

[Report 1920] / Medical Officer of Health, Driffield R.D.C.

Contributors

Driffield (Humberside, England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1920

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/br8mu6qt>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

With the Author's Compliments.

For the B. U. A. Library

Driffield
Rural District Council.



Annual Report

of the

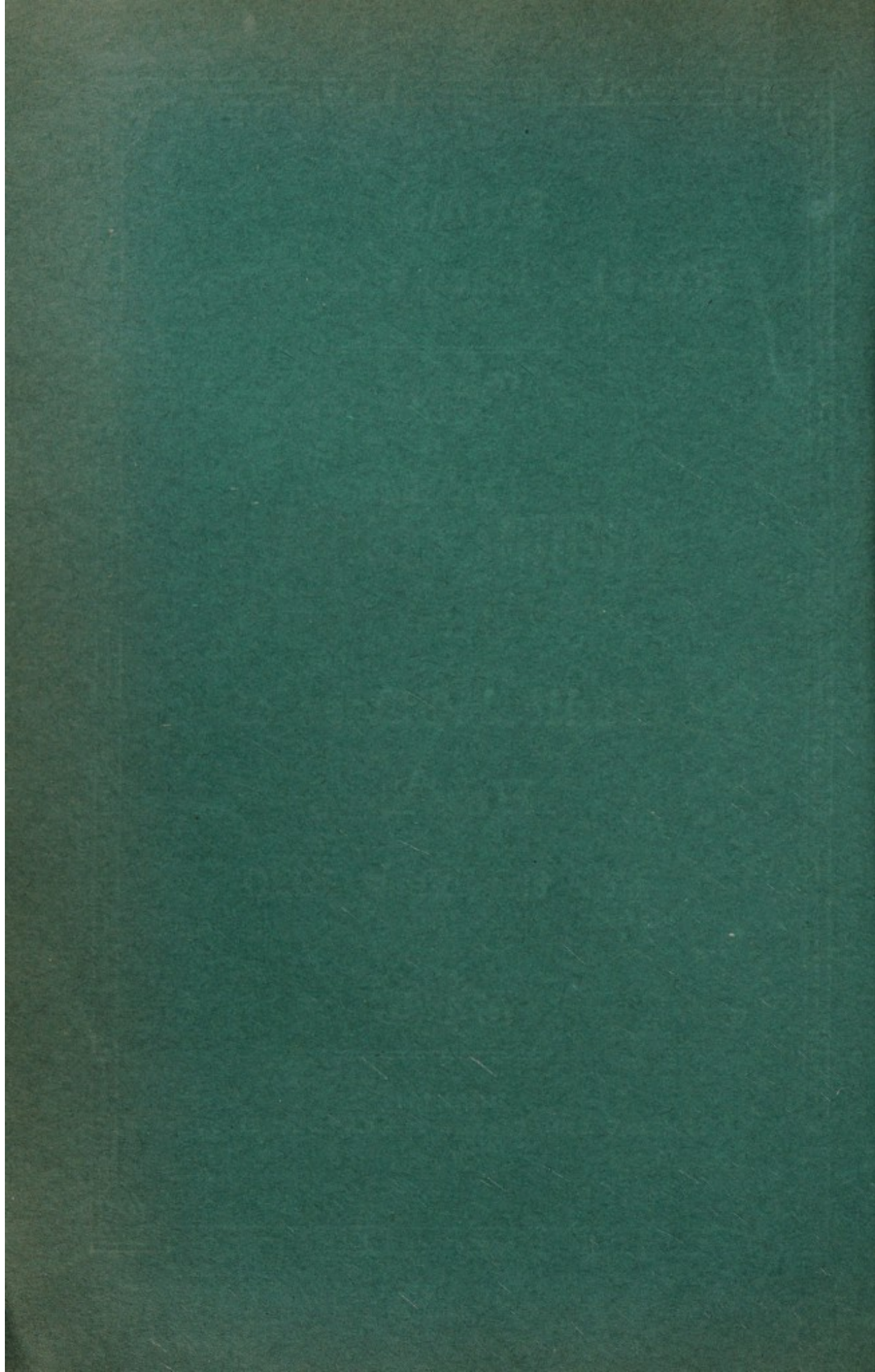
Medical Officer of

Health,

For the Year 1920.



Driffield :
Printed at the Express Office, Market Place.



Driffield Rural District Council.

Medical Officer's Annual Report for 1920.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Driffield Rural
District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have now to present to you my Annual Report for 1920.

The war has now terminated in a great measure for a space of nearly 2½ years: and the various services under the Public Health Act, the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, and the other Statutes and Regulations, through which the prevention of disease, the diminution of sickness, and the general physical welfare of the people are intended to be promoted, are gradually returning to their normal plane of efficiency.

Some headway has been made with the provision of new houses under the Housing Act; but the Ministry of Health has apparently recognised that the number of new houses stated to be required has been greatly over-estimated in many cases by at least 50 per cent., so that it is not improbable that the estimate of 50 new houses or thereabouts required, as submitted to your Council, may be nearer the mark.

The cost of building a cottage nowadays, owing to increased wages and enhanced price of materials, comes to over £1000 at which an economic rent is impossible; and therefore the necessary money will have to be provided by loan, the repayment of which is spread over a number of years; and the plans &c. must be approved by the Ministry of Health.

In the case of this District some (3) Cottages have been built, others are in the course of construction, and negotiations are in progress in a further number of cases both for building and acquiring the land for that purpose in the various villages.

There has been a marked rise in the Birth Rate from 16'9 to 27'099; and a fall in the Death Rate from 13'219 to 13'157.

55 cases of Infectious Disease were notified, which is below the average number; there were 64 cases in 1919.

Diphtheria shewed an increase of nearly double, all but one case in the Driffield, Foston and Langtoft Sub-Districts; and caused to a great extent by insanitary conditions in the school privies, which have now been remedied. No case has been notified since November 29th, 1920 up to the end of the year.

A few non-notifiable cases, e.g., whooping cough, measles, &c., were from time to time reported by the Head Teachers in the various schools.

Population.

The Census number in 1911 was 12,112; estimated 1920, 11,404.

There were 196 more Births than Deaths, which is very satisfactory.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.

Roughly speaking, the District divides itself into two parts, viz: a North-Western District comprising the sub-districts of Bainton and Langtoft; and a South-Eastern District corresponding as near as maybe with those of Driffield Rural and Foston.

These two parts are divided by a range of hills running from N.E. to S.W. at an average elevation of between 500 and 600 feet above sea level. To the N.W. of these hills lie the dale villages, and sloping down from them to the S.E. is the larger part of the district, some 15 miles by 12.

The highest point of the range rises to 700 feet near Towthorpe, and the lowest is Watton Carr, not more than 10 ft above sea level.

The hill ranges are composed of chalk, which comes almost up to the surface in many parts; this stratum is said to be from 1200 to 1500 ft. in thickness and from it proceed numerous and excellent springs of pure though hard water, owing to underlying impervious clay.

On the higher levels most of the water used for drinking and other domestic purposes is obtained from rain water storage cisterns. as the thickness of the chalk bed renders boring difficult or impossible.

Rainfall.

The average rainfall is 28 inches; in 1920 it was 26·73.

The most noticeable feature was the very wet April.

This particular month is not generally a wet one in this district, as the average rainfall in April during the last 12 years inclusive of 1920, has only been 1·59 inches.

	In inches.	No. of days on which rain fell.
January ...	2·97	18
February ...	·86	11
March ...	1·74	14
April ...	4·06	24
May ...	1·92	13
June ...	·84	6
July ...	5·46	24
August ...	1·22	12
September ...	1·50	11
October ...	1·97	10
November ...	·97	10
December ...	3·22	25
	26·73	178

The days on which there was the greatest rainfall were Jan. 28th ('94 inch); July 16th ('96 inch); October 1st ('95 inch).

February, June and November have been the driest months; January, April, July and December the wettest.

Social Conditions and Occupations.

As the district is a purely agricultural one, it is peopled for the most part by farmers and their employees; there are a few resident landowners, and a good many small-holders on their own, or County Council holdings.

The general condition of the population is good, owing doubtless to a healthy occupation, a good inherited constitution, good air, good water, plenty of substantial food, and absence of overcrowding.

Their time is spent principally in three ways, working, feeding and sleeping, and most farm lads have their cycle, which they use a good deal to come into Driffeld on their Saturday half-holiday and on Sundays. They have little brain worry to wear them out, and, as obtains in other districts of a similar nature, the physical qualities are more developed than the intellectual, and the duration of life is longer than in the large towns or manufacturing districts.

As a rule they are extremely sober, but large eaters; due no doubt to somewhat inclement climate and hard manual labour.

They are fertile, and the larger amount of illegitimacy among them is probably due to strong physical development, and to the necessarily lax supervision exercised over the farm hands in the evenings, when work is over, as well as to daily association with animals.

But of late years there has been a tendency to provide them with innocent amusements in the winter evenings, and village concerts, whist drives, &c., have been promoted by some of the farmers; these have been appreciated and well attended; and perhaps influences such as these may keep them out of mischief, and tend to lessen the illegitimate birth rate, which shows a decided decrease in the last 10 years.

Amount of Poor Law Relief.

The numbers of persons from the Rural District who received Poor Law Relief during the year 1920, were as follows:—

Out of Door	...	186	(includes also 24 relieved in Workhouse, &c. 1 in both Workhouse and Asylum).
Workhouse	...	102	(includes also 24 relieved out of door, 3 in Asylum, and 1 both out of door and in Asylum)
Asylum	...	30	(includes also 3 relieved in Workhouse, and 1 both out of door and in Workhouse).
Blind Institution		1	
		<hr/>	
		319	
Less persons counted twice		28	
		<hr/>	
Nett Total	...	291	
		<hr/>	

This amount is equal to about 3'42 on an estimated population of 11,404 for 1920. In 1919 this was 2'2 p.c.

Orders for medical and ordinary relief are granted by the Medical Officers and Relieving Officer in necessitous cases.

Cases of Enteric Fever, Scarlatina, and Diphtheria, are removed to the Driffield Isolation Hospital, which is situated in the Urban District.

Serious surgical cases among the poor are generally sent to Hull Infirmary, or York County Hospital. The Driffield Cottage Hospital also takes a large proportion of accidents, and some medical cases.

Vital Statistics.

For the purpose of ascertaining the Birth Rate the Registrar General has estimated the population of 1920 as 11,404.

There were 309 Births recorded; the Birth Rate thus being 27'099, a great improvement on last year, when it was only 16'9.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales in 1920 was 25'4.

There were 23 illegitimate children born, 12 boys and 11 girls, equal to 7'44 p.c. of the total births; in 1919 it was equal to 6'21 p.c.

The Registrar General estimates the population for the purposes of the Death Rate as 11,404; and as there were 132 Deaths in 1920, this gives a Rate of 13'157.

The Death Rate for England and Wales in 1920 was 12'4.

16 infants died, of these 4 were illegitimate. The Infant Mortality was equal to 121'3 per 1000 deaths, or 51'456 per 1000 births.

70 Males and 62 Females died; all of these belonged to the District.

Of the 132 deaths (exclusive of non-residents), 17 occurred in Jan.; 7 in Feb.; 16 in March; 6 in April; 17 in May; 10 in June; 10 in July; 9 in August; 18 in Sept.; 5 in October; 10 in Nov.; 7 in Dec.; so that October was the healthiest, and September the most fatal month.

Deaths were caused by the following diseases in 1920 :—

		Rate in	1919	1920
Whooping Cough ...	1	...	·091	·087
Pulm. Tuberculosis ...	7	...	·547	·614
Other Tuber. Diseases	1	...	·182	·087
Cancer	9	...	1·368	·789
Heart Disease	15	...	1·55	1·315
Bronchitis	8	...	1·094	·701
Pneumonia	10	...	·638	·877
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	..	·091	·087
Congenital Debility and Premature Birth	7	...	·273	·614

There were 7 Coroner's Inquests; in 5 of these a verdict of Death from Natural Causes was returned; and 2 were due to accident.

And here let me again emphasize, what I have so often said previously, that no facilities exist for postmortem examination.

This is a distinct want, and it is to be hoped that the Coroner will endeavour to get it remedied, as it often depends upon mere haphazard conjecture to assign a verdict of natural causes, unless a proper internal examination has been made. On a suitable central site, preferably in Driffield, so as to serve both the Rural and Urban areas, a building should be provided, where a post-mortem examination, when necessary, could be carried out with the proper appliances. Perhaps some mutual arrangement could be made with the Urban Council (as in the case of provision against fires); they also have no means of dealing with such cases.

Water Supply.

This subject naturally divides itself into

- (i) The supply for the hilly Districts.
- (ii) The supply for the lower lying districts, i.e., less than 150 feet above sea level.

(i) These districts are dependent upon underground rainwater cisterns, owing to the difficulty of tapping water by boring through perhaps a thousand feet or more of chalk; and such cisterns are liable to contamination by fold-yards, and the surface generally of the ground, where they are not sufficiently raised above the soil and protected; sometimes also they are fouled from roofs of buildings, where pigeons are kept; and in addition they are often left uncleansed for years, so that filth accumulates in them.

(ii) The lower lying districts get their water from springs which force their way through chalk gravel, and from wells, bores and artesian wells.

In the flat lands south and east of Driffield alluvial surface deposits and clay cover the chalk to the depth of 80 feet and more; and wells sunk right through this deposit yield plenty of good water; where the wells are shallow the water is often of a suspicious character, and the wells tend to run dry in long continued drought.

There is only one Waterworks supply in the District, viz., at Nafferton, where a well is sunk in the chalk of the Nafferton Wolds to the N.W. of the village, as the flow of the underground water is from N.W. to S.E.; and it was therefore considered absolutely necessary that such underground water should be tapped before passing under the village, in order to obtain a supply beyond reproach.

These works were opened in May 1912, and were undertaken by order of the Local Government Board, owing to a severe outbreak of Enteric Fever.

The well that supplies this water is sunk to a depth of 216 feet in the chalk, with a bore from the bottom of the well for an additional 50 feet; 20 gallons per head, for an estimated population of 1200 persons are provided. The water is raised by machinery in duplicate, viz., by a wind engine, and an oil engine, each with a similar set of three throw pumps, which can be driven separately or simultaneously. The supply is continuous and of a first rate quality, and far in excess of what will ever be required. The reservoir commands a large area of supply beyond the village of Nafferton, and water might be extended in future to this area, if required. At present about three-quarters of the houses in Nafferton are supplied by the Waterworks.

As a testimony to the value of pure water supply it may be noted here, that, whereas, previous to the establishment of the Waterworks, there had always been cases of Enteric Fever cropping up in the village, yet, since May, 1912, there has only been one, and that one in a house which drew its supply from a contaminated well, and did not take the reservoir water.

The 4 wells from which Middleton takes its water supply, and which were probably responsible for an outbreak of Enteric in 1914 by being badly contaminated, have been analysed from time to time with unsatisfactory results; at present one of the wells is in process of cleaning and a bore is being sunk, but at the time of writing the springs are at their highest level, and work is being delayed for that reason. Previously war conditions prevented this work being carried out.

The various streams which find their way ultimately into the Driffeld Beck and Canal are polluted by fold-yards, and effluents from the Driffeld, Nafferton, Kilham, and Eastburn Aerodrome sewage beds. The effluents from these various filtration areas are clear, and though rendering the water unfit for human consumption, do not seem to be noxious to fish life in the streams into which they run. The Aerodrome filter beds, which are very little used at present, are especially good, and there is never any odour from them.

Three samples of water were sent for analysis in 1920, one each from Elmswell, Kilham, and the Rectory Well at Middleton, and all were found to be of excellent quality.

The proposed scheme for a Waterworks system for the Dale Villages, which had been revived on account of a badly-polluted well at Butterwick, has been rejected on account of its estimated expense, over £20,000.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Apart from the Sewer Filtration Areas above-mentioned, most of the villages possess a main drain, which takes the rain and slop water, but not human sewage; these drains discharge ultimately into the Driffeld Beck and Canal, with the exception of the Dale Villages, which drain for the most part into the Gipsy which runs to Bridlington.

Closet Accommodation.

There are, comparatively speaking, few W.C.'s in the District. Most of the excreta are received in tubs or pails; being eventually dug into the gardens, or taken away at long intervals by the farmers, and spread on the land; the appended list will give an approximate idea of the relative numbers.

Parish	W. Closets.	Pail Closets.	Privies.
Bainton	2	47	33
Beeford	2	125	30
Bracken		2	1
Brigham		5	6
Butterwick		7	3
Cottam	3	8	2
Cowlam		7	3
Dalton, North	2	19	68
Eastburn	2	4	2
Elmswell with Little			
Driffield & Kelleythorpe	3	32	25
Fimber		12	20
Foxholes		38	12
Foston	3	36	19
Frodingham, North	1	101	41
Garton	3	61	31
Gembling		17	2
Harpham		22	19
Helperthorpe		18	10
Hutton Cranswick	2	125	125
Kelk, Great	1	16	17
Kelk, Little	1	9	4
Kilham	2	120	100
Kirkburn	1	18	9
Langtoft	1	90	40
Lowthorpe	5	16	16
Luttons Ambo	1	50	20
Middleton	6	80	60
Nafferton	16	232	50
Neswick	4	6	4
Rotsea	2	2	2
Ruston Parva		12	6
Skerne		19	14
Sledmere	12	68	20
Southburn	8	14	6
Sunderlandwick	7	10	2
Tibthorpe	2	30	25
Towthorpe	4	2	6
Wansford	1	38	3
Watton	1	25	25
Weaverthorpe		75	15
Wetwang	2	105	10
Total	100	1723	901

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS.—There are 26 Dairies and Cowsheds and 117 Workshops on the Register; these have been inspected regularly, and were generally found in a satisfactory condition. There are 13 Slaughter Houses, and 3 Fellmongers in the District; these have been inspected and found satisfactory.

SCHOOLS.—The sanitary condition is good. The water supply to these is by pumps from springs, except in the cases of Wetwang and Fimber, where rainwater cisterns are used, and at Nafferton where the supply is from the Waterworks.

In two cases, Kirkburn and Harpham, pans have been substituted for the old type of privy midden.

On inspection, sanitary conveniences were found clean, and appear to receive regular attention.

By arrangement with me the County Medical Officer takes upon himself the closing of the Schools, when necessitated by an epidemic of infectious disease; and the E. Riding County Council carries out their disinfection.

Food.

The milk supply is fairly satisfactory all round: the district produces sufficient for its own needs, and all dairies that retail milk are inspected quarterly.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1918. The East Riding Health Visitor has been appointed to carry out this Order, and to see that necessitous cases are provided with the statutory allowance of milk, either free or at reduced prices.

Meat. There are no public slaughter houses: the ordinary private ones, 13 in number, are inspected regularly and have been found in a satisfactory condition; there are no existing arrangements for the inspection of meat at the time of slaughter; and there has been no report of carcasses with Tuberculosis.

Tabular Form.

		No. of Slaughter Houses in District.		
		In 1914.	In January 1920.	In December, 1920
Registered		—	13	13
Licensed.		None		

No Slaughter House Bye-laws.

Other foods: There is no special food inspection in the District, nor has there been any report of unsound food, or insanitary condition of bakehouses; nor has there been a case of food poisoning.

Infectious Diseases, Prevalence of and Control over.

There were 55 cases of notifiable infectious disease in 1920. This is about the average, but rather less than in 1919. By far the larger proportion was due to Diphtheria (35 cases) and 23 of these occurred in the Bainton and Foston sub-districts, principally at Southburn, Kirkburn, Tibthorpe, Harpham and the two Kelks. The insanitary condition of the privy middens at Kirkburn and Harpham schools is probably responsible for these; but this has now been remedied. There was nothing else in the nature of an epidemic. There were 3 deaths from Diphtheria.

9 cases of Scarlatina were notified and 1 of Enteric Fever.

18 cases, including 17 of Scarlatina and Diphtheria and the Enteric case, were removed to Hospital. The fatal cases of Diphtheria, aged 5, 6 and 10 respectively, were all nursed at home.

There was no death from Scarlatina or Enteric Fever. Diphtheria anti-toxin is promptly supplied to medical practitioners on application.

Bacteriological examination was employed in 58 suspected cases of Diphtheria, and of these 29 were returned as positive and 29 as negative.

9 specimens of sputum were sent to the analyst, and of these 7 proved non-tuberculous, and 2 to contain tubercle bacilli.

3 samples of suspected water sent proved excellent.

Cases of Diphtheria, Scarlatina, and Enteric Fever as a rule are taken to the Driffield Isolation Hospital, and their removal to and discharge from the Hospital is communicated to the Local Authority.

As soon as a case has been removed, or when cured, if treated at home, disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. 50 such were carried out, in 1920. In the event of death the disinfection is performed as soon as the body has been removed for burial.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by the M.O.H. under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917, during the last year, and no case of Small Pox has been notified, nor any of Anthrax, Rabies, Trench Fever, or Dysentery.

Non-notifiable acute infectious diseases are reported to the M.O.H. by the Head Teachers of the various schools from time to time. Measles, Mumps and Whooping Cough are the principal of these diseases.

Cases too of Ringworm, Scabies and Pediculosis are also reported, and the parents are warned to keep their children clean; but if some place for isolating such infected families, and treating them could be provided, their homes being meanwhile disinfected, it would be of great utility by minimizing the risk of spreading the disease, and the waste of school time which now occurs through infected children not being allowed to attend.

Cases of Tuberculosis are duly notified by the practitioners in the district, and printed instructions are sent to the patients by the M.O.H.

VENEREAL DISEASE.—The East Riding County Council provide apparatus for taking blood and smear tests; these are then forwarded to the Pathological Department of Leeds Infirmary, and reported upon in due course. They also provide, to those medical men who are qualified to receive them, the drugs suitable in such cases. Cases may be treated at the General Infirmary, Hull, or at the York County Hospital, free of charge; and this seems to meet the requirements of the situation fairly well; although doubtless there are many cases that will not adopt treatment, but conceal their symptoms, and thereby become a danger to others; and others who refuse treatment. Some compulsory measures seem to be needed in the case of persons known to be the subjects of V.D.

There are no clinics in the area, and not a great many (known) cases of these diseases; and there is only one practitioner in the district, who is specially qualified to receive free samples of salvarsan substitute. To my knowledge somewhat under a dozen specimens have been sent for examinations, referring to four cases; this was in 1919, and none have been sent since.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The East Riding Council's Health Visitors visit such cases of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age as are notified to them; and are authorized to order milk and such other food as they consider necessary in each case.

A small Welfare Home has been opened in Driffield, with a few beds for lying in cases. A reception is held every fortnight, at which Mothers and Babies attend: inspection of the babies is made; they are weighed, and advice is given as to their feeding and general care.

This Home serves the needs of the Rural District as well as of the Town itself; there is a Resident Health Visitor, who is fully qualified to attend cases of Confinement, and to undertake the other duties of the establishment.

All still births have to be certified: and arrangements are in force by which certain children temporarily or permanently deprived of a home with their own parents (or of their mother if illegitimate), are boarded out with respectable people, and a Lady Inspector looks after these in each Sub-district.

No case of puerperal fever was notified; and 1 only of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, but no details of the nature of injury to the eyes were given.

Measles and German Measles ceased to be notifiable as from the end of 1919. Several cases were reported by the Head Teachers of various schools in 1920, but there were no deaths.

There was only 1 death from Whooping Cough, of which several cases were reported; this also is a non-notifiable disease.

No cases of epidemic Diarrhoea or poliomyelitis were notified.

There were 16 deaths under 1 year, 4 of these being illegitimate children. Last year (1919) 5 illegitimate children died.

Sanitary Administration.

Summary of work of Sanitary Inspector.

Disinfection:—50 Disinfections of Dwelling houses were carried out as follows:—38 after Diphtheria (3 deaths), 3 after Erysipelas, 4 after Scarlet Fever, 2 after Enteric Fever (1 case), 3 after Tuberculosis (2 deaths).

Inspections:—

Houses inspected for purpose of revised survey	...	1931
do. for ordinary nuisances	...	121
Dairies and Cowsheds—No. of visits	...	79
Workshops—Number of visits	...	243
Slaughter Houses (no register) No. of visits	...	31
Offensive Trades do. do.	...	7
Canal Boats—None at Wharves when visited	...	—

Defects found and remedied—Notices served:—

No. of Defects found	...	273
do. remedied	...	165
No. of Notices (statutory) served	...	None
do. (informal) do.	...	141
do. do. complied with	...	92

Owing to scarcity of labour for repairing work, builders have not been able to proceed as fast as desired; but there are signs of improvement, and work on the above defects is being carried out at a quicker rate.

Overcrowding:—19 houses were found to be overcrowded, but it was not possible to obtain alternative accommodation. 3 of these have however been relieved, (1 at Nafferton) through the letting of the Council's new houses.

Demolition:—Application was made, and permission obtained to pull down an old cottage at Harpham, in order to erect a new one on the site.

Rents &c. (Restrictions) Act, 1920:—One application was received for a certificate as to fitness under the Act, and a certificate was granted. The defects that existed have since been remedied.

Diphtheria at Southburn:—A fatal case having occurred in this village, a special inspection was made, but nothing of a serious nature was found. Several minor defects have since been remedied.

Routine:—

Nafferton—	Sewers flushed monthly and found satisfactory
Middleton—	do. 4 times yearly and found satisfactory
Kilham—	do. twice do. do.

Outfall Works at Kilham, Middleton and Nafferton generally supervised. In the early part of the year the sumphole taking the effluent at Middleton was enlarged, and no more trouble was experienced during the year.

Water Supplies are supervised, and repairs have been carried out to pumps at Bainton, Beeford, North Dalton, North Frodingham, Garton, Helperthorpe, Hutton, Luttons Ambo, Middleton, Roston Parva, Tibthorpe and Weaverthorpe, and the pond at Helperthorpe was cleaned out during the year. 3 samples of water were obtained and forwarded for analysis, viz: from Elmswell, Kilham and Middleton (Rectory well), all good.

Scavenging supervised at Nafferton. This has been carried out satisfactorily.

Hospital Accommodation.

There is an Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases in the Urban District of Driffild; a Cottage Hospital in the same district and a Small Pox Hospital in Pocklington District, which has been enlarged since my last Report. The first named serves the needs of the greater part of the East Riding for such diseases as Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Enteric; this and the Small Pox Hospital are under the control of the East Riding County Council.

Arrangements for chemical and bacteriological work:—Examinations for Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Tuberculosis and water, are carried out at the Institute for Clinical Research in London. All specimens from suspected cases of Venereal disease, together with tests for the Wasserman reaction, are sent to the Pathological Department of the Leeds General Infirmary.

Tuberculosis:—For National Insurance patients 16 beds are reserved at the Withernsea Sanatorium: for uninsured persons beds are taken when available at Sanatoria in the County or adjacent thereto.

Housing.

(1) General Housing Conditions in the District.

(i) There are about 2746 houses, with an average of 4.4156 persons to each house (this applies to the working-class houses); 3 new dwellings were erected and occupied during the year, viz: 1 (brickbuilt) at Harpham; 1 (an army hut) at Skerne; and 1 (a wooden bungalow) at Cranswick. The two latter are subject to a ten years' limit as regards occupation.

(ii) Population.

There were no important changes during the year, and none are anticipated; according to the census in 1911 the population was 12112: the present estimate is 11404.

(iii) Extent of shortage or excess of houses.

It was calculated by your Council that—

- (a) Somewhat under 50 new houses would meet the demand; but the Deputy Housing Commissioner states that at least 165 new ones are needed, and that this number will probably need revision, as some of the villages were not included in his inspection.
- (b) Council's Housing Scheme—9 houses were in course of erection on Dec. 31st, 1920: 3 at Nafferton, 4 at Kilham, and 2 at Watton. In addition sites have been selected at North Dalton and Langtoft and have been approved by the Ministry of Health; the site at Beeford has been approved. Negotiations in respect of sites at Hutton Cranswick and Wetwang are in the hands of the District Valuer, and steps have been taken for the provision of a site at Middleton. The proposal to build two houses at Skerne has been abandoned, and another site is being secured.

2 Excess or Shortage.

The result of a revised Housing Survey shewed that the estimated number of working class houses required during the next three years:—(a) To meet the unsatisfied demand for houses (taking into account growth of population, overcrowding &c.) 17. (b) To replace other dwellings which are unfit for human habitation and cannot be made fit, 86. (c) After deducting for 4 overcrowded houses which were also unfit, and 4 unfit houses that are empty, we have a nett estimated number of 95.

These figures were submitted to the Housing Commissioner.

3 Overcrowding.

The 17 cases found during the survey were at Beeford, North Dalton, Little Driffield, Hutton Cranswick, Langtoft, Skerne and Wetwang. In these 17 houses there were 42 adults and 89 children, occupying 27 bedrooms and 21 living rooms. Two other cases were found, 1 at Middleton, where 2 adults and 6 children (ranging from a girl of 14 years to a baby) were occupying 1 bedroom and 1 living room. These people came from outside the district, being obliged to take what accommodation they could get. The other case was at Nafferton, which has since been relieved by one of the families moving into a new house built by the Council.

4 Fitness or otherwise of houses.

(i) (a) The general standard of housing in the District is below what it should be for health and comfort.

(b) The outstanding defect is dampness, due to the fact that hardly any cottage, except a few built within recent years, has a damp proof course, thus conducing to rheumatism and lowering of vitality. Other defects are leaking roofs, leaking or absence of proper spouting, defective drains, and insufficient or defective closet accommodation, and faulty paving.

(ii) Action taken as regards unfit houses:—In all cases the owners are communicated with by informal notice, and requested to put their houses in order. As a rule they respond, some more readily than others, and carry out the necessary repairs.

(iii) The principal difficulties in remedying unfitness have been the shortage and increased cost of labour and material, but it is to be hoped that, as time goes on more material will be available. The greatest single improvement, if it could be carried out, would be the provision of a damp proof course in each house.

(iv) Speaking generally the water supply is adequate for the houses; although it often happens that several families have to use one pump; and, in the matter of closet accommodation, there are cases in which more than two families share a single privy. Each house should for obvious reasons have its own closet. There should be a system of scavenging (public) in all villages of over 300 population. Now it is quite an ordinary thing to see the excreta collected in a heap outside the privy; and often, being incompletely covered with ashes, especially in summer time, they form a splendid resort and breeding place for flies; they are sometimes allowed to accumulate thus for six months, where there is insufficient garden space to dig them in, until the farmer thinks it worth his while to send for them.

5 Unhealthy Areas.

There are none in the District.

6 Byelaws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans sheds, &c.:—There are no houses let in lodgings in the district, and no byelaws relating especially to tents, vans, sheds &c.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.

HOUSING.—“The Board would draw special attention to the section of the memorandum as to the information required on the subject of the housing of the working classes. Where there is a deficiency of accommodation in rural districts the parish or parishes in which the deficiency exists, the number of cottages needed, and the nature of the accommodation required in the cottages, should be stated.”

HOUSING (Inspections of District) REGULATION, 1910, Art. V.—“The Medical Officer of Health shall include in his Annual Report information and particulars in tabular form in regard to” :—

Number of dwellinghouses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17 of the Act of 1909, 1931.

Number of dwellinghouses found unfit for human habitation, 82.

Number of dwellinghouses made fit for habitation without formal representation, 2.

Number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to the making of closing Orders, 1.

Number of Closing Orders made, none.

Number of dwellinghouses in which the defects were remedied without the making of Closing Orders, 2.

Number of dwellinghouses which after the making of Closing Orders were put into a fit state for human habitation, none.

General character of defects found to exist—Dampness, leaking roofs, absence of proper spouting, defective drains, faulty paving, and insufficient or defective closet accommodation.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS—

Have Regulations been adopted? Yes.

Date of adoption, several years ago, Oct. 1st, 1903.

Number of dairies and cowsheds on Register, 26

Number of Cows, approximately 130.

Visits to Cowsheds, 79; to Dairies, 79. Defects found, none.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES—

Number, 13. Visits to, 31. Number of defects found, none.
Canal Boats inspected, none at Wharves when visited.

NOTE—This form is inserted at the request of the County M.O.H., although to a certain extent it is a repetition.

APPENDICES (refer also to pages 9 & 10.)**Housing Conditions.**

Statistics, year ended Dec. 31st, 1920.

1—General.

1 Estimated Population, 11404. 2 General Death Rate, 9'85. 3 Death Rate from Tuberculosis, '701. 4 Infantile Mortality (per 1000 births), 51'456. 5 Number of dwelling houses of all classes, 2,746. 6 Number of working class dwelling houses, 2,213. 7 Number of new working class houses erected, 3

2—Unfit Dwelling Houses.**1 Inspection—**

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts. Housing Acts 1931, Public Health Act 121, 2052.

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910—501.

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health, as to be unfit for human habitation—86.

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation—393.

2 Remedy of Defects without Service of informal notices—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers—92.

3 Action under Statutory Powers—**A Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning &c. Act 1919**

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs—None.

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit

(a) by Owners, None—(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners, None.

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close—None.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—None.

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied—

(a) By Owner—None. (b) By Local Authority in default of Owner—None.

C. Proceedings under Section 17 & 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act 1919.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders—None.

(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made—None.

(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit—None.

(4) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made—None.

(5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders—None.

3—Unhealthy Areas.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a) Part I, or (b) Part II of the Act of 1890.

(1) Name of Area—None. (2) Acreage—None. (3) Number of working class houses in area—None. (4) Number of working class persons to be displaced—None.

4—Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning &c. Act 1919—2.

5—Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer—These are the Clerk, M.O.H., Surveyor, Architect, Sanitary Inspector, whose names sufficiently indicate their work.

NOTE:—The above headings under Housing and Appendices, and the arrangement of this Report generally, are in accordance with the instructions contained in the memorandum issued to Medical Officers of Health by the Ministry of Health in February, 1921.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. SANCTUARY, M.D.

DRIFFIELD,

March 24th, 1921.