STANLEY,

January 22nd, 1906.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to your Council, my report for the year ending December 31st, 1905.

The District is purely a coal-mining one, and everything else practically depends upon that industry. Whereas all factories, trades, and general sanitary condition of the inhabitants come under the supervision of your Council: the mines are regulated by special Acts.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901. There are fourteen that may be considered factories, *i.e.*: employing mechanical power; and twenty-seven workshops. The whole have been examined and found to be in compliance with the Act, except in two instances, where the accommodation was deficient; one has been remedied, the other is in process of complying with the notice. The Co-operative Stores are the largest employers, all the others are on a small scale, and in no instance are the number of employees sufficient to require a special certificate. In the case of brickworks, no glazing material is used. The bakeries include one wholesale and three retail. The limewashing of the former has been attended to regularly. The objects of the Act consist of provision being made for ready escape in the case of fire, sufficient ventilation, no overcrowding and ample privy accommodation.

Water and Milk Supply. Except a few houses in the agricultural part of the district that derive their water from wells, the whole of the villages are supplied by the Weardale & Consett Water Company with an abundance of excellent water, laid into every house. The water is collected on the fells, and passes through filtering material. Ten cow-keepers, two owners of dairies that sell milk over the counter, and two that hawk milk procured outside the the district, give a constant and abundant supply to the inhabitants. None of the cows are stall-fed, being owned chiefly by farmers who also distribute the milk from door to door. The cowsheds are kept in good order, and the accommodation is ample. Registration is in force.

Surveyor and Inspector Departments. House building has been fairly active during the past year: certificates of habitation were given for the occupation of 188 dwellings. These consisted of 104 self-contained houses and 84 tenemented. The former were made up as follows, viz.: 21 having 5 rooms; 29 with 4 rooms; and 54 with 3 rooms. The 84 tenements consisted of 4 rooms up and 3 rooms down. The yards together with all sanitary requirements, have been completed in a most satisfactory manner.

Housing of the Working Classes Act. Under this Act a considerable amount of work has been done, no less than 142 dwelling-houses were dealt with for various defects; 118 were thoroughly repaired, and made comfortably habitable, 14 were permanently closed, and 10 are under consideration, which probably may end in closure. Amongst the various repairs might be noted those carried out in Joicey Square; 73 houses were re-floored with cement, and all cases of dampness removed; 48 of this number were back-to-back houses, and in each house a ventilator was inserted. Notices given, both formal and verbal, for the removal of nuisances and other sanitary defects, amounted to 315, and in one instance only was it found necessary to take legal proceedings for refusing compliance. The prosecution arose in consequence of a nuisance created by a caravan with wooden erections being set up near the dwellings. The case failed through a technical error, and departure from the district ended the affair. The objectionable outoffices are steadily disappearing; 20 new earth-closets were substituted for the same number of privy-middens

Scavenging is carried out systematically, and the streets are kept in good order. The removal of the refuse is let by contract and supervised by the Inspector. No nuisance arises from the deposits for refuse.

Lodging Houses. There are two licensed lodging-houses, both under the same management, and they are conducted in compliance with the Bye-laws in force.

Slaughter Houses. The slaughter houses are kept very cleanly, all offal is removed quickly.

Sewage Works. Large works have recently been constructed for the treatment of sewage from two-thirds of the district. Within a couple of months the last sewer will be attached to the works, and the whole system made complete. The works were thoroughly tested and the result has been most satisfactory. The effluent flows out perfectly clean.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The number of cases of notifiable diseases reported during the year amounted to a total of 182, and this number was made up as follows, *viz:* Scarlatina, 98; Diphtheria, 58; Enteric Fever, 11; and Erysipelas, 15. The cases reported in the previous year reached a total of 218; shewing a decrease of 36 for the year 1905, and this decrease is entirely owing to the decline of Scarlatina.

Diphtheria. Cases of this disease occurred every month during the year, but it never assumed the form of an epidemic. Careful isolation may eventually clear the district, as signs are not wanting to shew that the outbreak is passing off. All other forms of throat affection appear to have ceased with the advent of Diphtheria.

Scarlatina. Although there has been a marked decrease of cases of Scarlatina as already mentioned, yet its banishment from crowded colliery villages is scarcely to be expected. The germs given off during the peeling stage are most difficult to destroy, and, under certain circumstances, may remain active after careful disinfection. The migratory habits of the miners tend to distribute the disease, and there is the fact that for many years Scarlatina has been a "permanent" disease in these villages.

Enteric Fever. It may at once be stated that an outbreak of Enteric Fever was not likely to have originated from defective sanitary dwellings. All the cases resided in modern houses. There was no evidence that the milk supply was the least at fault, and certainly the water supply was out of the question. In seven months of the year a single case only occurred each month, and in one instance only could the origin be traced, and this was due to repeated visits to an infected house in the adjoining district. During the month of October four cases appeared, three of them being the product of the initial case, but how the latter arose was not discovered.

Erysipelas. Whatever the cause may have been to account for the appearance of Erysipelas, the disease was never communicated by direct contact.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The district was invaded by Whooping Cough on three occasions. It never became severely epidemic. There were four fatalities.

Measles. There was only one important outbreak of Measles. It began in May and continued about two months. The R.C. Schools in Stanley and the Board Schools at East Stanley were closed for a short period, with the result that the epidemic declined most rapidly. Only a single case ended fatally

Diarrhœa was never very prevalent and the mortality was light.

The Hospital Accommodation for infectious diseases is quite equal to any demands that may be made upon it. The public is recognising the advantages of having the patients treated at the Institution, and now less objection is raised to their removal.

The number admitted during the year from this district was 109, being made up as follows, *viz:* Scarlatina, 67 ; Diphtheria, 32 ; and Enteric Fever, 10.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during the year was 688 giving a birth rate of 39.3, and the number of deaths was 267, giving a death rate of 15.2, estimating the population at 17,500 at the end of June last. The birth rate is higher and the death rate lower than that of the previous year. Deaths from Infectious Diseases, including Diarrhœa, amounted to 22, being 13 less than the previous year, and equal to 8 per cent of the total deaths.

Infantile Mortality. Although Infantile Mortality was higher during the year 1905 than in the year 1904—being 115 last year and 109 in previous year—yet taking into consideration the increased population, the rate of deaths under one year is considerably less. Nevertheless Infantile Mortality accounts for more than one third of the total number of deaths. It is evident that the Local Government Board is moving in this matter, as an extra form has been supplied, to furnish more particulars as to the various causes of death among infants. Your Council also has had printed pamphlets giving instructions to parents on the dieting of infants and the Registrars have promised to distribute them on the registration of each birth.

The following table will shew at a glance, the comparison of the various percentages of this district with those of the county.

			County.	Stanley Urban.
Birth rate	per 1000	...	34.4	39.58
Death rate	,,	...	17.4	15.2
Zymotic death rate	,,	...	2.37	2.6
Infantile Mortality	per 1000 births	...	159	165.7
Smallpox	per 1000	...	0.002	nil
Scarlet Fever	,,	...	0.09	0.58
Diphtheria and Croup	,,	...	0.25	0.47
Fever, Enteric, etc.	,,	...	0.20	0.11
Measles	,,	...	0.48	0.11
Whooping Cough	,,	...	0.47	0.47
Diarrhœa	,,	...	0.90	0.35
Enteritis, etc.	,,	...	0.36	1.23
Phthisis	,,	...	1.00	1.41
Other Tubercular Diseases		...	0.74	2.94
Respiratory Diseases		...	3.16	5.06

Attached are the various schedules or Forms supplied by the Local Government Board, and these include "Factory & Workshops Act," "Sickness from 'Notifiable Diseases'," "General Mortality," "Infantile Mortality," and "Statistics for the past ten years."

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. BENSON,

Medical Officer,

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL, STANLEY.

TABLE I.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR WHOLE DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	Deaths at all Ages. Nett.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.†	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1895	10,400	373	35.9	90	241.28	215	20.6				215	20.6
1896	11,000	417	38	78	187	208	19			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
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	107.2	246	18			10	256	18.8
1902	14,300	556	39	112	201.1	266	18.6			6	272	18.8
1903	15,500	623	40	111	176.5	267	17			14	281	18
1904	17,000	636	37.41	109	171.5	274	16.1			9	283	16.5
Averages for years 1895—1904.	13,100	507	38.62	95	181.82	233	17.86			7	240	18.7
1905	17,500	688	39.3	114	165.7	255	14.5			12	267	15.2

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total Population at all ages, 13,554. Number of Inhabited Houses, 2,302. Average number of Persons per house, 6.7, at Census of 1901

Area of District in acres, 3,593.

TABLE III.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1905.

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.	
Smallpox								
Cholera								
Diphtheria	58		15	36	2	5		32
Membranous Croup ...								
Erysipelas	15		1		2	12		
Scarlet Fever ...	98	1	36	57	3	1		67
Typhus Fever ...								
Enteric Fever ...	11					11		10
Relapsing Fever ...								
Continued Fever ...								
Puerperal Fever ...								
Plague								
Totals	182	1	52	93	7	29		109

TABLE IV.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the year 1905.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths in Public Institutions.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.	
Measles	1	1						
Scarlet Fever	5	1	1	2			1	
Whooping-cough	4	2	2					
Diphtheria & membranous croup	4		1	3				
Enteric Fever	1					1		
Epidemic Influenza	2	1				1		
Diarrhœa	3	3						
Enteritis	11	8	2				1	
Peurperal Fever	2				1	1		
Erysipelas	2					2		
Phthisis, pulmonary tuberculosis	12			1	5	6		
Other tubercular diseases	23	15	4	2	1	1		
Cancer, malignant disease	4					3	1	
Bronchitis	35	18	10			6	1	
Pneumonia	8	1	2	1	1	3		
Other Respiratory diseases	9	8			1			
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver	2					2		
Venereal diseases	1	1						
Premature birth	18	18						
Diseases & accidents of parturition	5	2			2	1		
Heart diseases	21			2	2	12	5	
Accidents	7		1		2	4		
Suicides	3					3		
All other causes	84	36	7	3	2	22	14	
All causes	267	115	30	14	17	68	23	

TABLE V.

STANLEY URBAN DISTRICT.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1905.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes {Certified	33	5	4	3	45	8	8	4	5	10	6	6	3	5	6	8	114
All Causes {Uncertified						1											1
Measles																1	1
Scarlet Fever																1	1
Whooping Cough				1	1							1					2
Diarrhœa, all forms										1	1				1		3
Enteritis (not Tuberculous)						1	1	1		2		2					7
Gastritis				1	1												1
Premature Birth	14	1	1	1	17	1											18
Congenital Defects	2	1	1		4		1										5
Injury at Birth	2				2												2
Atrophy, Debility	6	1	1		8	1	2	1		1							13
Tuberculous Meningitis										1			1	1		1	4
Tuberculous Peritonitis									2		1	1		1	2	1	8
Other Tuberculous Diseases										2				1			3
Syphilis			1		1												1
Meningitis, not Tuberculous							1	1			1	1		1			5
Convulsions	1				1	2	1	1	1				1		1	1	9
Bronchitis						3	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	3	18
Pneumonia							1										1
Other Causes	8	2			10				1	1	1						13
	33	5	4	3	45	8	8	4	5	10	6	6	3	5	6	8	115

Stanley Urban District Council.

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