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Contributors

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TO THE PAUL Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report for the year 1894.

Inspection of the District.

During the year I have periodically and systematically inspected all parts of the district. Over 500 premises have been inspected by myself or the Sanitary Inspector.

The Recent Flood.

During the recent flood at Street-an-Nowan, Newlyn, 26 premises where visited, and the following are the notes I made:—

Nov. 12th to 14th.—The Combe and Houses beyond, flooded.

Nov. 16th.—Water off the road.

„ *19th.*—Mud and water now out of houses.

„ *22nd.*—Houses undergoing active repairs by landlords; partitions being restored, floors relaid, &c. A few tenants still displaced from homes. West bank of river being temporarily repaired. Shortened end of sewage pipe from houses opposite opens into large stagnant pool by river-side, close to St. Peter's Bridge.

„ *29th.*—Pipe opens into closed wooden conduit which conducts contents to river-bed.

No special sickness appears to have been occasioned by flood, but it is to be hoped that the above mentioned pipe will be permanently restored, and the pool removed at an early date, in the process of repair of this portion of the river-bank.

House Accommodation and Repairs.

Four new houses have been built at Newlyn; one at Mousehole. This leaves the accommodation much as it was. Close packing is common, but pronounced overcrowding rare. Two houses have been laundered; 25 pail-closets and 2 water-closets have been erected.

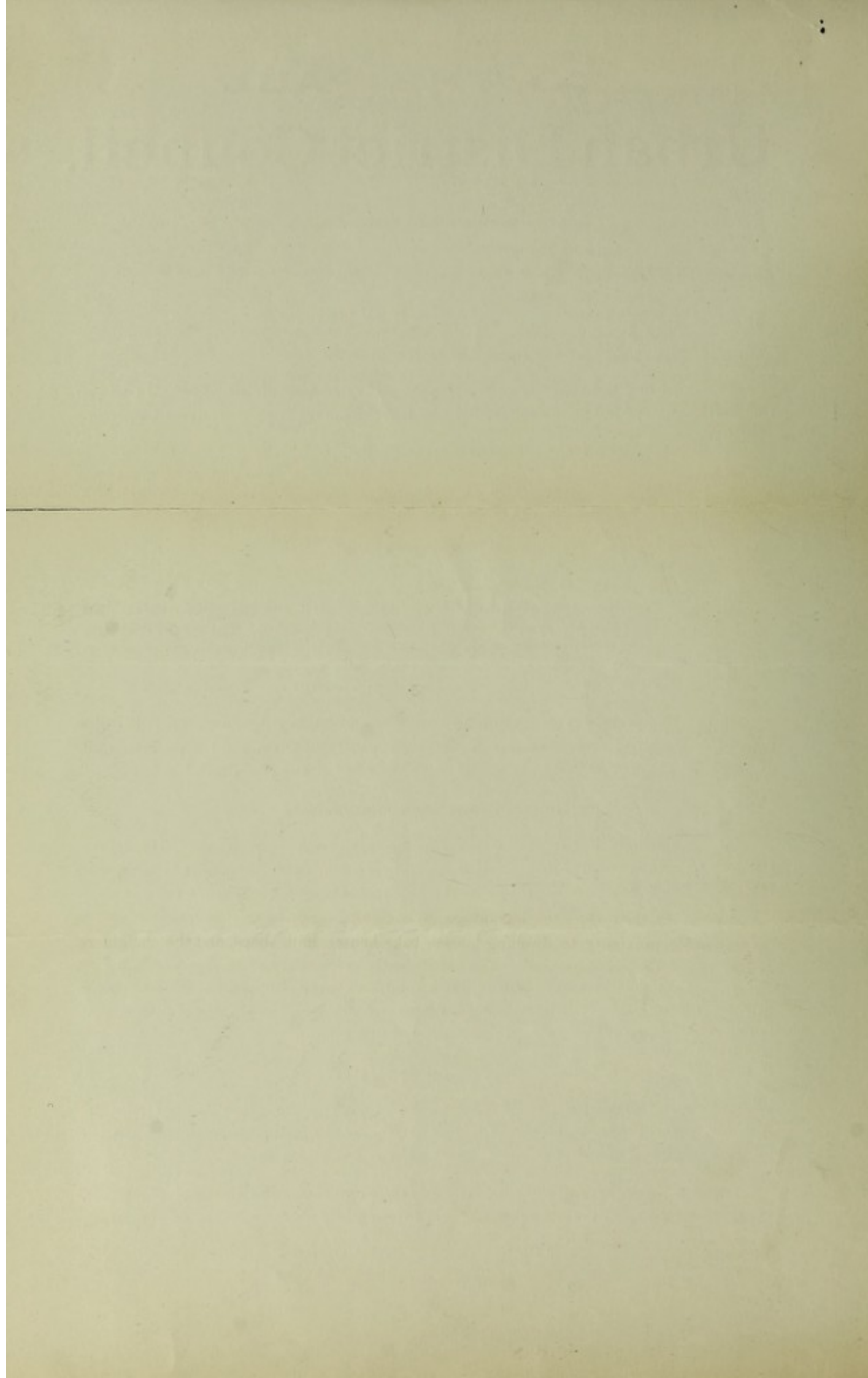
Inn Closets and Harbour Urinals.

A urinal has been added at the Keigwin Arms, Mousehole. The 4 public urinals on the Harbour Pier at Newlyn, remain in the same unsatisfactory condition, noted in my last year's Report—ill-adapted, unflushed, unlit.

Drainage.

The lower part of Wesley Court, Mousehole, has been drained by your Authority, after persistent refusal of the owner to move in the matter, and the condition of the surface and of the atmosphere has been considerably improved.

I desire to call your attention to the premises at the Gernick, Mousehole, occupied by Jno. Maddern and owned by Joseph Matthews. A collection of straw,



stable-sweepings, refuse from adjoining houses, and stagnant water is constantly forming at the lower end. From time to time complaints have been made to the occupier by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and I believe that Mr. Chirgwin has drawn the attention of the owner to this constantly recurring nuisance. The opening of the bolt intended for drainage is repeatedly choked by the accumulation of this offensive material. It requires to be kept constantly clear, and the stable should be properly drained thereinto. Unavoidable stable-sweepings should be contained under cover, and the throwing of house-refuse prohibited.

The present condition of the main sewer at Street-an-nowan brings into prominence the relative economies of patching an utterly inefficient and urgently dangerous outlet, or of forthwith laying the foundation of a sound and sanitary system. My attention is being constantly called by the illness of those who live or work near to the poisonous nuisance that exists, and I would repeat what I have on previous occasions urged, that no system can continue to be tolerated from the sanitary standpoint unless it provides for the laying of properly constructed drains and sewers, and for the carrying of the mains outside the harbour limits and well out to sea.

Water Supply.

The supply of water continues to be satisfactory in quantity. Recent analyses have however revealed a marked difference in the purity of the water obtained from the Green Shoot, Newlyn, and in that obtained from its source. As this is marked out as one of the chief supplies to the town in your new Water-scheme, your Authority has done well to arrange for its protection at its source. The same consideration applies to the like work done at Fox's Shoot, Mousehole. The analyses of waters from the Bellevue Shoot, Newlyn, and from Annie Johns' and the Pedn-an-caunce Shoots at Mousehole, show that they may be reasonably relied on as proper sources of Water-supply.

It is to be hoped that the Piers will be in due course freely supplied with water, so that the nuisance arising from imperfect cleansing of the surface after the necessary fish-washing, &c. may be removed. This will also allow of the proper cleansing of the above-mentioned latrines.

In the towns the advantage of the bringing down of the water to within a reasonable proximity to dwelling-houses, bake-houses, milk-shops, and the slaughter-house cannot be over-estimated. The insufficiently protected well at Farmer's Meadow, Newlyn, need be no longer used by the inhabitants, and the Tolcarne Stream should finally cease to be a source of domestic supply.

School Closets.

At all the elementary schools at Newlyn, Mousehole and Paul, with one exception, cesspits have been entirely abolished in favour of the cleaner and more sanitary system of pail-closets. But I lately learnt, to my horror, that the contents of the pails at the Mousehole Wesleyan School are being actually cast into the drain from the recent cesspit that leads directly into the stream that run sthrough Mousehole. This must be immediately and sternly prohibited.

The only school cess-pits now remaining are in connection with the Newlyn Board School. These exceptionally insanitary cess-pits, placed in close proximity to the school, and on a higher level, cannot be permitted to continue polluting the air of the school, (whose windows it is frequently necessary to close against their stench,) and of the school-ground, to the continual detriment of the health of the young scholars compelled to associate in their vicinity. I earnestly commend the matter to the consideration of your Council and of the Educational Department.

Scavenging.

The 3-days-a-week scavenging of Newlyn appears to be more efficiently carried out than formerly, and the cliff-sides, and river and surface drain beds, seem freer from refuse than in the latter part of 1893.

Tredavoe.

I note that an offensive and usually stagnant ditch on Mr. Leah's property runs close to the side of inhabited houses and seeks outlet on to the highway. The well supplying the village still remains open to contamination. I strongly recommend that it be built round and a pump placed.

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

There are 7 bake-houses at Newlyn, 5 at Mousehole; 1 slaughter-house at Newlyn, well-kept; 10 milk-shops at Newlyn, 5 at Mousehole; 59 dairies and cowsheds in the country districts. I am glad to learn that registration of dairies, cowsheds, and milk-shops is shortly to be enforced.

Bye-Laws.

I note that Bye-laws have been made during the year dealing with the following subjects: 1.—New Streets and Buildings; 2.—Slaughter-houses; 3.—Cleansing of Footways and Pavements; 4.—Nuisances arising from Snow, Filth, Dust, Ashes, Rubbish, and from the keeping of Animals. In the case of New Streets and Buildings your Authority has done well to adopt the Model Bye-laws issued by the Local Government Board with but little modification.

Monthly Reports.

During the year monthly reports, showing the sickness and deaths within the district, have been sent by me to your Authority, and to the Cornwall County Council, on forms supplied by the latter.

Tables A and B.—Vital Statistics and Comparison of Rates for District generally, and of Death Rates within the separate localities, for years 1892, 1893 and 1894.

I now ask your attention to the enclosed tables, showing the incidence of infectious diseases and deaths on the sub-localities comprised within our district. Table A shows the births within the year to have been 202 (94 males, 108 females), the deaths 95 (40 males, 55 females)—a natural increase of 107 persons. The birth rate is high—33.97 per 1000; the death rate of about average intensity 15.97. The infantile mortality is 118.8.

The following table shews the distribution of deaths between the sub-localities and their respective death rates, while the last columns show, for purpose of comparison, their death rates for 1892 and 1893.

	POPULATION. (Census 1891.)	DEATHS.	DEATH-RATES.		
			1892.	1893.	1894.
NEWLYN ...	3,323	55	13.54	21.06	16.6
MOUSEHOLE ...	1,602	23	12.48	14.35	14.4
REST OF DISTRICT	1,036	17	18.34	24.13	16.45
	5,961	95	14.09	19.79	15.97

Mousehole again shows the lowest death rate, while that of the Country District is this year notably decreased. The number of deaths of children under one year of age at Newlyn is large (see Table A.) being 15 in a population of 3323. Of these 15 deaths, 4 were Inquest cases. 3 are returned as "deaths from Natural causes," 1 as "Convulsions."

Zymotic Death-Rates and Infectious Disease.

Subtracting the zymotic death-rate from the total death-rate for each of the 3 years above given, we arrive at the following figures :—

	1892.	1893.	1894.
DEATH RATE	14.09	19.79	15.97
ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE	1.006	5.87	1.177
	13.08	13.92	14.79

Thus, it will be seen that during the last 3 years, the death-rate for the district, apart from the fluctuations due to zymotic deaths (in the main preventable), has ranged between 13 and 15 per 1000 per annum. How largely that may be raised by the incidence of an epidemic outbreak may be seen by the figures for last year. It is our bounden duty, by stern suppression of nuisances and of insanitary conditions generally, and by making provision for the necessary isolation and disinfection in cases of infectious disease, to assist in the maintenance of a satisfactorily low death-rate.

Twenty-three cases of Infectious Disease have been notified to me during the year. These include 16 cases of mild Scarlet Fever (no deaths), 4 of Erysipelas (1 death), 2 of Typhoid Fever (1 death), and 1 of Diphtheria (no death).

The sporadic cases of Scarlatina that have occurred I attribute to separate infection from outside districts.

The zymotic deaths have been 7, viz. : 1 from Typhoid Fever, 2 from Whooping Cough, 4 from Diarrhoea and Dysentery. Last year, apart from fatal cases of Scarlatina (17), there were 5 deaths from Typhoid Fever, and 12 from Diarrhoea and Dysentery, 9 of the latter occurring at Newlyn. The improvement I regard as chiefly due to improved scavenging and to the cleansing effect of greater rainfall.

The cases of Scarlatina and of Diphtheria (all at Newlyn) have been reported to the Head Teachers of the Elementary Schools, so that children from infected houses might be excluded during the necessary period.

The following table shows the distribution of deaths between the age-classes and their respective death rates, while the last column shows the percentage of total deaths for each age-class for 1922 and 1923.

AGE-CLASS	1922		1923		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS
	DEATHS	RATE	DEATHS	RATE	
Under 15	1,100	11.00	1,200	12.00	15.00
15-24	1,500	15.00	1,600	16.00	20.00
25-34	1,800	18.00	1,900	19.00	23.00
35-44	2,000	20.00	2,100	21.00	26.00
45-54	2,200	22.00	2,300	23.00	28.00
55-64	2,400	24.00	2,500	25.00	30.00
65-74	2,600	26.00	2,700	27.00	32.00
75-84	2,800	28.00	2,900	29.00	34.00
85 and over	3,000	30.00	3,100	31.00	36.00
Total	17,400		18,300		100.00

It should be noted that the highest death rates are found in the youngest age-classes, and that the death rate increases steadily with increasing age. The number of deaths of children under one year of age in 1922 was 1,100, or 11.00 per 1,000 of the population of that age-class. In 1923 the number of deaths of children under one year of age was 1,200, or 12.00 per 1,000 of the population of that age-class.

The following table shows the distribution of deaths between the age-classes and their respective death rates, while the last column shows the percentage of total deaths for each age-class for 1922 and 1923.

AGE-CLASS	1922		1923		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS
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25-34	1,800	18.00	1,900	19.00	23.00
35-44	2,000	20.00	2,100	21.00	26.00
45-54	2,200	22.00	2,300	23.00	28.00
55-64	2,400	24.00	2,500	25.00	30.00
65-74	2,600	26.00	2,700	27.00	32.00
75-84	2,800	28.00	2,900	29.00	34.00
85 and over	3,000	30.00	3,100	31.00	36.00
Total	17,400		18,300		100.00

It will be seen that during the last 5 years the death rate for the infant age-class has increased from 11.00 to 12.00 per 1,000. This largely may be attributed to the fact that the death rate for the infant age-class has increased from 11.00 to 12.00 per 1,000. This largely may be attributed to the fact that the death rate for the infant age-class has increased from 11.00 to 12.00 per 1,000.

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35-44	2,000	20.00	2,100	21.00	26.00
45-54	2,200	22.00	2,300	23.00	28.00
55-64	2,400	24.00	2,500	25.00	30.00
65-74	2,600	26.00	2,700	27.00	32.00
75-84	2,800	28.00	2,900	29.00	34.00
85 and over	3,000	30.00	3,100	31.00	36.00
Total	17,400		18,300		100.00

The cause of death of 1,100 of the 17,400 deaths in 1922 was attributed to the following causes: 1,000 to infectious diseases, 100 to non-infectious diseases, and 100 to unknown causes.

Hospital Accommodation: Isolation and Disinfection.

I do not know what steps your Authority intend taking for providing necessary isolation and disinfection in the near future. Recent experience has shown the futility of attempting isolation in the great majority of the homes at Newlyn and at Mousehole, and our present efforts at disinfection of clothing, &c., by means of germicide solutions are necessarily very imperfect. A Hospital for Infectious Diseases is about to be erected by the Borough of Penzance, within easy reach of your district, and is to include a provision of 16 beds and of an efficient Steam Disinfecting Apparatus. It is much to be hoped that Penzance will see the propriety of admitting cases and clothes for disinfection from your own and other neighbouring districts at a reasonable charge, and that its immediate neighbours on all sides will promptly avail themselves of this economical provision. The interests of districts in such close touch with each other are in this matter identical. It is also greatly to be desired that the West Penwith Rural Sanitary Authority will see fit to adopt the Infectious Disease Notification Act. The evil of a blind and prejudiced policy cannot, unfortunately, be limited to their own district, and neighbouring authorities have an undoubted right to protest against the assaults upon the health of their people, and the nullification of their own preventive efforts that ensue.

I am, Gentlemen,

Faithfully yours,

RICHARD DAVEY BOASE,

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

5, MORRAB ROAD,

PENZANCE,

January 31st, 1895.

