

Report to the General Board of Health on the Parish of Loughborough

Published in 1849

(pages 53 to 55)

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

- I. That the town of Loughborough is at the present moment, and has been long, subject to endemic disease.
- II. That epidemic (typhus) raged violently amongst the inhabitants about three years since, and has continued, with occasional outbreaks, since that time, and that no sanitary works have been constructed which would prevent it from again becoming prevalent.
- III. That the general earnings of the poorer classes are small, and their occupations sedentary, and therefore that efficient public sanitary arrangements are of vital importance.
- IV. That the preventable sickness and mortality of the town is very excessive, even when compared with other towns of equal size.
- V. That the geographical position of Loughborough is favourable to health, and that there exists no essential reason why it should be more unhealthy than the average of the country.
- VI. That there is an entire absence of all public works tending to improve or preserve the health of the population.
- VII. That there exist in the privies and numerous cesspools large accumulations of animal and vegetable matter in a state of decomposition ; and in the polluted wells, defective water supplies , stagnant drainage, and ill-ventilated courts and dwellings abundant causes of the excessive sickness and mortality already stated.
- VIII. That the public lodging-houses are nests of fever, and that the restrictions and regulations contained in the Public Health Act ought to be applied to them for the protection of the general population of the town.
- IX. That the health of the inhabitants would be much improved by-
 1. A constant supply of filtered water, under pressure, conveyed into every house in the town.
 2. A system of complete drainage of the buildings and site of the town.
 3. The substitution of soil-pan apparatus, or water-closet, for the present privies and offensive cesspools, and the removal of all decomposing liquid refuse in underground channels.
 4. Improved paving of streets and courts.
 5. Public washing, cleansing, and watering of streets, courts, and the general surface of the town, with flexible hose and jets of water.
 6. By preventing the pollution of the Wood Brook in its passage through the town.
- X. That these objects may be in all probability effected at the following rates per week for a cottage house :-

1. Supplies of water, not exceeding *one penny*.
 2. Street, court, and house drainage, not exceeding *one penny*.
 3. Paving of footpath and court-yard with gas concrete, at *one-third of a penny*.
 4. Public cleansing and watering of streets, courts, &c., at *one penny*.
- XI. That the drainage of much of the land in the district is capable of improvement.
- XII. That the improvements in water supply, drainage, paving, and cleansing, will cost less than the actual price of the present defective water-supply alone, and therefore that the Act will be highly beneficial to the town.
- XIII. That the district is admirably situated for the application of its sewage manure to the suburban agricultural and horticultural land, and, that as steam-power is provided for the drainage, the liquid manure can be applied with the greatest economy and advantage, and so as to produce a large revenue to the town.
- XIV. That presuming the works to be such as the General Board of Health approve of, this is a case in which it is desirable, on account of the generally depressed circumstances of the town, that the Board should exercise its power to save immediate outlays, and should recommend advances from the Commissioners of Public Works, on security of the rates, to carry out the proposed works, such loans to be repaid, by annual instalments of principal and interest, in 10 years.

WHEREUPON I RECOMMEND :-

1. That the public Health Act, 1848, except the sections numbered 50 and 96 in the copies of that Act printed by Her Majesty's printer, should be applied to the parish of Loughborough.
2. That the Local Board of Health to be elected under the said Public Health Act shall consist of twelve persons, and that the entire number shall be elected for the whole of the said district.
3. That one-third in number of the said Local Board shall go out of office on the twenty-fifth day of March in each year subsequently to that in which the said election takes place.
4. That every person at the time of his election as member of the said Local Board, and so long as he shall continue in office by virtue of such election, be resident, as in the said Public Health Act, 1848, is required, and be seized and possessed of real or personal estate or both to the value or equivalent of not less than three hundred pounds, or shall be so measured and rated to the relief of the poor of some parish, residence or place, of which some part is within the said district, upon an annual value of not less than fifteen pounds.

I have the honour to be,
My Lords and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
WILLIAM LEE.

The General Board of Health
&c.