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Contributors

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JOHN R. R. POLLOCK,

Medical Officer of Health,

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Tiverton Rural District.

❖ **REPORT** ❖

FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1902.

TIVERTON:

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JOHN W. PIERCE

Wm. D. ...

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REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 1892

...

...

TO THE
TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—

I herewith hand you my Report on the Health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1902.

Soil and Subsoil of District.—The general character of the district is hilly, rising in places to over 800 feet. The upland country does not form a plateau, but is intersected by many deep valleys which act as natural storm water drains to the uplands. The country is more level and not as hilly in the Eastern District except in the extreme east, where the ground again rises to nearly 900 feet above the village of Blackborough.

In the Parishes of Oakford, Cadbury, Thorverton, Huntsham, Clayhanger and Butterleigh the soil is of a clayey nature. In Willand, Silverton, Bickleigh, Cadeleigh and Cruwys Morchard a more loamy soil is to be found. Marle occurs in Uffculme. The soil is sandy in Sampford Peverell, Kentisbeare and part of Thorverton. The soil is described as rich in Halberton and various in Cullompton and Bradninch, whilst it is light in Stoodleigh, Washfield and Loxbeare.

The subsoil is also varied, being either clay, marle, gravel or rock.

Rivers.—The rivers in the District are the Exe, Lowman and Culm. Of these, the Culm is the only one receiving manufacturing effluents in the district. It receives the effluent of one paper mill and one tannery at Cullompton, and from two other paper mills, one at Hele and one at Silverton.

The **Land** of the District is almost entirely devoted to dairy farming and cattle raising.

The **General Health** of the District continues satisfactory.

The total number of **Infectious Cases** reported during the twelve months was 80; in 1901, 43; 1900, 54; 1899, 43; 1898, 45; 1897, 107; 1896, 161; 1895, 133; and in 1894, 240.

I regret to have to draw attention to the slight epidemic of Scarlet Fever, which has been principally confined to the South Western portion of the District, and more particularly to the town of Thorverton. The difficulty of combating the spread of the disease has been mainly due to the mild type of the epidemic, parents in many cases allowing their children to continue attendance at school during the first week of the disease, the symptoms being so slight, as not to draw attention to the condition of the child until the peeling of the skin appears, by which time other children may have been infected with the disease.

The number of other Notifiable Diseases has been under the average.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

The housing question in the District is not of a pressing nature, though in some localities there is a decided want of cottage property.

The cottages are generally in good condition and there are not many cases of overcrowding to be dealt with. As a rule there is quite sufficient air-space for the occupants of the cottages. It is to be regretted that some of the tenants are not of more cleanly habits.

No new house can be occupied before a certificate is obtained from the Council on the recommendation of the Sanitary Inspector as to its fitness for habitation.

SEWERAGE.

Thorverton.—The sewerage works at this place are completed and the Septic Tank is working satisfactorily, though the irrigation meadow is not yet in a fit state to receive the sewerage.

It is hoped that a satisfactory arrangement will soon be arrived at, as the present state of affairs gives cause for a considerable amount of annoyance.

Very few houses remain to be connected with the sewerage system.

The new section of sewer through Vicarage Lane has been completed. The School drainage has been remodelled, and has been connected with the sewer.

Uffculme.—The system of Broad Irrigation has worked satisfactorily throughout the year. Since the completion of this work the state of the river has been greatly improved.

Silverton.—The section of sewer in Back Lane has been completed during the year.

The drainage at Silverton Girls' School has been entirely remodelled, automatic flush closets have been provided, giving every satisfaction. A new constant supply of drinking water has been installed.

Sampford Peverell.—The new section of sewer, mentioned in my Report for last year, has now been finished and is working satisfactorily.

Halberton.—Sewers have been laid to replace the old stone drain, but as these discharge into a meadow, the owner of which objects to this method of disposal of the sewerage, the matter is to be arranged by the construction of a small Septic Tank, the overflow of which is to be carried to a more remote position.

WATER SUPPLY.

BRADNINCH.—This town draws its supply of water from a closed reservoir, which is fed by springs. The old 2 inch main has been replaced by a new one of 4 in. gauge, the alteration proving of much advantage to the inhabitants of the higher portion of the town.

SILVERTON.—This town has also a small reservoir fed by springs.

The rest of the District, including the town of Cullompton, depends upon wells for its Water Supply, which is generally sufficient except in the higher districts, during protracted periods of drought.

It is to be hoped the town of Cullompton will soon take into consideration the question of a town water supply. There is abundance of water which at present runs in open channels, this could easily be piped at no great cost and so do away with the shallow wells, which are never very safe from contamination. It would also enable the sewage to have a better flow when the water has been laid on to the closets.

There is no common **Lodging House** in the District.

Slaughterhouses, Bakehouses, Milk Shops, Factories and Workshops have been found clean and properly carried on.

Dairies and Cow Sheds are in most cases fairly well kept, though the custom of keeping pigs and accumulation of manure in close proximity to dairies is still too prevalent.

There are no **Offensive Trades** carried on in the District.

METHOD OF DEALING WITH NUISANCES.

The Sanitary Inspector visits and advises the responsible persons as to the abatement of the nuisance. If his recommendations are not carried out, the matter is reported to the Council.

METHODS OF DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The Notification Act is in force in the District. In conjunction with the town of Tiverton an **Isolation Hospital** has been established. This is now in full working order and has given very satisfactory results. In connection with the Hospital there is a steam disinfecting apparatus. Had it not been for the help of this Isolation Hospital, the slight epidemic of Scarlet Fever, which has visited the District might have assumed a much more serious aspect.

Disinfection of Infected Houses is carried out by means of sulphur and lime washing.

The Food and Drugs Act is under the charge of the Local Police Authorities.

House to house **Visitation** has been carried out in conjunction with the Sanitary Inspector throughout the District.

BIRTH RATE & DEATH RATE.

		1902.		1901.
Birth Rate	... ..	24·83	—	25·55.
Death Rate	... ..	13·529	—	14·81.
Infant Mortality	... ..	81·58	—	76·54.
Zymotic Death Rate	... ..	·0392	—	1·62.

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector is attached hereto.

JOHN R. R. POLLOCK,

M.O.H. TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACTS OF 1901.

In compliance with the above Act, I beg to give you the following information in regard to the Tiverton Rural District.

Means of Escape from Fire.—Messrs. Fox & Co., of Uffculme, have supplied their woollen factory in a satisfactory manner.

Messrs. Heathcoat & Co.'s work-place at Cullompton will have alterations carried out to provide for the safety of their workers.

At Cullompton Paper Mills the egress doors are to be remodelled to open outwards.

Messrs. Heathcoat & Co. is the only firm in the District which employs home-workers.

Bakehouses.—There are 28 of these in the District, all of which fulfil the requirements of the Act.

JOHN R. R. POLLOCK,

M.O.H. TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1902 and Previous Years.

Name of District:—TIVERTON RURAL 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.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1892	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1893	16854	478	28.36	41	85.77	241	14.29	..	..	12	253	15.01
1894	16854	430	25.51	65	151.16	270	16.01	..	..	7	277	16.43
1895	16051	434	27.03	52	119.80	264	16.44	..	..	1	265	16.50
1896	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1897	15739	207	26.37	11	53.14	88	10.67	..	..	8	96	12.18
1898	15639	390	24.93	49	121.87	264	16.88	..	..	11	275	17.59
1899	15539	417	26.49	47	112.709	251	15.88	..	..	14	265	17.05
1900	15439	376	24.35	34	90.43	230	13.94	..	..	10	240	15.54
1901	15339	392	25.55	30	76.54	213	15.45	..	..	14	227	14.81
Averages for years 1898—1901	15489	393.75	25.33	40	100.39	239.5	15.54	..	..	12.6	250.6	16.25
1902	15300	380	24.83	29	76.32	193	12.62	..	..	14	207	13.529

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The "Public institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table. (See below †).

Total population at all ages	..	15,300	} At Census of 1901.
Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)	..	82,000	
Number of inhabited houses	..		
Average number of persons per house			

† INSTITUTIONS OUTSIDE THE DISTRICT RECEIVING SICK AND INFIRM PERSONS FROM THE DISTRICT.

Union Workhouse, Tiverton.
 Joint Isolation Hospital, Tiverton.
 Tiverton Infirmary, Tiverton.

Is the Union Workhouse within the District?—No.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1902 and previous years.

Name of District:—TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	1.—BAMPTON.				2.—SILVERTON.				3.—CULLOMPTON.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
YEAR.	<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1892 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1893 ..	3779	127	50	12	4549	113	62	8	8526	238	129	21
1894 ..	3779	91	32	6	4549	125	90	22	8526	214	148	37
1895 ..	3779	88	49	8	4549	118	90	15	8526	228	125	29
1896 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1897 ..	3270	52	23	3	4058	47	25	2	8319	108	40	6
1898 ..	3250	90	35	8	4050	93	82	13	8319	217	147	28
1899 ..	3170	90	42	2	3520	122	78	23	8890	205	131	22
1900 ..	3140	76	39	2	2929	106	58	12	9340	186	133	20
1901 ..	3121	111	42	11	2706	95	53	6	9512	186	132	13
Averages of Years 1898 to 1901	3170	91·75	39·5	5·75	3309	104	67·75	13·5	9015	198·5	135·75	20·75
1902 ..	3108	115	31	4	2693	108	65	13	9499	157	111	13

NOTES.—(a) The separate localities adopted for this table should be areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts. Block 1 may, if desired, be used for the whole district: and blocks 2, 3, &c., for the several localities. In small districts without recognised divisions of known population this Table need not be filled up.

(b) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are to be included in sub-columns *c* of this table, and those of non-residents registered in public institutions in the district excluded. (See Note on Table I. as to meaning of terms "resident" and "non-resident.")

(c) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased.

(d) Care should be taken that the gross totals of the several columns in this Table respectively equal the corresponding totals for the whole districts in Tables I. and IV.: thus, the totals of sub-columns *a*, *b*, and *c* should agree with the figures for the year in the columns 2, 3, and 12, respectively, of Table I.: the gross total of the sub-columns *c* should agree with the total of column 2 in Table IV., and the gross total of sub-columns *d* with the total of column 3 in Table IV.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1902.

Name of District: TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.			NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages†—YEARS.					Bampton	Cullampton	Silverton	Bampton	Cullampton	Silverton
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.							65 and upwards.
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria ..	20	1	5	9	2	3	..	12	8	9	..	..
Membranous croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	10	..	..	..	3	6	1	2	8	..	..	..
Scarlet fever ..	47	..	18	22	3	4	..	4	31	4	5	21
Typhus fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever ..	3	..	..	1	1	1	..	2	1	..	..	..
Relapsing fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
*
Totals ..	80	1	23	32	9	14	1	20	48	13	5	21

NOTES.—The localities adopted for this table should be the same as those in Tables II. and IV.

State in space below the name of the isolation hospital, if any, to which residents in the district, suffering from infectious disease, are usually sent. Mark (H) the locality in which it is situated, or if not within the district, state where it is situated, and in what district. Mark (W) the locality in which a workhouse is situated.

* This space may be used for record of other disease the notification (compulsory or voluntary) of which is in force in the district.

† These age columns for notifications should be filled up in all cases where the Medical Officer of Health, by inquiry or otherwise, has obtained the necessary information.

Isolation Hospital:—Tiverton Joint Hospital, Tiverton Borough.

TABLE IV.

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

Name of District:—TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT.

(See Notes at Back).

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).			TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Bampton.	Silverton.	Cullompton.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Small-pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Whooping-cough	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Diphtheria and membranous croup }	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Croup .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Typhus .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Epidemic influenza	5	..	..	..	..	3	2	1	3	1	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhœa. (See notes at back)	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..
Enteritis. (See notes at back) .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other septic diseases .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis	16	1	1	..	7	7	..	1	4	11	..
Other tubercular diseases	4	..	..	1	1	2	..	1	1	2	2
Cancer, malignant disease	8	..	..	..	..	6	2	1	2	5	..
Bronchitis	26	7	2	..	..	3	14	2	9	15	3
Pneumonia	9	1	1	1	..	4	2	1	4	4	..
Pleurisy	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	..
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	4	..	1	..	..	2	1	1	1	2	1
Alcoholism } .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of liver } .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Venereal diseases .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature birth	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Heart diseases	26	1	..	2	1	7	15	5	5	16	1
Accidents	5	..	..	..	..	4	1	..	2	3	..
Suicides	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
All other causes	90	16	4	..	2	13	55	15	30	45	6
All causes	207	31	13	4	12	53	94	32	65	110	14

NOTES.—(a) In this Table all deaths of "Residents" occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be included with the other deaths in the columns for the several age groups (columns 2-8). They are also, in columns 9-15, to be included among the deaths in their respective "Localities" according to the previous addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars. Deaths of "Non-residents" occurring in public institutions in the district are in like manner to be excluded from columns 2-8 and 9-15 of this Table.

(b) See notes on Table I. as to the meaning of "Residents" and "Non-residents," and as to the "Public Institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables. The "Localities" should be the same as those in Tables II. and III.

(c) All deaths occurring in public institutions situated within the district, whether of "Residents" or of "Non-residents," are, in addition to being dealt with as in note (a), to be entered in the last column of this Table. The total number in this column should equal the figures for the year in column 9, Table I.

(d) The total deaths in the several "Localities" in columns 9-15 of this Table should equal those for the year in the same localities in Table I., sub-columns *c*. The total deaths at all ages in column 2 of this Table should equal the gross total of columns 9-15, and the figures for the year in column 12 of Table I.

(e) Under the heading of "Diarrhœa" are to be included deaths certified as from diarrhœa, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from

Epidemic enteritis;
Zymotic enteritis;
Epidemic diarrhœa. Summer diarrhœa.
Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhœa;
Choleraic diarrhœa, cholera, cholera nostras
(in the absence of Asiatic cholera).

Under the heading of "Enteritis" are to be included those certified as from Gastro-enteritis, Muco-enteritis, and Gastric catarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths, especially those of infants, under the specific term "Diarrhœa."

Deaths from diarrhœa secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III. and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

JOHN R. R. POLLOCK, *Medical Officer of Health.*

February 2nd, 1903.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

For the Year ending December 31st, 1902.

TO THE
TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the following Report of the Sanitary Work carried out during the past year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 22 in the District. These have been regularly inspected, and are kept in good sanitary condition.

BAKEHOUSES.

These number 28, and are also kept in good order.

SCHOOLS.

These, throughout the District, are well looked after. At CULLOMPTON, new urinals have been built, and a more efficient means of flushing provided.

AT SILVERTON GIRLS' AND INFANTS' SCHOOLS, new drains have been laid, trough closets with automatic flushing constructed, new closet for teachers built, and a good supply of filtered water laid on for drinking purposes.

THORVERTON SCHOOLS.—The new Sewerage Scheme has now enabled a connection to be made from the Lavatories. These are being reconstructed, and the old earth system replaced by ranges of closets, flushed automatically by water laid on from the town stream. A new closet is also being built for the Schoolmaster's house.

UFFCULME.—A more efficient means of ventilation is being considered.

KENTISBEARE.—The floors of lavatories are being paved with brick.

SEWERAGE & DRAINAGE.

THORVERTON.—The new Sewerage Scheme having been completed, the whole of the houses with one or two exceptions have been connected, these are under consideration and will shortly be carried out. Railway Station:—An improved system of drainage has just been completed, and the sanitary arrangements are now satisfactory.

UFFCULME.—The outfall sewer and broad irrigation works have been completed and are working satisfactorily. Flushing tanks have been constructed in Fore Street and Kitwell Street, and various house connections made with the main sewer. Railway Station:—New lavatories are being built and connection made with sewer; a well is being sunk and a pump provided for flushing purposes.

SILVERTON.—New sewers have been laid in Back Lane and Church Row, and various premises connected; others are under consideration.

BRADNINCH.—An extension of the sewer at the west end has been carried out and several cottages connected. At Cholwell the outfall sewer has been extended and a brick tank built to receive the solids.

SAMPFORD PEVERELL.—A section of 6 in. sewer has been laid in Lower Town, and connections made from various premises. A new manhole has been constructed and an alteration made to the sewer in Higher Town.

HALBERTON.—New sections of 6 in. sewer have been constructed at Hill Head and near Halberton Pord and various connections made.

WATER SUPPLY.

BRADNINCH.—A new 4 in. cast iron main has been laid from the reservoir to the Guildhall, and connected to the existing distributing mains. Four fire hydrants have been fixed on the line of route, and a suitable stand-pipe provided for connecting hose in case of fire.

Several connections to private houses have also been granted.

Seventeen samples of water have been analysed, six of which were found bad, in each of these cases action was taken and the supply is now satisfactory.

Certificates of a sufficient water supply have been granted to ten new houses.

DISINFECTION.—Fifty houses have been disinfected after infectious disease during the past year.

NUISANCES ARISING FROM PIGSTIES, DUNG HEAPS, &c.—All cases have been dealt with as necessary and the nuisance abated.

OVERCROWDING.—Eleven cases have occurred in the District; these have been remedied as far as possible. A great difficulty in regard to this matter is that there are so few cottages with three bedrooms, consequently the separation of the sexes cannot effectually be carried out.

DAIRIES.—These throughout the District are in fair condition.

SCAVENGING.—Generally satisfactory throughout. A man has been appointed at Bradninch; this will be an improvement, as in times of heavy rain, refuse is carried into the road gullies, choking them speedily and thus causing a nuisance on the highways.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

In compliance with this Act, I have visited the various Factories and Workshops throughout the District and compiled a list, which has, I believe, been duly forwarded to His Majesty's Inspector of Factories.

I find them kept, generally, in fair sanitary condition; the air space in most instances considerably exceeding the minimum specified in the terms of the Act.

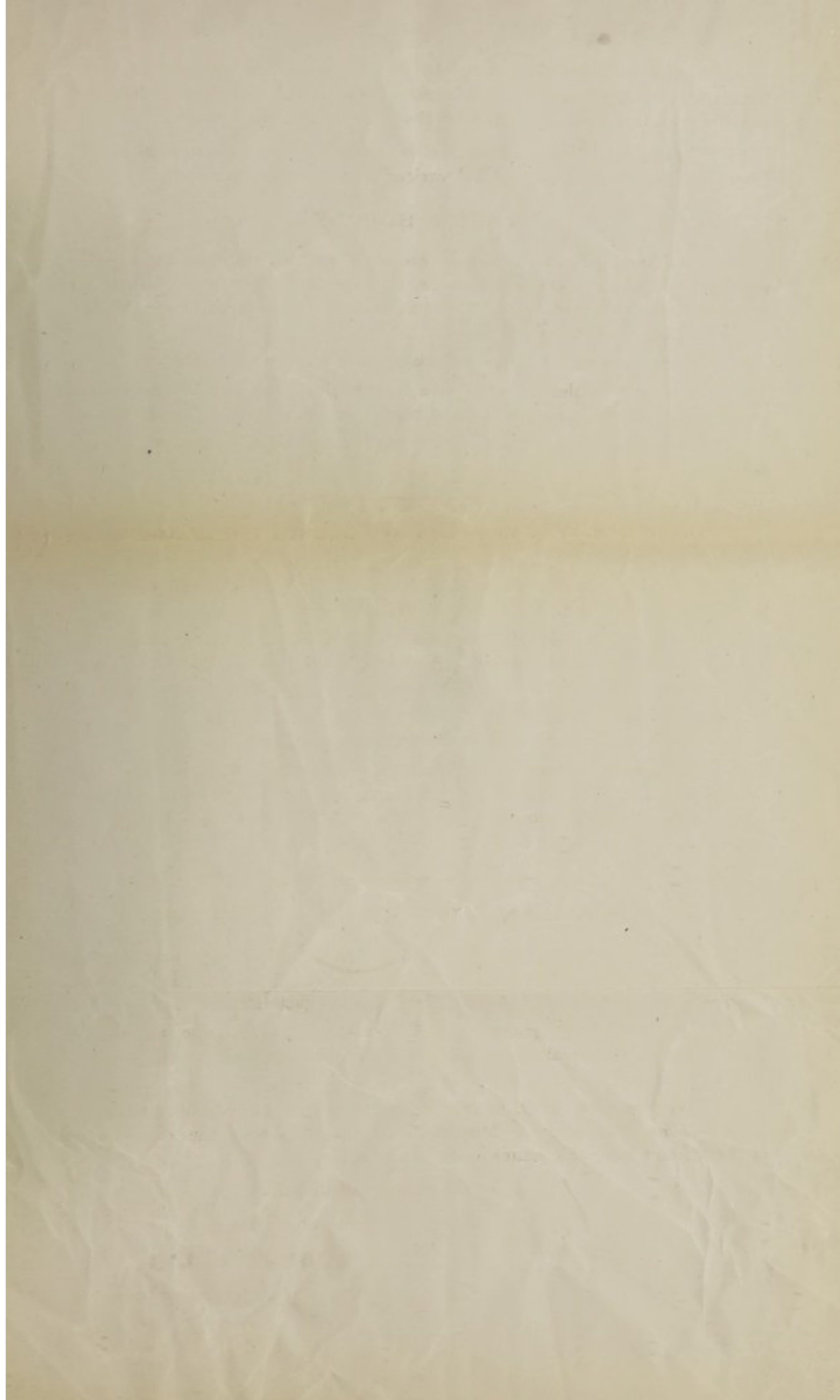
Provision for escape in case of fire have been carried out satisfactorily at the Factory belonging to Messrs. Fox Bros., Uffculme. The other owners in the District have this matter under consideration.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

ROBERT ELLIS,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.



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