

**BOARD OF HEALTH
OF THE CITY OF
READING. 1902**

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Board of Health of the city of Reading, 1902 by Various

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**BOARD OF HEALTH
OF THE CITY OF
READING. 1902**



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Board of Health of the City of Reading, Pa.

— — — — —
M. A. RHOADS, M. D., President.
MARTIN LUTHER, M. D.,
WM. F. MARKS, M. D.,
D. P. SCHLOTT,
THOMAS P. MERRITT,
A. B. DUNDOR, M. D.,
C. H. SCHAEFFER, Esq.

—††—

E. A. HOWELL, Secretary.
R. J. LAING, Health Commissioner.

—††—

STANDING COMMITTEES:

— — — — —
Accounts and Finance.—MESSRS. SCHLOTT, MERRITT, SCHAEFFER.
Adulterations and Poisons.—MESSRS. MARKS, DUNDOR, SCHLOTT.
Drainage Sewerage and Water Supply.—MESSRS. MERRITT,
SCHAEFFER, LUTHER.
Law and Ordinance.—MESSRS. SCHAEFFER, LUTHER, MARKS.
Nuisances.—MESSRS. DUNDOR, SCHLOTT, MERRITT.
Preventable Diseases and School Hygiene.—MESSRS. LUTHER, MARKS,
DUNDOR.
Registration and Vital Statistics.—MESSRS. RHOADS, LUTHER,
DUNDOR.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

To the President and Members of the Select and Common Councils of the City of Reading:

GENTLEMEN:—Herewith is presented the Fifteenth Annual Report of the Board of Health, together with the vital statistics for the fiscal period ending December 31, 1887.

By ordinance the sum of two thousand dollars was placed to the credit of this department. Of this amount the sum of sixteen hundred and thirty-seven dollars and seven cents has been expended, leaving an unexpended balance of three hundred and sixty-two dollars and ninety-three cents. Nine hundred dollars was paid out as salaries for the Health Commissioner and Secretary. The receipts of the office from various sources amounted in the aggregate to nine hundred and thirty-one dollars and twenty-six cents.

There are two very important subjects that before long will engage the attention of your honorable bodies, namely, an increased supply of water and a system of public sewers. In reference to an additional water supply, three things ought to be fully considered before a conclusion is arrived at. In the first place, the quantity should be ample for the future needs of the city; in the second place, the quality should be of such a character as to be unobjectionable for both domestic use and manufacturing purposes; and lastly, the question of cost and maintenance should be compared with that of obtaining water from some other source.

The next most important question to occupy your attention is what system of public sewerage to adopt. Errors committed now will probably outlast this generation, and may be irremediable by future generations.

Special knowledge and special skill is required in arranging a system of public sewers. A particular kind of skill, found only in trained sanitary engineers. The ordinary duties of the civil engineer, however competent in his line of duty, do not fit him for this work. Recognizing this fact this Board respectfully recommends adopting now a plan for a general system of sewers, based upon the probable future necessities, and skilfully adapted to the topographical peculiarities of this city, so that the system may be gradually worked out year after year as the financial condition of the treasury may allow.

A number of private alleys, condemned by the Board were graded and paved during the year.

Five suits for violation of the rules were instituted, in all of which judgment was obtained against the defendants.

One hundred and twelve loads of garbage, each weighing about thirteen hundred pounds, were removed during the year; and thirteen hundred and ninety-four loads of night soil during the same period. The latter by the licensed cleaners.

The suggestions in reference to ponds of stagnant water, and the selection of a dump for waste material, presented in a former report, are again respectfully submitted for your consideration.

The number of complaints that reached this office was largely in excess of last year, as will be seen by the following report:

REPORT OF THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER.

	1st Quar.	2d Quar.	3d Quar.	4th Quar.	Total.	
Alleys filthy and noisome.....		97	8		105	Cleaned by the Board.
Alleys defective drainage.....				1	1	Remedied.
Alleys graded and paved.....				24	24	By the Board and owners.
Ashes and refuse on street.....	1			3	4	Cleaned by High. Com.
Ashes and refuse on lot.....		5			5	Cleaned by the Board.
Bloody water on street.....	1	5			6	Removed.
Bloody water in cellar.....	6				6	"
Butchers' offal on lot.....	1			1	2	"
Blood barrels—filthy.....			1	1	2	Cleaned.
Cow stables—filthy.....			1	1	2	"
Cellars—water in.....	18	4	12	2	36	Removed and Remedied.
Cellars—privy water in.....	2	4	1	1	8	Removed.
Cellars—filthy.....				2	2	Cleaned.
Chicken coops—filthy.....			2		2	"
Culverts—filthy.....		7		1	8	"
Cellars—foul gases in.....			1		1	Remedied.
Defective drainage.....	3	19	11	2	35	"
Drains clogged.....	1	2	1		4	Opened.
Dead cats on street.....	6	11	15	13	45	Removed by Scavenger.
Dead chickens on street.....	7	22	9	4	42	Removed by Scavenger.
Dead dogs on street.....	16	15	10	4	45	Removed by Scavenger.
Dead rats on street.....	3	8	1		12	Removed by Scavenger.

REPORT OF THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER.—Continued.

	1st Quar.	2d Quar.	3d Quar.	4th Quar.	Total.	
Drain filthy				2	2	Cleaned.
Dog kennel filthy.....		1			1	"
Defective drainage—alley.....			1		1	Remedied.
Dangerous privy.....		1			1	"
Dead turkey on street.....	1				1	Removed.
Garbage on street.....	1		1		2	Removed by the Board.
Gutters filthy.....		3	8	4	15	Cleaned by High. Dept.
Garbage on lot and yard.....			4	1	5	Removed by Board and Owners.
Hydrants leaky.....	2	1	2	1	6	Referred to Water Dept.
Houses filthy			1		1	Cleaned.
Lots filthy.....		11	1		12	Cleaned by the Board.
Manure heaps filthy.....	1	2	1	1	5	Cleaned.
Manure water on street.....	1				1	Removed.
Oyster shells on street.....	4		1		5	"
Offensive matter in house.....			1		1	"
Oyster shells in cellar.....			1		1	"
Privies—full.....	78	118	54	74	324	Cleaned.
Privies—leaky.....	2	9	3	1	15	Remedied.
Privies—foul.....	3	5	17	1	26	"
Privies—shallow.....	12	19	81	28	135	"
Privies—defective.....	1	1	1	2	4	Remedied.
Privy water in yard.....	1	2	1		4	"
Privy gases in house.....	3	1			4	Removed.
Pig-pens—filthy.....		1	1		2	"
Privy water on street.....			1		1	"
Privies dug contrary to law....	2		1		3	Referred to the Board.
Privies—filthy.....	1		3		4	Cleaned.
Sinks—foul and filthy.....		2			2	"
Stagnant water on street.....		1	1		1	Removed.
Stagnant water in yard.....		1			1	"
Slaughter-houses—filthy.....	1				1	Cleaned.
Swill barrels—filthy.....				1	1	"
Stagnant water on lot.....		1	1		2	Referred to High. Com.
Urinals—leaky and filthy.....		2	7		9	Remedied.
Yards—filthy.....		2			2	Cleaned.
Filth removed from 10-ft. alleys		256			256	By the Board.
Dead cats.....		19	23	2	43	Removed by the Board.
Dead chickens.....		30	13	3	46	Removed by the Board.
Dead rats.....		75	31		106	Removed by the Board.

REPORT OF THE HEALTH COMMISSIONER.—Continued.

	1st Quar.	2d Quar.	3d Quar.	4th Quar.	Total.	
Dead Dogs.....			7		7	Removed by the Board.
Dead rabbit.....			1		1	Removed by the Board.
Foul vats.....			1		1	Cleaned by the Owners.
No cause for complaint.....		1	1		2	
	178	763	343	175	1459	

As usual, a large number of alleys, both public and private, were reported to the Board during the year. Wherever necessary, property owners were notified to clean them, and if they failed to do so, the Board proceeded to do the work.

The following alleys were graded and paved during the year:

Alley north and south, between Greenwich and Oley and Maple and Tenth streets.

Alley east and west, between Wunder and Eleventh and Chestnut and Spruce streets.

Alley north from Spruce, between Wood and Fourth streets.

Alley east from Carpenter, between Spruce and Pine streets.

Alley north from Spruce, between Orange and Tenth streets.

Alley east from Cedar, between Washington and Walnut streets.

Alley east from Maple, between Culvert and Cotton streets.

Alley west from Carpenter, between Spruce and Pine streets.

Alley north from Walnut, between Moss and Tenth streets.

Alley north and south, between Third and Carpenter and Spruce and Pine.

Alley north and south, between Mifflin and Third and Spruce and Pine streets.

Alley north from Greenwich, between Cedar and Ninth streets.

Alley east from Schuylkill avenue, between Jefferson and Hockley streets.

Alley east from Mulberry, between Green and Greenwich streets.

Alley east from Moss, between Court and Washington streets.

Alley east from Pearl, between Chestnut and Spruce streets.

Alley north and south, between Spruce and Bingaman and Sixth and Plum streets.

Alley west from Plum, between Spruce and Bingaman streets.

Alley east and west, between Moss and Tenth and Washington and Walnut streets.