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With Mr. W.

Borough of Reading.

URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Twenty-first Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE YEAR 1893,

Pursuant to the Regulations of the Local Government Board.

Town Hall, Reading,

To the Reading Urban Sanitary Authority,
Gentlemen,

27th January, 1894.

The health of Reading during the past year has been good, notwithstanding that we were threatened with outbreaks of several infectious diseases to a much greater extent than has been the case for several years past, and the almost unprecedented heat and drought we experienced for some months which was hazardous to the health of the young, and especially of the infant population.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Now that the complete Report on the Census of 1891 has been published, it will probably be useful to put on record in my Annual Report for 1893 the age and sex-distribution, and other particulars of interest concerning the population of Reading revealed by the census.

The number of persons living in the Urban Sanitary District of Reading, which is conterminous with the County Borough and the Registration District, on the 6th April, 1891, was 60,054, and consisted of 29,315 males and 30,739 females; of whom 36,760 were unmarried, 18,263 males and 18,497 females; 20,404 were married, 10,183 males and 10,221 females; and 2,890 were widowed, 869 males and 2,021 females.

There were 1,049 females to 1,000 males, the proportion in the whole of England and Wales having been 1,064 females to 1,000 males, and in the whole of Berkshire 1,034 females to 1,000 males.

Thirty-nine persons were blind, five of them from childhood; 28 were deaf and dumb; 35 were deaf, four from childhood; and 60 were mentally deranged, 13 of them from childhood.

The birth-places of this population are given below:—

| Where born. | Males. | Females. | Persons. |
|---|--------|----------|----------|
| Berkshire | 18,533 | 18,808 | 37,341 |
| London | 1,343 | 1,629 | 2,972 |
| Other parts of England | 8,644 | 9,413 | 18,057 |
| Monmouthshire and Wales | 160 | 194 | 354 |
| Islands in the British Seas | 27 | 39 | 66 |
| Scotland | 138 | 123 | 261 |
| Ireland | 193 | 207 | 400 |
| British Colonies or Dependencies | 151 | 213 | 364 |
| Foreign Countries | 119 | 111 | 230 |
| At Sea | 7 | 2 | 9 |

In every 1,000 of the population there were 622 natives of Berkshire.

Of those born in foreign countries 37 males and 23 females were British subjects, whilst 82 males and 88 females were foreigners. The country of birth of those 170 foreigners is detailed in the next table:—

| Where born. | Males. | Females. | Persons. |
|---------------------------------------|--------|----------|----------|
| EUROPE. | | | |
| Russia | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Poland (Russian) | 11 | 5 | 16 |
| Norway | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Denmark | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Belgium | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| France... .. | 7 | 21 | 28 |
| Germany (including Heligoland) | 19 | 19 | 38 |
| Austria | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Switzerland | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| Spain | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Portugal | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Italy | 14 | 4 | 18 |
| Greece... .. | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Turkey | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| ASIA. | | | |
| China | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Other Countries | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| AMERICA. | | | |
| United States... .. | 9 | 12 | 21 |
| Other States of America | 2 | 8 | 10 |
| Country not stated | 2 | 0 | 2 |

The number and sex of the population at several groups of ages are given in the following table:—

| Age. | Under 1 year. | 1— | 2— | 3— | 4— | Under 5 years. | 5— | 10— | 15— | 20— | 25— | 30— | 35— |
|---------------|---------------|------|------|------|------|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Males | 805 | 756 | 769 | 838 | 745 | 3913 | 3577 | 3363 | 2973 | 2563 | 2349 | 2238 | 1856 |
| Females | 800 | 761 | 778 | 759 | 731 | 3829 | 3621 | 3324 | 2999 | 2765 | 2558 | 2225 | 1953 |
| Persons | 1605 | 1517 | 1547 | 1597 | 1476 | 7742 | 7198 | 6687 | 5972 | 5328 | 4907 | 4463 | 3809 |

| Age. | 40— | 45— | 50— | 55— | 60— | 65— | 70— | 75— | 80— | 85— | 90— | 95— | 100 and upwards. |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------|
| Males | 1656 | 1332 | 1053 | 781 | 588 | 440 | 323 | 191 | 93 | 21 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| Females | 1755 | 1398 | 1170 | 894 | 772 | 581 | 456 | 247 | 136 | 44 | 11 | 1 | 0 |
| Persons | 3411 | 2730 | 2223 | 1675 | 1360 | 1021 | 779 | 438 | 229 | 65 | 16 | 1 | 0 |

The age and sex-constitution per 1,000 of the population of England and Wales, and of Reading are compared in the next table:—

| | | At all Ages. | 0 to 5 | 5 to 15 | 15 to 25 | 25 to 55 | 55 to 65 | 65 and upwards. | |
|------------------|-------------------------|---------------|--------|---------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|----|
| Age-Distribution | England and Wales | 1000 | 123 | 228 | 193 | 352 | 57 | 47 | |
| | Reading | 1000 | 129 | 231 | 188 | 359 | 51 | 42 | |
| Sex-Distribution | Reading .. | Males | 488 | 65 | 115 | 92 | 175 | 23 | 18 |
| | | Females | 512 | 64 | 116 | 96 | 184 | 28 | 24 |
| | England and Wales .. | Males | 485 | 61 | 114 | 94 | 169 | 26 | 21 |
| | | Females | 515 | 62 | 114 | 99 | 183 | 31 | 26 |

Inasmuch as the death rate per 1,000 between 5 and 55 years of age is lower than the death rate for all ages, an unusually large proportion of persons living at those ages in any community would tend to cause a low mortality, while the death rate would be raised by an excess over the usual number living under 5 years of age or over 55, because the mortality at those periods of life is above the rate for all ages.

Again, the death rate of females at nearly all ages is lower than the death rate of males; so a larger proportion of females than usual in any district would also tend to lower the death rate, quite independently of any local condition of climate, dwellings or occupation and habits of the people.

It is therefore necessary to make corrections for the age and sex-distribution of the population of places before their death rates can be strictly compared.

The general or crude death rate, which gives the proportion of deaths from all causes to each 1,000 of the population, when applied to the same place from year to year is a safe indication of any change for better or worse in its health condition, because the age and sex-constitution of populations are found to remain almost constant when the prevailing industries and general class of the inhabitants have not changed. But when used for comparison with other places it may entirely lose its value as a test of the relative healthiness of the places compared, because their age and sex-distribution may be altogether different.

However, on referring to the table given above, it will be seen that the age and sex-constitution of the Reading population are so nearly like those of the whole country that no great fallacy would be involved in the comparison of its crude death rate with the corrected death rate of any place in England and Wales. Thus, in Reading there are 6 per 1,000 more children under 5 years of age than in the whole of the country, 5 per 1,000 more people between 5 and 55, and 11 per 1,000 less over 55 years of age; while there are 3 per 1,000 less females.

There were 11,465 inhabited houses, 894 uninhabited houses, and 151 building when the census was taken.

The average number of persons in each house was 5.24.

The Census (England and Wales) Act, 1890, enacted for the first time that account should be taken of all tenements with less than five rooms, in addition to the number of houses; but it gave no distinct definition of the terms house, tenement, or room, hence it is stated in the census report that there is good reason to believe that the same meaning was not invariably attached to them by those who were locally engaged in the enumeration.

This is to be regretted, because the information derived in this way would be of the utmost value if its accuracy could always be relied upon, and it is to be hoped that the necessary definitions will find a place in future Census Acts.

The report goes on to say—"According to the instructions issued by us for the guidance of the enumerator, *all the space within the external and party walls of a building* was to be considered a separate house, by however many families, living in distinct tenements or apartments, it might be occupied. By a tenement was to be understood *any house or part of a house separately occupied either by the owner or by a tenant*; and a separate schedule was to be given to the occupier of each such tenement. It is plain to us, however, that these instructions were by no means invariably observed, and it appears that the term 'tenement' was especially the cause of much confusion. Some thought that house and tenement were equivalent terms which might be used indifferently for each other, and we had instances in which several hundreds of flats, instead of being returned only as separate tenements, were returned as separate houses. In other cases a flat or lodging, separately occupied and therefore returnable as a tenement, was altogether ignored, and its occupiers returned as members of the family of the landlord who lived in the rest of the house. There were even instances in which the enumerator appears to have thought that a tenement meant a room occupied by members of different families in common, and returned in consequence each separate room in a common lodging-house as a separate tenement. All such errors when detected, were corrected by us; but, as such detection could only be the result of chance, we cannot but suppose that many similar mis-statements have gone uncorrected.

As regards the term 'room' we gave no instructions. Such would have been useless, as the instructions could only reach the enumerator; and it was not the enumerator but the occupier himself who had to state on his schedule whether his tenement had less than five rooms, and if so how many. The term 'room' is very elastic, and can be stretched, by those who please, to cover a landing, a lobby, a closet, or any other more or less distinct space within a dwelling. When it is borne in mind that overcrowding is a legal offence, it is in the highest degree probable that a man with a large family crowded into a small tenement, will in his schedule have given at any rate the widest possible interpretation to the word 'room.' It is possible that this want of precision in the use of the term may account for some of the extraordinary differences in regard to house accommodation which will presently be shown to exist between different counties and different towns. We can, however, only deal with the figures as they stand."

Without, therefore, placing too implicit reliance upon the accuracy of the figures relating to tenement-dwellings, we can, I think, derive some useful information from a broad consideration of them.

Thus, then, while the inhabited *houses* numbered 11,465, there were 11,949 inhabited *tenements*.

The number of tenements with less than five rooms was 2,255 or 18·87 per cent. of the total number of tenements, and they were occupied by 8,740 persons distributed as follows :—

| Rooms in Tenement. | Number of Tenements with less than five Rooms. | NUMBER OF OCCUPANTS OF TENEMENTS. | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 or more. |
| 1. | 129 | 70 | 37 | 14 | 7 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 2. | 397 | 79 | 149 | 78 | 45 | 24 | 15 | 3 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| 3. | 499 | 31 | 112 | 98 | 102 | 55 | 44 | 22 | 17 | 10 | 6 | 2 | ... |
| 4. | 1230 | 32 | 186 | 230 | 219 | 213 | 153 | 93 | 58 | 32 | 7 | 3 | 4 |

This table shows that of the 2,255 tenements with less than five rooms, 129 were tenements of one room, 397 of two rooms, &c.; and of the 129 tenements of one room 70 had one occupant each, 37 two occupants, 14 three occupants, and so forth for the remainder of the figures.

Two hundred and twenty-one persons, or 0·37 per cent. of the population were housed in tenements of one room; 1,054, or 1·75 per cent., in tenements of two rooms; 1,958, or 3·26 per cent. in tenements of three rooms, and 5,507, or 9·17 per cent. in tenements of four rooms; whilst 51,314, or 85·45 per cent., resided in houses having five or more rooms.

The average number of occupants *per room* was 1·71 in single-roomed tenements, 1·33 in two-roomed tenements, 1·31 in three-roomed tenements, and 1·12 in four-roomed tenements.

In endeavouring to form some kind of estimate of overcrowding that really exists in such tenements the Census Report says :—

"We must first, however, define what we are to take as a standard of overcrowding. It is plain that the number of rooms and occupants is not in itself

an absolute guide, because rooms differ largely from each other in size. Still we may be tolerably certain that the rooms in tenements with less than five rooms will not, in any but exceptional cases, be of large size, and that ordinary tenements which have more than two occupants per room, bedrooms and sitting rooms included, may safely be considered as unduly overcrowded."

They exclude all one-roomed tenements with not more than two occupants, all two-roomed tenements with not more than four occupants, all three-roomed tenements with not more than six, and all four-roomed tenements with not more than eight occupants, and consider all tenements of fewer than five rooms apiece with a greater number of occupants to be overcrowded.

Judged by that standard there were 171 overcrowded tenements with less than five rooms in Reading at the census of 1891, since that number contained more than two inhabitants per room in each tenement.

In those 171 tenements there were 1,241 people or 2·07 per cent. of the total population, and the average number of persons per room in them was 2·65.

The overcrowded tenements are shown on the right of the continuous dark line in the table on page 5.

These particulars are set forth in the next table, in which for the sake of comparison, I have given similar figures referring to England and Wales, to all Urban and Rural Sanitary Districts, to the other six County Boroughs and to all Urban Sanitary Districts having over 5,000 tenements in the South Eastern Counties, as well as to Windsor and Newbury which contain less than that number of tenements.

| Towns. | Total Number of Tenements. | Number of 1 to 4 Roomed Tenements. | Proportion per cent. of 1 to 4 Roomed Tenements to total Tenements. | OVERCROWDING. | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|---|
| | | | | Number of 1 to 4 Roomed Tenements with more than 2 Occupants per Room. | Number of Occupants of such Tenements. | Average Number of Occupants per Room in such Tenements. | Proportion per cent. of such Persons to total Population. |
| Reading | 11949 | 2255 | 18·87 | 171 | 1241 | 2·65 | 2·07 |
| Bournemouth | 6006 | 1259 | 20·96 | 101 | 627 | 2·69 | 1·66 |
| Brighton | 25340 | 10168 | 40·13 | 956 | 5282 | 2·78 | 4·56 |
| Canterbury | 4838 | 1540 | 31·63 | 73 | 490 | 2·56 | 2·12 |
| Chatham | 5839 | 2026 | 34·69 | 175 | 1262 | 2·63 | 3·99 |
| Croydon | 20672 | 5099 | 24·67 | 455 | 2827 | 2·70 | 2·75 |
| Dover | 6579 | 2143 | 32·57 | 123 | 835 | 2·61 | 2·51 |
| Eastbourne | 6246 | 1852 | 29·65 | 218 | 1266 | 2·80 | 3·62 |
| Gillingham | 5374 | 1384 | 25·75 | 103 | 722 | 2·59 | 2·59 |
| Hastings | 10425 | 3086 | 29·60 | 300 | 1854 | 2·79 | 3·55 |
| Hove | 5302 | 1769 | 33·36 | 124 | 666 | 2·64 | 2·55 |
| Kingston-on-Thames .. | 5671 | 1638 | 28·88 | 140 | 813 | 2·68 | 3·00 |
| Maidstone | 6387 | 1343 | 21·03 | 77 | 508 | 2·62 | 1·58 |
| Newbury | 2406 | 839 | 34·04 | 30 | 240 | 2·45 | 2·18 |
| Portsmouth | 33980 | 9435 | 27·77 | 451 | 2770 | 2·64 | 1·74 |
| Ramsgate | 5254 | 1204 | 22·91 | 104 | 654 | 2·67 | 2·64 |
| Rochester | 5436 | 1806 | 33·22 | 171 | 1257 | 2·64 | 4·78 |
| Southampton | 14687 | 5062 | 34·47 | 361 | 2215 | 2·68 | 3·39 |
| Tunbridge Wells | 6138 | 1916 | 31·22 | 74 | 483 | 2·67 | 1·73 |
| Wimbledon | 5219 | 1587 | 30·41 | 116 | 739 | 2·69 | 2·86 |
| New Windsor | 2659 | 1107 | 41·63 | 123 | 735 | 2·76 | 5·96 |
| England and Wales .. | 6,131,001 | 3,205,705 | 52·29 | 481,653 | 3,258,044 | 2·81 | 11·23 |
| Urban Sanitary Districts | 4,387,311 | 2,357,112 | 53·73 | 391,220 | 2,572,413 | — | 12·31 |
| Rural Sanitary Districts | 1,743,690 | 848,593 | 48·67 | 90,433 | 685,631 | — | 8·46 |

From these figures we may deduce the conclusion that, while there is some room for improvement in Reading, the inhabitants are better housed than those of all but four of the towns included in the table, namely, Bournemouth, Maidstone, Portsmouth, and Tunbridge Wells; whilst the percentage of overcrowded persons in this borough is very considerably less than is found in Windsor, Rochester, Brighton, Chatham, Eastbourne, Southampton, and Kingston-on-Thames, when judged by the standard which has been adopted, and compares very favourably with that of the whole country, being less than one fifth of what it is in England and Wales, less than one fourth of the average in all rural sanitary districts, and just one-sixth of the average overcrowding rate in all Urban Sanitary Districts.

The census affords no data for calculating what overcrowding there may be in tenements with more than four rooms, but, from my knowledge of the district, I should say that there is not much in Reading.

There are 5,878 statute acres within the borough, so at the census there were 10·2 persons per acre, or 0·098 acre to each person.

Seeing, however, that not less than half the area of the district consists of agricultural land with very few habitations upon it, the degree of aggregation of the population in the portion actually constituting the town would be more exactly expressed by stating that there are about 20 persons to an acre, and that the average area occupied by each person amounts to about one-twentieth of an acre.

Dr. Farr pointed out many years ago that density of population tends to increase mortality, and that, other things being similar in different places, there is a certain ratio between their mortality and the degree of aggregation of their populations. The young are especially susceptible to this influence. It is, therefore, most necessary, in the interest of the public health, that there should be as little departure as possible from the full amount of open space which can be legally required around new buildings, and that close courts and alleys should be opened up whenever opportunity offers.

The occupations of males and females aged ten years and upwards at the time of the census were comprised under the several classes given in the next table:—

| OCCUPATION. | MALES. | FEMALES. | PERSONS. |
|---|--------|----------|----------|
| I. Professional Class | 1225 | 890 | 2115 |
| II. Domestic Class | 263 | 4026 | 4289 |
| III. Commercial Class | 2765 | 68 | 2833 |
| IV. Agricultural and Fishing Class | 866 | 22 | 888 |
| V. Industrial Class | 13103 | 2416 | 15519 |
| VI. Unoccupied Class | 3603 | 15865 | 19468 |
| Omitted in Census Table | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Total over 10 years | 21825 | 23289 | 45114 |

The growth of the Urban Sanitary District of Reading, as now constituted, is shown by the population at six successive censuses given in the Report of the Census of 1891. The population of parts of parishes or townships which have been added to the district has been estimated at each census when necessary, and all the figures in the following table which include any such estimates are printed in italics:—

| Urban Sanitary District. | 1841. | 1851. | 1861. | 1871. | 1881. | 1891. |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------|--------|
| Population | <i>22,774</i> | <i>25,871</i> | <i>30,189</i> | <i>38,896</i> | 49,117 | 60,054 |
| Increase per cent. of popula- } tion between each census ... } | — | 13.59 | 16.69 | 28.81 | 26.25 | 22.27 |

Thus it will be seen that the intercensal growth increased rapidly up to 1871, since when the rate of increase has steadily decreased, and if this declension is still going on the population will have been rather over estimated, because it has been assumed that there is now the same rate of increase as there was in the last intercensal period, and consequently the birth and death rates, &c., may have been slightly understated, but the error would not be sufficient to invalidate the general accuracy of the statistics.

During the year 766 persons were married *; 951 males and 902 females were born; and 497 males and 475 females died in your district.

There were 12.19 persons married to every 1,000 living.

The total number of births registered was 1,853; so the birth rate was 29.49 per 1,000 of the population. This was 3.04 per 1,000 below the average of the ten years preceding.

The deaths of five males and three females which happened in Moultsford Lunatic Asylum amongst persons who had been admitted from the district now comprised within the borough must be added to the registered deaths.

The 62 deaths in the workhouse all occurred amongst persons who had been admitted from Reading, so no correction has to be made on account of them.

There were 115 deaths in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, and from these must be deducted the deaths of 21 males and 22 females, which took place in that institution amongst persons who had been sent there from without the borough.

Five males died in the prison; four of those deaths, one of which was due to execution, must be deducted, as only one of the prisoners who died belonged to this district.

The numbers due to the borough were, therefore, 477 males and 456 females, or a total of 933 deaths: so the death rate at all ages was 14.85 per 1,000 persons living, which was 1.84 below the ten years' average.

Of the corrected number of deaths 222 occurred under one year of age, 346 under five years, 42 at five and under 15, 49 at 15 and under 25, 209 at 25 and under 55, 98 at 55 and under 65, and 189 at 65 and upwards.

* I am indebted to the courtesy of the Superintendent Registrar of the District for the information about marriages.

Although crude death rates may not be useful for comparison with those of other places until they have been corrected for age and sex-distribution, it is otherwise with death rates stated at various groups of ages per 1,000 living at those ages, which are strictly comparable with similar rates in all places; so I give these rates for males, females, and persons at all ages, and at six age-groups below:—

| AGES. | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------|-------|------|------|------|-------|-----------------|
| | All ages. | 0— | 5— | 15— | 25— | 55— | 65 and upwards. |
| Deaths to 1,000 living at each Age-Group. | | | | | | | |
| Males | 15·55 | 47·39 | 2·62 | 3·28 | 9·66 | 34·92 | 79·25 |
| Females... .. | 14·18 | 37·94 | 3·17 | 4·97 | 8·90 | 27·54 | 64·77 |
| Persons | 14·85 | 42·72 | 2·89 | 4·14 | 9·27 | 30·87 | 70·87 |

The mortality under one year of age is best stated in proportion to every 1,000 births registered (instead of each 1,000 living at that age), because the enumeration of infants under one at censuses cannot be relied upon as accurate, the number being understated owing to inaccurate returns, many in their first year being given as one year old.

Dr. Farr has attributed this deficiency to confusion between the current year of age and the completed years of life, and not to actual omissions.

The deaths of children under one year of age during the year numbered 222, and were 119·8 per 1,000 of registered births. This represents the "infantile mortality."

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age from certain groups of diseases, and the proportions of them to 1,000 births and 1,000 deaths from all causes under one, are set forth below:—

| (Infants under One Year). | Total Deaths. | Deaths per 1,000 of Births. | Deaths per 1,000 of Total Deaths under One Year. |
|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. Wasting Diseases ... | 68 | 36·2 | 306·3 |
| 2. Convulsive Diseases ... | 35 | 18·9 | 157·7 |
| 3. Diarrhœal Diseases .. | 46 | 24·8 | 207·7 |
| 4. Pulmonary Diseases ... | 30 | 16·2 | 135·1 |

1. Includes marasmus, atrophy, debility, asthenia, want of breast milk and premature birth.
2. Includes hydrocephalus, infantile meningitis, convulsions, and teething.
3. Includes diarrhœa, gastro-enteritis, intestinal catarrh, &c.
4. Includes bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy.

In the following table are given the area in statute acres, the number of houses, the population and births during 1893 in the several parishes of the borough :—

| Name of Localities. | Area in Statute Acres. | Houses, 1891. | | | Population. | | | | | Births registered in 1893. |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|--------|----------|------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| | | Inhabited. | Uninhabited. | Building. | 1881. | 1891. | | Estimated to middle of 1893. | Persons. | |
| | | | | | Persons. | Males. | Females. | | | |
| St. Mary | 2,196 | 4,422 | 372 | 33 | 18,863 | 11,597 | 12,283 | 23,880 | 25,164 | 757 |
| Workhouse | | | | | | | | | | |
| St. Lawrence .. | 328 | 817 | 102 | 25 | 4,674 | 2,267 | 2,267 | 4,534 | 4,500 | 86 |
| St. Giles | 3,354 | 6,226 | 420 | 93 | 25,580 | 15,451 | 16,189 | 31,640 | 33,169 | 992 |
| TOTALS | 5,878 | 11,465 | 894 | 151 | 49,117 | 29,315 | 30,739 | 60,054 | 62,833 | 1,853 |

On the 1st February, 1885, the registration sub-districts of St. Lawrence and St. Giles were united under the name of St. Giles, so there are now only the two sub-districts of St. Mary and St. Giles.

In the accompanying table, prescribed by the Local Government Board, the deaths, classified according to ages, diseases, and localities, are enumerated :—

Table of Deaths during the Year 1893, in the Urban Sanitary District of Reading.

| Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics: public institutions being shown as separate localities. | MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES. | | | | | | MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Total | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|---|-------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|---------|---------------------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|-------------|----------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------|------------------|-------|-----------|--------------------------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------------|-----|-----|
| | At all ages. | Under 1 year. | 1 and under 5. | 5 and under 15. | 15 and under 25. | 25 and under 60. | 60 and upwards. | Aged under 5 or over 5. | Small-pox. | Scarlatina. | Diphtheria. | Membranous Croup. | Typhus. | Enteric or Typhoid. | Continued. | Relapsing. | Pauperal. | Cholera. | Krysipelas. | Measles. | Whooping Cough. | Diarrhoea and Dysentery. | | Rheumatic Fever. | Ague. | Phthisis. | Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy. | Heart Disease. | Injuries. | All other Diseases. | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| St. Mary Registration Sub-district. | 336 | 100 | 52 | 17 | 18 | 75 | 74 | Under 5. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | 1 | 1 | .. | 2 | .. | 4 | 13 | 2 | 18 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 30 | .. | 1 | 83 | 152 | |
| Workhouse.. | 62 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 19 | 40 | Under 5. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 61 |
| St. Lawrence | 43 | 11 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 11 | Under 5. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | 10 | 14 | |
| H.M. Prison | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | Under 5. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 |
| St. Giles | 410 | 109 | 61 | 17 | 20 | 103 | 100 | Under 5. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 17 | 6 | 15 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 26 | .. | 1 | 100 | 170 |
| Royal Berkshire Hospital | 115 | 5 | 8 | 11 | 8 | 56 | 27 | Under 5. | .. | 4 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | 6 | 13 | |
| Isolation Hospitals | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | Under 5. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | 5 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 | 8 | 12 | 65 | 102 | |
| Totals | 972 | 225 | 125 | 46 | 54 | 276 | 252 | Under 5. | .. | 5 | .. | .. | 6 | 9 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 30 | 8 | 35 | .. | .. | .. | 61 | .. | 2 | 190 | 350 | |
| Deaths occurring outside the district among persons belonging thereto | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | Under 5. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 | |
| Deaths occurring within the district among persons not belonging thereto | 47 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 21 | 13 | Under 5. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | 2 | 4 | 43 | |
| Deaths due to the district | 333 | 222 | 124 | 42 | 49 | 255 | 241 | Under 5. | .. | 5 | .. | .. | 1 | 6 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 5 | 30 | 8 | 35 | .. | .. | .. | 60 | .. | 2 | 197 | 346 | |
| | | | | | | | | 5 upwards. | .. | 1 | 2 | .. | 6 | 6 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 2 | .. | 4 | 7 | .. | .. | 76 | 68 | 12 | 330 | 587 | |

The corrected deaths included 1 from scarlatina, 32 from measles, 7 from diphtheria, 8 from whooping cough, 6 from typhus fever, 7 from enteric or typhoid fever, 2 from continued fever, and 39 from diarrhoea, so 102 deaths were due to the principal zymotic diseases. This was at the rate of 1.62 per 1,000 of the population, and was 0.20 below the average of the ten years preceding.

The next table, relating to 1893 and the nineteen years preceding, enumerates the

DEATHS FROM THE PRINCIPAL ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

| YEAR. | 1874 | 1875 | 1876 | 1877 | 1878 | 1879 | 1880 | 1881 | 1882 | 1883 | 1884 | 1885 | 1886 | 1887 | 1888 | 1889 | 1890 | 1891 | 1892 | 1893 | |
|--|----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---|
| Small Pox.. .. . | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Measles | 28 | 0 | 10 | 9 | 2 | 33 | 12 | 2 | 49 | 22 | 7 | 58 | 1 | 52 | 8 | 7 | 18 | 29 | 36 | 32 | |
| Scarlet Fever .. . | 2 | 2 | 36 | 64 | 18 | 9 | 31 | 3 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 19 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 22 | 1 | |
| Diphtheria | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 16 | 9 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 12 | 7 | |
| Whooping Cough .. | 11 | 26 | 10 | 7 | 62 | 13 | 28 | 4 | 30 | 30 | 8 | 22 | 19 | 11 | 5 | 30 | 14 | 21 | 13 | 8 | |
| Fevers of a continued character. | Typhus | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| | Enteric | 7 | 12 | 11 | 9 | 24 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 11 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 8 | 7 |
| | Doubtful | 5 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Diarrhoea and Dy- sentery | 22 | 36 | 19 | 18 | 33 | 13 | 60 | 13 | 27 | 16 | 25 | 11 | 31 | 44 | 28 | 27 | 46 | 28 | 40 | 39 | |
| Total Deaths from the above prin- cipal Zymotic Diseases | 80 | 84 | 88 | 115 | 141 | 84 | 144 | 35 | 129 | 95 | 63 | 126 | 71 | 132 | 57 | 75 | 92 | 89 | 131 | 102 | |
| Death rate per 1,000 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 3.0 | 3.6 | 2.1 | 3.5 | 0.8 | 3.0 | 2.2 | 1.4 | 2.8 | 1.5 | 2.8 | 1.0 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 2.1 | 1.6 | |

The next table records the mortality from consumption, pulmonary diseases, heart diseases, and cancerous diseases, for several years past :—

DEATH RATES PER 1,000 PERSONS LIVING.

| DISEASE. | 1874 | 1875 | 1876 | 1877 | 1878 | 1879 | 1880 | 1881 | 1882 | 1883 | 1884 | 1885 | 1886 | 1887 | 1888 | 1889 | 1890 | 1891 | 1892 | 10 years' average 1883 to 1892. | 1893 | |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|------|--|
| Phthisis .. | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.0 | 2.1 | 2.3 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 2.0 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.48 | 1.38 | 1.23 | 1.84 | 1.51 | 1.27 | 1.51 | 1.23 | |
| Bronchitis .. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pneumonia .. | 3.0 | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.5 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 3.7 | 2.3 | 3.0 | 2.6 | 3.2 | 4.5 | 3.5 | 2.89 | 3.10 | 2.69 | 2.59 | 3.05 | 3.12 | 3.12 | 2.16 | |
| Pleurisy .. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diseases of the Heart.. . . . | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.4 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 0.95 | 0.85 | 1.35 | 1.42 | 0.96 | 1.14 | 1.08 | |
| Cancer | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0.90 | 0.56 | 0.63 | 0.83 | 0.78 | 0.65 | 0.68 | *0.72 | 0.54 | |

* Average of seven years only.

In the subjoined table the deaths due to cancerous diseases in the borough, during the year, are classified according to age, sex, and locality :—

| AGE | 25-35 | | 35-45 | | 45-55 | | 55-65 | | 65-75 | | 75-85 | | Totals. | |
|-----------------------|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|---------|----|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 1893 { St. Mary... .. | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 7 |
| St. Lawrence... | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| St. Giles... .. | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 11 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 18 |

The death rate from consumption was 1·23 per 1,000 of the inhabitants, being 0·28 per 1,000 below the ten years' average of 1·51.

Pulmonary diseases, other than phthisis, proved fatal to 2·16 out of every 1,000 of the population, a mortality which was 0·96 below the average of the ten years preceding, which was 3·12.

Diseases of the heart caused the death of 1·08 per 1,000, and fell short of the average of 1·14 by 0·06.

Cancerous diseases were the cause of 0·54 death per 1,000; this was 0·18 below the average of 0·72.

The annexed table sets forth the statistics for the twenty years since 1874, inclusive.

| Year. | Estimated Population to 30th June. | Registered Births. | DEATHS. | | | | | | | | Birth rate per 1,000 living. | Death rate per 1,000 living. | Zymotic death rate per 1,000 living. | §Deaths of Children under 1 year per 1,000 Births. | Houses connected with the Sewers. |
|-------|------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | All registered in Boro'. | Due to other Districts. | †Due to '3oro'. | §Under 1 year. | §Under 5 years. | §Over 5 years. | In Hospital. | In Workhouse. | | | | | |
| 1893 | 62,833 | 1,853 | 972 | 47 | 933 | 222 | 346 | 587 | 115 | 62 | 29·5 | 14·8 | 1·6 | 120 | 12,416 |
| 1892 | 61,582 | 1,838 | 1,142 | 43 | 1,107 | 260 | 401 | 706 | 108 | 68 | 29·8 | 17·98 | 2·1 | 141 | 12,140 |
| 1891 | 60,357 | 1,956 | 1,094 | 47 | 1,056 | 274 | 388 | 668 | 98 | 69 | 32·4 | 17·5 | 1·5 | 140 | 11,855 |
| 1890 | 59,124 | 1,700 | 947 | 50 | 900 | 224 | 318 | 582 | 94 | 60 | 28·8 | 15·2 | 1·6 | 132 | 11,468 |
| 1889 | 57,906 | 1,885 | 853 | 33 | †825 | 217 | 351 | 474 | 63 | 63 | 32·6 | 14·2 | 1·3 | 115 | 10,907 |
| 1888 | *56,713 | 1,838 | 873 | 32 | 841 | 220 | 316 | 525 | 74 | 58 | 32·4 | 14·8 | 1·0 | 120 | 9,990 |
| 1887 | 47,377 | 1,585 | 865 | 39 | 826 | 186 | 328 | 537 | 77 | 57 | 33·5 | 17·4 | 2·8 | 115 | 9,138 |
| 1886 | 46,496 | 1,567 | 845 | 30 | 815 | 216 | 317 | 528 | 69 | 54 | 33·7 | 17·5 | 1·5 | 138 | 8,765 |
| 1885 | 45,631 | 1,521 | 882 | 32 | 850 | 204 | 369 | 513 | 74 | 52 | 33·3 | 18·6 | 2·8 | 134 | 8,395 |
| 1884 | 44,782 | 1,536 | 824 | 34 | 790 | 191 | 277 | 547 | 79 | 67 | 34·3 | 17·6 | 1·4 | 124 | 8,226 |
| 1883 | 43,950 | 1,515 | 746 | 39 | 707 | 164 | 283 | 463 | 58 | 50 | 34·5 | 16·1 | 2·2 | 108 | 7,982 |
| 1882 | 43,132 | 1,494 | 806 | 31 | 775 | 201 | 372 | 434 | 58 | 46 | 34·6 | 17·9 | 3·0 | 134 | 7,654 |
| 1881 | 42,332 | 1,500 | 635 | 36 | 599 | 151 | 218 | 417 | 58 | 59 | 35·4 | 14·2 | 0·8 | 101 | 7,176 |
| 1880 | 41,232 | 1,573 | 852 | 37 | 815 | 264 | 408 | 444 | 57 | 51 | 38·2 | 19·8 | 3·5 | 168 | 6,712 |
| 1879 | 40,161 | 1,443 | 799 | 28 | 771 | 182 | 281 | 518 | 53 | 66 | 35·9 | 19·2 | 2·1 | 126 | 5,975 |
| 1878 | 39,118 | 1,455 | 889 | 41 | 848 | 246 | 367 | 522 | 78 | 79 | 37·2 | 21·7 | 3·6 | 169 | 5,238 |
| 1877 | 38,102 | 1,434 | 674 | 25 | 649 | 179 | 290 | 384 | 40 | 54 | 37·6 | 17·0 | 3·0 | 125 | 3,860 |
| 1876 | 37,113 | 1,370 | 703 | 34 | 669 | 185 | 270 | 433 | 61 | 43 | 36·9 | 18·0 | 2·4 | 135 | 2,003 |
| 1875 | 36,149 | 1,350 | 698 | 38 | 660 | 165 | 251 | 447 | 50 | 57 | 37·3 | 18·3 | 2·3 | 122 | None till Nov. |
| 1874 | 35,210 | 1,320 | 700 | 39 | 661 | 169 | 263 | 437 | 58 | 40 | 37·5 | 18·8 | 2·3 | 128 | None. |

* Extended borough.

† Since 1889 an addition has been made of any deaths in Moulsoford Lunatic Asylum of persons who had been admitted from any part now comprised in the borough.

§ The corrected numbers have been given from 1887.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The cases of infectious diseases which came to my knowledge during the year are classified below.

| LOCALITY. | | Aged under 5 or over 5. | Small Pox. | Scarlatina. | Diphtheria. | *Membranous Croup. | FEVERS. | | | | | Cholera. | *Erysipelas. | †Measles. |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------|---------|---------------------|-------------|------------|------------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| | | | | | | | Typhus. | Enteric or Typhoid. | *Continued. | Relapsing. | Puerperal. | | | |
| St. Mary Registration Sub-district. | St. Mary | Under 5. | .. | 14 | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 244 | |
| | | 5 upwards. | 5 | 57 | 3 | .. | 9 | 5 | .. | .. | 3 | .. | | |
| Workhouse | | Under 5. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| | | 5 upwards. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | | |
| St. Giles Registration Sub-district. | St. Lawrence | Under 5. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 19 | |
| | | 5 upwards. | .. | 8 | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | 1 | .. | | |
| | (n) St. Giles | Under 5. | .. | 22 | 1 | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 206 | |
| | | 5 upwards. | 18 | 110 | 10 | .. | .. | 11 | .. | .. | 5 | .. | | |
| | Royal Berkshire Hospital .. | Under 5. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | |
| | | 5 upwards. | .. | 3 | 3 | .. | 6 | 3 | .. | .. | .. | .. | | |
| Isolation Hospitals | Under 5. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | | |
| | 5 upwards. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | | | |
| Totals | | Under 5. | .. | 36 | 5 | .. | .. | 2 | .. | .. | .. | .. | 469 | |
| | | 5 upwards. | 25 | 178 | 16 | .. | 18 | 20 | .. | .. | 9 | .. | | |

(n) Signifies that the Isolation Hospitals are situated in this parish.

* Membranous croup, continued fever and erysipelas are not required to be notified by the Reading Corporation Act, 1881.

† The age of all persons ill with measles has not been recorded.

One death from typhus fever was ascribed to nephritis and one to measles, whilst one case which was at first considered to have been typhoid fever afterwards proved to be typhus fever. These corrections are embodied in the figures in this table which therefore does not exactly tally with the table of notifications.

The number of these cases removed from their homes for treatment in the Isolation Hospital is recorded in the next table.

| LOCALITY. | Aged under 5 or over 5. | Small Pox. | Scarlatina. | Typhus Fever. |
|----------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------|---------------|
| St. Mary | Under 5. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 5 upwards. | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| St. Lawrence | Under 5. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 5 upwards. | .. | 1 | .. |
| St. Giles | Under 5. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 5 upwards. | 18 | .. | 2 |
| Totals | Under 5. | .. | .. | .. |
| | 5 upwards. | 23 | 3 | 9 |

Notification of Infectious Diseases has now been in force in your district for twelve years.

The accompanying table gives the total and average annual notifications and deaths, and the cost of notification for the ten years 1882 to 1891, and also similar particulars for 1892 and 1893.

| DISEASE. | Totals for 10 Years. 1882 to 1891. | | 10 Years' average. 1882 to 1891. | | 1892. | | 1893. | |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|----------|-------|
| | Reptd. | Died. | Reptd. | Died. | Reptd. | Died. | Reptd. | Died. |
| Small Pox | 18 | 1 ¹ | 1.8 | 0.1 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 0 |
| Scarlet Fever | 1648 | 62 | 164.8 | 6.2 | 413 | 22 | 214 | 1 |
| Diphtheria and doubtful cases of Croup.. | 231 | 69 | 23.1 | 6.9 | 39 | 12 | 18 | 7 |
| Measles.. .. . | 7281 | 251 | 728.1 | 25.1 | 1055 | 36 | 470 | 32 |
| Enteric and doubtful cases of Fever .. | 213 | 76 | 21.3 | 7.6 | 117 | 9 | 23 | 10 |
| Typhus Fever.. .. . | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 | 6 |
| Puerperal Fever | 45 | 29 | 4.5 | 2.9 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 6 |
| Totals | 9436 | 488 | 943.6 | 48.8 | 1531 | 84 | 775 | 62 |
| Amount of fees paid to medical practitioners for certificates given in conformity with the Act | £411 14 0 | | £41 3 5 | | £73 2 0 | | £36 17 0 | |

1 Two of these which were treated in the Royal Berkshire Hospital were admitted from other districts.

2 One of these was a case of typhus fever.

3 Three of these which occurred in the Royal Berkshire Hospital did not belong to the district.

4 There were two other cases of typhus fever.

Typhus Fever, after an absence of very many years, appeared in January.

The first intimation of its occurrence which I received was contained in a letter from the house surgeon of the Royal Berkshire Hospital, dated January 27th, in which he stated that during the previous week he had admitted into the hospital four male patients, one having died on the 25th, all of whom had presented symptoms which led the physician in charge of them to have them isolated, the symptoms having been most like those of typhus fever, and that he preferred to bring them to my notice privately before certifying them as such. I at once saw the surviving patients with some of the medical staff of the hospital, when it was agreed by all that they were cases of typhus fever, and subsequent events proved that was a correct opinion.

The fatal case had been certified as having been due to nephritis, but typhus fever was afterwards acknowledged to have been the cause of death.

I reported the occurrence to the Sanitary Committee at a meeting held on February 1st, and recommended that the small pox hospital and the little scarlet fever hospital should for the time being be appropriated for the reception of cases of typhus fever; and as small pox was spreading through the country, and it was essential that you should be prepared to isolate any case of that disease at any moment, I recommended that the cottage at Rose Kiln should forthwith be put into as habitable a condition as possible, and that it should be held in readiness for the

reception of any persons who might suffer from small pox, so far as there was the necessary accommodation within it.

The Committee had these recommendations carried out, and on February 2nd, a man living in Weldale Street was admitted into the small pox hospital suffering from typhus fever. Nearly all the other cases had occurred in or near the neighbourhood of Coley, and I could not understand how the disease could have been taken into quite another part of the borough until after the man's recovery he stated that he had been a patient in Sidmouth ward in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, in which a doubtful case of illness was being treated; but there can be no doubt that it was typhus fever, especially as a ward maid who was employed in the same ward fell ill with that disease and was admitted into your hospital on the 14th.

The disease first appeared in Coley, and was principally confined to that part, but I could not find out how the infection was introduced. I think it probable, however, that some person carrying infection must have passed through that part; and may possibly have caused the outbreak by entering a public house in Coley Passage, in which one of the earlier fatal cases happened. I ascertained from the weekly returns of notifications of infectious diseases, which I receive from the Local Government Board, that cases of typhus fever had been occurring in Cardiff for some weeks previously, and as that was the nearest place in which there was any record of the disease I think it quite probable that some infected tramp may have passed through Reading from that town.

That it was not due to any internal condition of the affected houses appeared probable from the fact that in the earlier part of the outbreak it was not the women and children, but the adult male members of the families who suffered.

Altogether there were 18 undoubted cases of the disease in 10 houses, with six deaths. One was contracted in the workhouse, one in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, in addition to the man who had been an in-patient and was found to be ill in Weldale Street, and one in your isolation hospital.

As previously stated, one of the deaths was at first attributed to nephritis, and another was stated to have been due to measles and encephalitis, but there was no doubt afterwards that these were both due to typhus fever.

Five cases were treated in the Royal Berkshire Hospital, two in the workhouse, and nine in your isolation hospitals. One of the latter remained at home during the earlier part of her illness until the true nature of her complaint was recognised; she was then suffering from a bad bed sore and underwent a tedious convalescence in the isolation hospital.

Two fatal cases were treated at their own homes; one because it was considered to have been a case of measles, and the other because the patient was too ill to bear removal when he was found to be suffering from typhus fever.

The last case was that of a nurse who took the disease while she was employed in the isolation hospital; she had a very severe attack, but recovered.

It is very probable that the father and another son of the family residing at 52, Brook Street West, were among the earlier sufferers from the fever, but their illnesses were not recognised as such at the time.

The inmates of the infected houses were removed into the house of temporary shelter whilst their houses were thoroughly disinfected throughout, but in one instance this could not be done owing to the state of the health of the occupier's wife, and in that case each room in the house was disinfected, one after the other, as thoroughly as possible. All the infected bedding, clothes, &c., were disinfected in Mr. Street's steam disinfecting apparatus.

The following table enumerates all the cases:—

| NO. | DATE. | PATIENT. | SEX. | AGE. | ADDRESS. | WHERE TREATED. | RESULT. |
|-----|------------------|----------|------|------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | January 21st .. | G. W. .. | M. | 34 | 4, Bexley Cottages, Coley Passage .. | Royal Berkshire Hospital.. | Died, January 25th |
| 2 | January 24th .. | A. M. .. | M. | 23 | 52, Brook Street, West .. | Royal Berkshire Hospital.. | Discharged well, March 14th |
| 3 | January 24th .. | J. D. .. | M. | 39 | 11, Jubilee Square, Silver Street.. | Royal Berkshire Hospital.. | Discharged well, April 15th |
| 4 | January 24th .. | E. F. .. | F. | 14 | 40, Brook Street, West .. | At Home .. | Died, February 3rd |
| 5 | January 26th .. | T. S. .. | M. | 40 | 11, Jubilee Square, Silver Street.. | Royal Berkshire Hospital.. | Discharged well, March 14th |
| 6 | January 26th .. | W. A. .. | M. | 26 | 10, Brook Street, West .. | Royal Berkshire Hospital.. | Died, February 3rd |
| 7 | January 27th .. | J. A. .. | M. | 60 | 3, Coley Passage .. | At Home .. | Died, January 29th |
| 8 | January 28th .. | J. L. .. | M. | 41 | 1, Martha Place, Coley Passage .. | Workhouse Hospital .. | Died, January 28th |
| 9 | January 30th .. | E. M. .. | F. | 16 | 52, Brook Street, West .. | At Home and Isolation Hospital.. | Discharged well, March 25th |
| 10 | February 2nd .. | J. G. .. | M. | 40 | 24, Weidale Street .. | Isolation Hospital .. | Discharged well, March 8th |
| 11 | February 9th .. | S. M. .. | F. | 49 | 52, Brook Street, West .. | Isolation Hospital .. | Died, February 23rd |
| 12 | February 9th .. | G. M. .. | M. | 18 | 52, Brook Street, West .. | Isolation Hospital .. | Discharged well, March 25th |
| 13 | February 12th .. | J. R. .. | F. | 46 | Workhouse .. | Workhouse Hospital .. | Discharged well, middle of March |
| 14 | February 12th .. | E. M. .. | F. | 48 | 48, Brook Street, West .. | Isolation Hospital .. | Recovered, taken on as Nurse |
| 15 | February 14th .. | R. H. .. | F. | 16 | Royal Berkshire Hospital.. | Isolation Hospital .. | Discharged well, March 15th |
| 16 | February 14th .. | J. F. .. | M. | 39 | 40, Brook Street, West .. | Isolation Hospital .. | Discharged well, March 15th |
| 17 | February 15th .. | M. B. .. | F. | 20 | 54, Brook Street, West .. | Isolation Hospital .. | Discharged well, March 15th |
| 18 | March 7th .. | F. S. .. | F. | 35 | Isolation Hospital .. | Isolation Hospital .. | Discharged well, April 29th |

The two hospitals had become full of patients and nurses, so I recommended that some temporary provision for further isolation should be made in case of need, and a corrugated iron and wooden structure for four patients and one nurse was erected on the site of the other hospitals in Bridge Street.

This was not required for typhus fever patients, but it proved of great service later on in the year.

Small Pox showed a marked tendency to increase, and was carried far and wide through the country, largely by the wanderings of tramps; so, as there had not been any in Reading for a long time and I thought it was therefore probable that people had become careless about re-vaccination, I suggested, on February 6th, that you should ask the Guardians of the Poor of the Reading Union to at once take such steps as they might deem advisable for the purpose of encouraging the practice of re-vaccination, and impressing upon the population the urgent necessity there was for that and primary vaccination to be generally resorted to. You brought this matter to their notice, and they at once issued handbills drawing the attention of the public to it, and afforded every facility for gratuitous vaccination.

After a complete immunity from the disease of five years' duration it was brought into Reading by a young woman who came with her husband to a common lodging house at 15, Silver Street on March 4th, and was found to be ill with small pox when attending amongst the out-patients at the Royal Berkshire Hospital on the 6th.

She could not be removed into the small pox hospital because that was occupied by typhus fever patients, so she had to be taken to the Rose Kiln cottage which had recently been put into a habitable state but was unfurnished; however, it was at once got ready and she was put into it that evening.

One of the nurses at the isolation hospital went there, and the patient's husband was retained as a caretaker, as the cottage is in a lonely situation.

A girl living in another house in Silver Street which is resorted to by low class lodgers was found to be ill with small pox, and was moved to the cottage on March 15th.

Both of these patients had a very modified form of the disease, as they had been vaccinated in infancy; but they had never been re-vaccinated. The first was discharged on March 28th, the second on April 1st.

The persons living in the infected houses, and a man who was in the habit of visiting at one of them, were re-vaccinated by the public vaccinator, and the rooms and bedding which had been used by the patients were disinfected as soon as they had been removed.

These measures were effectual in preventing any further spread of the disease.

There was no more small pox until May 3rd, when a tramp at the workhouse fell ill with it, and a woman living in another common lodging-house at 19, Silver Street, was found to be suffering from it amongst the out-patients at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. She had a very severe attack of confluent small pox, but recovered.

On the same day I found, at 15, Silver Street, which is kept by the same person as No. 19, a woman who was in an advanced stage of the disease and had evidently had it for some days.

The tramp was removed to the isolation hospital at the workhouse, and the two women were sent into Rose Kiln Cottage.

The next patient was a girl living in the eastern part of the borough. I could not find out how she became infected; she was not likely to have had anything to do

with the Silver Street persons, unless she came across them in connection with the "Salvation Army," to which she and her mother belonged. She was removed into the new hut in Bridge Street, as she could not be put into the wooden small pox hospital which had not been disinfected after its occupation by the typhus fever patients.

On the 12th a boy lodging at 15, Silver Street, was admitted into Rose Kiln Cottage. He had been re-vaccinated on the 3rd, but it was too late to affect the course of the disease, as he had become infected several days previously and passed through a very severe attack.

Another boy who had been lodging at 15, Silver Street, but had removed to his parents' house in a court off Oxford Road, was admitted into the isolation hospital on the 20th suffering from an attack of very modified small pox.

The disease spread to various parts of the town, and during this second outbreak there were 22 cases in 17 houses.

In June I was asked by the medical attendant to see a man who was awaiting trial in the gaol. We came to the conclusion that he had recently suffered from an attack of modified small pox. His wife and sister were then in the isolation hospital, and I obtained further evidence that he had the disease while he had been following his occupation. The cells and bedding in the gaol which he had used, and all the cells and bedding at the police station were thoroughly disinfected.

The last two patients were discharged at the end of July.

On May 19th I reported that only six more cases of small pox could be isolated, and as it would in all probability spread further, I suggested that the provision of additional isolation accommodation should be considered, when it was resolved that the surveyor and I should immediately proceed to enlarge the recently-erected corrugated iron hut in Bridge Street for four additional beds.

Small pox was introduced into the town a third time in September, when a girl living in a house in Kennet Side was removed to the hospital on the 11th of that month. She had become infected at Crediton, where she and her mother had been staying in a house in which the disease broke out. She had never been vaccinated and passed through a severe attack from which she recovered. The other inmates of the Kennet Side house were re-vaccinated; and the occurrence of other cases was prevented by these measures. She was discharged from the hospital about October 22nd.

Since that time there has been no small pox in the town.

The second outbreak was more extended than the other two because the woman at 15, Silver Street, had had no medical attendant until I discovered her, when she had been in an infectious condition for some days, and consequently I did not receive early notification of her illness.

I believe, too, there can be no doubt that the man I saw in the gaol had been going about the town pursuing his occupation while he was suffering from an attack of the disease, which, if extremely mild, was nevertheless capable of giving it to other persons, and I think it most probable that he was not himself aware of the nature of his illness, and that he would therefore not think of the risk of infection to which he was exposing persons he came in contact with.

When we had become aware of the outbreak the means which were adopted for stopping it were eventually successful.

Re-vaccination of persons in the infected houses was largely resorted to, and in nearly all instances the people who were left in the houses after the removal of the

patients went into the house of temporary shelter while their own houses and bedding &c., were being thoroughly disinfected.

The clothes of some patients who were destitute were destroyed and others were provided for them at the public expense on their discharge from hospital, while the clothes of all other patients were thoroughly disinfected before they returned to their homes.

The following table gives particulars respecting all the cases :--

| No. | Patient. | Sex. | Age. | Where treated. | Date of Admission | Number and Character of Vaccination Marks. | Type of Disease. | Date of Discharge. |
|-----|----------|------|------|------------------------|-------------------|--|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | E. S. | F. | 25 | Rose Kiln Cottage | Mar. 6 | 2 good | Discrete | Mar. 28 |
| 2 | F. S. | F. | 21 | Rose Kiln Cottage | Mar. 15 | 3 good | Discrete | April 1 |
| 3 | C. J. | M. | 39 | Workhouse Hospital | May 3 | 3 small | Discrete | June 14 |
| 4 | S. B. | F. | 45 | Rose Kiln Cottage | May 3 | 2 or 3 very small and indistinct | Confluent | July 4 |
| 5 | E. P. | F. | 36 | Rose Kiln Cottage | May 3 | 1 very large scar and 1 small | Discrete | May 26 |
| 6 | C. B. | F. | 20 | Bridge Street Hospital | May 4 | Invisible | Discrete | June 12 |
| 7 | W. S. | M. | 18 | Rose Kiln Cottage | May 12 | 3 | Semi-confluent | July 6 |
| 8 | S. E. B. | F. | 14 | Bridge Street Hospital | May 15 | 4 large | Discrete | June 8 |
| 9 | J. H. C. | M. | 20 | Bridge Street Hospital | May 16 | 2 large | Discrete | June 16 |
| 10 | J. A. | F. | 38 | Bridge Street Hospital | May 18 | 3 small inferior | Discrete | June 16 |
| 11 | F. B. | M. | 17 | Bridge Street Hospital | May 18 | 2 large | Discrete | June 8 |
| 12 | B. V. | F. | 23 | Bridge Street Hospital | May 18 | 2 good | Discrete | June 1 |
| 13 | B. D. | M. | 23 | Bridge Street Hospital | May 18 | 3 large, 1 small | Semi-confluent | Aug. 9 |
| 14 | F. M. | M. | 23 | Bridge Street Hospital | May 19 | 4 large | Discrete | July 21 |
| 15 | T. S. | M. | 37 | Bridge Street Hospital | May 19 | 1 | Discrete | July 3 |
| 16 | J. P. | M. | 16 | Bridge Street Hospital | May 20 | 4 good | Discrete | June 3 |
| 17 | E. B. | F. | 16 | Bridge Street Hospital | May 24 | 4 large, 3 small | Discrete | July 15 |
| 18 | T. G. | M. | 48 | Workhouse Hospital | May 26 | 2 distinct, 2 indistinct | Discrete | June 21 |
| 19 | M. C. | F. | 33 | Bridge Street Hospital | June 3 | 2 small | Semi-confluent | Aug. 19 |
| 20 | G. B. | M. | 14 | Bridge Street Hospital | June 4 | 3 good, 2 inferior | Discrete | July 3 |
| 21 | E. H. | F. | 33 | Bridge Street Hospital | June 6 | 1 large, 2 small and indistinct | Discrete | July 15 |
| 22 | K. A. | F. | 24 | Bridge Street Hospital | June 12 | 3 good | Discrete | July 8 |
| 23 | J. W. | M. | 55 | Bridge Street Hospital | June 12 | 3 very indistinct | Discrete | July 2 |
| 24 | E. A. | F. | 24 | Bridge Street Hospital | June 19 | 3 good | Discrete | July 6 |
| 25 | S. W. | F. | 11 | Bridge Street Hospital | Sept. 11 | Unvaccinated | Semi-confluent | Oct. 22 |

Many of these cases were very mild, vaccination in infancy or childhood having sufficed to modify the character of the disease, but not to prevent it altogether.

It is a well established fact that the power of one vaccination to prevent small pox does not continue for many years; hence it is necessary that everybody should be

re-vaccinated at least once during their life time, and preferably about the age of 12 or 14.

No vaccination marks were visible on No. 6, but I know that she had been vaccinated when an infant because I saw a copy of the certificate of her successful vaccination on September 4th, 1873, in the books of the registrar of births and deaths for the district, she having been born on May 28th in that year.

None of the patients had been re-vaccinated excepting Nos. 7, 11, 16, and 24, and they not until after having become infected with small pox. The re-vaccination of No. 7 was performed too long after infection to mitigate the severity of his illness, but the other three had very mild attacks.

Nos. 3, 4, 7, 15, 19, and 25 were the most severe cases, the last having been a girl who had never been vaccinated.

One man suffered from delirium tremens during his illness and gave much trouble to the nurses and attendants.

Five patients were treated in the Rose Kiln Cottage, two in the Workhouse Hospital, and 18 in the Bridge Street Hospitals. They all recovered, but several only after a protracted convalescence.

The second case in the Workhouse Hospital was instructive as showing the efficacy of re-vaccination in preventing infection from small pox. A nurse who took charge of the first case there was re-vaccinated and remained uninfected; but a man who helped her was not re-vaccinated and took the disease.

There were other proofs of the protective influence of re-vaccination. Four of the five women engaged in nursing and cleaning at the Bridge Street Hospitals and Rose Kiln Cottage were successfully re-vaccinated, two of them having had small pox about twenty or thirty years previously, and did not take small pox: the other who had been vaccinated in infancy, but had never been re-vaccinated, took small pox at home and was the second of the patients who were isolated at Rose Kiln Cottage.

Three other people who were much engaged in connection with the outbreaks, including the inspector and myself, were re-vaccinated and remained uninfected.

Two children of one of the patients, aged about 1 and 3, were taken to the Bridge Street Hospitals, because there was nobody left to take charge of them at home. They remained there eleven weeks until their mother was discharged. During that time they were attended to by the nurses and associated freely with the convalescent patients who were very friendly with them and were continually playing with them. They had been efficiently vaccinated and remained well.

About fifty of the employés of the Corporation were re-vaccinated. Many of these were engaged in erecting the additional hut in Bridge Street, while the other parts of the hospital were occupied by small pox patients, yet not one of them became infected; nor did the borough surveyor who had also been re-vaccinated.

Scarlet Fever was rather prevalent, especially during the latter half of the year; the number of cases in the four quarters were 31, 39, 70, and 74 respectively. Thirty-six of the patients were under five years of age, 178 were aged five years and upwards. Only one of them died, so the case-mortality was remarkably low, and the disease must have been of a mild character.

Three cases were treated in the scarlet fever hospital; one of them who was living in a boy's school was admitted on March 31st; the other two were domestic servants and were admitted on November 8th and 10th.

Of course the isolation of so few cases out of the total number had no appreciable effect upon the general prevalence of the disease.

In June, a servant in a much frequented public-house, was ill with scarlet fever. Her master was very anxious that she should be removed, and asked me to admit her into the hospital; but I was obliged to tell him that she could not be taken there on account of the small pox patients, and she had to remain in the house at considerable risk to the public.

Compensation was paid to seven women who were requested to discontinue their employment while cases were being treated in their homes.

In one instance, a nurse was provided under the powers of the Reading Corporation Act, 1881, to take care of a woman and her daughter who had nobody at home to attend to them during their illness.

Diphtheria attacked five children under five, and 16 persons of five years of age and upwards. All of the former and two of the latter died.

Two of these cases happened in the first quarter of the year, three in the second, ten in the third, and six in the fourth.

Measles, which had been epidemic in the last quarter of 1892, had abated, but had not quite ceased, in the early part of 1893, when there were 293 cases in the first quarter, 147 in the second, 12 in the third and 17 in the fourth.

Although this is generally considered by the public to be only a trivial complaint, it nevertheless accounted for the deaths of 32 persons, 30 under and two over five years of age.

In February the infants' department of one of the Board Schools was closed for two weeks, as so many of the children who were attending it were affected by this disease.

Enteric, or Typhoid Fever was notified in 23 instances, but one was really a case of typhus fever. Two of the patients were under five and the others were over five years of age. Three of these which were treated in the Royal Berkshire Hospital had been admitted from other districts.

One case under five and nine over five years of age ended fatally; three of the latter which happened in the hospital must be deducted, so seven deaths from this fever occurred amongst inhabitants of the district.

Four cases were notified in the first, three in the second, eight in the third, and eight in the fourth quarter of the year.

Puerperal Fever attacked nine women, and killed six of them.

Three midwives who had attended some of these cases were suspended from following their employment until they were free from any danger of conveying infection, and compensation was given to them.

Whooping Cough caused the deaths of eight children under five years of age, and was less prevalent than in most years.

Diarrhœa was fatal to 35 children under five, and four people over five years of age. It is fortunate that the mortality from this cause was not greater, since the excessive heat and drought experienced during several months of the year were extremely conducive to this malady amongst infant populations. This immunity may be fairly considered to be largely due to the care which has been bestowed upon the improvement of the district for many years past.

Influenza, although not epidemic, had not entirely left the district at any part of the year. In November and December it showed some tendency to increase, but was of a decidedly milder character than in the past epidemics. Nineteen deaths were ascribed to it; of these nine occurred in the first quarter, one in the second, two in the third, and seven in the fourth.

Cholera again threatened to invade this country, and we were prepared to isolate any case which might have come at any time other than when the Isolation Hospitals and the cottage at Rose Kiln were in use for dealing with the outbreaks of typhus fever and small pox.

On February 6th the Town Clerk submitted to the Sanitary Committee a letter which had been received by the Mayor from the Lord Mayor of London, referring to an appeal issued by Her Royal Highness Princess Christian, President of the Royal British Nurses' Association, to the trained nurses of the United Kingdom to enroll themselves for special service in the nursing of any case of cholera which might arise in the country, and asking the Mayor to bring the matter under the notice of the Sanitary Authority and of any institutions concerned with the training and employment of nurses within the sphere of his influence.

The Committee suggested that the Mayor should notify the contents of the letter to the Royal Berkshire Hospital authorities, and endeavour to obtain publicity for the letter through the local press.

The address of the roll of cholera nurses was obtained, and the Hospital Board consented to give any assistance in nursing cases of cholera, if the need should arise, which might be consistent with their duties to their own patients and their engagements with the nurses themselves. It will thus be seen that we were well prepared for nursing cholera cases if the necessity should have arisen.

The Town Clerk received four notices under the Cholera Regulations of the Local Government Board from the medical officer of the Port of London Sanitary Authority giving the names and address in Reading of persons who had arrived from cholera-infected ports. The inspector and I kept a watch over those persons until such time as it was evident that they had not been infected.

The usual routine measures to prevent the spread of infectious disease were followed.

One infants' department of a Board School was closed for two weeks in February on account of the prevalence of measles.

Compensation was paid to ten persons who were required to discontinue following their employment on account of their having been brought in contact with cases of infectious disease.

Disinfection.—The things disinfected in Mr. Street's apparatus were:—

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Beds and mattresses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 306 |
| Bolsters and pillows | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 317 |
| Books from the Free Library | .. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| Other articles... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2361 |
| | | | | | | | <hr/> 3005 |

Mr. Robertson, the inspector of nuisances, disinfected 304 rooms in infected houses, and the Isolation Hospitals several times.

In one instance some damage was done to the furniture in a room by burning a sulphur candle during disinfection, and a sum of £3 was paid for compensation.

Isolation Hospital Accommodation.—The occupation of the house of temporary shelter at Early Rise was continued until Christmas, when it was determined. It proved to be most serviceable during the outbreaks of typhus fever and small pox.

It was decided to put the cottage at Rose Kiln into a proper condition and to reserve it for a house of temporary shelter; but when the small pox hospital in Bridge Street was occupied by typhus fever patients it was reserved for the recep-

tion of small pox cases, and was required for that purpose in March, when two patients were isolated in it after it had been hurriedly furnished, and again in May when three more patients were removed into it; it remained thus occupied until July 6th.

The small pox and scarlet fever hospitals in Bridge Street were reserved for the reception of typhus fever cases on February 1st and were occupied by patients suffering from that disease from February 2nd to April 29th.

On March 31st, a boy, who was ill with scarlet fever, was isolated in the scarlet fever hospital, and he remained there until May 12th.

On May 4th, a girl who was ill with small pox was admitted into the small pox hospital; and that and the scarlet fever hospital continued to be occupied by small pox patients until July 6th, and again from September 11th until October 22nd.

The scarlet fever hospital was again brought into use for the isolation of two scarlet fever patients, and was occupied from November 8th to January 9th, 1894.

The total hospital accommodation existing at the beginning of the year consisted of:—

I.—The scarlet fever hospital, a brick building in Bridge Street, which has two rooms for patients, each having a capacity of about 1282 cubic feet. It has also a nurse's bedroom, a kitchen and wash-house, and a little room for convalescents which is too small for a fever patient to be treated in; so only two patients can be put into the building at one time.

There is a mortuary and ambulance shed, and an old brougham which is used for the removal of patients.

A charge of three guineas a week is made for each patient treated in this hospital when a hospital trained nurse is engaged, and two guineas a week when an untrained nurse is employed. This payment is an inclusive charge for everything, excepting medical attendance, wines and spirits, or burial of the patient in case of death. On November 13th, it was resolved that an agreement to pay these charges must be signed by some responsible person before any patient is taken in, and now no patient whatever is admitted until such an agreement has been signed.

II.—The wooden building for small pox patients on the ground adjoining the scarlet fever hospital.

This has two wards, one containing 4547 and the other 3000 cubic feet; a nurse's bedroom, a kitchen and scullery, and another room intended for a convalescent ward, but which has been used for patients; this contains about 1680 cubic feet.

Allowing about 1500 cubic feet for each bed, this building can take six patients.

There is a separate mortuary and ambulance shed with another old brougham which is reserved for the removal of small pox patients.

During the typhus fever outbreak, when the hospital had become nearly full, a wooden building covered with felt and corrugated iron was erected near the last named building. This contains one ward and a nurse's bedroom. Allowing 1500 cubic feet per bed, four patients can be put into it.

When these buildings had become nearly filled with small pox patients, the new corrugated iron hut was enlarged so as to take four more patients, with an allowance of 1500 cubic feet per bed.

The wooden building has always been reserved specially for small pox cases, except in 1892, when it was kept in readiness for cases of cholera if any had been imported,

and again in 1893 when it had to be used for the reception of typhus fever patients, there being no other means of dealing with that outbreak.

Whenever small pox patients are admitted it would not be right to put patients suffering from other diseases into these buildings, and whenever they are anything like full the scarlet fever hospital would be required as an administrative building for the accommodation of nurses, attendants, and convalescents.

In addition to the above described buildings there is the cottage at Rose Kiln, which was reserved for a house of temporary shelter, but which can be used for the isolation of persons ill with infectious disease in an emergency. It is, however, in an extremely awkward situation for administrative purposes.

It contains four rooms, a kitchen with a scullery and larder and one room on the ground floor, and two bedrooms above. Three patients were isolated in it at one time, the nurse having to sleep in the kitchen. It is possible that sleeping room for a male attendant might be provided in an outhouse if the occasion should arise at any time.

From the foregoing description it will be seen that the total number of beds available for the isolation of persons suffering from infectious disease is 19, distributed as follows :—

- 14 in the small pox hospital in Bridge Street,
- 2 in the scarlet fever hospital in Bridge Street, and
- 3 in the cottage at Rose Kiln.

A considerable sum was expended on additions and repairs and alterations at the hospitals and the cottage at Rose Kiln.

No charge is made for the isolation of small pox patients; and all the typhus fever patients were isolated at the public expense.

The medical attendance on all the typhus fever and small pox patients who were treated in the hospitals, excepting two, devolved upon myself.

You remunerated me at the rate of two guineas for each case, and decided to make a like payment to me in respect of future cases of similar patients who have no medical attendant of their own, or who, from any other sufficient cause, are treated in the hospital by me as sole medical attendant.

You paid a well-earned gratuity of £15 to the inspector for the very heavy extra work which was thrown upon him by these outbreaks, and which he performed in an exemplary manner.

We may, I think, consider that with early notification of cases we are in a position to cope with outbreaks of small pox; but no attempt can be made to control epidemics of other infectious diseases unless the original use of the small pox hospital be abandoned, as was done last year, when it was a matter of the greatest good fortune that the times of occurrence of the two outbreaks just fitted in so as to allow us to use the hospital for the two purposes; if it had happened otherwise, one or other of the outbreaks would have had to take its chance of spreading, so far as hospital accommodation was concerned.

The isolation of two cases of scarlet fever can, of course, exert no appreciable general effect upon an outbreak of that disease.

In the first half of the year much time and attention were devoted to the consideration of the question of providing further isolation hospital accommodation for your district.

Acting upon your instructions I made inquiries respecting suitable sites for the purpose, and the borough surveyor and I eventually received offers of seven sites, which we submitted to you at various times.

One was too far away to be taken into consideration. The others were :—

| | | | |
|---|--------|-----|----------------|
| A site of $4\frac{1}{2}$ or $7\frac{1}{4}$ acres in the parish of Tilehurst outside the borough | | for | £900 or £1,450 |
| Five acres at Caversham outside the borough | | „ | £1,600 |
| An estate of about 23 acres, with a house, at the east end of the borough | | for | £16,000 |
| Five acres at the west end of the borough | | „ | £1,800 |
| About four acres ditto ditto | | „ | £1,800 |
| About five acres, with a house, ditto | | „ | £2,500 |

On February 20th the Sanitary Committee resolved to recommend the Council that an infectious fever isolation hospital should be provided by the Council as early as might be practicable, that with that object a site of about five acres in the west end of the borough should be approved and a provisional contract entered into for the purchase of it, that the borough surveyor should prepare plans and estimates of the proposed hospital, that the Town Clerk should make application to the Local Government Board for their sanction to a loan for defraying the cost of acquiring the site and providing the buildings, and that it should be referred to the Sanitary Committee to carry out their resolution.

The Council on March 2nd resolved that the question of the proposed erection of a hospital should be referred to a Committee of the Whole Council for consideration, especially with reference to the possibility of utilizing as a site land belonging to the Corporation on Manor Farm, near Basingstoke Road, and with power to act in the whole matter as the Committee might deem expedient.

A meeting of that Committee was held on March 8th and resolved that a hospital of a permanent character should be erected by the Council as early as might be practicable, subject to the Local Government Board sanctioning the borrowing of the money which would be required.

Several petitions and other communications urging various objections to two sites in the west end of the borough, which were under consideration, were submitted by the Mayor, and it was resolved that a portion of the land belonging to the Sanitary Authority on the Manor Farm near the Basingstoke Road, to be selected by the medical officer, with the assistance of the borough surveyor, should be utilized as the site for the proposed hospital.

It was also resolved that the borough surveyor, in co-operation with the medical officer of health, should prepare plans, sections, and estimates for the erection of the proposed hospital, which were to be first submitted to the Sanitary Committee and then to this Committee for their approval previous to an application being made to the Local Government Board for their sanction to a loan. The plans were to be alternative for 20 or 42 beds, and the borough surveyor was authorized to employ a temporary architectural assistant for six weeks to enable him to prepare the plans and estimates.

On April 10th the borough surveyor submitted plans and approximate estimates for the proposed hospital to the Sanitary Committee.

One plan showed a hospital to contain 42 beds distributed in three pavilions, with an administrative block and other necessary buildings.

Another plan provided accommodation for 20 beds distributed in a pavilion of 12 beds and two single-bedded private wards, and a pavilion to contain two double-bedded wards and two single-bedded wards, together with a block containing a laundry, &c. In this plan he stated there would be very insufficient administrative accommodation.

He estimated that the cost of the first plan with all appurtenant expenses would be £11,375, and of the second plan £6,162.

The Committee referred these plans and estimates to a Committee of the Whole Council, and directed the surveyor to submit to that Committee a modified scheme at a reduced cost and providing for a smaller administrative block in connection with the hospital.

Members of the medical profession in Reading raised objections to the Manor Farm site which had been selected for the hospital and communicated them to the Mayor, who submitted them to the Council at a meeting held on April 6th. These were then referred to the Committee of the Whole Council with an instruction to reconsider the question of site.

That Committee considered them at a meeting held on April 27th, at which the borough surveyor's plans and estimates, and a modified plan of a hospital for 20 beds distributed in two pavilions with an administrative block having sufficient capacity for the requirements of 42 beds, and other buildings, estimated to cost £8,150, were submitted.

The Committee then resolved to recommend the Council to determine not to proceed further with the proposed erection of a hospital.

On May 4th the Council referred the whole question of the erection of a hospital to the Sanitary Committee for consideration and report, and they on June 12th considered the modified plans, estimated to cost £8,150, and resolved to recommend the Council that the Manor Farm site should be adopted for the erection of a hospital.

On July 5th the Council resolved that the proposals of the Sanitary Committee with reference to the site for the proposed hospital should be deferred for consideration at a future meeting, but that the whole question of the provision of a hospital should be previously considered and reported on by a Committee of the Whole Council.

A meeting of such Committee was held on July 28th, at which I explained that although I had been opposed to the Manor Farm site when it was first proposed, on the grounds that I believed it was not suitable for the intended purpose, being near to land which is irrigated with sewage, I had subsequently withdrawn my opposition to it because I had visited the infectious diseases hospital at Leamington, which is on a part of a sewage farm, and had ascertained by careful inquiry that the situation had not detracted from the usefulness of the hospital by deterring patients from going into it.

The Committee resolved—"That the Committee do recommend to the Council that having regard to the difficulty of obtaining a suitable site for a hospital except at great cost, and to the great cost which would be incurred by the erection of a permanent hospital, and to the fact that there is now in the borough much more accommodation for isolating cases of infectious disease than has previously existed, no further steps be taken at present for providing a new permanent hospital."

This resolution was approved by the Council at their next meeting, and so the matter ended.

GENERAL.

The Town Water.—Mr. Walker, the waterworks manager, has kindly furnished me, as usual, with the particulars respecting the supply from the Reading waterworks. He gives the following figures :—

| | | | | | | |
|--|-------|---------|-------------|-----|-----|-------------|
| Premises supplied with water from the waterworks mains within | | | | | | |
| the borough | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13,453 |
| Ditto | ditto | outside | the borough | ... | | 442 |
| Estimated population supplied within the borough 62,833 | | | | | | |
| Ditto | ditto | outside | ditto | ... | ... | 2,652 |
| Water consumed for all purposes 837,718,974 gals. | | | | | | |
| Ditto per head per day { | | | | | | |
| for domestic purposes | | | | | ... | 21.56 gals. |
| for trade and municipal purposes | | | | | ... | 13.49 „ |
| for all purposes | | | | | ... | 35.05 „ |
| Rainfall at Forbury Gardens in 1893 18.11 in. | | | | | | |
| Ditto | ditto | in 1892 | ... | ... | ... | 20.25 in. |
| Water used in sewer flushing 5,407,640 gals. | | | | | | |
| Water closets connected with the sewers and flushed by cisterns 14,279 | | | | | | |
| Water closets hand flushed 14 | | | | | | |

The great increase in consumption is no doubt due to the abnormally dry summer, and the diminished rainfall.

All the new filters had come into full use about the end of June.

I reported to the Waterworks Committee that the houses at Lower Whitley and Whitley Wood were without a proper supply of water, and it was decided to lay a 3-inch main from the 2-inch main in Basingstoke Road for the supply of water to the houses referred to by me.

This work was commenced, but was not completed at the close of the year.

The Sewers constructed during the year consisted of 186 yards of surface water sewers, and 770 yards of sewage sewers.

The House Connections made numbered 68, and drained 276 fresh houses into the sewers.

At the close of the year there were 12,416 houses drained by means of 3,836 separate junctions with the sewers.

The Plans for New Buildings approved numbered 225; they represented 262 new houses, 48 sheds, 10 stables and coach houses, and 109 additions to houses. One hundred and fifty-seven houses, 10 sheds and 46 additions to houses were completed.

New Streets.—Liverpool and Coventry Roads on the Cholmeley Estate, and De Montford Road off Vastern Road, which were commenced in 1892, were completed. Radstock Road was further extended and completed, and Berkeley Avenue was continued to the Bath Road.

I am indebted to the surveyor for information respecting these matters.

Old and Dilapidated Houses.—Tilliard's Court containing six houses was demolished, and 8 houses fronting Friar Street were also pulled down. The space thus cleared is now being covered with new buildings.

Eleven very old houses at the corner of Silver Street and Crown Street were destroyed, and the entrance to the former street was widened. The ground which has been opened up has not yet been built upon.

By the erection of two new houses in place of two old ones in London Street, an open passage has been made into Small's Court.

Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.—I gave certificates under section 30 of this Act, respecting two dwelling-houses situated at Whitley Wood Common, which appeared to me to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, and it was resolved that the Town Clerk should serve a notice on the owner of the houses requiring him within three months to make them fit for human habitation, and that in default of the notice being complied with, the Town Clerk should take proceedings before the Borough Justices for obtaining an order for prohibiting the use of the premises for human habitation.

The Slaughter Houses and Public Abattoirs were systematically inspected by the inspector, and he made quarterly reports upon their condition. He found them to be generally kept in a clean and proper state.

Several butchers and fishmongers had experienced difficulty in getting their offal systematically removed, and arrangements were made with nine of them who were willing to pay for the regular removal of it in properly constructed carts belonging to the Corporation, this arrangement having been recommended by a Sub-committee which had been appointed to consider the matter in the previous year.

Application was made by the occupier of Nos. 58 and 60, Castle Street for the premises to be licensed and registered as a slaughter-house, and it was decided that they should be licensed under section 29 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, for the slaughtering of swine for a period of twelve months.

Unsound Meat, &c.—The markets and other places were visited with a view of keeping a watch upon the meat and other articles of food offered for sale.

In March I was asked by the inspector to examine some meat exposed for sale on a stall in the Market Place. I did so and found it to be unfit for the food of man, so advised him to seize it. This he did, and it was examined by one of the Borough Magistrates, who condemned it and ordered it to be destroyed. It consisted of 27 pieces of beef, weighing 112lbs.

In September a man attempted to take into the cattle market two cows and a young bullock, but was not allowed to do so, as they were in a very bad condition. He took them to a slaughter-house at the abattoirs. I saw them there with the inspector of nuisances and a veterinary surgeon, and we considered them to be unfit for the food of man. I then had them examined by one of the Borough Magistrates. After two of the cows had been slaughtered he condemned one as being unfit for the food of man, and ordered it to be destroyed. The whole carcass was then swilled with carbolic acid and was buried on Manor Farm.

Proceedings were taken and convictions were obtained in both these instances; the first defendant having been fined £10 and £1 4s. 6d. costs, or imprisonment for one month, and the second £15 and 18s. 6d. costs, or in default imprisonment for two months.

The Anthrax Order of 1892, which came into force on the first day of the year provides that the inspectors of the Local Authorities under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Acts shall forthwith on receipt of notice of the existence of anthrax give information of the receipt of the notice to the medical officer of health of the sanitary district in which the disease has appeared.

Acting in pursuance of this provision the chief constable of Berkshire gave notice of an outbreak of anthrax at Spencer's Wood to me as medical officer of

health of that district, and this information proved of much value because it enabled us to cause the carcass of a cow to be buried which was believed to have been affected and had been brought into the borough.

A butcher who had cut the carcass up suffered from a poisoned wound in his right hand; and his son who had assisted him was found by Dr. Wilcockson to be suffering from anthrax. The boy was removed into the Royal Berkshire Hospital, where he was operated upon, and recovered.

Dairies, Cow-sheds, and Milk-shops.—There was a total of 94 persons registered under the Order of 1885, of these 28 were cow-keepers, 5 were dairymen, and 61 were purveyors of milk. Twelve fresh persons were entered on the register during the year, and four were taken off.

The inspector made 110 inspections of 28 cow-sheds and places where milk was retailed. No infringements of the provisions of the above-named Order were observed.

Offensive Trades.—During the hot weather I received many complaints of nuisances caused by two tallow melting places. I examined these places and found that the coppers were constructed so as to be capable of destroying offensive odours, but when fat has become at all tainted, as it had at that time, it is extremely difficult to entirely prevent bad odours arising during the process of melting. The owners had their places thoroughly cleansed and whitewashed.

Complaints were made concerning nuisances arising from a hide and skin broker's business which had been established in the Cattle Market. I brought this matter to your notice, and it was eventually agreed to allow the business to be carried on in a building to be erected upon a portion of the Fair Ground.

Inspection of the district was constantly carried on; all the courts and alleys were visited by the inspector.

One hundred and thirty-five vans which came into the town during the May and Michaelmas fairs, and at other times, were inspected, and no cases of infectious disease were found in them.

Workshops.—Under the provisions of the Factory and Workshop Acts I received five notices from the inspector of the district respecting the beginning to occupy workshops and overcrowding and other nuisances.

I induced the occupiers of one establishment to make such alterations as were necessary to prevent overcrowding in their work rooms.

The inspector of factories of the district called my attention to the fact that the provisions of section 7 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1891, were not enforced in the borough, and a Sub-committee was appointed to consider and report what measures (if any) were necessary for providing such means of escape in cases of fire for the persons employed in factories as are referred to in that section.

The Canal Boats on the register numbered 22, two having been registered during the year. I examined and reported upon one of these, the other having been examined by me in the previous year.

The inspector paid 113 visits to 39 boats. Infectious disease was not found to exist in any of them. He observed 7 infringements of the Regulations of the Local Government Board under the Canal Boats Acts, which are enumerated in his report, and they were attended to on his giving notice of them to the owners or masters of the boats.

I made a weekly inspection of all courts and alleys in the borough.
 I inspected 135 vans during the May and Michaelmas Fairs and at other times.
 I visited 700 houses where infectious disease existed, and supplied disinfectants.
 I made a thorough examination of the attendant circumstances, and of the house drainage in all cases of infectious disease, other than measles.
 I disinfected rooms in 304 houses in which infectious disease had occurred.
 I attended to the removal of 35 patients to the Isolation Hospitals which were opened throughout the year, during which time I ordered all food, &c., for the occupants.
 I saw all the rules carried out when the patients were discharged.
 I visited all public and private slaughter-houses at intervals, and made quarterly reports on their condition.
 I regularly visited the markets for the purpose of observing the quality of the meat, and other provisions offered for sale.

I seized 112lbs. of beef exposed for sale on a stall in the market place; the meat was condemned by a magistrate, who ordered it to be destroyed, and I saw that it was buried.

I seized a diseased cow that had been taken to a slaughter-house at the abattoirs, and had it examined by a magistrate; he ordered the carcass to be destroyed, and I dressed it with carbolic acid and had it buried.

By directions of the Sanitary Authority, I took proceedings, with the aid of the Town Clerk, at the Borough Petty Sessions; in both these instances convictions were obtained and penalties of £10 and £1 4s. 6d. costs, or one month imprisonment, and £15 with 18s. 6d. costs, or in default two months imprisonment, were inflicted.

As Inspector of Canal Boats, I made 113 inspections of 39 boats, and found 7 infringements of the Canal Boats Acts, and the regulations of the Local Government Board; namely:—three boats not registered, 1 bilge water not removed, 1 required painting, 1 not marked with registration mark, and 1 insufficient ventilation.

As Inspector of Cow-sheds and Dairies, I made 110 inspections of 28 cow-sheds and visited the places where milk is retailed.

Under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, I procured and submitted to the public analyst 42 samples for analysis.

Acting on the instructions of the Sanitary Authority, I took proceedings, with the aid of the Town Clerk, before the Borough Magistrates in respect of 2 samples; in each case a conviction was obtained, and fines amounting to £3 and costs £1 19s. were inflicted.

The total number of inspections of all descriptions which I made during the year may be summarized under the following headings:—

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| Inspections of private premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 732 |
| „ courts and alleys | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3326 |
| „ vans at fairs, &c. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 135 |
| „ canal boats | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 113 |
| „ private slaughter-houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 298 |
| „ public slaughter-houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 780 |
| „ cow-sheds and dairies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 110 |
| Visits paid to houses where measles existed | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 400 |
| Disinfection of houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 304 |
| Total | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | <u>6188</u> |

W. H. ROBERTON,
 Inspector of Nuisances.