventilation, storage of fodder, and water supply.

Dairies. Similar notes were made respecting the construction and position of the dairies and milk-houses and the cleansing and storing of milk utensils. The question of wall surface for dairies, etc., is a very important one; nothing is equal to glazed bricks or tiles—they not only render the walls impervious, they are easily cleaned and washed down; moreover they are sanitary. There are several dairies and milk-houses in the District where the internal walls are lined with glazed tiles. In other cases the inner walls are faced with smooth cement, which renders them impervious. Where bare bricks are used the walls are generally limewashed and kept in a clean condition.

The construction of the floors of dairies is a matter of moment. They should be at least from 6-in. to 9-in. above the level of the ground, and constructed with some impervious material—concrete floated with smooth cement makes an excellent floor for dairies and milkhouses, if properly graded and made to drain on to a trapped gully fixed against the external wall; it can be readily washed down. Bricks with open joints are objectionable; the spaces between them afford lodgment for spilt milk and water, which gives off unpleasant odours.

Improvements. Alterations and improvements have been made in cowsheds on the estates of Lord Combermere, Lord Tollemache, The Earl of Crewe, Sir D. L. Broughton, Mr. Hy. Tollemache, Mr. Loyd, (Minshull Vernon,) Capt. Walthall, and others, with a view of making them comply with the regulations in force in your District.

Floors. Floors pitched with cobble-stones or flags, the spaces between which afforded lodgment for dung, which could not be swept or washed out, and having no proper fall to carry off surface drainage, urine, etc., have been removed, and floors laid with hard blue paving bricks on concrete, and the joints grouted with cement, or concrete covered with cement and furrowed to prevent slipping, and dung channels from 18-in. to 24-in. formed and carried through the external walls, and made to discharge on to trapped gullies or brick cesspits, lined inside with cement, and the drains therefrom made to discharge into tanks. In some cases the paving around the cowsheds has been greatly improved.

Floors laid with 3-in. thickness of Portland cement mixed with crushed granite, laid in situ, on a 6-in. bed of dry broken brick, properly graded and with the finished surface grooved to give foothold for the animals, is the best and most sanitary paving as it is homogeneous. The absence of joints offers no entry for liquids. It thus possesses an undoubted advantage over any of the jointed brick pavings.

Lighting and Ventilation. In twenty cases improvements have been made in the lighting and ventilation of cowsheds. The windows fixed in most cases are so constructed that the top part falls inward like a Sherringham valve, and acts as a ventilator. The advantage of this form of window is that the cold current of air entering the shed does not blow directly on the animals, but is deflected upwards for a short distance, and then falls by gravitation towards the floor, displacing the lighter and heated air. An abundant supply of fresh air is essential to the maintenance of the health of cattle kept in cowsheds; in insufficiently ventilated buildings they become very prone to tuberculosis. The practical difficulties connected with efficient ventilation cannot possibly be overcome if the air space of the cowshed is less than 400 to 500 feet per cow, but a well ventilated shippon with this amount of cubic space is infinitely more wholesome than one with twice its capacity if not properly ventilated. Cubic space will not compensate for ventilation. There are no statutory requirements as to the minimum number of cubic feet to be allowed for each animal in cowsheds. Such space per cow should be provided as would in view of the surrounding circumstances secure reasonable ventilation without draught.

Limewashing of cowsheds is carried out at least twice in the year, but there are a number of cow-keepers in the District who whitewash their cowsheds several times during the year by using a sprinkler. The operation is a simple one, and the whitewashing of a large cowshed can be done by a couple of men in three or four hours. Some cow-keepers periodically disinfect the glazed feeding troughs in their cowsheds by using a solution of Jeyes or a similar fluid. This is a commendable practice and one which is likely to produce good results. In June, 1908, the Clerk supplied me with a list of the names of registered cow-keepers, dairymen, etc., in your District. According to the list there are 355 names on the register. I have gone carefully through the list and find that it needs revising; the revision will be made as early as possible. Sixteen names have been added to the list. In eight cases structural alterations were required in the cow-

sheds in order to make them comply with the regulations. On re-inspection I found in six cases that the necessary improvements had been made. In two cases nothing had been done, but the owners have promised to make the necessary alterations as early as possible.

In September last (1908) the Sanitary Publishing Co. published a Pocket Note Book which I had written for the use of Inspectors of Cowsheds and Dairies. That the book has supplied a felt want is evidenced by its sale.

Canal Boats. A copy of my report to the Local Government Board is attached to this report.

Letters. 608 letters and post cards have been written during the year.

SUMMARY OF WORK OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

1. Public Health Acts.	Number of Informal Written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances Abated after Notice	General Remarks.
Dwelling Houses and Schools.				
Foul Conditions... ..	3	...	3	Unwholesome Houses.
Structural Defects	41	...	41	
Overcrowding	3	...	3	
Cowsheds	17	...	16	Limewashing or Painting.
Bakehouses	6	...	6	
Slaughter Houses ... ..	...	...	...	All Private Slaughter-houses.
Ashpits and Privies	68	12	66	
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	9	...	9	
Water Closets ... ..	...	...	...	Pail Closets or Water
Defective Yard Paving	14	...	14	Closets have been provided
House Drainage—Defective Traps...	19	2	21	in lieu of Insanitary Privies
Drainage Defects	61	...	61	and Cesspits in the following
Water Supply	4	4	...	Townships, viz :—
Pig Styes	1	...	1	Pail Closets: Audlem 6, Broad Lane 2,
Animals improperly kept	4	...	4	Spurstow 2, Willaston 4. Total 14
Offensive Trades ... ..	...	...	...	Only one in the District.
Other Nuisances	28	...	10	
TOTALS	278	18	255	23 Nuisances unabated.
2. Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.				
Formal Notices Served... ..	...	...	3	
Dwellings dealt with ... ..	...	...	3	New Building erected on site of
Dwellings permanently closed ...	...	...	1	old premises.
3. Samples of water taken for Analysis 7				
Samples of water condemned as unfit for use ... ..	...	...	2	
Seizures of unwholesome food ... ..	...	...	1	
Summonses for exposing or preparing diseased food..	...	...	2	
4. Infectious Bedding destroyed 6				
Schools Disinfected after Infectious Disease ... ..	...	...	3	Every house disinfected after each
				case of Infectious Disease.
				Acton, Broomhall, and Weston.

JOHN STOREY,

Inspector of Nuisances, etc.

Inspections under the Canal Boats Acts for the year 1908.

During the past year eighty-six boats have been thoroughly inspected and the particulars journalized. Sixty-seven conformed to the laws and regulations; there were infringements which were of a minor character on the remaining nineteen boats.

There were six boats which required painting, viz :—"Manchuria," "Prosperity," "Arline," "Ariel," "Martha," and "Swan." In one case ("Times") there was an absence of certificate which the captain said he had inadvertently left at home in his coat pocket. On a subsequent inspection the certificate was produced. There were also nine cases of dilapidated certificates, "Caroline-May," "Cygnet," "Protection," "Ella," "Chili," "Mashona," "Citizen," "Percy," and "Ladysmith."

In one case, the "Manila," the certificate produced did not correspond with the registered number of the boat; a satisfactory explanation was given respecting the certificate. In two cases, the "Foxhound" and "Nellie," some repairs were required in order to make the cabins watertight. There were no contraventions under the heads of "cleanliness," "overcrowding," "separation of sexes," "ventilation," "marking," "provision of water vessel," "removal of bilge-water," "notification of infectious diseases," or "admittance of Inspector." There has been no litigation during the past years. In all cases complaints in connection with the regulations were promptly brought before the notice of the respective owners, and satisfactory replies were received. On subsequent inspections I found that the matters complained of had been rectified. There were fifty-eight women on the boats inspected, and sixty-three children, thirty-five being children whose ages ranged from five to twelve years, and twenty-eight being children of five years of age and under. On six boats there were women only, on thirty-eight boats there were men, women, and children, on thirty-four boats there were men only on board, and on eight boats there was only man and wife on board. Thirty out of the eighty-six boats inspected were the sole homes of their crews, the captains of the remaining fifty-six had homes apart from their boats.

No cases of infectious disease have been found on any of the boats plying on the canals in this District during the past year.

The Shropshire Union Railway & Canal Company and their officials have rendered me every possible assistance in carrying out the regulations made under the Canal Boats Acts.

(Signed) JOHN STOREY,
Inspector under the Canal Boats Acts.

January 4th, 1909.

