

Districts 1 to 4.

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Local Government

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Book LXIV

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Clerkenwell. - Dr Glaister
medical officer.

Improving Character.

May 20. 98. Jer

Dr Glaister, who has been medical officer of health for less than 2 years to the Clerkenwell Vestry, is a stout, podgy, ^{middle-aged} man, with dark, bushy mutton-chop whiskers, somewhat carelessly attired & soft-spoken. For some time previous to his appointment he acted as substitute for the late medical officer (Dr Griffiths) & so, acquiring a knowledge of the duties, slid in on the death of Dr G. where he probably wd. not have been chosen in open competition. None the less, he seems ^{quite} competent for the work, tho' probably not very brisk. He gives whole time to the work; his predecessor only gave part.

Clerkenwell has improved in character of late owing to the demolition of rookeries for the widening of streets (as Rosebery Avenue) & the building of warehouses. Its population of 66000 remains about stationary, & includes a certain number of bad characters, but is in this respect more blameworthy than it shd. be. Owing to the police court being in Clerkenwell, rowdy characters from St. Luke's, South Islington & St. Pancras get set down by the not-too-pleasant

Sanitation.

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reported as Clerkenwell roughs. For instance the lads of the "war gang," who last week had heavy sentences for a stabbing affray, were set down to Clerkenwell, but lived in St. Luke's.

In sanitary matters the parish has been going at a great pace during the last 2 years. At the beginning of last year the S.E.C. published a report on the sanitary condition & administration of Clerkenwell, prepared by Dr. Young, one of their medical inspectors. When this came out, says Dr. Glaister, the Vestry had adopted, or were about to adopt, nearly all the recommendations therein contained. The report, however, contains a good deal of information about the parish, & covers most of the particulars given me by Dr. Y., so I append it here: -

Dr. Young's Report to L.C.C.

Situation of Clerkenwell

Area & density.

Rateable value.

Registration district

Population.

Changes since 1861

Crowding.

Character of Population.

See.

DR. YOUNG'S REPORT.

Clerkenwell is one of the central districts of the metropolis, and adjoins the following other districts, namely, on the west St. Pancras and Islington, on the north Islington, on the east Islington and St. Luke, and on the south Holborn and the Liberty of the Charterhouse. The district under the jurisdiction of the Vestry of Clerkenwell also includes a small detached area of $64\frac{1}{2}$ acres in extent, situated without the metropolitan limits in the district of Hornsey.

The soil throughout the greater part of the district is clay, but a small part at the eastern end is composed of gravel.

The total area, including the detached portion of the district, is 380 acres. In 1896, when the last census was taken, the average number of persons per acre was 174.

The rateable value of the district in 1896 was £393,910. Under the Equalisation of Rates Act, 1894, Clerkenwell received from the Equalisation Fund a grant in excess of its contribution to the fund by £1,766 13s. 1d. for the six months from April 1st to September 30th, 1896; this is equivalent to a rate of rather more than twopence in the £ per annum on the rateable value.

For statistical purposes Clerkenwell forms part of the registration district of Holborn, the following sub-districts of which constitute the area under the jurisdiction of the Clerkenwell Vestry—namely, St. James, Amwell, Pentonville (which includes the detached portion), and Goswell-road.

The population at the census taken in March, 1896, consisted of 66,202 inhabitants. This number is practically the same as that obtained at the previous census in 1891, the population then being 66,216. Comparing these figures with the population in 1881, it is found that the number of inhabitants has since then undergone a slight decrease of about 4 per cent., but compared with 1861 and 1871 the population is now somewhat larger than it was at those dates, owing to an increase between 1871 and 1881 of 5.6 per cent.

If the figures relating to each sub-district during the interval since 1861 be considered, it is found that the sub-district of St. James, which is situated nearest to the business portion of the metropolis, has undergone a steady decrease in the number of its inhabitants, this being no doubt due to the extension and substitution of commercial for residential premises and to the formation of Clerkenwell-road, which passes through this part of Clerkenwell and which led to the demolition of dwelling houses; the Pentonville or northern sub-district, on the other hand, which includes the detached portion in Hornsey, has slowly increased. In the Amwell sub-district, or central part of Clerkenwell, but little change in the number of inhabitants has taken place compared with the population in 1861, although here there was a marked increase between 1871 and 1881, but this was followed by an equal diminution between 1881 and 1891. This part of the district contains several streets and houses of a good class, and was apparently within recent times entirely residential in character, and it is possible that the increase in population between 1871 and 1881 was due to the fact that the houses in this part of Clerkenwell, instead of being occupied by separate families as formerly, were being let in tenements. The diminution which occurred between 1881 and 1891 was probably in great measure due to the disuse as a prison of the House of Correction—the site of which is now occupied by premises in connection with the General Post Office—and to the removal of premises during the formation of Rosebery-avenue, which traverses this part of Clerkenwell from south-west to north-east. In the Goswell-street sub-district there was a marked decrease in population between 1881

and 1891. There appears, therefore, to be a tendency to diminution of the population throughout the district, except in the more outlying part.

The average number of persons to each inhabited house has increased from 9.2 in 1861 to 10.4 in 1891 and to 11.2 in 1896. In London in 1891 the corresponding number was 7.7. A considerable proportion of the inhabited houses in Clerkenwell in 1891 were let in tenements, 62 per cent. of which consisted of one and two rooms, 17.6 per cent. of the population living in single rooms, and 32.1 per cent. in two rooms.

The population largely consists of persons of the working class and shopkeepers, together with a small proportion of persons fairly well off living in the squares and better class streets in their neighbourhood. At one time the working class in this district was largely engaged in the watch and jewellery trades, and this still appears to be the case, for although in the greater number of workshops which were visited during the inspection other trades were being carried on, yet the watch and jewellery trades were more frequently met with than any other.

Of the total population in 1891, 32,751 or 49.5 per cent. were males and 33,465 or 50.5 per cent. were females, as compared with 47.3 per cent. males and 52.7 per cent. females in London generally. In 1896 the male population in Clerkenwell exceeded the female, there being 33,223, or 50.2 per cent. males, and 32,979, or 49.8 per cent. females.

Births & deaths

Description of district.

The worst parts.

In the following table rates of births and deaths per 1,000 are given of both Clerkenwell and London since 1891. The general death rates have been corrected for age and sex distribution.

Year.	Clerkenwell.				London.			
	Births.	Deaths all causes.	Zymotic deaths.	Infantile mortality per 1,000 births.	Births.	Deaths all causes.	Zymotic deaths.	Infantile mortality per 1,000 births.
1891 ...	33.6	27.8	4.35	170	31.8	22.4	2.27	153
1892 ...	32.9	27.2	2.86	172	30.9	21.6	2.80	154
1893 ...	31.9	29.2	4.83	202	31.0	22.4	3.04	163
1894 ...	33.0	20.8	2.63	145	30.1	18.6	2.65	143
1895 ...	31.5	25.0	3.80	192	30.6	20.8	2.62	165

All the death rates in Clerkenwell are markedly greater than in London generally.

At the present time Clerkenwell consists largely of fairly wide streets, which are well paved, and which have for the most part houses three storeys in height on either side. There are also in the district several squares in which the better-class houses are situated. The houses are, generally speaking, well provided with open space in the rear. The existence of the above-mentioned squares, together with the occupation of land in the parish by the New River Water Company for the purposes of filters and a reservoir, is of advantage in contributing to the air space provided by open spaces available for the public use in the district. The construction of Rosebery-avenue, which traverses the district from south-west to north-east, has also been useful in respect of open space by providing a broad thoroughfare in place of narrow streets. There are still, however, in the district some narrow streets, and some courts and alleys which are open only at one end, and which in many cases are approached by an archway from the main street. These mostly contain houses two storeys high, some of which are old and worn out or show signs of dampness of walls, or are unprovided with back yards or have no means of through ventilation. Many of these houses contain but two rooms, the one above the other, the outer door opening directly into the ground floor room, in which the staircase leading to the upper floor is placed. These conditions chiefly exist in the older part of Clerkenwell, that is in the neighbourhood of Clerkenwell-green, and in that part of the district adjoining Islington; examples of such conditions are to be found in the following—

White Lion-buildings.—This is a narrow alley closed at one end, containing two rows of two-storey cottages, about a dozen in all. They are old and worn out and some are damp, but are maintained in good repair. The houses have two rooms, the one above the other, and few have ventilation of space under the ground floor. They have small back yards but no windows at the rear. There is a common dustbin.

Seabrooke-place.—A narrow street, about 15 feet wide with two-storey cottages on either side. Some of the houses show signs of dampness of walls, but in most cases the ground floor room walls are match-lined, and some have no ventilation of the space under the ground floor. There are some 15 cottages.

It is anticipated that upon the expiration of leases of houses in the above courts demolition and reconstruction will take place.

Chapel-place.—A fairly wide street, closed at the end by cowshed premises, and containing two-storey houses, old and some showing signs of dampness of walls.

Russell-place.—Contains ten two-storey cottages, arranged in two rows about 15 feet apart and one cottage at end. They have small unpaved forecourts, and the adjoining wall is in some cases damp. Each house has also a small back yard. There is no washhouse, but each house has a copper in the back yard.

Mount Sion and Union-square.—These contain a badly arranged cluster of old two-storey cottages lying between Chapel-street and Sermon-lane. Mount Sion is, however, cut off from Union-square by a wall, a house and some outbuildings. Mount Sion is a narrow street containing houses and a badly-kept stable yard on one side and a row of houses on the other; altogether there are about a dozen houses. Union-square is approached from Chapel-street by a narrow way; there are fifteen houses, each two storeys high, and each has a fair sized front space but no back yard. In each front space is situated a washhouse building, in one corner of which is a water-closet, which is not separated from the washhouse, but this is now being altered. The cottages have two rooms each; they have no through ventilation and several show signs of damp walls. There is a common dustbin in centre of the square, and the surface of the latter is badly paved.

The worst parts (contd)

Model Blocks

Sanitary defects

Eagle-court.—This has archway approaches from Red Lion-street and from St. John's-lane. About three houses on the portion of the court running north and south have no back yards and no proper through ventilation. They appear to be partly back to back with houses in Pump-court, which is situated in the area of the Holborn District Board of Works.

Jerusalem-court.—This is a narrow winding court approached by a covered way from St. John's-square and communicating with St. John's-street. It contains some block dwellings and a few three-storey houses. These are confined and are inadequately provided with open space, light and ventilation.

Aylesbury-place.—This consists of a collection of old two-storey cottages in a small court situated in the angle at rear of houses in Aylesbury-street and St. John's-street. Each house has a small back yard and contains two rooms, one on each floor. The external door leads direct into lower room, the staircase leads from this room to upper room. There is a common dustbin in the centre of the court, and there are two common water taps. The water-closets are situated in back yards. There are twenty-nine cottages, some show signs of dampness, and pointing of the brickwork is defective.

Bishop's-court.—A narrow court about 15 feet wide in its widest part. It has three-storey houses on either side, and a small cottage which blocks the end; twelve houses in all, all let in tenements.

Berkeley-court and Francis-court.—These are two short streets next to and parallel to each other, leading off Berkeley-street. They are both closed at end by wall of gardens of houses in Albion-house. Each court is about 15 feet wide. The houses are old, most of them have small back yards, and are in a fair state of repair. All let in tenements.

Corporation-row.—Numbers 1 to 33 are old two-storey cottages, arranged partly fronting on the main thoroughfare and partly in two lateral alleys which are about 10 feet wide and closed at the end. Some of the houses show signs of dampness, the ground floor rooms are dark, and there is no ventilation of the space under the ground floor. They have small back yards.

Union-place.—This is approached by an archway from Clerkenwell-close. It is a narrow court closed at end, and containing seven two-storey houses. The houses are old, in a confined situation, and have no proper through ventilation. The ground floor rooms' walls are matchlined. There are three common water-closets at the entrance of the court, a common dustbin, and a common water tap for the use of the inhabitants. Application for closing orders was made about two years ago, but was refused by the magistrate.

Caroline-place.—This is a small closed court approached through an archway from Bakers-row, and containing four houses, two on either side. These houses are two storeys high, without back yards, and have no through ventilation. There are two water-closets and a common dustbin in the court.

Providence-place.—This consists of two rows of five two-storey cottages with small front yards and a central footway between, underneath which the water-closets are situated. The houses have no through ventilation and the four end houses are built against adjoining premises. Each house has two rooms. There is a common dustbin and a common water cistern.

Ann's-place.—This is a court approached by an archway from Margaret-street. The court is about 18 feet wide and contains nine two-storey cottages, old but well maintained. Some show signs of dampness, and with one exception none have any ventilation of space beneath ground floor. Each house has a small back yard.

New Buildings.—Approached by a long narrow archway from Margaret-street. The alley contains ten two-storey cottages. Each house has two rooms, small back yard and a separate water-closet. They

are well maintained, but in some the walls are damp and in others they are matchlined. There is one common dustbin.

Margaret-place.—This is a narrow court approached from Margaret-street by an archway and containing two rows of two-storey cottages, ten in all, which are old and worn out and not well maintained. Some of them are damp.

There are no streets in the district with houses built back to back. Considerable provision has been made for the housing of residents in model dwellings, blocks covering an extensive area existing near Goswell-road, in Peartree-court, in Rosoman-street, and elsewhere. Some of the blocks visited during the inquiry are well arranged for the purpose of habitation, but objection must be made to some of the conditions in Jerusalem-buildings and St. Paul's-buildings.

Inspection was made of separate dwellings in 443 instances, and in a fair proportion of these no noteworthy defective condition was found, the premises being well maintained, and affording evidence of supervision by the officials of the sanitary authority; in a large number of instances, however, one or more conditions of sufficient import to justify the attention of the sanitary authority were found to exist. Thus defective paving or insufficient paving of yards was noted in 79 instances, defective or dirty condition of water-closets in 50 instances, rooms required cleansing or the interior of houses was in need of repair owing to defective flooring or ordinary dilapidations in 99 instances; signs of defective condition of the roof were seen in 24 premises. Defective stack pipes or gutters existed in 28 houses, and dampness of walls in 69 houses. Drain inlets were in nearly all cases well trapped, and where sinks exist inside houses the waste pipe was found to be properly disconnected and to discharge over a trapped gully situated outside the house.

Sanitary defects (contd.)

Sub-letting.

Common lodging houses.

Workshops

Bakehouses, &c.

Water supply.

The drains of premises which have been reconstructed in recent years are disconnected from the sewer by an intercepting trap and are provided with means of ventilation, but in many houses where the drains are of older construction no ventilation exists.

From information gathered during the inquiry it appears that a considerable number of houses in the district have drains in common.

At 55 houses insufficiently covered or dilapidated dustbins were seen. A large number of these receptacles in the district are fixed brick structures, difficult to cleanse properly, and often much too large for the storage of the refuse of one week. This, owing to the system at present in vogue in the district for the collection of refuse (referred to later in this report), tends to cause accumulations of refuse for periods longer than that allowed by the Council's by-law made under section 16 (2) of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891.

It has been stated earlier in the report that many of the houses in the district are occupied by more than one family. In a large number of cases these premises are let to one person who resides on the premises and sublets rooms not required for the accommodation of his own family, and in these cases, for the most part, the houses were found well kept and maintained; in others, however, the landlord is not resident, and a dirty condition of passage walls and ceilings and of rooms pointed to the need for periodic inspection. The majority of houses let in tenements have at one time been occupied by single families, the rooms are generally of a large size, and overcrowding of tenements—as judged by the low standard adopted by the vestry in their draft by-laws as to houses let in lodgings—was but seldom met, only 14 instances having been noted. The sanitary authority does not possess a list of houses let in lodgings in the district, and no houses are registered under the regulations of the vestry in regard to such premises which were confirmed in 1887. At the present time, however, new by-laws have been framed in substitution of these regulations, but they had not up to date of enquiry been confirmed by Local Government Board.

There are in Clerkenwell 5 registered common lodging-houses, 2 of them forming one set of premises. These at the time of inspection were well maintained and cleanly, with one exception, where the sheets were dirty. At one house the common kitchen and the lavatory are badly lighted and ventilated, and not well suited for the purpose. In another the lavatory is unenclosed and unsuitable.

During the inspection of houses in the district I met with and visited 47 workshops; 18 of these were in need of cleansing, and in 7 instances the water-closets were foul or defective. In one the water-closet accommodation was inadequate, and one workroom was overcrowded. Generally speaking, the means of light and of ventilation are well provided. Many of the workshops in this district are small buildings which have been erected on part of the space at the rear of houses, originally probably for the use of the tenant of the house; now, however, these houses are occupied by more than one family, and the worker may or may not live in the house. In nearly all cases there are now but one or two men working in these workshops, and there is ample air-space per head.

The workshops which I visited were mostly those which I came across in making inspection of ordinary dwelling-houses, for although the sanitary authority have a book in which are entered workshops to which their attention has been directed by complaint, or which have been met with by the sanitary inspectors in the course of their routine duties, no systematic inspection of such premises throughout the district has been undertaken, and no complete register has yet been prepared. No systematic attempt, moreover, has been made to carry out the provisions relating to outworkers.

Of the bakehouses in the district 22 were visited; 16 are situated underground, and of these 8 are badly lighted, and 2 are inadequately ventilated. In 4 cases the floor paving was in need of repair. No drain inlet was found inside any bakehouse, and in all there was evidence that the walls are periodically limewashed and that the floors and troughs are cleansed.

The cowsheds, milkshops and slaughterhouses were at the time of inspection in compliance with the by-laws and regulations applying to these trades. As regards the slaughterhouses, two are not well adapted for the purpose, and one cowshed is objectionable owing to the fact that it abuts upon the living house, and the door of the kitchen opens into the cowshed.

The water supply is furnished by the New River Company, and a constant supply is provided throughout the district.

Removal of Dust.

Disinfection & Shelter

Mortuary

Sanitary Staff.

Bye laws.

Below standard of L.S.B.

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The collection of house refuse in the district and the cleansing of the streets is carried out by the sanitary authority. For the purpose of collecting the house refuse from all premises once in each week the district has been divided into five divisions, each of these has been again divided into three sub-divisions, and each of the latter is visited by the dustman twice in each week; but it is not the custom to call at each house, dependence being placed upon the householder giving some indication that the dust requires removal, and for this purpose the vestry annually distribute to all householders a card bearing the letter D and giving information as to days when the street is visited.

During the inspection I obtained evidence which leaves no doubt that the system fails to ensure a weekly removal of house refuse. In 37 instances I noted accumulation of refuse of more than one week's duration. In some cases the householders were satisfied that the removal was effected frequently enough when they had it collected after two or three weeks, but in other cases complaint was made of difficulty which had been experienced in obtaining the removal; and at one house where there was an undue accumulation it was stated that the dustmen had refused to collect it, owing to the cart being full, and had informed the householder that they would call for it on the next usual day when they were in the street.

The dust carts, when loaded, convey the refuse to the vestry's wharf, where it is sorted and sifted by hand labour (men and women being employed for this purpose), and then removed by barges. The wharf is situated on the southern bank of the river Thames, in the parish of Lambeth, and is a considerable distance from the district of Clerkenwell.

For the disinfection of articles of clothing and bedding, the vestry have at the present time a dry heat apparatus, but they have recently had under consideration the desirability of providing a steam disinfecter, and have now resolved to provide one forthwith. Rooms are disinfected by means of burning sulphur, this duty being carried out by an officer of the authority.

A shelter for the use of persons during the time that their dwellings are undergoing this process has been provided. This is situated in Northampton-street, and in it two rooms have been fitted up as bedrooms for the use of families, a third as a sleeping and day room, and a fourth as a sitting room. There is no bath-room. The house is in charge of a caretaker, who lives in the next house and who does the cooking required by persons during the time they are in the shelter. The shelter is also used by the inhabitants of the district of Holborn. It is stated that the shelter has been but little utilized by residents in Clerkenwell.

A mortuary, having separate rooms for bodies of persons dying from infectious and non-infectious complaints, as well as a post-mortem room, has been provided in conjunction with the coroners' court.

For the sanitary administration of the parish the vestry have appointed a medical officer of health who devotes his whole time to the duties of the office, and three sanitary inspectors, to each of whom a district has been allotted, in which each inspector carries out all duties connected with the administration of the Public Health Act, and also collects samples under the Food and Drugs Act. In addition there is an assistant who carries out the disinfection of articles of clothing and of rooms, and also assists in distributing intimation notices. The vestry also employ an inspector to supervise the cleansing of the streets and the collection of house refuse, this officer however is not one of the sanitary staff, but is under the control of the surveyor.

The sanitary inspectors are under the supervision of the medical officer of health. They attend daily at the offices of the vestry in Rosebery-avenue in order to interview builders and others, and to do the clerical work connected with the execution of their inspectorial duties, no clerical assistance for the sanitary department having been provided by the vestry at the time of the inquiry.

The books kept at the office include a complaint book in which are entered all complaints received with particulars relating to them, intimation and statutory notice books, and also a book showing the result of legal proceedings in cases where it has been necessary to obtain summonses in order to enforce compliance with the requirements of notices. Further, there is a register relating to cases of infectious disease occurring in the district, and a book containing a list of those workshops which have up to the present time been visited. There is no register of tenement houses.

The vestry have made by-laws under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, for the prevention of nuisances, the paving of yards, the cleansing of cisterns, and the provision of waterclosets with adequate water supply. By-laws under section 94 of the above Act as to houses let in lodgings have also been drafted, but have not yet been confirmed by the Local Government Board. These draft by-laws differ from the model by-laws of the Local Government Board in that it is proposed that the minimum amount of cubic space to be required in rooms used both as day and sleeping rooms shall be 350 feet and not 400 feet, and in extending the age limit of children from 10 to 12 years of age.

much sanitary work being done.

more assistance needed.

Suggested Improvements.

measures since adopted.

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In concluding this report on the sanitary condition of Clerkenwell it is to be observed that there is evidence that a considerable amount of work has been and is being done for the removal of insanitary conditions and for maintaining premises in a proper state of repair.

I am satisfied, however, that there is need for a systematic house to house inspection throughout the district. By such means the sanitary authority can obtain a complete knowledge of the tenement houses needing periodical inspection and regulation, and of the workshops which should come under their supervision.

Since the appointment of a third inspector twelve months ago, effort has been made to carry out a house to house inspection. As the result, however, of the claims made upon the inspectors' time by duties arising from the complaints which are received and in connection with the notification of cases of infectious disease, it does not appear that the inspection I refer to has made any material progress. The inability of the inspectors to undertake this duty undoubtedly raises question as to the sufficiency of their number.

I am informed, however, by the medical officer of health of the district that, as the result of a report presented by him to the vestry, it has been decided to re-organise the work of the sanitary department and to appoint a clerk to the department. The effect of these alterations will be to economise the time of the inspectors and to relieve them of clerical work, which at present entails their spending much time in the office, and will thus enable them to devote more time to inspectorial duties in their respective divisions. It may be that these changes will be sufficient for the purpose. If, however, it be found that complete information as to the various premises in the district and as to the conditions existing throughout it is not obtained within a reasonably short period the vestry should increase the number of inspectors.

I may thus briefly summarize the matters to which I think the attention of the vestry should be directed—

1. The existence in houses of defective conditions. For the most part these are of such a character as to be readily capable of remedy under the powers given by the provisions of the Public (Health) London Act.
2. The existence of courts and alleys which are narrow and badly arranged, and of houses which are old and worn out. Concerning these the vestry should see the necessity of applying for closing orders or taking other proceedings under the Housing of the Working Classes Act.
3. The existence of a considerable number of houses in the district occupied by members of more than one family. Many of these are not of such a character as to need frequent periodic inspections. Others again are not so well circumstanced as regards the conditions in which they are kept, and these need registration and regulation under the provisions of section 94 of the Public Health (London) Act.
4. The absence of a register containing a complete list of the workshops in the district, and setting out the condition of these premises. The preparation of such a register should be proceeded with forthwith.
5. The failure of the present system of house refuse collection to ensure its removal every week from all premises. A reorganisation of the system should at once be undertaken so as to ensure this object.
6. The desirability of requiring in the by-laws as to houses let in lodgings a minimum cubic space per head of 400 feet in rooms occupied by day and by night, instead of 350 feet which I am told is the amount specified in the draft by-laws.

C. W. F. YOUNG,
Assistant Medical Officer of Health.

a clerk has since been appointed, thus

an Improvement Scheme

Houses let in Lodgings - Register & inspection.

relieving the inspectors of much clerical work, & as to the other suggestions:

1. The staff are as active as possible in remedying defects, but have to deal with a good deal of old property.

2. A scheme has been approved for clearing away Jerusalem Court, Bishop's Court, Aylsbury Place, &c. The first-named is the resort of bad characters, but the last is tenanted by decent tho' quite poor people. Some of the houses have only been built 10 years, but are very dark & stuffy. They will have to be rebuilt, but will probably sell the land for this purpose, making the builder erect dwellings in accordance with their plans. Under the ^{1874 W. Act} Act, a Vestry may build, but must dispose of the property within 10 years.

3. A register of houses let in lodgings has been started. 86 were put on last year, & others are added each month. The houses are registered by special resolution of the Vestry, on the report of medical officer, via Public Health

Workshops - Registry & Inspection.

House Refuse - Improved method.

Committee.

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4. Register of workshops started this year. Large number of them in the district, many of them being at the backs of houses. A good many are still occupied by jewellers, but many others by makers of bicycles or bicycle fittings, electro plating, or electrical work generally. They need much attention. Have been inspected for a long time past, in connection with inspection of houses.

5. Removal of house refuse. - Simultaneously with Dr. Young, the local med. officer seems to have arrived at the conclusion that a change of method was necessary, for he says in his report for 1896:

Removal of House Refuse.—In connection with the subject of diarrhoea, I have already pointed out the necessity for improvement in the matter of house refuse removal. Again and again, in visiting the district, one comes upon the familiar sight of a dustbin full to overflowing, with a rapidly growing heap of refuse by its side. Clerkenwell houses used to be provided, in nearly every case, with a brick-built ashpit, generally of considerable size. While these were in existence the accumulation of refuse was not so much noticed (though the evils of such accumulations were not altered). Since these porous filth-saturated structures have been largely replaced by non-porous metal bins of smaller size the defects of the present system have been brought into greater prominence. The emptying of every dustbin in the parish, at least once a week, is essential to a satisfactory state of the public health, and should at once be arranged for. I am afraid this cannot be done without increased

Houses Let in Lodgings. - Bye laws revised.

A House Record.

expenditure, but it is questionable if this need be at all considerable if the present insanitary and clumsy method of cartage of the dust to Lambeth, sorting and sifting by hand labour, and the removal of the refuse by barges, were replaced by a well thought out scheme of dust destruction and utilisation of heat, carried out in the parish.

The system has now been altered. The dustman calls at every house at least once a week, & in many cases twice. Used to have lots of complaints, hardly any now.

6. Regarding complaint of bye laws not coming up to Local Govt. Bd standard, the med. officer reports: -

New Bye-laws for Houses Let in Lodgings, were under consideration during the greater part of the year. Ultimately differences of opinion were adjusted and a form, which satisfied the requirements of the Local Government Board, evolved. They were urgently required, and it is anticipated they will greatly facilitate the work of the Public Health Department.

In addition, the Vestry has started a "house record" - an enormous book in wh. every house in the parish is entered, with cols. for registering every sanitary event connected with each house - date of inspection & results, alterations, infectious cases, particulars of ownership, &c. This is probably

Sewers & Drainage.

Infectious Disease

a novelty in local registration.

Sewers ample. Ventilation by means of gratings in road usually, but pipes run up side of buildings in some cases. These are not nearly so effectual for ventilation purposes as gratings, & therefore there cannot be many of them.

Great deal of combined drainage in parish, & thro' recent judicial decision there would be a great public expense; but the Vestry often gets out of it by pointing out that if they repair these drains they will acquire rights in the ground thro' wh. the drain runs. Rather than risk this, several large property owners, like the Brewers Co. & New River Co., have undertaken to maintain their own combined drains.

A good deal has been done of late to perfect the drainage of the parish.

The Vestry has one of the newest disinfecting stations, with self-registering apparatus. Also a shelter. Holborn will, by arrangement, be

allowed to use these jointly with Clerkenwell. Infectious cases are removed to hospital where ever possible. But they have no power to compel such removal in any case where a separate room can be devoted to the patient. A job to obtain removal sometimes, but often get over it by threatening to report to employer.

Register kept of all schools, & entry made of every infectious case connected with each. Also a register of milk sellers, with particulars of any case of disease traceable to either of them; or ~~if~~ wh. of them supplied the family in wh. the outbreak occurred.

Clerkenwell compares favorably with the adjoining union districts - St. Luke's, Holborn, &c., but badly with London as a whole, & he keeps the latter point before the Vestry, to urge them on to more effort, they being too prone to rest content.

Health

Care of Streets.

Chapel Street.—The attention of the Vestry has been drawn to the great increase in the Sunday trading which has taken place in Chapel Street, and to the fact that it was prolonged until late in the afternoon, to the discomfort and annoyance of a large number of inhabitants of the street and neighbourhood. The Vestry therefore gave notice in the street that after the second Sunday in August, 1896, trading on the public way would be stopped at noon, and the co-operation of the police was requested in carrying out this regulation. The rule has been enforced with very little difficulty, and the nuisance complained of by the inhabitants done away with.

(From Annual Report)

Open Spaces.

Adulteration of Food.

27
Great improvement effected in condition of streets. Good deal of road paving, wherever roads are level enough, whilst the smaller streets are asphalted - a perfect paving from a sanitary point of view. The principal streets are cleaned every night, some every other day, & the remainder twice a week.

Several churchyards turned into gardens. Some land out by pub. Public gardens as soon as taken over by Vestry. There might be more still, but get as much as they can. Hope to obtain an open space in connection with the Jerusalem Court clearance.

Adulteration acts a dead letter, owing to the action of the Clerkenwell Stipendiaries, Smith & Bros, who inflict most trivial fines, & practically offer an inducement to fraud. Bros will not convict any milk seller who can produce a warranty from the farmer, & he will not convict the farmer because the milk

has to pass thro' the hands of railway
servants, &c. The Vestry has taken the trouble
to trace the milk to dairy farmers, & to commit
every body who handles
it on its journey - guards, porters, &c. - but
without result. [I asked the doctor if
the churns cd. not be sealed, but he said this
cd. not be done, because the ^{Railway} Companies carried
the milk at per gallon, & so claimed the
right to inspect it. Could this not be
done by weight?] He is going to
recommend his Vestry not to institute any
more prosecutions.

Labour employed direct for sweeping,
flushing & repairs. All new work done
by contract.

Thinks there must be some bad houses in
the parish, but no action has been taken against
them since he was here. It is more a
matter for police. Vestry can only take

Labour

Brothels

Library. — No Baths.

Dust Destructor & Electric Lighting.

Personnel of Vestry.

31
action on complaint; police can do so on
own initiative.

Good public library, but no baths or
wash-houses. Thinks there ought to be.
Fine swimming-bath at Northampton House.
& private baths on Pentonville Hill.

Special Committee now considering as to
erecting dust destructor & electric lighting works.
Provisional order not yet obtained.

The present Vestry suffers from post-
notoriety. Has greatly improved, but not yet
laid down old reputation. Used to be a
fuzzling body, but now gone to other ex-
tremes, so much so that it is now difficult
to get men in the day time to do the work.
Public Health Committee good. A few property
owners on Vestry, who can retard the work of
sanitation, but not prevent anything being
ultimately carried out.

Surveyor, St. Luke's.

Care of Streets

Drainage.

Open spaces.

June 1 - J.A.

53

Mr. Harley Hecford, surveyor to St. Luke's Vestry, is a young man, quite new to the work, & I found him singularly unproductive. There seems to have been something not quite right about his predecessor, who resigned on a Committee of inquiry being appointed. This Committee curtailed the duties of the Surveyor considerably, appointing a separate official to manage the cleansing, slopping & dusting of the parish, & giving Mr. Hecford a reduced salary & the balance of the work.

Sarrah wood paving is being gradually adopted for main thoroughfares, & asphalt for side streets. All the footpaths are paved.

He found the parish sewers rather out of order. Old, & fall irregular. Work of repair being proceeded with.

Playground for children in Square St. -
tor paid. Open spaces in Bartholomew Sq.,
St. Luke's Churchyard, Windsor Terrace, &c. Not

Labour.

Lighting.

Baths.

Improvement.

35
enough in South part of parish.

Labour employed direct for sweeping, flushing & dusting. Question of employing own labour for repairs was being considered. At present this & all new work is done by contract. Trade union wages paid, & required in all contracts.

He has prepared a scheme for improved lighting of streets, but the Committee are afraid of it because it may mean a penny increase on the rates. Incandescent lighting tried some time back but not successful.

Electric lighting under consideration.

No baths or library. Have use of Emplyth Institute.

It is proposed to erect 4 or 5 underground conveniences.

Nothing of importance contemplated in way of street improvements.

Dust Removal

Street sweeping.

57
The assistant Surveyor, who acted temporarily as supt. of sweeping & dusting, gave me following particulars:-

The Vestry has its own horses, carts, & men for the work, only hiring extra horses.

Each dust cart is in charge of 2 men, who call at every house systematically once a week. Cards are issued to householders notifying the day on wh. the men will call, & there is comparatively little friction. He believes the method of direct employment to be more effective than the contract system. Much fewer complaints now than there used to be.

Dust destructor is being altered to an improved method, so is not at work now. Meanwhile, refuse is bagged away under contract.

Main roads are swept nightly, & the subsidiary roads on alternate nights. No regular boys yet employed, but probably will have to be as road paving increases.

St. Luke's.

Area.

Situation.

Gas, Water, &c.

Constitution of Vestry.

St. Luke's.

(Some particulars from annual report, 1896-7)

Area, 220 acres, including Buntill Fields, grounds of Hon. Artillery Camp, & greater part of City Basin & Regent's Canal.

The parish is a separate sanitary district, but for poor law is in the Holborn Union. For Parliament & L.C.C. it forms the greater part of East Finsbury division, & for parochial purposes it is divided into 5 wards. For police, it divides between Worship St. & Clerkenwell.

Gas supply by Gas Light & Coke Co.; constant water supply by New River Co.; supply of electrical energy by County of London & Brush Provincial Electric Lighting Co., Ltd.

Vestry consists of 60 members, with Mr. Enoch Howes, J.P., as Chairman. Rev. W. G. Abbott, Vicar of St. Luke's, is an ex-officio member. Committees as follows: Finance, Public Health, General Purposes, Excuse, Gift Estates & Vacant Lands, besides special com-

Charities

No. of Horses

Loans

mittes. The Gift Estates Committee has charge of various charities, & the "Vacant Land" is in connection with the Golden Lane improvement.

The Vestry appoints representatives on the Board of Estates Governors of Dulwich College & Board of Governors of the Central Foundation Schools of London; & Trustees of St. Luke's Parochial Charities, & of parochial charities wh. the parish holds conjointly with St. Giles Cripplegate.

Complaint is made of the Registrar-General's method of computing each block of model dwellings as one house. In this way St. Luke's is returned as having only 4392 houses, whereas if each separate holding were taken the number wd. be 6148. 7614 persons are in model, or 1756 tenements.

Loan indebtedness of Vestry £42491, including £15000 for dust destructor & wharf works & buildings.

Rating.

Dust removal.

Combined drains.

Adulteration Acts. - Inadequate fines.

Improved Sanitary Administration.

43
Rateable value £353,000, or increasing. Rates
6/2½ in £. Increased from 5/8 in 1881.

Remonstrances received from L.C.C. as to system
of dust removal. Led to adoption last year
of improved method, as specified in interview with
Surveyor.

"Extremely unsatisfactory position" of the
subject of combined drains referred to. A difficult
or vexed question calling for combined action by
local authorities.

"Fines inflicted by the police magistrates are
frequently so insignificant in amount as to fail
altogether to deter offenders." Vestry has
brought the matter before Government, or is glad
to see Clerkenwell adopting a similar course.

Several improvements effected in administration
of Sanitary Dept., including evening attendance at
Vestry Hall of med. officer, supervision of ice-cream

Sanitary Staff.

Houses let in Lodgings.

Dusting & Scavenging.

The arrangements altered.

45
dealers, obtaining samples of Sunday milk, periodical inspection of bakeries, & of the cisterns of all coffee & eating houses, hotels & restaurants; inspection by med. officer, on his own initiative, of any premises in wh. a considerable number of workpeople are employed.

Complaint received from L.C.C. that sanitary staff is below average of London authorities generally. Reply sent that staff is considered sufficient.

Public Health Committee report that ^{the} bye-laws for regulation of houses let in lodgings are inadequate, & recommend abolition of rent limit, so as to empower registration of any house where deemed necessary. Vestry refuse sanction to this, much to the Committee's regret. [Sanction since obtained.]

The report seems to suggest, tho' it does not directly state, that the dusting & scavenging work used not to be very well done. Committee of Inquiry recommended alterations in Surveyors Dept.

Disorderly Houses.

Improvements

47
already referred to, & I understand that considerable improvement has followed.

Several complaints of disorderly houses were dealt with by the Board without having recourse to legal proceedings. Tenants in 2 cases ejected by owners on representation of Board.

The Board is in agreement with the Conference of delegates from West End parishes, who made various recommendations to the Horn Secy for dealing with disorderly houses.

Improvement completed in Bell Alley & Turk's Head Court. Good class of property in course of erection on site.

Some improvement contemplated in Hot Water Court, but Vestry evidently only "lukewarm" about it.

Objection taken by L.C.C. to state of carriage way of new street on west side of Golden Lane. Will have to asphalt it before Council will pay its final instalment towards the improvement.

Charities.

St. Luke's Charities

(Managed by the Gift Estate Committee of the Vestry)

Gift Estates Annuity. - One old person receives a pension of £25, & about 40 others £12 a year. The pensioners must be over 60, resident in parish, & not in receipt of more than 7/- a week if single or 10/- if married. Parish relief disqualifies.

Leverington Charity. - apparently this is an annual gift of £1 to 36 persons over 40 years old.

Dale's Pensioners. - 5 old people receive £12 each a year.

Allyn's College, Dulwich. - 4 almshouse & 6 pensioners (all old people of St. Luke's) receive gifts under the Dulwich College scheme. ^{2 have 26/-, 4 have 20/- & 4 10/- a week.}

Christ's College. - 3 children of St. Luke's are receiving an education at this college, & there are vacancies for 3 others. Admission by competition amongst children in public elementary schools.

57
The Vestry issue notices inviting applications for the gifts in their presentation. Applicants are examined by the Committee before being placed on the lists, & again before election. They are elected by ballot by the Vestry.

Mills' Charity. - Nearly £300 a year from this charity is given in bread & coals to 180 pensioners, & about £50 is distributed to the poor generally, in coal tickets. Managed by 2 Trustees.

Worrall & Fuller Exhibition Fund. - Consists of banns at Hurstbourne & Waltham Cross, & of a sum in consols. Produces about £1000 a year, of wh. about £400 goes to educational purposes. Rest spent in outgoings of one kind or another.

[See interview with Mr. Preston, on next page.]

Preston, V. clk. St Luke's.

Personnel of Vestry

June 10. 98

Mr. S. W. Preston is Vestry clerk of St. Luke's & is clerk also to the Gift Estates & parochial charities. He has occupied these posts for some years, is middle aged, able, keen & business-like, I should say. Of Conservative instincts, he, like most of the older class of officials, does not much like the democratising influence of the '94 Act, but is not of the unresolvable (William Jutsum) order. He thinks the new men mean well & has nothing to say against their integrity, but they "don't understand" - they lack the breadth of view that education & training give, & can only see one side.

This failing particularly shows itself in the allotment of the valuable gifts which are in the Vestry's patronage. The little men are more easily influenced than the substantial business men; listen to the first petulant tale that is told them, & promise their support without making any inquiries. In fact some of them hold that to make inquiries is insulting & degrading to the applicants, & should not be undertaken. Outside appearances they

Parochial Charities

consider sufficient.

St. Luke's parish seems to be peculiarly rich in charities, for besides the Gift Estates already mentioned there are the parochial charities with an income of nearly £4000 a year, & a cash balance of £4626. These are not controlled by the Vestry, but are managed by a Board of Trustees, of wh. the rector & churchwardens are ex-officio members. Representative Trustees are appointed by St. Luke's Vestry, Holborn Guardians, Finsbury School Bd. members, ratepayers of each ward, & some are co-optative. The qualification is high, ^(£75 rateable value) & there is evidently a little difficulty in keeping the full complement of trustees, but Mr. Preston says the effect is better administration than under a wider franchise.

Mr. R. Howland, (3 Old St. & St. Highbury Quadrant) has been chairman for 11 years.

Alms-houses & Pensions

Alms-houses & Pensions. - About £1200 was spent last year in this way. 21 old people are provided for in alms-houses (Bath St.) & receive

It is £25. & 10s
ton of coals - 10s.

* Survival of an old custom. Will cease
when present recipients die.

apparently (the figures are not very clear) £20
or 25 a year each. 9 old people receive
pensions of £25 a year, & 12 others £18 each.
8 more £25 pensioners, & 10 more £18 pen-
sioners, have this year been elected.

Last year's expenditure under this head was
as under: -

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Payments to Almspeople...	...	464	11	8		
Payments to Pensioners ...	...	370	8	4		
				835	0	0
The like to Annuitants and others, under clause 49 of the scheme, viz. :-						
Annuitants and others ...	...	228	10	0		
* Recipients of the Bread Gift ...	...	8	17	0		
				237	7	0
Medical Officers' salary—Four quarters				20	0	0
Separate charges—						
Elections of Almspeople and Pensioners	...	10	0	3		
Coals for Almspeople ...	...	21	18	8		
Repairs to Almshouses, insurance, &c.	...	71	11	1		
Rates and taxes on property ...	...	20	10	6		
Printing, stationery, &c. ...	...	2	0	6		
				126	1	0
Proportion of general charges ...	...			3	0	0
Total for the year ...	...			1221	8	0

£1221 8 0

Educational Grants

Clothing Gifts

Education. - about £1000 was spent under this heading, as follows: -

EXPENDITURE.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Paid in respect of Scholarships—						
For Tuition fees, books, &c....	120	8	2			
For Clothing, &c. ...	293	19	1			
				414	7	3
Paid in respect of Exhibitions—						
For College and Tuition fees, books, &c.	62	13	2			
For Clothing, maintenance, &c. ...	154	0	10			
				216	14	0
Total for the year ...				631	1	3

Payments in connection with lectures, Lecturer's fees, attendance, printing, &c. ...				55	13	6
Fees at classes, &c. ...				246	0	4
Separate charges—						
Printing and Stationery ...				1	12	6
Sundry small expenses ...					2	3
Proportion of general charges ...	365			63	1	6

In regard to the supply of clothing, the Master's report: -

It may perhaps be useful to set out the following details of the mode which has heretofore been adopted in supplying the clothing. The scholarship or exhibition having been awarded, forms of application are furnished to the holders, which, when duly filled up by them, are certified by the Master, Mistress, or other Officer of the school attended, and deposited with the Clerk to the Trustees, and by him submitted to the Finance Committee with particulars in each case, showing the amount due, the amount already expended, and the available balance. When passed by the Committee, an appointment is obtained from the Trustees who have undertaken to dispense the orders, and notices are posted to the recipients to attend on the occasion. Formal

Fees paid at Evening Schools.

Lectures.

orders on the various tradesmen are meantime prepared by the Clerk, and on the day appointed, the holders attend, generally accompanied by one of the parents, and give particulars of the articles desired. The orders are then signed and issued to the young people, who, on presentation, receive the clothing, giving formal acknowledgments thereof to the tradesmen on the invoices. This duty of dispensing the orders, was for some years undertaken by Mr. Peerless, at his office, but on his resignation Mr. J. B. Moreland and Mr. Henderson, two of the Trustees, were asked to act--the children attending at the Vestry Hall. On the determination of office of the last-mentioned gentleman

Mr. Berry was appointed. In view of the large number of scholarship holders and exhibitioners, it will be seen that a large amount of time is periodically given by the gentlemen mentioned.

For his services in this connection, a hearty vote of thanks was, on 15th July, accorded to Mr. J. B. Moreland.

The fees were paid of about 600 children attending evening continuation schools, of children from various elementary schools attending swimming classes, of students at Pitman's shorthand school, &c.

As to lectures, the Trustees say:

The last annual report recorded the determination of the Trustees to discontinue for a time the series of lectures theretofore given. Upon the subject again coming before them at the usual season the matter was referred to the Special Committee for consideration. The report of the Committee was submitted at the meeting of the Trustees in July. The Committee in their report recognised the possibility of would-be students entertaining an objection to attend Lectures in connection with the Board School Evening Continuation Classes, and to meet this feeling suggested that trial should be made of two series to be delivered at the Cripplegate Institute and the Vestry Hall, if these establishments could be secured. To the disappointment of the Trustees the terms asked by the Governors of the Foundation, though reasonable in comparison with those usually asked by them for ordinary purposes, were found to be practically prohibitory, and the proposed course at the Institute had therefore to be abandoned. The Vestry, however, were

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good enough to place their hall at the disposal of the Trustees, and the suggested arrangement as regards that place was carried out during the Michaelmas term.

The following particulars relate thereto:—

Course of Lectures on "The Expansion of England," by Mr. W. G. de Burgh, M.A., Merton College, Oxford—

Date	Subject
October 6	The Geographical Renaissance.
" 13	Columbus.
" 20	The Spanish Empire in America.
" 27	England on the Sea in early times.
November 3	John and Sebastian Cabot.
" 10	Elizabethan England—John Hawkins.
" 17	Sir Francis Drake.
" 24	The Invincible Armada.
December 1	Arctic Voyages.
" 8	The East India Company.

The total attendance during the course was 349, an average of 34.9. The highest number on any evening was 41, the lowest 30.

The total attendance at the Classes in connection was 291, showing an average of 29.1, the highest number present being 36, the lowest 21.

The Examiner's report upon the examination papers was as follows:—

The Expansion of England—part I.

A satisfactory paper, though of varying merit. The candidate recommended for distinction wrote well and sensibly; two other candidates showed competent knowledge and a very fair style, and the other two were a good deal weaker, though putting what they knew in a sensible form.

(Signed) T. F. Tout, M.A.,

Pembroke College, Oxford,

Professor of History, Owen's College, Manchester.

Grant to Funds of University College Extension Society.

The Trustees in April resolved to comply with a request to contribute to the funds of the University Extension Society, and accordingly made a grant of £10 in aid by way of acknowledgement of the help from time to time willingly rendered in the matter of the lectures provided by the Trustees.

The lectures were quite free, but hardly

Vacancies at Christ's Hospital
- no competitors

Scholarships at Board Schools.

Outfits to Children leaving School.

Large funds.

45
half-a-dozen of the people who came belonged to St. Luke's. The ~~poor~~ people of the parish will not avail themselves of the chances of advanced education for their children. There are or have been for a good while past 3 vacancies for St. Luke's children at Christ's Hospital, but no competitors for them. Parents think more of the loss of the children's earnings.

The scholarships are of the value of £5.0 and are mostly tenable at Board schools, their effect usually being to keep the children at school a year or so longer.

Outfits of clothing are given ^{each year} to about 100 children on their leaving school or entering a situation. These are usually value 30/-, but sometimes are double that amount. Preference is given to boys who are about to learn a trade, or to girls who will go to service. The Trustees do all they can to encourage domestic service rather than factory work for girls.

Besides the £4600 cash in hand, the Trustees have the following funds invested with the Officers

Effect of the Charities.

Trustees of Charitable Funds:-

	£	s.	d.	
Almshouse and Pension Branch ...	190	0	0	in Consols.
Educational Branch ...	10,275	15	8	"
General Branch ...	1,692	14	3	"
" " ...	188	18	0	India 3½ % Stock.
" " ...	120	0	0	£2 10s. % Annuities.
Church Branch -				
Church Repair Fund (Clause 42 of Scheme, 17th May, 1887) ...	179	18	1	in Consols.

About £1000 of the cash balance, however, has already been granted in scholarships, these only being paid by quarterly instalments. The large cash balance apart from this is partly due to the fact that the Trustees have been saving up in order to grant the additional pensions authorised by the revised scheme. They have, perhaps (says Mr. Preston) been a little over-careful, but now that the 18 new pensions have been granted, the balance will not be so large in future.

Asked as to the general effect of these charities, Mr. P. said that, whilst good in some cases (including certain grants to hospitals & Prolapsed Homes) & on the whole well administered, he was of opinion they also did a great deal of harm, & attracted poor people to the parish. He has applicants

Inquiry lately held

69
coming to him almost every day, & in several cases the applications are withdrawn when it is found inquiries are to be made. There is also a growing difficulty in getting good administrators, owing to the tendency of the best men to live away from the parish. There is a movement to reduce the qualification, in order that certain men might be eligible who he admits wd. be useful, but he fears any alteration, because its logical outcome must be the inclusion of everyone on the register of voters. Even those now desiring an alteration agree that this wd. be a harmful result.

An Inquiry was held into the Charities last Oct., by order of the Charity Commissioners, but the report has not yet been received. No material alteration is anticipated, as the administration at present is under a scheme drawn up by the Commissioners a few years ago. The Commissioner, says Mr. P. "will send me a copy of his report for my revision before he

issues it."

Regarding questions of local government in general, as I had already got particulars from the met. officer & surveyor, & the Prestor had little time to spare, I only referred to two or three points.

His remarks as to deterioration of personnel of Vestry have already been given, & it is only fair to put by the side of this the admitted tendency of the better class to live away & take no interest in local affairs, so throwing the work upon the poorer class.

Bye-laws as to houses let in lodgings (at first rejected by Vestry) have now been passed in accordance with met. officer's suggestions.

Difficulty in enforcing adulteration acts, owing to leniency of magistrates. There is need of combined action on part of local authorities in this matter.

Houses let in lodgings

Adulteration Acts.

The Holborn Guardians.

Decreasing population of Union.

Policy of Guardians.

The Holborn Union.

Mr. H. O. Hill, clerk to Holborn Guardians, could only spare me a few moments, but gave me some printed reports, & offered to see me again when I had digested these. I subjoin various extracts from these reports, but preface them with the few particulars gleaned in our brief talk.

The population of Holborn Union is decreasing, & probably gets poorer also.

The Guardians are rather stricter & more careful than they used to be, but prefer to give out-relief rather than drive people into the workhouse. They have an excellent set of rules, framed for securing uniformity of action on the part of relief committees, but they are not always adhered to. These rules state that out-relief must only be granted where it is required by exceptional cases, & after full inquiry & written report.

Out-relief is given to any old people who

Children.

Infirmary.

Population statistics &
Composition of Holborn Union.

75
can, with such assistance, maintain themselves; to sick persons in suitable cases; to widows with more than one child (often the other children are taken into the schools) & to the families of able-bodied men, if the man will come into the house. Contributions are exacted, where obtainable, from relatives legally liable.

The tendency is for the indoor to increase a little, & outdoor slightly decrease.

Children are boasted out, & are given efficient industrial training at the schools. Distinctive dress abolished.

Train our nurses at infirmary, & do not employ any old women.

The population of Holborn Union in 1891 was 141,905. It comprises the following parishes, stated with their population & amount of half-year's contribution under:-

Indoor Relief.

					Amount of Precept to Michaelmas, 1898.			Population.
					£	s.	d.	
Clerkenwell	...	...	...	...	34,524	0	0	- 66216
St. Luke	...	...	...	...	80 770	0	0	- 42440
St. Andrew and St. George	...	...	...	...	22 323	0	0	- 26228
Liberty of Saffron Hill, Hatton Garden & Ely Rents	...	...	...	...	9,042	0	0	- 4506
St Sepulchre	...	...	...	...	5,815	0	0	- 1972
Furnival's Inn	...	...	...	...	462	0	0	- 121
Staple Inn...	...	...	...	...	253	0	0	- 21
Charterhouse...	...	...	...	...	1,281	0	0	- 136
Gray's Inn	...	...	...	...	761	0	0	- 253
Total	...	huf 424	...	...	105,231	0	0	141,893

Summary of Inmates of Workhouses, Schools, &c. For the Week ending 28th May, 1898.

	Men.	Women.	Boys under 16.	Girls under 16.	Infants under 2.	TOTAL.	Corresponding period last year.	Houseless Poor.	Corresponding period last year.
City Road Workhouse	659	640	13	15	27	1354	1302		507
Archway Road Infirmary	376	212	38	53	—	679	565	485	*Including
Mitcham Workhouse	406	346	—	—	—	752	686		141 charge
Mitcham Schools	—	—	272	193	—	465	423		able to St.
Fever Hospitals	51	59	—	—	—	110	121		Saviour's
Small Pox Hospitals	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		Union.
North Hyde R.C. Schls	—	—	20	—	—	20	28		and 37
Mill Hill do. do.	—	—	18	—	—	18	22		chargeable
Homerton do. do.	—	—	—	46	—	46	52		to Wands-
Brentwood do. do.	—	—	11	—	—	11	12		worth and
Exmouth Training Ship ...	—	—	30	—	—	30	21		Clapham
Boarded-out	—	—	37	71	—	108	109		Union.
Margate Estab.	—	1	1	3	—	5	6		†Including
Rottingdean, Brighton	—	—	1	3	—	4	15		123 to St.
Kensington	—	—	—	—	—	—	1		Saviour's
Hospitals & other Institutions	2	9	9	9	—	29	20		Union.
Total	1494	1267	450	393	27	3631*	3383+	485	507

The certified accommodation is: City Rd 1593; Mitcham 1052; schools 500; infirmary 625. So that, while there is ample room in workhouses & schools, the infirmary is overcrowded.

Hitcham Workhouse:

No. 7 minutes.

Industrial Work.

Kitchham Workhouse is occupied by the most able-bodied paupers, & regarding it an annual report is prepared by the master, from the last of wh. the following extracts are selected:—

The number of inmates relieved during the past year averaged 765 daily, and my summary shows the distribution and nature of employment of the able-bodied and aged paupers in the establishment at the close of the year.

The inmates of both sexes, whatever their ages, are, if possible, engaged in some employment, and, if capable, in some useful industrial occupation.

The principal trades carried on by inmate labour in the several Industrial Departments of the Workhouse, are Basket-making, Bookbinding, Bricklaying, Carpentering, Corn Grinding, Farming, Firewood Chopping, French Polishing, Gas Works, Mat Making, Oakum Picking, Smiths, Plumbers, Tin Work, &c., Shoemaking, Stone-breaking, Tailoring, Upholstery, Needleroom, Laundry, &c.

Most of this work is of course done to supply the needs of the different establishments belonging to the Guardians, but £1800 worth of firewood & £200 worth of green granite were sold, & a profit of ~~£1094~~ £1094 in all is claimed:—

[illegible]

Industrial work (contd.)

Work for Females.

FARM.

The experiment of cultivating the Land adjoining the Workhouse for garden produce by inmate labour, and the rearing of pigs under the superintendence of a paid officer, continues to show a profitable result.

The working shows a balance in favour of the establishment of £254 10s. 0½d.

STONE-BREAKING.

This is the principal work of the able-bodied young men throughout the year, and during the winter months the stone boxes have been kept quite full. Of 320 tons of granite have been broken

LIBRARY.

The Library for the use of inmates may here be mentioned. About 120 volumes are exchanged weekly for the Infirmary and various Day Rooms, and since some new and suitable periodicals have been kindly given by Guardians and other friends, the Workhouse Library has become very much appreciated.

FEMALES.

The improved administration of the Workhouse as regards the employment of the Female Inmates referred to in my previous reports, has now been fully carried out by the Matron, resulting in all the females doing some useful work, the Laundry and Needleroom employing upwards of 70, while those who, from age or partial infirmity, are allowed to remain in the wards, have to assist as far as they are able in Needleroom work of some description, as making up or mending lighter garments or under-linen.

This plan of giving a little work to the old women in the aged and infirm wards is found to work satisfactorily, and they are certainly the better for it, both in mind and body, than sitting idle and listless in their day rooms with nothing to occupy them.

The Laundry, and the Scrubbers required for the Yards, Dormitories, and Infirmary, together with about eight for Officers' attendants, give work to all the capable women under 60 years, and to a considerable number over 60 who may be described as able-bodied.

The Matron takes the management of the entire female section, and has endeavoured to make the old people as contented as possible. They are supplied with all needful clothing, their Dormitories are kept warm and clean, and their day rooms are made cheerful and bright.

Classification.

I also append an abstract showing the value of the goods from the Workhouse transferred to other Establishments of the Union during the year.

			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
CITY ROAD WORKHOUSE.								
Boots and Shoes	...	1,620 pairs	514	16	0			
Pork from Farm	...	517½ stone	181	2	6			
Vegetables from Farm	...	...	54	0	3			
Officers' Uniforms	...	6 suits	13	16	0			
Officers' Uniforms, 2 Officers' Overcoats			4	10	0			
						768	4	9
INFIRMARY, ARCHWAY ROAD.								
Boots and Shoes	...	192 pairs	42	9	0			
2 Suits Uniforms	...	...	4	15	0			
1 Officer's Overcoat	...	...	2	5	0			
Mats	...	...	1	4	0			
						50	13	0
CLERK'S OFFICES AND CASUAL WARDS.								
Boots and Shoes	...	66 pairs	18	14	0			
Sundries, Sample Cupboard, Copper								
Lid, Blotting Pads...	...	...	1	15	3			
Firewood	...	...	0	7	0			
						20	16	3
MITCHAM SCHOOLS.								
Boots and Shoes	...	326 pairs	86	18	0			
Firewood, Chips, &c.	...	...	27	0	2			
Coke, &c.	...	...	12	10	0			
Vegetables from Farm	...	...	4	18	0			
Broken Granite	...	...	20	5	8			
Books bound, &c.	...	...	11	14	9			
Gas for the year	...	...	493	15	7½			
						657	2	2½
Total to other Establishments						£1,496	16	2½

We hope in the near future to arrange for the classification of the aged inmates, both male and female, so that those of good conduct, well behaved and more intelligent, should not have constantly to associate as at present with those of bad character. We believe this would be successful if thoroughly carried out.

The Schools.

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REPORT for the Year 1896, of the Permanent
Members of the Mitcham Schools Com=
mittee and the Superintendent of the
Establishment.

Your Committee have much pleasure in submitting a report of the work done during the twelve months ending 31st December, 1896. The Report of the Superintendent, which is submitted herewith, so fully covers the ground that it is hardly necessary to add to it, but they would nevertheless like to draw attention to a branch of work supervised by them, viz. :—

BOARDING-OUT.

On January 1st there were Boarded-Out 101 children, and during the year 33 were sent to various Boarding-Out Committees, while 13 Boarding-Out cases have been sent to service, 3 returned to their parents, 1 sent to the Infirmary, Archway Road, and 1 has died, leaving, on 31st December, 1896, 41 boys and 75 girls Boarded-Out, a total of 116. Quarterly Reports from the Visitors of the various Boarding-Out Committees have been received, together with independent reports from the Schoolmasters. These reports your Committee are pleased to say show that the children are well cared for.

In conclusion, your Committee desire to place on record their appreciation of the labours and kind attention to the whole of the children under their charge of the Superintendent, Matron, Doctor, and all the Officers of the Mitcham Schools.

(Signed) ENOS HOWES, J.P., (*Chairman*).
I. M. BAKER (*Miss*).
JAMES GIBSON.

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Number of Children in the Schools, 1st January, 1896	...	503
" " admitted during the year	280
		<hr/>
	Total	...
" " discharged, boarded-out, sent to service &c., during the year	... ..	783
		<hr/>
" " remaining, 31st December, 1896...	...	325
		<hr/>
		458

By an analysis of the number discharged, I find that—

- 205 returned to Relatives or Friends
- 32 were Boarded-Out.
- 18 were sent to Boys' "Working Homes."
- 17 Boys were sent to the "Exmouth" Training Ship.
- 17 Girls were sent to Domestic Service.
- 9 Children died (Six from Measles).
- 7 " were sent to Fever Hospitals.
- 4 " " Darent Asylum.
- 4 Boys went as Page Boys.
- 3 " " Apprentices.
- 3 " were emigrated to Canada.
- 3 " promoted as Junior Officers.
- 2 " sent to Army Bands.
- 1 Girl went to Convalescent Home, Ramsgate.

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During the year eleven applications for apprentices, and five for servant girls were refused in addition to a refusal to send boys to the "Faudroyant," Lord Nelson's Flagship, then used for exhibition purposes, off Cardiff.

In addition to ordinary school work, a good deal was done in the way of

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

It is almost impossible in a report of this description to mention the whole of the work accomplished, and it is important to consider with reference to this matter that the value of the instruction given should not be measured merely by the work done, but also as to its efficiency, and its usefulness to the children, for whose benefit it is primarily intended.

BAKER'S DEPARTMENT.

Taken alphabetically, the Bakers come first. The staff consists of T. W. Cutler, master baker, G. F. Gater, assistant baker, and 2 youths, junior officers. There was an average of 8 lads daily in training. In this department is baked the whole of the bread consumed by officers and inmates, both in the Schools and the adjoining Workhouse. During the year this equalled no less than 101,381 four pound loaves, or about $1\frac{1}{4}$ million rolls; this latter being the style of bread ration served in these two establishments.

CARPENTER'S DEPARTMENT.

The staff in this department consists of J. D. Cooper, master carpenter, T. Russell, assistant carpenter, and 2 junior officers. The daily average number of lads in training, 6. The new work in connection with this department is of such considerable magnitude as to prevent anything but the briefest reference to it, and comprises 2 new ranges of W.C.'s in the Girls' Yard, 1 new range of W.C.'s in the Boys' Yard, new W.C.'s throughout the Infirmary and Infectious Wards, and also on the Boys' and Girls' Staircases. Partitions and other work in connection with Cook's new room, Bandmaster's Room, Chaplain's new room, Clerk's new room, Junior officer's room, Band room. New Cupboards, Infants' Side, Infirmary, and Boys' side. New Roofing, Stables, Coach House, Tool House and Eagle House Lavatory. New Doors, Eagle House front garden, Stable, and several Dormitories, &c. Cow Shed fittings, and Timber Shed. Louvres for Swimming Bath, and Woodwork for new Lantern Light. Window Boards throughout Main Block, and also Infants' Department. 2 Tables for the Infirmary; Milk Pail Rack; 2 Dove Cotes; 5 Rabbit Hutches; 2 Dozen Oak Picture Frames; 20 Girls' Service Boxes; 30 Boys' Service Boxes; 30 Scrubbing Kneelers; 6 Coal Carrying Boxes; 8 Emigration Boxes, &c., &c.

The Repairs include all the general repairs of the building, including apparatus and furniture, and would be numbered by hundreds. Under the direction and supervision of Mr. Cooper, much other work has been done, and improvement effected on the premises.

It will be interesting here to add that two of the smartest carpenter lads were also good band boys, and are now enlisted into Army bands.

ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT.

In this department T. L. Ryott is the Head Engineer; A. Mansell, Assistant Engineer; and E. Howe, General Assistant. The average number of lads in training was 4. A considerable quantity of work in this department would be in connection with work mentioned in Carpenter's Report.

This dept. did some important work in connection -

tion with the water supply to the establishment.

A few other items in connection with this department are, the laying of a new steam supply to the Probationary Wards; the fixing of a new circulating boiler in the Infirmary; the preparing and fixing of Iron Fence in front of old drying ground (now Infants' airing ground); re-arrangement of hot and cold water supplies, Eagle House Scullery; fixing of new Gas Lamps, Boys' and Girls' Yards and Closets; repairing of Bedsteads, Gas and Water Pipes, Utensils of various descriptions, &c., &c.

FARM.

The Farm may be best described as consisting of three departments, Garden, Cowsheds, Stables, under the respective charges of E. Foster, Gardener, with an average of 6 boys in training; J. Humphreys, Cowman, with an average of 4 boys; and G. Cresswell, Carman, with 2 boys.

The chief items in this account will be best understood by reference to the appended recent "Farm account for year ending Midsummer, 1896," though I may mention that during the year the total production of milk was 54,991 quarts, or an average of about 150 quarts per day.

The farm a/c shows a loss of £36
on transaction of £1540.

SHOEMAKER'S DEPARTMENT.

The staff in this department consists of G. Betts, master shoemaker, and A. Betts, assistant shoemaker, the latter being engaged for repairs, thus leaving the new work for the master shoemaker and his boys, of whom he has a daily average of 6 in training. Briefly stated there were made in this shop during the year, 869 pairs of boots, whilst the recorded repairs equalled 3,679 pairs. In addition to these there were made by the shoemaker several cloth boots for children, various crippled boots were repaired, as were also the straps and pads of leg instruments, and there are many unrecorded minor repairs.

During the year one shoemaker lad was sent out as an apprentice, and he appears to be doing very well. It is worthy of note that the lad's master also went as an apprentice from these Schools some years ago.

I might here state that there appears to be a growing prejudice amongst lads against apprenticeship. Almost every boy, when asked the question, declared his preference for the "Exmouth" or "Working Homes," or "Get a job and live with friends," rather than be apprenticed. I fancy that one important factor in the case is that on the "Exmouth" and in the "Homes" there is the "Companionship of Numbers," whereas an apprenticeship is usually the reverse. I have often wondered if it would not be practicable and advisable to have an "Apprentice Home," after the fashion of "Working Homes." At any rate I think it is a matter worth consideration.

TAILOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Like the shoemaker's, the staff in this department consists of two, R. H. Elwin, master tailor, and J. W. Stodart, assistant tailor. The daily average number of boys in training was also 6.

The number of new articles of clothing made during the year was 1,213, composed as follows:—

Boy's Jackets	...	...	...	...	...	279
„ Vests	...	...	...	...	...	278
„ Trousers	..	...	...	...	...	605
Uniform Garments	...	...	...	...	...	81
Total						1,243

The total number of recorded repairs during the same period is—

Children's Garments	...	...	...	...	2,297
Uniform „	...	..	...	...	10
					<hr/>
			Total	...	2,307

Total made and repaired, 3,550 garments.

In addition to the above several small carpets have been made, others have been repaired, and some bound.

Also, the above repairs do not include small repairs done for boys while they wait; nor does it include the conversion of about 100 pairs of trousers, unsuitable for ordinary wear into working trousers, which often meant not only general repair, but the provision of extra padded knees.

Girls Industrial Training

This important branch may be divided into 2 heads—

- 1. Needle Room Work.
- 2. House Work.

In the first of these, the Needle Room, the Industrial trainer is Miss E. Redgrave, Needle mistress, and her daily average number of girls in training, 19. The work done in this room is almost entirely new work, the mending being done by the attendants (with the help of girls) in the respective departments.

SUMMARY OF WORK.

		New.	Repairs.
Boys' Garments	... ..	608	68
Girls' "	... ..	2864	182
Other Articles	... ..	5415	
		<hr/> 8887	<hr/> 250
Total New and Repairs	... ..	...	<hr/>9137

Under No. 2 heading, "House-Work," must be included girls who assist in general house-work in the various departments—girls employed in the kitchen, and girls finishing their training on "The Front Hall" under Miss J. Green, Housemaid Industrial Trainer. It may be added that the 12 girls usually employed in the kitchen do not spend their whole time in scrubbing and cleaning, but under the care of the cook, Miss S. Day, assist in the preparation and cooking of the food; and are as far as possible taught the names and uses of the various articles used, both food and utensils.

The applications for servant girls far exceed the possibility of supply.

Health of the Children.

The total number of children brought before Dr. Davoren, Medical Officer, was—

Senior Boys	...	...	421	} These Four Classes include 316 discharges.
Girls	...	...	487	
Infants	...	...	327	
Junior Boys	...	...	107	
Children Admitted	...	...	280	
			<hr/> 1,622	

I hope it will not be inferred from the above formidable number that the general health has been bad. On the contrary, I am of opinion that it has (apart from Epidemic of Measles and Whooping Cough) been really very good.

A good deal of epidemic disease is, however, admitted - usually the week spent about these institutions, but ophthalmia has been reduced to a minimum - only 4 cases last year.

Amusement.

During the year the children had a considerable number of entertainments, &c., consisting chiefly of Magic Lanterns, Band of Hope Meetings, Singing and Dancing Classes, &c.

Girls had picnic parties out on the surrounding Commons, and good boys had the privilege of spending Sunday with their friends.

Badge Boys, the average number of which is about 40, had Sunday afternoon for walks, and the elder girls, about 30, went out to Church on Sunday evenings. Two parties of children were taken to London for the day, and greatly enjoyed Maskelyne & Cook's Entertainment, and also their trip on the Thames. About 400 children also had a day at the Crystal Palace, 21st July, on the occasion of the United Temperance League Demonstrations.

Clothing.

"Clothing much improved." "As much variety as possible introduced."

June 17

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Further talk with Mr. Hill (Holborn Guardians)

Mr. Hill is of the Wuff. kind-fellow-well-met order, & seems to command no respect from his subordinates. During our talk in his private room we were constantly interrupted by clerks who came in & out without once thinking of knocking, & broke into the middle of our conversation without the least apology. This was true even to the office boy, & I cd. not help contrasting it with the discipline of Mr. Vallance or Mr. Dewey's office.

a Lax Board.

Mr. Hill has no great opinion of his Board. The rules (already referred to) are, he says "more honoured in the breach than the observance." The Chairman of the Committee who drew up the rules was the first to break them, at the next meeting. "Exceptional cases," to excuse ^{the granting of} out-relief are constantly found, & the Guardians are not altogether even-handed in dispensing it. Their liberality

Treatment of able-bodied.

or otherwise is sometimes guided by personal considerations rather than the cries of the case. I noted the case of a Hackney Guardian who, when his tenants had obtained one relief, used to wait ~~outside~~ on them as they came out & get his rent.

The City R^d Workhouse is used as a receiving house, & for the infirm, for lying-in cases, lunatics, &c., so that there are no trades carried on, as at Hitchen, but a number of the women do needlework & make garments.

The able-bodied occasionally give trouble, & have to be sent to prison, but usually they rub along at Hitchen. Have a number of "his & hers" who go hopping, &c. in summer. Having once come into the house, they are very rarely reclaimed. I know of one case where the Church Army stopped in & took a great interest. This man is now doing well, but is quite an exception. They have sent occasionally to the Hensington Test house, with fair

The aged.

Blackmail.

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results, but have none there now. Have not
tied the S.A. colony.

Old people are allowed out every other
Sunday, & have a more distinctive visiting
dress. Generally stay out all day, & mostly
come in worse for drink. Only the
worst cases are reported for punishment, & of
these there are a considerable number.
Will not come in to time, either. If they
come in to dinner they are not allowed out
again. There is possibility of some hardship
in this at Ditcham, the inmates being so far
from their friends. But they are a most
difficult class to deal with - low & depraved.

Blackmail is known to go on in
the House, but cannot be brought home.
Very little room for it now in the infirmary,
all the nurses being properly trained.

The Guardians do what they can to

Out relief.

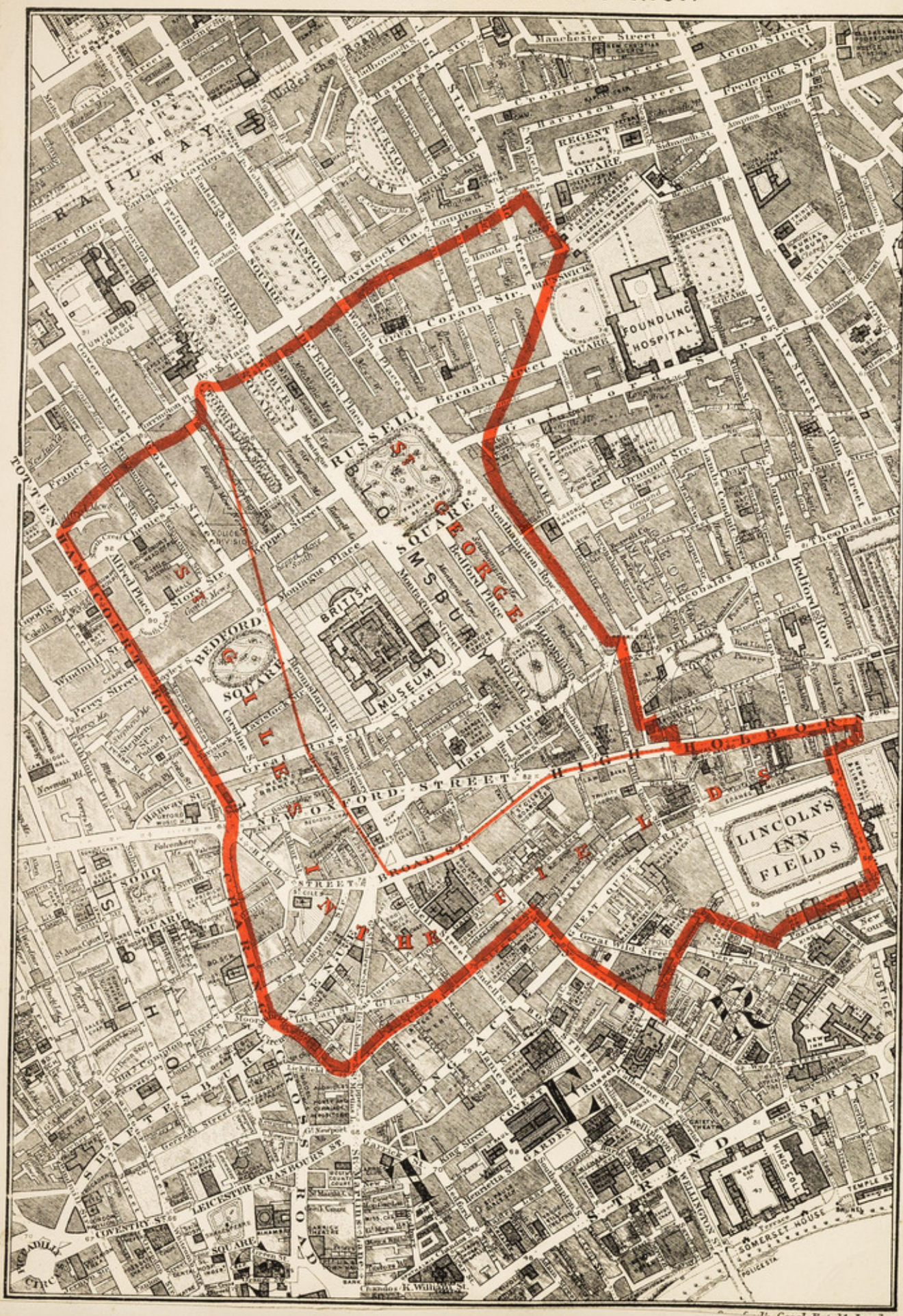
retain the children where they know the parents are vicious or bad. The Custody of Children Act, 1891, enables them to obtain orders to do this from magistrates, or they enforce it where necessary.

SUMMARY OF OUT-RELIEF (Exclusive of Non-Resident Poor, Children in District, and other Schools, Hospital Cases, &c.)

	Not able- bodied	Able bodied	Children	Total	Money			Kind			Total			Corres. period last year
					£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
Clerkenwell ...	357	78	265	700	59	10	6	7	5	11	66	16	5	66 10 9
St. Luke's	311	65	257	633	49	4	6	4	5	8	53	10	2	52 2 0
Holborn	152	27	81	260	19	13	0	6	11	0	26	4	0	21 8 0
Total	820	170	603	1593	128	8	0	18	2	7	145	10	7	140 0 9

* Corresponding period of last year 1867

MAP OF THE ST GILES DISTRICT.



St. Giles Board of Works. (Extracts from Report for year ending 25 Mar. 1897.)

For civil registration purposes it is divided into three sub-districts, viz:—

1. St. George, Bloomsbury.
2. St. Giles, South.
3. St. Giles, North.

Houses.

The number of inhabited houses (Census 1891) was 3,729.

The average number of persons in each house was 10.6.

Population.

The enumerated population of the St. Giles District (Census 1896) is stated to be 38,237, a decrease of 14,462 persons between 1851 and 1896, as is shown in the following table:—

Registration Sub-Districts.	1851	1861	1871.	1881.	1891.	1896.	Decrease of Population between 1851 and 1896.
St. George, Bloomsbury	17,392	17,392	16,662	16,681	16,695	16,110	1,282
St. Giles, South } St. Giles in the	19,474	19,483	14,862	14,864	13,454	12,976	6,498
St. Giles, North } Fields.	17,115	17,201	13,733	13,732	9,633	9,151	7,964
St. Giles District...	53,981	54,076	45,257	45,277	39,782	38,237	15,744

The following information with respect to the St. Giles District may be of interest:—

Its superficial area is about 245 acres.

Length of public ways, 15 miles 7 furlongs.

Total length of public and private ways, 16 miles.

The superficial area of carriage-ways is 47 acres, 1 rood, 247 yards.

Do. do. footways is ... 24 do. 0 do. 321 do.

The total area of public-ways 71 do. 1 do. 568 do.

Statistics of St. Giles District.

Total number of public lamps	...	...	...	...	1,160
Do. guard-posts	...	...	...	...	326
Do. trees	...	...	...	...	171
Do. water-posts	...	...	...	...	9
Do. street gullies	...	...	...	...	1,075
Do. sewer air-shafts to local sewers opening on to the street surface...	...	...	...	...	234
Do. over main sewers do. do. do.	...	...	...	...	48
Do. up-cast shafts to local sewers carried up the fronts of adjacent buildings...	...	...	...	...	21
Do. manhole covers over sewers, tanks, &c.	...	...	...	...	37
Do. manhole covers over subways belonging to the London County Council...	...	...	...	...	14

Total number of sewer side-entrances to local sewers	...	...	...	...	68
Do. to main sewers	...	...	...	...	15
Do. street orderly bins for street sweepings	...	...	...	...	62
Do. ballast bins	...	...	...	...	33

Certain of the sewers in the District which have dead ends, or in which the flow of sewage is not sufficient to enable the sewer to be self-cleansing, are fitted with flushing tanks. ~~They are as follows:~~

Births.

Births and Birth-rates.

REGISTRATION SUB-DISTRICTS.	Population (Census 1896).	Number of Births.	Ratio of Births to Population	Birth-rate per 1,000.	Average Birth-rate per 1,000 for ten years, 1886-1895.
St. George, Bloomsbury	16,110	300	1 in 53·7	18·6	19·8
St. Giles, South ...	12,976	543	1 in 23·8	41·8	41·1
St. Giles, North ...	9,151	221	1 in 41·4	24·1	21·5
St. Giles District ...	38,237	1,064	1 in 35·9	27·8	27·3

The birth-rate of the Peabody buildings, Great Wild Street (40·4 per 1,000) again largely contributed to the higher birth-rate of St. Giles-in-the-Fields.

Marriages.

Deaths.

Marriage rate, 21.3. Largely increasing.

With these corrections the deaths for the three registration Sub-districts were:—

St. George, Bloomsbury	...	...	...	...	184
St. Giles, South	...	...	...	...	400
St. Giles, North	...	...	...	...	150
Total	...	...	...	...	734

The annual death-rate, which in the preceding three years had been 23.2, 18.7, and 21.3 respectively, was 19.1 per 1,000 in 1896, being 3.0 per 1,000 *less* than the decennial average 1886-95.

The death-rate for the parish of St. Giles-in-the-Fields was 14.6 per 1,000 higher than the rate for the parish of Bloomsbury.

Infantile Mortality.

Of the total registered deaths which took place last year no fewer than 162 occurred in infants under one year of age (as compared with 155, 144, and 185 in the three preceding years), and 92 between the ages of one and five years, or a total of 254 deaths amongst children under 5 years of age.

The mortality of infants under 1 year was in the proportion of 152 deaths per 1,000 of registered births.

In all London 21,853 infants died, corresponding to a rate of 161 per 1,000 births, as compared with an average rate of 155 in the ten years immediately preceding.

In St. Giles the diseases which caused the greatest fatality were:—Measles, whooping-cough, diarrhoea, tubercular meningitis, premature birth, convulsions, bronchitis, pneumonia, and debility from birth.

General Office, 64, Queen Street, E.C.

Artizans' Dwellings - vital statistics

Senile Mortality.

At 65 years and upwards there were 152 deaths, compared with 184, 152, and 173 in the preceding three years.

These deaths occurred at the following advanced ages :—

51 between 65 and 70 years.				
75	„	70	„	80
26	„	80	„	90

35 of the deaths were certified as “old age;” 117 of the remainder were caused from diseases of the brain, heart, and lungs.

Artizans' Dwellings.

1.—Buildings belonging to the Peabody Donation Fund,

General Office, 64, Queen Street, E.C.

A.—The Great Wild Street Block.

Superintendent—Mr. MANSHIP.

The Birth, Death, and Zymotic Death-rates for 1896, the ten previous years, and the decennial average for 1886-95 are shown in the following table :—

Great Wild Street Block.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	Average for 10 yrs. 1886-95.	1896.
Birth-rate ...	43.8	44.3	41.4	46.6	39.8	38.2	39.5	35.3	39.3	41.2	40.9	40.4
Death-rate ...	21.5	15.7	14.7	16.0	15.3	18.4	18.7	17.2	18.9	12.7	16.9	18.7
Zymotic Death-rate	8.3	6.1	1.4	4.8	3.4	2.8	4.3	2.1	2.1	0.7	3.6	6.4

The population of the Buildings in 1896 was 1,386, viz., 1,131 adults and 255 children under five years.

See back over

Artisan's Dwellings (contd)

2.—Buildings belonging to the Incorporated Society for Improving the Condition of the Working Classes.

Office, 8, Southampton Row, W.C.

A.—The Model Houses, Streatham Street.

Superintendent, Mr. SAYERS.

The Birth, Death, and Zymotic Death-rates for 1896 and the ten previous years, and the decennial average for 1886-95, are shown in the following table:—

Streatham Street Bdgs.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	Average for 10 yrs. 1886-1895.	1896.
Birth-rate	18.5	21.7	30.0	26.0	9.2	22.9	29.1	25.5	26.0	31.0	23.9	35.7
Death-rate	23.1	26.0	8.5	13.0	18.4	22.0	9.7	18.3	46.8	10.3	19.6	5.1
Zymotic Death-rate	4.6	—	—	—	4.6	—	—	5.1	5.2	—	1.9	—

See back

The number of residents in the Buildings in 1896 was 196, viz.: 146 adults, 25 children under 5 years, and 25 under 10 years.

There were 7 births, equal to a birth-rate of 35.7 per 1,000.

The only death was that of a male, æt. 41, from "aneurism," this corresponded to an annual death-rate of 5.1 per 1,000.

The Buildings were free from infectious disease throughout the year.

Model Houses
Streatham St.

There were 8 births, equal to a birth-rate of 37.5 per 1,000.

The 6 deaths equalled a death-rate of 28.1 per 1,000.

There were two deaths of young children from whooping-cough and diarrhoea, these corresponded to an annual zymotic death-rate of 9.3 per 1,000.

Only one certificate of infectious diseases was received, viz., that of a child suffering from scarlet fever.

Streatham
or Holland
Bdgs.

Vital statistics

TABLE XII.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE VITAL STATISTICS IN REGISTRATION LONDON AND IN ST. GILES DISTRICT, FOR 1896.

	Population, middle of 1896.	Births.	Deaths from all Causes.	Deaths from Principal Zymotic Diseases.	Annual rate per 1,000 living.			Deaths.							Deaths of Children under 1 year of age to 1 000 Births.
					Births.	Deaths.	Principal Zymotic Diseases.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diph- theria.	Fever.	Diarrhœa.	
London ...	4,421,955	135,796	81,721	14,009	30.2	18.2	3.11	9	3,692	940	2,931	2,663	582	3,192	160
St. Giles Dis- trict ...	38,237	1,064	734	87	27.8	19.1	2.2	0	41	7	13	5	4	17	152

Housing.

Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890.

(53 & 54 Vict., cap. 70.)

During 1886, the following properties were dealt with under this Act.

Locality.	Present Condition of Premises.
No. 27, Compton Street	Closed. Rebuilt.
„ 29, Compton Street	Closed. Demolished.
„ 2, Drury Lane	Closed. Demolished.
„ 3, Drury Lane	Closed. Demolished.
„ 4, Drury Lane	Closed. Demolished.
„ 16, Drury Lane	Closed. Demolished.
„ 23, Short's Gardens	Closed. Demolished.
„ 1, Marah's Buildings	Closed.
„ 2, Marah's Buildings	Closed.
„ 3, Marah's Buildings	Closed.
„ 2, Wild Court	Closed.
„ 3, Wild Court	Closed.
„ 4, Wild Court	Closed.
„ 5, Wild Court	Closed. [opened.
„ 32, Marchmont Street	Closed. Repaired and re-

A total of 149 houses dealt with in St. Giles District since the passing of the Act.

The Cottages in the rear of Nos. 1 to 6, Smart's Buildings, closed in 1893, have now been demolished.

No 188, Drury Lane, closed in 1895, has been repaired and re-opened.

Regulations for Houses Let in Lodgings or occupied by more than one family.

(Section 94.)

The Regulations made by your Board and approved by the Local Government Board in 1887, as to houses let in lodgings or occupied by more than one family, continue to be enforced in the District.

523 houses in St. Giles' are registered under the Act.

Common Lodging Houses.

The following is a return of the Registered Common Lodging-Houses in this District:—

Situation of Common Lodging House.	Name of Keeper.	Residence of Keeper.	Authorised Number of Lodgers.
No. 11, Short's Gardens ...	Mr. J. Biss ...	181, High Holborn ...	36
" 12, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	62
" 13, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	20
" 20, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	34
" 21, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	46
" 22, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	36
" 6, Betterton Street ...	Mrs. E. Cooper ...	6, Betterton Street ...	95
" 6, Wild Court ...	Mr. A. Humphrey	8, Southampton Row	35
" 7, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	30
" 1, Macklin Street ...	Ditto	Ditto	96
" 2, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	
" 3, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	
" 4, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	
" 5, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	
" 6, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	
" 7, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	54
" 19, ditto ...	Mrs. M. Howell ...	24, Churchill Road ...	
" 21, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	
Parker Street, Municipal Buildings ...	Mr. A. Young ...	London County Council, Spring Gardens ...	324
" 8, Parker Street ...	Mrs. E. Bresnahan	10, Parker Street ...	33
" 10, Parker Street (back addition) ...	Ditto	Ditto	50
" 36, Parker Street ...	Mr. F. Lodge ...	25, Great Queen Street	115
" 45, ditto ...	Miss E. Leonard...	2, Adelphi Terrace ...	33
" 25, Great Queen Street	Mr. F. Lodge ...	25, Great Queen Street	50
" 16, Castle Street ...	Mrs. M. Connor ...	16, Castle Street ...	14
" 9, Dyott Street ...	Mrs. R. Hill ...	9, Dyott Street, ...	30
" 14, Lumber Court ...	Mr. W. Smith ...	21, Great Coram Street	73
" 3, Neal's Yard ...	Mr. T. Renwick ...	20, Queen Street ...	44
" 20, Queen Street ...	Ditto	Ditto	134
" 21, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	
" 22, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	
" 23, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	86
" 24, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	
" 25, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	72
" 12, Kemble Street ...	Mr. E. Nolloth ...	12, Kemble Street ...	
" 2, Kennedy Court ...	Mr. J. W. Walters	19, Newton Street ...	100
" 3, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	10
" 4, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	12
" 4, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	24
" 5, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	15
" 6, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	12
" 7, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	11
" 8, ditto ...	Ditto	Ditto	38

A total of 45 Common Lodging-Houses, registered for 1,854 lodgers.

Sanitary work.

113
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INSPECTIONS AND ORDERS.

Inspectors Bond and Robinson made 11,445 visits and inspections, which resulted in the serving of 1,154 orders upon owners for the abatement of various kinds of nuisances, and the sanitary amendment of houses and premises.

PROCEEDINGS AT BOW STREET POLICE COURT.

In 26 cases where your Board's orders were not complied with the owners were summoned to the Police Court, where convictions were obtained in every instance.

OVERCROWDING.

In 22 cases where the Sanitary Inspectors found overcrowding in rooms, orders were immediately served upon the owners to reduce the number of inmates occupying them.

UNDERGROUND SLEEPING ROOMS.

Ten underground kitchens or sleeping rooms were vacated as soon as the necessary orders were served for their closure. Upon a report being received that the front kitchens of Nos. 5A, 6, 7, and 8, Little Russell Street were illegally occupied, I carefully inspected them, and found that though they did not comply with the measurements required by the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, they

were in other respects in excellent habitable condition, and having regard to the house accommodation in the district, and to the sanitary condition of the inhabitants, and other circumstances, your Clerk and myself recommended the Sanitary Committee to dispense with the strict compliance with the Act, upon the application to your Board of the several owners of the rooms.

Sanitary work - statistics

TABLE VI.
REPORT OF SANITARY WORKS, &c., IN 1896, CARRIED OUT UNDER THE
SUPERINTENDENCE OF SANITARY INSPECTORS BOND AND ROBINSON.

NATURE OF WORKS.		SUB-DISTRICTS.			Total.
		St. George, Bloomsbury.	St. Giles, South.	St. Giles, North.	
Number of complaints received during the year		47	56	23	126
Number of houses and premises visited and inspected		3,970	5,217	2,258	11,445
Result of Inspections.	Orders issued for sanitary amend- ments of houses and premises ...	323	560	271	1,154
	Houses, premises, &c., cleansed re- paired, and whitewashed ...	154	222	102	478
	Rooms disinfected after infectious diseases	60	117	44	221
House Drains.	Repaired, cleansed, &c.	37	49	27	113
	Trapped or ventilated	38	45	30	113
	New constructed	32	27	54	113
W.C.'s.	Repaired, cleansed, &c.	50	147	69	266
	Supplied with water	1	—	—	1
	New constructed	9	14	22	45
Dust Bins.	New provided	6	20	10	36
	Repaired and covered	52	71	39	162
Water Supply	Cisterns (new) erected	1	—	4	5
	Cisterns cleansed, repaired and covered	9	48	46	103
Miscellaneous.	Number of Lodging-houses registered under Sanitary Act, 1866	89	201	181	471
	Removal of accumulation of dung, animal and other refuse	22	103	79	204
	Removal of animals improperly kept	2	2	—	4
	Regularly inspected. Bakehouses	14	5	7	26
	Licensed cow-houses	—	1	—	1
	Licensed slaughter-houses ...	—	1	1	2
	Other proceedings, e.g., legal pro- ceedings	7	5	14	26

Sanitary work (contd)

127 FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

109 visits were made to factories and workshops, and orders made upon owners for limewhiting, cleansing and purifying their several workplaces.

Special attention was given to the 38th section of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, which enacts that where persons of both sexes are employed or in attendance, proper separate w.c. accommodation must be provided for persons of each sex.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

At a special meeting of the Public Health and Housing Committee of the London County Council, held on the 26th October, 1896, the following licenses were renewed for slaughter-houses:—

Locality.			Licensee.
No. 6, Drury Lane	...	...	Mr. C. Shortlands.
No. 23, Store Street	...	...	Mr. Wm. Kingmill.

Your Sanitary Committee again previous to the licensing day visited the several premises, and forwarded to the London County Council a resolution "that they are of the same opinion as in former years, viz., that the Council should refuse to renew the licences for slaughter-houses, as the Committee are of opinion that slaughter-houses should not exist in crowded districts in the Metropolis."

BAKEHOUSES.

(Sect. 26.)

There are 27 bakehouses in the district;

most of them underground. All were duly inspected.

Care of Streets.

Street Cleansing.

The cleansing of the public ways in the District was performed by a staff employed directly by the Board, numbering 50 men, consisting of one foreman, five gangers, and 44 sweepers.

In addition to the manual labour employed, two sweeping machines, drawn by horses, were used in sweeping the carriage-ways.

The street sweepings carried away during the year amounted to a total of 6,493 van-loads, equal to over 19,000 cubic yards. There were also removed 1,799 van-loads of refuse matter taken from the gully pits, and 28 van-loads from the sewers, together amounting to nearly 5,500 cubic yards.

The carriage-ways of the main thoroughfares were washed frequently during the year by means of water distributed by watering carts. The cost of this washing is included in the two items for street cleansing and street watering given hereafter.

The main thoroughfares in the District were watered twice on Sundays during the summer months, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 1 p.m., and the market streets between 12 and 2.30 when the condition of the weather rendered it desirable. In the latter watering, disinfectants were added to the contents of the carts.

Streets watered by contract, at a cost of
£1324. Cows & alleys watered with hand cart.
3 underground sewers in parish.

Care of Streets (contd)

Dust Removal

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Limewhiting Courts.

The walls at the entrances to the following yards, courts, mews, &c., in the District, were twice cleansed and limewhited during the year, at a cost of £43 5s.

Compton Mews.	New Yard.
Denmark Place.	Nottingham Court.
Dunn's Passage.	Plummer's Court.
Hall's Yard.	Portsmouth Place.
Henrietta Mews.	Queen's Head Yard.
Hunter Mews.	Sardinia Place.
Kennedy Court.	Sardinia Street.
Lascelles Court.	Silver Street.
Little Guilford Street.	Southampton Mews.
Middle Yard.	Tavistock Mews.
Neal's Yard.	Woburn Mews.

Lamp-posts with well lanterns	...	...	...	729
Ditto with square lanterns	...	...	...	155
Old lamp-posts with square lanterns...	...	...	...	13
Metered lamps on street-crossing refuges	...	...	...	12
Bracket lamps with well lanterns	...	...	...	147
Ditto with old square lanterns	...	...	...	104
Total	...	...	...	1,160

The amount paid for gas, including the lighting and extinguishing, cleansing and maintenance of the lanterns, was £4,088 8s. 10d.

Removal of Dust.

The dust and ashes were removed from the houses in the District by contract, the Contractor providing all necessary carts, horses and men, and performing the whole work at a cost of £3,650. The refuse removed amounted to 10,309 van-loads, equal to over 30,000 cubic yards.

The disinfection of the dust-bins in the District with carbolic acid powder, after their contents had been removed by the Contractor's men, was continued during the year, the cost of the disinfectant used being £11 10s.

Street Improvements.

Improvements.

It is to be regretted that no steps have yet been taken with a view to carrying out what is admitted to be an obvious necessity, viz., new means of communication north and south between High Holborn and the Strand.

The most important improvement which has engaged attention during the year has been the proposal of the London County Council, made largely in consequence of the course adopted by the Board, for the removal of the block of buildings standing between Bozier's Court and Tottenham Court Road. A Bill enabling this improvement to be carried out is at the present time before the

House of Commons, and it is to be hoped that it will pass into law and that this much-needed improvement will be carried out without further delay.

The minor improvements consisted of the widening of Keppel Street and Montague Place by the setting back of the projecting garden walls. Also a proposal for the straightening of the line of frontage of the houses on the east side of Southampton Row, the opportunity offered by the rebuilding of the premises having been taken advantage of to effect this improvement.

One of the most important improvements which has been under the consideration of the Board is for effecting the widening of Portsmouth Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, to 30 feet. Considerable difficulty has occurred in consequence of a portion of the property required for effecting the improvement being in the area under the control of the Strand District Board of Works. The matter is still the subject of negotiation, and it is hoped that the endeavours that are being made to carry out the widening of this thoroughfare will be successful.

Improvements (contd)

Open spaces.

Clare Market Improvement Scheme.

This was a scheme promoted by the London County Council with a view of dealing with an unhealthy area lying between Stanhope Street, Catherine Street, Kemble Street, and the Strand.

The only way in which the St. Giles District was affected was in consequence of the proposal of the Council to take the whole of the houses on the south side of *Kemble St., between Drury Lane & Stanhope St., for the purpose of street widening.*

Scheme approved by Home Office, but Parliamentary sanction not yet obtained.

St. Giles Churchyard.

This continues to be largely used by the poorer classes in the neighbourhood as a place of rest, and is evidently

largely appreciated; but unfortunately during the dinner-hour a large number of boys from neighbouring factories resort there, and by their horse-play and roughness of behaviour cause much annoyance to others using the grounds and damage to the plants and shrubs placed there by the Board; and it has been found absolutely necessary to supplement the services of the keeper by another man during the best part of the day to prevent the nuisance as far as possible.

Adulteration of Food.

ARTICLE.	1st Quarter.		2nd Quarter.		3rd Quarter.		4th Quarter.		TOTAL.		GRAND TOTAL.
	Gen.	Adult.	Gen.	Adult.	Gen.	Adult.	Gen.	Adult.	Gen.	Adult.	
Milk ...	71	21	43	12	48	4	31	7	193	44	237
Butter ...	—	—	10	—	27	1	—	—	37	1	38
Coffee ...	—	—	—	—	19	3	24	2	43	5	48
Brandy ...	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	6	—	6
Gin ...	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	6	—	6
Rum ...	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	6	—	6
Whisky ...	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	6	—	6
Sweets ...	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	20	—	20
Preserved Peas ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7	1	7	8
Totals ...	71	21	53	12	138	8	56	16	318	57	375

It will be observed that 57 of the samples have been certified to be adulterated—exactly 15·2 per cent. For comparison the results of the four previous years are here given :—

Year.	No. of Samples examined.	No. Adulterated.	Percentage of Adulterations.
1892-3	220	19	8·6
1893-4	266	51	19·1
1894-5	348	45	12·9
1895-6	318	29	9·1

Notwithstanding the increase in the number of samples taken during this year, the percentage of adulteration is considerably above the average.

MILK.

Very great attention has again been paid to the quality of the milk supplied to the District, no less than 237 samples of this most important article of food having been purchased for analysis. That the collection of so large a number of samples was amply justified is evidenced by the fact that no fewer than 44 (18·5 per cent.) were found to *adulterated, & 10 others of poor quality.*

The amount of water added varied from 3 to 14 per cent., and the fat was removed from 7 to 33·3 per cent. In one case not only had water been added to the extent of at least 4·3 per cent., but 15 per cent. of the milk-fat had been removed.

There is a public library in St. Giles, under
charge of Commissioners, whose report shd. be obtained.

St. Giles & St. George's Union
Mr. Appleton, clerk.

Personnel & attitude of Board.

July 2.

Mr. Jas. Appleton, clerk to the Guardians of St. Giles in the Fields & St. George's Bloomsbury.

Mr. Appleton has been in the service of the Board 28 years, the only part of that time chief clerk, & superintended all the details of the building of the new workhouse in Aubell St. He is a plain, business-like man of middle-age, on the best of terms ~~with~~ with himself, his Board, & his subordinates, & taking some pride in the manner in which the administration of the poor law is carried out in his district.

It is a small Board of 20 members, representing a population of 40,000, & all first business men - not a faddist among them, says Mr. A. They always come when they are wanted, & do their business in an expeditious, practical way; & are never found pottering about the place when their services are not needed. Their officers must do their duty properly, or go; the Guardians will stand no nonsense.

Policy.

Decrease in No. Relieved.

In dealing with relief, no hard & fast rules are laid down (apart from those enforced by the L.F.B.), the Guardians knowing that such will have to be broken. They meet every case on its merits; keep the house together whenever they can, but will not entirely maintain. They will supplement the income of decent persons, but those who have no means or are of indolent character are offered the house.

He considers this policy quite justified by results. The no. relieved steadily declines. During last 4 years, for example, the outdoor figures for last week in June have been: 1895-392; '96-384; '97-289; '98-256. This has been brought about to some extent by increasing care, but is mainly due to less need. Compared with 1870, the decline is very marked (corresponding week):

	1870.		1898.
outdoor -	1791	-	256
Indoor - over 1000		-	809
	2791		1065

an improving district.

Attitude towards C.O.S.

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He just remembers that administration was on very easy lines then, but there was then more poverty than now. In '70 the district had 50,000 people, & many important clearances have since effected. Skelton, Parker & Maclelin Sts. were occupied by a criminal rather than a pauper class, & save in cases of delirium tremens, lying in, &c., did not trouble the Guardians much, but other places, now demolished or the site of warehouses &c., used to be largely occupied by Irish, who were frequently wanting relief.

Tho' not working on C.O.S. lines, information is exchanged with the officers of the Levy of the local C.O.S. committee, ^(Mr. F. E. Gray, who wrote for us) was until quite recently a member of the Board, but never intruded C.O.S. business, being apparently satisfied with the way the work was done.

Relatives legally liable are always made to pay if able, but the B^d is chary of going to a police court. Try to make sure of their ground, & if they have a doubtful case always

Able-bodied.

The aged.

The Children

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withdraw it on a hint from the magistrates. Thus friendly relations are preserved & the poor law is not brought into contempt.

There have not for years been any applications for relief by a.b. men, & the storeroom has long been abolished. There are practically no a.b. people in the House, & washers & scrubbers have to be hired from outside. There are a number of people under 60, but all have some physical defect.

The aged have comfortable wards, with some armchairs, &c. The women sew, & men do light work as able. They have a library; the old women may make afternoon tea, provided the tea is supplied by friends, & a little tobacco is given to old men who have no friends to supply them with it.

The children are boarded at the Strand Union Schools, Edmonton, under contract. They are taught trades, & boys who show any taste for music

Dress.

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are placed in the band, which is quite a feature of the school. Many of these boys have afterwards got into army bands, & he has never known an instance of failure. Believes they have boys from this institution in all the crack regimental bands.

The Guardians have never entertained the boarding-out system, believing the children cannot be so well looked-after or equipped as in a properly-managed school of medium-size. These schools have 397 children, & are easily manageable. Each child is known to master or mistress, & called by their names. Health & surroundings most satisfactory. Agrees that this would probably not be the case at the great barrack schools.

The school children wear a uniform dress, but it is of neat grey cloth, with nothing of the old pauper stamp about it.

In the "houses" the men have suits of 3 kinds. The more decent, who act as messengers,

Holidays.

The Sick.

A personal inspection.

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have an ordinary frock jacket suit; others have cloth coat or vest (without brass buttons) & cord trousers; any able-bodied would have a cord suit.

Inmates of the "house" are allowed one day a month, or can always get special leave if decently behaved. Do not give much trouble, except at holiday times. Church adjoins the "house," so that only P.C.'s need go out on Sundays.

The sick poor are maintained at the Central London Sick Asylum, Cleveland St. Fitzroy Square, in connection with wh. a new infirmary is being built at Hendon. Trained nurses employed. Have a sick ward at workhouse for urgent cases, in charge of a trained sept. nurse & small staff.

I afterwards went over part of the workhouse, & was struck with the perfect order.

neatness & cleanliness of the place. The small
piece of ground in wh. the old women were
sitting out in the sun was bright with flowers,
but the weeds I thought rather bare, &
needing colour or ornament. I also saw
the kitchen & inspected the food, & cd. find
no fault with it. There is a professional
cook & a baker, who are assisted by inmates
tied off for the purpose.

I was quite favourably impressed with
the way in wh. the poor-law is administered
here.

Favorable Impression.

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PARISHES OF ST. GILES AND ST. GEORGE, BLOOMSBURY.

ALMSHOUSE CHARITIES.

FOUNDED 1656, BY THOMAS, EARL OF SOUTHAMPTON.

The Charities and their several endowments are administered as one foundation by eighteen Trustees, in pursuance of the Order and Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated the 31st day of March, 1876, to whom the accounts are submitted, and the Trustees are responsible.

The Almshouses in Smart's Buildings, High Holborn, afford accommodation for ten poor widows. Each Almswoman is provided with one room partially furnished, gas, an allowance of coal, medical attendance in sickness, and 8s. a week in money.

The necessary qualifications for Candidates for admission to the Alms-houses are as follows:—

Almswomen must be poor widows of good character, who at the date of their appointment, shall be of the age of 60 years at least, and who shall have been *bona-fide* resident in either of the Parishes for not less than five years, and shall not during the five years immediately preceding the date of their application for appointment have been in the receipt of parochial relief. Preference to be given to those qualified as aforesaid who shall have become reduced by misfortune, accident, or calamity, from better circumstances without their own default.

The Charities also provide pensions of £25 per annum for ²¹~~22~~ Out-Pensioners.

The necessary qualifications for Candidates for Out-Pensions are as follows:—

Pensioners shall be indigent persons of either sex, of good character, either married or single, who shall be of the age of 60 years at the least, and who shall have been *bona-fide* resident in either of the Parishes for not less than five years, and shall not during the five years immediately preceding the date of their application for appointment have been in receipt of parochial relief. Preference shall be given to those qualified as aforesaid who shall have become reduced by misfortune, accident, or calamity, from better circumstances without their own default.

Further information respecting the Charities may be obtained on application to the Secretary, Mr. J. Appleton, Vestry Offices, 57, Broad Street, Bloomsbury, W.C.

Dr Bond - Holborn medical officer

July 5.

Dr Bond has been medical officer of health to the Holborn Bd of Works for 3 years; he is a very amiable, pleasant fellow, possessing the ornament of a meek & quiet spirit, but hardly strong enough I should say for his position. Given a district wh. had been well managed in the past & a friendly, progressive Board, he wd. probably do excellently. But apparently the reverse is the case. Succeeding to considerable arrears of sanitary work, he has had to deal with a Board not over anxious to remedy past neglect, & though pretty well supported by his own Committee, meets with a good deal of opposition from the Board itself, with the result that in several instances his proposals have been rejected. That my surmise of past inefficiency is not ill-founded may be gathered from the fact that both the Local Govt. Bd (moved thereby by the Hammersmith Council) & the London County Council called for special reports on the condition of the district. From the latter, prepared by

L.C.C. Report on Holborn.

The district.

Houses & population.

Dr. Young, assistant med. officer of the L.C.C., the following extracts are taken, showing at once the special difficulties of the locality (with its Italian & Irish colony, its old houses ill-adapted to modern conditions) & where there has been failure of effective sanitary measures:

DR. YOUNG'S REPORT.

The sanitary district of Holborn consists of the united parishes of St. Andrew Holborn, and St. George-the-Martyr, the parish of St. Sepulchre, the Liberty of Saffron-hill, Hatton-garden, Ely's-rents and Ely-place, and the greater part of the Liberty of Glasshouse-yard. It is situated in the central part of the metropolis, and has adjoining it the following districts, namely, on the west St. Giles, on the north St. Pancras and Clerkenwell and the Liberty of the Charterhouse, and on the south St. Giles, the Strand and the City. At the eastern end the district becomes much reduced in size, forming a narrow and irregularly shaped area which is for a short extent of boundary in juxtaposition with the district of St. Luke. Within the limits of the district Gray's-inn is situated, while Lincoln's-inn, Staple-inn and Furnival's-inn form small areas on the southern boundary of the district. These, for sanitary administrative purposes, are not under the jurisdiction of the Holborn Board of Works.

The soil is made up of gravel overlying the London clay, the latter coming to the surface in a narrow strip running north and south in the neighbourhood of Farringdon-road.

The area of the district is 168 acres.

The greater part of the sanitary district of Holborn is included within the registration district of Holborn, but the Liberty of Glasshouse-yard, which forms the eastern extremity of the district, forms part of the registration district of London City.

The number of persons per acre in Holborn in 1891 was 199, as compared with 56 per acre in London generally. When the census was taken in 1896, the average number per acre was 185.

	Inhabited houses.			Population.		
	1871.	1881.	1891.	1871.	1881.	1891.
St. Andrew, Holborn, with St. George-the-Martyr	2,831	2,423	2,573	33,493	28,874	26,228
St. Sepulchre	313	278	190	2,888	2,392	1,972
Liberty of Saffron-hill, Hatton-garden, Ely's-rents, Ely-place	527	453	605	5,907	3,980	4,506
*Liberty of Glasshouse-yard	149	93	69	1,232	931	779
Whole district	3,820	3,247	3,437	43,520	36,177	33,485

* Dr. Bond, the medical officer of health of Holborn, points out in his report for 1895, that the census figures include the whole population of Glasshouse-yard, although a part of this liberty, containing 71 inhabitants at the 1891 census, is under the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of Sewers, the population of Glasshouse-yard belonging to Holborn therefore should be 708.

Character of population

Density

Births & deaths

Sanitary defects

The population contains a fair proportion of shopkeepers, small tradesmen and a few caretakers, but is chiefly made up of artizans, labourers, and persons engaged in connection with cabyards and mews, with a small proportion of very poor persons in some of the smaller side streets. It would appear that the number of foreigners is not an inconsiderable proportion of the population, but it is not possible to give the exact number of those residing within the limits of the sanitary district. A large number of the foreigners are of Italian nationality, and these congregate to such a degree in a part of Holborn and the adjoining part of the district of Clerkenwell as to have given rise to the designation of the neighbourhood as the "Italian colony."

During the decade 1881-1891 the average number of persons to each inhabited house has undergone a decrease, thus in 1881 there was an average of 11.1 persons per house, in 1891 9.7 persons per house. More definite information as to the density of the population in dwellings may be gathered from the fact that when the census was taken in 1891, more than 35 per cent. of the population were living in tenements having more than two occupants to a room. The proportion of the population so situated in Holborn is only exceeded in the metropolis by that in St. Luke 44.24 per cent., Whitechapel 43.50 per cent., St. George-in-the-East 39.83 per cent., and Clerkenwell 38.78 per cent., the proportion in Holborn being 38.08 per cent.

The following statistics as to the births and deaths do not relate to exactly the same area as that under the jurisdiction of the Holborn Board of Works, because the figures which are obtainable include births and deaths occurring in Lincoln's-inn, Gray's-inn, Staple and Furnival's-inn, and the Liberty of the Charterhouse, but do not include those occurring in the Liberty of Glasshouse-yard. The general death rates are corrected for age and sex distribution, and for comparison the London rates are also given.

	Birth rate per 1,000 living.		General death rate per 1,000 living.		*Zymotic death rate per 1,000 living.		Infantile death rate per 1,000 born.	
	Holborn.	London.	Holborn.	London.	Holborn.	London.	Holborn.	London.
1891	27.7	31.8	33.6	21.0	4.36	2.3	228	153
1892	27.1	30.9	29.9	21.6	3.00	2.80	211	154
1893	26.8	30.9	29.9	22.3	3.38	3.08	214	163
1894	26.2	30.1	22.6	18.6	2.55	2.66	180	143
1895	26.2	30.6	28.1	19.5	2.87	2.62	212	165

* Smallpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, fever and diarrhoea.

During these years the general death rate and the infant mortality have been much in excess of the rates prevailing in London generally.

During the course of my inquiry into the sanitary condition of the district of Holborn I inspected 280 separate houses including tenements in blocks of artizans' dwellings, and in these a large number of defective conditions were found to exist. The defects noted include the following, viz.: dirty condition of walls in rooms and passages in 106 instances; dampness of walls in 20 instances; defective walls, plaster, or ceilings in 50 instances; defective roofs or floors in 53 instances; and defective stack-pipes or guttering in 17 instances. Water-closets were found defective, or supplied

with an inadequate flush of water, and in a foul condition in 76 cases, and 21 cisterns for the storage of drinking water were not provided with a proper cover. Yards, generally speaking, were well paved, and the drain inlets properly trapped; but notes were made as regards 44 houses where defects in these respects existed. Of frequent occurrence was the existence of unsuitable dust-bins. In the majority of premises there are fixed wooden or brick receptacles, which are difficult to cleanse properly, and in 64 instances the receptacle was found to be either unprovided with a cover or in a dilapidated condition.

Overcrowding
Italian colony.

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The majority of the houses which were visited were found to be let in tenements, consisting mostly of one or two rooms. The occupation of houses by members of more than one family exists to a large extent throughout the district; the figures obtained at the census of 1891 showing that nearly half the total population (49.78) live in tenements of one or two rooms, while 74.1 per cent. live in tenements of one to four rooms. Many of these houses originally were, no doubt, not built with a view to such usage, and are frequently not well adapted for occupation by a large number of families. In most instances it was found that there was either no washhouse accommodation at all, or that it was provided in a badly-lighted and unsuitable position on the basement floor, which most of the houses in the district contain. These basements are well paved or concreted, but the dirty and neglected condition in which many of them were found, and the frequent occurrence of dilapidated staircases leading down to them, indicate that but little use is made of them by the residents for purposes of washing. They are unsuitable for occupation as living rooms, and appear to be reserved for storerooms and wash-houses, but in four cases the illegal occupation of basement rooms was met with during the inspection.

In a few tenemented houses the water-closet accommodation in proportion to the number of lodgers was inadequate.

The defects enumerated above are chiefly of such a character as to admit readily of abatement, and in the majority of the premises visited, the conditions found to exist do not need more than the supervision necessary for maintaining them in a satisfactory condition of cleanliness and repair. In other cases, however, owing to the old age and state of decay of the premises, or the inadequate means of light and ventilation of houses or tenements, the conditions are not so readily capable of remedy. Further, there are some narrow courts and alleys as regards which, owing to the bad arrangement and closeness of the houses, little short of demolition and re-arrangement can be productive of any satisfactory result.

These remarks apply to, amongst other places,
Kilbride Court - Hat & Kilbride Court - Summer Court
Eyre Place - Eyre Court & Terrace - Elm Place
Union Buildings - Union Terrace - Dove Court
Providence Pl. - Half Moon Court -
also to houses in Emerald St, Falkner's Alley,
Richbell Pl., Boswell Court, Little Saffron Hill
Robin Hood Yard, & tenement in Leather
Lane Bldg & Evelyn Bldg.

Overcrowding of rooms was met with in 47 cases. The most marked instances of this occurred in that portion of the district known as the "Italian colony." A form of lodging prevails here which corresponds with an ordinary common lodging-house, in that the sleeping rooms are occupied in common by four or six or more male lodgers. These rooms are generally furnished with double beds, and are only used as sleeping rooms, the lodgers making use of the living room of the occupier for the purpose of meals. In these cases, however, ordinary casual lodgers are not received, the occupiers of the premises being Italians, who provide lodging for members of their own nationality at a weekly charge, and the lodgers in most cases remain in the house for long periods. Generally the sleeping rooms in these premises and the beds were found cleanly and well kept, but the rooms were much overcrowded. The following are examples, a room of about 563 cubic feet slept in by three men; a room with three beds, which it is stated are occupied by six men, about 1,200 cubic feet; a room with three beds for the use of five men, about 1,000 cubic feet.

Workshops.

Dust removal.

Street cleaning.

Disinfection.

Much work done.

Houses let in lodgings
Registration needed.

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I was unable to obtain any definite information as to the number of workshops in the districts. Hitherto there has been no special inspection in regard to these premises, they have only been visited on complaint or as met with in the ordinary inspection of premises, and no register of workshops is kept by the sanitary authority. During the course of this inspection 27 workshops were visited, 16 of which were either dirty or in need of repair. In 7 the water-closet accommodation was inadequate, and 5 water-closets were in a dirty condition. Overcrowding of workroom was noted in 5 instances.

The sanitary authority do not themselves carry out the collection and removal of house refuse and the scavenging of the streets, but have made arrangements with a contractor for these purposes. In connection with removal of house refuse a new contract was entered into in March, 1896, and by the terms of this contract it is stipulated that each house in the district shall be called at once in each week. For some parts of the district arrangements have been made for a daily collection. Inquiry is also made daily on behalf of the contractor at the Town Hall as to any complaints of non-removal of house refuse. During the inspection 25 instances were noted where undue accumulations of refuse existed, and upon inquiry it was found, as regards some of these, that the refuse had not been called for during the previous week. The cleansing of the streets is also carried out by a contractor, and the sanitary authority have an inspector (in the department of the surveyor) who supervises this work. But there does not appear to be any control as to the method in which the house refuse is collected, except such as can be exercised by the sanitary inspectors in noting the condition of the ashpits in the course of visits to premises which are engaging their attention.

The disinfection of articles of clothing and bedding after the occurrence of infectious diseases is also carried out by a contractor, the authority not having provided a suitable disinfecting oven for the use of the district. Arrangements have therefore been entered into for disinfection by steam in such cases. The contractor sends on alternate days to the offices of the sanitary authority to ascertain whether any cases requiring disinfection have occurred, and he is notified of any cases occurring between his visits. The articles are removed and returned in covered vans. The disinfection of rooms is carried out by an official of the sanitary authority. A shelter for the use of persons during the period that their rooms are being disinfected has not yet been provided within the district, but arrangements have been made with the sanitary authority of Clerkenwell to share their shelter.

As the result of this inquiry evidence has been obtained that much work in the abating and removal of insanitary conditions is being carried out in the district. Much activity has also been displayed in the seizure and condemnation of meat unfit for human consumption since the appointment of an inspector specially for the purpose. The appointment of this inspector has, no doubt, by relieving the other officers of the duties connected with the sale of meat in the district, resulted in more time being devoted to the condition of premises than hitherto, and house-to-house inspections have been made, but they have been limited to certain parts of the district up to the present time; however, the registration of houses let in lodgings has not been enforced to any extent by the sanitary authority, there being only some forty-three houses on the register. It has already been pointed out that a large proportion of the inhabited houses in this district are occupied by members of more than one family, the tenements consisting for the most part of one or two rooms, and there is little doubt that a much greater number than at present should be placed on the register. Much improvement in their condition would be derived from systematic inspection by the sanitary officers of many of these premises. The Board appreciating the advantages of periodic inspection of houses of this class have recently passed a resolution that all registered houses shall be visited once in each week.

The need for registration of a greater number of houses let in lodgings, together with the existence at the present time of the many defects recorded in this report, and the absence of any definite information in the possession of the sanitary authority as to the workshops in the district and their condition, indicate that a systematic house-to-house inspection should be made without delay throughout the district. This will necessitate an increase to the present staff of inspectors, as the time of the existing staff is taken up by the work now carried out by the authority. Further, it is to be observed that at the present time no direct control is exercised on behalf of the sanitary authority as to the method in which the collection of house refuse is carried on in the district. It will, I think, be necessary therefore to appoint two additional officers now, but a further increase may be called for at a later date when all tenement houses needing regulation are placed on the register, if the decision of the Board as to monthly inspection is to be carried out. Reference has been made to the existence in

the district of houses the condition of which does not readily admit of remedy, and of badly arranged courts and alleys. For the former, application for closing orders should be made by the sanitary authority, and for the latter steps should be taken for demolition and rearrangement.

The local med. officer agrees.

difficult character of district.

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Dr Bond fully agrees with Dr. Young. He says:

From my knowledge of the District obtained by house to house inspections in various parts of it, and my visits and inspections of many houses in all parts, either on account of infectious disease or sanitary defects, and having accompanied Dr. Young during much of his enquiry, I can confirm his details, and quite agree with him that the "defects are chiefly of such a character as to admit readily of abatement, and in the majority of the premises visited the conditions found to exist do not need more than the supervision necessary for maintaining them in a satisfactory condition of cleanliness and repair. In other cases, however, owing to the old age and state of decay of the premises, or the inadequate means of light and ventilation of houses or tenements, the conditions are not so readily capable of remedy. Further, there are some narrow courts and alleys, as regards which, owing to the bad arrangement and closeness of the houses, little short of demolition and rearrangement can be productive of any satisfactory results."

Also with the instances that he mentions to which these remarks apply.

However, much work has already been done for the improvement of these and also other premises in the district, e.g., the worst part of Half Moon Court has been demolished, Dove Court is being rebuilt, the reconstruction of Richbell Place and Emerald Street is now being pressed forward, one house in Boswell Court has been closed, the light and ventilation of Evelyn Buildings have been very much improved, and all the tenements and passages thoroughly cleansed; and in all the other instances a fair amount of insanitary conditions have been removed.

He also calls attention to a few facts that he hopes will help his Board to realize the truth of Dr Young's statement

, that the condition of houses and the character of the population in Holborn are such as to require an active administration.

The district is in the central part of London, and occupies a part of the site of older London. In past ages very little or no attention was paid to what would now be considered even rudimentary

Unfavorable position of Holborn

Improvement resulting from Report.

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principles of public health. Although in recent years many improvements have been effected by the demolition of the old insanitary houses, courts, and alleys, and the construction of broader thoroughfares, such as the Gray's Inn Road and Clerkenwell Road, much of the fatal inheritance of the crowding of houses together and overcrowding of rooms still remains.

This is shown by the fact that at the census of 1891, notwithstanding the decrease of population, and the increase in the number of premises used for factories, workshops, offices, and other business purposes, the density of the population of Holborn is now more than three and a half times that of London as a whole, the number of persons per acre in Holborn then being 199, whereas in London the number was only 56 per acre.

Dr. Boyd then compares, in tabular form, death rates, density, & overcrowding, in various districts of London, showing that Holborn occupies an unfavorable position, & deduces the "laws" that, other things being equal,
(a) Death rate increases with density & overcrowding
(b) " " " " proportion of sickness.

Dr. B. concludes his comments on Dr. Young's report thus:

I may briefly say that Dr. Young's Report has fully confirmed the opinion that I had previously formed of the condition of the district, and of the insufficiency of the present staff to carry out the requirements necessary to remedy the defects and maintain it in a good sanitary state.

The result of this outside pressure has undoubtedly been increased activity. An additional sanitary inspector has been appointed, a proper register of sanitary work done has been started

Dust.

An insanitary area.
Dr's scheme rejected.

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A new contract for dust removal entered into, by wh. the dustman is to call weekly at every house. Much improvement in this respect has resulted, but there is still room for more, as the

complaints that dust has not been removed, show that the contract is not strictly carried out, and the Contractor's attention to the matter has frequently been requested by the Board.

However,

The number of notices for the removal of dust continues to diminish, only 802 notices were received last year, whereas in 1896 the number was 1,361, and in 1895, as many as 2,114.

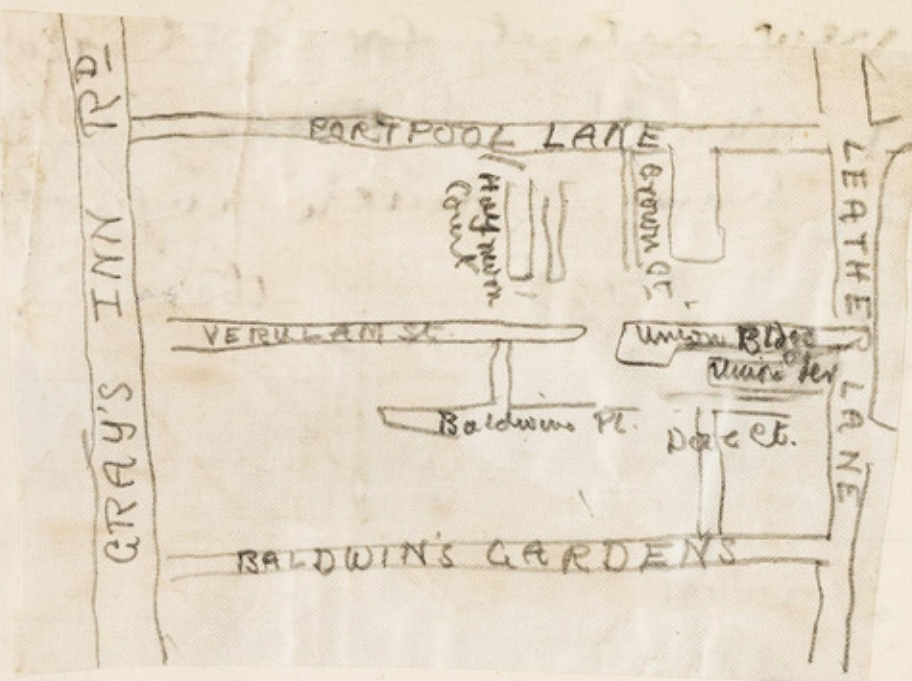
Our department is endeavouring to facilitate the collection, and minimise the nuisance caused by its removal, by introducing small movable pails, and abolishing the large fixed bins. Many of the latter, however, still remain.

Further,

Arrangements have been made for a daily collection of house refuse throughout that part of the District, known as the Italian Colony, which are found to work satisfactorily.

In the Spring of 1896 (i.e. prior to S.E.C. inquiry), Dr B. made a special report to the Board on what he regarded as an insanitary area, wh. shd. be dealt with under the "Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890". This area lies between Leather Lane & Gray's Inn Rd., & contains

a dark -
blue
area



the houses of Portpool Lane, Nos. 9 to 23 inclusive, Half-Moon Court, Crown Court, Verulam Street, Nos. 15 to 21 inclusive, Baldwin's Place, Providence Place, Union Terrace, Union Buildings, Dove Court, and Leather Lane, Nos. 66 to 71 inclusive.

In nearly all of the houses of this area the drainage is defective; the drains are not ventilated, and in many of them there is no water supply, and other defects. For a large number of the houses and tenements there is not a sufficient w.c. accommodation. In some the w.c.'s are placed in an insanitary position.

All the houses of Half-Moon Court, Providence Place, and Dove Court have no ventilation under the ground floors, and no damp courses; the basements of the houses of the area which have them are in a very dirty and insanitary state—some of them have not been cleansed for several years.

Some of the houses in Half-Moon Court, Union Terrace, and Union Buildings have no through ventilation.

Many of the rooms in the area are very badly lighted on account of the close proximity of other buildings; some of them being almost in darkness, having only borrowed light.

Many of the houses have only small areas at the back, and some have no back area at all.

Many of the houses are dangerous on account of fissures in the walls, or the bulging of them in part, or the walls being out of the perpendicular from sinking of the foundations and other causes; or on account of the broken and delapidated condition of the stairs, passages floors, walls, roofs, or chimneys.

Many of the tenements are dangerous to health on account of dampness of the walls.

In most, the dustbins are defective; some have no proper dustbins at all. In many, refuse and dust is allowed to accumulate.

The paving of the back yards is generally defective, and the yard walls very filthy.

Many of the rain-water pipes and gutters are defective, and in some altogether absent.

In some the rain-water pipes are not disconnected from the drains.

In many of the tenements the rooms are dangerously overcrowded, and so badly ventilated that on entering one is almost stifled by the foul and poisonous and polluted air.

Many of the rooms and passages are in a foul, dirty, and filthy condition, and some have not been cleansed for years.

The ground floor of Union Terrace is a large cowshed, and at No. 70, Leather Lane, there is an underground bakehouse.

This opinion is
strongly supported by
Dr. Young.

Action taken instead.

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"The only way" concludes the medical officer, "of effecting a permanent & satisfactory improvement is to treat the whole as an insalubrious area. If any other course be adopted, only partial & patchwork amelioration can result."

But the Board rejected it. The clerk (Mr Hale) reports:

The Report was very carefully considered by the Board, who, however, were unable to adopt the views of the Medical Officer as to the necessity for the clearance of the ground, but gave directions for all the sanitary defects found to exist in the houses to be dealt with under the provisions of the "Public Health (London) Act, 1891." The course adopted has

naturally been the means of saving many thousands of pounds, and has had the effect desired, as almost all the premises included in such area are being put in a proper sanitary condition, at any rate for the present.

The med. officer fell in very readily with the Bd's views, &

Notices, accordingly, for every house in the area, were served for the abatement of the insanitary conditions that could be dealt with under that Act.

The proposed diversion of Dove Court, and erection of a warehouse on part of the site, was abandoned; and instead all the eight houses have been closed: and the four on the north side have been demolished and rebuilt.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, Half Moon Court, and Nos. 15 and 17, Portpool Lane adjacent, have been closed and demolished, and a large warehouse is now being built on the site.

The rooms in Union Buildings in which light and ventilation were defective, are no longer used for human habitation.

Most of the back areas are small, and some have no back area at all.

The great majority of the houses are let in lodgings, and require constant supervision to maintain in a sanitary state. They are houses

Registration difficult.

A changing district.

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which it is desirable to have registered, as they require, at least, a thorough annual cleansing, and the rooms ought to be measured and a record kept of their cubic capacity, so that the landlord may know how many persons each room may at most accommodate, and make it easier for an inspector to know when a room is overcrowded.

Dr. Bond admits he is not now at all easy as to the condition of these houses, but has done his best under the circumstances.

Even the registration of such houses is not at all easy. Only 30 houses in the parish are on the register, tho' there evidently shd. be hundreds, & every fresh registration is opposed. The doctor is at present trying to get a considerable number of houses in the Italian quarter put on the register, but fears he shall not succeed. Only one house in Eagle St. is registered, & none (I understand) in Dean St or Leigh St.; these houses, says the doctor, are gradually being turned into warehouses, but a number of them are yet crowded with families.

Change, however, goes on quickly in the district, with or without intervention of the sanitary

authority, & it is perhaps knowledge of this fact
wh. has made the Housing Act an absolutely
dead letter here. Last year's voluntary
demolitions or rebuildings include:

- Dove Court, 5, 6, 7, 8, demolished to ground floor.
- Half Moon Court, 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, and 15 and 17 Portpool Lane. New premises have been erected on the site.
- Portpool Lane, 1 and 2. New premises built.
- Cranleigh Buildings, Brooke's Market. New buildings erected, comprising 12 tenements.
- Baldwin's Gardens. Several houses opposite Evelyn Buildings have been demolished, and Messrs. Sage's new premises erected on the site.
- Great Saffron Hill, East of Hatton Yard. Workshops, &c., have been and are being erected.
- Saffron Court. House demolished.
- Mitre Court, Hatton Garden, new premises built.
- Leather Lane. 35 and 36, rebuilt.
- Charles Street. 13, 14, 15 and 38 demolished. New premises and stables built.
- 11, Kirby Street, rebuilt.
- 45, Clerkenwell Road, rebuilt.
- 115, Charterhouse Street, rebuilt.
- St. John's Street, 3, 5 and 7. Mr. Harris' new premises built.
- 3 and 4, Peter's Lane, demolished, and stables built on the site.
- 21, Glasshouse Yard, rebuilt.
- Birkbeck Bank. Part of new premises erected.
- 125, 126, 127, 128, Holborn, demolished for rebuilding.
- 88, High Holborn, demolished, and being rebuilt.

Houses have also been demolished in Sandland St.
Froggs Inn Passage, Kingsgate St., & Dean St.
Under the Public Health Act the
following were dealt with: -

CLOSING ORDERS UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH (LONDON)
ACT, 1891.

- Gray's Inn Passage, Nos. 1 and 2.
- Richbell Place, Nos. 2, 3, 4, and 5.
- Emerald Street, Nos. 6, 8, and 12.
- Red Lion Street, No. 26.
- Charles Street, No. 15.

1 and 2, Gray's Inn Passage have been made fit for human habitation, and are again occupied.

The above houses in Richbell Place, with Nos. 9 and 11, Emerald Street, are about to be demolished.

15, Charles Street, has also been demolished, and rebuilding begun.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

18, Fulwood's Rents, Holborn	...	...	...	50 lodgers.
20, Fulwood's Rents,	"	...	...	114 "
40, Eagle Street,	"	...	...	50 "
7, Castle Street,	"	...	...	57 "
12, Took's Court,	"	...	...	70 "
13, Took's Court,	"	...	...	61 "
19, Fulwood's Rents,	"	...	...	32 "
4, Greville Street,	"	...	...	55 "
7, Little Saffron Hill,	"	...	...	12 "
65, Mount Pleasant,	"	...	...	9 "
39, Hatton Wall,	"	...	...	101 "
28, Red Lion Square,	"	...	...	70 "

These are under the supervision of the London County Council.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There is a large and increasing number of factories and workshops in the District.

Many more of these have this year been inspected, and the sanitary defects have been remedied.

Mr. Freeman has inspected as many as 1015 workrooms of these premises in the part of the District east of the Gray's Inn Road.

The Factory Inspectors of the Home Office have supplied us with information concerning a few of these.

House inspection

Model blocks

House to house inspection is being gradually taken in hand, the Foot & Drags Act are pretty well enforced, & altogether a good deal has been done since Mr B. took office. Particularly has he been successful in stopping the sale of diseased meat at the market shops, etc. until his advent went on unchecked.

~~The district is still behindhand in~~

Good work has also been done in connection with inferior blocks of buildings (such as Quaker Buildings, Duncan Bldg. &c) by putting in force the provisions of the Customs & Inland Revenue Act. Under these Acts the owners obtain a considerable reduction in their taxes on producing a satisfactory certificate from the med. officer. This has been an advantage of to enforce sanitary improvement.

The district is still behindhand in its registration & inspection of ^{work-houses} ~~workshops~~ workshops, etc.; it has no battery or ~~light~~; has given its electric light into private hands; & depends very

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much on the contractor (as for dust-removal
& disinfecting work), but there are many signs
of change for the better.

City - Dr Saunders, medical officer.

Good record of work.

1897
Dr W. Sedgwick Saunders, whom I saw at his office, 13 Queen St. E.C., has been in practice in the City 45 years, & med. officer for the City for 24 years. Tho' elderly, he is active & energetic, prides himself on an active connection with City movements (such as Finsbury Library, of wh. he claims to have been originator & first chairman), & also on the independent manner in wh. he carries out his duties, ignoring the occasional approaches of prominent members of the Corporation in cases concerning the property of themselves or friends.

Under the late Commissioners of Sewers, Dr S. appears to have had a fairly free hand, & his reports (of wh. I obtained the last 4) show evidence of much satisfactory & steady improvement, tho' not recording any clearances under the Housing of Working Classes Act. The Public Health Act has, however, been fully enforced, & bye laws ^{drawn} for houses let in lodgings, factories & workshops, bakeries, dairies, slaughterhouses, &c., & registration & inspection systematically undertaken.

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House to house inspection also proceeds reg-
 ularly; underground conveniences have been largely
 multiplied; a great deal done in checking the
 sale of bad meat or adulterated food. Whilst
 street improvements have proceeded rapidly.
 On ^{most} each of these points information is
 subjoined, save that relating to street works,
 wh. Mr. Ross, the City Engineer (on whom I also
 called) has promised to furnish me.

Area of City, 672 acres. Night population
 31711. Day population, about 330000.

Birth rate 16.2. Death rate 19.3.
 Infant mortality 109 per 1000 - very low.

In his last 2 annual reports Mr S. has
 given a map (as subjoined) showing demolitions effected
 during the year & the progress of house-to-house
 inspection. A good deal of old & indifferent
 property has disappeared in recent years, but there
 is still some wh. shd. be demolished. But they
 are very unhelpful to owners of this property, leaving

area & population

Births &

deaths.

Housing &
 Sanitation.

Demolitions.



CORPORATION OF LONDON.



House-to-house Inspection.

Difficulty of Sanitary work in City.

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there are a certain class of poor people who require cheap dwellings in the City, & so long as the owners carry out the requirements of the doctor they are allowed to go on. But if they are obstinate or won't do what is wanted, they come down on them very heavily.

House-to-house inspection is being very thoroughly carried out, full particulars being obtained of every room, office, chamber, &c., with names of tenants, lessors, owners, &c., & so it proceeds slowly. About one-third of the area, comprising some 2500 houses, has now been covered. The City, says the doctor, is like 3 towns one above the other. The work of inspection

...is necessarily more onerous than with poorer dwellings, and entails numerous appointments with owners, architects, builders, and others. It is not an uncommon thing for an Inspector to have as many as ten of such places to visit in a single day. This portion of the work has been steadily increasing during the last few years, and absorbs much of the time of the Inspectors.

It has been objected that the City of London

is only one square mile, and that therefore the necessary operations of the Sanitary Department are restricted to this area; but a moment's reflection will dispose of this fallacy when we remember the conditions under which

the City is occupied during working hours. We have only to point to the construction of the business premises—the piling of one floor over another for many stories high, each floor being occupied by separate occupiers, forming in itself a distinct tenancy, having all the rights and privileges of an independent building, and claiming as much attention from every branch of our municipal system as if it stood alone—to show that such a contention is not only misleading and illogical, but absurd. It would, in my opinion, be a fair and moderate estimate to put the superficial area over which we have jurisdiction at **four square miles** instead of one. We have in fact, to deal with about 28,000 separate tenancies with a day population of 301,384, whereas in the Parish of Kensington there are only 23,000 inhabited houses for 166,321 persons.

The following is a summary of work done last year in this direction:—

**SUMMARY OF HOUSE-TO-HOUSE INSPECTIONS.
1897.**

		Number of Houses Inspected.	Defects found.	Defects remedied.	New Drains laid.	New W.C.'s.	Premises closed.	Skips provided.	New Flushing Cisterns fixed.
West District	..	181	452	437	31	96	—	16	79
Middle	..	91	177	175	8	27	—	4	25
East	..	201	502	423	51	111	—	4	119
Total	..	473	1,131	1,035	90	234	—	24	223

650 houses let in lodgings were visited with a view to registration, if found desirable; & 500 premises visited in order to obtain abatement of smoke, but efforts in this last direction were attended with poor success. Saw weak & many difficulties in way.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

8,733 Inspections were made. These include the original defects discovered by the Inspectors in the discharge of their daily duty, as well as the re-inspection of the same property during the execution of the works required to remedy the same.

Improvements were effected at 1,109 places, including the adoption of entirely new schemes of **internal** drainage and re-arrangement of lavatory conveniences from plans prepared by the Sanitary Inspectors and approved by me.

Some of the largest establishments in the City have been so dealt with; the drawings connected with these improvements are carefully preserved at Cotton Street for future reference.

944 "Orders" were made to abate nuisances arising from defective drains, noxious trades, neglect of dung-pits, fried-fish shops, dirty bakehouses, indecent overcrowding, underground dwellings, &c., &c.

The above figures are lower than in former years, owing to the large amount of time given in the latter portion of the year to the registration of houses let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family, a work necessitated by the requirements of your recent Bye-Laws for the regulation of this class of property (see Report, 1896).

Sanitary staff.

Infectious Disease.

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SANITARY STAFF,
1897.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND PUBLIC ANALYST.

SAUNDERS, WM. SEDGWICK	Date of Appointment. June, 1874.
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SANITARY CLERK.

TURNER, HOWARD BLAKE	June, 1877.
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SANITARY INSPECTORS.

HILLS, ARTHUR REGINALD	1st Class,	April, 1888.
GATHERCOLE, WM. HENRY JOSEPH	" "	May, 1891.
MAY, WILLIAM HUSSEY	" "	May, 1891.

SIMMONS, EDWARD JOHN	2nd Class,	June, 1892.
ROBBINS, FRANCIS JOSEPH	" "	Sept., 1892.
JOHNSON, HENRY	" "	Oct., 1895.
BENSON, JOHN (Special Smoke Nuisances, etc.)	...	May, 1890.

INSPECTORS OF SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND MEAT.

TERRETT, GEORGE PATRICK (Senior)	...	May, 1881.
LEESON, JOHN	...	Dec., 1890.
SHARP, OWEN	...	May, 1892.
JENKINS, HARRY	...	April, 1896.
DOWN, WILLIAM EDWARD	...	July, 1896.
EGLIN, WILLIAM	...	July, 1896.

KEEPER OF THE MORTUARY AND ENGINEER IN CHARGE.

*McDONNELL, JOHN	...	Dec., 1897.
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LABOURERS.

THOMPSON, GEORGE (Condemned Meat Shed)	...	May, 1893.
LEE, ROBERT (General Duties)	...	Oct., 1894.

Very prompt action is taken in all cases of infectious disease - patient removed to hospital, other residents in house taken to the shelter, houses, clothing, &c. disinfected, apparel destroyed where thought desirable, & new supplied at

Dust removal.

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expense of sanitary authority.

The skip system for the removal of refuse was adopted experimentally in 1892, and has been gradually extended until at the end of 1897 no less than 747 had been supplied at the public expense. So far the system has been confined almost exclusively to property of the tenement classes, to the great comfort, convenience and cleanliness of the occupants, who are spared the nuisance of having either to go to a public dust-bin, which was generally a public abomination, or to have their rooms and passages littered with dust for want of proper receptacles.

It would be a great advantage from a public health point of view if the adoption of this plan could be extended to the whole of the City, which would ensure a more prompt and regular removal of refuse by the scavengers, but as this would involve considerable expense, some arrangement should be made with the occupiers for the hire or purchase of skips in houses above a given rating;

Daily & efficient removal is found in City.

Cleaning Courts, &c.

Artisans' Dwellings.

SUMMER FLUSHING OF COURTS, ETC.

The customary flushing of the crowded and poorest parts of the City during the hot months was carried out, followed by the use of

deodorants in the channels running through the courts and alleys, etc.

Fifty-two places were so treated in the East District; *sixty* in the Middle District; and *sixty-two* in the West District. Total 174.

The entrances to *forty-nine* courts were cleansed and lime-washed at the public expense, viz.: *thirteen* in the East District; *eighteen* in the Middle District; and *eighteen* in the West District. ~~The details of this work will be found in Appendix.~~

In 1876, following the passing of the Artisans' Dwellings Act, the City authorities obtained a site in Houndsditch, at a cost of £120,000, & erected therein artisans' dwellings, costing £90,000.

These buildings accommodate a population of 1,066 persons, about 53 per cent. being adults, and 47 per cent. children.

The death rate was 16·9 per 1,000 per annum [of which 27·8 per cent. were children

under 5 years of age] as compared with 15.4 in Peabody Buildings.

Deaths of children under one year to 1,000 births was 93, as against 109 for the City generally and 137.3 in Peabody Buildings. [Table C in Appendix.]

The number of births was 43, viz: 23 males and 20 females.

The Birth Rate is high in our dwellings, viz.: 40.3 per 1,000, as against 16.3 for the whole of the City, and 34.9 in Peabody Buildings.

For the *fourth* year in succession no *illegitimate* children were registered as born in these dwellings, which should be regarded as highly satisfactory.

Recently an extension well has been sunk to supply these buildings, involving, says the doctor, an expense of £200 or £300 a year to save £80.

Factories & Workshops

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS.

Her Majesty's Home Office Inspectors, working under the above Acts, notified 104 cases; of these, 51 related to premises about to be occupied as workshops, 37 changes of premises.

Special attention in the middle of the year was given to work-places in Wood Street, it having been alleged by a writer in the public press that in that neighbourhood would be found one or two places where the interference of the Sanitary Authority was desirable.

Upon enquiry as to the probability of identifying the places referred to, H.M. Inspector gave instructions for the whole of the factories, work-rooms and work-places in Wood Street to be visited by the Government Inspectors, who alone are possessed of an official list of such places, with the result that these gentlemen discovered several houses which were in their opinion below the standard required by the later Factory Acts.

These cases were handed over to the City sanitary inspectors, with the result that defects in 34 premises were put right.

Diseased meat.

During the year 1897 there has been a further increase in the quantity of meat delivered at the Central Markets, the weight representing 12,763 tons 10 cwts. $3\frac{1}{2}$ qrs., or, say 3·3 per cent. in excess of 1896. This will be seen by the following figures, collated mainly from the reports of the Market Superintendent, Mr. N. Stephens, to which I have added the ratio of sound to unsound meat, including in both instances the 24 years I have held my present office.

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MEAT SUPPLIES, 1870 to 1897.

Year.	General Supply.			Seizures by Inspectors.			% of Bad Meat to Good.
	Tons.	cwt.	qrs.	Tons.	cwt.	qrs.	
1870	142,038	6	3	56	3	1	·039
1871	147,491	3	2	59	2	0	·040
1872	154,045	17	2	87	5	2	·057
1873	151,366	17	3	79	14	3	·052
1874	157,628	18	1	193	18	2	·123
1875	164,450	8	0	153	1	1	·093
1876	176,162	17	0	238	2	2	·135
1877	197,631	16	2	198	19	0	·100
1878	195,993	10	2	180	18	0	·092
1879	212,987	14	0	258	4	3	·121
1880	218,790	6	3	262	19	3	·120
1881	224,677	19	3	503	12	3*	·224
1882	211,461	15	0	175	16	0	·083
1883	223,085	8	0	212	4	1	·095
1884	230,873	1	1	260	7	3	·113
1885	243,296	14	3	214	0	2	·088
1886	250,831	12	1	276	8	2	·110
1887	259,383	12	3	261	8	1	·101
1888	263,519	16	1	228	0	1	·086
1889	276,429	4	2	234	18	1	·085
1890	299,733	15	0	419	2	3	·139
1891	307,519	19	3	476	12	1	·155
1892	323,085	6	0	569	13	3	·176
1893	318,163	1	1	608	9	3	·193
1894	340,956	16	2	430	0	2	·126
1895	347,283	3	0	598	19	0	·173
1896	380,543	11	1	914	14	3	·243
1897	393,307	2	0	918	3	3	·233

* The large amount of seizures in this year was due to a series of accidents to the Steamers bringing refrigerated meat to this Country. In the S.S. "Celtic" alone, no less than one hundred tons became putrid in a single voyage, and were removed by the Inspectors.

Training of Inspectors

The Inspectors of Meat and Slaughter-houses in the City of London are recruited exclusively from men who have had experience as butchers, and are well acquainted with the slaughtering of animals in its various phases. When a vacancy occurs no candidate for appointment is presented to the Committee of Selection who has not previously passed a satisfactory examination before me, showing that he possesses at least a rudimentary knowledge of the more ordinary diseases of animals used for the food of man, and the common appearances of wholesome and sound meat, as distinguished from those produced by disease during life, and after slaughtering.

It would be futile to pretend that a work of this magnitude could be performed by **five Meat Inspectors** in a way to satisfy scientific critics, and the time will assuredly come when considerable additions to our present staff of officers will be forced upon the attention of the Public Health Department.

Indeed, the work could not be got through at all without the friendly co-operation of the vendors.

Dr. S. makes a calculation to show what time is required to properly examine each carcass, & continues: -

Usefulness of the work.

Following, therefore, the plan at present in operation, and calculating the total daily supply of **1,285** tons as sheep of **56** lbs. each, we find that in a day of nine hours an Inspector would be able to examine **135** sheep, while for the closer observation of every carcass deposited for sale daily at the Central Markets, as determined by the experiment above detailed, no less than **380** Inspectors would be required.

This estimate might be dismissed as a *reductio ad absurdum* if we omit from consideration the methods adopted in some Continental Cities for the inspection of meat. Thus, at Berlin, we are informed in the *Journal of Comparative Pathology* for June, 1890, that over **250** persons are employed in the business at the Central Abattoir, comprising a Director-in-Chief, **19** Veterinary Surgeons, and **6** Assistant Veterinary Surgeons, irrespective of **15** additional Veterinary Surgeons, whose duty it is to inspect carcasses slaughtered **outside the City** and deposited at the markets for sale:—so that if Berlin, with a population of 1,677,135,

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requires **250** skilled Inspectors, exclusive of the **15** employed outside the Public Market, it follows the Metropolis, with a population of 4,411,710 [as shewn by the last census], would require **657** Inspectors, the size of London being **2.63** times larger than Berlin.

It is manifest, therefore, that with our existing methods the five Officers on duty at Smithfield cannot make a minute survey of every carcase and piece of meat passing through the Central Markets.

One great disadvantage with which our Inspectors have to contend in distinguishing between meat from diseased animals and that which has become unwholesome from commencing putrefaction, arises from the fact that at our Central Markets they only see **dead meat**, *i.e.*, carcases quartered and dressed for sale, from which all the viscera have been removed, for although there are distinctive characters pertaining to both conditions it is sometimes very embarrassing to differentiate the one from the other, and especially so when

Bad fish.

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PROSECUTIONS AGAINST SENDERS OF BAD MEAT.

There have been no less than 17 prosecutions instituted against senders of bad meat during the year, a conviction being obtained in 16 cases. In one the defendant was sent for three months' hard labour, without the option of a fine; in the other 15 fines amounting to £335, exclusive of costs, were inflicted; the defendant, however, in three instances, accepted the alternative of imprisonment, which reduces the amount of fines recovered to £205.

BILLINGSGATE FISH MARKET.

Table shewing Weight of Fish Delivered, Fish seized as Unsound, and percentage of Fish Condemned to that Delivered, during each month of the year 1897.

	Weight of Fish Delivered.		Total.	Weight of Fish Condemned.			Percentage of Fish Condemned to that Delivered.
	By Land.	By Water.					
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Cwt.	Qrs.	
JANUARY	9,177	2,274	11,451	10	11	0	$\frac{3}{32}$ or 1 ton in 1185·403 tons.
FEBRUARY	11,265	3,177	14,442	71	13	1	$\frac{1}{2}$.. 201·528 ..
MARCH	11,331	3,409	14,740	54	14	1	$\frac{2}{8}$.. 269·408 ..
APRIL	11,316	3,831	15,147	31	14	0	$\frac{7}{32}$.. 477·823 ..
MAY	11,217	4,921	16,138	81	17	2	$\frac{1}{2}$.. 197·106 ..
JUNE	10,545	4,094	14,639	176	15	3	$1\frac{1}{8}$.. 82·805 ..
JULY	11,725	3,672	15,397	167	17	1	$1\frac{3}{32}$.. 91·724 ..
AUGUST	12,330	4,366	16,696	135	14	1	$1\frac{3}{8}$.. 123·025 ..
SEPTEMBER	12,921	4,177	17,098	88	15	3	$\frac{33}{64}$.. 192·572 ..
OCTOBER	11,694	3,570	15,264	57	3	2	$\frac{3}{8}$.. 266·969 ..
NOVEMBER	11,031	3,520	14,551	59	13	3	$1\frac{3}{32}$.. 243·786 ..
DECEMBER	6,423	3,265	9,688	22	1	3	$\frac{7}{32}$.. 438·371 ..
TOTAL	130,975	44,276	175,251	958	12	0	or 1 ton in 182·818 tons.

no baths or open spaces.

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The City has no public baths or wash-houses, or no open spaces under its jurisdiction, & its electric lighting is in private hands.

The met. officers report gives a good deal of information, including a list showing every death in every street, with cause of death, &c., but I have culled all that seemed pertinent to this inquiry.

City. - Public Improvements.

Mr. Ross, Engineer to Commissioners of Sewers, has given me the reports of himself & predecessors for the past 10 years, & they show that an enormous amount of work has been done in improving the City streets. The report for 1889 gives a list of 500 works of improvement carried out since 1851 (of course several works may refer to one street), & says:-

The total number of public-ways of all classes now existing in the City is 731, and the Commission has effected improvements in 262 of them. With the exception of King William Street, Moorgate Street, the Holborn Viaduct and approaches, and Cannon Street, improvements carried out by the Corporation, and also Queen Victoria Street, which was constructed by the Metropolitan Board of Works, although designed by the Corporation, there is not a main thoroughfare in the City which the Commission has not to some extent, and in many to a large extent, improved, and every Ward of the City has had its share of expenditure for this purpose.

During the past 38 years the Commission has expended out of the Consolidated Rate of the City, a gross sum of upwards of £3,900,000 for improvements. Towards these the Metro-

politan Board has contributed something like £591,000, which amount, together with that received by the Commission for the sale of surplus lands, &c., amounting to £1,121,000

leaves £2,188,000 net spent from City rates. Each years report since 1889 is a record of many additional improvements, & the report for last year, not in any way an exceptional one, states that

Some idea of the magnitude of the improvement business conducted by the Commission may be gathered from the fact that claims amounting in the aggregate to about £241,000 were negotiated during the year.

The amount these claims were settled for was about £185,500, whilst surplus lands and other property to the value of £34,175 were also disposed of.

STREET CLEANSING,
STREET WATERING & WASHING,
DUSTING, & REMOVAL OF TRADE
REFUSE.

The work of the Commissioners in connection with keeping the streets clean, and the removal of dust and trade refuse, is a very important one, as it necessarily greatly affects the health and comfort of the citizens. Its

Care of Streets.

extent can be understood when it is considered that *over a million people* and nearly a *hundred thousand carriages* enter and leave the City daily, and that out of that number more than *three hundred thousand persons* pass the day within the City.

The mode in which the work is carried out may be briefly described as follows:—

The whole of the carriage-ways are swept daily, and the main thoroughfares in wet weather frequently squeegeed two or three times during the day.

In addition to this, the street-orderly system is carried out in all main thoroughfares, as well as in some of the secondary ones. The average number of boys and youths employed upon this during the working days of the week was 180.

The work of cleansing the main thoroughfares begins at 8 o'clock in the evening, when the carriage traffic is nearly over, and in almost all cases is finished by 8 or 9 a.m. on the following day. The street orderlies commence their work at 7.30 a.m. after the streets have been swept, and cease their work at 4.30 p.m. in the winter, and 5 p.m. in the summer. Street orderlies are also kept at work in the

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extent can be understood when it is considered that *over a million people* and nearly a *hundred thousand carriages* enter and leave the City daily, and that out of that number more than *three hundred thousand persons* pass the day within the City.

evening on the main thoroughfares until 8 p.m. in the summer and 7.30 p.m. in the winter, with very beneficial results.

In addition to this almost continuous cleansing by hand labour, the carriage-way pavements, when the weather permits, and their condition renders it useful to do so, are washed by means of jet and hose. This, in the City, can only be done late at night, when there is scarcely any carriage traffic. The streets were last year more frequently washed than they had been in previous years. In the winter months, when this washing can be most usefully employed, great discretion is needed in using the water on account of the possibility of frost occurring.

The permission given to the inhabitants of placing their dust and refuse in tubs and boxes at the edge of the footways, whence it is taken away by the carts of the Commission, is greatly abused, and the streets are frequently made dirty by the refuse being placed in unsuitable

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receptacles and after the stipulated time for collection.

The courts and alleys inhabited by the poorer classes were cleansed daily by the scavengers, and were also washed with jet and hose some twice and some three times a week between May and October, many more courts having been washed than formerly was the case. A number of other places were for special reasons washed nightly throughout the year.

The quantity of water used during the year for washing the streets and courts was about 26,329,666 gallons, the number of nights when it was used was about 261.

The foot-pavements were swept whenever it was found necessary, and in wet weather they were cleaned with squeegees during the day.

The expense generally of this department

See back

has largely increased of late years, owing to the more frequent collection of refuse, the increase of wages, and to the limited time in which the work has to be done.

The substitution of movable iron "skips," or receptacles, for the public dustbins fixed in the various courts and alleys has been continued and extended to a considerable number of places in the City. Up to the end of the year 747 of these have been supplied, by order of the Sanitary Committee, to householders in various courts and alleys.

The quantity of refuse removed during the year, according to the returns of the Superintendent of Street Cleansing, amounted to 43,725 van loads taken from premises, and 30,065 loads of sweepings off public-ways, making a total of 73,790 loads, which is at the rate of 1,419 per week, or about 237 per day during six days of the week, there being no removal of dust or sweeping of the thoroughfares on Sundays.

Dust destructor.

The Destructor apparatus at Lett's Wharf was in constant operation both day and night throughout the year, with the exception of a stoppage of $23\frac{1}{2}$ days for repairs and

cleaning flues. The number of days, therefore, it was at work was $341\frac{1}{2}$, including Sundays and Bank Holidays. The number of loads destroyed was 23,750, which produced a residuum of 5,931 loads of ashes or clinkers, more or less hard, but valueless, and for the removal of which the Commissioners had to pay.

Mr. Friday, R.O., Holborn.

District & classes relieved.

July 19

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Mr. Friday, a relieving officer of the Holborn Union, has had much experience as a Poor Law official. He has been an infirmary steward, a workhouse master, & was for several years Supt. of the Holborn Union Schools at Hitcham. ^(it being a joint appointment) The latter berth he gave up on the death of his wife, & then took his present position, which he has not long held. There is not much of the official about him, & he seems to work on sympathetic, common-sense lines, tho' not a man of any particular intelligence.

Mr. F's district is the northern part of St. Giles, & he has to deal with a fairly decent class of poor, including many old people who have been in receipt of out-relief for years. The rougher element are in the southern part (Mr. Smith's district). He has a number of widows & the usual crop of "ins & outs" - men who take their discharge ostensibly to look for work, but never do so. Discharged soldiers are also a difficulty brought about by the short service system. A large proportion of them have some physical defect (rupture, &c.) & so are unfit for hard work. Even some

who have been wounded in action, or so incapacitated, have no pension, wh. he thinks is wrong. Mentioned a case of a man wounded twice in the Zulu War - now pensionless, penniless & disabled.

A most troublesome class are young single women who have children. Have no sense of shame, or are sassy. Guardians take advantage of the new Act sometimes, & take the children away altogether. Admits this may be an encouragement to the mothers, but it saves the children.

The hardest cases he thinks are those in wh. a man loses the help of his wife - she is taken away to hospital, asylum, &c. - & there is nobody to mind the children. Relatives are not much use - they refuse to mind the children in such cases unless he is of their own set. Fewer cases where the man has to be obliged to give up his work to mind the children, or has come upon the Poor Law. He ed. not afford to pay for the minding.

Relief is administered by means of Committees. In theory every Guardian may sit on each Committee,

Character of administration.

out relief.

but in practice the members mostly confine themselves to their own part of the Union. The result is uneven administration. Much more relief is given in Chelmsford than in St. Luke's, altho' the need is no greater. Some of the Chelmsford members (such as a Mr. Walton) would give out-relief in every case.

The general policy is to give out relief to every deserving person; it is in many cases very difficult to get at the truth regarding applicants - you can ~~never~~^{seldom} ~~hardly~~ get a straightforward answer from them - & they get the benefit of the doubt.

The Guardians will not bring anyone into the house if they can help it. They are not so strict as he & his fellow officers wd like them to be. He is sure ~~many~~ of the old people now getting on wd be better in the "house", but they don't like the idea, & the Guardians do not press them. The "house" is very comfortable; the inmates do light ~~fasten~~ work, but no set tasks.

Efforts are made to get contributions from those legally liable - never from anyone else - but the old people will not tell about their children.

The relief given is not adequate - 2/6 or 3/- -
or must be supplemented somehow, tho' in some cases
they do not know how.

In medical relief cases the policy until
lately used to be to send people to the infirmary
where nourishments were required, but owing to the
infirmary being full the order now is to treat
cases at home wherever possible - not a good
policy, he thinks. Nourishments intended for the
invalid are sometimes intercepted & convenience
for proper nursing is lacking.

Guardians, it is needless to say, do not
work with C.O.S., but Mr. F. thinks they are
getting slightly in touch with them. He got the
Society to intervene in one case - that of a very
respectable widow. They got her a sewing machine,
& she is doing comfortably.

Mr. F. complains that a lot of people come
into the Union from Shoreditch, where administration is

Medical relief.

C.O.S.

Influx from Shoreditch.

cause of pauperism.

Improved Treatment,

Children.

very rigid. Some of the people have openly avowed that they moved from Shoreditch in order to get out-relief. Thinks a uniform system throughout London very desirable.

Imprudence he thinks a leading cause of pauperism, but wages are so small & irregular that this is not surprising.

Mr. Findlay recognises great improvement all round in the treatment of the indoor poor, especially the children, & thinks credit is due to the officials for what has been done. The officials of the last 15 to 20 years have had to overcome a great deal of previous neglect & inefficiency. Of this he mentioned some instances. Previous to his appointment at Hitchenham, the care of the children was left largely to Workhouse ^{ministers} ^(some of them badly distressed) for long he had to put up with these as assistants. But gradually he got them replaced by a competent staff.

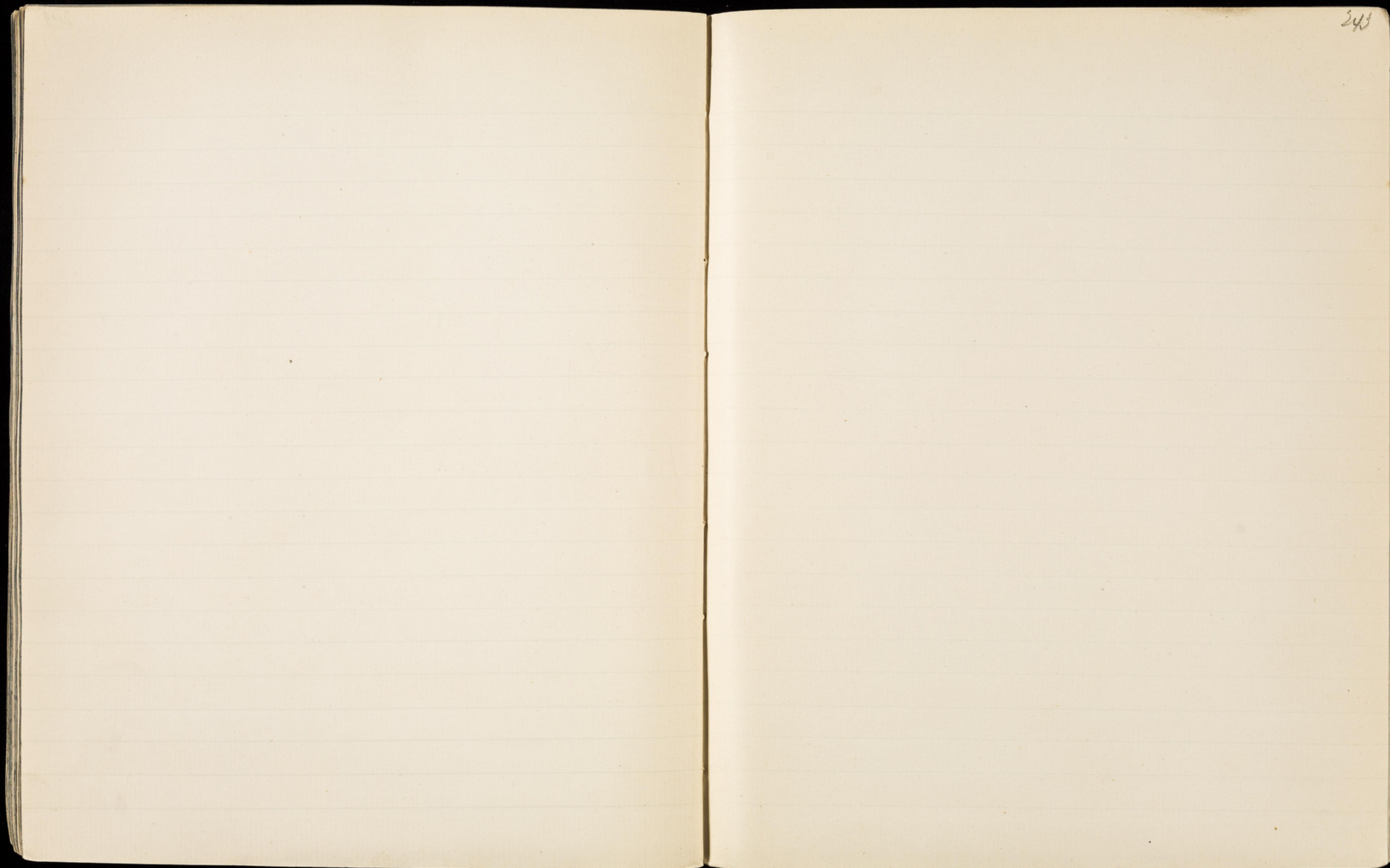
The children almost invariably do well, & have no trace of pauperism - i.e., those properly trained in the

schools. The "ins or outs" are of course on different
or troublesome class. The children wd. be all right
if it wasn't for the parents. They are the great
difficulty.

Mr. F. is a middle-aged, medium-sized man,
with full beard turning grey, & an open, almost
innocent-looking countenance.

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