

of a given size, but there would be no security that they would therefore be opened.

The table already given shows that many cottages contain only a single bed-room, and hardly any more than two. Cottages, however, have been erected with a third sleeping-room, and indeed I have done it myself, but without producing the result intended. The third, and even the second, are made the means of increasing the income of the occupier, by underletting them, rather than of promoting the decency which was the object. The animal wants are far more importunate than the proprieties of life, and I believe there is small chance of refining a pauper population by Act of Parliament. A cottage which is adapted only for a small family will be occupied by a larger one if it can be obtained at a lower rent, and the labourer who builds his house for himself will necessarily erect but a hovel, unless he be prohibited from building altogether.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM DAY,

*Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.*

*The Poor Law Commissioners.*

#### No. 17.

ON THE STATE OF THE LABOURING CLASSES IN THE MANUFACTURING DISTRICTS OF LANCASHIRE, CHESHIRE, DERBYSHIRE, AND STAFFORDSHIRE.

BY CHARLES MOTT, ESQ.,

*Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.*

GENTLEMEN,—The inquiry which her Majesty has been pleased to direct to be made, as to the extent to which the causes of contagious diseases prevail in the various parts of England, and the several points to which I am required by the circular from your Board, dated 8th November, 1839, to direct my attention, involve questions of such magnitude and importance, more especially as regards this extraordinary district, that I despair of being able, from the nature of my other engagements, to supply all those minute points of information so essential to a right understanding of the condition of the working classes of England; I am compelled to offer my observations to the Board in an irregular and unconnected form, and my Report will necessarily be as concise as the nature of the communications which I have to make will allow.

The circumstances promoting the prevalence of contagious and

infectious diseases in large towns in the district assigned to me will be reported to your Board by several eminent and experienced medical gentlemen, who have most kindly volunteered their valuable assistance in furtherance of the important objects of the inquiry.

I have, nevertheless, thought it my duty to submit extracts from the reports of several union officers, all tending to establish the necessity for some immediate remedial measures.

There are many points of inquiry, intimately combined with the social and domestic condition of the labouring classes, into which I have been led whilst procuring information upon the subject of their dwellings.

It might be considered out of place to offer any observations upon them in this report; but the growing importance of all matters connected with the social and physical condition of the manufacturing population renders it desirable that a minute inquiry should be made into the general habits of the working classes, in order, if possible, to institute some means whereby to check that reckless waste so common amongst them in all their domestic arrangements.

Mr. Bland, medical officer of the Macclesfield union, gives the following statement of the dwellings of the poor in the township of Macclesfield:—

“In a part of the town, called the Orchard Watercoates, there are thirty-four houses without back doors, or other complete means of ventilation; the houses are chiefly small, damp, and dark; they are rendered worse with respect to dampness, perhaps, than they would be, from the habit of the people closing their windows to keep them warm; to these houses there are three privies uncovered. Here little pools of water, with all kinds of offal, dead animal and vegetable matter, are heaped together, a most foul and putrid mass, disgusting to the sight, and offensive to the smell; and thus contagion spreads periodically itself in the neighbourhood, and produces different types of fever and disorders of the stomach and bowels. The people inhabiting these abodes are pale and unhealthy, and in one house in particular are pale, bloated, and rickety.

“In King-street there are fifty houses without back doors. Fever of the most severe and fatal kind is often to be met with in this neighbourhood; the inhabitants of these houses are far the worst part of the lowest English and Irish paupers. In themselves they are improvident; the houses indifferently furnished; a frying-pan, stool, and box for a table I have seen the only pieces of furniture; the bed on the floor; their clothes are dirty and ragged, and their stockings full of holes, and often without shoes, so that in wet and severe weather malignant fever and inflammation are prevalent. I have attended a family of six in one room, and four in a bed, in this street. The cellars of one or two houses on the right I have seen receptacles of dung and other refuse matter, upon the removal of which the stench was so bad as to cause much illness in the neighbourhood.

“In the Danes there are thirty-four houses without back doors, a

great number being double houses. The soil here is of a clayey nature; and there being no drains, the surface gutters are constantly filled with putrifying matter. The privies are quite open; and an inhabitant observed to me lately that, since her residence in this neighbourhood, death had visited every house round about.

"On Bank Top and vicinity there are one hundred houses without back doors. It is fortunate that the situation here is elevated and exposed to the full play of the north-east winds from the Derbyshire hills; but even with such advantages disease is very prevalent in this district. The houses are of the second and lowest class of cottage property.

"The same remarks apply to the parts called Step Hill, Gutters, Bunker's Hill, and neighbourhood. On the east side of the old church there are from thirty to forty houses without back doors. The privies all about this neighbourhood are a most disgusting sight, added to the collection of the refuse water from the houses above, produce a most offensive odour.

"There are forty on the common at the Smelt House without back yards, and numbers at a place called Soho: they are of the description of cottage dwellings, and surrounded by great accumulations of filth and collections of stagnant water, winter and summer. They who breathe the largest dose of the exhalations of such poisoned matter, it will be seen, are the people who inhabit these wretched abodes, and whose strength of constitution and weakened state render them incapable of resisting such exposure.

"I am now attending several fever cases in the above-named places, brought on evidently from the improvidence of the parties themselves. Their houses scarcely contain a particle of furniture; a few broken cups, jugs, and saucers appear on the shelves in the house-place, straw in the room above for the bed, and the coverlid a straw mattress. Besides being exposed to the noxious agents in these localities, there is the present unhealthy state of the atmosphere, arising from the open winter, producing, as it does, measles, scarlet fever, small-pox, and a typhoid fever among children of a very bad kind. Such cases, and they are really very numerous among the lowest class of English and Irish poor, form a very heavy tax upon the town, for with their broken-down constitutions, the effects of intemperance, and the pernicious influence of animal and vegetable poisons they are constantly and unconsciously subject to, produces, as it enters the blood by the lungs, various diseases in their feeble constitutions, which are no sooner relieved than they appear again as formidable as ever."

*Mr. Weston*, clerk to the Cheadle union, states that—

"A great number of the cottages of the lowest class are ill built, small, and miserably defective in those arrangements that are so essential to ventilation and cleanliness; generally small puddles are found close to the buildings, into which dung and decayed vegetables are thrown; these frequently prove a source of miasmatic effluvia.

"Few of these cottages have more than two rooms, an under and an upper one; the man, wife, sons, and daughters sleeping in the same apartment, a practice I have no doubt productive of great moral evil. In some of the parishes the house, or, more properly speaking, the hovel,

often contains but one room, the dimensions varying from six to ten feet square; the interior of these wretched holes is most miserable, the families are huddled together, seldom a casement in the window, the door is generally closed, and when opened a noisome stench meets the visitant."

*Mr. Thomas Rowley*, relieving officer of Leek union, informs me that—

"The cause of the extension of fever may readily be traced to the want of cleanliness and ventilation; houses in this neighbourhood often consist of only one room, without windows, in which the inmates, varying from three to thirteen in number, live and lodge. They are often made of mud; sometimes there are two apartments, the least of which is occupied by a horse, ass, cow, or pig. The odour arising is often so great as to make it dangerous to enter their dwellings. Privies are never seen; dung and all kinds of filth are scattered about near their dwellings."

*Mr. George Wheelhouse*, relieving officer, Eskington district, Chesterfield union—

"Wherever contagious fever occurs, it invariably begins in situations where want of ventilation and inattention to general cleanliness are most remarkable."

*Mr. George Livesay*, relieving officer, Northwich union—

"The cottages built now have seldom gardens attached to them. I consider the comforts of the poor would be greatly increased if they had plots of ground in connexion with their cottages.

"Naked walls compel the occupants of premises, when out of work, to go for relief; whereas in places where they have plots of ground, they generally provide for winter by growing potatoes, keeping a pig, &c.

"Sickness has prevailed, and, I believe, commenced in the lowest description of property, and among those of slovenly and disorderly habits."

*Mr. Daniel Charlton*, relieving officer, Stockport union—

"The small-pox has been prevalent in the township of Hyde and Werneth; it is supposed to have been introduced into the township of Werneth by vagrants in the lodging-houses there. The typhus fever has been prevalent in the lowest class of houses, in Hyde principally, where the drainage is indifferent, and where inattention to cleanliness on the part of the occupants is apparent."

*Mr. John Wright*, relieving officer, Tamworth union—

"Some of the houses in the back streets and courts of Tamworth, particularly those comprised in Class No. 1, are in a wretched state with respect to the common conveniences of life, being adjacent to stagnant ditches and pools of water, and having only one privy, common to many houses, and hemmed in with piggeries, &c., most of these houses having no back doors, the consequence of which is, that fevers and other disorders, generated by filth and malaria, are very prevalent, particularly in humid weather."

*Mr. Elias Barlow*, relieving officer, Wolstanton and Burslem union—

"The townships of Knutton and Chesterton have been visited with fever for several months; and it still continues its raging influence, particularly in Knutton, the reason of which appears to me to be want of drainage, owing to the houses having been built upon low marshy ground; and also want of ventilation, owing to the houses being too small, and having no back doors. It first made its appearance in the lowest class of houses, but has since extended to others."

*Dr. Howard* states—

"I have recently had three cases of fever in one house, in a small confined court in Back Factory street. The house is inhabited by seven persons, and consists but of two small rooms, about ten feet square, in one of which all these individuals sleep upon the floor, for they have no bedsteads and very little bed-covering."

"The passage to this court is almost impassable from filth, and directly opposite the house in question is placed an open cesspool, which is the only receptacle for all the refuse and excrementitious matter from the whole court, and many of the neighbouring houses."

The following statement was made to me by *Mr. Watkinson*, the intelligent relieving officer of Chorlton-upon-Medlock union—

"In a cellar in Reform street, Jenkinson street, a family, consisting of a man, his wife, and two children, income 10s. per week, out of which they pay 1s. 9d. rent. A very damp cellar, in which there is a privy over the food cupboard, the filth from which up to a late period had completely soaked through, causing a constant unpleasant smell, and, as the wife states, no doubt caused the death of one of her children. Cellar in Market street, Charles street, occupied by a man and his wife, with another man and his wife and one child, as lodgers. These five persons eat, drink, and sleep in one room 3½ yards by four, in front of which, within three-quarters of a yard of the door, is a stagnant pool or hole, capable of holding about two buckets of water gathered by rain, and when full must be laded out, otherwise the dwellings would be flooded; in summer this hole creates a loathsome smell."

"Cellars are very damp and unwholesome for dwellings, each row having at one end a privy soaking through to the cellars underneath it. In cellars there are generally persons and families in a state revolting to humanity."

"The greatest privation the inhabitants of cellars experience is want of fire; they deem it essential to have a fire by night as well as by day; and when this cannot be obtained, the damp air is overpowering to the constitution, and this, added to the scantiness of bed-covering, brings on a variety of diseases."

"There are also some small dwelling-houses nearly as damp as cellars, and, to keep them inhabited, landlords suffer a portion of the rent to fall into arrear, and when a tenant complains or expresses a wish to leave, they are threatened with an execution."

"A case of this sort was a heavy tax to the township to which the family belonged: sickness was constantly there. I required the family to move; at the same time directed the tenant to promise the landlord to pay off the arrears at a few pence per week; the landlord refused to

accede to this offer. I then gave peremptory orders for removal, at the same time giving notice to the landlord that, in case of his levying an execution, I should replevy, as there would be no difficulty in proving that the house was not tenantable. After this, another of my paupers, a widow, took the same house, and in a few days was attacked with fever and rheumatism. I requested her to quit, and she did so. The landlord was very wroth and took preliminary steps to bring an action against me, but he thought it more prudent to retrace them."

"I was sent for to visit a case in Silver street, Hulme; the woman was found so severely diseased that, to effect a removal to the hospital, I was compelled to hire a coach; on looking round, I found there was only one bed, and was then informed that the diseased woman had for many weeks laid in the same bed with the man and his wife, the occupants of the cellar."

"In another cellar, a few weeks since I found a woman, who had sent to me to afford relief, and who had been delivered of a child in the same bed occupied by a man and his wife, in which she had several weeks been accommodated."

"In a lodging-house, consisting of one sitting-room and one bed-room, in the bed-room there were three beds, in one of which were an aged man, his son, and a lodger; in another was the aged man's wife and two daughters, one fifteen and the other twenty; in the third was a family of lodgers, consisting of a man, his wife, and child."

"Several cases have come under my notice where husband and wife and a whole family lay in one room; great boys and girls resting upon one (so called) bed. On bringing such cases before the Board of Guardians of the Chorlton union, I have always received instructions to remedy them. I have not been called upon to furnish means for interment of any child belonging to the union, as having died of scarlet fever or measles, although these disorders have prevailed extensively for the last two months; although, as registrar of our district, I have registered as many as 17 in one week from these causes, and am registering at least 10 deaths weekly as an average at this period. Having registered the births of many of these children, I can speak to their having been inmates of dirty, stinking dwellings, and of their parents being of filthy appearance and loathsome smell. In many cases I have been compelled to retire to the door to perform my duties, in order to avoid the most offensive stench. Many of these were in houses not subject to the same want of drainage and ventilation as the cellars, but where cleanliness only is wanted to make them healthy. I have not registered of late one child said to have died of fever or measles having parents of the middle or higher classes of society."

Of the existence of this state of society I could only give one continued chain of proofs, the recital of which would be painful and disgusting in the extreme.

#### COMPARATIVE ECONOMY.

It is unquestionably true that the deplorable state of destitution and wretchedness, the existence of which is too notorious to be desired, might in most cases have been averted by common prudence and economy. In the manufacturing towns, the aggregate

income of a family is comparatively large, but the practice of allowing children and youths to receive and appropriate their own wages renders, from so many heads of profuse expenditure, the separate incomes quite inadequate, which, under combined and economical management, would be more than sufficient to supply the wants of a large family.

The ruinous state of ignorance in all matters of domestic economy under which they live entails upon them habitual destitution in their household managements.

The disgusting habits of self-indulgence, in both males and females, at the beer and spirit-shops, with their want of economy in expending their weekly income, keeps them in a continued state of destitution and filth, and explains the reason why some families of the labouring classes support themselves in cleanliness and comparative comfort with limited means, whilst others, with the largest amount of income, are always to be found in a state of want and wretchedness. The following cases will serve as examples:—

#### *Contrast in the Economy of Families.*

1.

Cellar in Wellington-court, Chorlton-upon-Medlock; a man, his wife, and seven children; income per week 17. 11s.; rent 1s. 6d. per week; three beds for seven, in a dark, unventilated back room, bed-covering of the meanest and scantiest kind—the man and wife occupying the front room as a sleeping-room for themselves, in which the whole family take their food and spend their leisure time; here the family is in a filthy destitute state, with an income averaging 3s. 5½d. each per week, four being children under 11 years of age.

2.

Cellar in York-street, Chorlton-upon-Medlock; a man a hand-loom weaver, his wife and family (one daughter married, with her husband forms part of the family). comprising altogether seven persons; income 2l. 7s. or 6s. 8½d. per head, rent 2s. Here, with the largest amount of income, the family occupy two filthy, damp, unwholesome cellars, one of which is a back place without pavement or flooring of any kind, occupied by the loom of the family and used as a sleeping-room for the married couple and single daughter.

3.

John Salt, of Carr Bank (labourer), wages 12s. per week; a wife, and one child aged 15; he is a drunken, disorderly fellow, and very much in debt.

1.

In a dwelling-house in Chorlton union, containing one sitting-room and two bed-rooms. A man, his wife, and three children; rent 2s. 6d. per week; income per week 12s. 6d., being an average of 2s. 6d. per week for each person. Here, with a sickly man, the house presented an appearance of comfort in every part, as also the bedding was in good order.

2.

In a dwelling-house, Stove-street, one sitting-room, one kitchen, and two bed-rooms, rent 4s. per week. A poor widow, with a daughter also a widow, with ten children, making together 13 in family; income 1l. 6s. per week, averaging 2s. per head per week; here there is every appearance of cleanliness and comfort.

3.

George Hall, of Carr Bank (labourer), wages 10s. per week; has reared ten children; he is in comfortable circumstances.

4.

William Haynes of Oakmoore (wire-drawer), wages 17. per week; he has a wife and five children; he is in debt, and his family is shamefully neglected.

5.

George Locket, of Kingsley (boat-man), wages 18s. per week, with a wife and seven children; his family are in a miserable condition.

6.

John Banks, of Cheadle (collier), wages 18s. per week, wife and three children; his house is in a filthy state, and the furniture not worth 10s.

7.

William Weaver, of Kingsley (boat-man), wages 18s. per week, wife and three children; he is a drunken, disorderly fellow, and his family entirely destitute.

8.

Richard Barlow, of Cheadle (labourer) wages 12s. per week; wife and five children, in miserable circumstances, not a bed to lie on.

9.

Thomas Bartlem, of Tean (labourer), wages 14s. per week, his wife earns 7s. per week, five children; he is very much in debt, home neglected.

10.

Thomas Johnson, of Tean (blacksmith), wages 18s. per week, his wife earns 7s. per week, three children; he is very much in debt, and his family grossly neglected.

4.

John Hammonds, of Woodhead (collier), wages 18s. per week; has six children to support; he is a steady man, and saving money.

5.

George Mosley, of Kingsley (collier), wages 18s. per week; he has a wife and seven children; he is saving money.

6.

William Faulkner, of Tean (tape-weaver), wages 18s. per week; supports his wife and seven children, without assistance.

7.

Charles Rushton, of Lightwood-fields, wages 14s. per week; he supports his wife and five children in credit.

8.

William Sargeant, of Lightwood-fields (labourer), wages 13s. per week; he has a wife and six children, whom he supports comfortably.

9.

William Box, of Tean (tape-weaver), wages 18s. or 20s. per week; supports his wife in bad health, and five children.

10.

Ralph Faulkner, of Tean (tape weaver), wages 18s. or 20s. per week; supports a wife and five children, three of them are deaf and dumb.

There are circumstances attending the local position of Manchester which might be urged in palliation of some of the habits of the working classes.

There are no public walks or places of recreation by which the thousands of labourers or families can relieve the tedium of their monotonous employment. Pent up in a close, dusty atmosphere from half-past five or six o'clock in the morning till seven or eight o'clock at night, from week to week, without change, without intermission, it is not to be wondered at that they fly to the spirit and beer-shops and the dancing-house on the Saturday nights to seek those, to them, pleasures and comforts which their own destitute and comfortless homes deny.

Manchester is singularly destitute of those resources which conduce at once to health and recreation. With a teeming popula-



tion, literally overflowing her boundaries, she has no public walks or resorts, either for the youthful or the adult portion of the community to snatch an hour's enjoyment.

The prospect of obtaining any wide area to be appropriated as a public walk or otherwise for the use of the labouring classes becomes more remote each year, as the value of the land within and in the neighbourhood of the town increases.\*

The town council of Liverpool has in the most praiseworthy manner instituted an inquiry into the condition of the poor of that town. It is proposed to erect baths for the accommodation of the poor, and to establish public walks and places of recreation for the public, at an expense of 100,000*l.*; should this be accomplished, it will indeed be creditable to the liberality and attention of the legislature of that important town.

The princely gift of Mr. Strutt to the town of Derby for the recreation of the inhabitants of that important and increasing town is beyond all praise.

#### DWELLINGS.

An immense number of the small houses occupied by the poorer classes in the suburbs of Manchester are of the most unsubstantial character; they are built by the members of building clubs, and other individuals, and new cottages are erected with a rapidity that astonishes persons who are unacquainted with their flimsy structure. They have certainly avoided the objectionable mode of forming underground dwellings, but have run into the opposite extreme, having neither cellar nor foundation.

The walls are only half brick thick, or what the bricklayers call "brick noggin," and the whole of the materials are slight and unfit for the purpose.

I have been told of a man who had built a row of these houses; and on visiting them one morning after a storm, found the whole of them levelled with the ground; and in another part of Manchester, a place with houses even of a better order has obtained the appellation of "*Pickpocket Row*," from the known insecure nature of the buildings.

I recollect a bricklayer near London complaining loudly of having to risk his credit by building a house with 9-inch walls, and declared it would be like "*Jack Straw's house*," neither "*wind tight nor water tight*!" his astonishment would have been great, had he been told that *thousands of houses* occupied by the labouring classes are erected with walls of 4½ inch thickness.

The building land is not let, as in the south, on lease, but on a perpetual ground-rent, or chief-rent as it is called here, at per square yard, and not, as in London, at per foot frontage.

The chief rents differ materially according to the situation, but

\* History of Manchester.

are in all cases high; and thus arises the inducement to pack the houses so close.

They are built back to back, without ventilation or drainage; and, like a honeycomb, every particle of space is occupied. Double rows of these houses form courts, with perhaps a pump at one end and a privy at the other, common to the occupants of about twenty houses.

I have not been able to obtain any correct return of the number of houses built by the various building-clubs or societies.

A gentleman conversant with these subjects informed me that there had probably been, from the commencement, 150 of these building societies. Taking each club at 100 shares of 100*l.* each, there must have been raised in this manner for building cottages 1,500,000*l.*; and calculating each house to cost 60*l.*, which is a high average, there has been not less than 25,000 houses erected by building societies in Manchester and the adjacent townships.

These building clubs have doubtless induced many to adopt frugal habits, in order to become owners of cottages; but I am afraid it will be found that the promoters of them are not free from selfish and interested motives.

The members engage to pay by subscription or instalment 10*s.* per month.

Thus every second month, in a club of 100 shares, they have 100*l.* available for building; and this is disposed of in the following manner:—

A day is fixed when the amount is to be tendered for, and those who will make the greatest sacrifice, or allow the largest discount, may obtain the amount.

If a member have fixed upon a spot and is desirous of building a cottage, he is perhaps induced to offer 10*l.* for the immediate payment of the 100*l.*; another may probably offer 15*l.* or 20*l.*, that is to say, they are willing to receive 80*l.*, 85*l.*, or 90*l.* present payment for their 100*l.* share in the society.

Their monthly instalments, to complete their engagements to the club, are secured by a mortgage upon the houses, the money being only advanced as the building progresses. In this manner a member is enabled to get a house built in his own name by the time he has paid 20*s.* to the society.

The first applicants for the money are those who have the strongest inducements to procure the advance and offer the largest discounts. The heavy discounts allowed for the advances, and the forfeitures by non-performance of the conditions, enable those members who can wait, and are interested in establishing these societies, to get abundantly paid for their outlay and exertions.

The following statement, published by the "*Manchester Statistical Society on the Condition of the Working Classes*," prepared by a committee from information obtained by personal visits

from house to house, by four intelligent agents, at considerable cost to the society during the years 1834, 1835, and 1836, will serve to explain, to a certain extent, the nature of the dwellings of the manufacturing population in Manchester:—

Rents of the Dwellings examined.

				Number of Dwellings.		
				Manchester.	Salford.	Total of Manchester and Salford.
Paying a weekly rent of 1s. and under				184	12	196
Ditto exceeding	s. d.	1 0, not exceeding	s. d.	2935	950	3885
Do.	do.	1 6	do.	3585	1200	4785
Do.	do.	2 0	do.	4913	1711	6624
Do.	do.	2 6	do.	4939	2068	7007
Do.	do.	3 0	do.	3121	1298	4419
Do.	do.	3 6	do.	3031	949	3980
Do.	do.	4 0	do.	1614	465	2079
Do.	do.	4 6	do.	1226	428	1654
Do.	do.	5 0	do.	582	141	723
Do.	do.	5 6	do.	393	85	478
Do.	do.	6 0	do.	346	46	392
Do.	do.	6 6	do.	87	30	117
Do.	do.	7 0	do.	101	5	106
Do.	do.	7 6	do.	161	31	192
Do.	do.	8 0	do.	46	4	50
Do.	do.	8 6	do.	18	1	19
Do.	do.	9 0	do.	97	15	112
Rents not ascertained				807	99	906
				28,186	9538	37,724

28,186 dwellings in Manchester at an average weekly rent of 2s. 11½d.  
9,538 dwellings in Salford, average weekly rent 2s. 10d.

37,724 dwellings in Manchester and Salford, weekly rent 2s. 11d.

By this statement it appears that of the number of dwellings visited, amounting to 37,724, the average weekly rental of 8,866 of these dwellings averaged only 1s. 6d. per week.

No just estimate, however, can thus be formed of the actual rentals paid by the poorer classes in large towns for their miserable dwellings, nor of the state of degradation to which thousands of them are reduced.

The occupants of the night asylums are chiefly tramps and beggars, the customary tenants of the lowest lodging-houses, who find a mug of coffee, with half a pound of bread, a warm room, and a blanket, far preferable to the filthy crowded lodging-houses, with four or five inmates in a miserable bed, at 3d. each.

Mr. Walker, the proprietor of an extensive silk-mill at Patri-

croft, near Manchester, describes the crowded state of an Irishman's house near his mill some time back. The man was employed by Mr. Walker as watchman, and lived in a cottage of three small rooms, near the premises, without back door or windows. Mr. Walker had engaged some fresh hands from a distance, and was desirous of procuring lodgings for them near their work; he asked the Irishman if he could accommodate them in his house; Paddy regretted that he had not room, and added, "*Faith, I turned out thirty of them to the mills this morning;*" so that at 9d. per week each, he would receive at the rate of near 40l. per annum, as rent for the house for which he probably paid 2s. 6d. per week.

One shilling may be considered as the minimum weekly rent at which the owners or landlords will let their cellars or rooms, or take the trouble to collect; but on inquiry I have found that a second or intermediate class of landlords are interested, and that these shilling rentals are again sub-let and divided by the tenants to a still more needy class; and the rooms are not considered fully occupied while there is space for others to "pig," or stow themselves on the floor; and the accommodation is sought by men and women of the lowest grade, without reference to sex or decency.

On asking the relieving officer of the Chorlton-upon-Medlock union if he knew that such a practice prevailed, he replied, "Oh yes, it is very common; I know a woman who has taken a small cellar at 1s. per week, and she is desirous of having one or two lodgers to assist her in paying the rent."

In short, all my experience would confirm the opinion entertained by Mr. Walker, the late stipendiary magistrate of Lambeth-street, that "if facilities were offered, there is no conceivable degradation to which portions of the human species might not be reduced; if you will give the accommodation, you will get the occupants. If you will have marshes and stagnant waters, you will there have suitable animals; and the only way of getting rid of them is by draining the marshes."

An exposition of this deplorable state of society would perhaps imply censure on those to whom the police or municipal arrangements are entrusted; but no blame can fairly be attributed to the local authorities.

In no place in England can more anxiety be shown to remedy the evils which I have described, or more humane and philanthropic desires evinced to improve the condition of the poor, than those which exist on the part of the wealthier classes in Manchester; and the following statement, made up to the end of October in the past year, of the improvements within the last eight or nine years, since the obtainment of the Manchester Police Act in 1830, will prove that the Commissioners have not been



TABLE showing the cost of Erection, Weekly Rents, Interest on the Capital invested, and the numbers of Tenements and Cottages occupied by the Poor and Labourers; taken from Returns made by the Relieving Officers of their respective Districts, in 24 Unions in the Counties of Cheshire, Stafford, Derby, and Lancaster.

	No. 1. Lowest Class of Cottages, average 1s. 3d. per Week, or £3. 5s. per Year, allow- ing for Repairs, &c.			No. 2. Second Class of Cottages, average 2s. 3d. per Week, or £5. 15s. per Year, allow- ing for Repairs, &c.			No. 3. Third Class of Cottages, average 3s. 6d. per Week, or £9. 2s. per Year, allow- ing for Repairs, &c.			Population.
	Number of Tenements or Cottages.	Average cost of erecting each Cottage. £.	Interest on the Outlay or Capital invested. Per Cent.	Number of Tenements or Cottages.	Average cost of erecting each Cottage. £.	Interest on the Outlay or Capital invested. Per Cent.	Number of Tenements or Cottages.	Average cost of erecting each Cottage. £.	Interest on the Outlay or Capital invested. Per Cent.	
Congleton . . . . .	1,168	47	7	2,035	66	8½	395	94	9½	26,377
Macclesfield . . . . .	2,481	38	8½	3,864	60	9½	2,557	84	10½	50,639
Stockport . . . . .	3,457	28	11½	5,032	53	10½	6,436	98	9½	68,906
Altrincham . . . . .	1,200	49	6½	1,352	79	7½	540	101	9	30,139
Northwich . . . . .	1,615	52	6½	2,121	75	7½	212	89	10½	26,906
Nantwich . . . . .	1,994	47	7	1,158	74	7½	471	108	8½	30,992
Lichfield . . . . .	1,281	34	9½	1,227	68	8½	320	148	6½	22,749
Newcastle . . . . .	1,502	57	5½	1,135	78	7½	251	136	6½	16,476
Stoke-upon-Trent . . . . .	2,181	45	7½	5,610	60	9½	946	90	10½	37,220
Woolstanton and Burslem . . . . .	2,292	50	6½	2,993	90	6½	295	150	6½	23,567
Tamworth . . . . .	1,278	47	7	376	69	8½	134	117	7½	12,175
Cheadle . . . . .	1,438	40	8½	805	67	8½	169	101	9	14,473
Uttoxeter . . . . .	672	29	11½	471	40	14½	..	..	..	12,837
Burton-upon-Trent . . . . .	2,100	40	8½	1,270	90	6½	125	115	7½	24,667
Leek . . . . .	1,281	47	7	650	63	9½	104	86	10½	18,387
Chapel-en-le-Frith . . . . .	713	60	5½	215	79	7½	95	123	7½	10,448
Hayfield . . . . .	270	50	6½	534	80	7½	627	140	6½	9,493
Glossop . . . . .	142	60	5½	559	80	7½	1,050	90	10½	9,631
Bakewell . . . . .	2,519	58	5½	424	87	6½	74	146	6½	25,879
Chesterfield . . . . .	1,969	45	7½	2,618	70	8½	128	105	8½	31,246
Belper . . . . .	3,324	40	8½	2,542	67	8½	661	107	8½	33,388
Derby . . . . .	1,035	45	7½	2,855	75	7½	1,026	155	5½	25,484
Salford . . . . .	680	53	6½	3,741	46	12½	5,445	75	12½	52,366
Chorlton-upon-Medlock . . . . .	527	44	7½	2,463	54	10½	4,261	83	10½	46,465
	37,119	40*	8	46,050	65	8½	26,322	92	9½	663,890

\* General Average.

or nearly three-fourths of the population living in houses at weekly rents from one shilling to four shillings each.

Of the first or lowest class, averaging 1s. 3d. per week rent, the occupants are of the poorest description of persons, paying frequently one-fourth of their income for rent; by which the landlords or owners realize about eight per cent. net on the outlay; whilst the dwellings are without ovens or boilers, and are often filthy, damp, and unfit for habitation; generally deficient of privies, or drainage; or, in manufacturing towns, one privy to 10 or 15 houses.

The second class of dwellings are occupied by a better class of labourers, paying about one-sixth of their incomes for rent; producing, perhaps, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. to the owners as interest on their capital; and although many of them are very defective, as regards drainage and privies, they are still much better provided than the class before described; and many of them have ovens or boilers.

Of the *third* or *best* class, the occupants being generally more skilled and a better paid class of workmen, whose rent amounts to about one-eighth of their income, producing 9 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. on the outlay to the owners; and here we find far superior accommodation and comparatively comfortable dwellings, well drained, and provided with privies; frequently gardens, and in most of them ovens or boilers.

These results confirm the lamentable fact, that the lower the poor are reduced in the social scale, the more are they subject to imposition and extortion.

The cottages erected by the manufacturers, and other respectable owners of cottage property, are very superior in every respect to those built or purchased by avaricious speculators, whose sole object is gain, and who enforce the payment of their rents with rigid severity. They are moreover commodious, clean, white-washed, and in many cases have the advantage of school-houses.

I confess that I entered on this inquiry with a strong impression that the owners of cottage dwellings realized a much larger per centage on the cost of the buildings than what the returns prove to be the fact.

One advantage the manufacturers or employers of labourers certainly possess,—they are enabled to secure their rents, by deducting the weekly amount from the wages of their tenants; but the dwellings of this description possess so many advantages of cleanliness and comfort, and the tenants exhibit such an improved condition, both moral and physical, as compared with the occupants of the inferior cottages, that the change would be well purchased at a much greater cost.

I had noticed an appearance of neatness and comfort about the cottages in the Glossop union, the townships of which, I believe, belong entirely to His Grace the Duke of Norfolk; and on ex-



pressing to T. Ellison, Esq., the Duke's agent, my wish to obtain some information as to the cost and other particulars, he promptly and kindly furnished me with a most satisfactory account in a letter, of which the following is a copy :—

MY DEAR SIR,

*The Hall, Glossop,  
December 16, 1839.*

"I shall be happy in affording you the information which I can command in reply to your various inquiries respecting the cottages or dwelling-houses of the operative classes in this locality, viz., 'the Glossop Union.'

*The state of the Dwellings.*—"The state of the dwellings inhabited by the labouring classes are, generally speaking, of a substantial and superior character; built of stone, of which the district furnishes an abundant supply, of an excellent quality, and roofed with stone slating, of a strong and durable kind, and floored on the basement with stone flagging. The size of these dwellings will, generally, in external dimensions, be about 30 feet long, by 15 feet wide; the thickness of the walls about 20 inches, and the height of the rooms about 7 feet 9 inches. A dwelling of this description furnishes the inmates with the accommodation, upon the ground-floor, of a good front-room, in which the family live, and at the rear of which is a back-kitchen, or rather scullery, and also a pantry or cellar, used for both purposes, and generally forming a sub-story to the limited extent of it. The back-kitchen communicates by a door with the yard, which contains the necessary conveniences of privy, pigsty, and coal-house.

*Size of the Building Plots.*—"The plot of ground, including the site of the dwelling, and the garden and yard for one cottage, will, upon an average, be about 150 square yards, taken upon a lease for 99 years, at an annual ground rent not exceeding, generally, and sometimes being under, one penny per square yard.

*Cost of Building, Rent, and cost of Repairing.*—"The dwellings now described form the usual habitations of the working classes; and the average cost of them may be fairly estimated at 90*l.* each. This outlay will return 7*l.* per annum, as the gross rental, the net amount being (after deducting ground rent, parochial rates, and taxes, and allowing 7½ per cent. for repairs) 5*l.* 15*s.* per annum, or 6¼ per cent. upon the outlay.

*Cellars and Drainage.*—"The ground rents upon which the cottage property is generally let within the Glossop union being moderate in its amount, there is little or no inducement for the construction of cellars, to let off as inhabited dwellings; and the consequence is, that no such nuisances exist in the cottage-houses of the district. From this circumstance arises a much greater facility of drainage, afforded by the superficial character of the drains required, and this added to the ready fall obtained from the undulating surface of the country, affords a ready, cheap, and ample drainage for the rapid transit of the impure and filthy waters into the mountain torrents, which rapidly flow through the valley.

*Ventilation.*—"This most important desideratum is secured by attending to the construction of the dwelling-houses of the working-classes in a more isolated form than they are generally found in manufacturing districts. The houses are generally built upon detached plots of ground,

varying in extent from what is necessary for from 1, 2, 3, or 4, to as many as 8 or 10 houses, which form a distinct property; the buildings of which do not abut upon any adjoining ones, but admit of an intermediate vacant space for ventilation and separate access.

*Masters' and Workmen's Dwellings.*—"The cottages which have been the subject of the previous explanation are those constructed by the working-classes, out of the surplus produce of their labour; and constitute within the Glossop union a large proportion of the whole of the dwellings of the district. The cottages constructed by the master manufacturers for their workmen are of a similar character, but, generally speaking, arranged in large numbers, but nevertheless provided with the advantages of a good ventilation, drainage, and spacious roadways. These habitations are let, generally, for about 7*l.* per annum, the rent being paid weekly, and the parochial rates generally paid by the landlords.

*How far the character of the Dwellings affects the habits of the Inmates, whether owners or occupiers.*—"In the cottages built by the masters, every convenience of fixtures is provided by them, and the tenants have only their moveable furniture to provide. Their tenancies are, of course, of a precarious character, and subject to the abrupt termination of a week's notice to quit; consequently the persons occupying these buildings are not in the same independent condition as those who dwell in their own houses. Under the influence exercised by their employers, their habits of cleanliness, order and good conduct may be considered to a certain extent the result of regulations beneficially imposed upon them by their masters. I shall, therefore, refer to that portion of the labouring classes who occupy their own houses. Amongst them there is a decided improvement in their habits, feeling, and conduct. Their acquisition of the means to build their own houses proves their industry—their obtaining a permanent stake in the soil naturally creates in them a feeling in favour of the protection of, and not the destruction of, property; and in consequence their conduct is marked by an abstinence from those proceedings of riot, insubordination, and violence, which have so recently outraged the peace and threatened the life and property of the manufacturing districts. There is also this essential difference between the labouring man who is owner of his own habitation and the workman who is the casual occupier. Under the depression of trade, which often produces almost instantaneous destitution, the occupying workman becomes the immediate applicant for parochial relief, and indifferent as to the resumption of his labour and the exercise of his industry in maintaining himself and family, if he can obtain maintenance at the workhouse. On the other hand, the property of the operative owner of his house furnishes an indemnity of a substantial character against his chargeability upon the poor's rates; and one which stimulates the active exercise of his industry.

*Rural or Agricultural Cottages.*—"The locality forming the Glossop union having been in a state of transition from a rural to a manufacturing district, advancing within the last 40 years from a population of about 4000 to 14,000 inhabitants, does not present to observation any great proportion of the ancient dwellings of the district. A considerable number in a state of decay have been removed, to furnish sites for modern buildings, but those in existence are, generally speaking, though tolerably comfortable, yet incommodious, and low; and in some situations badly drained and ventilated. They are mostly kept in repair by

the occupiers, being let at rents varying from 1*l.* 10*s.* to 4*l.* 10*s.* per annum, according to their conveniences, &c.

*Mode of originally providing and afterwards maintaining sufficient drainage and ventilation.*—"The modern dwelling-houses and cottages are built upon leases for terms of 99 years. The land is laid out in regular form, under the personal superintendence of the agent or surveyor of the owner of the soil, with a provision for the requisite streets, avenues, passages, drains, sewers, and other conveniences.

"These are provided not only for the present, but for the prospective wants of the district, to secure the essential object of ventilation, drainage, spacious roads, and consequent salubrity, when it becomes more densely populated. These objects are obtained in the first instance, generally at the mutual expense of landlord and tenant, according to such arrangements as may be agreed upon between the parties under the circumstances of the case. The upholding and maintaining of the requisite roads, drains, and sewers, devolves upon the tenants, under the direction of the landlord, or his agent; who have power and authority to make an assessment upon the tenants for the purpose of providing the means of maintaining and repairing the roads, drains, and sewers, upon their respective premises, or appurtenant thereto, and also to provide such additional drainage from time to time as may become necessary.

*Influx of Strangers.*—"A portion of the population of this district consists of Irish and other strangers, who have formed at times their location here to meet the demands for labour. Amongst these persons generally, but particularly amongst the Irish, there has been a visible improvement in their habits and conditions. This I attribute, amongst other causes, to the necessity of their becoming the occupants of good and decent dwellings, if they settle in the neighbourhood, and to the impossibility of their huddling together in miserable habitations, as you generally find them in manufacturing towns. Their habits become more in keeping with those of their English neighbours, and cleanliness, peace and sobriety become gradually acquired by them, under the regulations of their employers, and their intercourse with orderly and industrious fellow-workmen. I am not aware that I have anything more to add to the preceding observations.

"The question of health is one, of course, which will be best answered by the medical faculty. As a general observation from a resident in the country for the last 30 years, I should pronounce it particularly salubrious.

I am, my dear sir,

Very respectfully and faithfully yours,

(Signed) THOMAS ELLISON."

CHARLES MOTT, Esq.,

Assistant Poor Law Commissioner,  
Manchester.

As a contrast to the cost and creditable state of the dwellings as described by Mr. Ellison, I may name as a fact related to me by one of the guardians of the Cheadle union, that on Biddulph Moor there is a sort of colony of non-descript residents, as remarkable for their singular traditions as for their demoralized and

filthy habits; many of them are freeholders, and from having portions of land attached to their huts, have votes for the county.

One of this class, meeting a person who was in the habit of erecting their dwellings, accosted him with—"Jack, what woul' build us 'house for?" "Fifty shillings," replied the man; "but if 'twants a good 'un, I'll have five pounds."

#### SUPPLY OF WATER.

Manchester is not deficient in the supply of water. The present Manchester and Salford Water Works Company was established in 1802. The works were first at Beswick, about a mile from Manchester, and were then supplied by an engine from the river Medlock.

The rapid increase of factories and other buildings suggested to the proprietors the necessity of procuring a supply at a greater distance from Manchester, and above ten or twelve years since the works were removed to the townships of Gorton, about four miles from Manchester, where the company possess about 88 acres of land, of which 60 acres are occupied as two large reservoirs. The supply to the town is daily. The reservoirs are capable of distributing two millions of gallons per day, but at present the quantity consumed daily is about 1,400,000 gallons. The company has facilities of obtaining a supply of pure water to any amount in the neighbourhood of Gorton.

The townships included in the limits of the Manchester and Salford Water Works Company comprise, according to the best estimate which I have been able to obtain, at least 75,000 dwellings, besides at least 10,000 factories and warehouses. The total number of assessments to the water-works does not exceed 28,000, and hence it follows that 50,000 houses in Manchester and the townships included in the limits of the company have no supply of water from the company.

The water supplied by the company has been analyzed by Dr. Dalton and other experienced chemists, and proved to be of very pure quality; it is extensively used by brewers, fancy silk-dyers, and others requiring pure water, and its anticorrosive qualities have recommended it to the Liverpool and Manchester Railway Company, where it is used for the steam-boilers in preference to the water easily obtained at their station in the Liverpool-road.

The capital of the company is too limited to enable the directors to keep pace with the demand for pipes occasioned by the extension of the township by buildings, &c.

The proprietors are applying for power to raise an additional capital to extend their main and collateral branch pipes, and every well-wisher to the health and comfort of the inhabitants must desire that they may succeed in their application.

There are numerous pumps and a plentiful supply of water within a few feet of the surface, to say nothing of the various tanks

and cisterns in factories and private dwellings, which in this proverbially rainy district are always abundantly supplied, but from the nature of the atmosphere, the rain-water is frequently like ink.

The Irwell and Medlock rivers run through the town of Manchester, but being receptacles for all kinds of filth and refuse, the water is too impure for general use.

In the suburbs of Manchester the water is generally procured through the medium of rain-water cisterns, or from very shallow wells by pumps; in the better class of houses it is generally filtered, but the poorer classes use it without any preparation.

The custom is for owners of small cottage property to erect a pump for the use of a given number of houses; this pump is frequently rented by one of the tenants, who keeps it locked, and each of the other tenants is taxed a certain sum per month for the use of it. One poor woman told me she paid 1s. per month. The water company give a plentiful supply to small houses at 6s. per year, or about half what this woman paid for a precarious supply from the subscription-pump.

The Stockport Local Act empowers the commissioners of that town to compel cottage owners to provide a good supply of water to their tenants.

The reports from the clerks of the unions relative to the supply of water to the poor are more satisfactory than I had expected.

The particulars of the supply of water to the towns are given in the letters which I have forwarded from the clerks of the unions.

In offering a few suggestions on the necessary remedial measures, I will venture to submit the following extract from a Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on inquiry into drunkenness, 1834.

"The right to exercise legislative interference for the correction of any evil which affects the public weal cannot be questioned without dissolving society into its primitive elements, and going back, from the combined and co-operative state of civilization, with all its wholesome and lawfully-imposed restraints, to the isolated and lawless condition of savage and solitary nature.

"The power to apply correction by legislative means cannot be doubted, without supposing the sober, the intelligent, the just, and the moral portion of the community unable to control the excesses of the ignorant and disorderly, which would be to declare our incapacity to maintain the first principles of government by ensuring the public safety.

"That the sound policy of applying legislative power to direct, restrain, or punish, as the cases may require, the vicious and contaminating propensities of the evil-disposed cannot be disputed, without invalidating the right of government to protect the innocent from the violence of the guilty, which would in effect declare all government to be useless, and all lawful authority to be without any intelligible object or end; an admission that would undermine the very first principles of society."

The astounding facts which the present inquiry will bring to light, the danger by which society is threatened by the continuance of such a state of wretchedness and depravity, will incur a weight of moral responsibility that must force itself upon the attention of the legislature.

It would betray a degree of absolute weakness to expect that any permanent good would result from such mild and palliative measures as have been generally suggested.

All experience proves that local authorities cannot be trusted to enforce such regulations as would be necessary to remove the evils under which the working classes are labouring. The neglect of Commissioners of sewers and their surveyors, the old demoralizing system of Poor Laws, the abuse of charitable trusts, corporation funds, or the management of local taxation of what kind soever, have all failed in their intended benefits, and present one continued history of peculation and jobbing by those who generally interest themselves in these matters, or of supineness and inattention on the part of the more respectable and conscientious inhabitants.

The provisions of the best Acts of the legislature too often become obsolete or inoperative from the interested influence of those to whom the powers are entrusted.

If laws so mild in their nature, and containing powers so absolutely necessary for the cleaning and draining of towns or the removal of nuisances as those generally contained in the various local acts, have failed from the want of attention in the proper authorities in certain localities, can it be expected that the comparatively stringent regulations as it will be necessary to establish to remove the accumulated evils will be enforced by local powers without a controlling authority? I will venture to answer positively—No.

In 1837, an Act was obtained for "Improving and Regulating the Borough of Stockport," which contains powers so strong, and, as it appears to me, so perfectly adapted to effect the improvement in the draining, cleaning, and building in towns, that I will venture to submit some of the clauses to the notice of your Board.

It invests the controlling power in the council of the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the borough, and the sections which I am desirous of bringing under notice are as follows:—

LXIII. Commissioners may cause common sewers, drains, vaults, culverts, and water-courses, to be constructed and made in, along, or across any of the streets, squares, places, highways, lanes, roads, paths or other public passages or entries within the borough; may cause the same to be altered, enlarged, repaired, cleansed or completed; may cause gravel, stones, bricks, &c. to be carried out of, or brought into streets, squares, places, highways, &c. &c.; may cause gutters or openings to be made for the carrying off filth from houses.

Commissioners may cause sewers, drains, vaults, to be made as aforesaid, through any enclosed lands or grounds. If owners of lands through which sewers are made be dissatisfied, they may apply to any justice of

the peace for the borough, not being one of the council, who shall appoint a day for hearing the complaint before him and the other justices of the borough. The justices then and there assembled are to inquire into and assess the recompense money which ought to be paid to the owners for injury or damage sustained.

LXIV. Provides that occupiers of houses are, at their own costs and charges, to form drains from the houses or buildings in their occupation to the common sewer, upon receiving notice from the clerk of the Commissioners. If occupiers neglect or refuse to comply, upon notice given, the Commissioners may cause the same to be forthwith done by any person acting under their authority. The costs and charges attending the same, when ascertained by the justices, are to be recovered from the occupier, and the occupier is to deduct and retain the amount out of his rent.

LXV. Private drains, which may by permission of the Commissioners issue into any of the public sewers, drains, or vaults, &c. are to be cleansed at the charge of the owners or occupiers of the lands or tenements to which such private drains shall belong.

XC. Provides that proprietors and owners of cottages, or tenements occupied by several distinct tenants, and also of tenements rated at less than 10*l.*, shall provide and keep in repair so many necessary houses or privies, with such proper doors or covering to the same, as the Commissioners shall consider necessary for the use of the tenants or occupiers thereof, and screen the same from public view. In default of doing this, upon notice given, every proprietor or owner making default shall pay a sum not exceeding 5*l.*, and 10*s.* for every week during which such house or privy shall not be provided, after expiration of such notice.

XCVIII. Is a clause for the prevention of nuisances. I do not see that it can be abridged. For the commission of any of the offences enumerated in it, the persons offending are to forfeit any sum not exceeding 5*l.*

Clause CI. further relates to nuisances, and authorises officers employed by the Commissioners to take, seize, and carry away all night-soil, carrion, offal, blood, filth or other offensive matter which shall be left in the streets after a certain hour in the morning; to seize and publicly to destroy any unwholesome flesh, meat, fish, or other article of food, and to apprehend the offender. Such offender may be convicted in any sum not exceeding 5*l.*, and in case of non-payment may be committed to the common gaol or house of correction, for any time not exceeding three calendar months.

Clause CV. enacts that penalties imposed by the Act shall extend to all streets, &c. though not highways.

Clause CVIII. empowers Commissioners to cause new pavements to be made in any present or future streets, squares, places, lanes, roads, paths, &c. &c. within the borough of Stockport; and also such streets, squares, &c. &c. which may not be cleansed, completed and put into good order, to be so cleansed, completed, and put into good order. And the expenses attending such new pavements, or such cleansing and putting into good order, are to be paid and reimbursed to the Commissioners by the owners of the houses, buildings, grounds adjoining the said streets, &c.; the proportions which the owners are to pay are to be ascertained by the Commissioners. If owners neglect or refuse to pay, the amount is to be recovered by distress and sale of their goods.

Clause CX. provides that Commissioners may require the occupiers of premises, the owners of which may be liable under the Act to pay any sum of money to the Commissioners, to pay to them all rent which may be due to their landlords, until the whole of the debt and the interest due to the Commissioners is paid off. Commissioners may recover such rents by distress and sale as if they were the landlords of such occupiers. Occupiers refusing to disclose particulars of rents owing and payable are to be fined 20*s.*, and a like sum for each succeeding week's neglect to disclose such particulars, after the first conviction.

Clause CXI. enacts that payments of rent by occupiers to the Commissioners shall be deemed to be valid payments, and discharge of rents to the landlord.

These powers appear sufficient to answer every purpose, but even this excellent Act threatens to be comparatively useless from the causes I have described.

*Mr. Coppock*, the town-clerk, to whom Stockport is indebted for these valuable clauses, in a letter dated 18th April last, states—

“The difficulty, however, is to get a local board to avail itself of the powers so extensively given. Party and local prejudices always interfere; and this is not done, because it would injure that man's property or interests; and that is not done, because, perhaps, the directing committee has a local interest adverse to the carrying of such particular clause into full effect.

“No good can ever be done when the executive power is controllable by a local authority.”

It would be equally useless to expect that any efforts will be made by the working classes themselves to improve the condition of their dwellings; they are too indolent or thoughtless to attempt any remedies—cleanliness and attention to these matters must be forced upon them.

*Mr. Heaton*, one of the medical officers of the Leek union, states—

“As regards the removal of all nuisances amongst the poor in this neighbourhood, compulsion is the only remedy; kindness, entreaty, and persuasion are all lost upon them.”

My opinions are confirmed by all persons who have paid any attention to the subject.

Regardless how unpopular the declaration may be, or to what extent popular clamour may condemn the interference with private rights and interests, I fearlessly assert that nothing less than a powerful, and, if you like, an arbitrary control over all matters relating to the sanitary condition of the working classes, their dwellings, &c. &c., can ever remedy the deep-rooted evil under which society now suffers; and unless some prompt and determined steps are taken, the pestilence will spread until it will set even legislative interference at defiance.

“We forbid by law the selling of putrid meat in the market; why do



we not forbid the renting of rooms in which putrid, damp, and noisome vapours are working as sure destruction as the worst food? Did people understand they were as truly poisoned in such dens as by tainted meat and decaying vegetables, would they not appoint commissioners for houses as truly as commissioners for markets? Ought not the renting of untenable rooms and the crowding of such numbers into a single room as must breed disease and may infect a neighbourhood, be as much forbidden as the importation of a pestilence?"\*

The astounding extension of the cotton manufactures has brought with it a corresponding enlargement of the population, and so rapid has been its increase that it has preceded all police regulations for the health and accommodation of the productive classes, until it has assumed an attitude which demands the attention of the legislature.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,  
Your faithful servant,  
CHARLES MOTT.

To the Poor Law Commissioners,  
13th February, 1841.

### No. 18.

ON THE SANITARY INQUIRY IN HIS LATE DISTRICT IN  
LANCASHIRE, &c.

BY ALFRED POWER, ESQ.,  
Assistant Poor Law Commissioner.

Malvern, Worcestershire, Dec. 2, 1840.

GENTLEMEN,—In pursuance of the instructions contained in your circular letter of the 23d November last, I proceed to report upon the inquiries which have been made in my late district as to the prevalence of certain causes of disease referred to in the letter of Her Majesty's Secretary for the Home Department, bearing date 21st August, 1839.

This Report will relate—

I. To the degree in which the diseases themselves referred to in Appendix A., No. 1., Fourth Annual Report, and Appendix C. No. 2. Fifth Annual Report, have prevailed in various localities of the district.

II. To the degree in which the causes specified in those Reports have been found to exist in the same localities.

III. To the suggestions which have been made on the subject of remedial measures.

\* Dr. Channing on the Elevation of the Working Classes.

I. AS TO THE DEGREE IN WHICH THE DISEASES REFERRED TO IN APPENDIX A., No. 1, FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT, AND APPENDIX C. No. 2, FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT, HAVE PREVAILED AMONG THE LABOURING CLASSES IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE DISTRICT.

The first class of materials available in illustration of this branch of the subject are the forms of statistical return issued by your Board to the medical officers of unions, requiring each officer to report the nosological names, &c., of every case attended by him in his capacity of medical officer during the year ended 29th September, 1840.

The statistical portion of these returns will probably have its greatest value in a general abstract of the whole, showing the degree in which the poorest class of inhabitants in England and Wales, namely, those receiving parochial relief, have been subjected to diseases of every description in the course of the year, under examination. I do not propose to avail myself of those statistics in this report.

The following summary of the cases which have been treated in the Liverpool Fever Hospital, during the years 1834, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, has been furnished to me by the master of the Liverpool workhouse, to which institution the hospital is attached.

SUMMARY OF THE CASES OF FEVER admitted into the FEVER HOSPITAL, at LIVERPOOL, from the several Wards of the Borough, during the Years 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, and 1839.

Name and No. of Ward.	No. of Cases. 1834.	No. of Cases. 1835.	No. of Cases. 1836.	No. of Cases. 1837.	No. of Cases. 1838.	No. of Cases. 1839.	Total.	Population by Census of 1831.
Everton and Kirkdale } 1	5	4	12	22	3	6	52	7,109
Scotland Road 2	56	84	95	207	94	40	576	20,545
Vauxhall Road 3	290	256	265	576	175	146	1708	20,871
Saint Paul's 4	151	78	104	196	54	59	642	14,891
Exchange . 5	199	224	328	372	131	105	1359	12,605
Castle Street 6	82	105	157	183	42	51	620	8,469
Saint Peter's 7	42	39	76	124	35	31	347	9,256
Pitt Street . 8	73	52	95	148	32	47	447	12,561
Great George's 9	66	64	181	234	34	66	645	15,265
Rodney Street 10	12	23	23	50	14	6	123	9,322
Abercromby 11	8	25	37	27	8	39	144	10,691
Lime Street 12	31	44	59	78	35	34	281	15,863
Saint Ann's 13	56	67	163	18	30	43	477	14,875
West Derby 14	4	3	5	8	5	4	29	5,613
North Toxteth 15	10	20	35	68	18	24	175	24,667*
South Toxteth 16	15	9	52	37	23	26	162	
	1,100	1,097	1,687	2,448	733	727	7,792	

By reference to the accompanying map of the Borough of Liverpool it will be seen that the wards in which fever has most prevailed are those in the heart of the town, and contiguous to the

[2.]

\* The supposed amount of the part within the borough.