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FIRST REPORT

OF THE

ROYAL SANITARY COMMISSION,

WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

UP TO

5th August 1869.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



LONDON;
PRINTED BY GEORGE EDWARD EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.
FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.
1870.

COMMISSION.

VICTORIA R.

Victoria, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, to Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor Charles Bowyer Adderley; Our right trusty and right well-beloved Cousin Charles, Earl of Romney; Our right trusty and right well-beloved Cousin and Councillor Henry John, Earl of Ducie; Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor Robert Montagu (commonly called Lord Robert Montagu); Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor Russell Gurney, Recorder of Our city of London; Our right trusty and well-beloved Councillor Stephen Cave; Our trusty and well-beloved Sir Thomas Watson, Bart., Doctor of Medicine; Our trusty and well-beloved Charles Brisbane Ewart, Esq., Lieutenant-Colonel in Our Corps of Royal Engineers; Our trusty and well-beloved John Robinson McClean, Esq., Civil Engineer; Our trusty and well-beloved Samuel Whitbread, Esq.; Our trusty and well-beloved John Tomlinson Hibbert, Esq.; Our trusty and well-beloved Evan Matthew Richards, Esq.; Our trusty and well-beloved George Clive, Esq.; Our trusty and well-beloved Francis Sharp Powell, Esq.; Our trusty and well-beloved Benjamin Shaw, Esq.; Our trusty and well-beloved James Paget, Esq., Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons; Our trusty and well-beloved Henry Wentworth Acland, Esq., Doctor of Medicine; Our trusty and well-beloved Robert Christison, Esq., Doctor of Medicine; Our trusty and well-beloved William Stokes, Esq., Doctor of Medicine; Our trusty and well-beloved John Lambert, Esq.; and Our trusty and well-beloved Francis Thomas Bircham, Esq., greeting:

Whereas We did, by warrant under Our Royal sign-manual, bearing date the twenty-fourth day of November one thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight, appoint Our right trusty and well-beloved Thomas George, Baron Northbrook (since resigned), together with the several noblemen and gentlemen therein named, to be Our Commissioners to inquire into the operation of the sanitary laws for towns, villages, and rural districts in Great Britain and Ireland, and into the several matters and things in such Warrant at large set forth:

Now know ye, that We have revoked and determined, and do by these presents revoke and determine the said warrant, and every matter and thing therein contained:

And whereas We have deemed it expedient that a new Commission should issue to inquire into and report on the operation of the sanitary laws in England and Wales, with the exception of the city of London and the liberties thereof, and all places under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Board of Works appointed under the Metropolis Management Act, 1855, so far as these Laws apply to Sewerage, Drainage, Water Supply, removal of Refuse, control of Buildings, prevention of Overcrowding, and other means of promoting the Public Health:

Also to inquire into and report upon the operation of the Laws for preventing the introduction and spreading of Contagious and Infectious Diseases, and Epidemics affecting the health of Man:

Also to inquire into and report upon the administration of the aforesaid Sanitary Laws, including in such inquiry and report the constitution of the Central and Local Authorities charged with the administration of such Laws, and the formation of Areas proper to be controlled by Local Authorities.

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Also to inquire into and report upon the operation of that part of the Registration System which relates to Certificates of Causes of Death.

Also to suggest improvements in all or any of the matters aforesaid, and means proper for carrying into effect the suggested improvements.

Now know ye, that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your knowledge and ability, have authorized and appointed, and do by these presents authorize and appoint you the said Charles Bowyer Adderley; Charles, Earl of Romney; Henry John, Earl of Ducie; Robert Montagu (commonly called Lord Robert Montagu); Russell Gurney; Stephen Cave; Sir Thomas Watson; Charles Brisbane Ewart; John Robinson McClean; Samuel Whitbread; John Tomlinson Hibbert; Evan Matthew Richards; George Clive; Francis Sharp Powell; Benjamin Shaw; James Paget; Henry Wentworth Acland; Robert Christison; William Stokes; John Lambert; and Francis Thomas Bircham, to be Our Commissioners for the purposes aforesaid.

And for the better effecting the purposes of this Our Commission, We do by these presents give and grant to you, or any five or more of you, full power and authority to call before you, or any five or more of you, such persons as you shall judge necessary, by whom you may be the better informed of the truth on the subjects herein submitted to your consideration, and every matter connected therewith, and also to call for, have access to, and examine all such official books, documents, papers, and records, as may afford the fullest information on the subject of this Inquiry; and to inquire of and concerning the premises by all other lawful ways and means whatsoever.

And Our further will and pleasure is that you, or any five or more of you, do report to us with all convenient speed, under your hands and seals, your opinion on the several matters herein submitted for your consideration, with power, from time to time, to make a separate report in respect of any of the matters aforesaid on which it may seem expedient to you so to report:

And We do further will and command, and by these presents ordain, that this Our Commission shall continue in full force and virtue, and that you, Our said Commissioners, or any five or more of you, may from time to time proceed in the execution thereof, although the same be not continued from time to time by adjournment;

And for your assistance in the execution of these presents, We have made choice of Our trusty and well-beloved William Hornby Birley, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, to be Secretary to the said Commission, whose services and assistance We require you to use from time to time, as occasion may require.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, the twentieth day of April 1869, in the Thirty-second Year of Our Reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,

(Signed) H. A. BRUCE.

FIRST REPORT.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

WE, Your Majesty's Commissioners appointed to inquire into and report on the operation of the Sanitary Laws in England and Wales, with the exception of the City of London and the Liberties thereof, and all places under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Board of Works, appointed under the Metropolis Management Act, 1855, so far as these laws apply to sewerage, drainage, water supply, removal of refuse, control of buildings, prevention of overcrowding, and other means of promoting the public health. Also to inquire into and report upon the operation of the laws for preventing the introduction and spreading of contagious and infectious diseases, and of epidemics affecting the health of man. Also to inquire into and report upon the administration of the aforesaid Sanitary Laws, including in such inquiry and report the constitution of the central and local authorities charged with the administration of such laws, and the formation of areas proper to be controlled by local authorities. Also to inquire into and report upon the operation of that part of the registration system which relates to certificates of causes of death. Also to suggest improvements in all or any of the matters aforesaid, and means proper for carrying into effect the suggested improvements, have held several meetings, and although we have not yet completed our inquiries, humbly beg leave to submit to Your Majesty the evidence given before us up to and inclusive of the meeting held upon the 5th day of August 1869.

(Signed) C. B. ADDERLEY,
Chairman.

August 1869.