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**Contributors**

Pontefract (England). Rural District Council.

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TO THE  
*Rural Sanitary Authority*  
OF THE  
PONTEFRACT UNION.

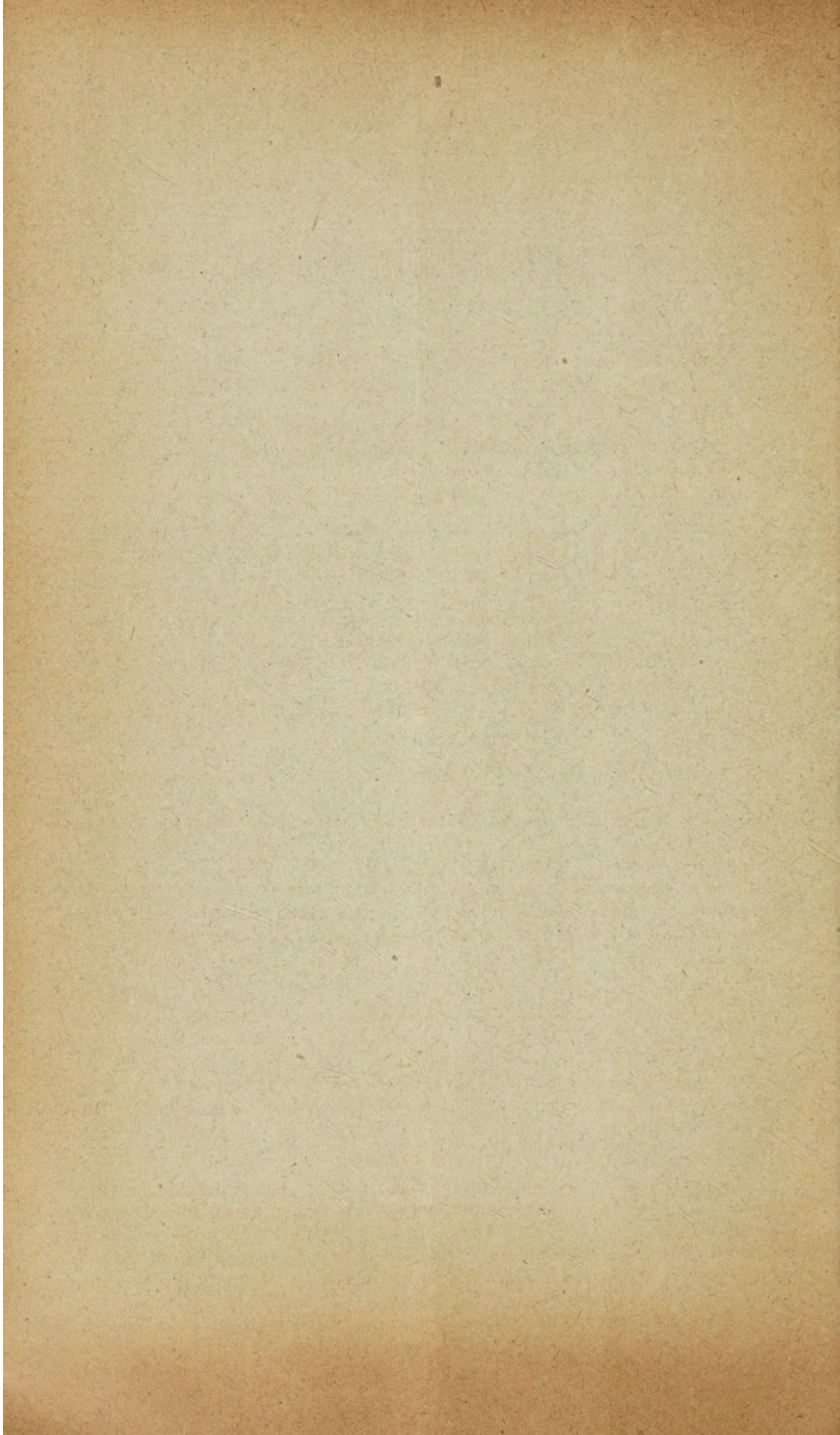
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REPORT  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
FOR 1896.

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WM. Mc.GOWAN, PRINTER, PONTEFRACT.

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TO THE PONTEFRACT  
**RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT COUNCIL.**



GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1896.

SCARLATINA, &c.

With the exceptions of the outbreak of measles and whooping cough at Brotherton and Fairburn, there has been no approach to anything like an epidemic in the district. Out of the total number of deaths from zymotic diseases (28), eight were from measles and thirteen from whooping cough, and although 21 cases of scarlatina have been notified, there has not been one fatal result. Of these cases two were from Balne, in the same house (origin not traceable), one at Cridling Stubbs imported. The patient was confined at Tickhill on the 17th of October, came to Stubbs on the 12th of November, began to be ill on the 18th, and neither the baby nor another child in the house caught the disease.

There was one case at Darrington, fourteen at Glass Houghton, of which five were in February, 3 in March, 2 in April, 1 in June, 1 in July, 1 in August, and 1 in October; but no connection could be traced between any one case and another. There was one case at Stapleton which was undoubtedly imported, and two cases at Monkfrystone in the same house which were distinctly traced to Castleford. I have not the slightest doubt that the notification of these cases, and the immediate steps taken to prevent the spread of the disease, were attended with the most satisfactory results.

DIPHTHERIA.

Of the remaining notified cases, 7 were of diphtheria—3 at Darrington, 2 at Fairburn, 1 at Stapleton, and 1 at Hensall. The last was the only fatal one—and although there were four other children in the house, none of them were affected. As to probable causes the most likely seemed to be in one case, filthy condition of privy and ashpit, and in another defective condition of water closet.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Eleven cases of typhoid fever were notified, of which 6 were at Brotherton, 1 in June, 3 in September, in the same house (of which one was doubtful), 1 in October, and one in November. No special causes could be found for these cases. There was one case at Burton Salmon which proved fatal, the patient in this instance came home ill from near Selby where he had contracted the disease. Of the remaining cases 1 was at Ferryfrystone, 2 at Glasshoughton, and one at Hillam.

There were also notified, one case of puerperal fever at Womersley which proved fatal, and 4 cases of erysipelas in different parts of the district and at various times 44 cases were notified during the year, and the following table shows particulars of deaths :---

Townships.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea.	TOTAL.
Brotherton .....						4	1		5
Burton Salmon.....				1					1
Carleton .....						1			1
Fairburn .....						2	5	1	8
Ferryfrystone .....							4	1	5
Glasshoughton .....							2	1	3
Heck .....						1			1
Hensall .....		1							1
Monkfrystone .....							1		1
Whitley .....			1						1
Womersley .....					1				1
Total.....		1	1	1	1	8	13	3	28

Four of the deaths from measles were at Brotherton, 2 at Fairburn, 1 at Heck, and 1 at Carleton. Out of the 13 deaths from whooping cough 1 occurred at Brotherton, 5 at Fairburn, 4 at Ferryfrystone, 2 at Glasshoughton, and 1 at Monkfrystone.

Special reports have been presented during the year on these outbreaks, and particular attention drawn to the carelessness and I might say callousness of people with regard to these two diseases. Whether compulsory notification would prove of any use I am not prepared to say, but the diagnosis in each disease is so easy that few people do not recognise them, and it renders it all the more culpable of them to neglect the simplest precaution. Of the remaining deaths, out of the total of 229, 13 were from phthisis, 44 from other lung affections, 10 from heart disease, 10 from injuries, and the rest from various causes. Estimating the population to the middle of 1896 at 11,600 the average death rate would be 19·7 per 1,000 living.

There is as usual a great contrast between the proportion of deaths in the more populous townships and the rest of the district, which the annexed table shows, and more particularly in the infantile department, which is recognised as bearing a direct connection with the sanitary condition of districts, although some allowance must be made for the physique, or constitution of parents and their habits of life. As I mentioned in one previous report, this result cannot be ascribed to the mother working in factories, for as a matter of fact the mothers in the more purely agricultural districts do leave their children more whilst they are engaged in field work. Whatever the exact cause may be there is no doubt that the sanitary condition of these

townships ought to be put into good order, and if cleanliness and intelligent co-operation could be obtained from the inhabitants I think better results might be arrived at.

In addition to other things I am very strongly of opinion that District Nurses would prove very useful, more especially as inculcators or teachers of the more ordinary rules of hygiene, and as the present year is to be remarkable for all kinds of good work, I do not think that small districts or townships could do better than make arrangements for such assistance.

The following table shows at a glance the contrast which I have mentioned between the proportion of deaths in the more populous townships and the rest of the district.

	Total Deaths.	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths from 1 to 5.	Deaths under 5.
Whole of District	229	82	39	121
{ Brotherton	26	9	7	16
{ Fairburn	16	7	5	12
{ Ferryfrystone	56	20	9	29
{ Glasshoughton	43	24	9	33
	141	60	30	90
Estimated Population of whole District. 11,600	...	General Death Rate 19.7 per 1,000 living	...	Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births regd. 203
Population of four Townships 6,200	...	22.7 per 1,000 living	...	225.5
Whole of District	...	Total Births 404	...	General Average 34.8
In the four Townships	...	266	...	41.5
Rest of District : popu- lation, 5,400.	...	General Death Rate 16.3 per 1,000 living.	...	Infantile Death Rate 160
		Average Birth Rate 25.5		

The Deaths from zymotic diseases, 28 in number, give an average of 2.4 per 1,000 living. In addition there were 8 deaths in the Workhouse, 1 from Brotherton, 2 from Glasshoughton, 4 from Ferryfrystone, and 1 from Birkin. Owing to the total absence of smallpox the need of an Isolation Hospital does not appear to have been urgently felt, but that is no excuse for the scheme not being pushed on. People are quite aware of the weak ground held with regard to Compulsory Vaccination, and many shirk it or have it performed in a very unsatisfactory manner. As I have before advocated, a universal supply of calf lymph would remove a great deal of the opposition, and the example of Germany at any rate proves that such a provision is perfectly feasible.

It seems strange that at the present day if anyone discovers a similar antidote to any disease, whether Phthisis, Hydrophobia, Diphtheria, or any other, he should almost be looked upon as an original genius, when at the same time the one antidote which has stood the test of time and has almost obliterated from us the most loathsome and deadly disease, which used to prevail, should in many instances be utterly neglected, and the power which will not permit a postman or a telegraph boy to do his work without being re-vaccinated, allows whole communities to exercise a most dangerous form of Local Option, which is occasionally attended with dire results, as at Gloucester. Various Sanitary Schemes have reached a certain stage, *i.e.* the Drainage Schemes at Carleton, Darrington, Brotherton, Burton Salmon, Glasshoughton. The more urgently required are those at Brotherton and Glasshoughton, in the latter case more especially owing to the number of new houses that are being built.

There has been no improvement in the Water Supply to New Frystone although this could be so easily accomplished. The Water Supply at Fairburn has been occasionally very scarce and ought to be supplemented.

Scavenging is still a great difficulty and ought to be carried out by the various Parish Councils.

The following Schools have been closed during the year, and Reports presented in connection therewith :---

Fairburn, for Measles, from January 29th to February 24th.

Cridling Stubbs, for Whooping Cough, from February 15th to March 16th.

Carleton, for Measles, from March 23rd to April 20th.

Fairburn, for Measles and Whooping Cough from August 20th to Oct. 12th.

I enclose a copy of the Inspector's Report showing the amount of Sanitary Work performed during the year ; also, Copies of Tables A. B. C.

I am, Gentlemen,


Your obedient Servant,

**THOMAS PERCIVAL,**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Knottingley, February 13th, 1897.

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# Table C., 1896.

## Pontefract Rural Sanitary District.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—THOMAS PERCIVAL.

SANITARY INSPECTOR—WILLIAM SHUTTLEWORTH.

WATER SUPPLY—Quantity { Adequate { Glasshoughton only has a public  
Inadequate { supply from Wakefield; no lead  
pipes used. The rest are dependent  
upon wells.

Quality—

Action on lead—

Any extensions or change during 1896? New well at Brotherton.

SEWERAGE—System { Single } None. Ventilation by { Lampholes—  
Dual } { Manholes—  
Special Shafts—

Special flushing arrangements—None.

Extensions or improvements during 1896—None.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL—Treatment adopted—None. An imperfect system at New Frystone.

SCAVENGING—Are the privy middens, etc., cleansed } New Frystone by contract.  
by sanitary staff, by contractors, } Rest by owners and occu-  
or by tenants? } cupiers.

Is the present system satisfactory? No.

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS, AND REGULATIONS— Date of adoption.  
Infectious Disease Notification Act, 1889 .. .. June 11th, 1894.  
Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890 .. ..  
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 .. ..  
Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk- ) All registered and  
shops Orders .. .. ) frequently inspected.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.	Number		General Condition?	Legal Proceed- ings (if any).
	Registered.	Inspected.		
Common Lodging-houses	1	Times. 43	Good.	None.
Canal Boats .. ..		70		
Slaughter-houses ..	16	56		
Bakehouses .. ..	1	Twice.		
Dairies .. ..	28	Inspections. 111		
Cowsheds .. ..				
Milkshops .. ..				
Offensive Trades.. .. (Please specify nature)	None.			

**SCHEMES** before L.G.B.—Sewerage Scheme for Brotherton, Burton Salmon, Darlington, Carleton, and Glass Houghton.

**L.G.B. INQUIRIES**—

**L.G.B. INSPECTIONS**—

**SPECIAL REPORTS**—Number made by M.O.H. during 1896—Four.

Have copies been forwarded to the County Council?—Yes.

**BIRTHS**—(a) Number of each sex :—Males, 193 ; Females, 211.

(b) Number of Illegitimate, included in the above—21.

(c) Any information as to Still-Births?—No.

**DEATHS**—(a) Number of each sex :—Males, 101 ; Females, 128.

(b) Number Uncertified, included in the above—2.

**DEATH RETURNS**—What correction (if any) is made for non-residents dying within the District?—None.

Are any Returns obtained of deaths of residents occurring in public institutions (Workhouses, Hospitals, etc.), outside the District?—No ; except Pontefract Workhouse.

**ISOLATION HOSPITAL**—Any action during 1896?—Scheme in hand.

**SANITARY WORK**—

Number of houses built during 1896—50 at Glasshoughton.

House to house inspection during 1896—547.

Total number of Nuisances in hand at close of 1895—0 ; at close of 1896—2 : reported during 1896—360 ; abated during 1896—358.

Total number of summonses, or other legal proceedings—none.

House drainage : Number of sinks disconnected during 1896—25.

„ „ trapped „ „ 25.

**CLOSETS**—Number constructed during 1896—69 ; kinds—privies principally.

What action has been taken in the following matters?—

Houses unfit for habitation—12 ; overcrowding—None.

Seizure of unsound food—None ; prosecutions—None.

Samples under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts—None ; prosecutions—None.

River pollution—None.

Smoke abatement—None.

Workshops—4 ; 15 inspections.

Schools—Frequently inspected.

Burial Grounds—No complaints, nor overcrowding.

**SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF DISTRICT AND SUGGESTIONS OF M.O.H**

Isolation Hospital required, and the various Sewage Schemes mentioned better Scavenging arrangements.



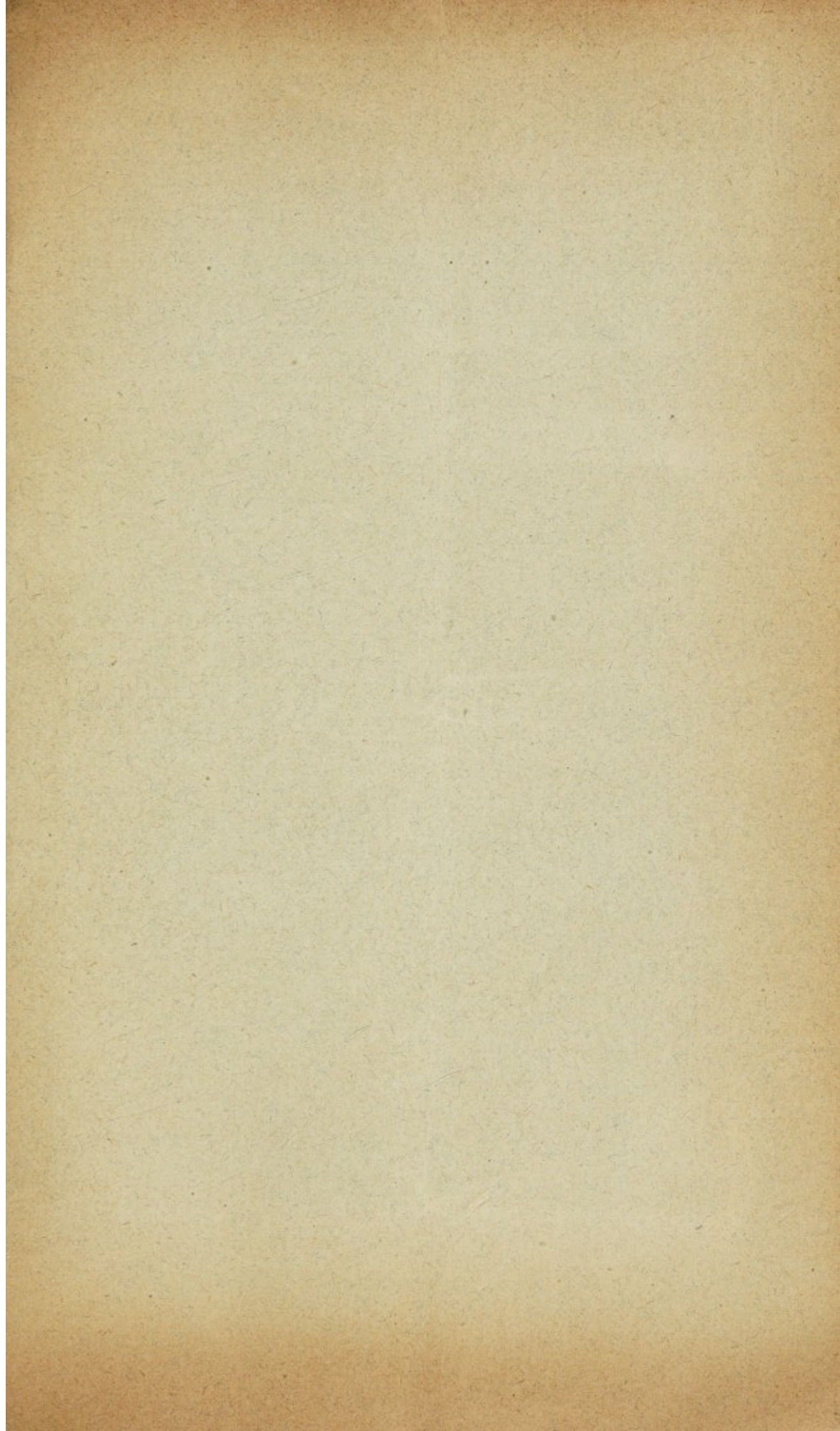
# SANITARY WORK

From Jan. 1, 1896, to  
Dec. 31, 1896.

Townships.	New privies and ashpits erected.	Old privies and ashpits repaired and ventilated, ashpits covered in, bottoms paved and grouted with cement, ashpits built to privies, and privies converted into earth closets.	New sanitary tube drains and ventilating shafts.	Sink pipes disconnected from drains, and drains ventilated and repaired.	Infected cottages visited, and instructions given against spreading the disease.	Wells & cisterns cleansed, and pumps repaired.	Manure and other foul matter removed from streets, public roads, & backyards; privies, ashpits, earth-closets, pig-cotes, and slaughter-houses cleansed, and privies limewashed.	Foul drains and cess-pools cleansed.	Pigcotes removed.	New town's sewers.	Town's sewers cleansed and repaired.	Inspection of cowsheds, milkshops, & dairies.	Inspections of common lodging-houses.	Quarry-fencing, &c.	Inspections of bake-houses.	Inspections of slaughter houses.	Workshops and factories inspected.	Number of Inspections made.	Number of nuisances found.	Number of nuisances abated.	Inspections of canal boats.	Open drains and water courses cleansed.
BALNE ..	4	..	24	..	..	2	3	1	..	200	..	4	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	100
BEAGHALL ..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
BIRKIN ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
BYRAM ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
BURTON SALMON ..	1	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1452
BROTHERTON ..	..	..	..	..	20	1	14	8	1	..	66	29	..	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	100
CARLETON ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
ORIDLING STUBBS ..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
DARRINGTON ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
EAST HARDWICK ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
EGGBOROUGH ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
FERRYFRYSTONE ..	2	..	7	..	1	1	5	10	..	221	563	31	43	1	2	4	9	..	..	..	..	920
FAIRBURN ..	..	..	..	..	61	1	16	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	200
GLASSHOUUGHTON ..	4	..	2	..	6	..	46	25	5	..	85	18	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	700
HECK ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
HENSALL ..	3	..	10	..	..	..	2	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
HILLAM ..	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	3	..	..	..	6	..	..	4	4	3	..	..	..	..	..
KELLINGTON ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
MONKFRYSTON ..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	70	..	9	..	1	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	3102
SUTTON ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
STAPLETON ..	1	..	3	..	1	..	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
WHITLEY ..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	3	..	..	..	..	..
WOMERSLEY ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTALS ..	19	25	531 yds.	25	100	18	107	73	8	491 yds.	714 yds.	111	43	7	2	56	15	1240	421	419	70	6574 yds.

WM. SHUTTLEWORTH, Sanitary Inspector.

STATE OF NEW YORK  
IN SENATE  
January 15, 1907.  
REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE  
IN ANSWER TO A RESOLUTION  
PASSED BY THE SENATE  
MAY 15, 1906.  
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