

Districts 1 to 4.

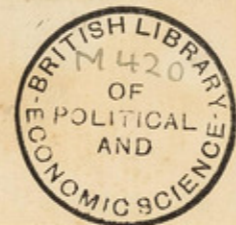
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B245

Local Government

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Bk. LXIX



R COLL U

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Name.	Office.	Address.	Page.
Bond M ^r J	Clerk to Westminster Union	Poland Street Gaford St.	1
Millward M ^r A	Chairman Clerkenwell Vestry	Town Hall	9
Maddock M ^r J	Clerk to Strand Union Guard ^{ns}	15 Henrietta St ^e Covent Gdn.	31
Robson J. P. M ^r W.	Churchwarden of S ^t James ^e Clerkenwell	40 Myddleton Sq. (private) 60 Farringdon Road	45
Skegg M ^r J. J.	Med. Officer, S ^t Martins Ves ^y	Town Hall, Shering & Road	65
Edmunds D ^r J.	--- S ^t James W ^{ster}	Vestry Hall, Piccadilly	75
Report of S ^t Martin's Public Library			93
Munsey M ^r J.	Clerk S ^t James Vestry Westmins ^t	Vestry Hall, Piccadilly	105
M ^r Andrews & D ^r Allen	Clerk Med. Officers Strand B of W.	5 Tavistock Street, Strand	121

Westminster Union - Clerk.

Personal.

The Union described.

Character of population

Mr. J. Bond, clerk to Westminster Union, Poland St., Oxford St., is a fair, bearded man, quiet & somewhat, giving information in a rather listless manner, but not at all unwillingly. Not a man to inaugurate policies or initiate changes, but fortunately there is no need for it, the district altering vastly from natural causes. The population has decreased one half during the 30 years Mr. B. has been connected with the Union, caused by the making of Pharyng Cross Rd., Shaftesbury Avenue, &c., & the conversion of dwellings into business premises, clubs, &c. Consequently a good many of the poor have left the Union, particularly of the class who received out-relief.

Westminster is a small Union, of 216 acres & 36,000 people. Until 1868 St. James's was a separate poor-law district, but Soho was then taken from the Strand & combined with Westminster proper, not to the advantage of the latter, for Soho supplies about a fifth of the rates & half the paupers.

The poor are of a rather low & vicious type, with drink as a prominent cause of their pauperism. There is not much room for the more decent ^{English} poor.

Pents are too heavy. Good many foreigners, but they don't trouble the poor-law much. Sailors predominate amongst those relieved.

The Board consists mostly of small tradesmen, & is not of so good a class as it used to be, but it includes the R.C. priest of St. Patrick's & a curate of St. Anne's. The policy has not, however, suffered, the present Board being more rigid than previous ones in the matter of out-relief.

The nos. relieved show steady decrease, & are at present:

Indoor 488

out - 51

Children - 127 (including 45 belonging to Stampsford)

There is accommodation for 650 in the House & 200 in the Schools, so there is plenty of room.

Out relief only given in extreme cases, & House test applied. Those receiving it must have other definite means, & be either able to look after themselves

Personnel & policy of Board

Nos. relieved

Out-relief

or have relation to do so properly, & their place
must be kept clean & in good sanitary state
In no case will the Board wholly maintain, but will
see that income is adequate, or offer the "house".

No able-bodied pauper. Have agreement with
Kensington, but rarely send anybody.

Do not work systematically with C.O.s. Do not
believe in going so much into private matters, &
have just refused to meet C.O.s. in private conference.
But exchange information.

Have stopped beer in house, but general tendency
to make place comfortable. Old people do just such
light work as they are able, & a good deal of the
scrubbing & washing are done by labour employed
from outside. There is a library & games, & a
Committee of ladies visit & help to amuse. Going
to try Brabazon system.

The Schools are at Wandsworth Common.

Indoor.

Schools

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The children are taught music & to work on the land,
but not trades. Many go into the army.

The scarcity of population has made these
schools very expensive comparatively, & a proposal
is mooted for boarding out the children, & removing
the workhouse to the site of the present schools.
A new building wd. have to be erected, but the
workhouse in Poland St occupies so valuable a
site that it wd. no doubt be an economic move.
Only a small receiving house wd. then be
retained in town. There is plenty of room
on the site at Wandsworth.

The sick are treated at the Central London
Sick Asylum. About 55 cases there.

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Report of interview with Mr. A. Millward, Chairman of the Clerkenwell Vestry; Mr. R.E. Paget, Clerk; and, during the greater part of the time, Mr. Fincham, Chairman of the Free Library Commissioners, and Dr. Glaister, the Medical Officer. (E.A.) (July 15.98.)

This joint meeting was arranged by Mr. Millward, and took place at the Town Hall.

The population of Clerkenwell is almost stationary, and has been so since '91. The present figures are a few ^{above} hundreds ~~xxxx~~ these of '71, but nearly 3000 below those of '81. The tendency is thus downwards. Different parts of the district are being differently affected, and, while "the City" is spreading in the South, and residential houses are giving way to warehouses and offices, in the northern parts block dwellings are extending the accommodation. As regards the class of people living in the district, they are described as being less well-to-do, and more exclusively of the working-class. It is the old story of the movement further out of those who can afford it or whose work make it possible. It was denied by Mr. Millward that the increase of business premises had increased over-crowding, the normal tendency in this direction having been counter-acted by the provision of the block-dwellings and by the

more vigilant administration. His somewhat rosy picture was somewhat qualified however by the M.O. A considerable no. of the people are living in houses that were originally better-class, and these present the greatest difficulties in the way of administration. The optional clauses of the Public Health Act have been adopted, but a beginning only is being made to secure their proper inspection. The register is not yet complete. Matters are in the same stage as regards the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act. Here too, the register is only being made. It is clear that although more attention is being paid to sanitary administration, the staff is too small for the work and that the officials are still measuring their task, rather than adequately meeting its requirements. The M.O. has been recently appointed, and is of a cautious temperament. In the presence of his chairman, therefore, he would not say more than that an increase of the staff would be "soon" wanted.

It was also clear that the Home Office inspectorate at work in the district was inadequate. Mr. Millward has a workshop, but no machinery, and said frankly that he had never seen and never wished to see any of the Government inspectors. He however employs only men. Mr. Fincham, on the other hand wishes for greater activity. At his place 50 women and girls are employed, but they are not visited

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once a year. He had no hesitation in saying that the local staff was inadequate.

The government inspectors report cases of sanitary defect to the H.O., and he said that the plan worked well: there was no confusion as to where authority or responsibility rested.

The great structural changes that have taken place in Clerkenwell have been: the clearances and making of the Farringdon St. Met. Station (this took place some 30 years ago); about 20 years ago, Clerkenwell Road was made, and this has had a great effect on the lower parts of the district. Much more recently has come the making of Rosebery Avenue, and the important clearances it necessitated.

Industrially, the great change has been through the substitution of machinery for hand labour, with the local collapse of the watch-making industry. Mr. Millward is a typical Clerkenwell man of the old school, although he came to the district as a young man of 22 from B'ham. But no native-born watch-maker could have a firmer belief in the superiority of hand-work, and ~~the belief that~~ ^{in the power of} the fingers ^{to} ~~can~~ do everything that is worth doing at all. (His own trade is exceptional, and consists mainly in making decorative and jewelled trappings of every kind for the stage-wear. His output sparkles on all the boards of London, according

12.8

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to his own account.) In spite of his pride in hand-work and in the district of his adoption, he admitted that it was machinery that had "cut out Clerkenwell" but this was perhaps a slip of the tongue, for change, not decline, is taking place, and the rateable value of Clerkenwell shows a steady increase: since '96 the amount has gone up from £361,000 to £402,000, and since '71, the increase amounts to nearly £150,000.

The WATER supply is constant, and of very good. It is served to the tops of dwellings of any height. The company is the New River.

GAS, as is more fitting, is a more burning question,, but the controversy turns on the discrepancy between the rates charged North and South of the Thames.

On the whole, the opinion was held that the district was well off for OPEN SPACES, especially in the northern parts. ~~xxxxxxx~~ The M.O. put in his plea, however, for the provision of still a larger number. At present there are six -- four under the control of the Vestry, and two to which it contributes. The spaces are small, however, averaging one acre apiece.

There are only three or four Common Lodging Houses in the district, and are not important. But the Salvation Army, the Head-quarters of whose Social Wing are in the C'well

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Road, also has a Shelter in the district, and this is regretted on the old grounds that through it a number of loafers are attracted, and that the dangers of infectious disease are increased.

On HOUSING generally, it was mentioned that the average ^{no. of occupants} per house for Clerkenwell was 11, as compared with 7 for the whole of London.

The administration of the Food and Drink Adulteration Acts is very unsatisfactory, the main difficulty being to get an effective conviction. Successful administration, or the reverse depends very much on the magistrate, and in their own case they are at present unfortunate.

The provision of BATHS AND WASH-HOUSES appears to be a much controverted local question. It has been before the Vestry four or five times, and rejected as often. The question is complicated by the existence of private and not very successful baths, and, still more, by the failure of the baths at the Northampton Institute. Mr. Millward took up the position that there was too much reason to expect that the use would not justify the expenditure, and as regards wash-houses, he was swayed by the fear that the chief use to which they would be put would be professional. On the other hand Mr. Fincham was anxious that Clerkenwell should possess this important aid to health.

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An ELECTRIC LIGHTING order is being applied for at the present time, and at the same time many hope that a DUST DESTRUCTOR may be built. But on the latter point opinion is apparently divided, and Mr. Paget spoke without certainty as to the result of the much talked of experiment in Shoreditch, holding the opinion that more time than had yet elapsed was necessary to provide a certain test.

Clerkenwell was one of the earliest districts in London to adopt the FREE LIBRARIES Act, having done so in '87. Since the death of Mr. Rose, Mr. Fincham has been Chairman of the Commissioners, and after our interview he took me over the Library. It is well arranged and well used, the 3 pages from the last Report (v. p. 257) giving a very striking illustration of the great use of a public library, and affording an effective answer to those who see in a Library nothing but a place at which betting news is studied, and from which light fiction is borrowed. Four years ago the Library was the first to adopt the open system for borrowers by which, instead of simply consulting a catalogue or a number board, ticket-holders are allowed to have direct access to the shelves. It is claimed that by this means the proportion of fiction taken out has been perceptibly lessened. Borrowers discover the existence of books of which they

** A commentary on the evidence!*

A MEDICAL OFFICER ROBBED.

Dr. John Glaister, the medical officer of Clerkenwell, has been robbed of a valuable gold watch, chain, and appendages. At five o'clock yesterday afternoon, near Rosebery-avenue, three men pounced upon him. Two of them held the doctor's arms, whilst the third took his watch, chain, and appendages. This is but one of many daring robberies that have been committed in the district of late; and the local vestry at their next meeting will discuss the desirability of going to the Home Secretary on the question of inadequate police protection.

W. G. G. 1898

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had never heard as they wander round the shelves. The books are so arranged as to facilitate this, and a borrower, for instance who fails perhaps to find in the rows of fiction a novel that attracts him, on turning round finds himself in front of tempting rows of ~~xxxxxx~~ history, or biography. Technological works on local industries go out largely, and the extent to which books on local topography and history ~~xxxxxxx~~ are taken out is a noticeable feature in the returns. It was feared that many books would be stolen on the adoption of the open plan, but so far from this having been the case, except for the loss of two small shilling volumes in the first year, nothing has gone. Mr. Fincham says that librarians and a body are opposed to the plan, but is sanguine that it will spread -- as indeed it is already doing. Their own librarian advocated the experiment.

To return to the report of the joint interview. DIRECT EMPLOYMENT is adopted for cleansing, sweeping, and in as far as possible for the recurrent work of the Vestry, and in all about 100 men are in its employ. For contracts a Trade Union, not simply a fair waged clause is used, and this was turned up and read to me by Mr. Paget.

The POLICE are described as efficient, but insufficient in number, and the amount of street robberies that occur was cited as proof of the need of a

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stronger local force. A certain amount of collusion with the publicans seemed to be accepted as inevitable. The use of the streets by the book-makers was also very difficult to check, and when a conviction is obtained, the fine imposed is no deterrent. As one of the inspectors is reported to have said with reference to a complaint of a bookie who worked near Farringdon St. Station, and who reappeared after a summons and conviction "What are you to do? He has paid his rent."

The Clerkenwell CHARITIES are in the hands of the Trustees, and these being appointed by the Vestry, administration is indirectly under popular control. The actual distribution is largely in the hands of the incumbents and churchwardens of the 5 ecclesiastical areas into which the civil parish is now divided, but in practice the funds get into the hands of a much wider circle. Mr. Paget said that the plan worked well, and that there was little or no complaint. A report on the charities has been recently issued by the Charity Commissioners, and Mr. Robson, who has been separately interviewed has sent us a copy.

Mr. Millward said that the public election of the Rector of S. James ought to be done away with, and that when a little longer interval had elapsed after the recent poll

steps were going to be taken to effect the change. It would have to be done by the electorate itself.

As regards EDUCATION, the district was said to be well supplied with schools.

Mr. Paget is a good specimen of the Vestry clerk, and is in the prime of life. The M.O. is a man of 50 or upwards, but has only been in office for a year or two. He shapes well, and Mr. Robson when seen spoke of him very cordially. He followed an old man, who had been good some 30 years ago and had got into a groove. Mr. Fincham is a good specimen of the non-party local man. As churchwarden of S. John's he is an ex-officio member of the vestry, but he takes little part in its general work. His interest centres in the library. He is both intelligent and liberal-minded. Mr. Millward was the weakest man of the four -- a party man, complacent, and rather stupid. I am told that until made chairman, he had no special interest in or knowledge of the tasks of local government, but during the last 2 years he has worked hard. He is quite honest, and has proved himself the possessor of a great power of self-recovery, but he is innocent of any great power of initiative or independent judgment.

Report of the Commissioners.

IN submitting their Tenth Annual Report, the Commissioners think it desirable to add a few statistics showing the work of the Library, year by year, since its first organisation in 1888. These will take the form of tables inserted under each department. It is hoped the information thus gathered together will have an interest for all who have watched the growth and development of the Library.

Reference Library.—The early part of the year was marked by a slight falling off in the attendance, due chiefly to the cause, the greater activity in trade, which, in 1896, led to a decrease in the number of visits and issues. In August, by a re-arrangement of the reading rooms, idlers who had made the rooms a resort in which to pass away time were largely eliminated, and more studious readers attracted. The chairs were removed from the News-room and the magazines in the Reference Reading room issued only on application, instead of leaving them in open racks. The effect of this arrangement was almost immediately seen in the extinction of the habitual loafer and a notable increase in the number of books issued for reference. While in 1896 the books issued from August to December under the old plan numbered only 6,806; in 1897, during the same period, but under the new arrangements, 12,605 volumes were issued.

The total attendance at the Reading Room during the year numbered 133,110, against 172,715 in 1896; a daily average of 435, against 570. The annual issues of books from the Reference Library since the commencement have been as follows:—

1890	...	...	4,965 (Oct.-Dec. only)
1891	...	...	16,120
1892	...	...	18,966
1893	...	...	19,974
1894	...	...	25,541
1895	...	...	28,054
1896	...	...	17,966
1897	...	...	22,221
Total			<u>153,807</u>

The annual attendances from the commencement have been as follows:—

1890	...	...	19,250 (Oct.-Dec. only)
1891	...	...	70,610
1892	...	...	77,000
1893	...	...	100,368
1894	...	...	128,940
1895	...	...	199,243
1896	...	...	172,715
1897	...	...	133,110
Total	...	...	<u>901,236</u>

The daily average of books issued was 72 in 1897, and 59 in 1896, the increase, as before stated, having taken place during the latter part of the year.

On **Sundays**—when the Library is open for six hours only (from 3 to 9 p.m.)—the number of volumes issued was 1,999, against 2,017 in 1896, the daily average in both years being 40. The number of visits was 8,080 in 1897, and 8,011 in 1896, or a daily average of 161 and 157 respectively. Since the Sunday opening of the Reference Library was inaugurated in 1890, the following have been the annual issues and attendances.

	Vols. issued.		Attendances.	
1890	...	916	...	2,000 (Oct.-Dec.)
1891	...	1,592	...	3,338
1892	...	1,795	...	5,498
1893	...	1,275	...	6,025
1894	...	1,184	...	5,706
1895	...	1,893	...	6,416
1896	...	2,017	...	8,011
1897	...	1,999	...	8,080
Totals	...	<u>12,671</u>	...	<u>45,074</u>

Lending Library.—The work of this department remains very nearly the same as in 1895 and 1896, being rather less than in the former, and slightly greater than in

the latter year. The total number of volumes issued was 108,954, or a daily average of 356, against a total of 108,834, and a daily average of 355 in 1896. The quality of the reading has, however, somewhat improved, there being a slight reduction in the number of novels issued, and a more marked decrease in the issue of the miscellaneous class of literature, comprising essays, magazines, and other miscellanies. In connection with this increased demand for scientific works, the following statement will be of interest. Since the Library was opened in 1889 considerably over 989,000 volumes have been issued to readers in the Lending and Reference departments. 6,860 volumes of works in Theology and Philosophy have been issued, while of Poetry 6,851 volumes have been circulated during the past eight years. Close on 10,000 volumes of Biography have been issued in the same time. Scientific works are very largely circulated. Biology, including evolution and methods of scientific research, is a very popular subject, the 68 works which the Library contains on this topic having been issued over 2,800 times within recent years. In this subject two copies of Darwin's "Descent of Man" have been issued nearly 200 times, a record which is exceeded only by the most popular novels. The following summary will give a better idea of the stock and issues of some of the most popular subjects:—

	Works.	Times issued.
English History	110	10,560
Chemistry	32	960
Botany (including Wildflowers) .	47	1,222
Music, and Books on Music ...	409	8,180*
Photography	35	1,050
Watch and Clock Making ...	13	670
Jewellery and Precious Stones ...	22	620
Decoration and Arts and Crafts .	78	2,340
Electrical Engineering	30	1,200
Domestic Economy (Cookery, Dressmaking, etc.)	55	1,680

* Four years.

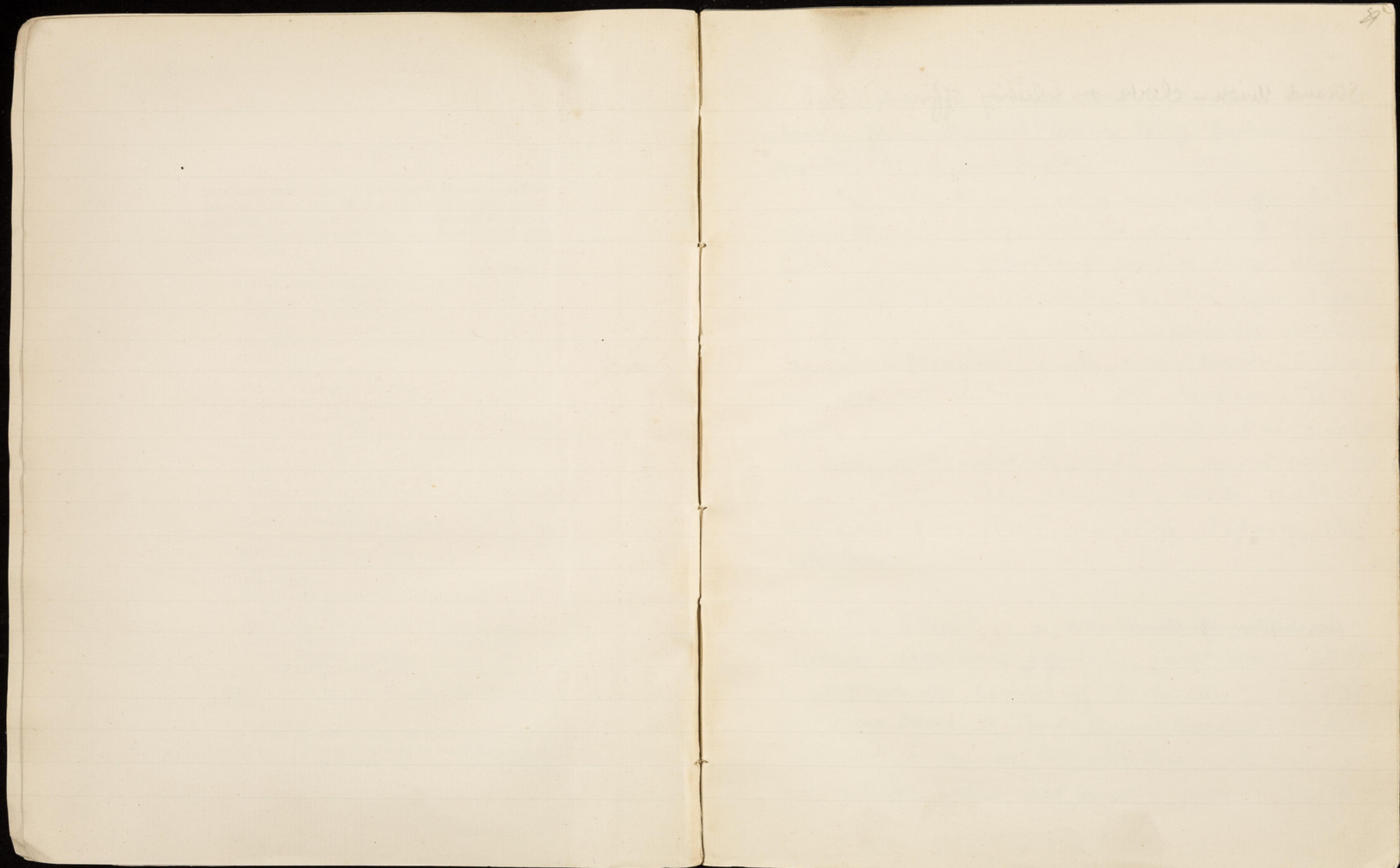
As examples of the circulation of individual popular works, other than novels, the following is a random selection. Owing

to so many books having to be re-bound because of constant use, and the fact that the record previous to 1894 has not been kept, the issues of some of the undernoted works must be regarded as under rather than over the the actual times of circulation.

	Times Issued.
*Carlyle's French Revolution (2 copies) ...	150
Sanderson's British Empire ...	75
Pattinson's British Railways ...	34
Standage's Cements, etc. (in 4 years) ...	32
*O'Connor's Life of Beaconsfield ...	40
*Herodotus (Greek History) ...	26
Wright's Poultry Keeper ...	50
Tyndall's Fragments of Science ...	70
Stable's The Dog (3 years) ...	30
Gounod's Faust (Opera) ...	70
Handel's Messiah (Oratorio, 2 copies) ...	90
*Shakespeare's Works (Leopold edition) ...	135
*Scott's Poetical Works ...	54
*Seeley's Life of Napoleon ...	56
Mollison's Window Gardening ...	62
Abney's Photography ...	65
*Saunier's Watchmaker's Handbook ...	91
*Gee's Silversmith's Handbook ...	65
Humphrey's Nursing (1 year) ...	18
Cambridge Bible—Acts of Apostles ...	49
*Mill's Logic ...	34
Davis's West from a Car Window (American Travel) ...	62
*Pink's History of Clerkenwell (3 copies) ...	480
Vincent's Hypnotism ...	38
*Ruskin's Elements of Drawing ...	50
*Maclaren's Physical Education ...	50

*These have been in the Library since 1889. The others are later accessions.

It is hoped that the interest in these studies will be stimulated when the new *Class Guide* to the Science and Art section is issued early in 1898. Since the Lending Library



Strand Union - clerk & relieving officer.

Description of Union.

July 22. 98 ³¹

Interview with Mr Maddocks, clerk, & Mr Skell, relieving officer, Strand Union B. of Guardians, 15 Newmarket St., Covent Garden.

The Strand Union has a reputation for "lax" administration, having, with the exception of City of London, a larger proportion of paupers than any other metropolitan district. So that, when I failed to get replies to my letters, I suspected unwillingness to give information. On calling, however, I found this was not the case. Mr Maddocks is a really pleasant fellow of easy disposition, & delay in reply was apparently merely in accord with that disposition. An easy-going clerk matching an easy going Board, seems up, I fancy, the situation.

The Strand is a small union, with a steadily decreasing population (now about 27000) & comprises the parishes of St Martin in the Fields, St. Clement Danes, St. Paul, Covent Garden, St Mary-le-Strand, & one or two liberties. It has a very high rateable value, but a very poor & rather

low, rough class of people in the neighbourhood of Clove Market. There has been a considerable amount of clearance round the market, but hitherto, Mr. Small thinks, the people have not left the Union, but have crowded in more. When, however, the new street to Holborn is made some of them will have to go, for there will be no room for them, & a consequent decrease of pauperism may be looked for.

The following is a statement of nos. in
workhouse & school at Edmonton, for week ending
July 9. WORKHOUSE, EDMONTON.

Accommodation Certified by Local Government Board, 1,054.

Inmates remaining this week—

Strand Union, Adults	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	810
" Children	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	23
Maintained for Bethnal Green	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36
Total No. in Workhouse	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	869
Ditto last year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	885

SCHOOL, EDMONTON.

Accommodation Certified by Local Government Board, 397.

Children remaining this week—

Strand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	128
Maintained for St. Giles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78
" Hackney	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	82
" West London School District	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
Total No. at School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	329
Ditto last year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	333

Reasons for largeness of no.

81.
There is a small sewing house at Bear Yard, Lincoln's Inn Fields, wh. had 37 inmates, & there were 71 at the Cleveland St Sick Asylum.

The total no. of indoor poor chargeable to the Union was 1444, & of outdoor 444, the numbers having slowly increased for some years past, both for in & out.

A reason wh. suggests itself for this is that with a decreasing Central population the Dregs are left behind, whilst in regard to the outdoor, the relieving officer instances the great difficulty of getting contributions from relatives as a reason in favour of its continuance. The men being largely market porters, &c., their earnings are so precarious that it is almost impossible to legally prove ability to contribute to support of an old father or mother in the workhouse, but if a small amount of out-relief is given these children do, as a matter of fact, help the old people in one way or another.

Doubtless, however, the main reason is the general disposition of the Board. on this

Board because they will not provide a ^{separate} receiving
house for children of the "in & out" class. But
there are very few of these, says the clerk,
sometimes only 2 or 3 a week, & there is room
for these in the workhouse.

The Board consists of 24 members mostly
of the smaller tradesmen class. They meet in
the evening, wh. prevents the attendance of the
better class of non-residents, few of whom, however,
take much interest in parochial matters. All cases
are heard by the full Board. There are not a
great many new cases. Mainly it is the same
people who come up again & again, & have
their allowance renewed for 3 months. They
will never give enough to support a case
properly, so that all must get some help
otherwise. "I hear you are liberal in giving
out relief" I said. "The C.O.S. say we are,"
replied the clerk, "but the amount we give
in each case is small."

Outdoor medical relief is given to quite

Personnel of Board

Inadequate relief

Medical

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a small number. This is because of the proximity of the big hospitals in the neighbourhood, two being in the Union. This has also its disadvantage, a number of homeless people, discharged from the hospitals, becoming chargeable to the Union. Nourishment are given in medical relief cases, under doctors order. Mr. Small agrees that this is not wise.

The number at present in the Sick Asylum (71) is considerably below the average.

The inmates of the Workhouse consist entirely of the old, infirm, or partially disabled. There are no really able bodied. The old men, if able, do woodchopping or mat making, or some work on the land, but there is no set task in any case. There is a mill for corn grinding, but it is seldom used. The med. Officer, having the fear of police-court proceedings before his eyes, will not certify the men as capable of it, tho' some of the Guardians wish he would. Women do sewing & washing.

Not very much troubled by able-bodied, but have occasional difficulty. Have not tried

Kensington or labour colonies.

People often come from other parts to get into the Strand Workhouse. Like the country air.

The inmates have fixed suits to go out in - uniform to all extent, but not distinguishable amongst people generally. For the infirmary, serge is worn.

In the school the boys are taught tailoring, carpentry, shoemaking or gardening; the girls learn cooking or domestic work.

A peculiar feature of this Union is its large & growing proportion of lunatics. This is partly caused, Mr. Maddocks says, by the number of exiles who come to Buckingham Palace or Government buildings with a grievance, or are found wandering in Trafalgar Square, &c.

School.

Wandering Lunatics

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Report of interview with Mr. W. Robson, J.P. Senior C
Churchwarden of S. James, and for 20 years a member of the
C'well Vestry. Mr. Robson lives at 40 Myddelton Sq. and was
seen at his business premises at 60 Farringdon Road.
(E.A.) July 19.98.

Mr. Robson has had a long experience in local govern-
ment, and during the last four years or so of its existence
was a member of the Metropolitan B. of Works. This was a wor-
rving time, ~~xxx~~ although no one ever even suggested his own
personal connexion with any of the closing scandals of
the Board, Mr. Robson is a wheelwright, and has a consid-
erable no. of men in his employment. He is one of the very
best type of local men -- level-headed and of perfect integ-
rity. He has a profound dislike of the present tendency to
run local government on party lines, and at the last elec-
tion, accepted no party ticket, standing alone with two
others and heading the polls. For some years he acted as
chairman of the vestry, as senior churchwarden, Mr. Rose,
then Rector, and ex-officio chairman stipulating that his
senior churchwarden should take the place to which he him-
self was by law entitled. Th s Mr. Robson has occupied the
post for several years, and it says a good deal for his
strong local position that after thr new Local Gov. Act came
into force and the chairman had to be elected, he was first

chosen He held it in this elected capacity for two years, and then Mr. Millward followed. It is proposed to make it a two-yearly post. Mr. R. described the present chairman as a good enough fellow, of the Conservative party type, and, while not thinking him either very capable or very genuinely interested in the work of the Vestry, has a good deal of respect for him on personal grounds. It appears that about 8 years ago, Mr. M. was distinctly on the down-grade through drink and conviviality, but has pulled himself up, and together, with unusual strength of will. But as compared with Mr. R. he is still the weak man. The latter is trusted at once. He knows perfectly what he is talking about, and is equally free from self-conceit, and that note of complacency that makes many local public men give you the impression that their districts are models of administration.

Mr. Robson spoke hopefully of the district. It had been going down for some years and the general change in the direction of a poorer class brought its own difficulties. But on the whole things are on the up-grade now, and the models have brought a better artisan population in. The people occupying the districts lying to the N. of the Pentonville Road may be compared to those living in the southern parts of Clerkenwell. In between, in the neighbourhood of the

squares the better-off classes are living. The Rosebery Avenue is the great modern improvement, but other signs are seen in the erection of the Hugh Myddelton School and the Parcels Post premises on the sites of the old Houses of Detention and Correction. The blot of the moment is the "gangs" but these, he hopes, are but a temporary phase. He has a theory, admitted to be such and to rest on no evidence, that this outbreak is partly due to the imitation on the part of a class of boys of a rougher stamp than are induced to join the Boys' Brigades, of the juvenile militarism of the latter. It appears that the "gangs" are both organized and armed. Sometimes serious injury has been done, Mr. R. got into a scrape with Mr. Rose for suggesting any connexion between them and the Brigades, the late Rector having been very keen about the latter.

There are some poor streets lying to the S.E. of Rosebery Avenue, that have been opened up by ~~the~~ the new thoroughfare and by a small open space. They illustrate in a very marked way the beneficial effects of a great structural improvement, as, although the same people are still living in these streets their character has almost completely changed. Light has been let in, and the houses have become tidy and decent. Mr. R. is sure that the same people are living there as he knows the spot well having canvassed it and visited

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it, both before and after the improvement.

As causes of the general upward trend that he thinks is discernible in the district as a whole, he mentioned, in addition to the structural improvements and the provision of good block dwellings, the Free Library, to which he attaches a good deal of importance, and the religious effort. The Church of England has been active, but he thinks that the most powerful influence has certainly been the Central Wesleyan Mission in S. John's Sq. The Northampton Institute although destined to be an important local influence, is as yet, he thinks, "not so big as it looks".

Mr. Robson has had a great deal to do with the administration of the CHARITIES in his own parish of S. James, and has been always very careful to see that they have been shared in by large numbers. He says that no fewer than 150 people have helped in their distribution, and there are no complaints of favouritism. But although they are widely distributed, and although the recent Charity Com. Inquiry has detected no shortcomings in this respect, Mr. Robson thinks that the charities themselves are unsatisfactory. They must, according to the trust deeds involve far too much "doling". He advocates the investment of the capital and the purchase of a certain number of annuities by which it would be possib

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adequately to help a smaller number of good cases.

Local administration generally has greatly improved in recent years, especially perhaps in the care of the streets. These are now fairly satisfactory. The clearing on insanitary areas still moves very slowly largely owing to the dual authority of the L.C.C. and the Vestry. At the present moment the former is preparing a scheme and report on the Jerusalem Court area, and nobody can tell when or by whom the clearance will be made. If the Vestry takes it in hand, Mr. R. thinks that they would buy, clear, and re-sell. It is extremely improbable that the Vestry would themselves re-build, and I did not gather that Mr. R. would advocate this plan. He does not consider that in the whole district there is much old and insanitary property at the present time. He praised the new Medical Officer very highly, saying that he was a thorough good fellow, who did not shrink from reporting on bad property. A good deal is being done to check the evil of overcrowding, but the task is full of difficulties. There is, however, he thinks certainly less than formerly. The M.O. is just preparing a special report on the causes of the high death-rate that C. shows, and this will be presented in a week or two. Mr. R. has promised to send a copy.

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It rests with the Overseers to take action against the disorderly houses, and a good deal has been done. In times past too great a friendliness has often been suspected between these places and the police, and there have been times when the overseers, of whom he was ^{and is} one ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ have themselves watched the houses, as well as the police, because the latter were not trusted. He thinks however that the police have improved, and that the inspectors especially are a better class of men. The disorderly houses that still exist are found mostly in the White Lion Street corner, N.W. of the Angel. This has always been a shady corner of the district. Captain Penton, the chief local owner, has been very helpful, and has done his utmost to keep out undesirable tenants.

Rents in the district are well maintained, but he would not assert that there was an upward tendency. It is very difficult however to get good houses, and he mentioned the new Rector, and the widow of the late rector, as persons who were at present looking for houses, and unable to find them. The kind of house that it is especially difficult to find are those that let for about £50 a year.

The number of public-houses has diminished, largely owing to the action of the late Marquis of Northampton. The present

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holder of the title is sure to pursue the same policy. He thinks that there is less drinking as a whole, and is quite certain about it as regards his own men. Their shop is known as a sober one, and he has two or three staunch teetotallers working for him. Their influence makes itself felt, but apart from this, he notices a great improvement among his men, who are not only steadier, but are earning higher wages as rates have gone up.

There is no theatre in Clerkenwell, and a Music Hall license that was applied for some time back was successfully resisted. It would, as events have turned out have been better to have had the real thing, as the Sadlers' Wells Theatre is now run practically as a music-hall of a very inferior type. The charges are very low, and although the audiences are said to behave decently, the place attracts a very rough set of young people, and he thinks that the place really leads to a good deal of harm. There are two performances every evening.

Interference with private enterprise has been the great argument by which the proposal to establish Baths and Wash Houses has been beaten on the Vestry, but he thinks that they will come sooner or later. He supports the proposal. At the Northampton Institute there is nothing but a swimming-bath.

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but they vote for the parson. Mr. Robson thinks that the new man will do very well, and a satisfactory thing about the last election has been that it will not be followed, as has always happened before, by any legal proceedings. There has always been some aggrieved person in earlier cases, and when Mr. Rose was elected £400 had to be spent to defend his claim. Mr. Robson took the precaution however of convening a public meeting beforehand to determine the lines on which the election should be fought, and subsequent procedure -- the adoption of the ballot, the day and hours of the poll, etc. were exactly according to the resolutions passed at this meeting, at which some hundreds of the electorate were present. No grounds for complaint, therefore, as in earlier years existed, and Mr. Parker's claim remains uncontested.

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Clerkenwell

APPENDIX IV.

SCHEDULE of CHARITIES

belonging to the Parish of Clerkenwell, and

administered by the

TRUSTEES OF THE CHURCH

OF

ST. JAMES, CLERKENWELL.

PARISH

Name of Gift.	Situation of Property.	How Let.	Tenant.	Amount of Principal.
Pierson's Gift	50 0 0
Crosse's Gift	219 9 7

CHURCH REPAIRS

Bedingfield's Gift	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Heron's Gift	Portion of Ground Rents at West Hackney	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Stokes' Gift	Rent Charge on house called the "Duke's Head," corner of Cock Alley Turnmill Street	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..

ACCOUNT.

Gross Annual Income.	How Appropriated.	REMARKS.
3 0 0	£50 on condition that £3 be spent annually as follows:— Minister, for sermon concerning the preparation for death in the afternoon of Michaelmas Day in every year for ever (except Michaelmas Day happen to be on a Sunday, then on the Monday following), and that prayers of the Church of England shall be there read in the same church before the sermon 15/-. Reader 2/6, Clerk 1/6, and Sexton 1/-. for their attendance. 20/- for 40 poor persons attending such service 6d. each, and the residue 20/- for collation for Parson, Churchwardens and Overseers after such service	
6 0 8	.. ..	Proceeds of portion of purchase-money of Burial Ground, Ray Street, sold to Commissioners under Clerkenwell Improvement Act (in Court of Chancery)

ACCOUNT.

2 0 0	.. ..	Formerly a house at the North-east corner of Churchyard, part taken into Burial Ground, and part added to Mr. Sellon's house adjoining. Parish of Clerkenwell to pay interest, guaranteed by Trustee Act.
197 9 8	For the maintenance and reparation of the Church and Pentonville Chapel	Paid by Clothworkers' Co.
1 0 0	.. ..	Paid by City Comptroller

CHARITIES.

Name of Gift.	Situation of Property.	How Let.	Tenant.	Amount of Bank of England Stock in Names of Trustees.
Bellow's Gift	Churchstyle Hse., Cobham. Piece of land, Cobham Piece of land, Cobham	Lease At will Building lease for 80 years from Michaelmas, 1882	Blunt Woodbury Bradley	..
Wood's Gift	Late 36-7, Clerken- well Close 38-9, Clerkenwell Close	.. .. Lease 21 years from 1886	.. .. Moore	1446 5 5
Wiggles- worth's Gift	Late "Sessions House" Hotel, Clerkenwell Green	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Strode's Gift	Cockshute Farm, Mal- vern, consisting of 34 a 2r 34p. with buildings thereon	Lease 99 years from 29th September, 1859	J. Jones's Executors	.. ..
Stanhope's Gift	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Spencer's Gift	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	2000 0 0
Robertson's Gift	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	290 5 0
Bennett's Gift	Late 106, St. John St.	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Sanderson's Gift	Late 59, Turnmill St., and Lamb and Flag Ragged Schools	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Gardner's Gift	Formerly two houses in Ray Street, Hock- ley in the Hole	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Heron's Gift	Portion of ground rents at West Hackney	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Herbert's Gift	Rent charge on a house and garden in Turn- mill Street
Kytson's Gift	Rent charge on Manor of Lackford, Suffolk

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Principal. Court of Chancery.	Gross Annual Income.	How appropriated.	REMARKS.
.. ..	25 0 0	20/- to Churchwardens of Cobham for Bread to the Poor on Good Friday, and the remainder for Bread to Clerkenwell Poor on Sundays	
.. ..	5 0 0		
.. ..	12 0 0		
.. ..	39 15 4	Bread to the Poor at Lady-day and Michaelmas	36-7, Clerkenwell Close, sold to School Board for London for the sum of £1,430
.. ..	90 0 0		
1277 13 2	50 17 6	Left for apprenticing poor child- ren. Now devoted to educa- tional purposes in the Parish, by order of the Master of the Rolls	Sold to Metropolitan Board of Works under Streets Improve- ment Act, 1872. Stock sold in 1895 for £1,338 6s. 11d., and proceeds invested in ground rents in Credon Road and Verney Road, Bermondsey, increasing income to £50 17s. 6d. (proportion of £104) —[See Bennett's Gift below].
.. ..	250 0 0	£6 to the minister for a prepara- tory sermon, and the residue to the poor in sums of 5/- each	
815 15 9	22 8 4	.. ..	Proceeds of sale of portion of the Estate to the Worcester and Hereford Railway Company
1349 16 0	37 2 4	Bread to the Poor	Purchase money of house and premises in Silver Street, des- cribed as the "Blue Axe," Turn- mill Street
.. ..	55 0 0	Bread, coals and warm clothing to poor not receiving Parochial relief	Trustees of Stock, Messrs. G. B. Meyer, W. Davies, and F. G. Scheib
.. ..	7 19 4	To keep his vault in St. James' Churchyard in repair, residue to be distributed in sums of 5/- each to poor widows	Trustees of Stock, Rev. R. Maguire, D.D., Messrs. G. B. Meyer, and J. J. Goode
583 15 4	59 18 2	In coals to the Poor	Sold to Metropolitan Board of Works under Streets Improve- ment Act, 1872. £1,336 10s. 3d. of the stock sold in 1895 for £1,396 13s. 1d., part purchase- money of ground rents in Credon Road and Verney Road, Ber- mondsey, increasing income to £53 2s. 6d. (proportion of £104), £247 5s. 1d. remaining in Con- sols.—[See Wigglesworth's Gift above].
377 7 2	10 7 6	To the Poor	Sold to Met. Board of Works under Streets Improvement Act, 1872
775 17 0	21 6 8	20/- to Charity School and re- mainder to 20 poor widows on Shrove Tuesday	
.. ..	78 19 10	To the Poor	Paid by Clothworkers' Co.
.. ..	2 12 0	Bread to the Poor	Paid by Girdlers' Company
.. ..	3 0 0	Food, Raiment and Clothing	Paid by Rev. J. Holden's Exors.

Name of Gift.	Situation of Property.	How Let.	Tenant.	Amount of Bank of England Stock in names of Trustees.
John Smith's Gift	Late a Rent Charge of £2 12s. per annum on house in Turnmill St.	.. ..	.. ..	86 13 4
Sir Edward Smith's Gift	Rent Charge on "Crown" Tavern, Clerkenwell Green	.. ..	Mr. Maples	.. ..
Skydmore's Gift	Rent Charge on houses in St. Ann, Ludgate	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Garrett's Gift	Portion of Rent Charge on house in Holborn	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Loveday's Gift	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Crosse's Gift	Proceeds of portion of purchase-money of Burial Ground, Ray Street, Sold to Commissioners under the Clerkenwell Improvement Act	.. ..	.. ..	259 13 6
Richards' Gift	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	191 14 6
Nieman's Gift No. 1	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	562 10 0
Nieman's Gift No. 2	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	585 0 0
Leverington Charity	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Baldwin's Gift	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	159 8 0
Woodward's Gift	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	917 3 11
Wright's Gift	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	539 13 3

Principal Court of Chancery.	Gross Annual Income.	How appropriated.	REMARKS.
.. ..	2 7 8	To the Poor	Purchased by Metropolitan Railway Company. Trustees of Stock, Messrs. S. A. Brooks, W. Robson, and W. Davies.
.. ..	2 0 0	To the Poor	
.. ..	1 0 0	Fuel to the Poor	Paid by Vintners' Company
.. ..	0 6 8	To the Poor	Paid by Haberdashers' Co.
.. ..	5 0 0	Bread on St. John's Day	Legacy of £100 which was laid out in erecting a gallery in the Church, the Parishioners agreeing to pay a perpetual yearly sum of £5 as legal interest thereon, to be distributed to the Poor according to the intention of the donor. Guaranteed by Trustee Act
.. ..	7 2 8	Minister for Sermon on or about St. Thomas's Day 30/-, Churchwardens a pair of Gloves each 5/-, Clerk, Sexton and Beadle 5/- each, Bellringers 10/-, residue to the Poor 1/6 each	Trustees of Stock, Messrs. W. M. Foxcroft, W. Robson, and W. Davies.
.. ..	4 19 8	Half-peck Loaves to the poor	Trustees of Stock, Messrs. G. Croucher, G. B. Meyer, and J. J. Goode
.. ..	15 9 4	Bread and Coals to the Poor	Trustees of Stock, Messrs. S. A. Brooks, E. Sans, and W. J. Ironside
.. ..	16 1 8	Half to St. John's, other half in Coals and sums of 1/6 to the Poor	Trustees of Stock, Messrs. A. Goad, W. Robson, E. Sans and W. Wootton
1833 6 8	33 13 4	2/- per week each to 40 poor persons during first 10 weeks in January, February and March	
.. ..	4 7 4	£1 on 14th Feb. to female orphans who are or have been paupers in the Clerkenwell Workhouse	Trustees of Stock, Messrs. J. W. Franklin, W. F. Palmer, H. Hill, and J. Betjemann
.. ..	25 4 4	To the Poor	Trustees of Stock, Messrs. G. Blackie, G. B. Meyer, and J. J. Goode
.. ..	14 16 8	4/- each to poor widows on Christmas Eve	Trustees of Stock, "The Official Trustees of Charitable Funds"

W^r. Skegg. St. Martin's Vestry.

Personal.

Description of Parish.

Housing Sanitation.

W^r. J. J. Skegg. Medical Officer of Health St. Martin's Vestry.

W^r. Skegg is a short elderly man, with stooping shoulders bald head & a rather old fashioned appearance. He has been M.D. for high on 30 years, & lives in Craven St., where he does his work & sees his inspection, not having any office provided for him by the Vestry.

Though apparently of the old school he is plain & sensible without, I should say, fads, fancies, or prejudices & probably would do his work quietly but well. His annual report which he gave me is very brief, but pointed so far as it goes.

St. Martin-in-the-Fields is a small parish with a decreasing night but increasing day population, former dwelling houses being converted into offices. It is healthy, its birth rate [13.4] & death rate [15.2] being both very low, as also the number of cases of infectious disease, which 120 in 1896, were but 80 last year, & for the 8 months of the present year only 28.

The sanitary condition of the parish, the doctor regards as most satisfactory. A thorough house to house inspection has been in progress 4 or 5 years & is now practically completed. Houses of

Housing Sanitation ^{Council}

High rents + crowding

every class have been visited, with the result that in about 600 cases new drains have been laid, this having been effected without much friction & save in a few cases without legal proceedings. Owners were usually willing to do what was required or amenable to a little pressure. The only doubtful spot now is 2 or 3 courts off the west side of Bedfordbury, & in neither of these can he bring himself to say they are unfit for habitation. In this the inspector of the Mansion House Council agrees with him. There has been improvement in them, & the old tenants cleared out. The fault lay not so much with the property as with its occupants. On the east side of Bedfordbury ^{there} at one ^{time} had a lot of knaves. It was a beastly place. But ultimately the site was cleared by the Metropolitan B. of Works & the present Peabody Bldgs erected. These are occupied by a respectable class & are well kept. He thinks, however that the rooms are small & rents too high.

This question of rents was the only point on which the doctor spoke strongly. He thinks the dwellings of the poor are infamously over-rented, overcrowding following as a matter of course. The Covent Garden Poters are very hard pressed in this way. Demolitions on an extensive scale have taken place (as in Drury Lane St. Martin's St.) after driving these men & their families away altogether or forcing them to crowd in more & rents go up to an exorbitant figure. He thinks the Duke of Bedford having cleared so much of Drury Lane & getting

Flats.

Sanitary Staff

Workshops Lodgings.

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as large an income from the market should devote some part of the cleared area to dwellings for these men at a rental they can afford to pay. He once wrote a letter to the Duke about this but didn't send it. Thought it only a waste of time. Nervous, I think.

Besides Peabody Buildings there are flats in Long here called Mercers Chambers. These though built for a superior class, have given some trouble because the sanitary arrangements were not properly adapted. They were only erected 3 or 4 years ago.

There are two Sanitary Inspectors, & they between them do the inspection of every kind, as well as take samples under the Drug & Food Act.

No. infecting work is excellent done under contract by a Mr. Lacey who has capital premises at Wandsworth & attends very promptly when required. It would be almost impossible to find suitable premises in the parish. They have no shelter - one is seldom required.

There are very few factories, but a good many workshops in the parish. A list is kept & they are visited at intervals, as are also bakeries &c.

Under the bye-laws, all houses let in lodgings where rent of lodgers is below 10/- a week are registered & inspected. Have 200 to 300 on the list & CC have complimented them on the way this work is done.

Only one common lodging house in parish, used by 4.

Just removal does not come under the charge of his dept, but

Dust Removal

Care of Streets

Open Spaces

Water

Street Improvements

he ~~has~~ ~~heard~~ no complaints. In some of the principal streets light galvanized bins are used & placed outside for emptying but this system though recommended by the Vestry is not generally adopted. The refuse is taken away under contract. Parish has not a destructor.

The streets are all cleaned every day. Courts & Alleys lime-whitened twice a year.

There is a childrens playground fitted with gymnasia in Grove Lane & Recreation Grounds in Russell Court & in St Martin's Churchyard. Each under care of Vestry.

Constant supply, usually direct from the Main. I think the charges heavy.

The Vestry with assistance of S.C.C. has effected improvements in Green St. Leicester Square for the purpose of widening the thoroughfares. They have not availed themselves of the Housing of the Working Classes Act or cleared any unsanitary area. Have not found this necessary but have made good use of the Public Health Act.

St. Martin's has a good well-used reading room & library.

Library & Baths

Food & Drug Acts.

Personnel of Vestry.

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+ also baths & wash-houses. The latter which have been established some years are a great boon to the poor women who have no facilities for doing washing at home & the baths are no doubt a very good thing, but they do not pay. The partial removal of the poor from the locality & the practice of putting baths in houses now, both militate against their success.

About 30 or 40 samples of food & drink are taken annually by the inspector & submitted for analysis. They are usually found genuine. There are very few provision shops in the parish, the big stores having taken their place. Admits that the milk men want more looking after & fell in with my suggestion that samples should be taken in the streets & the Sunday milk analysed. This has never been done yet.

The doctor speaks well of his Public Health Committee & Vestry. They support him in whatever he thinks it necessary to do & he believes carry out their duties impartially & do not favour their own set. The Vestry includes a number of very substantial men, not likely to be guilty of any petty jobbery.

Dr Edmunds, med. officer, St. James's.

Dr Edmunds, medical officer of health for St. James's, Westminster, sent the following reply to my request for an interview:-

Parish of St. James, Westminster.

Vestry Hall, Piccadilly, W.

July 1 1898

re much pleasure in sending
last published report.
not see my way to any sort
reply on the topics which
were with so much lightness
(I am 71).

faithfully 3 m

J. Edmunds

Booth Esq
(Adelphi) Tenace Street
W.C.

Dr Edmunds, med. officer, St. James's.

Dr Edmunds, medical officer of health for St. James's, Westminster, sent the following reply to my request for an interview:-

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

JAMES EDMUNDS, M.D., &c.,
Medical Officer of Health & Public Analyst.

DR. EDMUNDS may be seen at No. 29, Dover Street, Piccadilly, every Morning from 12 till 1 o'clock.

The SANITARY INSPECTORS may be seen at the Vestry Hall, every Morning from 9 till 10 o'clock.

Parish of St. James, Westminster.

Vestry Hall, Piccadilly, W.

July 1 1898

Dear Sir

I have much pleasure in sending
copy of my last published report.

I do not see my way to any sort
of useful replies on the topics which
you propounded with so much lightness
of heart. (Yours F.).

faithfully yours

James Edmunds

Charles Booth Esq
9 Adelphi Terrace Strand
W.C.

Area & population.

Increasing Value - Declining population.

Death rate.

Mr. Baxter, who saw Dr. E. in connection with a previous inquiry, describes him as rather an old dodderer, not likely to be useful.

The following are extracts from a short annual report, somewhat primitive in character: -

Area in Acres	162	Population.	Mean Density of Population per Acre.
Census, 1831...	37,053	229
" 1841...	37,398	231
" 1851...	36,406	225
" 1861...	35,326	218
" 1871...	33,619	214
" 1881...	29,865	184
" 1891...	24,995	154
" 1896...	23,050	142

In Registration London the average density of the population for 1896 is given by the Registrar-General as 59.2 persons per acre.

In Table B the headings of the model form require the population of the district to be given "as estimated to the middle of 1896." I know of no data by which an "estimate" could be arrived at for the district of St. James's. From the data set out above, it will be seen that the district of St. James's, while unaltered as to its area, has continuously diminished in population. This diminution is due to the great value of sites in St. James's, and to the pressure caused by the growth of splendid shops and wholesale warehouses. The development of suburban railways and omnibuses has made St. James's less and less a place of residence. There has been a continuous increase in the rateable value of the property represented by the Vestry, while there has been a continuous decrease in the number of the actually resident population.

In calculating the death-rate of St. James's, there are special difficulties in drawing reliable inferences. St. James's is now largely occupied by high-class hotels and lodging-houses, in which a floating population of wealthy and fashionable visitors is found; while the population of servants, waiters, and other employés in the hotels, shops, and warehouses, is also largely floating. Many of the parishioners of St. James's reside in country houses, or sleep in the suburbs. It is, therefore, difficult to draw a sharp line of demarcation between those who

Description of District.

Housing.

Improvement scheme suggested
(see back)

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really reside in St. James's & those who do not.
The death rate he calculates as 19.75 per 1000.

early day legislation will transfer the Vaccination and the Vaccination Officers to the Local Sanitary Authorities, and that, in the public eye, this branch of Public Health may no longer be associated with going to the workhouse.

I am directed by the Local Government Board to add some information as to "the measures of Sanitary Improvement which, in my opinion, require to be carried out in the parish." In order that this may be attempted some reference to the conditions of the parish must first be made.

If a line be drawn from St. James's Palace diagonally across the parish to the junction of Oxford Street and Wardour Street, it will be seen that south of Regent's Quadrant the line traverses a rich and fashionable district, while north of Regent's Quadrant the line traverses a labyrinth of small streets through which ordinary strangers would be unable to find their way. This northern area is covered to a great extent by old houses which have passed into the hands of tenement-mongers and are let out as lodgings to the working classes who are dependent upon the splendid shops and busy warehouses of Regent Street, Bond Street, Piccadilly and St. James's Street. In these old tenement houses the rents paid by the working classes are high while the conditions under which they live are bad. The houses are largely held by tenement-mongers on short leases—a tenure which practically shuts out both freeholder and leaseholder from re-building or substantial improvement. The houses are cramped—often with basement buildings covering their entire sites; routes through the district are tortuous and the streets are narrow. These houses, in fact, are old-fashioned gentlemen's dwelling houses which have been degraded and cut up into slices, and sub-let as lodgings for the working classes. Sanitary work, in the way of reconstructing drainage, the provision of additional water-closets, the repression of overcrowding, and the enforcement of periodical cleansings, has now been pushed with increasing severity for many years—as fast as public

continued on back

Description of District.

Housing.

Improvement Scheme for

cont'd.
on next
page

opinion and new Public Health Acts have supported and given power to the Vestry and its Sanitary Officers. In this quarter the need for wholesale warehouses and workshops subservient to the great retail shops of St. James's has caused a gradual process of extrusion with regard to the worst houses and the dirtiest of the inhabitants. A question for the consideration of the Vestry is whether the time has not arrived for quickening this process of extrusion by opening up a new street on the eastern side of, and parallel to, Regent Street.

Reference to the map will show that in this way the betterment of the eastern section of St. James's would be secured in combination with a great Metropolitan improvement. Starting from the south, and going north by north-west, such new street might be run in alignment with Waterloo Place, or with the Haymarket, or with Suffolk-street, or with Whitcombe Street. Taking the Haymarket as the southern base, a new street running straight through to Poland Street would be of very great use, both to the local property and to the Metropolis. It would also add largely to the value of the extensive site on which the old workhouse now stands. At present, the poor of the Westminster Union are consigned to a deplorable existence, and I earnestly ask whether a small receiving house in St. James's, with a comfortable and cheerful new workhouse in the country, would not be a great mercy to these aged people and a great saving to the ratepayers. The wretched and dingy courtyard in which these aged people now hopelessly sit and walk—in an atmosphere grimy with the smoke of London—might be exchanged for pleasant fields and plots of garden ground in which the inmates could occupy themselves with the cultivation of vegetables or flowers. Several acres of most valuable ground in St. James's, with frontages on the new street, would be released for a splendid block of workmen's model dwellings, to which might be appended small workshops in which gas, water, steam or electrical motor power could be let to the skilled

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really reside in St. James's & those who do not.
The death rate he calculates as 19.75 per 1000.

continued on back

Model workshops needed.

Sanitary Work.

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artizans whose livelihood depends upon their proximity to the retail shops of St. James's. It is not necessary for me now to elaborate this proposal; it was suggested by me in 1875, but opinion was then adverse and it was allowed to rest. Now that I am directed by the Local Government Board to indicate "the measures of sanitary improvement required in St. James's," I bring the idea seriously forward. The advantage of a series of model workshops for tailors, dressmakers, jewellers, engravers, and other chamber-master workers, would conduce immensely to the prosperity of the splendid retail shops and warehouses which support St. James's. If a new street were cut through on the line here suggested, the new access would immensely increase the value of the large block of property lying between the new street and Regent Street, and the old houses of the eastern side of St. James's would disappear without further effort. I commend this question earnestly to the consideration of the Vestry of St. James's.

Ideals which would greatly help individual Members of the Vestry in their study of this proposal may be seen in the new townships at Leigham Court, Streatham, and at Noel Park, Hornsey, both built by the "Artizans' Labourers' and General Dwellings Company;" also in "Lord Rowton's Houses." All these undertakings have been shaped by the same mind, and all have successfully realised the pleasant ideal of combining philanthropic work with dividends of five per cent.

During the year the sanitary work of the Parish has been quietly and, in my opinion, efficiently done.

The routine work as Medical Officer of Health has been done by me throughout the whole of the year. Special reference may be made to the fact that in connection with the election of a new Sanitary Inspector the Vestry have required an undertaking from their Medical Officer of Health and from each of their Sanitary Inspectors to the effect that no one of them shall deal in house property, or act as rent collectors, or as agents for the management of absentee property in the parish of St. James's. This is a regulation of great importance, and one which might well be submitted to the Local Government Board as proper for the subject of a General Order. For an officer in whom the statutory

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powers and discretion of a Sanitary Inspector or Medical Officer of Health are vested to be allowed to grow rich by trading in tenement houses in his own district, would be to open the door to one of the worst forms of terrorism, corruption, and malfeasance. It is best, in the mere interest of the district for which they work, that these officers should have an adequate salary secured to them. The Sanitary Inspectors have duties to discharge in which judgment, discretion, and impartiality, good temper and incorruptibility have to be constantly shown, and their salaries should be such as to keep them well above the position of an ordinary mechanic. The pension, which is sometimes given with reluctance, is really one of the cheapest means of paying the officer. It is only actually incurred for an officer who survives after long service and upon his becoming incapable of further work. Inasmuch as his claim for pension is forfeited upon any misconduct or breach of trust in his office, the prospect of a pension is really the best and cheapest guarantee for the maintenance of his industry and integrity.

TABLE III.—ABSTRACT OF WORK DONE BY
SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING THE YEAR 1896.

NUISANCES REMOVED OR ABATED.	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.	For the whole Year.
Animals, Nuisances from, abated	0	2	0	0	2
Areas, whitewashed and cleansed	0	3	1	0	4
„ paving of, repaired	2	0	0	1	3
Basements, whitewashed and cleansed	8	12	9	18	47
„ floors, repaired and cleansed	2	1	2	4	9
„ lighted and ventilated	0	0	0	0	0
Baths, traps furnished to	0	0	0	0	0
Beds, disinfected	14	17	22	19	72
Bedclothes, disinfected	125	88	209	147	569
Bell traps, removed	9	9	10	18	46
Carpets, disinfected	1	2	12	3	18
Cisterns, cleansed	0	3	3	3	9
„ new ones provided	0	1	0	0	1
„ covers furnished to	1	1	3	2	7
„ repaired generally... ..	0	0	0	1	1
„ apparatus repaired... ..	0	0	0	0	0
Cesspools, abolished	0	0	0	0	0
Drains, reconstructed with glazed pipes and ventilated ..	10	14	8	19	51
„ unstopped	7	1	4	3	15
„ repaired	5	0	2	1	8
„ traps furnished to	0	0	1	0	1
„ earthenware gully traps furnished to	9	6	11	14	40
„ disconnected from sewer and ventilated ..	1	0	0	0	1
Dustbins, repaired	0	7	5	10	22
„ new ones provided	4	5	6	3	18
Foul matter removed	12	12	9	10	43

NUISANCES REMOVED OR ABATED.					First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.	For the whole Year.
Food, unsound, seized and condemned	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Gutters, cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	0	2	0	2	4
" new ones furnished	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	1	1
Houses, furnished with water supply	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
" water supply reinstated	...	...	...	...	1	1	0	1	3
" closed unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
" ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Kitchens, whitewashed	...	...	...	...	0	3	0	2	5
" underground cleared of occupants	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	5	10
Lead flats, roofs cleansed	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
" repaired	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Mattresses, disinfected	...	...	...	...	36	18	30	33	117
Manure, removed	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	5
Miscellaneous articles disinfected	...	...	...	...	126	90	291	188	695
Passages, whitewashed and cleansed	...	...	...	...	2	8	5	4	19
" floor of, repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	2	2
Pillows disinfected	...	...	...	...	97	45	115	87	344
Rain water pipes, new ones furnished	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	1	1
" unstopped, cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	6	5	3	9	23
" disconnected from drain	...	...	...	...	0	2	1	7	10
Rooms, whitewashed and cleansed	...	...	...	...	16	59	28	85	188
" disinfected	...	...	...	...	34	26	44	29	133
" overcrowded, abated	...	...	...	...	2	1	0	7	10
" floors of, repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	...	0	0	1	0	1
Roofs, repaired	...	...	...	...	2	0	4	8	14
Rooms, ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Service pipes, new ones furnished	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
" repaired	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Sinks, traps furnished to	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
" waste pipes disconnected from drain	...	...	...	...	8	3	5	11	27
" repaired	...	...	...	...	2	1	0	0	3
" new pipes and traps furnished to	...	...	...	...	0	1	0	0	1
" unstopped and cleansed	...	...	...	...	2	0	0	0	2
Staircases, whitewashed and cleansed	...	...	...	...	2	11	4	11	28
" steps of, cleansed	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	1	1
Stables, cleansed and whitewashed	...	...	...	...	0	1	0	0	1
" paving of, cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	1	0	1	0	2
Smoke, nuisance from, abated	...	...	...	...	1	3	3	2	9
Urinals (private) whitewashed	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
" cleansed	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	1	1
" traps furnished to	...	...	...	...	0	0	1	0	1
" furnished with water supply	...	...	...	...	0	1	1	2	4
" abolished	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
" re-constructed	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Vaults, whitewashed	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Water closets, cleansed generally	...	...	...	...	19	11	3	21	54
" furnished with water	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
" new apparatus	...	...	...	...	2	0	0	0	2
" apparatus repaired	...	...	...	...	7	5	2	3	17
" new pans furnished to	...	...	...	...	6	0	1	1	8
" pans cleansed	...	...	...	...	4	14	6	11	35
" seats and risers furnished to	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
" water supply re-instated	...	...	...	...	5	1	3	8	17
" repaired generally	...	...	...	...	2	2	0	4	8
" abolished	...	...	...	...	6	0	1	5	12
" soil pipes, new, furnished to	...	...	...	...	4	1	2	9	16
" ventilated	...	...	...	...	7	1	6	9	23
" re-constructed	...	...	...	...	8	3	8	6	25
" new, erected	...	...	...	...	7	10	3	8	28
" light and ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	3	1	3	9	16
" soil pipes unstopped and repaired	...	...	...	...	9	3	1	1	14
" traps furnished to	...	...	...	...	4	0	0	0	4
" unstopped	...	...	...	...	0	6	2	9	17
Yards, whitewashed	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	1	6
" paving of, cleansed	...	...	...	...	2	2	0	0	4
" repaired	...	...	...	...	1	1	0	5	7
" new traps to drain	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	0	0
Water stopped from running as a nuisance	...	...	...	...	3	1	0	1	5
Wearing apparel disinfected	...	...	...	...	451	148	450	546	1595
Wash-houses, whitewashed and cleansed	...	...	...	...	0	0	0	1	1
Workshops,	...	...	...	...	3	2	6	6	17
" overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	0	1	0	0	1
" ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	6	0	0	0	6
Water, separate supply for drinking purposes provided	...	...	...	...	0	2	0	2	4
Total	...	...	...	...	1112	698	1357	1442	4604

PARISH OF ST. JAMES, WESTMINSTER.

APPENDIX TO REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.
Table V.—Underground Rooms or Cellars cleared of Occupants, under the 96th Section of the Act 54 and 55 Victoria, cap. 76, up to end of year 1896.

4 Archer street	19 Ganton street	10 Marshall street
5 do.	26 Great Pulteney street	11 do.
5 Bentinck street	back room	25 do.
7 do.	7 Green's court	29 do.
10 do.	3 Heddon court	44 do.
14 do.	6 do.	47 do.
16 Berwick street	7 do.	2 Noel street
18 do.	8 do.	5 do.
26 do.	10 Heddon street	13 do. front room
28 do.	16 do.	21 do.
29 do.	1 Hopkin street, front	11 Peter street
30 do.	9 do. two rooms	20 do. two rooms
36 do.	10 do.	21 do.
39 do.	11 do.	22 do.
43 do.	1 Kemp's court	26 do.
45 do.	2 do.	4 Portland street
49 do.	3 do.	7 do.
50 do.	4 do.	11 do.
56 do.	7 King street, Regent-st.	15 do.
58 do.	8 do.	19 do.
66A do.	20 do. two rooms	31 do.
79 do.	21 do.	14 Poland street
81 do. front room	26 do.	21 do.
89 do.	66 do.	22 do.
95 do.	12 Lexington street	56 do. two rooms
50 Brewer street	14 do.	57 do. do.
4 Broad street	16 do.	58 do.
12 do.	18 do.	11 Rupert street
13A do.	22 do.	31 do.
31 do.	27 do.	49 do.
43 do. two rooms	28 do.	2 Rupert street, Upper
44 do.	29 do.	7 do. do.
45 do.	30 do.	43 Shaftesbury avenue,
52 do. two rooms	31 do.	front room
4 Carnaby street	32 do.	2 Silver place, two
6 do.	33 do.	rooms
17 do. two rooms	44 do. back	1 Smith's court
18 do. do.	47 do.	2 do.
27 do. do.	2 Lowndes court	3 do.
30 do.	1 Marlborough row, two	7 Sherwood street
1 Dufour's place	rooms	16 do.
3 do. back	2 do. do.	24 Windmill street, Great
9 do.	3 do. do.	18 do. do.
10 do. two rooms.	4 do. do.	30 do. do.
3 Edward street	5 do. do.	32 do. do.
24 Foubert's-pl., one room	6 do. do.	41 do. front
1 Ganton street	7 do. do.	6 West street
2 do.	9 do. do.	12 do.
3 do.	10 do. do.	14 do.
5 do.	9 Marshall street	15 do.
17 do.		

JOHN PERCY FOLLAND, } Sanitary
THOMAS WINTER CALVERLEY, } Inspectors.

Attitude of Vestry.

Food Adulteration.

In some districts it has been found necessary to protect medical officers of health and sanitary inspectors from arbitrary dismissal consequent upon a fearless discharge of their important public duties. I may, therefore, perhaps be permitted to put upon record the fact that I have always received the cordial support of the Vestry in the discharge of these duties for the parish of St. James's. It is true that, in the course of 24 years of office, I have been brought into conflict with one or two individual members of the Vestry who did not realise that they were bound to be exemplary in the management of tenement houses owned by themselves in the district which they publicly represented. But in these cases I invariably received such encouragement from the Vestry as to enable me to act as

strenuously as with less distinguished delinquents. This support has been invaluable.

Dr. Edmunds is also analyst to the Vestry, & tested 67 samples of food (mostly milk) during the year, only 2 of wh. were adulterated. His reports:-

The subject of Standards with regard to certain articles, is still unsettled and continues to give anxiety as to legal contention in certifying the inferences which the Analyst may think to follow upon the facts discovered by the analysis. For instance, in the case of Milk, water is naturally one of the constituents, although it is the Milk Solids which give to the milk its value, and for which the milk is purchased. In different milks the proportions of water vary according to the breed and the individual peculiarities of the cow, the food, general management, and even the method of milking. To these factors of uncertainty may be added perfectly honest carelessness in the sale and distribution of the milk. Of course, the cream rises to the top of milk which stands long in a milk shop, or is carried about in a milk can. Unless such milk be frequently stirred up, one customer may receive an unduly large proportion of cream, while the customers that follow will receive a milk which lacks its proper proportion of cream. In particular cases, one or more of

these facts have to be anxiously considered by the Analyst before making up his judgment and certifying as to the amount of added water which an adulterated milk contains. But if milks were only certified as adulterated, when they fall absolutely below the lowest possible downward variation in the amount of milk solids, the Adulteration Act would be a dead letter. Again, the essence of Vinegar for pickling and other purposes is "the real Acetic Acid" which it contains. In the three Vinegars (Nos. 26, 27 & 28 of the table annexed), it will be observed that one tradesman in the parish sells a good proof vinegar, containing 6 per cent. of real Acetic Acid, while another tradesman sells a vinegar containing only 3.5 per cent.

In some samples the Acetic Acid falls to 3.0 per cent. Here the facts of the analysis show only the constituents of the sample. The inferences governing the judgment of the analyst, as to certificating the sample as adulterated with water or not, depend upon the nature of the article, upon the customary strengths at which these various articles are manufactured and sold, and upon a variety of considerations which vary in every case.

It is easy for the Analyst to determine, within one part in ten thousand, how much water is contained in 100 grains of any particular milk. But it may not be easy to demonstrate that an excess of water, when present, could not have come out of the cow and must have been added from the pump. In the case of a sick or exhausted cow, or in the case of a cow fed so as to produce ready-made milk-and-water, it is obvious that the milk is nevertheless not of the nature, substance, and quality demanded by the purchaser. The sale of such milk is therefore a fraud against which the purchaser ought to be protected. The question is how to protect the public against the sale of watered milk without doing a practical injustice to an ignorant vendor. It must be laid down that a vendor who undertakes to cater for the public has no excuse for ignorance as to the quality of the goods he sells. And with many substances, such as milk, there is no way of shutting out contention upon this point except by arbitrarily fixing reasonable standards of quality and limits to downward variation.

A good average milk should contain 12.5 per cent. (one-eighth part) of true milk solids. It will be observed in the annexed table that one milk submitted for analysis (No. 19) contained 15.42 per cent. of milk solids; while other samples showed downward variations, which, in one case (No. 60), was as low as 9.90 per cent. If we regard 11.5 per cent. of true milk solids as the limit below which a fairly good milk ought not to fall, the only question that remains is how to calculate, with fairness between the vendor and the public, as to the amount of "added water" which this milk contains.

St. Martin's Library.

St. Martin's Public Library. - Report for 1897.

REFERENCE DEPARTMENT. The number of volumes issued in this Department is greater than that of 1896—the figures for 1897 being 80,278, as compared with 78,489 in 1896. Since opening in February, 1891, over half-a-million of books have been issued, the exact figures being 514,190. 428 books and pamphlets were added to the department during 1897, and the Reference Library now contains 13,159 volumes, to which ought to be added the Libraries of the Royal Historical Society and the Geologists' Association, both freely available to the public, making a grand total of 17,790 volumes. The important geological collection of books belonging to the Geologists' Association, just mentioned, has been deposited in the Reference Library on similar terms to those arranged with the Royal Historical Society.

LENDING LIBRARY. The number of volumes issued in the Lending Department is smaller than in 1896, the figures being 52,783, for 1897, and 57,214, for 1896. A large number of worn-out books have been renewed, and altogether 1,290 volumes were added to this department during 1897. 89 volumes were withdrawn, and the number of volumes in this department at the end of 1897 was 13,364. The total number of volumes issued since the opening in February, 1891, is 419,693. The beginning of the year witnessed an important departure in the opening of the Lending Library during the entire day, instead of as formerly from 10 to 2 and 5 to 9. The change has been much appreciated by the readers.

P. C. O.

NUMBER OF VOLUMES IN THE SEVERAL DEPART-
MENTS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1897.

	Reference.	Lending.	Total.
Theology, Ecclesiastical History, etc. ...	634	713	1347
Biography	703	2059	2762
History and Travel	2322	1835	4157
Science and the Useful Arts	1063	1062	2125
Fine Art	744	239	983
Law, Politics, Commerce, Sociology ...	1723	226	1949
Language	161	19	180
Poetry and the Drama	751	645	1396
Fiction	32	4881	4913
Miscellaneous Literature	5026	1685	6711
	<u>13159</u>	<u>13364</u>	<u>26523</u>
Library of the Royal Historical Society ...			3835
Library of the Geologists' Association ...			796
			<u>31154</u>

SUMMARY.

Reference.			
At 31st December, 1896	12733		
Added during 1897	<u>428</u>		
	13161		
Withdrawn	<u>2</u>		
	13159		
Royal Historical Society Library ...	3835		
Geologists' Association Library ...	<u>796</u>		
		...	17790
Lending.			
At 31st December, 1896	12163		
Added during 1897	<u>1290</u>		
	13453		
Withdrawn and Transferred	<u>89</u>		
		...	13364
			<u>31154</u>

Table of the Combined Issues of the Reference and Lending Libraries,
During 1897.

MONTH.	Theology, Ecclasiastical History, and Philosophy	Bio-graphy.	History and Travel.	Science and Useful Arts.	Fine Art.	Law, Politics, and Sociology	Language	Poetry and the Drama.	Fiction.	Miscellaneous.	TOTAL.	Daily Average.
JANUARY	309	837	1504	792	472	413	708	394	3450	3065	11944	477
FEBRUARY	325	786	1272	734	420	396	655	353	3366	2979	11286	490
MARCH	404	977	1515	826	499	439	759	422	3739	3174	12754	495
APRIL	299	782	1197	631	404	395	576	358	3316	2635	10593	460
MAY	343	806	1348	765	424	422	643	335	3280	2658	11024	441
JUNE	273	712	1068	604	350	258	439	310	2496	1989	8499	409
JULY	311	757	1024	734	431	381	643	413	1937	2438	9069	398
AUGUST	342	772	1161	772	557	405	631	409	2988	2517	10554	439
SEPTEMBER	390	883	1187	867	455	429	721	385	3341	2808	11466	463
OCTOBER	388	957	1346	867	494	479	731	431	3684	2975	12352	494
NOVEMBER	369	930	1262	801	478	499	681	431	3731	2977	12159	486
DECEMBER	336	856	1242	779	527	425	613	451	3386	2746	11361	478
TOTAL	4089	10055	15126	9172	5511	4941	7800	4692	38714	32961	133061	462

SUMMARY OF BOOKS ISSUED AND ATTENDANCES

From 1891 to end of 1897.

	Refer- ence.	Lending.	Ref. and Lending.	Attend- ance.
1891 (from Feb. 16)	40045 ...	44239 ...	84284 ...	378792
1892	70171 ...	58514 ...	128685 ...	522256
1893	79448 ...	66980 ...	146428 ...	767029
1894	80553 ...	70841 ...	151394 ...	937369
1895	85206 ...	69122 ...	154328 ...	1102919
1896	78489 ...	57214 ...	135703 ...	1171395
1897	80278 ...	52783 ...	133061 ...	1070817
TOTALS.....	514190	419693	933883	5950577

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure for the Year ended the 25th day of March, 1897.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
Balance in hand at 26th March, 1896	...	195	10	7
Amount received from Rates levied with and as part of the Poor Rates:—				
St. Martin's	... £2,363 16 3			
St. Paul's	... 416 0 0			
		2,779	16	3
Fines and Catalogues	...	56	13	10
National Debt Commissioners for taking charge of the books of the Provident Savings' Bank	...	100	0	0
				</

1st June, 1897.

I hereby certify that I have compared the entries in the above Statement with the Vouchers and other Documents relating thereto, and that the Regulations with respect to such statement have been duly complied with.
I hereby further certify that I have ascertained by Audit the correctness of such Statement, and that the amount expended by the Commissioners during the year ended the 25th day of March, 1897, included in such Statement, and allowed by me at the Audit, is Three thousand and ninety pounds, seventeen shillings and ten pence.

As witness my hand this 2nd day of June, 1897.

THOMAS MASON, Clerk.

T. BARCLAY COCKERTON, District Auditor.

Mr. Munsey.

Personal R.

Description of District

Remarks: The Vestry & Landlords

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Mr. Munsey, Clerk to St. James Vestry Westminster &
the Vestry Hall Piccadilly.

Mr. Munsey is rather slow in manner & talk, but does not differ materially from the generality of Vestry Clerks I have seen. He probably knows his duties well & does them efficiently. He has been clerk for some years & has watched the parish grow steadily richer & more sparsely populated. In 1881 it had 29,865 inhabitants, in '96 the number had fallen to 23,550 & now it is less.

To some extent the poor [driven out by the Shaftesbury Avenue Clearance] as well as rich, have gone, but on the whole it is the poorest who remain. Rich there are in St. James Square & but many more working class in the district of which Portico forms the chief thoroughfare.

~~Patience~~ ^{Property} value is always within its gates, whilst on the S.W. side is a large foreign population. Polish German. Jew Tailors & - whose ideas of cleanliness & sanitation are primitive & who about much of the time & patience of the 2 energetic sanitary inspectors. This element has increased whilst the general population has dwindled.

- Of tenement houses there are many. Rich are very high. The demand for apartments great, so that crowding is an evil which

needs constant combating: 30 or 40 of the worst houses have been placed on the Lodgings Register which is added to from time to time

The Vestry is itself a landlord on a fairly large scale. It owns a block known as St. James's Dwellings built some years ago out of an old burial ground from the annual

ST. JAMES'S DWELLINGS.

This property continues to be well let although necessarily there have been several changes of tenants during the year.

A copy of the accounts of the Trust funds will be found on page 151.

As enquiries are frequently made as to the origin and cost of these dwellings, the following copy of the statement deposited in the cavity of the foundation stone is here reprinted for the information of the Parishioners:—

The funds for the erection of this Building were mainly derived from the sale of the Burial Ground situate in Hampstead Road, and formerly belonging to the Parish of St. James, Westminster. The sale was effected under the provisions of a Special Act of Parliament obtained by the London and North-Western Railway Company in the year 1883. The Company sought power to acquire, on payment of £15,000, so much of the Burial Ground as had not been disposed of under the St. James's Chapel Act, 1869. The Company were, however, restricted by Parliament from taking the whole of the ground for the purposes of their undertaking, and the Trustees of the Burial Ground were required by the Act of 1883 to convey a specified portion to the Company for the sum of £8,000, and the remainder of the ground without further consideration to the Vestry of St. Pancras (within which Parish the Burial Ground was situate) to be by them preserved as an open space. The purchase money was directed by the Act to be applied to such ecclesiastical, parochial and other purposes for the benefit of the Parish of St. James as the Trustees, with the sanction of the Vestry, might direct. The money was paid into court by the Railway Company and the Burial Ground conveyed as to a portion thereof to the Company and as to the remainder to the Vestry of St. Pancras. After mature deliberation, the Trustees decided to apply one equal moiety of the fund to ecclesiastical purposes, and the other moiety to secular purposes for the benefit of the Parish, and the Vestry sanctioned this mode of applying the money. The moiety applicable to ecclesiastical purposes having been paid over to the Rector and Churchwardens upon certain definite trusts, it became necessary to decide upon the particular secular purpose to which the remainder of the money should be devoted, and after having considered several proposals, the Trustees, with the sanction of the Vestry, decided to apply the same, amounting to about £4,000, to the erection of a building for the accommodation of the labouring poor. This fund was supplemented by the assignment of a leasehold house known as No. 7, Ingestre Place, which had been erected by voluntary effort in or about the year 1850, as a model lodging house, and a sum of about £2,000 being accumulated surplus rents derived therefrom, also by the transfer of a further sum of nearly £80 being the unapplied balance of a fund raised for the relief of sufferers by a fire which occurred in Little

Windmill Street in the year 1876, and by the transfer of a sum of £200, a portion of the funds remaining in the hands of the Trustees at the closing of the Trust in July, 1886, under the provisions of the London and North-Western Railway Act, 1884. The total sum thus available for the building is nearly £6,300. The building is erected by the authority of an Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) made by Mr. Justice Pearson on the 3rd day of August, 1885, the scheme being set forth therein as follows:—

1. The funds are to be applied by the Vestry of the Parish of St. James, Westminster (hereinafter called the Vestry) in or towards the erection and fitting up on the land comprised in the agreement, dated the 18th May, 1885, and made between Sir Richard Francis Sutton of the first part and the Vestry of the Parish of St. James, Westminster, in the County of Middlesex, of the second part, of a lodging house or lodging houses to be used together with the leasehold messuage and premises No. 7, Ingestre Place, for the accommodation at moderate rents of female pieceworkers and others of the labouring classes.
2. Such lodging house or lodging houses and the premises No. 7, Ingestre Place, are to be vested in the Vestry and to be under the control and management of the Vestry or a Committee appointed by them. A proper declaration or declarations of Trust of the premises comprised in the said Agreement for lease and of No. 7, Ingestre Place, shall be executed by the Vestry and enrolled pursuant to the Acts of 9 George 2nd, chapter 36, and 24 Victoria, chapter 9.
3. Any surplus income of the said properties after providing for repairs and other outgoings and expenses of management, shall be invested in the name or names of the Vestry or of Trustees to be appointed by the Vestry and applied in such manner as the Vestry with the approval of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales or a court of competent jurisdiction shall hereafter determine, either in perpetuating and extending the operations of the scheme or for other purposes in or for the benefit of the said Parish.

Plans were invited from the four undermentioned Architects, all of whom possess special knowledge of the requirements of Artisans Dwellings:—

Mr. H. H. COLLINS, 61, Old Broad Street, E.C.
 Mr. H. M. EYTON, Ipswich.
 Mr. E. C. ROBINS, 14, John Street, Adelphi.
 Mr. ERNEST TURNER, 246, Regent Street.

No premium was offered, but a stipulation was made that if either design was adopted by the Vestry, the author thereof should be appointed Architect at the usual rate of remuneration. Each of the Architects named sent in a set of drawings, and the Vestry were assisted in their choice by Mr. John Thos. Wimperis of 25, Sackville Street, and Mr. D. Cubitt Nicholls, of 3, Howard Street, Strand, who generously acted as honorary professional advisers. These gentlemen reported in favour of the design of Mr. H. H. Collins, and this report was approved by the Special

needs constant combating: 30 or 40 of the worst houses have been placed on the Lodgings Register, which is added to from time to time.

The Vestry is itself a landlord on a fairly large scale. It owns a block known as St. James Dwellings built some years ago out of money obtained by the sale of to a Railway Co. of an old burial ground. The subjoined particulars of this are from the annual report for 1897.

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Committee appointed to consider the matter and unanimously adopted by the Vestry. Mr. H. H. Collins was accordingly appointed Architect, and tenders for the erection of the building upon quantities taken out by Messrs. Gardiner, Son, & Theobald, of 110, Great Russell street, were invited from seventeen firms of builders, each of whom sent in a tender. Certain modifications were subsequently made in the quantities, and the tender of Mr. Mark Gentry, of 2, Wormwood Street, in the City of London, to carry out the work on the revised quantities for the sum of £5,573 was accepted. The land upon which the building is to be erected is held on lease from Sir Richard Francis Sutton, Bart., for the term of 63 years from the 24th June, 1885, at a ground rent of £50 per annum; the original ground rent of £75 having been reduced by Sir R. F. Sutton in consideration of the object for which the building was to be erected. The building is designed to comprise 23 single room tenements, 12 two-room tenements, two rooms for the caretaker, and a general wash-house and work room. The work is commenced in the hope that it will benefit the poorer of the labouring classes in the parish, to, an ever increasing extent, as the surplus rents admit of an extension of the operations of the Trust.

This is not the only property owned by the Vestry. It has also the freehold of eleven houses in Marshall St. bought at the beginning of the century & formerly used as the Vestry Office. The site of five of these is now occupied by the baths & wash-houses, two are used by the Guardians but four are still let to private tenants. The rent received for these goes in reduction of rates, but that received from the dwellings is invested & about 3000 has now accumulated. There is a talk of using this money in demolishing the houses in Marshall St. & erecting a block of artisans dwellings on the site. There is undoubted need for these. Nothing yet settled however.

Wain streets washed & swept nightly. The side streets which are nearly all asphalted are washed on alternate days.

Care of Streets

Dust Removal.

Open Spaces.

Baths

+ swept on the other days.

The dustmen call at every house at least twice once a week & in addition the carts pass through all streets once or twice a week to remove dust as required. Requests made at the office for removal at any other time are promptly complied with.

Movable bins the common use. Very few old brick bins about now.

No open spaces under Vestry, but St James & Green Parks on borders.

St James was the first parish in London to erect baths & washhouses [about 1846 directly the act was passed]. The building was enlarged 7 or 8 years ago by addition of a swimming bath, but there is now talk of further enlargement or rebuilding. The laundry, which has 82 separate washing departments, is found very useful. The inclusive charge is 2 per hour. The establishment proves very well indeed.

RETURN AS TO BATHERS.

The following statement shows at a glance the number of bath tickets issued to bathers during the past year. For the purpose of comparison the figures for the two preceding

years are also given, but it must be remembered that the financial year now ends on the 25th March, in lieu of the 25th December, as previously.

	1895	1896.	1897-8.
MEN—			
First Class	23,200	26,672	25,925
Second Class... ..	46,321	48,481	47,975
	69,521	75,153	73,900 ✓
WOMEN—			
First Class	5,149	5,608	5,278
Second Class... ..	19,246	19,244	19,895
	24,395	24,852	25,173
FIRST-CLASS SWIMMING BATH—			
Ladies... ..	1,591	1,516	2,321
Gentlemen	14,914	11,672	12,953 ✓
	16,505	13,188	15,274
SECOND-CLASS SWIMMING BATH—			
	25,363	24,543	20,628
GRAND TOTAL... ..	135,784	137,736	134,975

The following statement shows the extent to which the Laundry has been used during the like period:—

RETURN AS TO WASHERS.

	1895.	1896.	1897-8.
Number of Washers	42,558	44,504	43,583
Number of Hours	152,268½	156,196	158,049
Average number of Hours for each Washer	3.58	3.50	3.62

Lighting

Electric lighting is in the hands of 2 private companies. The main streets are lighted by one of these companies. It is a great

Labour

Improvements

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pity the Vestry has not got the lighting in its own hands, as it could save 6" in the £ by it off the rates, but when these companies obtained their orders the lighting was in an experimental stage & the Vestry did not feel justified in undertaking it. Vestry are trying to get a reduction on present charges, which are 6 per unit for first 4000 units of annual consumption & 4 afterwards.

Street sweepers, flushers & pavers are directly employed by Vestry, dusting, watering & stopping are performed by contract. There is no railway or waterway through the parish, & a dust destructor is out of the question, so that it would be very difficult for them to dispose of the dust themselves.

The Trade Union clauses are not adopted, but it has just been decided to grant an annual weeks holiday to the men. The workmen have a club, to which the Vestry contributes 5/- a week, in lieu of paying wages in event of sickness. A register is kept of men living in parish applying for work if they are taken on in turn & if suitable.

The Vestry has not in recent years carried out any public improvement, but has approached the L.C.C. as to widening of Wandour St & is prepared to contribute to cost thereof. Some

Disorderly Houses.

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of the bad property ~~has~~ was cleared by the Shaftesbury Avenue improvement. A scheme was prepared for a clearance of courts off Bowditch I think, but nothing came of it. Property is so valuable that any improvement becomes very expensive but he does not think this would prevent the Vestry carrying out work if they considered it really necessary.

Two public underground conveniences have been erected & are amongst the best paying in London. Another is to be built in Broad. All Urinals have constant water supply & are flushed automatically.

In January last, the Vestry had under consideration the question of the desirability of urging the Government to so amend the law relating to the prosecution of Disorderly Houses, that the onus of taking proceedings shall in future devolve upon the Police, in lieu of the Overseers, and that the requirement of two Ratepayers to enter into their recognisances to give material evidence as required by cap. 36, 25, Geo. II., be dispensed with. The Vestry were unable to see any satisfactory reason for transferring the onus of taking proceedings from the Overseers to the Police, but in order to facilitate prosecutions, they decided that the Solicitors should be instructed in all cases where no objection appears to the adoption of the course, to take proceedings under the Criminal Law Amendment Act, instead of the two earlier Acts, and that the expenses of the proceedings, if deemed advisable, should be charged to the General Rate.

Legal proceedings were taken against the occupiers of Disorderly Houses and Clubs during the year, and a conviction was obtained in each case. In some cases, proceedings were taken against the owners of the houses as well as the tenants, and there is little doubt if this practice can be generally adopted, as in the cases mentioned, the result will have a beneficial effect.

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All round Mr. Munsey thinks there is much more activity
than there used to be, & the wealthy show much more sympathy &
care for the comfort of their poorer neighbours. Lord Wenyngham
& Bishop Barry [ex officio] are members of the Vestry.

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St. James Westminster

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CHARITIES.

LE QUINTER'S CHARITY.

The only Charity which is administered by the Vestry is that known as Le Quinter's, which arose from a bequest in 1782 by Mr. Peter Le Quinter, formerly a resident in Piccadilly. He directed that the income should be "equally distributed at Christmas amongst twenty poor persons who are or have been housekeepers in the Parish, and such as the Rector and Churchwardens and the other gentlemen for the time being who shall compose the Vestry of the said Parish of St. James, shall deem to be proper objects, and the most deserving to partake of the same." The income from the Charity amounts to nearly £300, and application for forms of petition should be made to the Vestry Clerk, at the Vestry Hall, early in the month of October.

As mentioned in previous reports, the Vestry some time since adopted a number of suggestions, made by a Special Committee appointed to consider the subject of the future administration of this Charity, but were waiting the consent of the Charity Commissioners to the contemplated alterations. The Commissioners had deferred the consideration of the matter until after the contemplated inquiry into the history and work of the administration of the Charities of the Parish. As will be seen by reference to the previous subject, this inquiry has been held, and the report submitted, and the Vestry are now waiting the decision of the Commissioners on the subject.

A statement of the Accounts of this Charity for the year 1897 is given on page 157.

ST. MARTIN'S ALMSHOUSE AND PENSION CHARITY.

This Charity is administered under a scheme established by the Charity Commissioners in 1886, the governing body

comprising ex-officio, co-optative, and representative Trustees. Two of the latter are elected by the Vestry of this Parish, the present representatives being Mr. Morle and Mr. Winnett. The Charity has almshouses in Bayham Street, Camden Town, and grants pensions in certain cases, for which persons of good character, who have been residents in St. James's for five years or more, and have not received parochial relief, are eligible. Notices are published when vacancies arise, by the Clerk to the Trustees, Mr. G. W. Murnane, Town Hall, Charing Cross.

A copy of the Accounts of this Charity for the year 1897 will be found on page 164.

THE CRAVEN PEST HOUSE CHARITY.

Five Parishes participate in the benefits of this Charity, viz.:—St. Martin-in-the-Fields; St. George, Hanover Square; St. Clement Danes; St. Paul, Covent Garden; and St. James. The income of the Charity is applied, under an order of the Court of Chancery, to the maintenance of 24 beds in King's College Hospital and 16 in Charing Cross Hospital, for the reception of poor patients from the five Parishes mentioned. The hospitals are also required to afford out-treatment to all poor persons resident in any of the five parishes, who may be sent by the Trustees. *Parishioners requiring hospital treatment may obtain letters at any time during office hours, on application at the Vestry Hall.* Four Trustees are appointed on the nomination of the Vestry, the present Trustees being Messrs. Angold, Scarlett, Walker, and Truman. The Clerk to the Trustees is Mr. C. Isaacson, of 16, Houghton Street, W.C.

A copy of the Accounts of this Charity is given on page 155.

SAMUEL JACKSON.

The Income (£71 10s.) arising from this bequest was, by a scheme of the Charity Commissioners, directed to be ap-

plied in contributing to the funds of any Convalescent Hospital, for the reception, treatment, and maintenance of deserving poor persons, of either sex, who shall have partially recovered from, but shall still be incapacitated to some extent by, the effects of accident, injury or sickness, with the object of promoting their complete restoration to health. The Charity is administered by the Rector, Churchwardens, and Overseers for the time being. Applications for letters to be made any week-day morning to the Clerk of the Trustees, Mr. Redman, at St. James's Church Vestry, Piccadilly.

A Copy of the Accounts of this Charity is given on page 159.

ALICE KNIGHTSBRIDGE AND OTHERS.

The Income (£56 14s. 8d.) derivable from the above bequests, is at the disposal of the Rector and Churchwardens for the time being.

The practice has been to dispose of it as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Rector's Sick and Visiting Fund ...	15	2	10
Ditto, Coals	2	11	10
Churchwardens (Coals and Bread) ...	25	0	0
Offertory School Fund (in accordance with the intention of some of the Benefactors)	14	0	0
	<hr/> £56 14 8		

The Hon. Sec. to the Charity is Mr. James Redman, as above.

A copy of the Accounts of this Charity is given on page 157.

OFFERTORY SCHOOLS.

The object of this Charity is for the advancement of the education of boys at any Public Elementary School or Schools in the Parish, by means of Prizes and Exhibitions.

The Charity is administered by Governors, under a scheme of the Charity Commissioners, and the income is invariably devoted to the National Sunday Schools, Great Windmill Street.

A copy of the Accounts of this Charity is given on page 156.

BURLINGTON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

This School is administered under a scheme established by the Charity Commissioners in the year 1875, and two of the Governors are elected by the Vestry, the present representatives being Mr. F. H. Bingham and Mr. J. B. Colwill. The school fees, which are payable in advance at the commencement of each term, are as follows:—Entrance, 5s. for one pupil, and 2s. 6d. for each additional pupil from the same family. Tuition for a pupil entering the school above the age of 10 years, £1 12s. 6d. per term. For a pupil entering the school under the age of 10 years, £1 7s. 6d. per term, so long as she shall continue in the school. Dinners are supplied at 7d. each, or 2s. 6d. for the week of five days. Application for admission should be made to the Head Mistress at the School House, Old Burlington Street, where particulars of the course of study may be obtained.

A statement of Accounts of the School for the year 1897 is given on page 154.

ARCHBISHOP TENISON'S UNITED GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS.

This School, the object of which is to provide a sound, practical, and liberal middle-class education on moderate terms, was founded by Archbishop Tenison, in the year 1685, and reconstituted by a scheme of the Endowed Schools Commissioners, dated January 31st, 1871. The school fees, which are payable in advance at the commence-

ment of each term, are as follows:—For boys under 10 years of age, £1 15s. per term; over 10 years, £2 5s. per term. The fees include payment for the use of apparatus, books, and stationery. Pianoforte, £1 5s. per term. Application for admission, and all particulars, can be obtained on application to the Head Master, Mr. John F. Arnold, at the Schools, Leicester Square, between the hours of 12 and 1 o'clock.

Three of the Trustees are elected by the Vestry. Vacancies occurred during the year by the expiration of the term for which Mr. W. Winnett had been elected, by the death of Mr. E. Tysall, and by the resignation of Mr. H. Dawes, and the following members have been appointed to fill the vacancies, viz.: Messrs. Winnett, Bennett, and Truman.

A statement of the Accounts of the Schools for the year 1897 is given on page 153.

MRS. ANN NEWTON'S CHARITY.

This Charity, for the apprenticing of one poor boy of St. James's annually from the Union School, which was formerly administered by the Board of Governors and Directors of the Poor, has, owing to the abolition of that Board, been placed, by an order of the Charity Commissioners, dated the 15th August, 1890, under the management of the Guardians of the Poor elected for this Parish.

A copy of the Accounts for the year 1897 is given on page 158.

BRODER AND OTHERS.

This Income (£21 6s.) from this Charity, for the relief of poor housekeepers and others, is entirely at the disposal of the Rector. It has been usual for the Rector to hand £15 14s. 8d. to the Sick and Visiting Fund, the balance, £5 11s. 4d., being applied to special cases as they arise.

A copy of the Accounts of this Charity for the year 1897 is given on page 159.

ANN FORSTER.

The Income of this Charity is to be applied in keeping Forster's tomb in proper order, and the balance is to be distributed each year amongst six poor deserving women. The Charity is at the disposal of the Rector only, and he has been in the habit of dividing the available balance, after tomb expenses, into gifts of £1 10s. each, and distributing these amongst the several Ecclesiastical Districts of the Parish. The Hon. Secretary to the Charity is Mr. Redman, as before.

A copy of the Accounts of this Charity for the year 1897 is given on page 160.

ATKINSON MORLEY FUND.

The Income (£75 10s. 8d.) is divided, after deducting working expenses, among ten widows of tradesmen who, at their death, were tradesmen of the Parish, and had been rated at not less than £20 per annum. The Charity is administered by the Rector and appointed Trustees. The Clerk is Mr. Redman, as before.

A copy of the Accounts of this Charity for the year 1897 is given on page 160.

JAMES PAYLER.

The income of this Charity is divided among 18 poor persons resident in the Parish, £1 10s. being given to each. It is customary for the Rector to select eight, the senior Churchwarden six, and the junior Churchwarden four. The Clerk is Mr. Redman, as before.

A copy of the Accounts of this Charity is given on page 162.

SMITH'S.

The Income of this Charity (£2 13s.) is at the disposal of the Rector, and is to be divided annually at Christmas

amongst the poor of the Parish. It is the practice of the Rector to add the above amount to the Sick and Visiting Fund.

A copy of the Accounts of this Charity for the year 1897 is given on page 163.

ST. JAMES'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

The Income (£28 15s. 1d.) is divided equally between the Tenison and Burlington Schools. The Fund is administered by the Rector and Churchwardens.

A copy of the Accounts of this Charity for the year 1897 is given on page 161.

BLANCHARD'S CHARITY.

Mr. William Blanchard, late of Regent Street, who died in January, 1892, left £500 upon trust to the Rector and Churchwardens of this Parish to invest the same in any of the securities sanctioned by his will, and to distribute the income arising therefrom at their discretion annually amongst the poor of the Parish. The sum mentioned has been received and invested in Consols in the name of the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds.

A copy of the Accounts of this Charity for the year 1897 is given on page 163.

MRS. ELIZABETH DENNIS DENYER.

The Income of this Charity (£109) is divided into seven equal parts and allotted to seven poor spinsters, not under 60 years of age, of general good character, constant, when able, in their attendance at some place of public worship, and who have never been beggars. The several said persons, when so selected, to receive the said bequests during their natural lives. The distribution is made by the Rector and Churchwarden of St. Luke, Chelsea, and the

Trustees of the Charity. The Parishioners of St. Luke, Chelsea; St. Pancras; St. James, Westminster; and Christ Church, Newgate Street, have precedence, provided the applicants are equally deserving.

EMANUEL HOSPITAL—LADY DACRE PENSIONERS.

This Trust, which is governed by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London (Governors of Emanuel Hospital, Registered), provides pensions of £25 per annum, if the income of the Charity is sufficient, to 40 poor people, 20 men and 20 women, of not less than 56 years of age, who have been householders or residents for not less than two years immediately preceding election, either in St. James's, or any of the Parishes comprising the City and Liberties of Westminster, the Parish of Chelsea, or the Parish of Hayes, Middlesex, and are members of the Church of England. The income of the Charity is derived from property at Brandesburton, Yorks., and invested funds amounting to £47,681 1s. 6d. Notices are published when vacancies arise, by the Clerk to the Trustees, Guildhall, E.C.

FINANCIAL.

POOR RATE.—This Account commenced with a balance due to the Treasurer of £4271 5s. 6½d. The receipts during the year amounted to £132,721 2s. 4½d., and expenditure to £128,226 5s. 4d. (including an amount of £58 4s. 6d. disallowed by Auditor at Michaelmas 1895—now remitted by the Local Government Board) leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of £223 11s. 6d. at the close of the account at Lady Day.

SEWERS AND GENERAL RATE.—It will be seen on reference to the accounts, commencing on page 128 that the year commenced with a balance in the Treasurer's and Vestry Clerk's hands amounting to £10,426 8s. 7½d. The sum of £81,029 2s. 3½d. was received during the twelve

0 $\frac{1}{4}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ MILE

W^r. Andrews Vestry Clerk Solicitor, M^r. Allen Medical
Officer. Strand district Board of Works 5 Tavistock St Strand.

These 2 officials are rather in contrast. Mr. Andrews is about medium height, stout, round clean shaven coarse face, very abrupt in manner strong in expression. Dr. Allen is tall & bearded, refined & gentlemanly. Both appear to be sharp, thoroughly capable men.

They answered my questions readily (though Mr. A had a rather embarrassing habit of cross-questioning me) but with evident desire to make the interview brief, referring me to their annual reports as to several matters. What follows is a combination of interview & last published report.

The Strand district comprises half a dozen parishes separated from each other & mixed up with St. Martin's area. [See map]. Like all the central districts, its population has decreased since 1871, has declined nearly 40% ^{but D.C.} reckons the night population must be multiplied by 10 in order to get the day figures.

	Population in 1896.	Inhabited Houses.	Rateable value as on 6th April, 1896.	Area in Acres.
St. Clement				
St. Dunstons				
St. Giles				
St. James				
St. John				
St. Martin				
St. Michael				
St. Paul				
St. Peter				
St. Vincent				
Whitechapel				

	Population in 1896.	Inhabited Houses.	Rateable value as on 6th April, 1896.	Area in Acres.
St. Clement Danes ...	7,958	652	£223,298	53
St. Anne's ...	12,048	877	161,909	54
St. Paul's ...	1,970	263	109,574	26
St. Mary-le-Strand ...	1,384	105	57,816	15
Liberty of the Rolls ...	287	50	49,470	12
Precinct of the Savoy	135	27	24,532	7
Total ...	23,782	1,974	£626,599	167

Messrs Andrews & S. Allan.
Civil & Mech. Engrs.
Strand District.

Description of District

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Messrs Andrews & S. Allan Mechanical
and Works 5 Leamington St. Strand.

either in contrast. Mr. Andrews
round clean shaven coarse face
in expression. S. Allen is tall &
Both appear to be sharp, thoroughly

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Total ...	23,782	1,974	£626,599	167

In the enumeration of the population, however, no account is taken of the large number of persons who are engaged in the district during the day only. A large day population is engaged at the Law Courts and the numerous offices and shops in the district, and at the Theatres in the evening, and at Covent Garden Markets during the night, and the large majority of such persons reside out of the district.

According to the Medical Officers Report.

The decrease in residents has been 8.2 per cent. in the Strand part of the District (6 per cent. counting paupers) and 2.18 per cent. in St. Anne's (1.8 with paupers).

The number of families per "inhabited house" was 3 for the whole District, 2.5 in Strand, 3.6 in St. Anne's.

The number of persons per "inhabited house" was 12 for the whole District, 10.5 in Strand, 13.7 in St. Anne's; but it must be kept in mind in comparing these figures that St. Anne's parish contains many artisans' dwellings and flats, which are not enumerated as separate houses. At each of the four previous census periods the number of persons per house was 11.5.

The number of persons per family was 3.9, which is a little below the average of previous censuses; in the Strand part of the District it was 4.14, and in St. Anne's, where the decrease is greatest, 3.72.

Rateable value has gone up 44% in the last 15 years. The district forms part of the Strand Borough & of the Western Westminster School Board Union. It has constant supply of water from M.R.C.; & gas is supplied by the Gas Light & Coke Co.

The Board consists of 49 members, with 9 Indent. L.C. as Clerks. It held 120 meetings last year.

The Strand Board

Improvements
The Claret Mkt. Sc

225
Both Officers speak highly of the Board. Wed Officer well supported & no favour shown. Had differences with former Wed Officer & would not ^{publish} his report, but that was years ago. They are not like the St Georges Southwark Vestry - a do nothing body, though even in this case Andrews considers St. Waldo has largely himself to blame. Is indiscreet & does not go right way to work.

The chief interest of the Strand district lies in the improvements - some accomplished others yet to come - some private others public - which are changing the character of the locality. The Duke of Bedford, as ground landlord has been busy & also has the Medical Officer, & to the latter belongs the credit of having initiated the housing schemes in Claret Market which are shown on subdivided map, & having got them undertaken free of cost to the district. St. Allan prides himself on his astute management in this. He had to devise a scheme large & important enough to be considered as a Metropolitan improvement, & so dealt with under Part I of the Housing Act; the expense being borne by London as a whole. Had it been smaller it might have been regarded as a local improvement & the District Board been called on to pay one half; whilst had it been too large the L.C.C. might

Improvements
The Clare Mkt Scheme.

125
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phlet had it been too large the L.C.C. might

have been afraid to undertake it at all. He would have liked to include the triangular piece between Stanhope St & Vere St but feared the latter result.

The houses to be demolished are some of the oldest in London, dating back to the Charles or earlier. There is a great deal of wood in their construction, & since they have got occupied by several families their condition has become very bad, as is exemplified by the death rate for the condemned area, as compared with 21.7 for whole district:-

	1896.	Average of previous 5 years.
The Area	35.2	37.7
Sub-Area A	35.3	38.5
Sub-Area B	30.2	33.7
Sub-Area C	34.5	38.0

The number of persons to be displaced by the Clearance is set out as under:-

Number of Holdings.	Number of Rooms in each Holding.	Total Number of Rooms.	Average Number of Occupants in each Holding.	Total Number of Occupants.
530	1	530	2.84	1,510
270	2	540	4.31	1,164
35	3 or more.	138	6.35	219
835 Holdings.		1,208 Rooms.		2,893 Occupants.
Add for Common Lodging Houses ...				279
				3,172 Occupants.

Clare Market
Clearances. (contd.)

159
Provision is made for the rehousing of 750 persons in the cleared area of 1500 on the Willbank site.

As to how far it is necessary for these people to live in the immediate neighbourhood, Mr. A. thinks a good proportion of them could as well go elsewhere. He believes the L.C.C. make full inquiries as to this & have regarded to it in their rehousing scheme. The L.C.C. only proposed to put 500 on the cleared sites but increased to 750 under local pressure. He recently cleared a house of 6 families not one of whom worked in the district, though two had stalls off Tottenham Road. The proximity of Covent Garden no doubt makes it convenient for costers to live here.

NEW STREET BETWEEN CATHERINE STREET AND
DRURY LANE.

In November, 1896, a communication was received from the agents of the Duke of Bedford asking the Board to assist His Grace in making a new street from Catherine Street to Drury Lane and in obtaining an order for the closing of certain courts between those thoroughfares. As a large block of land between those thoroughfares has now been lying idle for a considerable time, the Board were of opinion that any proposal that would cause the land to be built on should be encouraged by the Board, and accordingly they have given their assent to the making of the proposed thoroughfare and the closing of so much of Vinegar Yard and Drury Lane as are in the Board's District subject to certain conditions. The matter is being carried out in co-operation with St. Martin's Vestry, in whose district the passages in question are mainly situate.

Gilbert's Passage

Rydens Ct.

It will be seen by the map that this new street faces the area which is to be cleared on the other side of Drury Lane.

As to the result of negotiations with Hon W F Smith M.P., the freeholder of Clare Market estate the Board has

recently acquired sufficient property to enable them to widen Gilbert's Passage to 36 feet, and so open up a roadway for vehicular traffic from Clare Street into Portugal Street. The necessary work was duly carried out and in May, 1896, the new thoroughfare was thrown open to the public.

By this improvement improved access is afforded from the West to King's College Hospital, Lincoln's Inn Fields and the Carey Street front of the Royal Courts of Justice. The improvement will be still further appreciated when the alterations in connection with the Clare Market Insanitary Area are carried out (see p. 50).

A very substantial part of the cost of the improvement has been provided by the sale of the surplus land not required for the improvement, while the balance will be met by a loan from the London County Council, the repayment being spread over a number of years.

The net cost of the improvement has been under £4,000, and the rates from new property erected directly on the new frontages, will more than pay the whole cost of the improvement.

Some time back the B^d made inquiries with a view to converting Rydens Ct into a carriage way 40 ft wide but owing to disapproval of L^d Salisbury, the freeholder, had to abandon the project. Later on the matter came up again under following

Circumstances:—

~~The report was duly adopted by the Board.~~

In March 1897, negotiations were opened with the Board in reference to the building site bounded by Ryder's Court, Cranbourne Street, Earl's Court and Little Newport Street.

This letter was ~~also~~ referred to the Improvements Committee who reported as follows:—

“ The question of this site has been before the Board
 “ from time to time for the last seven years. During
 “ the whole time it has been available for immediate
 “ building operations which have not however been
 “ proceeded with. The Board has in the past brought
 “ to bear what pressure it can on the parties in order
 “ that the site might no longer form a nuisance and
 “ eye-sore to the neighbourhood, but without success.
 “ The freehold is vested in the trustees of the Marquis
 “ of Salisbury and a building agreement was granted
 “ to Mr. Frank Kirk, a builder. Litigation ensued and
 “ the Board will remember that proceedings had to be
 “ commenced against Mr. Kirk by the Board to restrain
 “ a nuisance on the Little Newport Street portion of
 “ the site.

“ The Committee put great pressure on the appli-
 “ cants to extend their scheme so as to include the
 “ widening of Ryder's Court into a roadway, but after
 “ considerable negotiations it was definitely ascertained
 “ not only that Lord Salisbury's advisers were opposed
 “ to such a scheme, but that the applicants could not
 “ carry through their proposals on such a basis owing
 “ to the requirements of the County Council and the
 “ shape of the site.

“ Under these circumstances it only remained to
 “ consider the terms to be imposed upon the applicants
 “ if the site is not to remain for a further indefinite
 “ time out of rating and unbuilt upon.

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" Earl's Court is a very narrow court extending
" from Cranbourne Street to Little Newport Street,
" and is of little use to the public as a thoroughfare.
" It has from time to time been complained of as the
" resort of bad characters, and the Committee think
" that it should be closed.

" Messrs. Reader & Co., on behalf of Mr. Drew,
" appeared before the Committee, and as a result of
" extended negotiations the following terms have been
" agreed to by the Committee :—

" 1. Little Newport Street to be widened to 40 feet,
" and made up and paved at the expense of
" Mr. Drew.

" 2. The sum of £2,000 to be paid to the Board
" by Mr. Drew, and the expense the Board
" has been put to in connection with the
" setting back of the hoarding and making
" good the pavement of Ryder's Court and
" Little Newport Street, and the costs,
" charges and expenses of the action against
" Mr. Kirk, and otherwise in connection
" therewith; such sums to be returned to
" Mr. Drew if Earl's Court is not closed.

" 3. Earl's Court to be closed.

" This will not only involve the Board in no
" expense; but will leave a substantial sum in hand
" towards an extension of the improvement northwards
" hereafter, if the Board should think fit.

These proposals were agreed to by the Board & work is now being
carried out.

The Board has agreed to widen Gt. Newport St. carriageway

Other Local Work.

JUNE 23, 1898.

LON

NEW UNIVERSITY COLLEGE HOSPITAL.

Laying the Foundation Stone of a Magnificent Institution
for St. Pancras.

THE Prince of Wales last Tuesday laid the foundation-stone of the new University Hospital near Gower-street. The hospital is to be re-built on a greatly enlarged scale, and on the most approved hygienic principles. To the people of St. Pancras it has always been a boon, but in its improved state its range of usefulness cannot fail to be greatly enlarged.

It is to the munificence of Sir Blundell Maple that the re-building of the hospital is due. For some time the hospital authorities had been faced with the problem of enlarging the building, but not until Sir Blundell came forward with an offer of £100,000 was any solution found. Sir Blundell was actuated by a desire to form a Jubilee memorial. He saw himself the largest employer of labor in one of the largest parishes in London, and seized this opportunity to re-build a great hospital in the parish as a fitting memorial of the record reign.

The new hospital has been designed by Mr. Waterhouse. It shows a building of several storeys in the shape of a diagonal cross. This method seemed to the architect the best to secure on such a site the maximum of light, air, and accommodation. In order that the site might form an entire parallelogram adjoining properties were bought and pulled down. The site is bounded by Gower-street, Grafton-street, Huntley-street, and University-street.

The visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to lay the foundation stone on Tuesday marked their appreciation of Sir Blundell Maple's munificence,

Strand Widening & New Thoroughfare.

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to 20 ft. Difficulties of a legal nature have arisen but it is hoped the improvement will eventually be carried out. Proposals were made to widen narrow bits of Strand & Maiden Lane, but were dropped owing to expense.

The Strand has been widened to 80 ft. opposite Hotel Cecil by the L.C.C.

There has been some controversy between the Board & L.C.C. regarding the betterment area to be covered in connection with widening of Strand between the Churches. The Board fears, apparently, some loss of rates by this change & has been acting with various vested interests, & the area considerably reduced.

By connecting this proposed clearance with the making of the new street from Strand to Holborn & clearing the whole of the space between the two branches, [as in sketches attached] the area of this improvement has been greatly enlarged. The Strand Board now expresses itself fully satisfied, & probably ratepayers in other parts of London will think they right to be. They get all this work — clearances, new streets, rehousing etc. — paid for by London generally, whilst other districts invariably have to find half & sometimes all the cost of their local improvements.

The Chairman of the L.C.C., in his annual address on 26th July 1898

The New Strand and Holborn Street.

A Grand Improvement—Better and Cheaper Scheme Prepared by the County Council—No More Excuses for Delay.

It looks as though the new street from Holborn to the Strand is at last within sight. Ever since the County Council came into existence the subject has been before them. It was one of the first things considered by the first Council. Now the matter is brought up again in some detail by the Improvements Committee in a report signed by the committee's new chairman, Mr. Shaw Lefevre.

VARIATIONS ON OLD SCHEMES.

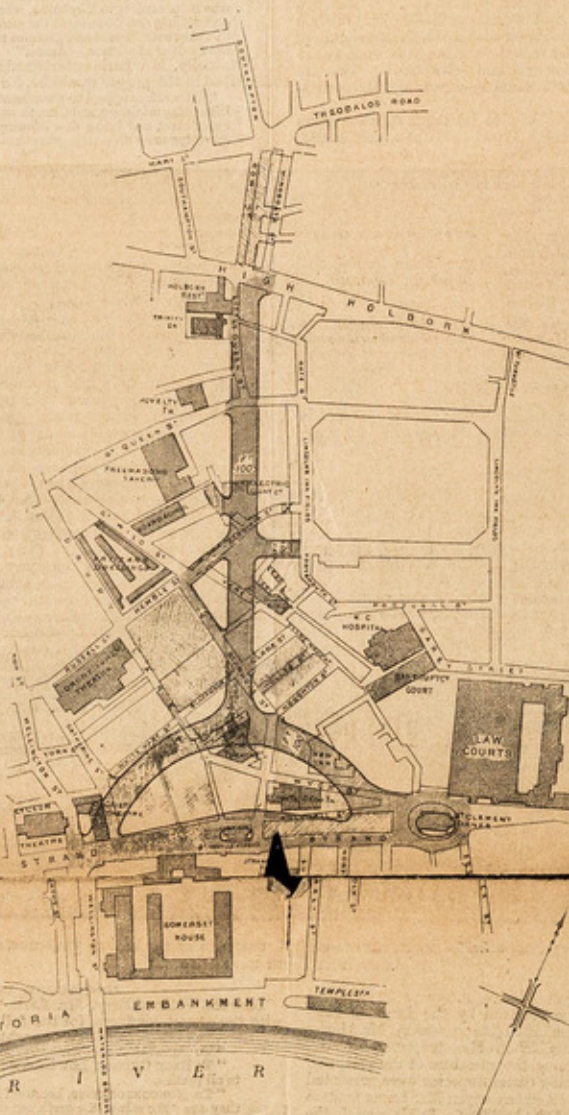
This time the committee have gone into the whole question with a thoroughness that leaves little more to be said. They have considered a variety of competing plans, particularly those which have been submitted to the Council before. They have come to the conclusion that the only scheme worth attention is that proposed by the committee first in 1892 and afterwards in 1895. It is this scheme they recommend, with modifications suggested by the Institute of British Architects, and a few alterations of their own. This scheme provides for the formation of a street from High Holborn at Little Queen-street, opposite Southampton-row, proceeding in a southerly direction, intersecting Great Queen-street, Sardinia-street, Vere-street, and Stanhope-street. To this point the scheme is practically the same as that proposed on former occasions; but at Stanhope-street, instead of continuing in a direct line to the Strand, the street bifurcates. There will be two branches, a western and an eastern, almost semicircular and symmetrical, both of the width of 100 feet, like the main thoroughfare. The western branch passes in a south-easterly direction, crossing Drury-lane, and entering Catherine-street and the Strand close to Wellington-street, so as to form an approach to Waterloo Bridge. The eastern branch passes from Stanhope-street through New-inn to the Strand at St. Clement Danes Church. The whole site between the two branch streets is to be acquired, and the Strand is to be widened for a considerable distance on the north side of St. Mary's Church. The church will be preserved, but arrangements have been made for setting back the frontage on the north side, so that a good road will be provided to accommodate the traffic going eastward.

AIMING AT ARCHITECTURAL EFFECT.

London has suffered a good deal from the neglect of its new thoroughfares—beautiful architecturally. But this cannot be urged against the present scheme. The committee explain that—

"The Institute of British Architects has pointed out that an objection to the scheme submitted to the Council in 1895 is that the church of St. Mary-le-Strand would not form a good architectural termination to the main street, as the church was designed for its effect when seen from the west, and it is alleged that the plan of the spire being an oblong, its appearance from the north would be this and unsatisfactory. The scheme we propose, however, will provide a handsome architectural termination to the new avenue, for the whole of the triangular space (nearly four acres) between the Strand and the two branch streets will form one of the most central positions in London, and the architectural effect of the buildings which will be erected upon the site will, when regarded in concert with the Law Courts, the flanking garden, and the two churches, constitute one of the finest street views in London. A grand feature at the southern end of the new avenue, such as that which will be obtained by such buildings, will not only confer dignity and beauty upon the thoroughfare, but will undoubtedly tend to enhance its importance, with the result that the sites fronting the new street will be increased in value to the great profit of the Council, and therefore of the ratepayers. Moreover, from the enhanced value of these sites, it will necessarily follow that the buildings to be erected will be proportionately more handsome than

would otherwise be the case, and the proximity of the edifices at the southern end of the main street will lead to the erection of structures at all parts of the avenue of perhaps equal architectural beauty. Thus it will ensue that Londoners will have every reason to be proud of possessing an avenue to compare favorably with some of the grand thoroughfares in certain Continental cities, whilst owing to the increased value of the land the ultimate cost of the improvement will be very considerably less than if a niggardly scheme were attempted. It must be clear, therefore, that in the present instance a bold scheme will prove to be the truest economy."



The above plan shows the line of the new street going from High Holborn to the Strand. The widening of Southampton-row between High Holborn and Theobald's-road is also shown, and the block of Holywell-street in the Strand, the removal of which has already been sanctioned. The insanitary areas which the Council are clearing between Kemble-street, Drury-lane, Stanhope-street, and Blackmoor-street; the block between Clare-street, Stanhope-street, Houghton-street, and Clare-market, with smaller patches near White Hart-street and to the north of St. Mary-le-Strand. It should also be noticed that it is proposed to take away the little churchyard of St. Clement Danes so as to widen the Strand, and also to take away the vacant land round St. Mary's Church.

TO COST LESS THAN A FIFTH OF A PENNY RATE.

The scheme has the further advantage of being by far the cheapest that has yet been produced. The report states:—

"The estimate of the chief engineer for the necessary works connected with the proposed improvement,

including the streets, subway, sewers, paving, &c., is £129,000. The estimate of the value for the acquisition of the property required for the whole improvement amounts, after deducting recompense, to £354,200. The estimated net cost of land needed for providing accommodation for the persons of the laboring class to be displaced is £159,600. The total estimated net cost for the whole scheme is, therefore, £624,200, which represents about three-sixteenths of a penny in the £ on the rates for the first year after the commencement of the improvement. The first charge would not be until about three or four years from the present time."

Although the net cost of acquiring property is put down at £354,200, the gross cost is estimated at £4,442,500, and the recompense at no less a sum than £4,088,300. It is proposed to deal with part of the cost on the same general principle as to betterment secured from Parliament in 1895 in connection with the southern approach to the Tower Bridge. The committee admits it is impossible at present to form an estimate as to the amount likely to be raised by betterment. "It may be taken, however, that while the capital amount may possibly represent in itself a considerable sum, it will not bear a large proportion to the total cost of the improvement." On this question the committee further point out—

"The proposed improvement is one which will effect a complete alteration in the character of the entire district between the Strand and Holborn, of a nature far greater than is the case in an ordinary street improvement, and its effect will spread over a larger area. The result is that the ultimate effect will take longer before it can be appreciated than where the effect of the improvement is practically restricted to the new frontages; and if the Council is to reap a fair proportion of the benefit from the betterment clauses in the present case it will be necessary to ask Parliament to allow a longer period than that in the Tower Bridge Southern Approach Act (viz., three years from the date of completion of the improvement) within which to judge of the effect of the improvement upon surrounding property, and this we have decided to recommend the Council to do."

A further reduction of the cost may be expected from another source. The estimates of the valuer are based on the commercial or selling value of the ground rents, for which the surplus land will be leased, but as Parliament has conceded to the Council the power to hold these ground rents as security for its sinking fund, we are induced to believe that this will have an important and advantageous bearing on the ultimate cost of the improvement.

A GREAT ARTERY OF LONDON.

Such a street would become one of the finest, as certainly as it would be one of the busiest, in London. The committee show that it would furnish some of the most desirable sites, owing to its close proximity to the Courts of Justice, Court of Bankruptcy, Inns of Court, Lincoln's Inn-fields, Somerset House, Holborn, the Strand, and the legal, printing, journalistic, and advertising centres. It would form the last remaining link in an almost straight line of thoroughfare from the Strand to the Cobden Memorial at Camden Town; it would relieve the traffic passing in a south-westerly direction from Islington, Rosebery-avenue, Theobald's-road, the Bedford estate and the three northern railway stations; and it would divert much of the traffic now passing along Holborn, and that through Endell-street, Bow-street, Wellington-street, Drury-lane, and Chancery-lane. On these grounds it is suggested that the main street and the two symmetrical spur streets should be not less than 100 feet in breadth, so as to allow for lofty buildings of the most important class on its frontage. The Council is advised to retain a general architectural control over the new frontages. The gradient of the new street will in no part exceed 1 in 50, and will be that in the branch

a local nature have arisen but it is all eventually to be carried out. to widen narrow bits of Strand & Holborn owing to expense.

widened to 80 ft opposite Hotel Cecil & Hotel

Discrepancy between the Board & LCC regarding used in connection with widening of Strand and fears, apparently some loss of rates by it with various vested interests of the area

proposed clearance with the making of the new road & clearing the whole of the space between the Strand & the Strand

The Strand Board now expends very ratepayers in other parts of London.

They get all this work — clearances — paid for by London generally, whilst they have to find half & sometimes all the money

LCC, in his annual address on 26th July 1898

Care of Streets

Electric Lighting

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refers to the improvement as follows:—

Street improvements.

Geographically connected with the clearance of the insanitary Clare-market area, which the Council is now carrying out at an estimated cost of £216,000, is the street improvement from Holborn to the Strand. There appears to be a general consensus of opinion that the proposal will result in a magnificent boulevard which will add to the dignity and beauty of the capital at a minimum of cost to the ratepayers. A road 100 feet in width will take the place of narrow and tortuous lanes, and it is intended to make provision that the buildings erected shall be architecturally worthy of so fine a site. As has been shown by the chairman of the Improvements Committee, Mr. Shaw Lefevre, who brought to its service the experience of a First Commissioner of Works, it may be expected even financially to result in ultimate benefit to the ratepayers. In connexion with this improvement housing accommodation will be found for the full number of persons displaced.

Complementary to this scheme are two other schemes previously sanctioned by the Council, the removal of the block of buildings at Holywell-street and the widening of Southampton-row, which will be carried out by agreement with the chief landowner, the expiry of leases affording a favourable opportunity.

The total estimated cost of the street improvements for which parliamentary powers will be sought in the next session amounts to £1,100,000. The details are fresh in your memory. The above sum includes the cost of improvements in Shoreditch, St. George's-in-the-East, Kensington and Lambeth, and also of the widening of Southampton-row, in addition to the street from Holborn to the Strand.

All the main thoroughfares flushed daily & the side streets with the courts & alleys 3 times a week by means of metered hydrants the work being done by skilled men. Disinfectants are freely used & the courts lime-washed & whitened 4 times a year. But for these precautions there would be an epidemic says Dr. A.

Wood & asphalt are very generally used for paving carriage-ways; 18 orderly boys employed to keep streets tidy.

Sewers kept thoroughly flushed & in good order. Drainage all right. Main sewer ample, but some complaint of smells therefrom.

Deaths

TABLE V.

London and Strand Death Rates for the year ending 31st December, 1896 (366 days), compared with the average rates for the five years, 1891-1895.

DISTRICTS.	ANNUAL RATE PER 1,000 PERSONS LIVING.											DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR to 1,000 BIRTHS.	
	TOTAL DEATHS		PRINCIPAL ZYMOTIC DISEASES.		DEATHS FROM								
	Average of 5 years.	1896.	Average of 5 years.	1896.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Fever.	Diarrhoea.	Average of 5 years.	1896.
London ...	20.24	18.2	2.70	3.14	0 00	0.82	0.21	0.60	0.65	0.14	0.72	156	161
Strand ...	24.14	21.7	2.47	2.67	—	1.09	0.20	0.12	0.32	0.04	0.88	194	186
<i>Sub-Districts:</i>													
St. Anne...	20.64	18.80	2.21	2.69	—	1.141	0.16	0.08	0.40	0.08	0.81	176	202
Strand ...	28.00	24.45	2.76	2.63	—	1.04	0.24	0.16	0.24	—	0.96	216	171

NOTE.—Where the deaths under any heading are too few to express as a rate per 1,000 within two places of decimals, 0.00 is inserted; where no deaths have occurred, it is expressed thus —.

Deaths under 1 year of Age.—108 infants died in 1896 as compared with 105 in 1895, 96 in 1894. Compared with the number of births in the year, there were 186 deaths per 1,000 births. The London rate was 161 per 1,000 births.

As the number of deaths at this age is looked upon to a certain extent as an index of the healthiness of a district, it is important to observe that the central districts of London have always had to record a high mortality figure. Thus while the average of the last 30 years for all London has been 157, that for the same period for the Strand District has been 230, for St. Anne's 229, and for the Strand Sub-District 235. During that period however, while the rate for London as a whole has remained almost stationary, the rate for this District has materially improved; thus during the four ten-yearly periods since the Board was constituted, the rates have been respectively 257, 253, 229 and 209; this improvement has however been mainly due to the marked improvement which has taken place in the St. Anne Sub-District where the rate has fallen from 265 per 1,000 births to 189. Further examination into the figures for the St. Anne Sub-District for the last 30 years, shows that the decrease is confined to the latter half of that period and is co-incident with the removal of much insanitary property, and by the opening up of the District produced by the formation of the broad thoroughfares of Charing Cross Road and Shaftesbury Avenue. I look forward to a similar improvement in the health of the Strand Sub-District when the area which I represented in 1894 under the "Housing of the Working Classes, Act," is re-constructed.

Electric Lighting

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Electric Light is supplied by the Metropolitan Electric Supply Company, Limited, (Chief Office, Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.) Price: For all units consumed per quarter up to a total equal to a consumption of 5 units per 8 c.p. lamp wired 6d. per unit, and for every unit consumed per quarter above such total 5d. per unit.

Electric Light is also supplied by the Charing Cross and Strand Electricity Supply Corporation, Limited (Chief Office, 12 Maiden Lane, Strand).

The following are the prices charged by the Corporation:—

The standard rate is 6d. per Board of Trade unit, reducible by a sliding scale to 5d. per unit when the consumption per 8 c.p. lamp for the 12 months exceeds:—

35 Units	...	...	...	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.
40	"	...	...	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
45	"	...	...	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.
50	"	...	...	5d.

Accounts are rendered quarterly at the standard rate of 6d. per unit, but the deductions due under the sliding scale are only allowed off the accounts rendered for the last quarter of each completed year of supply.

Electric Energy for motive power for the working of lifts, ventilating fans, lathes and motors for driving printing presses and other machinery is made at a fixed charge of 4d. per unit. The consumption is registered by a separate meter.

In November, 1896, a letter was received from the Charing Cross and Strand Electricity Supply Corporation, Limited, with a scheme for the electric lighting of the District.

When considering this letter the Board directed the Surveyor to report as to the probable cost of lighting the Strand and Charing Cross Road, and to ascertain what terms the Metropolitan Electric Supply Company, Limited, were prepared to offer.

The Board found from the Surveyor's Report that the present cost of lighting the above named thoroughfares by gas is £1,266. 14s. 4d. per annum, 135 lamps being used.

The proposal of the Charing Cross Corporation was to erect sixty lamp-posts at their own cost, and including trimming, lighting and maintenance, for the sum of £28 per lamp, making a total of £1,680 per annum, for a term of seven, fourteen, or twenty-one years, at the end of one of which periods the installation must be taken over by the Board, the estimated cost of which would be £3,000. In addition to this, there would be an additional present expenditure estimated at £1,500 in repaving the roadways.

The proposal of the Metropolitan Electric Supply Company, Limited, for the same number of lamps, and including trimming, lighting and maintenance, was £30 per lamp, or £1,800 per annum, exclusive of the cost

of the lamp columns, which would have to be borne by the Board at an estimated expense of £1,200, but the Company would not require the Board to purchase the installation at any time.

In view of the considerable increased cost of the electric light over gas, the Board were unable to accept either of these offers.

Mr. Andrews does not think the electric light at all suitable for street lighting, & contends that by using the best gas apparatus a better & more suitable light can be obtained. He considers that their portion of the Strand is very well lit.

The report contains elaborate diagrams showing the

Dust Removal

Sanitary Work.

the quantity of house dust, street sweepings, & market refuse removed weekly throughout the year.

Washable bins & a daily clearance of dust are the rule in the district. Sometimes there is a difficulty with people who do not open their business till 10 or so, but an arrangement is come to with these.

The B. does its own dusting & sweeping work & owns Shot Tower Wharf, where it is about to erect a small dust destructor.

The B. employs 4 sanitary inspectors, & an inspector of workshops - a very good proportion for so small a district. The following are details of work done:-

SANITARY WORK.

The following list summarises the work carried out under the supervision of the Department during the year:-

Number of visits paid by Sanitary Inspectors*	...	5,217
Preliminary notices served	...	435
Orders made by the Board ("Public Health London Act")	...	48
Letters written	...	757
Premises in which works have been carried out	...	437

House to house inspection is carried on systematically says Dr. Allan. Mr. Andrews does not think highly rented houses ought to be visited, & remarked to the doctor [half probably I suppose] "If I caught your infernal inspector poking about my house I should kick him out." Does not think the legislature intended that

Workshops.

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The richer classes should be troubled with this, or ^{with} School Board visitors either. Has had a row with The School Board man for calling

The Board has a disinfecting station, ~~and~~ shelter & mortuary near Clare Market. There was great opposition to these at first, but now they are much used, particularly the mortuary. So much better for the one & two-roomed dwellers than keeping the dead in their rooms.

There are 4 public underground conveniences in the district, & another is about to be built.

Mr. Andrews has peculiar views about w.c.s. Would have these abolished entirely from the houses & placed under the streets. Believes the want of proper accommodation leads working men to suffer greatly from constipation. Often only one w.c. in a house for 3 or 4 families. Mr. A. says there are w.c.s. at the workshops so men use them in their employment.

WORKSHOPS.

The regular inspection of all work-places in the District continues to work satisfactorily; exclusive of shops, offices and Covent Garden, there are about 600 places where persons are employed in some form of mechanical labour.

At the beginning of 1896, the "Factory and Workshop Act, 1895" came into force (a memorandum on the Act is included in the Board's 40th Annual Report), and its provisions so far as these have to be carried out by your Board, have been complied with. The state of the law regarding factories and workshops is, however, very unsatisfactory, and it is to be desired that a consolidating Act be passed to remedy the confusion which exists.

Houses let in Lodgings

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Bakehouses.—By Section 27 of the above Act, no place underground can be used as a bakehouse unless it was so used on the 1st January, 1896, it is therefore desirable to record the bakehouses existing at that date. They were situated at:—

7, Bear Street,	1, Little Compton Street,
18, Blackmoor Street,	33, Little Newport Street,
22, Blackmoor Street,	4, Macclesfield Street,
2, Bow Street,	12, Nassau Street,
6, Chandos Street,	49, Old Compton Street,
13, Clare Street,	21, Sardinia Street,
5, Clare Court,	50, Stanhope Street,
86, Drury Lane,	9, Vere Street,
104, Drury Lane,	93, Strand,
11, Frith Street,	321, Strand,
44, Floral Street,	60, Wardour Street,
34, Greek Street,	70, Wardour Street,
47, Greek Street,	76, Wardour Street,
28, Greek Street,	128, Wardour Street,

With one exception (viz. the muffin shop at 5 Clare Court) these are underground bakehouses. They have been regularly inspected.

Laundries.—There are 18 of these places of business in the District (17 being in St. Anne's, Soho). They have been frequently visited, and improvements have been effected in several by the provision of flooring suitable for the requirements of the work.

Houses let in Lodgings.—Since these Bye-laws came into operation, in 1894, your Board has resolved to register 77 premises. Five of these premises have since been closed. The houses are inspected at least once a week, with satisfactory results. In most cases, there is a desire to comply with the Bye-laws; but in one case, the owner of three houses and agent of others, was cautioned on one occasion by the Health Committee, and on a second subsequent occasion, cautioned by the Magistrate at Marlborough Street Police Court. The agent for another house was fined 20s. and costs for neglecting to cleanse the tenements throughout. The London County Council have recently made enquiry as to the way in which these Bye-laws were being carried out by the Local Authorities, and, as a result, have expressed the opinion that wherever these Bye-laws have had a fair trial, their action has been productive of good.

Blocks of Buildings

Several houses in Soho are on the register. In this part, the foreign Jews are increasing largely, & are clearing out French, Italians & Irish. The Jews do not give much trouble. Mr. Andrews expresses admiration of the Jews. "they are the salt of the earth". Soho is not as a rule in any way overcrowded.

The condition of the blocks of buildings in the district is satisfactory. The following are particulars of births, deaths, &c in these buildings.

Statistics relating to Artisans' Dwellings in the Strand District in 1896.

Name of Dwellings.	Population.	Births.	Birth rate per 1,000.	Deaths.				Death rate per 1,000.	Previous Death rate.	Number of deaths from			Infectious Diseases notified.
				Under 5 years.	5 years to 65 years.	Above 65 years.	Total.			Tuber- cular Diseases.	Other Zymotic Diseases.	Respira- tory Diseases.	
Sandringham Buildings...	1,290	25	19.3	7	2	0	9	6.97	Average of 10 years. 9.60	3	2	1	Scarlet Fever 14. Diphtheria 5.
Newport Dwellings ...	1,229	52	42.3	8	6	0	14	11.39	Average of 3 years. 16.16	2	2	5	Scarlet Fever 6. Diphtheria 4. Erysipelas 1. Enteric Fever 1.
Eversley Buildings ...	140	3	21.4	3	1	0	4	28.5	Average of 3 years. 44.00	1	2	0	Scarlet Fever 2.

There are surreptitious cases of overcrowding in Newport Dwellings but the practice is against the rules & is soon stopped when brought to the notice of the owners.

Open Spaces

Municipal Enterprises

Food &c.

There is an open space in St. Anne's Churchyard, but no regular playground. There are not many children in the lower part of the district the doctor says "They are born, but die off"

The district has no library or baths, nor has it a cemetery. Mr. Andrews thinks the latter is certainly required but opinions differ as to the need of baths, & it is not thought a public library would be of much use in this part. The need for baths grows steadily less now that the provision of them has been shelved by the Vestries on this account. [Baths & libraries are under Vestry jurisdiction not District Board.]

INSPECTION AND ANALYSIS OF FOOD.

Subjoined is a list of food-stuffs which have been condemned as unfit for food during the year:—

Apples ...	8 bushels.	Cauliflowers ...	14 crates.
Bananas ...	154 crates.	French Beans ...	20 baskets.
Cherries ...	30 bushels.	Onions ...	16 bushels.
Chestnuts ...	21 bags.	Tomatoes ...	458 boxes.
Gooseberries ...	4 bushels.		
Pears ...	8 boxes.		
Pineapples ...	4 "	Fish (Cods' Roes) ...	1 box.
Plums ...	300 baskets.	Pork ...	6 lbs.

This does not represent all the damaged food-stuffs disposed of by your Board, as much refuse fruit and vegetables are collected in Covent Garden Market in the special carts provided for the purpose.

The Acts relating to the sale of food and drugs have been systematically enforced throughout the District as in former years, under the supervision of your Health Committee, and from the report of your Board's Analyst it will be seen that a varied number of articles have been examined by him.

Labour.

Sewer Ventilation

155
About 300 samples a year are taken :- Quality usually good.
Magistrates inclined to be somewhat lenient, but not so much complaint
as in some districts.

For ~~this~~ a small district, a good deal of direct labour is
employed, in sweeping, dusting, stopping, paving &c. They are all
paid mechanics wages & are quite an efficient set of men. Many
have been in the army & so are used to discipline. They come
respectfully, respectfully dressed, washed & clean - ~~at~~ look like
gentlemen. Says Mr. Andrews who is very strong on the
desirability of employing capable men, paying them properly &
having the work well done. They get through twice as much
work as men of the decrepit, poorly fed class. The employment
of old men is mistaken sentiment; such are far better off in
the "comfortable house" at Edmonton.

The B. has given some attention to the important questions
of sewer ventilation & at pp 160-173 of its report analyses replies
received on the subject from many sanitary authorities. The
majority favour compulsory powers being given to local
authorities to erect sewer ventilating shafts at the sides of
houses.

Municipalities.

154
Both officials & Board favour the creation of municipalities
more especially with a view to combining the Strand, St. James &
St. Martin's in one district. Present arrangement extravagant &
unsatisfactory.

My impression from this interview is that the Strand district
is generally well managed; & a walk through the streets confirms
that impression. Fishers & dust carts are well in evidence & street
paving very good.

