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Contributors

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REPORT FOR 1905.

St. Austell,

January, 1906.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ST. AUSTELL Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

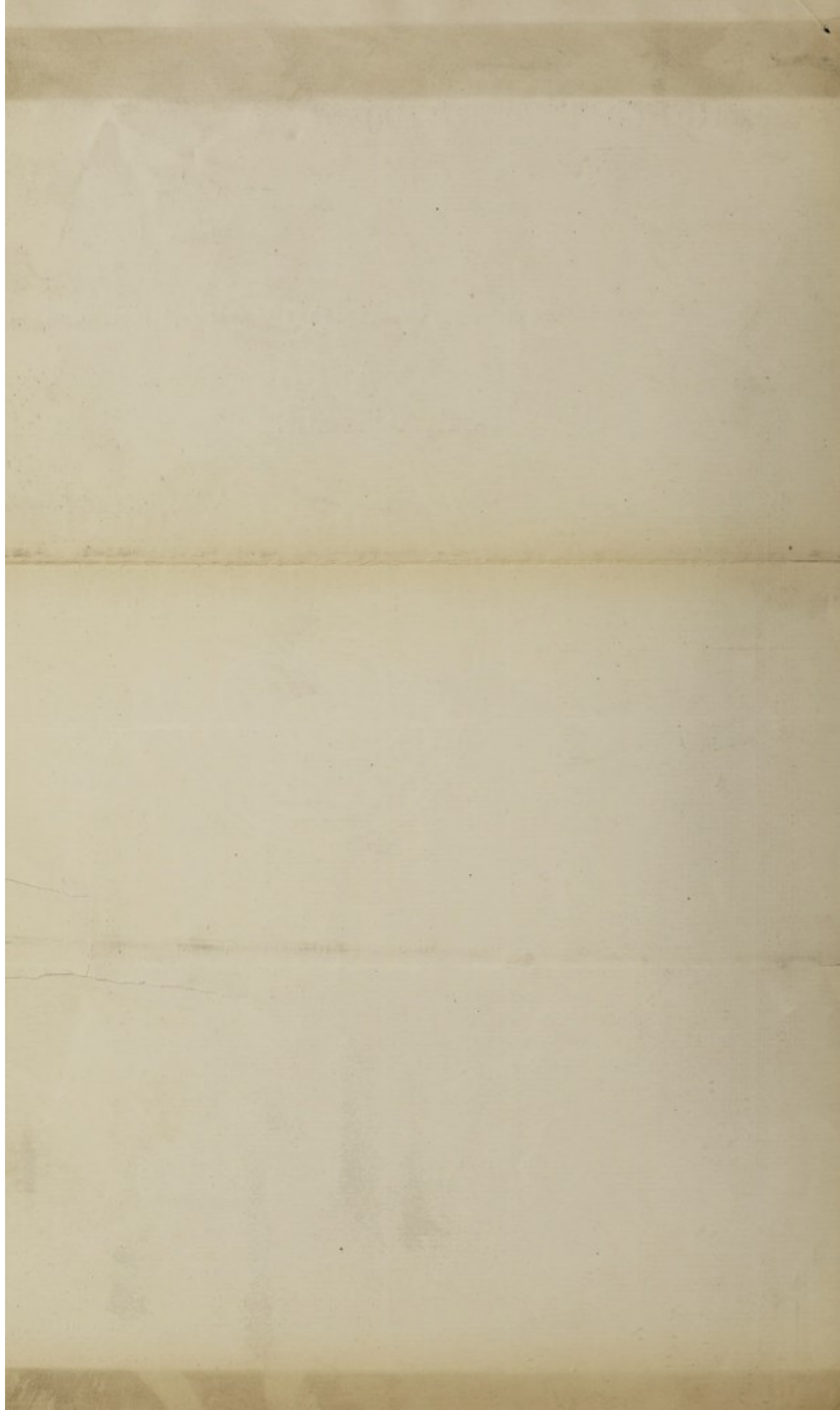
In submitting for your consideration my Annual Report for the past year, it will be necessary for me, as on former occasions, according to the instructions laid down by the Local Government Board, to give you a resume of the general work carried out in your district during the year, as well as the work in contemplation; and also to refer to any matters that have not as yet received your attention. I am pleased to say that the Sanitary condition of the District has much improved, and that as years go on the interest evinced by your Authority in Sanitary matters does not decrease.

Although some schemes for a District like yours may seem difficult and expensive, after due consideration and patience the obstacles have been overcome, and few Rural Districts can show a better record than yours. When we consider the population in the scattered Districts, the extensive Clay Works, and the Cottages occupied by the Clay Workers, it necessarily follows that it involves a tremendous amount of work to keep the several Villages and surroundings in a good state of Sanitation. Notwithstanding this, I consider the Sanitary Work of the year has been continuous and satisfactory.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

SCARLET FEVER.

At the commencement of the year there were a few cases of Scarlet Fever at Par Green, but the disease did not then spread; and in May a few cases occurred at Carleddon and Stenalees, in St. Austell Parish, and also at



Foxhole, in St. Stephens Parish. On the latter occasion the disease was again stamped out. In August it appeared again at Sticker, and spread with great rapidity. The County Council School in this neighbourhood was closed for some time, as well as the Sunday Schools in the District: from Sticker it spread to Nanpean and neighbourhood, and thence to St. Dennis, where there are several cases at present. One hundred and fifty cases were notified to me, as follows: Twenty-two in St. Austell District, twelve in Fowey District, one hundred in Grampound District, and twenty-one in Mevagissey District.

Although the cases were numerous the mortality has been very low, two deaths only having occurred, both of these in the Grampound District. At Nanpean and St Dennis the Council Schools have been closed. The cases have been of such a mild nature that the parents took no care whatever to prevent the disease spreading, and we were informed that after our visits the children were allowed to run on the highway, and mix freely with other children. Although our visits were surprise ones, we could not detect the guilty parties, and found it impossible to get anyone to give evidence against them.

DIPHTHERIA.

This disease occurred in January, June, July and October. Eighteen cases were notified, fourteen in St. Austell, one in Grampound District, and three in Mevagissey District. Five cases proved fatal: four of the deaths were in children attending the Council School at Charlestown. The sanitary condition of this place, and the surroundings of this School will be dealt with under the heading of General Sanitary Work.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Typhoid Fever occurred at Fowey Cottage Hospital, where it was imported; and one case at Polmear, which latter proved fatal. One case occurred at Newhouse, in Tywardreath Parish; two occurred in St. Austell District; one at Roche, and another at Sandy Bottom, the latter having proved fatal. The sanitary condition of the respective places was duly reported on, and, where required, notices were served.

ERYSIPELAS.

Ten cases have been notified, chiefly in aged people, there being no fatality. Seven cases occurred in St. Austell District, one in Fowey District, one in Grampound District, and one in Mevagissey. The houses and surroundings were inspected, and generally found satisfactory.

The first of these is the fact that the
population of the United States is
increasing rapidly. This is due to
a number of factors, including
immigration and a high birth rate.
The second factor is the fact that
the population is becoming more
urbanized. This is due to the fact
that people are moving from rural
areas to cities in search of better
living conditions and employment
opportunities.

The third factor is the fact that
the population is becoming more
educated. This is due to the fact
that more people are attending
schools and universities, and
obtaining higher levels of education.

The fourth factor is the fact that
the population is becoming more
affluent. This is due to the fact
that people are earning higher
wages and salaries, and are able
to afford a higher standard of
living.

The fifth factor is the fact that
the population is becoming more
mobile. This is due to the fact
that people are moving from one
part of the country to another in
search of better living conditions
and employment opportunities.

The sixth factor is the fact that
the population is becoming more
diverse. This is due to the fact
that people from different ethnic
backgrounds are moving to the
United States.

The seventh factor is the fact that
the population is becoming more
health conscious. This is due to the
fact that people are becoming more
aware of the importance of good
health, and are taking steps to
improve their health.

The eighth factor is the fact that
the population is becoming more
environmentally conscious. This is
due to the fact that people are
becoming more aware of the impact
of human activities on the
environment, and are taking steps
to protect the environment.

Herewith I append the Summary of Notifiable Diseases, with the Mortality since the Notification Act came into operation :

Year.	No. of Cases Notified.	Deaths.	Death Rate.
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
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	5	·16
1903	62	5	·16
1904	38	2	·067
1905	189	9	·307

Although the cases have been numerous, the mortality has been very low ; this would indicate that not only were the cases mild, but also that the Sanitary condition of the District is very satisfactory.

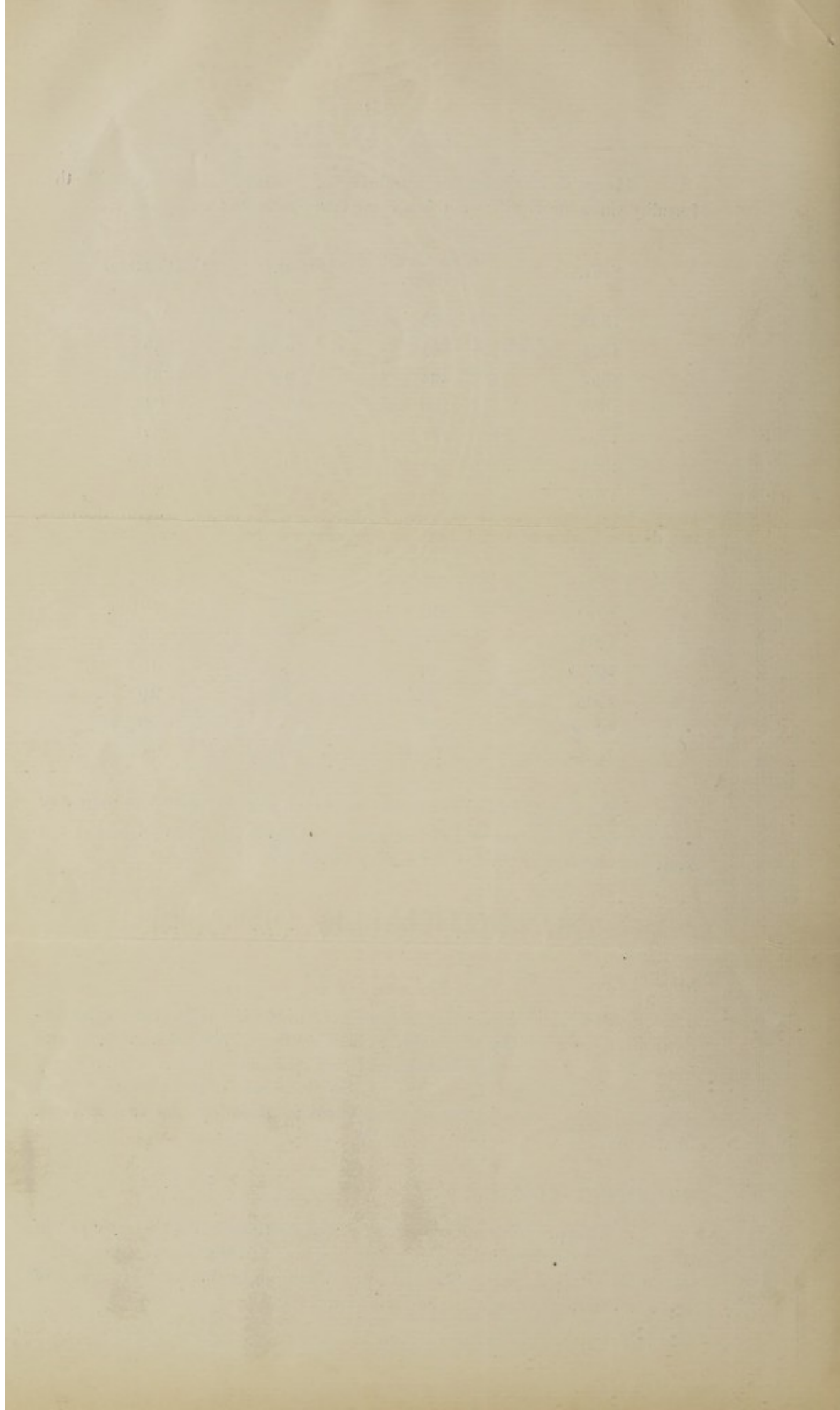
NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

MEASLES.

Measles were prevalent in some parts of the District at the commencement of the year, chiefly at Golant, Polkerris, Tywardreath, Charlestown and Sticker. The cases were numerous, but the epidemic did not continue very long. The Council Schools in the several places had to be closed for a short period. Only two fatalities occurred—one at Polkerris and the other at Charlestown.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

Whooping Cough occurred in all the districts during the early part of the year, and consequently the mortality was high. There were seventy-eight deaths, of all ages ; twenty-one being in children under one year of age, and seven in children between one and five years of age.



In St. Austell District seventeen cases proved fatal, in Fowey District three, in Grampound District six, and in Mevagissey two. This disease was also prevalent during the winter months, hence the high mortality. At present, as far as I am aware, there are no cases in any of the districts.

DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS.

This disease usually occurs in the dry seasons, and it proved fatal in four instances, chiefly in young children. Two of the deaths occurred in St. Austell District, one in Fowey District, and one in Grampound District.

INFLUENZA.

Influenza was not so prevalent as in former years, and did not assume an epidemic form. There were some scattered cases in the several districts, two deaths having occurred, both in aged persons—one in Fowey District, the other in Grampound District.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

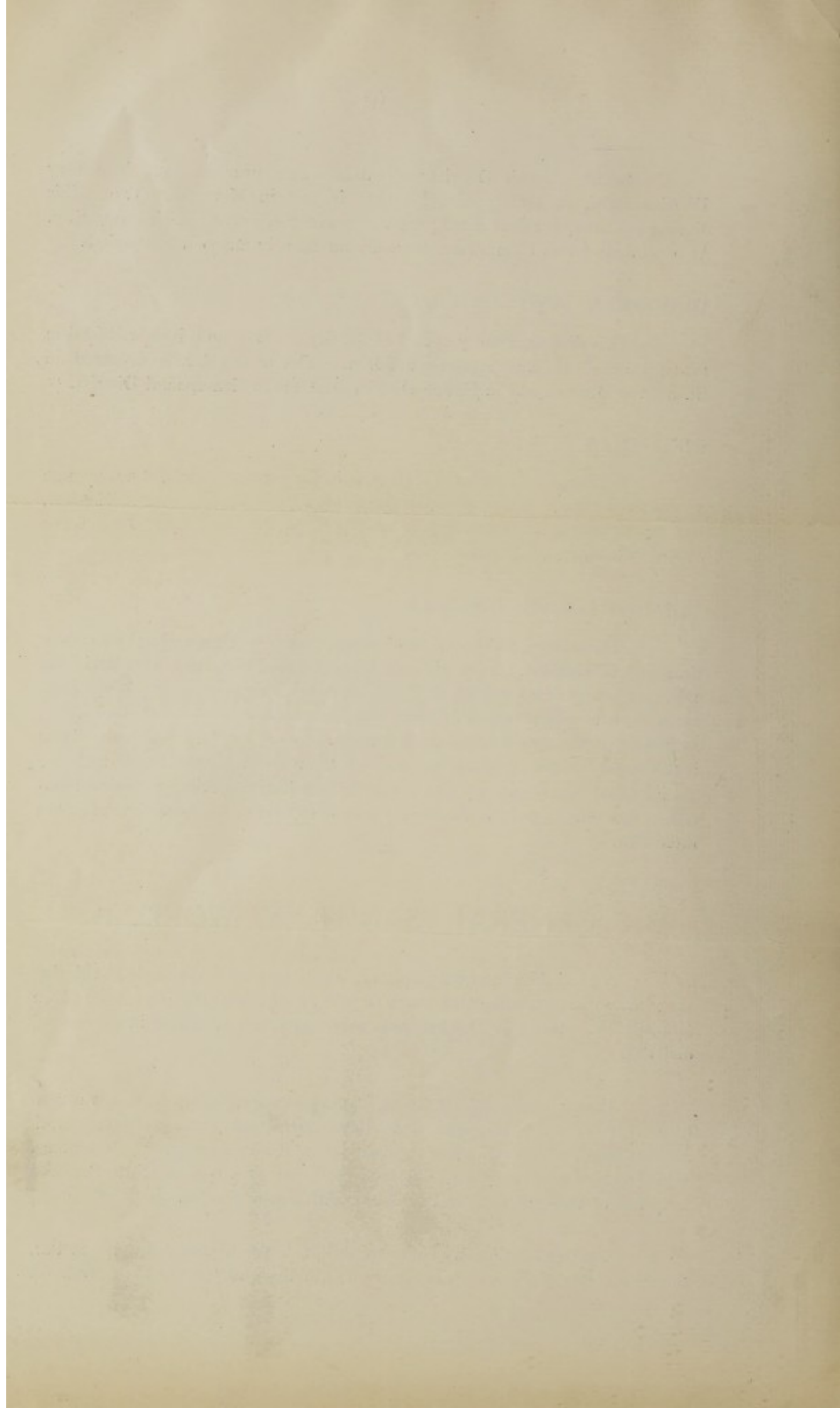
There were thirty-six fatal cases, giving a Death Rate of 11·2 per thousand inhabitants. You will see that the Mortality from Non-Notifiable Diseases is four times as high as from Notifiable Diseases: this plainly indicates the necessity of all cases of an infectious nature being made notifiable, as frequently the only intimation that reaches me of the Non-Notifiable Cases is the weekly return of Mortality received from the Registrars; and further, I am informed that Registrars give Certificates of Burial previous to the registration of the death, and the death may not be registered for some time after the interment.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

A good deal of useful Sanitary Work has been accomplished during the year, notwithstanding that much of your Inspector's time has been taken up with the Infectious Diseases that were constantly occurring in the several districts.

When I made my last report, Par Green water supply scheme was then being carried out: this has since been completed, and additional work accomplished, which will prove a great boon to the inhabitants of that place. Four hundred and ten feet of one-inch pipe has been laid at Little Par, and forty feet of two-inch pipe at Par Green, with a scoure valve.

Owing to a very dry summer, and a burst in the main pipe at Par, the inhabitants of Fowey were short of drinking water on the high level. A



new Oil Engine has been purchased and fixed on the shipping reservoir on the low level, for the purpose of pumping water from this reservoir to the great windmill reservoir, on the higher level.

In the Special Drainage District eleven hundred feet of one-inch pipe has been taken up, cleaned and relaid, and new draw taps fixed where required. Three hundred and twenty feet of one-inch pipe has also been laid to a farm within the District. Four hundred and thirty feet of one-inch new pipe has also been laid to connect certain cottages within that District.

Treverbyn Moor Adit has been before your notice on certain occasions, and the improvements suggested are being carried out.

Several Pumps have been out of order : these have all had attention ; some were repaired, others newly constructed.

The Drainage in several places has been improved. At Bugle a new nine-inch drain has been laid about two hundred feet, which has made a great improvement at that place, as nuisances were previously constantly occurring there.

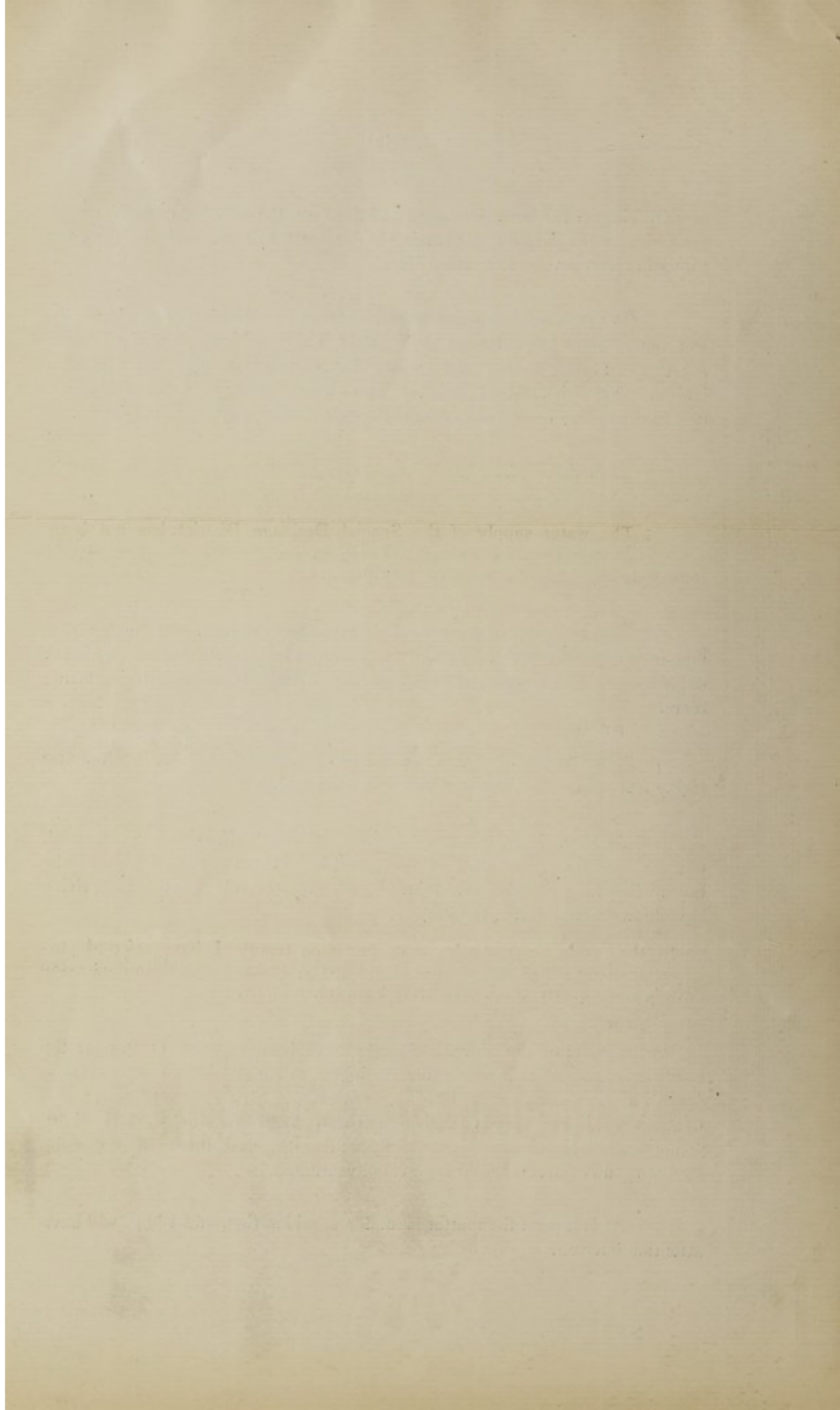
The outfall of Par Leat has been improved, and one hundred and eighty feet of eighteen-inch iron pipe has been laid.

At Mevagissey, two new Latrines and two Urinals were constructed, one for each quay ; and this, no doubt, will be a benefit to that part of the town. Several nuisances have been abated, and several closets and privies have been erected during the year.

About thirty houses have been reported as unfit for habitation : some have been reconstructed, others have been taken down.

Several of the Council Schools have been reported on to you : the condition of the closets, and the surroundings were not considered satisfactory—notably at Lower Sticker, in St. Ewe ; Nanpean, in St. Stephens ; Roche ; and Charlestown, in the Special Drainage District. At Lower Sticker, the sanitary arrangements have been satisfactorily dealt with, new privies and cesspits having been constructed, and the School ventilated.

At Nanpean the matter is under consideration, and I hope will have attention later on.



At Roche nothing has yet been done, owing chiefly to there being no water supply for flushing purposes. Now that the Council has taken this scheme in hand, I hope that it will not be allowed to fall through, and that no further opposition will be entertained.

At Charlestown the surroundings of the School were not considered satisfactory, and the place has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Most of the cases of Diphtheria were in the neighbourhood of this School, and some of the children affected attended there. This place will be further improved when the drainage scheme is completed, which is now only awaiting the sanction of the Local Government Board.—This has been before your Council for several years, and I am pleased that it is now about to be carried out, and hope to see it completed during the present year.

The water supply of the Special Drainage District has not been sufficient during the summer months, owing to some of the supplies failing, which was supposed to have been caused by a deep level that is being driven close by. The supply for building purposes had to be stopped for a short time. The owners of the level granted a temporary supply, which tided over the difficulty; the sample from this latter supply was analysed and found satisfactory. The Council is in communication about another stream, as the drainage will shortly be commenced, and new houses are being erected, most of them being supplied with lavatories, w. c's and bathrooms. The District is rapidly growing, and it will be necessary to obtain a further supply.

A special inspection was made at Roche respecting the water supply for this place, and samples were taken and tested from all the pumps in the village. A great many samples were not satisfactory. As you are aware the said pumps are liable to contamination, not only from the surroundings, but also from their situation, the Churchyard being close by and at a higher level. Owing to the geological formation the sub-soil drainage would probably reach the said pumps. In my previous reports I have referred to the want of water for flushing purposes for this village. I have no doubt the inhabitants will not defer this very important matter, but will use every endeavour to obtain a supply for drinking and flushing purposes. At first sight it may seem costly, but I venture to say that once it is accomplished they will never regret it.

The Stenalees and Bugle water supply is still in abeyance. The Council have however obtained an additional stream, and the work is now in their surveyor's hands. I have every hope that this scheme will soon be accomplished. This place is increasing, new houses are being erected, and there is no satisfactory water supply at present.

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.

2. The second part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the various theories of the origin of life. It is shown that the most plausible theory is that of spontaneous generation, which is supported by the experiments of Pasteur and others.

3. The third part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the various theories of the origin of the human race. It is shown that the most plausible theory is that of spontaneous generation, which is supported by the experiments of Pasteur and others.

4. The fourth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the various theories of the origin of the human mind. It is shown that the most plausible theory is that of spontaneous generation, which is supported by the experiments of Pasteur and others.

5. The fifth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the various theories of the origin of the human soul. It is shown that the most plausible theory is that of spontaneous generation, which is supported by the experiments of Pasteur and others.

6. The sixth part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the various theories of the origin of the human body. It is shown that the most plausible theory is that of spontaneous generation, which is supported by the experiments of Pasteur and others.

7. The seventh part of the paper is devoted to a discussion of the various theories of the origin of the human spirit. It is shown that the most plausible theory is that of spontaneous generation, which is supported by the experiments of Pasteur and others.

The St. Stephens Churchtown water supply has also been before the Council, and Committees have met there. At present the Council are waiting for a report from the Committee. I hope that they will find a supply for this village. No doubt it is a matter of considerable difficulty in that neighbourhood, owing to the numerous clay works in this district. A man has been employed to clean and disinfect the village and the highway: the place is cleaner, although soapy water still finds its way on to the highway.

House to house inspection has been made in several parts of the District during the year owing to the epidemic of Scarlet Fever, chiefly at Sticker, Charlestown, Polkerris, Trelavour, Hendra, Roche and Treviscoe. The several defects were reported on, and received immediate attention from the Council. A great many oral notices were given, and in almost every instance the inhabitants acted on them. We had several privies reconstructed, and as far as possible, have done away with cesspits.

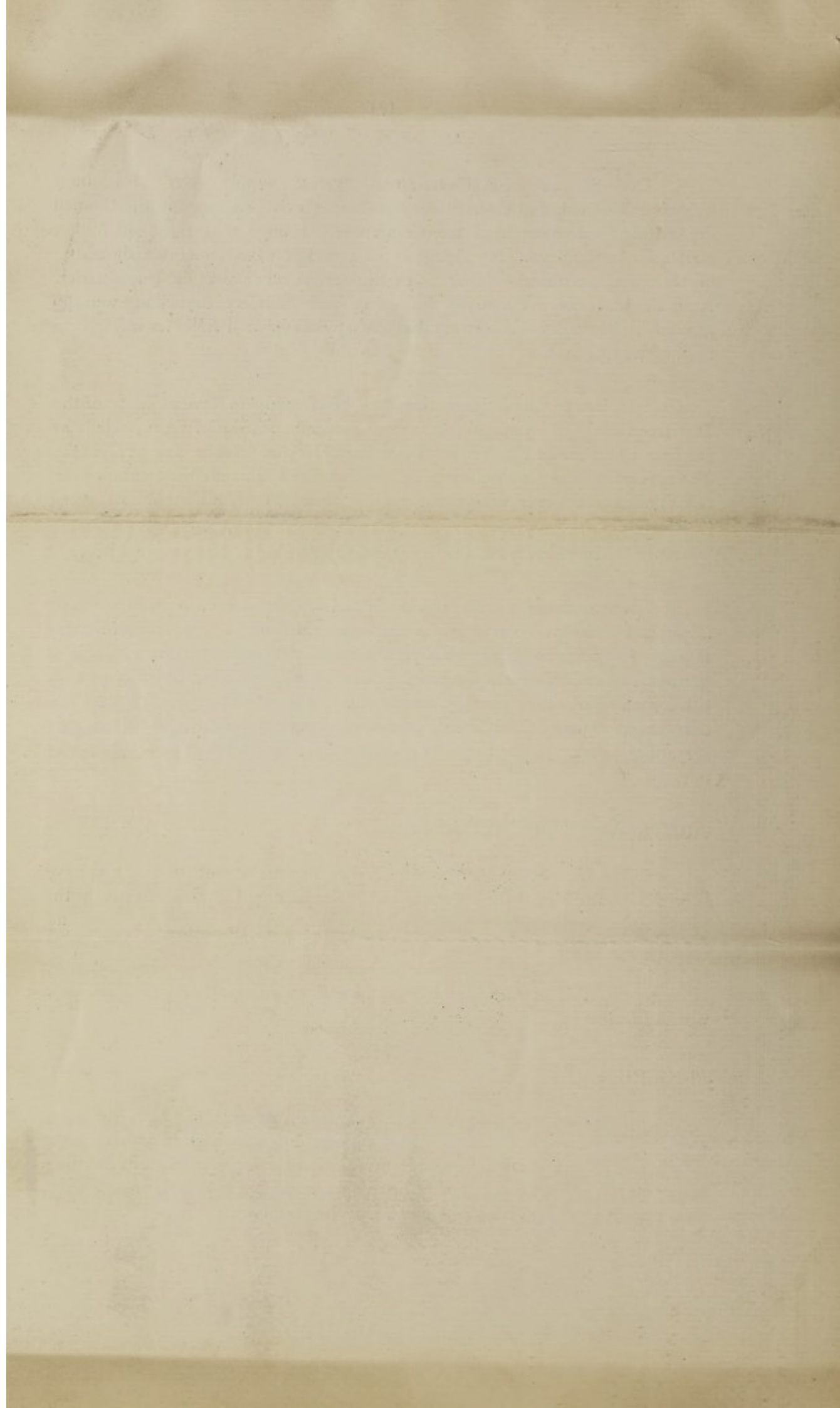
The garbage from the fish in Mevagissey harbour has been complained about, but I could not say it was a nuisance, and consequently no action was taken. The only means of removing this from the harbour is by a system of drainage, which, I regret, owing to the poverty of the people, (the fish seasons being nothing like they were in former years) is still in abeyance. I may say that the place has been much improved during the year, and I hope that sometime in the near future the drainage of the harbour will be carried out.

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.

Several cases of overcrowding have come under our notice, and have been dealt with. In some instances the cases appeared difficult to deal with, the occupier receiving parochial relief, frequently having a large family, and no suitable houses to be obtained. Very often owners are not willing to let houses to such people. Where practicable we have lessened the number of inmates, although by doing so we had to be very careful, as sometimes the bread-winner has had to leave.

PIGGERIES.

Piggeries have also had our attention. Several had to be removed owing to their situation being close to dwelling houses, and not being kept satisfactorily. I know of no greater nuisance than a piggery close to a dwelling house. I am afraid the bye-law is not stringent enough regarding these: they have caused a great deal of trouble and unpleasantness.



Soapy Water is another nuisance that has been constantly under our notice. This nuisance occurs chiefly where no drainage is provided, or where the water tables are not satisfactory. It lies about in pools on the highway, and then becomes stagnant. Notices are of very little use: the inhabitants may stop it for a time, but only for a time, after which they again resort to the same method of disposal. When remonstrated with, the usual answer is "lay down a drain," which I need hardly say is futile and of no avail unless water is first obtained for flushing purposes.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The Slaughter Houses have been regularly visited and inspected, and on the whole found to be improved. As I have said in my previous reports, the structural work, drainage and water supply are the essential points we have to contend with. The water supply in a great many instances is a difficulty, as it has to be carried some distance. The drainage is another matter: where there is a sewer it can be easily managed, but where there is no sewer they drain over fields or settlings pits, the deposits being removed in galvanized vessels to certain parts of the fields. This mode of depositing the refuse is most general. The structural work, as a rule, is composed of stone, but there are a few where it is wood work: where possible the latter is being done away with. The floors and walls of the interiors are well kept and regularly limewashed.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The Dairies and Cowsheds have had our attention, and we have found the Dairies, as a rule, clean and satisfactory. In a few instances the surroundings were not what could be wished for, but the owners were only too willing to carry out our suggestions, and have all been furnished with a copy of the Bye-laws. The Cowsheds were fairly well kept, but here also the surroundings required attention—especially the drainage. This is a rather difficult matter in a farm yard; the cowsheds have been regularly limewashed.

BAKEHOUSES.

The Bakehouses have been visited and inspected, and found satisfactory, except in one instance, where notice was served and obeyed for the time; but these places require constant supervision, and we see that they are regularly limewashed, according to the provisions of the Act.

OTHER SANITARY WORK.

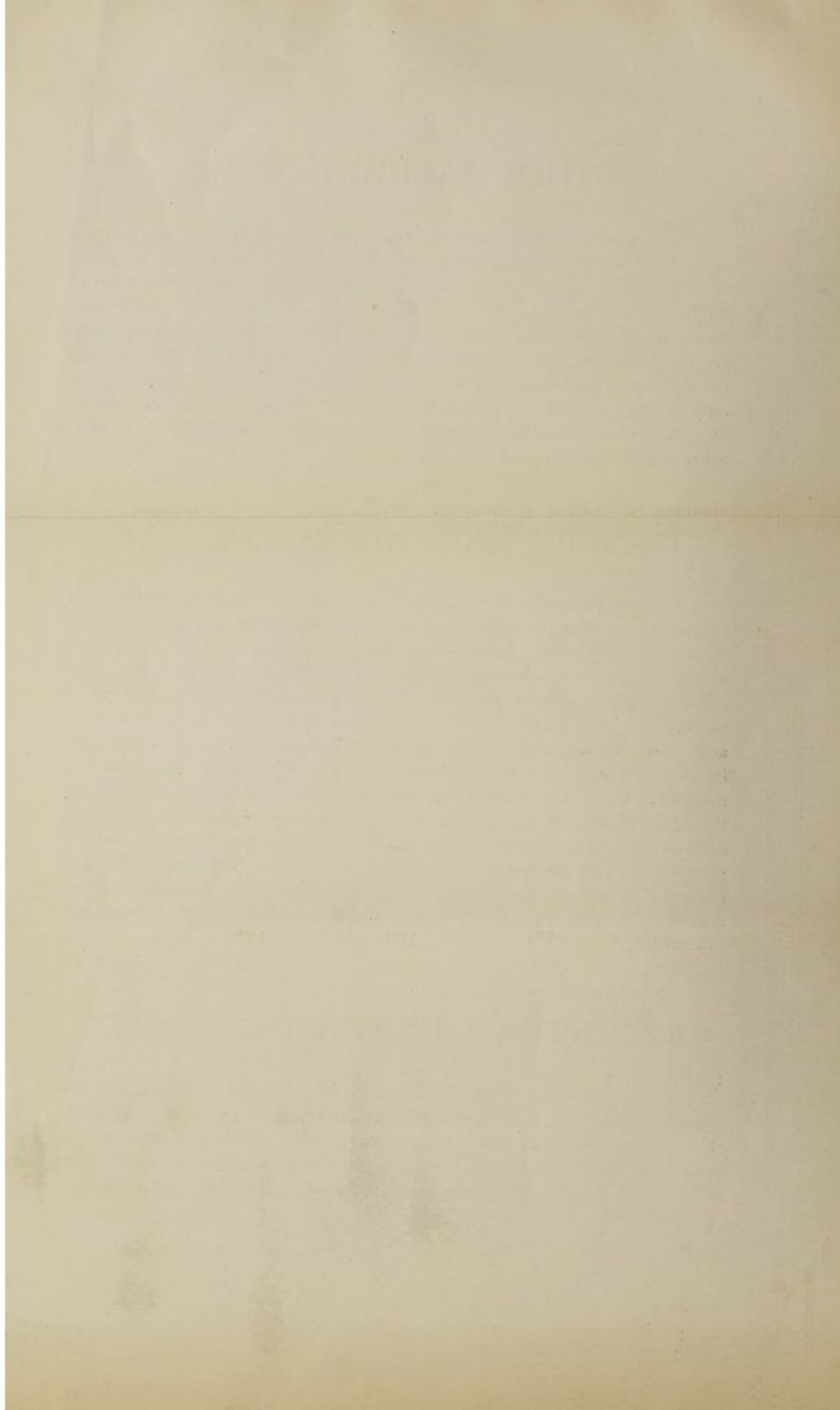
There are a great many other sanitary matters that have been brought before the Council, which have been remedied, and it is unnecessary to report them in detail. Suggestions as to work not accomplished have been made, which no doubt in the future will receive your attention. The work done during the past year has been continuous and progressive, and although no great schemes have been carried out, there are some such in contemplation, and during the coming year I hope to see them put forward. I refer more particularly to the carrying out of the Charlestown, Mount Charles and Slades Drainage Scheme, and the Stenalees, Bugle and Roche Water Supplies, these being of paramount importance.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

The Factory and Workshops Act has given a considerable amount of work to your Inspector during the year. The workshops have been inspected and the sanitary arrangements have had our attention. The places were well kept and properly ventilated. Our great difficulty was with the privy accommodation. As you are aware, in a great many instances where water is not brought in by gravitation it is almost impossible to provide the necessary accommodation, especially where males and females are engaged in the same factory. Privies, no matter how well they are kept, after a time become a nuisance. Under the circumstances we have carried out the requirements of the Act to the best of our ability. The cases of overcrowding were promptly dealt with, and we have made enquiries respecting the overtime, and we cannot find that there has been any breach of the Act. Our suggestions have been carried out by the occupiers or the owners without any friction. We are not aware of any out-workers in the District, nor have we any underground Bakehouses.

HOUSES FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.

Houses for the Working Classes are being erected in the District, the greater number being in the clay districts. Ninety-four new houses were constructed during the year, this being over the average. As a rule they are of a better class than formerly, there being very few houses now without three bed rooms. The Bye-laws have been strictly adhered to in almost every instance.



BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The Births registered during the year were 740, which is the lowest number for several years, and is considerably below the average for the past ten years. Taking the separate districts St. Austell is about the average; in Grampound there is a slight decrease; but Fowey and Mevagissey have considerably decreased, being the lowest for a great many years.

The Deaths have slightly increased, the number being 454, equal to a Death Rate of 15·3. This is below the average. Taking the separate districts, St. Austell is above the average; Fowey and Grampound are about the average, but Mevagissey is above the average. The death rate in children under one year of age is about the average for the past ten years. In the several districts St. Austell is about the average; Fowey shows a decrease; Grampound and Mevagissey an increase.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES SINCE 1880.

I now append the Birth and Death Rates since 1880:

Year	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

THE HISTORY OF THE

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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
1903	25·9	13·2
1904	26·5	14·05
1905	25·3	15·3

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES IN THE SEVERAL DISTRICTS-

Herewith I also append the Birth and Death Rates in the several districts—

ST. AUSTELL—

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Under 1 Year
1900	32·6	16·5	3·9
1901	29·4	14·6	3·8
1902	26·2	14·6	3·7
1903	26·5	13·	2·5
1904	28·8	15·1	3·6
1905	28·2	16·5	3·9

FOWEY—

1900	29·1	15·3	2·3
1901	25·1	15·3	2·8

1902	25.9	13.8	3.3
1903	23.9	12.6	1.8
1904	23.7	14.9	2.4
1905	21.06	14.4	1.8

GRAMPOUND—

1900	32.4	17.8	4.4
1901	30.5	15.5	3.3
1902	27.7	16.5	2.6
1903	29.5	14.2	3.1
1904	29.0	13.9	3.8
1905	28.3	14.4	4.9

MEVAGISSEY—

1900	18.7	13.8	1.8
1901	25.5	12.6	.75
1902	25.0	10.3	1.7
1903	22.9	13.6	2.0
1904	20.9	9.3	1.7
1905	17.9	14.8	3.02

You will see that St. Austell and Grampound have the highest Birth Rate, whilst Fowey and Mevagissey have the lowest.

The Death Rate : Grampound and Fowey had the lowest, and St. Austell the highest, whilst in children under one year of age Grampound is the highest, and Fowey the lowest.

Table 3 has been referred to in dealing with the Infectious Diseases. You will perceive that in the Grampound District the greatest number of cases was notified, viz: 102; next St. Austell, with 45, then Mevagissey 25, and Fowey 16.

In Table 4 you will see that the deaths from Infectious Diseases in the separate districts were as follows:— Twenty-six in St. Austell District, ten in Grampound, seven in Fowey, and two in Mevagissey.

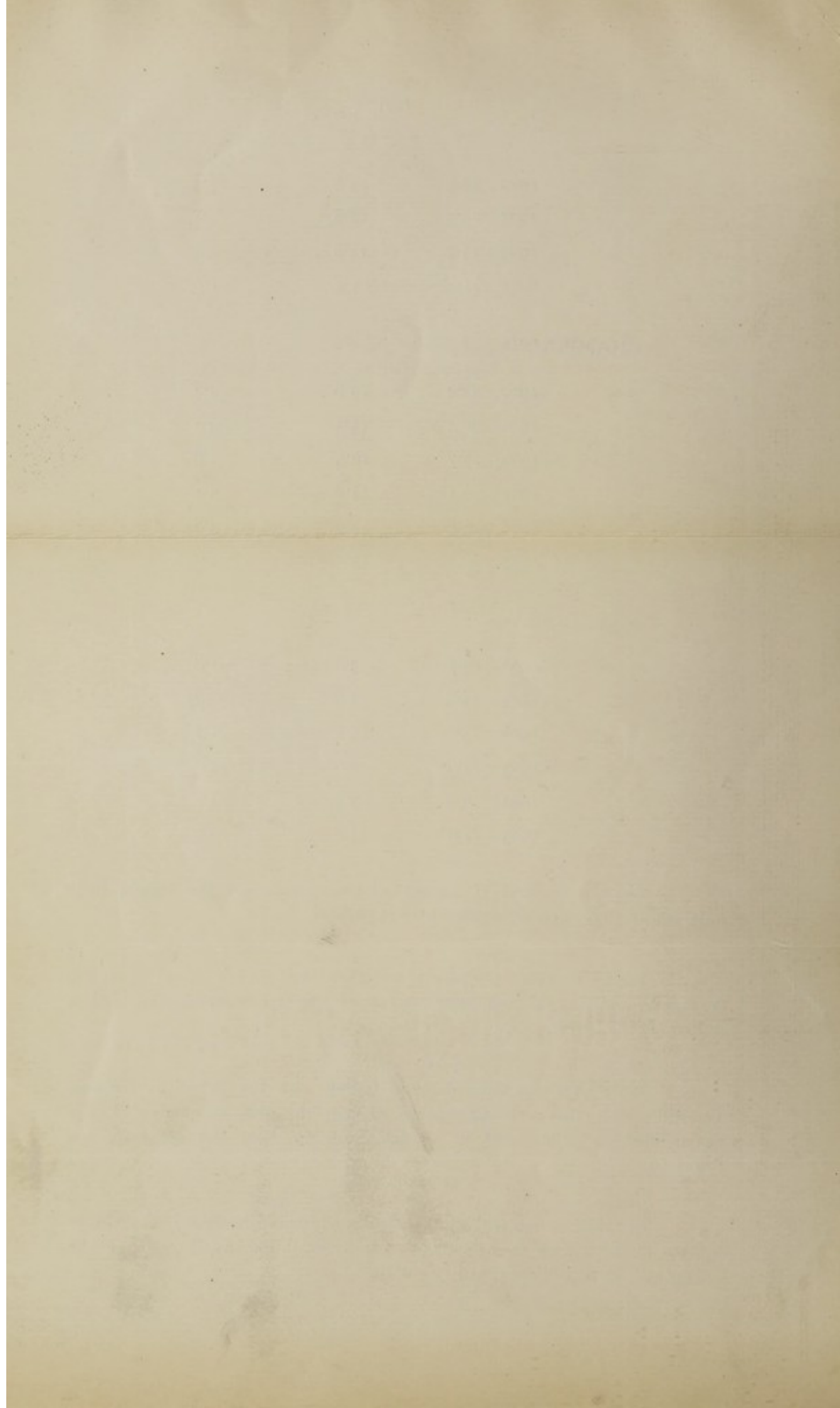


Table 5 is a new addition, and five copies had to be compiled for each district. It relates to children under one year, and the weeks and months which they lived are in separate columns, also the cases that occurred in each district referring to illegitimate children, as well as the diseases from which they died.

In conclusion I may say that your Inspector and myself have done a great deal of Sanitary Work that was not necessary to report to you, and we have endeavoured to carry out our duties as smoothly as possible. Only one instance occurred during the year where there was any friction, but that difficulty has since been overcome; and we hope during the present year to carry out our duties in as satisfactory a manner as we believe we have done in the past, being assured that you will also assist us by evincing the same zeal and earnestness as you have hitherto displayed.

I am Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM MASON,

J. STEPHENS, ESQ.

M.O.H.

