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Contributors

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WAVERTREE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

Health of Wavertree

DURING THE

YEAR 1894,

BY

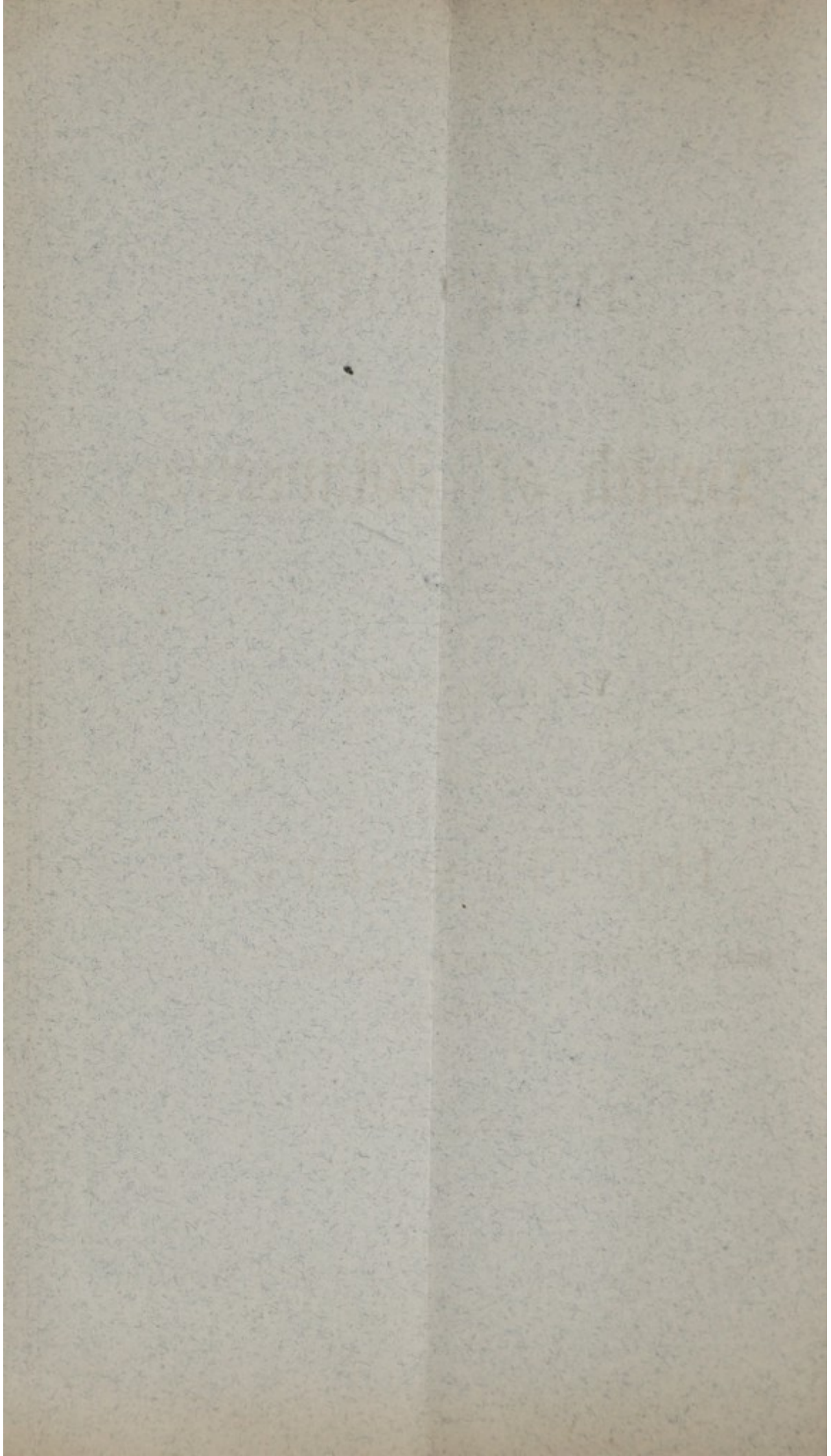
DR. H. HARVEY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE DISTRICT OF
WAVERTREE.

LIVERPOOL:

PRINTED BY J. MAWDSLEY & SON, 4 & 6, CASTLE STREET.

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WATERBURY TECHNICAL COLLEGE

REPORT



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WAVERTREE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY CONDITION OF WAVERTREE

DURING THE YEAR 1894.

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

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting my seventeenth Annual Report of the Health and Sanitary Condition of the District of Wavertree.

I estimate the population at 14,800. The area of the district is 1,838 square acres. The estimate of population is on the basis of 5.2 per inhabited house.

There were 232 Deaths registered during the year; the corresponding figures being 239 in 1893, and 253 in 1892.

Our Death Rate therefore for 1894 was 15.6 per 1,000 of population. The average Death Rate of the previous twelve years, calculated on the corrected figures, was equal to 16.8 per 1,000.

There were registered during the year 401 Births, as compared with 429 in 1893, and 434 in 1892.

Of the 401 Births, 205 were Boys, 196 Girls. The Birth-Rate for the year was equal to 27 per 1,000—the lowest yet recorded. Ten years previously (in 1884) it equalled 38.9 per 1,000.

Of the 232 Deaths, 63 were children under one year of age; 97 were of children under five years of age. This means that slightly over 41 per cent. of the deaths took place under the age of five years. The ratio of Deaths of infants under one year of age to every 1,000 Births was 157.1.

The Death Rate from Diseases of the Respiratory Organs, including Phthisis, was 3.58 per 1,000 of population. The Death Rate from Phthisis alone was 1.28 per 1,000. These figures are satisfactorily low.

Mortality from all causes at different ages :—

Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 60 years.	60 years and upwards.
63	34	12	9	58	56

Of the 56 Deaths recorded in the last column, 18 are returned as due to "Old Age" or "Decay of Nature." I have also to record a much larger number of deaths due to "Injuries" than any previous year in my experience. Nine deaths are returned under this heading. Ten Coroner's Inquests were held in the course of the year. I refer to this matter more particularly to again express my regret that your Council has not seen its way to carry out my recommendation in regard to a Public Mortuary, the need of which has been painfully apparent this year.

I desire also to draw attention, in passing, to the relatively large number of uncertified deaths. There were nine so recorded in the year. This is, of course, exclusive of the ten Coroner's Inquests above referred to. It really means that close on 4 per cent. of the deaths were not certified to by Medical men, or enquired into by a Coroner's Jury.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The following table shews at a glance the distribution throughout the year of the fatal cases of the principal so-called Zymotic Diseases:—

Month.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Typhoid Fever.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Smallpox.	Typhus.
January	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
February	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
March	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June	—	—	—	4	1	1	—	—
July	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—
August	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—
September	—	1	—	4	—	4	—	—
October	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
November	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
December	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Total 41	10	5	2	11	3	10	—	—

This represents a Zymotic Death Rate equal to 2.7 per 1,000 inhabitants.

I note with satisfaction the smallness of the numbers under the head of Diarrhoea and Dysentery; the total 10 contrasts strongly with the corresponding figures, 30, the previous year.

The year was characterized mainly by an exceptionally mild winter, and an abundant rainfall during the summer months. These conditions appear, on the whole, to have made for health.

There was no marked epidemic of any kind throughout the year. Scarlet Fever more or less present all the year, May excepted. Influenza, in its epidemic form, made its appearance as a hardy annual in January and February. Two deaths only were, however, ascribed directly to this cause.

COMPULSORY NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Compulsory Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, 1889, has now been five years in operation in the District, and has during the whole of that period worked satisfactorily and smoothly, enabling your Medical Officer to obtain early informa-

tion of the existence of cases of Infectious Disease. The non-completion of our Fever Hospital during the first nine months of the year, rendered the Act doubtless of less value than it otherwise might have proved. Still I am clearly of opinion that, even handicapped as we were by want of our own hospital accommodation, the benefits of the Act have far outweighed the trifling cost to the Ratepayers involved in its working, as well as the ethical objections which some may have entertained against it. Among that large class, the average careless householder, I am sure I notice a distinctly improved tone—an awakening to the sense of the duty and desirability of checking the spread of Infectious Diseases.

I am very much mistaken if the knowledge that each of these cases is deemed of sufficient importance to be reported by the Medical Attendant, and to be then inquired into by the representatives of the Sanitary Authority, has not been, among the poorer classes at all events, a main factor in bringing about this change of attitude.

The accompanying table shews at a glance the period of the year, number of cases notified, and nature of case:—

Month.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membrane Croup.	FEVERS.				Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Monthly Total.
					Typhus.	Typhoid.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal.			
January . . .	—	9	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	10
February ...	—	7	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	14
March ...	—	4	3	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	11
April ...	—	5	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	9
May ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
June ...	—	16	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	17
July... ...	—	19	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	23
August ...	—	19	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	24
September...	—	7	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	9
October ...	—	6	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	10
November ...	—	10	2	—	—	4	—	—	—	1	17
December ...	—	22	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	23
Total ...	—	124	13	—	—	15	5	—	1	11	169

The total of notifications the previous year was 203. It will be noted that Smallpox, Croup, Typhus and Puerperal Fever are fortunately absent from the list. The case of Cholera, notified in August, was clearly a mistake in diagnosis; the patient, at the time of my visit, immediately after receipt of notification, had already practically recovered.

SCARLET FEVER.

Scarlet Fever was never wholly absent, except in the month of May. The type was mild. In all 124 cases were reported; only five of them proved fatal—equal to a mortality of about four per cent. The bulk of the cases reported during the latter half of the year were among children attending the Webster Road Board School within the city boundary.

Seven of the cases were removed to hospital. In two instances (previous, of course, to the opening of our hospital), nurses were provided at the expense of the Council.

TYPHOID FEVER.

There were in all twenty cases of Typhoid and "continued fever" reported. These were pretty evenly distributed throughout the year. None of the cases call for special comment. They were all investigated and reported upon at the time. Three of them proved fatal. Only in a small proportion (less than half) of the cases was any default of drainage discovered. The milk supply was also enquired into, with negative results.

DIPHTHERIA.

I have pleasure in noting a considerable reduction as compared with former years. Thirteen cases were notified as compared with twenty-three last year. Mortality two; previous year, five. Careful enquiry was made into all these cases. Serious sanitary defects were discovered in about half the cases; none in the others.

DIARRHŒA AND DYSENTERY.

There were only ten fatal cases—all children under five years of age. The cool wet summer largely explains the smallness of the numbers.

MEASLES.

Measles not being notifiable, it is difficult to speak as to the actual number of cases. From personal observations I should say they were few; yet there were not less than ten deaths registered as due to Measles, which must therefore have been, as I have often had occasion to point out before, much more fatal than Scarlet Fever.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

Whooping Cough in like manner claimed eleven victims. The number of cases of the disease was, however, comparatively small. All but one of the fatal cases were under five years of age. The recklessness with which parents, under the mistaken idea

that this is the proper treatment, expose in the open air young children still in the acute stage of this disease, taking them into public conveyances and to public gatherings, calls for the strongest censure.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

The Hospital situate in Binns Road and Mill Lane, constructed by and to be maintained at the joint expense of the West Derby and Wavertree District Councils was opened for the reception of Patients early in October; and is now in full working order. It contains forty-two beds; is built in separate blocks, for the isolation and treatment of the various classes of Infectious Disease *other than Small pox*; and is equipped with all modern appliances, including the Washington Lyon's Steam Disinfector for bedding, clothing, etc.

There is an experienced Matron and excellent Staff of trained day and night nurses.

One of the blocks contains private and isolation wards. There is sufficient land enclosed, and prepared, to admit of the accommodation being doubled, should future requirements necessitate the extension of the present blocks.

The hospital has been doing excellent work ever since its opening in October last. Between that date and December 31st seven patients from the Wavertree district have been treated in the hospital, and a considerably larger proportion since.

DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.

All infected premises are systematically disinfected by the Officials of the Council. Infected bedding and clothing are removed to the Council's disinfecting apparatus, one of the latest type of Lyon's Moist Heat Disinfectors. After recovery, in all cases of infectious disease, notice is at once served on the landlord to clean down, whitewash, etc., the whole or such portions of the infected premises as the Medical Officer may direct. During the year 93 houses were so cleaned down upon notice being served by the Surveyor. The number of articles removed to the disinfecting apparatus was 712.

INSPECTION OF PREMISES AND ENQUIRIES INTO CONDITIONS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH.

This work has proceeded regularly throughout the year. Over 250 personal visits for inspection and enquiry into the sanitary conditions of premises have been made by your Medical Officer; and reports have been presented every month in reference to these said enquiries. Among other matters, a serious nuisance arising from the tipping of large quantities of ashpit and other

refuse on land adjoining Rose Lane, Mossley Hill, was reported to your Council in the early part of the year. The refuse referred to consisted of practically the whole scavenging of the neighbouring district of Toxteth Park. This nuisance has never been more than partially abated at any time throughout the year; and the matter has now again assumed the proportion of a serious nuisance, in regard to which your Council will have to take some immediate action.

In April I reported on the desirability of closing certain dilapidated dwellings in Hill's Place and Chapel Yard, and compelling owners to place the remainder of the houses in a more Sanitary condition. These recommendations have all been complied with, and a very marked improvement effected thereby. Eight of the houses referred to have been permanently closed up. A similar recommendation in regard to a number of houses in Paradise Gardens has resulted in an equally satisfactory improvement.

Among other nuisances specially reported upon were the following:—

Nuisance arising from the keeping of pigs in Paradise Gardens.
" " " carrying on an offensive trade in Binn's Road.
" " " defective drainage.
" " " accumulation of manure.
" " " unwhitewashed privies and W.C's.
" " " privies in such a state as to be "a nuisance injurious to health."

GENERAL SANITARY CONDITIONS OF DISTRICT.

The Sanitary condition of the district generally is very good, and much useful work for the promotion of the same has been carried out during the year.

The conversion of privies into water-closets has been steadily proceeded with. In all 191 such conversions have been carried out during the past twelve months

The scavenging of the district has been regularly and satisfactorily attended to by the Council's own officials, and has given little, if any, ground for complaint. The number of ashpits emptied was 6120. The present pattern of dry covered ashpit containing about 20 cubic feet and provided with an iron door opening level with the surface of the ground is found much easier to empty and keep clean than the old style of wet ashpit, and is practically free from smell. A serious draw-back has however to be noted. The irrepressible and ubiquitous rag-picker finding among the dry ashes a ready source of income, unobtainable from the old wet ashpit, spares no device or appliance to get these ashpit

doors open, with the result that the contents are scattered all over the back-passages. This nuisance is increasing to such an extent that some strong steps will shortly have to be taken to deal with the matter.

The flushing of the main and private drains has been attended to throughout the year.

The question of additional ventilating shafts to the main drains, at certain points, is under consideration, and will as soon as practicable be carried out. During the year several such shafts were erected with the consent of the property owners.

The paving, sewerage and completing of a number of unadopted streets and back-passages was proceeded with, and the work satisfactorily finished during the year at a cost of over £3,500.

Forty new houses have been erected during the year, and are mostly now tenanted.

MILK HOUSES AND DAIRIES.

These have been visited from time to time. They are all clean and properly supplied with water, drainage and other requirements. The ventilation in many cases leaves much to be desired. The means of "permanent ventilation" are too frequently found stopped up with hay, etc., on the occasion of the inspector's visit. As previously pointed out the minimum cubic space, 400 cub. feet required by our Bye Laws is far too meagre; the attempt to ventilate efficiently in so small a space being generally productive of a draught.

Many structural improvements have however been secured on the premises where a change of tenancy has taken place.

A very unsavory and nauseating smell is often caused by the removal of the cow manure, even if only a few days' accumulation has to be dealt with. Strong and well-grounded complaints frequently reach me on this score; nausea, sickness, and great discomfort being caused to the occupiers of houses in the immediate neighbourhood of Shippons. Short of the total prohibition of Cowsheds in towns, the only alternative would appear to be the systematic daily collection and removal, with suitable precautions, of the fresh manure from all such shippons.

BAKE-HOUSES.

These have been found to be in satisfactory order and condition.

VACCINATION.

Mr. Ellison, the Vaccination Officer for the District, has furnished me with the following particulars :—

Births Registered, 1894.	Vaccinated.	Died before Vaccination.	Insusceptible of successful Vaccination.	Unfit.	Removed and not traced.	Removed to other Districts, Address known.	No Certificate yet Received.
401	318	36	3	21	11	5	7

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Superintendent Baxendale informs me that samples of the following list of articles were purchased for analysis during the year, the result of the Analysis being satisfactory :—

Lard.	White Pepper.	New Milk.
Coffee.	Butter.	Whiskey.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply of the District is derived exclusively from the Liverpool Corporation Water Works. All houses have one tap at least direct from the main. The supply is continuous.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS TAKEN BY THE COUNCIL.

Legal Proceedings were taken by the Council in eight cases to compel compliance with notices previously served.

(1 & 2) H. I. Nuisance from Privy; Order to abate and costs (43s.)

(3, 4, 5) M. S. Nuisance from Privy; Order to abate and costs (43s. 6d.)

(6, 7, 8) M. L. Nuisance from Privy; Order to abate and costs (46s. 6d.)

I append the usual tabulated Analysis of the Death Returns for the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY HARVEY, M.B., Univ. Edinbro',

L.R.C.S., Edinbro',

Medical Officer of Health to the Wavertree Urban District Council.

REPORT OF SURVEYOR AND INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

—:—:—

During the past year 556 Notices have been served for the abatement of 969 Nuisances as classified below :—

Privies converted into water-closets and dry ashpits	187
Defective yard surfaces repaired	64
Sinkstone and other waste pipes disconnected from drains and properly trapped	38
Water-closets and privies limewashed	248
New drainage	85
Nuisances arising from the keeping of animals.	6
Accumulations of manure	4
Defective roofs and gutters	10
Defective water supply	10
Premises cleaned down	93
Miscellaneous nuisances	224
	969
	969

In addition to the 187 privy conversions as the result of notice, four have been carried out voluntarily, thus making a total number of 191.

DISINFECTION.

During the past year 64 houses have been thoroughly disinfected and cleaned down. The following 712 articles have also been removed and subjected to a disinfecting process :—

Beds	55
Mattresses	148
Pillows	102
Bolsters	47
Blankets	97
Sheets	45
Quilts	16
Carpets	17
Sundries	185
	712
	712

ASHPITS.

The number of Ashpits emptied has been 6,120.

COWSHEDS.

Advantage has been taken of change of occupancy in the case of several Cowsheds to obtain considerable sanitary alterations and improvements.

PRIVATE STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

The sewerage, making, and lighting of the following Streets and Passages has been proceeded with during the year, an expenditure in connection therewith amounting to £3,510 5s. 3d., having been incurred :—

Binns Road, Hanskinson Street, Robson Street, Cheers Street, Gordon Street, Lawrence Grove ; Passage between Cheers Street and Hankinson Street ; Passages between Rathbone Road and Cheers Street ; Passages between Lawrence Grove and Gordon Street ; Passages between Gordon Street and Wellington Avenue.

STREET ADOPTIONS.

The following lengths of Streets and Passages having been duly formed and made, have been adopted :—

Streets 36 feet wide	...	...	80 $\frac{2}{3}$	lineal yards.
„ 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ „	...	...	13 $\frac{2}{3}$	„
„ 30 „	...	...	198 $\frac{1}{3}$	„
Paved passages 12 feet wide	...	...	82	„
„ „ 9 „	...	...	423	„
Flagged passages 7 feet wide	...	...	22	„
„ „ 4 „	...	...	81 $\frac{1}{3}$	„
„ „ 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ „	...	...	39	„
„ „ 3 „	...	...	7	„

The number of public Lamps is 455.

The Rateable Value of the District is £102,754, and the number of Assessments 3,179.

W. H. TRAVERS,

Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances.

THE TOWN

A report has been taken of the various lands in this town & surrounding districts and is as follows:

PRIVATE STREET IMPROVEMENTS

The following is a list of the private street improvements which have been made in this town since the year 1850, and which are now completed or nearly so:

1. The street from the town hall to the church, which was paved with flagstones in the year 1850.

STREET ADJUSTMENTS

The following is a list of the street adjustments which have been made in this town since the year 1850:

- 1. The street from the town hall to the church, which was widened in the year 1850.
- 2. The street from the town hall to the church, which was widened in the year 1850.
- 3. The street from the town hall to the church, which was widened in the year 1850.
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911	912	913	914	915	916	917	918	919	920
921	922	923	924	925	926	927	928	929	930
931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940
941	942	943	944	945	946	947	948	949	950
951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960
961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970
971	972	973	974	975	976	977	978	979	980
981	982	983	984	985	986	987	988	989	990
991	992	993	994	995	996	997	998	999	1000

ESTABLISHED 1850
 AREA OF DISTRICT, NEW YORK STATE
 DEATH RATE FOR 1911 - 1912

