Districts 5, 6, 7 & 8, 9, 10

Shoreditch to Bedl. Green

Local Government (2)

B 235

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Medical Officers Reports - Mile End

1895

Births & Deaths.

Infectious Disease

House Inspection.

Workshops. - " -

Local Gov
10.11.12

Mile End. - Reports of Medical Officer.

1895.

Birth rate, 38.9. Death rate 22.5. Compares favorably with rest of East End.

Small pox imported from S.A. shelter in Whitechapel. About 50 cases - very mild type. Authorities fully prepared for the epidemic & dealt with it very effectively & promptly by isolation & disinfection.
Diphtheria & measles prevalent.

House to house inspection completed. Drainage greatly improved. Overcrowding of workshops abated.

Dual control of factories & workshops unsatisfactory. Local authority looks after sanitation; factory inspector after fencing of machinery, overcrowding, overtime & ventilation in the case of factories; but in regard to workshops

the Local Authorities are responsible for the enforcement of proper and sufficient sanitary conveniences, regard being had to the number and sex of the workpeople, and also for the prevention of overcrowding and the proper ventilation of workrooms. The Act provides that should the Factory Inspector in course of his inspection of workshops note any insanitary conditions he is required to report the same to the Local Sanitary Authorities, and it is their duty to cause the same to be remedied and

Mile End. Medical Officer.

to report what steps have been taken by their officers in regard to them within one month. I may say with respect to this important section of the Act, I have already had an interview with the Factory Inspector of the Home Office, and arranged a system of reporting periodically on these matters.

In regard to the Workshops in the parish, the doctor says that a large proportion are

separate buildings, and they are situated in the rear of dwelling-houses in most cases. When they form part of a house it is usually the top floor which has been adapted for the purpose of workrooms. It is a common practice to rent a house ostensibly as a dwelling, and immediately convert one or more of the rooms into a workshop. Numerous instances of this have been brought to our notice. The trades which are carried on in these places are almost entirely tailoring, but the proportion of the boot and slipper manufacturers is increasing, the employer and employees in nine-tenths of the cases being aliens.

The number of workshops in our district has increased by about 60 during the last two years. We have now 280 on our register, exclusive of Laundries and Bakehouses, which have during the last year been inspected and re-inspected; and where any contravention of the 1891 Act was discovered, notices were served by your inspectors, which had in every case the effect of securing compliance with the law without recourse to legal proceedings. The situation of the workshops was up to the last few years almost exclusively confined to the West Wards, but they are now beginning to appear in the East Centre and North Wards.

Legal proceedings

Proceedings under the Public Health act were taken in 45 cases & under Housing of Working

Water Famine.

Mile End. Medical Officer. 5

Classes Act in 30 cases.

The report reviews the crisis of the Water famine (already given) & steps taken to cope with it, & in regard to the Govt. inquiry subsequently held says:

It must, however, in fairness be pointed out that the extremly short notice given by the Hackney Vestry to Medical Officers of Health, to submit their evidence, rendered it impossible to prepare the statistics and facts, with reference to the injurious effects upon the public health. As a matter of fact the effects in many cases would not become known until weeks after the supply had been reinstated.

The following tables relate to the period when the supply was cut short, together with the subsequent three weeks.

Death-rate per 1,000 for the weeks ending—

	June 22	June 29	July 6	July 13	July 20	July 27	Aug. 3	Aug. 10
London.....	15·1	16·9	18·0	21·0	23·7	23·0	21·4	19·0
Mile End.....	24·7	22·6	29·0	30·8	39·9	23·7	28.4	27·4

Table shewing Death-rate for the purpose of comparison during the eight weeks ending September 1st for the three years as under:—

	1893 Death-rate		1894 Death-rate		1895 Death-rate	
	All Diseases	Zymotic Diseases	All Diseases	Zymotic Diseases	All Diseases	Zymotic Diseases
London	21·1	5·0	16·5	2.9	19·7	5·2
Mile End Old Town	20·1	4·5	16·9	3·3	28·0	8·1

Unsound food.

1896 report.

Births & deaths.

Diseases

Mile End. Medical Officer 7

The report also gives details of the wholesale seizure by the Sanitary Officers of tons of corned beef, salmon, lobsters, &c. The premises were kept under observation for months, & a great deal of trouble taken, but the end justified it, for

> The jury found the defendants Guilty, and Sir Charles Hall, the Recorder, in passing sentence said, "that he was convinced that for the last four months at any rate, these persons had been guilty of retailing unsound food to the public, well knowing it to be unsound, and to the great danger of the public, the fact on their own admissions that they had turned over £40,000 in four months shewed to what extent this trade had been carried on, and said he should not be doing justice to the public at large by imposing a less sentence on each of the prisoners than six months' hard labour."

Report for 1896.

Birth rate, 37.8. Death rate, 19.9 (London 18.2, Eastern districts 21.7).

Diphtheria & scarlet fever very prevalent. The doctor speaks severely of carelessness & ignorance of parents in letting children mix with others in need cases of sc. fever, & thinks severe measures shd.

Efficient Sanitary Work.

Mile End. Medical Officer 9

be taken or prosecutions enforced.

As in the interim, the doctor expresses himself very well satisfied with the way the work of his dept. is carried out :-

> ..u in seeing that the drainage of houses is properly carried out the Inspectors have had to use much tact and discretion in getting the amount of work done which they have, with so little expense to the Vestry. In some districts in the Metropolis the house drainage has cost the Vestries hundreds of pounds, whilst in this Hamlet although proportionately more house drains have been re-constructed it has cost the Vestry comparatively little.
>
> On referring to the appended Table will be found a summary of the work carried out by the Inspectors, which will prove to be of an instructive character and will shew at once that your Inspectors, who are second to none in the Metropolis, have an interest in their work.
>
> On looking at the district as a whole and comparing it with its condition of a few years ago, one cannot help being struck with the vast improvements that have taken place, of course there is a large portion of the district still in an unsatisfactory condition and so I am afraid it always will be, partly owing to the age of the property and the natural decay, and partly owing to the class of tenant occupying it.

[This contrasts with the charge of over-zeal & officiousness made by the Justices, but no doubt this activity means a good deal of extra work for them. J.J

The Doctor reports further prosecutions

issued for year.

Mile End. Medical Officer 11

for exposing unsound food, but this time unsuccessfully. He says:-

the case occupied several days at the Police-court, and a great deal of work was thrown on your officers engaged in getting up the case, and although we were able to prove to the satisfaction of the Magistrate that this food was kept in close proximity to the part of the building used as a cheap eating house, and also that the defendant had previously been engaged in selling tinned meat for food when he had given an undertaking to sell the same for manure, yet it spite of this, because we could not prove that any of this particular lot seized was being used as food, the Magistrate in giving his judgment stated :—

"I have been considering—I was going to say without "any doubt and that degree of certainty which such a "result called for, can I say without any doubt that the "defendant has been guilty of this offence? Well, looking "at the matter and giving the best attention possible I can "to this difficult case, I have come to the conclusion that "I cannot say this with that degree of certainty which "the case requires.

"I accept the defendant's explanation that this large "quantity of bad food was the accumulation from time "to time of consignments which he had, that he might "have been dilatory in the matter, and that he did con- "template selling that to the manure merchants in order "that it might be destroyed, and used as manure.

"I certainly think, in conclusion, that this is a matter "which called for enquiry, especially as the onus, under "the Act of Parliament, is upon the defendant. There- "fore no condemnation can attach to the local authority "in putting this case before me with the care and ability "they have thought proper to employ, and even if a great "deal of expense has been incurred in this enquiry, the "ratepayers must not consider it wasted, because it will "show persons, if there are any persons committing this "offence, that the Sanitary Authority will not only exercise "the vigilance which their officers exercise, but that they "will spare no money and no pains for the purpose of "properly conducting the enquiry. Therefore, I dismiss "the summons."

The Housing Act.

Mile End. Medical Officer 13

The Housing of the Working Classes Act.

The above Act is, as most of you are aware, a most stringent one and its very stringency makes it very slow of locomotion. Its provisions deal with single houses and also groups of houses, with single houses that are unfit for human habitation these either have to be made fit, otherwise they can be shut up and demolished; groups of houses are taken as insanitary areas and are demolished and better structures erected in their place.

I have, during the year made thirty-eight representations to the Sanitary Committee of single houses under the Act, and in 29 cases the houses have by structural improvements been made habitable. One of the houses has been permanently closed and eight have been re-modelled.

With the other part of this Act we have made slow progress. I did hope by this time to have been able to report that the insanitary area, Lomas Building, had been finally dealt with, but at present the matter is at a standstill. During last year a public enquiry was held by an Inspector of the Local Government Board, at the Vestry Hall, as to whether it was an insanitary area under the Act, and after hearing all the evidence, he reported that the Area was an insanitary one and ought to be demolished. The Local Government Board in giving their sanction to the scheme stipulated as a condition, that the Vestry must rebuild to provide for the people displaced (a number something like 60). Representations have been made to the Board stating that there was ample accommodation in the neighbourhood, and asking them to waive the re-housing condition, and so the matter stands. I can only hope that this condition will not be enforced; it seems to the most casual observer absurd to provide for the small number displaced in this manner and would be a waste of the rate-payers' money. If these houses are not demolished under the scheme I shall feel it my duty to make a vigorous attempt to close the houses under the Public Health Act, as some of them are in a disgraceful condition.

Bakehouses.

Lodgings.

Mile End. Medical Officer. 15

Bakehouses.

The bakehouses have been regularly inspected during the past year, and where necessary, orders have been served to cleanse and limewhite the premises. We have 54 bakehouses above ground and 22 underground; speaking generally they are kept in a much more cleanly condition than they were a few years ago, and would compare very favourably with those in the west of the metropolis.

Houses let in Lodgings.

During the present year this matter has again been brought before the Vestry. The County Council submitted a report made by one of their Medical Officers of Health, asking for the Vestry to comment thereon. The report was as to the working of the Bye-laws for regulating houses let in lodgings, in the various districts of London. It may not be known to all of you that under the Sanitary Act of 1866 and also the Public Health Act 1891, every Vestry is bound to make Bye-laws for regulating houses of this class, which means houses that are let to more than one family. From the report it appears that in every London district Bye-laws for the regulation of Houses let in Lodgings were adopted, but only in a limited number of districts has any considerable effort been made to enforce them. The Vestry of the Hamlet of Mile End Old Town was one of the first bodies in London to adopt regulations of this class; some years ago under the Sanitary Act 1866, a certain number of houses were placed under their influence, but the Sanitary staff at that time was so small that a thorough trial was never really made to enforce them. When the Public Health Act 1891 was passed, it became obligatory to those parishes who had not adopted regulations to do so, and the Council wrote to each district urging on them the necessity of at once complying. I find that about 27 districts responded, but only a limited number have as yet put them in practice. But inasmuch as we had the regulations in force it was not necessary to make new regulations under this Act. We have had for some time 174 houses under the regulations, and since the Sanitary staff was augmented we have enforced these Bye-laws. Dr. Hamer in his report says "It is impossible to require precisely the same methods to be adopted in all districts." With this I cordially

Water

East End. Medical Officer 17

agree, and taking our district as a whole, quite two thirds come under the description, but at the same time we have but a comparative few that in my opinion require to be dealt with in this manner. In practice we find the Public Health Act so much simpler to deal with any insanitary conditions than these regulations, although under the latter it is contended that when once a house is placed under these Bye-laws and the necessary notices have been served on the owner and tenants, it is not necessary to repeat them, but to take summary action. We find that this class of tenant is constantly a moving one, and the property frequently changes ownership, we then have to serve fresh notices which makes the proceedings more delayed than by instituting action under the Public Health Act. At the present time I do not see any necessity for further extending the operation of these regulations.

Water Famine.

The question of a constant water supply was again brought home to us in the East End in almost as serious a manner as that in the summer of 1895; when the Local Government enquiry was held in 1895 to ascertain the cause of the failure, we were informed by the East London Water Company that such provision had now been made by enlargement, and new reservoirs, that the intermittent supply would be unnecessary in the future; but here are the facts that in less than twelve months we were again face to face with the same difficulty. In July the water was cut off for many hours in the day, and had it not been for standpipes being fixed in the streets, the inconvenience would have been more serious; as it was for several weeks during very hot weather the drains were imperfectly flushed and in consequence the effluvia from sewer openings was very offensive.

A Committee of influential men, Members of Parliament, County Councillors, and medical men was formed, and a deputation waited on the President of the Local Government Board in order to bring pressure to bear on the Water Company.

See back

Dr Bryett, medical officer, Shoreditch.

Decreasing population.

Births & Deaths.

Shoreditch. Medical Officer. 19

Shoreditch.

Interview with Dr Bryett, medical officer.

Dr Bryett has been here 5 years, & says there has been a remarkable increase of activity in that time. A properly equipped public health dept. has been formed, & the staff increased three-fold, with very satisfactory results as regards the health of the population.

Shoreditch has a decreasing population. The highest nos. were reached in 1861; since then they have gradually declined, & the doctor calculates that, allowing for natural increment, the parish loses about 8000 or 9000 people each year by migration. This decrease is almost entirely in South Shoreditch, & is caused by the demolition of old & crowded property, & the erection of warehouses instead. Haggerston increases steadily & Hoxton slightly.

The parish has a high birth-rate (35.5 agst. 30.2 for all London), &, according to Dr Bryett

a remarkably low, tho' increasing, marriage rate. In his annual report he gives it as 9.8 per 1000, as against 18 for all London, & tries to find some explanations of this. It however only counts the no. of marriages, & overlooks the fact that it takes 2 persons to make a marriage. The rate is therefore double what he thinks, or about 19.5, & so is in excess of the London average.

The death rate also is high, following the usual rule of high birth rate, the infant mortality being 183.3 per 1000 (average for metropolis is 161). Even this is much below the 203.7 of last year, & in keeping with it the death rate generally declined from 23.43 to 21.6. In fact, says the Doctor, the difference between high & low death rate depends almost entirely on infantile mortality.

Sanitary work.

The Sanitary staff, besides the medical officer, consists of a public analyst, a chief inspector & 5 inspectors, clerk, assistant clerk & messenger.

Sanitation - contd

disinfecting officer & 2 assistants, mortuary keeper & caretaker of shelter. The parish is divided into 5 districts, & save for the procuring of food samples, wh. is done by one of the inspectors who has a much smaller area than the rest, each inspector is responsible for all the sanitary work connected with the 3000 H & C premises in his district.

The inspectors "do not have to seek for work." Owing to the very inadequate staff of former days, a great deal of leeway has to be made up, but there has been wonderful improvement of late, & he is satisfied that sanitary matters are now well looked after. The Inspectors' time is mainly taken up with attention to complaints & infectious cases; the mere ascertaining & reporting on the defects is but a small part of their work - it is the constant following up of the work, to see that it is properly done, wh. takes the time. Every job in progress must be visited daily - sometimes 2 or 3 times a day - & the following up of a defective drain, discovered in one house, may lead to defects

Sanitation - contd

Houses closed.

being found a part right in the whole row, last year. In reckons roughly, the Inspectors made from 40 to 50 thousand visits. Large numbers of the old houses in Shoreditch were built without any ventilation beneath the floor; these have to mostly set right now; last year 470 houses had floor ventilation put in. They get a concrete foundation wherever possible, as well as a damp course. It is doubtful if they can legally enforce the concrete, but usually they get it done. On the whole, the work is done with little friction; in only 30 cases was it found necessary to take legal proceedings.

Such time as the Inspectors have to spare - wh. is not much - is devoted to systematic house to house visitation; but this has not yet been far enough to report upon.

The following list comprises the houses which were closed in consequence of the service of sanitary notices, as being unfit for habitation, or in order to enable the necessary works to be executed to put them in a sanitary condition :—

Hoxton Residences	Nos. 9 to 24.
New Norfolk Street	Nos. 4 and 5.
Rivington Street	Nos. 14, 22, 24, and 26.
Sun Street	Nos. 33, 19, and 21.
Hearne Street	Nos. 7 and 9.
Lower John Street	Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7, and 9.
Hoxton Street	No. 219.
Mill Row	No. 70.
Nancy Street	No. 3.

Sanitation - contd

Hoxton Residences

Shoreditch Medical Officer.

In regard to Hoxton Residences, the med. Offr. in his report for 1896. says:—

The serious condition of the dwellings known as Nos. 9 to 24, Hoxton Residences, was brought under my notice in September by the Hon. Secretary of the Christian Institute, Hoxton Market. For several years past they have been under the observation of the Health Department, and efforts have been made to secure effectual measures being taken to abate nuisances, and to keep the dwellings in a clean and wholesome condition. Although something from time to time was attempted by the owner, yet nothing to any purpose was done, and the condition of the residences has drifted on from bad to worse. Latterly there has been litigation in connection with the property, and it was allowed to get into an extremely insanitary condition. On my visit I found that the condition of the dwelling-rooms, stairs, sculleries, and sanitary conveniences of the two blocks containing the 16 suites of rooms had become such as to be a source of danger both to the inmates and to the people in the neighbourhood. Their condition was brought under the notice of the Health Committee, who directed that the necessary steps should be taken to obtain a closing order, and on September 9th a closing order was made by Mr. Cluer, one of the metropolitan magistrates at Worship Street Police Court, against the owner. Efforts were then made to get the people to quit the insanitary premises; they were warned as to the unhealthiness of the dwellings and cautioned as to contravention of the order of the magistrate, but without effect. A few of the families left, but their places were taken by others. The insanitary state of the dwellings was subsequently aggravated through the water being cut off in consequence of the non-payment of the water-rate. The Vestry then decided to proceed under section 5 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, and to enter the premises, and do whatever was necessary in execution of the closing order. After due notice to the inhabitants, on January 4th, 1897, the Vestry officers, with the aid of the police, evicted the 23 families which were in occupation, the doors and windows being fastened and secured, and other necessary measures taken to prevent the dwellings being occupied until such time as they have been made fit for habitation. The legal difficulties with regard to the property have since been arranged, and the work required to render the dwellings habitable is now being proceeded with under the supervision of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Since the publication of this report the work has been completed, & the dwellings are at present in very good order. Steps are now being taken

A Big Improvement Scheme

Workshops

to improve the other blocks – Nos. 1 to 8.

The Vestry have now a big improvement scheme in hand at Nuova Place & Plumber's Row (off East Rd). Under Pt III of the Housing & the Working Classes Act (the great value of wh is that an insanitary area may be cleared at bare market value compensation, & saving the 10% addition of the Lands Clauses Act), 132 houses & shops, wh. had a population of nearly 800, have been cleared, & the Vestry is going to itself erect dwellings on the site (the first local authority in London to undertake such work). The density of population of this spot was 486 to the acre; & the death rate nearly 30. Those displaced were about 600 artisans & labourers & 170 shopkeepers. The scheme is to cost about £55,000, of wh. the L.C.C. gives half. [I shall get further particulars of this from Mr. Robinson – see interview later]

Lists of workshops in the parish are supplied by the Factory Inspectors, & they are all visited. The F. I's report any defect

Houses let in Lodgings.

noticed by them, & in each case a complete examination is made, with the result that some small reported defect often leads to the discovery of things seriously wrong. The most noticeable defect has been want of sufficient w.c. accommodation. Has had sometimes to have 15 to 20 additional w.c's put in one building. Insists on separate W.C's for each sex in all cases — not necessarily on same premises — some very novel arrangements with next door, &c., but these must be the district provision. Some trouble about it but not great. Number of workshops in parish is very large.

Bye laws have been framed, & houses are placed on the register entirely at discretion of Vestry, on his recommendation. No question of class or rent paid. Over 100 of worst houses are on register, & Inspectors keep a constant eye on them. Nearly all proceedings in regard to such houses are taken under Public Health Act, but the value of the bye-laws

Overcrowding.

Water.

Open Spaces

Care of Streets

is that it keeps the houses under immediate supervision, & owners know they are marked & watched. They are useful also in that the duties of lodgers, as well as landlords, are defined.

Not much Jewish crowding. Few lower class Jews live in the parish, tho' many work here.

Not so much trouble as in other East End parishes, because only the smaller part is supplied by E. London Waterworks Co. Have bye-laws to regulate cisterns, but these are not kept as clean as they shd. be.

Several open spaces — Shoreditch & St. John's Churchyard, Goldsmith Sqre playground, &c. The Housing & Open Spaces Committee is constantly on look out for more ground, & is trying to get the Squares thrown open.

Vestry recognises importance of making roadways in poor parts of impervious material.

Dust.

Food Adulteration

asphalte is put down where practicable in poor streets, so that they are washed by every shower. Contributes greatly to cleanliness.

Streets well cond for as a rule.

Some underground conveniences have also been built recently. A great improvement on old method.

Dust removal is under care of Surveyor. The doctor believes the dustmen call at each house once a week. House & trade refuse is burnt in own dust destructor. Road sweepings are barged away.

[Shoreditch has its new dust destructor, electric light works, baths & washhouses, & public library, all on one site – a remarkable piece of enterprise. I hope to get full particulars of these from Dr. Robinson] (See letter)

During the last 5 years there has been a large decrease in the proportion of adulterated food. There have also been many more samples taken, & he is trying to get the number

Unsound Food.

Shoreditch Medical Officer

further increased.

The reports of Dr. Stevenson, the public analyst for the parish (see appendix), shew that 156 samples of food and drugs were taken by the Vestry's Inspector, Mr. Quelch, and submitted to him for analysis. The number of samples taken yearly during the past seven years are set forth in the following table :—

TABLE XXIV.

Year.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.
Number of samples	105	95	102	119	103	190	156

Of the samples taken 128 were genuine, and 28 adulterated. Proceedings were taken in 23 cases, and convictions obtained in 19. Fines were inflicted amounting to £20 8s., and costs were obtained amounting to £7 19s. 6d., which is deducting the costs in the case where the summons taken out by the Vestry was dismissed.

FOOD CONDEMNED AND DESTROYED.

The street markets have been kept under supervision by the Vestry's Sanitary Inspectors, and steps taken as far as practicable to prevent vegetable and animal refuse being deposited in the roads and on the footways.

The quality of the various food stuffs exposed for sale was generally most excellent. The unsound articles of food coming under the observation of your officers which were condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption, comprised 10 baskets of cherries, 16 boxes of tomatoes, and 50 bananas ; 1 barrel of mackerel and half a barrel of skate, together with some 6 other pieces of the same fish ; 5 carcases of pigs and 1 pig's head, 15 pieces of bacon and 2 rabbits, 1½ cwt. of roes, 37 stone of mutton and 1 cwt. of beef.

Two or three prosecutions of purveyors of bad food have been undertaken, but with indifferent success. As in this case, the difficulty of legal proof is found great.

Personal.

The Doctor speaks well of his Public Health Cases & the Vestry. They back him up well.

Dr Bryett is a short, rather weakly-looking man, with a tiny, fair moustache, large glasses, & an expression that seems lacking in power. One might be inclined at first glance to say there was little in him, but he improves on acquaintance, tho' hardly to be called an able man

Mr. Clay, Shoreditch Guardians.

No relief Committees

Clerk to Shoreditch Guardians Mar. 19 - J.A. 41

Mr. Clay, clerk to Guardians & Registrar of Shoreditch, was mentioned to me by Mr. Buss, Vicar of Shoreditch, as a very capable Official - "whatever he does is right" - & my own impression goes to confirm this. He is a great believer in a strict & systematic ~~system~~ testing of relief, & while opposed to the abolition of out-relief, advocates hedging it tightly in checks by thorough inquiry & the exhaustion of all voluntary agencies, relations support, &c.; leaving parochial relief as the last resource. He follows Mr. Vallance's appreciation & at a little distance, & is evidently followed closely by his own Board, with the result that relief in this poor parish has to be kept well within reasonable limits, & shows a decrease.

One thing wh. has conduced largely to a systematic policy has been the abolition of relief committees, every case being now dealt with by the whole Board. The limited number of applicants makes this practicable, the parish being a compact one.

A Full "house"

Treatment of Indoor Poor.

Clay. Shoreditch Guardians

There are 24 Guardians, elected in 8 wards. Rev. Joseph Little is Chairman.

Both Workhouse & infirmary are rather over full. The former has accommodation for 792 inmates, but last week had 800: the infirmary accommodates 472, but there are 544 patients. Twenty-four of the latter are however, in the Metropolitan Hospital, Kingsland Rd., the Board having rented a ward there. The question of boarding-out some of their workhouse inmates with other Unions has been talked of, but has not yet been found absolutely necessary. The London Workhouses are full, & although there is room in country workhouses, to remove the old people to them, away from all their old cronies & associations, would be positive cruelty.

The workhouse & infirmary adjoin, but are separate buildings, lying between Kingsland Rd. & Hoxton St.

They do not go so far as some parishes in providing comforts in the "house." The old

able-bodied.

Clay - Shoreditch Guardians. 45

women have afternoon tea, & the old men a little tobacco. They haven't introduced the Borstal system; the old people do practically as they like about working; there is plenty of light work about the place if they care to do it. They are allowed out every alternate Sunday. Nearly all go out for the day, but a few come in to dinner; there are rules against their going out again, but as a fact they have had enough of it & don't do so. The time for returning is from 5 to 6 o'clk, & mostly the old people return back worse for drink, but unless they are absolutely drunk no notice is taken. The men go out on Friday & return the next, but married are allowed out together, & nearly all do so. Married couples have comfortable quarters overlooking Shipland Rd., & usually live quite contentedly together, tho' of course they like to get a gossip with the others of their own sex when opportunity occurs.

There are very few really able-bodied in the house, & they are very little troubled with this class. Very rarely necessary to send on to

The Sick.

prison. Whenever he sees frequent prosecutions of this kind he suspects something wrong with the management; there is evidently injudicious nursing. The few in the house who appear a.b. are not really - there is some defect owing to wh. the doctor will not entitle them as fit for hard work. The institution has shoemaking, tailoring & carpenter's shops in wh. these & such of the old men as are able can work on articles for the place, & nearly all the painting, &c., is done by the inmates. They occasionally send a man to the Kensington "House", & have one now at Hazell's farm colony.

In the Infirmary, trained nurses are employed as far as possible, but the difficulty is considerable of getting them, so they are now gradually training their staff, & will probably shortly arrange to train their own nurses.

Two men are employed for the bathing & messenger work; otherwise all the attendance is done by the nurses. There is certainly very little, if

Illegitimacy.

Clay. Shoreditch Guardians.

away, blackmailing; boys rape women sometimes, but can get no evidence of it. He wishes to assert it entirely as the idle talk of busybodies who must find fault. The patients perform little services for each other, & may get paid for it in halfpence, but there is no harm in this.

There wd. be only one night nurse for 3 or 4 wards, but this is enough, as only a few of the cases wd. need much attention in the night. They are trying to save extract to classify drainage in the wards, with a view of concentrating attention more on serious cases.

Convalescent cases are sent away if they are fully assured of permanent benefit – not otherwise. Co-operate with voluntary agencies in this.

He believes the infirmary is very popular with the poor – prefer it to hospital.

They have a considerable number of illegitimate cases, but there is no romance about them. The great majority of the young women are absolutely indifferent – often don't know the name of the father. Most are servant girls. Does not think the factory girls

Out-Relief.

Say. Shoreditch Guardians.

are more moral than servants, but they can earn money, & so when the young man marry them then the servant girl, not having this earning power, is thrown over.

In deciding as to out-relief no account is taken of merely sentimental reasons. Broadly speaking, the giving of out-relief must depend on its securing moderate & reasonable comfort, & where this cannot be done with the aid of friends, voluntary agency, or the applicants own efforts, & without extravagant parish help, the house is offered. The Guardians do not believe in granting relief to old people living with relatives, because they find that too often the old people are being made slaves of, & by in reality fully earning their keep. They also find it encourages overcrowding & generally living under improper conditions.

Very few inmates come to them the policy adopted does not encourage them to do so — but when they do the Guardians will, if no relations can anyhow be found to do so, relieve

Result of policy.

Staff

out-medical-relief.

them temporarily if some of the children, & then watch them closely, getting them to take the children away again as soon as able. The giving of relief to widows has a most degrading & harmful influence, & the present plan is found most successful.

They work to some extent with C.O.S., & have the Chairman of the local branch on the Board.

The general result of their method, says Mrs. Clay, is that the feeling gets abroad that coming to the Guardians involves a great deal of trouble & many awkward questions are asked; so people fend for themselves somehow instead. They will come readily enough if the way were made easy.

They have 6 R.O's – enough to do the work properly – & 6 outdoor medical officers. The work is all done from one centre. Med. Officers are not allowed to supply nourishment, save in exceptional cases. Experience shows that where

The Children.

Voluntary Charity.

Clay. Shoreditch Guardians. 55

this is done the patients often never receive it. Either there are no proper conveniences for preparing, cooking, &c., or else it is taken by the healthy members of the family. Such cases are best in hospital or infirmary.

For the children, there are cottage homes at Hornchurch. Have been erected 9 years & are an improvement on the old system, especially as to health. There are 13 homes - 11 for healthy & 2 for sick. Boys are under charge of foster father & mother in each home; girls & infants under mother only. There is a general supt. & matron

There is not much voluntary charity in the parish, with the result that the people are not pauperised. The latter hopes they will be left alone.

SAINT LEONARD, SHOREDITCH, LONDON.

TO THE GUARDIANS OF THE POOR.

GUARDIANS' OFFICES, 213, KINGSLAND ROAD, N.E., 15th March, 1898.

Statement for the Week ended **Saturday**, the **12th March, 1898**, being the **11th** Week of the Quarter ending **Lady Day, 1898**, of the Number of Poor **in the Workhouse, Infirmary and Cottage Homes**, and the Consumption of Provisions therein—the Amount expended in **Out-door Relief** and the Numbers Relieved—the Numbers in Asylums, Hospitals and Schools chargeable to the Parish—together with the Numbers and Amounts for the corresponding period of the last year, shewing the increase or decrease thereof.

	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls & Infants.	Total
In the Workhouse last week	391	360	26	43	820
Admitted since	47	24	4	10	85
Transferred from Infirmary	14	12	3	11	40
By Orders of Removal ...		2	5	3	10
From Cottage Homes ..			1		1
Total	452	398	39	67	956
Subtract Discharges	66	42	17	31	156
Total in Workhouse...	386	356	22	36	800
In the Infirmary last week...	268	240	5	37	550
Admitted since	19	13			32
Transferred from Workhouse	15	11	5	7	38
From Casual Ward	2				2
Born Legitimate.					
Born Illegitimate					
Total	304	264	10	44	622
Subtract Discharges and Deaths ...	29	29	3	17	78
Total in Infirmary ...	275	235	7	27	*544
At Kensington Able-Bodied Workhouse					Nil
At Cottage Homes, Hornchurch			199	161	360
At Hanwell Ophthalmic School				1	1
At Roman Catholic Schools			9	9	18
At M.A.B.Y.S. Homes .				6	6
At Training Ship "Exmouth"			1		1
At St. Jude's G.H., Hampstead				1	1
At Wincheap Home, Canterb'y				1	1
At Stainer's Deaf & Dumb Home			1		1
At St. Anne's Home, Herne Bay			1		1
At Lymington Convalescent Home		1			1
At Barclay Home, Brighton		2			2
Total in Cottage Homes & Institutions for Children other than Imbeciles		3	211	179	393
At Leavesden Imbecile Asy.	78	70			148
At Caterham Imbecile Asy.	11	5			16
At Darenth Adult Imbecile Asylum...	16	21			37
At Darenth Children's Imbecile Asylum	3	3	13	10	29
Total in Imbecile Asylums...	108	99	13	10	230
At Banstead Asylum ...	41	38			79
At Cane Hill Asylum	9	9			18
At Claybury Asylum... ...	49	84			133
At Colney Hatch Asylum ...	54	72			126
At Hanwell Asylum	18	27			45
At Bristol City & County Asylum	1				1
At City of London Asylum...	1				1
At Dorset County Asylum...	1	2			3
At Exeter Boro' Asylum ...	4				4
At Moulsford Asylum... ...	1				1
At Warwick County Asylum		1			1
At Licensed Houses (Private Asylums)...	22	18			40
Total in Lunatic Asylums	201	251			452
At Eastern Fever Hospital..	7	2	5	5	19
At Nrth. Wstrn. Fvr. Hospital			1	2	3
At Northern Fever Hospital			3	5	8
At Nrth. Estrn. Fvr. Hospital	1		19	12	32
At Brook Hospital			2		2
At South Eastern Hospital	1		1	8	10
At Gore Farm Hospital ..			4		4
Total in Fever and Small-pox Hospitals	9	2	35	32	78
Total chargeable ... (Exclusive of Out-Door Poor)	979	946	288	284	2497

* Includes 24 Male Adults at the Metropolitan Hospital.

WORKHOUSE.	Men.	Women.	Boys.	Girls and Infants.	Total
Discharged	51	31	11	24	117
Transferred to Infirmary	15	11	5	7	38
By Orders of Removal			1		1
To Cottage Homes ...					
To Homerton Hospital					
Total Discharges and Deaths ...	66	42	17	31	156
INFIRMARY. *Including Metropolitan Hptl*					
Discharged	8	12		5	25
Transferred to Workhse.	14	12	3	11	40
To Lunatic and Imbecile Asylums ...	1	1			2
Removed under Order of Removal					
To Police	2	1			3
Deaths	4	3		1	8
Total Discharges and Deaths ...	29	29	3	17	78

DEATHS IN INFIRMARY.

NAME	AGE Yrs.	Mths	Cause of Death.	Where Admitted from.	Time an Inmate. Yrs.	Mths.	Dys
Jane Clulow	8		Caries of Spine	23 Drysdale Street		7	5
Sophia Matthews	70		Senile Decay	35 Rushdon Street			5
Ann Collis	70		Chronic Bronchitis and Syncope	89 Crondall Street			2
Harriet Warn	62		Hemiplegia	14 York Row		2	16
William Burton	81		Senile Decay	Workhouse	1	11	9
Frederick Giddings	35		Inquest to be held	71 Cropley Street			1
Henry Ansell	54		Pneumonia	Had no home			5
DEATHS IN METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL							
Joseph Wilkinson	60		Cardiac Dropsy	85 Provost Street		2	3

Number of Persons in the Workhouse—Certified accommodation 792

Sunday	824
Monday	824
Tuesday	823
Wednesday	819
Thursday	830
Friday	825
Saturday	800
7)5745 Daily average	820·7

Number of Persons in the Infirmary—Certified accommodation 472
Not including those in Metropolitan Hospital.

Sunday	527
Monday	529
Tuesday	530
Wednesday...	535
Thursday	537
Friday	527
Saturday	521
7)3706 Daily average	529·4

Vagrants relieved during the week 93
Ditto same period last year 63

	Consumption of Provisions.			*Last Year.*		
Workhouse *(Including Officers)*	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Bread	37	1	23	35	0	0
Meat — Officers	0	3	23	0	3	24
Meat — Paupers	11	3	12	11	1	4
Potatoes	24	3	0	25	2	0
	galls.	qts.	pints.	galls.	qts.	pints.
Milk	291	0	0	189	0	0
	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Infirmary Bread	27	1	24	27	2	14
Meat — Officers ...	4	1	27	4	3	12½
Meat — Paupers...	11	1	10	14	1	7
Meat — Out-relief	2	0	18	2	2	9
Potatoes	20	0	0	21	0	0
	galls.	qts.	pints.	galls.	qts.	pints.
Milk	577	0	0	580	0	0
Ale and Stout — Officers ...	78	2	0	79	1	0
Ale and Stout — Inmates ...	14	0	0	17	0	1
Wine	0	3	0½	1	0	0½
Spirits	4	2	1½	3	3	2½

COMPARATIVE PRICES OF FLOUR AND MEAT. Same period last year.
Flour, per sack (No. 1) 29/- ... ... Per sack (No. 1) 25/6
Meat per stone 3/11 ... ... Per stone 4/2
Cost of the 4-lb. loaf ... ... 5d.

By Relieving Officer of	*Out-Relief.* Money £	s.	d.	Kind £	s.	d.	*Out-Relief Same period last year.* Money £	s.	d.	Kind £	s.	d
District No. 1	4	5	6	2	19	2½	3	14	0	3	10	0
,, ,, 2	2	0	0	2	14	2½	1	14	0	3	11	7½
,, ,, 3	3	2	0	6	2	1½	3	1	6	6	4	4½
,, ,, 4	2	12	0	1	17	10½	1	16	3	1	17	4½
Total ...	11	19	6	13	13	5	10	5	9	15	3	4½

Decrease in Out-Relief £0 3 9½

SUMMARY OF PERSONS CHARGEABLE OTHER THAN VAGRANTS.

	This week.	Corresponding week of last year.
In the Workhouse	800	755
In the Infirmary	*544	500
At Kensington Able-bodied Workhouse	Nil.	3
In Cottage Homes and Institutions for Children other than Imbeciles ...	393	408
Non-resident case in a Workhouse ..	1	1
Total A	1738	1667

Increase... 71

	Not able-bodied	Able-bodied	Children	Total.	Gross Total B
Relieved this week by way of out-door Relief, including Relief to non-resident Poor	196	39	106	341	
Children Boarded-out			Nil.	Nil.	341
Same period last year	232	34	92	358	
Children Boarded-out			2	2	360

Decrease ... 19

	This week.	Corresponding week of last year.
In Imbecile Asylums	230	235
In Lunatic Asylums	452	452
In Fever and Small-pox Asylums... ...	78	125
Total C	760	812

Decrease ... 52

	This week.	Corresponding week of last year.
Total A	1738	1667
,, **B**	341	360
,, **C**	760	812
Gross Total	2839	2839

ROBERT CLAY, Clerk to the Guardians.

Dr Robinson, Vestry Clerk, Shoreditch.

A Vestry reconstructionist.

Clerk to Shoreditch Vestry

Mr. H. Mansfield Robinson, LL.D., Solicitor, Vestry clerk & clerk to the overseers of Shoreditch, is a big, broad-shouldered man, with a round, ruddy face, & wears large spectacles. His eyes are bright & twinkling, & his whole manner suggests a good deal of nervous energy & force. One has only to talk with him for a little while to feel that he is truly the ~~fountain~~ source from which has sprung the great municipal activity which has of late characterised Shoreditch, & indeed this is so. The work is with him no mere official duty - he believes in it, almost lives in it, its friends are his friends - its enemies almost his personal foes - & herein one finds the blemish of an able & excellent character - he is impatient of opposition, & apt to take criticism too seriously, & old. day, ready to take up the cudgels when it would be better to quietly ignore & pass by. At least these are the impressions formed from a brief interview.

When Mr. Robinson was appointed 6 or 7 years ago the Shoreditch Vestry was a very

Great changes in 7 years.

quiet, fog-bet body. It had sheltered well, above 40 years before, by building a very good Town Hall, & then seems to have been startled so by its own temerity & the debt it had incurred, that it settled down to do nothing else whatever in the way of municipal enterprise. For more than 30 years it did not borrow one penny (& this, as Dr. R. says, is a true index of an authority's activity - nothing can be done without money, & little can be accomplished out of current rates). Such street improvements as were carried out were mainly due to the pressure of Bd of Works. One thing, however, it gradually did, & that was to practically extinguish the debt on the Town Hall, thus leaving the parish a valuable asset.

The last 7 years have seen a great change, headed & energized undoubtedly by Dr. R., but helped by other fortuitous circs. The appointment of Dr. R. was followed by that of a new medical officer, & more lately by a new Surveyor, thus getting rid of the weight of old-fashioned officialism. Then came the demoralising, go-ahead influence

of the '94 Act, & the new & more powerful backing of the last Public Health Act & Housing of the Working Classes Act. Thus all workers together for the same end. The Vestry is very strongly progressive, & finds in Dr R. a man after its own heart. No wonder therefore the majority followed him readily, whilst he gratefully accepts its help, while regretting it is not composed of men of better calibre. Some of them, he says, it is lowering to have to work with. He laments that ~~many of~~ the employers of labour in the district - some who have made & others who are making fortunes - will not assist in its public work. They "will not be seen inside the Vestry Hall," but hire & spend their money in the West, where their wives give large Alms in aid of the few poor of wealthy parishes, leaving neglected the parish in wh. their money has been made.

The new activity first manifested itself, as usual, in the Sanitary Dept., wh., as fully detailed in interview with Dr. Bryett, has more than quadrupled its work. Since 1855 nothing had

Sanitary Work.

Other Improvements.

Moira Place Scheme.

Mr done in the way of reconstructing sewers, & there in Hoggeston had become a series of elongated cesspools, disease being rife as a consequence. The whole of these sewers have now Mr relaid, at a cost of £35000.

There have come in order, & side by side, several street improvements, the construction of seven excellent underground conveniences for both sexes, & the opening of several recreation spaces. (When Mr R. was appointed there was not a single open space in the parish) This part of the work has culminated for the present in the purchase & Plumbers Row clearances, wh. as already stated (see Mr Byfield) has involved the clearing of 132 houses & 800 people, at a cost of £55,000, the L.C.C. giving half. This scheme has involved a great deal of trouble (so many interests to compensate, such a job to get the people out, & difficulty as to the L.C.C.'s proportion), but Mr R. is well satisfied with the result, for he believes he sees the way to the completion of the work without it having, in the end, cost the parish anything.

Part of the site is being utilised for the erection of workmen's dwellings, & the remainder is to be disposed of for business premises at prices wh. will, it is hoped, repay the parish the whole of the £26500 it has expended. The buildings are being erected by the Vestry, their contractors & will be let at rents to pay working exps & repay capital, so that in course of time they will form a good asset, all going well. There are to be 3 blocks of 5 storeys each, giving accommodation for 400 people, & the whole work & arrangements are to be of the best. Dr. R. showed me the various plans & drawings with some pride. He pointed out that the sanitary arrangements were unique. The w.cs are each completely shut off both from living rooms & the public staircase, & yet are easily accessible to the inmates, & are so constructed that overflow through stoppage, with the consequent annoyance to neighbours on lower floors, is rendered impossible.

Shoreditch Vestry is the first local body in London to grapple boldly with the rehousing

Great scheme of Centralized
Municipal Institutions.

difficulty wh. is bringing to a standstill just
now the work of clearing bad areas, & the
result of its experiment will therefore be
watched with interest. [See also memo. at end of interview]

But the great achievement of Shoreditch
is, of course, its scheme of centralising municipal
institutions, by the erection of Electric Light Works,
Dust Destructor, baths & wash-houses, library, museum
& technical institute, arranged so that the heat
generated by the dust destruction is used for
running the electric machinery, & the exhaust
steam from the electric works for heating the
water for the baths. The history of this
scheme is very interesting, & the following is abridged
from an account of it given in a Souvenir which was
prepared for the opening of the dust destructor &
electric lighting portion in June, 1897:-

It was promoted by the unanimous vote of the Vestry to prevent
the monopoly of the supply of electricity passing into the hands of a
private company. Subsequently, on estimates being obtained the
heavy capital outlay caused considerable hesitation on the part
of the Vestry, & the whole scheme was submitted to the Ratepayers

Electric Lighting &
Dust Destruction.

of Shoreditch in the election of 1894, when it was completely endorsed by them by the return of those candidates who made it part of their programme, since which time the scheme has been pushed forward with energy & practical unanimity, although its completion has been delayed by the strike in the building trade in 1896, the official sanctions required, the necessary loans, & the difficulties inseparable from the completion of a number of separate contracts which more or less overlapped one another.

Shoreditch contains in its southern portion [Moorfields land] a large number of City Warehouses & manufactories, forming the recognised centre of the woodwork furniture industry of London, offering a splendid field for the sale of electric light power. The exceptionally large number of public houses, amounting to 300, the number of shops which keep open late at night, make the district one of the largest light consuming districts in London, & it was not surprising therefore that three electric lighting companies in 1891, applied to the Board of Trade for Provisional Orders to enable them to supply electric light power in Shoreditch, though the Vestry's consent had been refused to prior applications.

The Clerk having pointed out that if the consent of the Vestry continued to be refused to these orders ~~would be~~ without anything being done by the Vestry itself, the Board of Trade might in their discretion grant such orders in spite of the Vestrys consent not having been given, & in that case, if the Vestry at a future time desired to get the monopoly into their own hands, they would have to pay dearly for it. The Vestry on the 21st July 1891 decided to itself proceed to obtain power to supply electricity for public & private purposes in Shoreditch & the Clerk was instructed to carry out the necessary work in respect of the application.

A memorial was consequently presented to the Board of Trade & a Provisional Order obtained, which received the Royal Assent in July 1892.

The Vestry Clerk after visiting the chief ~~such~~ municipal electricity stations & dust destructors in Gt. Britain prepared a report on the position at that time of electric lighting in this country from the municipal point of view. This report dealt with the history of the question, the corporations which had undertaken the supply, & the question of transferring the order to a private company. The combination of a small steam-raising plant with a dust destructor at Southampton was described. The importance of extending this principle to a large central

station was emphasised. As a result the Vestry engaged Wm. H. Maxwell, Consulting Electrical Engineer to the Dublin, Portsmouth, Salford & Kilkenny Corporations, who proceeded to make elaborate report upon the questions submitted to him in which he expressed the opinion that the supply of electricity could be established in Shoreditch with greater profit to the undertakers than in many of the more favorable neighbourhoods in London. He recommended the utilisation of the heat generated by dust destruction for raising steam for running an electric central station, & heating baths & washhouses proposed to be erected on an adjoining site & he proceeded to give particulars of the system recommended with estimates of capital expenditure & revenue.

As these estimates were prepared from the commercial standpoint, & did not cover the question of the cost of taking up the necessary loans & repayment of principal & interest, the Vestry Clerk was instructed by the Parliamentary Committee to present a memorandum to the Vestry on this part of the scheme. The Vestry Clerk estimated that the annual charge for repayment of principal moneys & interest would be £3534, whilst taking the Engineer's estimate of profit from the sale of electricity, the saving on the burning of the dust & its disposal by Canal barging & the

saving to the baths & washhouses of fuel wtr other receipts, amounting altogether to £5124, a net saving profit of £1590 per annum might be anticipated.

Mr Wanklyn's report was considered & the recommendations therein adopted at a special meeting of the Vestry held on the 28th Feb: 1893 when an Electric Lighting Committee for giving effect to the report was appointed.

The difficulty of obtaining a suitable freehold site in Shoreditch was very great, as the Vestry had no compulsory powers of purchase & in many cases owners would only negotiate for their leaseholds, would not sell the freehold on any consideration whilst the acquisition of a large site involving a number of different interests & trade compensations tended to make the price prohibitive. After negotiating unsuccessfully for a site in Ivy St Hoxton the Vestry Clerk brought under the notice of the Parliamentary Committee a large site in the centre of the parish of about nine & a half acres in extent & having four frontages to streets, which had formed the Old City Iron Works, & a large portion of which was lying vacant & constituted a heavy loss to the rates of the parish. As it appeared that the clear freehold could be acquired without compensation for any trade interests, except yearly tenancies, the Parliamentary Committee decided on the 18th Nov 1892 to

negotiate for this site.

The owners of this site asked £42000 as purchase money, & after a very lengthy negotiations this figure was reduced to £34000, which price the Vestry Clerk was authorised to offer, but after further pressure the owners agreed to accept £33.500.

The size of the site presented the opportunity of erecting upon it a Public Library & Baths & Washhouses, & as the Library Baths & Washhouses Commissioners happened at that time to be on the look out for a site in that part of the parish, a conference of the Parliamentary Committee, the Library & Baths & Washhouses Commissioners, & the Vestry & Scavenging Committee was accordingly convened on the 19th January 1893, when the Penfield Street site was approved as the most suitable for the combined purpose of Electric Station, Dust Destructor, Baths & Washhouses Technical Institution & Free Library & the Vestry was recommended to acquire the same & to apportion the cost between the different bodies.

~~A contract settled by counsel was entered into on 12th June 1894 & a~~ After a good deal of delay the sale was finally completed on 26th March 1895. In order to prevent any proceedings from adjoining owners for a nuisance by vibration or otherwise additional property was purchased, comprising 6 Rowington Close 25 Cornet St & the Christian Institute, 19 Cornet St by which

means a convenient rectangular site was obtained sufficient for all probable future extensions, abutting on three sides to streets & on the remainder to the Vestry's property, the site of the Baths.

The long delay that arose in definitely acquiring this site was caused by a resolution of the Vestry on the 9th August 1893. "That no action be taken until a financial statement & report be made by the various bodies concerned in the proposed schemes."

Whereupon the Electric Lighting Committee instructed Messrs Woodhouse Allbutt & Co. Ltd, the chief manufacturers of Dust Destructors in this country, to report to the Vestry what results they could guarantee to obtain in the way of heat for electric lighting purposes by the burning of 20000 tons of dust per annum. This firm reported that with the aid of the thermal storage system of Mr. Druitt Halpin such refuse would produce sufficient heat for the Electric Lighting Stations proposed by Mr Manville, & they pointed out that the value of the steam produced would be £4200 per annum: the saving of at least £1500 would be effected by burning the dust instead of disposing of it by barging. On the 9th of January 1894, the Vestry adopted this report.

As the result of this report the Vestry received an offer from Messrs Wheeler Slack & Co, on behalf of some clients of theirs, to contract for the Destroying & Scavenging of the parish

at a reduction of about £4000 on the present cost, with a view of burning the refuse & utilising the heat for steam generation, but this offer was refused.

The electric light is now being supplied at the cheap rate of 4d per unit for first 2 hrs. & 2d afterwards all night, & 2d per unit for motive power in daytime. The Vestry has entered into some profitable contracts, & has arranged with syndicates to put in the automatic system in houses, at a charge of 6d per unit or the supply & free fittings at 3/4 per unit above the Vestry's. A saving of £3000 or year is now anticipated on the cost of dust removal under the old plan, & this may be further increased when the Vestry is able to store more dust for fuel. At present a certain amount of coal has to be burnt, but when arrangements have been completed for the shooting here of dust from other parishes the consumption of coal will be considerably reduced. No figures as to working will be available till after June next.

Baths & Wash-houses

when a twelve months trial will have been completed. An ingenious feature of the scheme is a system of thermal storage, by wh. the surplus heat generated during the day is accumulated for use at night.

The baths & wash-houses are not yet finished, & probably will not be for some few months, so nothing more can be said as to what the proposal to supply heat to these from the same source will work out. The building is to cost about £36,000, & is to include first & second class swimming baths, 20 first & 36 second class with private baths, 5 first & 15 second class with private baths, a laundry for the establishment, & public wash-house with 48 stalls & every convenience to match.

Libraries & Museums.

Shoreditch has already a very good library in Kingsland Rd—, provided mainly at the expense of Mr Passmore Edwards, who gave £6250 & a thousand books. This Library has lending & reference depts., with room for 40,000 volumes, news & magazin

rooms. ladies r boys rooms, staff & store rooms, &c. In the rear is a well laid-out garden, with shelter in wh. readers may sit & smoke, read, or chat.

The library was very built will cost over £12000, of wh. Mr. Edwards gives £2000. It is to be very spacious, replete & handsome, & will include a museum about 600 ft. long. The libraries are maintained by a ¾d rate, wh. brings in a little over £2000 a year.

Technical Schools.

In 1893 the Vestry made a new departure by establishing municipal technical schools. Taking advantage of a flaw in the Metropolis Management Act, they raised £400 a year by letting their lamp-posts for advertising purposes, & to this the L.C.C. Technical Education Bd. The student has increased from 59 to about 250, & have been very successful in gaining scholarships, medals, &c. The L.C.C. have now, on the representations of the Vestry, taken over the technical schools, purchased the fine old Askes Schools for its accommodation, & the large playground as an open space, the total cost being over £20,000. The opportu-

nity of doing this was afforded by the decision of the Haberdashers Coy to move their schools to the outlying suburbs, much further north. The L.C.C. endows the schools with £4500 a year, & day instruction bearing on local industries is to be given to 200 students, a large number of employers having agreed to send their apprentices & boys.

The Vestry are naturally very pleased at having got this thro' without any expense to themselves, & the schools happening to be exactly opposite the site of the other new buildings, make altogether a remarkable instance of centralization of municipal enterprise.

The cost to Shoreditch of the whole scheme is about £200,000, raised of course by loans.

Naturally, all this has not been effected without a good deal of opposition & much alarmist talks of rising rates & parochial bankruptcy, but Dr. R. brings forward pretty conclusive figures to

Entire cost.

The financial side.

show that the parish is really in a sounder position than before. With the exception of the £35000 necessarily spent on sewerage works, the money is all represented by realisable assets, whilst the rate have for some time remained at about 6/1. She is amongst the lowest in London, & is less than it used to be in some of the years when the Vestry was doing very little. This has be effected by savings in collection & local economies, & in spite of a continuous rise in the central rates over wh. the Vestry has no control.

Sewer Ventilation

The question of sewer ventilation is one wh. is causing serious difficulty to London local bodies, & here also Shoreditch is trying interesting experiments. One is in the construction of a huge ventilating shaft from the dust destructor to the sewers, by means of wh. the foul gases will be drawn from the sewers & consumed in the furnaces; another is the erection of tall sewer-ventilating lamps, by wh. means the foul gas is supposed to be drawn up the inside of the lamp column &

Shoreditch Leads in Municipal Enterprise.

rendered nugatory by passing thro' the flames. It is yet too early to say what success attends these trials.

On the whole, Shoreditch undoubtedly leads London in municipal enterprise, & so far as I can see is in all respects to the fore. Its schemes appear to have been well & carefully thought out, & there is nothing wild or chimerical about them. Dr. R. has big ideas, but he is practical & business-like in giving them effect. He is an interested reader of Mr. Booth's work, & has made good use of our figures about Shoreditch in advocating the different schemes.

Private and Confidential.

Borough of Shoreditch.

MOIRA PLACE AND PLUMBER'S PLACE AREA.

To the Chairman and Members of the Housing Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with your instructions, I beg to submit the following report upon the completion of the purchase of Moira Place and Plumber's Place Area.

It will be remembered that under the original order of the Home Secretary with regard to this scheme, the London County Council were ordered to pay half the expenses of carrying it out, and a dispute arose between the Council and the Vestry whether these expenses meant "gross" expenses of acquiring the property, or "nett" expenses after allowing for recoupment from the value of the land used for re-building purposes. I advised the Vestry that, owing to the construction of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, "expenses" meant "gross" expenses, and this opinion was confirmed by counsel's opinion taken by the London County Council. Nevertheless, the Council would not concede the point, which was not free from doubt, and the Vestry accordingly petitioned the Home Secretary to make an order on the London County Council to pay a lump sum, which was, after a great deal of negotiation and correspondence, fixed at £27,500, the total cost of the scheme being taken at £55,000, a valuation agreed to by the Council's valuer and the Vestry. From a memorandum of the Accountant, under date 13th January, 1898, it appears that the nett payments and liabilities to 31st December, 1897, in respect of this scheme have been £51,779 12s. 3d., but in this sum is included the sum of £970 6s. 8d., being a proportion of the cost of my salary and that of my staff, in addition to £595 17s. 9d. for the salary of the conveyancing clerk, Mr. Nicholl, and his successor employed especially upon this scheme. The sum of £970 6s. 8d. for my department, is a book transfer and would have been paid by the Vestry for my staff whether this scheme had been carried out or not. Something should be added for the Accountant's services and staff, but this would be balanced by the other office work and conveyancing done by Mr. Nicholl, not chargeable to this scheme.

The whole of the purchases having been completed and the property demolished, the only further expense to be contemplated, apart from the rebuilding, is the cost of making and sewering the new street, estimated by the Surveyor at £945, which will make a total outlay by the Vestry of £52,724 12s. 3d., towards which they are entitled to £27,500 from the London County Council, and have in addition the whole of the vacant land as a valuable asset in their favour, which, at 9s. per foot (a fair valuation of the whole, allowing a lower price for the site of the Vestry's Model dwellings to counter-balance a higher price for the land for commercial purposes facing Nile Street and East Road), works out at £20,257. Thus the Vestry's contribution of £25,224, after setting off against it the value of the land, which is the Vestry's sole property, makes the nett cost of the scheme to the Vestry only £4,967. After allowing for the book transfer for my staff (payable by the Vestry even if the scheme had not existed), the nett payment is reduced to £3,997. In addition, a valuable street improvement, distinct from the re-housing scheme, has been effected, 25,084 square feet having been used for the new street and widening others, and valuing this land for this purpose at only 5/- per foot, the housing scheme should be credited with £6,271 in respect thereof, thus shewing a nett credit balance or profit of £2,274 on the housing scheme alone. An important factor in this reduction of cost below the estimate is the strenuous resistance offered by your Committee to all extravagant claims and bills of costs, necessitating arbitration and taxation in a number of cases. Thus total claims of £76,000 were reduced to £45,300, the compensation actually paid, whilst the claims that went to arbitration amounted to £12,104, and the total amount awarded in settlement was only £5,126. This action naturally caused increased office work, and consumed much time. The buildings for Model Dwellings, according to Mr Plumbe's estimate, will pay for themselves; the rents, after all usual deductions for repairs, loss, collection, rates, taxes, insurance, &c., are estimated to pay interest and repayment of capital borrowed to build them, and still leave a profit of three-fifths per cent, or £142 15s. per annum. It would thus appear there is not much risk of the Vestry losing by the rebuilding part of the scheme, especially as Mr. Plumbe has allowed for a sinking fund to pay off the cost of the buildings and the land at the end of 60 years, whereas at that time the land will remain as a valuable asset worth not less than it is now. Adjusting Mr. Plumbe's Table to provide for present rates (underestimated by him), but for lower interest of $2\frac{7}{8}$ (estimated by him at 3 per cent.) on capital value of land and buildings, and limiting the sinking fund to replace buildings only, the dwellings would just pay for themselves if the land were put at a value of 9s. per foot. Owing to the Plumber's Place area, where the property of larger rating existed, having only been recently cleared, the loss of rates will not be heavy, and will be more than compensated by the future increased ratings of the property to be erected.

I think this result is one that the Vestry may congratulate itself upon, and in view of the complaints that have been frequently expressed as to the apparently excessive delay in carrying this scheme through, I think it due to my department to point out some of the chief causes of this delay.

The Vestry made the scheme which has now been carried out, on the 28th June, 1892, and the necessary plans were at once prepared and application made by me to the London County Council and Local Government Board on the 30th June, 1892, for their approval, which was necessary before the Vestry could do anything to carry out the scheme. The Local Government Board enquiry was not held until 22nd February, 1893, and the actual sanction of the Board was not received until 2nd April, 1894, when the Vestry's scheme was sanctioned with certain modifications as to the number of persons to be re-housed.

Upon this Order being made, the solicitor to the London County Council raised doubts as to its validity on the ground of it being *ultra vires* and that it had not been made in strict accordance with the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, and to remove the difficulties thus raised, and before the Vestry could proceed with the scheme, it became necessary for the Local Government Board to promote and get passed, the Housing of the Working Classes Amendment Act, 1894, specially to remove the difficulties in this case.

Another delay arose upon the dispute between the Vestry and the London County Council as to the apportionment of the expenses of the scheme before-mentioned, and this dispute was not settled until 13th April, 1896, when the Council, upon an Order of the Home Secretary, agreed to a contribution of £27,500, the Vestry taking the chance whether the scheme worked out at a greater or less nett cost than the amount estimated. The wisdom of this course (and its consequential delay) is apparent from the above statement as to how this scheme is actually working out, for it will result in the Vestry bearing a very much less final charge than the Council will have to do, and it is quite possible that it may yet yield a better return than that before estimated.

Further difficulty arose as to the powers of the Vestry to borrow for any expenses other than purchase money or compensation, and although this point had been anticipated and pointed out by me in a letter of the 22nd January, 1894, when the original order was being prepared, the Local Government Board issued the original Order without providing for it, thinking that the Vestry had sufficient powers to borrow for the laying out the ground and making the new street, under the Metropolis Management Act, but this view was doubted by the London County Council, and before their sanction to the necessary loan could be obtained, it became necessary for the Vestry to apply to the Local Government Board for a further modification of the Order, on the lines first suggested by the Vestry, and this further modified Order was obtained on the 24th March, 1896. The appointment of an Arbitrator by the same Board, and his proceedings on arbitration, caused much loss of time.

Mr. Plumbe was appointed in July, 1895, when he prepared schemes for the Model Dwellings to be erected as required by the Order, and further serious delays occurred in getting the sanction of the Local Government Board and London County

Council to these plans, and meeting the views of the Council, as to alterations of dust shoots, etc., on which an appeal was made by the Vestry to the Local Government Board, entailing more delay.

Furthur delay arose on the question as to whether the Vestry should themselves erect the buildings, or let, or sell the land under covenants to others to erect them, and this question was under the consideration of the Vestry, and on its agendas from 7th April, 1896, until 16th June, 1896.

Upon the Vestry deciding to build themselves, it was necessary to get the Local Government Board's sanction to this proposal, which, after an inquiry held on 23rd December, 1896, was sanctioned in April, 1897, this being the first moment when the Vestry could legally enter into a contract for the building. After working drawings and quantities had been prepared, advertisements were at once issued, and a tender accepted on 7th December, 1897.

Beyond the delay caused by the deliberations of the Vestry on the question of erecting dwellings themselves, the whole of the slow movement attendant on this scheme has been due to the inevitable delays of the Local Government Board and the London County Council, both of whom have had to approve each step taken by the Vestry after protracted inquiries, cross-correspondence, and the taking of legal advice by both official bodies. In advising the Vestry to persist in a line of action which caused unavoidable delays with the central authorities (though not at a time when any pecuniary loss was incurred thereby), I think the result fully justifies the advice I gave, and more than compensates for the delay, which could hardly have caused the complaints and irritation it has in connection with my department if the full facts of the case had been borne in mind by the complainants.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. MANSFIELD ROBINSON.

Solicitor & Vestry Clerk.

13*th January*, 1898.

Shoreditch.

Extracts from report of Chief Sanitary Inspector, showing character of work done during 1896:-

Hoxton Residences

The site occupied by these buildings were previously covered with old ruinous houses the unsanitary condition of which had for many years given much trouble to the Sanitary Department. About 18 years ago they were all closed under sanitary notices & subsequently demolished. The hope was entertained, the land being let as a building site that a better order of things would be secured. Unfortunately that has not been realised from the date of their construction, these blocks of dwellings have been frequently recurring cause of trouble to the department, arising from original defects in construction & continued mismanagement.

These so called Model Dwellings consist of three blocks of buildings, four storys high, each block comprising 16 rooms with one w.c. for the use of the persons occupying the four rooms on each floor.

The front & the back rooms on the north, & the front & the back on the south are separated by a central dark passage, each of the four rooms have an outer door into the passage, & an inner door between the front & back rooms.

This arrangement of doors intended to enable the owners to let the rooms singly, or in pairs, was evidently the design of an experimentalist

who was utterly shocked at the outrage on common decency which must of necessity arise in rooms let singly where such rooms are not separated properly with a solid partition but with a flimsy lath & deal door. It need hardly be said that the result of the experiment was soon demonstrated by the fact that the buildings were avoided by all but the least desirable persons & by frequently recurring nuisances & dilapidation due to destructive tenants & the want of proper supervision.

In September last year the Public Health Committee obtained a closing order directing the premises to be closed within fourteen days.

Much effort was made to induce the poor people to leave without resort to forcible ejectment & much time was allowed beyond the Magistrate's fourteen days in order to avoid that measure & a good many of the tenants did remove, but the rooms which they vacated were again occupied by persons to whom they had not been let & finally the water company having cut off the water supply, the foul conditions became so aggravated as to compel the forcible removal of the occupants. The evictions were accomplished by a number of the Vestry employees under my direction under the protection of a force of police constables.

Since the date of this report the owner having possession has carried out very substantial repairs, but the defective arrangement of doors to which I have referred [which might with much advantage have been altered] is allowed to continue, & the rooms or many of them are

let swiftly, I can only expect a recurrence of the deplorable conditions that have so long prevailed in connection with these buildings.

Lyndoch Street.

This street consisting of the four rounded cottages, extends from Kingsland Rd on the east to Hindon St on the west, it is 20ft wide paved with flagstones throughout. The street is private property, from which all vehicular traffic is excluded by iron gates at each end.

Each one of the 16 houses was originally fitted with a small brick drain passing under the rooms to a main drain laid in the centre of the pathway extending from the Kingsland Rd end to Hindon St.

The history of these cottages, built some fifty years ago, constitute a good object lesson for the Managers of house property. Twenty one years ago, the drains passing under the houses were found to be in a very bad state, allowing sewer gas to escape, & rats to infest the premises. The owner at that time was not only required to remove the defective drains; he was also strongly advised to remove the whole system of drainage, in such a manner as to minimise the dangers incident to drains laid under dwelling houses, unfortunately the suggestion to remedy was

not accepted. The greatest difficulty was experienced in obtaining the removal of the old brick drains lying under the houses & the substitution of pipe drains.

This was finally accomplished, but as it was done by the owner very reluctantly & under a contract the result was in no way satisfactory, & as is usual under such conditions although a large sum of money was expended. The estate was not substantially benefitted. The old brick drain was not removed, & with the lapse of time it was found although rats could not create from the house drains, made of stoneware pipes (as they did in old times from their brick predecessors) that they had succeeded in escaping from the old brick main drain, & were again infesting the houses. Under these circumstances notices were served on the present owner who very willingly accepted from me a draft plan for re-modelling the drainage of the whole of the premises on the lines of the suggestions made to the previous owner 21 years ago.

Under the new plan the drains lying under the houses numbering 76 i.e. 38 on each side of the street have all been abolished & the main drain extending from Kingsland Rd to Hoxton St, with all its foul contents, has been removed, & an entire new system substituted.

The improvement which has been effected may be summed

up with the statement that there are now only 8 drains laid under the houses instead of 76. There are now two short self scouring sewers securely trapped & ventilated instead of one long dilapidated brick sewer, which allowed rats to escape & infest the houses ~~& houses~~, & which contained large deposits of fæcal matter giving off poisonous gases. The water closets have all been reconstructed on the Shoreditch plan, & fitted with water.

My suggestions & plans for the solid improvement of the property by useful works, & alterations in drainage were all readily accepted by the owner, & have been faithfully & intelligently carried out by his ~~owner~~ agent. While the Fleet Land & its value suggestions made 21 years ago by the then owner were disregarded.

The moral to be observed is this that the money expended on the bad work 21 years ago must have equalled the cost of the good work done during the last year & that as it was misapplied, so it was thereby wasted."

Shoreditch Public Library.

From librarian's report [W.C. Plant].

The libraries now contain 18114 volumes already stocked - exclusive of 2000 volumes just purchased toward the stock for the new library - 12173 being located at the Haggerston branch 5899 at the temporary premises, & 45 at the technical schools: - showing an increase of 991 volumes compared with the 17126 of last year.

The 47513 volumes were issued for the home reading at the Haggerston branch & 13183 for reference. At the temporary premises, Hoxton 40249 volumes were issued for home reading, & 2394 consulted in the reference department; being a total issue of 103339 volumes, or a combined daily average of 380.

There has been an approximate total of three quarters of a million visits made by readers to the libraries, or a daily average of 2721, representing 1382 at Haggerston & 1339 at Hoxton.

The attendance on Sundays averaged 141 at Haggerston & 92 at Hoxton.

Shoreditch Technical Schools.

From report of W.G. Pedderson. Supt.

At the present time it is a lamentable fact that much of the superior work of the district is the produce of foreign labour.

This is not by any means, because the youth of Shoreditch is deficient in natural tact or ability but simply because his Technical Education has not been sufficiently & properly catered for.

When the larger premises of Askes School are used for this purpose & Technical Instruction, many of the difficulties will banish & youths will be able to by close application to work to make up for any deficiencies in the present apprenticeship system.

The method of work carried out at the School is entirely different to that conducted at any of the Polytechnics or Technical Schools in the Metropolis. This system is the outcome of many years careful study & experience, & is designed to give certain practices & illustrate certain processes necessary for the training of the artisans. Throughout the course of shop work there is no intention to enter into competition with manufacturing establishments, & the school does not clash with the tenets of Trade Unionism.

In support of the scheme adopted we have an abundance of testimony as to its value from all parts of London & from all classes of critics. The London County Council, Education Board, the Cabinet Makers Alliance speak very highly of & appreciate it, & masters men in the district are unanimous in praise of our method of training.

One of the special features of the system is the construction of articles at two thirds the actual ~~volume~~ size. This has a double advantage, it gives the pupils lessons & practice in the actual work required with the experience of an unaccustomed scale, while at the same time the work is entirely useable.

Since the inauguration of the school there has been a steady & continuous growth in all branches of instruction. So much has this been so that it has been necessary to increase in many of the classes in order to provide accommodation for the students.

During the year the attendance at the classes has been excellent & only when drawing towards the end of the summer term that any appreciable diminution in the attendance takes place.

I am constantly having inquiries as to whether classes are held in such industries as Upholstery, Scientific Instrument Making & Bootmaking. There is no doubt when the larger building is acquired that all trades within the borough must be catered for.

Classes + Attendances March 1896-97.

Subject.		Total Attendance	Average Attendance.
Drawing & Design.		707	16.8
"	Early Class	165	7.1
"	Elementary	405	9.6
Wood carving		561.	13.0
		394	9.1
Clay Modelling	Early Class	175	7.6
Cabinet Making	Advanced	364	8.5
"	Elementary	346	8.02
Artisan Drawing	—	389	9.02
"	Advanced	330	7.6
Plumbing	Advanced	360	8.3
"	Elementary	388	9.02
Plumbing lectures & Drawing		483	11.2
& Electrical Fitting	Theoretical	522	12.0
"	Practical	522	12.0
Workshop. Measuration.		573	13.1
Mechanics.		—	—
Dressmaking.		452	10.8
		565	13.3
Manual Training for Lads		783	18.6
Drawing for Manual training		298	21.0
Teachers Classes.		825	20.1

Dreen, Surveyor, Shoreditch.

Street mileage & paving.

Sewerage work & Ventilation

Shoreditch

Talk with Mr. C. R. Dreen, Surveyor.

Mr. D. only became Surveyor recently, but was previously assistant. He seems a capable & practical man.

Shoreditch has 40 miles of streets. Of wh. 15 miles are paved with stone pitchings, one mile with asphalte, 3/4 m. with wood, & very 20 m. with macadam. Good progress is being made with paving of unpaved roads, 12 men being employed on this.

Large scheme of sewer reconstruction carried out. Method of ventilating sewers by means of chemical furnaces at chief destructor is very efficient, but of course applies only to a limited area. There are a lot of dead ends of sewers at the point, where foul gas largely accumulates. It used to be necessary to leave the sewer covers open for several hours before men cd. go in. Now they enter at once without fear. The sewer ventilating lamps are a feature. Gas Co. make

Rebuilding of Bridges

Care of Streets

Dust removed

them pot gauges round the flame to prevent chance of explosion thro' down draught, & this seems to prevent the up draught also. Purpose entirely the idea of ventilation by dust destruction to another series of sewers.

Rosemary Branch Bridge is to be reconstructed at joint expense of Shoreditch, Hackney & L.C.C. His proposal to rebuild Cat & Mutton bridge is in abeyance owing to expense. It will cost £60,000, & is too local to be counted as a metropolitan improvement for wh. L.C.C. cd. pay.

Every street in the parish is swept daily, the main streets at night & side streets in the day.

House refuse is removed weekly. Every householder is supplied with a "D" for windows, with instructions as to day on wh. the dustmen will go thro' the street, & is cld to

shows the card if requiring dust removed. We next call at the houses when D is calculated. It is found to cause no undue friction. It is not convenient often to people to admit the dustman when he calls. Present system works all right save with new tenants, who do not at first understand the regulations, & so complain of non-removal of dust.

Vestry employs own men on weekly wages, & has its own horses & carts.

Total cost of disposing of parish refuse & of watering the streets is £1900 a year.

Parish adopts the meter & modified hours system, saving about £700 a year above old plan; 1725 gas lamps; total cost of maintenance £6078 (very high as compared to Ashington). Gas charged at 2/3 per 1000.

Lighting - Gas

Unemployed.

A good turn was done for the unemployed last winter by keeping in full swing the work of

Wages of Workpeople.

laying the electric light conduits. This, with the mild weather, led to very little trouble with the unemployed.

The Surveyor recently reported as to wages paid the Vestry's staff, with the result that increases were made in many cases - in fact, wherever recommended, as in following return:-

EMPLOYES UNDER WORKS COMMITTEE.

CLASS.	PRESENT WAGES.	WAGES RECOMMENDED.
Masons	5/10 per day ... ... 56 hours per week summer, and 48 hours per week winter	The same
Paviors	5/10 per day ... ... 56 hours per week summer, and 48 hours per week winter	The same
Rammermen	4/6 per day...	5/- per day 56 hours per week summer 48 hours per week winter
Mason's Labourers ...	4/2 per day...	4/6 per day 56 hours per week summer 48 hours per week winter
Pickers	4/2 per day...	
General Labourers ...	4/2 per day...	
Sewermen	36/- per week ... ... Men find Boots and Slops	36/- per week. 45 hours per week. Boots and Slops to be provided by Vestry
Watchmen	4/- per day ... ... with 4d. per day for firing in winter	The same
Steam Roller Driver ...	6/4 per day... ... ... 56½ hours per week summer 48 hours per week winter	The same

NOTE.—There is no alteration in the hours of labour.

P.t.o.

EMPLOYES UNDER DUSTING AND SCAVENGING COMMITTEE.

Class.	Present Wages.	Wages Recommended.
Day Sweepers	24/- per week.	25/- per week
Night do.	24/- do.	26/- do.
Machine do. (night) ...	26/6 do.	28/- do.
Gullymen (do.) ...	25/6 do.	27/- do.
Slopping Carmen (Day)	25/- do.	26/- do.
Do. do. (Night)	25/- do.	27/- do.
Horsekeeper	31/- do.	34/- do.
Night Horsekeeper ...	28/- do.	31/6 (7 nights)
Stablemen	24/- do.	25/- per week
Weighmen	25/- do.	26/- do.
F. Clarke (Mechanic) ...	24/- do.	28/- do.
Dustmen (carriers) ...	24/- do.	No increase recommended
Do. (carmen) ...	25/- do.	do. do.
Watchmen		do. do.

NOTE.—The present hours of labour are not altered.

In each case the increase of wages will commence on January 1st, 1898.

In sickness, half pay is granted for one month, afterwards at discretion. Each employee on regular staff has a weeks holiday, with pay.

Dr Thomas, med. officer, Limehouse.

An "easy going" district.

Sanitation.

Limehouse. Jan - Mar 30.98 135

(See also book 14) Local 10
10-11-12
1

Interview with Dr Thomas, Medical Officer.

When we were at Limehouse last summer I had arranged to see Dr. Rogers (then med. offr), when he was taken ill. The illness ultimately proved fatal, & Dr. Thomas succeeded him in the autumn.

Dr T., who is therefore new to the work, is a young-ish man, with a good, intelligent face & manner, but a suggestion of the "sunny south" about him. He had hardly mastered his duties yet - has not, I shd. imagine, made any particular haste to do so. He fits in with my previously-formed notion of Limehouse officials & their work - a jog-trot, take it easy method. Limehouse is hardly likely to commit those errors wh. arise fm. over haste.

The sanitary work remains much as described by Mr. Jefferson. Three regular inspectors, each with his own district, look to the requirements of 65 000 people - a moderate proportion,

but still it shd. be very fairly sufficient, because an reasonably large number of disinfecting men (6) assist them, filling in their time by testing drains in the house-to-house inspection. This inspection goes steadily on, but the doctor does not know how long it will take to complete, nor even how much ~~ground~~ ground has yet to be covered. He knows it is not yet all covered, but is quite content with what the sanitary men are doing, & apparently leaves them pretty much to their own devices. The report shows that they make 3 to 4 thousand visits a year each.

Workshops are visited in the ordinary course of the inspector's work, but no special list of them seems to be kept. Bakehouses, cow-houses & slaughterhouses (the 2 last a very small number) are all registered & visited.

Bye-laws have been framed respecting houses let in lodgings, & about 70 registered, the register, as usual, being a black-list, & houses being exempt until registered. The subjoined form has to be filled up by the "landlord" of a house let in lodgings:-

Workshops, &c

Lodgings.

Board of Works for the Limehouse District.

PUBLIC HEALTH (LONDON) ACT, 1891.

Registration of Houses Let in Lodgings or occupied by more than one Family.

Particulars required with regard to the premises No.

(*a*) What is the total number of rooms in the house?

(*b*) What is the total number of rooms let in lodgings or occupied by members of more than one family?

(*c*) What is the manner of use of each room?

(*d*) State the number, age and sex of the occupants of each room used for sleeping:

(*e*) State the Christian name and Surname of the lessee of each room:

(*f*) State the amount of rent or charge per week payable by each lessee:

The foregoing is a true statement of the particulars required with respect to the above mentioned premises.

Dated this day of 189

(*Signature of the Landlord or of his Agent duly authorised*). _____

Address: _____

_____

To the Clerk of the

BOARD OF WORKS FOR THE LIMEHOUSE DISTRICT.

[NOTE:—This form must be filled up and returned within fourteen days from the date of the annexed notice.]

Summary of Work

TABLE VII.

INSPECTORS' REPORT OF THE SANITARY WORK, &c.,
Completed in the year ending December 31st, 1896.

Sanitary Work, &c.	No. 1 District	No. 2 District.	No. 3 District.	Total.
Houses, Premises &c., inspected	1372	1380	1243	*3995
Orders issued for amendments	3533	2756	2031	8320
Houses cleansed and whitewashed	134	175	163	472
Rooms disinfected, stripped and cleansed	169	182	99	450
Drains repaired, cleansed and trapped	825	357	432	1614
Drains new and reconstructed	154	41	130	325
Yards paved and paving repaired	379	420	301	1100
Water-closets, cleansed and repaired	476	520	315	1311
Closets and Urinals supplied with water	58	203	196	457
New closets supplied	9	17	14	40
Water supply laid on	68	55	40	163
Cisterns cleansed and covered and defective water fittings	437	113	169	719
Waste and stack pipes disconnected from drains	132	39	54	225
Dust pails supplied	192	152	199	543
Dust removal complaints attended to	17	13	20	50
Removal of accumulations, &c.	24	17	12	53
Dead bodies removed to Mortuary	1	10	5	16
Canal Boats inspected	85	—	—	85
Flooring, Stairs, Window Sashes and Eaves Gutters provided and Roofs repaired	621	387	309	1317
Overcrowding abated	3	2	3	8
Notices to Schools	320	422	108	850
Factory inspections	47	6	150	203
Factory nuisances abated	39	2	9	50
Bake houses inspected	40	32	22	94
Licensed cow sheds inspected	10	4	12	26
Licensed slaughter houses inspected	2	2	—	4
Legal proceedings, *i.e.*, Summonses	11	17	7	35
Houses closed, unfit for habitation	4	—	6	10
Houses demolished	—	1	—	1
Notices given to London County Council of dangerous and dilapidated premises	9	40	45	94
Drain test used	604	709	324	1637
Improved ventilation in houses	118	225	30	373
Basements discontinued to be used as dwellings	1	—	—	1
Drinking water supplies separate from the w.c.'s	30	1	—	31
Animals removed	1	1	3	5
Cesspools abolished	1	1	—	2
Free Shelters inspected	—	26	—	26
New Dung Pits provided	6	1	6	13
Water closets discharging into the River Thames	—	—	5	5
Notices to provide Crossings, Area gratings, Flaps and Trap doors in Footways	8	24	38	70
Samples taken under Sale of Food and Drugs Act	48	51	45	144
Dust Bins defective	1	5	4	10

* This does not include re-inspection to premises to ascertain works in progress or premises inspected where no nuisance was found to exist; such, if added would probable treble the number.

In addition to this, we have had destroyed as unfit for human food during the year the following articles, viz:—10 Boxes Kippers, 1 Trunk of Haddocks, 5 Trunks of Roker, 2 Parcels of Rabbits, a quantity of Tomatoes, 4 Boxes of Oranges, 2 Barrels of Herrings, 32 Cases of Oranges.

JOHN WILLIAM JOHNSON.
GEORGE OSBORNE PAVITT.
EDWIN THOMAS CROOK.

Improvement Schemes

There are a number of old & bad houses in the district, some built below the pavement level, but hardly any back-to-back houses. Two improvement schemes are in hand for dealing with some of the worst of these. The clearing of the Qn. Catherine's Court area, under Pt. II of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, has been under consideration for years. It includes Qn. Cath. Court, Lit. Qn. Cath. St., Susannah Row, & bits of Bennett St. & Dorset St. Most of the houses have now been cleared, but in a few cases the Bd. are waiting for leases to fall in.

The King John's Ct. scheme includes the clearing of this & another court lying between Jarrett Coll St. & Pill St., & will entail the widening of Three Colt St. & Limehouse Causeway at the contiguous parts. Some houses already cleared, Several of the houses have been closed w/a, but there are still about 50 people on the site. The L.G.B. held the usual inquiry last Sept., but altho' there was hardly any opposition, the result of inquiry has not yet been received. Consent is, however, fully expected. It is proposed to build two sets of

dwellings, each to hold 444 persons, & to dispose of a piece of land to the L. School Bd., one of whose schools adjoins. The land will in all probability be sold to private people to build as required. The Bd are not at all likely to undertake the building themselves.

Three Colt St. is also to be widened higher up.

To each of these 3 schemes the L.C.C. give half cost.

Limehouse is also going with Stepney & L.C.C. in widening a portion of Ben Jonson Rd.

The L.C.C. has some very good blocks of dwellings in Limehouse. They have no trouble with workers in this district.

Since the magistrates restriction of numbers to 300, things have gone much better at Mudland Hall. The inspectors pay a surprise visit at night each week to see that the limit is not exceeded. They are now enlarging it to hold 450. The place

Mudland Hall

Open Spaces

Municipal "Enterprise"

is detrimental to the District, not only because it is a means of imparting disease, but also owing to its filling the local casual wards with those worked out of the Shelter.

Two in Ratcliff; one each in Shadwell, Limehouse & Wapping. All under L.C.C.; the B.C. has none.

An "anonymous donor" (really Mr. Smith) has given Ratcliffe a site in Whitehorse St. for baths. They will probably start building soon. A requisition has also been sent to the B.C. in favor of a public library, & referred to a committee.

At present there is neither public bath nor library in the district.

Electric light - order given over to a private company.

Apart from its offices, Limehouse has only one municipal institution - its mortuary. If this it is not

a little proud. It is, I understand, a very good one, & its officials rejoice – if such a term may be used – over the number of bodies it is capable of receiving & does receive. 179 were accommodated last year.

Adjoining is a disinfecting station & shelter.

[The above does Lambourn some injustice. It has also [underground conveniences, wh. it lets to a private speculator.

Food Adulteration

Dr J. is also the analyst (the 2 offices are very rarely combined, but are so here). There is some activity in this work. Sundry milks have recently been sampled, with bad results to purveyors, 7/8 p/c being adulterated. His predecessors report is as follows: — (see over)

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

One hundred and forty-four samples were examined during the year, viz.: 21 of Flour, 12 of Mustard, 18 of Pepper, 1 of Sweetmeats, 56 of Milk, 18 of Butter, 3 of Ice Cream, 2 of Whisky, 6 of Oatmeal, 1 of Cocoa, 3 of Porter, 2 of Coffee, and 1 of Cornflour.

Of these one sample of Mustard was found to be adulterated with a small quantity of Wheat Flour and coloured with Turmeric. Thirteen samples of Milk were adulterated with water varying in quantity from six to twenty-five per cent., the prosecution of the vendors resulting in fines of from five to fifty shillings; one sample was deficient in cream to the extent of thirty per cent. and the seller was fined forty shillings and costs. Of the Butters five were found to be adulterated with varying proportions of foreign fat, and the vendors were fined on prosecution in sums of from five shillings to ten pounds. The Ice Creams were found to consist of harmless ingredients but bore evidence of gross want of cleanliness in their preparation and storage. One Whisky was found to be adulterated with 1·48 per cent. of Water. The samples of Flour, Pepper, Sweetmeats, Oatmeal, Cocoa, Porter, Coffee and Cornflour were found to be unadulterated.

The Inspectors have performed their duties to my satisfaction and I have to express my thanks to them for the manner in which at all times they have assisted me in carrying out the duties of my office.

I have the honour to remain,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient Servant,

G. A. ROGERS,

Medical Officer of Health and Public Analyst.

BOARD'S OFFICES:—
WHITE HORSE STREET.
April 12th, 1897.

Lewisham - Births & Deaths.

Table shewing the Annual Birth and Death Rates, Death Rates of Children, and Proportion of Deaths in Public Institutions in a Thousand Deaths for the Year 1896, and 10 Years preceding.

In the Year.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Population.	Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 of the Population.	Deaths of Children under 1 year; per 1,000 of Registered Births.	Deaths of Children under 1 year; per 1,000 of Total Deaths.	Deaths of Children under 5 years; per 1,000 of Total Deaths.	Deaths in Public Institutions per 1,000 of Total Deaths.
1896	**34·6**	**23·7**	**182**	**265**	**478**	**189**
1895	35·5	27·3	222	289	466	161
1894	33·1	24·2	161	234	441	...
1893	33·9	27·7	201	247	400	...
1892	33·6	25·5	188	249	459	...
1891	34·6	26·0	174	232	376	...
1890	30·8	26·8	209	240	445	...
1889	35·0	22·7	159	246	427	...
1888	35·5	24·6	207	299	494	...
1887	35·0	24·7	176	250	431	...
1886	34·4	25·0	178	244	442	...
Average of 10 years 1886-95.	34·1	25·4	187	253	438	...

Marriage rate - 14.2 - rather low.
Birth rate high.

Water Supply

Dust removal.

Some trouble again last summer, but not so much as in previous years.

By private contract.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

Whitechapel Picture Gallery. Mr. Harrison Townsend, the Architect, is showing, in the Picture Exhibition, a picture of the elevation of the Gallery which will be built on land adjoining the Free Library. Mr. Passmore Edwards gives £5,000 towards the building which may be sufficient, but £2,000 more would make it nearer perfection.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

Labour Homes.
Conference at Toynbee Hall

Conference on Labour Homes. A Conference was held on Wednesday afternoon, March 16, on "Labour Homes and Farms." Lord Herschell presided, and about 40 people, representing Boards of Guardians and others, were present. Mr. Noel Buxton opened with a paper in which he said: "A Labour Home is a combination of a boarding-house and a workshop or farm under private management, designed to reclaim social failures, to limit pauperising charity, to bring mendicancy under stricter control.

I. The methods employed are (1) opportunities for gaining health, hope, and skill. The German and Salvation Army Homes admit all comers without enquiry. The Church Army and smaller Homes admit only select cases for a limited time, and only once. The former plan lowers the reputation of the Homes, as they become the resort of the idle, and tempt some to throw up work. Work is the chief medicine—8 or 9 hours a day is required. (2) Moral influence: in some Homes there are 'brothers' who work and live with the men. (3) The sense of independence which is gained by the earning of wages for work. (4) The offer of situations.

II. The charitable will not so readily give to those out of work if it is known that Labour Homes are open, and, in times of panic, careless charity will be checked.

III. If it were clearly shown that strong workers refused eligible work, prosecution would be possible, and habitual mendicants might be put under restraint.

Co-operation between Guardians and Labour Homes is important, so that any person of hopeful character applying to the Workhouse may have a chance."

The discussion which followed was started by Mr. Basil Holmes, who gave his experience of the results of Labour experiments at Abbey Mills, during three successive winters. "At least 60 per cent.," he thought, were unhelpable by the offer of work.

Mr. Walter Hazell, M.P., told of his farm in Hertfordshire, where he takes in 9 or 12 men, employs them with the usual labourers, and then emigrates them to Canada. He said that he had never had a skilled artizan apply, but found that those who came to him were unskilled, or broken in character. Out of 137 cases only 50 had persevered in their new life. His conclusion of the whole matter was that the evil must be prevented rather than cured, and that more individual care should be given in education.

go to camp in the summer. Mr. Paddock and Mr. Draper, who up to this time have filled Mr. Jackson's place, have now, in their turn, to leave. Will any one volunteer? He who does so ought to be able to spend two nights at the Club, and he would be doubly useful if he could live in East London.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

Saturday Evening Lectures. On Saturday, March 5th, Miss Mary Kingsley gave her promised lecture on "West Africa." The Lecture Hall was crowded, and Miss Kingsley kept her audience intensely interested both by the story of her exploits and her manner of relating them.

She prefaced her lecture by saying that she was not going to dwell on the present political questions which were attracting attention in "West Africa." She would only hope that they would not regard the present state of affairs too calmly, for the region [illegible] great natural wealth and densely populated with customers for English

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Mr. Vallance, Clerk to the Whitechapel Guardians, gave a short account of the history of attempts to give training to the unemployed on the land. It was impossible, he thought, to use the Poor Law to get out the stain Poor Law treatment had created. He did not think that much could be done with men after they had left a Workhouse.

Captain Gretton, speaking of emigration, gave some facts to show that training such as men receive at Abbey Mills was totally inadequate, and that men who passed out to Canada without much better training and testing must be failures.

Mr. Harold Moore contended that work on the land could be made successful; but this Mr. Brooks doubted; farming with broken labour, he said, would fail, and that it took longer to make one farmer than two mechanics. He advocated various sorts of farms for various sorts of characters.

Lord Herschell, in his closing observations, declared that the problem could not be solved by dealing with the unemployed on one uniform system. They must be considered in classes and even individually. Homes and farms had proved useful, but on the other hand there was a large class in respect of whom they afforded no solution. The only hope of success was to make a selection of candidates for one kind of home, and to treat the cases of the unselected in another. As a practical outcome of the discussion the Conference accepted a resolution, proposed by Canon Barnett, expressing the desirability that Boards of Guardians should be in communication with Labour Homes, with a view to co-operation between private and official charity, and, secondly, that Labour Homes should be established all over London in connection with the various Boards. In furtherance of these objects a Committee was appointed, consisting of Canon Barnett and several of the other speakers.

Dr Yarrow, St. Luke's.

Changes in Locality.

Decreasing population.

ap. 6. - J.A. 149

Dr G. E. Yarrow, med. Offr of St. Luke's, is learned in Law as well as physic, being a barrister & member of the Honourable Soty of Grays Inn. He holds a Diplomate in Public Health of the R.C.P., & is deputy coroner for N.E. London. He is quite an elderly man, little, very grey, active, & precise, & business-like.

He has known St. Luke's for 40 years, & has held med. Office for 13. He has seen great changes in the district, most particularly of late years & caused chiefly by the spread of the City.

Population has steadily decreased from 55,000 in 1871 to 41,500 now, in spite of erection of huge blocks of buildings, & of the changes he says in his last report that they

s have been brought about on the southern side of the Parish entirely by the demolition of dwelling houses and the erection on their sites of warehouses, factories, &c., while on the north side the same observation applies to a less extent, the extra accommodation provided by the erection of Guinness's Trust Buildings has fully compensated for the loss of dwelling houses in that district.

During the past five years, in which some record has been kept, I find that 96 dwelling houses have been pulled down in the City Road District, and it is estimated that the number of persons thereby displaced amounted to 845. In the Whitecross Street

Erection of Models.

Yarrow

District 71 houses have been demolished in the same period, whereby 598 persons were displaced, and in the Finsbury District 81 houses were pulled down and 809 persons were in the same way disturbed. Taking the two latter districts, formed from the south side of Old Street, together, the figures would be 152 houses destroyed and 1,407 persons displaced, and for the whole Parish 248 houses converted into factories, &c., whereby 2,252 persons had to find homes elsewhere.

The day population is now about 5 times that of the night.

As I have already intimated the demand for accommodation has been to some extent met by the erection of Guinness's Trust Buildings in Lever Street; these dwellings consist of 14 blocks, eight of which were opened January, 1893, and six in June, 1894, the whole providing accommodation for 1558 persons, leaving 694 persons unprovided for, being only 219 less than the total decrease in the population during the 5 years.

Another indication of the change which has taken place in the Parish may be found in the fact that nearly one-fifth of the entire population now reside in the ten sets of artizans dwellings which exist in the the district, the numbers being—

Peabody's Buildings	3,645
Guinness Trust Buildings	1,558
Bartholomew's Buildings	1,476
Peerless Buildings	315
Palmerston Buildings	314
St. Clement's Buildings	268
Costermonger Dwellings	189
Eagle Dwellings	113
Chapel Buildings	31
Lever Buildings	28
Total	7,937

Two years ago the doctor made the following return of

ACCOMMODATION AFFORDED BY THE VARIOUS INDUSTRIAL DWELLINGS IN THE PARISH OF ST. LUKE.

Peabody's Buildings, Whitecross Street, consists of 33 Blocks of Buildings, containing the following separate lettings :—

144	Single Rooms at	2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d.	per week rent.
369	Two ,,	4s. 3d. to 5s. 3d.	,, ,,
325	Three ,,	5s. 9d. to 6s. 6d.	,, ,,
5	Four ,,	7s. 3d. to 7s. 6d.	,, ,,
	No. of lettings		843

Bartholomew Buildings, Seward Street, consist of 8 Blocks, containing :—

48	Single Rooms at	3s. 6d. to 4s. 9d.	per week rent.
153	Two ,,	5s. 0d. to 6s. 0d.	,, ,,
44	Three ,,	6s. 9d. to 7s. 3d.	,, ,,
24	Four ,,	8s. 6d. to 9s. 0d.	,, ,,
	No. of lettings		269

P.T.O

Model Dwellings

Yazzad

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PEERLESS BUILDINGS, Peerless Street, consists of 6 Blocks, containing :—

24 Three Room lettings at 6s. 9d. to 7s. 9d. per week.
48 Four ,, ,, 7s. 3d. to 7s. 6d. ,,
No. of lettings 72

PALMERSTON BUILDINGS, City Garden Row, consists of 3 Blocks, containing :—

36 Three Room lettings at 5s. 6d. to 6s. 3d. per week.
36 Four ,, ,, 7s. 3d. to 8s. ,,
No. of lettings 72

ST. CLEMENT'S BUILDINGS, Lever Street, consists of 2 Blocks, containing :—

6 Two Room lettings at 4s. to 4s. 6d. per week.
54 Three ,, ,, 5s. to 7s. ,,
No. of lettings 60

COSTERMONGERS' DWELLINGS, Bunhill Row, consists of 2 Blocks, and contains :—

29 One Room lettings at 3s. 6d. per week.
23 Two ,, ,, 5s. 6d. ,,
4 Three ,, ,, 7s. ,,
No. of lettings 56

EAGLE DWELLINGS, City Road, consists of 2 Blocks, and contains :—

18 Two Room lettings at 5s. to 6s. 6d. per week.
12 Three ,, ,, 8s. to 9s. 6d. ,,
4 Four ,, ,, 10s. ,,
No. of lettings 34

CHAPEL BUILDINGS, Blyth's Yard, contains :—

8 Three Room lettings at 9s. to 10s. per week.
No. of lettings 8

LEVER BUILDINGS, Lever Street, contains :—

6 Four Room lettings at 9s. to 11s. per week.
No. of lettings 6

GUINNESS' TRUST BUILDINGS, Lever Street, consists of 14 Blocks, and contains :—

57 One Room lettings at 2s. to 3s. per week.
175 Two ,, ,, 4s. to 5s. 6d. per week.
94 Three ,, ,, 5s. to 6s. ,,
6 Four ,, ,, 6s. 3d. ,,
No. of lettings 332

Making a grand total of 1752 families occupying Artizans' Dwellings, and estimating 4½ persons to each family gives a total accommodation of 7884 persons.

Where the people have gone.

So there has Bn still further increase in the interval. The blocks are of good class, & only one set has given trouble, these being all right now.

Taking the dividing line of Old St., population on the South side decreased 1633 between '91 & '96, & on the North side increased by 720 in the same period. The worst & most crowded bits in the South have disappeared in this way, the lowest of the inhabitants have Bn dispersed mostly into Clerkenwell & Shoreditch whilst the more decent labouring people have come into the Northern part of the parish & have driven out & succeeded the more comfortable class. In the South there has Bn decided social improvement, but in the North nos. of houses formerly let to one family are now occupied by 2 & 3. Generally speaking the best & the worst have gone. The buildings are largely occupied by newcomers - all decent working people in regular employ who give little trouble.

Popn, births & deaths.

Reasons of High death-rate.

St. Lukes has an area of 239 acres, & 3702 houses. Statistics of populn, births & deaths for past 10 years:—

	Population.	Births.	Rate per 1000.	Deaths.	Rate per 1000.	No. of Deaths under 5 years.
1887	44,203	1,685	38·1	1,106	25·0	482 equal to 43·5 per cent.
1888	43,762	1,694	38·9	1,131	25·8	538 „ 47·5 „
1889	43,321	1,554	35·8	948	22·7	407 „ 42·9 „
1890	42,880	1,575	36·7	1,277	29·7	536 „ 41·9 „
1891	42,440	1,533	36·1	1,277	30·0	537 „ 42·0 „
1892	42,258	1,478	34·9	1,074	25·6	551 „ 51·3 „
1893	42,076	1,420	33·7	1,277	30·3	576 „ 45·1 „
1894	41,894	1,432	34·1	951	22·7	376 „ 39·5 „
1895	41,712	1,476	35·1	1,216	29·1	591 „ 48·6 „
1896	41,527	1,509	36·3	1,050	25·4	483 „ 46·3 „

Dr. Y. recently prepared a special report on the high death rate in St. Lukes, in which he fully endorsed Dr Drysdale's opinion that high birth rate is the main cause. This high birth rate he attributes to the large number of artizans dwellings occupied by people for the most part below the middle period of life. He says:—

St. Luke's - high death-rate

Yarrow 159

Dr. Drysdale, in a letter to the *British Medical Journal* on the subject of "High and low death rates in London Districts in 1896," and to which I have already referred, says: "St. Luke is an example of a district with a heavy death rate (25·1 per 1,000 in 1896), and St. George's-in-the-East had a similar death rate of 24·5 per 1,000 last year. It would, I submit, be a very instructive discussion if some of your correspondents would suggest why the death rate of Hampstead is just about half that of St. Luke or St. George's, Southwark? If I might be allowed to give my opinion on the matter, it would be that Hampstead is peopled by educated and rather well-to-do inhabitants; and that on the contrary St. Luke is peopled by less educated and far poorer folks.

"There is another, and perhaps a more fundamental cause of the difference of the death rate of our poorer and richer districts in London. Hampstead had last year a modest birth rate of 19 per 1,000 inhabitants; St. Luke had an enormous birth rate of 46·7 (? 36·3). Well, it seems to me that, in London at least, death rates are high when birth rates are high, and that if the mortality is to be lowered in St. Luke births must be reduced. Phthisis is about thrice as prevalent in St. Luke as it is in Hampstead."

Dr. Drysdale's view of the subject I fully endorse.

It has been pointed out that the death rate of St. Luke last year was exceedingly high, but it will be seen by the tables appended that with the exception of the years, 1889 and 1894, the number of deaths was less and the death rate lower than any of the ten years under consideration. While the Infant mortality which, for the year 1881 stood at 54·2, and 1891 at 51·3 per cent. of the total number, respectively shows the smallest percentage of either of the ten years, viz., 36·3. On the other hand, the number of deaths in Institutions outside the Parish registered as belonging to St. Luke was greater during the last two years than had ever been the case previously.

That the Infant mortality is the main cause of our heavy death rates is proved beyond doubt. Taking my annual reports for the past four years it may be seen that the deaths of children under 5 years of age have exceeded by 50 per cent. the total number occurring in the Parish.

The figures are for the year

1893	...	...	Adults	391	under 5 years	468
1894	...	...	,,	308	,,	320
1895	...	...	,,	453	,,	455
1896	...	...	,,	322	,,	406

The question naturally arises why this should occur, and the answer is found mainly in the recorded causes of death. Taking last year as an example (and I again confine my observations to deaths occurring in the Parish) it will be seen that out of 44 persons certified as dying from Diarrhœa, 40 were infants under 5 years of age; from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, &c., 81 out of 135 total; from Suffocation, 24 out of 27 (I need hardly say that the said suffocations occurred for the most part while the infants were in bed with their parents, really overlain, an accident (?) almost unknown among persons of better social position). Measles, a disease which, with proper care and attention, is rarely fatal, was certified as the cause of death in 32 instances. With reference to Bronchitis and Pneumonia, neglect and exposure are the main factors in the majority of instances. While as to Diarrhœa, improper feeding stands as the primary cause. In this connection I would especially mention deprivation of breast milk and the substitution in lieu thereof of preserved milk and farinaceous foods in its various forms, while the use of unclean feeding bottles and tubes are a frequent cause of pollution of the food and consequent gastric irritation in the infant.

Resort to artificial feeding and its attendant evils are of course necessitated by the absence of the mothers, who are engaged in various occupations away from their homes for many hours at a time, not infrequently, however, the infants are left in the care of older children who themselves are not far removed from infancy.

High birth-rate in Models

Low, but rising, marriage-rate

Housing & Sanitation

Yearsley 161

analysing further the births it appears that

In the City Road Sub-Registration District there were 1,171 ; in the Whitecross Street Sub-registration District there were 254, and in the Finsbury Sub-registration District there were 84. In relation to the estimated population the figures stand as under :—

	Births per 1000 Inhabitants.
For the whole Parish	36·34
City Road Sub-registration District	39·16
Whitecross Street ,, ,, ...	33·44
Finsbury ,, ,, ...	20·81

After a series of years during which there has been a steady decline in the number of Births, an increase took place during the year 1894, and the same occurred even to a greater extent during the past year, ~~as is shown in the Table~~ below. This increase is found to concern chiefly the City Road District, in which 36 Block of Artizans Dwellings, accommodating 845 families, are situated.

The number of Marriages celebrated in St. Luke during the year was 252 (against 118 for the previous year), the number of persons married being in proportion to 12·1 per 1,000 of the population, and an increase on the year 1895 of 6·7 per 1,000, and if, as is frequently asserted, a high marriage rate is evidence of prosperity, our district is to be congratulated. The Metropolitan marriage rate was 18·0 per 1,000, and which is the highest rate recorded in any year since 1883.

Housing is fairly good now. There are few courts & alleys left, & particular attention is paid to drainage & whitewashing. There are 2 sanitary inspectors & an assistant who looks to infectious cases, besides an attendant at the disinfector — a new & very efficient apparatus.

Sanitary work

Yarrow

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Premises inspected	2433
Houses cleansed and repaired	514
Dustbins provided and repaired	225
Yards to houses paved and amended	168
Traps provided to yards and house drains	63
Water receptacles cleansed and provided with covers ...	56
Water supply re-instated	34
Drains amended and obstructions removed	227
Houses provided with new pipe drains	94
Rainwater pipes disconnected from drains	53
Waste pipes of sinks ,, ,, ...	41
Waterclosets reconstructed	15
,, ventilation improved	25
,, water supply re-instated	204
,, pans cleansed	107
Overcrowding in rooms abated	57
Underground rooms found illegally occupied as dwellings	9
Roofs of houses repaired	106
Nuisances arising from accumulations of manure and refuse abated	52
Ventilation of houses improved	4
Dungpits abolished and proper receptacles provided ...	7
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	153
Rooms fumigated	428
No. of articles of bedding, clothing, &c., disinfected ...	3246
No. of articles of clothing, &c , destroyed	5
Dust complaints reported to Surveyor	119

Workshop inspection

Factory and Workshops Acts, 1895.

No. of Workshops inspected	90
No. of Workshops found in satisfactory condition ...	30
No. of Workshops found to have foul waterclosets and urinals	48
No. of Workshops found to have defective drains ...	52
No. of Workshops found to require additional water-closet accommodation	28
No. of Workrooms inspected	151
No. of Workrooms requiring additional ventilation ...	10
No. of Workrooms required cleansing	60
No. of Workrooms measured	40
No. of Workrooms found overcrowded	2

Total No. of Sanitary Notices served.

Written intimations	1242
Statutory notices	524
Notices of Summons	91

most of the workshops are new & well built, & so are in good sanitary condition.

Thirty-five bakehouses were visited, notices were served for cleansing, limewashing, &c., where necessary, and the work done in all cases.

Two cowsheds and four slaughter-houses were also visited and notices to limewash and amend paving served upon owners of the former.

List of Streets and Courts inspected under systematic house to house visitation :—

Ironmonger Row	Macclesfield Place
Hall Street	Macclesfield Street
Clarence Street	Clarence Place
Garden Court	Garden Row
Charles Court	Mason's Place
York Place	John's Place
Whitby Court	Roby Street
Europia Place	George Yard
Anchor Yard	Ludlow Street
Lewen's Court	Parr's Place
Church Row	Wellington Place
Cottage Lane	Bastwick Street
Peerless Street	Little Arthur Street
Baltic Street	Great Arthur Street
Wither's Place	Belward Avenue
Murton Street	

This house-to-house inspection is steadily carried forward each year. There is little opposition from owners, & only occasionally is prosecution necessary.

Houses let in lodgings which are registered under the Bye-laws relating to the same :—

Bastwick Street, 16, 17, 18, 34, 58.
Featherstone Street, 19, 20.
Honduras Street, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8.
Lever Street, 15, 43, 47, 51.

The above are the only houses at present on the Vestry's Register, although a very large number exist in the Parish which the Bye-laws were intended to include and which in my opinion should be registered. The amount of rent paid, however (3s. per week) excludes them from the operation of the Bye-laws.

Personnel of Vestry –
not very good

much sanitary progress

It was found that under the rent-clause the great mass of owners were able to evade the law, so new bye-laws have to be framed, giving the Vestry the option of registration as they think fit.

Dr Y. complains he has had some difficulty in squeezing the Vestry up to the mark in sanitary matters; the work is not showy enough for them – they want to see more for their money. The personnel of the Vestry is not very good; employers sometimes get on the Board for a time, but become disgusted. Cannot stand the ways of the men who have kept whelk stalls, &c. He thinks if the wds. cd. be reduced from 60 to 20 a better class of men cd. be got & the work improved. He had a good deal of trouble with them over the bye-laws as to lodgings, several of them ~~keeping~~ letting lodgings themselves.

None-the-less, there has been great sanitary improvement. He recalls the time when the med. officer only came once a fortnight, & when one man combined the offices of inspector & street keeper.

Yorkrow

Open Spaces

No baths.

Library

Dust removal.

Knew several cases there where people kept cows in the cellars of dwelling-houses. Now only 2 cow-houses in parish, & these of very good class.

A fair no. of open spaces. Playgrounds at Bartholomew Square & Windsor Terrace (celebrated by Dickens). 2 burial grounds laid out, partly by Vestry & by L.C.C. & Bartholomews Hospital.

No public baths or washhouses. Well surrounded by these in other parishes – Clerkenwell, Shoreditch, & ~~St. Luke's~~. Islington. Baths were built from philanthropic motives in Golden Lane some time ago, but proved a failure, & are now demolished.

No public library of own, but the parish is entitled, under a trust deed, to the use of the one at Cripplegate Institute.

Dust removed daily in main thoroughfares. Elsewhere weekly. See Surveyor as to this. Have a small dust destructor, quite new. Hope to get

Improvements.

Water

Food adulteration.

appreciation of work.

enough power from it to light Vestry Hall & Wks, &c, by electricity. General electric lighting in hands of City of London Brush Coy.

It is proposed to widen Old St., at its west boundary, between Central St. & Fosnell Rd. This will be done by L.C.C. as a metropolitan improvement, being part of the direct main thoroughfare from east to west. The parish have nothing in hand. Were so crippled by the big Golden Lane improvement, wh. cost them something like £80,000, that could not do any more just yet.

Water supply good. By N. R. Co.

Samples of food taken regularly & analysed.

Dr Yarrow attends at the Vestry Hall twice a-day; & altho' evidently occupied a good deal otherwise, wd., I shd. say, be able to keep a fairly sharp eye on the sanitary work. He is probably not a sanitary enthusiast but level-headed

& not likely to tolerate any serious abuse. The
changes in the parish are of such a nature
that with steady work the place shd. steadily
get healthier & more wholesome. Overcrowding
likely to be the chief danger; Dr Y. says there
are particulars about this. but have never tried
any night visits.

Barrett, Surveyor, Bethnal Green

Labour

ap. 21 - J.A. 175

Mr. Barratt, Surveyor to Bethnal Green Vestry is a middle-aged man with a slow manner & sad expression - lacks go & initiative probably, & seeing this I was not surprised there are complaints as to the state of the streets in so poor & difficult a parish as Bethnal Green. He was quite courteous & willing to give information, but having obtained already full information as to the sanitary work, I had only a few questions to ask.

The Vestry goes in largely for direct employment, doing its own paving, drain & sewer work & its own sweeping. The removal of street sweepings, house refuse & road watering is performed by a contractor.

The men are well paid, & receive holidays, sick pay, &c., a feature of the sick fund being that it is entirely provided by the Vestry at the rate of 1/- a head per ~~week~~ week, & that any surplus is at the end of each year divided amongst the men.

Wages

Bethnal Green

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The Salaries and rate of wages paid to foreman and workmen in the employ of the Vestry, are as follows :—

		£	s.	d.
General Foreman (Mr. Stone)	per week	2	15	0
Depot keeper (Mr. Pearson) with house, coal & gas	,,	2	0	0
Foreman on Special Paving Works (Mr. Murray)	,,	3	3	0
Gangers (Scavenging) ...	,,	1	7	0
Sweepers	,,	1	5	0
Pickers (Foremen)	,,	1	13	0
,, ...	,,	1	8	0
Steam Roller driver	,,	1	15	0
Masons (Jobbing)	,,	1	18	0
Paviors ,, ...	,,	1	18	0
Rammer men	,,	1	10	0
Masons Labourers	,,	1	8	0
Paviors...	,,	1	8	0
Carmen (leading)	,,	1	10	0
,, ...	,,	1	8	0
Yard men	,,	1	8	0
,, ...	,,	1	5	0
Ion Square Caretaker ...	,,	1	10	0
Sewer Flusher (with boots &c.)	,,	1	10	0
,, Ground men (wearing boots)	,,	1	13	0
Ground men	,,	1	10	0
Stoker (disinfecting apparatus)	,,	1	11	0
Disinfecting men	,,	1	12	0
Urinal Flusher	,,	1	10	0
Mortuary Keeper	,,	1	0	0
Dust Pail men	,,	1	5	0
Bricklayers	per hour	0	0	9½
,, Labourers	,,	0	0	6½
Masons and Paviors on Special Paving Works... ...	,,	0	0	9

Holidays

Bethnal Green

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Rammermen on Special Paving Works	,,	0 0	7
Labourers on Special Paving Works	per hour	0 0	6 & 6½
Watchmen	per night	0 3	6
Painters	per hour	0 0	8
,, (Foreman)	,,	0 0	9
,, (Labourers)... ...	,,	0 0	6½
Male Attendants at Underground Convenience ...	per week	1 6	0
Female Attendants at Underground Convenience ...	,,	0 16	0

All the men in the permanent employ of the Vestry (which practically includes those who are paid a weekly rate) receive the benefit of the Sick Benefit and Burial Fund (a copy of the Balance Sheet is herewith), and are (after 12 months service) also allowed holidays as follows without deduction of wages :—

Christmas Day, Boxing Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, Whit Monday, August Bank Holiday, and one week's holiday in summer.

The hours of labour for all except Sewer Flushers, Disinfecting men, and Carmen, are—

From 1st March to October 31st. 6 a.m. to 8 a.m.; 8.30 a.m. to 12 noon; 1 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.

From November 1st to March 1st. 7.30 a.m. to 12 noon; 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Flushers work from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., with 1½ hours allowed for dinner.

Carmen are required to attend earlier than the above hours for the purpose of feeding and preparing their horses, and have also to take alternate Sunday duty.

Work ceases on Saturday at 1 o'clock all the year round.

The hours and duties of the Attendants at the Underground Convenience are as follows,

These wages have lately been increased in several cases. Sweepers get 27/-

Sick Fund

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St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, Vestry.

RULES

OF

EMPLOYES' SICK, BURIAL AND BENEFIT FUND.

The Vestry contribute a sum of One Shilling a week for each of the men in their regular employ to form a fund for aid in time of Sickness, Death, &c.

1.—Any employé becoming incapable of performing his usual work through any kind of sickness (excepting that which may be brought on by drunkenness), he shall give notice to that effect to the Surveyor, who will then furnish him with a form of medical certificate (to be signed by the official Medical Attendant ; such medical certificate to be renewed each week during the illness. He shall then be allowed out of the fund according to the following table—the ages of the present employés to be reckoned at the commencement of this fund, and others on entering the service of the Vestry.

Class 1.—Under 40 years of age, 12s. a week for 13 weeks.
„ 2.—40 to 59 „ 10s. „ „
„ 3.—60 and over „ 8s. „ „

2.—Should the illness continue after 13 weeks, an allowance of half the above rates will be given for a further period not exceeding 13 weeks. No allowance is to be made for less than three days' illness.

3.—Any such employé, having resumed work, again becoming chargeable to the fund within six months shall only be entitled to the remainder (if any) of his former rate and period of sick

B. Green

allowance, and when the total amount of full and half-pay has been drawn, he must be at work continuously for six months before he is again entitled to sick benefit.

4.—No one in receipt of sick pay is to be from his home before 6 a.m. or after 8 p.m. between April 1st and October 1st, and before 8 a.m. and after 6 p.m. between 1st October and 1st April, or to perform any kind of work for wages; or to be drunk, or do anything calculated to hinder his recovery. For any such default his sick allowance shall be suspended for such a time as the Works Committee may think fit.

5.—A duly qualified medical practitioner shall be engaged to attend (at home when necessary) all cases of sickness, and sign the certificates.

6.—In the event of the death of an employé, his representative shall be paid a sum according to the following table:—

Class 1	.. ..	£12
„ 2	.. ..	£9
„ 3	.. ..	£5

7.—On the Saturday previous to Christmas Day the balance of cash in hand shall be divided equally among those employed the whole year, and proportionately to any who may have entered or left the service during the year.

8.—All title to sick and burial benefits ceases when a man leaves or is discharged from the service of the Vestry.

9.—Should any question or dispute arise as to the construction of these rules, or the administration of the fund, or any matter relating thereto, such question or dispute shall be referred to a committee, to consist of three members of the Works Committee of the Vestry, and three of the employés—to be selected by the employés, and the decision of the majority of such committee shall be final.

NOTE.—*The official Medical Attendant is Dr. G. P. BATE, of No.* 412, *Bethnal Green Road.*

Care of Streets

The main streets are swept daily, other streets 2 or 3 times a week, according to weather & circs. A regular staff of 39 sweepers is employed (3 gangs of 13 men each) & in the worst weather extra men are taken on. The accounts for the condition of the streets mainly by the habits of the people; many are costers who throw the refuse of their stock in trade - fish, vegetables, &c. - into the street. There is great difficulty in stopping it. The last annual report of the Surveyor contains the following reference to this matter: -

> THROWING RUBBISH ON HIGHWAYS. In consequence of the numerous complaints against costermongers and others of throwing refuse in the roadways, a number of summons were taken out in November. Convictions were obtained in all cases, and fines ranging from 5s. to 10s., with costs imposed.
>
> A carman, who shot a load of rubbish in the road at Sale Street, was arrested after great difficulty, and suffered 14 days' imprisonment in default of paying a fine of £1.

Costers barrows stand in all the main thoroughfares, & many loads of refuse left by these are removed, especially on Sunday mornings.

The question of a daily sweeping all round

Care of Streets (contd)

has not been seriously considered – it is a matter of expense, & the parish is a poor one. But they keep gradually improving & increasing the staff. He is making efforts to get the streets paved, as this endears greatly to cleanliness. Several have been paved of late, & he has instructions to get the blocks of streets between Bethnal Green Rd & Hare St. (Fuller St., Bacon St., &c. – a dark blue piece) paved as opportunity occurs.

(as I was returning after this interview I saw outside the church in Hare St. 3 pails full of rubbish, each having a quantity of loose paper at the top. With every gust of wind some of this paper wd. be blown off. It is the practice in B. Green for the Vestry to supply dust pails, & for these receptacles, when full, to be put outside to await the dust cart. May not this partly account for the litter in the streets? £17 to £18000 of these pails have been supplied, says the surveyor. A charge of 2/6 is made, & landlords willingly buy them, as it is

(See letter attached)

Care of Streets (cont'd)

TELEPHONE Nº 2376.

VESTRY OF THE PARISH OF St MATTHEW, BETHNAL GREEN.

F. W. BARRATT, F.S.I.
SURVEYOR

Applications to be made between the Hours of 9 & 11 A.M.

The Vestry Hall,
Church Row,
Bethnal Green, E.

20 Apl 1898

Dear Sir

Referring to yours of 22 Inst. I think that some of the loose paper &c in the streets does come from the Dust Pails which are often over filled and placed by the occupiers in the street (so as to get them out of their way) a considerable time before the Dust wagon calls. The question of "lids" has been considered but the pails already weigh upwards of 14 lbs each and the Committee thought that it would be undesirable to increase the weight. I am afraid hinged lids would soon become broken off and loose lids missing.

Yours faithfully
F. W. Barratt

Jesse Argyle Esq.
9 Adelphi Terrace
Strand.

P.S. I may say we keep one man who does nothing but go about collecting the loose paper

has not been already considered – it is a matter
. poor one. But
& increasing the
rs to get the
greatly to disfi-
ved of late, & be
e of street between
St. (Fuller St.,
piece) paved as

this interview I
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n dust & wind
own off. It is
n Vestry to supply
ckets, when full, to
e dust cart. May
the litter in the
these pails have
a charge of 2/6
them, as it is

Scavenging & Dusting.

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much cheaper than erecting a dust receptacle.)

SCAVENGING, REMOVAL OF DUST, AND WATERING ROADS.

The Special Committee appointed to report on this subject made close enquiry into the methods adopted in other metropolitan districts, and inspected, accompanied by the Surveyor, several Destructors of different types at work. It is difficult to obtain information which would afford means of comparing the effective work done by the different Destructors. The ultimate treatment and disposal of the unconsumed residue varies in each place, and is largely dependent on the nature of the district itself or its immediate surroundings. The Vestry of Shoreditch have in course of construction what is intended to be the most effective Destructor yet designed. It is proposed that the heat generated by burning the refuse shall furnish what is requisite for supplying that Parish with light and power by Electricity. The majority of the Committee were not in favour of at present constructing a Destructor in Bethnal Green.

On the 9th of October the Vestry on the recommendation of the Committee authorised the Committee to make enquiries as to the terms on which the Dusting, Scavenging, and Watering could be executed after the expiration of the existing contracts, and (if necessary) to advertise for tenders to be received by the Vestry.

In November the Committee, after deliberation and having entered into negotiations with the present Contractors, advised the Vestry to contract for the execution of the work for a period o three years from the 10th August, 1897. On the 19th November the Vestry resolved to contract as advised, and contracts have been executed

With Mr. Henry Crane, for District No. 1, at ... £3,220 per Ann.
With Mr. W. E. Stevens, for Districts Nos.
2 and 3, at ... ... £6,435 ,,

Total ... ... £9,655 ,,

The cost will be £225 less per annum than that under the contracts expiring at August, 1897, and £825 less per annum than the cost prior to August, 1895.

(From Rept - 1896-7)

Baths & Wash-houses.

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BATHS AND WASHHOUSES.

The Committee on the 6th August presented a report as follows:

The Committee has visited several establishments in the Metropolis provided under the Baths and Washhouses Acts, and obtained detailed information with regard to other establishments.

The Committee are of opinion that it is not desirable at present to provide Swimming Baths. Such Baths are extremely costly as they necessitate the acquisition of large sites, large expense in construction, their use is for a limited period in each year, while the receipts are entirely out of proportion to the original outlay, maintenance and management charges.

The Committee is of opinion that the provision of separate Baths (for distinction called Private Baths) and of Washhouses is most desirable, and will answer a need which does exist and should be met.

The Committee have had regard to the fact that the use made of establishments of Private Baths aud Washhouses is not and cannot be restricted to parishioners. The proximity of the building would determine a person in the use of accommodation afforded by his own or an adjoining Parish if the charges and accommodation do not greatly differ. The Committee having considered that Baths and Washhouses accommodation is being provided on the Boundary Street Area, and the accommodation afforded by Public Authorities near the Boundary of Bethnal Green, are of opinion that three establishments of Private Baths and Washhouses will meet the requirements of the inhabitants of Bethnal Green. The selection of the positions should (as far as can be) be such as make the accommodation serve equal areas without especial regard to the parochial boundary.

The Committee think that one establishment should be completed first. That it should provide approximately for Private Baths for 30 men, 15 women, and 30 to 40 stalls for washing.

The proportions in number of 1st and 2nd class Private Baths and the precise number of Baths and Washing Stalls and other detail must depend on the nature of the site and possibly on its surroundings.

In accordance with this report, a site for the first of these 3 establishments has been secured in Cheshire St., & the following design

Bethl Green 191.

for the building has just been accepted :—

SAVON (Design A).

Basement contains—Establishment Laundry with Linen Lift, Dynamo and Engine House with Accumulator Room, Boiler House and Coal Store, Superintendent's Coal Store, Engineers' Workshop, 2 Store Rooms, Heater Room, 2 W.C.'s.

Ground Floor—10 Men's 1st Class Baths with 1 W.C.
20 do, 2nd do. do. 2 W.C.'s.
Men's Waiting Hall.
5 Womens' 1st Class Baths with 1 W.C.
11 do. 2nd do. do. 1 do.
Womens' Waiting Hall.

Pay Office to govern both Men's and Women's Entrance, Superintendant's Office and Board Room adjoining, Washhouse entrance with space for storing Linen Perambulators, Office for Laundry Manageress, Cloak Room, Mangling and Ironing Room with Tables, Laundry with Drying Closet (for 40 persons) and 4 Hydro-extractors, 2 W.C.'s.

First Floor—Lavatory and W.C. for Board, Superintendent's Apartments consisting of Sitting Room, Kitchen, Scullery, 3 Bed Rooms, Bath Room and W.C., 4 Cold Water Storage Cisterns.

Estimated Cost in—

Terra-cotta or Salt-Glazed Bricks	£8,430	0	0
Engineering Work	3,000	0	0
Extra for Electric Installation	480	0	0
	£11,910	0	0

If Portland Stone is used instead of Terra-cotta, extra £600 0 0

Batter (cont'd)

Electric Light.

A parish of Board Schools.

Site, buildings, & furnishing complete will cost about £17,000.

The surveyor says there are 2 ~~out of~~ private swimming baths in the parish, besides Victoria Pk. Lake, so he does not think another necessary.

3. The Vestry determined to oppose the grant to the London and Brush Provincial Company of a Provisional Order for supplying Electric Light and Power in the parish. Notice of the objections of the Vestry were given to the Board of Trade and the Provisional Order was not granted.

The question of providing electric light is now under consideration of a special committee which is being advised by Prof. Robinson. There might be a fair demand for it from shops & factories, but nothing from private houses.

Mr. Barrett said Bethnal Green was remarkable for its Board Schools. Had more proportionately, if not actually, than any other parish in London. Two new ones are projected.

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UNDERGROUND CONVENIENCES.

The Underground Convenience at the East end of Bethnal Green Road has been very largely used by the public.

During the year the following amounts were received for the use of the W.C.'s and Lavatories.

Men's side	160	9	9
Women's side	98	15	6
Total	£259	5	3

The success induced the Vestry to undertake the construction of two similar conveniences one at the junction of Bethnal Green Road and Church Street, and one at the East end of Hackney Road, and a contract was entered into with Messrs. Jennings for their construction at a cost of £2800 (the Vestry undertaking to excavate the ground and provide and fix the necessary kerb, guard posts and lamps over staircases). The convenience at the junction of Bethnal Green Road and Church Street was opened to the public on Sept. 17th. The receipts for use of Lavatories and W.C.'s from that date to March 25th, 1897, were :

Men's side	47	9	1
Women's side	27	11	5
Total	£75	0	6

The convenience at the East end of Hackney Road was completed and opened to the public on November 30th, and the receipts for the use of W.C.'s and Lavatories from that date to March 25th, 1897, were :

Men's side	35	9	8
Women's side	16	7	9
Total	£51	17	5

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RATES MADE BY THE VESTRY

During the Year ended 25th March, 1897.

LADY-DAY, 1896—

Poor Rate	at 1s. 2d. in the £.	
General Rate	at 0s. 8d. ,,	
Sewers Rate	at 0s. 1d. ,,	
		1s. 11d.

MIDSUMMER, 1896—

Poor Rate	at 1s. 2d. in the £.	
General Rate	at 0s. 7d. ,,	
Sewers Rate	at 0s. 1d. ,,	
		1s. 10d.

MICHAELMAS, 1896—

Poor Rate	at 1s. 2d. in the £.	
General Rate	at 0s. 8d. ,,	
Composition Rate	at 0s. ¾d. ,,	
		1s. 10¾d.

CHRISTMAS, 1896—

Poor Rate	at 0s. 11d. in the £.	
General Rate	at 0s. 8d. ,,	
Sewers Rate	at 0s. 1d. ,,	
		1s. 8d.
Total Rates in the £ for the Year		7s. 3¾d.

VALUATION.

The Assessment of the Parish on 6th April, 1897, was—

Gross, £563,016. Rateable, £453,101.

Shoreditch Charities.

In 1888 the Shoreditch Vestry appointed a Committee to inquire into the working of the local charities, & as a result of their efforts an inquiry was held by the Charity Commissioners in the following year: The Committee, commenting on this inquiry, say that considerable looseness of management was disclosed. The following are extracts from their report:-

"The subjects comprised in this inquiry were all the Charities administered by the Charity Trustees of Shoreditch, & by the Vicar, the Rev Septimus Buss Churchwardens, & Overseers, including Margaret Vaughan's Charity for Shoreditch, Rullers Charity for Haggerston, the Shoreditch Sunday Schools in the Grove Walk, the Shoreditch New Almshouses, the Severing for Charity, George Cranston's & the Marshalls Gifts, & some Charities belonging strictly to certain religious denominations although of no great importance. Efforts were also directed to obtain information as to what are termed "Lapsed Charities"

Certain alterations in the mode of administering some of the Charities are urgently required, but your Committee

● regret that the necessary reforms cannot be secured - even though the Charity Commissioners be persuaded of the value of them - without a short Act of Parliament involving considerable expense. This will be referred to further on.

In dealing with the funds administered by the Charity Trustees your Committee observe they may be comprised under four heads.

1st Funds applicable to Almshouses
2nd For Widows' Rent in Money secondly in Bread. Fuel in Coals & in Clothing
3rd For Sermons.
4th Funds not specially appropriated but applied to some of the former purposes, & to general expenses.

As to the Parochial Almshouses.

These under the control of the Charity Trustees are thirty in number - twelve at Wood Green, [Tollers] fourteen in Ld Street [Sir Walter & Porters] & four in the Ld Burial Ground Hackney Road. To these men married or single are appointed. but when a widow is left in she is not removed. At present the stipends paid to the inmates are - Fullers about 4/- per week, Porters about 5/- per week; but the Funds strictly available for Alms-

- houses do not amount in any case, to the stipends paid. All are supplemented by advances from the Unappropriated Fund.

In addition to the money payments each inmate receives 4lbs bread weekly, two or three sacks of coal yearly. All the rates water & parochial, insurance & repairs are defrayed from the Unappropriated Fund. £10. 0. is paid to a medical attendant at Wood Green, Dr Burchell formerly & now Dr Shier attends the inmates of the Town Almshouses gratuitously.

The vacancies as they occur are filled by the Trustees, each Trustee having a recommendation in turn, the order being first settled by lot or ballot. Your Committee think the allowances to the Almshouses are reasonable & they have no further observation to offer upon this part of the subject.

Funds distributed in Doles.
[Of money kind]

About £100 per year is given away in money-doles, most by the Vicar, Churchwardens & Overseers. The Trustees share for distribution is £12. 0. 8. About £120 is given at the Parish Church in sums varying from 1/- to 10/-, or more at the discretion of the Vicar, Churchwardens & Overseers - 10s £ of this amount [Sunday Gifts]

This is strongly confirmed by the evidence given before the Commissioners.

the four Feast Days. It appears to be given to too large an extent in an indiscriminate manner. Indeed, it transpired at the Enquiry that occasionally, the full amount is not distributed at the Church to those who hear the sermons, which is one of the conditions of the Gift. It is also possible that some persons may receive a share from two or three distributors. There is reason to believe that a considerable portion passes to confirmed hopeless charity mendicants. All that the Charity Trustees have to do with these Funds is to receive the rents dividends &c & to hand them over to the distributors, whoever they may be, to whom the Bequests or Gifts were originally entrusted.

The same may be said though in a lesser degree of the Bread Coal doles; but these being distributed at irregular ticket there is not the same excuse for indiscriminate distribution, except as to the bread distributed at the Parish Church on Sundays. which is anything but satisfactory. The Clothing is given away in £60 to £80 by the Trustees in 5/- tickets. More money has been expended in Bread. Coal & Clothing during the last two years than the annual ~~income~~ income warrants & accumulated balances have been liquidated by that means.

It is questionable whether much good is done by these

distributuris - The poor are deluged by this kind of dole in the winter season. Money get into the hands of habitual mendicants they are easily converted into money. Your Committee are satisfied that a much better mode of expending accumulated balances could be found than by scattering them broadcast in Bread & Coal tickets.

The Unappropriated Fund.

This fund consists of money not specially appropriated for the poor generally it forms the source from which the extra remuneration to Almshouses & towards the Doles the administration expenses are paid; & could the dead hand be taken off there might remain after providing suitable stipends for the Almshouses & the expenses of administration a considerable sum - £400 to £500 per year - which might under a properly devised & recognised scheme, be applied in Pensions of from £10 to £25 per year or in support of convalescent poor, or in other ways far more beneficially than at present

The Dead Hand.

But how was the "dead hand" put upon these Charities

when the Charity Trustees were established, & how can it be taken off? The Clerk to the Trustees states that when the 26th Section of the Local Act was drawn, which vests the Parochial Charities in the Charity Trustees, it was intended to give the Trustees full control of the distribution under the direction of the Charity Commissioners; but in the passage of the Bill through Parliament the then Vicar of the Parish, the late Rev T. S. Evans, obtained the insertion of a Proviso at the end of the Section which reads

"subject nevertheless to the same trusts for the same intents & purposes as and to be paid to & and to be disposed & distributed by the Persons to whom the same respectively so given granted & devised were respectively according to their respective original Foundations anything in this Act or in the hereby recited Act to the contrary notwithstanding."

Here however unsuitable the original intention of the present time however mischievous might be the indiscriminate scattering of large sums in Doles, the Charity Trustees are bound to hand over these moneys to the Vicar, Churchwardens, Overseers or to provide otherwise for Doles in kind & the Charity Commissioners are of opinion that the only remedy, for what your Committee can but deplore is the repeal of the Proviso in the Local Act. This would require a

new local Act which, however short, would be a costly affair.

The Committee are advised that the Vestry could not legally apply the Rates for that purpose, at least until after the Act had passed; but it is hardly to be expected that the Charity Trustees would apply the Charity Funds for that purpose, even if they had the power to do so.

Conclusion.

Your Committee need not unduly prolong this portion of their Report in commenting upon the unsoundness & pauperising nature of that which a large sum of money formerly left by the Shoreditch Charities is year by year doled away. Real Charity blesses both giver & receiver; but the indiscriminate distribution of dead meat sixpences or half a pattern loaves to those who can shout the loudest, struggle the hardest or wait the most wearily does not carry with it a power to bless but the reverse. It pauperises the recipients & poor down, & sensibly keeps them almost irremediably where they are. Indeed, it is to be feared that the Charity doles have helped to rivet mendicant Pauper habits upon many in our midst, who except for the demoralising influence exercised thereby, would have struggled to

maintain a commendable & honourable independence.

The report is signed by Maurice Cross, Chairman, & Dr. Robinson suggests that in reporting so severely he had an eye to the diversion of these charities so that the Jews might participate.

Dr R. believes that the doles do a good deal of harm, & that they are sometimes used for purposes of bribery or for assisting relations, &c. Wherever there is any loophole or ambiguity in the bequest, he wd. divert the way to technical education, but to do this where the conditions are absolute & unmistakeable wd. be a breach of trust.

Bethnal Green

Local Charities.

We have also copy of report on these charities made to the Charity Commissioners in 1859

Local Charities.

Parmiter's School and Almshouse Foundation.

This Charity is administered under a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated the 19th May, 1894, as amended by a scheme dated the 20th November, 1884.

The present Governors of the Foundation are—

Thomas Beven, Esq., *Chairman*, Stanley Villa, King Edward Road, South Hackney.

Captain William de Wiveleslie Abney, R.E., C.B., The Science and Art Department, Kensington.

Henry Borton, Esq., Hermon Hill, Wanstead.

Alfred Ewin, Esq., Norlington House, Leytonstone.

Major General Edward Robert Festing, 3, The Residences, South Kensington Museum.

Thomas Watson Francis, Esq., Dowlais House, Wanstead.

James George Hilditch, Esq., 208, Grove Road, Victoria Park.

Corneluis Hurley, Esq., J.P., 408, Bethnal Green Road.

The Rev. Arthur Foley Winnington Ingram, The Oxford House. Bethnal Green.

James Valentine Jones, Esq., J.P., 83, Victoria Park Road.

Henry Merceron, Esq., 60, Leinster Square, W.

James Parnell, Esq., 358, Hackney Road, E.

Zachariah Pickard, Esq., West Lodge, Bishop's Road, Cambridge Heath.

James Fenning Torr, Esq., 12, Avonmore Road, Kensington.

The Headmaster of the School is Robert Pickett Scott, Esq., M.A., L.LD.

The Clerk to the Governor is Mr. Robert Voss, 173, Bethnal Green Road, E.

Published account for year ended at 31st December, 1896, is as follows—

Yearly Income Receivable.

	£	s.	d.
Land, about 94 acres, at Withersfield, Suffolk, let on annual tenancies, gross rental	50	10	0
Shops, Houses, &c., Hackney Road Estate, London, gross rental	2517	10	0
Shops and Houses, Lewisham Estate, Kent	262	18	6
Rent Charge	5	0	0
Dividends on Government Stock	575	8	0
Dividends on Bank Stock	42	10	0
Interest and Dividends on other investments, viz :—			
Dividends on Metropolitan Consolidated £3 10s. per cent. Stock	12	10	4
School Fees	1206	9	6
Total Gross Annual Income	£4672	16	4

Special or Casual Receipts for the Year 1896.

	£	s.	d.
Science and Art Department Grants	61	15	0
The Technical Education Board's Grants	450	0	0
Insurance Premiums repaid by Tenants	42	6	6
Amount paid by Scholars for Damage	4	4	2
Fees for Home-work Classes	53	0	6
Income Tax Reclaimed	1	8	6
Widows' Fund	10	18	0
Benevolent Fund	20	0	0
	£643	12	8

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
Balance in hand 1st Jan. 1896, on current account ...	400	3	5
1.—*From Endowments*—			
*Rents for the year received	1957	13	7
Arrears of Rent received	527	3	8
Dividends on Government Stock	561	13	4
Dividends on Metropolitan Consolidated Stock ...	12	10	4
2.—*Fees from Scholars*—			
First Term, 1896... ... ... 401 5 0			
Second Term, 1896 ... ... 405 8 6			
Third Term, 1896 ... ... 399 16 0			
	1206	9	6
Scholars, for Damage to Books, &c....	4	4	2
Fees for Home Work Classes	53	0	6
3.—*Receipts on Educational Fund*—			
One Year's Dividend on £500 Bank Stock	42	10	0
Income Tax on Dividends on Bank Stock	1	8	6
4.—*Incidental Receipts*—			
Insurance Premiums repaid by Tenants	42	6	6
5.—*Receipts on Eleemosynary Fund*—			
One Year's Interest on Loan to Educational Fund	93	3	6
One Year's Dividends on £516 13s. 3d. Consolidated £2 15s. per Cent. Stock	13	14	8
Widows' Fund	10	18	0
6.—*Science and Art Department's Grants*—			
Art Grant	61	15	0

PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
1.—*Management of Business*—			
Payments for Stationery, Printing, and Clerk's Salary	115	7	7
Repairs to property and Insurance Premiums ...	48	16	9
Tithes on Lewisham Property	2	5	6
2.—*Payments for Non-Educational Purposes*—			
Payments to Almspeople	1114	0	0
Salary of Caretaker at Almshouses, and Miscellaneous Payments for Charitable Purposes ...	43	11	1
Widows' Fund Annuitants	16	15	7
3.—*Expenditure on Boys' School*—			
Salary of Head Master	654	6	8
Salaries of Assistant Masters...	1874	19	10
Care of School Buildings	155	7	8
Incidental Payments for Educational Purposes ...	25	4	2
Repairs and Insurance to School Buildings ...	71	10	2
School Plant, etc.—Renewals...	30	16	10
Rates and Taxes	187	14	10
Coal	31	0	0
Books and Stationery	247	6	1
Printing	39	11	10
Examiners' Fees and Expenses	30	0	0
School Book Prizes and Certificates...	52	0	11
Laboratory and Scientific Apparatus repairs and maintenance	84	3	1

Fees at Public Examinations ...	...	...	... 16 10 5
Advertising ...	...	...	... 8 12 0
Physical Laboratory ...	...	...	... 5 5 0
4.—*Temporary Expenses*—			
Interest on Loan from Eleemosynary Fund			... 93 3 6
5.—*Scholarships*—			
One Year's Scholarships	...	...	... 100 18 0
6.—*Exhibitions*—			
One Year's Exhibitions	...	...	... 70 0 0
7.—*Technical Education Board's Grant*—			
Fees of Scholars nominated by the Board ...			... 64 17 0
8.—*Benevolent Fund*—			
Grants to Scholars ...	...	...	... 8 6 8
Total Expenditure for the Year ...	...	...	... 5192 11 2
Balance at Bankers, on current account		286 19 1	
Less amount due to Head Master on Petty Cash A/c... ...		20 15 7	
			266 3 6
			£5458 14 8

7.—*Technical Education Board Grants*—			
One Year's Maintenance Grant for the year ending September, 1896 ...	...	...	... 400 0 0
Special Grant ...	...	...	... 50 0 0
8.—*Benevolent Fund*—			
The Clothworkers' Company Donation, 1896			... 20 0 0
			£5458 14 8

*Arrears of Rent due for year 1896 (including rents due at Christmas last) 767 12 5
Arrears of Rent the year 1895 ... ... 35 0 0

Fuller's Almshouses.

The Senior Churchwarden for the time being selects an inmate of one of the Almshouses when a vacancy occurs.

Pemel's Almshouses.

Four Almshouses for Widows of Seamen at the time of election inhabiting any of the hamlets of the old Parish of Stepney. The Draper's Company make the appointments. Now between 8 parishes Inmates get about 5/- a wk each in cash or coals.

Bowry's Almshouses.

The Annuity (about £16 per annum) resulting from the produce of the sale of the Almshouses and endowment fund is payable to a person nominated by the Churchwardens of the eight ancient hamlets of Stepney when a vacancy occurs.

Prisca Coborn's Charity.

The Senior Churchwarden distributes among the widows (resident in Bethnal Green) of Seamen the income received each year. The amount varies, and is from £2 to £5 in all.

Lady Pritchard's Charity.

The income of a few shillings is paid to a widow selected by the Senior Churchwarden.

Fabry's Charity.

Trustees—The two Churchwardens. Recipients three poor Widows of Weavers, and three poor Weavers, Housekeepers resident in Bethnal Green. Income about £9, from 3% Annuities.

Samuel Butler's Apprenticeship Fund.

Trustees—The Rev. F. N. Thicknesse, Rev. S. F. Cumberlege, Rev. Ed. Bray, Rev. Edwyn Hoskins and Rev. R. H. Hadden.

About £16 per annum is applicable for Apprenticeship or Scholarship Fees for children from the Parochial School or Sunday School.

The Clerk to the Trustees is Mr. Arthur Kennedy, 1, Clement's Inn, Strand.

Miss Vaughan's Charity.

The income available for application in Bethnal Green is about £44 per annum, and is distributed by the Rector for the clothing and support of poor Mechanics and Weavers unable to work.

Parochial or Green Coat School.

This School was established by subscriptions and is maintained by subscriptions and income from investments. The Schools are at Church Row and at present afford free education and clothing to about 80 boys and 70 girls, children of resident parishoners of Bethnal Green.

The School is managed by a Committee of Subscribers. Mr. C. H. Ockelford, the Schoolmaster is Secretary to the Committee.

Bread Fund.

The Bread Fund consists of £3209 3s. 7d., £2 15s. Consolidated stock. The income is applicable as to £2 to the Rector for a sermon in aid of the Fund, and the balance in supplying bread weekly to the children in the Parochial School. (about £36 a year)

Poors Land.

This Charity is administered under a Scheme. The Secretary to the Charity Trustees is Mr. Edward Poulson, 135, St. George's Street, E.

The present Trustees are—

Co-opative.	
Rev. A. F. W. Ingram.	*Till 27th February*, 1898.
Samuel Williams	
Thomas Mackay	... *Till June* 2nd, 1903.
Thomas Watson Francis ...	... *Till June* 15th, 1904.

Representative.	
East Ward.	
John Andrews	*Till 27th April*, 1901.
Henry Laing	
West Ward.	
Alfred Ewin	
James Parnell	... *Till 20th July* 1904.
South Ward.	
Henry Davidson	*Till 27th April*, 1901.
Alfred Taylor	
North Ward.	
Robert Ling	*Till 27th April*, 1901.
Alfred Philip Barnard	

The income of the Charity is applicable for Pensions of 5/- to 8/- per week. Subscriptions to any

(*a*) Dispensary, Infirmary, Hospital or Convalescent Home.

(*b*) Providend Club or Society. Contributions for the benefit of objects of the Charity, for

Nurses for Sick and Infirm.

Increasing the annuity or means of support produced by the exertion and providence of the recipient.

Outfit of persons under 21 entering upon a trade or occupation or into service.

Emigration.

Pensioners must be poor, of good character and from age, ill health, accident or infirmity, unable to maintain themselves, and have been resident in Bethnal Green for three years prior to election, without receiving poor law relief.

Margaretta Brown's Charity.

The Trustees are the Rector (*ex officio*) and two Trustees appointed by the Vestry, the present being Mr. Thos. W. Francis and Mr. James Bishop.

The Trust Fund is £1,400 Consols, and the income is applicable in paying £20 to the Rector, £2 to the Parish Clerk, £1 to the Sexton, and the balance in purchase of books for distribution among children attending at the Church to be catechised and instructed.

James George Greenwood's Charity.

The Trustees are the Rector and Churchwardens, and three non-official Trustees resident in or near the Parish. The existing non-official Trustees are Mr. Thos. W. Francis and Mr. Jas. Geo. Hilditch. The Charity is for the supply of coal to poor persons resident in the Parish, West of Cambridge Road, and is regulated by a Scheme, dated 11th February, 1887.

The Clerk to the Trustees is H. W. Voss, 173, Bethnal Green Road

The Account for the past year is appended.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
Jan. 1896.	£	s.	d.	Dec. 7, 1896.	£	s.	d.
Balance brought forward ...	0	13	1	Messrs. J. & H. Girling, 33 tons 4 cwt. of Coal for distribution	30	14	3
Four quarters dividends on £1300 Consolidated, £2 15s. per cent. Stock to Oct. 1896	35	15	0	Clerk	2	2	0
				Inspector	2	0	0
				Balance carried forward ...	1	11	10
	£36	8	1		£36	8	1

George Fournier's Charity.

The income on £4348 15s. 2d. Consols (£119 11s. 8d. per annum) is awarded in sums of £10 in June each year by the Vestry of Bethnal Green to recipients elected by ballot.

Applicants must be resident in a house, tenement, or lodging within the Parish, provided that the applicant (or if a widow her late husband) shall have at one time being a householder in the Parish.

Particulars of the income and the application of it for the past year appear in the foregoing Report.

Alexander Truss' Charity.

A sum of £1657 5s. 11d. Consolidated Stock yields £45 11s. 4d. per annum, and is applicable in paying pensions of £5 per annum to widows over 60 years of age, resident in the Parish and not in receipt of poor law relief.

The Charity is administered under a Scheme, established on 16th May, 1884, under which the Trustees are the Rector for the time being, and three non-official Trustees. The surviving non-official Trustee is Mr. T. W. Francis, and Mr. Robert Bouquet a Trustee under the Founder's Will.

The Clerk to the Trustees is Mr. H. W. Voss, 173, Bethnal Green Road.

The account for the year 1896 is appended.

RECEIPTS.				PAYMENTS.			
Jan. 1896.	£	s.	d.	Dec. 7, 1896.	£	s.	d.
Balance from last year ...	7	12	3	Nine Annuitants at £5 each	45	0	0
Four quarters Dividends on £1657 5s. 11d. Consolidated £2 15s. per cent. stock ...	45	11	4	Clerk	2	2	0
				Balance forward	6	1	7
	£53	3	7		£53	3	7

George Robertson's Charity.

By deed of 25th November, 1862, George Robertson assured leasehold houses, Nos. 59, 60 and 61, Clarke Street, and No. 21, Jubilee Place, Mile End Old Town, upon trust to pay the net profits as to one moiety to the Rector for distribution by him among parishioners selected at his discretion as deserving objects, and to pay the remaining moiety to the Treasurer of the National Schools in Church Row.

In the year 1882 Nos. 59, 60 and 61, Clarke Street were compulsorily purchased and are represented by £650 paid into Court under the Elementary Education Act, 1870. Last year No. 96, Jubilee Street (formerly No. 21, Jubilee Place) was compulsorily taken by the School Board for London, and the purchase-money, £90, has also been paid into Court.

A Scheme, dated 26th February, 1897, providing for the future administration of the Charity has been issued by the Charity Commissioners. An application that the Funds in Court may be transferred to the Commissioners is pending.

Leverington Charity.

The endowment consists of £1333 6s. 8d. New Consols, yielding £36 13s. 4d. per annum. The income is applied in paying £1 per annum to honest and industrious poor persons elected by the Vestry. The Vestry re-elect each year the recipients of former years who survive and continue qualified. Particulars as to the application of the Charity for the past year appear in the foregoing Report.

Mary Baker's Charity.

The Endowment Fund is £5000 Consolidated Stock yielding £137 10s. per annum. The income is applied in paying on the 24th December sums of £5 each to poor and industrious inhabitants (of either sex) in the Parish who have not received relief from the Parish for two years previous to the time for distribution. There is no limitation as to the age of recipients and the gifts are not applied as pensions.

The present Trustees are Messrs. T. W. Francis, T. F. Bradbrook, W. Perrin. W. Yetton, John Shorter, James Shorter and Thomas Shorter.

The Clerk to the Trustees is Mr. R. Voss, 173, Bethnal Green Road.

The account for the past year is as under.

RECEIPTS.

Jan. 1896.	£	s.	d.
Balance from last A/c ...	13	3	11
Four quarters Dividends to October on £5,000 Consolidated, £2 15s. per cent. Stock	137	10	0
	£150	13	11

PAYMENTS.

Dec. 1896.	£	s.	d.
For Distribution amongst 28 Recipients	140	0	0
Clerk	5	5	0
Messenger	0	5	0
Balance carried forward ...	5	3	11
	£150	13	11

Jane Thomas' Charity.

Miss Jane Thomas by Will proved in the principal Probate Registry on the 2nd February, 1892, left the residue of her estate for charitable purposes relative to Bethnal Green, but the income is payable to a tenant for life who is still living.

Fontaneau Fund.

By the Will of Louisa Fontaneau proved in the Principal Registry on the 4th July, 1893, the sum of £1495 and the residue of her estate, less numerous other bequests, is left to the Rector and Churchwardens for the time being, to be invested in Government Securities, and called the "Fontaneau Fund." The Testatrix died on the 15th June, 1893. The dividends arising from the fund are to be distributed annually in bread and coals as the Trustees deem most prudent and likely to do the greatest amount of good for the Parish. The Testatrix directs that any poor relation of her own applying should have a prior claim.

The legacy of £1495 is invested in the names of the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds in £1510 2s. 0d. Consolidated Stock.

The sum of £2496 2s. 10d. representing the residue of the Testatrix estate is invested in the purchase of £2341 1s. 0d. Consolidated $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Stock in the names of the official Trustees of Charitable Funds.

The account for the past year is as under.

RECEIPTS.

Oct. 1896.	£	s.	d.
Income accrued	172	16	9
Jan. 1897.			
Quarter Dividend on £3851 3s. Consolidated $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Stock.	26	9	6
	£199	6	3

PAYMENTS.

Mar. 1897.	£	s.	d.
Messrs. Rickett, Smith & Co. Coals	92	8	7
Various Bakers in the Parish for loaves of bread ...	59	8	8
J. S. Forsaith—Printing ...	4	4	6
Stationery and Stamps ...	3	19	2
H. W. Voss—Clerk to the Trustees...	5	5	0
Balance carried forward ...	34	0	4
	£199	6	3

St. George's E. Guardians (Mr Brown)

Composition of Board.

Mr. J. R. Brown, clerk to the Guardians of St. Georges-in-the-East, has held that position for 20 years, & is still in early middle life. Graduating in parochial work here under Pell & Crowder, he is a firm believer in C.O.S. tenets, & like the man with Pears soap, "has used no other." In a wild form, his creed might be "There is but one — C.O.S., & Crowder is its prophet," & he is prepared with reasons for the faith that is in him. He had just prepared for Mr. Crowder a return showing the charges in Nos. relieved since 1875, & of this he promised to send a copy. It shows large reductions, & the irreducible minimum of out-relief. I should set Mr. Brown down as a careful, orderly & fairly intelligent clerk, & a good executive officer.

The Guardian Board is Progressive in theory, & will be more so as a result of the recent election, as the new Board will comprise 14 Progressives, 3 independents, & only one Conservative (Mr. Crowder). The principal election cry was greater economy for the

Treatment of aged Inmates.

aged in the House. Something may be done in this direction, but he does not anticipate much change of Policy.

The old people are well looked after now, but, excepting those who work regularly, they are not allowed tea or tobacco. The Guardians, however, give these "luxuries" to the aged blind.

The inmates are allowed out on Sunday morning, ostensibly to attend Church, but must be in by 2 min to 1 (or before the pubs. open). They also have one day a month, but if they return drunk have leave stopped for 3 months. Strict discipline essential.

They are always having entertainments. Have had 9 this winter. The Brabazon system is in operation. The old men, if certified by doctor as capable of light employment, chop wood & make wastebags of coir, woven on a frame. They also pick coir. This is done just to keep them out of mischief & their minds occupied. They are not set any task, nor is fault found if they do little. The work is sold, more orders being received than they

Boarders.

Reduced Numbers

Infirmary

can execute. Complaint was received from the Woodchoppers Society, & as a result the big hatpeth has given place to the bundle of canes.

The old women do sewing for the institution, & able-bodied women wash.

There are hardly any able-bodied men.

The Guardians take boarders from other parishes, & have now 130 old people from Bethnal Green, 100 from this end & 50 from Fulham. On these there is a profit made. Some of them run away at first, but they are sent back. Complaints are sometimes received regarding these people that they have to pick oakum (it is really coir), but when the other Guardian Boards make any difficulty that is stopped altogether.

The number of workhouse inmates belonging to the parish has been reduced from 700 or 800 in '76 to about 400 now. Attributable to abolition of out relief.

In the Infirmary, however, the nos. have increased from 1000 to 1300, because of the greatly

Blackmail.

Out-relief.

increased comfort. No comparison with what it was at one time. The Guardians train their own nurses (about 20 under training now), the plan proving very successful, & doctors have a free hand to order whatever they think necessary, the one thing studied being the speedy recovery of the patient. Only one male attendant employed, & he in the lunatic ward.

Have had complaints of blackmail in workhouse, but not in infirmary. There was a good deal of it once, the feeble old men being compelled by the more active to pay for little services rendered, as making their beds, &c. Smuggling also went on, one man being found to have a tin breastplate, in wh. he brought spirits to the house. This has to be largely checked. Punished by stopping leave.

The parish has a very good branch of the C.O.S., who are in close touch with the Guardians. Deserving & suitable cases are handed over to them, & other applicants are offered the house. In the case of

"Fever" Cases

Medical Relief.

widows, some of the children will be taken into the schools, but the woman is always left with one at least. C.O.S. act very promptly here.

There are 219 persons on the out relief list, but only 2 of these are really cases of ordinary out-relief, they being very old people, who were on prior to change of policy. The other 217 are fever cases – that is, where any infectious disease has broken out in a family, the Guardians, in order to prevent the spread of infection caused by any members of the family going to work, will keep the family for a month, the patient being of course removed & the house disinfected. Admit they cannot keep the people prisoners, & prevent their mixing with their neighbours, but do what they can, & at any rate prevent the disease being carried by the very dangerous agency of the sort of clothing trades. Will pay a family as much as 25/- a week in some instances.

Medical relief is given to a large number of people – 4000 to 5000 cases a year – but it is

strictly confined to advice & medicine. Where nourishments are required, the people must come into the Infirmary. The home surroundings are so much inferior to what the Infirmary offers that this is a very wise rule.

P.O.J. see to sending of cases to Convalescent Homes.

Dress.

The inmates of the house have each a non-distinctive visiting dress – blue serge coat, vest & trousers but for the men, with collars & ties; different coloured ~~x~~ shawls, &c., for the women. They wd. not be recognised when out by themselves. Similarly in the schools. [as I passed out I met the parish wood cart returning from its round. There was no possibility of mistaking the uniform of the men who were pushing the cart.]

The Schools.

Subjoined is an interesting report relating to the parish schools at Plaistow, written amid the general attack on barrack schools. These children include 100 "boarders" from Sick Qrs. The parish has

200 fewer pauper children of its own than it used to have.

Mr. B. thinks the boarding out system may be good if the children are boarded 100 miles away, but as carried out in West Ham, where he is chairman of the Boarding-out Committee, it is a bad farce. The Guardians there board out children within their own district, & consequently you have children boarded in one street & mothers living in the next one. Very unsatisfactory.

St. George=in=the=East Parish.

I HAVE been asked to give a short history regarding the Schools at Plashet, and the improvements which have taken place there. I have been Clerk to the Guardians 20 years. I find, on reference, in the year 1849 the children were housed in the Workhouse, situated in St. George's, in which year the Guardians bought 17 acres of land, situated at Plashet, near East Ham, Essex, which was at that time open country. They had plans prepared, and erected a School, which was opened in 1851. It was one of the first, if not the first, built in connection with the Metropolis. Two lodges were built as preparatory wards, 8 acres of the ground were laid out as garden ground for growing vegetables, &c.; there were also farm buildings erected; 2 horses were kept for ploughing the land, removing the children to and from the Workhouse, conveying the bread and the hogwash from the Workhouse; 12 cows were kept, and about 40 or 50 pigs. This continued until 1889, when the Guardians sold 10 acres of the land, and gave up farming. With a portion of the money a wall was built on the north and east sides of the grounds, the south and west sides remaining as they were, viz., a wood fence and iron fence, respectively; also, with a portion of the money, the whole of the old drainage was done away with, a new drainage constructed, with large manholes, which is considered as perfect as it is possible to make it. At the same time, the whole of the sinks and wastes were cut off and caused to empty into open gullies; the old drainage used to run into about 6 or 7 cesspools, which had from time to time to be emptied, which were no doubt a source of great danger, and to my certain knowledge, was the cause of one outbreak of Fever. The well water was used for drinking purposes until the Guardians had it analyzed, when it was found to contain organic matter, and no wonder, for it was discovered there was a cesspool a few feet away. The same was immediately filled up and the water has not been used since for any other purpose than cleaning. A further portion of the money was used in laying down asphalt yards on the recommendation of Dr. Bridges.

The Guardians next considered the question of escape staircases in case of fire, and erected 5. On many occasions the fire alarm has been rung, and as recently as last Tuesday the Committee witnessed how long it would take the children to get out of the dormitories into the yards in case of fire. On the boys' side it took 45 seconds, and on the girls' and infants' 30 seconds.

The Guardians next took into consideration the question of providing new tables in the dining hall, and instead of the children looking at one another's backs, they now sit face to face. These tables are supplied with white table-cloths, and are convertible into seats, the top forming a back, which are used when entertainments are given.

The lavatory arrangements have been re-arranged, no child uses the same water, either for bathing or washing, and each is provided with a separate towel, comb and brush, and tooth-brush. A dentist has been engaged for the last 18 months, regulating the children's teeth.

The Guardians have had built on the boys' and girls' side a room over the play-rooms, where those who are studiously inclined (out of school hours), or want to play games, can go to without being disturbed.

The boys and girls are taken once a week, from May to October, to the Carpenters' Company's Baths at Stratford, where they learn to swim, an instructress being engaged for the girls, and the schoolmasters instruct the boys.

The boys, girls, and infants are taken out of the School several times every week for exercise; in addition, the boys have football, cricket, and gymnasium on the premises, and the Guardians are endeavouring to send them to the Carpenters' Company's Institute to be taught by one of the instructors there. They have several entertainments, and a prize day each year.

Yearly the children go to Southend, through the generosity of one of the members of the Board.

The Band have played at 11 garden parties and Sunday school treats this year.

From May to October a number of the bigger girls go to the Cookery Classes at the Shaftesbury Road Board School, and bring back to the School what they have made.

No child is employed in scrubbing, etc., until they have passed the 4th Standard, and on the boys' side, no boys now scrub the dormitories, outside women being employed. The girls are employed in needlework and household duties out of school hours. The boys are taught tailoring, shoemaking, and carpentering.

A first band and second band have been, for the last 38 years, under the able tuition of Mr. Lawson, who was Bandmaster of the Royal Artillery, and great credit is due to him for the number of boys he has sent to Military Bands, many of whom have eventually become Bandmasters; he is now retiring, and has been asked by the Guardians to nominate his successor; in doing so, he stated he had several names he could mention, but the one he must give preference to was Mr. Murphy, who holds one of the first positions in England as a Bandmaster. Mr. Lawson says of him: "He is a gentleman, a good musician, an excellent trainer—one of our old Plashet boys—and is in touch with the entire service, and will be able to find places for every boy he trains." I may say the Guardians have appointed him. In addition, a number of boys are yearly sent to the "Exmouth," and those who cannot pass the standards for the Army Bands or "Exmouth," are either apprenticed or sent to the Working Boys' Homes in London.

The girls are sent to service, and from the reports made from time to time by the Metropolitan Association for Befriending Young Servants, show very satisfactory results considering the class from which they come. Any girl who keeps her situation for 12 months, is given a new dress as a reward of good conduct. I should like to point out the improvement made in the clothing and general appearance of the girls and boys. The girls, instead of having close-cropped hair, striped dress with short sleeves, grey stockings, clogs, and hats of one pattern, now have medium long hair tied with ribbon, different coloured serge dresses with long sleeves, dark blue stockings, and ordinary laced-up boots, white pinafores with crochet trimming made by themselves; they have also drill dresses, the same as you would find at any gymnasium; for out-door, they have navy blue cloaks and straw hats, different colours. The boys, instead of being dressed in corduroy jacket, vest, and trousers, clogs, and Scotch caps, are now supplied with blue serge jackets, vests, and knickers, white collars, and ties, ordinary laced-up boots, and cloth cap with a peak. The dietary has from time to time been improved, and is considered liberal and suitable, which is appended.

The returns to the Local Government Board speak for themselves as to the health of the School, and the death rate for the past 14 years has not been one per cent.

Five years ago the Guardians re-constructed the Laundry at a considerable cost, whereby the children have two sheets where they had one, and the boys have two shirts where they had one, and the girls have increased underlinen.

Any children requiring change of air at the seaside are always sent on the recommendation of the Medical Officer.

Certain members of the Departmental Committee endeavoured to make out nothing has been done for the children: why, it is preposterous! The foregoing will speak for itself, and does not want any praise of mine. I have no doubt other similar Institutions could show like results. Why were facts like these not allowed to be brought before the Committee? I suppose it was because it would not suit the faddists!

J. R. BROWNE.

14th October, 1897.

ST. GEORGE-IN-THE-EAST SCHOOL, UPTON PARK, ESSEX.

DIETARY TABLE.

Day of Week.	Age.	BREAKFAST. Bread. oz.	Butter. oz.	Milk or Cocoa. pint.	Biscuits. oz.	DINNER. Roast Meat, without bone. oz.	Potatoes. oz.	Bread. oz.	Corned Beef. oz.	Rice Pudding. oz.	Eggs.	Raisin Pudding. oz.
SUNDAY ...	2 to 4	4 2	½	½	...	3	4	2	...	...	...	...
	4 to 7	4 2	½	½	...	1½	2	2	...	...	...	5
	7 to 11	5	½	½	¾	2	3	3	...	...	...	6
	11 to 16	6	½	½	¾	2½	4	3	...	...	...	7
MONDAY ...	2 to 4	4 2	½	½	...	2	...	2	...	8	...	...
	4 to 7	4 2	½	½	...	...	4	2	3	...	...	...
	7 to 11	5	½	½	¾	...	6	3	4	...	...	...
	11 to 16	6	½	½	¾	...	8	3	5	...	...	...
TUESDAY ...	2 to 4	4 2	½	½	...	...	...	4	...	...	1	...
	4 to 7	4 2	½	½	...	1½	2	2	...	...	...	5
	7 to 11	5	½	½	¾	2	3	3	...	...	...	6
	11 to 16	6	½	½	¾	2½	4	3	...	...	...	7
WEDNESDAY	2 to 4	4 2	½	½	...	...	4	2	...	...	...	...
	4 to 7	4 2	½	½	...	...	4	2	...	...	...	...
	7 to 11	5	½	½	¾	...	6	...	...	...	...	...
	11 to 16	6	½	½	¾	...	8	...	...	...	...	...
THURSDAY ...	2 to 4	4 2	½	½	...	...	...	2 Winter.	...	10	...	...
	4 to 7	4 2	½	½	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
	7 to 11	5	½	½	¾	...	...	5	...	...	...	...
	11 to 16	6	½	½	¾	...	...	6	...	...	...	...
FRIDAY ...	2 to 4	4 2	½	½	...	2	...	4	...	...	...	...
	4 to 7	4 2	½	½	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...
	7 to 11	5	½	½	¾	...	6	...	...	...	...	...
	11 to 16	6	½	½	¾	...	8	...	...	...	...	...
SATURDAY ...	2 to 4	4 2	½	½	...	2	...	2	...	Tapioca. 8	...	...
	4 to 7	4 2	½	½	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...
	7 to 11	5	½	½	¾	...	...	5	...	...	...	...
	11 to 16	6	½	½	¾	...	...	6	...	..	...	...

DINNER—*Continued.* Boiled Meat. oz.	Cheese. oz.	Beef Tea. pint.	Meat Pudding. oz.	Plain Pudding. oz.	Soup. pint.	SUPPER. Bread. oz.	Cake. oz.	Butter or Dripping. oz.	Honey. oz.	Treacle or Jam. oz.	Cheese. oz.	Milk or Cocoa. pint.
...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	¼	...	...	...	¼
...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	¼	...	...	...	¼
...	...	...	...	...	...	2½	4	¼	...	...	...	½
...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	¼	...	...	...	½
...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	Butter. ½	...	...	...	¼
...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	½	...	...	...	¼
...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	½	...	...	...	½
...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	½	...	...	...	½
...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	Dripping. ½	...	...	...	¼
...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	½	...	...	...	¼
...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	½	...	...	...	½
...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	½	...	...	...	½
3	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	Butter. ¼	...	...	...	¼
3	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	¼	...	...	...	¼
...	...	...	8	...	...	2½	4	¼	...	...	...	½
...	...	...	10	...	...	3	5	¼	...	...	...	½
...	...	½	...	...	Winter.	4	...	...	½	...	...	¼
...	...	...	...	10	½	4	...	...	½	...	...	¼
...	...	...	...	12	¾	5	...	...	...	...	1	½
...	...	...	...	14	1	6	...	...	...	...	1	½
...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	½	...	¼
...	...	...	6	..	...	4	...	...	...	½	...	¼
...	...	...	8	...	...	5	...	...	...	1	...	½
...	...	...	10	..	...	6	...	...	...	1	...	½
...	...	...	...	...	Winter.	4	...	Dripping. ½	...	...	...	¼
...	Summer.	...	...	or 10	½	4	...	½	...	...	...	¼
...	1½	...	...	or 12	¾	5	...	½	...	...	...	½
...	2	...	...	or 14	1	6	...	½	...	...	...	½

TWICE A WEEK—When obtainable, Vegetables and Fruit in Season.
THURSDAYS (*Summer Half-Year*)—Rhubarb, Apples, or Jam.
SATURDAYS (*Summer Half-Year*)—Lettuce, Watercress, Spring Onions, &c.
THURSDAYS—When obtainable, Watercress or Lettuce given with Bread and Cheese for Supper.
Each Child under 7 years of age to have 2 ozs. of Bread and Butter or Cake at 10 a.m. in Summer, and 11 a.m. in Winter.
Each Child over 7 years to have a Biscuit weighing ¾ oz. at 11 a.m.

FORMULÆ.

3½ ozs. of Rice, ½ oz. of Suet, ½ pint of Milk, ½ oz. of Sugar, to 1 pound of Rice Pudding, baked.
8½ „ Flour, 1½ „ to 1 pound of Plain Pudding, baked or boiled, with Treacle, Sugar, or Jam.
7 „ „ 1½ „ and 2 ozs. Raisins, to 1 pound of Raisin Pudding, baked or boiled.
24 „ Raw Meat (without bone), 16 ozs. Split Peas, 2 ozs. Oatmeal, 8 ozs. Fresh Vegetables, and Water to make 1 gallon of Soup.
5 ozs. of Flour, 1 oz. Suet, 5 ozs. Raw Meat (without bone), to the pound for Meat Pudding.
5 „ Cocoa, 5 ozs. Sugar, 5 pints New Milk, to 10 pints of Cocoa.

By Order of the Guardians,

J. R. BROWNE, *Clerk.*

Lincluden Bd of Works - Mr. Ratcliff

Mr. Ratcliff, clerk to Lincluden Bd, is a cautious official, & would only give information after obtaining formal sanction of his Bd, & in reply to an approved list of questions, wh he instructed his assistant to answer. But I got the particulars I wanted.

Removal of dust.

Dust is removed twice a-week, the dustmen calling at each house & carts being supplied by Board. The work is performed by contract, but the Bd has 3 men who go round with the carts & see it is properly done.

Care of Streets.

The streets, courts, &c., are swept every day, save a few wh are of macadam, & are swept every alternate day.

Sewers

Sewerage system good, & no flooding. Not many combined drains, & give little trouble. Sewers ventilated by means of pipes run up sides of houses. A ventilator lamp to be tried as an experiment.

Disposal of Refuse

No dust destructor. Refuse disposed of

Bottles.

Improvements.

(a) Queen Catherine Court area

by contract.

Nothing to do with Board. Ratcliff Vestry building a set.

Includes the demolition of Qn Catherine Court, Lit. Qn Catha. Court, Susannah Row, 3 houses in Cowling St., & 3 in Dorset St., carrying the latter (now a cul-de-sac) thro' into Brooke St.

Number of people displaced not large.

It is proposed to erect on site 2 small blocks, accommodating together 100 people, & to sell a part of the land for workshops.

Estimated net cost £6400.

Negotiations for acquiring the old property have been very protracted, but are now almost completed, & it only remains to draw up the conveyances.

(6) King John Court area.

Estimated cost £13492. Result of Local Govt. Bd. inquiry held 8 mos. ago not yet received. (other particulars of this improvement already obtained)..

(c) Narrow St.

(d) Three Colt Lane.

Labour policy.

Rating

Purchase completed. Work to be put in hand directly.

A small improvement in Three Colt Lane is contemplated, by widening in front of 3 houses.

About 50 men are directly employed by the B^d as sweepers & sewer flushers, or in repairs to macadam roads. Street watering, paving works, &c., done by contract.

Trade union wages paid, & clause inserted in all contracts. 2 weeks holiday (besides usual Bank Holidays) given to all who have been in Boards employ over 12 mos. Half-pay in sickness during pleasure of Board.

Limehouse	– –	131600
Ratcliff	– –	70300
Shadwell	– –	50900
Wapping	– –	53000
		£305800

Rating in district amongst lowest in London.

May, 1898. 237

Note on Shoreditch Open Spaces.

The only complaint I have heard against Shoreditch Vestry is that their open spaces have been neglected. I asked Mr Robinson as to this, & he admitted that it had been so. When the Vestry took over the old churchyards they made the mistake of taking over the old men connected with the churches who had been employed about them previously. They were not proper gardeners, & the work was badly done. This has just been altered, & skilled gardeners employed. The Vestry, always anxious to be in front, is also going to build large greenhouses of its own (the first Vestry in London to do so) in order to rear its own plants.

Shoreditch churchyard has certainly been very greatly improved of late, & several men are still at work upon it.

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Report of interview with Mr. W.C. Johnson, Member of the L.C.C. (just elected) and of the Whitechapel Board of Works.(E.A.)(Apr.6.98)

Mr. Johnson is a wholesale provision merchant, and although he has for many years lived at Walthamstow, he spends his days in the district and knows it well. His knowledge is most intimate of M.E. N.Town. He is a man of keen interests, but when I approached him on more general topics, he did not display any great intelligence, and is much more at home in dicussing questions of practical politics than the influence of the church. He is a Radical, with strong humanitarian feelings, and perfectly honest in his public, as in his private life. He was a student at Toynbee Hall some 8 or 10 years ago, and still keeps up close relations with the place.

Speaking of M.E.N.T. Mr. Johnson said that the Jewish increase there had had the double effect of deterioration and improvement-- the latter in as far as they had taken the place of the Irish colony, who had been a dirty and noisy set. The smaller number of dockers living in M.E.N.T. was a marked fature of the change. Rents had gone up -- at least 30% he thought.

As regards drinking, intemperance had certainly diminished in

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As regards drinking, intemperance had certainly diminished in M.E.N.T. with t e advent of the Jews.

Housing, sanitation and health had also improved, mainly through stricter local administration, including the improvement or closing of defective property. His business takes him over a great deal of London. and his impression thus gained is that, with the exception of the City, the streets of Whitechapel are better kept than ~~xxx~~ those of any other district.

As regards the influence of Religion, he thought that with the Jews, their Faith did little to uplift them socially, although it made them cleanly at certain times. As regards Christianity, the

clergy were a valuable influence, but principally if they went in for social service, and "descended from the dommatic". Sermons were of little use. The Church of England was far more effective than Nonconformity.

ASked as to what the chief influences making for improvement in his opinion were, he began by mentioning education giving this word its widest definition, and then the higher standard that prevailed. To mention both of these however was as he said to argue in a circle, the higher standard being practically the result of which he was trying to indicate the causes. But still ,through its very attainment it becomes in its turn an active beneficial cause.

Next he mentioned the press ; the work of reformers and philanthropists (mentioning in this connection Toynbee Hall); and finally better wages and an increasing sense of decency, an ddecency as he said" is a thing that grows on a man"."

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As regards charity Johnson has no knowledge but has for some years been a Guardian and bears witness of the beneficial effects in the district of the policy adopted. People have learnt to know that it is no use going for outdoor relief.J. says that the Board practically acquieces in Vallance's policy.(I saw J.before te last election,at which several opponents of past policy were elected

Spoke well of the police

On local sanitary administration generally he said that he ~~thoug~~ thought that in view of the difficulty of the task the work was very well done. Of course more might be accomplished but it was rather a heartless struggle. Booth st. Buildings for instance were a disgrace but a great deal of allowance must be made because of the character of the occupants.

There was need of more inspectors both local and Home Office, and he would like to see some women appointed.

As regards food and drink adulteration there is a great improvement in the returns, but he suspected evasion. The inspectors he thought were known, and penalties were too light. The Clerk to the Board used to decide when to prosecute, but now the Board has taken the matter in its own hands. Although more likely to take action than the Clerk, numbers are still diminishing, and this strengthens J's conviction that the act is not effectively administered.

Wages etc. of those employed by the Board have greatly improved during the last 10 years. Excepting for the cleaning, and a certain amount of the street repairing work, there is little direct employment. For the collecting of dust, the horse and one man are hired from a contractor. The other man is directly employed and the cart is owned.

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Asked what reforms he would introduce if he had a free hand on the Board , he mentioned only the three following points: (1) to increase wages to a 24/- minimum; (2) to cease payments to employees during illness, and (3) more direct employment on street work-- paving etc.

The 2 areas in the district calling for improvement were the

Bell Lane and Great Pearl St. bits, the latter being however a moral rather than a sanitary or structural difficulty.