

**Extract from the Medical Officer's Report on the Sanitary State of Cowbridge  
(about 1890) – see also that of 1888 in the Tilley scrapbook file**

...The nuisance inspector has shown much energy in the conscientious discharge of his duties. There has been a marked improvement in the condition of the channel on either side of the road in the East Village. Houses in which there have been infectious diseases have been carefully disinfected. Lodging houses and bakehouses have been registered and inspected.

The construction of the new Cattle Market has removed a very serious nuisance which used to exist by the cattle being located on the public pathways on Market and Fair days. The condition of the public streets as regards their repair and cleansing has been excellent and quite devoid of nuisances.

I need hardly point out the unsatisfactory condition of the drainage and sewerage of the town. When drains exist, they are frequently found in a most defective state from want of repair, leakage and absence of proper ventilation and flushing. The sewers are not only insufficiently ventilated and flushed, but they empty themselves into the river at a point in the immediate vicinity of the town. Here the water is dammed up by the Town Mill, situated about 400 yards below the entry of the sewers, forming a perfectly stagnant pool which sometimes during the summer months awaits for several weeks sufficient accumulation to permit of the working of the mill, and the escape of its polluted content down the river into the sea some miles away, causing a nuisance to the adjoining village of Llanblethian.

In the majority of cases, the privies and cesspools of the Town are a nuisance. They are badly constructed, with no proper ventilation and permit, in some instances of soakage...

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nearly

received far greater attention from the Sanitary Authority and its Officers that it has received for some years past at least.

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