STANLEY,
JANUARY 26TH, 1903.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present your Council with my Report for the year 1902, containing a brief account of the condition of the District, the number of cases of Zymotic Diseases, and the Vital Statistics.

INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

The District is practically speaking, a purely coal-mining one, and the largest portion of the population are, of course, miners. There are brick manufacturies, but there is no glazing done and no deleterious materials used. Although the coal is soft and dusty, the disease of miners' asthma is unknown

The general appearance of the District is well broken up and hilly. The sewage consequently flows with a good inclination towards the valleys.

The population is rapidly increasing, entailing the building of a number of new houses for workmen, and other supplementary structures such as slaughter-houses, bakeries, tradesmen's premises, etc., which, under the new Act, have been inspected. During the past year 164 new houses have been built. Over the half contain three or more rooms with self-contained cemented yard. The other portion is built in tenements with two or more rooms on the flat, and three or four above, with the yard common to the two, but having separate out-offices. The houses are well built and comfortably arranged. The out-offices are of a modern pattern similar to earth closets. Ashes are exceedingly abundant and brought into direct contact with the excrement. The closets might be made slightly larger, at present the emptying requires to be done too often An improvement to the yards would be the insertion of an inspection chamber. The old property, what with pit workings, and wear and tear, require a good deal of looking after; and this is well attended to by the Inspector. Twenty-

nine earth closets have been substituted for the original privy middens; a number, however, still remain, but they are gradually being replaced by an improved type. Diphtheria has been prevalent during the year, and the places most affected had open privy middens almost uncleanable, and wooden erections for pigeons, and pigs and poultry, which may probably have contributed to the keeping up of a contaminating area. Efforts are being made to do away with these. All cowsheds have been examined, and all the feeding of cattle is associated with land. Any structural arrangements in connection therewith, and they are very few, have been noted.

Bakehouses and slaughter-houses have been regularly visited, and offal from the latter has been compulsorily removed—twice in winter and thrice in summer, per week.

Two licensed lodging houses might be better kept in the matter of cleanliness; but the landlords have received notice to this effect, and one tenant has been prosecuted for over-crowding.

The water supplying the whole District is provided by the Consett Water Company, and is derived from upland and brooks and is of an excellent quality, and is abundant. It was only necessary to send a supply to the Pea Farm Cottages, and they have now received it. The scavenging and removal of refuse is now done by contract with the Council, under the direct supervision of the Inspector, and is well carried out. Suitable places for deposit have been selected.

In the immediate neighbourhood (Tanfield) an Isolation Hospital has been opened since August and with satisfactory results. Very little difficulty has been experienced in persuading patients to take advantage of it. Previous to this, the Hospital was a considerable distance away, and was objected to on that account. All the houses, on the removal of the patients, have been

disinfected; and where the removal has not been enforced, there has always been suitable private isolation.

No prosecutions for petty nuisances have taken place, but as already stated, many have existed in connection with the old property. It has only been necessary to enforce structural changes by legal proceedings in two cases.

The whole of the houses in the District are drained and properly trapped, and the District has also been sewered as far as the houses extend. The additional part will be carried out shortly to join the outfall works. In connection with the sewage outfall works: one-third of the District has already been provided, about four years ago, on the Sutton system of bacterial filtration. The system has been perfectly successful during that time. Works have to be provided for over two-thirds of the District There will be one large and main works, for which three acres of land have been procured, where there is little danger of pitfalls, and at least two more small works, for the treatment of fifty or sixty houses, each of which will also have to be provided for. The system to be adopted has been seriously considered, and practically all forms have been examined, both in the mining districts and elsewhere. The present sewage is full of coal grit and dust, and in consequence of this and the want of water-closets, makes it difficult to deal with on any system. As the Sutton plan has so far been the most successful, a modified and improved plan of this one already established at South Moor would meet the requirements. It is, at any rate, the best at present known.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The number of cases of notifiable disease reported during the past year amounted to 276, and this number consisted of the following, viz.: Scarlatina, 163; Diphtheria, 83; Enteric Fever, 13; Erysipelas, 14; and Puerperal Fever, 3.

Scarlatina was present in various parts of the District at the end of 1901, and the outbreak has continued throughout the whole of 1902, and its greatest insidence occurred in the first three months. The type of disease on the whole was

a mild one, and the convalescent stage fairly prolonged, hence this very mildness was the chief factor in preventing the almost impossibility of securing isolation in private houses, even where the accommodation was excellent. The usual application of disinfectants and, where practicable, fumigation, was regularly resorted to by the Inspector. The likelihood of eradicating what may be considered an endemic disease in Colliery Villages may succeed by prompt removal to an Isolation Hospital. Only two cases succumbed.

Diphtheria, like the previous disease, has continued during the whole year, and was generally of a mild form, but on the other hand the infection was less frequently due to direct contact. The condition of the District where it was most prevalent has already been referred to, and the removal of all insanitary surroundings, together with isolation at the Hospital may have a satisfactory effect. The death rate was only six per cent.

Enteric Fever. The number of cases and the localities where they severally appeared are as follows, viz: in January, three cases were reported, all belonging to one family, residing at South Moor. One in February at East Stanley. In May, one case at South Moor. In Jnly, one at Shield Row and three at Stanley. In August, one at Stanley and another at East Stanley. In September, one at Stanley; and another at Stanley in December. Excepting those living at South Moor, where the initial case was the source of the others, there was no evidence by which the origin of the disease could be traced of the remainder. The cases were some distance apart, and no communication had taken place between the parties. Several presented abnormal symptoms of mildness, and all recovered.

Erysipelas might be eliminated from the list of infectious diseases, only for the fact that in one instance the nurse caught the disease.

Puerperal Fever. The cases were probably of an ordinary inflammatory character.

Diarrhœa was never epidemic.

Influenza. The few cases that occurred were not very typical of the true disease.

Measles. A few cases were noticed in January, and again in July it appeared, on this occasion it became prevalent, but the outbreak was not sufficient to materially interfere with the school attendance. A slight outbreak occurred in December.

Whooping Cough was more than once imported into the District, but no real epidemic followed, although no less than twelve deaths resulted.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during the year amounted to 556, giving a birth-rate of 39 per 1,000. The deaths amounted to 272, giving a death-rate of 18·8 per 1,000; estimating the population at 14,300. The rates of the former were slightly lower than the previous year, but the latter was practically the same. Deaths from all forms of infectious diseases gave a total of 23, and these consisted of three of Measles, two of Scarlatina, twelve of Whooping Cough, five of Diphtheria, and one of Diarrhœa, being equal to about 8½ per cent. of the whole deaths, but only causing an increase of the ordinary death-rate by less than 1½ per 1,000. Infantile mortality exceeded the usual average, considerably over a third succumbed under the age of one year, and with the addition of those between the ages of one and five years, it shews that more than half of the deaths occurred under the age of five years.

The following tables give the birth-rate and the death-rates from the chief diseases for the County and the Urban District:

	COUNTY.	STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT.
Estimated Population	849,620	14,300
Birth-rate	35·6 per 1,000 population	39
Death-rate...	16·6 ,,	18·8
Zymotic Death-rate...	1·68 ,,	1·4
Infant Mortality rate, per 1,000 births ...	139	201·4
Small-pox...	0·001 per 1,000 population	Nil.
Scarlet Fever	0·19 ,,	0·14
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ...	0·26 ,,	0·35
"Fever" (Enteric and Continued) ...	0·14 ,,	Nil.
Measles	0·37 ,,	0·21
Whooping Cough	0·38 ,,	0·84
Diarrhœa...	0·31 ,,	0·07
Enteritis, etc.	0·26 ,,	0·35
Phthisis Death-rate	1·06 ,,	0·84
Respiratory Diseases Death-rate ...	2·97 ,,	0·21
Bronchitis Death-rate	1·41 ,,	2·7
Pneumonia Death-rate	1·48 ,,	0·76
Pleurisy Death-rate	0·07 ,,	0·14

Attached are the usual Government Schedules containing the Zymotic Diseases, and the Causes and Ages of Death.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. BENSON,

MEDICAL OFFICER.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
STANLEY.

TABLE I.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

Year.	Population Estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
				Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.						
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1892												
1893	8,700	315	36	63	200	176	22·3				176	22·3
1894	9,000	342	36·77	51	166·6	134	13·33				134	13·33
1895	10,400	373	35·9	90	241·28	215	20·6				215	20·6
1896	11,000	417	38	78	187	208	19·0			5	213	19
1897	11,500	392	34	66	168·3	194	16·5			6	200	17
1898	12,000	508	42·3	104	204·7	226	19			12	238	18·0
1899	12,500	493	39·3	101	204·7	219	17·5			6	225	18
1900	13,200	512	38·8	81	156	215	16·3			7	222	17
1901	13,600	564	41·5	96	170·2	246	18			10	256	18·8
Averages for years 1892—1901.	11322·2	435·1	38·06	81·1	188·58	2036	18·06			46	208·7	18·22
1902.	14,300	556	39	112	201·4	266	18·6			6	272	18·8

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13, calculated per 1,000 of Estimated Population.

At Census of 1901: Total Population at all ages, 13,554. Number of inhabited houses, 2,302. Average number of persons per house, 6·7

Area of District in acres, 3,593. Increased by 2 large Lodging-houses, and many large houses let to two tenants.

TABLE III.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1902.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	AT AGES—YEARS.							Number of cases removed to Hospital
	At all ages	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox								
Cholera								
Diphtheria	83		15	59	6	3		26
Membranous Croup								
Erysipelas	14			3	3	8		
Scarlet Fever	163	5	50	89	10	8	1	44
Typhus Fever								
Enteric Fever	13			7	3	3		3
Relapsing Fever								
Continued Fever								
Puerperal Fever	3					3		
Plague								
Totals	276	5	65	158	22	25	1	73

TABLE IV.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the Year 1902.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in Whole District at Subjoined Ages.							Total 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	
Measles	3		3					
Scarlet Fever ...	2		2					
Whooping Cough	12	10	2					
Diphtheria & Membranous Croup	5	1		4				3
Croup	2		2					
Epidemic Influenza ...	3	2	1					
Diarrhœa	1	1						
Enteritis	5	4	1					
Other Septic Diseases ...	1				1			
Phthisis	12				3	9		1
Other Tubercular Diseases	20	9	7		1	2	1	
Cancer, Malignant Disease ...	12					9	3	
Bronchitis	39	20	8	2	1	3	5	1
Pneumonia	11	3	4			2	2	
Pleurisy	2					1	1	
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	3	1				2		
Alcoholism Cirhosis of Liver	3					3		
Premature Birth	11	11						
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	4				1	3		
Heart Disease	14	1		1	2	9	1	
Accidents	4		2		2			
All other Causes ...	103	49	10	3	2	20	19	1
All Causes	272	112	42	10	13	63	32	6

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR 1902.

STANLEY,
February, 1903.

THOS. J. JACKSON, PRINTER, FRONT STREET, STANLEY.