

**[Report 1894] / Medical Officer of Health, Wallasey Local Board / U.D.C. / County Borough.**

**Contributors**

Wallasey (England). Local Board.

**Publication/Creation**

1894

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Wallasey District Council.

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ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

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Wallasey District Council.

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ANNUAL REPORTS

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INSPECTOR OF NURSING

1904

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

# URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF WALLASEY.

Annual Report for 1894, by the Medical Officer of Health.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year, 1894.

At the end of 1893, I estimated the population at 36,000, and at the Estimated end of 1894, I estimate it at 38,000 from the following details supplied to Population me by Mr. Burnley our Accountant.

Number of Inhabited Houses (end of Year 1894) :—

	No. of Inhabited Houses
Poulton cum-Seacombe... .. 3,349	3,349
Liscard ... .. 3,729	3,729
Wallasey ... .. 486	486

Total... 7,564

As seen by Table 1, this gives a population of 38,576, but I prefer to keep it down to 38,000, owing to a constant tendency to over-estimate the total. As mentioned in former reports, the annual increase from 1881 to 1891 was on an average 1,200, while this year, even if the estimate is kept down to 38,000, it amounts to 2,000. Moreover, during the same decade, the average number per house fell from 5·6 to 5·2. For two years back I have taken 5·1 as the average, and next year will probably reduce it to 5·0. Even taking 5·0, the population is 37,820, and this is exclusive of the floating population in the docks and river.

The mean population (at the middle of 1894) is therefore 37,000.

TABLE I.—Showing Increase of Population since Census.

	Date.	No. of Inhabited Houses.	Persons per House.	Population.	
Census,	1891	6,364	5·2	33,227	Mean Population (Basis of Calculation)
January,	1892	6,537	5·2	33,992	
"	1893	6,928	5·1	35,332	
"	1894	7,124	5·1	36,332	
"	1895	7,564	5·1	38,576	

At the beginning of the century the population was 663.

Annual Increase in No. of Inhabited Houses  
No. of Deaths  
Death Rate

Table I. shows an increase of 440 inhabited houses for the past year, compared with 196 in 1893.

The number of Deaths in 1894 was 526 ; in 1893, 641, a diminution of 115, in spite of the great increase of the population.

This gives a Death-Rate of 14·21 per 1,000 per annum, as against 18·05 in 1893—a decrease of 3·84 per 1000. Details as to this decrease will be given in the proper place in the report, but it is well worthy of note here that not since 1873 (twenty one years back) has there been such a low death rate.

Low Death Rate in 1873  
Average Rate about 1851

In that year the Death-Rate was 14·17, and there were only 10 deaths from Zymotics. The population was then about 15,000, and the total number of deaths was 210. In 1851, the average mortality for the previous decade was about 17 per 1,000—far too high for what was then quite a Rural District (Sir Robert Rawlinson's Report).

Death Rate for England and Wales

The Death-Rate for England and Wales in 1894 was 16·6 per 1,000, as compared with 19·2 in 1893. The Urban Rate was 17·1 per 1,000, and in the Rural Districts 15·6 per 1,000. Our Death-Rate was, as above stated 14·21, and is thus 2·4 below the General Rate, 2·9 below the Urban Rate, and 1·4 below the Rural Rate. The English Rate (16·6) is the lowest on record.

Average Rate for last Decade

Our average Death-Rate for the last ten years (1884-1893), was 16·26 per 1,000, so that the rate for the past year is 2·05 below this average.

Births and Rate

The Births numbered 1,003, compared with 1,108 in 1893, a decrease of 135. This gives a Birth-Rate of 27·08 per 1,000, as against 31·21 in the preceding year. The natural increase in the population—*i.e.* the excess of Births over Deaths—is thus 477 as against 467 in 1893. It is evident to every one conversant with the District that our rapid increase of population is thus due to an immigration from other parts—especially from Liverpool and its suburbs.

The English Birth-Rate in England and Wales for 1894 was 29·6 per 1000—the lowest rate ever recorded. Our rate is 2·6 below even this small rate, whereas last year it was 0·4 above the English Rate.

Male and Female Births

Of the Births—516 were Males, and 546 Females.

The annexed Table gives a summary since 1888 of the number of Births and Deaths with the corresponding rates :—

Births in Townships

TABLE II.

	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
Births	895	957	953	994	1078	1108	1003
Birth-Rate	28·41	29·44	29·32	29·67	31·24	31·21	27·08
Deaths	454	520	550	594	535	641	526
Death-Rate	14·41	16·00	16·92	17·73	15·50	18·05	14·21

TABLE III.—Shows the distribution of the Births in the different Townships, since 1889 :—

Births.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
Poulton-cum-Seacombe	487	483	526	599	570	534
Liscard ...	404	407	401	416	463	408
Wallasey ...	66	63	67	63	75	61

This shows that Seacombe has 126 more Births than Liscard, despite a smaller estimated population, as in Table V.

TABLE IV.—Shows the number of Deaths in the different Townships since 1891, with the corresponding rates :—

Deaths.	Poulton-cum-Seacombe	Liscard.	Wallasey.	Deaths in the Townships
1891	275 (—18·39)	285 (—17·22)	34 (—17·00)	
1892	264 (—17·03)	244 (—14·35)	27 (—13·5)	
1893	308 (—19·24)	294 (—16·95)	39 (—17·72)	
1894	250 (—15·06)	248 (—13·70)	28 (—12·17)	

The number of Deaths for the Townships as given above, does not correspond with that given in the large printed sheet, or in the sheet marked **A**, because fatal cases in Hospitals are here referred to the Townships from whence they came.

TABLE V.—Population of the Townships.

	Census 1881.	Census 1891.	Estimated at Middle of 1894.	Population of the Townships
Poulton-cum-Seacombe ...	7,640	14,900	16,600	
Liscard ...	11,612	16,356	18,100	
Wallasey ..	1,940	1,971	2,300	

Full information is given in the large sheet as to the number of Males and Females, the different Ages at Death, the Townships in which the Deaths took place, as well as the Deaths in Public Institutions (Hospitals, &c.) and amongst Non-Residents; likewise as to the number of Deaths in each month and each quarter; with a detailed classification of the different causes of Death. Table A gives Mortality Statistics, apart from Mortality Returns, and is modelled now to suit the information derived from the Infectious Diseases' Notification Act, so as to give the notified cases of each Disease in the different Townships, and the number removed to the Isolation Hospital. It also gives details as to the Population and Births, which are found in the text of my Report. Tables A and B are not printed in the Report.

TABLE VI.—Showing the Mortality in the different Quarters of the Year.

	Quarters :	1st—157	2nd—126	3rd—133	4th—119	Mortality in the Quarters
1892.	"	—109	—172	—179	—181	
1893.	"	—173	—131	—114	—108	

This shows that the Health of the District improved with each successive quarter of the year, being lowest in the 3rd and 4th.

I give next the usual Meteorological Table furnished through the courtesy of Mr. Plummer of Bidston Observatory :—

Latitude 53° 24' 4" North, Longitude 3° 4' 17" West.

Height of Barometer above the mean level of the sea 201 feet.

Meteorology  
of the Year

TABLE VII.

Date, 1894.	Mean Temp. Degrees.	Mean Barometer Inches.	Rain Inches.
January ... ..	39·1	29·768	1·694
February ... ..	42·5	29·924	3·177
March ... ..	45·5	29·911	1·558
April ... ..	50·5	29·845	1·596
May ... ..	49·1	29·955	2·475
June ... ..	57·7	29·990	1·958
July ... ..	60·9	29·862	3·284
August ... ..	58·0	29·829	3·062
September ... ..	54·1	30·188	0·916
October ... ..	49·7	29·906	3·988
November ... ..	47·3	29·891	1·989
December ... ..	43·0	29·965	2·215
			<u>27·912</u>

A comparison between the above table and that for 1893, gives the following results as regards Temperature and Rainfall—the sign + meaning an increase for 1894, and the sign - a decrease for 1894

	Mean Temp. in Degrees.	Rainfall in Inches.
Comparison with 1893		
January	+1·6	+0·227
February	+1·3	+0·304
March	-1·0	+1·027
April	-0·5	+1·096
May	-6·4	+0·818
June	-3·5	+0·413
July	-1·0	+0·148
August	-5·7	+0·726
September	-1·9	+2·485
October	-1·5	+1·348
November	+5·0	+0·569
December	+0·4	-0·816
Total	<u>-13·2</u>	<u>+3·375 inches</u>

This shows that with the exception of January and February in the first Quarter of 1894, and November and December in the last, the Temperature was uniformly lower than in 1893, whereas the Rainfall has uniformly increased with the exception of September and December.

The total difference in Temperature shows a decrease of 13·2°, and in Rainfall an increase of 3·375 inches. Compare with this the decrease in Infantile Diarrhoea and in Typhoid, which will be commented upon in its proper place, whereas the higher temperature in the first two and last two months of the year helped to prevent a great rise in the deaths from diseases of the Respiratory organs.

The next Table gives the Mortality (from all causes) under one year, the so called infant Mortality, which is always looked on as an important index to the healthiness and sanitary condition of a locality.

It also gives the number of deaths under 5 years of age.

TABLE VIII.

Year	Infants under one year.	Rate of Infant Mortality per cent of Deaths.	Rate of Infant Mortality per 1,000 Births.	Under five years.	Infant Mortality
1890	130	23.63	136.4	205	
1891	134	22.55	134.8	217	
1892	123	22.99	114.1	186	
1893	167	26.05	150.7	233	
1894	116	22.05	115.6	192	

The number of Infantile Deaths for the past year was therefore very small indeed—116 compared with 167 in 1893, a decrease of 51, with a correspondingly low rate.

The Infant Mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 Births in 1894 was 137 compared with our 115.6, and the general Rate includes Rural as well as Urban Districts, so that in this important particular, we compare most favourably with the country in general.

I give here the details of Deaths in 1893 and 1894, from the five Diseases most fatal to Infants.

	1893.	1894.	Fatal Infantile Diseases
Diarrhoea	23	15	
Convulsions	22	18	
Bronchitis	16	7	
Premature Birth	18	14	
Atrophy and Debility	36	18	
	<u>115</u>	<u>70</u>	

In these alone there is a diminution of 45.

Of the total number of Deaths, 122 were over 60 years of age, and of these 6 were over 85. Deaths of old people

Only 7 out of the 526 deaths were not certified either by a registered Medical Practitioner or by a Coroner, which gives a per centage of 1.33 uncertified deaths compared with 2.5 for England and Wales. Non-certified Deaths

50 Inquests were held during the year, as against 53 in the previous year; giving a percentage of 9.5 deaths certified by the Coroner, compared with 6.3 per cent. for England and Wales. Deducting 10 drowning cases, the percentage is 7.6. 4 of the drowning cases were non-residents. Inquests and Rules

I now give an analysis of the large sheet, which supplies a complete statement of particulars of all the deaths during the year. The subjoined tabular synopsis gives a useful survey of the different classes of diseases, with the mortality of each, both in absolute numbers, and in rates per 1,000 per annum. It also gives the Mortality of the leading forms under each class with the exception of Zymotics, which are given in fuller detail in the succeeding table. Analysis of Deaths (See Sheet at end of Report)

TABLE IX.

Classes	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
ZYMOTICS ... ..	50—1·53	69—2·05	71—2·05	80—2·25	67—1·81
CONSTITUTIONAL ... ..	77—2·2	85—2·5	75—2·17	102—2·87	76—2·05
Cancer ... ..	17	19	27	24	21
Phthisis... ..	39	39	31	59	43
LOCAL DISEASES ... ..	275—8·0	290—8·6	258—7·47	282—7·94	254—6·86
Apoplexy ... ..	11	24	22	17	18
Convulsions ... ..	21	26	17	23	19
Brain Disease inclu- ding Meningitis... }	14	24	24	38	29
Heart Disease ... ..	48	34	44	49	42
Bronchitis ... ..	57	64	47	45	29
Pneumonia ... ..	38	48	34	33	51
Liver Disease ... ..	7	8	6	7	7
Bright's Disease ... ..	6	3	7	6	5
DEVELOPMENTAL ... ..	98—3·0	76—2·2	86—2·49	113—3·18	75—2·02
Premature Birth ... ..	19	21	25	18	14
Old Age ... ..	33	24	26	45	24
Atrophy and Debility	38	24	24	40	23
DROWNING ... ..	9	14	12	12	10

The first-class Zymotics, with an important decrease of 13 is fully discussed under the Table immediately following.

Under Constitutional Diseases, there was a decrease of 28, and the Table shows under what headings the decrease took place. It will be noted that deaths from Diseases of the Respiratory Organs were practically the same in number. Under Developmental Diseases, there was the largest decrease of all, amounting to 38, chiefly owing to fewer deaths from old age and from Atrophy and Debility.

The deaths from Drowning amounted to 10 as compared with 12 in the two previous years.

The next Table shows the deaths from Zymotics, confining the term to those reckoned as such in the Registrar-General's Returns and in all health reports. The full list of Zymotics is given in the large printed sheet, which will be found at the end of this Report.

TABLE X.—Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.

Zymotic Deaths	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.
Zymotics						
Total ... ..	71	50	69	71	80	67
Smallpox ... ..	0	0	0	0	0	0
Measles ... ..	3	10	4	31	1	8
Scarlet Fever ... ..	15	12	7	3	2	5
Diphtheria and Croup ... ..	3	3	11	6	9	9
Whooping Cough ... ..	19	8	17	7	12	14
Fever (Typhoid) ... ..	12	9	20	20	23	13
Diarrhœa ... ..	18	8	10	4	33	18
Cholera (Simple) ... ..	1	0	0	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 of population	2·18	1·53	2·05	2·05	2·25	1·81
English Rate do.	2·10	2·03	1·83	1·90	2·47	1·76

This Table shows a decrease in Zymotic deaths, amounting to 13, and giving a Zymotic Rate of 1·81, as against 2·25 in 1893.

Our average Zymotic Rate for the last ten years (1884—1893) was 2·03, as compared with 1·81 in 1894, 0·22 lower than the average for 10 years.

The Zymotic Rate in England and Wales was 1·76 per 1,000, as compared with our 1·81, but the general rate includes Rural as well as Urban Rates, and is thus sensibly lowered. Our Rate was thus 0·05 higher than the General Zymotic Rate, which is accounted for by our high Typhoid Rate. Comparison  
of Zymotic  
Rates

The next Table shows where and when the deaths from the principal Zymotics took place, and this should be studied in conjunction with the map, which brings the same thing out in a more striking way, a distinguishing mark being allotted to each disease. Mr. Salmon kindly looks after the preparation and marking of this map in accordance with the sub-joined list.

TABLE XI.—Shows Localities of Fatal Zymotic Cases.

**TYPHOID FEVER.**

(1) January	...	Gladstone Road, Seacombe.
(2) "	...	Water Street, Egremont.
(3) February	...	Mill Lane Hospital from Comley Bank Road, Egremont.
(4) "	...	Eversley Villas, Meadow Street, New Brighton.
(5) June	...	Church Avenue, Egremont.
(6) "	...	Tower Street, Liscard.
(7) "	...	Forwood Cottages, Mariner's Home, Liscard.
(8) July	..	Tobin Street, Egremont.
(9) October	...	Brickfield Cottages, Wheatland Lane, Seacombe.
(10) "	...	Falkland Road, Seacombe.
(11) November	...	Myrtle Grove, "
(12) "	...	Sea Bank Road, Liscard.
(13) December	...	Belle Vue Road, Seacombe.

Localities of  
Fatal  
Zymotics

**DIPHTHERIA.**

(1) January	...	Water Street, Egremont.
(2) April	...	Gladstone Road, Seacombe.
(3) October	...	Mill Lane Hospital from Sandridge Terrace, New Brighton.
(4) December	..	Victoria Road, Seacombe.

**CROUP.**

(1) February	...	Palermo Street, Seacombe.
(2) March	...	Bidston View, "
(3) April	...	Windsor Street, New Brighton.
(4) August	...	Greenfield Street, Liscard.
(5) December	...	Mill Lane Hospital from Hawthorndale Road, Seacombe.

**SCARLATINA.**

(1) January	—	Edith Road, Seacombe.
(2) February	—	Wheatland Lane, Seacombe.
(3) "	—	Wheatland Lane, Seacombe.
(4) "	—	Wheatland Lane, Seacombe.
(5) July	—	Cherry Bank Road, Seacombe.

**MEASLES.**

(1) March	—	Grosvenor Road, Liscard.
(2) April	—	Catharine Street, New Brighton.
(3) May	—	Havelock Street, Seacombe.
(4) "	—	Lingfell Villas, Seacombe.
(5) "	—	Constantine Terrace, Liscard.
(6) June	—	Byron Street, Seacombe.
(7) "	—	Havelock Street Seacombe.
(8) "	—	Swan Hotel, Seacombe.

## WHOOPING COUGH.

(1)	January	—	St. Alban's Road, Liscard.
(2)	"	—	St. Alban's Road, Liscard.
(3)	"	—	Buchanan Road, Seacombe.
(4)	February	—	Shakespeare Road, Seacombe.
(5)	"	—	Tower Street, Liscard.
(6)	"	—	Sutton's Cottages, Liscard.
(7)	March	—	Poplar Terrace, Sanfield Road, Liscard.
(8)	April	—	Greenfield Steet, Liscard.
(9)	"	—	Byron Road, Seacombe.
(10)	"	—	Gladstone Road, Seacombe.
(11)	May	—	Byerley Street, Seacombe.
(12)	"	—	Nelson Hotel, Egremont.
(13)	"	—	Greenfield Cottages, Liscard.
(14)	June	—	Greenfield Cottages, Liscard.

## DIARRHŒA.

(1)	March	..	Fort Street, Liscard.
(2)	July	...	Mersey Bank, Seacombe.
(3)	August	...	Sutton's Cottages, Liscard.
(4)	"	...	Thomas' Buildings, Seacombe.
(5)	"	...	Hawthorndale Road, "
(6)	"	...	Edgmond Street, "
(7)	"	..	Havelock Street, "
(8)	"	...	Milton Road, "
(9)	"	...	Lea Road, Egremont.
(10)	"	...	Milton Road, Seacombe.
(11)	"	...	Grosvenor Road, Liscard.
(12)	"	...	Wheatland Lane, Seacombe.
(13)	"	...	Parry Street, "
(14)	"	...	Busby's Cottages, Field Road, New Brighton.
(15)	September	..	Shakespeare Road, Seacombe.
(16)	"	...	Belmont Road, New Brighton.
(17)	October	...	Village, Wallasey.
(18)	December	...	Church Street, Egremont.

The next table shows the total number of Infectious Disease reported during the year under the Infectious Diseases' Notification Act, with the Townships in which they occurred.

Infectious  
Notifications  
in the different  
Townships.

TABLE XII.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified in the Urban District of Wallasey during the year 1894:—

Townships	...	...	Small-pox.	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas.	Scarlatina.	Typhoid.	Puerperal	
Poulton-cum-Seacombe	{	Under 5 Years.	—	4	—	6	50	—	—	
		Over 5 Years.	1	6	—	34	105	39	1	
Liscard.	{	Egremont ...	{	Under 5 Years.	—	1	—	5	1	—
		Over 5 Years		—	2	—	7	11	10	1
	Liscard ..	{	Under 5 Years	—	2	1	—	11	—	—
			Over 5 Years	—	9	—	7	23	18	—
New Brighton	{	Under 5 Years	—	3	2	—	6	2	—	
		Over 8 Years	—	3	—	6	33	18	2	
Wallasey	{	Under 5 Years	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
		Over 5 Years	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	
Totals ...	{	Under 5 Years	—	10	5	6	73	3	—97	
		Over 5 Years	1	20	—	54	173	86	4 —338	

The last two tables show that Diarrhœa, Whooping Cough and Typhoid were the most fatal Zymotics during the past year.

In examining Tables X. and XI., I will take up the different headings Small-pox. in detail. There was only one case of Small-pox in our district during 1894, fortunately not a fatal one. It was notified in the month of November. He was employed on board a Belfast Steamer, and his duties brought him into contact with a sick passenger bound for Liverpool. The nature of this passenger's illness was unknown at the time, but turned out to be Small-pox; hence the infection. I had the opportunity of seeing the patient at his own house with his medical attendant, and we had him removed to the Hospital in less than 2 hours. His own doctor re-vaccinated all the household, and fortunately no other case was infected from this one. The usual prompt measures for effectual disinfection of the house, and all infected articles were carried out. The value of an Infectious Hospital in readiness for such cases cannot be over-estimated, as without doubt we have repeatedly been able to prevent such cases spreading into an epidemic by such prompt isolation.

Measles caused 8 deaths during the past year, compared with 1 in 1893 Measles and Rates. (which was a quite exceptionally low mortality). They all took place in the 2nd Quarter except one in March. This gives a mortality of 0·21 per 1,000 per annum compared with an English rate of 0·38 per 1,000.

Scarlatina (Scarlet Fever) caused 5 deaths as against two in 1893, which Scarlet Fever and Rates. as in the case of Measles was an exceptionally small mortality. The mortality is 0·13 per 1,000, compared with an English rate of 0·16 per 1,000.

246 cases were notified during the year, exactly double the number in 1893, giving a mortality of 2·03 per cent. of the notified cases—a very low rate indeed. Scarlatina was present with us all the year, though the deaths occurred only in the first half, as seen in Table XI. 56 cases were treated in Mill Lane Hospital, with no deaths amongst these, a fact which speaks very well for the care and attention given to them by the Nurses.

21 cases were treated in 1893 in Hospital.

The sub-joined Table shows the notifications each month in the different Townships, and it will be noted how free Wallasey is in this respect—only 2 Scarlatina cases occurring there.

TABLE XIII.

Typhoid Notifications in 1894.		Jan.	Feb.	March	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
Seacombe	...	2	2	1	4	3	2	5	3	4	6	3	4	39
LISCARD.	Egremont	1	0	0	0	0	3	2	2	0	0	2	1	11
	Liscard Proper	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	3	4	2	18
	New Brighton	0	1	1	1	0	5	2	1	0	5	2	2	20
Wallasey	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Totals		4	4	3	5	5	12	10	6	5	14	12	9	89

Scarlatina Notifica- tions in 1894.]		Jan.	Feb.	March	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
Seacombe ... ..	...	38	34	14	6	6	19	8	6	2	12	7	3	155
LISCARD.	Egremont ... ..	5	0	2	2	2	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	16
	Liscard Proper ...	4	2	1	2	6	1	3	11	2	2	0	0	34
	New Brighton ...	5	12	4	3	4	3	0	2	1	1	4	0	39
Wallasey ... ..	...	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Totals ... ..		53	48	21	14	18	23	11	21	6	15	12	4	246

As usual, careful disinfection of the premises and of all infected articles was carried out by the Board's Officials, and notices were sent to the School Authorities in cases where members of infected households were in attendance at School.

#### Diphtheria and Croup.

Diphtheria caused 4 deaths as against 7 in 1893, and Membranous Croup 5, as against 2 in 1893. This latter may be regarded as Diphtheria, involving the Larynx or upper part of the windpipe, and it is probable that some cases of simple inflammation of the Larynx are notified as true Croup.

So too, there is no doubt that some cases of inflammation of the tonsils and throat are notified as Diphtheria, for it is only quite recently that it has been possible to recognise true Diphtheria by microscopic examination of the secretion, which contains a bacillus or germ characteristic of the disease. There are good grounds for hoping that this terrible disorder will be rendered far less fatal in the future by the use of the substance known as Antitoxin. A report such as this is not the place to describe the nature of this remedy, especially as full details have been given in the public press, but the matter is worthy of a passing reference as bearing on the Public Health.

#### Rates.

In all, 30 cases of Diphtheria were notified, and 5 of Membranous Croup, all the latter proving fatal. The mortality per 1,000 from Diphtheria is 0.10, compared with an English rate of 0.28, but including Croup our mortality is 0.24 per 1,000. The 4 deaths from Diphtheria give a mortality of 13.3 per cent of notified cases, which is very low, and bears out the suspicion that a good many were not cases of true Diphtheria. The English Rate was 0.28

#### Sanitary Defects in Houses where Diphtheria occurred.

A good many sanitary defects were discovered in connection with houses where Diphtheria and Membranous Croup were notified. For example:—

Among the fatal cases of Diphtheria, I may mention the following defects:—(1) An open drain in the yard, with very foul smells from a man-hole over the sewer, immediately in front of the house. (2) Down spout going direct to drain, with open joints (in two houses), and defective putty joint of water closet. (3) Yard drain choked up (4) Insufficient seal of

yard traps, allowing escape of sewer gas. (5) Yard water closet choked, and insufficient water supply, with escape of sewer gas from yard gully. (6) Joints of soil pipe open (in new house), and (7) no air-inlet to drains for ventilation purposes. This last defect was found in two houses recently constructed, the air-inlet having been covered up, and in one of the cases, no shaft had ever been carried up to the surface from the intercepting trap in course of the drain. In one of these the water seal of water closet was insufficient.

It is worthy of note that the cases of Diphtheria did not seem to be connected with school attendance, as was the case in 1893, and as has been so often found in epidemics all over the country of late years.

The school authorities get notification of all the cases where children attend school from infected households, and the children are kept away till danger is over. Schools  
Notified.

Whooping Cough caused 14 deaths as against 12 in 1893, these occurring from January to June. I have often noticed before, as in the past year, that Measles and Whooping Cough seem to prevail at the same time. Whooping  
Cough.

The Death-Rate was equal to 0·37 per 1,000, as compared with a general English rate of 0·39 per 1,000. Five deaths occurred in Seacombe and 9 in Liscard Township. Rate.

This Zymotic disease, in common with Measles and Infantile Diarrhoea, is not notified under the Act of 1889.

Diarrhoea caused 18 deaths compared with 33 in 1893, which gives a rate of 0·48 per 1,000, as against 0·93 in 1893. The English Rate for 1894 was 0·34 per 1,000, or 0·14 lower than ours. It is well worthy of note that only in Diarrhoea and Typhoid have we a higher rate than the general English Rate. Diarrhoea.  
Rates.

Of these deaths, 10 occurred in Seacombe, 2 in Egremont, 1 in Liscard, 4 in New Brighton, and 1 in Wallasey. Localities.

The deaths in Seacombe were all among the poorest property, especially in the vicinity of Wheatland Lane.

Nothing in health returns is more constant than the prevalence of Infantile Diarrhoea during a hot and dry season, while on the other hand a wet and comparatively cold season prevents any excessive prevalence. 1893 and 1894 well illustrate this statement as may be seen from a comparison of the Meteorological tables and the deaths from Diarrhoea.

Influenza prevailed in an epidemic form in the end of 1893 and was continued into the early part of 1894, causing 6 deaths, all recorded during January, since when no fatal case has occurred. This compares favourably with 1893, when 12 fatal cases were registered. Influenza.

No case of Typhus or Cholera.

I am thankful to say that the District has again been entirely free from Typhus, though it still prevails in Liverpool. It also escaped Cholera entirely, though the Inspector had to pay numerous visits to persons coming to our District from ships hailing from infected Ports, as the Sanitary Authority is kept advised of all such by Port Sanitary Authorities throughout the Country.

Typhoid Fever.  
Rates.

Typhoid Fever caused 13 deaths during 1894, a notable decline compared with 1893 with its 23 fatal cases. This gives a mortality of 0.35 per 1,000 as against 0.64 in 1893.

The English Fever rate (which includes Typhus and Continued Fever) was 0.16 per 1,000, so that ours is more than double with Typhoid alone. 89 cases were notified as against 132 in 1893, which gives a mortality of 14.60 per cent. of notified cases (as compared with 17.42 per cent. in 1893 and 32.25 per cent. in 1892), which shows a decided decline in the virulence of the disease.

Typhoid Notifications in 1884.

Table XI shows the localities of the fatal cases with the months when they occurred, and Table XII gives the number of all the notified cases with Townships. I also give in Table XIII. the number notified each month, with their localities.

Table XI shows that of the fatal cases, 5 occurred in Seacombe, 4 in Egremont, 3 in Liscard, and 1 in New Brighton, while Wallasey had no fatal case and only one notified case, (this last probably contracting his disease elsewhere, as he was not working in Wallasey though a resident there).

I have pointed out for some years back, that our Typhoid mortality was excessive, and was the most serious element in the sanitary condition of the District, and it is all the more gratifying to me to be able to record such a substantial decrease in the number of deaths from this disease. It would however be premature to conclude that this decline was a permanent one, as it is never safe to draw conclusions from the statistics of one year. Again as I showed in the case of Diarrhœa, so with Typhoid, the Meteorological conditions were unfavourable to a prevalence of this disease, while in 1893 they were highly favourable. Of course these weather conditions will not of themselves cause Typhoid, but if the poison is present in the soil or air, it produces far more direful effects under such favourable circumstances. Although, however, it is too soon to reckon on a permanent diminution of Typhoid in our District, there are some grounds for hoping such may be the case. First and foremost is the cheering fact that much good sanitary work is being done in the reconstruction of sewers and drains. I need not here reiterate at length my conviction that the state of our old sewers and drains has been mainly responsible for our excess of Typhoid. I am well aware that we get fresh cases imported into our midst, but I believe the poison thus introduced has been enabled to lodge in the drains and sewers and escape into the soil through faulty joints, from which breeding grounds fresh cases have in too many instances arisen.

The reports Mr. Salmon has presented month by month to the Works Committee on the state of the sewers examined or reconstructed bear out these statements in the fullest degree, as all who have carefully read the details will admit, and hence it is I rejoice to see this work being vigorously prosecuted. Mr. Salmon has kindly furnished me with a copy of the work done in connection with the sewers since 1881, but while fully recognising the value of the extensive repairs and reconstructions there recorded, I attach still more importance to the new departure that has been taken during the past year.

A resolution was passed that a systematic and thorough survey of all the sewers should be made, and that a record of the results should be kept not only in writing, but in map form, for which work a special assistant was provided, and in consequence large and most important reforms have already been undertaken. Particulars of these will be given in the Surveyor's Report, and I need not further detail them here. The deposits and stagnation in the sewers, the faulty connection of house drains, the leakages and the catchpits discovered already in these old sewers show it was high time to take this work in hand on a regular plan instead of in a hap-hazard way. Another ground for hope is that I have no localised outbreaks to report during the year as in 1893, and I trust this may continue to be so. These localised outbreaks all took place where there were either blocked or defective sewers. Of course the new scheme will take a considerable time to carry out in its entirety, and will involve no little expense, but I feel confident that all the trouble and expense will be well repaid not only in a diminished Typhoid mortality, but also in fewer cases of epidemic Diarrhoea, and of Phthisis, and in many other ways.

No case of Typhoid has been traced to polluted milk or water supply, although the possibility of this has again been borne in mind. The defects found in the drains and the sanitary fittings of houses where cases occurred were far too numerous, but not so frequent nor so grave as in former years, and were of much the same nature as recorded in previous reports, so that I need not recapitulate them, although I have carefully tabulated them all. Notices were served to remedy these defects, and the Nuisance Inspector's Report will detail the large amount of useful work carried out in his department.

The systematic flushing of house drains has gone on throughout the year, and a special gang of flushers attends to the drains of houses where Infectious Disease is notified, disinfectants being used in such cases.

Mill Lane Hospital for Infectious Diseases has been more largely used than ever, especially for Scarlatina and Typhoid. 99 cases were admitted compared with 62 in 1893, and 39 in 1892. Particulars are given in the following table.

Infectious  
Fever  
Hospital.

List of Cases  
Treated in  
Hospital.

TABLE XIV.—Cases treated in Mill Lane Hospital:

	Small-pox.	Croup & Diphtheria.	Scarlatina.	Typhoid.	Erysipelas.
Poulton-cum- Seacombe }	1	5 (1 death)	22	15	1
Egremont ...	0	1	8	2 (1 death)	0
Liscard proper	0	2	12	5	0
New Brighton	0	2 (1 death)	12	7	0
Walasey ...	0	0	2	1	0
Meols (outside our District.) }	0	0	0	1	0
Totals ...	1	10 (with 2 deaths)	56	31 (with 1 death)	1

It is most pleasing to record that of the 99 cases, only 3 were fatal, viz. : 1 from Typhoid Fever, 1 from Diphtheria, and one from Croup, while no death occurred among the 56 Scarlet Fever patients. I need hardly say how much this speaks for the careful and skilled nursing bestowed on the patients.

The new Pavilion was opened in September, and is most complete in all its arrangements. It contains a Male and Female Ward, each with 6 beds and one or two cots, while a Convalescent Ward is attached to each, capable of being converted into a Ward if occasion arises. In connection with the Male Ward this has already been done on one occasion.

The new Pavilion has so far been given up to Typhoid cases.

To complete the efficiency of the Hospital, I am anxious to see some provision made for cases of Small pox, or Typhus, so as to accommodate these in a building quite apart from the Scarlatina or Typhoid Fever Wards, and so secure complete isolation of these diseases.

Miss Malcolm, the Matron, owing to a severe attack of illness in the end of the year got 2 months leave, and her place was temporarily filled by Miss Franklin who has discharged her duties most satisfactorily. (I have pleasure in stating that our Matron has returned to her duties in January of this year).

Night-Soil  
Collection and  
Disposal.

The collection of night-soil was not satisfactorily carried on during the past year, in spite of all the provision made by the Health Committee with a view to thorough efficiency, but as this whole matter has since the close of the year been again thoroughly sifted, it would serve no good purpose to go into it at present.

The troublesome question of its disposal will soon, it is hoped, be set at rest by the completion of the Destructor, which will be ready in a short time to commence work.

Many further details in connection with Health matters will be found in the separate report made by the Inspector of Nuisances, which should be read along with this report.

TABLE XV.—Vaccination Return for Wallasey District <sup>Vaccination</sup> from 1st July, 1893 to 30th June, 1894.—(*Supplied* <sup>Statistics,</sup> by Mr. Stewart, the Registrar.)

Successfully Vaccinated	...	...	...	928
Died before Vaccination Age	...	...	...	87
Insusceptible	...	...	...	5
Postponed by Medical Certificate	...	...	...	12
Removed and traced, 1	...	...	}	8
"    "    not traced, 7	...	...		
Unvaccinated (Time lapsed)	...	...	...	1
				1,041

This gives a per centage of only 0·8 of the 1,041 born, who have escaped vaccination. While Small-pox has of late been spreading in Liverpool and some other localities, it is reassuring to know that in our district the great safeguard against it is so well utilised.

The next table gives particulars of the amount of water pumped, and of its distribution, as kindly supplied by Mr. Hill, the Water Engineer.

TABLE XVI.

Volume of Water pumped (for one year)	..	...	449,111,342	galls.
Average pumped per pay	...	...	1,230,442	"
Average consumption per head per day	...	...	34·17	"
Divided as follows :—				
Watering Streets and Road-making	...	...	0·19	
Supplied by Meters	...	...	4·18	
Supplied to Shipping	...	...	0·10	
Flushing Sewers by hose	...	...	0·88	
Domestic and other purposes, including				
Drinking Fountains, Gardens, &c., by				
Assessment	...	...	28·82	

The quantity of water used for flushing sewers for the year ending 25th December, 1894, was 12,954,604 gallons, divided as follows :—

Flushing Sewers by Hose	...	...	11,430,604	galls.
Supplied through Automatic Sewer Flushers in St.				
Alban's Road, Belgrave Street, Green Lane,				
Mersey Street, Wellington Road, Wallasey Road,				
Leasowe Road, and Beaconsfield Road	...	...	1,524,000	galls.

The new well in Sea View Road was formally opened on November 17th, and the water from this source has been a great boon to the inhabitants taking the place of the brackish water from No. 1 well, Poulton.

The new supply is pleasant to drink, entirely free from the old salt taste, and is an extremely pure and wholesome water as a beverage.

The Water Committee and Mr. Hill have rendered a most important service to the Sanitary well-being of the district by providing such an abundant supply of drinking water.

I have made inspections during the year amongst the worst class of property in the district, but as I mean to embody the results of these in a special Report to be laid before your Committee at an early date, I need not detail them here.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A. CRAIGMILE, M.A., M.D.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FEBRUARY 11TH, 1895.





# ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1894,

BY THE

## INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WALLASEY URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to your Council my fourth Annual Report of the work carried out under the direction of the Health Committee for the year ending December 31st, 1894. There has been a steady increase in the work, especially in regard to the correspondence and general clerical work of the department.

During the latter portion of the year, I prepared and submitted to the Health Committee, a tabulated statement of the work carried out by this department since its separation, in the year 1891, from the Surveyor's Department. The increase of the operations during the year 1893, as compared with 1892 was 3,130, and as compared with 1891, the return showed an increase of 3,957 operations.

The time of your two Inspectors is fully taxed with the duties that have at present to be performed, and in the case of Health Notices it has been found impossible to make the necessary inspections, so as to overtake the work. It must be borne in mind, that the time of the Assistant Inspector is largely occupied by the Wallasey and Alfred Lairage Inspection, and that in Birkenhead an Inspector is appointed who devotes his whole time to this particular duty. Some idea can be formed of the work carried out, by referring to the inspection and seizure of animal flesh at these Lairages during the past year.

The work of inspection in connection with Slaughter-houses, Dairies, Cow-sheds, Milk Shops, Bake-houses, Canal Boats, and house to house inspection, can only be performed when there is some slight abatement in the general sanitary work and inspections. This matter was fully considered by the late Health Committee, but was ultimately deferred for the final consideration of the future Committee to be formed under the District Council, and who I trust will fully recognise the importance of considering the advisability

of recommending that some substantial and permanent increase be made in the staff of the department, so as to be the better able to cope with the work, and to carry out the sanitary inspections that are so necessary and important in this constantly increasing residential district.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

There has been a slight increase again this year in the correspondence of the department. 706 letters have been written referring to nuisances and other matters, and 1,504 letters received and dealt with.

During the year 696 notices and 73 letters have been written and served to abate nuisances of various descriptions. I should like to point out that a Health notice, in addition to detailing the nuisances that exist, has to contain a short specification of the sanitary work, that in the opinion of the Inspector, requires to be carried out to abate the nuisance in the best possible way. Health notices therefore take considerable time in preparation, as each item has to be carefully thought out; as the Inspector has to guard against putting owners to unnecessary expense on the one hand, whilst on the other hand, he has to be strictly impartial so as to safeguard the health of the occupiers of the houses, the sanitary condition of which he has been requested to report upon.

The opinion of the Sanitary Inspector has been sought by many persons with regard to their house drains and general sanitary fittings.

The following is a tabulated statement of the nuisances discovered and dealt with under the Council's Bye-laws and Public Health Act, 1875.

Houses found in a dirty condition	...	...	...	21
Do. do. in an overcrowded condition	...	...	...	5
Do. do. with defective or insufficient drains...	...	...	...	236
Do. do. with choked drains	...	...	...	254
Do. do. with no supply of water for domestic purposes	...	...	...	19
Do. do. with no supply of water for flushing w.c.'s	...	...	...	53
Do. do. with an insufficient supply of water for flushing w.c.'s	...	...	...	32
Do. do. with defective w.c. putty joints	...	...	...	62
Do. do. with broken or foul w.c. basins and traps	...	...	...	22
Do. do. with slopstone wastes connected direct to main drain	...	...	...	14
Do. do. with bath, lavatory, pantry and scullery waste pipes untrapped, allowing foul air to enter the house	...	...	...	76
Houses found with bath, lavatory, pantry and scullery waste pipes requiring repairs or rearrangement	...	...	...	72
Houses found with soil pipes requiring ventilation, repairs or rejoining	...	...	...	62
Houses found with defective or insufficient bath, lavatory, pantry, scullery, yard or w.c. traps	...	...	...	266

Houses found with waste pipes and yard gully traps badly arranged ... ..	41
Houses found with defective privies or w.c.'s requiring reconstruction, repairs or cleansing ... ..	150
Houses found with surfaces of yards and passages requiring re-tiling ... ..	143
Houses found with damp walls ... ..	7
Do. do. with roof gutters and downspouts connected direct to the main drain or requiring repairs ... ..	95
Houses found with defective roofs ... ..	13
Do. do. with defective w.c. flushing cisterns... ..	46
Do. do. without proper and sufficient ash-pits ... ..	78
Offensive accumulation found requiring removal ... ..	110
Do. ponds found requiring cleansing ... ..	4
Animals found kept so as to be a nuisance ... ..	19
Certificates given for sanitary work executed under notices ... ..	8
Do. and letters written with reference to meat seized ... ..	27
Nuisances reported to Health Committee ... ..	253
Matters referred to other Departments (exclusive of 827 ash-pits)	305
Special reports made with regard to the sanitary condition of premises... ..	14

### PROSECUTIONS.

During the year informations have been laid against the following persons for contravening the Council's Bye-laws, made with respect to Nuisances, and also under the Public Health Act, 1875. :—

George Smith was summoned for keeping pigs within 60 feet of a dwelling-house in contravention to the Council's Bye-laws.

The Magistrates granted an order for the removal of the pigs within seven days. The order being complied with the case was dismissed on payment of costs.

A summons was issued against John Rees, Birkenhead, being agent for No. 60, Wheatland Lane, Seacombe, (Byrom Dairy in the occupation of J. Atkinson), for failing to comply with a Health Notice to strip and clean the house walls and ceilings. In this case a fine of 40s. and costs was imposed and an order made for the abatement of the nuisance. The work was immediately carried out.

A summons was issued against Mary Parry, of New Brighton, for failing to abate a nuisance caused by the choked and defective condition of the water-closet drain at 9, Catherine Street, New Brighton. A fine of 10s. 6d. and 8s. 6d. costs was imposed, and an order made for the abatement of the nuisance. The defects were remedied forthwith.

## SPECIAL COMPLAINTS.

578 special complaints have been received and dealt with during the year. In 458 cases, cause for complaint was found to exist, and notices were served to remedy sanitary defects. In 93 cases the matter complained of was not of sufficient importance for a notice to be served on the owner, and in 36 cases the nuisances complained of were due to the tenants neglect to keep the yard gully traps free from deposit. In these cases the tenant was requested to abate the nuisance.

## DRAIN TESTING.

The Grahtryx testing machine and smoke rockets, have been of much service to the Inspector, by indicating the position of badly jointed drains and defective sanitary fittings. In this way the apparatus has been used successfully in 70 cases.

## OFFENSIVE PRIVIES CONVERTED INTO WATER-CLOSETS.

During the year the offensive privies and ashpits attached to the following houses have been converted into proper and sufficient water-closets; earthenware basins, traps, flush pipes, compound flushing cisterns, water services and branch drains, have been laid in connection therewith.

The ashpits have been raised to the level of the ground adjoining and concreted, and the bottom of the pit flagged. The ashpit sides have been cemented, and the whole of the pit properly covered and ventilated.

The houses referred to are as follows :—

Nos. 1 to 47,	Cherrybank Road,	Seacombe.
Nos. 2 to 24,	Do.	Do. Do.
Nos. 7, 13, and 15,	Ashville Road,	Do.
Nos. 2 to 24,	Do	Do. Do.
Nos. 36 to 54,	Do.	Do. Do.
Nos. 37 to 41,	St. Alban's Road,	Liscard.
Abbot's	Cottages,	Wallasey Village.
Mason's	„	„
Mission	„	„
Manor	„	Liscard.
Sutton's	„	Upper Brighton.

## SCOURING TANK AT EGREMONT FERRY.

During the summer months many complaints were made of the offensive smells emanating from the iron gratings situated over the large flushing tank that is built under Egremont Ferry. I made an Inspection and found that a large deposit of suspended particles, from the body of sea water retained in

the tank during the ebb of the tide, and used for scouring the sand from the sides of the slipway, had taken place. The matters had been gradually accumulating for many years, and the whole deposit had become decomposed, giving off very offensive smells after the sea water had been allowed to drain off from the tank.

I communicated with the Ferry Manager, and he at once set a gang of men to remove the offensive matter and to cleanse the tank. No complaints were received afterwards, and no offensive smells were noticed.

#### OFFENSIVE POND.

The large and offensive pond that existed for many years on the waste land at the south-west end of Wheatland Lane, Seacombe, has been filled up, and the offensive water drained off.

#### CARAVANS, TENTS, AND SHEDS ACT.

During the year several caravans, used as dwellings, have been inspected as to their condition and cleanliness. Enquiries were also made as to disposal of refuse and the general health of the inmates.

#### BACK PASSAGES.

I would respectfully and earnestly desire to draw the attention of the Council to the condition of the Courts and Passages throughout the District, and I do so with some diffidence, as the matter is not such as comes entirely within the scope of my own particular department. I nevertheless, feel that the subject is of such an important nature, that I trust I may be pardoned with regard to any remark I may make thereon.

By section 28 of the Wallasey Local Board Act, 1890, the Council is empowered to give each occupier, whose house adjoins a back passage or court, 24 hours written notice to sweep and clean it, and in default to carry out the necessary cleansing themselves and to recover the expenses incurred thereby. on the first instance, the correct name of each occupier whose premises abut In the particular passage, has to be obtained, (this in itself, is often a most tedious and difficult job), and notices are then prepared and served. If these notices are not complied with, the work is executed and the matter reported to the Council for proceedings to recover the expenses.

This procedure takes up a deal of time, is not so speedy and efficient, and is much more costly than if our own Scavengers were instructed to sweep and clean all passages and courts, where complaints are received from adjoining occupiers, or where they are found by your Sanitary Inspectors in a filthy and insanitary condition.

By a slight increase in the number of scavengers at present employed by the Council, and a re-arrangement of their respective Districts, I think this work could be easily carried out.

Work of this description can undoubtedly be more effectually and readily executed by the Council's own Scavengers, than by ordinary householders—in fact, I know of no case where occupiers sweep or clean the back passages, and as a result, some of them become deposits for all sorts of offensive matter, which constantly accumulate, and in time presents more the appearance of an elongated ashpit, than an approach to any particular building.

By the Council's Bye-Laws made with respect to nuisances, power is given to compel occupiers to remove snow *only* from the pavements or footways, fronting or abutting on the Street; no mention is made of sweeping or otherwise cleansing these street pavements. As all such passages are defined as "Streets," for the purposes mentioned in the Act, it seems to me only reasonable that the Council's Scavengers should carry out the necessary sweeping and cleansing of these streets, otherwise known as back passages.

In conclusion, I would only wish to add, that many and grievous are the complaints received by me with regard to the condition of the back passages, and I trust the Council will complete the good work they are at present carrying out of flagging and channelling, by directing that the whole of the courts and passages throughout the District shall be cleansed by the Council's own scavengers, whether they consist of what is known as through passages or not, as I feel confident that nothing will tend so much to improve the health and sanitary condition of this district, as a thorough system of scavenging the various back passages, courts and ashpits—and this can only be accomplished by workmen acting under the direct instructions of the Council's own staff.

#### SANITARY CONDITION OF LICENSED HOUSES.

During the year I experienced so much difficulty in getting the owner of the licensed premises known as the Egremont Tap, Tobin Street, to carry out certain alterations and repairs to the sanitary arrangements connected therewith that I considered it necessary to communicate with the Licensing Justices thereon.

This appears to have resulted in a general inspection by the Superintendent of Police of the sanitary arrangements of many of the Licensed Houses situated in the District, and in September I received a report from the Clerk to the Licensing Justices, with a copy of a report indicating the defects discovered. This resulted in a further inspection by myself, and in consequence, improvements to the sanitary fittings and conveniences were carried out at the following Licensed Houses:—

Commercial Hotel,	New Brighton.
Egremont Tap	Egremont.

Railway Hotel.	New Brighton.
Commercial Beerhouse,	New Brighton.
Prince Alfred Beerhouse,	Seacombe.
Victoria Vaults,	Seacombe.
Perch Rock Hotel,	New Brighton.

### SANITARY CONDITION OF SCHOOLS.

The sanitary arrangements attached to many of the Public Elementary Day Schools have also received attention. The following work has been carried out.

#### ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL, SEACOMBE.

A large and offensive ashpit and privy has been abolished and a proper and sufficient trough water-closet, automatically flushed, has been fixed, and I am glad to say that so far, the apparatus is acting well. It is a matter for regret that the ashpit was not filled up and concreted at the time this work was carried out.

#### ST. JOHN'S SCHOOLS, LISCARD.

A large and offensive privy and ashpit has been abolished and four complete water-closets and lavatory accommodation have been provided at these schools. The floor of the lavatory has been thoroughly laid and cemented, and a new ashpit provided at the rear. Repairs to gutters and spouting has also been carried out.

I first drew the attention of the School authorities to the condition of the sanitary conveniences in November, 1891, and it was not until the school was transferred to the Trustees of St. Mary's Church, that I was successful in getting the work, that has been so necessary, carried out.

#### ST. JAMES' SCHOOLS, NEW BRIGHTON.

Considerable improvements have been effected at these schools, both as regards the accommodation and the sanitary conveniences. The old and insufficient closets and urinals, the automatic flushing tipper of which, was constantly out of repair, have been abolished, and two entirely new ranges of trough water-closets, automatically flushed by means of a large syphon tank, provided in lieu thereof.

In addition the old traps provided for draining off the storm water from the surface of the play-grounds have been removed, and proper earthenware gully traps fixed.

## INSANITARY PROPERTY.

## BREWER'S BUILDINGS.

At the commencement of the year I made a thorough inspection of the property known as Brewer's Buildings, Mount Pleasant Road, Liscard.

The property in question consists of eighteen, back to back, three-roomed houses, without means for through ventilation.

The sanitary conveniences in connection therewith consist of eighteen badly constructed and offensive privies and ashpits, in a very defective condition, and situated at the farther end of the forecourts.

Water is supplied to the tenants of the houses by means of stand pipes, situated in each court. Slop water is discharged into channels or gullies immediately opposite to each court-house.

Owing to the defective condition of the sanitary arrangements I was obliged to serve notices for the reconstruction of the greater portion of the privies and ashpits, and I suggested to the Agents at the same time, that it would be a much better plan to rearrange the property, so as to form small separate Cottages, rather than go to the expense of reconstructing and converting into proper and sufficient water-closets the present eighteen offensive privies and ashpits. After several interviews with the Owners and their Builder, the Owners decided, that provided the consent of the Council could be obtained, they would carry out my suggestions.

In the rearrangement it is proposed to demolish the present offensive privies and ashpits and to remove all offensive matter from the site. The main division or back-to-back wall of each house will be drawn and door-openings formed, so as to convert two of the present houses into one small, six-roomed cottage, with through ventilation by means of the door-openings. Each house will be provided with a proper and sufficient water-closet, sink trough, waste pipe, gully and water service.

A properly constructed, covered and ventilated ashpit will be provided at the end of the western forecourt.

A properly constructed, trapped and ventilated main drain of 9-inch earthenware pipes will be laid through the yards, and each cottage will be separated by means of a party wall built across the eastern court that will then communicate with the rear of the houses.

A large slate storage cistern will be provided so as to retain sufficient water for flushing water-closets during the time the service is turned off from the Council's mains.

I submitted the plan and specification to the Health Committee and referred to this work in detail; the Committee decided to refer the matter to the Works Committee for their consideration, and the latter Committee finally agreed to allow the proposed work to be carried out.

Unfortunately this resolution was not arrived at until late in the year, so that when I communicated the Committee's decision to the Owners, they were anxious to allow the work to stand over until the spring. Hence it is a matter for regret that so far no practical result has attended my endeavours, but I have every hope that before the close of the present year, 1895, the insanitary property known as Brewer's Buildings will cease to exist, either by the present houses being converted into through dwellings, or by an entire new row of sanitary cottages erected in their place.

#### BURNABY STREET.

During the year I prepared and submitted to the Health Committee, a special report with regard to the sanitary conveniences attached to the houses, Nos. 1 to 51, Burnaby Street, Egremont.

I found that the first five houses have provided for their use three trough water closets, situated in a common apartment adjoining the house No. 1. The floor of this apartment was kept fairly clean and well powdered with carbolic powder.

In one case the trough water closet seat required to be rehinged. The houses Nos. 11 and 13, were found to have one water closet for the service of both, which is situated between the two houses, and is kept in good order and condition by the tenants.

The houses, Nos. 15 to 25, use an iron trough water closet, with two seats, recently constructed in compliance with the Health Committee's notices.

The occupier of the house No. 25, adjoining this trough water closet, complained of the smells from the offensive matter being allowed to remain too long in the trough, and that the atmosphere of the house was very offensive, during the process of emptying and cleansing. From enquires made, I understood the trough was emptied once per week only, I therefore suggested, that if possible, it should be emptied and filled with fresh water daily, or at the least every other day. The floor of this trough water closet apartment had been recently swept and powdered.

The houses No. 27 to 43, have a separate water closet for the use of each house. In this case 10 water closets are grouped together, and are situated in the centre of the block, of houses (Nos. 33 and 35), for the use of which they are provided. In eight cases the water closets were kept reasonably clean and in good order, but in the remaining two cases, those attached

to houses Nos. 41 and 43, the basins were found choked, owing to the careless discharge of slop-water and refuse. In this case I discovered that the tenants had lost their keys, and the doors had to be burst open, allowing the public free access thereto. Notices were served on the Agent, and the drains were cleared, and the water closet fittings and doors repaired. A notice was also served to form a properly dished stone and channel, under and in connection with the stand pipe supplying the houses with water, so as to drain off the waste and slop water, that was discovered lodging on the footway in front of these houses.

The back main wall attached to many of these houses was found in a very damp state, owing to the defective condition of the gutters and down spouts at the rear. Notices were served and new gutters and down spouts fixed, and the dampness is now drying out of the house walls.

The houses Nos 45 to 51 have separate water-closet accommodation which is kept in a very fair condition.

The waste water from the houses Nos. 27 to 51 is discharged into the road channelling, and drains down this channel for some distance into two of the Council's road gullies.

This road channel, opposite to Nos. 35, 37, 43, 45 and 47, was found in a defective and uneven condition, allowing slop water to lodge on the surface thereof. This channelling was relaid in parts and repaired where found defective.

#### FIELD COTTAGES.

A special inspection and report was prepared and submitted during the year with regard to the courts and passages attached to the houses known as Field Cottages, Liscard. In my inspection I found that the main passage and adjoining court passages had defective and uneven surfaces, allowing offensive water to lodge, and there is no adequate provision in some parts of the main passage to allow of this offensive water being easily brushed away into a gully or drain.

When this matter was reported to the Health Committee, some months ago, I inspected the passages and reported the condition thereof to the Surveyor. Since this time the usual notices have been served upon the Owners, and plans and specifications prepared for flagging and channelling the main court and adjoining passages, and from enquiries made I understand the necessary work will be carried out shortly.

I consider the best means for dealing with the offensive matters that constantly accumulate in the courts, passages and sanitary conveniences would be for the man employed in scavenging Liscard Road to sweep the passages and sanitary conveniences each day, first thing in the morning.

## BRIGHTON PLACE.

During the year frequent inspections of Brighton Place, Seacombe, have been made. At the commencement of the year notices were served on the owners to cleanse and limewash the houses and to repair sanitary fittings. The requirements of these notices were carried out.

In several cases over-crowding has been found to exist, and notice was served on the occupiers to abate the nuisance.

The houses situated on the south side of the court were put into good order some few months ago at a cost of about £5 per house.

Frequent stoppages having taken place in the yard drains, an examination was made of the main passage sewer, and it was found to be in a very defective condition. A new branch sewer has now been laid in from the sewer in Victoria Road, and the yard drains connected thereto.

Another recent inspection was made of the court and houses, with a result that notices have again been served to limewash and repair the houses and various sanitary fittings in connection therewith.

## MASON'S COTTAGES.

The back-to-back houses known as Mason's Cottages, Sandy Lane, Wallasey, have been thoroughly examined during the year.

It was discovered that two of the houses situated in the western fore-court had been converted into stables for donkeys by some of the adjoining occupiers, who were renting the two cottages entirely for this purpose. The sanitary conveniences consisted of four badly constructed offensive privies and ashpits. The surfaces of the courts were very uneven, badly flagged, and insufficiently channelled, allowing storm and slop water to lodge on the court surface and become offensive.

Notices were served on the owner, and after some considerable delay, I ultimately succeeded in getting the eastern and western courts properly tiled and channelled with blue, hard surface bricks, so arranged as to drain off all storm and slop water into the main channels and gullies provided to receive it. The four offensive privies were converted into proper and sufficient water-closets. The ashpits were raised to the level of the ground adjoining, the bottoms flagged and the sides cemented, and each pit was properly covered and ventilated.

Notices were also served on the donkey owners, and the animals were immediately removed and the cottages cleansed and closed.

I need hardly say that a great improvement in the place has been effected.

### THE BARRACKS.

The Sanitary conveniences attached to the back to back houses, known as the Barracks, Withens Lane, Liscard, have been thoroughly reconstructed. The original conveniences consisted of the old fashioned privy and ashpit, and as this became offensive, the privy was filled up and a patent water closet apparatus substituted. This consisted of a ten feet length of 5 inch iron pipe, with four straight junctions, on which were set the ordinary cottage water-closet basin.

The discharge end of the main iron pipe was constructed U shape, with gun metal joints at the sides. This U shaped outlet was inverted by means of chain gear, and the apparatus filled with water from a large supply cistern.

The apparatus worked well for a short time, but as the U shaped portion had to be raised and lowered each time the contents of the apparatus was discharged, and raised when refilled with water, it was found the joints soon gave way and allowed the water to drain off improperly from the fittings, which soon became choked. Notices were repeatedly served on the Agent to repair the apparatus, but it was at last found that the repair would only last for a week or two. I made a thorough examination of the apparatus and interviewed the Agent thereon, and advised him to remove this objectionable fitting and to substitute simple earthenware channels, laid upon a bed of concrete and dressed up in cement, the end to be squared and dressed up with cement, and the outlet to be a brass ground plug and socket joint, with lifting rod attached; each seat to be hinged and arranged to open its whole width, and the trough to be filled with water from the present cistern. I prepared a rough plan and section for the tradesman's guidance, and this suggestion was ultimately carried out.

I have made repeated inspections and enquiries since the work was completed, and find the appliance is working well and easily managed.

### SUTTON'S COTTAGES.

Two houses at Sutton's Cottages, New Brighton, have been thoroughly repaired, limewashed and repapered, and a proper drain and dished gully trap have been laid to receive and convey all slop water from the cottages into the Council's sewers. The offensive privies and ashpits have been abolished and proper earthenware basins, traps, fittings and branch drains laid in connection therewith. The ashpits have been reduced in depth and flagged, and properly covered and ventilated.

### MISSION COTTAGES.

The offensive privy and ashpit attached to the Mission Cottages, Wallasey, have been converted into a proper and sufficient water-closet and ashpit.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS AMENDMENT ACT, 1890.

## SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

During the latter portion of the year I recommended that notices of the following description be printed and posted up in all the sanitary conveniences throughout the District.

## NOTICE.

Any person who injures or improperly fouls any water-closet used in common by the occupiers of two or more separate dwelling-houses, or anything used in connection therewith, shall for every such offence be liable to a penalty not exceeding 10s. ; or if any such water-closet or the approaches thereto, or the walls, floors, seats, or fittings thereof, are in the opinion of the Sanitary Inspector in such a state or condition as to be a nuisance or annoyance to any inhabitant of the District for want of the proper cleansing thereof, such of the persons having the use thereof in common as aforesaid as may be in default, or in the absence of proof satisfactory to the Court as to which of the persons having the use thereof in common is in default, each of those persons shall be liable to a penalty of 10s., and to a daily penalty of not exceeding 5s.

Nuisances and complaints to be reported to the Sanitary Department, Public Offices, Egremont.

These notices have been obtained and will be posted up in the course of a few weeks.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875,

AND

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.

During the year, 371 cases of Infectious Disease have been visited and inquired into.

In all notified infectious cases, the Inspector has visited the house as promptly as possible, and examined the Sanitary arrangements, and has also ascertained that precautions were being taken by the occupier to prevent the spread of such disease.

The various yard drains have been thoroughly flushed with the Council's hose pipe, and a small quantity of carbolic acid poured down the various yard gully traps.

88 notification have been forwarded to the Head Master's of the various Schools, where school children have been discovered ill from infectious disease, members of the same family or residing in apartments in the same house.

About the beginning of March, numerous cases of Scarlet fever were notified; with the large number of notifications received about this time, and the general nuisance work of the Department, it was found impossible, in cases where children from infectious houses were attending school, to notify the School Authorities with such promptitude as heretofore.

I therefore suggested, that a circular letter of the following description should be forwarded to the occupier immediately the case was notified by the Medical Attendant.

### NOTICE.

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INFECTIOUS DISEASE (NOTIFICATION) ACT, 1889.

WALLASEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,

SANITARY DEPARTMENT,

EGREMONT, CHESHIRE.

To

I beg to give you notice that a case of infectious disease, viz :—exists at your house.

1st.—Strict precautions are to be taken against spreading the infection by exposing the patient or infected articles of clothing or bedding, until disinfection has taken place.

2nd.—The Medical Attendant's advice, with regard to isolation and disinfection to be strictly enforced.

3rd.—No member of the household must be allowed to attend school without a Medical certificate.

4th.—The Sanitary Inspector will visit the house as soon as possible, and examine the Sanitary arrangements.

5th.—After the expiration of six weeks (unless the Medical Attendant deems it necessary to do so before) the Sanitary Inspector will call and remove the infected bedding and clothing for disinfection, and will stove the rooms in which the patient has been confined.

I am,

Yours obediently,

By these means the occupier is notified of the infectious nature of the disease, and the precautions to be taken. In addition to the notice, a printed form of directions for preventing the spread of infectious disease, is also forwarded.

## CHOLERA ORDER.

A number of notifications were received during the year from the Liverpool Port Sanitary Authority, in accordance with the Local Government Board's Order with respect to Cholera. The necessary enquiries were made in each case, and in one or two instances, owing to the persons so notified being unwell at the time of the Inspector's visit, the case was reported to the Medical Officer of Health.

## DISINFECTION.

During the year both disinfecting vans have been kept constantly at work removing infectious articles to the disinfecting station at Mill Lane, and returning the articles after disinfection. All infected houses have been thoroughly disinfected.

No. of houses disinfected	...	...	...	276
No. of beds and mattresses	...	...	...	670
No. of articles of bedding, clothing, &c.			...	4,353

## PROSECUTIONS.

During the year informations have been laid against the following persons for contravention of the infectious diseases prevention clauses of the Public Health Act, 1878, and the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889.

James Pemberton was summoned for failing to notify a case of scarlatina to the Local Authority, in accordance with the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889.

The defendant's son was discovered in the public street during the period of desquamation. Mrs. Pemberton appeared and pleaded ignorance of the requirements of the act and the infectious nature of the disease.

A fine of 5s. was inflicted in this case.

Cecil Dawson Hoskins was summoned for transmitting and exposing in the public street, articles of bedding, clothing and furniture, which had been exposed to infection from scarlatina, without previous disinfection having taken place, and in contravention of Section 126 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

The defendant pleaded that the medical attendant had not informed him of the nature of the disease, although the case had been duly notified by the doctor, and the Sanitary Inspector had visited the house and made the usual inspection of the premises. A fine of 10s. and costs 15s. was imposed.

## MEAT SEIZED.

During the year 18,419 lbs. of meat have been seized (mostly) from the Wallasey and Alfred Lairages, and destroyed as unfit for human food.

A small proportion of this amount was seized from the shops situated in the District. The total amount, which it will be noted is largely in excess of the previous year, is made up as follows :—

Beef	...	...	...	10,230 lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	1,242 „
Offal	...	...	...	6,947 „
Two Rabbits.				

#### SHOP INSPECTION.

There have been one or two seizures of unsound meat and game from shops situated in the District, but no proceedings other than an application to the magistrates for an order for destruction have been taken.

It is perhaps worth recording one special seizure. On the 10th of December, at 12-45 a.m., I visited a certain yard belonging to James Jones, Seacombe. I there discovered the carcass of a cow dressed apparently for sale. The flesh being unfit for food I seized and carried the carcass before the magistrates and obtained an order for its destruction. No prosecution took place, as the Committee were of opinion that the carcass was not deposited for the purpose of sale.

#### LAIRAGE INSPECTION.

The Assistant Sanitary Inspector (Mr. C. Scott) begs to report that he has visited the Lairages and Foreign Animals Wharf, situate at the Wallasey and Alfred Docks, on all occasions when slaughtering and the landing of foreign cattle has been going on.

#### SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The private slaughter-houses within the District have been inspected at frequent intervals. The limewashing and cleansing of premises have been carried out in accordance with the Council's Bye-laws.

#### DROWNED ANIMALS

During the months of February and November I discovered the carcasses of two bullocks washed up on the Liscard shore. I secured the carcasses and had them removed to Messrs. Mortimer's works at Seacombe, and destroyed within a short period after the bodies were deposited by the tide. I consider this a much better plan than originally adopted of burying large carcasses of this description where deposited and close to the surface of the shore.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACTS, 1878 AND 1886,  
AND THE  
DAIRIES, COW SHEDS, AND MILK-SHOPS ORDER, 1885 & 1886.

The number of cow-keepers and purveyors of milk duly registered under the above mentioned Acts and Orders, are as follows:—

Cow-keepers	...	...	...	...	26
Purveyors of milk	...	...	...	...	41
					<hr/> 67

This shows an increase of 11 purveyors of milk, and a decrease of 1 cow-keeper, as compared with the previous year.

#### MILK STORES.

Strict examinations of premises have been made in all cases where persons have applied for registration as purveyors of milk. In some cases the application has been refused, owing to the premises being unsuitable as a milk store.

#### PROSECUTION UNDER THE COUNCIL'S REGULATIONS MADE WITH RESPECT TO DAIRIES, COW-SHEDS, AND MILK-SHOPS.

Mrs. Margaret Dutton, cow-keeper, Liscard, for allowing a greater number of cows to occupy a shippon than would permit of the provision of 800 cubic feet for each cow, and in contravention of the Council's regulations made with respect to the Daries, Cow-sheds and Milk-shops Order, 1885 and 1886, was fined £5 and costs.

In this case, seven cows were allowed to occupy a shippon registered for two only.

#### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

During the latter portion of June, an offensive trade, viz. : tripe dressing, was established in a small shed situated at the north-east corner of Wheatland Lane, Seacombe. I made several inspections of the premises and cautioned the occupier. Before the matter could be reported to the Health Committee, the occupier disappeared and the trade ceased.

#### THE OLD POTTERIES.

The offensive trade of fat melting and manure making, carried on at the Old Potteries, Seacombe, has been under constant supervision during the year.

During the latter portion of the year, a special complaint was received of very offensive smells in the neighbourhood of the works. I at once visited the premises, and discovered that four fires had been lighted in the kilns attached to the old Cement works, and a large quantity of animal matter was in the process of drying, for the purpose of conversion into a form of powdered manure. The vapour from the drying process could be recognized at a considerable distance from the works. The excessive vapour and consequent offensive odour was caused by over-heating the kiln flues. On my complaint of a nuisance arising from the process, the fires were at once extinguished, and the animal matter removed from the kiln tops.

In October last, I was instructed by the Health Committee to make a special inspection, and report as to the general condition of the above premises, and the process adopted in the manufacture of manure. I found that the premises are kept in a reasonable state of cleanliness, considering the nature of the trade.

The most offensive odour undoubtedly produced in dealing with, and reducing the fish refuse received from the Council's carts, to comparatively innocuous material, known as fish manure, and it is in that portion of the premises in which this material is treated and stored, that the most offensive odours exist. The original process, was to tip all the fish refuse from iron pails, into a small pit built under one of the cupolas; strong acid was then poured over the refuse, and it was during the raking and mixing process, that offensive odours were given off through the open top of the cupola.

The process now adopted is to mix the fish refuse with cotton shoddy and to apply the acid after. In this process the shoddy material acts as a deodorizer and absorbs large quantities of the offensive liquid and prevents the emission of offensive odours such as occurred in carrying on the original manufacture of fish manure.

That portion of the premises allotted for horse-slaughtering and fat-melting is kept as clean as possible, so as to prevent nuisance arising therefrom.

#### PHOSPHO GUANO WORKS.

I am glad to be able to report that the Phospho Guano Works Company are erecting a new main chimney stack. The insufficient height of the old chimney has been the cause of repeated complaints of offensive smells from the inhabitants of Seacombe, and I can personally vouch for the accuracy of many of the complaints. I trust that when the new chimney is completed a considerable amount of the nuisance caused by the fumes will cease to exist.

#### CANAL BOATS ACTS, 1887 & 1884,

AND

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD REGULATIONS.

With regard to the work executed under the above Acts, I cannot do better than submit the main points mentioned in my Annual Report to the

Council, in accordance with the Circular letter received from the Local Government Board.

On Friday, November 30th, Mr. John Boydone, her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Canal Boats visited this District and inspected the records kept with regard to the work of Canal Boat inspection. After examining the books, the Inspector expressed himself satisfied with the work carried out.

#### SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORT.

During the year ending 31st December, 1894, 51 boats were inspected ; 5 of the boats were found to contravene the Canal Boats Acts and the Local Government Board Regulations.

- (a) All the boats were found to be duly registered.
- (b) No notification of change of master was received, and no application was received for registration under our authority.
- (c) In 3 cases the master of the boat failed to produce the certificate of registration identifying the owner and the boat.
- (d) In 2 cases the boats were not properly lettered, marked and numbered.
- (e) No cases of overcrowding were discovered.
- (f) Each boat, as a rule, carried only two men.
- (g) The cabin of one boat was found in a dirty condition, and
- (h) in each remaining boat the cabins were very clean and well painted.
- (i) One boat was found without a suitable water cask.
- (j) Bilge water is removed daily, so far as could be ascertained.
- (k) No case of infectious disease occurred on any of the boats, and in no
- (l) case was the Inspector refused admittance.
- (4) No legal proceedings have been taken.
- (5) Notices were served on all owners of canal boats which infringed the Acts or Regulations, and where the owners failed to forward the certificate attached, within the time specified in the complaint note, the contravention was reported to the Council and proceedings granted. Final notice by letter of the Council's intention to take proceedings have been the means of securing compliance in every case.
- (6 & 7) There has been no detention of boats for cleansing and disinfection purposes, no case of infectious disease having occurred.

(8 & 9) The Wallasey Urban District Council is not a Registration Authority, and no application has been made for Registration during the year.

Generally speaking the boats are kept in a clean and tidy condition, some especially so, and all have cause for satisfaction at the result of the year's work.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. C. BASCOMBE,

Assoc. S. INST.,

CHIEF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

*February 11th, 1895.*

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

PHYSICS 311

LECTURE 10

