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City of Rochester.



REPORT AS TO URBAN DISTRICT.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

GUILDHALL, ROCHESTER,

March 2nd, 1904.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you the following Report of the Sanitary condition of your District for the year 1903.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

SIDNEY PRITCHETT

POPULATION.

The population of the District at the middle of 1903, calculated according to the method of the Registrar General, that is to say logarithmically, was 31,656, made up as follows:—

Medway locality, 18,080; Strood locality, 13,576.

In other words, between the last census and the middle of 1903, $2\frac{1}{4}$ years have elapsed, and in that time the population of the whole District has increased by 1066, that of the Medway locality by 482, and that of the Strood locality by 584.

BIRTHS.

During the year there have been 865 births registered, made up as follows:—

		Male.	Female.	Total.
Medway	...	257	195	452
Strood	...	197	216	413
		454	411	865

This gives a birth rate of rather under the average of the last 10 years, and there is a marked excess of male over female births in the Medway locality, while the opposite, but in a less degree, prevails in the Strood locality. The natural increase of population, by excess of births over deaths, amounted to 533. In 1902 the natural increase was 382.

DEATHS.

The number of nett deaths in the year, that is deaths of residents dying either within or without the District, but excluding non-residents dying within the District, is 332, made up as follows:—

Medway	...	182
Strood	...	150
		332

This is by far the lowest number of deaths for many years, the average for the last 10 years being 465.4.

Vital Statistics of the whole District, and of its component localities, in which these preliminary figures are elaborated, will be found set forth in the Tables appended to this Report.

The Death Rate for the year was 10.48 per thousand.

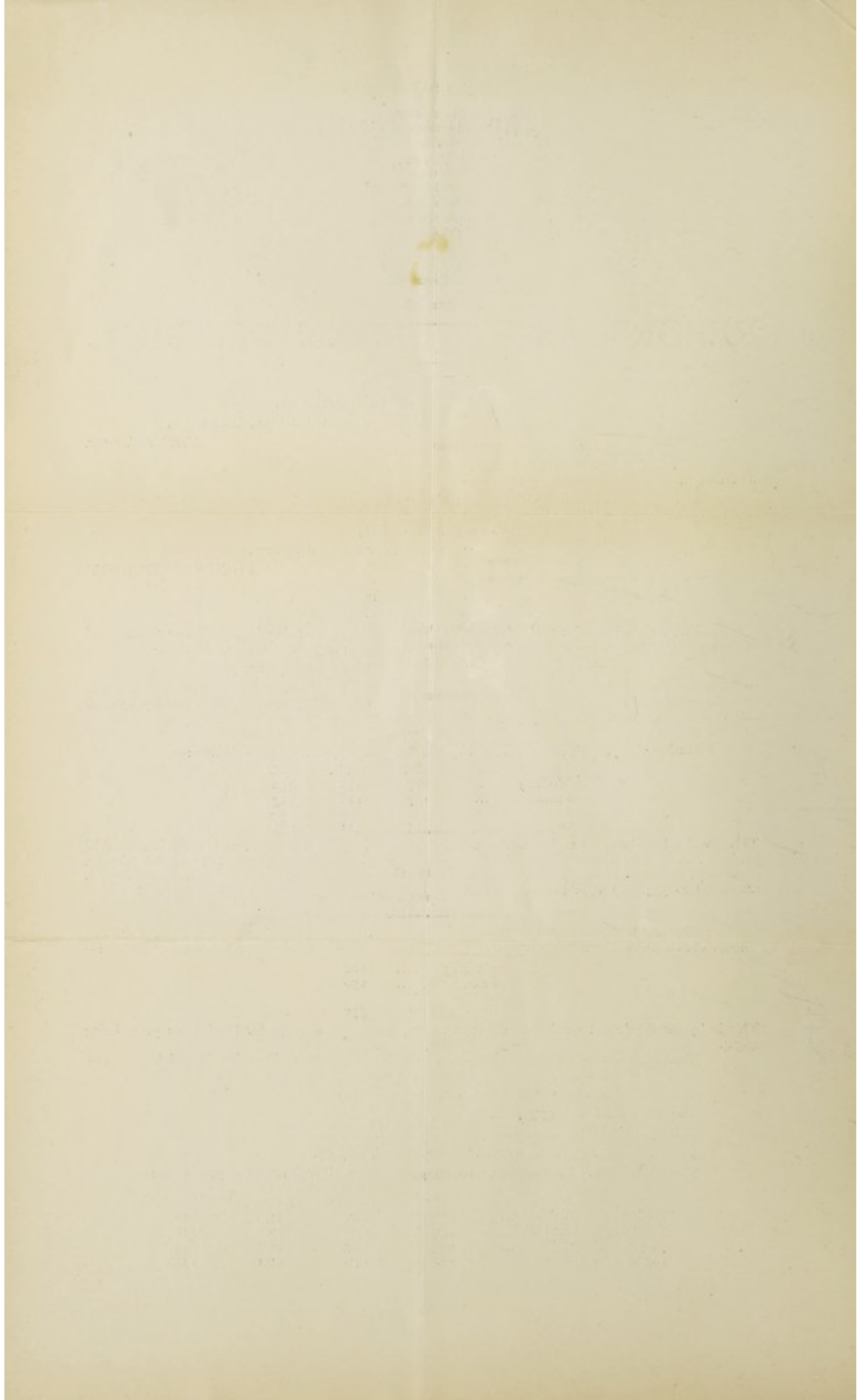
The Birth Rate was 27.3 per thousand.

The Zymotic Death Rate was .56 per thousand.

The Infant Mortality, per 1,000 births registered, was 89.

The following are the Rates per 1000 for England and Wales for the year 1903:—

	Birth.	Death (all causes).	Death (Zymotic).	Infant Mortality
England and Wales	...	28.4	15.4	1.46
Rural England and Wales	...	27.3	14.8	1.08
76 great Towns	...	29.7	16.3	1.89
103 smaller Towns	...	27.4	14.6	1.41



THE DEATH RATE.

If the Death Rate of a District is to be taken as a criterion of the health of its inhabitants, Rochester—on last year's record—must be pronounced to be one of the healthiest places in the Kingdom. The lowest recorded death rate for the last 10 years was 14.0 in 1897, and the average for the last 10 years is 15.9. The death rate for 1903 was 10.48, that is to say a drop of over 5 from the average. In other words for every 3 persons per 1000 of the population who died in previous years, last year only 2 persons died. This diminution in the death rate is, to say the least of it, extraordinary, and it will be worth while to enter into some details as to what diseases were the least fatal in the past year. The Tables which follow offer a comparison between 1903 and 1902, in which year the death rate was identical with the average of the previous 10 years.

TABLE A.

Comparisons of deaths at all ages from all causes, in the years 1903 and 1902.

	1903.	1902.	Difference.
Smallpox	0	9	- 9
Measles	2	12	-10
Scarlet Fever	0	2	- 2
Whooping Cough	0	8	- 8
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	1	7	- 6
Enteric Fever	6	3	+ 3
Epidemic Influenza	2	4	- 2
Diarrhoea	9	16	- 7
Enteritis	8	5	+ 3
Other septic diseases	14	5	+ 9
Phthisis	31	35	- 4
Other tubercular diseases	13	17	- 4
Cancer, malignant disease	25	23	+ 2
Bronchitis	28	56	-28
Pneumonia	17	49	-32
Other diseases of the Respiratory Organs	4	1	+ 3
Alcoholism and Cirrhosis of the Liver	4	7	- 3
Venereal Diseases	2	4	- 2
Premature Birth	13	20	- 7
Diseases and accidents of parturition	4	2	+ 2
Heart Diseases	29	40	-11
Accidents	7	29	-22
Suicides	4	1	+ 3
Apoplexy	12	22	-10
All other causes	97	119	-22
	332	496	

TABLE B.

Comparison of deaths under the age of 1 year from all causes, in the years 1903 and 1902.

	1903.	1902.	Difference.
Smallpox	0	1	- 1
Measles	0	1	- 1
Scarlet Fever	0	1	- 1
Whooping Cough	0	2	- 2
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	1	0	+ 1
Diarrhoea	6	14	- 8
Enteritis	6	3	+ 3
Other septic diseases	2	1	+ 1
Phthisis	1	0	+ 1
Other tubercular diseases	4	5	- 1
Bronchitis	6	19	-13
Pneumonia	4	13	- 9
Other diseases of the Respiratory Organs	2	0	+ 2
Venereal Diseases	1	4	- 3
Premature Birth	13	20	- 7
Heart Disease	0	2	- 2
Accidents	0	4	- 4
All other causes	31	37	- 6
	77	127	

THE HISTORY OF

THE HISTORY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON, FROM THE FIRST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME. BY JOHN W. COOPER, ESQ. VOL. I. BOSTON: PUBLISHED BY G. B. LITTLE, 1825.

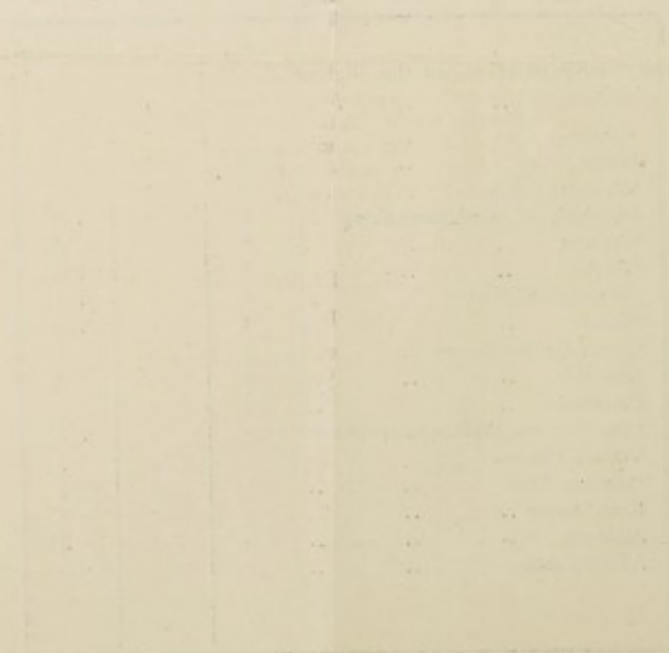
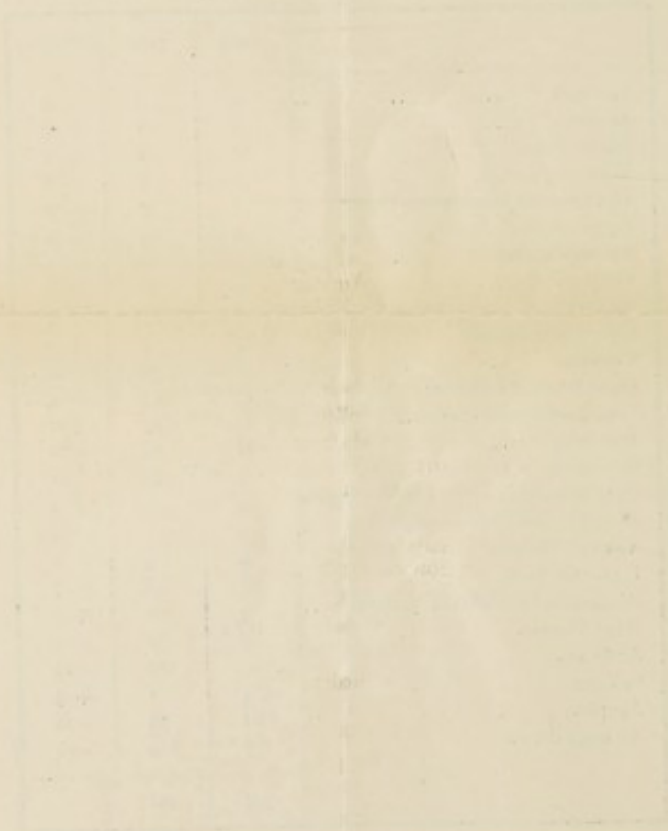


TABLE C.

Comparison of deaths at the various age periods from all causes, in the years 1903 and 1902.

	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
1903	332	77	24	10	16	114	91
1902	496	127	58	20	25	153	113

TABLE D.

Comparison of deaths from Zymotic diseases in the years 1903 and 1902.

	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Enteric Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Total.
1903	0	2	0	1	0	6	9	18
1902	9	12	2	7	8	3	16	57

From Table A (deaths at all ages from all causes) it will be seen that the deaths were fewer from 18 causes, and more from 7 causes in 1903 than in 1902, the disparity in favour of 1903 being most marked in Pneumonia, Bronchitis, Accidents, Heart Diseases, Measles, Apoplexy, Small Pox, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea, Premature Birth, Diphtheria, Phthisis and Scarlet Fever. Of these, Accidents, Heart Diseases, Apoplexy and Premature Birth may be ignored as beyond the influence of either climatic or sanitary conditions.

In Table B (deaths under 1 year from all causes) the disparity in favour of 1903 is most marked in Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Diarrhoea, Whooping Cough, Scarlet Fever, Measles and Small Pox.

Table C (deaths at the various age periods from all causes) shows that the deaths at every age period were less in 1903 than in 1902, but that, of the total disparity of 164, the period of under 1 year accounts for 50, and that of from 1 to 5 years for 34, or that, of the diminution of 164 more than half is accounted for under the age of 5 years.

Table D (deaths from Zymotic diseases) shows a diminution of about 200 per cent., and each Zymotic disease contributes to the diminution except Enteric Fever, the order being Measles, Small Pox, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever.

To sum up, the conditions in 1903 which have contributed to the remarkable fall in the death rate have operated at all ages and in most diseases, but have been marked in—

1. Children under 5 years;
2. Diseases of the lungs
3. Zymotic diseases

and since, speaking broadly, the last two of these principally affect the first it may be said that the conditions were favourable all round, but highly favourable to children under the age of 5 years.

The next consideration is to ascertain, if possible, the nature of such favourable conditions, for if they are known and can be maintained the present high water mark of the Public Health ought to be maintained also. I regret to say that, in my opinion, most of the credit must be given to the climatic conditions in 1903. The Table of the Rainfall which follows in this Report shows that it was an exceedingly wet year; the atmosphere, the road and yard surfaces, and the surface drains of the District were constantly being cleansed by showers or storms of rain, and most important of all, there was little dust. The temperature was low and the conditions were all against the development and spread of noxious bacterial life.

The fall in the death rate offers not the slightest justification for relaxing sanitary precautions or for postponing any improvement under contemplation, such as Main Drainage, since it is obvious that if recent climatic conditions can favourably influence the Public Health to such a degree as shewn above, opposite conditions might send the Death Rate up to 20. The policy of the Authority should be to put its District into such Sanitary order as to enable it to take advantage of every favourable climatic condition and minimise the effect of any unfavourable condition.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Table shewing number of Deaths for past 10 years.

Year.	Small-Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Enteric Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Total.	Death Rate per 1000.
1894	0	2	9	16	16	1	6	50	1'7
1895	0	2	1	15	3	1	15	37	1'3
1896	0	24	9	17	2	7	14	73	2'5
1897	0	0	2	26	15	7	34	84	2'9
1898	0	5	3	1	6	5	37	57	1'9
1899	0	19	8	5	17	3	49	101	3'3
1900	0	1	1	3	5	5	28	43	1'4
1901	0	3	1	9	7	10	22	52	1'6
1902	9	12	2	7	8	3	16	57	1'8
1903	0	2	0	1	0	6	9	18	'56

In this Table the only disease that does not show a substantial reduction is Enteric Fever and some observations thereon will be found later in the Report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION ACT.

The following Notifications were received during the year :—

Parish.	Small-Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Continued Fever.	Total.
Strood & Frindsbury ...	1	25	1	20	30	0	77
St. Margarets ...	0	88	17	15	14	1	135
St. Nicholas ...	0	4	1	3	1	0	9
Chatham Intra... ..	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Totals	1	117	19	38	46	1	222

From this it is seen that the Medway division furnishes 145 Notifications and Strood 77.

The following Table shews from whence the Notifications come and the average for 10 years :—

	Medway.	Strood.	Total.
1893	167	157	324
1894	190	225	415
1895	101	183	284
1896	152	268	420
1897	198	173	371
1898	175	77	252
1899	154	269	423
1900	80	105	185
1901	135	107	242
1902	157	90	247
Average for years 1893-1902.	150.9	165.4	316.3
1903	145	77	222

SMALL POX.

There was only one case notified during the year and this was a tramp at Strood Union Workhouse where he was in contact for one night with 16 other persons. He was removed to the Isolation Hospital, and of the 16 contacts 15 were re-vaccinated. The Workhouse premises were efficiently disinfected and no other cases arose.

SCARLET FEVER.

One hundred and seventeen cases were notified and there were no deaths.

Ninety-seven cases were removed to Hospital.

In 1902 seventy-one cases were notified and forty-two removed.

The Climatic conditions which were so powerful in reducing the general death rate evidently did not affect the prevalence of Scarlet Fever. Assuming that measures of Isolation and Disinfection were properly carried out, there are still causes for Scarlet Fever remaining more or less prevalent in Districts in spite of Climatic influences. One is compulsory education by which the opportunity for susceptible children to contract the disease is immensely increased; a second is that the supply of such susceptible children is fairly constant, and a third is that owing to the change in the character of the disease in recent years it is highly probable that many cases of Scarlet Fever are of such mildness as to escape diagnosis. These cases are none the less capable of infecting susceptible children and of causing in them well marked attacks of the disease. There are other reasons such as an infected milk supply, but we have had no reason to suspect this.

A large number of the cases were notified from Borstal and at one time it seemed probable that St. Matthew's Schools would have to be closed. After careful investigation, however, it was not thought necessary to proceed to such a step.

MEASLES AND WHOOPING COUGH.

There were two deaths from Measles and none from Whooping Cough. In 1902 these two diseases accounted for 20 deaths.

Neither of these diseases is at present notifiable, consequently it is impossible to say how many cases occurred, but since there were so many deaths in 1902, there was probably a correspondingly large number of cases, and as an attack of either of these diseases confers immunity to future attacks of the same disease the number of susceptible children in 1903 was reduced. An epidemic of Infectious Disease in most cases either kills the persons attacked or renders them immune with the consequence that after such an epidemic very few cases arise until sufficient time has elapsed for a new generation of susceptible children to be born and to become exposed to infection. The object of these remarks is to make it clear that last year's comparative freedom from Measles and Whooping Cough must not be expected to be maintained under existing conditions of School management and Sanitary administration.


DIPHTHERIA.

Eighteen cases were notified and there was one death.

Fourteen cases were removed to Hospital.

In 1902 there were forty-one cases and seven deaths.

Diphtheria is a disease more or less controllable by active sanitary measures and by vigilant care of the food supply, especially milk. An attack does not confer immunity to the same extent as in the before-mentioned diseases, and speaking generally, Diphtheria, together with Enteric Fever and Diarrhoea, may be taken as the most reliable tests of the Sanitary condition of a community. It is then a source of satisfaction to find the incidence of Diphtheria so low and legitimate to express a hope that it will remain so.



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ENTERIC FEVER.

There were forty-six notifications and six deaths.

Twenty-five cases were removed to Hospital.

In 1902 there were thirty-six cases and three deaths.

Since, in the preceding paragraph, Enteric Fever and Diphtheria have been mentioned as reliable indicators of the general Sanitary condition of a District, it will seem curious that there have co-existed more cases of the former disease with fewer of the latter than in 1902. It has also earlier in the Report been claimed that the excessive rain-fall was of great benefit in flushing yards, gullies, surface drains, &c. This is so, but the rain which performed these good services also filled the cesspools so rapidly as to make it beyond our power to empty them immediately on notice. The result of this was that constantly throughout the year one had to observe the deplorable spectacle of cesspools overflowing their crude sewage into yards and the immediate neighbourhood of dwelling houses. This state of affairs was, I think, favourable to giving rise to attacks of Enteric Fever and is to be cured once and for all by Main Drainage.

Further, I have no doubt whatever that many cases were due to the consumption of uncooked shell-fish. Time after time enquiry shewed that the patient had eaten such fish within the incubation period of the disease. There are numerous sellers of cheap shell-fish in the District, and there is not the slightest guarantee that the fish is not sometimes gathered from localities which are highly sewage-polluted, in fact there seems good reason to believe the contrary. I suppose by this time every person in the District, old enough to read, is aware of the danger of eating uncooked shell-fish and consequently takes his fate into his own hands by so doing.

DIARRHŒA.

There were nine deaths, the lowest number since 1894. In 1902 there were sixteen deaths.

Dust and high summer temperature are the two great causes, which raise the Death Rate from Diarrhœa. Both of these causes were practically absent during the year.

The dust from roads and footpaths consists very largely of the most disgusting animal filth, and too much importance cannot be attached to the making of good roads and their maintenance in a high state of cleanliness.

PHTHISIS OR CONSUMPTION.

There were thirty-one deaths, four less than in 1902.

There were more deaths from Phthisis than any other specified disease. Phthisis is a disease with a long period of high infectivity, and is to a large extent preventible. Its prevalence is materially promoted by insanitary conditions of site, dwellings, food and occupation. In the 37 years from 1861 to 1898 the efforts of Sanitary Authorities in removing these insanitary conditions have reduced the prevalence of Phthisis by about 40 per cent. for males and about 54 per cent. for females, but in addition to these efforts it is essential to educate the public as to the circumstances favouring individual susceptibility and the conditions under which the healthy become infected from the sick. It is obvious that the Sanitary Authority can do nothing either in the way of active precaution or in education, unless the cases come to their knowledge. Many arguments against the Compulsory Notification of Phthisis have been advanced, and some of them are, without doubt, very cogent. I believe, also, such a course is not at present regarded with favour by the Local Government Board. Nevertheless it has been adopted by some authorities, and whatever individual hardships or apparent hardships it might inflict, there can be no two opinions that an additional means of fighting Phthisis should be welcomed. It would be the care of the Sanitary Department to administer any further powers in such a way as to reap the greatest benefit for the community with the least disturbance of the individual. I therefore beg to recommend that the Voluntary Notification of Phthisis be adopted in this District.

HORSES AND CATTLE.

Mr. E. Ebbetts, the City Veterinary Inspector, reports that during the year the District has been quite free from disease of a contagious nature.

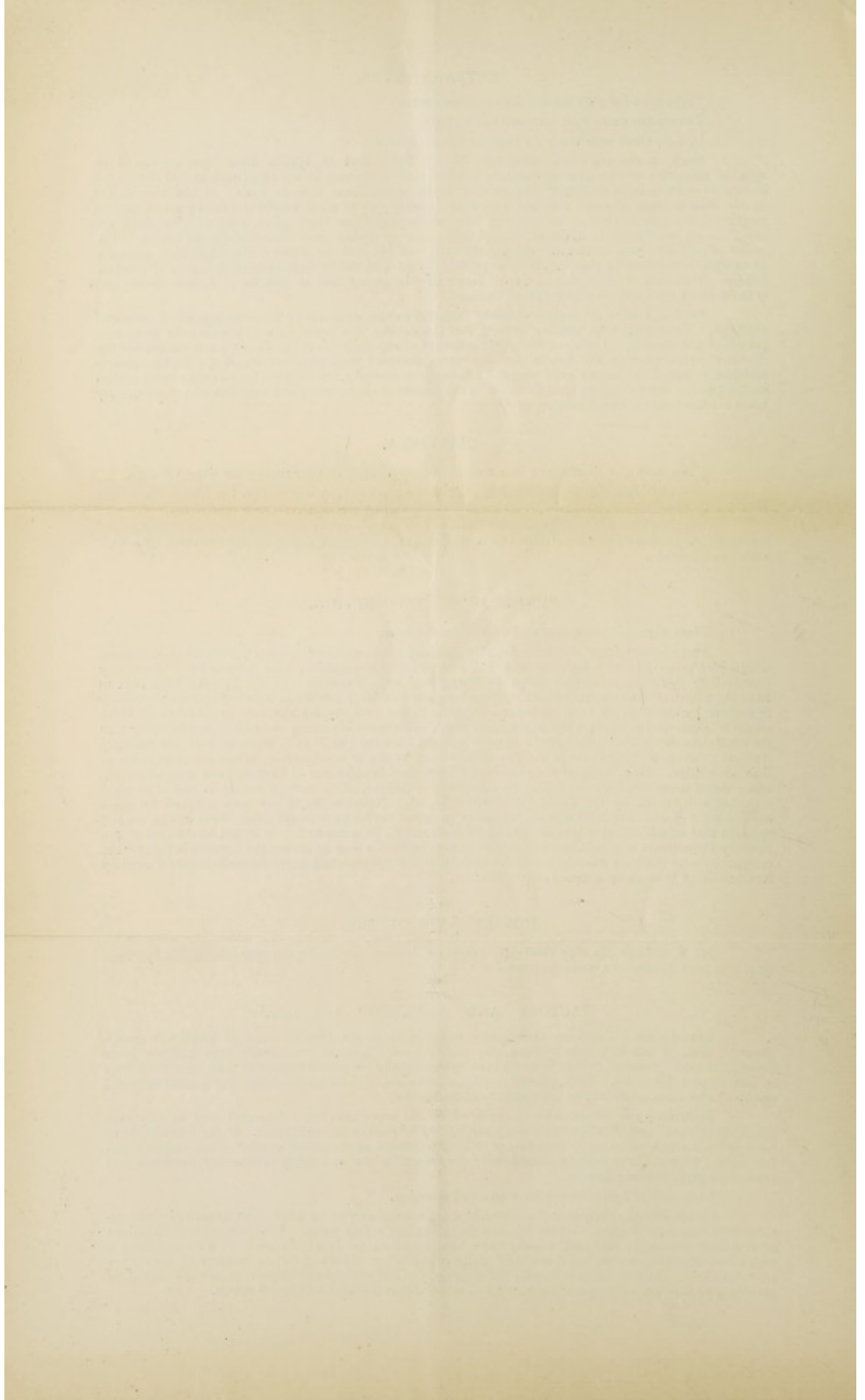
FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are twenty-three Bakehouses in the District, none of which are underground. This is two less than in 1902, one having been closed as structurally unfit and the other diverted to other purposes. They have all been systematically inspected four times and also from time to time as occasion arose. Their general condition continues to show improvement, but a good deal still remains to be done, especially in the direction of ventilation.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—One hundred and seven have been inspected, and as fifty were inspected in 1902 there should be now one hundred and fifty-seven on the register. Eight, however, have recently been struck off owing to removals or structural defects, so the actual number is one hundred and forty-nine. One has been entirely re-modelled; the remainder are in a fairly satisfactory condition and present no gross sanitary defects.

Two cases of overcrowding have received attention.

HOME WORK.—Sixty-four premises where out-work is carried on have been examined; twenty-three were examined in 1902, so there are now on the register eighty-seven. They have all been examined several times during the year and in many cases were found to be dirty. In each of such instances a notice was served to cleanse, but it is a very difficult matter to induce these out-workers to keep their premises clean. As was the case in 1902 the employers of out-workers still neglect to forward their lists according to the Act. No case of over-crowding or infectious disease came under notice.



FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Analyses performed under the Act during the year.

Samples Analysed.	Result.	Action Taken.
1 ... Whisky ...	Adulterated ...	Fined £2 16s. 6d.
2 ... Brandy ...	Pure ...	Nil
3 ... Gin ...	Slightly adulterated ...	Cautioned
4 ... Rum ...	Pure ...	Nil
5 ... Milk ...	Adulterated ...	Fined £2 16s. 6d.
6 ... Milk ...	Pure ...	Nil
7 ... Milk ...	Adulterated ...	Fined £2 16s. 6d.
8 ... Milk ...	Slightly adulterated ...	Cautioned
9 ... Cheese ...	Pure ...	Nil
10 ... Black Pepper ...	Pure ...	Nil
11 ... Tea ...	Pure ...	Nil
12 ... Sugar ...	Pure ...	Nil
13 ... Vinegar ...	Pure ...	Nil
14 ... Beeswax ...	Pure ...	Nil
15 ... Bread ...	Pure ...	Nil
16 ... Flour ...	Pure ...	Nil
17 ... Olive Oil ...	Pure ...	Nil
18 ... Olive Oil ...	Pure ...	Nil
19 ... Coffee ...	Pure ...	Nil
20 ... Coffee ...	Pure ...	Nil
21 ... Milk ...	Pure ...	Nil
22 ... Milk ...	Pure ...	Nil
23 ... Milk ...	Slightly adulterated ...	Cautioned
24 ... Milk ...	Adulterated ...	Fined £2 10s. 0d.
25 ... Margarine ...	Pure ...	Nil
26 ... Margarine ...	Slightly adulterated ...	Cautioned
27 ... Margarine ...	Pure ...	Nil
28 ... Margarine ...	Pure ...	Nil
29 ... Milk ...	Adulterated ...	Fined £2 16s. 6d.
30 ... Milk ...	Pure ...	Nil
31 ... Dutch Cheese ...	Pure ...	Nil
32 ... Dutch Cheese ...	Pure ...	Nil
33 ... Milk ...	Adulterated ...	Fined £3 16s. 6d.
34 ... Milk ...	Slightly adulterated ...	Cautioned
35 ... Milk ...	Pure ...	Nil
36 ... Milk ...	Slightly adulterated ...	Cautioned
37 ... Jam ...	Slightly adulterated ...	Nil
38 ... Jam ...	Slightly adulterated ...	Nil
39 ... Butter ...	Adulterated ...	Fined £2 16s. 6d.
40 ... Butter ...	Adulterated ...	Fined £2 16s. 6d.
41 ... Butter ...	Pure ...	Nil
42 ... Butter ...	Pure ...	Nil
43 ... Milk ...	Adulterated ...	Fined £2 0s. 0d.
44 ... Milk ...	Slightly adulterated ...	Cautioned
45 ... Lime Water ...	Pure ...	Nil
46 ... Beeswax ...	Pure ...	Nil
47 ... Glycerine ...	Pure ...	Nil
48 ... Seidlitz Powder ...	Pure ...	Nil

These samples were taken at the rate of four a month. In the future six a month will be taken as it is the determination of the Authority to put a stop to the gross adulteration of milk which the above table reveals. Out of 16 samples taken only 5 were pure, of the 11 remaining samples 6 were grossly adulterated and the vendors fined, while the remaining 5 were slightly adulterated and the vendors cautioned. This is a state of affairs that should not be tolerated, for it reveals such an extent of adulteration as must prejudice the health and vitality of those who consume milk and who are, of course, principally children. In the Report for 1902 it is pointed out that there were 43 milkshops in the district and an opinion expressed that such a number is too large. As a result of the prosecutions undertaken last year several of the milkshops have been closed and I look forward to seeing a further diminution in their number.

DAIRES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

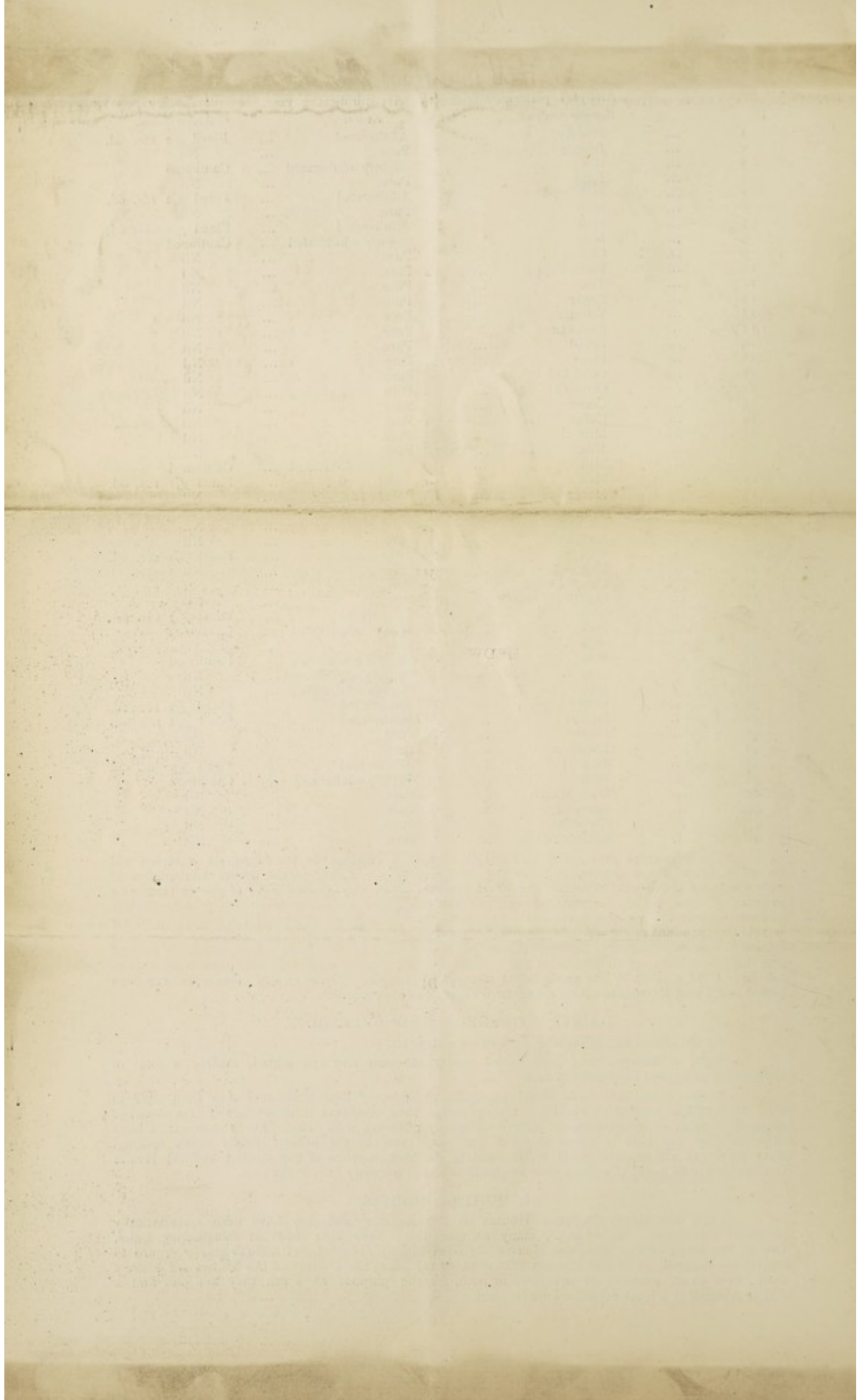
All the Daires and Milkshops are now on a Register.

Eight milkshops have been closed during the year and two added, making a total of thirty-seven as against forty-three in 1902.

COWSHEDS.—These have been systematically inspected four times and also from time to time as occasion seemed to require. On the whole their condition is unsatisfactory, the drainage of some is good, of others bad, and nearly all are overcrowded with cattle. In no case has it been observed that any care is taken to wash the cows' teats or the milkers' hands before milking. Very particular attention is about to be given to the Milk supplies of this district and the Health Committee will be asked to enforce their Regulations more rigorously than in the past.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are eleven Slaughter Houses on the Register and they have been systematically inspected four times. In addition, many surprise visits have been made at slaughtering times. One of the worst of the Slaughter Houses has been entirely re-roofed and a much greater regard to cleanliness induced. The fact remains that most of the Slaughter Houses of the district are entirely unfit, from either situation or structure, or both, for the purpose to which they are put, and a Public Abattoir is a most desirable improvement.



ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

All have been fumigated as in previous years.

4372 school slates have been sterilized by boiling at the Corporation Depot and returned to the Schools.

LOCAL RAINFALL IN 1903.

The following information was obtained at the Strood Waterworks, situated in the District.

Month.	Total Depth.	Greatest fall in 24 hours.		Date.	Number of days on which '01 or more fell.
	Inches.	Depth.	Depth.		
January	1'92	...	76	4	18
February	1'27	...	61	27	10
March	1'82	...	45	2	18
April	1'77	...	37	26	12
May	2'07	...	37	11	14
June	5'04	...	1'02	13	11
July	4'68	...	2'04	23	15
August	3'24	...	67	14	17
September	1'72	...	52	10	10
October	3'95	...	54	21	25
November	2'54	...	1'21	27	15
December	1'55	...	49	10	12
	31'57				177

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION.

	Medway.	Strood.	Total.
Inspected	762	721	1483
Re-inspected	832	664	1496
In order	362	262	624
Defective	400	459	859
Remedied	375	327	702
Outstanding	25	132	157
First Notices and Letters	312	183	495
Statutory Notices	71	47	118

The following list shews how far the House to House Inspection has gone up to the present.

MEDWAY DIVISION.

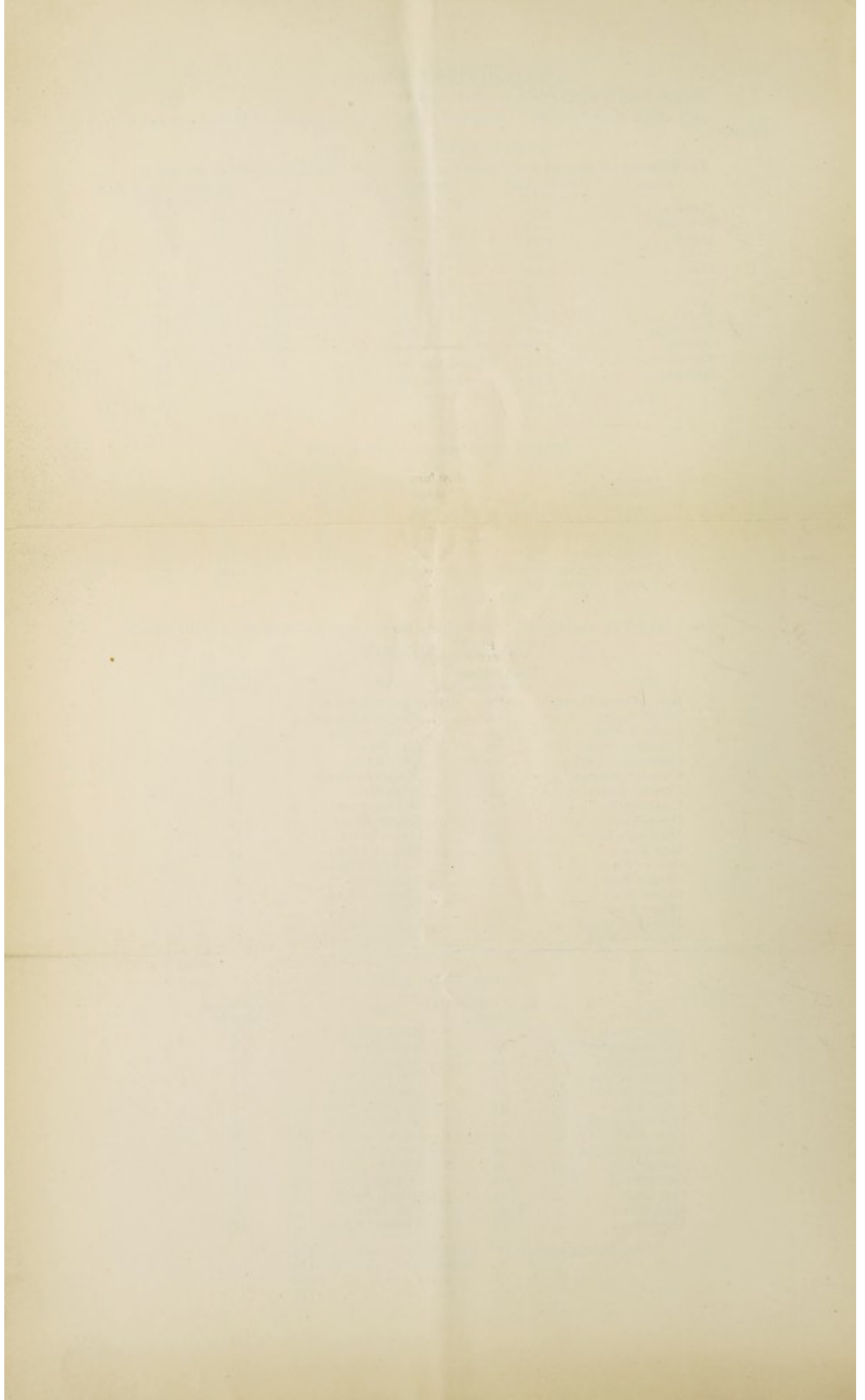
Street.	No. of Houses Inspected.	Street.	No. of Houses Inspected.
Bartholomew Square	7	Hooper's Road	15
Burritt Street	94	Hooper's Square	8
Castle Avenue	79	Jerusalem Row	11
Catherine Street	69	John Street	95
Cazeneuve Street	29	King Street	110
Clarence Avenue	17	Maidstone Road	8
Cossack Street	23	Miles Place	21
Cross Street	2	Morden Street	92
Delcey Road	95	Princes Street	104
Dunning's Lane	19	Queen Street	71
East Row	10	Richard Street	49
Garden Place	9	Rochester Avenue	171
Garden Row	5	Rose Street	46
Gravel Walk	18	Thomas Street	43
Henry Street	46	Union Street	49
Holcombe Road	10	Victoria Street	40
Hooper's Place	27	Wickham Street	71

STROOD DIVISION.

Street.	No. of Houses Inspected.	Street.	No. of Houses Inspected.
Albert Street	14	Marsh Street	7
Bill Street Road	66	North Street	98
Bowes Road	42	Orchard, The	21
Brompton Lane	87	Pearson Street	12
Burgess Road	16	Prentice Street	27
Canal Road	43	Prospect Avenue	18
Florence Street	16	St. Mary's Road	16
Friary Place	20	South Eastern Road	36
Frindsbury Road	105	Station Road	89
Grange Road	75	Tunnel Cottages	4
Grove Road	82	Vicarage Road	30
Gun Lane	34	Victoria Street	20
High Street	142	West Street	3
Mayfair	24	Windmill Street	37

Total Houses examined :—Medway ... 1563
Strood ... 1184

2747



INFECTIOUS DISEASES, & THE MEASURES TAKEN TO PREVENT THEIR SPREAD

222 cases of Infectious Disease have been notified as against 247 in 1902. These 222 cases were notified from 173 different houses, that is to say 173 separate houses have been formally brought to the notice of the Department as containing Infectious Disease. A visit was immediately paid to each of such infected houses, and an examination of the Sanitary arrangements made with the following result.

Disease.	No. of houses.	No. with more than one defect.	No. with only one defect.	No. without any defect.
Scarlet Fever ..	81	19	20	42
Enteric Fever ..	44	8	16	20
Diphtheria ..	16	8	2	6
Erysipelas ..	32	5	8	19
	173	40	46	87

Disinfection was in nearly every case undertaken by the Sanitary Authority and, in all cases, to its satisfaction. As the District possesses no disinfecting station the Steam Disinfector at St. William's Hospital is employed. This is not a good arrangement and I should like to see a suitable station established in the City.

NUISANCES REMEDIED DURING THE YEAR.

Houses without drains, or reconstructed...	...	...	...	78
" provided with new W.C.'s	...	...	...	33
" " ash pits or dust bins	...	...	...	1
" " shooting or repaired	...	...	...	151
" cleansed and whitewashed	...	...	...	98
" fumigated	...	...	...	128
" overcrowded	...	...	...	35
" unfit for habitation	...	...	...	0
House roofs repaired...	...	...	...	145
Drains, trapped and ventilated	...	...	...	45
" repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	214
" stoppage in	...	...	...	134
" defective traps removed and trapped stoneware gullies fixed	...	...	...	420
Water closets, substituted for privies	...	...	...	23
" provided with water supply and flushing apparatus	...	...	...	49
" repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	55
" defective water fittings to...	...	...	...	72
Privies, dangerous and defective structure	...	...	...	68
" defective pits	...	...	...	46
" constructed	...	...	...	1
Cesspools, insufficient accommodation	...	...	...	23
" defective	...	...	...	43
" unventilated	...	...	...	34
" constructed	...	...	...	33
Soil-pipes and drains ventilated	...	...	...	48
Old pan closets with container and D trap removed	...	...	...	11
Urinals altered and repaired	...	...	...	9
Sink and other waste pipes disconnected from drains	...	...	...	86
Stables drained and paved	...	...	...	23
Yards of dwellings provided with new concrete paving or repaired	...	...	...	141
" and premises in dirty condition	...	...	...	9
Manure removed	...	...	...	15
Cowsheds, bakehouses and slaughter-houses cleansed	...	...	...	20
Remove pigs, poultry and other animals	...	...	...	34
Total	...	...	...	2325

ST. WILLIAM'S HOSPITAL AND SMALL POX ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Two hundred and seventy-seven cases were admitted during the year, being twenty-seven less than in 1902. The average admission for the last ten years is 282.3.

ROCHESTER.

Ages.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Small Pox.	Total.
Under 5	22	4	1	0	27
5 and upwards	75	10	24	1	110

CHATHAM.

Under 5	34	3	0	0	37
5 and upwards	53	11	22	2	88

FROM NEIGHBOURING DISTRICTS.

Under 5	0	0	1	0	1
5 and upwards	1	1	10	1	13
Totals	185	29	58	4	276

One case sent in from Chatham as Enteric Fever, but which was Cerebral Meningitis, and died shortly after admission, is not included in the above figures.

Number of cases from each District :

Rochester	137
Chatham	126
Neighbouring Districts	14
	277

The mortality was as follows :

Scarlet Fever	1	or '54 per cent.
Diphtheria	2	or 6·8 per cent.
Enteric Fever	5	or 8·4 per cent.
Small Pox	0	

These figures of mortality are all very low.

Although Scarlet Fever is a much less fatal disease than formerly, it must be remembered that the cases sent into hospital are very largely from the poorest of the population, that is to say amongst children whose nutrition and general surroundings least fit them to withstand any disease. That only one out of 185 cases should have died is, I think, a remarkable result, and I take this opportunity of expressing appreciation of the professional skill and devotion shewn by the Matron and the whole of the Nursing Staff.

One of the most troublesome complications with which we have to deal at St. William's Hospital is persistent ear and nose discharge, following Scarlet Fever. So long as this discharge continues the patient, however well otherwise, cannot be considered free from Infection, and consequently cannot be sent home. I believe that this trouble is very largely due to the fact that we have no means of exercising the patients in the open air except in the finest weather, and it would I am sure be a wise and economic proceeding to construct an asphalted or concrete court, on which the convalescent patients could take exercise at all times except when it was actually raining.

Average number of days detained in Hospital—

Scarlet Fever -	57·3
Diphtheria -	25·3
Enteric Fever -	43

ENTERIC FEVER AND SHELL FISH.

Of the 58 cases of Enteric Fever received into Hospital 13 gave a history of having eaten uncooked shell fish within the incubation period of the disease. This does not necessarily prove that the disease was caused by the shell fish, but in the majority of the cases I am convinced, by a system of close questioning, that the shell fish must be held to be responsible. Further observations on this matter are made in the earlier part of the report.

The new buildings are completed and on the point of being furnished. The Hospital will then be free, I hope, of any risk of overcrowding, a point of the utmost importance in dealing with Infectious Disease.

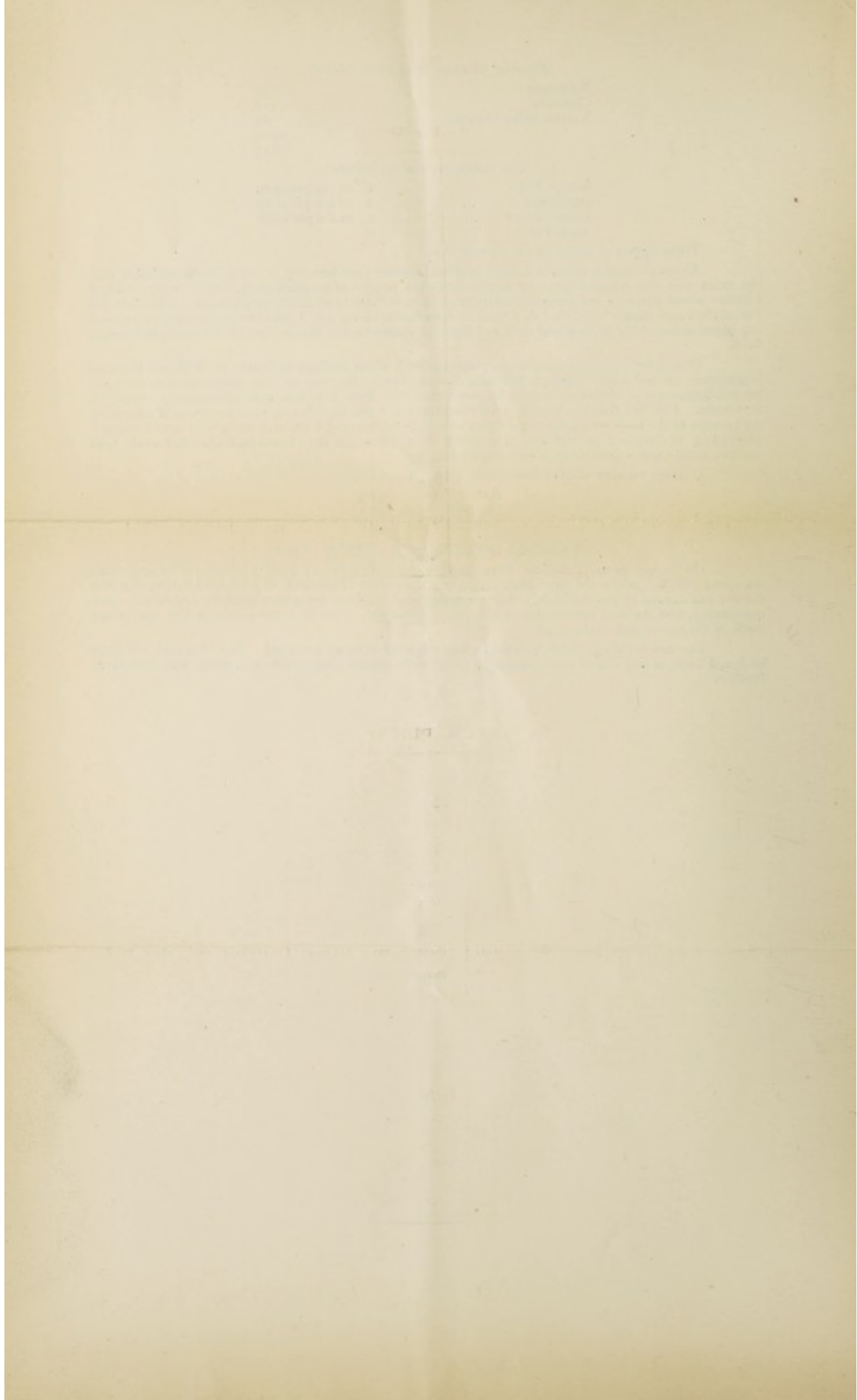


TABLE I. ROCHESTER.—For Whole District.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	No. of Births.	Birth Rate,*	Deaths under 1 year.	Rate per 1,000 Births Registered.	Total Deaths at all ages.	Total Death Rate.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered in District.	Deaths at all Ages. Nett.	Death Rate* at all Ages. Nett.
1893 ..	27150	804	29.6	105	130	497	18.3	137	85	14	426	15.6
1894 ..	27580	787	28.5	113	143	517	18.7	124	85	10	442	16.0
1895 ..	28010	792	28.2	124	156	488	17.4	117	76	16	428	15.2
1896 ..	28440	818	28.7	112	136	564	19.8	161	112	11	463	16.2
1897 ..	28870	794	27.5	117	147	481	16.6	133	90	14	405	14.0
1898 ..	29300	800	27.3	145	182	638	21.7	191	151	22	509	17.3
1899 ..	29730	809	27.2	161	199	642	21.5	194	113	21	550	18.4
1900 ..	30160	813	26.9	136	167	582	19.2	182	131	18	469	15.5
1901 ..	30590	864	28.2	122	141.2	556	18.1	141	107	17	466	14.9
1902 ..	31104	878	28.2	127	144.6	620	19.9	209	135	11	496	15.9
Averages for Years 1893-1902	29093	815.9	28	126.2	154.5	558.5	19.1	158.9	108.5	15.4	465.4	15.9
1903 ..	31656	865	27.3	77	89	440	13.8	160	125	17	332	10.48

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

At Census of 1901 the total population at all ages was 30,590; Number of inhabited houses, 6,236; Average number of persons per house, 4.8 Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 2,715.

TABLE II. ROCHESTER DISTRICT.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	WHOLE DISTRICT.				MEDWAY.				STROOD.			
	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 Year.
1893 ..	27150	804	426	105	16003	395	241	43	11147	409	185	62
1894 ..	27580	787	442	113	16202	422	244	57	11378	365	198	56
1895 ..	28010	792	428	124	16401	392	244	47	11609	400	184	77
1896 ..	28440	818	463	112	16600	403	255	50	11840	415	208	62
1897 ..	28870	794	405	117	16799	405	243	68	12071	389	162	49
1898 ..	29300	800	509	145	16998	402	287	66	12302	398	222	79
1899 ..	29730	809	550	161	17197	415	309	79	12533	394	241	82
1900 ..	30160	813	469	136	17396	393	262	71	12764	420	207	65
1901 ..	30590	864	466	122	17598	436	253	47	12992	428	213	74
1902 ..	31104	878	496	127	17893	460	289	63	13211	418	207	64
Averages of Years 1893 to 1902.	29093	815.9	465.4	126.2	16908.7	412.3	262.7	59.1	12184.7	403.6	202.7	67
1903 ..	31656	865	332	77	18080	452	182	38	13576	413	150	39

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TABLE III.

ROCHESTER DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1903.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases Notified in Whole District.							Total Cases Notified in each Locality.		No. of Cases Removed to Hospital.	
	At all ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	MEDWAY.	STROOD.	MEDWAY (H).	STROOD.
Small-pox ..	1					1			1		1
Cholera ..											
Diphtheria ..	18		7	8		2	1	17	1	14	
Membranous Croup	1	1						1			
Erysipelas ..	38	1	1	5		26	5	18	20		
Scarlet Fever ..	117	1	30	79	6	1		92	25	80	17
Typhus Fever ..											
Enteric Fever ..	46		2	9	13	22		16	30	6	19
Relapsing Fever											
Continued Fever ..	1				1			1			
Puerperal Fever ..											
Plague ..											
Totals ..	222	3	40	101	20	52	6	145	77	100	37

TABLE IV.

ROCHESTER DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at Subjoined Ages.							Deaths in Localities (at all ages).		Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Medway.	Strood.	
Measles	2		2					1	1	
Scarlet Fever										1
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup ..	1	1						1		2
Enteric Fever	6			1		5			6	7
Epidemic influenza	2					1	1	2		
Diarrhoea	9	6	3					4	5	
Enteritis	8	6	2					1	7	2
Other septic diseases	14	2		2	2	3	5	7	7	28
Phthisis	31	1	1	2	9	18		17	14	10
Other tubercular diseases	13	4	6	3				10	3	6
Cancer, malignant disease	25					17	8	17	8	2
Bronchitis	28	6	3			4	15	10	18	5
Pneumonia	17	4	3			9	1	8	9	4
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	4	2				1	1	2	2	1
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver ..	4					4		2	2	2
Venereal diseases	2	1	1						2	2
Premature birth	13	13						7	6	
Diseases and accidents of parturition	4					4		1	3	2
Heart diseases	29			1	2	16	10	17	12	15
Accidents	7		1			5	1	1	6	17
Suicides	4					4		4		1
Apoplexy	12					4	8	7	5	5
All other causes	97	31	2	1	3	19	41	63	34	48
All causes	332	77	24	10	16	114	91	182	150	160

Name of the substance	Molecular weight	Atomic weight	Valency
Carbon	12	12	4
Hydrogen	1	1	1
Oxygen	16	16	2
Nitrogen	14	14	3
Sulphur	32	32	2
Phosphorus	31	31	3
Potassium	39	39	1
Sodium	23	23	1
Calcium	40	40	2
Magnesium	24	24	2
Zinc	65	65	2
Iron	56	56	2

Name of the substance	Molecular weight	Atomic weight	Valency
Carbon	12	12	4
Hydrogen	1	1	1
Oxygen	16	16	2
Nitrogen	14	14	3
Sulphur	32	32	2
Phosphorus	31	31	3
Potassium	39	39	1
Sodium	23	23	1
Calcium	40	40	2
Magnesium	24	24	2
Zinc	65	65	2
Iron	56	56	2
Copper	63.5	63.5	1
Silver	108	108	1
Mercury	200.6	200.6	2
Lead	207.2	207.2	2



Report as to Port Sanitary District.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
GUILDHALL, ROCHESTER.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE PORT SANITARY COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you a Report of the Sanitary Work performed during the year 1903.

The Vessels entering the Port were as follows:

FOREIGN TRADE:—

British Steam	...	44	Sailing	...	...	93
Foreign Steam	...	41	Sailing	...	...	91
		85				184

COASTING TRADE:—

British Steam	...	716	Sailing	...	...	263
Foreign Steam	...	20	Sailing	...	...	6
		736				26

Total Steam ... 821. Total Sailing... ... 453.

The following were also boarded by the Sanitary Inspector and his Assistant:—

Barges	...	...	2169
Canal Boats	...	...	573
Lighters	...	...	27
Fishing Boats	...	...	16
Water Boats	...	...	2
			2787

Total number of vessels inspected	...	...	4061
In 1902 the total number was	...	...	3516
In 1901	...	...	3124

NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF VESSELS:—

British, 3903; Norwegian, 54; Danish, 28; German, 30; Swedish, 8; Russian, 10; Dutch, 16; French, 9; Spanish, 3. Total, 4061.

CANAL BOATS' ACTS, 1877 AND 1884.

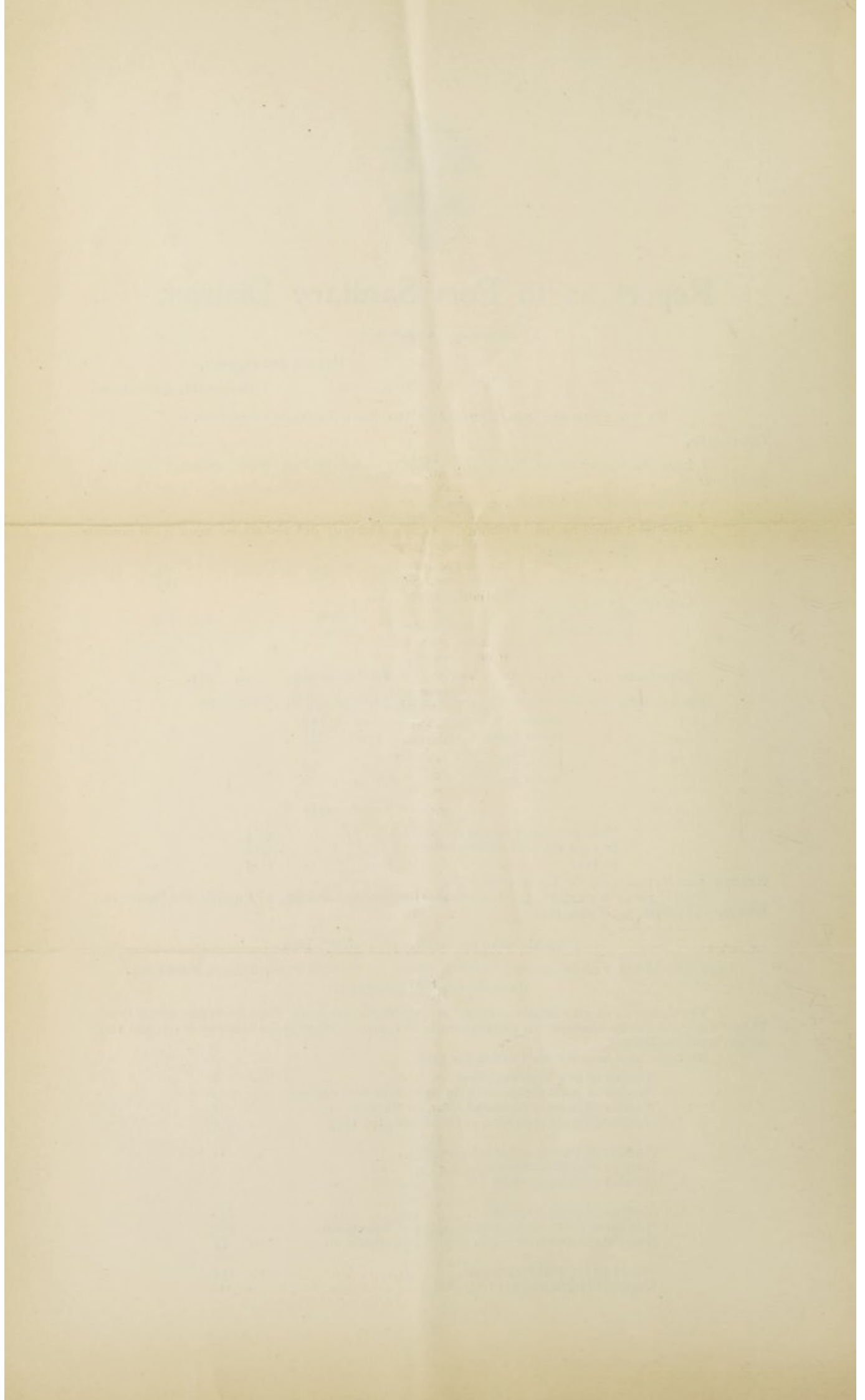
NAME AND ADDRESS OF INSPECTOR:—HENRY EVANS, 84, WESTON ROAD, STROOD, ROCHESTER.

Remuneration, £4 per annum.

The Inspector is on the River daily, and overhauls the boats when he comes across them. These boats are chiefly employed in carrying coals from ship to wharf in the Medway River, and very seldom leave the District.

No boats have been detained during the year.

Number of new boats registered	...	...	1
Number of boats re-registered owing to structural alteration	...	...	0
Number of boats re-registered for other reasons	...	...	3
Number of boats registered at December 31st, 1903	...	...	260
Number of women on boats inspected	...	...	11
Number of children between 5 and 12	...	...	0
Number of children under 5	...	...	4
Number of boats inspected	...	...	573
Number of boats conforming to Acts and Regulations	...	...	496
Number of boats with one or more infringements	...	...	77
Total number of infringements	...	...	114
Number of infringements remedied	...	...	112



CLASSIFIED LIST OF INFRINGEMENTS.

Absence of Certificate, Act 77, Sec. 3 ...	...	...	1
Certificate not identifying owner with boat ...	...	...	1
Marking. Act 77, Sec. 3 ...	...	...	22
Cleanliness. Reg. 11 ...	...	...	41
Light and Ventilation. Reg. 3 ...	...	...	10
Dilapidated. Reg. 11 ...	...	...	5
Defective floors and bulkheads ...	...	...	9
Bilges to cleanse ...	...	...	3
Sleeping berths to limewash ...	...	...	1
Defective skylights and scuttles ...	...	...	7
No proper water vessel ...	...	...	2
No proper sleeping berths ...	...	...	3
Leaky decks causing wet berths ...	...	...	2
Food cupboards to limewash ...	...	...	7
Total number of infringements ...			114

GENERAL SANITARY WORK OF THE PORT.

VESSELS SPECIALLY BOARDED BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH ON ACCOUNT OF SICKNESS OR COMPLAINTS MADE.

April 2nd.—Barge "Marjorie."—Mate removed from his home suffering from Small-pox. The barge was thoroughly disinfected fore and aft. Some old beds and dirty clothes were destroyed by burning. The drinking water tanks and cooking utensils were disinfected and afterwards cleansed. The information respecting the infection of this barge reached me while she was lying within the District of a neighbouring Authority and the steps detailed above should have been taken by that Authority. As this Authority did not act we made it our business to do what was necessary directly the barge came into our District.

September 21st.—Barge "Active."—This barge was lying off Anchor Wharf at Chatham Dockyard. I received information from the Admiral Superintendent that there was a case of suspicious sickness on board and immediately visited the barge. I found a passenger on board suffering from Small-pox. He was at once removed to St. William's Hospital and the contacts, two in number, put on board the "Elk" and re-vaccinated. With regard to the disinfection of the barge the same steps as detailed in the above case were taken. No further cases of Small-pox arose in either instance.

February 20th.—Schooner "Elizabeth Llewellyn" from Patras *via* Whitstable.—Captain reported leaving a seaman in Hospital, complaint unknown. The crew were inspected and found to be all well. As a precaution the vessel was disinfected.

March 18th.—Barge "Rescue" from London.—Complaints were made as to the cargo causing a nuisance. On investigation the complaints were found to be without sufficient foundation.

November 23rd.—Schooner "Reaper" from Fowey. The mate was found dead in his berth. Under the Coroner's orders I subsequently made a post mortem examination and found the cause of death to be "Ruptured Aortic Aneurism."

28 cases of sickness came under notice on board vessels in the river. In each case a private doctor was advised or the patient removed to Hospital.

The cases were:—Accidents, 4; Influenzal Catarrhs, 4; Rheumatism, 10; Tumour, 1; Phthisis, 1; Tonsillitis, 1; Disordered Liver, 1; Blood Poisoning, 1; Influenza, 1; Heart Disease, 2; Bright's Disease, 1; Small-pox, 1.

There was no infectious disease other than the Influenza and Small-pox mentioned above.

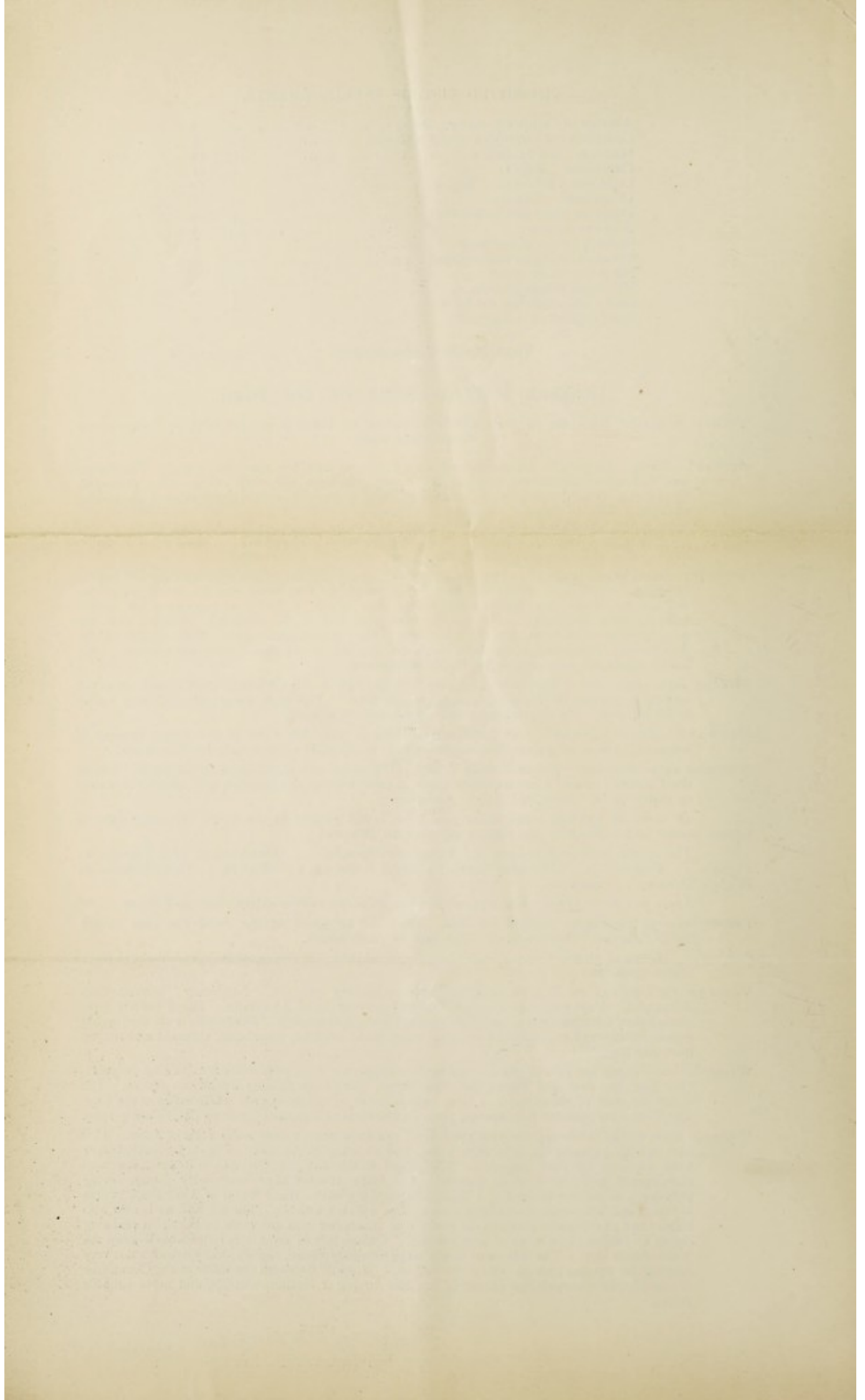
PASSENGERS.—39 passengers reached the Port. With the exception of the Small-pox case in the barge "Active" they were all clean and in good health.

CARGOES.—Cargoes of Grain, Flour, Potatoes, Sugar, Fruit and Fish were examined and found to be in sound condition.

VESSELS FROM CHOLERA OR PLAGUE INFECTED PORT.—January 9th, s.s. "Nentwater" arrived from Alexandria. May 7th, s.s. "Joseph Davies" arrived from Alexandria. These vessels were immediately boarded by me, and their crews physically examined. The vessels were thoroughly disinfected throughout, and their drinking water tanks emptied, disinfected, cleansed and refilled from this Port.

WATER BOATS.—There are two of these employed in supplying ships with water for drinking purposes. One boat has four iron Tanks, the other three; each tank holding about 500 gallons. The water supplied to these boats is from one or other of the two public water works of the City. The Tanks are cleansed four times a year, and have been inspected fourteen times during 1903.

HOSPITAL SHIP "ELK."—During the year the "Elk" has from time to time made a lot of water. This has entailed pumping at least once a day, and as many of the leaks as could be located have been repaired by your Inspector. The Ward Room and the Caretakers Room have been distempered and the Kitchen painted. The Deck Houses have been very damp, owing principally to the wet seasons. The outside planking of the Ward Room or After Deck House is rotten and has been covered from time to time with felt and tar. The felt and tar is now also rotten, and the outside planking so rotten that it will not hold any more nails. This planking ought to be removed, renewed and refelted. Unless this is done it is impossible to keep the Ward Room dry. The Elk is in fact a large unwieldy vessel, rapidly decaying, and not very suitable for the purpose to which she is put. It would be worth the while of the Committee to consider the advisability of selling her and buying a smaller, handier, and more suitable vessel.



Account of the ...

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