

1861.

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BOROUGH OF CARDIFF.

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THE

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

ON

Sanitary Condition of Cardiff.

*[for the year 1860]*

BY H. J. PAINE, M.R.C.S. &c.

OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

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CARDIFF :

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THE  
Eighth Annual Report  
ON  
SANITARY CONDITION OF CARDIFF.

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*To the Cardiff Local Board of Health.*

CARDIFF, *February*, 1861.

GENTLEMEN,

IN bringing before your notice the sanitary condition of Cardiff during the past year, I am enabled to speak most favourably of its rate of mortality as compared with that of previous years, or even as compared with the mortality ruling in other towns during the year 1860.

To enable you to understand the bearing of the mortality tables, I have to draw your attention to the circumstance, that the progressive diminution in the gross number of inhabitants which had been taking place since 1857, continued during 1860. The data on which I base my calculations, are chiefly the percentage of births borne by a locality: this, according to the reports issued by the Registrar General, has been found to be  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. throughout the kingdom; but as towns whose inhabitants bear a large proportion of the labouring classes, are found to be more productive than those of other towns differently constituted, I have taken 4 per cent. as the closest approximation to that of Cardiff. The births registered in Cardiff during 1857 were 1,367, being the greatest number ever registered in Cardiff during one year.

The births since that year have been decreasing, and during

1860 were found to be 1,246 ; these, calculated as 4 to every 100, would denote the number of inhabitants to be 31,150, and to these must be added about 4,000 seamen constantly in the port ; the gross total number of inhabitants will therefore have been, in round numbers, 35,000. This diminution of population arises from circumstances to which I have previously directed your attention, namely, the new labour fields springing up, and closely adjacent to our limits, which localities now afford house accommodation to the labourers and their families, previously resident in Cardiff; the completion of large public works ; and another circumstance in a less degree, yet still bearing on the result, the constant and vigilant supervision exercised over the common lodging houses of the town, thereby reducing the number of their inmates.

The deaths registered in Cardiff during 1860 were 662, the births 1,246.

The following table illustrates the yearly increasing excess of births over deaths since 1850. Mr. Rammel, after making his preliminary inquiry into the sanitary condition of Cardiff, for the purpose of ascertaining the expediency of applying the Health of Towns Act, reported that in the decennial period preceding that year the deaths exceeded the births. The importance of considering the comparative number of births to deaths, as indicating the sanitary condition of a district, will be alluded to presently.

TABLE I.

Year.	Total Births.	Total Deaths.	Excess of Births over Deaths.
1850	504	495	9
1851	575	525	50
1852	696	642	54
1853	865	644	221
1854	950	925	25
1855	1079	661	418
1856	1227	772	455
1857	1367	883	484
1858	1356	754	602
1859	1336	826	510
1860	1246	662	584

I have now to direct your attention to the mortality of this town as compared with other districts.

According to the reports of the Registrar General for 1860,

the average rate of mortality in 125 districts, and 23 sub-districts, comprising the chief towns, was 22·57 *per thousand*; in the remaining districts and sub-districts, comprising chiefly small towns and country parishes, the death rate was 19·67; the average death rate of the whole kingdom, 21·13. In Cardiff the estimated population being 35,000, and the deaths registered 662, the rate of mortality was 18·91 *per thousand*.

The following table shows the death rate in Cardiff for 10 years :

TABLE II.

Year.	Estimated Population.	Total Deaths.	Rate of deaths to every 1000 Inhabitants.
1851	18,351	525	28·60
1852	21,500	642	29·86
1853	24,000	644	26·83
1854	26,500	925	34·90*
1855	29,500	641	21·72
1856	34,923	772	22·10
1857	38,000	883	23·23
1858	37,000	754	20·37
1859	37,000	826	22·32
1860	35,000	662	18·91

The classification of deaths, distinguishing sporadic, or those referable to individual causes, from zymotic, or those occasioned by epidemic influences, with the per centage of the latter to total deaths during the same period, is as follows :

TABLE III.

Year.	In-quests.	Deaths from Sporadic causes.	Deaths from Zymotic causes.	Total Deaths.	Per centage of deaths from Zymotic to total deaths.
1851	45	378	102	525	19·42
1852	30	407	205	642	31·93
1853	60	445	139	644	21·58
1854	60	507	358	925	38·70
1855	58	512	71	641	11·07
1856	75	557	140	772	18·13
1857	66	583	234	883	26·50
1858	58	568	128	754	16·97
1859	56	558	212	826	25·66
1860	58	507	97	662	14·65

Before I enter into the local causes believed to exercise an influence over the public health, and which causes it is the

\* The Cholera Year.

province of a board of health to regard with interest, I have to call your attention to the peculiarities of the seasons throughout the year. The mild temperature that ruled the latter part of December of 1859 continued throughout the early and middle part of January, when the cold weather set in, with frequent and tempestuous gales; these, with a temperature below the average, continued throughout February, March, and April. During the month of May, the weather became warmer; but the thermometer again fell in June, and throughout the summer quarter continued much below the average: an unusual quantity of rain also fell, and the harvest was reported as much injured in several parts of the country. For a few days in October the weather became milder; November and December were exceedingly cold; on Christmas day, in many parts of the kingdom, the thermometer was reported below zero. Throughout the whole year, the weather may be considered as remarkable: excepting the early part of January, in May, and for a few days in October, the thermometer was below the average of many previous years, the rain unusually abundant, and a series of tempestuous gales occurring at intervals throughout the whole of 1860. It is probably owing to the low range of temperature preventing malarious exhalations, to the disturbing influences of the atmosphere, and to the large amount of rain, in towns washing away the surface impurities, that we may refer much of the freedom from epidemic diseases, which the kingdom enjoyed during the year.

The deaths registered in each quarter were as follows:

WINTER	{	January .....	57	
		February .....	46	
		March .....	49	
				— 152
SPRING	{	April .....	65	
		May .....	56	
		June .....	45	
				— 166
SUMMER	{	July .....	48	
		August .....	44	
		September .....	52	
				— 144
AUTUMN	{	October .....	41	
		November .....	39	
		December .....	62	
				— 142
				604
		Inquests .....	58	
				662

TABLE IV.—CAUSES OF DEATH FOR SIX YEARS.

DISEASE.		1855.	1856.	1857.	1858.	1859.	1860.	
SPORADIC DISEASES OF KNOWN SEAT.	Diseases of Brain and Nervous System.	Convulsions .....	82	93	111	75	101	68
		Inflammation & Dis. Brain	13	17	21	15	19	11
		Apoplexy .....	3	2	9	1	14	9
		Paralysis .....	6	3	8	4	6	4
		Epilepsy .....	5	6	11	5	3	4
		Delirium Tremens .....	5	0	3	3	1	0
		Insanity .....	1	1	0	0	0	0
		Hydrocephalus .....	10	8	16	19	7	14
		Diseased Spine .....	1	3	3	1	1	0
				-126	-133	-182	-123	-152
Diseases of Chest.	Phthisis .....	78	91	106	81	84	127	
	Bronchitis .....	51	30	30	21	15	30	
	Inflammation of Lungs ..	39	61	53	87	77	46	
	Pleurisy .....	0	1	0	2	2	5	
	Croup .....	13	15	10	19	12	5	
	Asthma .....	6	1	4	3	9	2	
	Hydrothorax .....	0	0	3	0	0	0	
	Empyema .....	1	0	0	0	0	0	
	Laryngitis .....	2	3	0	0	0	0	
	Disease of Heart .....	11	13	9	27	14	27	
		-201	-215	-215	-240	-213	-242	
Diseases of Regional Cavities.	Disease of Stomach .....	0	6	0	0	2	1	
	"    Liver .....	6	8	3	4	8	9	
	"    Bowels .....	9	15	15	23	12	6	
	"    Kidney .....	2	4	4	5	1	5	
	"    Bladder .....	1	0	3	0	0	0	
	"    Womb .....	0	1	1	0	0	0	
	"    Æsophagus ..	2	0	0	3	1	1	
		-20	-34	-26	-35	-24	-22	
Zymotic Diseases.	Fever Contd. and Typ. ..	10	15	20	19	42	35	
	"    Puerperal .....	6	2	6	4	9	4	
	"    Scarlet .....	19	30	5	9	87	10	
	"    Rheumatic .....	3	2	1	3	1	1	
	"    Intermittent .....	2	2	1	0	0	0	
	Measles .....	2	43	6	6	37	2	
	Small Pox .....	0	0	161	8	0	0	
	Whooping Cough .....	12	15	8	54	8	24	
	Diarrhœa and Dysentery ..	17	25	21	16	16	15	
	Cholera .....	0	4	1	0	0	0	
	Erysipelas .....	0	2	3	4	0	1	
	Diphtherite .....	0	0	1	5	12	5	
		-71	-140	-234	-128	-212	-97	
Sporadic Diseases, Uncertain Seat.	Anœmia .....	0	0	0	0	1	0	
	Stomatitis .....	0	0	0	0	1	0	
	Phlegmon .....	6	2	7	3	4	5	
	Scrofula .....	9	4	0	2	9	4	
	Gangrene .....	6	1	3	1	2	1	
	Cancer .....	6	7	8	2	10	1	
	Syphilia .....	0	1	0	0	4	7	
	Hæmorrhage .....	0	0	1	3	2	1	
	Dropsy .....	9	14	8	10	10	9	
	Atrophy, Deb. & Mesentery	48	76	63	71	65	52	
	Hydrophobia .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Hernia .....	0	1	4	3	1	3	
	Scorbutus .....	1	0	0	0	0	0	
	Teething .....	9	9	4	7	7	3	
	Exhaustion .....	0	3	0	3	0	0	
	Gout .....	0	1	1	0	1	0	
	Other Diseases .....	2	7	13	9	4	1	
Tetanus .....	0	0	0	0	2	0		
Tabes .....	0	0	0	0	1	0		
Disordered Joints .....	0	0	0	0	1	0		
Congenital .....	0	0	0	0	0	1		
		-96	-126	-112	-114	-125	-88	
Age .....	44	24	19	38	19	26		
Unknown .....	25	23	25	16	15	15		
Accidents .....	0	2	4	2	10	4		
Inquests .....	58	75	66	58	56	58		
Total.....	641	772	883	734	826	662		

During 1860, the deaths took place at the following ages, distinguishing males from females :

TABLE V.

AGE.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year .....	93	76	169
1 and under 2 .....	30	24	54
2 " 3 .....	14	7	21
3 " 4 .....	16	8	24
4 " 5 .....	6	6	12
5 " 10 .....	15	15	30
10 " 15 .....	9	6	15
15 " 25 .....	37	27	64
25 " 35 .....	47	30	77
35 " 45 .....	30	23	53
45 " 55 .....	31	21	52
55 " 65 .....	21	15	36
65 " 75 .....	15	14	29
75 " 85 .....	7	5	12
85 " 95 .....	6	8	14
95 and upwards .....	1	0	1
Unknown, but adults .....	2	0	2
	380	282	662

Dr. Simon, in his report on the sanitary condition of the kingdom, makes this remark : " Those places where infants are most apt to die, are necessarily the places where the survivors are most apt to be sickly." In the annual report which I presented to your board for the year 1855, when the town, as during the last year, was comparatively free from epidemic disease—especially any appertaining to children—I drew your attention to the large proportionate rate of infantile mortality, when the number of deaths under five years of age to total deaths were at the rate of 47 *per cent.*; other parts of the kingdom varying from 43 *in the metropolis*, to 50, *as at Liverpool*; and as, according to the remarks made by Dr. Simon in the report I have just now quoted, the sanitary state of a locality is indicated by its relative infantile mortality, it is satisfactory to find that last year the relative rate of mortality under five years of age to total deaths, was only 41 *per cent.*

On referring to table No. V, there will be found a considerable diminution in the number of deaths under the head of convulsions. Excepting infantile epidemics, there are no diseases so fatal to human life as this cause. In the medical profession, it is well recognized that in a large proportion of

children who annually die of convulsions, the predisposing causes of such a termination are the cachectic conditions of constitution, produced by the vitiated atmosphere of the unventilated dwellings of the poor, their privations, their want of cleanliness, thereby giving rise to a disease known in the profession as the Hydrencephaloid, a disease frequently terminating in a paroxysm of convulsions.

At frequent intervals, I have inspected the dwellings of the labouring classes of this town, and the result of such inspection enables me to report that a most material alteration has taken place in the condition of the interior of their houses. To the purer atmosphere effected by their enforced ventilation, the cleanliness promoted by the limewashing of the rooms, and the diminution in the number of their occupants, it is doubtless but reasonable to refer this important reduction in infantile mortality.

Under the head of deaths registered from diseases of the chest, I have merely to remark that a considerable increase took place in the number from phthisis, probably attributable to the unfavourable atmospheric influence on such a disease ruling the whole year.

Abdominal diseases call for no remarks, as they have maintained but the usual average, and are to be attributed only to sporadic or individual causes.

It is to the zymotic class of diseases that I have on this, as on all previous occasions, more especially to dwell; as it is in this class that neglect of sanitary provisions produces its fatal results, by giving rise to the origin and spread of epidemic diseases—diseases which, as emphatically pronounced by the Registrar General, and supported by the observations of the scientific, are occasioned by *removable causes*. Cardiff, during 1860, enjoyed with other parts of the kingdom a comparative immunity from epidemic disease; whooping cough being among the most fatal, and numbering 27 deaths; scarlatina, 10; infantile diarrhoea, 14; (there being only 1 death from diarrhoea registered above the age of 4 years;) and measles was fatal only in 2 cases.

Fever was fatal in 35 instances, being in the proportion of 1 death to every 1000 inhabitants. According to Dr. Headlam Greenhow's report to the Registrar General, "On the results of an inquiry into the different proportions of death produced by certain diseases in different districts in England," the rate of



mortality from fever in Abergavenny is 2·17 per 1000, Merthyr Tydfil 2·11 per 1000 (I instance these as being neighbouring localities); throughout all England and Wales, it is 1·15 per 1000. Although, therefore, Cardiff has not obtained for the last few years a greater rate of mortality from fever than the average rate of the kingdom; although it does not reach even the mortality, from this disease, of neighbouring districts; it is not the less the duty of a local board of health to ascertain whether the present diminished rate cannot be still further reduced; whether the existing causes of fever, as far as they depend on local influences, are altogether removable, leaving only individual or sporadic causes of typhus to contribute its quota to your mortality tables.

The more immediate causes of fever are known to be, the malarious exhalations from the surface of a locality, the effluvia of exposed cesspools, and the noxious atmosphere of crowded dwellings. The remote causes are such as tend to deteriorate the public health, and render it less able to resist either local excitants or epidemic influences.

I have now to point out to you the localities within the town of Cardiff that have been, during the past year, in such a state as to prejudice the health of the inhabitants, and to require the exercise of your powers to remedy the evil.

The locality most requiring your attention has been the south or Bute Dock district: of the 35 deaths from fever, 16 occurred in that district. In the month of September, Mr. Wall the Medical Officer of that district, called my attention to the existence of fever of a severe type, in Eleanor-street, Bute Docks, and the streets in that immediate locality. I therefore made inquiries into the circumstances under which the disease had prevailed.

Eleanor-street is situated at the southern end of the Bute Dock, running parallel with, and closely adjoining, the muddy bank of the Channel. Between this street and the mud, there were occasional pools, of stagnant water; at the extreme end, there was a sunken surface or pit, where refuse was deposited and exposed to atmospheric influences: this was much complained of, by the inhabitants of the houses immediately adjoining, as being at times very offensive. The houses were clean, occupied by respectable inhabitants, entirely free from over-crowding, and the backlets kept free from nuisances. There were 5 only, which I could ascertain as

having no communication for the escape of the sewerage into the drains ; these being from Nos. 13 to 17.

The general surface of the street was in a deplorable condition ; there was no attempt made to carry off the surface water, which collected in stagnant fetid pools. The mud was contaminated with house refuse, the streets being impassable for carts, so that the occupiers of the houses could not avail themselves of the carts employed to remove such refuse ; they were therefore compelled to throw them into the roadway. When I visited the locality, the day being warm, the effluvia was exceedingly strong.

I made inquiries of the inhabitants, as to whether they had experienced any ill effects from an exposure to such exciting causes of disease. In 14 houses, the families had suffered from sickness ; nausea and vomiting had much prevailed among the children. They attributed these symptoms to the evils I have described ; and when the illness had necessitated application for medical aid, the medical man in attendance had corroborated this opinion, and frequently pointed it out. Several of the inhabitants congratulated themselves that the low range of temperature prevailing during the summer had protected them from still greater sickness.

In one house, occupied by two families, fever had been very severe. One family consisted of the parents and two children : the father was taken ill with fever ; he partially recovered, and relapsed, and was very ill. When I visited the house, the mother became ill, and afterwards one of the children. The father was in good employment when taken ill, earning 27 shillings per week. His employer had generously allowed him partial wages during his illness, or he would, with his family, have been destitute. The second family, living in the same house, consisted of a widower and three children. The father was soon delirious ; then the two children. The father had been earning, up to the time of his illness, 20 shillings per week. On his becoming destitute, he and his family were removed into the union, where they continued some months. The fever had therefore broken up the home of a family, in previous good circumstances, and thrown a burden on your rates. The same must have resulted in the first case, but for the benevolence of the employer, who voluntarily submitted to a personal tax, and to that extent saved your poor rates.

In another house, there lodged a newly married couple who

had resided there three months, the husband being in constant employment, at 18 shillings per week ; after residing there a few weeks, he fell ill with gastric symptoms, such as nausea and sickness. Fever supervened—the natural history of the course and progress of typhoid fever ; he died in ten days. The widow became ill, but was removed by her friends.

In another house, that of a respectable tradesman, the whole of the members of his family had been frequently ill, with nausea and sickness. One child had a sharp attack of fever ; it recovered, then relapsed, and was very ill when I saw it. I was much struck with the frequency of the relapses of fever in this street, denoting the strong influence of the operating causes.

In three other houses there had been fever, but of a milder type.

Of the 27 houses, 8 were unoccupied ; and in others, the occupants expressed a determination to leave the locality.

Of the 16 deaths from fever in the Bute Dock district, 10 were in a small radius, comprised in and surrounding Eleanor-street, namely, Bute-esplanade, Margaret-street, Louisa-street, South William-street, Adelaide-street, James-street, and Mount Stuart-square. Assuming the mortality from fever to be 1 in 6, (the ordinary amount of mortality from that disease,) it may be computed that 160 cases of fever occurred in the southern end of the Bute Dock district ; and in order to make you understand the bearing of such a disease on the industrial portion of the community, I have to call your attention to the powerful remarks of Mr. Farr, when he speaks of the ill effects of fever : “These strike the artizan in his strength, from comfort into helpless poverty : they carry away the infant from its mother’s breast, and the old man at the end of life ; but their direst eruptions are *excessively fatal to men in the prime and vigour of life* ; they are emphatically the *morbi populares*.”

To corroborate this, I append an analysis of the periods of life at which the special diseases of the zymotic class were fatal in Cardiff last year :

TABLE VI.

DISEASE.	0	1 year.	2 years.	3 years.	4 years.	5 years.	10 years.	15 years.	25 years.	35 years.	45 years.	55 years.	65 years.	Total.
Fever .....	-	2	-	4	1	7	2	6	7	2	1	1	2	35
„ Puerperal .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	4
„ Scarlet .....	3	-	1	2	-	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
„ Rheumatic .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Measles .....	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Whooping Cough .....	6	9	5	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24
Diarrhœa and Dysentery .....	12	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	15
Erysipelas .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Diphtheria .....	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5
														97

From this it will be seen that of the 35 deaths from fever, 28 were between the ages of 5 and 65 years; 21 above 10 years of age. You have then to multiply these by the number not fatal, but in which the disease may be assumed to have given a temporary suspension to the labour and pursuits of life, and you cannot fail to recognize the truth of the remarks just quoted.

Whooping cough was fatal in 24 instances; the whole of which were under 5 years of age: and as this disease was somewhat in excess of its ordinary rate of mortality, the same atmospheric influences operated unfavourably as spoken of in alluding to phthisis.

The deaths from diarrhœa and dysentery maintained the average, but were confined principally to children; 14 of the 15 being registered as from infantile diarrhœa.

Diphtheria produced 5 deaths, they being between the ages of 3 and 5 years.

I may now allude to other localities requiring your serious consideration; and in doing this, remind you again that the fortunately low range of temperature probably exercised a most favourable influence over the town during the past year, otherwise considerable disease might have resulted from the state of several of the districts; and unless measures are taken to improve them, and remove the more pressing of the exciting causes of disease, I can but view with considerable apprehension the advent of the approaching summer.

Of the sporadic deaths in uncertain seat, there is nothing requiring observation.

58 deaths were registered after a coroner's inquisition.

TABLE VII.

VERDICTS.	0	1 year.	2 years.	3 years.	4 years.	5 years.	10 years	15 years.	25 years.	35 years.	45 years.	55 years.	65 years.	75 years.	Unknown.	Total.
Accidentally drowned	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	10
Found drowned	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	2	5	-	1	-	-	1	13
Natural causes	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	2	-	1	1	1	-	12
Injuries	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	8	4	2	2	1	-	-	-	21
Burns	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Murder	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	3	2	-	3	-	3	1	17	11	9	2	3	1	1	2	58

50 of these deaths were males, 8 females.

The first place most urgently requiring your consideration, is Temperance Town. The houses in that district are somewhat crowded, but the inhabitants are chiefly of the better class of labourers. The surface of the roadways in every street is in a very deplorable state; large pools of stagnant water, with the mud, render the roads impassable for carts; hence the occupiers of the houses are necessitated to throw out their refuse matter into the street, which, as a consequence, exhale at times a sickening effluvia, and require but the introduction of an epidemic to produce a most deadly effect. Three months back, a committee of your board visited this and other localities, and I regret to be obliged to report that the state of things seen by that committee remains in the same, if not more aggravated condition. Every street has been finished as regards building, and it remains but for your board to enforce the pitching and paving of the roadways.

The following streets are also in the same condition:

Davies-street,	Edward-street,
Sandon-place,	Eleanor-street.

The roadway behind and parallel to the Bute-road, commencing at Maria-street, and continued on to London-square, was also visited by your committee; the stagnant water, the heaps of vegetable matter and ashes, manure, and other offensive deposits, have never been removed. The same remarks

apply to the roadways leading from West Bute-street to James-street, the roadway at back of John-street and near the Hastings's Hotel, the roadway at back of Ruperra-street and Rodney-street, and the roadway near Henry-street and parallel to Bute-road.

The following streets have been in a very offensive state for some months, their surface rarely swept, the channelling for the escape of surface water rarely cleared, and usually containing cabbage water and other impurities daily emptied into them :

Pendoylan-street,	Stanley-street,
Thomas-street,	Mill-lane,
North William-street,	Union-buildings,
Ellen-street,	Baker's-row,
Tyndal-street, *	Perth-place,
Herbert-street,	Winstone's-court,
John-street,	Landore-court.

The last place, Landore-court, for a long time has presented the worst state of things, as, independent of other accumulations of noxious materials, especially at the eastern end, ordure is scattered over the whole area ; this is the more to be regretted, as the interior of the houses presented a very creditable appearance.

Several of the courts in the town require improvement in their pitching : I have principally to instance Evans's-court, in the Hayes, now somewhat improved, but still bad. This was a locality which suffered severely from cholera in 1854, and was visited by an inspector sent down by the authorities who attributed the unusual severity of that disease in the court to the state of the pitching, or rather paving : this is broken into pieces, and the house impurities thrown out are retained in the various channels, and become very offensive. The court between Duffryn-street and Garth-street is also in the same state, as is also Court Coleman's-row.

The next locality to which I would especially call your attention is Grange-town, one that must, unless means are taken to remedy its serious evils, sooner or later suffer severely from epidemic disease ; it now requires but the virus to be introduced into the town, and in this locality it will most assuredly exercise a deadly influence. In this locality have been built about 70 houses ; they are occupied by mechanics, many employed in the adjacent Taff Vale works ; the houses are clean, the backlets converted into gardens, and, as far as

the occupiers can do so, they are carefully kept as free from nuisances as they can be. The district is but imperfectly drained,—so badly, that the few houses that do communicate with it are in a worse condition than those which do not, as the sewerage in many instances, in wet weather, flows back and escapes into the cellars, rendering the houses at times uninhabitable. The privies are at the end of the garden; the district being low, there is no escape for the surface water; the cesspools quickly fill, and the contents flow over the gardens and pathways. On two occasions, when I visited the district, the stench was unbearable, and several of the occupiers complained of frequent nausea. The roadway in front of the houses presents the same condition as described in Temperance-town. It is imperatively necessary your board should take into its consideration the best means to provide a remedy for these serious evils.

I now pass on to the condition of the lodging houses, and those houses occupied by the labouring poor. These have been so repeatedly brought before your notice, that I need dwell but shortly on them. Their interior as a whole is much improved; the inspection incessantly maintained keeps down the number of their inmates. I have latterly been engaged in ascertaining the admeasurements of all such houses, with the object of certifying as to the number they should accommodate; to ascertain if registered, and the particular condition of each habitation. In doing this, many facts have come before my notice, showing that not only is such a step essentially necessary on the score of sanitary progress, but even for the maintenance of the moral and social well being of our poor. I had previously witnessed the frequency of two or three married couples occupying the same room, and had especially directed Hibbs, as far as possible, to prevent this. But a recent investigation into the mode of living of our Irish population, has brought to light a frequent system of herding together, which can hardly be imagined possible in a civilized country. I will now instance a few facts illustrative of this deplorable state of things:

No. 4, Thomas-street, kept by Catherine Seton, the mother and 2 sons, over 16 years of age, occupy the same bed.

No. 10, Love-lane, house kept by Michael Donovan: man, wife, and 2 single men, occupy one bedroom.

No. 3, Landore-court, kept by Dennis Dowling: 2 single men, man and wife, and 2 children, in same room.

No. 4, Landore-court: 2 single men and 2 single women sleeping in same room.

No. 9, Landore-court, kept by James Donovan: 3 single females, 3 children, and 1 man, sleeping in same room.

No. 27, Landore-court, kept by Catherine Holland: 5 females, 2 single men, and a child, sleeping in same room.

No. 17, Rodney-street, kept by Margaret Sullivan: a widow, 2 single men, 2 females, and 2 children, sleeping in one room.

No. 13, Mill-lane, kept by John Fielding: 2 single women, consisting of mother, daughter, and 3 single men, consisting of son and 2 cousins, sleeping in same.

Another house in Mill-lane, not numbered, kept by John Daley: father, mother, and daughter upwards of 16 years of age, sleeping in same bed.

Another, kept by Catherine Pickering: a mother, the son, 20 years of age, and daughter 17, sleeping in same bed.

Another, kept by Patrick Shean: father, mother, son 17 years of age, and child, sleeping in same bed.

These are instances illustrating a most serious evil, and I greatly fear these comprise but a few of the many. I have argued with these poor creatures on the gross want of decency and propriety in living in this uncivilized way. They do not appear aware of doing wrong: they consider it but as a natural consequence of having to pay so much for rent,—this preventing them having greater accommodation; and they seem astonished you should imply evil consequences resulting from such a mode of living.

The experience thus gained by the frequent visitation of this description of houses, must convince you how necessary it is that there should be no relaxation in its application, as upon the slightest interruption overcrowding again occurs, and an aggravation of the evils just detailed.

Sergeant Hibbs reported to me that he has made upwards of 9,000 night visits, and 15,000 day visits during the year; and I can bear testimony to the efficient manner in which he discharges the duty of inspector of lodging houses, and that he compels frequent limewashing and ventilation of the rooms. He also reports that he has obtained several summonses against parties neglecting the sanitary instructions given them, with successful results. The greatest difficulty we have to contend with is the number of houses where the rooms are let out to different families. These rooms are occupied equally by day and night, as



in Herbert-street: the shoemaker and the tailor work in them, the mother and the children live by day and sleep in them during the night. Under such circumstances ventilation and cleanliness can but be imperfect, and must lead to that cachectic condition of constitutions alluded to in the earlier part of this report, when speaking of infantile mortality.

I have to-day dwelt somewhat at length on subjects not heretofore brought before your consideration. I trust you will believe them matters of importance, and that in supporting me in carrying out health precautions, an improvement may be affected in the social comfort and well-being of the poorer classes committed to your charge.

I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

H. J. PAINE,

OFFICER OF HEALTH.

