

Report of the Commissioner of Public Health / Queensland.

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1903.

QUEENSLAND.



REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Presented to Parliament and Ordered to be Printed.

TO THE UNDER SECRETARY, HOME DEPARTMENT.

Department of Public Health, Queensland,
Brisbane, 20th July, 1903.

SIR,—I herewith have the honour to submit the Report of my Department for the year ending 30th June, 1903.

The organisation called into existence by "*The Health Act of 1900*" continued to be developed during the year, and efficiency with due regard to economy has been steadily kept in view.

A *résumé* of the work undertaken by the Department in various branches of the public health service will be found in the appended reports of the sanitary staff of the Department, the rat and fumigation inspectors, the Government Bacteriologist, the Government Analyst, the Inspector of Dairies, and the Medical Officers of Health, and Sanitary Inspectors to the various Local Authorities. The degree of progress each local governing body is making in the promotion and protection of the public health within its own area may be gathered from the reports furnished by the Department to the Local Authorities as well as the annual reports received from the latter.

I regret that the resources of the Department were not adequate to the fulfilment of all its aspirations.

The legitimate position of the Central Health Authority is: Firstly, the collection and dissemination of useful information relating to health, and the prevention of disease; and, secondly, to control, stimulate, and, where necessary, to supplement the efforts of the Local Authorities.

Since the date of my last Report, the following Orders in Council, Regulations, and Model By-laws have been approved by the Governor in Council:—

- (1) Orders in Council rescinding the undermentioned Orders, made on the dates specified, and dissolving the Joint Boards for the Prevention of Epidemic Diseases constituted thereby:—
 - (a) Cairns Joint Board for the Prevention of Epidemic Diseases Order, made on the 3rd day of May, 1900.
 - (b) Toowoomba Joint Board for the Prevention of Epidemic Diseases Order, made on the 30th day of May, 1900.
 - (c) Townsville Joint Board for the Prevention of Epidemic Diseases Order, made on the 28th day of June, 1900.
 - (d) Bundaberg Joint Board for the Prevention of Epidemic Diseases Order, made on the 21st day of March, 1900.
 - (e) Roma Joint Board for the Prevention of Epidemic Diseases Order, made on the 15th day of June, 1900.
 - (f) Rockhampton Joint Board for the Prevention of Epidemic Diseases Order, made on the 18th day of May, 1900.
- (2) Order in Council for the rescission of "The Metropolitan Joint Board for the Prevention of Infectious Diseases" Order of 1902 and constitution of "The Metropolitan Joint Hospital Board."
- (3) Order in Council declaring certain substances to be injurious ingredients in food.
- (4) Food and Drug Regulations, 1903.
- (5) Plague, Cholera, and Smallpox Regulations, 1903.
- (6) Scarlet Fever and Typhoid Fever Regulations, 1903.
- (7) Model By-laws relating to—
 - (a) Nuisances arising from rubbish, &c.
 - (b) Keeping of horses, cattle, and poultry.
 - (c) Cleansing of premises.
 - (d) Deposit of offensive matter on streets.
 - (e) Garbage boxes.
 - (f) Offensive trades.

Numerous By-laws on sanitary matters, submitted to me by various Local Authorities, have been revised and approved.

I would again beg to point out the omission from "*The Health Act of 1900*" of any power to deal with dairies and public water supplies.

The Act also requires amendment with regard to the definition of "sewer." Under the existing definition, "water channels, constructed of stone, brick, or concrete, the property of a Local Authority," are "sewers" within the meaning of "*The Health Act of 1900*." In cases where a Local Authority has constructed such water channels intended only for the conveyance of storm waters, and a proper covered sewer has also been provided by the Local Authority within 300 feet of a property, considerable difficulty has been experienced in compelling property-owners to connect with the covered sewer by reason of the definition above referred to, and the fact that it is easier and cheaper to connect with the water channel.

A Dairy Act for the better control of dairies and for regulating the milk supply is urgently needed, and these matters, I understand, will be the subject of special legislation during the coming session of Parliament. At present the only enactment bearing on the subject is Part III. of "*The Health Act Amendment Act of 1886*." Under this unrepealed part of that Act the Local Authorities have power to make By-laws with respect to dairies. In the few instances where the Local Authorities have taken advantage of the power so conferred, their By-laws are totally inadequate to provide for the registration, cleansing, drainage, and water supply of the dairy as well as for the hygiene of the milk-receiving utensils. A model By-law, as well as Regulations drafted by me early last year, could, in the opinion of the Department of Justice, be issued as "suggestions" only.

ADMINISTRATION.

The services rendered to sanitary reform by the consolidation of the Health Statutes and unification of authority can only be adequately appreciated by those engaged in health administration.

The tendency to split up districts into areas controlled by Boards, and the division of duties and responsibilities caused thereby, is productive of difficulty and confusion in the working of the Health Act.

Experience has shown that it is necessary to reserve considerable powers both of superintendence and control to the central authority.

A large discretionary power must of necessity be left to the local governing bodies as to detail, &c., and, therefore, much will depend on the energy and wisdom of those who compose such authorities.

The Metropolitan Joint Board for the Prevention of Infectious Diseases having been abolished, Part VII. of "*The Health Act of 1900*," relating to the general provisions, precautions against the spread, and notification of cases of infectious diseases, is now carried out by each Local Authority of the Metropolitan District within its own Area. At present there is every indication of this arrangement working smoothly and effectively.

A change both in the *personnel* of the Central Board of Health and its staff has taken place during the year. Mr. L. G. Corrie, Mayor of Brisbane, was appointed to the seat vacated by Mr. Hellicar, appointed to the position of Crown Solicitor. Mr. Hellicar was a valued and esteemed member of the Board, always in hearty sympathy with its aims, and ready at all times to accept his share of its labours and responsibilities. Mr. Unmack is on leave of absence. Mr. E. A. Blackboro, of the Home Secretary's Department, was appointed early in the year to the position of Secretary to the Board in the room of Mr. R. S. Hurd, transferred.

There was the usual interchange of reports and information on health matters with the Boards of the other States of the Commonwealth, and memoranda, circulars, posters, &c., were issued by the Board to the Local Authorities, Medical Officers of Health, and householders, on "Plague," "Sunstroke," "Disinfectants," "Offensive Trades," "How to prevent Scarlet Fever from spreading," and "How to prevent Typhoid Fever," &c. Circular despatches were received through the Chief Secretary's Department from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subjects of Malaria, Tropical Diseases, Consumption, Cancer, and Plague.

There has been a considerable increase in the number and nature of specimens examined at the Bacteriological Institute. The excellent collection of museum specimens at the Institute continues to attract the interest of visitors from the other States, as well as scientists from abroad. From April of this year a fee of 5s. has been charged for the bacteriological examination of, and report upon, all specimens (other than of plague, cholera, and smallpox) submitted by medical practitioners or private individuals. All specimens forwarded by Charitable Institutions, Government, Health, and Medical Officers, and Medical Officers of Health in connection with their official duties only are examined and reported upon free of charge. From April to July this year some 108 chargeable examinations have been made. The total amount of fees received and due for the four months is £27. Therefore, notwithstanding the fees imposed for these examinations, the Institute continues to receive in full measure the confidence of the medical profession.

The recent occurrence of smallpox in the States of Tasmania and Victoria, and in New Zealand, has suggested the advisability of the Federal Government dealing with quarantine during the present session. This, at least, should secure uniformity in the law and practice relating to quarantine throughout the Commonwealth. The resolutions of the Australasian Quarantine Conference held at Melbourne in 1896 were adopted, but have never been uniformly administered by the States of the Commonwealth.

SANITARY PROVISIONS.

During the year the following Areas have been visited by officers of the Department, and special reports upon the sanitary circumstances of each place prepared and despatched to the Local Authorities concerned, viz. :—

City of Brisbane and Metropolitan Area, and the Cities of Townsville and Rockhampton.
Towns of Ipswich, Allora, Dalby, Laidley, Bundaberg, Gladstone, North Rockhampton, Toowoomba, Maryborough, Clermont, Gympie, Mount Morgan, Warwick; and
Shires of Brassall, Gowrie, Emerald, Mount Perry, Mutdapilly, Middle Ridge, Tinana, Thuringowa, and Beenleigh.



Five thousand four hundred and ninety special inspections within the Metropolitan Area were made, and 743 statutory notices forwarded to the Brisbane Municipal Council. In other parts of the State some 18,500 house-to-house visitations were carried out, and 146 "Notices" sent to the various Local Authorities.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The Brisbane City Engineer reports that the preliminary survey work for the whole area of the city is so far advanced that an interim report on a scheme for the sewerage and sewage disposal thereof will shortly be submitted. During the year 1902, 125 chains of municipal sewers were laid, at a cost of £3,416; 351 chains of new water channels at a cost of £4,387; 64 new street gullies fixed; and 10 ventilating shafts erected on sewers.

Several important extensions to the drainage system of the Town of South Brisbane have been made during the year, and a summary of the drainage expenditure in the four wards shows a total of £4,344 2s. 6d.

At Ipswich a sum of £5,000 was expended during the year 1902 on drainage work, and it is proposed to complete the loan works.

The Ithaca Town Council has carried out a considerable amount of drainage with advantage to its area.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

Wherever facilities exist for any other arrangement, the midden and cesspit systems of collection of nightsoil solids and liquids are contrary to every sound principle of sanitation. The loathsome cesspit, with its contents putrefying for months and even years in the neighbourhood of dwelling-houses or in close proximity to well water, is surely if slowly becoming a thing of the past in Queensland. In a few places, of which Dalby is a notable example, the privy seat is placed directly over a large pit 3 to 4 feet square and 10 to 12 feet deep. This pit is merely a hole dug in the soil, and sometimes loosely slabbed to keep the earth from falling in. These vile abominations being of large capacity are never emptied, one pit doing duty for a considerable number of years, and when full another pit of the same dimensions is dug within a few feet of the old pit, and the erection or building over the latter removed to the former. To the credit of the majority of the Local Authorities in the State, cesspits have been abolished in their districts, and the duplicate pan system adopted. But even in the latter case the collection of crude nightsoil in small movable receptacles is at best only a small cesspit above ground, loathsome to the individual user, and in the absence of a well-organised scheme of scavenging an offence to the public at large. While the dry-earth closet is the least repulsive of the conservancy methods, it is totally unsuited to a city with the pretensions of Brisbane. An up-to-date water-carriage system of sewerage is imperative for the capital, and the lack of it is a subject for much comment of visitors from the Southern capitals or from abroad.

The septic tank at Diamantina Hospital and the garbage and nightsoil destructor (Beaman and Deas), erected by Meldrum Brothers, of London and Manchester, at Toowoomba, are working in a satisfactory manner.

The sanitary contract for Government buildings in South Brisbane is 5d. per service. "The cost of the Men's Gaol, Boggo Road, Women's (new) Gaol, Lock Hospital, and Reception-house will be about £110 per annum, representing about £2,500 principal. For £1,500, or less, a perfect water-carriage system can be installed with complete septic tank and irrigation plant for all these buildings, and the land is well adapted for the same."

FOOD.

The Food and Drug Regulations of 1903 amended those of 1902 in several important particulars. Compounds of tin, lead, zinc, arsenic, or antimony are now declared to be injurious ingredients in any food, preserved or otherwise, in addition to copper, which latter was alone formerly declared to be injurious. "Formalin" (in the strength of one part by weight of formic aldehyde in 30,000 parts by weight of milk), previously allowed as a preservative substance in milk, has been omitted in the new Regulations; and the Order in Council of 1903 declares any preservative substance whatever in milk, skimmed milk, separated milk, or "condensed" milk to be injurious ingredients. The limit previously allowed of formalin in milk was grossly exceeded by farmers and others ignorant of the use and action of the antiseptic; and as milk is generally delivered twice a day and only required to be kept twelve hours it is quite unnecessary, with ordinary cleanliness on the part of the dairyman, to use any preservative.

Boric acid to the amount of 0.25 per cent. is allowed in "concentrated" milk only. Standards have also been fixed by the recent Regulations for skimmed and condensed milks. The most important addition, however, to the Regulations, is to be found in the clause dealing with the wording upon labels. Jam made from the mixture of several fruits, or jams of specified kinds mixed with fruit juices—a practice common among certain jam-makers—must have affixed to the containing vessels a label expressly stating that the jam is so mixed, and that the attention of the purchaser is called to the fact of such admixture. Where food contains a preservative substance the fact must be stated on the label, and in letters conspicuously and legibly printed thereon the nature and amount of the preservative substance mixed with such food set forth.

At a recent conference with the Manufacturers' and Traders' Associations of Queensland, I brought under their notice the unfair competition arising from the sale of imitations and of inferior and adulterated articles placed on the markets in this State by outside and local manufacturers. Many of the pure, genuine, and guaranteed articles of local manufacture are being swamped by low-priced, inferior, and fraudulently-labelled goods, purporting to have been manufactured in all parts of the world. In a great measure the traders themselves are to blame for the cutting competitions, with their attendant cheapness and nastiness, so largely practised in this city. The better class of grocers is strongly in favour of a closer inspection and examination of goods sold by them, as competition by unscrupulous vendors of inferior and adulterated goods is one of the greatest difficulties the average grocer has to contend with. The shopkeeper having become to a great extent a mere distributor of ready-packed goods, sophistication on the part of the manufacturer can only be guarded against by demanding a guarantee from the manufacturer or his local agent. This guarantee many of our local manufacturers are prepared

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to give, and, as a demonstration of good faith, a number of such "guarantees" have been advertised since the report of our conference in the local Press. No legislative enactment can secure "that there shall be authoritative approval of the good as well as authoritative and adequate condemnation of the bad." Regulations setting forth standards for food stuffs; providing for the total prohibition of some preservatives and the use of others under close restrictions; defining what are injurious ingredients, &c., can, at most, only secure a certain protection of the public against a certain portion of food stuffs which fall wide of the lenient requirements of the Regulations in question, but they can never afford the protection required by the manufacturer of good and superior products "against the unscrupulous competitors by whom he is surrounded."

The periodical inspection of their districts, examination of the samples collected, and prosecution of offenders, are duties and powers conferred upon the Local Authorities by "The Health Act of 1900." But in nearly every district Part VI. of the Act, regulating the sale and inspection of food, is practically a dead letter. This is owing partly to a spirit of complacency on the part of the Local Authorities, but chiefly to the fact that the appointment of a fit and proper person as a public analyst under the provisions of the Act involves expense. Consequently the administration and execution of this part of the Statute, as well as the Food and Drug Regulations, fall entirely upon the Central Health Authority. Mr. J. Brownlie Henderson, the Government Analyst, while not an officer of the Department, has, nevertheless, on many occasions undertaken the examination of specimens submitted to him through my office. I desire to record my obligation to that gentleman for his invariable courtesy and assistance.

Before legal proceedings can be taken against offenders, it is necessary to obtain the analyst's certificate, and as the large number of samples submitted to the Government Analyst for examination, from time to time, must necessarily wait their turn in the press of work at the Government Laboratory, it is obvious that much delay must take place before any decision can be arrived at.

All the bakeries within the Metropolitan Area have been inspected, and reported as being in a satisfactory condition.

At present the staff of dairy inspectors is too small to permit of systematic and thorough inspection of dairies throughout the State. Mr. Cory draws attention to the difficulty he has experienced in finding new dairies "owing to the want of registration."

The aim of official dairy and cowshed inspection is the production of pure milk. To this end proper provision for the health of the cows, cleanliness of the animals and surroundings, cleanliness on the part of persons milking the cows, cleanliness of the milk-receiving utensils, and systematic and frequent inspection by competent officials is essential.

A periodical inspection of all the butchers' shops of Brisbane and suburbs has been carried out. The number of shops inspected was 95. Attention was paid to the hygienic circumstances of the shops and surroundings generally, and to the state and nature of the "pickle," the injecting needle, and pump. Many of the butchers are now using German silver needles on my recommendation.

All the meat for export trade, as well as a certain quantity intended for home consumption, is, as heretofore, under strict examination by expert inspectors, but the latter inspection only applies to meat slaughtered and sold by some of our leading firms. The establishment of public slaughter-houses, or, better still, a central abattoir, with efficient inspection of all meat intended for home markets, would do much to prevent the present undesirable condition of affairs with regard to the many small killing establishments found in the Municipal Area.

Some 67 tons of unsound food stuffs were condemned and destroyed by my order during the year. As a hygienic precaution, all fruit and vegetables sold by Chinese and other hawkers to householders should be thoroughly washed in clean water before they are eaten.

A special report on the outbreak of "ptomaine poisoning" in Brisbane was published by me early in the year, and butchers and others were warned against the use of stale "pickle," as well as against brass and dirty injection needles in the preparation of "corned" and other meats.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFICATIONS.—The following cases of infectious diseases were reported:—

	For the year ending 31st December, 1902.	Half-year ending 30th June, 1903.
Bubonic Plague	82	26
Diphtheria	79	160
Membranous Croup	3	6
Erysipelas	47	25
Scarlet Fever	48	171
Typhoid Fever	970	1,392
Relapsing Fever	2	Nil
Puerperal Fever	15	9
Continued Fever	5	7
Deaths from Phthisis	263	150

PLAGUE.—A special and separate report on the recent outbreak of plague in this State has already been published. The outbreak, the fourth in Queensland, consisted of 26 cases with 14 deaths, distributed as follows:—

	Cases.	Deaths.
Brisbane	19	9
Rockhampton	2	2
Townsville	3	2
Bundaberg	2	1
Total	26	14

The first case was reported on the 8th February, 1903, and the last case on the 23rd May; and up to date, Brisbane furnished a smaller number of cases, 19 in all, than any previous outbreak.

The first infected rat this year was found on the 9th of January last, and the last on the 8th June. Of some 17,000 rats collected, 9,530 were examined bacteriologically, and 91 found "infected," or a percentage of less than 1.

In comparison with former outbreaks it may be mentioned that the number of cases of plague both in man and rats this year was the lowest on the Brisbane records.

A large proportion of "suspect" cases in man was negatived.

The Plague Regulations were effectively carried out by the organisation described in my report to Parliament of last year.

SCARLET FEVER.—An outbreak of scarlet fever, which began in the middle of April, within the Metropolitan Area, is still in progress, but at the present time there is reason to believe that the epidemic is reaching its termination. For the month of May last 109 cases were reported, 73 in June, and 55 for July, or a total of 237 cases to date (1st August). During the week ending 25th July, only 9 new cases occurred, and this week's (1st August) report shows a further decrease to 7 cases.

The cases were mainly distributed as follows:—

Brisbane	65	Toombul	16
South Brisbane	30	Wynnum	15
Windsor	28	Taringa	9
Ithaca	23	Hamilton	7

The Scarlet Fever Regulations, formerly administered by the Metropolitan Joint Board for the Prevention of Infectious Diseases, have been revised, and each Local Authority now superintends and is charged with the execution of these Regulations within its area. The work of isolation, prevention, and disinfection has been carried out without local friction or public scare. During the height of the epidemic, the Health Officer to the Department visited the cases where patients were allowed to remain in "isolation" at their own homes. Some 109 cases of scarlet fever were isolated and treated at "Wattlebrae" Isolation Hospital. The epidemic was exceedingly mild in character, and only 4 deaths were reported.

The recent outbreak affords a striking contrast to the epidemic of 1898-9, when, owing to the absence of any effective system of control or provision for isolation, some 865 cases occurred with 49 deaths.

In a pamphlet recently issued by the Central Board of Health, and containing suggestions and instructions to householders and others on "How to prevent Scarlet Fever from spreading," special attention was called to the following notice:—"Scarlet Fever is commonly spread through the patient (isolated at home) being allowed to leave the sick room and mingle with healthy persons when his acute symptoms have subsided, but whilst the patient is still in an infectious state—medical supervision being frequently dispensed with at the end of the acute stage. Unless the Medical Officer of Health is satisfied that proper isolation can be obtained in the patient's own home for the full period of quarantine necessary, the patient must be sent to the Isolation Hospital."

TYPHOID FEVER.—There were 970 cases of typhoid fever reported during the year 1902, an incidence at the rate of 1·883 per 1,000 of the estimated population. From January to June of this year, no less than 1,392 persons in this State were attacked with typhoid fever, an incidence at the rate of 2·703 per 1,000 of the estimated mean population.

At the time of going to press I am unable to obtain the mortality returns, but the case incidence shows that no one disease is more universally distributed in its occurrence throughout the State than typhoid fever.

The more serious outbreaks were reported from the following places:—

	1902.	1903.		1902.	1903.
Metropolitan Area	197	292	Townsville	11	65
Charters Towers	35	191	Warwick	19	52
Ipswich	37	49	Banana	19	21
Maryborough	34	97	Toowoomba	79	118
Rockhampton	67	85	Mount Morgan	63	43

The following causes are mentioned in the reports of the Medical Officers of Health as to the origination and spread of the disease, viz.:—The prolonged drought and the contamination of water supplies; infected material carried by flies and other insects; infected dust blown on to roofs and washed into rain water tanks; pollution of well water by cesspits; infected sawdust used as deodorant in sanitary services, &c.

A special report on the outbreak of typhoid fever at the Brisbane Prison (Mens') was prepared by me early this year for the information of the Honourable the Minister.

FUMIGATION.

By mutual arrangement with many of the Local Authorities the necessary work of disinfection, &c., of infected premises is carried out by a competent disinfecter on the Health Department sanitary staff, a small fee, merely covering cost of material, being charged.

In compliance with the demand of the New South Wales Government that all vessels leaving Queensland ports for those in New South Wales should be fumigated, such fumigation has been performed by the several shipping companies at the port of departure when the vessels' holds were empty. A fee of 10s. 6d. for each interstate vessel, and £2 2s. for each oversea vessel, was charged by the Department, and a sum of £293 has been received up to date.

LECTURES, Etc.

A local centre of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain was established at Brisbane last year. A local board of examiners was appointed and approved of by the Council of the Institute. A course of lectures and demonstrations covering the syllabus issued by the Institute was given at the Brisbane Technical College and attended by some 30 students. Fourteen candidates entered for the examination arranged for at the conclusion of the course, and 10 gained the certificate of competency for inspection of nuisances awarded by the Institute.

Several popular lectures on sanitation were delivered by me at various centres of the State. The lectures were extensively illustrated with limelight views of local health matters, and were largely attended by the public. The Government Bacteriologist also on several occasions delivered illustrated lectures on "Bacteria," "Tuberculosis," &c.

At the Master Plumbers' Convention held at Brisbane in March last, a Bill for the registration of plumbers and a Building Act were unanimously recommended.

It is desirable that children attending schools should be instructed in elementary hygiene and sanitary science.

I have, &c.,

B. BURNETT HAM, M.D., D.P.H. (Camb.),
Commissioner of Public Health.

APPENDIX A.

TO THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BRISBANE.

Office of the Commissioner of Public Health,
Brisbane, 20th July, 1903.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit my Report of the inspections made and the work performed for the year ending 30th June, 1903:—

METROPOLITAN AREA.

Within the Metropolitan Area 5,490 visits were made, some of which have been repeated, and in several areas house-to-house inspections have been made. There is a marked improvement in some portions of the area, but much remains to be done both in the city and the outlying areas.

As the result of our inspections, 743 statutory notices have been sent to the different Local Authorities within the Metropolitan Area calling their attention to insanitary conditions requiring abatement, viz.:—

Brisbane	569	Taringa	4	Balmoral	1
South Brisbane ...	110	Coorparoo	3	Yeerongpilly ...	1
Ithaca	29	Wynnum	2	Indooroopilly ...	1
Toowong	5	Toombul	2	Stephens	1
Windsor	13	Hamilton	1	Sherwood	1

Although the number of notices sent to the outside Local Authorities is rather limited for the area they embrace, this is not an indication that they are in a more satisfactory state than the areas which have received more.

A great amount of work still is necessary in some of the outlying shires of the Metropolitan Area, but these local governing bodies are quite unable at present to undertake the work, consequently "notices" have only been sent in those cases where abatement could reasonably be expected.

During the year all the bakehouses within the area have been inspected, and were found to be in a fairly satisfactory condition.

Nearly all the slaughter-yards within the Metropolitan Area have been inspected.

Owing to a case of plague associated with one of the slaughter-yards, an endeavour to exterminate the rats infesting these premises was made. As a result of our crusade, at four of the yards 577 rats were destroyed, two of which were found to be infected with plague.

I would again draw attention to the unsatisfactory method employed in conveying the meat and bread supplies of Brisbane in open carts and wagons over miles of dusty roads. The calico coverings spread over the meat are quite inadequate to afford protection from dust and flies during transit to the city.

The city wharves, where much produce arrives, have been constantly under the supervision of an officer of the Department.

These premises continue to be kept in a cleanly condition. Large quantities of unsound fruit and vegetables have been seized and condemned at the different wharves and elsewhere during the year, and either jettisoned or buried with proper precautions. But for the vigilance of the Department, much of this unsound food stuff would have gone into consumption.

The following seizures were made during the past twelve months:—

	Tons	cwt.	qr.	lb.
100 crates of bananas	50	0	0	0
191 bags of potatoes	14	16	2	0
100 boxes of dried apricots	1	1	0	0
42 cases of onions	0	15	0	0
1 bag of onions	0	1	1	0
1 box of dates	0	0	2	4
1 bag of dates	0	6	3	18
2 barrels of salmon	0	1	3	4
Total weight	67	2	3	26

In addition to the above, six cases of tomatoes, five cases of pears, and two cases of plums were also condemned. Samples of the following food stuffs, viz.:—Marmalade, quince, peach, raspberry, strawberry, blackberry, black currant, gooseberry, yellow gage, violet plum, and apricot jams; pickles; tomato and other sauces; vinegar; onion pickles; parsnips; salmon; fresh herrings; coffee; cocoa; plum pudding; mincemeat; lime juice, flavouring essences; mustard; and baking powders have been procured under your instructions and submitted to the Government Analyst for examination and report.

Ninety-five complaints in writing have been received from householders within the Metropolitan Area, and were attended to.

All the sanitary depôts have been inspected and were found to be in good order, with the exception of the Wynnum Shire Council Depôt, and on the matter being brought under the notice of the Council steps were taken to improve its condition.

The Town of Ithaca has adopted the duplicate pan system throughout, and the Shire of Taringa also adopted the same system for the more thickly populated parts of the shire.

Numbers of the piggeries in the vicinity of Brisbane have been inspected, and were found to be in a dirty or neglected condition. We have remonstrated with the owners or persons in charge, with the result that subsequent visits found these piggeries in an improved condition. One piggery, the drainage of which contaminated an adjoining water supply, has been closed by your order. I may here mention that during the year the Town Council of Ithaca have closed all piggeries within their area.

With the recrudescence of plague in February last and the devolution of the duties of the late Metropolitan Joint Board for Epidemic Diseases on our Department, considerable extra labour has been entailed in combating the outbreaks of fevers and plague which have occurred within the city and suburbs since the date of transference. In March last a special effort was made to exterminate rats, and for this purpose 120 men were engaged to carry on this work under my direction. This body of men were divided into ten gangs, one gang of twenty men being retained in town for the special purpose of rat destruction, disinfecting, and cleansing of premises, the remainder being distributed over the whole of the Metropolitan Area. Each gang of ten men was under a ganger, and three inspectors of the Department superintended the work of the three gangs respectively. The special gang of twenty men was also under a ganger and an inspector.

By adopting this method the best results possible were obtained during this special crusade, which lasted six weeks.

The Department gang has been retained, but is now reduced in numbers, and this gang is constantly engaged in the work of rat destruction and disinfection.

During the past year 17,000 rats have been destroyed, of which 9,530 were submitted to Government Bacteriologist for examination. Of the number examined, 91 were found to be infected with plague.

Fifty premises, where plague infected rats were found, have been disinfected, the rat burrows dug out, and their haunts destroyed. Twenty premises, where plague has occurred, have been disinfected, and all necessary precautions taken to prevent the spread of the disease. The premises where the patients were employed were also treated in a similar manner. Of the 380 cases of infectious diseases reported, 227 premises have been disinfected by officers of this Department during the year. The difference in the number of cases reported and premises disinfected is accounted for by the fact that some of the Local Authorities carry out their own work of disinfection, and some fifty cases or more are not yet convalescent.

During the year the Shipping Regulations have been carried out, and all precautions taken to prevent the passage of rats between the shore and the vessels. One hundred and eighty-eight oversea and interstate vessels were fumigated, and 159 berthing certificates issued. All vessels trading with the port of Brisbane complied with the Regulations, and carried away with them either berthing or fumigation certificates.

A marked improvement is apparent in the cleanliness of the City of Brisbane, but until a comprehensive scheme of drainage is adopted for the whole Metropolitan Area, nuisances arising from defective and insufficient drainage will continue to exist. Judging from the distribution of the cases marked on our fever charts, and my knowledge of the sanitary circumstances of the various portions of the area where typhoid fever has been most prevalent, I am of the opinion that the outbreaks are largely due to the insanitary conditions which prevail. The worst features are the discharge of household drains into formed and unformed water channels and natural watercourses, which latter are practically converted into sewers and in many cases end in swamps. The want of a proper system of refuse removal in some parts of the area does not improve matters, as heaps of rubbish are deposited in the vicinity of these swamps and drains, and as well as throughout the area.

The Council of the Town of Ithaca has constructed a considerable amount of brick and "Monier" storm water sewers and are still continuing the work, which, from a sanitary point of view, will improve the district through which the sewers pass.

OTHER PARTS OF THE STATE.

Several cases of plague having occurred in different parts of the State, and numerous invitations and petitions having been received from various centres requesting general sanitary inspections, I, or one of my assistants, visited and inspected the following cities, municipalities, and shires:—

ROCKHAMPTON.—Although a rubbish removal system is established here, I had to find fault with the accumulations of rubbish throughout the city. The domestic drainage was also faulty. The attention of the City Council was drawn to the unsatisfactory state of affairs, and as a plague preventive measure a gang was initiated into the work of rat destruction and left under the control of the Medical Officer of Health.

TOWNSVILLE.—No system of rubbish removal had been established in the city, consequently a large amount of filth of every conceivable description had accumulated, so much so that an "order" of the Commissioner was issued compelling the cleansing of the town. Before I left some 2,000 loads of rubbish were removed from the town and disposed of. A rat gang was initiated here also and left under the control of the Medical Officer of Health. Two fatal cases of plague occurred during my visit. The drainage was not in a satisfactory condition.

ALLORA, DALBY, LAIDLEY, AND NORTH ROCKHAMPTON.—These municipalities are very similar in their sanitary circumstances. There is no rubbish removal, no drainage, and wells for domestic water supplies are in close proximity to full and disused cesspits. This latter is a frequent occurrence. The municipalities of Dalby and North Rockhampton have been called upon to abolish the cesspits and to initiate proper sanitary and rubbish removal services. Laidley has recently established a sanitary service. Allora has no service.

BUNDEBERG AND GLADSTONE have a sanitary service on the duplicate pan system. The drainage of both places is defective. Back premises in Bundaberg are generally in a cleanly condition, and show a marked improvement on former years. The sanitary paddock is in a deplorable state, some of the open trenches standing full of excreta and measuring 35 yards long by 3 yards wide by 5 feet deep. The Council has been called upon to abate this nuisance.

ISWICH has a most unsatisfactory sanitary system, three contractors competing for the work and canvassing for orders throughout the municipality. There is no provision for rubbish removal, consequently a large amount of garbage and trade refuse has accumulated. The drainage is also in a defective and insanitary condition. The Local Authority, recognising their responsibilities, has constructed a new and improved main drainage outlet, and will call for tenders for a new sanitary service at an early date. The sanitary paddock used in common by the three contractors is in a disgraceful state. Orders have been given to place this paddock into a proper sanitary state before abandoning it for the new depôt.

CLERMONT, GYMPIE, AND MOUNT MORGAN.—The drainage of these three towns was in an insanitary condition, and the system of removal of trade and household refuse was not satisfactory. The sanitary services were on the duplicate pan system, the nightsoil and waste matters of Mount Morgan being disposed of by fire, while that of the two former towns are buried.

MARYBOROUGH.—The duplicate pan system for nightsoil removal, as well as the collection of household and trade refuse, is systematically carried out in Maryborough; but the sewers and drains are not in a sanitary condition. The rubbish and the old sanitary depôts were in an insanitary condition, and orders have been given to abate these nuisances.

WARWICK, comparatively speaking, is a clean town, and very little rubbish is allowed to accumulate. The old depôt was in a most insanitary state, and all the accumulated rubbish therein was ordered to be disposed of by burial in an approved site. A new sanitary paddock has been chosen in a very suitable site, and a new sanitary contract is to be entered upon. The drainage is discharged into the watertables, and the main sewer discharges into the Condamine River half a mile above the pumping station. Owing to the contamination of the river from drainage and other causes, I recommended that the present water supply be abandoned and a new one instituted.

TOOWOOMBA.—The sanitary service is on the duplicate pan system, and the removal of household and trade refuse is systematically carried out. Both nightsoil and garbage is destroyed by fire in a Beaman and Deas destructor, and the sanitary condition of the town is becoming better day by day. The cleansing staff has been augmented, and a marked improvement is apparent in the main thoroughfares, now properly scavenged. The sanitary service abovementioned does not yet apply to the whole of the municipality, a portion still retaining cesspits and having no rubbish service. Notices have been sent by the Department calling upon the Local Authority to abolish any cesspits and to remove all accumulations of garbage wherever found, as also to extend the sanitary and garbage removal system to the whole of the municipality. The drainage is not in a satisfactory condition. The natural storm water gully, passing through the centre of the town, receives the whole of the drainage and sewage, and finally discharges into Gowrie Creek. This natural watercourse is being converted into an elongated cesspool.

BRASSALL, GOWRIE, EMERALD, MOUNT PERRY, MUYDAPILLY, MIDDLE RIDGE, TINANA, AND THURINGOWA.—Whilst making inspections in the vicinity, opportunity was taken to inspect the above shires. With the exception of the Shire of Thuringowa, none have a proper sanitary system. Some of these shires are sparsely populated and purely agricultural areas. In these shires cesspits are principally used, and the contents periodically used for manurial purposes. In the cases where a fairly large number of people are resident, sufficient to warrant the introduction of more modern methods, "Orders" have been given to that effect. The Shires of Gowrie, Emerald, and Mount Perry have received such orders. A large amount of rubbish has been removed and disposed of within the Shire of Thuringowa.

The townships of Beenleigh and Rosewood have also been inspected, and, owing to the insanitary state of these places, orders have been issued for the initiation of a system of nightsoil and garbage removal.

Twenty-three special inspections were made of cities, towns, and shires in different parts of the State outside the Metropolitan Area, and 18,500 distinct house-to-house visits paid. The water supplies in several townships were liable to contamination from cesspits and drainage, and, owing to the want of scavenging, rubbish of every description is accumulating in large quantities. The improved sanitary arrangements so urgently required in many of the places visited have been advised by the Department. To this end 146 statutory notices were served on Local Authorities concerned.

The prevalence of infectious diseases in the places visited during the tours of inspection may be accounted for by the general insanitary state in which most of them were found.

I have, &c.,

JOHN SIMPSON,

Chief Inspector, Health Department.

APPENDIX B.
BACTERIOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.

TABLE SHOWING MONTHLY RETURNS OF SPECIMENS SUBMITTED FOR EXAMINATION DURING THE YEAR ENDING
31ST DECEMBER, 1902.

Nature of Specimens.	Number.	Positive.	Negative.	Nature of Specimens.	Number.	Positive.	Negative.
JANUARY.				JULY.			
Tuberculosis	35	8	27	Tuberculosis	24	8	16
Typhoid fever	60	29	31	Typhoid fever	38	9	29
Diphtheria	1	...	1	Diphtheria	1	...	1
Erysipelas	1	1	...	Gonorrhoea	1	1	...
Plague—Human	3	1	2	Leprosy	2	1	1
Plague—Rats	236	3	233	Plague—Human	1	...	1
Pathological tissues	10	...	...	Plague—Rats	110	8	102
Animal parasites	3	2	1	Pathological tissues	7	...	...
Total	349	...	...	Water examinations	15	...	...
FEBRUARY.				AUGUST.			
Tuberculosis	40	13	27	Tuberculosis	22	5	17
Typhoid fever	89	32	57	Typhoid fever	26	2	24
Diphtheria	1	...	1	Leprosy	5	4	1
Leprosy	1	1	...	Plague—Human	4	2	2
Pneumonia	2	1	1	Plague—Rats	259	1	258
Gonorrhoea	1	1	...	Plague—Mice	3	...	3
Malaria	1	1	...	Pathological tissues	7	...	...
Plague—Human	21	13	8	Animal parasites	2	2	...
Plague—Rats	249	6	243	Water examinations	4	...	...
Plague—Mouse	1	...	1	Total	332	...	...
Pathological tissues	8	...	...	SEPTEMBER.			
Animal parasites	1	...	...	Tuberculosis	26	11	15
Water examinations	3	...	...	Typhoid fever	28	5	23
Total	418	...	...	Diphtheria	2	1	1
MARCH.				OCTOBER.			
Tuberculosis	18	5	13	Tuberculosis	28	11	17
Typhoid fever	27	10	17	Typhoid fever	49	15	34
Diphtheria	3	2	1	Diphtheria	1	1	...
Leprosy	1	1	...	Leprosy	2	...	2
Gonorrhoea	6	3	3	Plague—Human	2	1	1
Malaria	1	...	1	Plague—Rats	595	...	595
Plague—Human	29	21	8	Plague—Mouse	1	...	1
Plague—Rats	159	7	152	Pathological tissues	9	...	...
Pathological tissues	6	...	...	Animal parasites	1	...	1
Animal parasites	2	1	1	Water examinations	2	...	...
Water examinations	24	...	...	Total	690	...	...
Total	276	...	...	NOVEMBER.			
APRIL.				DECEMBER.			
Tuberculosis	20	7	13	Tuberculosis	25	12	13
Typhoid fever	82	34	48	Typhoid fever	75	34	41
Diphtheria	5	2	3	Diphtheria	1	1	...
Leprosy	4	1	3	Leprosy	4	2	2
Plague—Human	40	29	11	Gonorrhoea	2	1	1
Plague—Rats	338	53	285	Plague—Rats	728	1	727
Pathological tissues	5	...	...	Pathological tissues	7	...	...
Water examinations	13	...	...	Animal parasites	4	1	3
Total	507	...	...	Water examinations	7	...	...
MAY.				TOTAL.			
Tuberculosis	24	10	14	Specimens received in 1900	1,506	...	...
Typhoid fever	63	40	23	" " 1901	2,972	...	...
Diphtheria	1	...	1	" " 1902	5,274	...	...
Leprosy	2	1	1				
Pneumonia	1	1	...				
Gonorrhoea	1	1	...				
Plague—Human	17	7	10				
Plague—Rats	144	16	128				
Pathological tissues	5	...	...		
Animal parasites	2	2	...				
Water examinations	12	...	...		
Total	272	...	...		
JUNE.							
Tuberculosis	23	7	16				
Typhoid fever	58	26	32				
Diphtheria	2	...	2				
Gonorrhoea	2	...	2				
Plague—Human	3	1	2				
Plague—Rats	148	12	136				
Animal parasites	2	2	...				
Pathological tissues	4	...	...		
Total	242	...	...		

C. J. POUND,
Government Bacteriologist.

APPENDIX C.

THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BRISBANE.

STR.—I have the honour to submit the following *résumé* of Queensland dairy inspection for the year ending 30th June, 1903:—

Dairies in the following districts have been visited, viz.:—Balmoral, Barolin, Beenleigh, Belmont, Bowen, Brassall, Brisbane North, Brisbane South, Bundaberg, Bundamba, Charters Towers, Cleveland, Clifton, Coomera, Coorparoo, Drayton, Enoggers, Esk, Glengallan, Goobarrum, Goolman, Gowrie, Granville, Gympie, Hamilton, Highfields, Indooroopilly, Ipswich, Ithaca, Jondaryan, Laidley, Mackay, Maryborough, Middle Ridge, Mount Morgan, Muddapilly, Nerang, Normanby, Nundah, Pine, Purga, Rockhampton, Rosalie, Rosewood, Sandgate, Sherwood, Southport, Stanthorpe, Stephens, Tabragalba, Tambourine, Tarampa, Taringa, Tinana, Tingalpa, Toombul, Toowong, Toowoomba, Townsville, Walloon, Warwick, Waterford, Widgee, Windsor, Woongarra, Wynnum, and Yeerongpilly.

Two thousand four hundred and forty (2,440) dairies are entered on our books, also twenty-eight (28) butter or cheese factories and twenty-four (24) creameries—

10 per cent. dairies milked one (1) or two (2) cows
10 per cent. dairies milked three (3) to five (5) cows
26 per cent. dairies milked six (6) to ten (10) cows
54 per cent. dairies milked more than ten (10) cows.

Some of the dairies have been inspected several times, making the total number of inspections 5,498. With the present staff of inspectors, it is impossible to visit all the dairies of the State or to inspect those on the books as frequently as is necessary.

The sanitary condition of the Queensland dairies, at first inspection, is generally unsatisfactory. In districts where the dairies have been frequently inspected, a marked improvement is noticeable in the cleanliness of the premises compared with when they were first visited. As I have pointed out in quarterly reports, the occupiers of dairies do their best to keep the premises clean, but structural improvements are required in most cases before they can be put and maintained in a hygienic condition.

In a few dairy herds tick fever has been prevalent, from which a number of cows died, otherwise the health of the cows has been good, and since the recent rains they have considerably improved in condition.

On an average 6,492 milking cows have been inspected each quarter. During the year under review thirty cows were stopped temporarily from being milked for public use, and forty-one condemned as unfit for dairy purposes from the following causes:—

Malignant growths	20
Diseased mammary and lymphatic glands	14
Tuberculosis	5
Actinomyces	2

A number of cows condemned under the heading "diseased mammary and lymphatic glands" were undoubtedly suffering from tuberculosis, but without the owner's consent the tuberculin test cannot be applied, and the opportunity for holding a *post mortem* examination seldom occurs.

Thirteen samples of milk suspected of being tuberculous were submitted to the Government Bacteriologist for examination, which, on microscopical examination, gave negative results, but by the inoculation of a guinea pig one sample proved to be tuberculous, both by *post mortem* and microscopical examination. Some pus taken from a mammary lymphatic gland of a cow was also submitted to the Bacteriologist, and, upon examination, was found to contain the tubercle bacillus.

Under "The Health Act Amendment Act of 1886," Part III, we have not the power to enforce the necessary improvements, such as impervious floors and drains in milking-sheds, linewashing periodically, &c.; and very few of the Local Authorities take advantage of the powers conferred upon them by that part of the Act. It would tend to safeguard public health if Local Authorities would make and enforce By-laws referring specifically to the sanitary arrangements and management of dairies. Considerable difficulty has been experienced by us in finding new dairies, because of the want of registration.

A Dairy Bill or other additional legislation, which would give power to deal more stringently with diseased cows, and which would enforce hygienic regulations relating to the sanitary construction and management of dairies, is essential before the dairies will become satisfactory and the supply of milk and its products be as clean and pure as desired.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR H. CORY, M.R.C.V.S.,

Inspector of Dairies.

APPENDIX D.

Government Chemical Laboratory,

Brisbane, 10th August, 1903.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE FOR THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH DURING THE YEAR 1ST JULY, 1902, TO 30TH JUNE, 1903.

One hundred and twenty samples of cream of tartar, taken for the Health Department by the Customs officers, were examined. The Health Act fixes the standard at 95 per cent. purity, and of the samples examined sixty-six were over 95 per cent., some going as high as 99 per cent. Forty-six samples were between 90 and 95 per cent., and only seven were under 90 per cent. One sample marked "cream of tartar" was found to be acid phosphate of calcium.

The average quality of the samples showed a distinct improvement, especially during the last six months of the year. Very few samples are now received that show less than 95 per cent. purity.

Towards the beginning of the year thirty-seven samples of fruit essence were examined. Eleven of these were genuine and twenty-six fictitious. All the samples were labelled "pure fruit" essences, and most of them had also the word "guaranteed" on the label. One sample marked "citrol" was an artificial lemon juice. Two samples of fruit syrups—one of spirits and one "lollie"—were found fit for human consumption. Of two samples of milk examined, one contained 26 per cent. of added water, the other being good. Twenty-two samples of condensed milk were analysed, and found to contain from 16 per cent. butter fat to *nil*.

It is interesting to note that the publication of the results stopped the sale of the "nil" milk, and also to note that two locally made brands of milk gave the highest percentage of butter fat. One sample contained 1.6 per cent. of boracic acid; one sample of jam contained salicylic acid as a preservative; seven samples of tea were found fit for consumption; two samples of water were condemned; one sample of plague serum was found free from preservative; two toxicological examinations resulted in no poison being found; of six rats submitted, three were found to have died of arsenical poisoning; one sample of hair was found to contain no arsenic, and one sample of oilcloth to contain lead but no arsenic; of the two samples of meat one was found to contain "ptomaines." In all, 209 samples were examined, and, as you can see, took up a fair proportion of the time of the staff.

I have, &c.,

J. BROWNLIE HENDERSON, Government Analyst.

APPENDIX E.
EXTRACTS FROM ANNUAL REPORTS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES.
BRISBANE MUNICIPALITY.

The following is a return of the work executed during the year 1902, under and for the purposes of the Health Act:—

Private premises newly drained	35
Private premises re-drained	25
Number of untrapped and defective drains trapped and repaired	154
	214

(This work has been done under notice served by Drainage Inspector since his appointment, 29th September—practically three months' work.)

Municipal sewers laid—125 chains, at a cost of £3,416, including repairs.	
Number of new street gullies	64
Number of defective gullies repaired	42
Number of street intersections improved by abolition of continuous channel, or removal of dilapidated stone crossings	26
Tall, ventilating shafts erected on sewers	10
New water-channel (sewers under the Act) laid, 351 chains, at a cost of £4,387.	

JOHN KEMP, City Engineer.

PUBLIC ANALYST'S REPORT FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1902.

	No. of Samples.	Pure.	Result Adulterated.	Fees.
Milks	31	19	*12 added water	£ 0 10 6 each
Whisky	7	3	4 sulphuric acid	2 2 0 each
Saveloy	1	1	...	1 1 0
Pressed beef	1	...	1 unfit for consumption	1 1 0
Pickled onions	1	1	...	1 1 0
Pepper	4	3	1 added starch	1 1 0 each
	54	33	21	

*Prosecutions followed in six of these cases, and fines were imposed in each case.

ARTHUR B. CHATER, Public Analyst.

1st April, 1903.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF BRISBANE.

SIRS,—I have the honour to present herewith my report of analyses conducted in the three months—January, February, and March, 1903.

MILK:—The samples examined show an improvement upon those of my previous reports, being respectively 46 per cent. and 42 per cent. (adulterated); this report shows 20 per cent.

SPIRITS:—The practice of adding sulphuric acid, noted last year, now seems to have ceased, and although some samples examined were evidently new and immature, yet they contained no "injurious ingredients" as per Health Regulations.

I have, &c.,

ARTHUR B. CHATER, Public Analyst.

Article Examined.	Result.	Fees. £ s. d.
Milk—15 samples	3 adulterated; 12 pure	0 10 6 each
Raspberry cordials—7 samples	5 contained salicylic acid in excess of Food and Drugs Regulations, all made with sugar; essence of raspberry coloured with coal tar colours, with only trace of fruit	1 1 0 each
Whisky—15 samples	All free from mineral acids (in free state), and contained full amount of proof spirit required by Health Act	2 2 0 each
Rum—3 samples	Same as whisky	2 2 0 each
Beer—2 samples	Contain no "injurious ingredients" or excess of salicylic acid.	2 2 0 each

SOUTH BRISBANE MUNICIPALITY.

MAYOR'S REPORT, 1902.

The year has been one of activity and progress; much useful work has been carried out, such as main sewers, sectional sewers, concrete water-channelling, forming and metalling roads and streets. . . . Many of the foul channels and watercourses that existed at the commencement of the year have been rendered inoffensive by these undertakings. I fully anticipate, by the judicious expenditure of general and loan funds, that our municipality will take a premier position amongst the most healthy cities of the Commonwealth.

The total general receipts during the year amounted to £24,969 4s. 6d.; expenditure, £21,899 19s. 10d.

Sanitary Contract.

The contract entered into last year with Henry Carr has given every satisfaction.

The period is for a term of seven years, with the right to determine the same after the expiration of five years, on giving six months' notice. The charges are at the rate of 5d. per house per week, and include the removal of 5 cubic feet of rubbish weekly. The contractor furnishes all sanitary pans and rubbish-bins, 1s. 6d. per year being paid for the rubbish-bins.

The sum of £6,480 5s. 3d. was paid for sanitary services this year.

The present contract is for a deep sea burial, the Council leasing a wharf from the Government as a place for shipment, for which £200 per annum is paid.

Estimated population, 28,031. Births, 743; rate per 1,000, 26.51. Deaths, 333; rate per 1,000, 11.88.

SOUTH BRISBANE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

South Brisbane, 30th April, 1903.

DR. BURNETT HAM, COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BRISBANE.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit hereunder Report by the General Inspector for quarter ending March, 1903:—

Premises inspected	6,218
Defective drains repaired and trapped	62
Private drains connected to sewer	207
Permits issued to open streets	105
Permits issued to erect verandas	2
Permits issued to blast	2
Permits issued to erect hoarding	1
Notices issued to connect drains to sewer	169
Notices issued to repair and trap defective drains	46
Notices issued to cleanse dirty premises and closets	207
Notices issued to cut and clear weeds on vacant lands	92
Notices issued to repair defective closets	6
Notices issued to erect closets	3
Notices issued to remove closets	2
Notices issued to remove fowlhouses	1
New closets erected	20
Defective closets repaired	7
Burning off weeds on vacant lands	12
Drainage accounts issued	169
Drainage accounts collected	£461 9s. 11d.
Summonses issued to recover drainage accounts	22
Summonses issued to recover drainage accounts	37
Summonses issued house of ill-repute	1
Dogs registered	70
Dogs seized	44
Dogs destroyed	33
Dogs released	11

Weights and Measures.

Weights adjusted and stamped	255
Scales adjusted and stamped	20
Measures adjusted and stamped	16
Machines adjusted and stamped	3

Infectious Diseases.

Typhoid fever cases	20
Phthisis fever cases	6
Scarlet fever cases	2
Diphtheria fever cases	2
Puerperal fever cases	2

I have, &c.,

ALEX. B. WHITECROSS, Acting Town Clerk.

AYR.

SANITARY SERVICE.—Income, £163 8s.; expenditure, £234 5s., of which £100 was repaid to the Shire General Fund after three years' loan.

"Health of whole district particularly good, which I consider due to increased sanitary precautions and to particularly dry season. Pan system applied to Ayr only, not the district.—(Medical Officer of Health.)

ALLORA.

Medical Officer of Health employed on special occasions only. Nuisance Inspector examines cesspits and yards and reports monthly. Report for January, 1902:—Cesspits cleaner than previously; several ordered to be cleaned out; lime and carbolic used in nearly every case; some houses have modified pan system.

BANANA.

INSPECTOR WILSON'S REPORT (Barre).—No rates; no supervision; cesspits' contents buried anywhere; drainage none.

Houses: In one "humpy" 8 cases of typhoid. Streets and roads very bad; refuse from Mount Morgan tipped in Barre.

The Board (Banana) has decided to take immediate action *re* the sanitary condition of Barre.

BEENLEIGH.

"No proper system of scavenging or removal of nightsoil; drainage defective; typhoid prevalent; cesspits ordered to be abolished; an effective removal and disposal of nightsoil and rubbish to be undertaken; a new storm water gully to be constructed.—(Letter from Commissioner of Public Health to the Council, 4th April, 1903.)

GAYNDAH.

Quarterly sanitary inspection of town. "Decided improvement as regards sanitary matters has taken place."—(Medical Officer of Health.)

GLADSTONE.

Attention drawn to "encampments being permitted on recreation and other reserves, with little or no supervision as to sanitation, and the possibility of contamination of the Government reservoir, with the terrible possibilities it represents for a town which has for six months drawn the larger part of its water supply therefrom."—(Medical Officer of Health.)

GYMPIE.

"Few sporadic cases of typhoid and diphtheria. Plentiful and wholesome water supply provided.
 "Three butchers' shops condemned, but still in use. All dairies have been inspected.
 "Typhoid, 5 deaths; diphtheria, 1.
 "Gastroenteritis in infants, 16; cancer, 10; phthisis, 8; heart disease, 11; premature birth, 7; pneumonia, 7.
 "Thirty-seven children under one year of age died"—(Medical Officer of Health.)

GOONDIWINDI.

By-laws *re* abolition of cesspits under consideration.

HAMILTON.

"I inspected certain supposed nuisance caused by want of proper drainage in Milne and Christian streets, and recommended that a suitable drain be constructed. . . . Earth, ashes, and sawdust brought by the sanitary contractor to dwellings have not been absolutely dry; this was the cause of most offensive odours. I think, generally speaking, that the health of the community in this district has been good, and the Board are anxious to do all that lies in their power to keep it so."—(Medical Officer of Health.)

HUGHENDEN.

Better system and supervision of the earth-closet system for the removal of nightsoil instituted. Town fairly healthy. Few cases (none serious) of typhoid.

IPSWICH.

Weekly inspection of central parts of town; weekly inspection nightsoil depot; disinfection carried out in plague and infectious diseases; rat poison distributed; twelve milk samples secured for testing.

ITHACA.

A sum of £1,412 0s. 8d. was expended, including £87 15s. for carbolic, £10 10s. to Health Officer, and £45 fees to Inspector. A sum of £94 13s 11d. was also expended on a special cleaning up of the Shire.

KEDRON.

"Seven tanyards are situated on Kedron Brook, one tanyard and three fellmongery yards at Stafford-on-Kedron, on Kedron Brook, and a combined tannery and fellmongery on the Downfall Creek. All have been regularly inspected, and all are satisfactory, except the combined tannery and fellmongery at Downfall Creek, where the water of the creek is badly polluted. Steps have been taken with a view to remedying this condition of things, but so far without success."—(Medical Officer of Health.)

MIDDLE RIDGE.

Shire Clerk acts as Inspector; frequent inspections made; people very willing to make improvements to preserve the public health; outhouses and pigsties to be placed at a certain distance from any dwelling or street.

MOUNT MORGAN.

"Typhoid, 54 cases; 7 deaths. Diarrhoea, 24 deaths. From just outside the area 31 cases typhoid, chiefly from Baree. Drainage from Baree comes into the municipality. Urgent need exists for sanitary regulations. Owing to laziness in not using sawdust, pans are filthy, and probably flies coming from closets cause many cases. Schools still continue overcrowded; in two schools the space per child is less than half the minimum allowed in Britain. Many fatal bowel cases in children are caused by overfeeding, and by dirty feeding-bottles. Other diseases—diphtheria, 9 cases; phthisis, 2; scarlet fever, 1; puerperal fever, 1; erysipelas, 10."—(Medical Officer of Health.)

MACKAY.

"Due attention was paid to the disinfection of all private houses in which cases of infectious disease occurred. Disinfectants used cost £3 3s. The plague station was periodically inspected and repairs advised.
 "All alien lodging-houses have been thoroughly superintended, and walls inside thoroughly whitewashed."—(Medical Officer of Health.)

MARYBOROUGH.

Typhoid, 39; scarlatina, 3; diphtheria, 3; erysipelas, 4; phthisis deaths, 4. Death rate in 1900, 14.7 per 1,000; 1901, 13.3; 1902, 17.5 per 1,000. A great many deaths were due to gastrointestinal diseases; people seldom boil drinking water; the roofs are covered with a thick layer of dust, which is washed into the tanks by the first shower of rain. Water supply through the mains at times unfit for drinking or even washing purposes. Council advised to consider the clarification or filtration of the water, settling tanks, precipitation with alum, and lime and sand-gravel filter-beds suggested.

Pneumonia.—Severe epidemic, with 16 deaths occurred.

Phthisis.—Deaths, 7; in 1901, 14. No By-law exists against expectoration on footpaths. "This should be attended to at once." . . . Heart disease, 18; nephritis, 12; cancer, 12; infectious diseases, 49; typhoid, 39, of which 14 contracted the disease outside the municipality.

Little important new work for the betterment of the present sanitary condition of the town has been carried out during the year.

Attention is directed to the important part played by flies having free access to earth closets in the dissemination of typhoid fever. . . . No typhoid reported from Lower Kent street, or the Pocket, which was a favourite spot for the disease when the nightsoil was deposited in the Pocket, and flies were in millions about that part of the town.

All improvements suggested by the Medical Officer of Health, after inspections, have been carried out.

ROCKHAMPTON.

"From a standpoint of health the year 1902 has not in any way been a good one. Long continuance of dry weather chief cause. Wretched state of water supplied from the lagoons. Numerous cases of dysentery and diarrhoea. Cases of typhoid fever, influenza, ophthalmia. Dust and filth washed from roofs into rain-water tanks. Drainage of town very far from satisfactory. Council adopted scheme for a new and approved water supply. Two cases of plague. Two events have happened during the year for which your Council should be congratulated, for both will materially improve the health of the town. One of these is the formation of an underground drain from the General Hospital to the Archer street sewer; the other is the removal of the sanitary station from Victoria Park further out of the town into Wienholt paddock."—(Medical Officer of Health.)

SANDGATE.

"Thirty cases of pneumonia attributed to 'dust in the air.' Epidemic of gastroenteritis due to storm waters stirring up filth in wells, which are never cleaned out. From a sanitary point of view the borough has been well looked after."—(Medical Officer of Health.)

STANTHORPE.

Medical Officer of Health and Inspector visited the town several times; as a result, earth-closets (duplicate pan system) substituted by by-law (gazetted 31st December, 1902) for the old system.

TARINGA.

"If ratepayers and residents would utilise household refuse and water in gardening or for cultivation purposes, an element of annoyance would often be eliminated. It is desirable that natural watercourses should be kept free from contamination by such refuse, and the exclusion of noxious matter therefrom should be enforced."—(Medical Officer of Health.)

TOOMBUL.

Five cases of diphtheria, 8 cases typhoid, 1 case of plague, 1 case of puerperal fever have occurred. Compulsory sanitary service exists in Division 1: The inspector and two assistants make house-to-house inspections. The discharge of waste water into the earth water-tables, and its stagnation there, used to cause great offence. Most houses dispose of their waste water upon the premises—usually by irrigation of the gardens.

TOOWONG.

"The system of burning the nightsoil proves successful, and I should like to see a similar system of disposal of house refuse instituted. With a small outlay for the purpose of installing rollers at the incinerator for the treatment of waste tins, and a fortnightly or monthly collection from each house for a small charge, I think the system could be made to pay its expenses.

"The laying of concrete water-tables and drains is being extended as funds will allow, and I would urge that some of the natural watercourses, notably that in Sylvan road and that between Annie and Payne streets, be improved and cleared with as little delay as possible."—(Medical Officer of Health.)

TOWNSVILLE.

"Health of the town good, and there has been no epidemic disease recently. The nuisance inspector superintends—(a) the nightsoil system to ensure proper fulfilment of contract under the 'pail system'; (b) scavenging, removal of rubbish, and 'its deposit in definite depôts under supervision'; (c) the flushing and cleansing of all municipal drains; (d) 7 lodging-houses kept by Asiatics which are inspected fortnightly; (e) the inspection of 9 registered dairies in the district; (f) the removal of dead animals."—(Medical Officer of Health.)

WINDSOR.

Medical Officer of Health recommended Pashen's paddock, Kedron, as nightsoil depôt. (Commissioner of Public Health refused sanction.) Later Mooney's paddock at Kedron was recommended by the Medical Officer of Health, and confirmed by the Commissioner of Public Health.

"A large disused claypit in Bradshaw street, Wooloowin, inspected, and found to be offensive and a menace to health. This is being filled in gradually."—(Medical Officer of Health.)

WALLOON.

Injunction obtained prohibiting certain people from polluting Blackwater Creek.

WARWICK.

Four cases of typhoid came from a very insanitary building with an underground tank receiving drainage, which has now been filled in. Four others came from the vicinity of the present manure depôt, which the Medical Officer of Health has condemned.

"Two underground tanks receiving drainage filled in. Drains regularly flushed with perchloride of mercury.

The town is in a fairly satisfactory condition."

Price 7d.]

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