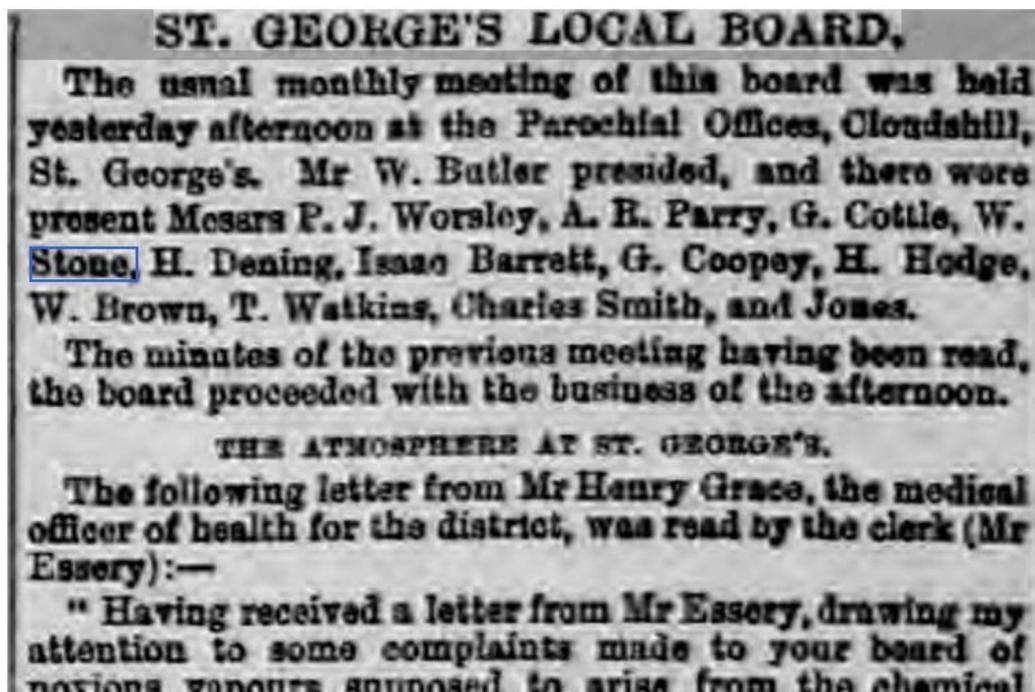


The Atmosphere at St George's

From the Western Daily Press – Thursday 2nd October 1879



The following letter from Mr Henry Grace, the medical officer of health for the district, was read by the clerk (Mr Essery):-

Having received a letter from Mr Essery, drawing my attention to some complaints made to your board of noxious vapours supposed to arise from the chemical works at Crew's Hole, and requesting me to investigate and report on the same, I have during the last fortnight visited the neighbourhood of the different works on several occasions during the evening and night, and as yet have failed to detect any gasses or vapours sufficiently concentrated to be injurious to the public health, I have also examined the interior of the works in question, and in the following report will state what I consider the probable sources of the escape of gasses complained of, which occasionally, no doubt, are thrown over the parish.

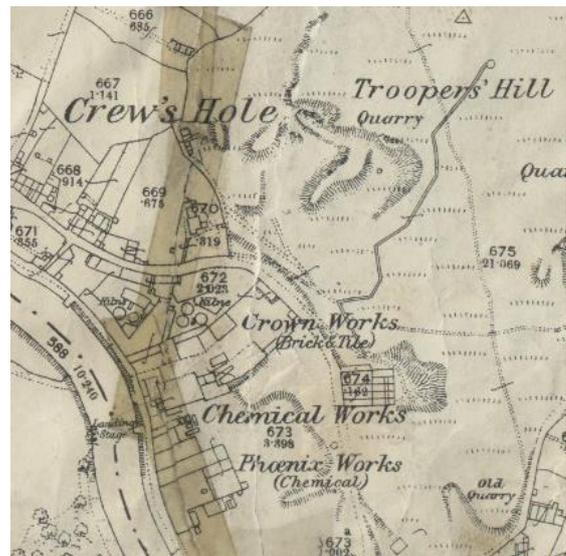
I first examined the Netham Chemical Works, and taking into consideration the admirable condensing towers and the care taken to utilise the gasses and prevent their escape, and the fact that the Government inspector has always reported the condensation thorough, I have come to the conclusion that unless the atmosphere is exceptionally heavy there is not likely to be any objectionable

smell diffused over the parish from these works, and what little there is, is certainly not injurious to the general health.

I next visited Mr Norrington' Manure Works, but they were not mixing their chemicals with the bones &c. and have not done so for some time, and will not be doing so for another month. When in full operation I will visit them again.

I next examined the Blacksworth Lead Works, and although they use arsenic I do not consider there is any issuing from the works or the stack likely to be injurious to health.

I next examined the Bristol Fire Clay Company and Crown Clay Company's Works, and the only time when any unpleasant gas escapes from these premises is when the pipes are being glazed, which occurs about once a fortnight, to do which common salt is thrown in the fires, and chlorine gas is given off with the smoke. This is only to be detected about 200 yards from the works, and is not injurious to health.



I then examined Messrs Butler's tar and resin distilleries. The smell from these works is not generally objectionable, although when the boilers are tapped at 5.30 on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and the wind is blowing, you can detect the smell a long way, and it is very objectionable to some people and not to others, but anyway, as it is not permanent, I do not consider it injurious to health.



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Maps taken from Bristol City Council online mapping system – www.tinyurl.com/CrewsHole1880s