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Contributors

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TO THE PAUL LOCAL BOARD.

GENTLEMEN,

Inspection of the District.

I beg to present my report for the year 1893. During the year I have from time to time systematically inspected all parts of the district. Over 300 houses have been visited, chiefly in connection with cases of infectious disease occurring.

House Accommodation and Repairs.—Courts and Closets.

Few new houses have been built. At Newlyn **8** have been erected and are occupied, while 2 more are in process of construction. House accommodation at Newlyn thus remains much the same. Close packing is common, but pronounced overcrowding rare. Courts are mostly small or non-existent,—closets and space for same comparatively rare. 8 pail closets and 3 water closets have, however, been constructed during the year, and 5 cesspits have been abolished. Many houses are back to back, ill-lit, ill-ventilated, and without spouting. Some are in bad repair. 14 houses have been laundered during the year, and 2 newly roofed. Two houses have been put into condition by owners on magistrate's order after prosecution by your authority. The proper repairing of some others would seem to be either impossible or unprofitable to the owners, and I would repeat the statement I have made in previous reports—that small decently built dwellings, satisfying elementary sanitary requirements, are urgently needed near Newlyn.

Inn Closets and Harbour Urinals.

An indoor closet at the "Union" Inn, and an underground closet on premises belonging to the "Three Tuns" Inn, both without proper means of ventilation, have been discovered and closed. The 4 public urinals on the Harbour Piers, being ill-adapted for the purpose, unflushed, unlit, and generally in unsatisfactory condition, should be put into condition by the Harbour Authorities or closed.

Drainage.

A new main sewer has been supplied for the Fradgan district. Wesley Court, Mousehole, remains in precisely the same condition of defective drainage as at the time of my first report on the subject, 18 months ago. I am glad to know that steps are to be taken at next Quarter Sessions with the view of compelling the necessary alterations to be carried out.

I have much pleasure in learning that a general plan for the drainage of Newlyn is nearly complete, and will shortly occupy the attention of your Board. The typhoid outbreak at Newlyn in the latter part of the year points to the danger of imperfect drainage through defective bolts into an unscoured cesspool, such as Newlyn Harbour now is. I have no knowledge of the plan to be submitted to you, but I assume that

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it provides for the laying of proper drains and sewers, and the carrying of the same outside the harbour limits and below low water-mark.

Water Supply.

The supply of water continues satisfactory in quantity and quality. At Newlyn there has, however, been hitherto much reasonable complaint on the part of a large number of householders as to the distance from which it had to be fetched to meet their daily requirements. Your Board is to be congratulated on having taken this matter also in hand, and on having prepared a scheme for conveying it through the various parts of the town to within a short and reasonable distance of all inhabited houses. Your offer to supply the piers freely with water is no less commendable for sanitary reasons than for trade purposes. The state of the North Pier during and after the arrival of fish in the busy part of last year can only be described as an abominable nuisance, and it is much to be hoped that when a free supply of water exists, combined as it should be with arrangements permitting a proper separation of fish-washings from horse-dung, the nuisance will cease to exist. The latrines on the piers, alluded to above, may also be properly and systematically cleansed, after having been reasonably adapted to the purpose they serve. The insufficiently protected well at Farmer's Meadows need also be no longer used by the inhabitants, and the Tolcarn stream should finally cease to be a source of domestic supply. Connections will no doubt be carried into many of the dwelling-houses, and into bake-shops, milk-shops, and the slaughter-house, with great advantage to the health of all concerned. Your water scheme for Newlyn is at present under the consideration of the Local Government Board, who, I understand, have asked for the opinion of an Engineer thereon.

No doubt as soon as the Water Scheme has been approved the Drainage Scheme will be pressed forward. The former purposes to provide a sufficient head of water to keep the main sewers clean. A proper provision of launders to houses will assist in the cleansing of smaller drains. Flush-tanks, where necessary, will aid the entire process. 3-gallon tanks in the houses may be fixed to flush the few existing water closets and others that may be placed. The same being fixed in the Wesleyan School at Newlyn will readily permit of the establishment of a water closet system, while by carrying the main sewer up Chywoone Hill pipes may be connected from Newlyn Board School closets, and water may be supplied to closet-flushing tanks there by tapping the adit that comes down from Fawgan above.

School Closets.

The closets at Newlyn Board School and those on the boys' side at the Newlyn Wesleyan School for the present still consist of highly insanitary cesspits. At the Board School it is often found to be necessary to keep the school windows on this side closed in order to shut out the strong evidence of their close proximity. At Paul Churchtown Board School the pail system is found to answer well, and I am pleased to add that the closets are now ventilated, and in as good condition as circumstances permit. In an interview with two of the Managers of the Mousehole Wesleyan School I learnt with satisfaction that, having obtained an enlargement of the premises, they propose abolishing the present unsatisfactory cesspit contrivances and substituting 8 pail closets. It would thus appear that the important question of school closet

accommodation, which I have ceaselessly urged on your attention since the commencement of my tenure of office, is now in a fair way of being satisfactorily settled all round.

Scavenging.

It must be confessed that the present scavenging of Newlyn and Mousehole is far from satisfactory. At the beginning of last October your Board thought fit to reduce the daily service of the cart at Newlyn to a 3-days' visitation per week. It is no doubt a fact that the expense of the daily service pressed heavily on the finances of the town. The result of the change is, however, shown in a marked relapse toward the pristine uncleanness of the streets, cliff-sides, and surface drain-beds, and in an accumulation of refuse on cramped premises, which cannot but be a source of danger to smaller householders. The alternative appears to me to lie in the fixing of fitting public refuse receptacles at proper points. It may then be possible to keep the town clean and the small courtlets and house interiors unchoked by means of the 3 days system of scavenging, to which your efforts are now limited. I note that the majority of pails used by the householders are still unprovided with covers, and that many are in a very dirty condition.

The part of Mousehole in and about the Gernick is at times very unclean from the heaping up of piles of refuse.

Tredavoe.

The village of Tredavoe I find to be in a very unsatisfactory condition. On Mr. Lawrence's property, close to inhabited houses, I notice a large covered cesspit, with 5 dark, unventilated closet compartments communicating therewith. The slop-water from this property drains into an open ditch on Mr. Leah's property adjoining. Near here is a small tank which receives a pipe draining unventilated pigstyes, situated a few feet from the high road on the other side. This tank is said to occasionally overflow. The slop-water from the premises on which the pigstyes are placed flows on to the highway and lodges there. All these nuisances occur within a small circle, and all on or within a few feet of the highway. I note, too, that the well at Tredavoe which supplies the drinking water of the village is open to chance contamination, more especially by the feet of those who draw water.

Bake-houses, Slaughter-house, Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-shops.

There are 6 bake-houses at Newlyn, 5 at Mousehole; one slaughter-house at Newlyn; 10 milk-shops at Newlyn, 5 at Mousehole. There would appear to be dairies and cow-sheds on most farms (59.) Instances of each class of premises have been inspected. They were mostly found in fairly satisfactory condition. The slaughter-house is kept clean, and is reasonably adapted for the purpose. All should be registered and periodically inspected.

Bye-Laws.

No bye-laws are in existence within the district. Some have been, however, submitted to the Local Government Board, and are, as I understand, being printed at their request prior to confirmation.

To put it in other words, the 34 more deaths that have taken place this year are in the main deaths that should have been prevented and may be prevented in future by proper action on the part of ourselves and other Sanitary Authorities. One half of this number (17) represent deaths from Scarlet Fever, which reached us owing to imperfect isolation elsewhere, and whose spread we were unable to prevent for want of isolation here. We have also one fatal case of Smallpox to chronicle. These with 5 deaths from Typhoid (as against 3 last year), and no less than 12 from Diarrhoea and Dysentery (as against 2 last year) together account for the difference in death-rates between 1892 and 1893. The marked incidence of Diarrhoea and Dysentery on Newlyn (9 deaths out of the 12) is a valuable finger-post to its present insanitary condition, while the outbreak of Typhoid there during the last 3 months of the year (10 cases) is synchronous with our diminished efforts at scavenging and with the conversion of the harbour into an unscoured cesspool by the completion of the Northern arm of the pier. The Typhoid outbreak at Mousehole, which occurred during September and October in the neighbourhood of the Wesleyan Chapel and Gernick, I associate with the piling up of refuse heaps especially noticeable at that time. A record of 22 cases of Typhoid Fever, 2 cases of Continued Fever, 2 of Diphtheria, 13 of Erysipelas, and 12 deaths from Diarrhoea and Dysentery—all in a population of less than 6000 within a year—is a serious reflection on the sanitary condition of our district.

The Scarletina Epidemic.

The outbreak of Scarletina has so lately been made the subject of a special and full report (Dec. 2nd, 1893) that I need do no more than outline some of its leading features here. The first case arose on Dec. 9th, 1892, the last for the year on Dec. 14th, 1893. (The Special Report included an account of all but this last). There were, during 1893, 273 cases and 17 deaths. The disease was attributed to infection from neighbouring districts and by boats arriving from Plymouth. By means of immediate visitation and isolation where possible, by disinfection of linen, and in some cases fumigation of houses, by instruction by printed "Rules," and by exclusion from schools of children from infected households a continuous resolute effort was made to limit the spread of the epidemic. But the isolation obtainable was in most cases very imperfect and the disinfection very incomplete, nor were our efforts to attain either at all generally assisted by the parents and friends of the sick. Our Rules were largely set at naught, and but little guard was put upon communication between the sick and the healthy. In a few cases occurring in connection with milk supply, owing to the ill-considered opposition of those concerned, some difficulty and regrettable delay arose in the severing of the connection between infected persons and houses on the one hand and milk in course of production, storage, and distribution on the other. This affords an additional reason for my urging on your Board the necessity of adopting the Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890, and of giving effect to the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885 and 1886. The Public Health Acts Amendment Act should also be adopted.

Suggested Form for a Register of Infectious Diseases, and Notification to Schools thereof.

The early cases of the epidemic were reported to the Head Masters of the Elementary Schools, the later ones to the School Attendance Officer. I am satisfied that

the former is the better course. I recommend that in future a register be kept by the Inspector of Nuisances of all cases visited by him, in accordance with the subjoined form :—

Infectious Dis. Cert. No.	.....
Disease	.....
Medical Attendant	.....
Date Cert. Recd.	.....
Name of Patient	.....
Situation of House	.....
Name of Tenant	.....
„ Owner or Agent	.....
Address of „	.....
No. of Rooms, Living	.....
„ Sleeping	.....
No. of Inmates, aged 10 or over	.....
„ under 10 years	.....
„ Lodgers	.....
Schools attended by Members of Household	.....
Water Supply	.....
Milk Supply	.....
Privy accommodation	.....
Drainage	.....
ACTION TAKEN.	
REMARKS.	
Isolation	.....
Disinfection	.....
Stool-disposal	.....

At the same time notification should be made to the Head Master of the schools concerned.

The Case of Smallpox.

In my monthly report for August I have already drawn your attention to our proceedings in connection with the case of Smallpox at Mousehole, notified July 24th. The house in which the patient lay being of good size, satisfactory isolation was enforced. Body-linen was ordered to be periodically well washed and disinfected in solution of perchloride of mercury (1 in 1000). On the death of the patient on August 2nd the mattress, bedtie, blankets, bed-linen and body-linen were burnt. The deceased was on the night of her death screwed down in a pitch-lined, felt-sealed coffin, and the funeral quietly conducted on the morrow. Sanitas was freely sprinkled over the room and its contents, which were fumigated with sulphur for 24 hours, then freely aired and cleansed with perchloride of mercury solution (1 in 1000), and finally washed with plenty of soap and water. It is extremely gratifying to record that no further cases arose.

Notification and Isolation.—Hospital Districts and the "Isolation Hospitals Act of 1893."

It will be seen that the cost of the Infectious Diseases Notification Act during the first year of its adoption has been a heavy one ; the fees on account of medical certificates amounting to £37 15s. This is money well spent, seeing that to the operation of the Act we have been indebted for prompt information of the above cited cases of Infectious disease, have had our attention drawn to undesirable sanitary conditions, and have been able to guard against extension of Smallpox, and to some extent to modify the spread of the Scarlet Fever epidemic. But in the latter case it has been pointed out how largely our efforts have failed for want of the proper means of isolation. In my Special Report on the outbreak I drew attention to this and concluded by urging the duty of combining with neighbouring Authorities to obtain proper Hospital accommodation. Since I wrote, the County Council has acquired, through the provisions of the "Isolation Hospitals Act of 1893," the power of forming such convenient Combination Districts and of providing Hospitals thereto. I welcome the action of this power, because I am convinced that it is the most economical and reasonable (and, I might add, only possible) way of dealing with the question. A nursing staff can then be kept at Truro, and drafted to the various County Hospitals as required.

The time has also come, it seems to me, when we may fairly ask the Legislature to give us proper protection from outside districts by making the Infectious Diseases Notification Act compulsory throughout the Kingdom. When thus protected all round, it is, I think, probable that with no greater outlay than the cost of notification during this last year we shall be provided with the means of promptly isolating such early cases of epidemics as may reach us. The difference will be that in place of an exhaustive expenditure on numberless notifications we shall be engaged in providing a greatly reduced number of the sick with proper attendance and nursing and with increased opportunities of recovery. It is certainly more profitable to spend our money in this way, and it is surely our duty to spare our people the cost of such widespread sickness as we have lately seen and the pain of the many deaths that ensue.

I am, Gentlemen,

Faithfully yours,

RICHARD DAVEY BOASE,

M.O.H. PAUL U.S.D.

5, MORRAB ROAD,

PENZANCE,

January 27th, 1894.

P.S.—Three new cases of Scarlatina have been notified this month, all at Newlyn.

Northampton and Isolation—Hospital District and the "Isolation Hospital Act of 1892."

It will be seen that the cost of the Isolation District Northampton Act during the first year of its adoption has been a heavy one; the fees on account of medical certificates amounting to £37 10s. This is money well spent, seeing that to the operation of the Act we have been indebted for the most important of the above cited cases of Isolation District, have had our attention drawn to matters which require attention, and have been able to grant against extension of Isolation, and to some extent to supply the deficit of the Isolation District. But in the latter case it has been pointed out how largely our efforts have failed the want of the proper means of Isolation. In my special report on the outbreak I drew attention to this and concluded by urging the duty of combining with neighboring authorities to obtain proper Hospital accommodation. Since I wrote, the County Council has acquired, through the provisions of the "Isolation Hospital Act of 1892," the power of forming such convenient combinations and of providing Hospital Districts. I welcome the action of this power, because I am convinced that it is in the best economical and reasonable path. I might add only parenthetically that in dealing with the question of Isolation, we have not as yet been able to effect any of the various County Councils, as suggested in my report.

The time has also come, it seems to me, when we must consider the question of giving us proper protection from outside sources of Isolation. The Isolation District, as I think, provides that with no greater cost, than the cost of Isolation during the last year we shall be provided with the means of preventing Isolation, and early removal of Isolation as may be necessary. The difference will be that in place of an extensive expense on Isolation Districts we shall be engaged in providing a greatly reduced number of the kind with proper attendance and nursing and with Isolation Districts. It is certainly more possible to spend our money in this way, and it is easily our duty to spend our money in this way. The cost of Isolation Districts as we have lately seen is the pain of the many Isolation Districts.

I am, Gentlemen,

Very respectfully,

ALBION DAVY BOASE

Medical Officer of Health

A. M. M. M. M.

Isolation

January 25th 1894

1894—There have been no Isolation Districts have been notified this month, all at Isolation.