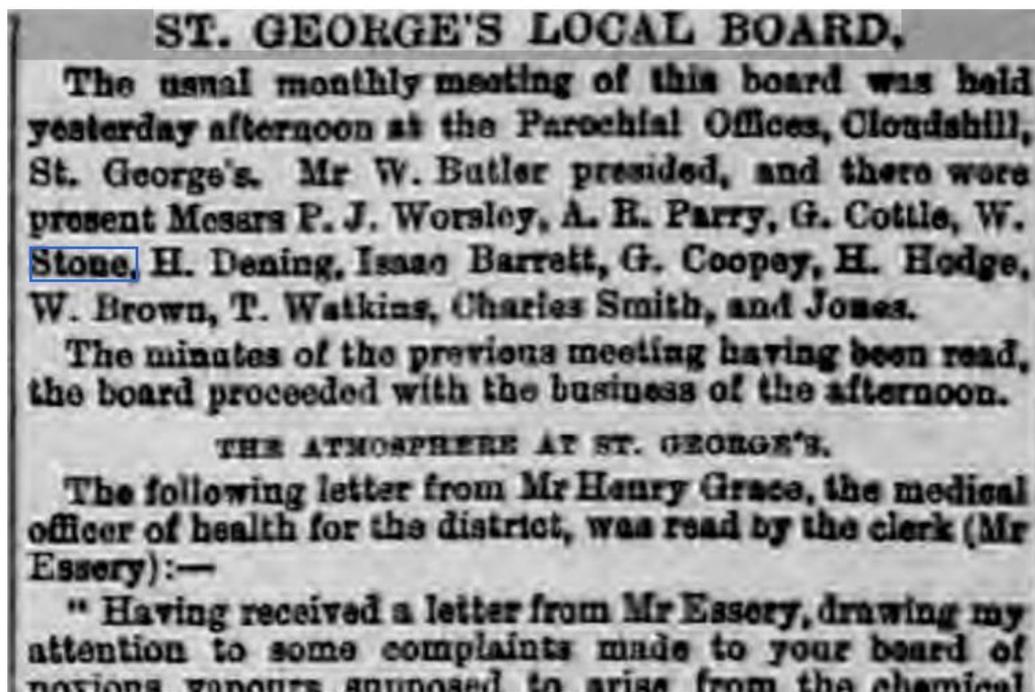


## The Atmosphere at St George's

*From the Western Daily Press – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

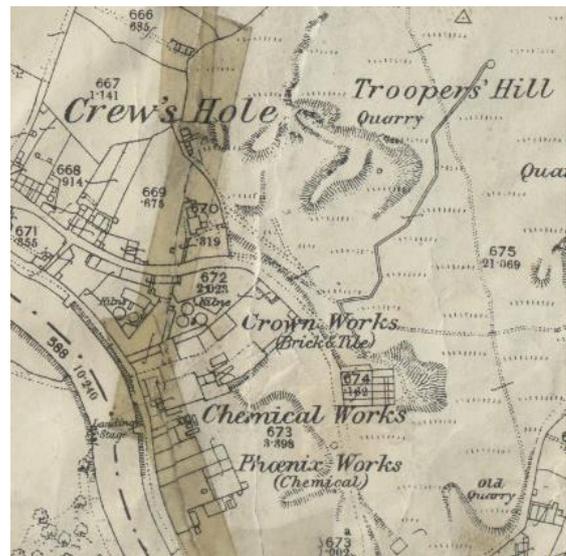
I first examined the Netham Chemical Works, and taking into consideration the admirable condensing towers and the care taken to utilise the gasses and prevent their escape, and the fact that the Government inspector has always reported the condensation thorough, I have come to the conclusion that unless 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.

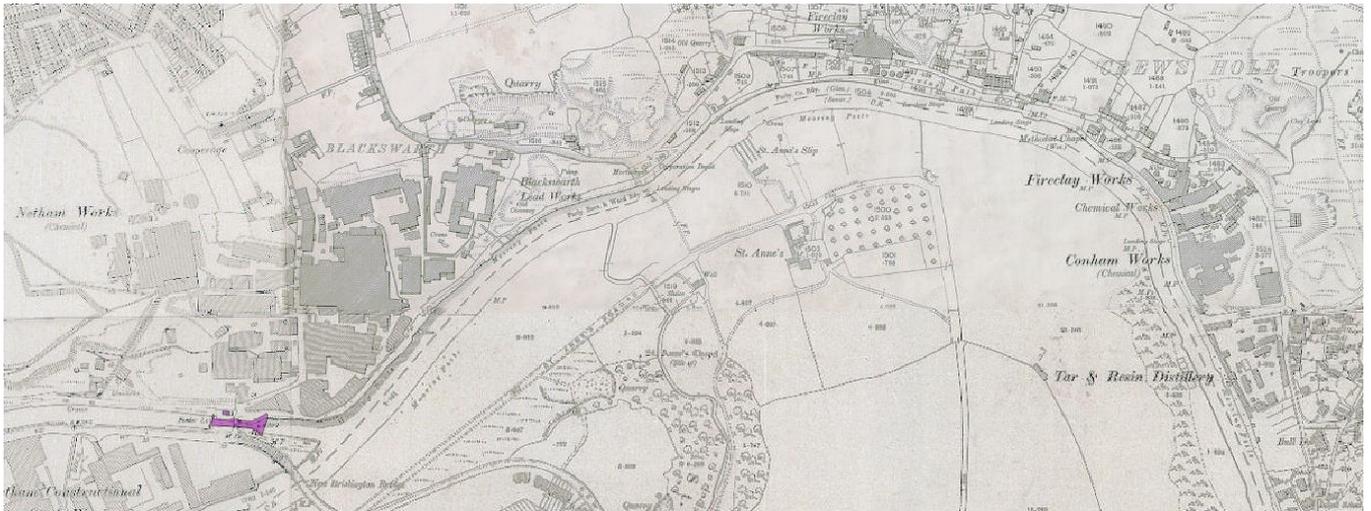
I next examined the Bristol Fire Clay Company and Crown Clay Company's Works, and the only time when any unpleasant gas escapes from these premises is when the pipes are being glazed, which occurs about once a fortnight, to do which common salt is thrown in the fires, and chlorine gas is given off with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



I next examined Messrs Stone and Tinson's sal-ammonia works. I found the padlocks locked on the ammoniacal gas water tanks, as had been directed on a former visit. They had not been able to obtain gas water for some days, and there had not, consequently, been much work done, and they were taking the opportunity of building another tower to further purify the gas. The escape of gas from these works depends entirely upon the gas liquor being slowly saturated with the hydrochloric acid, for if rapidly done the gas cannot pass quick enough through the towers, and must escape.

I next examined Messrs Thomas' the Phoenix Chemical Works, where I was informed that sulphuric acid and salt cake were manufactured. I was struck with the number of cracked pipes in use, and I have no doubt that occasionally a piece falls out when a great escape of gas would take place, which must be very objectionable. Another probable cause of a large escape of gas would be if the salt cake is taken out of the furnaces before it is cold, or recharged when hot.

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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