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Contributors

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ST. AUSTELL.

GENTLEMEN,

The time of the year has again arrived when it becomes my duty to submit to you my Annual Report, as well as the Tables of Mortality and Sickness.

Thirteen cases of Infectious Diseases have been reported, and, although more than the previous year, the Mortality was less. Four Scarlatina cases occurred at different times of the year, and in different parts of the district. They appeared to have no connection one with another, and, I believe, in each instance they had been imported, although the source could not be traced; none, however, proved fatal. Two cases of Diphtheria were reported, one at Western Inn and the other at Grant's Walk. The former case was slight and there was nothing about the premises to account for it; the latter was in an unsanitary house, which has since been condemned as unfit for habitation, and has been closed.

The case of Membraneous Croup at Hotel Row, proved fatal. This, however, is in a crowded part of the district, in a low place, without sufficient air space—none behind, and very little in front. Two cases of Typhoid Fever occurred, one at Trenance, where there was an untrapped drain, and the other at Merrifield's Row. The latter occurred in a delicate boy, and was supposed to have been caused by drinking impure water when heated. Neither proved fatal. Four cases of Erysipelas, neither proving fatal, occurred in different parts of the district, and appeared to be caused by a chill in debilitated persons.

During the latter part of the year Measles were imported into the district, and a great number of cases occurred, chiefly in young children. The Board School had to be closed, and although there were over one hundred cases, there was only one fatality, that being in the Union Workhouse, in a weakly child. This disease not being notifiable, several cases had occurred before I became aware of it, hence the rapid spread, and the great number of cases.

Last year will be long remembered in St. Austell, as being the year of the completion of the Water Supply. The reservoir and filtering beds were completed. A public ceremony was held when the water was turned on to the town, which will prove a great boon to the higher parts of the district; and although the season was exceptionally dry, there was no deficiency. The drainage has been extended at Moorland Road and West Hill. Several Closets have been erected, and I am pleased to say that the old Middin Privies and Cesspits, with very few exceptions, are done away with. The Streets have been improved and the work is still progressing.

Your attention has been called to the Queen's Head stable manure, and this has been attended to. This is hardly the place for a number of horses, in a narrow thoroughfare, surrounded by dwelling-houses, and no air space behind, and only the width of the street in front, about eighteen feet.

Graham's Arms Yard has also had your attention. I feel certain that nothing but removal will do here. And as I pointed out to you, the street is very narrow at that point and would bear widening.

Eight houses in Eastbourne Road were reported to you as being in an unsanitary condition, the Closets and Piggeries were very dirty. Something has been done, but the places are not satisfactory.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF STATE COMMISSIONERS
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

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Three houses near Moorland Road were reported as unfit for habitation, these have since been renovated and improved, and Privies erected.

The Piggeries have also been brought to your notice on several occasions, but I hope to deal more stringently with them when the new Bye Laws are sanctioned.

The boundary of the district has also been under consideration, but nothing definite has been done as yet. There being a great want of workmen's cottages in the district, and very few sites available in the present district. There are also several houses which ought to be condemned, but there is no places for the inhabitants to go. Ten new houses were erected in the district; but none of them are suitable for workmen's cottages. Seven were demolished as unfit for habitation.

There is only one Lodging House in the district, and that is in a very dilapidated condition, but I am afraid tramps are in taken elsewhere.

Appended you will find the Birth and Death Rates for the last seventeen years.

1880.	Birth Rate	33.1 per 1,000	Death Rate	22. per 1,000
1881.	"	26.5	"	18.1
1882.	"	27.3	"	25.9
1883.	"	26.2	"	24.8
1884.	"	30.9	"	18.7
1885.	"	27.07	"	27.3
1886.	"	24.2	"	23.4
1887.	"	25.1	"	25.9
1888.	"	22.8	"	18.4
1889.	"	23.4	"	15.6
1890.	"	19.2	"	23.7
1891.	"	25.3	"	22.1
1892.	"	23.8	"	20.1
1893.	"	26.7	"	23.8
1894.	"	28.6	"	20.1
1895.	"	25.02	"	18.9
1896.	"	23.8	"	16.6

The Birth Rate is low, and the Death Rate is the lowest but one, that of 1889. If you omit the Union Workhouse you will get St. Austell Birth Rate 19.3, Death Rate 11. per 1000 inhabitants. This is very satisfactory, and for the previous year it was 13.09. You will see that nearly half the deaths were in persons over sixty years of age. Only two deaths from Zymotic Diseases .57. The deaths in children under one year are slightly in excess of the previous year, it being 2.01 for 1896, and 1.7 in 1895, whilst from diseases of the Respiratory Organs there were twenty-two. I think the foregoing points out the fact that a dry season makes a low Death Rate.

During the present year I hope to call your attention to the Housing of the Working Classes, and also to the extension and improvement of the Drainage and other Sanitary Arrangements for the benefit of the district.

I hope in the future, as well as in the past, to endeavour to do my duty.

I have the honour to remain,

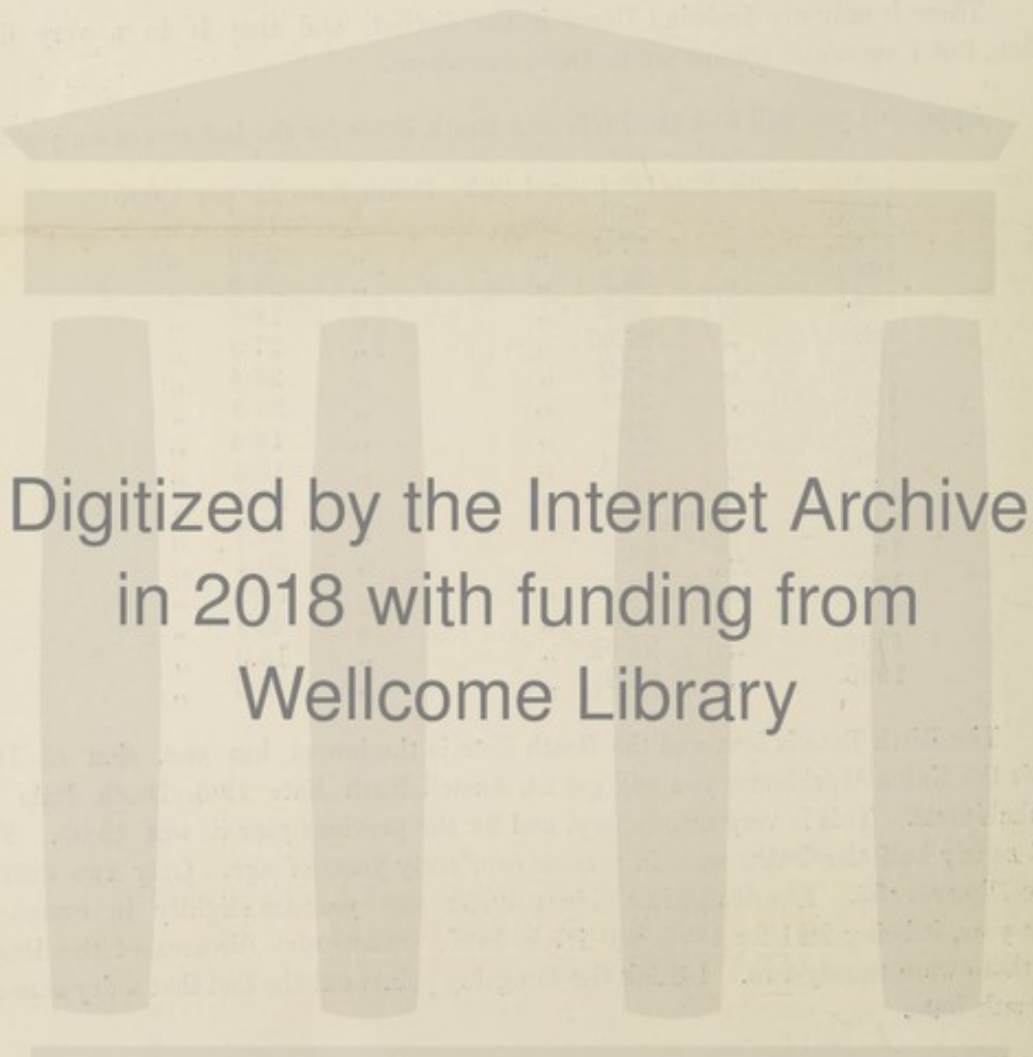
Yours obediently,

WILLIAM MASON,

Health Officer.

E. CARLYON, Esq.,

St. Austell.



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Several houses have been condemned as unfit for habitation. A great number we found to be defective, and they have been renovated. The worst cases of overcrowding have been reported, and notices served. The parties have abated the nuisance without the necessity of taking legal proceedings. Several closets have been erected, but in one instance your authority thought it wise to build the closets yourselves, and made the owner pay.

Charlestown, Gorran, and Roche churchyards have been visited and found overcrowded, and will be closed in due course.

116 New Houses have been erected in the district during the year, but more cottages are still required. Your Authority cannot be too stringent about the drinking water, as several of the wells at the time of our visit apparently had plenty of water, but afterwards they are found to be dry. The slaughter houses have been inspected, Lodging Houses have been visited, and an inspection of the dairies has been made where there has been any suspicion of impure milk.

At present your Authority has the following work in hand, which I hope will be completed before the end of the year

Fowey has been furnished with an improved supply of drinking water. One reservoir is completed, and the other for storage is in the course of erection.

The drainage of Lower Porthpean, which has been for sometime under consideration, is now arranged for, and will be commenced as soon as the sanction of the Board of Trade is obtained.

Mevagissey drainage has also had your attention on many occasions, but I am pleased to say that at last it is on the eve of being carried out. The sanction of the Local Government Board has not yet been obtained, owing I believe to some little difficulty with some of the owners of the Back Leat.

Tywardreath drainage has been brought under your notice during the past year. This will be proceeded with after a few preliminary arrangements have been carried out. The sanitary arrangements of the Commercial Inn have been entirely changed, old midden closets have been converted into water closets. The Urinal has been properly trapped and entirely renovated, and a piped drain, properly trapped, has been laid.

St. Ewe water has been under consideration, and the well is to be properly protected and a pipe taken to the village to supply the inhabitants. This work is to be proceeded with forthwith.

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I also called your attention to the allotment gardens near North Hill, St. Austell, where several pigs are kept. At times there has been a very bad nuisance there. All we can do at present is to have the piggeries cleaned, but I would suggest that you should adopt some bye-laws, so that piggeries could not be kept within a certain distance of a dwelling house. There have been frequent complaints about this place.

Meledor water has also been complained of. Samples were taken and sent for analysis. The result was not quite satisfactory. This water requires careful looking after.

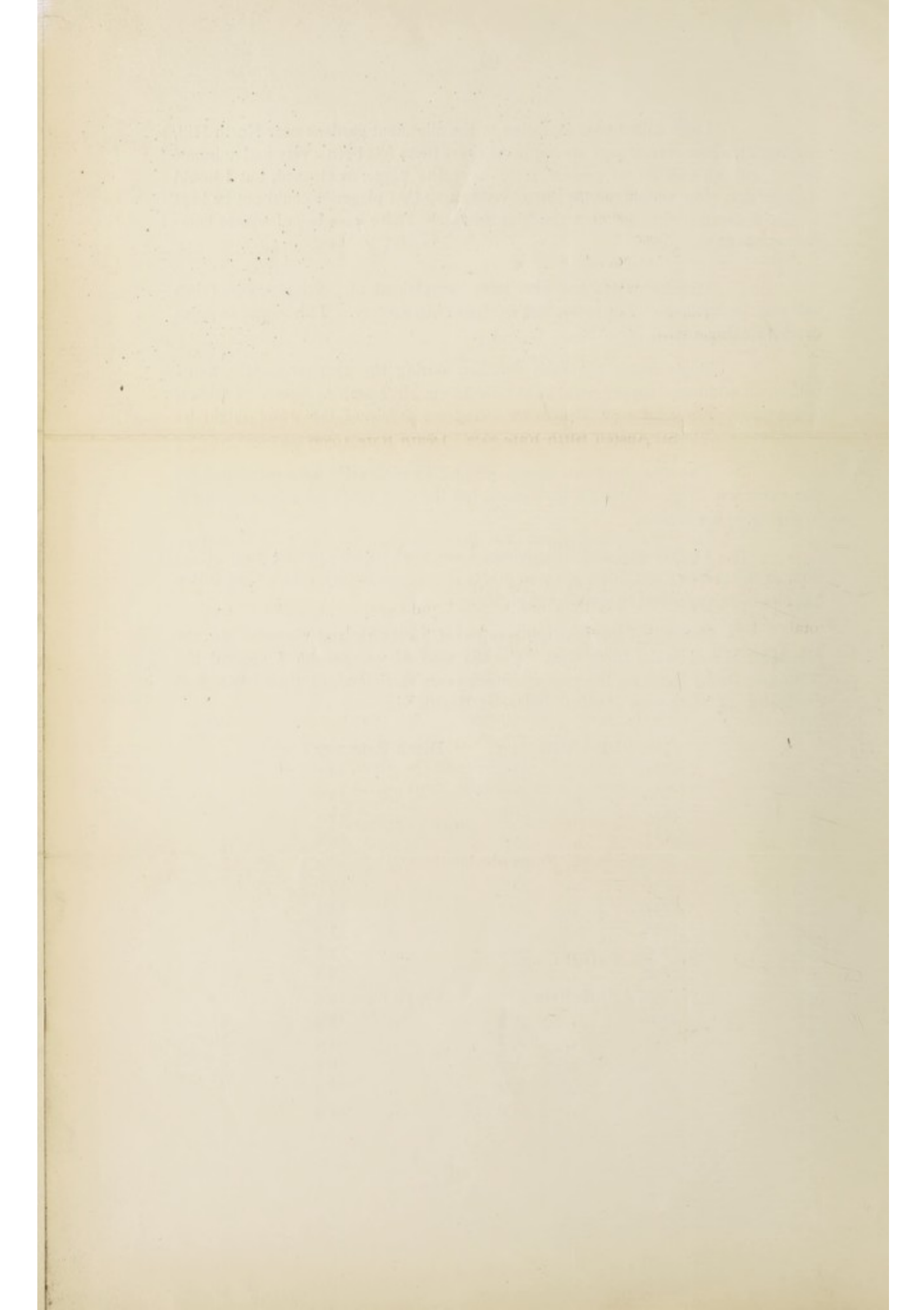
Bugle water has been deficient during the summer months, and I believe an additional supply could be obtained from Mr. Lamb's property. I think it is necessary, as several new houses are being erected, and the water might be extended to Molinnis where it is also wanted.

The inhabitants of Stoney Bridge, Tywardreath, have petitioned for the extension of the water to that place, but the cost would have been too great to supply so few houses.

Tregonissey, and Tregonissey Lane End are also having your attention, as the sanitary condition of these places is not satisfactory, and a Committee has just been appointed to consider the question.

Herewith I give you the returns of Mortality and Sickness for the past year, as well as the Birth Rate. For the sake of comparison I append the Birth and Death Rates for the past seventeen years, during which time I have had the honour of being your Medical Officer of Health, viz.—

1880.	Birth Rate	33·9	Death Rate	21·7
1881.	„	32·9	„	18·7
1882.	„	31·8	„	15·9
1883.	„	31·8	„	18·2
1884.	„	33·6	„	19·6
1885.	„	32·6	„	18·4
1886.	„	33·8	„	19·6
1887.	„	29·7	„	19·5
1888.	„	31·9	„	17·2
1889.	„	36·6	„	17·6
1890.	„	31·6	„	18·8
1891.	Birth Rate	32·7	Death Rate	19·4
1892.	„	30·5	„	15·5
1893.	„	29·8	„	21·4
1894.	„	28·7	„	16·7
1895.	„	31·4	„	18·9
1896.	„	31·8	„	14·9



This is the lowest Death Rate for the past seventeen years, whilst the Birth Rate is about the average.

I now give you the Birth and Death Rate of the districts for 1896 :—

St. Austell	Birth Rate	32·3	Death Rate	15·8
Fowey	„	32·9	„	14·9
Grampound	„	34·6	„	14·5
Mevagissey	„	24·8	„	13·3

You will see that the lowest Death and Birth Rate was at Mevagissey ; the highest Birth Rate was at Grampound ; and the highest Death Rate at St. Austell. Compared with 1895 there has been a decrease in the Death Rate in each District.

The Births and Deaths for 1895, were as follows :—

St. Austell	Birth Rate	31·2	Death Rate	19·06
Fowey	„	32·3	„	21·6
Grampound	„	30·7	„	17·1
Mevagissey	„	28·8	„	16·8

From the foregoing you will perceive that the year, from a sanitary point of view, has been most satisfactory. I doubt very much, considering the population, which consists chiefly of the working classes, if you can have a much lower Death Rate. No less than one hundred and twenty eight deaths (out of a total of 408) were over 65 years of age. As I said previously, the Zymotic Rate has also been very low, viz. '55, whilst the diseases of the respiratory system were about the average,—171. The deaths in young children under 1 year were 95, giving a rate 3·4 per 1000, whilst for the previous year there were 119 or a Death Rate of 4·3 per thousand. In conclusion, allow me to thank the officers directly connected with my work for their kindness and courtesy, and for their willingness to co-operate with me ; and also to the Members of the Council for their forbearance, and for their willingness at all times, to assist me.

I have the honour to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

WILLIAM MASON,
M.O.H.

John Stephens, Esq.,

Clerk to the Rural District Council, St. Austell.

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WILLIAM MASON
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