

**[Report 1946] / Medical Officer of Health, Sidmouth U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Sidmouth (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1946

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/a3cmykdh>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



To the Chairman and Members of the Sidmouth Urban District Council.

Gentlemen and Members,

I have the pleasure to submit to you the ANNUAL REPORTS on the Public Health of the Urban District for the year ending 31st December 1945.

The reports conform as far as possible with the instructions laid down in the Ministry of Health circulars 10/44 of the 12th February 1944 and 47/45 of the 19th March 1945.

STATISTICAL STATEMENT AND SOCIAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Number of legitimate marriages ..	3037
Marriageable males ..	897,143
Sex represented by marriage rate ..	6366.6.100.
Population ..	9,617

AND

Vital Statistics:

SANITARY INSPECTOR

Live Births (Legitimate)	153	Male	73	Female	80
(Illegitimate)	9	Male	2	Female	7

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 19.00

FOR THE YEAR

	Total	Male	Female
Still Births (Legitimate)	3	2	-
(Illegitimate)	-	-	-

1946

Rate of still births per 1,000 total (live and still) -----

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths	149	75	74
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	-	15.20	-

Deaths from principal causes

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths of infants under 5 years of age (Legitimate)	2	-	2
(Illegitimate)	-	-	-
Death rate of all infants per 1,000 live births	-	22.0	-
Death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 live births	-	22.0	-
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	57	-	57
Deaths from Diphtheria	111	-	111
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	111	-	111
Deaths from Intertrigo (under 5 years of age)	111	-	111

STANDARD METRIC TABLE

APPROXIMATE

CONVERSION TABLE

APPROXIMATE

STANDARD METRIC TABLE

SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

YEAR ENDING 31st. DECEMBER 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Sidmouth Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Public Health of the Urban District for the year ending 31st. December 1946.

The report conforms as closely as possible with the requirements laid down in the Ministry of Health circulars 10/44 of the 15th. February 1944 and 49/45 of the 19th. March 1945.

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area .....	11242 acres
Number of inhabited houses..	3037
Rateable value .....	£97,448
Sum represented by penny rate.	£386.6.10d.
Population .....	9,417

Vital Statistics.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Live Births (Legitimate	133	80	53
(Illegitimate	9	2	7

Birth rate per 1,000  
of the estimated resident population = 15.08

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Still Births (Legitimate	2	2	-
(Illegitimate	-	-	-

Rate of still births per 1,000  
total (live and still) births = 13.9

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Deaths.	149	76	73

Death rate per 1,000 of the  
estimated resident population = 16.80

Deaths from puerperal causes = 1

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 yr. of age (Legitimate	2	-	2
(Illegitimate	-	-	-

Death rate of all infants per  
1,000 live births. = 14.8

Death rate of legitimate  
infants per 1,000 live births = 14.8

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	27
Deaths from Measles " " .....	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) .....	Nil

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services.

(a)	<u>Council Officials.</u>	<u>Health Department.</u>
	Medical Officer.	E.L.Perry, D.S.O. D.P.H.
	Sanitary Inspector.	Stanley T.Chard, M.S.I.A.

Nursing Services.

Queen's Nurse.	Miss E.Salaman, S.R.N.
District Nurses.	Miss L.Pocock, S.R.N. S.C.N. Miss N.D.Smith, C.M.B.

(b) (i) Laboratory Facilities. These are provided by the Devon County Council Laboratory.

(ii) Ambulance Facilities. There is an excellent and adequate ambulance service provided by the Sidmouth Division of the St.John's Ambulance Brigade, which possesses a motor ambulance.

(iii) Nursing in the Home, Clinic and Hospitals. The Queen's Nurse and District Nurses attend to cases requiring nursing in their own homes. These nurses also attend the Child Welfare Clinics and provide ante-natal services.

The up-to-date local hospital, the Victoria Cottage Hospital, provides facilities for every type of case requiring hospital treatment. It is affiliated to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital. Infectious cases are by arrangement with the City of Exeter admitted to the Whipton Isolation Hospital.

(iv) Maternity. During recent years pressure on housing accommodation and social changes which are taking place make it increasingly difficult for maternity cases to be confined in their own homes. This applies to all classes of the residential and visiting population. It has been during the year under report a great advantage in this respect that the Devon County Council still continue to maintain a temporary maternity home, first in Long Orchard and later at The Grove, two houses suitable for the purpose.

The Victoria Cottage Hospital provides four maternity beds, but the presence of these in a cottage hospital which has a total of twenty-seven beds is open to question. From time to time there must be septic surgical cases in the general beds of the hospital.

The provision of a permanent maternity home in Sidmouth itself is badly needed. Sidmouth as a health resort has always attracted a high class of medical practitioner and it seems anomalous where such medical skill is available that maternity cases should be sent outside the town.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. WATER.

i. The water supply of the area has been satisfactory in both quantity and quality, excepting the supply of Salcombe Regis village for which an entirely new supply has been planned and awaits being put in hand.

1. WATER. Cont'd.

- (ii) Bacteriological and chemical examinations have been made of the raw water which is supplied from springs and a bore hole to two reservoirs before being treated by chlorination. During the year there were 29 samples taken for bacteriological examination and 23 were found to be entirely satisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples were the raw water before treatment. All water after treatment was satisfactory. One chemical analysis was taken from the Sidford bore hole which proved quite satisfactory.
- (iii) One small supply known as Stintway is subject to plumbo-solvency with a p.H of 5.5 Limestone chippings are regularly added to the reservoir which has proved quite satisfactory. During the year 2 chemical examinations were made which were satisfactory.
- (iv) The Salcombe Regis supply referred to in sub-paragraph (i) has, during the past few years, been under frequent examination for contamination, both bacteriologically and chemically and, although the chemical analysis is good, local contamination, as shown by the bacteriological reports together with an inadequate storage and distribution system, has led the Council to obtain the advice of a Consulting Engineer, who recommended that the present supply be discontinued and pumping arrangements be installed in order to obtain sufficient water from the public mains.
- (v) There are 3037 dwelling houses in the area of which 3013 are supplied from mains direct to the houses. The remainder (24) are fed by standpipes and these are mainly in the Parish of Sidbury, which is a private supply maintained by the Sidbury Manor Estate.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No alteration to report during the year.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No alteration to report during the year.

4.

(i) Closet Accommodation.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(ii) Public Cleansing.

The refuse collection is under the control of the Surveyor and is satisfactory.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

See Sanitary Inspector's tabular statement.

(iv) Shops and Offices.

See Sanitary Inspector's tabular report.

(v) Camping Sites.

- (a) The number of sites used for camping purposes during 1946 was 1.
- (b) The number of licences in respect of camping sites issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act.1936 was 1.
- (c) The maximum number of campers resident in the area in any week during 1946 was 40.

(vi) Smoke Abatement.

No occasion for action has arisen.

(vii) Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools in the district.

(viii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Two small infestations were dealt with by the Sanitary Inspector.

In the first case staff rooms at one of the Hotels was found to be infested and all bedding was removed and put through the steam disinfecter, and then treatment carried out with Zaldecide .

The second case was an attic bedroom which was found rather badly infested. All bedding was removed and put through the steam disinfecter. Architraves, skirtings, picture rails etc., were eased and treatment given with Zaldecide. No re-occurrence has occurred in either case.

5. SCHOOLS.

No change to report.

SECTION D. Housing.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

SECTION F. Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

X Incidence of Notifiable Diseases during 1946 (Excluding Tuberculosis)

X See Tabulated Statement on sheet 5.

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	9	6	-
Diphtheria.	1	1	-
Measles.	36	1	-
Typhoid Fever.	2	2	-
Acute Pneumonia.	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	-	-
Whooping Cough.	25	-	-
Dysentery.	-	-	-
Chicken Pox.	12	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality 1946.

Age Periods.	<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Deaths.</u>			
	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	2	1	2	-	1	1	-	-
35	-	1	-	1	2	1	-	-
45	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 upwards.	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
Not known.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

APPENDIX II

Statistics provided by the Registrar-General.

Total deaths in 1946 - 143

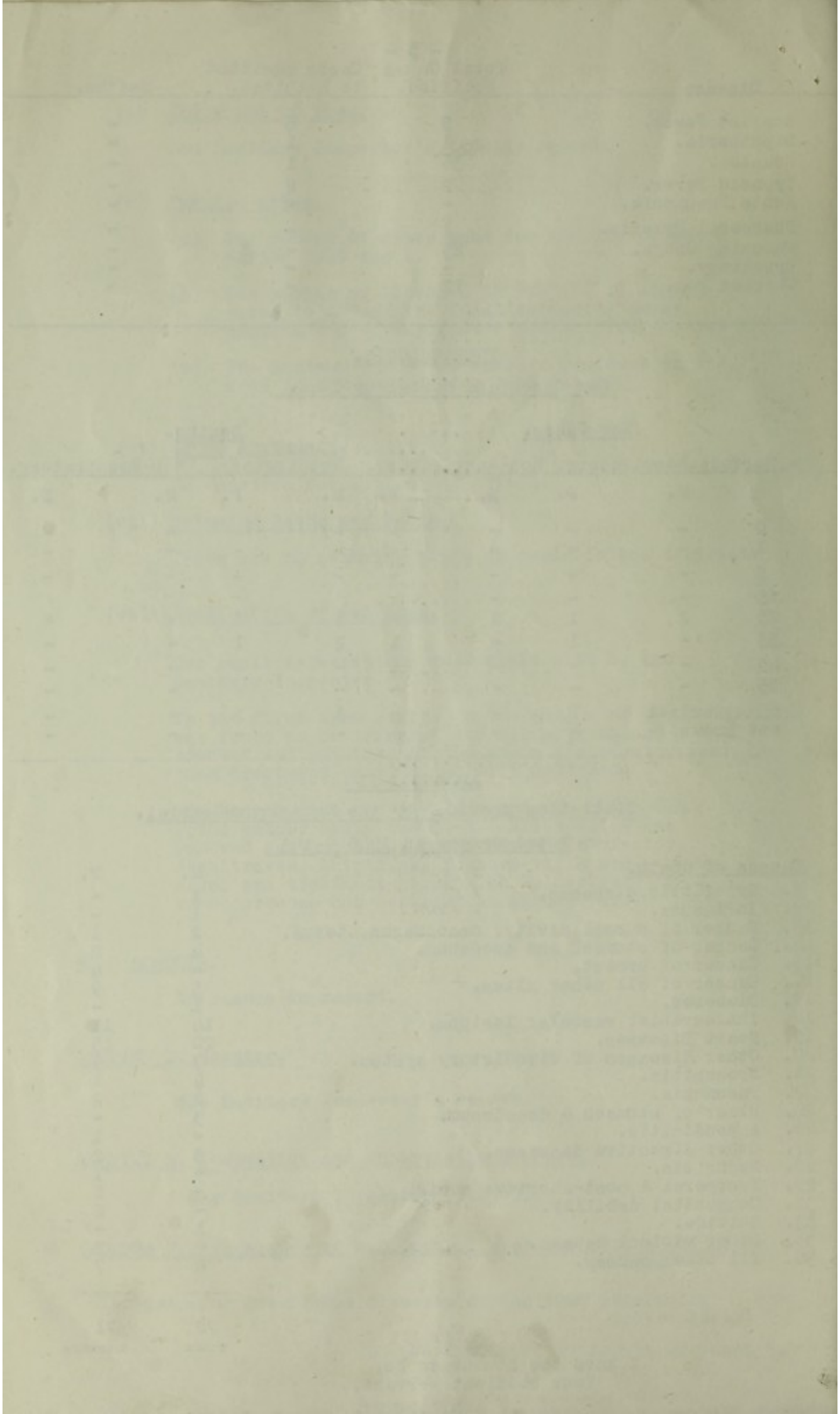
<u>Causes of death.</u>	M.	F.
8. Syphilitic diseases.	1	-
9. Influenza.	1	-
13. Cancer of buccal cavity, oesophagus, uterus.	2	1
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum.	4	2
15. Cancer of breast.	-	4
16. Cancer of all other sites.	5	9
17. Diabetes.	1	-
18. Intracranial vascular lesions.	14	11
19. Heart Diseases.	20	15
20. Other diseases of circulatory system.	7	9
21. Bronchitis.	4	1
22. Pneumonia.	2	2
24. Ulcer of stomach & duodenum.	3	-
26. Appendicitis.	-	1
27. Other digestive diseases.	3	2
28. Nephritis.	-	1
29. Puerperal & post-abortive sepsis.	-	1
32. Congenital debility.	-	2
33. Suicide.	1	-
35. Other violent causes.	-	3
36. All other causes.	4	7
	72	71
	=====	=====

I have the honour to be,  
Your obedient servant,

E.L.PERRY.

Medical Officer of Health.





SIDMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT - 1946.

TABLE I  
VISITS, INTERVIEWS ETC.,

<u>GENERAL SANITATION.</u>	<u>No. of visits.</u>
Water Supply.....	43
Drainage.....	162
Moveable dwellings.....	13
Factories.....	10
Accumulations & deposits .....	10
Rats & Mice.....	160
Dustbins.....	5
Animals improperly kept.....	3
Interviews and appointments.....	104
Miscellaneous.....	23
<hr/>	
<u>INFECTIOUS DISEASE.</u>	
Enquiries in cases of I.D.....	41
Visits re disinfection.....	33
Visits (other diseases).....	4
<u>COWSHEDS, MILK SHOPS &amp; DAIRIES.</u>	
Visits to cowsheds.....	67
Visits to dairies & milk shops.....	34
<u>FOOD SHOPS.</u>	
Visits to food shops.....	52
Visits to slaughterhouses.....	Nil
<u>HOUSING.</u>	
Visits under Housing & Public Health Acts...	31
Visits re dirty or verminous premises.....	26
Miscellaneous housing visits, (including Council houses.).....	61

TABLE II

Complaints received.....	43
Nuisances abated.....	32
<u>NOTICES SERVED.</u>	
Statutory Notices served.....	3
" " " complied with.....	2
<u>DRAINAGE.</u>	
No. of complete new house drainage systems..	22
" " house drainage systems repaired, relaid or extended.....	25
" " new W.C.'s.....	39
" " old closets replaced with new.....	10
<u>DISINFECTION.</u>	
No. of premises disinfected after I.D.....	6
" " " " " T.B.....	6
" " " " " other diseases.	10

DISINFECTION. continued.

Bedding or clothing disinfected in steam disinfector.  
 " " " " after I.D..... 4  
 " " " " after T.B..... 6  
 " " " " " other diseases. 43

UNSOOUND FOOD.

The following amounts of unsound food were condemned and voluntarily surrendered for either destruction or salvage.

Meat & Meat products. - 29 tins.  
 45 lbs. various meats.  
 Fruit & vegetable products - 191 tins.  
 Fish & fish products. - 57 tins.  
 73 stones various fish.  
 Milk. - 70 tins.

Also the following:-

20 lbs. margarine.  
 1 cwt. sugar.  
 66 lbs. flour.  
 66 lbs. boiled sweets.

<u>MILK SAMPLES.</u>	<u>Passed.</u>	<u>Failed.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Samples taken for bacteriological test. (methylene blue)	61	13	74
Heat treated samples. (phosphatase test)	12	2	17
Samples taken for T.B. Inconclusive.	12	Nil	12
	-	Nil	3
	85	15	106
	=====	=====	=====

HOUSING SUMMARY.

	<u>Demolished.</u>	<u>Closed.</u>	<u>Reconditioned.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Houses dealt with previous to this year.	62	10	61	133
Houses dealt with during 1946.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Clearance areas.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Individual houses.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Houses reconditioned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>Total.</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>133</b>

I am,

Your obedient servant,

STANLEY T. CHARD.

Sanitary Inspector.