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ANNUAL REPORT
UPON THE
Public Health and Sanitary Condition
OF THE
GOOLE RURAL DISTRICT

For the Year 1911,

BY

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TO THE

Goole Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report upon the public health and sanitary condition of your district for the year 1911.

The Rural District comprises an area of 38,238 acres on a red sandstone formation. It is divided into fifteen parishes, Adlingfleet on the east being only three feet above sea level, and Pollington on the west about fifty feet, this being the highest part of the area.

The district is purely agricultural.

The population at the census taken in 1911 was 8518 and the number of occupied houses 1981, giving a population per house of 4.3.

In 1901 the census population was 7937 and the inhabited houses 1853.

This increase of about 600 is satisfactory as the population had diminished during the previous ten years.

The main increase has been in the Snaith Sub-division from 4132 in 1901 to 4579 at the 1911 census.

In the Swinefleet district the population rose from 2438 to 2520 and in Goole Rural Sub-district from 1367 to 1419. Although further details are not yet published the increase in the Snaith division has probably been almost entirely at Rawcliffe, where industrial conditions have improved during the last few years.

I estimate the population at the middle of the year at 8530 and upon this figure the birth and death rates are based.

Births and Death Rate.

215 births were recorded, equivalent to a rate of 25.2 per thousand. It is, with the exception of 1909, the lowest recorded in the district for many years; although higher than that of the rural districts of the country generally, which was 23.4.

In the Snaith Sub-division the birth rate was 27; in Swinefleet 26; and in the Goole Rural only 20 per thousand.

Deaths and Death Rate.

132 deaths were registered in the district, 12 of these were non-residents who died in the isolation hospital, and 7 residents died in other places. The number of deaths belonging to the district is thus 127, and is at the rate of 14·9 per thousand. Although below the average for this district, it is higher than the rate in rural districts generally, which in 1911 was 13·9. An excessive number of deaths were registered from typhoid fever and diarrhoea during the summer.

The death rates in the Sub-districts were as follows:—Snaith 16·1; Swinefleet 12; Goole Rural 16·2.

26 deaths of infants under 1 year of age were recorded, the infant mortality (rate per 1000 births) being 121. This is about the rate in rural districts generally. No infant deaths were attributed to measles or whooping cough. An increased number were due to diarrhoea and debility, no doubt the result of the hot dry weather, which caused rapid decomposition of milk and other infant foods.

Although 12 illegitimate births were registered there were no deaths amongst these infants.

Infectious Diseases.

Fifty-six cases were notified, which is the greatest number for many years and is due mainly to the serious outbreak of typhoid fever which occurred at Swinefleet in the autumn.

Of the four cases of scarlet, one was a nurse in the fever hospital and the other three isolated cases treated at home. There is at present a growing tendency to treat scarlet fever patients in their own homes rather than in hospital, and I believe in the majority of cases this can be done without detriment to the patient, or danger to others.

Diphtheria was responsible for 23 notifications in fifteen houses, although the complaint was never seriously prevalent in any parish. Where there was any spread of the complaint it was amongst members of the same family and not due to attendance at school. Two of those affected were away from the district for ten days. The day after their return one commenced with diphtheria and the other the day following. It appeared that at the house at which they stayed a child was suffering from sore throat but had not been medically attended. Probably it was one of those slight unrecognised cases of diphtheria which are generally the cause of spreading the disease. Eleven were treated in the isolation hospital.

Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied by the Rural Council for the use of medical practitioners on patients or contacts in the district.

Typhoid Fever.

Twenty-six cases occurred during the year, twenty-two being in the Swinefleet division, and four in the Goole Rural, the latter being members of the staff at the isolation hospital. One case was reported

from Adlingfleet, but the man had been working at Swinefleet until his illness.

Sixteen cases were reported from Swinefleet between September 20th and October 12th. On the latter date I made the following report to the District Council, a copy of which was sent to the Local Government Board:—

“On September 20th four notifications were received, three being children of a family in Taylor’s Buildings. Two were convalescent, one having commenced about the middle of August and the other somewhat later. These two children probably contracted the disease in the Thorne Rural District where they had been staying with an aunt, as on August 24th the aunt, uncle, and a child were removed to the Thorne Isolation Hospital with enteric fever. The fourth case notified on September 20th was a man in Taylor’s Buildings.

On September 27th, 28th, and 29th three more cases were reported in Taylor’s Buildings, one being father of the children mentioned above. Since September 20th nine cases have occurred, one in Taylor’s Buildings, three in two houses adjoining and three in two houses within thirty yards of the place.

Taylor’s Buildings consists of four houses in Low Street opening into a common back yard. The sanitary conveniences are three privies with moveable receptacles of wood and a covered ashpit.

The drinking water supply is a rain water tank in the yard partly below ground with a wooden cover.

On September 28th I saw some clothes from one of the infected households being washed by a woman who dipped a pail into the water tank and at once proceeded to rinse some of the clothes in it.

In addition to the eight cases from these buildings two others had used the tank water for drinking purposes.

Several others may have arisen from infection of food by flies, which in September were very numerous. Milk does not seem to have had any effect in the spread of the disease.

Nine cases were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital and the houses and bedding disinfected.

The water tank in Taylor’s Buildings was emptied and thoroughly cleansed and disinfected.

Stools and urine from cases remaining at home were buried.

The drinking water supply at Swinefleet is rain water stored in tanks or cisterns and the privy with fixed or moveable receptacle of wood or iron is the method of excrement disposal.

Scavenging is done by contract for the District Council and has received special attention during the last two weeks.”

In addition to the above-mentioned cases three were reported from Swinefleet in May and July, and two occurred in October and November, both in houses where a previously reported case existed.

Eleven cases altogether were removed to the fever hospital and eleven treated at home.

Phthisis or Consumption.

Six deaths have been registered from this disease and three from other forms of tuberculosis.

Some years ago voluntary notification of phthisis was instituted in this district but has not proved a success. After deaths from phthisis rooms are disinfected.

No Sanatorium accommodation is available for cases in this district.

On January 1st, 1912, phthisis became a notifiable disease and after that date all cases must be reported to the Medical Officer of Health.

Owing to an outbreak of whooping cough at Swinefleet I recommended closure of the 'infants' department of the school from January 9th to February 6th.

Measles has been prevalent in several parts of the district. For an epidemic at Eastoft the school was closed from March 22nd to April 17th. This village presents the curious feature that almost all the houses are in the Isle of Axholme Rural District whereas the school is in this district.

The Council School at Snaith was closed from September 14th to October 23rd, and the National School from October 10th to November 20th. East Cowick School was closed for the same cause for a month on October 10th, and Rawcliffe Bridge from December 1st until the Christmas Holidays. In these outbreaks of measles older children were affected as well as infants, necessitating closure of the whole school. The previous outbreak of measles in these parishes was in 1904, consequently many of the older children were not protected by an attack in infancy. A number of cases of mumps occurred in February amongst older children attending Rawcliffe school.

Early information of non-notifiable diseases amongst school children is given by the school attendance officers.

Medical inspection of elementary school children is performed by officials of the County Council, who devote their whole time to the office.

Cases of anthrax in cattle have occurred at Ousefleet, Reedness, and Whitgift. The drinking water supply has been from the Ouse. It is a suggestive fact that the Aire, receiving the drainage of Bradford, joins the Ouse a little above Goole.

Little advance has been made in providing water for these parishes, which at present have not a sufficient supply for drinking and domestic purposes.

For Snaith, the District Council has left the matter largely in the hands of the Parish Council. Communications on the subject have repeatedly been received from the Local Government Board, and finally that body decided to hold a public inquiry as to the

default of the Rural Council. The waterworks engineer for Goole has now been asked to give an estimate of the cost of laying mains, and the Goole Urban Council to supply water for the village. In 1906 the Urban Council agreed to supply water, and plans and estimates were prepared. The work would have been carried out at that time but for the opposition of the Parish Council. Since then a considerable sum has been spent on analysing water from various wells and the results have proved the present supply to be inadequate. In view of the Rural Council's latest proposals the Local Government Board's inquiry has been postponed.

Hook and Rawcliffe form part of the Urban Council's area of supply. By the provisions of the Water Acts the owners and occupiers of either parish must guarantee that the water rates shall be equivalent to 10 per cent of the cost of the works for three years. Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining the guarantee from Rawcliffe, and the Local Government Board suggested that it should be given by the Rural Council. This the Urban Council were not willing to accept, and it is now suggested that a five years guarantee be given.

In 1908 a largely signed petition was presented to the Rural Council by the householders of Rawcliffe Bridge to obtain a sufficient supply of wholesome water. An attempt is being made to obtain the guarantee as in the case of Hook.

In Swinefleet soft water tanks are being erected for storage of rain water for drinking. Most of the cottages now possess either an underground cistern or galvanized iron tank. These have been provided by the owners as a result of notices under the Public Health Water Act. In one case the Council did the necessary work and recovered the cost from the owner.

In May, owing to scarcity in the village, I recommended the Council to provide some public pumps and shallow wells for a supply for purposes other than drinking. This would effect a considerable saving of stored rain water. There are at present several private wells of this nature which are much used by the inhabitants. This question has been adjourned.

During the summer water was again carted from Goole and sold at a charge of three-halfpence for two pails.

The village sewers discharge either directly or indirectly through ditches into the Ouse or Aire. In the absence of a proper water supply, and the flat gradient, nuisance is apt to arise in hot weather. More attention should be paid to flushing.

Improvements are required in the drainage of Airmyn. I suggest that a portion of new sewer should be laid each year and the existing catch pits filled up.

The open drain in Pinfold Lane, Pollington, is to be piped. A length of new sewer is to be laid in Gowdall and several existing cesspools abandoned.

The question of systematic cleansing of open sewers by the Council has not yet been considered.

Scavenging is done by occupiers except in Snaith and Swinefleet where the work is let by contract. Pail or box closets are common in Swinefleet, elsewhere the privy and covered ashpit is the method of refuse disposal. Some uncovered ashpits still remain, but are diminishing. About 100 pail closets exist in the district and 1500 privies.

Housing.

In accordance with the provisions of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 350 houses have been inspected during the year, mainly at Hook, Adlingfleet, and Fockerby. Sixty were found to have defects either in the houses or surroundings; the chief faults being dampness of houses, and dilapidated sanitary conveniences. In practically all the houses in Hook the water supply is bad. Its remedy lies in a public supply for the district. Thirty-five notices have been served to remedy defective conditions. Five new closets have been constructed, three houses provided with more light and ventilation, and five damp houses improved.

The table at the end of the report gives particulars of the defects.

In 1910 a closing order was made for a house in Taylor's Yard, Swinefleet, and in December of that year the question of demolition was considered when the owner agreed to render the place habitable. This has been done and the closing order determined.

Two cottages in High Street, Swinefleet, were mentioned in my last annual report as unfit for habitation. In one the necessary repairs were carried out, and a closing order made for the other in March. This has been unoccupied since April. Its demolition should now be considered. In November I reported that a house in High Street, Swinefleet, was unfit for habitation owing to dilapidation and dampness, insufficient sanitary conveniences and no drain. Its closure will be shortly considered.

Forty-two cowkeepers and two milksellers are now on the register. Their sheds, 66 in number, are in good structural condition. Sufficient use is not generally made of the means provided for ventilation. It is quite common to find ventilators closed with straw, even in mild weather. The filthy condition of many fold yards does not improve the atmosphere of the sheds.

There are fifteen workshops, including one bakehouse, in the district. Twenty-eight inspections were made. They are kept in a sanitary condition, no defects being found. No outworkers are employed.

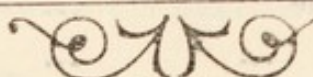
Your obedient servant,

BERNARD STEDMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

Housing and Town Planning Act.

Number of Houses inspected	...	...	350
Number of Houses found to be unfit for habitation			1
Number of representations made to Rural Council with a view to making closing orders	...		1
Number of closing orders made	...	...	1
Number of Houses made habitable after closing orders	...	...	1
Number of Houses or surroundings in which defects were found	...	...	60
Number of Notices served in respect of these defects			35
Number of Houses excessively damp	...		3
Number of Houses excessively dilapidated	...		4
Number of Houses with insufficient light and venti- lation	...	...	3
Number of Houses with defective or insufficient sanitary conveniences	...	...	40
Number of Houses with defective drainage	...		8
Number of Houses with yards in bad condition	...		2



**Inspections Made, Nuisances Abated, &c.,
during 1911.**

Number of Inspections made	...	...	1340
Number of Nuisances found	...	...	120
Number of Notices served	...	...	45
Number of Verbal notices	...	...	75
Number of Nuisances abated	...	...	110
House Drains examined and cleansed	...	...	21
Sinks disconnected	...	...	1
Cesspools removed and Gulleys substituted	...	...	4
Cesspools cleansed every 3 months	...	...	60
Old Privies and Ashpits reconstructed	...	—	1
New Privies	...	...	4
Houses cleansed and disinfected after Infectious Disease			33
New Houses erected	...	...	7
New other Buildings	...	...	3
Inspection of Buildings in course of erection		...	26
Inspection of Canal Boats	...	...	20
Dairies and Cowsheds registered	...	...	42
Number of Cows in District	...	...	354
Number of Inspections of Cowsheds	...	...	89
Number of Slaughter Houses on register	...	...	13
Number of Inspections of Slaughter Houses		...	29
Notices to Limewash Cowsheds	...	...	3
Village Watercourses cleansed	...	...	6 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles
Number of Common Lodging-houses on register		...	2
Number of inspections made	...	...	7
New Water Closets fixed	...	...	3

ROBERT PLEWES,

INSPECTOR.

TABLE 1.

VITAL STATISTICS DURING 1911 AND PREVIOUS YEARS IN THE
RURAL DISTRICT OF GOOLE.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths.		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Of Non-residents registered in the District.	Of Residents not registered in the District.	DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE		AT ALL AGES.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1906	7900	236	..	28.6	118	14.9	..	12	32	141	130	16.4
1907	7850	204	..	26.0	95	12.1	..	11	22	108	106	13.5
1908	7810	208	..	26.6	104	13.3	..	14	30	144	118	15.1
1909	7810	199	..	25.4	115	14.7	..	11	24	120	126	16.1
1910	7800	232	..	29.7	114	14.6	5	12	22	95	121	15.5
1911	8530	218	219	25.6	132	15.5	12	7	26	121	127	14.9

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water).. 38238 Acres.

Total population at all ages	8,518	} At Census of 1911.
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	1,981
Average number of persons per house			4.3	

TABLE II.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1911
IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF GOOLE.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases Notified in each Locality.				Total Cases removed to Hospital.	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							Snaih.	Swine- fleet.	Goole Rural.			
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards						
Small-pox ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria including Membranous Cr'up	23	3	14	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Erysipelas ...	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ...	4	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus Fever ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ...	26	1	6	8	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Relapsing Fever ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis Under Tubercu- losis Regulã- tions, 1908 .. Under Tubercu- losis Regula- tions, 1911 .. Others ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Totals ...	56	5	22	12	11	4	2	16	30	10	22	..	..

Isolation Hospital—Goole Joint (Urban and Rural) at Hook. Total available Beds, 26.
Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 3.

TABLE III.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1911, IN
THE RURAL DISTRICT OF GOOLE.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES										Total Deaths in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and 2. under 2.	2 and 3. under 3.	5 and 15. under 15.	15 and 25. under 25.	25 and 45. under 45.	45 and 65. under 65.	65 and upwards.		
All Causes } Certified	127	26	4	6	2	6	16	13	54	..	
All Causes } Uncertified .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	5	..	..	..	1	1	2	1	..	12
Small-pox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Whooping Cough	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Erysipelas	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	6	..	..	..	..	1	4	..	1	..
Tuberculous Meningitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, Malignant Disease	9	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	3	..
Bronchitis	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..
Broncho-Pneumonia	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia (all other forms)	9	2	2	..	..	..	2	..	3	..
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	11	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation including Premature Birth	9	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicides	3	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..
Suicides	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Other Defined Diseases	42	8	..	..	1	2	3	7	21	..
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14	..
All causes	127	26	4	6	2	6	16	13	54	17	

TABLE IV.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1911.—DEATHS FROM STATED CAUSES AT VARIOUS AGES UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF GOOLE.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-3 Months.	3-6 Months.	6-9 Months.	9-12 Months.	Total Deaths under 1 Year.
	All Causes—Certified ...	7	1	8	7	5	3	3	26
{ Measles ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Whooping Cough ...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Diarrhoea ...	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	..	..	3
{ Enteritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	3
{ Tuberculous Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Abdominal Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
{ Congenital Malformations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
{ Premature Birth	2	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
{ Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus..	3	..	..	..	3	2	..	..	..	7
Atelectasis ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Syphilis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Convulsions...	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	3
Gastritis ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2
Other Causes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
...	7	..	..	1	8	7	5	3	3	26

Nett Births in the Year { legitimate 207 illegitimate 12 } Net Deaths in the Year of { legitimate infants 26. illegitimate infants 0. }

