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WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1900,

INCLUDING A

Summary of the Annual Reports

OF THE

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH


AND OTHER RECORDS

BY

JOHN TUBB-THOMAS,

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

TROWBRIDGE:
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WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the County Medical Officer of Health for the year 1900.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Third Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the County Council of Wiltshire.

This Report is to a certain extent a summary of the information derived from the perusal of the Annual Reports, which have been presented for the year 1900, by the Medical Officers of Health for the respective Urban and Rural District Councils within the administrative County. Results of my own observations are contained in Part I. of the Report.

As I mentioned in my Report for the year 1899, few of these Reports were of great length, and few contained much detail of the sanitary condition of the various parishes making up the various Districts. The majority of the Reports were presented with less delay than in previous years. The Memorandum of the Local Government Board upon the subject intimates the necessity that Reports of Medical Officers should be presented within a month or six weeks from the end of the year, and should in all cases be presented within three months.

The Standing Order of the County Council upon the subject is as follows:—

“Medical Officers of Health shall so transmit the copies of their Reports, which in pursuance of Section 19 of the Local Government Act, 1888, are to be transmitted to the County Council, that they may reach the Clerk of the Council not later than the 14th day of February in every year, or such later day as may be prescribed by the Local Government Board as the last upon which such Reports are to be received by that Board.”

The remarks respecting the printing of the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health made by Professor Smith in previous Reports, and in my Reports for 1898 and 1899, have borne but very little fruit. For the year 1900 the Annual Reports of 10 Urban and 14 Rural Districts are printed.

Table showing date of Receipt of Report by Clerk to the County Council, and whether Report is Printed or not :—

Date when Report Received.	DISTRICT.	Urban or Rural.	Report Printed or Unprinted.
17 January	Pewsey	Rural	Unprinted.
6 February	Tisbury	Rural	Printed.
7 "	Salisbury	Rural	Printed.
12 "	Marlborough	Rural	Printed.
12 "	Wilton	Urban	Unprinted.
13 "	Salisbury	Urban	Printed.
14 "	Marlborough	Urban	Printed (Newspaper Cutting).
14 "	Warminster	Urban	Printed (Newspaper Cutting).
14 "	Warminster	Rural	Printed.
16 "	Chippenham	Urban	Unprinted.
23 "	Calne	Rural	Unprinted.
23 "	Calne	Urban	Unprinted.
25 "	Wilton	Rural	Printed.
26 "	Mere	Rural	Printed.
6 March	Trowbridge	Urban	Printed.
8 "	Melksham	Urban	Printed (Newspaper Cutting).
8 "	Melksham	Rural	Printed.
13 "	Amesbury	Rural	Printed.
14 "	Westbury	Urban	Printed.
15 "	Westbury and Whorwellsdown	Rural	Printed.
16 "	Chippenham	Rural	Printed (Newspaper Cutting).
18 "	Devizes	Urban	Printed.
18 "	Devizes	Rural	Printed.
19 "	Bradford-on-Avon	Urban	Printed.
22 "	Ramsbury	Rural	Unprinted. †
15 April	Malmesbury	Rural	Printed.
15 "	Malmesbury	Urban	Printed.
16 "	Cricklade and Wootton Bassett	Rural	Printed.
29 "	Swindon	Urban	Printed.
6 May	Highworth	Rural	Printed.

Unfortunately the Reports from some of the Districts were very late in coming in, and the attention of the Authorities was called to the delay. None of the Reports presented are of that elaborate character that would justify the delay in presentation, and there appears to be no reason why the whole of the Reports should not be in by the 31st March at latest. One of the Medical Officers of Health gave as a reason for delay that the Local Government Board had issued a new set of tables for the Statistics, but these tables were issued in the month of December, and can hardly be called a sufficient excuse. With the new tables the Principal Medical Officer of the Local Government Board issued the following circular which I consider it advisable to print at length, as it gives the latest requirements of the Local Government Board as regards the duties of Medical Officers of Health, &c.

Memorandum as to Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health.

"Every Medical Officer of Health, appointed under Order of Local Government Board, is required to make an annual report with regard to each Sanitary District, or division of a District, which is under his superintendence. This report is to be for the year ending the 31st of December, or, if the Officer at that date has not been in office for a whole year, then for so much of the year as has elapsed since his appointment. The report is to be made to the Council by whom he is appointed, and the Medical Officer of Health himself should send a copy of it to the Local Government Board and to the County Council or County Councils of the County or Counties within which his district may be situated. It should be made as soon as practicable after the expiration of the year to which it relates. The Medical Officer of Health ought not, in general, to have any difficulty in doing this within a month or six weeks; but if from any special circumstances the report cannot be completed within six weeks, it should be understood that the delay must not be indefinite, and that the report should be in the hands of his Council, and of the Board, within,

† This is usually included in the printed report for the Berkshire Combined Districts.—C.M.O.

at most, three months from the end of the year. The Board's copy of the report should be forwarded to them when the original is sent to the Council, except where the report is likely to be printed by order of the Council. In such cases the Board need only be supplied with a printed copy. It is very desirable that the Annual Report should be printed, for the sake of facility of reference and in order that a supply of copies may be available for distribution among the Town or District Councillors and other persons interested.

Article 18 (Section 14) of the Board's Order of March, 1891, specifies the information to be contained in the Annual Report, and is annexed.

The report should be chiefly concerned with the conditions affecting health in the District and with the means for improving these conditions. It should contain an account, brought up to the end of the year under review, of the sanitary circumstances of the district, and of any improvement or deterioration which may have occurred during the year in these circumstances. Care should be taken to report fully and explicitly on the influences affecting or threatening to affect injuriously the public health in the district, and on the action which has been taken, or which may still be needed, with a view to combat these influences. It is of especial importance that the Medical Officer of Health should record what action has been taken to remedy unhealthy conditions which have been reported by him in previous annual reports, or in special reports presented during the year under review, and that attention should be called afresh, year by year, to such as remain unremedied.

As subjects concerning which the Board desire to obtain, through Annual Reports of the Medical Officer of Health, not only definite general information, but record also of particular changes of condition that are occurring incidentally or by action of the local authority, the following deserve to be especially borne in mind:—

Physical features and general character of the District.

House accommodation, especially for the working class: its adequacy and fitness for habitation. Sufficiency of open space about houses and cleanliness of surroundings. Supervision over erection of new houses.

Sewerage and drainage: its sufficiency in all parts of the District. Condition of sewers and house drains. Method or Methods of disposal of sewage. Localities where improvements are needed.

Excrement disposal: system in vogue; defects, if any.

Removal and disposal of house refuse—whether by public scavenger or occupiers; frequency and method.

Water supply of the District or its several parts: its source (from public service or otherwise), nature (river water, well water, upland water, etc.), sufficiency, wholesomeness, and freedom (by special treatment or otherwise) from risks of pollution.

Places over which the Council have supervision, *e.g.*, lodging houses, slaughterhouses, bakehouses, dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops, factories and workshops, and offensive trades.

Nuisances: proceedings for their abatement—any remaining unabated.

Methods of dealing with infectious diseases: notification; isolation hospital accommodation and its sufficiency; disinfection.

With regard to such points it should be remembered that these reports are for the information of the Board and of the County Council as well as of the Council of the District, and that a statement of the local circumstances and history of local sanitary questions, which may seem superfluous for the latter, may often be needed by the former bodies.

The Medical Officer of Health, in reporting his proceedings and advice, should put on record whether he has made systematic inspections of his District. By "systematic inspections" are meant inspections independent of such inquiries as the Medical Officer of Health may have to make into particular outbreaks of disease, or into unwholesome conditions to which his attention has been specially called by complaints or otherwise, and such inspections will include the house-to-house inspections which may be necessary in particular localities.

In making systematic inspections, as in much of his other action, the Medical Officer of Health will usually have required the assistance of the Inspector of Nuisances; and the Medical Officer should include in his report an account of the action which, at his instance, the Inspector may have taken for the removal of nuisances injurious to health.

The report should deal with the extent, distribution, and causes of disease, especially of epidemic and notifiable diseases, within the district; and should give an account of any noteworthy outbreaks of such diseases during the year under review, stating the result of his investigations into their origin and propagation, and the steps taken by him, or on his advice, with a view to check their spread.

The tabular statements of sickness and mortality in the District during the year, to be made on the forms supplied for the purpose, should be the subject of comment in the text of the report, in so far as deductions from them may assist the Board and the Councils concerned to an appreciation of the lines of action needful in the future.

It will be observed that the forms for record of statistical data supplied on the present occasion differ from those supplied in former years. Four tables have, at the suggestion of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health, been substituted for Tables A and B previously in use. This has been done with a view to facilitate record of a minimum amount of statistical information of the sort desired by the Board.

As regards these several tables a few observations appear to be needful:

In Table I. it should be stated for the whole district under the superintendence of a Medical Officer of Health the number and rates of births, and of deaths under one year and at all ages, and the data on which

the nett death-rate is based. Spaces are given for the insertion of the corresponding figures for the ten previous years for purposes of comparison, a comparison which will often yield points of interest. In most cases there should be no difficulty in obtaining the figures for former years from previous annual reports, but if owing to changes in the constitution of the district or for other reasons the figures cannot be ascertained for ten years, they should be given for as far back as they are available.

In Table II. the births, and the deaths corrected by the exclusion of those of non-residents and the inclusion of those of residents dying elsewhere, are to be distributed among the localities to which they belong, space being given in this table also for the insertion of the corresponding figures in previous years. As regards the classification by localities, it is to be observed that the District under the superintendence of a Medical Officer of Health may contain several parts evidently differing in their circumstances, or having very different rates of mortality, either from all causes, or from some particular disease or class of diseases. The observation of these differences can scarcely fail to lead to valuable information, especially when the returns for several years can be compared together, and it is in view of such differences that the tabular statements are required in Article 18 (Section 14) to be classified according to "*localities*," and that provision for such a classification is made in the forms supplied for returns of deaths. In the absence of any obvious differences of the above sort, it will still be desirable where the district is of any considerable size and has recognized sub-divisions to classify the deaths according to the part of the district in which they occur; and for this purpose any areas of known population (such as wards, parishes or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts) may be taken as representing "*localities*," for the purposes of the Order.

In small districts having no sub-divisions of known population Table II. need not be filled up.

Table III. provides for the number of notified cases of infectious disease during the year, classified according to ages of patients and localities, and also the number of cases removed to hospital from each locality. As regards the classification according to locality, the same considerations apply to the records of sickness as of deaths.

Table IV. provides for the deaths during the year from various causes, classified according to ages and localities. In populous districts a more extended table in a similar form containing a more complete classification of causes of death may with advantage be substituted for this form.

Great care should be taken to note carefully the headings and the foot-notes before proceeding to fill the columns and the blank spaces in these tables.

What has been said above with regard to the information which an annual report should contain must be understood, not as suggesting that the report should be limited to these subjects, but as indicating the sort of information required by the Board's Order. Many Medical Officers of Health will doubtless, with great advantage to the administration of their districts, furnish much more detailed information and statistics respecting particular questions to which they have been led by the circumstances of the foregoing year to devote attention, or in the investigation of which they may have arrived at definite conclusions. Any information of this kind will be appreciated by the Local Government Board."

Local Government Board,
December, 1900.

W. H. POWER,
Medical Officer.

EXTRACT FROM THE ORDER OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.

23rd March, 1891.

Duties.

Art. 18. The following shall be the duties of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the District for which he is appointed.

- (1.) He shall inform himself as far as practicable respecting all influences affecting or threatening to affect injuriously the public health within the District.
- (2.) He shall inquire into and ascertain by such means as are at his disposal the causes, origin, and distribution of diseases within the District, and ascertain to what extent the same have depended on conditions capable of removal or mitigation.
- (3.) He shall by inspection of the District, both systematically at certain periods, and at intervals as occasion may require, keep himself informed of the conditions injurious to health existing therein.
- (4.) He shall be prepared to advise the Sanitary Authority on all matters affecting the health of the District, and on all sanitary points involved in the action of the Sanitary Authority; and in cases requiring it, he shall certify, for the guidance of the Sanitary Authority or of the Justices, as to any matter in respect of which the Certificate of a Medical Officer of Health or a Medical Practitioner is required as the basis or in aid of sanitary action.
- (5.) He shall advise the Sanitary Authority on any question relating to health involved in the framing and subsequent working of such byelaws and regulations as they may have power to make, and as to the adoption by the Sanitary Authority of the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890, or of any section of sections of such Act.
- (6.) On receiving information of the outbreak of any contagious, infectious, or epidemic disease of a dangerous character within the District, he shall visit without delay the spot where the outbreak has occurred, and inquire into the cause and circumstances of such outbreak, and in case he is not satisfied that all due precautions are being taken, he shall advise the persons competent to act as to the

measures which may appear to him to be required to prevent the extension of the disease, and take such measures for the prevention of disease as he is legally authorised to take under any Statute in force in the District, or by any Resolution of the Sanitary Authority.

- (7.) Subject to the instructions of the Sanitary Authority, he shall direct or superintend the work of the Inspector of Nuisances in the way and to the extent that the Sanitary Authority shall approve, and on receiving information from the Inspector of Nuisances that his intervention is required in consequence of the existence of any nuisance injurious to health, or of any overcrowding in a house, he shall, as early as practicable, take such steps as he is legally authorised to take under any Statute in force in the District, or by any Resolution of the Sanitary Authority, as the circumstances of the case may justify and require.
- (8.) In any case in which it may appear to him to be necessary or advisable, or in which he shall be so directed by the Sanitary Authority, he shall inspect and examine any animal, carcase, meat, poultry, game, flesh, fish, fruit, vegetables, corn, bread, flour, or milk, and any other article to which the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1875, in this behalf shall apply, exposed for sale, or deposited for the purpose of sale or of preparation for sale, and intended for the food of man, which is deemed to be diseased, or unsound, or unwholesome, or unfit for the food of man; and if he finds that such animal or article is diseased, or unsound, or unwholesome, or unfit for the food of man, he shall give such directions as may be necessary for causing the same to be dealt with by a Justice according to the provisions of the Statutes applicable to the case.
- (9.) He shall perform all the duties imposed upon him by any byelaws and regulations of the Sanitary Authority, duly confirmed where confirmation is legally required, in respect of any matter affecting the public health, and touching which they are authorised to frame byelaws and regulations.
- (10.) He shall inquire into any offensive process of trade carried on within the District, and report on the appropriate means for the prevention of any nuisance or injury to health therefrom.
- (11.) He shall attend at the office of the Sanitary Authority or at some other appointed place, at such stated times as they may direct.
- (12.) He shall from time to time report in writing to the Sanitary Authority his proceedings, and the measures which may require to be adopted for the improvement or protection of the public health in the District. He shall in like manner report with respect to the sickness and mortality within the District, so far as he has been enabled to ascertain the same.
- (13.) He shall keep a book or books, to be provided by the Sanitary Authority, in which he shall make an entry of his visits, and notes of his observations and instructions thereon, and also the date and nature of applications made to him, the date and result of the action taken thereon and of any action taken on previous reports; and shall produce such book or books, whenever required, to the Sanitary Authority.
- (14.) He shall also make an annual report to the Sanitary Authority, up to the end of December in each year, comprising a summary of the action taken, or which he has advised the Sanitary Authority to take, during the year for preventing the spread of disease, and an account of the sanitary state of his District generally at the end of the year. The report shall also contain an account of the inquiries which he has made as to conditions injurious to health existing in the District, and of the proceedings in which he has taken part or advised under any Statute, so far as such proceedings relate to those conditions; and also an account of the supervision exercised by him, or on his advice, for sanitary purposes over places and houses that the Sanitary Authority have power to regulate, with the nature and results of any proceedings which may have been so required and taken in respect of the same during the year. The report shall also record the action taken by him, or on his advice, during the year, in regard to offensive trades, to dairies, cow-sheds, and milk shops, and to factories and workshops. The report shall also contain tabular statements (on forms to be supplied by Us, or to the like effect), of the sickness and mortality within the District, classified according to diseases, ages and localities:

Provided that, if the Medical Officer of Health shall cease to hold office, before the Thirty-first of December of any year, he shall make the like report for so much of the year as shall have expired when he ceases to hold office.

- (15.) He shall give immediate information to Us of any outbreak of dangerous epidemic disease within the District, and shall transmit to Us a copy of each annual Report, and of any special Report. He shall make a special report to Us of the grounds of any advice which he may give to the Sanitary Authority with a view to their requiring the closure of any school or schools, on pursuance of the Code of Regulations approved by the Education Department; and for the time being in force.
- (16.) At the same time that he gives information to Us of an outbreak of infectious disease or transmits to Us a copy of his annual report or of any special report, he shall give the like information or transmit a copy of such report to the County Council or County Councils of the County or Counties within which his District may be situated.
- (17.) In matters not specifically provided for in this Order, he shall observe and execute any instructions issued by Us, and the lawful orders and directions of the Sanitary Authority applicable to his office.
- (18.) Whenever we shall make Regulations for all or any of the purposes specified in Section 134 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and shall declare the regulations so made to be in force within any area comprising the whole or any part of the District, he shall observe such regulations, so far as the same relate to or concern his office."

Some of the Medical Officers have constructed their Reports on the lines laid down by Dr. Power, but in several instances very little information of value is given in the Reports, and the detailed information as to the sanitary condition of the various villages in the Rural Districts is only given by the Medical Officers of one or two of the Districts, notably Highworth and Warminster.

With the object of assisting the Medical Officers of Health in approaching more uniformity in their Reports, and also obtaining necessary information which is frequently omitted from annual Reports, a Supplementary Form "C" was sent out to the various Medical Officers in December. This Form has been filled in by the Medical Officers of nearly all the Districts.

SPECIAL REPORTS.

Considerable uncertainty and opportunity for misunderstanding exists amongst Medical Officers of Health, as to what Reports are to be treated as "periodical" and "special" within the meaning of the Local Government Act, 1888, section 19, and the General Order of the Local Government Board of March 23rd, 1891, article 18, which provides that copies of such "periodical" and "special" Reports are to be sent to the County Council. In reply to communications from various Authorities, the Local Government Board when asked for a satisfactory definition of the terms "periodical" and "special" sent the following, which still leaves room for doubt and misunderstanding:—

Local Government Board, Whitehall, S.W.
March, 1901.

I am directed by the Local Government Board to state that the Board have not considered it necessary to issue any General Order or Regulation defining—for the purposes of Article 18 (15 and 16) of the Orders of March, 1901,—the Reports which are included in the terms "special" and "periodical"; but they may say that Reports which deal only with individual nuisances or the smaller details of sanitary work, as also Reports which are made by the Medical Officer of Health in the ordinary course, including monthly, quarterly, or other short period routine reports need not be regarded as "special" reports, copies of which are to be sent to the Board and to the County Council, unless they happen to include mention of some unusual matter or event that has occurred during the period.

Reports, however, that are made for any special purpose, such for instance, as (1) Reports giving an account of the sanitary state of a District, or of any section of it, and intended to form a basis of systematic work by the Medical Officer of Health in the future; (2) Reports on the need for adoption or revision of Regulations or of Bye-laws, or on their enforcement; (3) Reports on schemes dealing with areas under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, or dealing with the condition of groups of dwellings of any particular class, or in any special locality; and (4) Reports on the occasion of Outbreaks of Disease, and Reports advising the closing of Public Elementary Schools should in the Board's view be considered "special," and copies of such Report should be forwarded by a Medical Officer of Health to this Board, and to the County Council.

Adverting to section 19 of the Local Government Act, 1888, I am to state that the only periodical Report, of which a copy has at present to be forwarded to the Board by a Medical Officer of Health, is his Annual Report.

I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,
JOHN LITHIBY, Assistant Secretary.

AREAS.

The Urban Districts have a total area of 19569 acres, and the Rural Districts of 820306 acres.

POPULATION.

The population of the County is shown in the following Table:—

Population.	Uncorrected Census, 1901.	Census, 1891.	Estimated at middle of 1899.	Estimated at middle of 1900.
Urban	112615	95592	113272	113295
Rural	158757	165630	165728	162425
Total	271372	261222	279000	275720

Tables showing the number of Inhabited Houses and population at the Census of 1891 and 1901 in the County, and Urban and Rural Districts of Wilts:—

	Inhabited Houses.		Increase or decrease of inhabited houses between 1891 & 1901.		Population.		Increase or decrease of population between 1891 and 1901.	
	1891	1901	Increase.	Decrease.	1891	1901	Increase.	Decrease.
	WILTSHIRE	56912	60741	3829	..	261222	271372	10150

URBAN DISTRICTS.	Inhabited Houses		Increase or decrease of inhabited houses between 1891 & 1901.		Population.		Increase or decrease of population between 1891 and 1901.	
	1891	1901	Increase.	Decrease.	1891	1901	Increase.	Decrease.
	Bradford-on-Avon	1150	1120	..	30	4943	4514	..	429
Calne	751	812	61	..	3495	3456	..	39
Chippenham	985	1101	116	..	4618	5074	456	..
Devizes	1385	1433	48	..	6426	6532	106	..
Malmesbury	695	687	..	8	2964	2854	..	110
Marlborough	618	624	6	..	3012	3046	34	..
Melksham	492	583	91	..	2078	2450	372	..
Salisbury	3222	3651	429	..	15533	17117	1584	..
Swindon	5852	9257	3405	..	33001	44996	11995	..
†Trowbridge	2722	2816	94	..	12046	11526	..	520
Warminster	1253	1267	14	..	5563	5547	..	16
‡Westbury	1072	803	..	269	4439	3300	..	1139
Wilton	480	518	38	..	2120	2203	83	..
Totals	20677	24672	4302	307	100238	112615	14630	2253

† Clarendon District included in 1891 figures.

‡ Urban District created since 1891.

RURAL DISTRICTS.	Inhabited Houses.		Increase or decrease of inhabited houses between 1891 & 1901.		Population.		Increase or decrease of population between 1891 and 1901.	
	1891	1901	Increase.	Decrease.	1891	1901	Increase.	Decrease.
	Amesbury	1566	1668	102	..	6878	8268	1390
Bradford-on-Avon	1153	1134	..	19	5408	5071	..	337
Calne	1184	1128	..	56	5014	4615	..	399
Chippenham	3738	3996	258	..	17050	17885	835	..
Cricklade and Wootton Bassett }	2658	2594	..	64	11835	11357	..	478
Devizes	2898	2805	..	93	13318	13070	..	248
Highworth	3015	3156	141	..	14309	14279	..	30
Malmesbury	2263	2222	..	41	10203	9812	..	391
Marlborough	1162	1130	..	32	5494	5412	..	82
Melksham	993	1012	19	..	4480	4439	..	41
Mere	1357	1258	..	99	5762	5210	..	552
Pewsey	2678	2573	..	105	11713	11209	..	504
Ramsbury	1877	1744	..	133	8023	7093	..	930
Salisbury	2706	2797	91	..	12894	12860	..	34
Tisbury	1956	1845	..	111	8597	7714	..	883
Warminster	1846	1611	..	235	7470	6234	..	1236
Westbury and Whorwellsdown }	1364	1602	238	..	5688	6404	716	..
Wilton	1739	1715	..	24	7774	7467	..	307
Tetbury (Wilts portion)	82	79	..	3	430	358	..	72
Totals	36235	36069	849	1015	162340	158757	2941	6524

The population at various periods of the County has been as follows:—

1801	...	...	183,820	1861	...	...	249,311
1811	...	...	191,853	1871	...	...	257,177
1821	...	...	219,574	1881	...	...	258,965
1831	...	...	237,244	1891	...	...	264,997
1841	...	...	256,280	1901	...	...	271,372
1851	...	...	254,221				

The population of Westbury is for the first time treated as Urban, making an allowance for this the net increase in the Urban population is 13723, instead of 17023, and the net decrease in the Rural population is 13723, instead of 17023, and the net decrease in the Rural population is only 3573 instead of 6873.

During the ten years 1891-1900, there were 68,931 births in the County of Wiltshire, and 40774 deaths: the total natural increase of the population, or excess of births over deaths was thus 28157. The total increase of population as shown by the recent census was 10,150, therefore 18,007 persons must have emigrated or left the County during the ten years.

Last year I gave the population of the County as estimated by the various Medical Officers, and expressed a doubt as to the accuracy of the estimation. At the time of writing, only the uncorrected enumeration of the population has been published, which gives the total population as 271372 for the Administrative County. But there is some doubt whether the Administrative County as given by the Registrar General exactly corresponds with the Administrative County under the Wilts County Council, as amended by the various boundary revisions, it will therefore be necessary that the figures for the individual parishes be examined before a correct estimation of our population can be arrived at. In many of the Counties of England and Wales, the figures for each Registration District and Parish were published during the month of May, but the figures for only one or two of the Wiltshire District are available at present. The Birth and Death Rates and Rates of Incidence of Disease, &c., based on such unreliable data, are of very little value. Some of the rates given by the Medical Officers were incorrect even upon the data given. I propose when the corrected returns of the Census are available, to issue supplementary tables giving the corrected rates for the various Districts.

BIRTHS.

There were 6613 births registered in the administrative County during the year 1900, and of these 3831 were births in Rural Districts, and 2782 were births in Urban Districts.

The following Table shows the average Birth-rate of the whole Administrative County per 1000 of population for the years 1890-1900, and for the Urban and Rural Districts for the years 1893-1900, together with, for purposes of comparison, the corresponding rates for England and Wales, and for the 33 large towns in England:—

DISTRICTS.	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900
Administrative County	27.5	27.8	27.0	27.9	26.1	26.8	26.4	25.7	25.0	24.69	24.37*
Urban Districts					27.9	29.2	28.3	25.2	25.6	24.47	24.70**
Rural Districts				26.3	25.3	25.4	25.4	24.5	24.5	24.74	24.13***
England and Wales	30.2	31.4	30.5	30.8	29.6	30.4	29.7	29.7	29.4	29.3	28.9
Large Towns in England ...	30.4	32.5	31.8	31.8	30.6	31.2	30.7	30.7	30.3	30.2	

From this it will be seen that the Birth-rate of the County in the combined Urban Districts and the combined Rural Districts has been, and still is, considerably below the average for England and Wales.

The Birth-rate varied in the Urban Districts from 27.3 per 1000 population in the Devizes District, to 16.6 in the Marlborough District. In the Rural Districts the variation was between 27.9 in the Ramsbury District and 16.5 per 1000 in the Warminster District.

* Calculated upon the 1901 Census population of 271372.

** Calculated upon the 1901 Census Urban population of 112615.

*** Calculated upon the 1901 Census Rural population of 158757.

The Birth-rates of the several Urban Districts as given by the Medical Officers were as follows:—

	Per 1000 of population.		Per 1000 of population.
Devizes	... 27.3	Warminster	... 23.5
Calne	... 26.9	Chippenham	... 23.3
Swindon	... 26.3	Trowbridge	... 18.6
Salisbury	... 25.7	Wilton	... 17.4
Melksham	... 25.4	Bradford-on-Avon	... 17.1
Malmesbury	... 25.3	Marlborough	... 16.6
Westbury	... 24.5		

The Rural Districts Birth-rates were as follows:—

	Per 1000 of population.		Per 1000 of population.
Ramsbury	... 27.9	Mere	... 22.4
Highworth	... 27.8	Tetbury (Wilts Portion)	... 22.3
Chippenham	... 27.2	Malmesbury	... 22.3
Devizes	... 25.3	Calne	... 21.9
Marlborough	... 24.6	Wilton	... 21.8
Pewsey	... 24.5	Tisbury	... 20.5
Cricklade & Wootton Bassett	... 24.2	Salisbury	... 20.0
Amesbury	... 23.55	Bradford-on-Avon	... 19.4
Melksham	... 23.8	Warminster	... 16.5
Westbury & Whorwellsdown	... 22.8		

Although there were 10 more Births in the Urban Districts of Wiltshire in 1900 than in 1899, there were 280 fewer Births in the Administrative County than in 1899, as there were 290 fewer Births in the Rural Districts. Westbury is for the first time treated as an Urban

District; if the 82 Births occurring there were transferred to the Rural District, &c., it would show as compared with 1899, that there was a falling off of 72 in the Urban Births. The Birth-rate in England and Wales in 1900 was 28.9 per 1000 of the population, which is lower than in any other year on record. Compared with the average in the 10 years 1890-99, the Birth-rate in 1900 shows a decrease of 1.2 per 1000.

DEATHS.

The number of Deaths registered in the Administrative County in 1900 was 3967. The natural increase of population (excess of Births over Deaths) was 2646.

The Death-rate for the Administrative County was 14.61 per 1000 of the population; for the combined Urban Districts 13.00 per 1000; for the combined Rural Districts 15.75 per 1000. There was a considerable difference in the Death-rates of the various Districts, the range in the Urban Districts being from 20.3 per 1000 in Westbury to 6.3 per 1000 in Wilton. The Death-rate for Westbury is above the average for England and Wales. In the Rural Districts the Death-rate varied from 20.4 in Devizes District to 11.0 in Calne District. In the year 1899, Devizes and Calne Districts were the highest and lowest respectively.

The average Death-rate of the whole Administrative County per 1000 of population, and of the combined Urban and Rural Districts respectively, for the years 1890-1900, is shown in the following Table, together with the corresponding rates for England and Wales, and for the 33 large towns in England, taken from the Registrar General's Returns:—

DISTRICTS.	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900
Administrative County	16.2	16.9	17.8	16.0	15.4	15.9	13.8	14.8	14.4	15.76	14.61*
Urban Districts				15.6	15.2	14.8	13.7	13.2	13.1	15.44	13.00**
Rural Districts				16.3	15.9	15.6	13.0	13.9	15.5	15.97	15.75***
England and Wales	19.5	20.2	19.0	19.2	16.6	18.7	17.1	17.4	17.6	18.3	18.3
Town Districts in England ...	21.6	22.4	20.6	21.5	18.0	20.5	18.9	19.0	18.3	20.2	18.1
Country Districts of England and Wales ...	17.4	18.5	18.1	17.4	15.6	17.0	15.3	15.8	16.0	17.1	17.5

From the above it will be seen that the Death-rate of the County compares very favourably with the average for England and Wales, as also does the combined Urban Death-rate with that of the large towns and the Rural Death-rate with that of the Country Districts of England and Wales.

* Calculated upon the 1901 Census population of 271372.

** Calculated upon the 1901 Census Urban population of 112615.

*** Calculated upon the 1901 Census Rural population of 158757.

In the Urban Districts there were 285 fewer deaths registered than in 1899. There was a considerable decrease in the mortality amongst young children, there being 117 fewer deaths under 1 year, and 69 fewer deaths between the ages of 1 and 5 years. There was a

decrease of 1 in the number of deaths between 5 and 15 years, 1 between 15 and 25 years, and a decrease of 111 in the number of deaths of persons over 65 years of age. There was an increase of 14 deaths between the ages of 25 and 65. There was a decrease in the total number of deaths from all causes in all the Urban Districts of the County.

In the Rural Districts there were 146 fewer deaths registered than in 1899. Here also there was a decrease in the mortality amongst young children, there being 56 fewer deaths under 1 year, 32 less between 1 and 5 years. There were 3 more deaths between the ages of 5 and 15 years; 3 more between the 15 and 25 years; and 22 more between the ages of 25 and 65 years. There was a decrease of 86 over the age of 65 years. There was an increase in the total number of deaths from all causes in the Amesbury, Devizes, Malmesbury, Marlborough, Mere, Pewsey, Tisbury, and Wilton Rural Districts, and a decrease in all the other Districts.

With regard to the Urban Districts, there was only one whose Death-rate exceeded the average for England and Wales, viz.: Westbury.

In the Rural Districts there were two whose Death-rates exceeded the average for England and Wales, viz.: Ramsbury and Devizes.

Number of Deaths at all ages.

Arranged in the order of their Death-rates, the Urban Districts stand thus:—

	Per 1000 of population.		Per 1000 of population.
Wilton	6·3	Chippenham	13·64
Melksham	10·0	Bradford-on-Avon	14·1
Swindon	10·1	Warminster	14·2
Marlborough	10·9	Salisbury	16·1
Calne	12·5	Malmesbury	18·0
Devizes	13·2	Westbury	20·3
Trowbridge	13·6		

Arranged in order of their Death-rates, the Rural Districts stand as follows:—

	Per 1000 of population.		Per 1000 of population.
Calne	11·0	Marlborough	15·1
Bradford-on-Avon	12·1	Cricklade & Wootton Bassett	15·2
Tetbury (Wilts Portion)	12·1	Westbury & Whorwellsdown	15·2
Melksham	13·1	Wilton	15·4
Malmesbury	13·7	Mere	16·5
Highworth	14·2	Chippenham	16·6
Salisbury	14·3	Amesbury	18·0
Tisbury	14·7	Ramsbury	19·5
Warminster	14·8	Devizes	20·4
Pewsey	15·0		

Infantile Mortality.—The Death-rate of infants during the year 1900 in the administrative County was more favourable than the year preceding. The mean infantile mortality Death-rate per 1000 births for the years 1890-1899 was 101·4 for the County.

The following Table shows the average infantile Death-rate for the County per 1000 births for the years 1890-1900, together with, for purposes of comparison, the corresponding rates for England and Wales, and for the 33 large towns, taken from the Registrar General's Returns:—

DISTRICTS.	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900
Administrative County ...	98	100	111	98	103	102	88	113	100	116.05	94.0
Urban Districts	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	110	147.54	95.6
Rural Districts ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	93	94.87	115.7
England and Wales ...	151	149	148	159	137	161	148	156	161	163	154.0
Large Towns in England ...	171	167	163	181	152	182	168	176	178	181	172.0
Rural England and Wales ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	124	138.0

From the above it will be observed that the mean rate for the years 1890-1900 for the County, compares very favourably with the figures for England and Wales.

Deaths under one year.

Arranged in order of their Infantile Mortality Rates, the Urban Districts stand as follows:—

	Per 1000 Births.		Per 1000 Births.
Calne ...	53.1	Salisbury ...	103.6
Melksham ...	67.0	Trowbridge ...	106.8
Wilton ...	73.0	Bradford-on-Avon ...	139.0
Chippenham ...	81.85	Malmesbury ...	144.0
Devizes ...	88.7	Marlborough ...	180.0
Warminster ...	93.0	Westbury ...	207.3
Swindon ...	101.1		

The Rural Districts, in respect of their Infantile Mortality Rates, stand thus:—

	Per 1000 Births.		Per 1000 Births.
Melksham ...	28.5	Bradford-on-Avon ...	85.7
Mere ...	33.8	Marlborough ...	88.9
Ramsbury ...	64.5	Chippenham ...	94.8
Devizes ...	66.8	Wilton ...	101.0
Salisbury ...	69.5	Highworth ...	102.0
Cricklade & Wootton Bassett ...	69.6	Westbury & Whorwellsdown ...	115.3
Calne ...	73.0	Warminster ...	120.0
Tisbury ...	79.0	Tetbury ...	143.0
Malmesbury ...	83.0	Amesbury ...	166.6
Pewsey ...	84.7		

It will be observed from the above Table that the only Districts which exceeded the average for England and Wales were the Marlborough and Westbury Urban Districts.

The subject of the Infantile Mortality does not appear to engage the attention of some of the District Medical Officers in the County to the extent that the gravity of the subject demands.

Phthisis Mortality.—The number of deaths attributed to Phthisis in the administrative County was 285, of these 119 were registered in the Urban Districts, and 166 in the Rural Districts.

The following Table shows the Phthisis Death-rate per 1000 of the estimated population for the administrative County, and for the combined Urban and Rural Districts respectively, for the 11 years 1890-1900.

AREAS.		1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900
Administrative County	No. of Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	302	245	216	275	269	285
	Rate per 1000	1·33	1·05	1·24	1·13	1·08	1·11	·90	·78	·99	·96	1·05*
Combined Urban Districts	No. of Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	134	108	78	109	108	119
	Rate per 1000	..	..	..	..	..	1·28	1·01	·72	·98	·95	1·05**
Combined Rural Districts	No. of Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	168	137	138	166	161	166
	Rate per 1000	..	..	..	..	..	1·01	·82	·83	1·01	·97	1·04***
England and Wales	Rate per 1000	1·682	1·599	1·468	1·468	1·385	1·398	1·307	1·341	1·31	—	1·33

* Calculated upon the 1901 Census population of 271372.

** Calculated upon the 1901 Census Urban population of 112615.

*** Calculated upon the 1901 Census Rural population of 158757.

From the above Table it will be noticed that the rate for the administrative County as a whole is greater than for any year from 1896 to 1899, but is not so high as the 1894 rate.

The Phthisis Death-rate varied in the Urban Districts from 0·33 per 1000 of the population in Marlborough to 1·68 in Malmesbury. In the Rural Districts the rate varied from 0·18 per 1000 of the population in the Bradford-on-Avon District to 1·61 per 1000 of the population in the Devizes District.

Tuberculosis has gradually come to be recognised as an Infectious Disease, and as being set up by some substance which is carried directly or indirectly from a patient or animal already suffering from Tuberculosis to an individual who, up to the time of the introduction of this matter is free from the disease. Since the proof of its infective nature was first obtained, and in a more marked degree since its bacterial origin was fully demonstrated, the discussion of Tuberculosis has become one of the burning questions of the day, and there is a very general appreciation of the necessity for taking energetic steps to rout the scourge, which has wrought such havoc amongst our men, women and children, and also amongst our cattle.

During the year 374 persons died from Phthisis and the various forms of Tubercular disease in this County; giving a death-rate from this cause of 1·37 per 1000 of the population. The deaths from Tubercular Diseases were equal to 9·42 per cent. of the deaths from all causes in the County. The rate for England and Wales for 1899 was 10·4 per cent.

The Voluntary Notification of Phthisis has been adopted in two or three Districts in the County during the year, and a number of Medical Officers have advised the adoption.

As an inducement, I offered where voluntary notification was adopted, to examine sputa from cases notified, for the bacillus Tuberculosis, free of all charge, and to provide suitable tubes for the collection of the sputa. Already between 40 and 50 samples have come in, and in some

cases the diagnosis of Tuberculosis has not been confirmed after several examinations. In other cases where the disease was hardly suspected the bacillus was found present in large numbers, thus demonstrating the advantages of bacteriological examinations in the earlier stages of the disease.

Respiratory Diseases Mortality.—The number of deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy together, registered in the administrative County, amounted to 656, of which 240 were in the Urban Districts, and 416 in the Rural Districts.

The following Table shows the Death-rate from Respiratory Diseases per 1000 of the population for the whole County for the combined Urban and Rural Districts for the years 1895-1900.

AREAS.		1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900
Administrative County	No. of Deaths	763	561	591	621	794	656
	Rate per 1000	2·82	2·06	2·15	2·35	2·84	2·41
Combined Urban Districts	No. of Deaths	290	224	232	232	363	240
	Rate per 1000	2·78	2·19	2·14	2·10	3·25	2·13
Combined Rural Districts	No. of Deaths	473	337	359	389	431	416
	Rate per 1000	2·85	2·03	2·1	2·34	2·60	2·62

The Death-rate for Respiratory Diseases in the Urban Districts varied from 0·42 per 1000 of the population in Wilton to 5·09 per 1000 in Westbury. In the Rural Districts it varied from 1·19 per 1000 in Calne Rural District to 5·52 in the Amesbury Rural District.

General Zymotic Mortality.—The total number of deaths from Zymotic Diseases in the whole administrative County was 201, of which 80 occurred in the Urban Districts, and 121 in the Rural Districts; under the head of "Zymotic" are included Small pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Typhus, Enteric Fever, simple or continued Fever, Diarrhoea and Dysentery, and Cholera.

The following Table shows the total mortality from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases for the administrative County, and for the combined Urban and Rural Districts respectively, for the years 1891-1900; and also for comparative purposes the rate for England and Wales for the years 1891-1900.

AREAS.		1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900
Administrative County	No. of Deaths	..	..	..	..	202	218	302	225	364	201
	Rate per 1000	..	..	..	..	·74	·80	1·10	·81	1·30	·74
Combined Urban Districts	No. of Deaths	..	..	..	..	82	99	156	127	201	80
	Rate per 1000	..	..	..	..	·78	·93	1·44	1·15	1·77	·71
Combined Rural Districts	No. of Deaths	..	..	..	..	120	119	146	98	163	121
	Rate per 1000	..	..	..	..	·72	·71	·88	·59	·98	·76
England and Wales	Rate per 1000	1·9	2·0	2·5	1·7	2·1	2·18	2·15	2·22	2·21	1·57

It will be observed that the Zymotic Mortality was below the average rate for the year 1899, and was much below the average rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year 1900.

The Zymotic Death-rate in the Marlborough, Chippenham, Salisbury, Bradford-on-Avon and Malmesbury Urban Districts exceeded the mean rate for the combined Urban Districts, and that of Chippenham, Pewsey, Malmesbury, Ramsbury, Amesbury, and Mere, exceeded the mean rate for the Rural Districts, whilst Bradford-on-Avon Urban, and Malmesbury Urban, and Mere Rural exceeded the mean rate for England and Wales.

The Zymotic Mortality in former years was very much lower in the Rural than Urban Districts, but this year the position is reversed.

NOTIFICATION AND MORTALITY FROM INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act, 1889, had been adopted in every District in Wiltshire prior to the passing of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Extension Act, 1899. The latter Act came into operation on the 1st of January, 1900, and repealed the power given under the Act of 1889 to adopt, and made the Act compulsory throughout England and Wales.

During the year I have received each month from every District, a return showing the number of cases of Infectious Disease in each parish of the County, and have published the same regularly in the County Notification Summary, a copy of which is sent to each Medical Officer of Health, the Superintendent of the County Asylum, &c., &c. The following Table is compiled from these returns with the object of showing the seasonal rise and fall in the incidence of the various diseases.

Monthly Totals of reported Cases, 1900.

DISEASES.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	1st Qtr.	Apl.	May	June	2nd Qtr.	July	Aug.	Sep.	3rd Qtr.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	4th Qtr.	Year 1900	Year 1899
Small Pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever..	65	27	21	113	34	24	28	86	31	27	44	102	36	55	84	175	476	527
Diphtheria	33	18	4	55	17	21	41	79	30	10	23	63	25	27	22	74	271	259
Membranous Croup..	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	5	7	2
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	18	28	9	55	24	11	12	47	12	7	12	31	26	22	18	66	199	262
Typhus Fever..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Enteric Fever..	10	1	1	12	8	5	2	15	3	9	6	18	7	5	10	22	67	103
Continued Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	2	3	4
Relapsing Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	..	..	2	1	3	1	4	1	6	3	1	..	4	..	1	3	4	15
Totals ..	127	77	36	240	84	65	84	233	79	54	86	219	96	110	142	384	1040	1173

The figures in the above Table, taken from the monthly returns of the Medical Officers, do not compare with the figures given by the Medical Officers on Table II of the Local Government Board Forms, which are tabulated on Tables 3A and 3B of this report. I am inclined to accept the figures in the above Tables as the more correct.

SMALL POX.

No cases of this Disease were notified. The Swindon Joint Isolation Hospital Committee has provided a very satisfactory permanent Hospital for isolation of this Disease. With a large unvaccinated population in the County, the necessity for the provision of further Hospital accommodation will inevitably arise.

SCARLET FEVER.

During the year 476 cases of Scarlet Fever were reported. Of these, 228 were in the Urban Districts, and 248 in the Rural Districts, giving a sickness rate from this disease of 1.75 per 1000 of the population of the County. The mortality from this disease was extremely low, only 3 deaths being registered in the whole County, viz.: 1 in the Urban and 2 in the Rural Districts, giving a mortality of 0.63 per cent. of the notified cases, or a death-rate from this cause of 0.0011 per 1000 of the population of the County. During the year 1898 there were 646 cases notified, with 15 deaths, the death-rate being 0.035 per 1000 of the population. The mortality in 1899 was 2.78 per cent. of the notified cases, and the death-rate 0.035 per 1000. The death-rate from Scarlet Fever in England and Wales in 1899 and 1900 was 0.12 per 1000. Thus the rates for Wiltshire compare very favourably.

The steady reduction in the number of cases and mortality from this disease is entirely due to the efforts of the Sanitary Authorities to obtain isolation of first cases. It is only where there is no hospital accommodation available, and home isolation is found impracticable, that the disease has any chance to spread. One or two small outbreaks in the County were due to the existence of the disease being concealed. The provisions of the Notification Act, for the notification by the head of the family, where a medical man is not in attendance, are seldom or never observed in the County.

DIPHThERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

Two hundred and seventy eight cases were notified, of which 7 were notified as Membranous Croup. Eighty-eight of the cases were in the Urban Districts, and 190 in the Rural Districts. Forty-seven deaths were registered, 16 in the Urban and 31 in the Rural Districts, giving a mortality of 16.9 per cent. of the cases notified. The death-rate from this cause for the administrative County was 0.173 per 1000 of the population. The death-rate from this cause for England and Wales was 0.29 per 1000 for the year 1900.

There was an increase in the number of cases notified during the year. In addition to the increase in the number of cases of the disease which were notified, there were more deaths from this cause than in 1898 or 1899; in 1898 there were only 140 cases notified with 32 deaths, with a case mortality of 22.8 per cent.; in 1899 there were 260 cases with 34 deaths, giving a case mortality of 13.07

The disease appears to have been unusually prevalent during 1900 throughout the Country. Meteorological conditions appear to have a great influence on the incidence of the disease, and it has been found that Diphtheria most frequently occurs in cold and moderately warm weather. Very low and very high temperature appear to have a preventive effect. The greatest number of cases coincides with the presence of a large quantity of moisture in the atmosphere, low rain-fall, few rainy days, raw and dull weather, with changes from cold to warm weather. Although the origin of Diphtheria outbreaks is often very obscure, there were numerous examples during 1900, apparently induced by bad drainage, dampness and offensive conditions around dwellings, notably at Holt, in the Bradford-on-Avon Rural District.

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER.

This disease did not appear in epidemic form in any part of the County during the year. Sixty-nine cases were notified, of which 37 occurred in the Urban Districts, and 32 in the Rural Districts. Six of the Urban cases and 3 of the Rural cases terminated fatally, giving a case mortality of 13.04 per cent. The death-rate from this cause was 0.033 per 1000 of the population, which compares very favourably with the rate of 0.17 for England and Wales.

Of the 37 Urban cases, 26 occurred in Swindon, with 5 deaths: Taking the population at 48000 as estimated by the Medical Officer of Health, this would give 0.54 cases per 1000 of the population, a case mortality of 19.23 per cent., and a death-rate of 0.104 per 1000.* Two cases each occurred at Chippenham, Malmesbury and Trowbridge, and one each at Bradford-on-Avon, Calne, Marlborough and Warminster, the Marlborough case terminated fatally. In the Rural Districts, 9 cases (2 deaths) Chippenham, 6 cases Highworth, 3 cases (1 death) Cricklade and Wootton Bassett, 3 cases Malmesbury, 2 each Amesbury, Bradford-on-Avon and Pewsey, and 1 each Devizes, Mere, Ramsbury and Westbury.

PUERPERAL FEVER.

There were 19 cases notified—7 in the Urban Districts and 12 in the Rural Districts. Two of the Urban cases and 6 of the Rural cases died. One death occurred at Salisbury, but the case does not appear to have been notified.

MEASLES.

This disease was very prevalent throughout the County, and in consequence a number of Public Elementary Schools were closed. Fifteen deaths occurred in the Urban Districts, viz.: Malmesbury 2, Marlborough 1, Salisbury 3, Swindon 6, Trowbridge 2, Warminster 1. In the Rural Districts 28 deaths occurred, viz.: Amesbury 1, Chippenham 2, Devizes 2, Highworth 3, Malmesbury 6, Mere 5, Salisbury 1, Tisbury 5, Warminster 3.

The death-rate for the combined Urban Districts from this cause was 0.13 per 1000, for the combined Rural Districts 0.17 per 1000, for the whole County 0.15 per 1000, whilst the rate for England and Wales was 0.39 per 1000.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

This disease was not nearly so prevalent as in recent years. In 1899 there were 72 deaths in the County from this cause, whilst in 1900 there were only 19. The death-rate for the County in 1899 was 0.25, in 1900 it was 0.068. The rate for England and Wales for 1900 was 0.34.

DIARRHŒA.

This disease was less fatal than in 1899; only 67 deaths occurring, equal to a death-rate of 0.24 per 1000 of the population. The rate for England and Wales for 1900 was 0.69 per 1000.

In the Urban Districts the greatest mortality was at Salisbury, where the death-rate from this cause was 0.58.

In the Rural Districts of Marlborough, Melksham, Mere, Salisbury, Tisbury, Warminster, and Tetbury there were no deaths registered from this cause.

The following Table shows the number of deaths from Diarrhœa for the past 8 years.

	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900
Combined Urban Districts	45	21	42	24	32	66	110	34
„ Rural „	25	13	33	27	35	33	57	33
Administrative County ..	70	34	75	51	67	99	167	67

*The actual population being only 44996, the correct rates would be 0.57 cases per 1000, case mortality 19.23 per cent., and Death Rate 0.111 per 1000.

Epidemic Diarrhœa is principally a disease of towns or crowded areas. It has been found that the greater the density of Buildings, the greater the mortality, probably due to lack of ventilation and light, and with these, uncleanness is usually associated. In so many towns the keeping of fowls, pigs and other domestic animals in confined yards causes organic pollution of the soil, and is a potent factor in causing the disease.

Maternal ignorance and neglect conduce to a high mortality. Infants entirely breast-fed are almost exempt from Diarrhœa, while bottle-fed infants suffer most, especially among the very poor.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

No new Hospitals have been built during the year.

The Chippenham Joint Hospital has come into use.

The small Hospital at Malmesbury has also been used.

The plans for the extension of the Swindon and Highworth Joint Hospital, after very great delay, have received the sanction of the Local Government Board.

The Devizes Joint Hospital Committee received a large number of plans in their competition, but up to the present they are not sufficiently advanced to apply for a loan.

The Trowbridge Joint Committee have advertised for plans.

The Marlborough Urban and Rural Authorities appear to have come to an arrangement amongst themselves to enlarge the Hospital for their joint use.

There seems to be some slight prospect of the various Councils in the southern part of the County, where no isolation accommodation is at present provided, taking the question into their consideration.

Calne Hospital was largely used during the year. The arrangements were found upon inspection not to be quite satisfactory, and a special report was presented by me upon the subject.

DISINFECTION.

This appears to be receiving more attention in the various Districts; but with the primitive arrangements in use by the majority of the Rural and Urban Authorities in the County, the work cannot be said to be satisfactorily carried out. A new small steam disinfector has been erected in connection with the Chippenham Hospital.

WATER SUPPLY.

This is one of the most important subjects, and seriously affects the welfare of the County. In the Urban Districts, as in the Rural, the demands for water are increasing, and the majority of the supplies show little or no sign of increase.

URBAN DISTRICTS.

Bradford-on-Avon. The new adit has proved a great success, and the supply can now be considered ample, but it has been found necessary to increase the capacity of the filters, &c.

Calne. Water supplied by a company, but, from some cause there is insufficient pressure in the higher parts of the town, and there is great and just cause of complaint. An effort was being made by the Corporation to acquire the works. The water supplied is very good, but exceedingly hard.

Chippenham. This may be considered perhaps the most satisfactory of all Urban supplies in the County, both as regards quality and quantity.

Devizes. The demand appears to be increasing, and the supply decreasing, at any rate the question of augmenting the supply is receiving serious consideration.

Malmesbury. Since I interviewed the Directors of the Company last year, the supply has been "constant," and more care is taken to insure its purity. Arbitration proceedings for the purchase of the undertaking by the Corporation have been instituted.

Marlborough. From the Medical Officer's Annual Report it appears that bacteriological examinations made on several occasions, have indicated some pollution, though not of a dangerous character, most probably at the well itself.

Melksham. The supply is derived from the Trowbridge Water Company, and has been "constant."

Salisbury. The results of a number of analyses, appear to show more variation of the constituents than is usual in waters derived from similar unpolluted sources. There are several soaking cess-pits in the chalk situated on the borders of the Urban District, and the City Authorities, in order to safe-guard their water supply, should offer facilities for taking this sewage, as sewage has been known to travel for considerable distances through fissures in the chalk.

Swindon. The supply for this town although of good quality, is quite insufficient for many months in the year, and has to be augmented by water brought in trucks from Kemble by the Great Western Railway Company, and pumped into the mains at a charge of 1s. 3d. per 1000 gallons. The augmentation of the water supply is a crying need, and should receive the earliest possible and most earnest attention of the new Corporation, and should not be put aside by other schemes not of such a pressing nature.

Trowbridge. The character of the water supplied by the Company has altered, and is slightly softer. It is now chiefly pumped from a well in the upper green sand, the supply from the chalk, which was contemplated when Parliamentary powers were obtained, has become considerably reduced, and the whole of the water cannot be supplied by gravitation. The boiler and pumping power has been augmented, but it is absolutely necessary that the storage or service reservoir should be enlarged, as it does not hold anything like one day's supply. Parliament would not now sanction Waterworks, where the supply is derived from wells, without insisting upon a reservoir, between the pumps and the consumer, to contain two or three or more days' supply.

Warminster. The supply still continues satisfactory as regards quantity and quality. It is proposed to put in new turbines to increase the pumping power. A loan has been asked for this purpose.

Westbury. For various reasons there has been considerable delay in the construction of these works. They are now approaching completion, and it is hoped that the water will be available during the latter end of this summer.

Wilton. This supply has been abundant, and when it was examined it was found of excellent quality.

RURAL WATER SUPPLY.

If the water supply of Rural Districts is one of the crying needs of the time, and about this I think there can be little doubt, it cannot be said that it is due to a failure on the part of the legislature to appoint proper Authorities to look after it. In regard to some other matters of sanitary importance, the difficulty consists in finding anybody to whom the responsibility for neglect can be brought home, but in the case of the insufficiency of quality or quantity in a Rural water supply, the Rural District Council is directly responsible, as under the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, the duty is imposed upon all Rural District Councils of seeing

"That every occupied dwelling house within their District has within a reasonable distance an available supply of wholesome water sufficient for the consumption and use for domestic purposes of the inmates of the house."

Under the Public Health Act, 1875, these Councils possess full powers to construct waterworks, lay mains, &c. Parish Councils are empowered under the Local Government Act, 1894, to utilise any well

spring or stream within the parish, and to provide facilities for obtaining water therefrom, also to purchase land by agreement for water supply purposes. In the event of any neglect on the part of the District Council being proved, a third Authority is brought upon the scene—the County Council being empowered to carry out the needful works, or to appoint some person to perform the duty. But the usefulness of the County Council in this respect, is in most cases thwarted by the fact that the County Council can only be set in motion by the Parish Council, under section 16 of the Local Government Act of 1894, and in so many instances these Councils are prevented from asking the assistance of the County Council, by the action of small owners of the class of property most in need of a good water supply, who get themselves elected upon these Councils, and when the question of spending any money for the purpose of water supply crops up, they frighten their fellow members with the cry that the cost will be enormous, and that the people cannot afford to pay. I do not think there is a single instance in the County where a proper water supply has been provided for a village, that it has been found that the burden of paying for it is an insuperable one, indeed it was clearly shown by a paper read by one of the Inspectors of the Local Government Board last year, that the only villages where there was any increase in the rateable value, or increase in prosperity, were those in which a pure water supply, and efficient means of dealing with domestic filth existed.

The Local Government Board has sanctioned a loan for an experimental well at Great Sherston, but legal and other difficulties have delayed the commencement of the work. The water supplies of several Rural parishes have been improved by private enterprise, but there is still a great want of a pure water supply in the northern and eastern parts of the County.

Space will not allow me to deal with each of the Rural Districts of the County as regards their water supply, but I hope to have at least a portion of my detailed report upon the sanitary condition and water supply of the County ready by the end of the year.

The Medical Officer of the Highworth Rural District in his admirable report for 1900, has dealt with each parish in his District; it would be very advantageous if the Medical Officers of some of the other Rural Districts would obtain copies of this report, and would arrange their reports upon the same lines.

SEWERAGE, SEWAGE DISPOSAL AND POLLUTION OF RIVERS.

A great deal has been done in the way of discussion and preparation during the year, but no new works have been carried out with the exception of Warminster, where the works are approaching completion.

With the growth of Sewage Disposal Works in the County, it is obvious that regular and systematic inspections will have to be made of the effluents from such works, to ensure that the mere laying out of sewage farms is not regarded as a complete compliance with orders to abate river pollution.

Another point that should receive the earnest attention of the Local Government Board is the undoubted necessity for some system of inspection upon the completion of Sewage Disposal Works constructed out of Loans. The Board takes infinite trouble with a scheme before the sanction for a Loan is granted, but once granted takes no steps to see that the works are carried out in accordance with the plans as sanctioned. There are instances in this County where the details of the scheme have been altered without the sanction of the Board, and where money has been wasted and the efficiency of the works reduced in consequence.

URBAN DISTRICTS.

Bradford-on-Avon. The loan for this scheme has been sanctioned by the Local Government Board, and the works begun.

Calne. These works are maintained in a satisfactory condition, and a fairly good effluent is produced.

Chippenham. The sewage is discharged into the river by a number of out-fall sewers. There is no treatment other than that of small catch-pits. In consequence of the scarcity of water in the river during the summer months, a serious nuisance is produced. A special report was presented by me on this subject.

Devizes. This Authority is considering whether they will adopt the septic tank system or the "Sutton Contact Bed System." They have consulted engineers respecting both systems and they are now considering their reports.

Malmesbury. The sewage is still discharged into the river. If the report has been received from the engineer consulted by this Authority it has not apparently been made public.

Marlborough. The construction of these works has been delayed for various reasons but now there is every prospect of the works being completed at a reasonable date.

Melksham. The sewage is discharged direct into the river. A nuisance exists in the summer. Building operations in the town are seriously retarded from want of efficient sewers.

Salisbury. It has been decided to construct new disposal works without applying to the Local Government Board for a loan. It is probable that the Salisbury Town Council are unwise in taking this course, as past experience has proved in more instances than one that incomplete schemes of sewerage and sewage disposal are most expensive in their working.

Swindon. A loan was sanctioned for increased filters, &c., at Old Swindon, but works were suspended in consequence of the formation of the new borough.

Trowbridge. The details of this scheme are not yet complete. It is greatly to be hoped that before the completion of the year 1901 that a complete scheme will be laid before the Local Government Board, and that no delay will occur in the execution of the works.

Warminster. These works are approaching completion and it is more than probable that some variation in the method of treatment will have to be introduced.

Westbury. Few sewers and no sewage disposal works exist. A scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal will be absolutely necessary for this town directly the water works are completed.

Wilton. Two new inspection chambers have been built where the sewer passes through Wilton Park, and will be of great service in keeping the channel clear. Since the ventilating shaft at the top of Ditchampton has been converted into a lamp there have been no complaints of smell, and the ventilation of the sewer is much more perfect than it was before.

RURAL DISTRICTS.

Bradford-on-Avon. A scheme for the drainage of the village of Holt has at last been produced, and is now before the Local Government Board awaiting sanction.

Calne. No new sewerage works appear to have been carried out in this District, and neither do they appear to be necessary.

Chippenham. The scheme of sewerage for the Woodlands District is complete as far as the laying of sewers is concerned, but none of the disposal works are constructed, and the sewage was turned into a field without treatment, and a serious nuisance resulted.

Devizes. The Breach drainage works are approaching completion.

Highworth. A Local Government Board enquiry was held in November for a loan of £11500 for a new scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for Stratton St. Margaret. The scheme appears to be hung up for a time, as there is some suggestion of extending the Swindon borough boundaries.

Ramsbury. Complaints were received from the Thames Conservators of the pollution of the tributaries of the Thames at Great Bedwyn and Chilton Foliat. As the land-owners have promised to construct some disposal works, the necessity for an expensive scheme of sewerage for these villages has for a time been avoided.

INSANITARY DWELLINGHOUSES AND OVERCROWDING.

From the census returns just published†, it will be observed that during the 10 years 1891-1901 there has been an increase of 3829 in the number of Inhabited Houses in the County, and the population has increased by 10150. Taking the County as a whole there were in 1891, 4.61 persons per house; in 1901 there were only 4.46 persons per house. In the Urban Districts in 1891 there were 4.84 persons per house, in 1901 there were only 4.56 persons per house. In the Rural Districts in 1891 there were 4.48 persons per house, in 1901 the number was 4.40 per house. The improvement as regards the Rural Districts is very slight, and when we come to examine the figures it is found that in some Districts there has been a falling off, for instance in Amesbury District in 1891 there were 4.39 persons per house, in 1901 there were 4.95.

Overcrowding with its attendant physical and moral degradation exists in some of the Urban and Rural Districts. In the Rural Districts it is difficult to cope with, as it has been found practically impossible to build new houses at a cost which will allow of their being let at the rents which the Agricultural Labourer is able to pay, and it follows that the people must either leave the neighbourhood or continue to occupy the dilapidated insanitary dwellings, or that cottages must be erected under the provisions of Part III. of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, as it is clearly established that in a large number of parishes there is no probability of the houses being built by private enterprise. From some of the reports of the District Medical Officers of Health it would appear that attention has been called to the necessity for the augmentation and improvement of house accommodation for the working classes, from time to time, and it is to be hoped that where necessary, early and decided action will be taken.

An application from the Westbury Rural District Council for permission to adopt Part III. of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, is now before the County Council, and if a clear case is made out and the consent to adopt is granted, it is to be hoped there will be no delay in the carrying out of the Act. In most cases in which Urban District Councils have carried out the Act, the requirements of the Local Government Board as to the nature and character of the buildings have been of a prohibitive character, and such that the buildings can by no means be made to pay. It is a question for consideration whether under the County Council, buildings of a sufficiently substantial character to comply with the ordinary building bye-laws, and which will last out the loan, can be erected that will pay, or at any rate, only leave a small margin of loss.

It would be interesting to know how many Councils have carried out their statutory duty, under Section 32 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890—

“To cause to be made from time to time inspection of their District with a view to ascertain whether any dwellinghouse therein is in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.”

BYE-LAWS.

Bye-laws for various purposes have been adopted by several Authorities during the year. But much yet remains to be done in this direction. Several Authorities have no Bye-laws of any kind. It has been admitted by most who have any practical experience, that the “Model Bye-laws” for new Streets and Buildings without modification are considered to be in some respects unnecessarily stringent, at any rate, as regards Districts of a rural character. The Local Government Board, has, we are informed, taken the matter into consideration, and the model Bye-laws are being revised with a view to modification. Without Building Bye-laws of some kind, a very serious state of affairs will soon arise in the Pewsey Rural District, Amesbury Rural District, &c. Exhaustive as are the departmental model Bye-laws in regard to subjects with which they deal, the adaptation of the various series to the special requirements of the particular Districts involves much labour, and unfortunately the officers of some of the Authorities are over-burdened with other duties, and some are not possessed of the necessary technical knowledge to be efficient advisers upon the various subjects; as a consequence, the “Model Bye-laws” are too often adopted *en bloc*, only to be found, when too late, to be unworkable.

† See Tables page 9.

SMOKE NUISANCES.

These appear to receive little attention by the Sanitary Authorities of the County. Trowbridge is notably very lax. The Public Health Act, 1875, sec. 91, sub-sec. 7, defines as a "Nuisance"—

"(7) Any fireplace or furnace which does not as far as practicable, consume the smoke arising from the combustible used therein, and which is used for working engines by steam, or in any mill, factory, dyehouse, brewery, bakehouse, or gasworks, or in any manufacturing or trade process whatsoever; and"

"any chimney (not being the chimney of a private dwelling house) sending forth black smoke in such quantity as to be a nuisance."

"shall be deemed to be nuisances liable to be dealt with summarily in manner provided by this Act."

BAKE HOUSES.

The Bake houses throughout the County are as a rule regularly inspected and found in a satisfactory condition. Sec. 34 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1878, *re* Lime-washing, painting and washing of the interior of bake houses, now applies to all bake houses; sec., 27 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1895, repealing so much of the section as limited the operation to cities and places with a certain minimum population. The section now reads as follows:—

"(34) All the inside walls of the rooms of such bake house, and all the ceilings or tops of such rooms (whether such walls, ceilings, or tops be plastered or not), and all the passages and staircases of such bake house shall either be painted with oil or varnished or be lime-washed, or be partly painted or varnished and partly lime-washed; where painted with oil or varnished there shall be three coats of paint or varnish, and the paint or varnish shall be renewed once at least in every seven years, and shall be washed with hot water and soap once at least in every six months; where lime-washed the lime-washing shall be renewed once at least in every six months. A bake house in which there is any contravention of this section shall be deemed not to be kept in conformity with this Act."

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The slaughter houses throughout the County seem to receive more attention from the Inspectors of Nuisances, and as a rule are as well kept as buildings not specially constructed for the purpose can be. The provisions of sec. 170 of the Public Health Act, 1875, do not appear to be observed in some of the Urban Districts. It is as follows:—

"The owner or occupier of any slaughter house licensed or registered under this Act shall, within one month after the licensing or registration of the premises, affix, and shall keep undefaced and legible on some conspicuous place on the premises, a notice with the words 'Licensed slaughterhouse,' or 'Registered slaughter house,' as the case may be. Any person who makes default in this respect, or who neglects or refuses to affix or renew such notice after requisition in writing from the Urban Authority, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five pounds for every such offence, and of ten shillings for every day during which such offence continues after conviction."

The Public Health Acts require some amendment to provide for the proper registration of slaughter houses in all Rural Districts, as these establishments should be kept well under control in order to prevent local nuisances and to lessen the danger to man through the use as food for man of the meat from diseased animals. In many villages buildings quite unfit for the preparation of food, are used as slaughter houses.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

The year was a memorable one as regards activity under this head, and "Regulations" were adopted by two Rural Authorities; it is to be hoped that before the end of the year 1901 the Authorities who have not yet adopted Regulations will do so.

There seems to be a certain amount of misconception on the part of some of the Authorities and their Officers as to Dairy legislation. The provisions of the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order (15th June, 1885) and Amended Order of 1st November, 1886, apply without "adoption" to every Sanitary Authority in Great Britain with the force of statute law, and yet some Authorities neglect to carry out the law, giving as an excuse that the "Order" has not been "adopted." Some of the provisions are most important, and those Authorities who fail to enforce them are neglecting a statutory duty.

Article 6. Requires every Sanitary Authority to keep a Register of all Cowkeepers, dairymen, and purveyors of milk in the district and to give public notice of such registration being required. It has been unlawful in England and Wales and Scotland since 1885 for any person to trade as above without being registered.

Articles 7 and 8. Deal with the construction, water supply, drainage, lighting, ventilation, air space, and Sanitary state of all dairies and cowsheds.

Article 9. Precludes any person suffering from a dangerous infectious disorder, or having recently been in contact with a person so suffering, from milking cows or handling any vessels used for containing milk for sale, or in any way take part or assist in the conduct of the trade or business of the cowkeeper, dairyman, purveyor of milk or occupier of a milkstore or milkshop.

Article 13. Empowers Sanitary Authorities to make regulations, that have all the force of Byelaws for securing proper inspection, &c.

In some few of the Districts in the County the "Orders" appear to be carried out properly, but in the majority the "Orders" are either in complete abeyance or else are carried out in a perfunctory fashion.

INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

In the whole County of Wilts there are only two Inspectors of Nuisances who devote their whole time to the duties, viz.: Highworth Rural and Swindon Urban, but the Inspector for Salisbury Urban says he devotes practically the whole of his time to the duties, and the Inspector for the Ramsbury District divides his time between Ramsbury and the Hungerford Districts. Many of the Officers hold a multitude of other offices, and in some instances conduct businesses which are not quite compatible with the proper discharge of their duties as Inspectors of Nuisances. Very few of the Inspectors appear to hold the certificate of competency after examination by the Sanitary Institute, or the conjoint Board of Examiners.

SANITARY LEGISLATION OF 1900.

A few amendments of the existing law have been enacted, but no great measure of legislative reform has been under consideration.

The need for amending and consolidating the group of Public Health Acts has continued to be felt.

The following list includes the principal Acts of the year 1900, which wholly or in part relate to Local Government and Sanitary Administration:—

- Housing of the Working Classes Act.
- Census (Great Britain) Act.
- County Councils (Elections) Amendment Act.
- District Councillors and Guardians (Term of Office) Act.
- Members of Local Authorities Relief Act.
- Ancient Monuments Protection Act.
- Military Lands Act.

A number of Bills relating to particular defects in the law were laid before Parliament, but made very little progress; amongst these were—The Public Health Acts Amendment Bill, Isolation Hospitals (Amendment) Bill, the Rivers Pollution Prevention Bill, and others.

COUNTY LABORATORY.

This is now equipped with apparatus for the Chemical Examination of Water and Sewage Effluents. At the latter end of the year a grant was made for the purchase of apparatus for the Bacteriological Examination of Water, Milk, Blood, &c., and it is proposed to examine specimens for Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Tuberculosis, Anthrax, Tetanus, &c.

During the year 173 complete sanitary analyses of potable and river water were made; and 42 samples of sewage and sewage effluent were analysed.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

During the year 453 samples were submitted to the County Analyst by the County Inspectors, of which 82 were other than genuine. During the previous year 405 samples were analysed, of which 81 were other than genuine.

During December a number of samples of beer, jam, etc., were analysed for the presence of Arsenic, the only samples contaminated were those of beer from one Brewery. Previous to samples being forwarded to the County analyst, I had my attention called by more than one Medical Man in Trowbridge to the fact that persons were suffering from what was probably arsenical poisoning, I examined the urine of several patients and found arsenic present in three cases. Upon investigation it was found that the persons suffering were in the habit of drinking beer obtained only from one brewery. I analysed samples of the beer and found them to contain arsenic, and samples purchased for me were also found to contain the poison. The attention of the Brewer was called to the matter, and a sample of the glucose used was given to me and this also was found to contain arsenic. The Brewer immediately withdrew the implicated beer from sale, and undertook to destroy it. Samples of beer and glucose afterwards obtained were found to be free from Arsenic.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT INQUIRIES.

I attended all the Inquiries of which we received notice, which were held by Inspectors of the Local Government Board upon application for Loans for Sanitary purposes. All these schemes have been carefully watched from the County point of view as they permanently affect the sanitary condition of the County. Several schemes entailing the expenditure of large sums of money were under consideration during the year and I have endeavoured at all times to so advise the various authorities, that public money should not be wasted. A number of the inquiries had reference to sewage works, and it is obvious that the number of such works in the County is increasing year by year, and the proper supervision of these works will entail additional work.

* * * *

I have been consulted from nearly every one of the Urban and Rural Districts in the County during the year upon matters connected with Hospital Accommodation, Water Supply, Sewage Disposal, Nuisances, Insanitary conditions and outbreaks of disease, and a large number of inspections were made by me. Where necessary the results of these inspections were laid before the Sanitary and General Purposes Committee of the County Council, but, in the majority of cases the necessity for this was obviated by the prompt action of those concerned. So far as my inquiries and inspections were concerned I have endeavoured to conduct them with impartiality and with the public interest solely in view.

A good deal of excellent sanitary work has been done during the past year, but much yet remains to be done.

As Authorities get to learn that no extravagant or unnecessary expenditure is asked of them, they are becoming more ready to seek advice.

I take this opportunity of expressing my warmest thanks to every one of my colleagues, the Medical Officers of Health of the various Sanitary Authorities in the County. They have been always ready to give me their assistance, and have received me in a manner which has helped to make my work amongst them a pleasure.

I have also to express my appreciation of the courtesy extended to me by the various Sanitary Authorities whose meetings I have attended to discuss with them various questions of sanitary importance.

In conclusion I have to thank you for the invariable kindness and courtesy I have received at your hands.

I remain, my Lords and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN TUBB-THOMAS.

*Trowbridge,
24th June, 1901.*

PART II.
STATISTICS.

TABLE 1 A.

Table showing estimated Population, Birth-rate, Death-rate, and number of Deaths in Public Institutions, &c., in the Urban Districts of the County of Wilts in the year 1900

Urban District Councils of the County of Wilts.	Popu- lation estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non- Residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	Deaths at all Ages Nett.	
		No.	Rate.*	No.	Rate per 1000 Births registered	No.	Rate.*				No.	Rate.
Bradford-on-Avon ..	4957	86	17.1	12	139	71	14.1	5	..	1	87	17.5
Calne.. .. .	3495	94	26.9	5	53.1	44	12.5	5	..	..	39	11.1
Chippenham	4618	108	23.3	11	81.85	63	13.64	4	1	16	123	26.6
Devizes	6196	169	27.3	15	88.7	82	13.2	29	13	4	73	11.9
Malmesbury	2964	76	25.3	11	144	53	18	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	3012	50	16.6	9	180	33	10.9	6	..	6	39	12.2
Melksham	2480	59	25.4	4	67	26	10	3	3	..	23	9
Salisbury	16728	386	25.7	40	103.6	266	16.1	51	24	..	242	15.66
Swindon	48000	1266	26.3	128	101.1	494	10.1	27	..	9	..	..
Trowbridge	12560	234	18.6	25	106.8	171	13.6	3	..	10	181	14.4
Warminster	5560	131	23.5	11	93	79	14.2	21	9	..	70	12.5
Westbury	3337	82	24.5	17	207.3	68	20.3	..	..	..	68	20.3
Wilton	2352	41	17.4	3	73	15	6.3	1	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	116259	2782	—	291	—	1465	—	155	50	46	945	—

* Rates calculated (by District M.O.H.'s) per 1000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of illness, and dying there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of illness, and have died elsewhere.

TABLE 1 B.

Table showing estimated Population, Birth-rate, Death-rate, and number of Deaths Public Institutions, &c., in the Rural Districts of the County of Wilts, in the year 1900.

Rural District Councils of the County of Wilts.	Popu- lation estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Deaths under One Year of Age.		Deaths at all Ages. Total.		Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non- Residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	Deaths at all Ages. Nett.	
		No.	Rate.*	No.	Rate per 1000 Births registered	No.	Rate.*				No.	Rate.*
Amesbury	6878	162	23.55	27	166.6	134	18	8	6	..	124	16.7
Bradford-on-Avon ..	5394	105	19.4	9	85.7	61	12.1	8	..	3	..	..
Calne.. .. .	5004	110	21.9	8	73	56	11	..	..	5	61	12
Chippenham	16246	443	27.2	42	94.8	270	16.6	40	16	1	..	..
Cricklade and Wootton Bassett }	11835	287	24.2	20	69.6	180	15.2	11	..	..	..	..
Devizes	12365	314	25.3	21	66.8	253	20.4	180	77	8	184	15.5
Highworth	15500	431	27.8	44	102	221	14.2	27	..	2	..	..
Malmesbury	10203	229	22.3	19	83	141	13.7	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	5475	135	24.6	12	88.9	83	15.1	17	7	..	76	13.8
Melksham	4396	105	23.8	3	28.5	58	13.1	17	12	..	46	10.4
Merle	5264	118	22.4	4	33.8	87	16.5	7	1	..	86	16.3
Newsey	12000	294	24.5	25	84.7	180	15	12	..	..	180	..
Stamsbury	6665	186	27.9	12	64.5	116	19.5	..	..	14	130	19.5
Salisbury	12896	259	20	18	69.5	185	14.3	55	49	12	148	11.4
Strisbury	8596	177	20.5	14	79	127	14.7	10	2	1	126	14.6
Warminster	7430	123	16.5	15	120	110	14.8	5	2	5	113	15.07
Westbury and Whorwellsdown }	6829	156	22.8	18	115.3	103	15.2	..	..	..	..	..
Wilton	8507	188	21.8	19	101	132	15.4	1	..	..	..	..
Wootton Bassett (Wilts Portion)	403	9	22.33	1	143	5	12.1	2	2	..	3	7.4
TOTAL	162425	3831	—	326	—	2502	—	300	174	51	1277	—

* Rates calculated (by District M.O.H.'s) per 1000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths included in Column 7 of this table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term "Non-residents" is meant persons brought into the district on account of illness, and dying there; and by the term "Residents" is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of illness, and have died elsewhere.

TABLE 2 A.—Table of Deaths during the year 1900, in the Urban District

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES at subjoined Ages.							Small-Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping-Cough.	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.	Croup.	Fever.	
	Total at all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.							Typhus.	Enteric.
Bradford-on-Avon	71	14	5	2	6	18	26	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..
Calne	44	5	1	..	1	13	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chippenham	63	11	2	1	6	10	33	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Devizes	82	15	3	1	3	20	40	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malmesbury	53	11	5	..	4	15	18	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	33	9	3	2	..	9	10	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Melksham	26	4	1	..	1	7	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Salisbury	266	39	22	9	12	97	87	..	3	..	..	7	..	..	..
Swindon	494	128	36	30	29	165	106	..	6	1	3	2	1	..	5
Trowbridge	171	25	12	7	2	49	76	..	2	..	1	2	..	..	..
Warminster	79	11	6	1	..	29	32	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wilton	15	3	..	2	1	3	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westbury	68	17	2	..	1	20	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	1465	292	98	55	66	455	499	—	15	1	5	13	3	—	6 2

County of Wilts, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES.

Cholera.	Plague.	Diarrhoea.	Enteritis.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Other septic diseases.	Phthisis.	Other Tubercular diseases.	Cancer, Malignant disease.	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia.	Pleurisy.	Other diseases of Respiratory organs.	Alcoholism.	Cirrhosis of Liver.	Veneral diseases.	Premature birth.	Diseases and accidents of parturition	Heart diseases.	Accidents.	Suicides.	All other causes.	All causes.
..	..	4	..	..	..	2	3	..	5	8	2	..	6	1	..	..	3	..	8	1	..	22	71
..	4	..	7	8	1	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	6	1	..	13	44
..	..	4	1	..	..	..	4	1	1	5	7	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	6	2	..	23	63
..	..	1	..	..	..	..	9	..	6	4	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	2	..	30	82
..	..	3	..	..	..	..	5	1	1	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	5	2	..	21	53
..	..	1	2	..	..	..	1	1	5	2	3	..	3	..	..	..	1	1	6	..	..	3	33
..	3	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	6	2	..	10	26
..	..	10	8	1	1	1	22	16	24	32	15	1	..	7	..	..	4	4	32	7	1	67	266
..	..	8	23	1	..	6	48	22	30	33	24	4	1	10	..	..	31	8	53	16	2	142	494
..	4	..	..	..	10	7	17	18	12	..	..	2	..	..	3	..	19	4	1	69	171
..	..	2	..	..	..	1	4	3	7	12	..	..	2	..	..	..	3	..	12	3	..	29	79
..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	6	15
..	3	..	..	..	4	1	1	7	7	1	2	..	..	..	5	1	5	1	..	30	68
—	—	34	41	2	1	10	119	53	106	138	80	8	14	23	—	—	58	14	178	41	4	465	1465

TABLE 2 B.—Table of Deaths during the year 1900, in the Rural District

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES at subjoined ages.							Small-Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping-Cough.	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.	Croup.	Fever.	
	Total at all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.							Typhus.	Enteric.
Amesbury	134	27	7	6	4	39	51	..	1	..	1	4	1	..	..
Bradford-on-Avon	61	10	6	2	4	12	27	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Calne	56	8	1	2	3	10	32	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chippenham	270	42	15	11	14	60	128	..	2	..	2	2	..	..	2
Cricklade and Wootton Bassett } ..	180	22	13	6	13	46	80	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	1
Devizes	253	21	10	9	8	87	118	..	2	1	2	..	..	..	..
Highworth	221	44	15	8	15	58	81	..	3	..	1	1	2	..	..
Malmesbury	141	19	12	5	3	39	63	..	6	..	..	..	1	..	..
Marlborough	83	12	4	4	4	22	37	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Melksham	58	3	2	3	2	25	23	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Mere	87	4	5	6	2	25	45	..	5	..	..	4	..	..	..
Pewsey	180	25	6	4	9	40	96	..	..	..	5	..	1	..	..
Ramsbury	116	12	7	4	6	27	60	..	..	..	1	4	..	..	..
Salisbury	185	19	11	6	7	47	95	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..
Tisbury	127	14	6	..	3	44	60	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Warminster	110	15	3	2	8	26	56	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westbury and Whorwellsdown } ..	103	18	5	1	4	40	35	..	..	1	..	3	..	..	..
Wilton	132	19	4	3	7	48	51	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..
Tetbury (Wilts Portion) ..	5	1	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	2502	335	132	82	116	697	1140	—	28	2	14	23	8	—	3

County of Wilts, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES.

Cholera.	Plague.	Diarrhoea.	Enteritis.	Puerperal fever.	Erysipelas.	Other septic diseases.	Phthisis.	Other Tubercular diseases.	Cancer, Malignant disease.	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia.	Pleurisy.	Other diseases of Respiratory organs.	Alcoholism.	Cirrhosis of Liver.	Veneral diseases.	Premature birth.	Diseases and accidents of parturition.	Heart diseases.	Accidents.	Suicides.	All other causes.	All causes.
..	..	3	..	..	1	..	5	3	5	13	24	1	..	..	..	..	8	1	13	6	..	43	134
..	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	10	6	..	4	1	2	2	2	..	8	1	..	20	61
..	..	2	..	..	..	..	5	..	6	5	1	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	11	1	..	18	56
..	..	5	7	..	..	2	16	..	14	21	11	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	33	4	2	127	270
..	..	2	1	..	..	..	14	5	11	9	6	1	..	..	..	..	4	..	40	3	1	67	180
..	..	1	..	..	..	..	20	5	7	35	15	2	1	2	..	..	6	2	39	6	1	103	253
..	..	4	6	..	..	..	24	6	11	18	11	..	..	2	..	..	4	..	27	5	2	90	221
..	..	4	..	..	..	..	7	3	9	22	9	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	20	3	1	45	141
..	5	..	4	4	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	9	1	..	49	83
..	1	..	3	..	1	5	2	..	2	2	..	..	1	..	9	4	..	28	58
..	3	1	5	12	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	19	1	..	32	87
..	..	4	..	2	..	..	7	..	7	30	11	..	2	1	..	..	1	1	24	6	..	78	180
..	..	4	..	..	1	..	7	1	5	11	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	18	2	1	53	116
..	3	2	..	1	16	5	16	10	15	..	2	1	2	9	3	27	3	..	..	61	185
..	2	..	1	1	10	..	10	16	8	..	..	1	..	..	6	..	19	1	..	42	127
..	2	..	..	..	5	3	6	17	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	28	4	..	32	110
..	..	1	3	2	..	..	4	1	4	12	3	..	..	2	..	..	2	1	16	1	1	46	103
..	..	1	..	..	..	1	13	3	5	10	6	..	..	1	..	..	6	1	16	4	2	45	132
..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	5
—	—	33	24	6	4	5	166	36	128	261	138	5	12	14	4	4	61	12	376	57	11	981	2502

TABLE 3 A.—Table of New Cases of Infectious Disease coming to the knowledge of
 Wilts, classified according to Diseases and Localities; showing also the number
 also the Deaths

DISTRICT.		Smallpox.	Cholera.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhus Fever.
Bradford-on-Avon	Total cases reported .. 17	..	..	7	..	5	4	..
	Total deaths 4	..	..	2	2	..	..	..
Calne..	Total cases reported .. 48	..	..	..	..	3	44	..
	Total deaths .. .. —	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chippenham	Total cases reported .. 22	..	..	2	..	9	9	..
	Total deaths .. .. —	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Devizes	Total cases reported .. 8	..	..	1	..	3	4	..
	Total deaths .. .. —	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malmesbury	Total cases reported .. 8	..	..	..	..	3	3	..
	Total deaths .. .. —	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	Total cases reported .. 28	..	..	12	..	3	12	..
	Total deaths 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Melksham	Total cases reported .. 3	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
	Total deaths .. .. —	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Salisbury	Total cases reported .. 51	..	..	9	..	9	32	..
	Total deaths 9	..	..	7	..	1	..	..
Swindon	Total cases reported .. 155	..	..	17	..	37	71	..
	Total deaths 12	..	..	2	1	..	1	..
Trowbridge	Total cases reported .. 40	..	..	6	..	15	17	..
	Total deaths 2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..
Warminster	Total cases reported .. 22	..	..	4	..	1	16	..
	Total deaths .. .. —	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wilton	Total cases reported .. 40	..	..	31	..	2	7	..
	Total deaths .. .. —	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westbury	Total cases reported .. 10	..	..	..	..	4	6	..
	Total deaths .. .. —	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	Total cases reported .. 452	—	—	59	—	94	228	—
	Total deaths 28	—	—	13	3	1	1	—

Medical Officer of Health during the year 1900, in the Urban Districts of the County of
 cases sent to Hospital and the total number of Deaths from such Diseases;
 occurred in Hospital.

Enteric Fever.	Relapsing Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.		Smallpox.	Cholera.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.
1	Cases treated in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	Deaths in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	Cases treated in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	Deaths in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	Cases treated in hospital	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
..	Deaths in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	Cases treated in hospital	..	..	1	..	1	3	..	..	..	..
..	Deaths in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	Cases treated in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
..	Deaths in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	Cases treated in hospital	..	..	6	..	..	11	..	..	..	..
1	Deaths in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	Cases treated in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	Deaths in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	Cases treated in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	1	Deaths in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
26	4	..	7	Cases treated in hospital	..	..	16	..	3	65	..	19	..	..
5	..	2	1	Deaths in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2	Cases treated in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	..	..	..
..	Deaths in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	Cases treated in hospital	..	..	3	..	..	7	..	..	..	..
..	Deaths in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	Cases treated in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	Deaths in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	Cases treated in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	Deaths in hospital	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
37	4	—	7	Cases treated in hospital	..	..	28	—	4	94	—	20	—	—
6	—	2	2	Deaths in hospital	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 3 B.—Table of New Cases of Infectious Disease coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officers of Health in the County of Wilts, classified according to Diseases and Localities; showing also the number of Cases and also the Deaths

DISTRICT.		Smallpox.	Cholera.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhus Fever.
Amesbury	Total cases reported ..	26	..	12	..	2	10	..
	Total deaths	6	..	4	1	1	..	..
Bradford-on-Avon	Total cases reported ..	82	..	70	..	2	8	..
	Total deaths	2	..	1	1	..	..	..
Calne.. .. .	Total cases reported ..	11	..	1	..	4	6	..
	Total deaths .. .. .	—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chippenham	Total cases reported ..	95	..	18	..	32	33	..
	Total deaths	4	..	2	..	..	..	..
Cricklade & Wootton Bassett	Total cases reported ..	12	..	1	..	5	3	..
	Total deaths	2	..	..	1	..	..	..
Devizes	Total cases reported ..	35	..	5	1	5	22	..
	Total deaths .. .. .	—	..	..	..	..	1	..
Highworth.. .. .	Total cases reported ..	60	..	17	..	10	27	..
	Total deaths	3	..	1	2	..	..	..
Malmesbury	Total cases reported ..	20	..	..	..	3	13	..
	Total deaths	1	..	..	1	..	..	..
Marlborough	Total cases reported ..	29	..	9	..	4	16	..
	Total deaths	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Melksham	Total cases reported ..	13	..	7	..	5	1	..
	Total deaths	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Mere	Total cases reported ..	43	..	38	..	2	2	..
	Total deaths	4	..	4	..	..	..	..
Pewsey	Total cases reported ..	46	..	..	1	7	33	..
	Total deaths	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ramsbury	Total cases reported ..	26	..	2	6	10	7	..
	Total deaths	5	..	4	..	1	..	..
Salisbury	Total cases reported ..	19	..	6	..	3	8	..
	Total deaths	4	..	2	..	..	..	..
Tisbury	Total cases reported ..	7	..	..	..	2	4	..
	Total deaths	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Warminster	Total cases reported ..	31	..	..	..	4	27	..
	Total deaths .. .. .	—	..	..	..	..	..	..
Westbury & Whorwellsdown	Total cases reported ..	50	..	8	..	19	19	..
	Total deaths	6	..	3	..	..	1	..
Wilton	Total cases reported ..	57	..	17	..	15	25	..
	Total deaths	2	..	1	1	..	..	..
Tetbury	Total cases reported ..	—	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Total deaths .. .. .	—	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	Total cases reported ..	682	—	211	15	144	244	—
	Total deaths	45	—	23	8	4	2	—

TABLE 4 A.

Nature of Nuisances met with in the various Urban Districts in the County of

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE UNDER DIRECTION OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.					HOUSES.			OVERCROWDING.	HOUSE DRAINS.				WATER CLOSETS.		PRIVIES AND ASHPITS.			Total No. of Houses from which Refuse removable by the Authority	Total No. of Privies and Ashpits Cleansed.	Total No. of Portable Pans.				
	No. of Cases inquired into.	No. of Houses Disinfected and Cleansed.	No. of Patients removed to Hospital.	Lots of Bedding, Clothing, &c. Disinfected or Destroyed.	Cases of Illegal Exposure reported.	No. erected (if information obtainable.)	No. made fit for Habitation.	No. Closed as unfit for Habitation.		No. Cleansed and Lime-washed.	No. of Cases Abated.	No. Laid or Re-laid.	No. Cleansed, Trapped, and Ventilated.	No. of Defective Waste Pipes rectified.	No. of Insanitary Lavatories, Sinks, and Urinals rectified.	No. of Dumbwells rectified.	No. of additional W.C.'s provided.	No. Repaired, Ventilated, and supplied with Flush Cisterns.				No. of additional Privies and Ashpits provided.	No. converted to W.C.'s or Slop-Closets.	No. converted to Pail-Closets.	No. Repaired.
Bradford-on-Avon ..	9	9	..	9	..	12	2	1	1	1	7	7	1	4	..	18	23	..	..	2	10	1120	..	..
Calne ..	..	36	32	3	1	11	..	..	..	..	6	28	..	2	..	11	15	..	..	2	..	395	5	..
Chippenham	22	3	..	..	..	..	2	..	6	2	15	17	12	4	..	31	15	..	9	..	4	..	38	71
Devizes ..	10	6	5	5	..	8	..	..	38	..	14	8	..	..	3	..	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Malmesbury	1	1	1	1	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough	26	21	14	21	2	..	3	..	6	1	14	13	9	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	450	..	..
Melksham ..	2	2	..	1	..	2	..	..	2	1	3	8	3	6	..	3	4	..	..	..	3	600	39	10
Salisbury ..	27	25	..	25	..	52	26	2	40	4	22	47	..	20	..	3	4	..	..	..	..	643	..	..
Swindon ..	157	91	..	..	..	340	..	..	..	2	600	46	..	..	..	340	100	..	..	..	..	..	26	..
Trowbridge	24	5	6	4	..	16	..	..	..	..	27	7	..	3	..	2	6	..	..	..	..	9450	..	..
Warminster	..	8	8	..	..	4	5	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wilton ..	..	6	..	..	..	13	1	1	24	1	4	21	..	4	..	3	6	..	..	..	..	760	..	..
Westbury ..	6	5	..	5	..	9	..	12	2	..	14	5	..	4	..	5	1	6	..	..	..	515	..	..
TOTAL ..	284	218	66	74	3	469	39	17	119	15	726	207	25	50	3	422	218	6	9	10	26	14013	108	81	

00, and Summary of Work done in Inspector of Nuisances Department.

WATER SUPPLY.					SLAUGHTER HOUSES.			DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.			FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND BAKEHOUSES.				LODGING HOUSES.			FOOD.		LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.			CLERICAL WORK.			
No. of Wells Sunk.	No. of Wells Cleansed and Repaired.	No. of Wells Closed as Polluted.	No. of Houses supplied from Waterworks (during year)	No. of Samples taken for Analysis.	No. Registered or Licensed.	No. Regularly Inspected.	No. Cleansed and Repaired.	No. of persons engaged in Milk Trade now on Register, under Supervision.	No. of Contravention of Acts, Orders, and Bye-laws dealt with.	No. of Infected Milk Supplies reported by the Inspector.	No. under Inspection.	No. Certified for Lime-Washing by Inspector.	No. of Insanitary Conditions dealt with as Nuisances.	No. employing Young Persons, &c. reported to Medical Officer of Health	No. on Register.	No. Regularly Inspected.	No. Cleansed and Repaired.	No. of Seizures as unfit for Consumption.	No. of Cases of Removal on Notice.	No. of Removals.	No. Taken.	No. of Convictions obtained.	No. of Cases Withdrawn or Dismissed.	No. of Notices Served.	No. of Notices Complied with.	No. of Notices Outstanding.
..	1	1	12	12	5	..	..	..	..	..	12	12	2	..	1	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	80	79	1
..	..	..	15	..	9	7	7	4	..	..	9	9	..	5	..	..	..	..	4	3	..	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	31	..	6	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	..	..	1	18	..	..	..	97	90	3
..	..	..	15	..	8	8	8	..	..	..	21	..	..	..	2	2	2	..	3	4	..	..	..	76	76	..
..	..	..	550	1	4	4	4	8	..	..	8	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..
..	..	..	..	..	6	6	..	5	..	..	8	8	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	17	..	..	..	13	12	1
..	..	..	2	3	6	6	2	10	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	12	..	..	..	32	28	4
2	..	..	..	16	17	17	..	25	..	..	22	..	..	..	2	2	..	5	..	3	..	..	..	152	152	..
..	..	..	340	..	24	24	..	49	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	2	..	1	..	..	5	4	1	350	350	..
..	..	..	..	1	12	12	12	32	10	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	..	21	17	..	..	..	187	163	24
..	..	..	981	1	11	11	..	17	..	..	23	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	47	41	6
..	1	..	495	3	3	3	2	6	1	..	12	2	4	2	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	..	..	27	26	1
..	..	1	..	1	..	3	1	15	..	..	17	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	2	2	..	54	53	1
2	2	2	2451	38	111	107	37	171	11	—	140	31	10	7	12	11	5	9	34	94	7	6	1	1117	1072	41

TABLE 4 B.

Nature of Nuisances met with in the various Rural Districts in the County of W

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE UNDER DIRECTION OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.					HOUSES.				OVERCROWDING.	HOUSE DRAINS.				WATER CLOSETS.		PRIVIES AND ASHPITS.			SCAVENAGE.				
	No. of Cases inquired into.	No. of Houses Disinfected and Cleansed.	No. of Patients removed to Hospital.	Lots of Bedding, Clothing, etc., Disinfected or Destroyed.	Cases of Illegal Exposure reported.	No. erected (if information obtainable.)	No. made fit for Habitation.	No. Closed as unfit for Habitation.	No. Cleansed and Limewashed.		No. of Cases Abated.	No. Laid or Re-laid.	No. Cleansed, Trapped, and Ventilated.	No. of Defective Waste Pipes rectified.	No. of Insanitary Lavatories, Sinks, and Urinals rectified.	No. of Dumbwells rectified.	No. of additional W.C.'s provided.	No. Repaired, Ventilated, and supplied with Flush Cisterns.	No. of additional Privies and Ashpits provided.	No. converted to W.C.'s or Slop-Closets.	No. converted to Pail-Closets.	No. Repaired.	Total No. of Houses from which Refuse Removable by the Authority	Total No. of Privies and Ashpits cleansed.
Amesbury	26	9	..	9	..	..	4	15	6	7	5	..	4	..	..	..	14	..	32	18	..	..	..	..
Bradford-on-Avon	45	6	..	..	..	9	6	1	2	2	6	16	..	2	5	4	..	4	..	3	..	..	..	..
Calne .. ..	..	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..
Chippenham ..	30	18	..	..	..	41	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	5	..	7	600	..	..	..
Cricklade and Wootton Bassett	..	..	2	..	..	7	..	4	7	9	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Devizes .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	11	11	4	3	6	11	41	..	..	..	..	..	24	..	13	36	..	..	..
Highworth ..	40	31	..	31	..	37	1	2	4	..	71	58	1	20	4	11	2	7	3	2	3	..	31	..
Malmesbury ..	60	..	..	..	..	1	4	..	..	..	6	6	..	..	..	4	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Marlborough ..	..	9	14	14	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Melksham ..	13	8	..	..	..	11	..	..	1	1	4	5	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	3	2	..	16	2
Mere	38	32	..	..	..	2	35	2	2	..	21	18	..	3	3	3	25	6	..	23	38	..	..	..
Pewsey	107	33	..	..	..	14	..	..	..	3	1	5	..	..	..	1	..	21	..	..	2	..	7	..
Ramsbury ..	21	19	..	19	..	2	11	4	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	1	3	..	10	..
Salisbury ..	12	8	..	..	..	32	..	2	..	1	5	6	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..
Tisbury ..	4	4	..	2	..	6	5	2	12	..	17	..	1	..	7	1	..	..	..	5	1	..	15	..
Warminster ..	28	8	..	..	..	2	3	2	3	..	8	17	..	..	..	..	..	6	..	4	19	..	15	..
Westbury and Whorwellsdown	30	30	..	..	..	4	..	1	..	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	10	3	..	..	..
Wilton	41	11	..	..	..	11	6	54	4	2	8	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	..	17	..	..
Tetbury (Wilts Portion)	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..
TOTAL	500	231	21	75	—	175	91	30	110	41	172	194	2	36	23	26	32	94	8	105	139	600	113	2

00, and Summary of Work done in Inspector of Nuisances Department.

No. Improperly Conducted.	WATER SUPPLY.					SLAUGHTER HOUSES.			DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.			FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND BAKEHOUSES.				LODGING HOUSES.			FOOD.		ANIMALS KEPT SO AS TO BE A NUISANCE.			ACCUMULATION OF OFFENSIVE REFUSE.			LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.			CLERICAL WORK.		
	No. of Wells Sunk.	No. of Wells Cleansed and Repaired.	No. of Wells Closed as Polluted.	No. of Houses supplied from Waterworks (during year).	No. of Samples taken for Analysis.	No. Registered or Licensed.	No. Regularly Inspected.	No. Cleansed and Repaired.	No. of Persons engaged in Milk Trade now on Register, under Supervision.	No. of Contravention of Acts, Orders, and Byelaws dealt with.	No. of Infected Milk Supplies reported by the Inspector.	No. under Inspection.	No. Certified for Lime-washing by Inspector.	No. of Insanitary Conditions dealt with as Nuisances.	No. employing Young Persons' &c., reported to Medical Officer of Health	No. on Register.	No. Regularly Inspected.	No. Cleansed and Repaired.	No. of Seizures as Unfit for Consumption.	No. of Cases of Removal on Notice.	No. of Removals.	No. Taken.	No. of Convictions obtained.	No. of Cases Withdrawn or Dismissed.	No. of Notices Served.	No. of Notices Complied With.	No. of Notices Outstanding.					
5	8	2	..	6	14	57	48	9	
..	5	..	..	2	..	..	..	50	..	..	14	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	40	5
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	111	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27	1	1	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	..
7	2	..	..	..	..	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	23	..	..	..	21	21	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	2	12	8	1	19	..	..	..	..	21	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	7	2	2	..	34	34	..	..	..	..	..
..	20	..	..	..	..	4	..	127	83	..	28	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	64	107	..	..	..	514	484	30	..	..	..	..
1	5	10	34	130	..	6	..	200	..	..	34	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	45	45	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	65	..	..	10	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	11	11	..	..	..	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	6	..	9	12	3	3	1	55	12	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	6	..	..	..	12	9	3	..	..	..	..
1	2	2	150	7	..	2	1	..	..	..	3	3	5	..	..	..	..	..	2	12	..	..	..	22	14	8	..	..	..	..
6	6	..	..	1	..	6	2	..	..	..	29	10	76	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	71	31	1	..	..	..	..
..	15	..	..	..	..	5	..	41	..	..	21	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	..	..	..	41	30	11	..	..	..	..
4	7	1	21	1	..	10	..	77	..	..	45	8	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..
..	7	..	3	..	..	7	3	135	114	..	15	10	..	..	1	1	1	..	7	16	2	2	..	122	110	12	..	..	..	..
1	16	1	..	3	11	..	..	19	..	..	29	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	45	41	4	..	..	..	..
..	2	..	..	..	2	2	1	72	10	..	8	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	35	..	..	..	67	60	7	..	..	..	..
..	6	..	182	30	..	2	2	73	..	..	27	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	157	128	29	..	..	..	..
..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	26	108	16	411	194	17	78	17	1035	219	—	330	51	91	—	1	2	1	1	95	259	5	5	—	1269	1110	119	

PART III.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORTS.

URBAN DISTRICTS.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—W. J. A. ADYE, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

Area, 2005 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	4957.
	Population (" 1901) ...	4514.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	17.1	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	14.1	" "
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	1.1	" "
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	0.60	" "
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	139.0	" <i>Births.</i>

The Birth-rate of the district is extremely low, being only 17.1 per 1000, against 24.60 in 1899. This rate is the lowest of any year on record. The Death-rate is also lower, being 14.1 per 1000, against 15.4 in 1899.

Bronchitis and Heart Disease were accountable for the greater number of Deaths; and of these 9 were 65 years of age and upwards.

During the year the Voluntary Notification of Phthisis has been adopted.

The number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year was 17, or 3.2 per 1000, a great improvement on last year, when 27 or 5.2 per 1000 were notified. There were 2 deaths from Diphtheria and 4 from Diarrhœa.

The Christ Church Schools were closed by order from September 3rd to October 8th, to enable the managers to abolish the latrines, which were in an insanitary condition, and to put up new ones. The schools have now perfect sanitary arrangements, which ought to conduce to the general health of that part of the Urban District from which the children are drawn.

The New Drainage Scheme has been approved by the Local Government Board, the land bought, and the work has been commenced. This scheme is absolutely necessary for the public health, for although the town has been luckily exempt from infectious epidemics during the year, and there have been only a few scattered cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, the Medical Officer of health never remembers seeing so many cases of Boils and Carbuncles, and these he thinks were caused by the bad sanitary conditions under which so many are living, and that this is true, he points out that a great many of the older stone drains are nearly choked in places, and a large part of the district is not drained at all.

The Sanitary condition of Morgan's Hill, one of the worst parts of the town, is greatly improved, thanks to one of the Provident Clubs, which has bought up some of the property, adjacent to St. Margaret's Steps, and has erected new Washhouses and Privies.

He hopes when the Drainage Scheme is finished that all the cesspits now in use will be polished, and that owners of houses will fix a proper flushing apparatus to each Privy. He would also like to see a Privy to each house, and not as in so many instances at present, one to three or four houses.

The town sewers are flushed regularly, but with greater frequency in hot weather.

House refuse is removed twice a week by a contractor in open carts. He suggests that in the next contract, carts should be covered to prevent the dust from flying about, and the scavenging be finished by some hour before mid-day.

The water supply of the town has been greatly improved during the year, a new adit having been made which taps new springs in the hill. He hopes that the water mains will be carried to the Council's boundaries this year, as there are houses with only wells, to which a pure and constant supply would be a great boon.

In company with the Inspector of Nuisances he has periodically visited the only common lodging-house in the district, also the slaughter-houses, bake-houses, dairies and milkshops, and has found them satisfactory, whitewashing in many instances being done more often than the law requires.

He has also made house to house inspections in various parts of the town; and where nuisances have been found, notices have been served on the owner or tenant, and they have been abated.

He suggests the formation of a Sanitary Committee in order that various small matters might be expedited, and large ones put in train for the monthly meetings.

New Bye-Laws for various purposes are being prepared, and regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders, have been adopted, and are enforced.

Sanitary requirements and suggestions of Medical Officer of Health: 1st, a disinfectant for clothing and bedding; 2nd, all scavenging carts to have covers, and the work to be finished before mid-day; 3rd, the formation of a Sanitary Committee.

CALNE.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—D. CAMPBELL, M.D.

Area, 410 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	3495.
	Population (,, 1901) ...	3456.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	26.9	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	12.5	,, "
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	0.00	,, "
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	1.14	,, "
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	53.1	,, <i>Births.</i>

There has been no change in the Birth-rate. There is a considerable reduction in the Death-rate, and a total absence of deaths from any Epidemic Disease.

Of the 44 deaths, 5 were residents of the Rural District, who died in the workhouse. After claiming a deduction for these, the Death-rate for the Borough is reduced by 11.16 per 1000.

There were 48 cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year, viz: 1 Enteric Fever, 1 Erysipelas, and 44 Scarlet Fever.

The case of Enteric Fever was treated at home and terminated in recovery. The cause of the disease was not determined.

On the 20th June Scarlet Fever broke out simultaneously in the workhouse and in the Quarry. The patient from the workhouse had gone out for one day on leave of absence, and three days afterwards she was found to be suffering from Scarlet Fever. The child who went out with

her fell ill two days afterwards. Both were isolated in the workhouse, without any further care there. The Medical Officer of Health made every possible effort to discover how the disease was introduced in the town, but failed. Evidently someone imported the disease, and succeeded in concealing it. Up to the end of the year there were 44 cases in the District, and 6 in the Rural District, making a total of 50. Thirty seven cases were removed to the hospital, where they progressed favourably.

The Public Elementary Schools were closed for the usual summer holidays at the end of July, but as a large number of cases of Scarlet Fever had arisen during the vacation, it was deemed advisable to postpone the opening for a week, in the hope that there would be no other cases. Unfortunately further cases occurred, which necessitated the closing of the schools from week to week until November 26th.

The slaughter-houses, bake-houses, and milk-shops in the District were regularly inspected and found clean, tidy, and in a satisfactory state.

Accompanied by the Inspector of Nuisances, he inspected the whole District and had many nuisances abated.

The Inspector of Nuisances systematically inspects one-half of the town every fortnight thereby preventing the accumulation of refuse or ashes becoming a nuisance. By this means 364 loads of ashes and refuse of various kinds were removed by the Council's carts, besides 25 loads by the owners. The total number of houses from which refuse is removed by the Authority is 395. The number of inhabited houses is 840, with an average number of four persons per house.

Under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, the Inspector disinfected 32 houses and the bedding of three cottages where the children suffering from Scarlet Fever were not sent to the hospital.

During the year 15 houses have been connected with the Town Water Supply, which is clear, colourless, and of the highest degree of organic purity. Unfortunately there were serious complaints that the higher portions of the town were very inadequately supplied with water either through inadequacy of pressure or size of mains.

Eleven new houses for labourers and artisans were built during the year.

CHIPPENHAM.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—W. T. BRISCOE, M.D.

Area, 263 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	4618.
	Population (" , 1901) ...	5074.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	23.3	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	16.89	" "
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	1.88	" "
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	0.86	" "
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	81.85	" <i>Births.</i>

There has been a considerable reduction in the Birth-rate. The Death-rate is practically the same. Sixteen deaths of residents of the Borough were registered as having occurred beyond the District. There were 5 deaths from Epidemic Influenza, 4 deaths from Diarrhoea, 2 of these only being infants, 1 death from Enteritis in an infant was registered as a death from Gastric Catarrh. There were 4 deaths from Phthisis.

The house accommodation for the working classes has been much improved during the last 3 or 4 years, 76 houses having been erected within the Urban District, besides 60 in the immediate neighbourhood. These houses are of a good class well built in accordance with the Bye-laws.

Owing to the increase in the size of the town and the increase in the number of water-closets which have replaced earth-closets, the intercepting tanks in use are not sufficient for purifying the sewerage before it enters the river. The dry weather and consequent want of water in the river has also caused another nuisance. These circumstances caused the Authority to ask their Surveyor to prepare a plan, the effect of which will be to take the sewerage out of the river altogether, and to carry it to some point below the town where it will be dealt with on the Septic Tank principle. The present delay in carrying this out is due to a desire before proceeding further to see how the Septic Tanks erected by the Chippenham Rural Authority work.

The scavenging of the Borough is systematically carried out, a house-to-house collection being made at least twice weekly. The earth-closets are also well attended to by the scavengers. This class of closet is being rapidly superseded by the water-closet, although if well provided with earth or ashes they are fairly efficient. The inhabitants in the poorer neighbourhoods do not give the attention necessary, and on this account the introduction of water-closets undoubtedly a sanitary improvement.

A large amount of useful sanitary work has been carried out during the year.

Bake-houses, slaughter-houses, factories and workshops, have all had the usual inspection, and with a few exceptions were always found in a clean and sanitary condition.

The supply of water has been constant throughout the year. On no occasion has it been necessary to shut it off night or day. Several extensions of the mains have been carried out within the Borough, besides other extensions outside the Borough. It is a source of congratulation at the quantity and quality of the supply has been maintained.

Owing to the dry weather there was not much water in the river, and at times during the year a serious nuisance existed. The Surveyor did what he could to abate the nuisance by cleaning out the river bed, but the Medical Officer of Health thinks that the Sanitary Committee acted wisely in directing him to go a step further and prepare a plan to convey the sewerage which now finds its way into the river to some point where it can be more thoroughly filtered and purified.

The Joint Isolation Hospital was opened during the year. It is thoroughly equipped for providing the best form of treatment. There is accommodation for 20 beds. A certificated nurse with special fever experience is provided. During the year 6 cases were received into the hospital, and although all the patients were removed from large households, in no instance did the disease spread, showing that if the first case is removed in time from a family we may hope that the disease will not spread in that family.

It is proposed to treat the following Diseases at the Hospital, viz. :—"Typhus Fever,—(!!!)—Typhoid or Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and in certain cases Measles." An apparatus for disinfecting the clothing of the patients has been erected, and an ambulance carriage provided.

A systematic inspection of the most thickly populated parts of the District was made by the Medical Officer of Health, in company with the Inspector of Nuisances in the months of April and May, and was independent of inspections made upon an outbreak of disease. As a result of this inspection 73 nuisances were discovered and removed.

The Medical Officer of Health says :—"This is a summary of the sanitary work of the District. Much has been done ; much remains to be done."

DEVIZES.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—G. S. A. WAYLEN, L.R.C.P.

Area, 778 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	6426.
	Population (" 1901) ...	6532.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	27.3	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	13.2	" "
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	0.1	" "
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	1.45	" "
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	88.7	" <i>Births.</i>

There has been a slight improvement in the Birth-rate. There were 15 illegitimate births of which 8 were in the workhouse. There is a decided improvement in the Death-rate.

Sixteen cases of Infectious Disease were notified, viz.:—4 Scarlet Fever, 1 Diphtheria, Measles, and 3 Erysipelas. Five cases were treated in the isolation hospital: 3 of Scarlet Fever, 1 of Diphtheria, and 1 of Erysipelas; all recovered. The only death from Zymotic Disease was from Diarrhoea.

WATER SUPPLY.—The supply from the reservoir at Beckhampton Down has been constant throughout the year. The Medical Officer of Health suggests the advisability of fixing a water meter to the main as it leaves the reservoir, in order that the daily output should be accurately observed.

SEWERAGE.—No new work has been carried out. Estimates have been asked for the construction of works for the treatment of the town's sewage upon the Septic Tank system and the Sutton system. At the close of the year these reports were not completed. It is to be hoped that one or the other methods of treatment will be adopted in the present year.

REFUSE REMOVAL.—There is no change in the method of treatment of the town refuse.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, BAKE-HOUSES, AND DAIRIES.—These have all been inspected during the year, and as a rule are generally clean and well kept.

HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES.—A special report was presented to the Council during the year on the general state of cottage property in the town, and the difficulty that is found of obtaining house accommodation.

Since the presentation of that report, arrangements have been made to build 24 houses by a Building Company, the Corporation granting the ground on a long lease and the Urban District Council undertaking to lay out and light the road. It is to be hoped that this is a first instalment of improved house accommodation for the working classes, of which the town stands so much in need.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—These have been inspected and have been found clean, well ventilated, and sanitary arrangements good.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS ORDERS.—Regulations have been adopted and are enforced. There are, however, only two Cowsheds in the Urban District area.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF DISTRICT.—(1) Improved and increased accommodation for the working classes: (2) Improved method of treatment of the sewage. The present land is unsuitable, and from time to time complaints have been made by the Rural District Council as to the pollution of Poulshot stream. The volume of sewage after heavy rains is frequently too great to be satisfactorily carried to the Tanks and treated on the land. There is also a defective arrangement in the conveyance of a portion of sewage to the works.

MALMESBURY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—CHARLES W. PITT, M.R.C.S.

Area, 556 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	2964.
	Population (" 1901) ...	2854.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	25·3 <i>per</i> 1000 <i>Pop.</i>	
<i>Death-rate</i>	18·0 " "	
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	1·68 " "	
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	1·68 " "	
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	144·0 " <i>Births.</i>	

There has been an increase in the Birth-rate. The Death-rate remains practically stationary. Infantile Death-rate is extremely high for a District of this class.

There were no deaths from Typhoid Fever, Diphtheria or Scarlet Fever. There were 4 deaths from Epidemic Influenza. Phthisis, and other Tubercular Diseases claimed 6 victims, and there were 6 deaths from Bronchitis.

Eight cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year, 3 of Erysipelas, 3 of Scarlet Fever, and 2 of Enteric Fever. One of the cases of Scarlet Fever was isolated at the Isolation Hospital, at Blackbridge, Brokenborough; the other 2 cases were isolated at home.

ENTERIC FEVER.—This occurred in one house in Oxford Street, and was apparently due to a large cesspool, in a burial ground adjoining the wall of the house where the cases occurred. There was also evidence of sewer gas inside the house, through cracks in the cement of the inspection chamber of the drain. These defects have been remedied now, the cesspool has been abolished, and the drain repaired.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Company has delivered the water in a fair condition this year. The main tank has been cleaned out about every 6 weeks. There is a constant service, and it supplies 1000 houses. The Medical Officer of Health suggests the advisability of some of the dead ends of the mains being flushed, as he gets samples brought to him sometimes with a large quantity of deposit.

SEWERS.—An old stone drain has been taken up in the Kingswall, and this has been replaced by glazed socket pipes. One ventilator for the sewers was erected last year and two this year. Nothing has been done towards taking the sewage out of the river, and no mention made of any action being taken with regard to the foul ditch running alongside the King's meadow.

Slaughter-houses were inspected and found satisfactory.

SCAVENGING.—The Authority removed the refuse of 450 houses.

Three new houses for the working classes have been erected during the year.

MARLBOROUGH.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—T. H. HAYDON, M.B., Cantab.

Area, 196 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	3012.
	Population (" 1901) ...	3046.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	16·6 <i>per</i> 1000 <i>Pop.</i>	
<i>Death-rate</i>	12·94 " "	
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	·99 " "	
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	0·33 " "	
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	180·0 " <i>Births.</i>	

There has been a serious falling off in the Birth-rate. There is a slight reduction in the Death-rate.

Twenty-eight cases of Infectious Disease were notified, viz.:—12 Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, 3 Erysipelas and 1 Enteric, the last imported. Of these 17 cases were isolated. There were no deaths among the 24 cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. The Medical Officer of Health again insists on the advantage that would be gained by a combination between the Urban and Rural Districts for purposes of isolation, and is very glad to hear that an arrangement has at last been arrived at between the two Councils.

Two cases of Scarlet Fever were discovered illegally exposed and removed to the isolation hospital.

WATER SUPPLY.—The report of the Public Analyst is that the water is an excellent drinking water. Bacteriological examination made on several specimens shows that there has been some source of pollution, though not of a dangerous character; most probably at the well itself. A special report on this subject was laid before the Council.* The Medical Officer of Health suggests that it would be a great advantage to have frequent and regular measurements made of water, so that it might be possible to form an idea of the amount of water used per head, and to judge if there is any waste going on at any particular time.

HOUSES FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.—One case of overcrowding was reported and has been abated. Improvements have been carried out in some of the houses mentioned in a special report.* No new houses have been built during the year. The Medical Officer of Health reports that overcrowding exists in some instances in houses, and in other instances overcrowding exists in houses in area. No action has been taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, and no house has been closed as unfit for habitation.

SEWERAGE.—There have been troublesome delays in the drainage work, and eventually the contract has been broken off. However, a fresh arrangement has been made, and it is hoped that the work will now proceed vigorously. The delay in the main drainage has made it very difficult to get any improvements carried out in house drainage, as all work is postponed till the main drainage scheme is in working order. A few cesspits have been done away with, and some unflushed closets provided with flushing arrangements. There are many closets of old construction, (in existence before the water supply), without flushing arrangements. When alterations are made, the need of regulations is seen as to the kind of closet to be put in, and the amount of flush allowed. The absence of tell-tale waste pipes is commented upon. In some the waste pipes simply overflow into the closet, so that there is a constant unseen waste of water.

SCAVENGING.—Refuse is removed from houses once a week. The refuse is still exposed in the streets in all kinds of nondescript utensils. It would be a great advantage if proper covered sanitary dustbins were used. Removal once a week is also not sufficiently often in the summer time to prevent nuisance being caused.

Bake-houses have been inspected and are well kept.

Cow-sheds are generally well kept.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—Complaints have been received from time to time, but by frequent inspection they have been kept in fairly good order, though the task is a difficult one, considering the usual bad arrangement of these places.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.—(1) New cottages; (2) more frequent scavenging of house refuse; (3) regulations with regard to house drainage and plumbing work and systematic inspection of new work.

*No copy of this special report was sent to the County Council in accordance with the regulations of the Local Government Board.

MELKSHAM.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—W. INGRAM KEIR, F.R.C.S., Edin.

Area, 451 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	2073.
	Population (" 1901) ...	2450.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	23.79	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	10.9	" "
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	0.00	" "
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	1.20	" "
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	67.9	" <i>Births.</i>

The Birth-rate appears to remain stationary. The Death-rate shows a considerable increase. The Infantile Death-rate is very low. Fifty per cent. of the total deaths were of persons over 70 years of age. There were no deaths from Zymotic Disease. There were 3 deaths from Consumption, which is now considered a preventable disease. There was no Epidemic during the year, not even Influenza. Under the Notification Act 3 cases were notified, all of Scarlet Fever. Of this number 2 were imported, 1 from Ireland and 1 from Weymouth. The latter case was in a crowded house in a crowded square.

WATER SUPPLY.—The public water supply throughout the year was most satisfactory both regards quantity and quality. Only those who lived in Melksham before the introduction of public water supply—when there was a water famine every summer, and an epidemic of typhoid every autumn—can fully appreciate this great boon. The Market Place well, which is the only public well in the town, was also examined, and the water found to be of excellent quality. This is a very valuable well, and the Council should do all in its power to prevent the water from being wasted. There are several private wells in use, and as these are for the most part allowed they need watching.

SEWERAGE.—The drainage of the District has been anything but satisfactory, partly owing to the dry summer and the absence of the usual stream of water through the main sewer, and partly owing to the growth of the town. Numerous complaints were made of offensive effluvia from the main sewer gratings, the river Avon, and the Lowbourn brook, while at Shurnhold the site of the brook was distinctly dangerous to the public health. "The present mode of draining into watercourses and the river is antiquated as well as illegal, and I think the time has arrived when the Council should seriously consider the desirability of adopting a system of drainage in accordance with modern ideas, and suited to the requirements of a progressive town."

Regulations with regard to Dairies and Cowsheds more stringent than the old ones have been adopted, and have been carefully observed.

The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890, has been adopted, but fortunately none of its provisions have needed to be enforced. "The Small Dwellings' Acquisition Act has also been adopted, but it is difficult to see of what use this absurd Act can be to the inhabitants of Melksham." The usual systematic inspections of the town were carried out in conjunction with the Inspector of Nuisances every quarter, and resulted in a good deal of useful sanitary work being done. Private house drainage was improved at twenty houses. It is surprising to find a large number of disused drains which honeycomb some parts of the town. Many of these drains run under houses, and are not so innocent as they look, for although they do not contain sewage they frequently convey sewer gas. Many cases of chronic ill-defined bad health are attributable to these drains. Two new houses were built during the year, and they both drain into cesspools—a highly objectionable arrangement. "The cry for decent houses for the working man is still heard, and is still unheeded. Many cottages in the town, although not actually uninhabitable, are verging on that state, and if new houses were built a clean sweep could be made of these abodes."

The occasional flooding of houses at Devizes Bridge has been again before the Council. This serious nuisance, so detrimental to the health and comfort of the inmates, might be remedied by proper drainage.

Bake-houses were inspected every quarter and were found to be invariably clean and kept in accordance with the Bye-laws and the Factory and Workshops' Act.

The licensed slaughter-houses were also inspected quarterly.

SALISBURY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—HARCOURT COATES, L.R.C.P.

Area, 826 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	15553.
	Population (" 1901) ...	17117.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	25.7	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	15.66	" "
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	2.69	" "
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	1.31	" "
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	103.6	" <i>Births.</i>

The Medical Officer of Health has given credit for 24 deaths of persons who were brought from outside the District, but has not debited the borough with the 20 deaths that occurred in the workhouse of persons removed from the borough. The Death-rate is lower than it has been for some years past. Thirty-two cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, but there were 19 fatal cases. Nine cases of Diphtheria, 1 of Laryngitis, 1 of Enteric Fever, and 9 cases of Erysipelas were notified.

Every possible precaution is said to be taken to prevent disease spreading, but as there is no hospital for isolating cases it is a very difficult matter; complaints running through families. No cause could be assigned for the 9 cases of Diphtheria, 7 of which proved fatal.

WATER SUPPLY.—Water supply is good and continuous and the Analyst's report considered by the Medical Officer of Health quite satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND HOUSE DRAINAGE.—The Medical Officer is silent on this subject.

House to house visitation has been carefully carried out, and where any case arose requiring it, the Medical Officer of Health immediately visited such places and took such steps as were possible to remedy sanitary defects. A number of notices have been served and in every case the nuisance has been remedied.

Dairies were carefully inspected and found to be clean, and the utensils kept in a proper condition.

The Milk-shops were well conducted and well ventilated. A few Cow-sheds still exist in the City, but in the opinion of the Medical Officer of Health, they should be abolished. They are clean and well kept, but in his opinion, for the welfare of the cows and for the production of better milk they should not be allowed in the City at all.

Bake-houses are regularly visited, and when necessary, cleansing and white-washing have been ordered, and these orders have been complied with.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—These have been regularly visited also, and as far as possible, in the limited space obtainable in the City, the requirements are carried out.

The two common lodging-houses have been daily inspected and no cause has been found for complaint.

Street cleansing is considered perfectly satisfactory.

St. Mark's School was closed for a short time during the year for an epidemic of Measles, but no notice was sent to the County Council in accordance with the regulations of the Local Government Board.

The Report is the shortest received this year from any authority in the County.

SWINDON.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—F. E. STREETEN, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Area, 1310 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	33095.
	Population (Estimated 1900)	48000.
	Population (Census, 1901) ..	44996.

<i>Birth-rate</i>	26·37	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	10·1	„ „
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	0·58	„ „
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	1·00	„ „
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	101·1	„ <i>Births.</i>

Taking the estimated population at 48000 the Birth-rate works out at 26·37, which is much out the average for the County, but below the rate for last year. The Death-rate upon the estimated population is 10·1, much below the rate for last year, and considerably below the average for the County. The Medical Officer of Health considers the estimation of the population unreliable.

Improvement has been made in the character of the sewage effluents, and the river into which they are discharged, is proportionately improved. The sewerage of the Grove and County Ground Districts, formerly in the old Swindon Urban District, is necessary as will probably in the immediate future be rapidly developed, and the system of cesspits for the collection of sewerage in the town is highly undesirable. Extension of existing sewers in Argyle Street in the North Ward is necessary. The gradients of some of the sewers of the town vary considerably, there being too much fall in some parts and a deficiency in others. The main sewers in Westcott Place and Cricklade Road notably are deficient in fall, and Field's Automatic Flushing Tanks have been placed on both these sewers with beneficial results. A separate system of storm water drains has now been laid in nearly all parts of the town, excepting in the North Ward. The condition of house drains and closet connections in the older cottage property in the town is not satisfactory, as little or no supervision used to be exercised in the laying of the old drains, many of these are in an unsatisfactory state. A large amount of efficient draining has been carried out in the town during the past few years, and a lot of defective work has been renewed, but very much still remains to be done. Supervision over the laying of house drains and connections is now strict. The Borough (Rodbourne) Sewage Farm appears to be working satisfactory, and the Thames Conservancy Board have not had cause to complain of the quality of the effluent. The condition of the Broome Farm is not so satisfactory. A Local Government Board Enquiry was held, and a loan granted for the provision of filter beds of sufficient area. Owing to the approaching incorporation of the towns no work was commenced with respect to the new scheme.

Practically the whole of the excrement of the Borough is water borne as sewage. Any cesspits which exist, under section 8 of the new Bye-laws adopted October, 1900, have to be emptied and cleaned by owners every three months.

The scavenging of the town is done by a special staff under the direction of the Surveyor. At present the whole of the refuse is removed to the sewage farms and utilized there. The Medical Officer of Health considers that it would be an advantage if the whole of the scavenging staff was placed under the direction of a responsible official as Scavenging Inspector. The system in vogue is by no means perfect, and is capable of considerable improvement. "The receptacles for house refuse at present in use are very unsatisfactory as the great majority of the receptacles have no cover whatever, a dangerous nuisance to health is created by the scattering broadcast of refuse, and it is a standing disgrace to the town that such receptacles for refuse should be allowed to be in use. A time table of the exact hours at which scavenging will be undertaken in every street and ward of the town is very desirable." The Medical Officer of Health does not think that a bi-weekly collection of refuse is sufficient, especially in the hot months, when refuse has to be kept festering in back yards for three days at a time.

The Water Supply of the town is inadequate, and has been a matter of public knowledge for some years, but up to the end of the year 1900, no satisfactory means of augmenting it had been adopted. A restriction of the supply to consumers from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. was again found necessary for some months.

It is evident that a grave responsibility rests on those that have the control of the town water supply, to immediately proceed to take steps to augment it. That much earnest consideration has been given to the matter is well known, but people are now asking when this consideration is going to bear fruit. The Medical Officer of Health thinks that in the coming year the town will again have to be dependent on the Great Western Railway Company for a supplementary supply. During the year the Great Western Railway Company delivered $11\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons to the town at a cost of 1s. 3d. per 1000 gallons.

That the want of an adequate water supply hindered and prevented introduction of commercial enterprises in the town is well known, and the dangers to public health likely to arise from empty water mains and the restricted supplies of one of the necessities of life are equally appreciable. The town water supply is analysed once monthly by the County Analyst. The chemical purity is excellent, but the analyst has on several occasions during this year, as against the previous one, drawn attention to the want of proper and efficient filtration. It is obvious that the filter at present in use is little more than a toy, and the recommendations of the County Analyst ought to receive some attention.

The two common lodging-houses in the town are owned by one proprietor. Both are in good order and well cared for.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.—There are 24 in use in the town for which licenses are granted, the majority being yearly licenses. There are several old licences which do not require yearly renewal, and it would be very desirable if legislation could be introduced and passed placing these old perpetual licenses under the direct control of the local authority. Important additions to and alterations in the existing Bye-laws relating to slaughter-houses have been made during the year. These principally relate to the storage and removal of offal and garbage, and to the provision of more cleanliness in the keeping of the slaughter-houses. The personal inspections made by the Medical Officer of Health have been productive of good during the year. Five prosecutions for breach of Bye-laws were undertaken, and four convictions obtained.

BAKE-HOUSES.—There are 48 bake-houses in the town. They are regularly inspected, and the regulations are observed. They are kept in good order and many of them are of modern construction with the latest improvements.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILK-SHOPS.—There are 49 dairies, milk-shops, and cowsheds, and the latter number 21 places where 313 cows are kept.

Regulations are enforced, and a register is kept which deals with the source of supply, and as far as possible with the distribution of all milk purveyed in the Borough District. A case of Diphtheria occurred in the family of one dairyman and purveyor of milk. The child was removed to the hospital, and the dairy closed for a fortnight until it had been thoroughly renovated and disinfected. In another instance it was discovered that a dairyman had had his water supply cut off by the Water Board for non-payment of rates, and that he was bringing in water from the country from a well which had been condemned, for the purpose of cleansing his dairy utensils. Cases occurred now and again where very small retailers of milk who had no convenience, other than that which existed in the shop, for the storage of milk were detected in keeping small quantities of milk overnight in a back yard in close proximity to drain traps and ash heaps. Frequent inspection is very necessary to detect and prevent such abuses, and the addition proposed to be made to the Inspector's staff will materially assist in this.

NUISANCES.—Nuisances which are detected or reported as existing are at once investigated by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector who serves notices of abatement in the usual form. In specially urgent cases needing prompt attention, the matter is brought before the Emergency Committee who have power to act. It is but rarely that legal proceedings have to be taken for the abatement of a nuisance.

The provisions of the Notification Diseases Prevention Act are well observed by Medical Practitioners. Notification by householders is practically a dead letter. Over 90 per cent. of cases of Infectious Disease in the Borough are removed to the Isolation Hospital. When

oved, all infected bedding and other articles are taken away for disinfection, removals being carried out by the hospital staff. When cases of disease are isolated at home, disinfection is carried out when convalescence is established.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—This is the joint property of the Ratepayers of the Borough and Rural District of Highworth. It at present provides accommodation for about 26 cases other than Small-pox, but a new block is in course of construction which will nearly double the accommodation now existing. The hospital has done good work since its installation. It is carried out as far as possible on modern and up-to-date methods, and has the confidence of the public for whose protection it has been provided. A separate hospital is provided for the treatment of Small-pox, with an administration entirely separate from the Isolation Hospital.

Bye-laws have been adopted for the following purposes during the year:—(1) Slaughtering Licences; (2) Cleansing of Footways and Nuisances; (3) Removals of House Refuse; (4) New Streets and Buildings.

The following loans were obtained during the year:—For Cabstand and Cabmen's Shelter, £100; for Pleasure Grounds, £6389; Allotments, £1211; Cottages at Sewage Farm, £700; Steam Roller, £540; Public Conveniences, £40; Sewerage Works and Storm Water Sewers, £260.

A good deal of house-to-house inspection has been made during the year by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector. With the increase of the sanitary staff it is proposed to keep registers of each ward in the town with the results of inspection of every house. These registers will form a valuable book of reference of the actual sanitary condition of the whole town.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.—(1) Provision of adequate water supply; (2) alterations in the method of scavenging and provision of refuse and dust bins; Provision of public Abattoirs and Licensed meat inspection; (4) Storm Water Sewering of South Ward and improvements in the sewers of parts of Drove Road and Cricklade Road.

TROWBRIDGE.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—R. T. RICHARDSON, M.R.C.S.

Area, 1945 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	11717.
	Population (Estimated 1900)	12560.
	Population (Census, 1901) ...	11526.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	18.6 <i>per 1000 Pop.</i>	
<i>Death-rate</i>	13.6 " "	
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i> .. .. .	.39 " "	
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	0.39 " "	
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	106.8 " <i>Births.</i>	

The Birth-rate is lower than last year, and much below the average. The Death-rate is also lower than last year, 44.4 per cent. of the total deaths being amongst persons of over 65 years. The Infantile Death-rate also shows an improvement.

The Water Supply was constant and fairly satisfactory during the year. At the latter end of December the supply was contaminated by surface water in consequence of floods at the works.

Works for the treatment of sewage have not yet been commenced, though there has been considerable discussion on the subject during the year.

In July the Medical Officer of Health drew the Council's attention to the unsatisfactory condition of several of the road gullies. The nuisance caused by bad smells arising from these, in the summer especially, is very objectionable. This should be remedied, and a modern system substituted. A great deal of this nuisance is caused by the fact that the road gullies in several parts of the town are the only means of disposal of the domestic sewage of the adjoining houses.

Slaughter-houses, bake-houses, and common lodging-houses are regularly inspected, and invariably found kept in a satisfactory condition.

The District is regularly inspected by the Medical Officer accompanied by the Inspector of Nuisances once a quarter, with the result of a great deal of useful sanitary work being done.

The cases of Infectious Disease notified in the District during the year numbered 40, and included 17 Scarlet Fever, (16 in 1899), 15 of Erysipelas, (18 in 1899), 6 of Diphtheria, (4 in 1899) and 2 of Enteric Fever, (4 in 1899). Six out of the 17 cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to the Fever Hospital. The sanitary arrangements of the houses where 6 cases of Diphtheria occurred were unsatisfactory. The Medical Officer of Health believed that one case was infected from the road gully outside the house.

The Medical Officer of Health suggests the advisability of Phthisis being added to the list of notifiable diseases.

Gratuitous disinfection of rooms previously occupied by phthisical persons should be offered, and leaflets bearing on the subject should be distributed.

Sixteen new houses were built during the year.

WARMINSTER.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH--F. J. FLOWER, M.R.C.S.

Area, 6085 acres. Population (Census, 1891) ... 5563.
Population (" " 1901) ... 5547.

<i>Birth-rate</i>	..	..	..	23.5	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	..	..	..	14.2	" "
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	..	..	..	0.53	" "
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	..	..	..	0.71	" "
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	..	..	..	93.0	" <i>Births.</i>

The Birth-rate shows an increase on that of last year, but is much below the average of the last decade. The highest annual rate during this period has been 32.7, and the lowest 22.3 per 1000. The Death-rate is an improvement on that of last year, and much below the average for the last decade. The highest Death-rate during this period has been 20.9 per 1000, and the lowest 13.9 per 1000. The average annual Death-rate for the decade is 18.1 per 1000.

"The Sewerage of the town is now completed, and we endeavour as much as possible to do away with all cesspits, and insist on connection with the sewer. Some tenants prefer converting their closets into earth closets, which with proper attention, are excellent things, but as there is no system of scavenging for the same, constant supervision is required, or they get horribly neglected."

The Water Supply of the town has been satisfactory as to quality and quantity, and the analysis of the Clinical Research Association certifies the water to be "of excellent quality, being unusually free from organic impurities and very soft."

"The need of better cottage accommodation was fully reported on in my last annual report, and a Committee was formed to consider the matter, but I believe no definite result was arrived at. Four cases of overcrowding were reported, and one cottage as unfit for habitation, and one other has been put in proper repair on our complaint."

Bake-houses, slaughter-houses, and dairies have been regularly inspected, and great attention has been paid to the sanitary condition of the latter. A quantity of meat unfit for consumption was seized and destroyed by order of the magistrates.

The town has been regularly inspected by the Medical Officer of Health, and monthly reports made as to the result of the inspection.

Four cases of Diphtheria and 16 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified. The Mission School Warminster Common was closed for a few weeks in consequence of the outbreak of Scarlet fever. Three cases of Diphtheria and 7 of Scarlet Fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Typhoid fevers were epidemic in the town during the latter part of the year, and many adults were affected. The disease took a most unusual form in many of the cases.

WESTBURY (URBAN).

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—WALTER H. REID, M.R.C.S.

Area,—acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	Population („ 1901) ...	3300.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	24·5	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>	
<i>Death-rate</i>	20·3	„	„
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	0·00	„	„
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	1·19	„	„
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	207·3	„	<i>Births.</i>

The Birth-rate is fairly satisfactory. The Death-rate is very high. It is very probable that there is an error in the estimation of the population upon which it is calculated. The infantile Mortality is very high, but no reason for it has been given by the Medical Officer of Health.

Ten cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, viz.: Erysipelas, 4; Scarlet Fever, 6; all were of a mild type, and none were fatal. The disinfection of rooms and clothing was carried out under the instructions of the Medical Officer of Health.

“Although there is a great dearth of houses for the working classes in the town, the Medical Officer of Health had been obliged to condemn six cottages at Bourne’s Barton, and to recommend the Council to have them demolished. They are now vacated, and are totally unfit for repairing, the walls being thoroughly damp and unhealthy. Several houses in Maristow Street and Fore Street are out of repair, and want painting and whitewashing, and they require more privy accommodation of an improved character. The vaults of privies should be more frequently emptied, and the only way to ensure this being done would be for the Council to take the matter into their own hands and do their own scavenging until a regular drainage scheme is adopted, even then house refuse and contents of ash pits would require to be frequently removed.”

“The great want of the District is a good Water Supply, and an efficient scheme of sewerage. The former, it is anticipated will shortly be provided by the new water works, which are now in course of construction. The latter has not up to the present time been considered as a scheme for the whole district, and as of necessity some time must elapse in the preparation of a scheme, I should recommend the Council taking the initiative in the matter without delay.”

“Two sewers have been laid during the year but they are not of much benefit, as the one at Prospect Place does not deal with sewage, but is only a slop drain, and the one at the Union deals only with a very small portion of the District.”*

The Medical Officer of Health wishes to draw the attention of his Council to the fact that the Inspector of Nuisances is not supplied with registers for slaughter-houses, dairies, cowsheds, milkshops and bakeries, and recommends that they be supplied, as then a proper system of registration could be carried out.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.—Cleansing of privies, earth closets, and general town scavenging should be done by a staff of men employed by the Council. A sewerage scheme is greatly needed, the streams being for the most part used as carriers of sewage and offal refuse to the risk of the public health.

* There are no sewage disposal works.—C.M.O.

WILTON (URBAN).

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—CHARLES R. STRATON, L.R.C.P., L.S.Sc., Durham.

Area, 1799 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	2120.
	Population (" 1901) ...	2203.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	17.4	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	6.3	" "
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	0.42	" "
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	0.85	" "
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	73.0	" <i>Births.</i>

There is a considerable falling off in the Birth-rate. The Death-rate is remarkably low, much the lowest in the County.

Forty cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, 31 of Diphtheria, 2 of Erysipelas, and 7 of Scarlet Fever. The greater number of cases of Diphtheria were of a mild character. Epidemics of Pneumonia, Measles, and Chicken-pox occurred during the year. Six houses were disinfected and cleansed by the Inspector of Nuisances.

The Water Supply has been abundant, and on each occasion when it has been examined it was found to be of excellent quality. There are a few houses, situated beyond the reach of the water mains, which are supplied by means of wells and tanks. In two of these a filtering tank has been supplied, which is likely to prove of value. There are 495 houses supplied from the water works.

The Drainage on the whole has worked well. Two slight interruptions occurred in North Street, and one in the Market Place, all of which were easily and speedily cleared. Two new inspection holes have been built where the sewer passes through Wilton Park. They are about 500 yards apart, and will be found of great service in keeping the channel clear. Since the ventilating shaft at the top of Ditchampton has been converted into a lamp, there have been no complaints of smell, and the ventilation is much more perfect than it was before.

The Burial grounds, slaughter-houses and bakehouses have been regularly inspected, and are in good order, whilst various Bye-laws relating to them are duly enforced.

A house-to-house inspection was made by the Medical Officer of Health and the Inspector of Nuisances, and portions of the District were also inspected by the County Medical Officer, when Diphtheria was epidemic.

The Scavenging has been well carried out, and since the refuse has been collected on two days instead of one every week, the whole is cleared away by 10 a.m.

"A Bye-law, such as existed formerly, forbidding the removal of manure after 9 a.m. seems to be much wanted."

The Sanitary improvement most required at present is the provision of proper flushing apparatus to the water closets of certain old parts of the town. In many of these no proper cistern has yet been supplied, and the flushing is irregularly and deficiently done.

PART IV.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL REPORTS.

RURAL DISTRICTS.

AMESBURY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—CHARLES EDDOWES, M.R.C.S.

Area, 61002 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	6878.
	Population (,, 1901) ...	8268.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	23·55 per 1000	<i>Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	18·0	”
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	1·45	”
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	0·87	”
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	166·6	” <i>Births.</i>

The Birth-rate is lower than for 1899. The Death-rate shows a considerable increase, but when the deaths from non-residents are deducted it brings the rate down to 16·7. Of course these figures are based upon an estimated population of 6878. Probably when the census figures are available the population will be found to be either under or over estimated.

From the principal Zymotic Diseases, six deaths were attributed, viz.: 4 from Diphtheria, Whooping-cough, 1; and from Measles, 1.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water supply to 20 cottages in the parish of Bulford is still very defective, the inmates having to obtain their water for domestic purposes from the river. These complaints have been repeatedly brought before the notice of the Authorities, but as far as can be learned, nothing has yet been done to remedy this evil.

During the year 20 samples of water were analysed, and all were good and fit for domestic use, and generally speaking, the Water Supply throughout the Union, which is entirely supplied by wells, is plentiful and good.

A few samples of beer were analysed, but the Medical Officer of Health failed to obtain any trace of Arsenic.

The streams and water-courses are all in fairly good order.

Twenty-nine cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year. Twenty-one of these occurred in the Amesbury District, 1 in the Orcheston District, and 4 in the Winterbourne District. The cases of Diphtheria occurred in the Parish of Bulford and Winterbourne. In the former the disease was due to the insanitary condition of the National School privies; and the cases at Winterbourne were generally in cottages that were old, damp, and with indifferent sanitary surroundings. Of the cases of Enteric Fever, one occurred in the Parish of Bulford, and was undoubtedly due to defective surroundings. The other case, occurring at Newton Toney, was imported direct from Fareham, in Hants. In each case appropriate measures were taken, and the Fever did not spread beyond the first incidence. The cases of Scarlet Fever occurred

at Figheldean, Woodford, and Durrington, and were of a mild type. In all the cases the cottages were lime-washed and disinfected by the Inspector of Nuisances, and every precaution taken to prevent further spread of the Disease.

There were 5 deaths from Phthisis, which gives a rate of .7 per 1000, 5 from Cancer, 13 from Bronchitis, 18 from Pneumonia, 12 from Heart Disease, and from all other causes 47.

During the year, in company with the Inspector of Nuisances, the Medical Officer of Health visited each village in the Union, and inspected the slaughter-houses, bakehouses, and dairies, all of which were in a satisfactory condition. He also inspected 150 cottages, 4 of which were unfit for habitation, and over-crowded. In the last few years there has been great improvement in cottage property, more room provided, and the sanitary arrangements much improved, but there are yet cottages notably, in the Parish of Amesbury, which are in the same dilapidated and insanitary condition as they were when reported to the Council in 1899.

There are no Bye-laws in force in the Amesbury Rural District.

There is no Isolation Hospital accommodation.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—W. J. ADYE, M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

Area, 16608 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	5394.
	Population (" , 1901) ...	5071.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	21.0	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	12.1	" "
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	0.74	" "
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	0.18	" "
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	85.7	" <i>Births.</i>

The Birth-rate shows a decrease. There is a considerable decrease in the Death-rate.

WATER SUPPLY.—Holt and Broughton are chiefly supplied by private waterworks. The water is of fair quality. The last of these two villages draws its water from wells, which in some instances are situated a great deal too close to privies. At Holt the well water is undoubtedly polluted. Atworth in winter has a partial supply; this also comes from a private spring on Mr. Fuller's property, but the main supply is from wells. South Wraxhall, Westwood, and Wingfield, are all supplied from wells—supply being very limited and not very good. Winsley and Limpley Stoke have the High Level Company's water from Bath, but some householders in both villages still use their wells. Monkton Farleigh has a partial supply, with three public taps in the village street. The Medical Officer of Health is led to believe that a full and constant supply of water could be obtained if one spring was tapped and a reservoir made.

SEWERAGE.—Sewerage and drainage are absent, a privy with cess-pit being the usual accommodation for cottages as a rule, with the result that no one cleans the cess-pit, and illness results. The Medical Officer of Health would like to see (a) every cottage with a privy to itself; (b) a law by which the out-going tenant had to clean it out before the new tenant came in; (c) in cases where a landlord only supplied one privy to two or more cottages, a law compelling him to clean it out at least once in every six months.

The Medical Officer of Health suggests that the various Parish Councils should arrange for some person or persons to empty the buckets of earth closets once or twice a week as the present arrangement is very unsatisfactory, many of the occupiers having only a small piece of garden ground. He also advises that more attention should be paid to the construction of cess-pits, as he is of opinion that a good deal of the illness of the District is due to the pollution of the wells.

HOUSE REFUSE.—There is no method for its removal. If the soil of a garden is heavy, it is dug in; and where it is not wanted for that purpose it is put in a heap and left perhaps for months, till some one carts it away, meantime it poisons the air around with its horrible smell.

In July the Medical Officer of Health made a house-to-house inspection in Holt on account of the prevalence of Diphtheria, 45 cases being notified from that village. As a result of his inspection he arrived at the following conclusions: that the disease was caused by (a) the want of efficient drainage; (b) polluted wells; (c) atmospheric influences; (d) that a great number of cases were due to the mildness of the symptoms in many instances, so that no medical attendance was had, and the children allowed to run about among their fellows, and so caused its spread.

The Schools at Holt were closed for about a month. A drainage scheme is awaiting the approval of the Local Government Board, which will do away with the open drains and foul cess-pits in the village. The water supply of the village has also been improved.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—The Medical Officer of Health gives no information upon this subject.

The District appears to have been well inspected by the new Medical Officer of Health who only took up office on 9th July, 1900.

Dairies, cowsheds, bake-houses and offensive trades appear to have been well looked after. Dairies and Cowsheds Orders have been adopted and are enforced.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.—(1) Holt drainage: The scheme which is under consideration ought to be pushed forward. (2) Water supply is urgently needed in Wraxhall, Monkton Parleigh, Wingfield, Westwood and Atworth. (3) Building Bye-laws for new houses and general Bye-laws dealing with nuisances appear to be necessary.

CALNE.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—D. CAMPBELL, M.D.

Area, 27279 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	5064.
	Population (,, 1901) ...	4615.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	22.0	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	12.0	,,
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	0.39	,,
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	0.99	,,
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	73.0	,, <i>Births.</i>

There is a considerable reduction in the Birth-rate. The Death-rate also shows a slight decrease. Of the 56 deaths that occurred in the District during the year, 32 exceeded the age of 65 years. Of these 8 were between the age of 65 and 70, 13 between 70 and 80 years, 9 between 80 and 90 years, and 2 between 90 and 100 years.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Medical Officer of Health makes no mention of this subject.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—The Medical Officer of Health makes no mention on this subject.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.—No mention of this subject.

No Bye-laws appear to be in force.

Dairies and cowsheds regulations have been adopted and are enforced, 111 dairies and cowsheds being registered.

Eleven cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, viz.: Diphtheria (treated at home) 4, Erysipelas (treated at home) 6, Scarlet Fever (2 treated at home and 4 removed to the hospital).

Scarlet Fever was contracted by the children attending the Public Schools in the Calne Urban District. All recovered.

Accompanied by the Inspector of Nuisances the Medical Officer of Health visited the whole District and many nuisances were abated.

Bake-houses were inspected, and found clean and tidy.

The Inspector of Nuisances regularly and systematically visited the dairies and cowsheds, and reports that all are kept in a satisfactory state.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—The Medical Officer of Health gives no information upon this subject.

CHIPPENHAM.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—W. F. BRISCOE, M.D.

Area, 56453 acres.	Population (Census, 1891)	..	...	...	16246.
	Population (County Rate Basis, 1891)			...	17050.
	Population (Census, 1901)	...	...	...	17885.
	<i>Birth-rate</i>	..	..	..	27.2 per 1000 Pop.
	<i>Death-rate</i>	..	..	..	16.6 " "
	<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	..	..	..	0.80 " "
	<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	..	..	..	0.98 " "
	<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	..	..	..	94.8 " Births.

The Birth-rate remains practically stationary. The Death-rate shows a slight decrease.

WATER SUPPLY.—Unaided, the water supply of the District would be bad, and in some places deficient in quantity. Much has, however, been done to improve these defects. The Chippenham Urban District have extended their mains all round the town to supply their rural neighbours. The Corsham Water Company not only supplies Corsham and Lacock; it has now extended its mains and supplies Gastard and its District. Christian Malford is supplied from the private supply of Sir Henry Meux. Box also has a good public supply, but in some instances the occupiers have to go some distance to fetch the water, and the Rural District Council is considering a scheme whereby certain outlying portions of Box can be better supplied, and the same scheme may bring the water within a more convenient distance of these houses, the occupiers of which have to fetch water from the public supply at the fountain. At Kington St. Michael a spring in a field on the property of Sir A. D. Neeld, is now available for public use in case public wells run short.

SEWERAGE.—Corsham is the only part of the District that has a complete and scientific drainage system. The Woodlands scheme is not completed, the disposal works not having been erected. It is to be hoped that the sewerage from the workhouse will be taken into this sewerage system, and that water closets will re-place the existing dry earth closets there.

An improvement is also contemplated in the sewerage system at Lacock. "At Colerne, a village with great natural aids to drainage, various works have from time to time been carried out. The system there, although it answers, cannot be called perfect."

The Medical Officer of Health considers that the other portions of the District are hardly large enough, or the want urgent enough, to require a regular sewerage system.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—The houses in the most remote villages are not of so good a class, nevertheless some good cottages now re-place old dilapidated ones in the village of Kington St. Michael. In Sutton Benger and neighbourhood Earl Cowley has built some very good houses. The supply of houses in the Rural District is equal to, if it does not exceed, the demand. A large number of houses have been erected in Box, Corsham, Chippenham Without, and Hardenhuish. These new houses are well built, the plans having been submitted to the Building Committee of the Rural District Council.

Ninety-five cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, viz.: 18 Diphtheria, 32 Erysipelas, 33 Scarlet Fever, 9 Enteric Fever, and 3 Puerperal Fever.

The new Isolation Hospital was opened during the year, and is thoroughly equipped for providing the best forms of treatment. There is accommodation for 20 beds. A certificated nurse provided. A disinfecting apparatus has also been provided, and an ambulance carriage. The benefits of the hospital are open to all classes of the community residing within the area of the combined Urban and Rural Districts of Chippenham.

Of the cases of Enteric Fever 6 were due to the pollution of the drinking water at Ashley, &c. One case was caused by an overflow from the river forcing sewerage into the well used for drinking purposes. One case was imported into the District from Weston-super-Mare. One case was a returned soldier from South Africa, who was ill upon arrival.

CRICKLADE & WOOTTON BASSETT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—F. G. WRIDE, L.R.C.P.

Area, 44691 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	11835.
	Population (" 1901) ...	11357.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	24.2	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	15.2	" "
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	0.50	" "
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	1.18	" "
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	69.6	" <i>Births.</i>

The Birth-rate is lower than that of the previous year, being 24.2 as against 27.03 for the year 1899. The Death-rate is also lower than that of the previous year, being 15.2 as against 17.65.

WATER SUPPLY.—Part of Purton is now supplied with pure water, and the provision of a supply for Cricklade is under consideration. Matters in the country Districts still continue much the same, the people being dependent on water derived from doubtful sources, some obtaining their only supply from wayside ditches. Twelve houses were during the year connected with the water mains.

SEWERAGE.—The street sewer in Wootton Bassett was again the cause of much complaint, the stench at times being described as intolerable, and was much aggravated in the summer. The Medical Officer of Health suggested what he considered the remedy in a previous report, viz.: That the ground ventilators be all blocked up, and that they be re-placed by ventilating shafts running up the sides of houses to a level above the highest windows.

RIVERS POLLUTION.—Two cases were reported during the year of pollution of streams, the first by the liquid manure of a cattle yard at Thornhill, and from which stream some of the inhabitants drew water, for washing purposes only, however; the drinking water being obtained from a pond in a field in the vicinity. The second was that of the mill stream at Hunt Hill. This stream receives the effluent of the Sewerage Farm $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles higher up its source. The pollution arose from the sewage of some 12 cottages just above the mill. Two samples of water were taken for analysis above this source of pollution, and found to be fairly pure.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—Many cottages are in a state of great dilapidation and are uninhabited, and will in a short time probably be in ruins, not being worth the expense of repair. A few new cottages have been built, and these are readily taken.

Bake-houses and slaughter-houses have been inspected by the Sanitary Inspector, and the Medical Officer of Health has received no complaints.

Ninety-four cases of Measles were reported. The Disease was of a mild type, no death being reported as due to this cause. Two Schools were closed owing to the prevalence of this disease for a period of three weeks each.*

* No notice of the closure was sent to the County Council.

ENTERIC FEVER.—Three cases were reported in one house, one case proving fatal. The two other cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital and made an uninterrupted recovery. The drinking water (well) was analysed and found unfit for drinking purposes, the well being polluted by the contents of a stable drain running into it from a flaw in the drain. A fresh well is being sunk at some distance from the stables.

With a total of 106 cases of notifiable Infectious Diseases reported during the year, one death only occurred, that being the one from Enteric Fever. The Medical Officer of Health thinks the Council may congratulate itself on this record, also on the small number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Typhoid Fever, of the latter more especially, as the rural population were often terribly short of water.

Satisfactory arrangements have been made with the Swindon Isolation Hospital for the reception of cases of Small-pox should that Disease be unfortunately introduced into this District.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.—(1) A good water supply available for all is of the first importance; (2) Improved drainage; (3) Better house accommodation.

DEVIZES.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—G. S. A. WAYLEN, L.R.C.P.

Area, 63048 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	13318.
	Population (Estimated 1899)	12548.
	Population (,, 1901) ..	13070.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	25.3	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	20.4	,, ,,
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	0.48	,, ,,
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	1.61	,, ,,
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	66.8	,, <i>Births.</i>

There is a slight improvement in the Birth-rate. The Death-rate is greater than that for the previous year, but allowing a reduction in the population for the Asylum inmates, an amended Death-rate of 15.5 is arrived at. The Medical Officer of Health estimates the total population at 12365, or nearly 1000 less than the Census return for 1891. Had he calculated his Death-rate upon the Census return of 1891, the net Death-rate would have been 13.8.

WATER SUPPLY.—Varied, chiefly from wells; in some villages from public springs, and portion of the Parish of Roundway is supplied by the Devizes Waterworks. A few isolated portions of the District drink water from brooks or streams, notably at Cuckoo's Green, Potterne, and lower part of Great Cheverell. There have been no extensions or changes in the water supply in 1900. The two portions of the District referred to are supplied by brook water and have not a satisfactory supply. No certificates have been applied for under section 6 of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, but the new houses built have all had a water supply. No action has been taken under section 3 of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, by the Rural District Council during the year.

SEWERAGE.—No work of special interest has been carried out during the year with the exception of the Breachfield Drainage Scheme; but smaller drainage improvements have been carried out in Potterne, Wedhampton, Easterton, West Lavington, Poulshot, Roundway, and Market Lavington.

The Septic Tank at the Barracks has been in work throughout the year, and the Medical Officer of Health has received no complaints as to the pollution of the canal.

The Breachfield Drainage Scheme received the sanction of the Local Government Board, and a loan of £2500 was raised. The works are gradually approaching completion, and will be in working order during the coming summer.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—Eleven new houses have been built; also nineteen other buildings, which come under the new Bye-laws: and four houses have been closed as being unfit for habitation. Overcrowding to a small extent exists in certain villages, but there is less than formerly. In a few places there is insufficient garden space for the purpose of dealing with closet contents.

Bake-houses and slaughter-houses have been inspected, and generally found clean. Thirteen bake-houses have received notice from the Sanitary Inspector to lime-wash.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—The Bye-laws came into force at the beginning of the year, and the Inspector reports that 127 are registered. The lime-washing of the cowsheds has been carried out throughout the District.

There were 35 cases of Infectious Diseases notified, but all were of a mild type. A solitary case of Enteric Fever was imported.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.—(1) Improved house accommodation in certain parts of the District, and more houses; (2) An Isolation Hospital and proper Disinfecting Chamber, both of which will shortly be provided.

HIGHWORTH.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—F. E. STREETEN, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

Area, 49658 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	14500.
	Population (Estimated, 1899)	15600.
	Population (Census, 1901) ...	14279.

<i>Birth-rate</i>	..	..	..	27·8	per 1000	Pop.
<i>Death-rate</i>	..	..	..	14·2	„	„
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	..	..	..	0·70	„	„
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	..	..	..	1·54	„	„
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	..	..	..	102	„	<i>Births.</i>

There is a slight falling off in the Birth-rate, and there has been a marked reduction in the Death-rate.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Medical Officer of Health gives a detailed statement of the condition and character of the water supply of each parish in his District.

SEWERAGE.—No very complete system of sewerage and sewage disposal exists in most of the villages. The following villages and towns have systems of sewers and disposal more or less complete:—

Castle Eaton.—Half of the village is now sewered, and the remainder will shortly be completed. There is no system of disposal.

Hannington.—In the main part of this village sewers have been laid with outfall works on the system of broad irrigation.

Highworth.—Well drained over most of its area, and most houses have been connected with the sewers which are of modern construction. Two outfalls exist, one at Eastrop and one at Westrop, where sewage is treated by Broad Irrigation. The land used is insufficient and unsuitable, having a tendency to become easily “sewage sick.” Last summer a nuisance was created from this cause until after hay time, when more land was allowed to be used for irrigation by a neighbouring farmer. Some inexpensive bacterial filters might be with advantage constructed here.

Rodbourne.—In the “Telford” District a system of sewers and sewage disposal works exists. Neither the sewers nor disposal works are satisfactory, and many nuisances have arisen.

Moredon, in Rodbourne Parish, is partly drained, and has outfall works where sewage is treated by irrigation.

Stratton St. Margaret has some sewers which were no doubt originally laid as storm water drains. They are defective, and not fit for the sanitary requirements of a growing and populous place. The sewage is taken to three outfalls at present, and at one of them only, it is treated by irrigation. The scheme for the sewerage of this village is now before the Local Government Board. The scheme which had its inception in the year 1896, is apparently as far off commencement as ever. It appears to be now delayed because of the possibility and probability of the Parish of Stratton St. Margaret being included in the Borough of Swindon. The whole scheme has been amended and is now complete with its disposal works, being brought there by gravitation.

Stanton is well drained, and has its sewage brought to one outfall for treatment by irrigation.

Wroughton is perhaps the best sewered village in the Union District. An outbreak of Typhoid Fever some years ago was the means of causing action to be taken both with respect to proper drainage and a pure water supply. It is unfortunate that some provision was not made in the first instance for the disposal of storm water which at times quite floods the sewers.

The remaining parishes of the District have no proper system of water-borne sewage. In some no drains other than ditches exist, and in others there are storm water drains of more or less primitive description, which also receive "slop water" and in some instances excreta also. The "pail" system is in use in most villages, and the usual difficulties occur in disposing of "soil" when it has been deposited.

The Medical Officer of Health suggests the adoption of Bye-laws for dealing with the systematic emptying of pail closets.

The duty of removing all house refuse at present devolves on the occupiers of houses, there being no public scavenging in the District. The nuisance from accumulations of house refuse in the vicinity of dwellings is often acute, and it is not possible with the present powers to deal systematically with it. There are certain populous parts of the District where scavenging would be particularly beneficial, and householders would be glad to be relieved of a necessary and unpleasant duty. The coming year will probably see some steps taken in regard to this important matter.

Slaughter-houses and bake-houses are regularly inspected and lime-washed at stated intervals.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.—Regulations have been adopted, and are enforced. All have been regularly inspected during the year. The register is now complete, and gives accurate information as to lighting, ventilation, cleaning, drainage, and water supply of all cowsheds and byres. The cubic space allowed for each animal is also calculated and recorded. A properly constructed cowshed is easily kept clean, but some of those in use in the District are old and inconvenient, and consequently are not kept in such a sanitary condition as is desirable. On the whole there is no doubt but that more care and attention is now given to the state of dairy farm premises generally, and improvement can certainly be recorded during the year.

Workshops and Factories, of which there are three in the District, are under inspection.

The only offensive trade which is carried on is the manufacture of bone and blood manure in connection with a horse slaughtering business. But during the year no complaints have been received, and the business is now carried on with the minimum of offence to those who have to live in the vicinity.

INSPECTIONS OF DISTRICT.—The District appears to be well inspected by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector. During the year the Medical Officer of Health has commenced to keep a register of each Parish in the Union, and particulars as to ownership, occupation, description and situation of premises, number of rooms and inmates, closet accommodation, drainage, water supply, and other particulars are recorded in the registers. These registers will form an invaluable book of reference. The Sanitary Inspector has given the Medical Officer of Health great assistance in this matter, and a very large amount of work has devolved on him in consequence.

Progress has been made with respect to the adoption of Bye-laws for the whole District, some have already received the sanction and approval of the Local Government Board, and it is

now only a question of a short time which must elapse before the adoption of the whole. They will give considerably increased powers to the Local Authority, with respect to nuisances, disposal of refuse, control of slaughter-houses, and regulations as to new streets and buildings.

It is satisfactory to note that out of a total of 60 cases of Zymotic Diseases notified, 34, or over 40 per cent. were removed for treatment to the Isolation Hospital.

The incidence of Scarlet Fever during the year has been less, and that of Diphtheria increased, outbreaks of Diphtheria at the Union Workhouse and at Bishopstone being the apparent cause of this excess. The inhabitants of Highworth Rural District do not appear so readily to avail themselves of the privileges of the Isolation Hospital as do the people in the Borough area, but the hospital is advancing in popularity every year, and is doing good work.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.—(1) Provision of public water supplies in certain populous areas, whose supply is at present derived from shallow surface wells; (2) Sewerage works, including disposal for Parish of Stratton St. Margaret.

MALMESBURY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—CHARLES W. PITT, M.R.C.S.

Area, 57442 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	10203.
	Population (" , 1901) ...	9812.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	22·3	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	13·7	" "
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	1·7	" "
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	0·68	" "
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	83·0	" <i>Births.</i>

There has been a decrease in the Birth-rate. The Death-rate shows an increase. There is a further reduction in the Infantile Mortality.

WATER SUPPLY.—There have been no extensions during the year. Sherston is still inadequately supplied, but a scheme is now before the Local Government Board for the provision of a water supply for this village. Section 6 of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, is not enforced in all cases in the District. No action has been taken under section 3 of the same Act during the year.

SEWERAGE AND EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.—No reference to this subject made by the Medical Officer of Health in his annual report.

There are no Bye-laws adopted or enforced in this District.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—The Medical Officer of Health says that no regulations have been adopted.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—The Medical Officer of Health makes no reference to this important subject in his annual report.

Twenty cases of Infectious Diseases were notified, viz.:—3 of Enteric Fever; 3 of Erysipelas; and 13 of Scarlet Fever.

Although the Isolation Hospital is available, no case appears to have been moved from the Rural District. But the Medical Officer of Health says one case of Scarlet Fever from the Urban District was removed to the Hospital, and was useful in preventing any further spread of the disease.

There were several cases of Measles at Brinkworth, and two deaths occurred there. The schools were closed from March 13th to April 23rd. There were also two deaths from Measles at Minety, one death at Somerford Magna, and one death at Crudwell. The Medical Officer of Health thinks that the public ought to know that Measles is a more dangerous disease than is generally thought to be, on account of its disposition to attack the lungs. There was also an outbreak of Measles at Broad Somerford, and the schools were closed from February 24th to March 24th.

MARLBOROUGH.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—C. JAMES, M.R.C.S.

Area, 41677 acres.	Population, (Census, 1891) ...	5494.
	Population, (Estimated, 1899)	5487.
	Population, (Census, 1901) ...	5412.
<i>Birth-rate</i> 24.6 <i>per 1000 Pop.</i>		
<i>Death-rate</i> 15.1 " "		
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i> 0.18 " "		
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i> 0.91 " "		
<i>Infantile Mortality</i> 88.9 " <i>Births.</i>		

The Birth-rate is practically identical to that of last year. There is a slight increase in the Death-rate. Of the 83 deaths 37 occurred in people over 65 years of age.

Twenty-nine cases of Infectious Disease were notified. Of this number, 9 were Diphtheria, 4 Erysipelas, and 16 Scarlet Fever. 14 of these were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and more would have been if that institution had not been full owing to the presence of cases from the Borough. There was one death at Broad Hinton from Diphtheria, and this was the only fatal case from Infectious Disease in the whole District.

In all cases of removal of patients to the Hospital, disinfection was properly carried out at the houses, and bedding, &c., treated in the steam apparatus.

In connection with the Isolation Hospital the Medical Officer of Health is glad to know that an arrangement has at last been made with the Borough Authorities, and that a combined Hospital will be erected providing the same amount of accommodation as at present exists.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Medical Officer of Health reports that the Water Supply is generally satisfactory. Some isolated cottages have to depend on rain water, but the majority are supplied with wells. A case reported upon last year of insufficient supply at Broad Hinton, where the Medical Officer of Health advised the sinking of a well, the owners considered it impracticable, and have instead, made another tank, which meets the case fairly well. At Clatford he found some people dependent on rain water standing in open tubs. There was a well, but it was in a very foul condition, and the Medical Officer of Health feared that it cannot be cleansed until next autumn. The Broad Hinton Parish Council have communicated with the Medical Officer of Health asking for his co-operation in the consideration of the whole water supply, and he proposed to report to the Rural District Council at a future date.

SEWERAGE.—The drains are nearly all open ones. The only portion of the District in which any other system prevails is in the parish of Preshute, which the Medical Officer of Health believes will shortly be incorporated with the Borough of Marlborough.

The removal and disposal of house refuse is done by the occupiers, and compares very favourably with the method adopted in adjacent towns.

HOUSING OF WORKING CLASSES.—The house accommodation for the labourer is quite sufficient, seeing that there are several empty houses, but the condition of them is in some instances far from satisfactory. Many are very old, draughty, and inconvenient. 4 new houses have been erected during the year. 1 house has been condemned as unfit for habitation. 345 cottages appear to have been inspected during the year. The number of nuisances reported has been small and not serious in character, but they have been inspected and abated.

MELKSHAM.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—DR. INGRAM KEIR, F.R.C.S., Edin.

Area, 13867 acres.	Population, (Census, 1891) ...	4775.
	Population, (Estimated, 1899)...	4460.
	Population, (Census, 1901) ...	4439.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	23·8	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	13·1	„ „
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	0·00	„ „
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	0·68	„ „
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	28·5	„ <i>Births.</i>

There is a slight improvement in the Birth-rate. There is a decided decrease in the Death-rate.

WATER SUPPLY.—There was again a very serious dearth of water at Seend Cleeve, and New Buildings, Seend, in August, September, October, and November. The Council carted water round to the inhabitants during that period, but it is obviously most desirable to put an end to this serious state of affairs, so detrimental to the public health, by extending the Water Company's main to this district. Section 3 of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, renders it obligatory on every Sanitary Authority to see that every occupied dwelling house within their District has within a reasonable distance an available supply of wholesome water sufficient for the consumption and use for domestic purposes of the inmates of the house. The Filter-bed at Whaddon which was reported upon as being contaminated, has been satisfactorily renewed. A new well has also been sunk giving a good supply of excellent water.

SEWERAGE AND REFUSE REMOVAL.—100 yards of new sewers were made at Hilperton, which is one of the worst drained parts of the District. The Shurnhold Brook, which became a serious nuisance during the warm weather, was cleaned out, but the only way to abate the nuisance is to forbid the discharge of sewage into the brook. "Many nuisances were caused by piggeries, but the law on the subject is so weak that it is only when they become injurious to health that they can be effectually dealt with. It is very desirable that increased powers over them should be procured." No systematic scavenging is carried out by the Council, although this might with great advantage be done in Melksham Without, Seend, and Hilperton.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—Eleven new houses have been built, and a number of improvements made in cottages in various parts of the District. No action was taken during the year under "The Housing of the Working Classes Act." There is still a scarcity of cottages for the labouring poor, but the demand is not sufficiently great to warrant Part III of the Housing Act being put in force. In the monthly report for February, 1900, the Medical Officer of Health drew attention to the flooding of houses in Semington Lane through inadequate drainage. This serious condition still continues to the great danger of the health of the inmates, and he trusts the Council will give the subject its careful consideration.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—It is gratifying to notice a general improvement in the dairies of the Districts. Greater cleanliness is maintained, and better flooring and drainage are provided. 55 premises were registered during the year, and in 12 instances registration was delayed until structural defects were remedied. The new Bye-laws have been carefully carried out.

BAKEHOUSES, SLAUGHTERHOUSES, AND WORKSHOPS.—These were inspected quarterly, and found in a satisfactory condition.

The elementary schools were, on inspection, found to be kept in good sanitary condition. In one instance there was overcrowding, but this is being remedied by enlargement.

MERE.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—B. POPE BARTLETT, M.R.C.S.

Area, 31093 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	5762.
	Population (Estimated, 1899)	5357.
	Population (Census, 1901) ...	5210.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	22·4	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	16·5	" "
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	1·70	" "
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	0·56	" "
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	33·8	" <i>Births.</i>

There has been a reduction in the Birth-rate. The Death-rate is practically identical with that of last year.

WATER SUPPLY.—In only one part of the District is a system of water works laid down, and that is in the village of Maiden Bradley, where excellent water is obtained from a spring about a mile from the village, and pumped to a reservoir whence it is distributed all over the village. With the exception of a small portion of Stourton, and part of East Knoyle Parish, all the rest of the District obtains its water from springs rising from the surface or from wells of various depths. The waters obtained from the springs and deep wells are usually very pure, where means are taken to prevent contamination by surface leakage. The waters obtained from the shallow wells as at East Knoyle, and from the river, as in some cases at Mere, are either impure or liable at times to become contaminated, and are quite unfit for domestic use. In the case of East Knoyle, the Council have been endeavouring during the past year to obtain a new supply of water for the village, and have caused an experimental boring to be made, the value of which is being considered. The town of Mere is largely dependent for its water supply upon shallow wells, the state of affairs, although better in many respects than it was formerly, cannot be regarded as satisfactory. Considering the number of people living in the town, and close aggregation of a number of buildings, shallow wells, which are very liable to contamination are not a satisfactory source of supply. Besides the necessity of a general supply of water of undoubted purity for domestic purposes, more water than is at present available is required to flush those portions of the sewers situated in the higher parts of the town, especially during the dry months of summer when the rain-fall is low.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—Owing to the scattered nature of the houses in the District, only in a limited portion is a system of sewerage possible. In only two places are a system of any size, viz. ; at Maiden Bradley, where a main sewer laid through the village is used to carry off the surface water and sewage from a few houses, and in the town of Mere, where a system of sewerage and drainage is laid down. The Medical Officer of Health considers the late epidemic of Diphtheria at Mere to be closely connected with the sewerage system. He attributes the epidemic largely to two causes:—(1) the defective state of house drains, and the insanitary manner in which they are connected with the main sewers; (2) the want of a sufficient supply of water to flush some portions of the main sewer. The opening up of several of the drains in houses where Diphtheria have occurred, clearly shows in what a careless manner the house drains had been laid, and the total absence of any attempt to prevent the escape of sewer gas from the sewers into the dwellings and their surroundings by a proper method of disconnection and ventilation. At the British Schools, of which 13 scholars and teachers suffered from Diphtheria, the drains were discovered to be constructed of unsuitable pipes, laid with little or no fall, and on account of that and an insufficiency of water used in flushing, the drain was absolutely blocked with solid sewage. Much has been done during the past year to correct this state of things in the town of Mere, but much remains to be done. Twenty-one house drains have been laid or re-laid, and 18 cleansed, trapped and ventilated.

EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.—In the town of Mere where there is a system of sewerage, the water closet is the most frequent method of disposal of excrement. There is, however, no general water supply, the closets as a rule being flushed with water carried by hand, a method not always satisfactory. In the villages, cess-pits are the rule, and these are often found in a

most insanitary state, the pits being badly situated, defective in construction, and sometimes overflowing. Thirty-eight of these have been repaired, including those used in the National Schools at Kilmington and Maiden Bradley, and 23 converted into pail closets. In all cases where possible it has been recommended to convert the cess-pits into pail closets, and many of the latter are now in use.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—Owing to the decrease of population due to emigration, the number of houses in the District has been more than sufficient to accommodate the population, with the result that only the better constructed houses have as a rule been inhabited, many of the more dilapidated having been allowed to fall to pieces. The houses of the working classes, especially in villages where they are owned by the large landlords, are generally in a very good state of repair, and are surrounded by suitable wash-houses and good gardens. During the year two cottages have been closed as unfit for habitation, and two cleaned and lime-washed; two new houses have also been erected. The Rural District Council at present exercises no supervision over the erection of new houses, but it is believed that it contemplates adopting Bye-laws for the purpose.

No Bye-laws of any sort exist in the District, and no regulations under the Dairies and Cowsheds Orders have been adopted. In consequence there has been no systematic inspection of these buildings.

The District appears to have been well inspected during the year by the Medical Officer of Health and the Inspector of Nuisances, and a number of nuisances have been dealt with.

Forty-three cases of Infectious Diseases were reported under the Notification Act. Of these, 38 were cases of Diphtheria, 36 of which occurred in Mere and Zeals, and one each in Kilmington and Maiden Bradley. There was a severe epidemic of Measles throughout Zeals, Stourton, Mere, and West Knoyle at the commencement of the year, necessitating the closing of the elementary schools in these parishes for a combined period of twelve weeks. There is no Isolation Hospital in the District, the patients being isolated as far as possible in their own homes.

PEWSEY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—CHARLES H. LAWRENCE, L.R.C.P.

Area, 72403 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	11713.
	Population (" 1901) ...	11209.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	24.5 per 1000 Pop.	
<i>Death-rate</i>	15 " "	
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	0.83 " "	
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	0.58 " "	
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	84.7 " Births.	

The Birth-rate is identical to that of last year. There is an increase in the Death-rate. There were 12 deaths in the Union workhouse, 11 of these occurring in persons over 60 years of age.

The Medical Officer of Health says there is generally a good supply of water throughout the Union, which is almost entirely supplied by wells. He says nothing of the purity of the water, and no action appears to have been taken under section 3 of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878.

Five cases of Enteric Fever were notified at Eastsands, Burbage. Examination of the premises revealed the fact that the drainage was very defective. The one well which supplies all these cottages with water is close to the drain; and on analysis, the water was found to be polluted.

SEWERAGE.—Ludgershall has no system of drainage whatever. The water supply is insufficient in some places, and the wells badly protected and cared for. Drains at Alton Priors, Wilsford, and Wootten Rivers have been cleaned out and attended to. The main drain at Rushall has been re-laid. No single village in the Pewsey District appears to have a proper system of sewerage. Sixteen new privies were built during the year.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—The cottage accommodation remains much the same, except in the villages owned by the War Office, Enford and Netheravon, in which considerable improvements have been made, much to the comfort of the inhabitants. The cottages at Ludgershall are very old and dilapidated, and scarcely fit for habitation. Ten new cottages have been erected in the District during the year.

The bake-houses and slaughter-houses have been inspected and found satisfactory.

The numerous dairies have been regularly inspected, and are well kept.

RAMSBURY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—W. T. J. WOODFORDE, M.D.

Area, 50000 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	7388.
	Population (Estimated, 1899)	6743.
	Population (Census, 1901) ...	7093.

<i>Birth-rate</i>	27.9	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	19.5	,, ,,
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	1.35	,, ,,
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	1.20	,, ,,
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	64.5	,, <i>Births.</i>

There is a slight reduction in the Birth-rate. The Death-rate is very much higher than last year. It should, however, be noted that 70 deaths, or nearly 54 per cent. of the whole, were of persons above 65 years of age, while there were only 12 deaths from infants less than a twelve-month old.

There were in all 9 deaths from Zymotic diseases, viz., Diphtheria 4, Diarrhœa 4, Whooping Cough 1.

WATER SUPPLY.—Nine cases of deficient or impure water supply were dealt with, and fifteen wells were cleaned out.

SEWERAGE.—The District being so largely traversed by streams, and the scattered character of the villages rendering systems of sewerage inapplicable to their requirements, the due supervision of disposal of slop drainage entails much watchfulness and trouble on the part of the Inspector of Nuisances in order to meet the requirements of the Thames Conservancy, who, however, are fairly satisfied with what is done to prevent the streams from being fouled, except at Great Bedwyn, where it was found that slop drains from a good many houses had been connected with the surface water street drains, and in one instance a W.C. had been so connected. The discharge to the main stream occurred at three points. A Committee met the representative of the landowner on the ground and to avoid burdening the village with a heavy expense with a sewerage scheme to meet the requirements of the Local Government Board, he consented to carry out some small works which it is hoped will meet the case. At Chilton a discharge of sewage of the same character was found from several cottages. The representatives of the owners in these cases arranged to cut off the respective drain connections. This has now been done at Chilton, and in part at Bedwyn, but at the last-named place there has been delay in carrying out the work, which was not completed at the close of the year.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—A large proportion of the cottages in this District are old, and many of them have the structural sanitary deficiencies of their date of erection. Special inspections have been made with reference to them in various localities, and particularly

in Ramsbury, where several blocks of worn-out and decayed tenements were reported to the Council. 4 were closed as unfit for occupation, 11 which were dilapidated have been put into repair, and 9 were cleansed.

All the registered Cowsheds, 41 in number, have been visited, and with one exception—where a nuisance, since abated, was found—their condition was satisfactory.

Two of the 21 Bakehouses inspected required cleansing, but otherwise the regulations as to whitewashing, &c., were found to be complied with, as was also the case with the slaughter-houses.

Twenty-six notifications of infectious disease were received during the year, viz., Scarlet Fever 7, Diphtheria 2, Membranous Croup 6, Enteric Fever 1, Erysipelas 10.

SALISBURY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—C. G. B. KEMPE, M.D.

Area, 55427 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	12894.
	Population (Census, 1901) ...	12860.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	20	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	14.3	„ „
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	0.8	„ „
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	0.8	„ „
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	69.5	„ <i>Births.</i>

The Birth-rate is lower than last year, and below the average for the past ten years. The Death-rate is very considerably reduced, and is well below the average for the past ten years.

There were 11 deaths from Zymotic disease.

WATER SUPPLY.—Parts of Milford Without and Laverstock are supplied by the Milford Water Works Co., and Fisherton Anger Without by the Fisherton and Bemerton Water Works Co. The rest of the District obtains its water for all purposes from wells, springs, rain-water tanks and, in a few instances, from ponds. The majority of the wells are shallow, varying in depth from six to twelve or fourteen feet, but, as a rule, in this District these seem to give a sufficient and wholesome supply. During the year 7 wells were cleaned and repaired, and one has been closed on account of pollution. Section 6 of the Public Health (Water) Act, 1878, has been rigidly enforced. Certificates as to water supply have been granted for 32 new dwellings. The supply was derived in 16 from the Milford Water Works Co., in 11 from wells, and in 5 from rain-water tanks. In two cases the certificate was withheld until the Council was satisfied that the supply was efficient.

SEWERAGE.—There is no system of sewerage in the District. In most parts of the District sewage is disposed of in cesspits, which are periodically cleaned out, and the contents spread over the land. Complaints arise from neglected and overflowing cesspits, which, as a rule, are promptly put right upon notice being drawn to the nuisance. The Milford Sewage Disposal Scheme is still under consideration. This parish and that of Fisherton Anger Without are the two which require some provision in this respect.

During the first half of the year a sausage skin factory was established in Fisherton Anger Without, and in July complaints were received of the nuisance caused by it. Notices were served to abate the nuisance. Complaints were again received in December, and the place is still under supervision, and improvements in dealing with refuse are contemplated.

The District appears to be regularly and systematically inspected by the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector.

The house accommodation of the District is, as a rule, good, and what change there is, is for the better. The surroundings of the cottages are clean, and generally speaking, there is a

sufficiency of open space about them. During the year two houses have been closed as unfit for habitation, and one case of overcrowding dealt with. Thirty-two new houses have been erected.

All Slaughterhouses and Bakehouses have been regularly inspected.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops, to the number of 94, have been regularly inspected by the Sanitary Inspector. The regulations made by the Council under the Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act, 1886, and the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885, are duly enforced.

During the year 4 schools were closed on account of Infectious Disease, 3 on account of Measles, and 1 on account of Diphtheria.

The need for some efficient means of isolating patients suffering from Infectious Disease is ever present. The Medical Officer of Health says prompt isolation early in the course of such an epidemic would do more to check its spread than any other means.

Useful cards and handbills giving directions for preventing the spread of infection of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Typhoid Fever, &c., have been distributed during the year.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.—Isolation accommodation for Infectious Diseases; Bye-laws dealing with Scavenging and the Housing of the Working Classes.

TISBURY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—J. A. ENSOR, M.R.C.S.

Area, 41916 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	8596.
	Population (" 1901) ...	7714.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	20.5	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	14.4	" "
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	0.58	" "
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	1.1	" "
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	79	" <i>Births.</i>

The Birth-rate is practically the same as last year. The Death-rate shows a slight increase, and is slightly above the average for the past 10 years. In the decade from 1890-1899, the number of deaths from Phthisis in the District was 62, an average of just over 6 per annum, and it is scarcely satisfactory that in the year under review nearly twice that number should have died from what must now be regarded as a preventable and infectious disease.

WATER SUPPLY.—Some progress has been made with the proposed water supply of the District. The engineer has been instructed to prepare the preliminary plans for the supply by gravitation, and negotiations are being carried on with the owners of property, for the right of taking pipes through their land. During the year 3 cottages at Donhead St. Mary have been adequately supplied with water from a neighbouring spring. At Ansty, the water supply in some instances leaves much to be desired. One group of cottages and a small farm obtain their water from a spring some distance away. The supply is abundant, but the water is very liable to contamination from cattle grazing in the field in which the spring opens. The contamination of this spring could be obviated by railing it off, and a convenient supply obtained for the adjoining farm and cottages by means of pipes. Action has been taken during the year against the owner of two cottages at Donhead, under section 6, Public Health (Water) Acts, 1878, and a conviction obtained. On the Fonthill Abbey Estate the water supply has been re-organized. The pipes have been taken up, cleaned, and re-laid, and new filtering beds provided, polarite being used as the filtering agent.

SEWERAGE.—The system of sewerage at Tisbury appears to be satisfactory, but it is probable that as fresh connections with the main sewer are made, and consequently the volume of sewage increases, the present method of filtration will have to be modified and adapted to further treatment by precipitation, before the effluent is allowed to pass into the river. Need for improvement on present arrangements exists at Charlton, where the slops from a group of about

20 cottages are thrown into the roadway, constituting a nuisance. The provision of a drain with properly tapped connections for each cottage would remedy this long-standing defect. In most parts of the District the chief receptacles of excreted matter are the old fashioned and most undesirable midden pits. It is to be regretted that so many of these out-of-date and unwholesome structures are still in existence, when their conversion to the more modern and cleanly form of earth or ash closet could be so easily effected, and at so little cost. These privy pits are cleaned out at too infrequent and irregular intervals, so that their festering contents become a source of danger to those using them.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—The house accommodation of the District is good, but the readiness with which any new cottages built are occupied, suggests that in some instances improvement in existing houses is called for. Six new houses have been erected during the year, and two have been closed as unfit for habitation. Supervision over the erection of new houses is exercised, and in one instance the owner of two new cottages at Donhead was prosecuted for failing to provide a proper supply of water to his new premises.

Regulations for dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops were adopted during the year, and came into force on May 1st. As a result, 135 cowsheds, &c. have been registered. The ultimate effect of these regulations must be to re-act very beneficially on the general health, as well as on the particular industry. The table of work done by the Sanitary Inspector shows that 114 contraventions of the regulations have been dealt with. This appears an excessive number compared with the registrations, but it cannot be expected that all necessary improvements can be made at once. Under the Order one prosecution was instituted, and a conviction obtained, an order being made that the cowshed in question was to be put into a condition more compatible with cleanliness.

Slaughter-houses, bake-houses, and factories have been regularly inspected, and the various regulations in connection with them have been observed.

WARMINSTER.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—F. J. FLOWER, M.R.C.S.

Area, 51624 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	7470.
	Population (Estimated 1899)	7400.
	Population (Census), 1901 ...	6324.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	16.5 <i>per 1000 Pop.</i>	
<i>Death-rate</i>	15.07 " "	
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	0.40 " "	
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	0.67 " "	
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	120.0 " <i>Births.</i>	

The Birth-rate shows a considerable reduction, and is much the lowest of any of the Rural Districts. The Death-rate shows a slight decrease, but is now well above the average.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Medical Officer of Health has received no complaints of insufficiency of water during the year. The well at a dairy farm was found to be much polluted, and was closed, and a proper water supply laid on from the parish of Horningsham.

SEWERAGE DISPOSAL.—The Medical Officer of Health says the sewage disposal in the District is that common in most Rural Districts, but he does not describe it.

Two houses were reported as being unfit for habitation, and have been repaired.

Bake-houses and slaughter-houses have been regularly inspected, and the provisions of the Dairies and Cowsheds Orders have been complied with.

One case of Anthrax in a dairy was reported.

The results of the inspection of the different villages by the Medical Officer of Health are summarised as follows:—

Imber.—The cottage accommodation is ample and of fair quality for an agricultural village, but at the entrance to the village there are a few antiquated and unsatisfactory cottages.

Chitterne.—A large number of cottages in this village are badly constructed and of very inferior quality, particularly those on the north side of Bidden Lane and at Townsend, but in the latter locality some of the worst cottages are uninhabited.

Stockton.—The general condition of the cottages and their surroundings is satisfactory.

Codford.—The surface drainage in some parts of the village is unsatisfactory, but the village generally is clean and healthy.

Sherrington, Boyton, and Corton.—These villages lie very low, and in winter are damp and unhealthy; some of the cottages are very ancient, low roofed, and cramped, but some of the worst of these in the first-named parish have been improved.

Sutton Veny.—There are a large number of uninhabited houses in this village, consequent on the decrease in the number of inhabitants.

Upton Lovell.—The cottages are mostly of modern construction, but the closing of the factory there has caused a number to be vacated.

Knook.—This is a small village, and a few of the cottages near the river are old and out of repair.

Heytesbury.—This village has an excellent water supply which now extends its mains to Norton Bavant. The cottage accommodation is excellent with few exceptions.

The Deverills and Crockerton.—The water supply in some parts is unsatisfactory. Shallow wells abound, which in wet or rough weather, become very foul and turbid, and unfit for use. A water supply for these villages is badly needed.

Corsley.—A great many cottages are vacant in this village, and of late years numbers have been pulled down, and a few admirable cottages have been built, and others that were out of repair have been put in order.

Horningsham.—This and the preceding village are the two most difficult to inspect in the whole District, as the cottages are very widely scattered. This village has an ample water supply, and the cottages are clean and nicely kept.

WESTBURY & WHORWELLSDOWN.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—WALTER H. REID, M.R.C.S.

Area, 30843 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	10166.
	Population (Estimated, 1899)	10651.
	Population (Census, 1901) ...	6404.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	22·8	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	15·2	„ „
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	0·73	„ „
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	0·58	„ „
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	115·3	„ <i>Births.</i>

There is a marked reduction in the Birth-rate. The Death-rate is also lower than last year.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Sanitary Inspector has reported on the waterworks, which are progressing satisfactorily. The Medical Officer of Health regrets that the scheme could not have embraced Steeple Ashton and West Ashton, which are both inadequately supplied with good water.

SEWERAGE.—There does not appear to be any system of sewage disposal in the District. Several drains in the District have been improved. The Medical Officer of Health suggests a systematic manner of cleaning the open ditches through North Bradley and Keevil, not leaving it to the tenants, through whose property they run, but under the supervision of one individual who would see the whole length of ditch cleared.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—A few cases of overcrowding at Heywood were reported, but great difficulties arise in dealing with these cases as there are no available houses for evicted tenants. Several houses now occupied are scarcely fit for habitation, being badly built originally, and neglected ever since. In cases of serious illness it is quite the exception to find a house with a practical fireplace upstairs.

The Burial Ground in an insanitary condition at Southwick was reported. The report was forwarded to the Home Office, and an official inquiry was instituted, and the Home Office was satisfied that there were ample grounds for the course which had been taken.

The Medical Officer of Health made several visits with the Sanitary Inspector to the different parts of the District, and on the whole they are fairly satisfactory.

The School at Chapmanslade was closed in January on account of an outbreak of Scarlet Fever, on the Coulston side of the village.

WILTON.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—CHARLES R. STRATON, F.R.C.S., Edin.

Area, 52395 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ..	7774.
	Population (Estimated 1899)	8352.
	Population (Census, 1901) ..	7467.
<i>Birth-rate</i>	21·8	<i>per 1000 Pop.</i>
<i>Death-rate</i>	15·4	„ „
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	0·02	„ „
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	1·52	„ „
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	101·0	„ <i>Births.</i>

The Birth-rate remains practically stationary. The Death-rate shows an increase, and is much above the average for the past 10 years.

WATER SUPPLY.—The public water supplies at Fovant, Quidhampton, and Bemerton have been satisfactory this year. A wish has again been expressed that the Upper Fovant supply should be carried down to Lower Fovant. This would be a desirable extension, but a costly and difficult one to carry out. There are many sites in Lower Fovant where good and potable water could be obtained at a lower cost than bringing down the Upper Fovant main would entail. During the year 30 samples of water from wells and tanks were examined. In 6 of these the water was not good, and the wells were ordered to be cleansed and repaired. There are 182 houses in the District supplied with water from service pipes, the others use wells and tanks.

The streams and watercourses are in good order. They are mostly let to fishing clubs, and are well looked after. In no part of the District is river water allowed to be used as a domestic supply.

SEWERAGE.—During the year two drains were ordered to be re-laid, and 8 to be cleaned and trapped, or ventilated. Three dilapidated privies were ordered to be repaired, and 17 to be cleansed.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.—Eleven houses were made fit for habitation, and 6 that were no longer habitable were closed. Fifty-four houses were cleansed and lime-washed. Four cases of overcrowding occurred, and were abated.

Twenty-seven workshops and bake-houses were inspected, and three were ordered to be lime-washed.

Seventy-three dairies and cowsheds were inspected, and the Bye-laws with regard to them are observed.

Fifty-seven cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year. Of these, 17 were cases of Diphtheria, 15 of Erysipelas, and 25 of Scarlet Fever. Eleven houses were disinfected and cleansed by the Inspector of Nuisances. In the early months of the year Influenza was prevalent over the whole District, and 20 deaths were attributed to Influenza and Broncho-pneumonia. No case of Enteric Fever occurred during the year.

The sanitary arrangements in the male and female sick wards of the workhouse have not been very satisfactory of late, and it is desirable that water closets should be better isolated from the wards, and better flushed.

Measles was widely epidemic, and it was necessary to close the Bishopstone School.

TETBURY (WILTSHIRE PORTION).

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—J. BOND, M.D.

Area, 3271 acres.	Population (Census, 1891) ...	430.	
	Population (Estimated, 1899)	403.	
	Population (Census, 1901) ...	358.	
<i>Birth-rate</i>	22.3 <i>per</i> 1000 <i>Pop.</i>		
<i>Death-rate</i>	12.1 " "		
<i>Zymotic Death-rate</i>	0.00 " "		
<i>Phthisis Death-rate</i>	0.24 " "		
<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	143.01 " <i>Births.</i>		

Parishes of Ashley and Long Newton with a population of 358.

There were 9 births and 5 deaths.

There were no deaths from any of the Zymotic Diseases.

Of the 5 deaths, 1 was caused from Phthisis, 1 Bronchitis, and 1 Heart Disease. Two of the 5 deaths occurred in persons over the age of 65 years.

No Bye-laws are in force.

Excrement removal is undertaken by the tenants, and no scavenging is undertaken by the Authority, and the present arrangement may be considered satisfactory.

No regulations for dairies and cowsheds are adopted, but three are registered, and are inspected by the Inspector of Nuisances.

No overcrowding of persons in houses. No action has been taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890. No houses were closed as unfit for habitation.

No houses have been built in either parish to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health for many years.

House-to-house inspection is carried on from time to time when necessary.

