

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

(11 & 12 Vict. Cap. 63.)

REPORT

TO THE

GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH

ON A

PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

INTO THE SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE, AND SUPPLY OF  
WATER, AND THE SANITARY CONDITION  
OF THE INHABITANTS

OF THE TOWNSHIP OF

ECCLESHILL,

IN THE WEST RIDING OF THE COUNTY OF YORK.

By WILLIAM RANGER, Esq.,

SUPERINTENDING INSPECTOR.



LONDON :

PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODÉ,  
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY,  
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1854.

## NOTIFICATION.

---

THE General Board of Health hereby give notice in terms of section 9 of the Public Health Act, that on or before the 25th day of October next, being a period of not less than one month from the date of the publication and deposit hereof, written statements may be forwarded to the Board with respect to any matter contained in or omitted from the accompanying Report on a Preliminary Inquiry into the Sewerage, Drainage, and Supply of Water, and the Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of the Township of ECCLESHILL, in the West Riding of the County of York; or with respect to any amendment to be proposed therein.

By order of the Board,

T. TAYLOR, *Secretary.*

*Whitehall, 26th August., 1854.*

# INDEX.

---

	Page
Copy of the Memorial to the General Board of Health - - -	5
Population, Rateable Value, Mortality, &c. - - -	6
Mortuary Returns for 1852 and 1853 - - -	7
Medical Evidence - - -	8
Road Surveyor's Accounts, &c. - - -	9
Personal Inspection of the District, &c. - - -	9
The Water Supply - - -	10
Evidence respecting it by Mr. Dalby - - -	14
" Mr. Armistead - - -	14
" Mr. W. Booth - - -	15
" Mr. Reuben Wilson - - -	15
" Mr. S. Pollard - - -	15
" W. Woodhead, Esq. - - -	15
The Sewerage and Drainage - - -	16
Evidence respecting it by Mr. Francis Ibbetson - - -	17
" Mr. John Stead - - -	17
The Privy Accommodation - - -	17
Returns by Mr. Dalby and Mr. Armistead - - -	18
Evidence respecting it by Mr. F. Ibbetson - - -	19
" Mr. Pollard - - -	19
Concluding Remarks - - -	19
Recommendations - - -	19

---

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

The first part of the book deals with the early years of the nation, from the time of the first settlers to the end of the Revolutionary War. It covers the struggles of the colonies against British rule and the eventual declaration of independence.

The second part of the book discusses the period of the early republic, from the end of the Revolutionary War to the beginning of the Civil War. It focuses on the development of the federal government and the role of the Supreme Court.

The third part of the book covers the Civil War and Reconstruction. It details the conflict between the North and the South over the issue of slavery and the subsequent efforts to rebuild the nation.

The final part of the book discusses the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era. It examines the rise of industrialization and the efforts to reform society.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (11 & 12 Vict. c. 63.)

---

*Report to the General Board of Health on a Preliminary Inquiry into the Sewerage, Drainage, and Supply of Water, and the Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of the Township of ECCLESHILL, in the West Riding of the County of York.* By W. RANGER, Esq., Superintending Inspector.

2A Pall Mall, London,  
8th May, 1854.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you the following report on the sanitary condition of the township of Eccleshill, in the West Riding of the county of York.

The following is a copy of the memorial for the inquiry in question:—

“Whereas by the Public Health Act of 1848 it is enacted that from time to time after the passing of that Act, upon the petition of not less than one-tenth of the inhabitants rated to the relief of the poor of any city, town, borough, parish, or place, having a known or distinct boundary, &c., &c. Now, therefore, we, the undersigned inhabitants of the township of Eccleshill, in the parish of Bradford and county of York, and rated to the relief of the poor of and within that township, and being one-tenth in number of the inhabitants rated to the relief of the poor of and within that township, do hereby petition the General Board of Health to direct a superintending inspector to visit the said township, and to make inquiry and examination with respect thereto with a view to the application of the said Act, according to the provisions of the said Act in that behalf.

“Signed by 102 out of about 800 ratepayers in the township.”

In accordance with the request of the memorialists, I was directed by your Honourable Board to undertake the inquiry into the sanitary condition of the township.

Public notices of the same having been given, and circulated in accordance with the provisions of the Public Health Act to that effect, I proceeded to Eccleshill and opened the proceedings at the White Hart Inn, on the 7th December 1853, the investigation having been continued on that and the following day,

POPULATION, MORTALITY, RATEABLE VALUE, &c. &c.

The following is a list of the population of the township at each census in the present century.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1801	655	696	1,351
1811	781	827	1,608
1821	1,065	1,111	2,176
1831	1,297	1,273	2,570
1841	1,525	1,483	3,008
1851	1,914	1,786	3,700

No. of Houses,	1841.	1851.
Inhabited	631	765
Uninhabited	48	9
Building	—	—
	<u>679</u>	<u>775</u>

	1841.	1851.
Average number of inmates per house	4.4	4.7

The rateable value of Eccleshill is estimated at 6,060*l*.

The annual number of deaths for the seven years preceding the 1st of January 1852 is 510, viz. :—

1845	50
1846	57
1847	72
1848	64
1849	81
1850	57
1851	129
	<u>510</u>

For the last two years I have been favoured by Mr. Lister, the present registrar of the district, with a detailed account of the mortality, which I now annex :—

Cause of Death.	1852									Total.	
	Under 1 year.	Above 1 and under 10 years.	Above 10 and under 20 years.	Above 20 and under 30 years.	Above 30 and under 40 years.	Above 40 and under 50 years.	Above 50 and under 60 years.	Above 60 and under 70 years.	Above 70 and under 80 years.		Above 80 and under 90 years.
Consumption	1	2	2	3	4	.	2	2	.	.	18
Fits	10	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	11
Old Age	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4	4	9
Scarlatina	1	5	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	8
Dropsy	.	.	.	.	2	.	.	2	.	.	4
Water on Brain	3	3	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	7
Inflammation of Lungs	1	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	3
Typhus Fever	.	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Inflammation of Brain	2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Disease of Heart	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Do. of Liver and Stomach	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	2
Teething	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Meningitis	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Small Pox	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Diarrhoea	1	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Asthma	.	.	1	1	.	.	.	1	1	.	2
Abscess	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2
Inflammation of Bowels	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	2
Paralysis	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Childbirth	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Chronic Rheumatism	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
" Hepatitis	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	1
" Atrophy	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Hooping Cough	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
	21	16	5	8	7	4	5	6	6	4	82
	1853.										
Consumption	1	.	5	4	3	3	2	1	.	.	19
Fits	8	3	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	12
Old Age	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	5	5	10
Scarlatina	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Dropsy	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Water in Brain	.	1	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	3
Inflammation of Lungs	8	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	8
Premature Birth	3	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	4
Bronchitis	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Disease of Bowels	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	3
Apoplexy	1	.	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	3
Hooping Cough	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	1	.	.	3
Disease of Heart	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
" of Spine	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	2
" of Liver	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Child Birth	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Asthma	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Pneumonia	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	2
Small Pox	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	2
Interitis	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Cerebral Congestion	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	2
Pneumonitis	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Phrenitis	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Diarrhoea	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	1
Cancer in Womb	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Teething	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1
Brain Fever	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Pertussis	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1
Detention of Urine	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
Atrophy	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	2
Debility	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	1
Accidentally killed	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1
	30	8	11	5	7	7	5	7	8	5	93

If the mortality of the whole period between 1845 and 1854 be added together, the result is as follows :—

1845 to 1851	-	-	-	-	-	510
1852	-	-	-	-	-	82
1853	-	-	-	-	-	93
						<hr/>
						685
						<hr/> <hr/>

This is at the rate of about 21.7 deaths per 1,000 of the population during the whole period.

In 1851, however, the proportion from some unexplained cause rose to 34.8. In the last two years the rate has been about 23 per 1,000.

It is worthy of attention that the rate of mortality appears to be on the increase. Nor can this be a matter of surprise to any one who has inspected the place. As it becomes more populous, the general disregard of all sanitary arrangements is sure to be attended with worse and worse results. If, as Mr. Newstead has remarked in the following statement, the health of the people would probably improve if there were more attention paid to cleanliness, it follows as a consequence that a continuance in such habits will become more and more fatal, as the town increases and the population becomes packed more closely together.

#### MEDICAL EVIDENCE.

G. Newstead, Esq., surgeon, said :—

“ That he had resided and practised in Eccleshill for the last fifteen years. During that time there had been visitations of cholera, typhus fever, and scarlatina. Chappell-lane, Eccleshill Bank, and Apperly Bridge-road had all been visited by cholera, and they were regularly attacked each winter by typhus and by scarlatina whenever prevalent in the locality. The former showed itself in a very bad form, and it was difficult to be got rid of. There were other parts of the town which had been similarly attacked, but those he had enumerated were the worst, and the *foci* of the most serious disorders. They were also, he might remark, amongst the worst as regarded their sanitary condition, for they were without sewerage and drainage. They had a scanty supply of water, and they abounded in accumulations of filth and refuse, both animal and vegetable. He believed the mortality of the place might be reduced were more attention paid to sanitary measures, both within and without the dwelling-houses. Many of the working people had to weave in the living rooms occupied by themselves and their families ; in these cases there was a great want of ventilation.”



ROAD SURVEYOR'S ACCOUNTS, &c.

The roads in the township are about 10 miles in length, of which  $2\frac{1}{2}$  are turnpike.

The following is an account of the income and expenditure for their repair and maintenance during the year ending March 1852:—

<i>Income.</i>	£	s.	d.
First rate at 10 <i>d.</i> in the pound -	212	18	6
Second rate - - -	225	17	1
	<hr/>		
	438	15	7
	<hr/>		
<i>Expenditure.</i>	£	s.	d.
Labourers' wages - - -	113	9	4
Contract work - - -	31	16	8
Materials - - -	87	4	4
Team work - - -	54	15	6
Tradesmen's accounts - -	126	12	6
Rent of quarries - - -	6	1	6
Incidental expenses - -	8	17	10
Balance in hand - - -	9	17	11
	<hr/>		
	£438	15	7
	<hr/>		

The materials used during the above period were as follows:—

- 400 tons of limestone.
- 200 „ hard stone.
- 1,100 yards of flags.
- 200 „ quarry stone.

PERSONAL INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

I was accompanied in my personal inspection of the district by several of the inhabitants. Amongst the places visited I may enumerate,—

- Stoney-lane,
- Moor Side-road,
- Tun Well-lane,
- Stone Hall Hill-road,
- Dudley-hill and Killing Hall-road,
- Town-lane, and
- Chapel-lane.

In all these places I found such accumulations of filth and refuse as may be expected, where there are neither proper sewerage nor house drainage, and where the privy accommodation is disgracefully insufficient. In most of the localities

enumerated the pavement is defective, and as the slop water is generally thrown out in front of the houses, the surface is constantly saturated.

In some cases the houses are built back to back ; in others they are huddled so closely together that there is no space on which to erect a privy, or an outbuilding of any kind. It need not, therefore, be wondered at if such localities are the constant seat of fevers or illness of some kind or another. Inside the house the occupants are exposed to all the ill effects that may arise from overcrowding, want of ventilation, and a supply of water too scanty to preserve cleanliness in either the person or the habitation. Outside there is the subsoil saturated with stinking water, the surface covered with human excrement, or, perhaps, an open privy pit sending up its foul odours under the house windows, whilst middens, dunghills, and pigsties abound in all directions.

The medical gentleman, whose evidence I have quoted, has stated that Eccleshill only affords one more example, if any more were needed, to show that the most neglected and dirty places are the most unhealthy, and that there are certain localities of this kind in the township, where epidemic disorders not only first break out, but from which they are the most difficult to be eradicated.

I have already noticed this fact when speaking of the mortality, but I cannot help again alluding to it at this place. The poorer localities would no doubt put on a very different appearance were any general improvements introduced. Many of the women complained to me of the scantiness of the water supply, and of the impossibility of preserving proper cleanliness, when it had to be brought from such a distance, or so dearly purchased, if procurable near at hand. Others again lamented the absence of house drainage, and the disgraceful state of the privy accommodation. It is, therefore, only reasonable to believe that where such a feeling of discomfort exists, any prospect of improvement would be gladly welcomed, and the expense of it cheerfully borne, as far as the limited means of the people will admit.

#### THE WATER SUPPLY.

There are no water works in Eccleshill, the people being dependent on pumps or wells, either public or private. It would appear from the statements of the witnesses who gave evidence on this head, that in Eccleshill, as in a good many other places in the West Riding of Yorkshire, the supply of water has been growing more and more scanty each year, whilst the population has been increasing in an inverse

ratio. Mr. Julius Dalby, for example, has stated that, in the course of his recollection, nine public wells have ceased to exist. This is attributed in part to the sinking of coal-pits, which has affected the shallower wells, and in part to the Enclosure Act, which prevents the people from going to some of the springs on the common ground near the town. There are now but three wells on the common open to the public, and four in the other parts of the township. But of these some are quite, and others are partially dry, during a considerable portion of the year.

Mr. Dalby and Mr. James Armistead have supplied a return of the extent of the supply in various parts of the town. The houses thus enumerated amount to 790, which is rather more than the number (775) given in the census tables, the additional 15 houses having probably been erected since 1851.

From these returns I find that, out of the 790 houses in the township, 205 are said to be "supplied," 89 "partly so," and 496 "not at all." The first term is used when the house has a pump or well to itself; the second, when there is a supply for the joint use of some particular street or court; and the third, when there is no pump or well near at hand. In these cases of course the people have either to buy their water, or to fetch it from a distance.

The intermittent nature of the supply prevails to as great if not a greater extent amongst the private than amongst the public wells. Many of the former are quite dry during the summer months, and therefore a house, said to be "supplied," may, in point of fact, have no water at all during several months of each year. Thus, in 1852, the supply from the wells failed so generally, that the residents in the central part of Eccleshill had to send to the Holy Well, which is three-quarters of a mile off. It was stated by Mr. Armistead, indeed, that it was this circumstance which had first led the ratepayers to think about having the town placed under the Public Health Act.

Assuming that the houses mentioned by Mr. Dalby and Mr. Armistead have, on an average, 4.7 inmates, I find that out of the entire population of the township (3,700), some 963 persons have water on their own premises, 415 have access to some common source of supply, and 2,331 have none of any kind near them.

Some of the latter are gratuitously furnished with water by those who have more abundant supplies; thus, for instance, William Woodhead, Esq., said, "That he was in the habit of letting above a hundred of the people near him

get the water from his well." This is one of the few sources which is not affected by dry weather. Again, at Tun Well-lane the inhabitants have to get the water from a well, which belongs to a private individual, though the public would seem to have had access to it for the last forty years. I procured, during my inspection, three samples of water for analysis :—

- No. 1. W. Woodhead, Esq.'s pump, Eccleshill-moor.
2. Messrs. J. and T. Wilson's well, Norman-lane.
3. The Holy Well, Killinghall-road.

P. H. Holland, Esq., has furnished me with the following analysis of each sample.

—	No. 1. Grains.	No. 2. Grains.	No. 3. Grains.
Contents per gallon :			
Carbonate of Lime - -	2·6	4·0	4·3
"    Magnesia - -	4·0	2·9	2·1
Sulphate of Lime - -	3·2	3·8	3·5
"    Magnesia - -	3·6	1·2	3·0
Common Salt - -	1·6	1·8	2·7
Organic Matter - -	3·6	2·5	7·4
Total Solid Contents -	18·6	15·2	23·0
Degrees of hardness -	14·0	12·0	13·0

"Of the above specimens No. 3, or that from the Holy Well Killinghall-road, is the worst, for though not quite as hard as the water of Mr. Woodhead's well, at Eccleshill-moor, the difference in this respect is slight, whilst the quantity of organic matter contained in No. 3 is objectionably large. In hot weather it has probably an unpleasant taste, and is likely to be filled with animalcules. Nos. 1 and 2 are similar, but No. 1 is the hardest, and, what is of greater consequence, contains a larger proportion of magnesia. The difference however is not so great as to forbid the use of the former source ; for the choice of the future supply, if it be confined to these two, will have to be governed to a great degree by considerations of cost and of the copiousness of the source."

The above analysis will enable your Honourable Board to judge of the general character of the present supply ; want of quantity rather than quality is, however, the greatest objection to the present system. No one will, I believe, deny that the present arrangements must be entirely altered before the place can be put in a satisfactory position with respect to its future water supply. It were expecting too

much to hope that private individuals would come forward for such a work, or I might quote the example of a place very near Eccleshill, but much inferior to it in extent and population. I allude to Burley in Wharfedale, as an instance of the successful establishment of a complete set of works for the water supply of the district.

The application of the Public Health Act, however, will give the future Local Board facilities for this purpose, though it will of course be incumbent on that body to have an investigation of the district made to discover the best available source. It may happen that other sources better and cheaper than those I have enumerated may exist, and this is one of the chief objects to which the Local Board's attention will have to be turned.

The quality of the water and the copiousness of the supply being insured, the question of probable cost must determine the rest.

I need not say that if economy is to be considered anywhere, it ought to be in a place of limited size and resources like that now in consideration. The rateable value of the township is taken at about 6,000*l.*, a sum which will do more than cover all the outlay requisite both for sewerage and water supply. But the cheaper these improvements are effected, the less the rate at which the scale of charges to private individuals can be fixed.

At present the actual money cost of water is very considerable, nor does this outlay represent the whole charge, for to it should be added the cost of the labour and the time spent in going to fetch water from a distance. The persons who gave evidence estimated the present cost of water at from 5*d.* to 1*s.* a week; but if only a fourth of the latter sum, or 3*d.* a week, be taken as the average charge per house, and this I consider an under statement of the case, the inhabitants of Eccleshill must at the present time be paying more than 500*l.* a year for a most scanty and insufficient supply of water. If a Local Board be formed, it will be in their power to lay down works large enough for the ample supply of the population at a cost which will entail a much lighter outlay than that just mentioned.

It has been mentioned by more than one of the witnesses that the existing wells and pumps are so few in number that it is not an uncommon thing for retailers of milk or beer, who may have supplies of water on their own premises, to give it to none but those who deal with them. I need not dwell upon the unfairness of thus making a necessary

of life a marketable commodity, and the means of insuring a monopoly to one dealer over his neighbours.

The following are the statements of the different witnesses on the subject of the water supply.

Mr. Dalby said :

“ That he had resided in Eccleshill all his life, and was, therefore, well acquainted with its sanitary condition. Not more than one half the people had any supply of water to their premises, and the want of this necessary of life was greater than it used to be. No fewer than nine public wells which he could remember were now dry, either from the sinking of collieries in the neighbourhood or from the effect of the Enclosure Act.

“ The former had led to the destruction of the four following springs :—Rock Well, Spring Well, Holdsworth Well, and Raistrick Well.

“ The Enclosure Act had caused the loss of the Little Moor Well, Dog Kennel Well, New Spring Well, and Child Well ; the latter, however, only in part.

“ There were three wells still left on the common, the Enclosure Act not having affected them, viz., Moor Well, Denton Well, and Tom Pump Well. The following were still open to the public :—Holy Well, Tun Well, Norman-lane Well, and Greaves Well. The supply from these did not last more than half the year, and after much rain the water was discoloured for a while.

“ The following return would show how some of the streets in Eccleshill were supplied.”

Name of Street.	Total No. of Houses.	Supplied.	Partly so.	Not at all.
Town-street	47	2	—	45
Town-lane	64	24	32	8
Stony-lane	31	2	—	29
Old Bank	44	10	—	34
Chapel-lane	86	42	7	37
Stone Hall	58	26	—	32
Killing Hall Road	75	23	6	46
Victoria-place	12	—	12	—
Norman-lane	16	16	—	—
Moor Side-road	36	6	—	30
Dudley Hill-road	32	5	23	4
Leeds and Bolton-road	28	16	—	12
Idle-road	6	6	—	—
Undercliffe-road	2	2	—	—
	<u>537</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>277</u>

Mr. Armistead begged,—

“ In continuation of Mr. Dalby’s statement to give me some further particulars respecting the water supply. Mr. Dalby had confined himself to the town portion of the district, and he would

therefore describe the state of the supply in the Greengate part of the township.

Name of Street.	No. of Houses.	Supplied.	Partly so.	Not at all.
Greengate-road	51	1	—	50
New Line	47	11	—	36
Stock Hill-road	20	6	—	14
Stock Hill Fold	9	—	9	—
Carr Bottom-road	23	—	—	23
Apperley-road	53	7	—	46
Dye-house Fold	31	—	—	31
Low Fold	19	—	—	19
	<u>253</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>219</u>

“The residents in the Greengate district, who have no water supply of their own, are compelled to fetch it from Calverley Wood. The supply for the other part of the town is brought from Idle liberty, a distance of about half a mile.

“Sometimes the supplies in the town failed them altogether. For instance, two years ago, the inhabitants of the central part of Eccleshill had to send to the Holy Well, which was three-quarters of a mile off. It was this circumstance, indeed, which had been one of the main causes of their forwarding to the General Board of Health the memorial for an inquiry into the condition of the place.

“So great was the scarcity of water throughout the town generally, that it was a common thing for the people to be obliged to buy milk or other goods from dealers who had wells or pumps of their own, and thus secure themselves water.

“He estimated the cost of his own supply of water at 2s. a week, in which he included labour and wear and tear. His family was, however, a numerous one.”

Mr. *Wm. Booth* said,—

“That during the drought of 1852 it cost him from 4s. to 5s. a week for water. He had a pump on his premises, but the water from it, when boiled, turned red.”

Mr. *Reuben Wilson* said,—

“That he had to lead all the water he required, both for his own use and that of his cattle, from a distance of nearly a mile. He used about two tons of water a week, and if he had to pay for the leading, that alone would cost him 5*l.* a year.”

Mr. *Stead Pollard* said,—

“That he was the heaviest ratepayer in the township. He used about a barrel of water a week, which cost him a shilling. He should be glad to see a better supply of water in the town, for it would do a great deal of good, he was sure.”

*W. Woodhead, Esq.*, said,—

“That the town was equally badly off with respect to its supply of water, its sewerage, and its privy accommodation. Most of

the springs were dry during several months of every year. His own well was an exception, for it had always given him a supply. It was about eight or nine yards deep; the water was neither very hard, nor very soft. He believed not less than 100 of his neighbours came to this well for water. Those who did so got what they wanted gratuitously, for he did not wish to deny them, as long as he had a supply. The wells in the Stone Hill locality were not so apt to go dry as those at a distance from where he resided."

#### THE SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The situation and extent of the existing main sewers will be seen on reference to the evidence of Mr. Francis Ibbetson (Page 16). As is generally the case in places like Eccleshill, these sewers have been made by the highway surveyors for the removal of rain and surface water, not for the reception of house drainage or town sewage. Here and there, where there are open gratings, the refuse water of the adjoining houses may be poured down, but as a general rule the existing sewers answer no practical purpose in a sanitary point of view. It is only necessary for me to allude to my remarks on the personal inspection of the district to show that in every part of the town the want of some means for the removal of refuse matter is painfully apparent. One of the worst places is Chapel-lane, where, though there is a two and a half foot sewer, laid five feet below ground, the whole place abounds in heaps and collections of every species of refuse, animal and vegetable.

The absence of main sewerage of course prevents there being any proper house drainage, and many of the dwellings have cellars beneath them which are sometimes half full of water.

Hitherto there has been no governing body in the township with sufficient powers to lay down a system of sewerage and of house drainage in combination with it, but this difficulty will no longer exist should the Public Health Act be applied to the district.

The following is the evidence received on the subject of the house drainage.

Mr. *Francis Ibbetson* said—

"That in one part of the town there was a main sewer about 150 yards in length; its dimensions 12 inches by 10 inches. This sewer received the slop-water from the houses, and the rain and surface water from the roads.

"In Killing Hall-road there was another sewer about 150 yards long.



“In Dudley Hill-road there was a main drain, which emptied itself on to the surface, and was particularly offensive during the summer.

“In Chapel-lane, a private road, there was a sewer 300 yards long, which had its outfall in an adjoining field.

“All the above-named sewers and main drains were laid dry; and none of them, with the exception of that in Chapel-lane, had any connexion with the houses.

“The Chapel-lane sewer was laid 5 feet deep, its dimensions being about 2 feet 6 inches square. Some of the houses drained into it, but it did not receive the contents of any water-closets.

“Any house drains there were, were about one foot square, laid dry, some having flagged bottoms and some not. These drains only served to carry off the refuse water from the houses.”

Mr. *John Stead*, a resident contractor and house-builder, said—

“That few of the houses had any means of draining the cellars, many of which were flooded during wet weather. The inconvenience was all the greater, because the people often made use of those cellars to keep their provisions in. Sometimes there was so much water in the cellars that the people were obliged to lay stepping-stones on the floors to get at their provisions.

“In many parts of the town the people had no means of getting rid of their slop-water and house refuse except by throwing it on the surface of the road. Those that lived near Bradford Common, used the ditch forming the boundary between the township and the borough as a common sewer, and large accumulations of the most filthy and disgusting matter were formed in consequence.”

### THE PRIVY ACCOMMODATION.

Whatever evils or annoyances Eccleshill may suffer from the want of sewerage or water supply, there are none in point of offensiveness to be compared with that to which they are exposed for want of privy accommodation. Anything more disgusting than the state of the place in this respect it is impossible to conceive; in fact, the whole town may be described as one huge privy. I found it almost impossible to get along some of the poorer localities on this account, for the people have got by this time so accustomed to the deprivation that they have lost all sense of shame or decency on the subject.

It would appear from the subjoined return, that out of the 790 houses therein enumerated, only 91 have what are termed “private privies;” that is, places for the exclusive accommodation of the houses to which they are attached.

Of the remainder, some have none at all, and others have them in common. But most of the latter are in such a filthy and dilapidated condition as to be really unfit for use.

So completely do the inhabitants appear to be unconscious or unmindful of their present condition in this respect, that even some of the schools have no places of accommodation. Mr. Ibbetson has mentioned one such, which has been in use as a school-room for the last thirty years, without a privy having ever been erected, though I am happy to say that one is at last in course of construction. Of course if the children from their earliest years are taught to disregard all natural feelings of decency, it is not surprising if they grow up to be men and women without being conscious of the filthiness and degradation implied by such a condition of things as that I witnessed during the Eccleshill inquiry.

The following particulars respecting the privy accommodation were furnished by Mr. Dalby and Mr. Armistead, who have given similar information respecting the water supply.\*

Name of Street.	No. of Houses.	Private Privies.	Joint Accommodation.	None at all.
Town-street	- 47	8	3	36
Town-lane - -	64	5	13	8
Stony-lane - -	31	3	4	17
Old Bank - -	44	4	8	14
Chapel-lane - -	86	2	11	27
Stone Hall - -	58	4	15	7
Killing Hall-road	75	5	23	4
Victoria-place -	12	1	3	—
Norman-lane - -	16	1	4	3
Moor Side-road -	36	7	7	2
Dudley Hill-road	32	5	6	—
Leeds and Bolton Road	28	2	8	1
Idle Road - -	6	1	2	—
Under Cliffe-road	2	—	1	—

GREEN GATE DISTRICT :

Green Gate Road -	51	13	7	4
New Line - -	47	7	2	2
Stock Hill-road -	20	5	3	—
Stock Hill Fold -	9	—	1	—
Carr Bottom-road	23	6	4	11
Apperley-road -	53	11	9	—
Dye House Fold -	31	—	6	—
Low Fold - -	19	1	3	—
	<u>790</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>143</u>	<u>125</u>

\* When the term private is used, it means that the house in question has a privy to itself.

Mr. *F. Ibbetson* said,

“That there was a great want of accommodation, and that of such places as there were, some had no seats, others had no doors, and some were without both. Some of the pits had not been emptied for two years. One of the school-rooms in the town, which had been used as such for more than thirty years, had never had a privy, though two were now building.”

Mr. *Pollard* said,

“He gave 5s. a year for the manure from a privy pit used, on the average, by the occupants of four or five houses. To this must be added the cost of leading.”

### CONCLUDING REMARKS.

Before concluding, I may be permitted once more to call attention to the very neglected state of the township, which forms the subject of the present report. It is certainly most limited in extent and population, yet in proportion it presents instances of every evil which the Public Health Act is intended to remedy.

Its supply of water is most scanty; the sewers are quite insufficient to carry off the town refuse; *of house drainage there is little or none*; and the privy accommodation is disgracefully insufficient.

In my judgment, the place is one that loudly calls for improvement, and one of the first steps to this end is the providing a proper and efficient governing body. Without the aid of the Public Health Act or some similar measure, there is no chance of this being done, as the township cannot sustain the expense of obtaining a Local Improvement Act.

#### I HAVE, THEREFORE, RESPECTFULLY TO RECOMMEND

That the provisions of the Public Health Act of 1848, except section 50, together with those of the Supplemental Act of 1850, be applied to and throughout the township of Eccleshill, in the parish of Bradford and West Riding of the county of York.

2d. That the Local Board of Health for such township consist of nine members, and that the qualification to act as a member of the same shall be the being seised or possessed of real or personal estate, or both, to the value of £250, or the being rated to the relief of the poor of such township upon an annual value of not less than £5.

3d. That the fourteen days' notice of qualification required by the Public Health Act of 1848 to be given by

owners of property, in order to entitle them to vote at the first election of the Local Board, be given to the person or persons appointed to conduct the same.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. RANGER,

*Superintending Inspector.*

*General Board of Health,  
Whitehall.*

LONDON:

Printed by GEORGE E. EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOOD,;  
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.

For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.