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Contributors

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ANNUAL REPORT

... ON ...

The Health of the Urban Sanitary District of Newport, I.W.,

✻ For the Year 1905.

... BY ...


Milbourne L. B. Coombs, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.M.Edin.,
Medical Officer of Health,

... AND ...

R. H. Walden, Certd. San. Inst.,
Sanitary Inspector for the Borough.

Esle of Wight;

THE COUNTY PRESS, NEWPORT.



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ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
HEALTH OF THE URBAN SANITARY
DISTRICT OF NEWPORT, ISLE OF WIGHT,
FOR THE YEAR 1905.

*To the Urban Sanitary Authority, the Town Council of the
Borough of Newport, Isle of Wight.*

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I present my 9th Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year ended December, 31st, 1905.

Population and Vital Statistics.—The estimated population at Midsummer, 1904, was 11,301. The excess of births over deaths for the year ended Midsummer, 1905, was 135, which would make our total population 11,436, and on this figure I shall base my birth and mortality rates.

There are about the usual number of void houses. New dwellings are continually being erected, and, as a consequence, the old houses, which in many cases are small and inconvenient, become void and are being converted into stores, &c. This, I anticipate, will continue to be the case, as the new houses are more healthy and convenient in every way.

Plans for 68 new dwelling-houses and business premises have been passed by the Town Council during the year, the greater number of which have been built and the remainder are in course of erection. This continued increase of new dwelling-houses with their improved sanitary surroundings must tend to the improvement of the health of the Borough.

Births.—The number of births registered during the year was : Males, 114; females, 142; making a total of 256, giving a birth-rate of 22·38 per 1000. The appended table shows a slight decrease on last year.

Date.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1896	161	168	329
1897	171	127	298
1898	142	145	287
1899	148	136	284
1900	186	134	270
1901	120	132	252
1902	133	112	245
1903	148	133	281
1904	138	125	263
1905	114	142	256

The births for 1905 were registered as follows:—

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
1st quarter of the year	32	27	59
2nd „ „	25	45	70
3rd „ „	27	36	63
4th „ „	30	34	64
Total	114	142	256

Deaths.—The total number of deaths registered was 124, giving a mortality-rate of 10·84 per 1000 of the estimated population. This is a decrease on last year, and with the exception of 1902 is the lowest death-rate for the past 10 years and is much lower than the general death-rate throughout the country.

For comparison are appended the totals for the past 10 years:—

Date.	Total deaths.
1896	185
1897	149
1898	138
1899	184

Date.			Total deaths.
1900	...	...	145
1901	...	..	150
1902	...	...	123
1903	...	..	141
1904	...	...	148
1905	...	..	124

This continued low death-rate is very satisfactory, and I feel justified in quoting from my Report of last year "That the general healthy condition of the Borough and the low death-rate justify the assumption that the money, care and energy bestowed on the sanitation of the district are bearing good fruit, and I trust all future efforts in the same direction will show as good results."

The 124 deaths occurred at the following ages:—

Deaths under 1 year	..	...	16 or 1·39 per 1000
„ over 1 „ and under 5 years			14 or 1·22 „
„ „ 5 „ „ 15 „			8 or 0·69 „
„ „ 15 „ „ 25 „			8 or 0·69 „
„ „ 25 „ „ 65 „			25 or 2·18 „
„ „ 65 years and upwards			53 or 4·63 „

The death-rate this year is very remarkable, especially as being in the inverse ratio to that of last year, particularly as to the deaths under one year and those amongst the aged, that is 65 and upwards. For this year the deaths under one year are 16, as compared with 40 last year, this being a rate of 1·39 per 1000 of the estimated population as against 3·53 of last year; and those of 65 and upwards are 53 this year as compared with 38 last year, being a mortality-rate of 4·63 per 1000 of the population as against 3·35.

Last year, of the 40 deaths under one year eight lived from a few hours to not more than two days; this year, seven of the 16 lived from one hour to only four days. In both years these deaths were due either to premature birth or feeble vitality.

Of the 53 deaths occurring at 65 and upwards—

9 died between 65 and 70 years of age.

29 " 70 and 80 "

12 " 80 and 90 "

3 " 90 and upwards, the oldest being 96.

Of the deaths under one year, seven were under one month, and all of these seven lived from one hour to only four days.

The following table gives particulars of population, births, and deaths, &c., for the past 10 years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.			
				Under 1 yr. of age		At all ages.	
		Num-ber.	Rate.*	Num-ber.	Rate per 1000 births registered.	Num-ber.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1895	10,607	277	26·02	33	119·13	163	15·36
1896	10,705	329	30·82	36	109·42	185	17·28
1897	10,854	298	27·45	33	107·38	149	13·72
1898	11,014	287	26·05	31	108·01	138	12·52
1899	11,114	284	25·55	40	140·84	184	16·55
1900	11,177	270	24·15	28	103·70	145	12·90
1901	10,938	252	23·03	28	111·11	150	13·71
1902	11,059	245	22·15	22	89·79	123	11·12
1903	11,192	281	25·08	22	78·29	141	12·59
1904	11,301	263	23·27	40	152·09	148	13·09
Averages for years 1895—1904	10,996	278	25·35	31	111·97	152	13·88
1905	11,436	256	23·38	16	62·50	124	10·84

* Rates in columns 4 and 8, calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division.

Total population at all ages, 10,938

Number of inhabited houses, 2400

Average number of persons per house, 4·55

} At
Census
of 1901

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water).—501.

The following table is compiled by the Registrar-General, and I have added Newport, I.W., for comparison:—

TABLE B.

ENGLAND AND WALES, 1905.

Annual Birth-rates and Death-rates from the Seven Chief Epidemic Diseases.

	Annual Rates per 1000 Living.			Infant Mortality— Annual Death-rate of Infants under 1 year per 1000 births.
	Births.	Deaths from All Causes.	Deaths from Seven Chief Epidemic Diseases.	
England and Wales ...	27·2	15·2	1·52	128
76 Great Towns ...	28·2	15·7	1·88	140
141 Smaller Towns ...	26·9	14·4	1·50	132
England and Wales, less the 217 towns ...	26·3	14·9	1·09	113
Newport ...	22·38	10·8	0·52	62

TABLE C.

The following table gives the infant mortality during the year 1905, with the deaths from stated causes in weeks and months under one year of age, the number of legitimate and illegitimate births, &c.:—

Cause of Death.	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.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
<i>All Causes: Certified</i> ..	6					1			2		1	1	1	3			
<i>Uncertified</i> ..	1																
<i>Common Infectious Diseases:</i>																	
Small-pox ..																	
Chicken-pox ..																	
Measles ..														1			1
Scarlet Fever ..																	
Diphtheria: Croup ..																	
Whooping Cough ..																	
<i>Diarrhoeal Diseases:</i>																	
Diarrhoea, all forms ..						1											1
Enteritis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)																	
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal																	
<i>Wasting Diseases: [Catarrh</i>																	
Premature Birth ..	2				2												2
Congenital Defects ..																	
Injury at Birth ..	1				1												1
Want of Breast-milk ..																	
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	3				3				1		1						5
<i>Tuberculous Diseases:</i>																	
Tuberculous Meningitis ..																	
Tuberculous Peritonitis:)																	
Tabes Mesenterica)													1				1
<i>Other Tuberculous Diseases</i>																	
Erysipelas ..																	
Syphilis ..																	
Rickets ..																	
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)																	
Convulsions ..	1				1				1					1			3
Bronchitis ..																	
Laryngitis ..																	
Pneumonia ..												1		1			2
Suffocation, overlaying																	
Other Causes ..																	
	7				7	1			2		1	1	1	3			16

District—Newport.

Population, estimated to middle of 1905—11,436.

Births in the year—Legitimate, 248; Illegitimate, 8.

Deaths from all causes at all ages—124.

Preventable Diseases.—The total number of deaths from this cause was six. Of these, five were due to diphtheria and one to enteric, giving a mortality-rate of 0.52 per 1000 of the estimated population. This is a very low death-rate and a slight decrease on that of last year, which was 0.53 per 1000.

For comparison I append a table giving an analysis of the deaths from preventable and other diseases for the past five years, and the months in which they occurred. Another table, overleaf, for 1905 only, gives details of deaths from all causes, the ages at which they occurred, and the diseases which caused such deaths.

TABLE D.

MONTH	1901.						1902.						1903.						1904.						1905.										
	SCARLET FEVER	TYPHOID	DIPHTHERIA	PUERPERAL FEVER	SMALL-POX	OTHER CAUSES	TOTAL	SCARLET FEVER	TYPHOID	DIPHTHERIA	PUERPERAL FEVER	SMALL-POX	OTHER CAUSES	TOTAL	SCARLET FEVER	TYPHOID	DIPHTHERIA	PUERPERAL FEVER	SMALL-POX	OTHER CAUSES	TOTAL	SCARLET FEVER	TYPHOID	DIPHTHERIA	PUERPERAL FEVER	SMALL-POX	OTHER CAUSES	TOTAL	SCARLET FEVER	TYPHOID	DIPHTHERIA	PUERPERAL FEVER	SMALL-POX	OTHER CAUSES	TOTAL
Jan.						13	13						14	14							19						17	18						8	9
Feb.	1					18	19						11	11							12						17	17					14	14	
Mar.		1				11	12						16	17							10						6	6					15	15	
April						12	12		1				7	7							17						15	17					12	12	
May		1				13	14						13	13							12						15	15					9	8	
June			1			13	14						8	8							12						10	10					5	7	
July		1	1			10	12						8	8							12						12	12					8	8	
Aug.		1				13	14						6	6							12						10	10					7	8	
Sept.						10	10						7	7							6						11	11					10	11	
Oct.						9	9						14	14							7						9	9	1				7	7	
Nov.				1		7	8						8	8							10						9	10					10	11	
Dec.			1			12	13						10	10							15						11	13					5	6	
Totals	4	4	1			141	150		1				122	123			1				140	141			6		142	148		1	5	108	114		

TABLE E.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1905.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined Ages of “Residents” whether occurring in or beyond 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.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Small-pox							
Measles	5	1	4				
Scarlet Fever							
Whooping Cough							
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	5		2	2	1		
Croup	1		1				
Fever } Typhus							
} Enteric	1			1			
} Other Continued							
Epidemic Influenza							
Cholera							
Plague							
Diarrhoea	2	1	1				
Enteritis	1		1				
Puerperal Fever							
Erysipelas							
Other Septic Diseases							
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculous)	10			2	5	2	1
Other Tubercular Diseases	3	1			1		1
Cancer, Malignant Disease	14					5	9
Bronchitis	8					2	6
Pneumonia	4	2	1		1		
Pleurisy							
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs							
Alcoholism	6						
Cirrhosis of Liver)						2	4
Venereal Diseases							
Premature Birth	2	2					
Diseases and Accidents of Parturi- tion							
Heart Diseases	21			1		7	13
Accidents	3	1				2	
Suicides	1					1	
All Other Causes	37	8	4	2		4	19
All Causes	124	16	14	8	8	25	53

Notifiable Diseases.—Under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act of 1889, the following diseases have been notified during the year : Typhoid fever 6, continued fever 3, diphtheria 21, scarlet fever 5, erysipelas 6, and membranous croup 42.

The following table shows all the cases that have been notified during the past five years :—

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
Typhoid fever ...	16	3	6	2	6
Continued fever ...	13	5	2	3	3
Diphtheria ...	21	6	16	56	21
Scarlet fever ...	21	1	19	1	5
Erysipelas ...	4	5	3	4	6
Puerperal fever ...	1	0	0	0	0
Membranous croup	0	0	0	0	1
Typhus fever ...	0	0	0	0	0
Small-pox ...	0	0	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	76	20	46	66	48

The following are the particulars of the cases notified during the year under review :—

Typhoid Fever.—There were six cases of typhoid fever—one proved fatal. No sanitary defects were found in any of the houses at which these cases occurred, but two had taken a long walk in the country and had drunk heartily of milk and water while on the road and were taken ill about a week afterwards. Another was an imported case from Calbourne. I failed to trace any cause for the remaining three.

Continued Fever.—There were three cases of this disease notified. They were all slight and call for no remark.

Diphtheria.—There were 21 cases of this disease notified during the year as against 56 in the preceding year. Five were fatal. Every case was injected with antitoxin.

The majority of the cases, viz., 16, occurred amongst children between the ages of 2 and 14 years of age. The sanitary arrangements of the homes and schools were examined and every available means taken to isolate the patients and prevent the spread of the disease. One case occurred at a dairy, the sale of milk from which was immediately stopped, and arrangements made with a dairy a mile off for all the dairy business to be carried on from there until the patient had recovered and the house and dairy were thoroughly disinfected. Diphtheria has been prevalent throughout the country, but the number of the cases has not been so great as last year.

Scarlet Fever.—There were five cases of this disease notified. Three of these I could trace. A family of six went to Sandown for the day, and on the return journey were unable all to find room in the same railway carriage. The party divided, three travelling in one carriage and the remainder getting into a different part of the train. One party of three developed scarlet fever two days afterwards. The other party, who were isolated, did not take it. Previous to this there had been no case of scarlet fever notified in the Borough throughout the year.

Influenza.—This disease was prevalent throughout February and March. The epidemic was more severe than that of the past three years. Numbers were down with it, but, so far as I can judge, no deaths were due to it.

Measles.—There was an epidemic of this disease during March, April, May, and June. Numbers of children were attacked; five deaths were recorded.

Membranous Croup.—There was one case of this disease, which proved fatal.

Diarrhœa.—The Borough was fairly free from this disease throughout the year. A few cases occurred during

the summer months, and only two deaths were attributable to this cause; but there was nothing of an epidemic character.

Cancer.—I have to record 14 deaths from this disease as against 7 last year, 12 in 1903, 12 in 1902, 11 in 1901, 11 in 1900, 16 in 1899, 8 in 1898, 11 in 1897, and 22 in 1896. The death-rate per 1000 of our estimated population is 0·80 as against 0·61 last year.

Small-pox—Puerperal Fever—Typhus Fever.—These diseases the Borough has, I am thankful to say, been entirely free from throughout the year.

Violent and Accidental Deaths.—There were four deaths recorded from this cause as against four last year, as follows:—

A female child, one day old, injured in the birth; no medical man was in attendance.

A male, 54 years of age, fell from a ladder.

A male, 55 years of age, hanged himself.

A female, 25 years of age, fell from a bicycle.

Inquests were held in each case.

Visits and Inspection of Premises.—Having visited a large number of houses and premises in all parts of the Borough during the year, it affords me great pleasure to again bear testimony to the improved general sanitary condition of the whole district. Many of the old courts and narrow backyards have disappeared; some have been laid with impervious flooring and good surface drainage provided; while others have been closed and converted into stables, stores, and other business purposes.

The old and imperfect sanitary fittings are continually being removed and others of an improved type are taking their place. This has been going on now for some years, and the healthy condition of the Borough bears testimony to the wisdom of such a course being adopted.

Bakehouses.—The number in use at the close of 1904 was 22. During the past year one has been closed and two reopened, making the total 23 for this year. These have been regularly inspected and their condition reported on by me to your Committee. They are all retail bakehouses, built on the ground floor, no underground nor wholesale bakehouse existing in the Borough. Although many are of the old type and not so much up-to-date in their construction as those to be found in newer towns, they are all kept clean and well lime-washed. As a rule two men is about the average number working in each.

Slaughterhouses.—These have the special attention of the Sanitary Inspector, who makes frequent visits to them. My remarks respecting the bakehouses apply in a certain degree to the slaughterhouses. Many being of the old type and not having the present-day fittings and conveniences, it is impossible to keep them in the same condition as those built and fitted in an up-to-date style; but the drainage is kept in good working order and the lime-washing well attended to, and each is provided with an ample supply of pure water, and evidently the very best is made of the existing circumstances.

Public Sewers.—Your sewers are now nearly all of modern construction, so that there has been nothing of an extensive character necessary to be carried out in connection with them, although some small and very necessary improvements have been made. A new stoneware pipe sewer has replaced a brick barrel in Union Street, and two manholes built one at either end where it is connected to other sewers, also an extension of the main sewer to the boundary of the Borough in Staplers Road with two manholes. A new pipe sewer has also been laid in Cypress Road extension with two manholes.

A large amount of domestic drainage has also been carried out.

Public Schools.—The public schools are the same in number as previously reported, namely, four. Three are under the Borough Education Committee and the fourth, the Grammar School, is under the management of Trustees. With the exception of a few cases of diphtheria and an epidemic of measles occurring in the early part of the year, the health of the children has been good and nothing has arisen calling for my special attention. The Nodehill senior schools, the largest of our public schools, has been reconstructed and additional class-rooms added on. The roof and ceilings have also been raised, thus giving the scholars more light and air, and the drainage system relaid. This is a splendid improvement and doubtless will tend to the good health and comfort of both children and teachers.

As I have previously reported, the private schools are mostly small and few in number. The health of the children has been good, and I have received no complaints. One private school has removed to larger premises and a new two-storeyed school-room built, which will be shortly in use.

Market.—In my last report I stated that as the work of paving the Market with an asphalt paving was in hand and not then been completed, I should refrain from making any remarks until I had had an opportunity of seeing the result of its completion.

After keeping it under observation for the past nine months, I must congratulate the Council on the wisdom of their decision to pave the Market with asphalt. While I still hold to the opinion which I have frequently expressed in previous Reports, that if a suitable site outside the town could be procured it would be advisable to remove the Market to it, yet it affords me great pleasure to say that as a result of having such a splendid floor laid, many of the most objectionable features of the old Market have been entirely removed. Having now no gravelled space on which the animals are placed, soakage, the most objectionable

feature is entirely prevented. Immediately the business is over the manure is expeditiously removed and the whole space washed down and disinfected, thus reducing to a minimum the offensive smell which must, as a natural consequence, attend the gathering together of a large number of cattle in the very heart of the town.

I again mention there are still three improvements which I have advocated in previous Reports and hope to see carried out at no distant date. They are:—1, the building of a public abattoir; 2, a destructor for the town refuse; and the 3rd is the provision of a steam disinfecting chamber, which might be worked in connection with a “destructor,” as at present you have no means of dealing with infected bedding and clothing without taking it some miles to a neighbouring town, and this on sanitary grounds is most inadvisable. I am convinced that the provision of a disinfecting apparatus would be highly appreciated and would meet a long-felt want.

Water Supply.—I do not think I can add anything further to my remarks on your splendid water supply made in my previous Reports. Although the demands of your own and outside districts are still on the increase, yet the supply shows no sign of decrease, and the subjoined analysis proves the quality in no way deteriorates.

The districts of North and South Arreton, Staplers, Wootton, Parkhurst, Northwood, Osborne, and Whippingham, through the medium of the Rural District Council, are now being supplied with water from your reservoirs. This is ample proof that the water is being appreciated, and I trust that the action of the Council in providing such a supply will prove to be not only a blessing to the community who use it, but result in a sound financial undertaking to hand on to posterity.

The Chemical Research Association, Ltd.,
 No. 1 Southwark Street,
 London Bridge, S.E.,
 29th May, 1905.

To Dr. M. L. B. Coombs.

The specimen of water marked "Well," received here on the 24/5/05, has been chemically and bacteriologically examined, and I have been instructed to forward the following analysis and report thereon :—

ANALYSIS.

	Parts per 100,000.	Grains per Gallon.
Total Solids (dried at 120°C)	...	18.90
Combined Chlorine	...	2.35
Expressed as Na. Cl.	...	3.88
Nitrogen, as Nitrates	...	0.26
Nitrites	...	Nil.
Saline Ammonia	...	Nil.
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	0.0005
Oxygen, absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C	...	0.011
Total Hardness	...	12.8
Lead or Copper	...	Nil.

This is a water of exceptional organic purity and of moderate hardness. It should be an excellent drinking water as judged by chemical analysis.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

For the quantitative examination of this water six gelatine plate cultures have been prepared, two containing one c.c. of water, two containing 0.5 centimetres, and two containing 0.2 cubic centimetres, but all of these plates remained sterile after 72 hours incubation at 20°C.

For the qualitative examination quantities of 0.2 cubic centimetres, 1 cubic centimetre, 5 cubic centimetres, 10 cubic centimetres, and 25 cubic centimetres have been taken,

but the smallest amount which shows the slightest evidence of the presence of organisms is 10 cubic centimetres of the water, and no intestinal bacteria are present.

These results show that the water is practically sterile, a most unusual result, except in waters which have been boiled or specially filtered free from organisms.

C. H. WELLS,

Secretary of the Association.

Factory Act.—My register, as at present completed, totals 83, made up as follows :—

Brewery	...	1
Bakehouses	...	23
Tailors	...	6
Dressmakers	...	15
Milliners	...	4
Cabinet Makers	...	4
Carpenters	...	6
Harness Makers	...	4
Smiths	...	6
Coach Builders	...	6
Printers	...	5
Dyers	...	1
Railway Works	...	1
Beer-Bottling Stores		1
		—
Total		83
		—

One dressmaker's work-room has been closed and one fresh room opened. One laundry was started, but only remained in existence for a short period. The work-rooms have all been furnished with cards, showing the numbers that may legally be employed to work in them, and no case of overcrowding has been found to exist.

In only two instances have complaints been received from the Factory Inspector, and these were promptly attended to.

Lime-washing has been carried out when found necessary, and verbal notice from the Sanitary Inspector has always been sufficient to have the necessary attention of proprietors to their work-rooms, &c. The majority of the work-rooms are much larger than is necessary to provide the amount of air space which the Factory Act requires, and in most workshops the number of employees might be doubled as regards air-space.

Sewage Disposal Works.—The precipitation process is still being adopted for the purification and disposal of the town sewage, and the work is being done in a very satisfactory manner. During the year I have frequently visited the premises and always found them free from nuisance, and I have received no complaint from the outside public in respect to these works.

The growth of the Borough and also the surrounding district of Carisbrooke, the sewage of which is treated at your works, causes the quantity to increase; but the manager, Mr. Way, informs me that up to the present time your works are equal to the demand made upon them.

In closing my Report it is a great pleasure to me to be again in a position to congratulate you on the improved sanitary condition of the Borough in all parts. The number of new buildings erected, especially dwelling-houses, the improved condition of the streets, the better scavenging, all point to progress.

The development of your Recreation-ground, where the children, as well as adults, can spend their spare time in physical exercise in a bracing and pure atmosphere,

undoubtedly does and will in the future tend to the good health and prosperity of the Borough.

I trust that the present healthy condition will continue and that each succeeding year will be an improvement on the last.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

MILBOURNE L. B. COOMBS,

Medical Officer of Health,

Newport Urban District.

February 6th, 1906.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR,
FOR THE YEAR 1905.

*To the Mayor and Town Council, the Urban Sanitary
Authority for the Borough of Newport, I.W.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your approval my Eleventh Annual Report of the work executed under your Authority for the year ended December 31st, 1905.

MILKSHOPS AND DAIRIES.

The number of persons registered under the Milkshops and Dairies Act of 1885 as dairymen and purveyors of milk is 12 dairymen and 6 purveyors—a decrease of 1 dairyman on last year's total. As a result of many surprise visits, I have always found the milk stores very clean and the cow-sheds lime-washed. I have had no cause to complain as to the drainage, but occasionally I have had to request that the manure be more frequently removed. Very little milk is stored at any of the dairies, nearly all being supplied direct from the cow to the consumer. One dairy has been closed entirely, the proprietor having gone out of the business, and one of the old milk stores closed and the proprietor gone into occupation of a new and up-to-date dairy. I am anticipating that as time goes on the old dairies will, one after the other, be superseded by new and well-equipped premises.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The number of slaughter houses remains the same as last year, viz., 18. One new tenant applied to be licensed, which was granted; but he has not made use of the premises, and they are now being used for other business purposes.

They are situated as follows :—

- 11 in Scarrotts Lane.
- 1 in Cockram's Yard.
- 1 in Chain Lane.
- 1 in High Street.
- 1 in Pyle Street.
- 1 in Cross Street.
- 1 in East Street.
- 1 in Carisbrooke Road.

Seven licences have been renewed for one year; all of these are for slaughtering swine only. Of the remaining 11, which are registered only (having been in existence a number of years previous to the passing of the Act of Parliament requiring the annual renewal of their licence), 6 are used for slaughtering beasts, 2 for swine, and 3 are at present void. One has been under repair, having had the brick walls lined with cement to a suitable height to prevent blood, &c., being absorbed, and the joints in the floor raked out and well stopped with cement. The lime-washing and drainage have been well attended to, and I have had no cause during the year to report any proprietor for a breach of the regulations.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

It has not been necessary to seek Magisterial aid during the year.

UN SOUND FOOD.

No complaint as to the food supplies has been considered of sufficient importance to report to your Authority,

as, on investigation by the Medical Officer of Health, the complaints proved groundless.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There is only one registered common lodging-house in the Borough, situated in South Street. I have made several surprise visits and have always found it clean and well-conducted. I have received no complaints in reference to this house, neither have I had cause to report any breach of regulations.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Forty-two cases were notified. The sanitary condition of the premises, also the drainage, was examined, and, where found necessary, the responsible persons were called on to remedy defects. Disinfectants were supplied free, and the rooms disinfected as soon as the health of the patients permitted.

In addition to the rooms occupied by notified cases, at the request of medical men I disinfected a number of rooms where cases of consumption, cancer, and other non-notifiable diseases had been treated.

As your Authority do not possess an Isolation Hospital, I am frequently compelled to disinfect several rooms in one house, as in small dwellings the isolation of a patient in one room is almost an impossibility, and it therefore becomes necessary to disinfect all the rooms which have been used by the person affected.

SCHOOLS.

The drainage and sanitary arrangement of these have received my special attention. In connection with your largest school, situated at Nodehill, the drains have been entirely relaid, and considerable alterations and additions made to the school buildings.

One private school has been closed, the proprietors

having removed to another part of the town and had new schoolrooms built.

FACTORY ACT.

I have made many visits to workshops and workrooms in connection with this Act. There are no large factories in the Borough, the Railway Works being the largest. Considerable additions have been made to the Dye Works in St. James's Street, providing ample accommodation and air space for a much larger number of workers than the old premises; the W.C. accommodation and sanitary fittings have been greatly improved. The sanitary accommodation and fittings have also been improved at the Railway Works.

The tailors', dressmakers', and printers' workrooms need most attention. No case of overcrowding has come to my knowledge, and I have had no cause to report any proprietor for a breach of the regulations.

The Medical Officer of Health gives fuller details of the work under this Act in his Report.

SCAVENGING AND COLLECTION OF HOUSE REFUSE.

This important work still claims considerable time and attention. Your contractor, I believe, does his best to conscientiously carry out his contract; but I feel that our combined efforts leave much room for improvement.

Many householders have during the past year consented to do away with the objectionable ash and refuse pits and bins and substituted sanitary bins, made of galvanised iron, of a size suitable for the scavengers to carry, and thus more frequently have the refuse removed from their houses.

I am aware that the most objectionable feature in connection with our scavenging is the number of offensive and unsightly receptacles which are placed in the streets for the scavengers to collect from, but with your present

contract arrangements, which do not provide for a separate collection of house refuse and road sweepings, it is almost impossible to prevent this nuisance, because, although there are a stated day and hours in which each street is to be cleared, yet the greater or less quantity of road sweepings, which have to be taken away by the same carts and which vary in quantity very considerably by the exigencies of the weather, upset all these arrangements and alter the hours and sometimes the days of collection.

If, eventually, a Refuse Destructor is provided, the collections would of necessity be separate, and then, I think, a great part of the difficulty would be removed.

DETAILED LIST OF WORKS CARRIED OUT.

Houses and premises inspected and re-inspected	-	311
Preliminary notices services served and letters written to abate nuisances	- -	67
Statutory notices served to abate nuisances	-	10
Written complaints received <i>re</i> nuisances	-	21
Complaints <i>re</i> ashes and house refuse	- -	14
Drains tested with smoke and water tests	-	64
Notices not complied with on December 31st, 1905		2
Old drains condemned	- - -	23
New drains laid	- - -	47
Drains cleared from obstruction	- -	53
Leaky drains made sound	- - -	30
Drains disconnected from sewer by ventilating syphons	- - -	11
Premises completely redrained	- -	21
Cesspools condemned and filled up	- -	1
New connections of drains with sewers	- -	26
Inspection chambers built	- -	37
Drains removed from underneath houses and laid outside	- - -	2

Brick drains replaced by pipe ditto	-	-	10
Unglazed tile drains replaced by pipe ditto	-	-	8
Drains ventilated by 4in. shafts	-	-	23
Stoneware gully traps fixed	-	-	51
Defective soil pipes made sound	-	-	4
Iron "bell" and "D" traps removed	-	-	29
Stoneware sink troughs provided	-	-	8
Dwelling-houses provided with improved water supply	-	-	4
Stables drained	-	-	4
Trapped pits provided for stables and yards	-	-	12
Objectionable syphons removed from drains	-	-	5
Grease pits fixed	-	-	4
Yard floors made good	-	-	12
Waste pipes from sinks disconnected from drains	-	-	7
Gully traps removed from inside and fixed outside of dwelling-houses	-	-	5
Mason's pits replaced by gully traps	-	-	3
New W.C.s built	-	-	10
"Container" W.C. apparatus condemned and removed	-	-	14
"Container" apparatus burnt out and replaced	-	-	1
W.C.s removed and built on outside walls	-	-	7
W.C.s provided with flushing tanks	-	-	32
"Washdown" W.C. basins fixed	-	-	22
New "hopper" basins and traps provided	-	-	24
Offensive W.C. basins cleansed	-	-	8
Slaughter-house walls lined with cement	-	-	3
Defective syphon traps removed from drains	-	-	2
Soil pipes removed from inside and fixed outside of walls and ventilated	-	-	10
Offensive W.C.s lime-washed and ventilated	-	-	12
Urinals reconstructed or repaired and water laid on	-	-	9
New Urinals built	-	-	4
Lavatory pipes disconnected from drains and fitted with "S" or "P" lead traps	-	-	7
Bath waste pipes disconnected	-	-	8
New baths fixed	-	-	15

Manure pits drained	-	-	-	2
Offensive rain-water tanks cleansed	-	-	-	4
Rain-water pipes disconnected from drains	-	-	-	22
Ventilating shafts carried higher	-	-	-	3
Defective rain-water spouting repaired	-	-	-	5
Unwholesome premises lime-washed	-	-	-	9
Piggeries lime-washed	-	-	-	14
Pigsty drained	-	-	-	1
Accumulations of manure removed	-	-	-	12
Nuisances abated arising from the improper keeping of animals	-	-	-	3
Offensive accumulations removed	-	-	-	9
Galvanised receptacles provided for house refuse	-	-	-	18
Cowsheds lime-washed	-	-	-	3
Leaking roofs repaired under notice	-	-	-	5
Ashpits removed	-	-	-	3
Lavatory basins fixed	-	-	-	4
Ventilation provided under floors	-	-	-	3
Sink troughs removed and fixed on outside walls	-	-	-	2
Unhealthy dwellings closed	-	-	-	7
Pumps removed and town water laid on	-	-	-	2
Dairies lime-washed	-	-	-	3
Yards paved with impervious flooring	-	-	-	1

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. H. WALDEN,

Inspector of Nuisances.

February 9th, 1906.

