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Contributors

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REPORT FOR 1902.

ST. AUSTELL,

JANUARY, 1903.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS

OF THE

SAINT AUSTELL

Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with your requirements, and with the instructions given by the Local Government Board, it is my pleasure and duty to present you with an Annual Report comprising the Sanitary condition of the District over which you have authority. It also shows the work that has been accomplished during the past year, and reference is made to the work in contemplation. Notwithstanding the changeable climate, the winter was not severe—it was damp and cold. There was very little sunshine during the summer, which was a wet one; and altogether it has been a favourable year for sickness, and for spreading diseases. Still, your death rate has been low—the lowest for the past twenty-three years—it being 14·2 per 1000 inhabitants. This is the best testimony you can have as to the sanitary condition of your District, and also of the attention bestowed on all matters relative to the health of the Districts.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

During the past year there were ninety-seven cases notified, with only four deaths, one being from Scarlet Fever, two from Membranous Croup, and one from Typhoid Fever. This gives a disease rate of 3·3 per 1000 inhabitants, and a death rate of ·13. During the previous year there were one hundred and thirty cases reported, six having proved fatal. This gives a disease rate of 4·4, and a death rate of ·204. As far as Notifiable Diseases are concerned there is an improvement in the number of cases, and consequently in the death rate.

SCARLET FEVER.—Scarlet Fever has occurred in each of the Districts. There were seventy cases notified as against seventy-eight in the previous year. There has been only one death, and that in a very young child at St. Dennis; thirty-seven cases occurred in St. Austell District, sixteen in Fowey, eight in Grampound, and eleven in Mevagissey. The great difficulty

REPORT

1890

CONTENTS OF THE BOOK WHEN AT LEAST TWENTY PAGES OCCURRED, AND

we have to contend against is the isolation of the cases, as the disease is so mild. Frequently after our visits the infected ones are allowed to mix with other members of the family.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.—Five cases occurred, and two proved fatal. In the previous year there were twelve cases with four deaths. Three of the cases occurred at Grampound, and the other two in Mevagissey district—the fatal cases occurred in Grampound district. On visiting the house where one of the fatal cases occurred we found that there had been several cases of sore throat, not only in that house, but several of the children in the village had sore throats—evidently all attending the same school. The sanitary condition of the house was not at all satisfactory. On giving notice the place had immediate attention, and was thoroughly disinfected; at the same time the closets at the public schools were cleansed and disinfected and there was no further case, and what we considered to be an epidemic was checked by prompt measures having been taken.

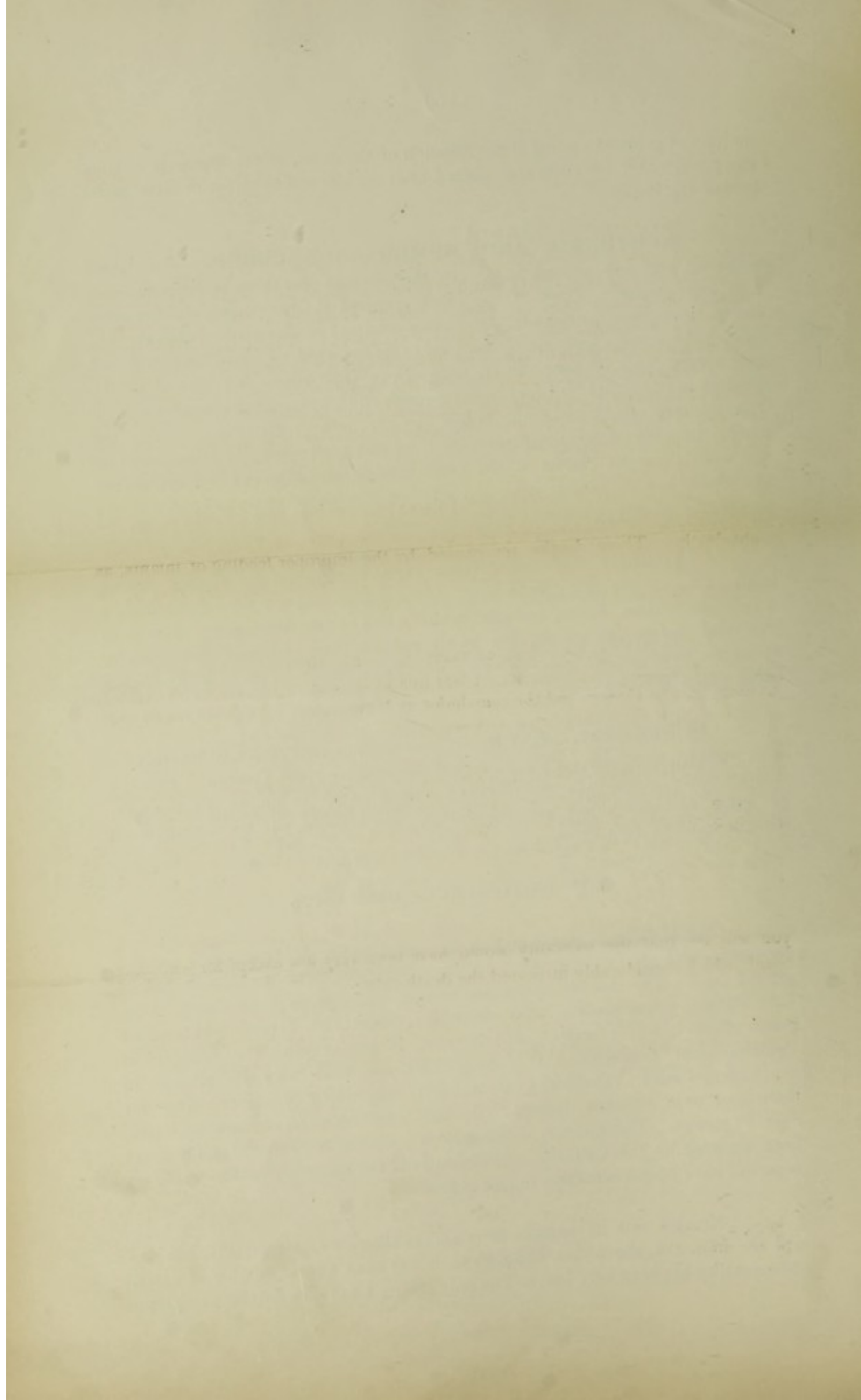
TYPHOID FEVER.—Three cases occurred, one having proved fatal. Two of the cases were mild. In the fatal case the person was ill only a very short time, having attended school a day or two previously. The child was dead before our arrival, but in my opinion there is a good deal of doubt about the case, as nothing unsanitary was found about the premises, the house being perfectly clean.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—A case was reported to me at Mevagissey. The sanitary condition of the place was reported on to the Council. This is a difficult place to deal with owing to the construction of the houses and the want of space to build closet accommodation, which could not be accomplished without water to flush them.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

MEASLES.—Measles were in the District of Mevagissey in the commencement of the year, when at least twenty cases occurred, none having proved fatal. The disease afterwards spread, and appeared at Kestle, in St. Ewe Parish, where several cases occurred. Sticker, St. Mewan, was the next place where it was prevalent, and later on in the summer they appeared at Pentewan and Trenarren. At present there are some cases at Trethurgy, in St. Austell Parish. There was only one fatal case, whilst in the preceding year there had been eighteen deaths. The fatal case occurred at Sconhoe Farm, near Pentewan. The sanitary surroundings were not satisfactory, and this has been reported to the Council, who have served the necessary notice, which we hope will have proper attention in due course.

Measles and its sequela have always shown a high mortality, but you will see from the above that, although there has been a great number of cases, the mortality has been very low. The only reason I can give for this exception-



ally low death rate is that the inhabitants are realising the fact that perfect sanitation is necessary for their existence.

WHOOPIING COUGH.—This has occurred in each of the Districts. The cases chiefly were in the commencement of the year: the disease was very prevalent, and the mortality was high, there being sixteen deaths, whilst in the previous year there were only two. Eleven occurred at St. Austell, three in Fowey, one at Grampound, and one at Mevagissey. All the fatal cases were in children under five years of age. The high mortality was owing to the time of the year it occurred, and also that the affected ones were allowed to run about and expose themselves, and consequently not only injured themselves, but conveyed the disease to others. Some of the affected ones were attending school while suffering from the disease.

DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS.—These have had five deaths, all in children under one year of age. In the previous year there had been eight deaths. These deaths are caused by the improper feeding of infants, as most of the mothers in the locality believe in giving the infants some food at an early age when it is impossible for them to digest it.

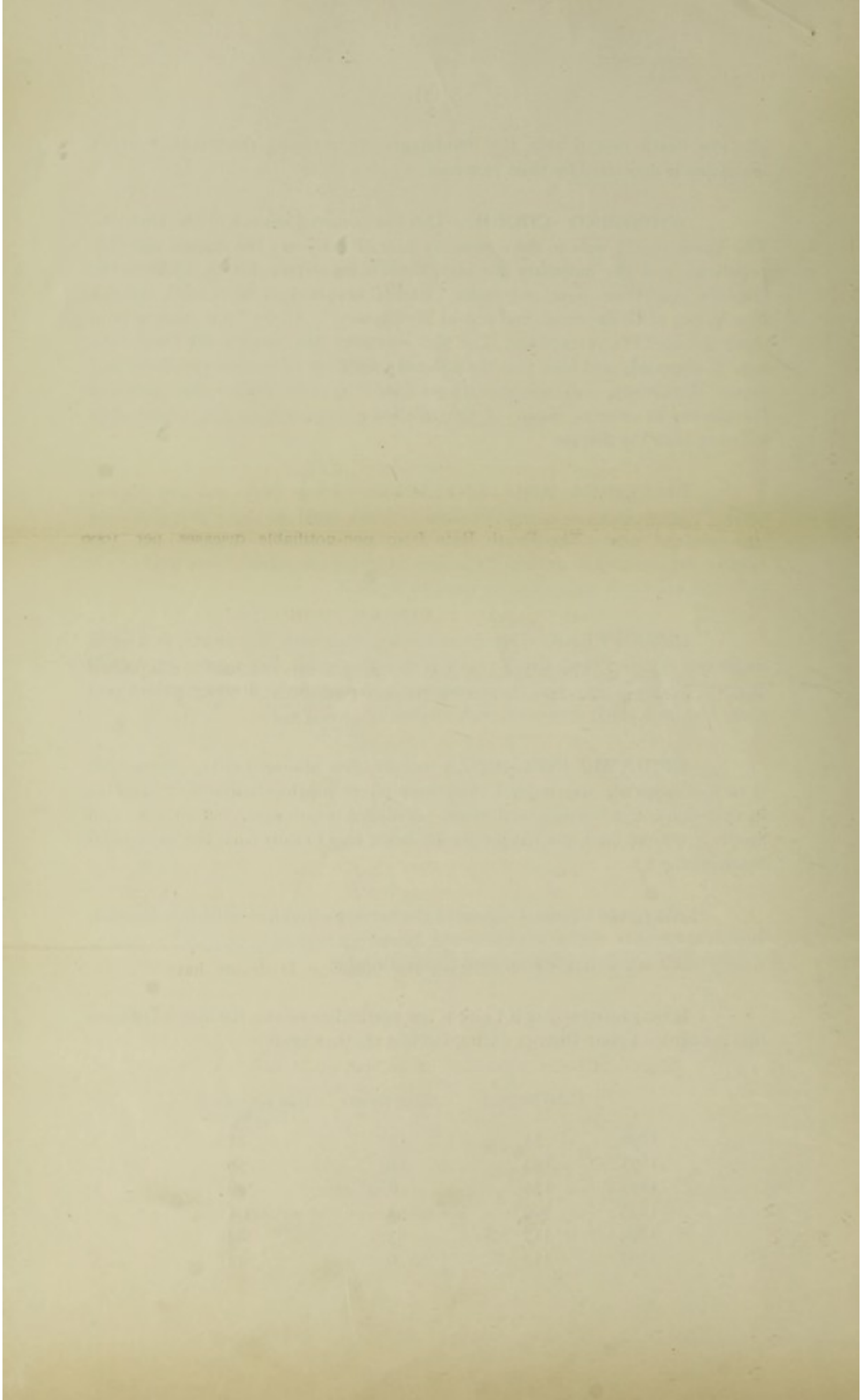
ERYSIPELAS.—Sixteen cases occurred, with one death, in a child under one year in Fowey District: it was due to a scald. Six were in St. Austell District, Six in Fowey, and the remainder at Mevagissey. In the previous year there had been thirty-five cases with no death.

EPIDEMIC INFLUENZA occurs now almost yearly. Sometimes it is most violent, and in 1901 there were fifteen deaths attributed to it, whilst in 1902 there were thirteen fatal cases. It occurs in all ages, but in the aged people it is more fatal, the old people not being able to rally from the exhaustion consequent on it.

Having given a general resume of the notifiable and non-notifiable diseases, you will see that the mortality would have been very low except for whooping cough, which considerably increased the death rate.

It may interest you if I give a few particulars of the Notifiable Diseases that occurred in your District during the last thirteen years:—

	Cases Notified	No. of Deaths	Rate per 1000 of Population.
1890	54	12	·44
1891	193	16	·56
1892	134	8	·28
1893	200	32	1·1
1894	117	23	·84
1895	112	6	·22



	Cases Notified.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1000 of Population.
1896	153	8	·28
1897	50	6	·22
1898	121	4	·14
1899	216	10	·36
1900	195	10	·36
1901	130	6	·204
1902	97	4	·13

The past year has the lowest Death Rate for the past thirteen years, although the number notified was not the lowest.

The number of non-notifiable cases have been considerable, especially Measles, there being 1 death from that disease, 16 from Whooping Cough, and 5 from Diarrhœa : there being 17 deaths from non-notifiable disease against 21 in the previous year. The Death Rate from non-notifiable diseases per 1000 inhabitants would be ·74—taking the notifiable and non-notifiable together ·87.

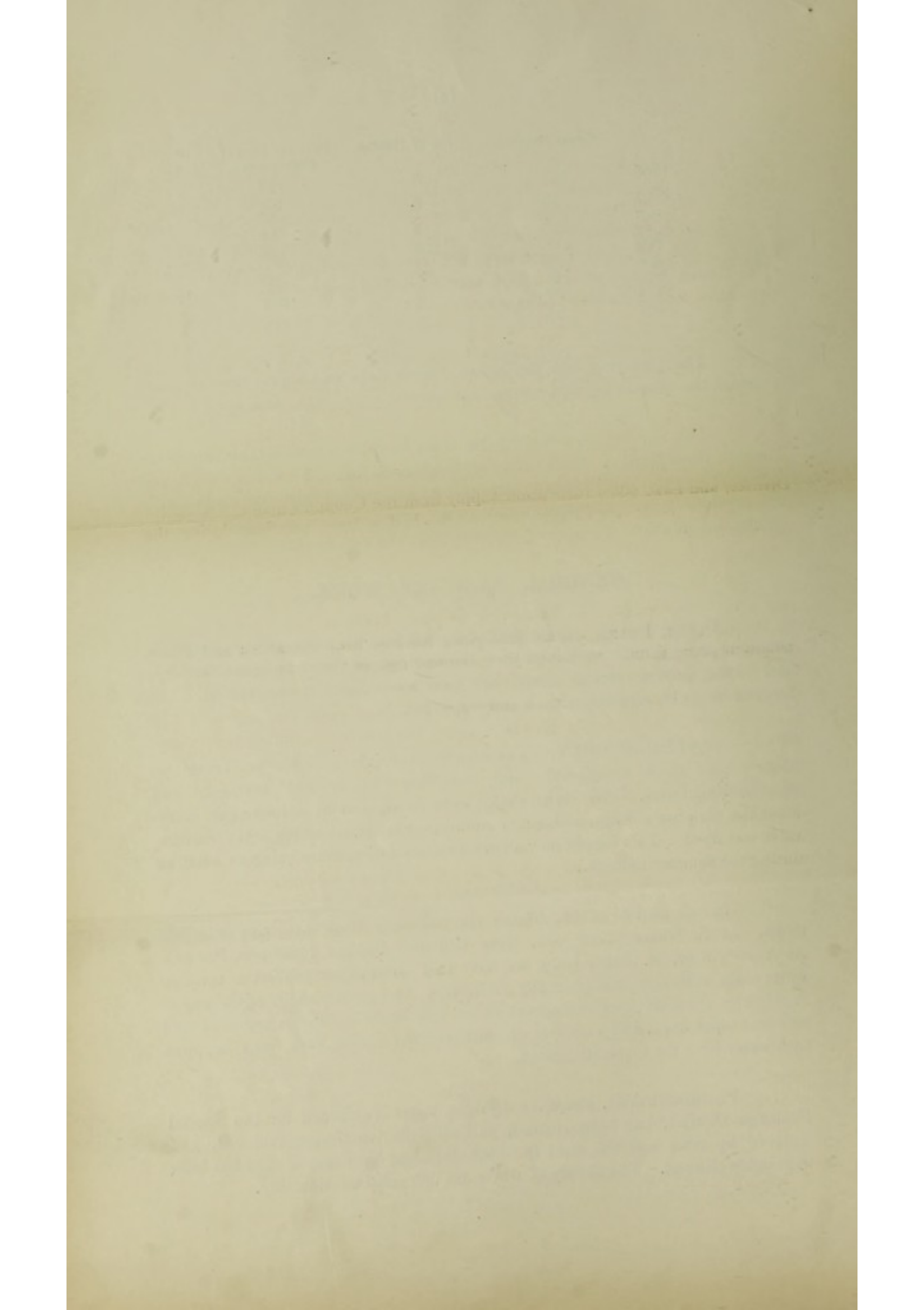
GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

During the year a great deal of Sanitary Work has been accomplished, chiefly in abating nuisances, improving the water supply, extending the drainage, and having privies erected where water closets could not be constructed. The District has been regularly visited and inspected.

WATER SUPPLY.—The supply of drinking water at Treverbyn Moor has been completed and extended to several cottages and neighbouring farms. Four vent shafts were fixed, and at a lower part in the moor the 5in pipe was cut, and a new connection made, on which a 5in scouring valve was fixed. This supply now answers satisfactorily, there being an overflow during the summer months.

In the parish of St. Blazey the following Hydrants have been laid down. At St. Blazey Gate one, Rose Hill one, Station Road two, Par two. At White's Row, St. Blazey Gate, we have laid down about 300 feet of 1in. new water main, with new fittings for the public tap. At a great number of the public supply taps the lead pipes at the back of the face board have been removed and new iron pipes fixed, and a number of newly-erected houses have been supplied with water from the Council's mains.

Phernissick Adit, where the drinking water is obtained for the Special Drainage District, has been cleared, and all defective timber removed, and replaced by new, and the level in which there had been several runs has been thoroughly cleaned. The supply of water has increased considerably.



At Minear Lane we have laid down about 100 feet of 1in. main, and fixed a new galvanised-iron tank at the highest point in this place to give a constant supply to the cottagers. At three different points at Boscoppa Downs we have laid down about 1200 feet of 1in. iron main, and have fixed new fittings to the public taps. At Tregonissey lane end we have laid about 300 feet of 1½in. main. Several of the public taps have had new fittings, the back lead pipes have been discarded and new iron pipes fixed.

From Watering to Gewans Farm, about 2000 feet of 1in. main has been laid by the owner to carry water from the Mount Charles mains to supply the said farm with water. At East Hill about 200 feet of 1in. main has been laid.

A number of new houses have been built in the Special Drainage District, and have taken their water supply from the Council's mains. Notwithstanding this the Mount Charles reservoir has had a large overflow during the summer months.

At Trewoon the old lead pump has been discarded and a deep well pump has been erected. At Tregorrick the pump has also been reconstructed. At Whitepit, St. Dennis, the old lead pump has also been discarded and a new deep-well pump fixed. At Roche the surroundings of the pump have been reconstructed, and at Hewas a well has been sunk and a pump erected. At Carpalla, in St. Stephens parish, a deep well has been sunk and a new pump fixed thereon. At Trenance Downs a pump has also been erected, and a well sunk.

These pumps are as a rule all fixed on deep wells, nevertheless, I am afraid they are liable to receive surface drainage, and thus pollute the drinking water. The surroundings of the said pumps should be enclosed with a wall, as cattle are frequently sent there to drink, and thus cause a nuisance.

The Council have taken over, at Boscoppa, about 2000 feet of 1-inch pipe from the School Board, which conveyed the drinking water to the school, and will now be able to supply the adjoining inhabitants with pure drinking water.

DRAINAGE.—The drainage has also been improved in several places, notably at Fowey, where about 300 feet of 9in. sewer has been laid, and will prove to be a great boon to the inhabitants of that town—this sewer has been taken out to low water mark, and an automatic flushing tank has also been fixed to flush the public closets at the Town Quay.

About 40 feet of 9in. Sewer was laid at Custom House Hill. The out-fall was improved and a new tide-flap fixed.

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem. It is shown that the problem is of great importance in the theory of the structure of matter. The second part of the paper is devoted to a detailed analysis of the problem. It is shown that the problem is of great importance in the theory of the structure of matter.

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At St. Dennis the drainage has been improved and extended : about 200 feet of gin. and 6in. Sewers have been laid, and five large stench-traps have also been fixed on this sewer.

At Porthpean Road about 100 feet of 6in. sewer has been laid for four new houses, to drain into the main sewer. At Grampound the drainage of the King's Head was choked and had to be reconstructed and new pipes were laid.

OVERCROWDING.—The cases of overcrowding reported to you have not been so numerous as in former years. We found a great improvement in that direction ; the few that have been reported were dealt with without having recourse to legal means.

The dilapidated houses that had been reported were dealt with. Some of them were pulled down, and reconstructed, others were closed.

A great number of new houses have been erected, although not as many as in previous years. Some of the houses and surroundings were in a very dirty condition, but on giving notice they were cleaned and disinfected. It is surprising if after a short lapse of time one revisits these dirty houses to find them again in the same unsanitary condition.

During the year a great number of nuisances have been abated—most of them have been done on our visits by oral notices, so that there has been no necessity to report to the Council, consequently a great saving of time and trouble. Where practicable, we have had the old type of privy removed, with their filthy cess-pits, and the pail system has been substituted. This policy we intend to pursue, as in a scattered country district like ours, we find there is nothing that answers so well, unless water closets can be adopted. The great objections to the old class of privy are that not only is a quantity of filth accumulated, which becomes putrid, but the adjacent sub-soil becomes tainted, and possibly the water supply. By such means diseases are propagated and the health of the people endangered.

The pig-stys have also had a great deal of attention, as the cottager in most instances keeps his pig-sty within a few yards of his house, and very often close to the drinking water. At present we have not sufficient power to deal with them, as we can only make them clean out the said pig-stys—in wet weather they very soon become as bad as ever. The Council have now adopted the Model Bye Laws (which are under the consideration of the Local Government Board for their approval) and when these are sanctioned we shall be able to deal with them more effectively.

In my former reports I referred to the nuisance caused by soapy water, especially when it is discharged on to the water-tables of the highway. This has somewhat improved, as the offenders have been closely watched ; but I am afraid in some places the practice still continues. This is not an easy thing to

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stop in a district which is the largest and most thickly populated in Cornwall. The population is close on thirty thousand, and the inhabited houses are over six thousand.

On visiting the newly-erected dwelling houses we frequently note that the best sites for building purposes are not chosen, very often a piece of waste land is chosen because of its cheapness. The position or aspect of the intended dwellings is not taken into consideration. The ground on which the houses are built in some instances is damp, and therefore unhealthy, the roof water is very often taken away in shutes, but there is no drain to receive it, and therefore it soaks into the building—I hope the new bye laws will remedy this.

I am pleased to know that a plan of each house must be deposited with your Authority before any building is commenced, and I would strongly recommend that no dwelling house should contain less than three bedrooms, so that in case of infectious diseases one room could be utilized for isolation.

I regret that your Council has not yet been able to procure suitable cottages for isolation purposes, which I need hardly say are greatly wanted in such a populous district as ours. This I hope will not be lost sight of, and, as opportunities occur, your Authority will take advantage of them, as by so doing it would be the means of preventing the spread of diseases.

Disinfection, without a proper disinfecting chamber, is not always satisfactory. However, in a Rural District like ours a great deal has been accomplished, and I am pleased to say that our instructions have been carried out. Several houses have been disinfected under our directions, but the great difficulty is with thick materials such as woollens and flannels; these, as a rule, are costly, and being so thick are not easily disinfected—they ought to be destroyed to make certain that no germ of disease is left.

From the preceding you will see that Sanitary Work has not been neglected in your district by yourselves or by your officers, and although no work of any magnitude has been accomplished, still the work that has been done has been useful, and continues, and will compare favourably with any similar district in the county.

There are, however, some matters which have taken up a great deal of your time, and to which you have given your best attention, which have not been accomplished. In my last year's Report I referred to Mevagissey Drainage, which I hoped would be finished during the past year. I am still unable to congratulate you on that matter, but might say that, although a great many obstacles have been in the way, the time is now come when the matter cannot be delayed any longer. I would earnestly ask you to give it your serious consideration. Several Inquiries have been held on this matter, Local Government Board Inspectors have been down, Committee after Committee have met, extra

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FROM 1776 TO 1876
BY JAMES M. SMITH

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plans have been presented, and schemes have been discussed. As you are aware such proceedings entail great expense, and what progress has been made? It is a question that has been before the Council for several years, and, in my opinion, it is of the greatest importance that the work be commenced forthwith. This may appear to be a burden to the Ratepayers; but when you consider the importance of the undertaking, and the condition of Mevagissey at present—everything going into the Harbour—and the want of closet accommodation, you will agree with me that this matter is of the utmost importance.

As I anticipated in my last yearly report the scheme for the stream of water at Stenalees, to supply Bugle and neighbourhood, fell through—this is a matter to be greatly regretted. But another stream is in contemplation, which I hope will not meet with the same fate, as Bugle is greatly in need of drinking water. Samples have been sent for analysis and found satisfactory. At present we are cleaning the Stenalees Hill adit level, and find the yield of water has greatly increased. We are of opinion that there will be sufficient water not only for Bugle and neighbourhood, but also for Roche, where it is much needed. This latter place has also had your attention, when the matters of drainage and drinking water were fully discussed, and I regret that these are still in the same condition in that village. The Board School closets are still in the same state as when last reported to you, there being no water for flushing purposes; and what I have before said I would again repeat—what can be possibly worse than sewers without water to flush them? I feel certain that the inhabitants of Roche will never move or assist us in any way in bringing water into the village for sanitary and drinking purposes, and I would ask you as a Council to take this very important sanitary matter into your *own* hands.

THE SPECIAL DRAINAGE DISTRICT has been again under consideration, when it was proposed that Charlestown, Tregonissey Lane End, Tregonissey and Slades be drained forthwith. The engineer who is preparing the scheme hopes to concentrate the drainage of the places referred to, and carry the outfall to a place between the island and the battery at Charlestown. This is a very important step in the right direction—it is greatly needed, and will, when accomplished, prove a great boon to the neighbourhood: it will also relieve the Sewage Farm, as it is contemplated to take one side of Union Road and Porthpean Road, and part of Mount Charles into the said scheme.

FOWEY WATER.—Fowey water has also demanded a great deal of attention from you during the past year. Although the higher level supply did not fail, for about two months we had to be very careful, and had made preparations, if the supply failed, to pump from the lower level. I am pleased to say that this was not necessary. This would not only be an expensive scheme, but I am afraid it would not be satisfactory. I hope something will be done before another summer to procure an additional supply for the high level—probably the overflow from the St. Blazey Gate reservoir would be sufficient.

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I am glad to find that the St. Blazey and Tywardreath drinking water is going to be extended to Par Harbour, and I hope, to Par Green, as the present supply is not satisfactory, several complaints having been received respecting the water supply in this place.

ST. STEPHENS.—The inhabitants of Trelyon have complained about the scarcity of water in the village during the summer. The well from which the pump takes its supply was dry for quite four months. The landlord has been communicated with, and has promised to give the matter his attention.

TREVERBYN CHURCHYARD has also had attention. A site has been procured for a Cemetery, and the matter is being pressed forward with all possible speed, and I hope the Churchyard will soon be closed, as it is very full, and ought to be kept in a better condition.

ST. DENNIS CHURCHYARD has also had your consideration, and I suggest that you deal promptly with this matter, as in my opinion the present Churchyard is not fit for interments owing to the rocky nature of the ground.

BISCOVEY AND TYWARDREATH CHURCHYARDS we found very full, and the Parish Authorities have them both under their consideration, and I have no doubt that steps will be taken to procure suitable burying places.

THE DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS have been visited and reported on to you, and I am pleased to find a great improvement in their sanitary surroundings, and that greater attention is being given to the cleansing and keeping of the milk vessels.

THE FACTORY ACT has given considerable work during the past year. Several of the workshops have been visited and the sanitary arrangements have been improved. In some instances it is almost impossible to carry out the requirements of the Act, notably at Mevagissey, where the houses are old and crowded together and have deficient closet accommodation. Privies or cess-pits would, in a short time, become a dangerous nuisance there. Water closets are the safest and most satisfactory, but the present water supply is unavailable for such purposes.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

The Tables of Mortality and Sickness for the past year, from which you will see that 1902 has the lowest Birth and Death Rates for the past twenty-three years, the Birth Rate being 26.5, and Death Rate 14.2 per 1000 inhabitants. Comparing with the previous year the Birth and Death Rates have decreased. The deaths in children under one year have somewhat increased there being 93 in last year, against 90 in the previous year, as you will find in Table No. 1.

Taking Table No. 2 which gives the Birth and Death Rates in each of the Districts, and comparing them with the previous year, the Births in St. Austell District have decreased from 350 to 319—the deaths were the same; and in children under one Year of age a decrease of from 46 to 45. In Fowey District the Births increased by six, the deaths decreased from 115 to 104, the deaths under one year increased from 21 to 25. In Grampound District the Births decreased from 184 to 167, Deaths increased from 94 to 100, and deaths under 1 year decreased from 20 to 16. In Mevagissey Births decreased from 101 to 99, deaths decreased from 50 to 41, and deaths under one year increased from 3 to 7.

Table 3 gives the number of Infectious cases notified, and comparing with the previous year, there was a decrease of from 130 to 97. The principal decrease was in Scarlet Fever and Erysipelas. The former was six less, and the latter nineteen less.

Table 4 contains the Mortality from all causes as subjoined, and comparing it with the previous year, there is a decrease of 14, viz., from 433 to 419. The decrease was chiefly in diseases of the Respiratory Systems. The only increase was in Premature Births, from 13 to 26. Taking the separate Districts, St. Austell was the same as the previous year. In Fowey and Mevagissey there was a decrease. In Grampound there was an increase.

I now append the Birth and Death Rates for the past twenty-two years during which I have been your Officer.

	Birth Rate	Death Rate.
1880	33·9	21·7
1881	32·9	18·7
1882	31·8	15·9
1883	31·8	18·2
1884	33·9	19·6
1885	32·6	18·6
1886	33·8	19·6
1887	29·7	19·5
1888	31·9	17·2
1889	36·6	17·6
1890	31·6	18·8
1891	32·7	19·4
1892	30·5	15·5
1893	29·8	21·4
1894	28·7	16·7
1895	31·4	18·9
1896	31·8	14·9
1897	31·3	16·7
1898	31·1	15·8
1899	30·6	18·6
1900	29·5	15·9
1901	28·04	14·7
1902	26·5	14·2

Ground near the highest lake and along the forest

The population has increased by two thousand. The Death Rate has been gradually getting less.

It will be interesting to give you the Birth and Death Rate of each of your Districts, and compare them with the two previous years.

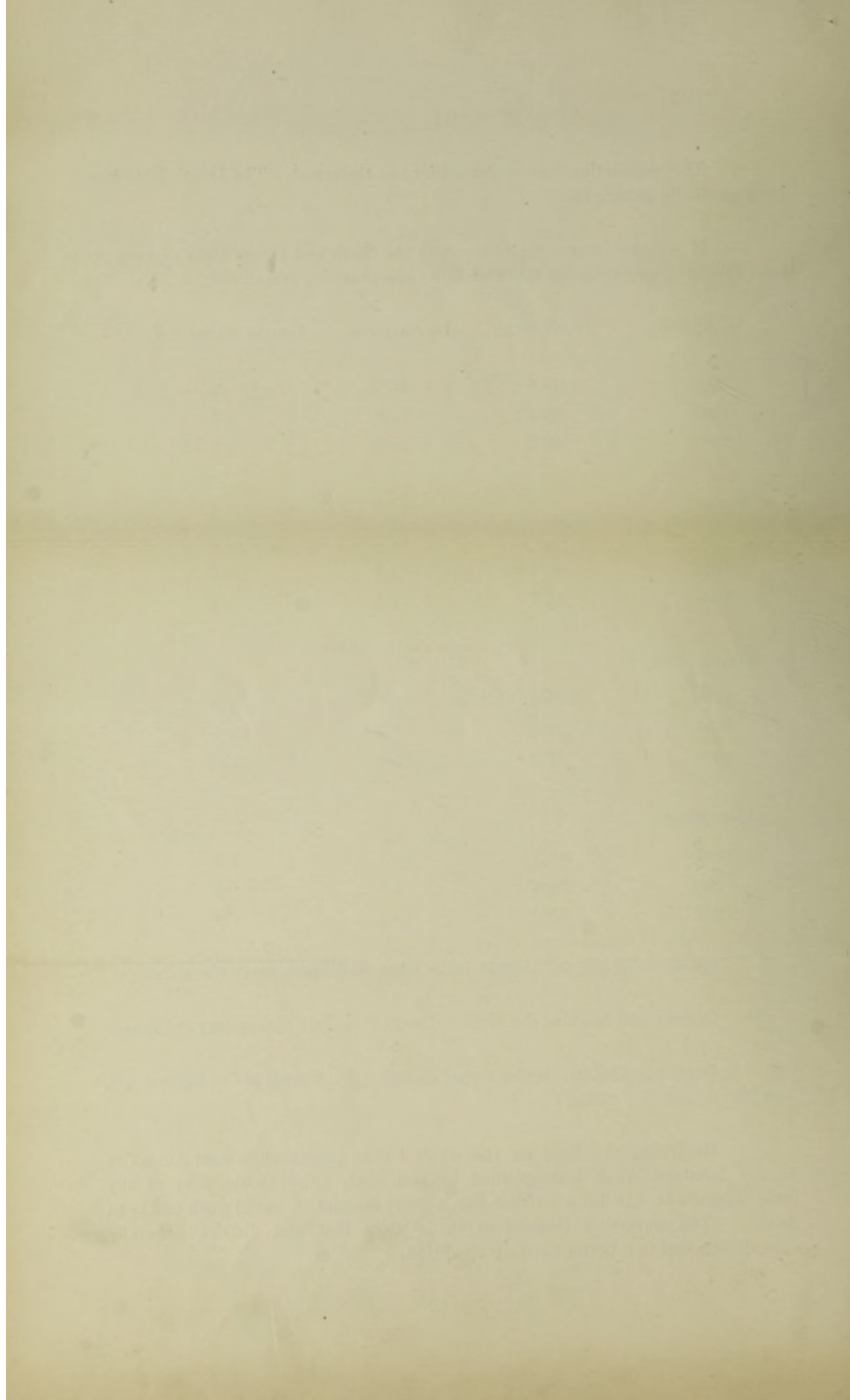
St. Austell	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Deaths under 1 Year.
1900	32·6	16·5	3·9
1901	29·4	14·6	3·8
1902	26·8	14·6	3·7
Fowey			
1900	29·1	15·3	2·3
1901	25·1	15·3	2·8
1902	25·9	13·8	3·3
Grampound.			
1900	32·4	17·8	4·4
1901	30·5	15·5	3·3
1902	27·7	16·5	2·6
Mevagissey.			
1900	18·7	13·8	1·8
1901	25·5	12·6	·75
1902	25·0	10·3	1·7

Grampound has the highest Birth Rate, and Mevagissey the lowest.

Grampound has also the highest Death Rate and Mevagissey the lowest.

Deaths in Children under 1 year of age— St. Austell is the highest 3·7, and Mevagissey the lowest 1·7.

Reviewing the Year on the whole I must congratulate your Authority on the Sanitary Work accomplished by you, and, although no work of any great magnitude has been carried out, a great amount of useful work has been done. The numerous inspections made show that the district generally is healthier, and in a better sanitary condition.



I trust that in the future you will give the same attention to Sanitary matters as in the past, and, if possible, endeavour to still further decrease the Death Rate.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM MASON,
M.O.H.

JOHN STEPHENS, ESQ.

