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Contributors

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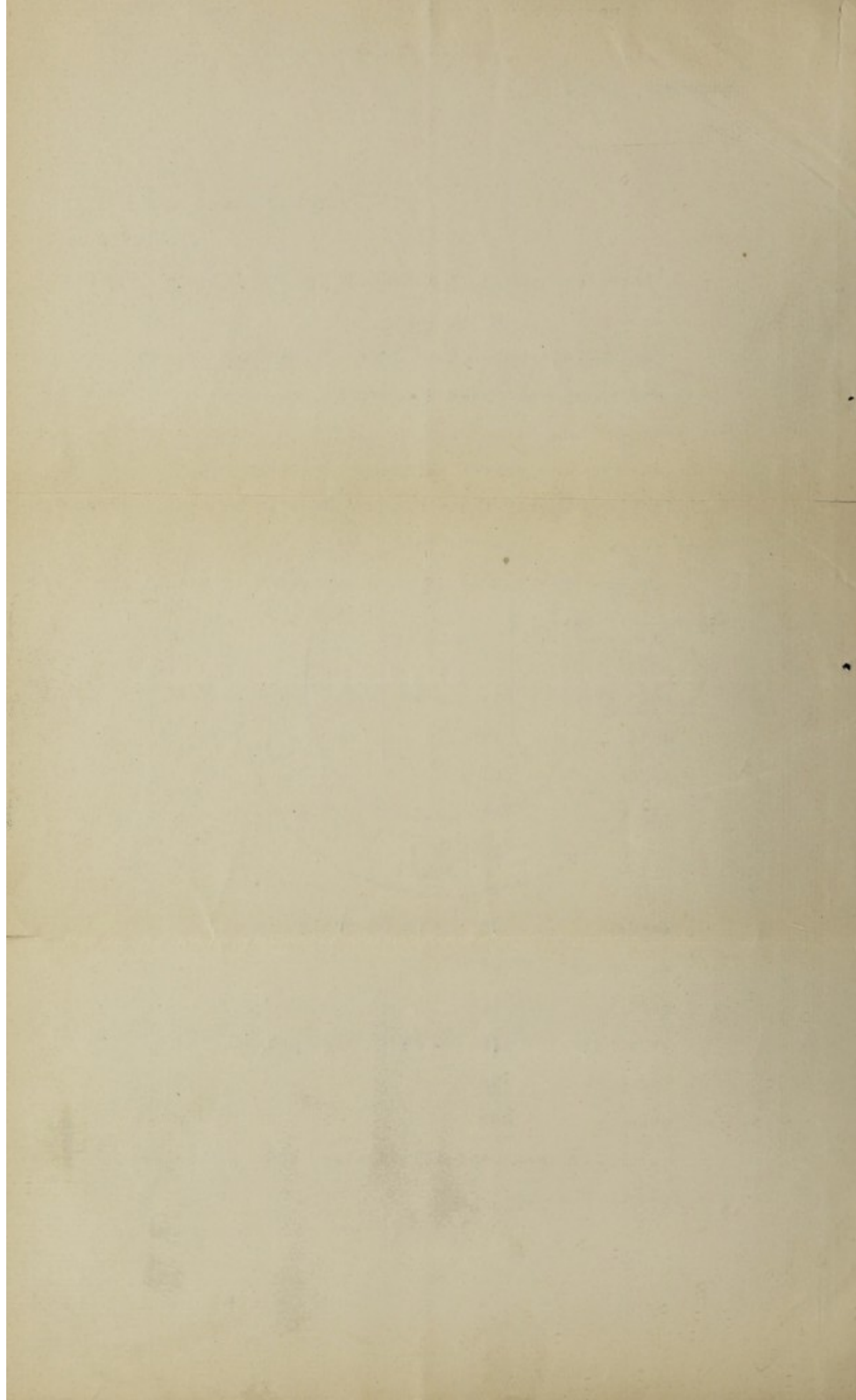
Isle of
Portland Urban District Council

Medical Officer's Report for 1896

To
The Librarian

British Medical Association

With Dr. Lamm's
Compliments



Report of the Medical Officer of Health of the
Portland Urban District Council for the year ending 31st
December, 1896.

P O R T L A N D,

12th Feb. 1897

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1896.

Population.

The population in the middle of 1896 was probably about 9,800 and this number has therefore been taken as a basis for our calculations. It is very difficult to arrive at the exact population of the island, as during the last decade there was a diminution, whilst there has undoubtedly been an increase since 1891.

Births The number of Births registered during the year was as follows:-

January	19	} = 63 in 1st quarter
February	20	
March	24	
April	15	} = 56 in 2nd quarter
May	19	
June	22	
July	19	} = 70 in 3rd quarter
August	28	
September	23	
October	31	} = 69 in 4th quarter
November	18	
December	20	
Total	258	

There were 119 males and 139 females The Birth-rate is 26.326
per 1,000 per annum

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Deaths. The deaths in 1896 from all causes were as follows:-

January	14	} = 35 in 1st quarter
February	14	
March	7	
April	16	} = 24 in 2nd quarter
May	6	
June	2	
July	7	} = 33 in 3rd quarter
August	11	
September	15	
October	15	} = 42 in 4th quarter
November	12	
December	15	
Total	134	
	===	

Seven deaths of non-residents are to be deducted from this total. Two bodies were washed ashore, in which death had apparently resulted from drowning, and were not identified. One resident died in a London Hospital after an operation, so there is one death to be added! This leaves 128 deaths from which the death-rate has to be calculated. The death-rate resulting is 13.061 per thousand per annum.

The causes of death are shown in the following table:-

Scarlatina	1
Enteric fever	1
Simple continued fever	1
Erysipelas	1
Whooping Cough	3
Diarrhoea & Dysentery	7
Heart Disease	21
Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy	23
Phthisis	6
Injuries	8
All other diseases	63
Total including London case referred to above	135
	===

There were 4 deaths from cancer , one from influenza, and one from chicken-pox.

The mortality from all causes at the different age-groups was as follows:-

under 1 year	36
1 year and under 5 years	12
5 years and under 15 years	0
15 " " " 25 ,,	18
25 " " " 65 ,,	42
65 " " upwards	<u>27</u>
Total	135 =====

We have 36 deaths at ages under 1 year. This, taken in conjunction with the total number of births, enables us to calculate the infant mortality; by this term is meant the number of children dying under 1 year old out of each thousand born alive. The infant-mortality rate is 139.534. This is rather high, as it was only 108.597 in 1895. The infant mortality for the whole of England & Wales was 137 in 1894

ZYMOTIC DISEASES

The Zymotic death-rate is calculated from the total number of deaths caused by the following diseases, viz:- Small-pox, Measles, Scarlet fever, Diphtheria, Whooping cough, Fever, and Diarrhoea. These are known as the "seven principal zymotic diseases" in the Reports of the Registrar General. We have 14 deaths coming under this category, which gives a Zymotic death-rate of 1.428 per 1,000 per annum. The Zymotic death-rate of England & Wales in 1894 was 2.257.

Enteric Fever.

Thirty five cases of Enteric fever have been notified during 1896, chiefly in September and October. The great majority of the cases were in the Under hill district. One death occurred. The cases were distributed throughout the town and did not seem to be grouped around one particular source of water supply. It must be borne in mind, however, that all the present sources of water supply are open to pollution, and that the

that the whole of the soil in the Under hill district is more or less contaminated with sewage matter.

Scarlatina.

Thirty two cases have been notified, with one death. The most of these cases occurred in the Grove district, in the Prison Officers quarters, in the Autumn months. It was considered advisable to close the Prison Officers' schools on the 29th September on this account, and they were closed accordingly until the 16th November. At the close of the year the epidemic appeared to be practically over.

Erysipelas.

Six cases were notified, and one death occurred from this disease.

Whooping Cough.

A large number of cases occurred in the early part of the year, with three deaths in the first quarter.

Simple Continued Fever.

One death occurred from this disease.

A much needed advance in our methods of dealing with cases of dangerous infectious disease has been made by the District Council authorising their Chairman and their Clerk, or either of them, to sign an undertaking on their behalf agreeing to pay the costs incurred to the Weymouth Port Sanitary Authority for patients requiring admission to hospital. Before this was done it was necessary to call a meeting of the Council to get the necessary agreement signed.

R A I N F A L L

The year has been an exceptionally dry one, and there was a great scarcity of water in the Summer months. To meet this deficiency to a certain extent, the District Council caused water from the disused shaft at Southwell to be carried round in carts to the inhabitants, who were cautioned to use the water in question for cleaning purposes only.

I am indebted to the Rev. W. R. Waugh, F.R.A.S. The Observatory, Portland, for the following table of rain-fall

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem of the origin of life. It is shown that the problem is one of the most important and most difficult in the history of science. The author discusses the various theories of the origin of life, and shows that the most plausible is the theory of spontaneous generation. This theory is based on the fact that life is everywhere, and that it is impossible to find a place where it did not originate. The author also discusses the theory of evolution, and shows that it is based on the same principle as the theory of spontaneous generation. The author concludes that the origin of life is a problem that has not yet been solved, and that it is one of the most important and most difficult in the history of science.

2. The second part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the problem of the origin of the human race. It is shown that the problem is one of the most important and most difficult in the history of science. The author discusses the various theories of the origin of the human race, and shows that the most plausible is the theory of spontaneous generation. This theory is based on the fact that life is everywhere, and that it is impossible to find a place where it did not originate. The author also discusses the theory of evolution, and shows that it is based on the same principle as the theory of spontaneous generation. The author concludes that the origin of the human race is a problem that has not yet been solved, and that it is one of the most important and most difficult in the history of science.

3. The third part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the problem of the origin of the human mind. It is shown that the problem is one of the most important and most difficult in the history of science. The author discusses the various theories of the origin of the human mind, and shows that the most plausible is the theory of spontaneous generation. This theory is based on the fact that life is everywhere, and that it is impossible to find a place where it did not originate. The author also discusses the theory of evolution, and shows that it is based on the same principle as the theory of spontaneous generation. The author concludes that the origin of the human mind is a problem that has not yet been solved, and that it is one of the most important and most difficult in the history of science.

4. The fourth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the problem of the origin of the human soul. It is shown that the problem is one of the most important and most difficult in the history of science. The author discusses the various theories of the origin of the human soul, and shows that the most plausible is the theory of spontaneous generation. This theory is based on the fact that life is everywhere, and that it is impossible to find a place where it did not originate. The author also discusses the theory of evolution, and shows that it is based on the same principle as the theory of spontaneous generation. The author concludes that the origin of the human soul is a problem that has not yet been solved, and that it is one of the most important and most difficult in the history of science.

5. The fifth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the problem of the origin of the human body. It is shown that the problem is one of the most important and most difficult in the history of science. The author discusses the various theories of the origin of the human body, and shows that the most plausible is the theory of spontaneous generation. This theory is based on the fact that life is everywhere, and that it is impossible to find a place where it did not originate. The author also discusses the theory of evolution, and shows that it is based on the same principle as the theory of spontaneous generation. The author concludes that the origin of the human body is a problem that has not yet been solved, and that it is one of the most important and most difficult in the history of science.

Month.	Total Depth in inches.	Greatest fall in 24 hours		number of days on which .01 in. or more fell.
		Depth.	Date.	
January	1.03	.3 in.	25th	9
February	.25	.06	19th	8
March	2.91	1.01	17th	24
April	.42	.24	13th	5
May	.17	.09	22nd	4
June	1.24	.32	8th	12
July	.74	.22	31st	10
August	1.02	.43	26th	8
September	5.48	.78	24th	26
October	2.36	.57	6th	18
November	1.17	.64	14th	7
December	3.64	.55	3rd 10th	21
Total	20.43 =====			152

W A T E R S U P P L Y

Since my last annual report ^{was}~~was~~ made, the offer of Capt. Gould of Upwey to sink a shaft on his estate was accepted by the District Council. A site was selected near the "Wishing Well", and a shaft sunk to the depth of 35 feet. A plentiful supply of water of excellent quality was obtained. Following are the results of an analysis made by Sidney Harvey, F.C.S.

Sample of water from Upwey Shaft on 13th March 1896.

Appearance, Clear.

Colour in 2 ft. tube, Green Blue.

Smell, None.

Chlorine in Chlorides 1.63

Phosphoric Acid in phosphates none.

Nitrogen in Nitrates 0.27

Ammonia .0005 = .007 per million.

Albuminoid ammonia .0012 = .017 per million

Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes "traces only"

Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours .036

Total hardness 18.8 (in grs. CaCO.)
3

Permanent Hardness 1.9

Total solid matter 25.48

The first part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the
 various methods which have been proposed for the determination of
 the rate of reaction between a solid and a liquid. It is shown that
 the most reliable method is that of measuring the change in weight
 of the solid as the reaction proceeds. This method is applicable to
 all cases in which the solid is insoluble in the liquid. It is
 also applicable to cases in which the solid is soluble in the liquid,
 provided that the solid is weighed before and after the reaction.
 The second part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the
 various factors which influence the rate of reaction between a solid
 and a liquid. It is shown that the rate of reaction is influenced
 by the nature of the solid, the nature of the liquid, the temperature
 of the reaction, and the surface area of the solid.

The rate of reaction between a solid and a liquid is influenced by
 the nature of the solid, the nature of the liquid, the temperature
 of the reaction, and the surface area of the solid. The rate of
 reaction is also influenced by the concentration of the liquid.
 The rate of reaction is directly proportional to the surface area
 of the solid. The rate of reaction is also directly proportional to
 the concentration of the liquid. The rate of reaction is inversely
 proportional to the thickness of the solid. The rate of reaction is
 also inversely proportional to the distance between the solid and
 the liquid. The rate of reaction is also inversely proportional to
 the viscosity of the liquid. The rate of reaction is also inversely
 proportional to the density of the liquid. The rate of reaction is
 also inversely proportional to the molecular weight of the liquid.

Microscopical examination of deposit slight, unimportant.
Metallic impregnation, None.

Remarks. "The above results are satisfactory throughout and indicate water of great organic purity as well as freedom from sewage percolation direct or indirect. The chief solids consist chiefly of carbonate of lime together with a small amount of sulphate, nitrate of lime and alkaline salts, and the supply is in my opinion a suitable one for drinking purposes"

just as test pumping operations were about to commence a letter was received from the Local Government Board signifying disapproval of the site of the shaft, on account of its proximity to the Upwey churchyard. From the lie of the strata at this point it is improbable that pollution would occur from this source, but the site was undoubtedly open to criticism for another reason, viz:- its close proximity to the village of Upwey.

A fresh site, lying about half a mile up the valley, was selected, and the District Council are sinking a shaft at this point. The shaft has already been sunk to a depth of 105 ft., and the water-level was reached at 73 feet. There seems every reason to believe that a sufficient supply of water will be obtained, ~~at this point~~, and, should its quality prove to be satisfactory on analysis, we may hope to see Portland supplied with pure and wholesome water in a short time.

Drainage.

The drainage of the island is still in a most unsatisfactory condition. It is, we fear, impossible to rectify this until a sufficient water supply has been obtained. A complete scheme of drainage must then receive immediate attention. In this connection it is to be observed that nuisance has been caused by House drains which have been connected with the main sewers without any supervision by the Sanitary Authority, the junction being effected by the simple expedient of knocking a hole in the sewer-pipe and thrusting the terminal pipe of the house-drain into the sewer at right angles to its course. In

several instances defective sewers have been re-laid by the Local Authority during the year.

Complaints have been made, especially in the Top-hill district, of nuisance caused by the inhabitants throwing sleep-water into the open street gutters. The Police have been instructed by the District Council to put a stop to this practice.

Nuisances.

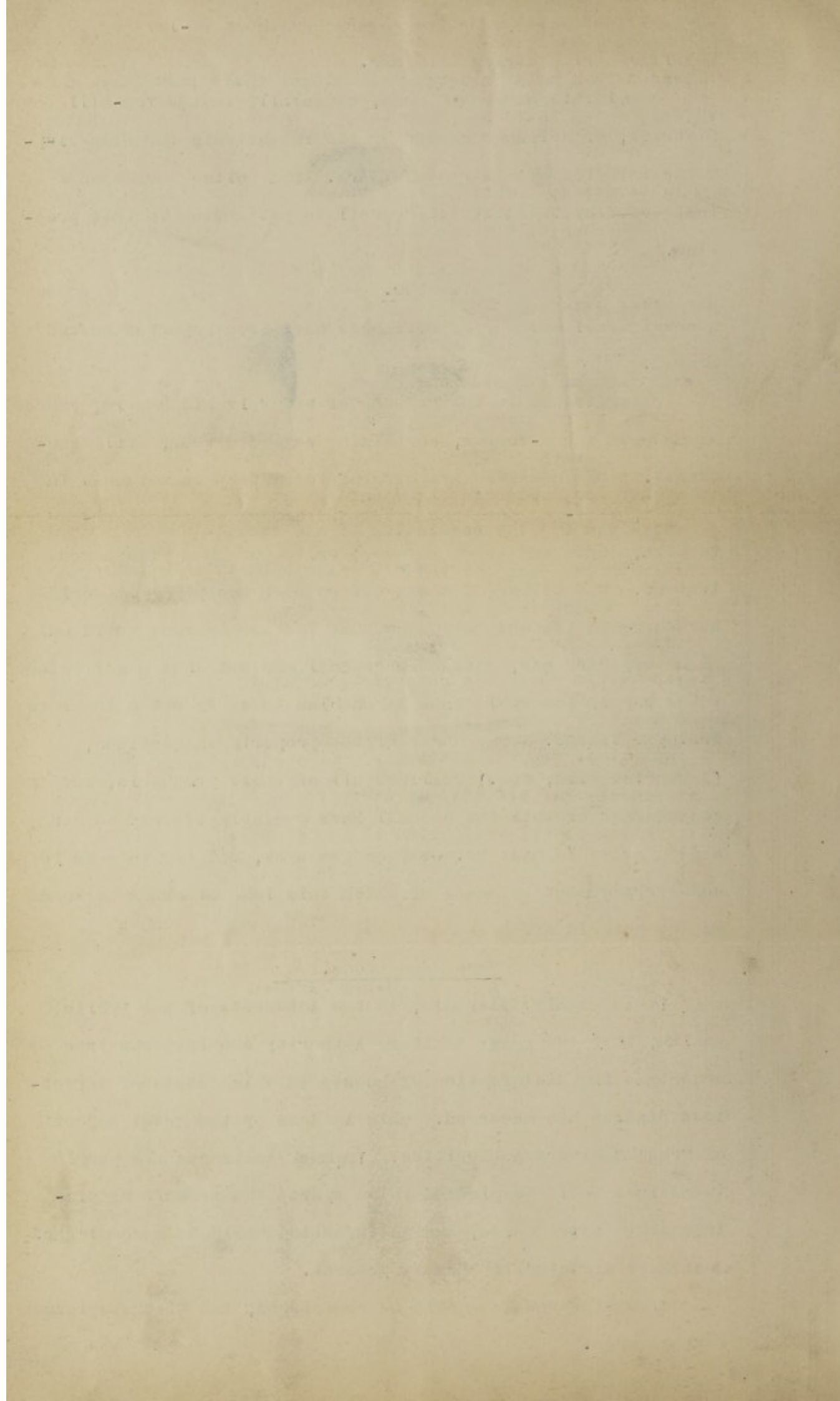
A considerable number of nuisances have been reported on and abated.

The nuisance in the grounds of Pennsylvania Castle, caused by an open water-course, containing sewage matter, still continues. The Council have offered to abate this nuisance in one of three ways, viz:- to pave the sides and bottom of the water-course; To pave, cover and grass it over; or to put in a pipe sewer instead. Had either of these offers been accepted, it would have been on the understanding that the arrangement would only be a temporary one, until the Council had obtained a sufficient water supply and would thus be enabled to carry out a complete drainage scheme. The owner of the property in question, (J Merrick Head, Esq.) declines all of these proposals, and in consequence of this the Council have recently offered to send a deputation to meet Mr. Head on the spot, and try to come to some arrangement by means of which this long standing nuisance may be got rid of.

Recommendations.

It is highly desirable, in the interests of the Public Health, that the Local Sanitary Authority should themselves undertake the disinfection of houses in which cases of infectious disease has occurred. This is done by the great majority of Urban Sanitary Authorities. In most instances the people themselves would be pleased to be spared the trouble of disinfecting their houses, and disinfection would be accomplished much more effectually than at present.

Slaughter Houses should be registered, and Licenses issued for new ones.



Dairies and milk-shops should be registered, as it is to be feared that milk is frequently stored under unsuitable conditions, which could be prevented if registration were insisted upon.

Bye-laws with reference to houses let in lodgings have not yet been issued by the District Council, although their immediate preparation was advised in my last report. The need for them still exists, and it is to be hoped that the District Council will not allow another year to elapse before providing us with such an effectual weapon against over-crowding.

It is to be feared that in some streets this exists to a considerable extent, although it is hoped that with the completion of the projected new buildings it may be less prevalent.

Bye-laws for the regulation of new streets and buildings should also be issued by the Council, as those at present in use are too elastic to be of much value.

Connection of house-drains with the sewers should not be allowed except under the supervision of the officials of the Local Sanitary Authority.

Mr. E. J. Elford, Surveyor, in his capacity of Inspector of nuisances, has afforded me every assistance in his power in attending to the sanitation of the island.

David J. Carson

M.D., D.P.H.

