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Contributors

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Filey Urban District Council.

REPORT of MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH.

JANUARY 5th, 1904.

TO THE FILEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,—In presenting my

REPORT for the YEAR 1903,

Deaths—35 (19 females and 16 males).

Death-rate: 11·6 per 1000.

Births: 65 (39 males and 26 females).

Birth-rate: 21·6.

I have to inform you that the total number of deaths for the year is thirty-five,—which is nine deaths less than last year. Nineteen females and sixteen males died during the year. This gives a death-rate for the past year of eleven decimal six, which is very satisfactory, and is exactly three per thousand less than last year.

The Births for the year number sixty-five,—thirty-nine males and twenty-six females. This gives a birth-rate for the year of twenty-one decimal six, which is nearly double our death-rate.

The Deaths in the District occurred at the following ages:

Under 1 year: 8. 1 to 5: 3. 15 to 25: 1. 25 to 65: 5. 65 to 90: 18.

Six of the deaths occurred in persons over eighty; one person reaching the great age of ninety years. There were three sudden deaths and accidents, which gave rise to Coroner's inquiries.

During the year, only eight notifiable cases have been reported, and no death resulted from any notifiable disease.

The general health of the town has been exceedingly good during the year, in spite of so much wet weather.

I notice that the County Council have recently recommended the gratuitous supply, at the discretion of the Medical Officer of Health, of diphtheritic anti-toxin serum as a preventive measure. The practice of supplying this remedy has been followed by the Filey Council for some years, and has undoubtedly been productive of good results.

I regret that no further steps have been taken for the effective isolation of cases of infectious disease, a precaution which every Sanitary Authority ought to adopt. A similar state of things exists in most of the Sanitary Districts within the Riding, and the fear of setting up an expensive establishment which might possibly be but seldom used, is no doubt responsible for so little being done in this direction.

The provision, by the County Authority, of District Hospitals at convenient centres, to which the various minor Authorities could send infectious cases would, I am of opinion, be the most economical and effective method of dealing with a difficulty which might, at any moment, become of very grave importance.

Periodical inspections have been made of the Schools, Bakehouses, Dairies, Milk-shops, and Slaughter-houses within the District, the condition of which has been of a satisfactory character generally.

I observe that the Bill which the Council is promoting in the next Session of Parliament, contains good and up-to-date provisions for dealing more fully with the supply of Milk, and with Tuberculosis in Cows, both matters of paramount importance in a place the prosperity of which depends so largely upon a clean Bill of Health.

The same Bill also contains clauses dealing with *Infectious Diseases*, and imposes various duties upon Principals of Schools with reference to supplying lists of pupils whenever cases of an infectious nature arise in their Schools.

It is further proposed to extend the powers of the Public Health Act with regard to New Streets and Buildings, and the Bill generally *can not fail* to assist the Council in the important duties of a Sanitary Authority.

The Scavenging—which is carried out by the Council's own staff—has been very well done, but I think that the time has now arrived when *the disposal of the refuse should receive serious consideration*.

The stacking of the refuse in a field is certainly not the most sanitary method of dealing with it, and now that chemicals have so largely superseded the use of ordinary manures, *the sale of the refuse is so slow* that there is always an unsightly and often an offensive accumulation to be seen. Situated as it is within a short distance of one of the two roads leading from and to the town, the impression given to Visitors and residents is often the reverse of favourable.

I have had several complaints, the last month, about the obnoxious Smells on the Muston Road, and I find them chiefly due to allowing butcher's refuse to rot in a field bordering the road, which is a nuisance, and should not be allowed. *Destructors* have been introduced into most of the Seaside resorts, and the cost would, I venture to say, be little—if *anything—more* than under the present primitive system, whilst the benefit from a general point of view would be undeniable.

There is a plentiful supply of excellent Water from the Council's own Water Undertaking, the water being pumped from an artesian well. The borehole is sunk into the calcareous grit, which underlies the boulder clay; it extends to a depth of 365 feet from the surface of the ground,—over 100 feet being through rock. The last Analysis of the water was most satisfactory, but as some years have elapsed since it was taken, I would suggest that it be again analysed, and *it would, I think, be an advantage* were copies to be supplied to any residents and visitors requiring the same. I understand that the use of the old Surface Wells, at Hunmanby, has been of late years discontinued.

Some sixteen buildings are registered under the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, all of which I have periodically inspected, and have had no complaints to make in any instance, the ventilation being good and sufficient, and the air-space ample for all requirements.

I append hereto Statistics with reference to causes, ages, &c., of persons who have died during the year just closed.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient Servant,

J. THOMAS HAWORTH.

