

[Report 1895] / Medical Officer of Health, Thornton U.D.C.

Contributors

Thornton (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1895

Persistent URL

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

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
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

HARROP HOUSE,
THORNTON,
NEAR BRADFORD.

March 18th 1896,

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in
sending you a copy of my Annual
Report to the Thornton Urban District
Council for the year 1895.

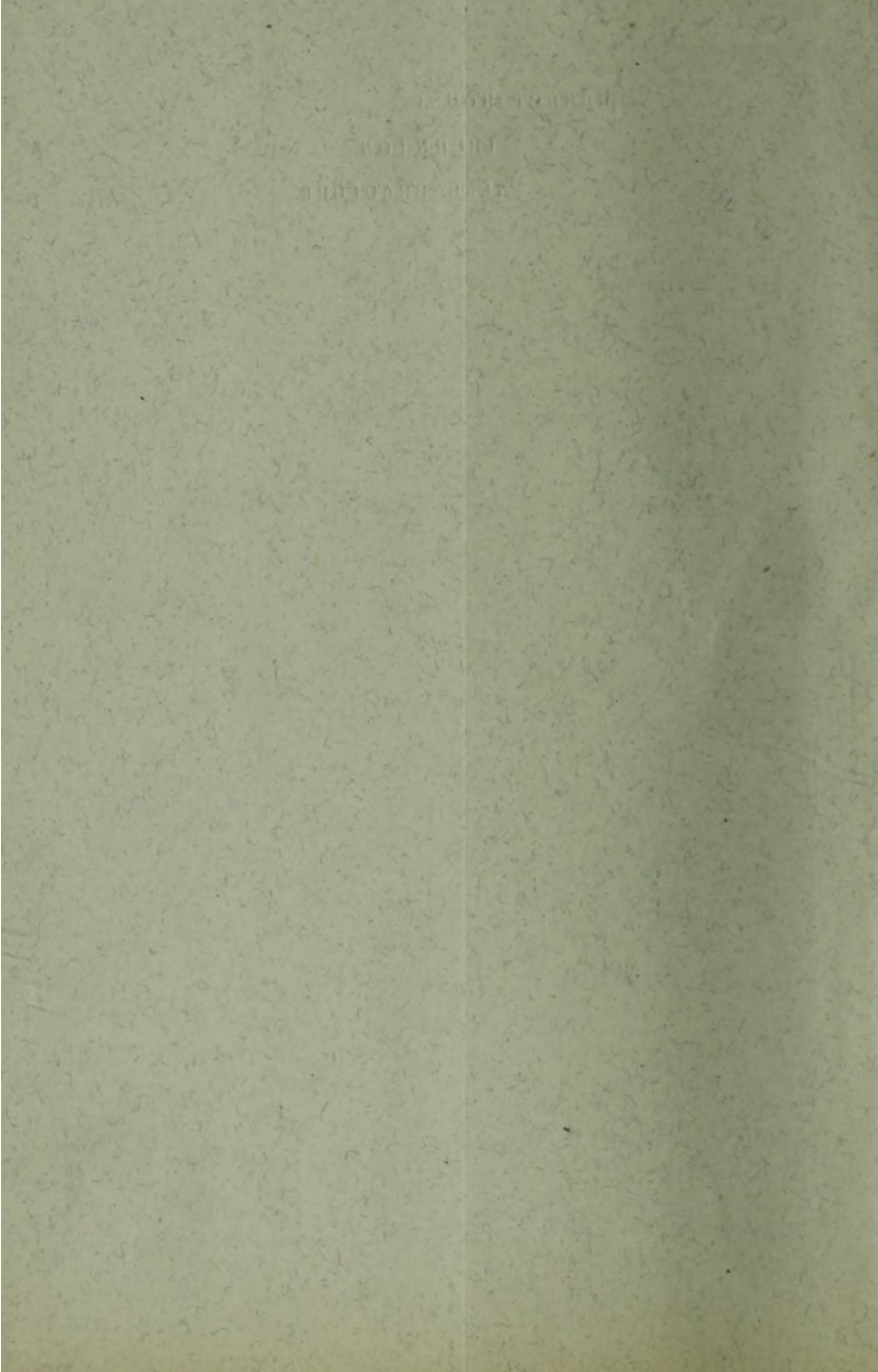
I am,

Yours truly,

A. E. Junstall,

The Librarian,

The British Medical Association.



ANNUAL REPORT

FOR 1895.

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

THORNTON URBAN SANITARY AUTHORITY.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Thornton Urban District
Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting to you my first Annual Report, with Vital Statistics and Tables, and some account of Sanitary work accomplished during the year ended December 31st, 1895. Also some recommendations for your future consideration. As I have held the office only during the last quarter of the year, the Report may be somewhat incomplete, but I have made it as fully as I could.

Population. —The population of your District, which when the census was taken in 1891 was 5680, I am taking to be the same in the middle of 1895. According to the general way of reckoning it would be much less, for during the decade from 1881 to 1891 there was a decrease of 404. But judging by the full employment at the mills now, and the increased number of occupied houses as shown by the Rate Books, and also the excess of Births over Deaths registered, which between April, 1891 and the middle of 1895 amounted to 234; I am fully satisfied that the population is not less now than in April, 1891. I believe it will really be higher, but I would rather err upon the side of making the vital statistics appear worse than they are, instead of trying to show them to be better than is really the case.

Class IV. Developmental System.

Congenital Malformation	...	...	...	1
Defective Development	...	...	...	5
Old Age	...	...	...	8
Teething	...	...	...	2
Accidental Death	...	...	...	1
Ill defined or unknown	...	...	...	4
Total				106

As I have before stated, three of these deaths were of non-residents, viz., one case of Typhoid Fever, which died in the Hospital came from Clayton; the one from accidental death was a workman from Clayton, who fell off a building; and one case of Apoplexy was a man from Halifax, who had a fit while hurrying to the Railway station.

The various rates of mortality were as follows:

Infantile Mortality.—24 children died before attaining the age of one year, which is equal to a rate of 150 per 1000 Births registered. In the previous year it was equal to 153.

Zymotic Death Rate.—There were 11 deaths registered from the principal Zymotic diseases. A rate equal to 1.9 per 1000 of population. In the previous year it was 2.1.

Phthisis Death Rate.—There were 5 deaths from Phthisis a rate equal to 0.8 per 1000 of population. In the previous year it was 0.7.

Respiratory Death Rate.—There were 25 deaths registered from Pneumonia, Bronchitis, &c., giving a rate equal to 4.4 per 1000 of population. In the previous year it was only 1.9 per 1000.

It will be seen from these figures that it is in the diseases of the Respiratory organs where the greatest increase is. I have no doubt that that was largely due to the severe weather in the early part of the year 1895.

Infectious Diseases.—There were 28 cases of Infectious disease notified during the year under the Notification Act. They were

Typhoid Fever	...	...	19
Scarlet Fever	...	...	5
Erysipelas	...	...	4

Of these, 10 cases of Typhoid Fever were removed to the Hospital for treatment and isolation. Twelve of these 19 cases of Typhoid Fever occurred in the Mountain district, which has always been a hot-bed for this disease. They all occurred during July, August and September. In October I examined this District thoroughly, visiting all the houses, and reported to you the result of my inspection. This showed the want of a good water supply, and of efficient means of drainage. There are great difficulties in the way of both but it should have the serious attention of your Council.

The five cases of Scarlet Fever were of a sporadic character

In September, October and November there was a considerable epidemic of Measles in the village of Thornton, but they were mostly mild cases. One curious feature, however, was the large number of adults affected.

Whooping-cough was very prevalent during the last four months of the year, and was the cause of four deaths.

There was a sharp epidemic of Influenza in February and March, the cases being very numerous and rather severe, six of which ended fatally. There were again many cases during the latter quarter of the year, but it did not then become epidemic.

Diarrhœa assumed a severe form in July and August, and there were six deaths recorded from it.

Sanitary Work.—During the past year, the Sewage Purification Works, which had been begun in the previous November were completed, and formally opened about the end of

September. These works I understand will provide for a population of 8000, so that they will serve for many years to come. I have one great regret in regard to them, and that is their situation, for now School Green, Low Town and Bricks cannot derive any benefit from them, and there is a not inconsiderable population in that part. Also the Mountain District cannot, except by a most circuitous route of between three and four miles, get an outfall for their sewage there. Had they been made at the very eastern-most extremity of the Thornton district, somewhere about Leaventhorpe the whole of Thornton could have been drained to them. The initial expense would have been greater, but the result would have been eminently more satisfactory.

Now that the sewage works are completed, the next step is to make main sewers, so that the inhabitants may derive benefit from the works. As soon as there are sewers it will be advisable to encourage the substitution of water closets in place of the privies, and so get the sewage away from the dwellings as quickly as possible, and at the same time lessen the expense of scavenging.

I am pleased to be able to record the fact that your Council has decided, during the past month, to undertake the Scavenging. This, I consider to be a great advance in sanitation. In a village like Thornton, where the population is considerable, and where the houses are built very closely together, nearly all being back to back houses, there is a large amount of refuse; and if this is allowed to accumulate, as it often has done for twelve months together, it becomes a serious nuisance and very dangerous to health; and especially so when we take into account the fact that about half of the middens are uncovered; and so contain a large quantity of water, as well as vegetable and other refuse, which it has been the habit of numbers to throw into these middens.

I wish that your Council had decided at once to do the scavenging by your own sanitary staff, instead of letting it to contractors, for I am sure that that is what it will soon resolve itself

into ; and it is very seldom that contractors attend to the work as it should be done ; they quite naturally suit their own convenience first, the public health taking a secondary place.

In connection with the ashpits, I would recommend that your Council insist upon all those yet uncovered to be roofed in and ventilated. Also the walls and floor to be rendered with cement or asphalt, so as to make them water-tight.

Slaughter Houses.—The Slaughter houses have been kept fairly clean during the year. There are ten of them now registered, and I think other two to which licenses have been granted. This is a very large number for a district of this size, more than half of them are in the centre of the village and surrounded by dwelling-houses, and I am afraid will always be a nuisance. I have before complained of the manure heaps belonging to these, and to the practice of throwing blood, entrails, and other refuse upon these manure heaps, instead of keeping covered vessels for their reception and removal. In my opinion a public slaughter house is needed in Thornton, and will be the only satisfactory way of dealing with this evil. However, as long as the present houses are allowed to exist, the bye-laws for them should be enforced.

Much sanitary work of a minor character has been done during the year, such as trapping and disconnecting of sinks, and the abatement of nuisances, as will be seen on referring to Table C.

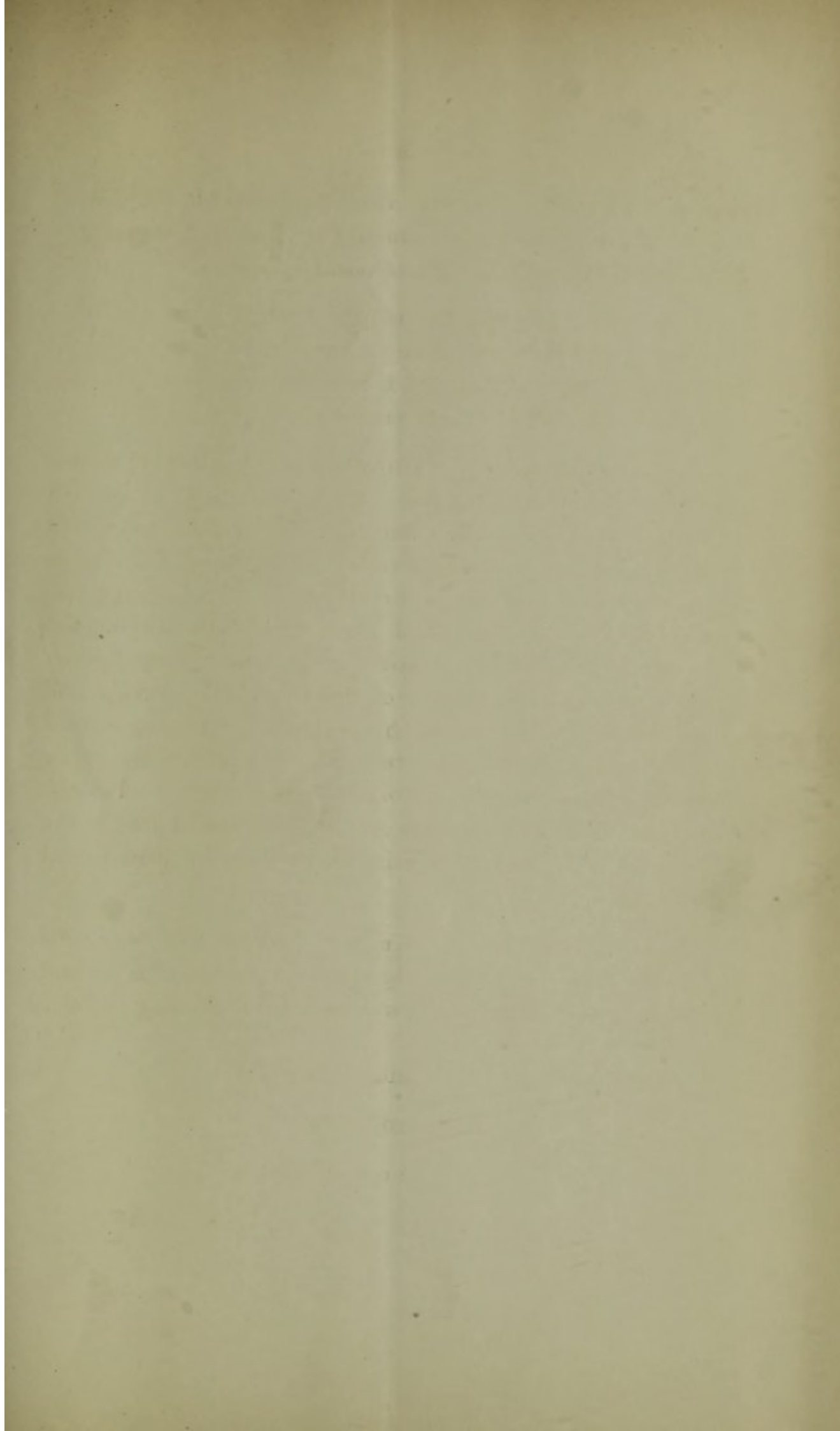
I append Tables A, B, and C, duly filled up.

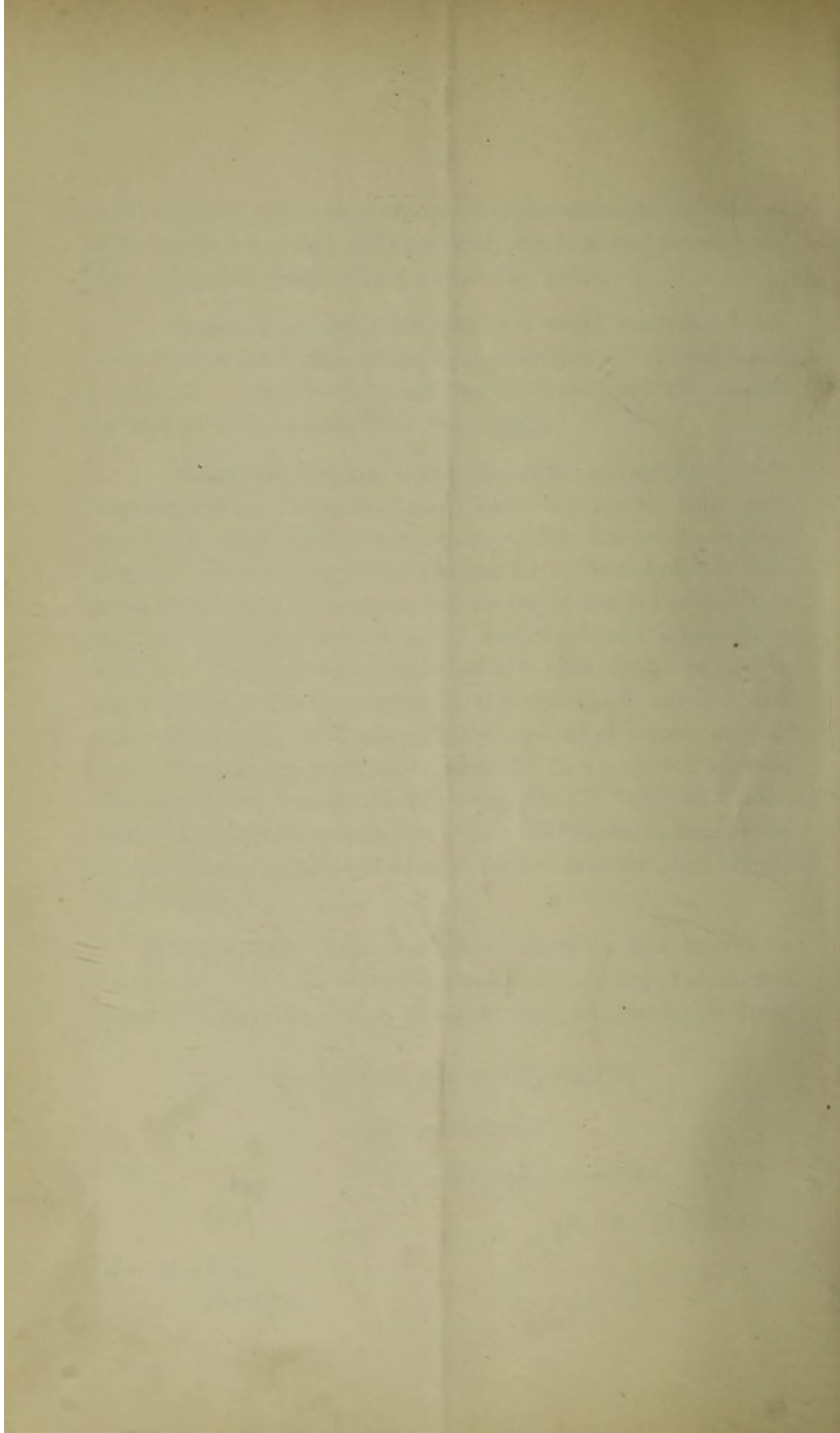
I am, gentlemen,

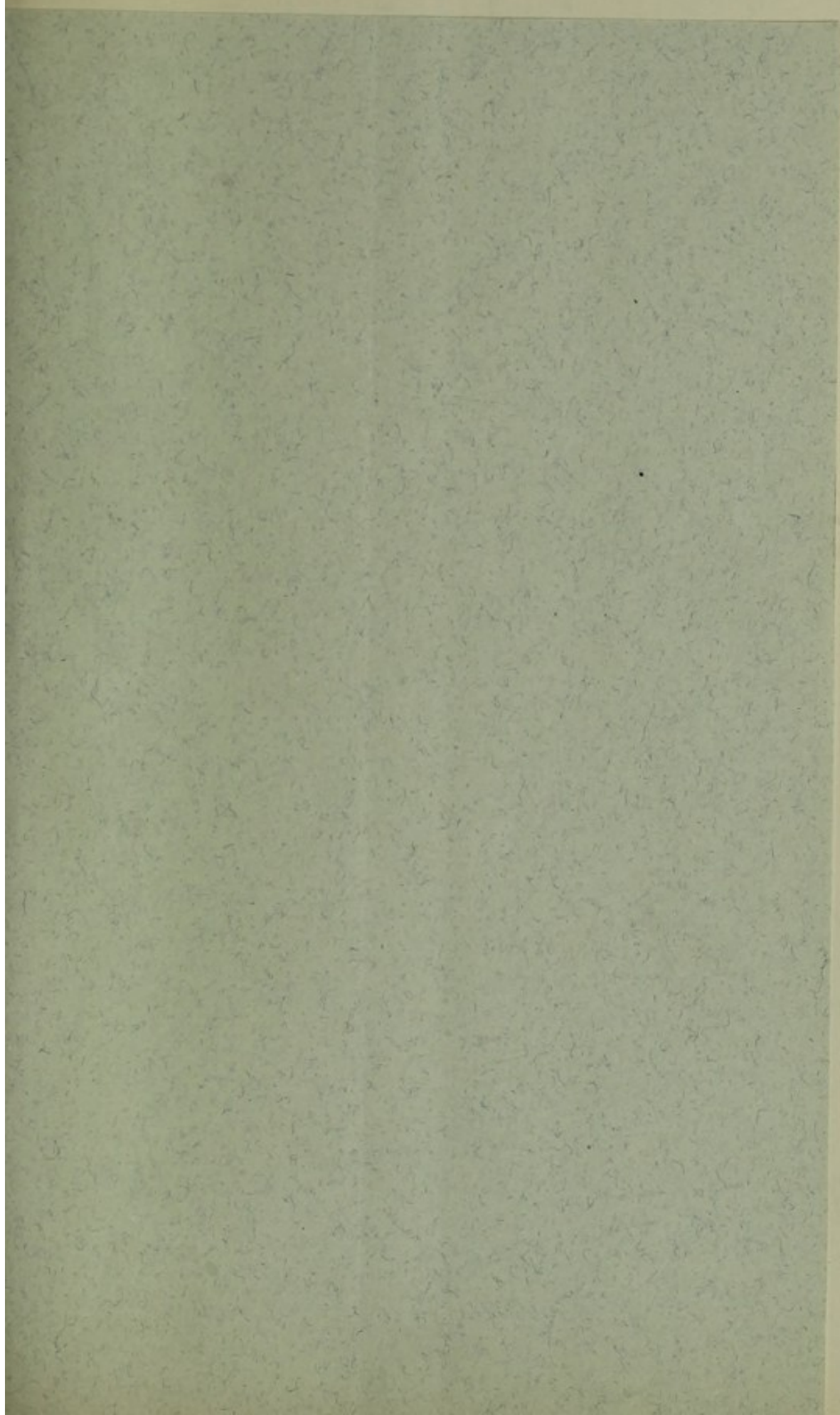
Your obedient servant,

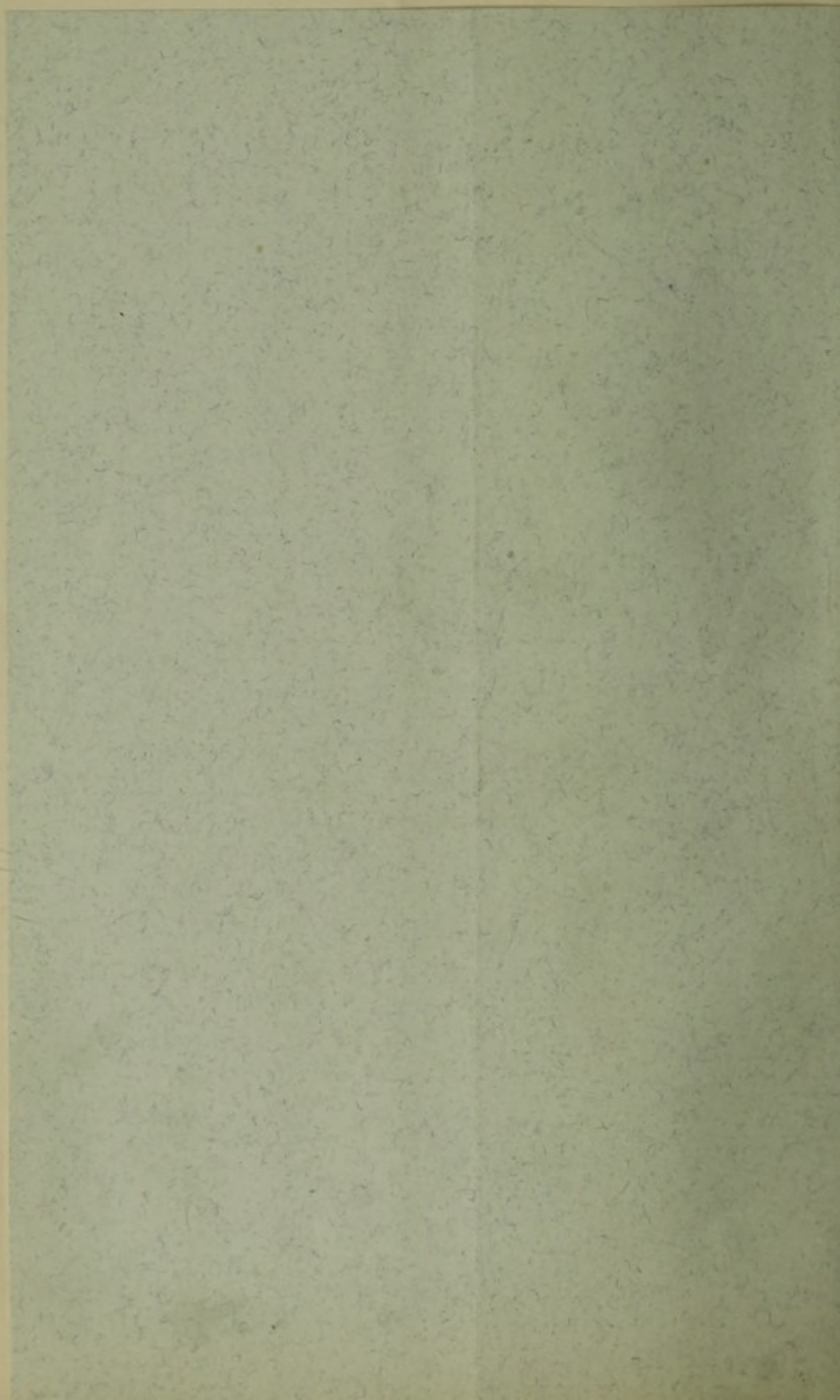
A. E. TUNSTALL.

*Harrop House,
Thornton.*







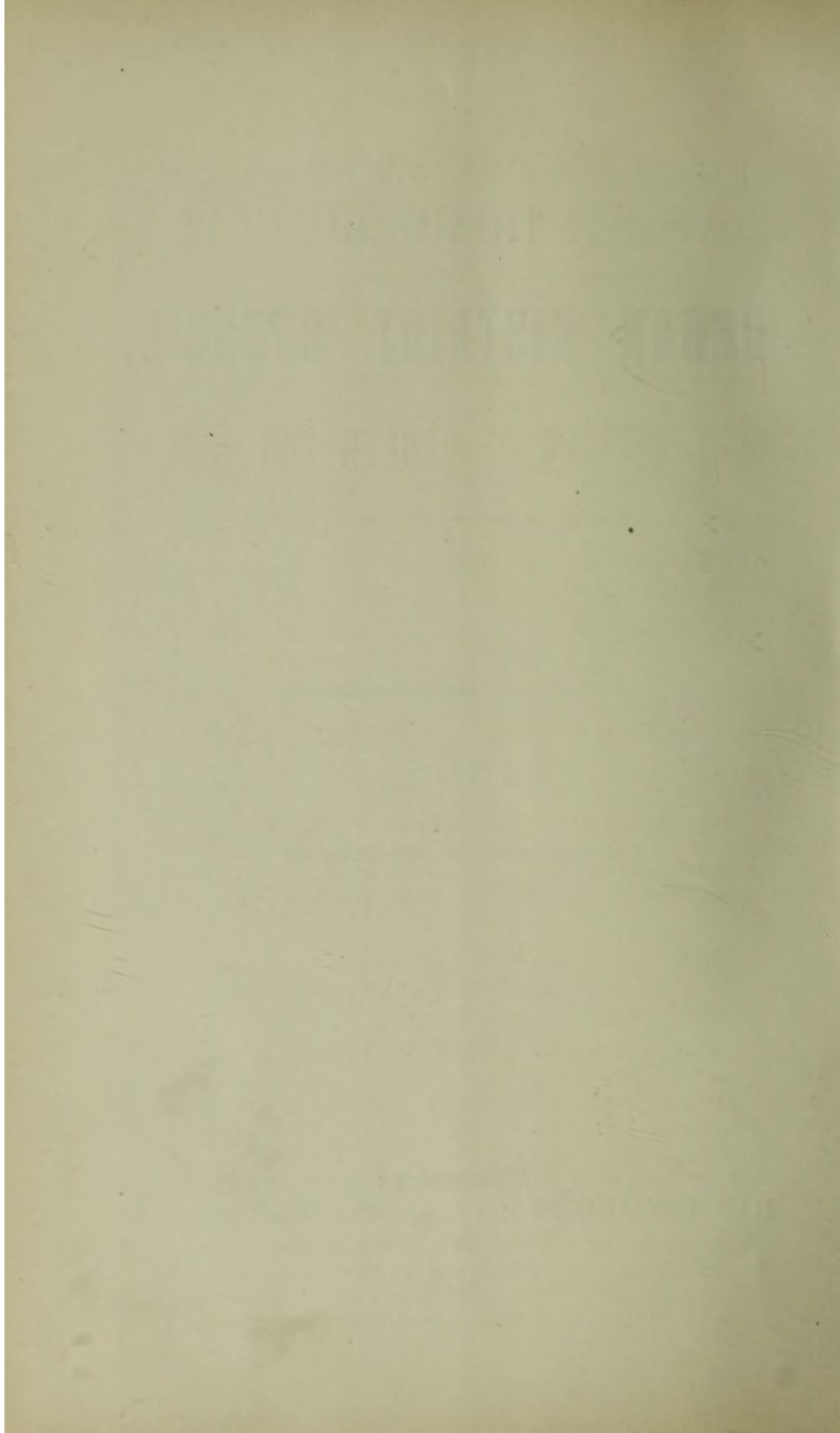


TICKHILL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1895.

Doncaster :
HARTLEY AND SON, PRINTERS, HIGH STREET,

—
1896.



TICKHILL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1895.

POPULATION AT CENSUS, 1891	...	...	1,450
ESTIMATED POPULATION IN 1895	...	...	1,400
AREA IN ACRES	...	...	488

TO THE TICKHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg now to present my Annual Report for 1895 as required by the Local Government Board. As the extension of the district has not yet come into operation, I have estimated the population to be the same as in the previous year, viz., 1400.

44 Births were registered in 1895—males 22 ; females 22 ; the rate was 31 per 1000 as compared with 22 per 1000 in 1894, and a previous average rate of 27. Birth and
Death Rates

32 Deaths were registered in Tickhill—males 11 ; females 21. It has been usual to add the deaths of persons from the district who died at the Workhouse or Infirmary in Doncaster ; two such cases occurred last year. The total of 34 is equal to a death rate of 25 per 1000. That is a very unusually high rate, for the average for several years was 17 per 1000, and in 1894 it was only 15·6.

The deaths in the list of zymotic diseases were 3 ; from enteric fever 1, cholera 1, another from diarrhoea ; the death rate was 2·1 per 1,000. From phthisis or consumption there were 2 deaths, from bronchitis 2, and from influenza 2.

The latter disease is very frequently associated with some affection of the lungs. The death rate from these was equal to 4 per 1000.

There was an unusually large proportion of deaths among very young children, viz., 16 per cent. of the births registered. It ought, however, to be stated that more than half of these were at their death less than a month old.

By comparison it is interesting to note that 50 per cent. of the persons who died last year had reached 65 years or over; 7 persons had reached between 70 and 80 years; 6 persons had reached between 80 and 90 years of age; and two were over 90 years. The higher death rate for last year was mainly caused through the greater number of deaths among these old people.

Cases of
Infectious
Disease
Notified.

7 cases of infectious disease were reported last year—1 case of scarlet fever, 1 of enteric fever, 2 of puerperal fever, 1 of cholera and 2 of erysipelas.

In no case did the disease spread beyond the person attacked; the 2 cases of puerperal fever occurred in February and September, and had no relation so far as a common origin of the illness was concerned.

One of the cases of erysipelas was followed by a case of scarlet fever in the same house during the same week. The sanitary conditions about the premises were not satisfactory, which make persons liable to contract illness, but the actual source of the infection of the fever was not traced.

The case of cholera was reported when dead, the symptoms shown during the few hours the illness lasted were very suggestive of the Asiatic type rather than of a case of English cholera. After a careful inquiry as to the past history of the person attacked, of the other inmates of the house, and of the sanitary conditions of the house and premises that opinion was greatly modified. As a matter of precaution a thorough disinfection was carried out and no further case of illness occurred. I analysed a sample of the well water the family used for drinking and found it satisfactorily pure.

The case of enteric fever was only reported two days before death; the illness up to the date of the case being reported was not considered as being due to enteric fever. Although there was no history of infection having been contracted there were some serious sanitary defects noted; the water supply was not useable, the house drains were very defective, and other matters in the yard were anything but favourable to good health. On making inquiries about one of the cases of puerperal fever there were found many unsanitary matters; these did not originate the illness but they do

aggravate illness and make persons living among filth and wet more susceptible to suffer from disease. The coming extension of the district will increase the responsibility of the Council to have more of these ordinary nuisances, which are injurious to health, remedied before a case of illness serves to draw special attention to them. The Inspector tells me that several defective drains known of cannot be put right until the new sewers have been provided.

The scheme for providing a proper system of sewers for that large part of the population who live in Northgate, Manningham Lane, and Sunderland Street, has been very carefully considered. It will also serve as the outlet sewer for those now laid in Westgate and Castlegate, and will effectually remedy the pollution of streams from these last sewers recently complained of. An inquiry was held in October last by an Engineering Inspector from the Local Government Board, when the whole scheme was exhaustively examined. The proposals of the Council have now received the sanction of the Local Government Board, and the work will be proceeded with, it is hoped, immediately.

Sanitary work
Inspections,
&c., &c.

During last year improvements of the drainage of private houses were carried out, and 230 yards of new drains were laid and 27 inlets to these were properly trapped.

The main sewers were flushed and some disinfectant used on several occasions.

4 wells were cleansed out, but whether any improvement in the quality of the water followed I am unable to report.

The ashpit and house refuse is removed through the householder; as often happens this work gets neglected and the inspector reports that he had to remind tenants in 39 cases. Additional closets and better ashpits were provided in 12 cases.

I am afraid that all those who sell milk in Tickhill have not had their premises registered as the regulations require; there is no expense for registering and it is very desirable that milk should be protected from every source of impurity.

Visits made to bakehouses and lodging-houses show that they are kept clean and in a satisfactory condition.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. MITCHELL WILSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Tickhill, 11th February, 1896.

LIST OF NUISANCES ABATED AND SANITARY WORK DONE
DURING 1895.

- 27 Drains trapped.
 62 Yards 6in. Drains laid.
 175 Yards 4in. do. do.
 6 Ashpits covered in.
 8 New Privies.
 7 Sink-pipes disconnected.
 4 Wells cleaned out.
 39 Ashpits cleaned out.
 1 House cleaned and disinfected.
 Visited the Lodging-house several times.
 2 Houses stoved and disinfected.
 All the drains belonging to the Urban District Council
 flushed and disinfected several times.
 Reported several drains but are left in abeyance until the
 New Drainage Scheme is carried out.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

R. H. RAWSON,

Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances.

(B)

TABLE II.

Table of Population, Births, and of New Cases of Infectious Sickness, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the Urban Sanitary District of Tickhill; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all Ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.											*Cases removed		
	Census, 1891.	Estimated 1895.			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Fever.			Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	
TICKHILL (URBAN)..	1,450	1,400	44	Under 5 upwds.	..	.. 1	..	..	..	..	.. 1	..	..	.. 2	.. 1	.. 2	..	..
Totals	1,450	1,400	44	Under 5 upwds.	..	.. 1	..	..	..	..	.. 1	..	..	.. 2	.. 1	.. 2	..	..

Notification of Infectious Disease is compulsory in the District since 1st March, 1890. No Hospital for Infectious Cases is provided.