

# Metropolitan Sewers.

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## REPORT

ON

*The Condition of Surrey Court, Horsleydown, by  
Mr JOHN GRANT, Assistant-Surveyor.*

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In this court, the drainage of which has been complained of by the parish authorities, there has been an excessive mortality from cholera—nine or ten deaths in five days: there are thirteen houses in the court, which is built up at both ends, and badly ventilated; there is an open ditch at the end, and the house-drainage is into cesspools, with common privies in small back areas. The houses in this court and those in Truscott's buildings (another court) have a double set of small privies, cesspools, and small areas between the backs of them. Although there has been such mortality in Surrey court, there has been but one case (that of an infant) of cholera in Truscott's buildings. The only apparent cause to which this difference can be attributed is, that in Surrey court the inhabitants used the water of a well in the court, the mouth of which was on a level with the paving and a gutter or side channel by which foul water was admitted into the well. This well the parish authorities have had cleaned out, and the mouth of it raised.

I am happy to be able to state that the parish authorities seem to have been of the same opinion that I ventured to express in a short Report, that the most advisable course to be adopted was, for the families living in the court to leave it. Chiefly, I believe, by the exertions of Mr Corner, the intelligent Vestry Clerk of St Olave's, more than half the families in the court have left, but not before one poor man had lost his wife, sister, and three children. The parish authorities of St Olave's Union are making arrangements for the removal of families in courts like this to a temporary house of refuge.

The complaint of Mr Forster, M.P., referred to the same ditch at the end of this court: this ditch passes *over* a deep level sewer in Gainsford street, seventeen feet deep, and continues to the Thames at Shad Thames.

If Mr Forster will pay into court the sum of 15*l.*, which it would cost him to lay the ninety-two feet of pipe, which his agent petitioned some time ago for leave to lay, the Court, by an outlay not exceeding 20*l.* more, could continue the pipe a further distance of ninety feet at a deeper level into the deep sewer in Gainsford

street, and thereby afford excellent facilities for the proper house-drainage of Surrey court and Truscott's buildings.

A plan is being made of these courts to show the details of the house-drainage, which may be done in this case at a very trifling cost to the owners. As far as I can judge without a plan, this will not exceed 2*l.* per house for closet-pan and trap, area-sink and trap, and house-drain. As it is an urgent case, and one where a great deal of *permanent* good may be effected at a moderate cost, I would beg respectfully to recommend that the Court lay 182 feet of pipe-sewer, at a cost not exceeding 35*l.*, on the following conditions—viz.;

That Mr Forster pay 15*l.*, the sum which it would cost him to lay ninety-two feet in a temporary and incomplete manner against his property.

That the cesspools be emptied and filled up, and proper house-drainage, with closet-pans and traps be put in by the owners of the houses in these courts—voluntarily if they will, but failing that, by notice under the Act.

That the parish authorities, previous to commencing the work, remove the remaining families for a few days into a temporary house of refuge.

Failing this last, I would not incur the responsibility of recommending anything to be done to the drainage during the present epidemic.

(Signed) JOHN GRANT, Assistant-Surveyor.

1 Greek street, Soho,  
9th August, 1849.

P.S.—I have this morning received a note from Mr Forster, expressing his willingness to pay his share.