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TOTNES RURAL DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORTS  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR 1937.

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STANLEY C. JELlicoe,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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# TOTNES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1937.

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Medical Officer of Health: STANLEY C. JELlicoe.  
(Part Time).

Senior Sanitary Inspector: A. F. STEELE, C.R.San.I.,  
(Whole Time). A.M.I.S.E., A.F.A.S.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector: R. J. P. MADGE,  
(Whole Time). C.R.San.I.

Sanitary Inspector's Clerk: W. O. HOLMES.

The Senior Sanitary Inspector holds the special diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute for the Inspection of Meat and other Foods.

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### TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE TOTNES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for 1937 on the health of the Totnes Rural District.

The live birth rate was 10.7, as compared with 12.6 in 1936, the rate for England and Wales being 14.9.

The infant mortality rate was 75.1 per 1,000 live births, as compared with 38.2 in 1936, the figure for England and Wales being 58. The death rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births was 68.7.

The crude death rate for the year was 11.5 per 1,000 estimated resident population, the figure for 1936 being 13.0 and that for England and Wales 12.4. The corrected figure shows a rate of 8.9 as compared with 10.1 in 1936.

**GENERAL STATISTICS.**

Area (Acres) ... ..	80,978
Population—Census 1921 ... ..	11,918
Census 1931 ... ..	12,362
Registrar-General's estimated resident population ...	12,430
Number of Inhabited Houses (1931) ... ..	3,348
Rateable Value ... ..	£71,628
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£271 3 10

The population is chiefly agricultural, and there is no occupation which has any particular influence on health. There is little unemployment in the area.

**VITAL STATISTICS.**

Live Births—	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate ... ..	69	62	131
Illegitimate ... ..	2	—	2
	—	—	—
Total ... ..	71	62	133
Still Births—			
Legitimate ... ..	1	3	4
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—
	—	—	—
Total ... ..	1	3	4
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population ...	10.7		
Birth Rate per 1,000 (England and Wales) ... ..	14.9		
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population—			
Crude figure ... ..	11.5		
Corrected figure ... ..	8.9		
Death Rate per 1,000 of population (England and Wales) ... ..	12.4		
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Childbirth ... ..	—		
England and Wales ... ..	3.23		
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births ... ..	75.1		
All Infants per 1,000 (England and Wales) ... ..	58.0		
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	68.7		



## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

There is a part-time Medical Officer of Health. There are two full-time Sanitary Inspectors, who hold the Sanitary Inspectors' Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute and the Joint Examination Board respectively. The Senior Sanitary Inspector also holds the Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods of the Royal Sanitary Institute. There is a full-time Clerk in the Sanitary Inspector's Office. The Senior Sanitary Inspector also acts as Building and Sanitary Surveyor.

There have been no changes in the services provided in the area under the following heads:—

- (a) Ambulance Facilities.
- (b) Laboratory Facilities.
- (c) Nursing in the Home.
- (d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.
- (e) Hospitals.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### 1. WATER SUPPLIES.

The following is the present position with regard to supplies of water and those contemplated:—

**Ashprington.**—Private supply from a well to four stand-pipes. The Council are considering taking over the supply and its extension and improvement.

**Berry Pomeroy.**—Privately owned pipe supply. Satisfactory.

**Buckfastleigh West.**—Higher and Lower Coombe and Scoriton. Private piped supply. Satisfactory.

**Churston Ferrers.**—Private piped supply belonging to Lord Churston supplies three stand-pipes for Churston Village. Storage is occasionally insufficient at very dry periods and the Council are preparing a Scheme for the provision of a main supply. Part of Galmpton village is supplied from a piped supply belonging to Lord Churston, and the remainder of the parish is supplied from the Paignton Urban District Council's mains.

**Cornworthy.**—A new 3,500 gallons reservoir and new 2-inch mains to supply the east end of the village were put in during the year. The question of improving the supply and extending the main to the west end of the village is under consideration.

**Dartington.**—Piped supply for portion of village at Shinner's Bridge and vicinity. Improvement of supply at Week Hamlet under consideration.

**Dean Prior.**—Water supply from springs piped to the village and a scheme is now under consideration for the improvement of this supply.

**Diptford.**—Piped supply rented from a private owner for village. The supply is satisfactory.

**Dittisham.**—Piped supply from reservoir sufficient except in time of exceptional drought. Question of increased supply under consideration.

**Halwell.**—Gravitation supply from springs collected in small reservoir and piped to village. Satisfactory.

**Harberton.**—Harberton Village: Piped supply from springs. Improvement of this supply under consideration by pumping from the Council's ample supply at Leigh, recently completed for Harbertonford village.

Harbertonford supplied from source at Leigh Bridge by mains and reservoir in village. Scheme recently completed and quite satisfactory.

**Holne.**—Ample water supply piped from spring on Holne Moor, obtained from a disused mine shaft.

**Kingswear.**—Leakages in existing mains have been stopped and the supply was well maintained.

**Littlehempston.**—Scheme prepared. Proposals show a piped supply from two wells.

**Marldon.**—Efficient water supply obtained from the Paignton Urban District Council.

**Morleigh.**—Supplied from two wells in village. Scheme for piped supply under consideration.

**North Huish.**—Water piped from spring to Almshouses and other Cottages. Satisfactory.

**Rattery.**—Scheme for improvement of present supply under consideration.

**South Brent.**—New 60,000 gallon reservoir constructed. Over 60 gallons per head of population available.



**Ugborough.**—Wrangaton: Piped supply from springs on moor, near Golf Course.

Bittaford: Piped supply from springs near West Peeke.

Ugborough: Piped supply from springs in White House Hill, and supplementary supply from Bittaford mains.

In each the supply is ample.

## 2. SEWERAGE SCHEMES.

**Ashprington.**—Sewered to large septic tank. Satisfactory.

**Berry Pomeroy.**—Scattered parish; no Scheme necessary.

**Buckfastleigh (West).**—Extension to Scoriton sewerage system in hand. Remainder of hamlets too small for sewerage systems.

**Churston Ferrers.**—Churston Village has no sewers. A scheme for sewerage the village to the Paignton U.D.C. tunnel sewer is under consideration. Arrangements have been made to connect sewers on the Broadsands Estate with the Paignton main sewer. Galmpton Village is sewered to a disposal works.

**Cornworthy.**—East end of village sewered to septic tank. A scheme for sewerage the west end will be prepared when an improved water supply has been provided.

**Dartington.**—Sewerage scheme and modern disposal works entirely satisfactory.

**Dittisham.**—Two parts of village sewered to discharge into river below level of low tide. Working satisfactorily.

**Halwell.**—Need for sewerage scheme not urgent.

**Harberton.**—Sewered to treatment works and satisfactory.

**Harbertonford.**—System of sewers and new treatment works nearing completion.

**Holne.**—A scheme for extension of existing sewers and provision of treatment works will be carried out during 1938, when approved.

**Kingswear.**—Sewered—discharging to river; satisfactory.

**Marldon.**—Sewerage scheme for the parish under consideration.

**Morleigh.**—This is a very small parish and a sewage scheme is not necessary for the village.



**North Huish.**—A very scattered parish. A few cottages are connected to a sewer which discharges below the hamlet.

**Rattery.**—A sewerage scheme for this village is under consideration.

**South Brent.**—The scheme for the provision of disposal works has been approved by the Ministry of Health and will be carried out during 1938.

**Stoke Gabriel.**—A scheme for modernising the existing disposal works is under consideration.

**Ugborough.**—Both the village of Ugborough and the village of Bittaford are sewered to modern disposal works, which are satisfactory.

**Filham.**—The Council contemplate building in this hamlet, in which case the existing disposal works will require enlargement.

### **Scavenging.**

The Council have under consideration the question of centralising the collection of house refuse. A collection varying between thrice weekly and quarterly is made in the following villages :—Ashprington, Berry Pomeroy, Buckfastleigh West, Churston Ferrers, Cornworthy, Dartington, Diptford, Dittisham, Dean Prior, Harbertonford, Holne, Kingswear, Littlehempston, Marldon, South Brent, Staverton, Stoke Gabriel and Ugborough.

### **Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

#### **Housing.**

#### **Inspection and Supervision of Food.**

These matters are dealt with in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

#### **Schools.**

Inspections of Schools in the Area are made from time to time and representations made to the responsible authorities when defects are found.

### **Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).**

			Admitted to	
			Hospital.	Died.
	Total.			
Scarlet Fever ...	10	9	—	—
Diphtheria ...	1	1	—	1
Enteric Fever ...	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	4	—	—	1
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
All Causes ... ..	73	70
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ... ..	—	—
2. Measles ... ..	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—
4. Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—
5. Diphtheria ... ..	1	—
6. Influenza ... ..	6	2
7. Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	—	—
8. Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..	—	—
9. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	1	5
10. Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	—	1
11. Syphilis ... ..	—	—
12. General Paralysis of the Insane ... ..	—	—
13. Cancer, malignant disease ... ..	5	13
14. Diabetes ... ..	—	—
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. ... ..	7	3
16. Heart Disease ... ..	15	23
17. Aneurism ... ..	—	1
18. Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	5	3
19. Bronchitis ... ..	2	5
20. Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	1	—
21. Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	—	1
22. Peptic Ulcer ... ..	1	1
23. Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years) ... ..	—	1
24. Appendicitis ... ..	1	1
25. Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..	1	—
26. Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ... ..	—	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	2	—
28. Acute and Chronic Nephritis ... ..	2	1
29. Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	—	—
30. Other Puerperal Causes ... ..	—	—
31. Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Mal- formations, etc. ... ..	3	1
32. Senility ... ..	4	4
33. Suicide ... ..	4	—
34. Other Violence ... ..	2	1
35. Other Defined Diseases ... ..	10	3
36. Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..	—	—
Special Causes (included in No. 35) ... ..	—	—



**PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF  
TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATION, 1925**

TUBERCULOSIS.											
Age Periods.				NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
				Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.	
				M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	...	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20	...	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25	...	...	...	1	5	—	—	3	—	—	—
35	...	...	...	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	..	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
55	...	...	...	1	4	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	...	...	...	7	15	—	2	5	1	—	1

The Council's policy of carrying out water and sewerage schemes as rapidly as financial considerations would allow has resulted in further improvements in a number of parishes and, if the present rate of progress is maintained, the whole of the District will be well above the standard of sparsely populated Rural Districts having a very large area in comparison to population.

**AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.**

The Council was one of the most progressive in the County by appointing in August, 1937, a retired Naval Officer as Organiser before any active steps were taken by the Devon County Council. When the County Council subsequently initiated their scheme the Council's Organiser, Lieut.-Com. Miller, R.N., Retd., was taken over by the County Council as Area Organiser for the S. Devon Area (one of eight into which the County was divided). Lieut.-Com. Miller had already prepared and submitted the Council's scheme and the work is now carried on under two Voluntary Organisers, Major W. H. Parkinson for the Western Area (18 Parishes in the S. Devon Area), and Capt. C. F. Taylor for the Eastern Area (4 Parishes in the Torbay Area), both being members of the Council.

By arrangement with the British Red Cross Society classes have been held at Totnes, and up to the end of 1937 39 persons obtained Certificates for efficiency in Chemical Warfare. Five persons, including two of the Council's Officials, also qualified as Instructors.

The training and organisation of Medical Services has not yet commenced but other branches of Air Raid Precautions are well advanced in comparison with the neighbouring Local Authorities.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Mr. Steele and his Staff for their loyal co-operation and ready assistance.

I am, your obedient Servant,

*Stanley Collier.*

June, 1938.

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1937.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Totnes Rural  
District Council.**

I have the honour to present to you my fifth Annual Report.

The following table shows the total number of inspections made in each section of work:—

Housing (Overcrowding) Survey	...	...	5
House-to-house Inspections	...	...	160
Special Inspections	...	...	490
Re-inspections	...	...	530
Visits to works in progress	...	...	468
Slaughterhouse Inspections	...	...	147
Factory and Workshop Inspections	...	...	51
Visits to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	417
Visits re Infectious Disease	...	...	23
Visits to Sewage and Waterworks	...	...	418
Visits to Council's Houses	...	...	542
Visits as Building Surveyor	...	...	292
Total			3,538

### **Rivers and Streams.**

The pollution of rivers or streams in the Area has not existed to such a degree as to render action to be necessary.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no Swimming Baths or Pools open to the public in the Area.

### **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

An infestation by bugs occurred in one of the Council's houses during the year. Spraying with insecticide was carried out by the Council's officers after all woodwork had been removed. The disinfection was complete.

It is worthy of comment that this is the only case in any house in this Area which has come to my notice during the past five years.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

- (a) **Milk Supply.**—There are 458 milk producers in the Council's Area. The work of inspecting all premises and tabulating the details is proceeding and a large number of the buildings have been put into a satisfactory condition. There are still a number of buildings which are below standard.

Samples of milk are submitted to the County Bacteriologist for examination, and a large number of samples are examined under the arrangement made between the Paignton Urban District Council and the retailers in that Area.

The reports on the samples taken were as follows:—

	No.		
	taken.	Passed.	Failed.
Taken in Totnes Rural District	71	34	37
Taken in other Districts	... 629	451	178
	<hr/> 700	<hr/> 485	<hr/> 215

A joint Sub-Committee of members of the Paignton Urban and Totnes Rural District Councils has met on several occasions to discuss the taking of action by both Authorities to improve the standard of cleanliness of the milk supply. I would like to express my appreciation of the assistance received from the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. F. J. Thick.

- (b) **Meat and Other Foods.** Inspections of Slaughterhouses are carried out as other duties permit, and all the slaughtermen in the district have fixed days and times for slaughtering. Only a small proportion of the total quantity killed is inspected, but the Department is notified by the butcher when any doubtful carcasses are in the slaughterhouse.

The carcasses of four pigs were surrendered during the year.



**HOUSING.****1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	91
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	160
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	82
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	136
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	12
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	70

**2.—Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:—**

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	62
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**3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—****A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—**

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

## (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners					Nil
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts	...	...			Nil
C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	Nil
D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	Nil

## 4.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	15
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...			15
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...			88
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	Nil
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	23
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	140
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...			Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report	...	...	...	Nil

**SEWAGE AND WATER WORKS.**

The Council's sewage and water works are visited at regular intervals, and any necessary works carried out immediately.



**COUNCIL HOUSES.**

Regular visits are paid to the Council's Housing Estates for the detection of defects and supervision of repair works.

**HOUSING (RURAL WORKERS) ACT, 1926.**

During the year applications for grants in respect of four cottages were approved by the Devon County Council, bringing the total number of cottages reconditioned under the Act in this District to 40.

Advice as to the works required has been given in a number of cases and 10 further applications have been approved since the end of the year under review.

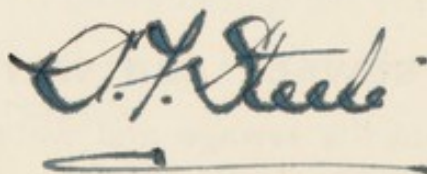
With the carrying out of the works of reconditioning in different parts of the District, interest in the scheme has been maintained and a number of enquiries have been received which will, it is hoped, result in further applications being made for grants.

My thanks are due to the members of the Council for their support during the year. A great deal of assistance and advice is given to me by the Clerk, to whom I should like to express my thanks, and to the other members of the Council's staff.

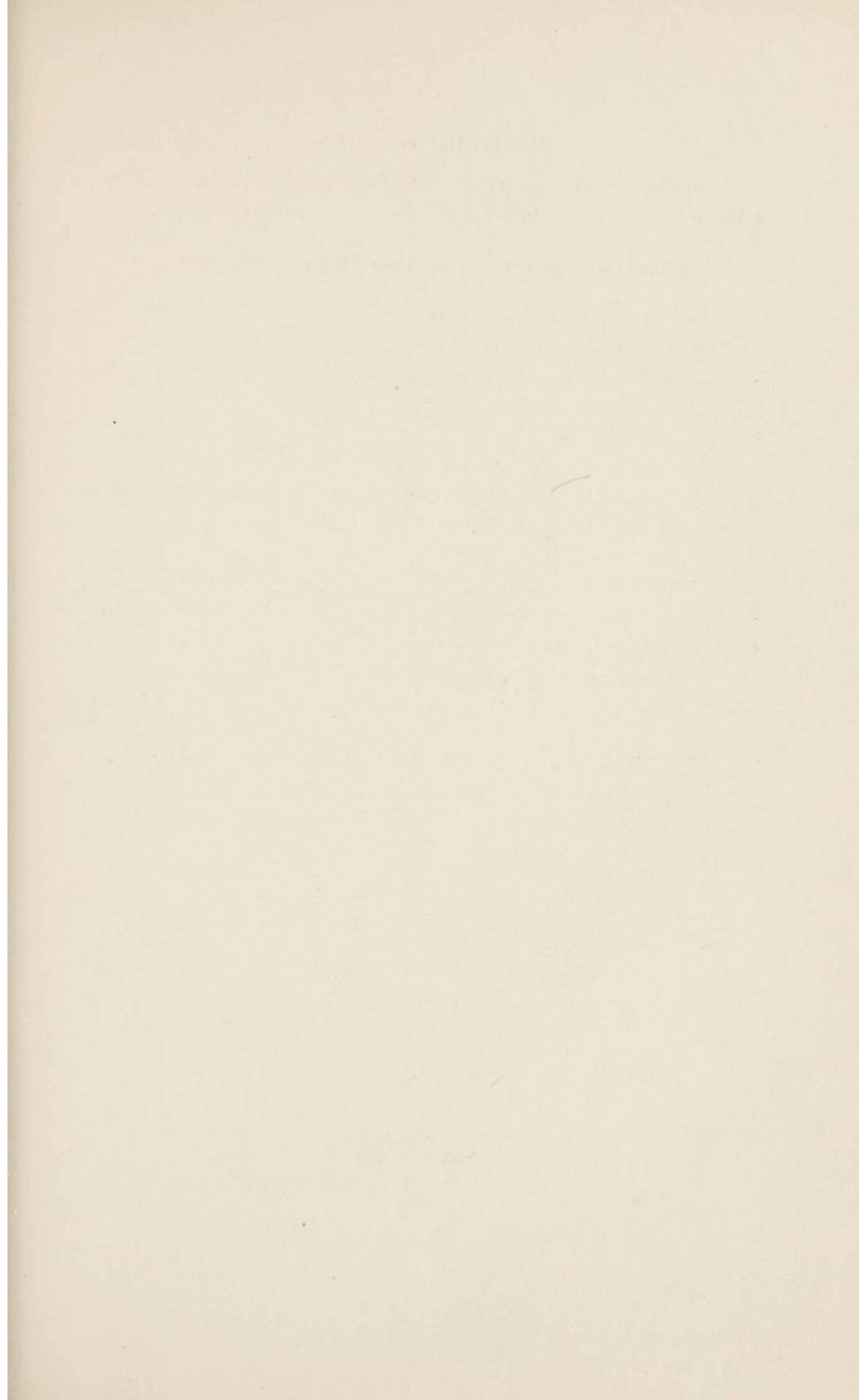
Messrs. Madge and Holmes have given me every assistance in carrying on the work of the Department, and I thank them for their co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. H. Steele', followed by a horizontal line.





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*W. B. Ewald*





