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Contributors

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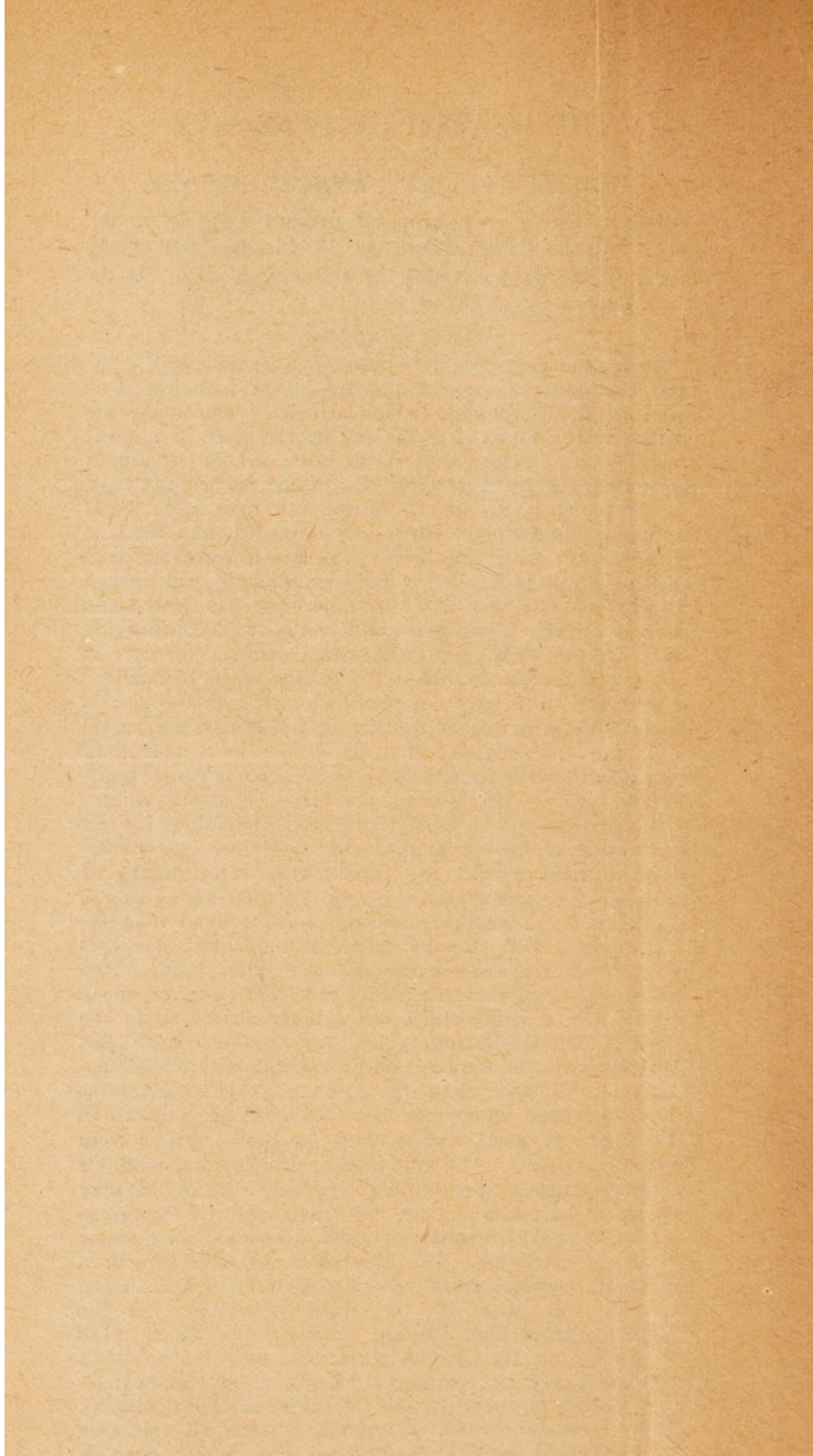
THE HEALTH OF PENZANCE

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT.

The following are the reports presented by Mr. G. B. Millett at the Town Council on Wednesday, Feb. 27th, 1895, in his dual capacity of Borough Medical Officer and Port Medical Officer:—

THE BOROUGH.

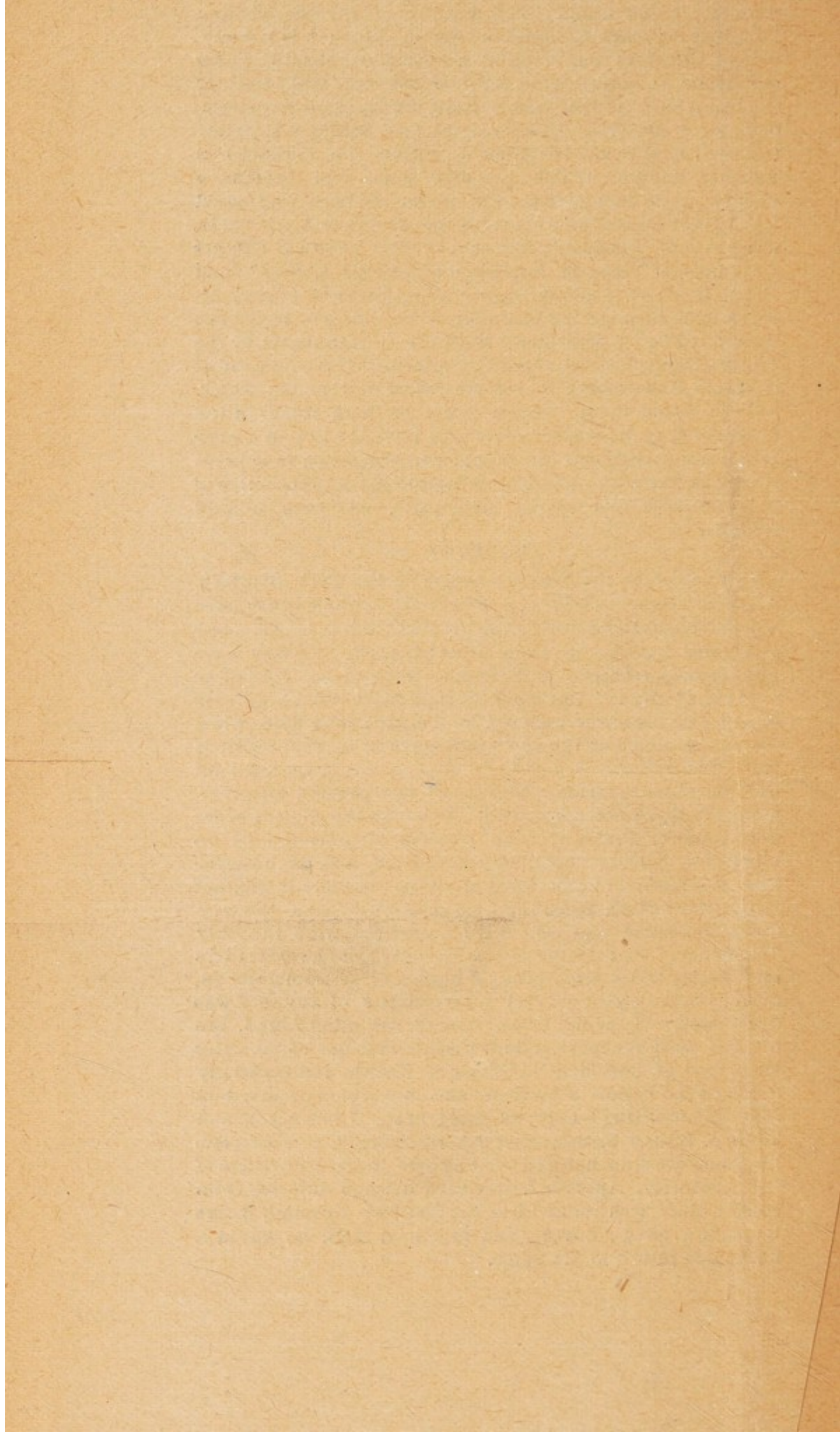
During the past year 313 births have been registered in the Borough of Penzance and 217 deaths, including 11 of persons not belonging to the district. The difference between the totals of births and deaths gives a natural increase of 96. The average birth rate per 1,000 per annum is 24.0 and the death rate 16.6. Deaths are fewer by 52 than in 1893 and births by 17. Births last year were most numerous in October, when they were 37, and least so in December, when they were but 20. Deaths were registered in the largest proportion in January, when they amounted to 27, whilst in August and November they were only 8 and 10 respectively. From an examination of the accompanying tables (A and B) based upon the usual returns of deaths and cases of sickness, supplied to the medical officer of health—together with the notifications which have been recorded in accordance with the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act—it will again appear that death has been most busy amongst the very young and old—ages ranging from 3 hours to 93 years. (In looking through the death returns octogenarians will be found frequently, whilst there is a fair sprinkling of nonogenarians). As heretofore pulmonary diseases have caused the largest number of deaths of persons of all ages—there being 56. Of these 14 are due to phthisis, 2 to whooping cough, and 40 to bronchitis, pneumonia, &c. Deaths from notifiable or infectious diseases are more or less conspicuous by their absence. Two deaths of infants are recorded from scarlatina, and one of these was a nurse-child, not strictly belonging to the district. One death from typhoid fever is also recorded, but this was the case of a Lowestoft fisherman who was landed here with the fever upon him. As already stated two infants have died from whooping cough (not a notifiable disease in Penzance, at least), and so ends the list of deaths from zymotic diseases. The sum total of deaths from notifiable diseases properly appertaining to Penzance during 1894 may therefore be taken as ONE. To that frequently fatal complaint, especially amongst children, diarrhoea, not a single death is attributed. The number of cases of infectious sickness, including measles, notified and certified according to the Act was 157. Of these scarlatina has the largest proportion, being entered 127 times, but inasmuch as the deaths therefrom, as already stated did not exceed 2, the mildness of the type must be evident, and further one-tenth of the total were secondary attacks. There were nine cases of typhoid fever—all traceable to extraneous sources including one from the Port—which proved fatal as above recorded. Also 4 cases of diphtheria, 9 of erysipelas, and 8 of measles without a death amongst them. Penzance is still at the mercy of neighbouring districts, where the Act is not in force, as to the introduction of infectious diseases, and has suffered in several instances during the past year. Visitors too, sometimes from long dis-



ances—doubtless, unwittingly—have come to the town whilst they were affected with one or other of each of the complaints mentioned, and taken up their abode in lodging-houses, causing much anxiety, annoyance and expense to themselves and other. The number of persons visiting Penzance appears to increase year by year; it is not surprising therefore that building operations are steadily going on. Some 60 houses were finished last year, and about 16 are being built at the present time, whilst plans have been passed for about 70. The proposed new Sanitary Hospital (though it will not be situated within the borough) is another building which we may hope will become a reality at no distant date—the site having been purchased (at the cost of £650) and plans for the structure &c., being in preparation. Inasmuch as Form C.—the “Medical Officers Preliminary Form or Summary of Annual Report”—and Form D.—the “Sanitary Inspector’s return or Summary of work done through the Inspector of Nuisances”—have been duly filled up in accordance with the requirements of the County Council copies of which Forms have been forwarded it seems unnecessary to further detail particulars, which will be found there, though many of them might in the ordinary way have been otherwise included in this report. It will not perhaps be out of place in conclusion to express regret, that in consequence of indisposition the preparation of these reports, and tabular statements, has been unduly delayed.

THE PORT.

The report of the Medical Officer to the Port Sanitary Authority was as follows:—Fewer ships than usual have visited this harbour during the year which has just elapsed and none have come from infected ports. Neither have any seamen returned to Penzance from places classed as “infected,” though the usual precautionary notices were in one or two instances received by the Authority here, when seamen or others of this town (not necessarily wending their way hitherward) had left a ship lately come from an unsatisfactory quarter. Neither of the persons, however named in these notices arrived. Although the cholera scare was somewhat abated, the possible introduction of so virulent a malady could not be forgotten, and the hospital tent was ready to be set up at any time—happily it was not required. Vessels laden with ice or timber from Norway and grain ships and others from America were the only “foreigners” frequenting this port, though the home traders and fishing boats have been as busy and as numerous as ever. Upon inspection very little sickness, of any sort was discovered. Typhoid fever, though not often found, has always been the most serious disease that has come under the notice of Port Medical Officer of Health, and especially amongst Lowestoft fishermen—one case which occurred in May last resulting fatally, as stated in the Urban report and Table A. It may be that other fishermen are equally affected, but such cases do not happen to come to the knowledge of this Authority. Another Lowestoft fisherman suffering from scarlet fever was removed to the Sanitary Hospital, where he made a good recovery, and remained until he was in a fit state to return to his home.



1834

Perthshire


10 March 1834

Dear Sir,

I am sorry that I have no better copy of my Annual Report to offer you in answer to your kind communication than that portions of it which has appeared in the local newspapers, which I now enclose. The tables & additional forms have not been printed.

I am, Dear Sir

Yours faithfully
George Bown



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