

The following is a summary of work done during the year:—

Infectious diseases investigated	75	Fish-preserving works inspected	1
Ptomaine-poisoning outbreak investigated ..	1	Confectionery-works inspected	1
Dwellings disinfected	29	Offensive trades inspections	12
Schools disinfected	1	Stables inspected	46
Parcels disinfected for Postal Department ..	35	Poultry-farms inspected	2
Dwellings and premises inspected	16	Rubbish-depots inspected	1
Butchers' shops inspected	24	Drainage and plumbing inspections ..	152
Milk-shops inspected	20	Complaints investigated	39
Dining-rooms inspected	9	Requisitions served	3
Fruit-auction-room inspections	4	Requisitions complied with	2
Cordial and aerated-water factories inspected	14	Sewage-samples taken	7
Jam, pickle, and sauce factories inspected ..	7	Water-samples taken	4

MARK KERSHAW,
Sanitary Inspector.

Dr. Finch, D.H.O.

Department of Public Health, Canterbury District.

I BEG to report as follows on work done during the year ending 31st March, 1908:—

The usual country inspections have been made, and information gathered *re* the removal of rubbish and nightsoil, and disposal of same, also cost in each case.

A set of Sanitation By-laws was prepared and sent to the newly formed Cheviot Town Board, and also to the Mount Hutt Road Board.

A number of infantile-diarrhoea cases have been inquired into *re* feeding, &c., and the premises inspected.

A number of milk-shops were also inspected under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

The usual complaints have been investigated, and action taken where necessary.

The following is a summary of work done during the year:—

Infectious diseases investigated	115	Slaughter-yards inspected	4
Dwellings disinfected	67	Nightsoil-depots inspected	2
Dwellings and premises inspected	312	Country districts inspected	42
Boardinghouses inspected	49	Complaints investigated	71
Bakehouses inspected	50	Overcrowding cases investigated ..	1
Butchers' shops inspected	52	Water-samples taken	20
Milk-shops inspected	14	Requisitions served	6
Fruit-shops inspected	11	Requisitions complied with	5
Fish-shops inspected	9	Creameries inspected	5
Hotels inspected	58	Cheese-factories inspected	1
Schools inspected	40	Infantile-diarrhoea deaths investigated	15
Offensive trades inspected	18	Rubbish-depots inspected	3
Jam-factories inspected	3	Prosecutions	1

R. J. MCKENZIE,
Sanitary Inspector.

OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND DISTRICT.

SIR,—

Department of Public Health, Dunedin, 8th June, 1908.

I have the honour to send you my annual report on the work done and chief occurrences in the Otago-Southland Health District, along with summaries of the most important matters which engaged my attention.

This work, you will see, has been almost entirely of a routine character, nothing of a notable nature having turned up during the year, but the district in general has been pretty well submitted to supervision, as my summary of localities visited and inspected by myself and Inspectors will show you. And, besides general inspection, many localities, including the city and suburbs of Dunedin, some of the suburbs of Invercargill, and some thirteen of the smaller towns, have been submitted this year, in continuance of that work commenced last year, to a thorough house-to-house inspection. On the reports of these minute inspections being handed to me by the Inspector I have made duplicate copies of them, sending these to the local authorities, with comments, requesting attention to be paid to the defects thus revealed, to which, on the whole, regard has been paid, so that I have reason to believe some progress has been made in the general sanitation of the places looked into.

A glance at the summary of these inspections shows that so far as they have been completed, speaking generally, the larger towns compare unfavourably with the smaller ones; Dunedin City and suburbs being found to have sanitary imperfections in their premises to the amount of over 53 per cent.; the Invercargill suburbs inspected, 70 per cent.; and the country towns, over 34 per cent. only. Dunedin varies from 33·56 per cent. in Roslyn, to 75·66 per cent. in South Dunedin. The two suburbs of Invercargill gave 75·82 per cent. in East Invercargill, and 64·34 per cent. in Avenal. The variation in the country towns was from 9·52 per cent. in Miller's Flat, to 76·53 per cent. in Clinton.

The chief defects were those of drainage, defective trapping, and suchlike faults, which had been accentuated with the rise of the towns, due to carelessness, ignorance, or want of system, and also in part to the fact that many of these towns had no, or an inadequate, water-supply.

I have now these house-to-house inspections recorded in a special book, to which I can at any time refer when a question regarding the sanitary condition of any special premises comes before me, and this I design to make in time a permanent record of the condition of my district, to be brought up to date from time to time as defects are remedied.