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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

CENTRAL BOARD OF HEALTH:

REPORT FOR 1892.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



CENTRAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1892.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

SIR,

WE have the honour to submit to you the following Report of the work of this Department in administering the Public Health Acts, the Vaccination Act, the Quarantine Act, and the Chinese Immigration Act, during the year 1892.

CENTRAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

1. There has been no change in the *personnel* of the Board or its administrative officers during the year.

LEGISLATION.

2. There was no legislation during the last Session of Parliament which directly affected the Acts administered by this Board. We have to request that during the next Session certain amendments may be introduced with respect to those Acts which our experience in their administration has shown to be necessary, and which have been called for by various Local Boards of Health.

By-laws concerning Milk Supply.

3. The first of these amendments is in connexion with the powers of Local Boards to make by-laws for controlling the milk supply of their districts. By the 22nd Section of the Public Health Act, 1885, the Local Boards are empowered to make by-laws for the purpose of carrying that Act into execution "within their jurisdiction." But in Hobart and Launceston, and some other towns, the chief sources of milk supply are often situated at places outside the jurisdiction of the Local Boards of the cities and towns, and their sanitary officers are more or less hindered in their work of ensuring the purity and wholesomeness of the supply by the fact that they cannot legally carry out the provisions of the second, third, fourth, and fifth sub-sections of the 27th Section of the above cited Act. We therefore suggest that the law be amended in such wise as that for the purpose of making by-laws on the matters mentioned in the above cited sub-sections of the 27th Section, all grazing grounds, dairy cattle, milk stores, dairies, and cowsheds belonging to or occupied by persons selling milk or sending milk to be sold within the district of any Local Board shall be held to be within the jurisdiction of the Local Board of such district.

By-laws for Prevention of Spread of Infection.

4. For the purpose of preventing the spread of infection many Local Boards of Health made by-laws to the following effect, and usually in the same terms—"patient" being interpreted as any person suffering from an infectious or contagious disease within the meaning of the Acts:—

Bringing Infected Persons into District.

Any person bringing any patient into the district, and any occupier of any house in the district receiving any patient so brought shall, within twenty-four hours of such bringing or receiving, give written information thereof to the Local Board. And the occupier so receiving a patient shall carry out and fulfil all such directions as the Officer of Health may give in writing for the prevention of the spread of infection and the preservation of the public health.

Conveying Infected Persons.

Any resident within the district being the owner of any public conveyance that has conveyed a patient shall give written information thereof to the Local Board within twelve hours of such conveyance, and shall carry out and fulfil all orders and directions that the Officer of Health or Inspector may give in writing for the disinfection of such public conveyance before it be again used for the conveyance of any passenger.

These by-laws were certified in all cases when forwarded to the Hon. the Attorney-General or to the Solicitor-General up till the end of 1891. But in connexion with some sets of by-laws containing them, forwarded for certificate last year, the Solicitor-General, on reconsidering the matter, declined to certify, holding that the Local Boards were not empowered to make them. Under these circumstances we have advised all Local Boards having such by-laws to hold them in abeyance. As it is evidently very necessary that Local Boards should have the powers sought to be obtained by these by-laws, we request that the Acts may be so amended as to include such matters among those for which by-laws may be made, and, if practicable, that the existing by-laws on the subject may be validated.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.

5. Several cases have recently occurred pointing out the necessity of altering the wording of the 10th Section of the Act of 1887. This Section, which replaces the repealed 80th Section of the Act of 1885, does not, we are advised, enact that infectious cases are to be reported when the patient attends at the doctor's house. We therefore suggest that first four lines of the Section cited be amended so as to read—"The legally qualified medical practitioner in attendance upon or advising any person suffering from small-pox, cholera, plague, yellow fever, or other malignant, infectious, or contagious disease, shall report the existence of such disease to the Local Board." In connexion with this matter of notification, we beg to call your attention to the manifest imperfection of the Returns we receive, as shown in a subsequent portion of this Report.

Transport and Exposure of the Bodies of Persons who have died of Infectious Diseases.

6. Cases have come to our knowledge of the introduction of infectious disease into a district by the bringing in of the bodies of persons who have died elsewhere of the disease. The 16th Section of the Act of 1887 deals with the exposure of such bodies in public places. It is desirable that Local Boards should have power to prevent exposure in private houses also, where the circumstances are often such as to render the spread of infection far more probable than in cases of exposure in public places.

Control of Sanitary Work.

7. The evils resulting from improperly and ignorantly constructed sanitary work in connexion with dwelling houses are well known. As such work is, when done, difficult and expensive to remedy, as from its nature it is usually covered up, it is important that it should be performed by competent and trustworthy workmen. To secure this, it is at present proposed in England and some of the other Colonies to allow such work to be done only by plumbers and tradesmen who have certificates of competency given by a duly appointed Examining and Licensing Board. The Metropolitan Drainage Board, in the Bill which was withdrawn during the last Session of Parliament, and which we understand is to be reintroduced in the next, asked for powers to make by-laws with respect to, among other things, "the registration and qualifications of plumbers and other tradesmen employed in connexion with the drainage and sanitary work of houses," and to make provision for "the examination of plumbers and tradesmen, and as to the conditions under which they may be authorised to do sanitary work." And recently we received from the Local Board of the City of Launceston a letter, stating that the Board, "fully impressed with the necessity of none but competent sanitary plumbers being allowed to do work in connection with the City Sewerage System, and with a view of securing such competency, venture to suggest that the Central Board establish a Board of Examiners, empowered to examine and issue certificates of qualification to sanitary plumbers," and asking us to give attention to the matter. Under these circumstances we would suggest that the Governor in Council should be authorised to establish such a Board with the necessary powers, and that legislative provisions should be made for securing that in Hobart, Launceston, and other towns in which there is a public water supply and system of sewers, no sanitary work in connexion with buildings should be done except by duly licensed and competent workmen.

Inspection of Sanitary Condition of Houses before Occupation.

8. To further secure the proper building of houses, from a sanitary point of view, we would suggest that legislative provision should be made that no house should be occupied or re-occupied until it had been inspected by the Health Authority of the District, and a certificate given as to its proper sanitary condition.

9. With reference to the last two recommendations, we would refer you for further information as to what has been done elsewhere to paragraphs 47 and 103 *et seq.* of Mr. Mault's Report on the Congress of Hygiene.

Towns without proper Sanitary Administration.

10. There are still some important and comparatively populous places in Tasmania without municipal government, and, consequently, without sanitary authorities with all the powers necessary

to carry out the provisions of Health Acts. During the past year the correspondence we had with you in reference to Invermay illustrated the evils resulting from this condition of things. There is at that place a comparatively large community, inhabiting a district urgently in need of drainage, but without any constituted authority able to take advantage of an opportunity to meet this need cheaply and effectually in connexion with the neighbouring city of Launceston. In like manner at the Town of Wellington, adjoining Hobart, there is also a large population in great need of having a proper sanitary service, but without any body empowered to organise such a service either independently or in conjunction with that of the City of Hobart. In both these cases we would urge the fulfilment of the suggestion we made in the correspondence referred to, that the requisite steps should be taken under the 184th Section of the Town Boards Act to establish municipal government. (See letters of our President, dated 20th September and 30th October, 1892.)

NOXIOUS TRADES.

Noxious Trades Area.

11. During the year land in the neighbourhood of Launceston that, in the opinion of our Engineering Inspector, was suitable with respect to position, means of communication, and water supply for a noxious trades area, was offered to the Board, but the manifest unwillingness of the Local Board of the City of Launceston—the body representing the community most interested in the matter—to accept the site, precluded us from recommending its purchase.

Noxious Trade Case at St. Leonard's.

12. For the information of other Local Boards we give the following report of the magistrates' decision in the case of *Hall v. Walkem*, brought before the Launceston Bench in May last by the Local Board of St. Leonard's. The lesson to be drawn from it seems to be that in such cases trading for profit must be proved as well as nuisance and the establishment of the business. The information was laid under Section 96 of the Public Health Act, 1885, and charged the defendant with establishing within the district of the St. Leonard's Local Board of Health, and without its consent, a noxious trade, namely, works for boiling down of bones. There was ample evidence of the boiling down of large quantities of bones, and of the nuisance caused thereby. The judgment proceeds—"It also appears that the boiled bones, with whatever meat was upon them, were thrown into a heap to which pigs and poultry had access, and presumably one of the reasons, if not the chief reason, for which the bones were steamed or boiled was to allow the pigs and poultry to feed on the cooked meat, but it does not appear whether anything was ever done with the cleared bones, although they had a certain commercial value. Under these circumstances the defendant contends that he is not liable within the terms of the Section, as he was boiling down or steaming bones, for private purposes—viz., for feeding his pigs and poultry—and was not carrying on a trade, business, or occupation for profit." The magistrates upheld the defendant's view stating that what the defendant did was not "a trade or business within the meaning of Section 96 of the Act." As the proceedings virtually effected the purpose for which they were instituted, the above decision was not appealed against.

Lead Works.

13. With the extension of silver-lead mining, and of industries connected with it, it is probable that special regulations will have to be made for the protection both of the public and of the miners and others employed. In connection with the latter, in answer to some inquiries made by the Board, Dr. Gibbons, the Officer of Health of the Zeehan Local Board of Health, reported to us in June—"I beg to inform you that I have made every enquiry about Plumbism in and around Zeehan, and the following are the facts. Dr. Kennedy says he had several cases during May, all of which were from the smelting works; and at present he has two cases under his care, both of which are doing well. Dr. Borthwick informs me that he has had two cases, both from mines, but none from the smelters. Each of these two cases have been typical—anaemia, the blue line, and colic with severe constipation; but both yielded to simple remedies. I myself have had five cases, three from the smelters, two from mines, each one typical, and showing pretty well the same symptoms. All my cases too, yielded very rapidly to treatment. I have heard casually of other cases occurring at the mines, but they have not come under medical treatment."

In addition to any regulations that may ultimately be made, our colleague, Dr. Barnard, Government Medical Officer, suggests that miners and smelters should be informed of the preventive value, as regards lead poisoning, of cleanliness. Petroleum oil is found very effectual in removing from the skin all lead and other metallic poisons.

Certifying Sanitary Condition of Inns.

14. Owing to the formation of Town Boards at Zeehan and Dundas, the number of public-houses to be inspected by our Officers decreased considerably. On the other hand, as the time allowed in "The Licensing Act, 1889," for the proprietors of old licensed houses to provide sufficient bedroom and stable accommodation, the inspection had to include the measurement of rooms and examination of stables. We do not think it by any means clear that the Legislature intended to throw upon the health authorities the onus of certifying the general accommodation of

public-houses apart from sanitary conditions ; but, after consultation with the Officers of the Local Board of Health of Hobart, we agreed to fulfil the further duties imposed, and, the more readily, as no other certified authority is named in the Licensing Act.

Public Buildings.

15. After examination of the plans and inspection of the structures after completion, we have approved of the opening of Public Buildings under the provisions of the 114th Section of the Act of 1885, in the Health Districts of Beaconsfield, Brighton, Ellesmere (2), and Hobart (2).

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notification.

16. We have again to express our regret at the manifest incompleteness of the notification of cases of infectious diseases. Taking the recent experience of Victoria, which, being the nearest of our neighbours, most likely best represents the characteristics of disease in Tasmania, the ratio of deaths to cases of typhoid fever was 10·20 per cent. during the past four years. The deaths from this fever in Tasmania during 1892 were 44, representing, if the above ratio is accepted, 431 cases ; only 256 were notified. In Hobart 13 deaths from the fever occurred (exclusive of deaths in hospital of cases brought in from outside the City), representing at the above ratio 127 cases ; only 78 cases were notified. With respect to diphtheria in Victoria, the present ratio of deaths to cases is about 20 per cent. The deaths in Tasmania from this disease during last year were 67, probably representing 335 cases ; of these only 219 were notified. In Hobart the deaths from among City cases were 39, probably representing 195 cases ; of these only 82 were notified. Among the fatal cases there were 11 which were not notified, but we could obtain no available evidence which would justify the institution of proceedings to recover penalties for the breach of the provisions of the 10th Section of the Act of 1887 relative to notification. When the proposed amendment of the Registration Act is effected, the compulsory certification of causes of death by the medical practitioner in attendance will afford some means of obtaining the necessary evidence of default of notification, but we would repeat, what we have already expressed to you in correspondence on this subject, that we should prefer the hearty co-operation of medical practitioners to be gained by getting their active interest in the matter to a system of notification dependent upon compulsion. With this end in view we called your attention to the English *Infectious Diseases Notification Act* of 1889, an Act that has secured a very perfect system of notification wherever it has been adopted, and that is in nearly every important place in the Kingdom.

Typhoid Fever.

17. The following table shows the number of cases of typhoid fever notified to the Board, and the number of deaths from the disease during each month of the year, as well as during each month of the four preceding years. The temperature and rainfall, being the means of the observations taken at Hobart and Launceston as far as they are available, are also given for the purpose of showing what influence they may have on the prevalence of the disease :—

MONTHS.	TEMPERATURE.					RAINFALL.					TYPHOID FEVER.										DIPHTHERIA.									
											CASES.					DEATHS.					CASES.					DEATHS.				
	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.	1892.
	F.°	F.°	F.°	F.°	F.°	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.																				
January	65.2	65.6	66.8	62.1	60.9	1.23	0.13	0.96	2.85	2.01	61	119	46	22	14	12	5	5	4	5	12	9	31	2	6	2	1	6	0	2
February	63.9	65.2	67.3	62.5	63.6	0.14	1.15	2.51	0.49	0.47	112	136	60	48	20	14	18	6	9	4	9	4	25	13	11	2	2	8	1	3
March	58.6	61.4	62.2	65.0	62.8	0.58	0.75	2.89	0.60	2.51	85	171	73	65	73	14	21	9	6	10	13	14	13	2	33	0	0	6	1	9
April	55.7	53.1	56.2	55.7	55.1	1.19	2.51	1.96	0.11	1.10	60	156	94	50	60	12	19	5	6	6	17	9	12	10	16	6	2	1	1	9
May	50.8	52.5	51.6	52.4	48.4	1.59	1.74	1.02	2.73	2.90	57	144	32	37	20	10	13	5	8	5	31	17	16	5	20	4	8	7	5	10
June	48.6	48.9	50.4	48.5	47.0	3.55	7.00	5.83	0.96	3.00	33	61	12	42	29	5	9	3	8	2	12	18	16	9	88	4	3	2	3	12
July	45.1	46.5	44.5	47.2	45.5	2.27	1.48	3.47	2.68	2.50	29	34	21	61	13	3	5	6	10	3	7	12	8	14	32	4	4	0	0	7
August	47.6	48.3	47.7	50.2	47.8	2.02	2.35	3.45	1.55	1.38	21	23	6	42	4	1	8	1	11	1	12	27	14	4	21	6	5	3	2	4
September	52.2	50.6	51.9	52.8	50.1	2.81	2.34	2.33	1.40	1.31	13	26	8	35	4	5	4	3	7	1	20	21	11	7	14	4	7	7	3	1
October	54.3	56.1	52.6	56.2	52.4	1.08	3.49	3.33	3.93	1.25	14	22	10	19	5	1	5	0	4	3	7	15	29	5	9	5	5	2	1	5
November	59.7	59.2	57.1	58.2	60.0	1.76	3.73	1.75	1.53	1.59	14	17	15	13	2	2	0	3	4	2	9	21	18	6	5	1	1	3	0	3
December	64.9	61.1	58.9	60.4	59.0	1.38	2.60	1.21	4.99	1.65	48	16	19	12	12	5	6	3	4	2	6	23	9	2	14	1	5	4	2	2
Whole year	55.6	56.1	55.6	55.9	54.4	19.60	29.27	30.71	23.82	21.67	547	925	336	446	256	84	113	49	81	44	155	190	202	79	219	39	43	49	19	67

18. It will be noticed that the number of cases of typhoid fever notified, and the number of deaths from it registered, show a great diminution when compared with any of the preceding four years. Only once during the last ten years has the death-rate from the disease been lower, in 1885. The mean number of deaths for the last ten years was 67, as compared with 44 last year. There is again evidence that there is some connexion between the prevalence of typhoid fever and the temperature of the season—the low temperature of the year accompanying the diminished mortality from the disease, and the high temperature of February being followed by the augmented cases and death rates of the succeeding month.

Diphtheria.

19. The foregoing table gives, in relation to diphtheria, similar information to that given in relation to typhoid fever. It seems probable that the lower temperature of the year acted as prejudicially in the case of diphtheria as it acted beneficially in the case of typhoid fever. The total number of cases notified was 219, and the total number of deaths from it 67; the numbers of both cases and deaths being the highest we have recorded. The mean yearly number of deaths for the preceding ten years was 27·5; and the highest number recorded in any preceding year was 49, in 1890.

Scarlet Fever.

20. There were 82 cases of scarlet fever notified during the year, and four deaths from it registered. The mean yearly number of deaths for the preceding decade was 5·4.

Influenza.

21. There were 16 deaths from influenza registered during the year, being a much less number than during the preceding year, when the deaths were 93 in number. The mean yearly number for the ten years 1882-1891 was 12·7, but excluding 1891, only 3·7. Early in the year we published and distributed copies of the recommendations made by the Medical Officers of the Local Government Board in England, and by the Health Officers of New South Wales, of the steps to be taken for the prevention of the disease.

Distribution of Infectious Disease.

22. The following table shows the distribution of Typhoid Fever, Diphtheria, and Scarlet Fever in Tasmania during the years 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, and 1892, as far as the cases have been notified to us under the provisions of the 10th Section of the Act of 1887:—

In the District of the Local Board of	Typhoid Fever.					Diphtheria.					Scarlet Fever.					TOTAL.				
	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892
Beaconsfield.....	5	46	3	4	4	...	31	48	5	3	7	4	...	...	...	12	81	51	9	7
Bellerive.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Boobyalla.....	...	3	...	1	1	...	2	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	6	1	1
Bothwell.....	1	...	5	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	4	1
Brighton.....	7	6	5	1	3	8	...	...	...	2	7	...	...	...	2	22	6	5	1	7
Burnie.....	...	...	6	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	2	1
Campbell Town.....	4	11	4	4	...	3	...	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	11	33	4	...
Carnarvon.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clarence.....	3	1	...	8	...	1	...	...	...	6	3	...	...	...	...	7	1	...	8	6
Deloraine.....	9	11	10	6	1	9	8	3	11	12	6	1	1	58	6	24	20	14	75	19
Derby.....	12	17	3	1	9	...	...	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	3	12	17	6	2	13
Devonport.....	3	5	1	...	...	2	...	12	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	7	5	13	1	...
Dundas.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ellesmere.....	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	17
Evandale.....	3	7	2	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	7	2	1	1
Fingal.....	6	6	...	1	...	6	...	8	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	12	9	8	4	...
Franklin.....	...	1	1	11	2	1	19	1	9	4	10	...	...	...	...	11	20	2	20	6
George Town.....	2	1	1	2	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	7	2	...
Glamorgan.....	...	...	1	1	...	...	15	...	...	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	1	1	19
Glebe Town.....	2	1	3	6	...	1	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	6	1	3	6	1
Glenorchy.....	4	33	2	6	3	3	3	2	...	2	2	1	...	...	...	9	37	4	6	5
Gordon.....	3	4	...	3	...	2	2	1	...	...	5	5	...	...	...	10	11	1	3	...
Gould's Country.....	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Green Ponds.....	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...
Hamilton.....	...	3	2	...	3	5	...	1	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	6	5	3	1	4
Hamilton-on-Forth and Don.....	1	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	6	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	6	...	...	7
Hobart.....	149	184	86	197	78	18	12	6	5	82	60	16	1	2	7	227	212	93	204	167
Invermay.....	9	23	7	5	6	1	5	10	1	2	...	...	1	...	7	10	28	18	6	15
Kentishbury.....	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	...	5	1
Kingston.....	6	1	...	1	...	...	3	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	4	6	1	...
Latrobe.....	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	1	1	...	1
Launceston.....	190	291	105	87	54	31	43	33	18	12	144	47	8	3	19	365	381	146	108	85
Lefroy.....	...	5	...	1	5	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	2	1	5
Leven.....	...	2	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...
Longford.....	11	94	2	18	12	3	4	1	2	...	...	8	11	28	8	14	106	14	48	20
Mersey.....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Mount Stuart.....	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New Norfolk.....	10	8	11	3	6	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	12	9	11	3	6
New Town.....	8	14	5	6	8	1	4	...	...	3	17	...	...	...	...	26	18	5	6	11
New Town, Rural.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Oatlands.....	...	1	4	5	1	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	4	...	3	1	5	7	5
Penguin.....	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	3	...	...	1
Port Cygnet.....	3	...	...	...	2	5	1	5	...	4	5	...	8	4	...	13	1	13	4	6
Queenborough.....	15	21	5	3	9	2	...	1	...	4	6	1	...	...	...	23	22	6	3	13
Queenborough, Rural.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Richmond.....	6	6	2	2	1	2	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	8	7	2	3	2
Ringarooma.....	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	7	...	...
Ross.....	3	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	1	...	7
Russell.....	...	2	4	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	2	4	1	...
St. Helen's.....	1	26	14	5	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	26	14	5	13
St. Leonard's.....	7	48	9	3	15	4	12	3	...	12	17	2	...	...	3	28	62	12	3	30
Scottsdale.....	7	2	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	22	...	...	...	...	4	7	2	3	1	27
Sheffield.....	1	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	1	...
Sorell.....	5	2	2	4	1	2	1	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	15	3	2	4	1
Spring Bay.....	...	4	1	1	...	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	4	4	1	3	2	...
Strahan.....	...	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...
Straits Islands.....	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2
Tasman's Peninsula.....	2	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	2	...	8	1	...	4	...
Trevallyn.....	2	1	3	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	2	2	2	5	3	...	3
Ulverstone.....	9	1	3	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	9	4	3	1	8
Upper Piper.....	25	4	1	1	...	12	5	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	37	9	2	3	1
Waratah.....	4	...	1	2	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	1	2	...
Weldborough.....	...	2	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	1	1
Westbury.....	8	14	3	4	1	7	4	8	...	...	3	13	1	1	7	18	31	12	5	8
West Tamar.....	...	1	3	2	1	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	2	3	2	1
Wynyard.....	...	...	11	1	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	11	2	2
Zeehan.....	...	...	...	15	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	1
TOTALS.....	547	925	341	432	256	164	195	208	69	219	317	107	31	100	83	1028	1227	580	605	558

Phthisis.

23. At our request, Mr. R. M. Johnston, the Registrar-General, has added Phthisis to the list of diseases of the mortality, from which he gives details in his monthly summaries. The deaths occurring in the various months were as follows:—January, 18; February, 5; March, 9; April, 5; May, 11; June, 11; July, 11; August, 12; September, 9; October, 2; November, 5; and December, 10; the total number being 108. This shows a less mortality from the disease than during any year of the preceding quinquennial period, when the mean number of deaths was 132.6. The climatological influence which most affects this disease appears to be not so much the temperature as the humidity of the air as shown by the rainfall. If the above monthly returns be compared with the table of rainfall given before, this connexion of rainfall with the mortality is

evident, the abnormally heavy rainfall of December, 1891, being followed by the abnormally great mortality of January, 1892: and month by month the mortality varies with the rainfall. The same variation marks the quinquennial period. In 1888, with a rainfall of 19·60 inches, there were 116 deaths from consumption; in 1889, with 29·67 inches of rain, 121 deaths; in 1890, with 30·71 inches, 138 deaths; in 1891, with 23·82 inches of rain, 134 deaths; and in 1892, with 21·67 inches, 108 deaths.

In the United States of America consumption is put into the category of infectious diseases as far as sanitary legislation and preventive measures are concerned. It is held to be "a distinctly preventable disease," that it is "not directly inherited," and that it is "acquired by the direct transmission of the tubercle bacillus from the sick to the healthy, usually by means of the dried and pulverized sputum floating as dust in the air." However much some of these statements may yet require proof, few will question the desirability of carrying out the measures suggested for the prevention of the spread of the disease:—

- 1st. The security of the public against tubercular meat and milk, attained by a system of rigid official inspection of cattle;
- 2nd. The dissemination among the people of the knowledge that every tubercular person may be a source of actual danger to his associates if the discharges from the lungs are not immediately destroyed or rendered harmless; and
- 3rd. The careful disinfection of rooms and hospital wards that are occupied or have been occupied by phthisical patients."

BOARDS OF HEALTH OF THE OTHER COLONIES.

24. There was the usual interchange of reports and other information with the Health Authorities of the other colonies. In connexion with the epidemic of cholera in Europe, and the introduction of smallpox into the Australian colonies by the steamship *Oroya*, what was virtually simultaneous and common action was taken by all.

QUARANTINE ACT.

Smallpox.

25. In the month of June information was received from Melbourne of the discovery of smallpox amongst the passengers landed there from the mail steamer *Oroya*. As it was known that there were passengers for Tasmania by that vessel landed at Melbourne, we obtained an order from the Governor in Council empowering and charging the Central Board to take all proper precautions. We obtained a list of the names of passengers for Tasmania who had been on board the *Oroya*, including some going through to New Zealand, and informed all Customs and Police authorities. Aided by the Medical Committee of the Hobart Hospital, we prepared and issued to all health officers and published in the *Gazette* special instructions with respect to the measures to be taken in relation to all such passengers and all who had come into contact with them. During the period in which there was danger from infection contracted on board the *Oroya* only three of the passengers arrived in Tasmania. One of them had been recently vaccinated, and stayed but three days in the colony. Two others were vaccinated and kept under observation for the needful time. All vessels arriving from the other colonies were medically inspected. Fortunately no cases of the disease appeared in Tasmania, and when the other colonies declared their ports clean the special quarantine measures were suspended.

Cholera.

26. In September, in consequence of the epidemic of cholera prevailing in Europe, all European ports and Egypt and India were notified by proclamation of the Governor in Council to be places infected within the meaning of the Quarantine Act, and instructions were given to all officers of health at the ports of the colony to carry out the provisions of the Act with respect to all vessels arriving from those places. Regulations were made for dealing with any emergency that might arise, but happily they were not needed. We also asked for power with regard to the disinfection of goods coming in from Germany. At the end of the year the special medical inspection made in consequence of the proclamation was discontinued.

LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH.

27. We again gladly bear testimony to the manner in which the various Local Boards of Health of the Colony have generally co-operated with us in carrying out the provisions of the Health Acts.

Beaconsfield.

28. The Officer of Health of this district had nothing special to report for the year. There was a diminution in the number of cases of infectious diseases reported; the number for the year (seven) being the lowest for the past five years.

Bellerive.

29. A Town Board having been elected in this town, the local administration of the Health Acts is in its hands. It has passed By-laws, which have been duly confirmed by us. No cases of infectious disease were notified during the year.

Boobyalla.

30. The Local Board appointed Mr. C. G. Jackson to be its Officer of Health, and the appointment was confirmed by us. On the report of the local Inspector we gave instructions for closing two houses near Brothers' Home as unfit for human habitation, unless the proprietor properly cleansed and repaired them. Only one case of infectious disease was notified.

Bothwell.

31. The By-laws made by the Local Board were certified by the Solicitor-General and allowed by the Board. The appointment of Mr. H. A. Reed as Officer of Health was confirmed. Only one case of infectious disease was notified.

Brighton.

32. The health of this district was not so good during the past year as during the preceding one, and the Local Board took special steps to disseminate information as to measures and precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of infection. At its request we called the attention of the Education Department to the condition of the public school at North Bridgewater.

Burnie.

33. The Local Board amended its 4th By-law for the better regulation of slaughter-houses, and the amendment was certified by the Solicitor-General, and confirmed by us. At the request of the Waratah Local Board we asked the Burnie Board to have two dairies in their district which supplied milk to Waratah inspected and reported upon. It was found that the two dairies had not been registered, and the Local Board thereupon instructed its Inspector to take proceedings to enforce the By-laws for dairy regulation.

Campbell Town.

34. The Local Board passed a set of By-laws, which were duly certified by the Solicitor-General, with the exception of the By-laws referred to in the 4th paragraph of this Report, and confirmed by us. The district had a clean bill of health for the year so far as infectious diseases are concerned.

Carnarvon.

35. The town of Carnarvon had also a clean bill of health for the year.

Clarence.

36. There were six cases of diphtheria (one of which was fatal) reported from this district. Apart from these, the health of the district was good.

Deloraine.

37. With the exception of a slight increase in the number of cases of diphtheria reported, the health of this district was much better than in the preceding year. In connexion with the prevalence of diphtheria, the local medical practitioner recommenced the closing of the public school for a time.

Derby.

38. There is no Local Board in this district, and its sanitary affairs have consequently to be administered by us. The health of the district was not good, nine cases of typhoid fever having been notified. Many of the dwellings in the district are old huts that are only occasionally occupied when mining is brisk, and that are hardly fit for human occupation. We sanctioned the building of a slaughter-house, to be fitted up in accordance with the By-laws. After due inspection, we gave the certificates required under the Licensing Act to two inns in the town.

Devonport.

39. The Local Board has a well organised system of monthly inspection, and the reports thereof sent to us show that the work is well done. The Inspector's complaints of the want of drainage induced the Local Board to again ask us to support their application to Government for a grant in aid of the expense of sewerage the town. We readily did so, but without effect. We declined a similar request to support their application for a grant in aid of establishing a sanitary service, and recommended the Board to levy a rate for the purpose. The town had no notified case of infectious disease.

Dundas.

40. At the beginning of the year this district formed part of the Health District of Zeehan, for which we were acting as Local Board. Our Inspector paid the district a visit and examined the proposed depositing-place site. One of our members, the Rev. J. Oberlin-Harris, who lives in the

neighbourhood, also advised as to the cemetery site and sanitary matters. During the year a Town Board was elected, which takes over the sanitary administration as Local Board of Health of the town. No cases of infectious disease were notified.

Ellesmere.

41. In the earlier months of the year diphtheria was very prevalent in this town; thirteen cases in all were notified. Supplies of disinfectants were sent. The Local Board appointed Mr. C. G. Jackson to be its Officer of Health, and his appointment was approved by us; but he has since left the district. The Local Board passed a code of by-laws, which were duly certified and confirmed.

Evandale.

42. The Local Board passed by-laws which, with the exception of the two before mentioned relative to infectious diseases, were certified by the Solicitor-General and confirmed by us.

Fingal.

43. No cases of infectious disease were notified from this district.

Franklin.

44. There was an improvement in the health of this district during the past year when compared with the preceding one. Dr. Madden, the Officer of Health of the Local Board, calls our attention to the nuisance arising from the thick growth of ti-tree on the swampy flats bordering the Huon River near the settlements. The swamps are partly flooded every tide, and he recommends the clearing of the almost impenetrable scrub upon them. He says:—"When a low barometer prevails the smell from these swamps is anything but pleasant, and puts me very strongly in mind of the smell from tropical mangrove swamps in fever districts. Of course it is much the worse in summer time, and must be anything but agreeable to visitors. That the cause of this smell might be got at by the remedy above suggested, viz. by burning off, I am strongly inclined to believe, and for the following reason:—Mr. Thomas Barnett has a small frontage of this kind at the corner of New Road and Main Road, Franklin, which used to be one of the vilest smelling spots in the place before he cleared it; but since he cleared it the smell has not been noticed there. Of course, if some of these places were drained as well as cleared it would be much better."

George Town.

45. This district had a clean bill of health for the year.

Glamorgan.

46. The Local Board of this municipality were greatly occupied during the year by a severe visitation of diphtheria of a virulent type, and accompanied with a high rate of mortality. Orders of the Governor in Council were obtained under which the infected localities were isolated; trained nurses were employed to take care of the sick among the poorer classes; supplies of disinfectants were sent and freely used. The first cases occurred in well-to-do families, occupying houses from which the usual causes of disease were apparently absent. It is therefore difficult to account for the origin and spread of the disease. But it is very probable that the outbreak of 1889 and 1892 may be connected with the very remarkable climatic change that has occurred in the district, as evidenced by the sudden, and thus far unaccountable change in the yearly rainfall. For the five years ending 1888 the yearly rainfall at Swansea varied from 16.88 inches in that year to 31.32 inches in 1886, and with a mean rainfall of 22.97 inches for the period. In 1889 the rainfall rose to 45.21 inches, and the mean for the three years ending 1891 was 43.49 inches. As this remarkable change in the hygrometric condition of the air was coincident with the prevalence of diphtheria, it is probable that there may be some connexion of cause and effect.

Glebe Town.

47. The health of this town showed a great improvement during the year, only one case of infectious disease being notified.

Glenorchy.

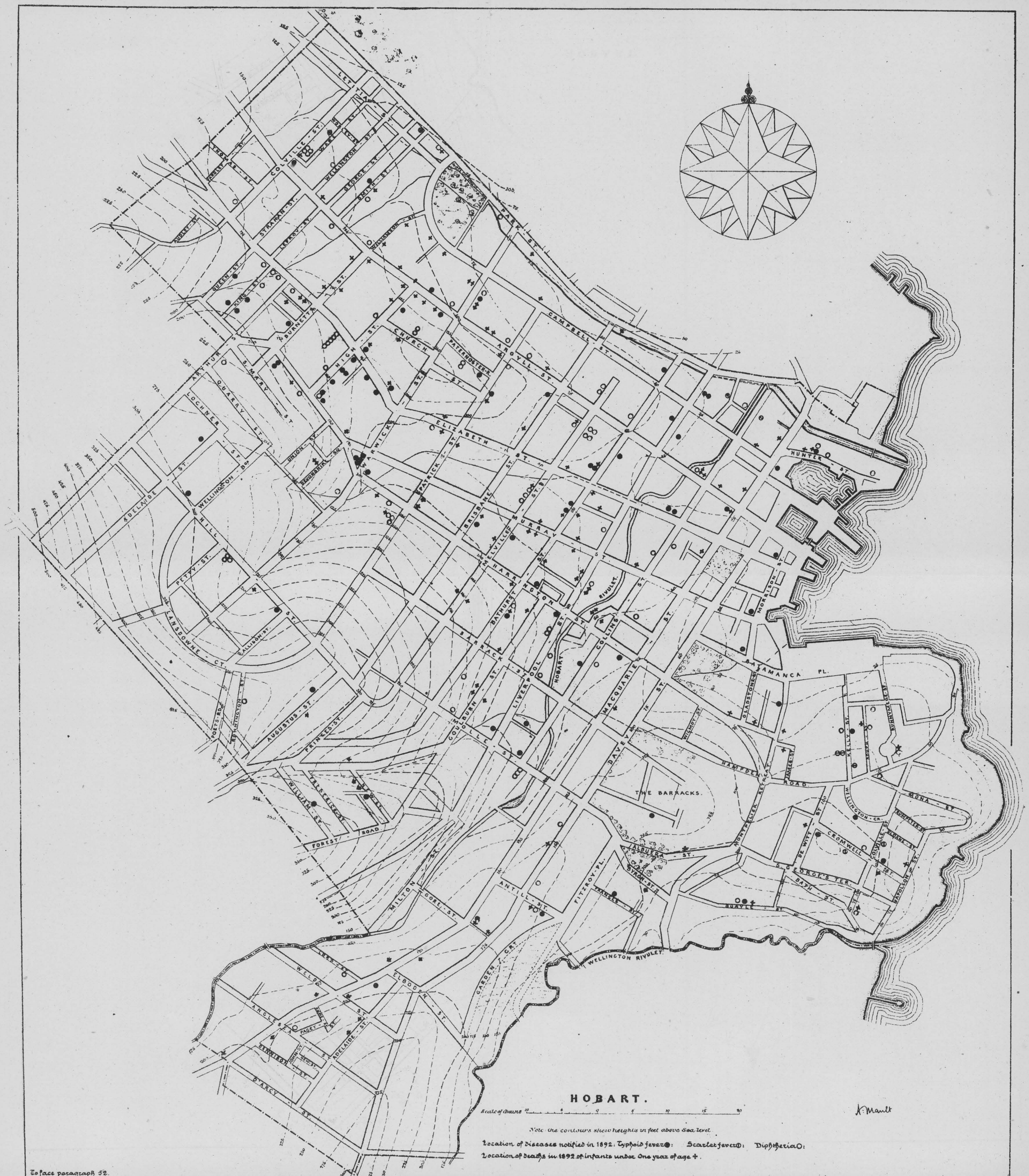
48. The Local Board was applied to on the subject of allowing the Local Board of Hobart to have a depositing place for nightsoil in the district. It was strongly objected to, and we upheld the objection.

Gordon, Gould's Country, Green Ponds.

49. The three districts above mentioned had clean bills of health for the year.

Hamilton.

50. The Local Board passed a code of by-laws, which were duly certified by the Solicitor-General and confirmed by us.



HOBART.

Scale of Chains 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

Note the contours show heights in feet above Sea level.

Location of Diseases notified in 1892. Typhoid fever: Scarlet fever: Diphtheria:
 Location of deaths in 1892 of infants under One year of age +.

A. Mant

Hamilton-on-Forth and Don.

51. There were six cases of diphtheria in this district, and due precautions were taken for the prevention of the spread of the disease.

Hobart.

52. The year was marked by a great diminution in the number of cases of typhoid fever, but, unfortunately, this favourable feature was more than counterbalanced by the great increase in the number of cases of the yet more fatal disease diphtheria. The accompanying map shows the distribution of the notified cases, hospital cases being marked at the residence of the patients before removal. In looking at this map it must be borne in mind that, as mentioned in paragraph 16 of this Report, it is probable that about fifty more cases of typhoid fever and more than a hundred more cases of diphtheria ought to have been marked thereon, but as they were not notified their location is not known. Thirty-five more cases of infants' deaths should also have been marked, but, partly owing to the refusal of all the undertakers to whom we applied to furnish any information, we could not find out the exact domicile. Five of these deaths occurred in Macquarie-street, four in Liverpool-street, three in Warwick-street, two in each of the following streets:—Argyle, Bathurst, Brisbane, De Witt, and Elizabeth, and one in each of eleven other streets.

During the year we sanctioned, under the provisions of the 140th Section of the Act of 1885, the use of land at Maria Point, in Ralph's Bay, as a depositing-place for the disposal of the nightsoil of the City, and for the cleansing of the pails used in the sanitary service. The land is far removed from all dwellings, and its use is not likely to cause any incommmodity to the neighbourhood.

The Men's and the Women's Sanitary Associations have continued their efforts during the year to improve the healthiness of the City and suburbs, and we heartily appreciate their work. We greatly regret to notice that this appreciation does not seem to be shared by the local sanitary authorities. In the case of sanitary law, more than in the case of any other law, it is necessary in order to secure ready obedience to have the hearty co-operation of the people generally, and such co-operation should be welcomed from whatever quarter it may come. Experience in England has shown that friendly unofficial inspection and visitation is often more effectual in eliciting the kind of information that is wanted than official inspection is. We feel assured that if working in harmony with, and sometimes even under the direct instigation of the sanitary authorities, these Associations, especially the Women's Association, would be found to be very much more useful than they can be under existing conditions. We would commend for imitation the example of some of the principal sanitary authorities at home. In his last Report (for the quarter ending 31st December, 1892), Dr. Tatham, the well-known Medical Officer of Health of the City of Manchester, while speaking of preventive measures, makes honourable mention of the work done by a similar Association there. He says—"In the course of the recent quarter, the Female District Visitors, under the joint supervision of the Ladies' Health Society and Medical Officer of Health, have paid 6337 'house-to-house' visits to poor people; they have made 930 special inquiries on behalf of the Medical Officer of Health into cases of infectious disease or of death, and have also made to him 545 special reports on sanitary defects which have come to their knowledge in the course of their daily rounds." Why should similar agency for similar work be neglected here? We sincerely hope that both the Local Board of Health on the one side, and the Associations on the other, will do all that is necessary to bring themselves together to heartily co-operate in the improvement of the health of the City.

Invermay.

53. We have already, in paragraph 10 of this Report, referred to the unsatisfactory condition of things in this Health District, caused by the want of a proper sanitary authority with rating powers. As there is no Local Board of Health, we are acting as such under the provisions of the Act of 1887, and we are continually feeling the powerlessness of our position to satisfactorily deal with the complaints we have from time to time received from the Local Board of Launceston as to the sewage flowing from this District into the neighbouring part of the City at Inveresk.

After due inspection by Superintendent Armstrong, our local Inspector, we gave the certificates required by the Licensing Act to three inns in the district. The health of the district was not so satisfactory as during the preceding year.

Kentishbury.

54. The health of this district was good during the year, only one case of scarlatina being notified. But it is probable that other cases occurred.

Kingston.

55. This district had a clean bill of health for the year as far as infectious diseases are concerned.

Latrobe.

56. The only case of scarlatina notified was said to have been imported from Railton, in the Kentishbury Health District. The work of improving the house drainage in the town was continued.

Launceston.

57. The year was marked by a further improvement in the health of the city. The table of the distribution of infectious diseases before given throws a continual and marked decrease in the number of cases year by year since 1889. The accompanying plan shows the distribution of the notified cases, and the localities in which occurred the deaths of infants under one year of age: it has been prepared from information supplied by Mr. Bushman, the Sanitary Officer of the city.

An outbreak of typhoid fever occurred at Patersonia, in the St. Leonard's Health District, and in a situation from which the drainage might affect the Launceston water supply. The city and local authorities took measures of precaution, and no ill effects followed.

The Local Board requested that the services of our Engineer's Inspector might be granted, so that he might act in consultation with the City Surveyor in relation to the sewerage of Inveresk and part of Invermay, a request that we gladly granted. The Engineering Inspector also paid several visits to the city in connexion with the proposed Noxious Trades Area, and also in connexion with a proposed cemetery on the northern side of the city. The question of closing the existing graveyards within Launceston is one which urgently needs immediate attention.

The sewerage of the city is continually being extended. Very soon the necessity will arise of dealing with the sewerage of adjacent and contiguous suburban districts naturally draining into the city. In such cases it would be impracticable for any local suburban authority to effectually deal with the sewerage, as it must be taken through part of the city, and, in the case of the southern suburb, through a considerable part of it. We would suggest either that the boundaries of the city of Launceston should be extended so as to embrace all the natural drainage basin in which it lies, or that this natural drainage basin should be constituted a Drainage Area by special legislation, and placed under the control of the City Council acting as a Drainage Board with all necessary powers.

Lefroy.

58. The health of this district was not so good as during the preceding year, five cases of typhoid fever having been notified. The Local Board occupied itself with the framing of By-laws, the want of which was felt in connection with the slaughtering arrangements of the place.

Leven.

59. This district had a clean bill of health for the year.

Longford.

60. There was a considerable number of typhoid fever and scarlatina cases notified in this district, though not so many as during the preceding year.

Mersey.

61. This district having no Local Board, has to be administered by the Central Board in sanitary matters. It had a clean bill of health for the year. After inspection the certificates required under the Licensing Act were granted to the innkeepers.

Mount Stuart.

62. The Local Board of this town passed a code of By-laws, which were duly certified, confirmed, and gazetted. Two cases of typhoid fever were notified from a locality which showed the desirability of having a better water supply and better means of drainage. All necessary precautions were at once taken by the Local Board.

New Norfolk.

63. There were more cases of typhoid fever in this district than during the preceding year. No cases of other infectious disease occurred.

New Town.

64. During the year the election of a Town Board for the town was necessarily followed by the resignation of the Local Board of the district, and the transfer of its duties, so far as the town is concerned, to the newly elected Board. This new Board framed a very complete set of By-laws under the Health Acts, which were duly certified and confirmed.

The infectious diseases marked in the table before given chiefly occurred previously to the election of the new Board, and the necessary inspections and preventive measures were taken under the direction of the former Board.

Rural New Town.

65. The portions of the old Health District of New Town, not comprised within the town boundaries, were constituted a separate Health District by proclamation of the Governor in Council, and a Local Board appointed consisting, for convenience of administration, of the same members as the Town Board. For the year under review it is not practicable to separate the diseases notified in the district between the urban and rural portions—so in the preceding table they are all given under the heading of New Town.

Sketch Plan of LAUNCESTON

Scale of 0 10 20 30 Chms

The contours are approximate heights in feet above mean high water level

Location of Diseases notified in 1892: Typhoid fever - ●, Scarletina - ○, Diphtheria - ○

Location of Deaths in 1892 of infants under one year of age - +

from information supplied by R. Bushman

A. Mant.

Oatlands.

66. There was a small outbreak of scarlet fever in part of this district, but on the whole the health of it was better for the year.

Penguin.

67. Here, as also in some other Health Districts, some difficulty has been experienced in connexion with the registration of dairies. Our advice has been that what should be kept in view is not the collection of comparatively large fees, but the securing of proper inspection for insuring a pure milk supply. We have been advised that the acceptance of a smaller fee than that mentioned in the By-law would not invalidate the registration; and in the case of small dairies in districts where the fee is comparatively a large one, such reduction of its amount might be desirable.

Port Cygnet.

68. In connexion with an outbreak of diphtheria in this district, we were asked to send a medical man to attend to the cases until they could be removed to the Hobart Hospital. As this was impracticable, we forwarded the advice of the Hospital authorities as to the course to be adopted until the removal could be effected. As this advice may be useful in similar circumstances, we here repeat it—"Keep child isolated. Paint throat every two hours with strong solution of boracic acid, or else with solution of sulphurous acid (*not* sulphuric acid), one part to four parts of water. Also give ten drops of tincture of perchloride of iron every four hours if child be over six years old, or half doses if under that age."

Queenborough.

69. This district is now divided into two, the urban portion having been proclaimed under the Town Boards Act and a Board elected, which is now the Local Board of Health. It has framed By-laws under the Health Acts, which have been duly certified, confirmed, and gazetted. The health of the district for the year was not good, nine cases of typhoid fever and four of diphtheria having been notified. One of the typhoid cases occurring in a dairyman's house, the sale of milk had to be stopped. As one of the larger cemeteries connected with Hobart is in this district, the Local Board had to intervene in reference to a temporary burial at a shallow depth.

Rural Queenborough.

70. This part of the former district has been redefined, and is still under the jurisdiction of the original Board, which had charge of the whole district. For the past year its infectious disease returns are given, together with those of the urban district. The most unhealthy portion of the rural district is certainly the township of Wellington, to which we have made reference in the tenth paragraph of this Report.

Richmond.

71. The health of this district was good during the past year.

Ringarooma.

72. This district had a clean bill of health for year so far as infectious diseases are concerned.

Ross.

73. There was a small outbreak of diphtheria in this district, and the Local Board at once took all precautions to prevent the spread of infection. The family in which the outbreak occurred were furnished with the bedding necessary for the children from the stores, kindly placed at our disposition by the Superintendent of the Charitable Institution at New Town.

Russell.

74. This district is still without a Local Board, and its sanitary administration devolves upon us. It had a clean bill of health for the year. The certificates required by the Licensing Act were given in the case of three inns after some necessary work had been done.

St. Helen's.

75. The year was marked by a severe visitation of typhoid fever, thirteen cases having been notified. The Local Board moved in the matter of obtaining a better cemetery site for the district—the existing ones being badly situated and badly drained. Acting under the Solicitor-General's advice, proceedings were taken to compel obedience to an order made by the Local Board upon the proprietor of a swampy piece of land in the town, to abate the nuisance caused by its unwholesome condition. The proprietor lived in Queensland, and advantage had to be taken of the Federal Council's Australasian Civil Process Act, 1886. The proceedings have been interrupted by the death of the proprietor.

St. Leonards.

76. Both typhoid fever and diphtheria were very prevalent in this district during the year. At Young Town the public school had to be twice closed, once in consequence of the outbreak of scarlet fever among the children, and once on account of diphtheria. The outbreak of typhoid fever at Patersonia has already been alluded to in connexion with the Launceston water supply. Our

Engineering Inspector visited the district for the purpose of advising in the matter of the noxious trade case before referred to. There was again a gross instance of overcrowding in a cottage at Prospect Village. In consequence of scarlet fever occurring at the post office at Hadspen, the postal business had to be temporarily transferred to the police office.

Scottsdale.

77. This district, in which we are acting as Local Board, suffered from an epidemic of diphtheria, of which 22 cases occurred. The public school at Jetsonville was closed for a time. In connexion with cases in a dairy supplying Launceston, the business was removed, and the Launceston authorities apprised of the steps taken. We appointed Mr. C. S. Richardson, a duly qualified medical practitioner, to be Officer of Health of the district.

Sheffield.

78. This town had a clean bill of health as regards infectious diseases.

Sorell.

79. The health of this district was also very good, only one case of infectious disease being reported.

Spring Bay.

80. A false alarm as to the occurrence of diphtheria put us to some expense in making special travelling arrangements in connexion with sending patients to Hobart Hospital. Fortunately, no outbreak occurred.

Strahan.

81. This district had a clean bill of health for the year. A site for slaughter-yards was granted by the Government in a suitable site with a frontage towards the harbour. Our Engineering Inspector paid a visit to the town. As there is no Health Officer for this district special arrangements had to be made in connexion with the arrival of passengers who had been on board the *Oroya*—the mail steamer upon which a case of smallpox had occurred.

Straits Island.

82. Two cases of infectious disease from the Furneaux Islands were treated at Launceston. A very general wish was expressed by the people on these islands to obtain the services of one of the public vaccinators—a wish that was subsequently given effect to.

Tasman's Peninsula.

83. Dr. Smith, Health Officer of the district, reports that no cases of zymotic disease occurred in the district, and the death-rate was below the average.

Trevallyn.

84. The health of this township was fairly good, only one case of typhoid fever and two of scarlatina being notified.

Ulverstone.

85. Scarlet fever was prevalent, but otherwise the health of the town was good. The Local Board has occupied itself with the drainage and water supply of the town, and has retained the services of Mr. Brown, C.E., for the purpose of preparing the necessary plans. At its request we sent our Engineering Inspector to confer with the Board and its Engineer on the matter.

Upper Piper.

86. The health of this district was good during the year, only two cases of infectious disease having been notified—one of chickenpox and one of diphtheria.

Waratah.

87. The Officer of Health of this district, Dr. Brewis, reported that only one case of typhoid fever occurred during the year, and the necessary steps were taken to prevent the spread of the infection. There was an epidemic of influenza during the last three months of the year, chiefly affecting the young, and often complicated with bronchitis and pneumonia. One of the passengers from the mail steamer came to Waratah, where he was kept under the observation of Dr. Brewis for the necessary period.

The Local Board passed By-laws, which were duly certified, confirmed, and gazetted.

Weldborough.

88. An amended By-law of the Local Board of this district was duly certified, confirmed, and gazetted. There was but one case of infectious disease notified.

Westbury.

89. Except for the prevalence of scarlet fever amongst the children in some parts of the district, the health during the year would have shown a great improvement. There was only one case of typhoid fever reported, the lowest return for five years.

West Tamar.

90. Only one case of infectious disease was notified in this district.

Wynyard.

91. Two cases of typhoid fever were notified from this district. In consequence of the Chairman of the Local Board leaving the district, another member was appointed by the Governor in Council, and was elected Chairman.

Zeehan.

92. In the town, which gave its name to the Health District, a Town Board was elected which became the Local Board of Health, and the township a separate health district. Mr. C. S. Gibbons, the Health Officer of the former Board, was appointed to the same office under the Town Board acting as Local Board. In his report he complains of the want of attention paid by occupiers to the underground and surface drains lately made. He says—"In spite of all these drawbacks, I am pleased to state that no epidemic occurred during the year, and this I attribute to the heavy rainfall of nearly 88 inches, which has doubtless done what the people failed to do for themselves—flushed the gutters, and washed away refuse that otherwise might have become putrid. The death-rate of Zeehan must compare favourably with that of other towns, and bears a good comparison with the births." He gives a table showing 73 births for the year and 15 deaths, of which 5 occurred among infants under one year of age.

BY-LAWS.

93. During the year fourteen Local Boards have passed new or amended By-laws, which have been duly certified, confirmed, published in the *Gazette*, and laid on the Table of both Houses of Parliament. The following Local Boards are still without any By-laws under the Public Health Acts:—Brighton, Carnarvon, Deloraine, Dundas, Fingal, Glenorchy, Green Ponds, Hamilton-on-Forth, Kentishbury, New Norfolk, Oatlands, Richmond, Ringarooma, Ross, Sheffield, Sorell, Spring Bay, Ulverstone, Westbury, and Zeehan; by some of these Boards the needful steps are being taken to prepare By-laws, and it is very desirable that they should be by all.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

94. The unusually large number of 114 Chinese immigrants arrived in Tasmania during the year, of whom 87 landed and were examined at Launceston and 27 at Hobart. It was found necessary to vaccinate ten of them—seven at Launceston and three at Hobart.

VACCINATION.

95. The effect of the suspension of the compulsory clauses of the Vaccination Act is still seen in the almost complete cessation of the practice of vaccination. We have felt bound, in view of the possible introduction of smallpox into the Island at any time, to keep up a certain supply of calf lymph so as not to be taken unprepared. The little excitement caused by the arrival of a few of the *Oroya* passengers resulted in the vaccination of a few more children than during the preceding year, 177 having been brought to the vaccinators, as compared with only 6 in 1891. Of the 177 children the vaccination of 4 was postponed; of the remainder 151 were seen on the eighth day and 22 not seen; of the 151 seen, 144 were successfully vaccinated and 7 were failures. The final Report of the Royal Commission on Vaccination in England, if issued, has not yet been received here.

CONCLUSION.

96. In conclusion, we have to express our hearty thanks for the assistance we have received from other Departments of the Government in connexion with our work, and especially to the Law Officers of the Crown, the Commissioner of Police and his staff, and the Government Analyst.

We have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

P. O. FYSH.

C. E. BARNARD, M.D.

CHAS. HARBOTTLE.

J. OBERLIN HARRIS. (Except par. 3.) *

WILLIAM PERKINS.

J. WEMYSS SYME.

FRANCIS J. YOUNG.

A. MAULT, *Secretary.*
Hobart, 31st May, 1893.

* Note by Mr. Harris:—"I do not approve of the suggested By-law about milk. It does not appear to me to be wise to allow one Board to interfere in any way with the district of another."