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Contributors

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JOHN R. R. POLLOCK,

Medical Officer of Health,

Tiverton Rural District.

❖ REPORT ❖

FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1903.

TIVERTON:

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TO THE

TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Report on the Health of the District for the year ending 31st December, 1903.

Soil and Subsoil of the District.—The general character of the District is hilly, rising in parts to over 800 feet. The more elevated portions of the District are intersected by numerous deep cut valleys which rapidly carry off from the uplands the heavy fall of water which occurs during severe rain storms. The elevation of the country above the village of Blackborough is nearly 900 feet, but with this exception the Eastern portion of the District is the least hilly.

In the parishes of Cadbury, Clayhanger, Oakford, Butterleigh, Huntsham, and Thorverton the soil is of a clayey description. Uffculme has marle, while in the parishes of Cadeleigh, Cruwys Morchard, Bickleigh, Silverton, and Willand a loamy soil is to be found. Sandy soil occurs in Kentisbeare, Sampford Peverell, and part of Thorverton. The soil in Halberton is of a rich nature, in Bradninch and Cullompton it is of a mixed variety and in Loxbeare, Washfield and Stoodleigh it is more or less light.

There are various subsoils in the District, but those most frequently found are marle, gravel, rock or clay.

From the hilly nature of the District, the Land is more adapted to grazing and dairying than to agriculture, and is accordingly used for the former purpose.

Rivers.—The District is traversed by three rivers, viz., the Exe, the Lowman, and the Culm. The two first named rivers are free from all manufacturing effluents, and steps have been taken to prevent the pollution of the Culm by the discharge of the effluents from the factories situated on or near the banks of the river. These factories are as follows:—at Cullompton, one tannery and one paper mill; at Uffculme, a woollen mill; at Hele, a paper mill; and at Silverton, a paper mill.

The **General Health** of the District shows a marked improvement in the 12 months that have passed, the general death-rate having fallen from 13.529 in 1902, to 13.123 in 1903. The birth-rate for the year was 26.312, being higher than for any of the five preceding years.

The number of **Infectious Diseases** notified during the year was 49, *i.e.* 39 cases fewer than in 1902. Diphtheria shows a decrease of 15 cases, and Scarlet Fever a decrease of 11 cases. In 1903 there was one more case of Enteric than in 1902. Out of the 36 cases of Scarlet Fever, 23 were reported from the Cullompton District, and 12 from Bampton, showing that the epidemic of Scarlet Fever in 1902 in the Silverton District and Bampton area had spread over to Cullompton. This year Silverton only reported one case of Scarlet Fever. There were no cases of **Puerperal Fever** notified during the year.

The decline in **Infant Mortality** is worthy of notice, being in 1903 so low as 59.85, whereas in 1902 the rate stood at 81.58. This shows a fall of 21.73, a most satisfactory improvement.

With reference to Infant Mortality in general, I beg to make the following suggestion, viz.—As now-a-days so many mothers are either unable or unwilling to suckle their off-spring, I believe it would be advisable to have cards or circulars printed, and distributed to parents at the time of the registration of a birth, each such card to state plainly the advantage the child derives from its mother's nursing, and at the same time a few simple directions should be given as to the best methods of artificial feeding, to be used in any cases where this may be found to be a necessity. Under the present ignorance displayed in the feeding of young, and delicate children the surprise is not, that the deaths are so many, but rather that they are so few.

There were only 10 deaths registered as being due to **Phthisis**, against 16 in 1902, but taking Phthisis along with **other Tubercular Diseases**, we find that there is only an improvement of 2. The combined figures for 1902 being 20, and for 1903, 18. It is to be hoped that as the public in general begin to have a more definite knowledge of the nature of Tuberculosis that the death-rate from this source will rapidly diminish. It is with this object in view that the District Council have made the offer to the public to disinfect any house where a death has occurred from Phthisis, but unfortunately up to the present, no advantage has been taken of the offer, although in one or two cases disinfection has been carried out privately.

There were only 24 deaths of children under one year of age and of these two were from Premature Birth. No year formerly shows such a low record as this. It is probably due to the cold summer of 1903.

There have been no complaints from any part of the District of scarcity of water during any part of the year 1903.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Before any newly built house can be occupied, a certificate of its fitness for habitation must be obtained from the Council the said certificate only being granted on the recommendation of the Sanitary Inspector.

In some localities of the District there is a decided deficiency of cottage property which tends to overcrowding. It would be a great boon to the country if some means could be devised for erecting more and better cottages, without being an extra burden on the ratepayers, nor a cause of loss to the land-owners.

WATER SUPPLY.

BRADNINCH.—This town is supplied by two closed reservoirs, fed by springs. It will be advisable to replace, as opportunity occurs, the old distributing mains, by new pipes as the existing mains are in bad condition, and are moreover laid so close to the surface that they are liable to be damaged by heavy traffic and other causes.

SILVERTON, has a small spring-fed reservoir.

The rest of the District depends upon wells for its water supply, which is generally sufficient for all requirements, except in the higher Districts, during protracted periods of drought.

The Parish Council of Cullompton have at present under consideration, the question of a water supply for the town.

SEWERAGE.

Thorverton.—The working of the **Irrigation Meadow** has not given satisfaction during the year, owing largely to the guttering not having been properly carried out. The matter has been in dispute between the Engineer and the Council. The work of levelling and guttering the meadow is now to be taken in hand by the Council, who will have the work begun as soon as the weather permits. The plans will be executed in accordance with the views of the Local Government Board Inspector.

The re-modelled school drainage has been connected with the sewer and gives satisfaction, only two cottages remain to be connected.

The Broad Irrigation system is working well at **Uffculme**.

At **Silverton**, three new sections of sewer have been laid, viz., in Back Lane, one; in Church Terrace, one; and in New Court Road, one; and connections have been made with the houses throughout. A closed tank has been constructed on Little Pitt Farm to intercept the solids from this sewer.

The new Sanitary arrangements at **Silverton Girls' School** have proved very satisfactory, but in comparison with these arrangements, those at the **Boys' School** compare very unfavourably.

At **Halberton**, the two sections of sewer which formerly discharged into the mill-stream now discharge into two small closed tanks which have been built to intercept the solids. The effluent is allowed to discharge over a meadow.

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

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

Dairies and Cow Sheds have been found in fairly good condition. Unfortunately the custom of keeping pigs and stable cleanings too close to dairies still continues.

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, and has given very satisfactory results. The number of cases of Infectious Disease admitted to the Hospital during the year was 32. Of these 27 were Scarlet Fever cases; four were Diphtheria and one Typhoid Fever.

Sulphur and lime washing are used for the Disinfection of houses where cases of Infectious Diseases have occurred.

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 AND DEATH RATES.

		1901.		1902.		1903.
Birth Rate	...	25.55	—	24.83	—	26.312
Death Rate	...	14.81	—	13.529	—	13.123
Infant Mortality	...	76.54	—	81.58	—	59.85
Zymotic Death Rate		1.62	—	.0392	—	.328

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector is attached hereto.

JOHN R. R. POLLOCK,

M.O.H. TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT 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 has had alterations carried out to provide for the safety of their workers.

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

There are 28 **Bakehouses** in the District, all of which fulfil the requirements of the Act. There are no underground Bakehouses.

JOHN R. R. POLLOCK,

M.O.H. TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1903 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
1893	16854	478	28.36	41	85.77	241	14.20	..	..	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	112.707	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
1902	15300	380	24.83	29	76.32	193	12.62	..	..	14	207	13.529
Averages for years 1898—1902	15451	391	25.23	37.8	95.573	230.2	14.954	..	..	12.6	242.8	15.704
1903	15240	401	26.312	24	59.85	189	12.40	..	..	11	200	13.123

* 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†).

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 82,000	Total population at all ages	..	15,240	} At Census of 1901.
		Number of inhabited houses	..	3,473	
		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.

There is not any Union Workhouse within the District.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1903 and previous years.

Name of District:—TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.		1.—BAMPTON.				2.—SILVERTON.				3.—CULLOMPTON.			
YEAR.		Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 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>
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
1902	..	3108	115	31	4	2693	108	55	13	9499	157	111	13
Averages of Years 1898 to 1902		3158	96.4	37.8	5.4	3180	104.8	65.2	13.4	9112	190.2	130.8	19.2
1903	..	3077	104	25	5	2663	101	79	12	9500	196	96	7

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 1903.

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.					1	2	3	1	2	3
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.						
Small-pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria ..	5	..	1	3	..	1	3	..	2	3	..	1
Membranous croup ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	4	1	..	..	..	3	..	2	2	..	..	..
Scarlet fever ..	36	1	8	24	2	1	12	23	1	11	16	..
Typhus fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever ..	4	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	4	..	..	1
Relapsing fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
*
Totals ..	49	2	9	30	2	6	15	25	9	14	16	2

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 Isolation Hospital, Tiverton Borough.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

Name of District:—TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT.

(See Notes at Back).

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SURJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN OR BELONG- ING 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 up- wards.	Bampton.	Silverton.	Callington	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Small-pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..
Whooping-cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and mem- branous croup }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croup .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(Typhus .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fever { Enteric	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
(Other continued ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Epidemic influenza ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea. (See notes at back)	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	..
Enteritis. (See notes at back)	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Puerperal fever. (See notes at back) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other septic diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis. (See notes at back)	10	..	..	..	..	8	2	..	8	2	..
Other tubercular diseases	8	..	1	..	3	2	2	..	2	6	1
Cancer, malignant disease. (See notes at back)	13	..	..	..	..	9	4	1	8	4	1
Bronchitis	19	3	3	..	..	1	12	..	12	7	..
Pneumonia	12	..	3	1	..	..	8	1	7	4	..
Pleurisy	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Other diseases of Res- piratory organs }	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	..
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of liver }	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
Venereal diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Premature birth	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Diseases and accidents of parturition }	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Heart diseases	33	..	2	1	2	10	17	1	12	19	..
Accidents	8	1	2	1	..	2	2	4	4	..	1
Suicides	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
All other causes ..	84	17	1	3	..	18	45	15	22	47	7
All causes	200	24	14	8	5	32	97	25	79	96	11

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 II., 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 "Diarrhoea" are to be included deaths certified as from diarrhoea, alone or in combination with some other cause of ill-defined nature; and also deaths certified as from

Epidemic enteritis;
Zymotic enteritis;
Epidemic diarrhoea. Summer diarrhoea.
Dysentery and dysenteric diarrhoea;
Choleraic diarrhoea, 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 "Diarrhoea." Under the heading of "Cancer," "Phthisis" and "Puerperal fever" should be included all registered deaths from causes comprised within these general terms.

Deaths from diarrhoea 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 15th, 1904.

TO THE
TIVERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

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

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The sewers throughout the district are at the present time with one or two exceptions, working fairly satisfactorily.

At CULLOMPTON, the outfall works for more effectually dealing with the solids will be put in hand as soon as the weather permits.

UFFCULME.—It will be advisable to replace the existing old drain at ASHILL, with a six-inch socket pipe sewer, as the present one is frequently becoming blocked.

New Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works have been carried out at BRADNINCH, CULLOMPTON, HALBERTON and SILVERTON.

THORVERTON.—The levelling of the Irrigation Area and other proposed works is postponed until the spring, on account of the abundance of water now flowing over the land.

House Drainage.—Several new systems of drains have been laid down, and new closets built at BRADNINCH, CULLOMPTON, HALBERTON, KENTISBEARE, LOXBEARE, MOREBATH, OAKFORD, SILVERTON, THORVERTON, UFFCULME and WILLAND.

WATER SUPPLY.

The District throughout is generally supplied from private wells; two towns only having a public supply, viz., BRADNINCH and SILVERTON.

The quality of the water is generally good and the supply sufficient.

At BRADNINCH, the new four-inch supply main has effected a considerable improvement in the more equal distribution of the water.

Most of the distributing mains have however been down for many years and are getting defective; they are also laid at too shallow a depth, and are liable therefore to damage from frost and heavy traffic. The House connections are in many cases laid on without having a stop-cock fixed in the street; this renders it necessary in carrying out private repairs, to shut off and empty the section of the main. These are matters which should receive attention in the near future.

At SILVERTON, no private supplies are granted from the town mains.

SCHOOLS.

These throughout are generally kept in fair sanitary condition.

Improvements might however be made in some instances, chiefly UFFCULME SCHOOLS and the Boys' School at SILVERTON.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The number of Slaughterhouses in the district is twenty-two. These have been regularly inspected and are kept in fair sanitary condition.

BAKEHOUSES.

These number twenty-eight, none of which are underground. They are kept clean and in good order.

DAIRIES.

These are generally satisfactory, there is however in some cases a practice of using the dairy as a larder, I have cautioned persons against doing this.

RAILWAY STATIONS.

I find them kept in a clean and satisfactory condition as regards sanitary matters. At UFFCULME, new drains have been laid and lavatories constructed.

DISINFECTION.

This is done by fumigation with Sulphur and Lime-washing.

Forty-five houses have been disinfected during the past year.

Fifteen samples of drinking water have been tested during the year, five of which were found unfit for use. These cases have been dealt with and the supply is now satisfactory.

CERTIFICATES OF WATER SUPPLY.

Certificates have been granted for ten new houses.

SCAVENGING.

Generally satisfactory, at CULLOMPTON however the cleansing of the streets is carried out in a slipshod manner. This is under consideration, and I have no doubt an improvement will be made shortly.

OVERCROWDING.

Nine cases have been dealt with during the year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These are kept clean and in good order. Air space and ventilation is fairly satisfactory, also the sanitary arrangements. Fire exits and an outside iron staircase have been provided at Messrs. Heathcoat's Lace Rooms, Cullompton.

Messrs. Heathcoat are the only employers of Out-workers. I have periodically visited their homes and find them clean and satisfactory.

RIVERS POLLUTION.

The River Culm has been contaminated at times by trade refuse and other matters. Mill Owners have however, taken steps to abate this nuisance which I trust will prove effective.

Some contamination has also occurred by the overflow of the town sewage passing into the river. Care has been taken to prevent this, and the proposed Outfall Works which will be carried out as soon as the weather permits, will I hope, permanently abate the nuisance.

I have together with the Medical Officer made various house to house inspections, and much of the work has been carried out by giving verbal notices.

We have however, issued 50 formal notices, and I have written 230 letters for the abatement of nuisances and carrying out various sanitary work.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

ROBERT ELLIS,

SANITARY INSPECTOR.

REPORT OF THE

Commissioners of the
Board of Education
for the year ending
June 30, 1900

REPORT OF THE

Commissioners of the
Board of Education
for the year ending
June 30, 1900

The Board of Education
has the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of the report
of the Commissioners of the
Board of Education
for the year ending
June 30, 1900.