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*To the Chairman and Members of the Workington Urban
Sanitary Authority.*

ANNUAL REPORT

Of Medical Officer of Health for the year 1904.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

The statistics, which I submit, are based as formerly on an estimated population of 26,000.

BIRTH-RATE.—During the year 886 births were registered in your district, of which 465 were males and 421 females, being equal to an annual birth-rate of 30·3 per 1,000, as compared with 36·6 for the preceding year.

DEATH-RATE.—The deaths registered amounted to 427, of which 232 were males and 195 females, this is equal to an annual death-rate of 16·4 per 1,000, as compared with 17·8 for preceding year.

I append the death-rate since 1882 :—

In 1882	...	...	24·4 per 1,000.
„ 1883	...	...	18·2 „
„ 1884	...	...	16·2 „
„ 1885	...	...	18·7 „
„ 1886	...	...	17·7 „
„ 1887	...	...	18·9 „
„ 1888	...	...	21 „
„ 1889	...	...	18 „
„ 1890	...	...	18·3 „
„ 1891	...	...	16·6 „
„ 1892	...	...	19 „
„ 1893	...	...	16 „
„ 1894	...	...	14·95 „
„ 1895	...	...	19·5 „
„ 1896	...	...	15·8 „
„ 1897	...	...	14·46 „
„ 1898	...	...	20·3 „
„ 1899	...	...	17·6 „
„ 1900	...	...	19·6 „
„ 1901	...	...	15·5 „
„ 1902	...	...	16·5 „
„ 1903	...	...	17·8 „

The following is a classification of the ages at which the deaths occurred :—

136	under 1 year
62	over 1 year and under 5 years
18 „ 5	15 „
20 „ 15	25 „
106 „ 25	60 „
85 „ 60	
—	
427	

INFANT MORTALITY was at the rate of 153·4 per 1,000, as compared with 165·2 for the preceding year, and included 4 deaths from pneumonia, 1 from phthisis, 23 from premature birth, 1 from general tuberculosis, 2 from croup, 4 from gastritis, 15 from convulsions, 3 from congenital syphilis, 4 from tuberculous peritonitis, 8 from gastro-enteritis, 3 from accident, 3 from asthenia, 1 from gastro-intestinal catarrh, 1 from whooping cough, 2 from meningitis (tubercular), 3 from general debility, 2 from spina bifida, 3 from inanition, 2 from peritonitis.

THE ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE was equal to 1·8 per 1,000, as compared with 1·5 for preceding year, and included 3 deaths from enteric fever, 8 from diphtheria, 25 from whooping cough, 4 from diarrhea, and 7 from croup.

Under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act I have received :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	27
Enteric Fever	...	...	15
Diphtheria	...	...	48
Membranous Croup	...	...	6
Erysipelas	...	...	27
Chicken Pox	...	...	8
			—
			131

SMALLPOX AND ELLERBECK HOSPITAL.—The beginning of the year saw the end of what at one time looked like being a severe epidemic of smallpox, the last patient being discharged from Ellerbeck Hospital on 19th January, 1904. There is in my mind, at least, no shadow of a doubt that, but for the advantage we were able to take of this institution, added to the energetic measures, which (thanks to your generosity and farsightedness in supplying me with an assistant in the person of Dr. Roper) I was able to put into operation, the disease

would have gained a stronger foothold and probably exhausted all our efforts to stamp it out. When one considers the position, say, of Dewsbury, with the loss of life and money entailed, one realises to the full the wisdom of those who worked unceasingly to supply your district with an Isolation Hospital. Nor have your efforts stopped here, for your Authority recognising the importance of providing suitable accommodation for smallpox patients, and being anxious to retain Ellerbeck as a strictly Fever Hospital, has during the year been the pioneers in an effort to establish a Hospital Area, under the Isolation Hospitals' Act, 1893, and petitioned the County Council to move in the matter. This latter being satisfied that a *prima facie* case had been made out, held an inquiry at Cockermouth in June last, "and having carefully considered the question, are of opinion that an Isolation Hospital District should be formed, consisting of the Cockermouth Poor Law Union, and that one Hospital should be established at Broughton Moor or some place in that neighbourhood." So far, good—careful consideration on the part of the County Council (as is only right and proper) ending with a sense of satisfaction that there is most certainly a necessity for the establishment of a Smallpox Hospital in this particular district. Looks as if some good useful practical work for the benefit of all concerned was about to be undertaken. Meanwhile let us rest and be thankful and see what happens next. Amicable arrangement amongst the different Authorities much to be desired (and earnestly prayed for). County Council will postpone action for twelve months in order to allow time for the development of this most proper feeling. "Behold how good a thing it is and how becoming well, together such as brethren are in unity to dwell." But time and tide wait for no man or collection of men, not even for County Councils. Tramp walks into Workington, develops smallpox—no place to put him. "Fight your own battle" say the County Council, while the other Authorities thank God they are not as Workington,

and look smilingly on, and for the protection of the County, the public health of which is threatened by an outbreak of smallpox in a common lodging-house with some thirty inmates, all 'contacts,' your Council have to use your Ellerbeck Fever Hospital (a few days earlier and you could not have removed your fever cases) and generally to bear the expense of this perambulating smallpox pauper patient. This may be a small matter to the County Council or even to the neighbouring authorities but it effects your Corporation most seriously, and clearly is not an arrangement which in justice to the town can be allowed to stand. It remains to be seen whether with the representation you have, both on the County Council and on the Board of Guardians, and having regard to the fact that you are a Corporate body with special privileges you are content to accept things as they are, in which case you will have added truth and force to the text that "a man's foes are they of his own household."

HOUSING QUESTION AND INSANITARY PROPERTY.—During the year some little progress has been made in this direction, though I confess the results on the whole are somewhat disappointing. The insanitary property formerly so marked a feature of King Street has been demolished and cleared away, though I still hold that by the rejection of the scheme as generally approved of, a great opportunity has been lost of improving and beautifying one of the principal entrances to your town. The extra expense incurred would have been trifling, the improvement would have been permanent, making that part of your district for all time to come "a thing of beauty and a joy for ever." Griffin Street and the Brows which formed the second part of my representation are still evidences not so much perhaps of an infirmity of purpose as of the financial limits to which even Corporations have to bow, though it is pleasing to note that your Authority is even now fully alive to the necessity of acquiring land where those people who are unfortunate enough to have to live, move,

and have their being amidst unsanitary surroundings may be able to take what recreation remains to them. The houses, Nos. 2 and 4 Brow Tops, the property of your Corporation, you on my representation ordered to be closed and demolished as an object lesson to other owners of the expeditious way in which you were prepared to deal with all insanitary property in your district.

WATER SUPPLY.—On this head I do not think much remains to be said. You have virtually secured as a reservoir the whole of Crummock Lake, and when your new mains have all been put in and completed, Workington ought to have a water supply second to none in the country. Even since I took office and became your Medical Officer of Health have I in season and out of season urged this important matter upon your consideration, and now that the work is all but completed, I look back with pleasure and satisfaction on the loyal and generous support you accorded to my humble efforts to secure for your town and district an abundant supply of good, pure water.

One has but to consider what the want of this means to a town like Lincoln, at the present time suffering from an epidemic of Typhoid Fever, due to a contaminated water supply, to realise the wisdom and foresight of those who years ago saw the possible dangers that might arise from the old river water supply, and who gave to the town the inestimable blessing of our Crummock scheme.

Other matters which have arisen in the course of inspections made of your district have been dealt with for the most part in the monthly reports which I have submitted to you.

There has been no special incidence of any particular disease in any given part of your district, and the comparatively low death-rate for the year is distinctly a matter for congratulation.

Under the Factory and Workshops' Act, attention has been given to such matters as come under your Sanitary Authority, and a similar supervision has been exercised in the matter of Dairies, Cow Sheds, or Purveyors of Milk.

UNDERGROUND BAKEHOUSES.—There are three of these in your district, two of which having complied with the requirements of the Act have been registered.

It is to be hoped that the dumping process which is in active operation on your Cloffocks property will continue to be carried out with a due regard to probable future requirements, and without becoming a nuisance to public health. On previous occasions I have had to direct your attention to complaints which have reached me of pestilential odours arising from decomposing animal and vegetable matters. Latterly I am glad to be able to state these have been very materially abated, but careful supervision is necessary, and will, I trust, be rigidly exercised.

Mr. Sheldon, your Inspector, whose report I submit, deals with other matters more particularly belonging to his department. I am again indebted to him for the watchful supervision he continues to maintain over the public health of your district, for the prompt manner in which he keeps me informed in all matters of sanitary lapsness, and for the very efficient help he extends to me at all times, but particularly in dealing with inroads from smallpox. It is not too much to say that for the very gratifying success which has attended our efforts in handling and combating this disease (and I speak with a full knowledge of the subject) your Authority has much to thank your Inspector. The work is neither pleasant nor altogether devoid of danger, and I gladly take this opportunity of stating my own personal appreciation of the great services he has rendered.

I append a chart showing the weekly rise and fall of the death-rate for the year, also deaths from zymotic diseases.

Yours respectfully,

JOHN HIGHET, M.D.,
M.O.H.

BOROUGH OF WORKINGTON.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Field House,

January, 1905.

To John Highet, Esq., M.D., M.O.H.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit my Fifteenth Annual Report, giving a summary of the work done in the Inspector of Nuisances Department during the year ending 31st December, 1904.

GENERAL INSPECTION OF THE BOROUGH AND
REMOVAL OF NUISANCES.

As in previous years, the lanes, courts, and yard areas within the Borough have been frequently inspected, with a view to the detection of nuisances, and where such were found, steps at once taken to procure the abatement of the same.

In many cases the nuisance existed more through the default of the occupiers than through structural defects, and upon verbal intimation being given to those responsible were, with a few exceptions, at once attended to; and where structural defects were found, notices have been served upon the owners to carry out the necessary work.

It has not been necessary to take legal proceedings in any case discovered and dealt with during the year.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES.

During the year 449 nuisances have been discovered and dealt with, as per Report Book :—

No.	Nature of Nuisance.
	57 cases of overflowing and stopped up water-closets.
100	„ repairs to defective water-closets, want of water supply, &c.
16	„ defective pavement in back yards.
20	„ defective ventilation in houses.
15	„ keeping poultry so as to be a nuisance.
10	„ overcrowding in houses.
20	„ accumulation of manure in stables and cowsheds.
60	„ defective and choked drains.
34	„ defective and offensive gully traps.
40	„ defective spouts.
5	„ smoke nuisances.
8	„ defective roofs over premises.
18	„ dirty houses, limewashing, &c.
16	„ defective waste pipes.
10	„ dirty yards and courts.
2	„ insufficient water-closets.
18	„ miscellaneous, not included.
449	

INSANITARY PROPERTY.

Although no active crusade (through pressure of other work) has been taken against insanitary property within the Borough, the question has not been lost sight of, and from time to time several properties attended to, re-inspections and reports made, as to cottages in Udale Street, and which it is hoped will shortly be dealt with, together with Nos. 2 and 4, Brow Top.

I may also mention that notices were served from the Council, in accordance with the provisions of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, on the owners of the property situate near the centre of Derwent Street, the result being that they (the owners) took steps to get the said property vacated, after

having decided that it was not worth the cost of putting it into a proper state of repair. The tenements, four in number, being now closed.

BOROUGH SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The public slaughter houses, situate on Harrington Road, are visited and inspected frequently, especially upon killing days, and I have pleasure in reporting the general sanitary condition of the place good. Twice during the year the slaughter houses, pig pens, sheep pens, fasting house, together with the yard attached, have been limewashed and cleansed; and I may also add that, since the abolition of the objectionable open tubs and the substitution of the iron tip-cart for the reception of offal, &c., the complaints have been less numerous than in previous years; and, so far as I am cognizant, no carcase of unsound or unwholesome meat has passed this centre for human consumption.

The private slaughter house, situate in Elizabeth Street, has also been periodically inspected, and is in good order and kept clean.

The annexed table shows the number of animals slaughtered at each of the above places during the year 1904:—

BOROUGH SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Beasts.	Sheep.	Lambs.	Calves.	Pigs.	Total.
1,901	5,706	1,781	135	1,370	10,893

PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSE, ELIZABETH STREET.

Beasts.	Sheep.	Lambs.	Calves.	Pigs.	Total.
100	500	250	30	Nil.	890

The above tables do not, of course, include the enormous mass of meat brought in weekly from outside districts and sold in the public markets.

MARKETS.

Regular inspections at the High (Covered) Market, and also the one held weekly at Hag Hill, have been made, with a

view to the detection of food stuffs of an unsound character, and with the exception of one small consignment of fish (not exposed for sale), and which was destroyed with the owner's consent, I have not seen anything to justify interference.

TENTS AND VANS.

Tents and vans, used as dwellings, visiting fairs, &c., have been inspected, and in four instances nuisances from overcrowding discovered, in each case a verbal notice being sufficient to cause the owners of the vans to clear out of the town. In one instance a young man, named Goyne, was notified as suffering from enteric fever, and was removed to Ellerbeck Hospital for treatment, the case unfortunately proved fatal within six days of removal.

DRAIN TESTING.

I have received from occupiers and owners of houses several requests to examine and test drains, and in each instance the complaints have had my attention, and, where necessary, practical tests applied, with the result that in most of the cases the drains were found to be seriously out of order. Notices were given to those responsible to repair defects, which on their part has had attention.

There will, in all probability, be a greater demand for this class of work as the burgesses of the Borough become more fully alive to the value of a perfect sanitary system.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are at present thirty cowkeepers and purveyors of milk upon the Register, as compared with twenty-nine for the preceding year. The premises of each have been subjected to periodical supervision, and are kept, upon the whole, in a satisfactory state. During the year three have given up business and four commenced.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

As in the preceding year, there are six registered common lodging houses within the Borough, one being situate in

Ramsey Brow, two in Udale Street, one in Derwent Street, and two in Church Street.

Each house has been frequently inspected. No serious cause for complaint has arisen during the year, and each house free from (Notifiable) Infectious Disease.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

The duties devolving upon my department under the above Act have, as far as practicable, been carried out. In eighteen cases the attention of those amenable to the Act has been called to infringements of the same, including eight notices from H.M. Factory Inspector (Preston), sent on to the Town Clerk and passed on to me.

With regard to the special regulations as to bakehouses, one of which is, that no underground bakehouse can be used as such after 1st January, 1904, I may say that there are three in the district,—one of which has obtained the necessary license; one has carried out the necessary work in order to obtain it, but has not yet received the coveted prize; and one, by reason of its general unfitness, cannot legally be used.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFICATION) ACT.

The subjoined table shows the number of cases investigated and reported upon during the year, as compared with the year 1903:—

			1903.	1904.
Scarlet Fever	...	...	19	27
Enteric Fever	...	...	13	15
Diphtheria	...	...	13	48
Membranous Croup	...	...	2	6
Erysipelas	...	...	26	27
Small-Pox	...	...	13	0
Chicken-Pox	...	...	58	8
			<hr/> 142	<hr/> 131

Whenever possible, the premises invaded by disease were disinfected after the recovery of the patient, disinfectants supplied ; also, where sanitary defects existed, steps taken to have the same remedied as early as possible.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.,

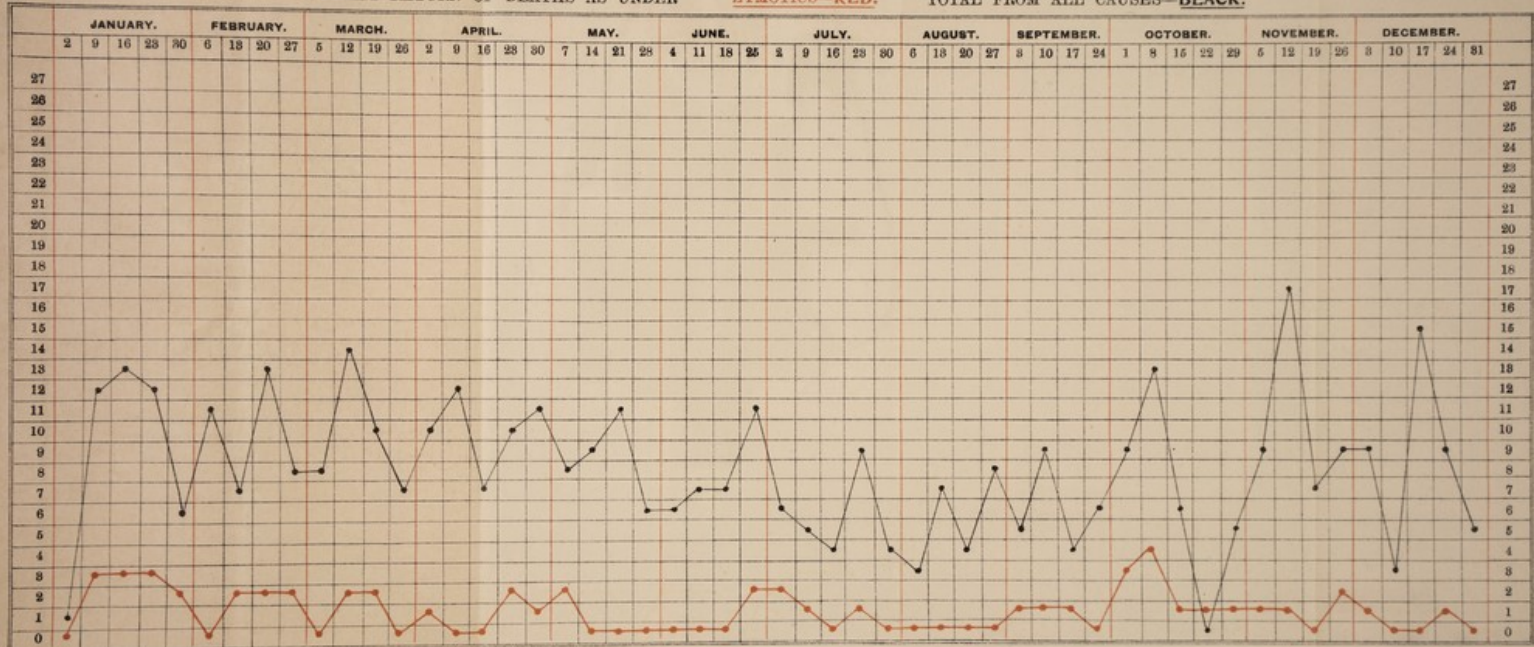
WILLIAM SHELDON,

Inspector of Nuisances.



BOROUGH OF WORKINGTON. 1904.

WEEKLY RETURN OF DEATHS AS UNDER ZYMOTICS—RED. TOTAL FROM ALL CAUSES—BLACK.



BOROUGH OF



W

WEEKLY RETURN OF

TEMPERATURE

