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GOOLE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



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Goole Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1895.

POPULATION IN 1891	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,413
ESTIMATED POPULATION IN 1895	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,000
AREA IN ACRES	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,332

TO THE GOOLE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL,
GENTLEMEN,

It is again my duty to present to you my annual report prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Local Government Board. It is a record of the health of the inhabitants and the Sanitary work carried out in the town during 1895.

In forming an estimate of the population for 1894 I considered that the increase of births over the deaths for that year did not actually add to the numbers of the population, through the removal of persons from the town, as however there has been an increased number of births in 1895 as compared with 1894, and an increase of the population through the excess of these births over the deaths I think I am within the mark in estimating the population to the middle of last year as 17,000. That number is however very considerably below what the estimate would have been but for the recent check in the trade and development of the town.

Population

The births registered in Goole last year were 619, males 314, females 305, the birth rate for the year was 36 per 1000 of the population. The birth rate in 1894, was just below 36, while the average rate for the last 5 years was 37.

Birth and
Death Rates

The deaths registered in Goole during 1895 were 327, males 162, females 165, 6 of these were strangers to Goole, and these are deducted, the corrected number of deaths was 321, equal to a death rate of 18·8 per 1000. During 1894 and 1895 the death rate in Goole was the same, and both were slightly under the average rate for the previous 5 years.

Zymotic
Diseases.

Following up the causes for that increase we find that one half was due to deaths from infectious diseases. From the group of zymotic diseases there were 49 deaths :—

16 were caused by diarrhoeal diseases.

11 „ „ whooping cough.

10 „ „ diphtheria.

8 „ „ scarlet fever.

2 „ „ enteric fever.

1 „ „ puerperal fever.

1 „ „ membranous croup.

Diseases of
the Lungs.

The death rate from these was 2·8 per 1000, while the 5 years' average was 2·5.

22 deaths were caused by phthisis or consumption, the death rate was 1·3. 9 of these were males, the average age at death was 44, 13 were females with an average age at death of 32 years.

38 deaths were caused by other diseases of the lungs, such as bronchitis, pneumonia, &c., these equalled 2·2 per 1000, so that from all diseases of the lungs the death rate was 3·5 per 1000, and was less by 1 per 1000 than the rate of the previous year.

Deaths at
different ages.

The proportion of deaths among infants under 1 year in every 1000 registered births during the year was 161; children under 5 years of age contributed 40 per cent. of all the deaths, while among aged persons *i.e.* those who had reached 65 years and over belonging to Goole, the deaths equalled 19 per cent. of the year's mortality. 28 deaths were registered on a certificate from the Coroner, 15 of these were returned as having been due to ordinary disease, 7 were caused by drowning, 5 by other accidents, and 1 was by suicide. The ages of the persons drowned were 8, 17, 21, 22, 44, 48, 52.

Cases of Infec-
tious Disease
notified.

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified were 305, a very large increase.

230 were cases of scarlet fever.

14 „ „ enteric fever.

2 „ „ puerperal fever.

32 „ „ diphtheria.

4 „ „ membranous croup.

23 „ „ erysipelas.

Goole suffered last year from a serious and continued epidemic of scarlet fever which was prevalent in turn in each ward of the town. Although cases were reported during every week of the year with 4 exceptions, yet it was during the months of June, July, August, September, and October that the

disease became excessively prevalent. The utmost care and pains were taken in following up the notices received of fresh cases. Removal from the infected houses to the hospital was urged in nearly all the cases, and it is satisfactory to report that no less than 147, or 64 per cent. of the cases of scarlet fever were treated there. That such removal was the best possible action to adopt can be proved from several considerations. First as to the results to the patients. During the year 9 deaths were due to scarlet fever, the death rate was therefore 3·8 per cent. of all those attacked. Among the 147 cases removed to the hospital there was only one fatal case, while among the 83 cases treated at their own homes there were 8 deaths, or a death rate of nearly 10 per cent. among the sufferers. There was no selection made of the cases admitted, and the only hindrance was the objection to have the patients removed. 50 young children under 5 years of age were admitted, one only 14 days old, and many only 2 years.

Scarlet Fever

The removal again proved the surest way to prevent the disease spreading in the family where the case was reported from. In a few families subsequent cases were removed, but the interval after the return home of the first and the beginning of the second shewed it must have been caused by a fresh infection. From 20 houses 2 and 3, and on one occasion 4 cases were removed on the same day. These were instances where either no medical aid had been called in until more than one of the family had been attacked, or the removal of the first reported case having been put off, the parents at last consented when the disease spread to others in the same house. The removal was also of benefit to the neighbouring houses, for fewer cases appeared subsequently very near or traceable to those who had been quickly and thoroughly isolated. Non-removal meant in the majority of the houses very incomplete separation of the sick from others in the same house, the nursing was less satisfactory, for many more of the sufferers died in spite of the very best care of friends, and our experience proved that from slight cases left at their homes, other cases in the neighbourhood often followed. The last year's outbreak, will I hope encourage the people in Goole in greater numbers to avail themselves of the hospital at the very earliest appearance of such an infectious disease as scarlet fever. It may be asked why did the disease continue so long if 64 per cent were removed? I have already stated that the

patients were only removed from 20 houses when 2, 3, and even 4 cases had occurred. In these there was ample time to infect many others. Again from a weekly statement of the notifications received, I find that we were only able to remove some of the cases, and that there were always some centres of infection left which kept the disease ever active among young people.

Diphtheria
and
Membranous
Croup

But the continuance of the cases of diphtheria referred to in my report for last year was even more fatal in effect than the outbreak of scarlet fever. 32 cases of diphtheria were reported during last year, and 4 of membranous croup, a disease very closely related to if not actually true diphtheria. Among these 36 cases there were 12 deaths, some of which occurred before the illness could be definitely reported. 19 of the 32 cases of diphtheria were reported in June, July, and August. 3 were reported from one house, 2 from another, and 2 cases of diphtheria, and one of membranous croup from a third house. The greatest proportion of cases occurred in the streets opening out of Pasture Road, in New Town, and several in a small area about North and Ouse Streets.

In October 3 cases were again reported from one house after refusing to have the first removed. Only 10 of the 36 cases were sent to the hospital, one of these died. The inquiries made as to every case failed to give any good clue to the origin of these numerous cases, there was evidence enough that the neglect to treat the illness as a very infectious one was followed by other cases. There were some slight defects about the drains of several houses and other matters requiring improvement, but not of so serious a degree as to originate the severe illness reported. Some of the cases followed upon other illnesses, such as quinsy, influenza, or a slight sore throat in others of the same family.

The Council readily agreed to provide the necessary apparatus and antitoxin fluid for such cases as were removed to the hospital. As far as could be definitely reported the results of its use were very satisfactory.

Enteric Fever

Among the 14 cases of enteric fever reported there were 2 deaths. The cases were spread over 7 months in the year, and only in one house was there a second case. 3 of the patients had a history pointing to a probable infection, one case hurried home when feeling ill, another had nursed 2 persons in one house in the country through an illness not reported, and the third began

suddenly after returning from a voyage. In other cases it was difficult to trace directly the origin of the disease as they were scattered throughout the town.

Owing to the large number of cases of scarlet fever the Council recommended the Board Schools to extend the autumn holidays for a fortnight, and the necessary certificates were given.

During 1895, 160 patients were removed to the hospital suffering from either scarlet fever, enteric fever, or diphtheria. 5 of these were admitted from the Rural districts, viz., 4 ill of scarlet fever, and one from enteric fever.

Hospital for
Infectious cases

Owing to the prevalence of cases of scarlet fever during every month fully occupying the time and care of the nurses, 142 cases of that disease were admitted from the town, only 3 cases of enteric fever being admitted under very exceptional circumstances. It was found necessary to admit 10 cases of diphtheria, these were treated in wards entirely separated from the other patients, and had a special nurse whose time was entirely given up to them.

To secure better means of dealing with cases of infection at the hospital the Council are having alterations carried out which will in practice mean 3 independent hospitals in the same building. To entirely complete the good work the hospital does for the inhabitants of the town I hope it may be found possible to secure before long a really satisfactory disinfecting apparatus at a moderate cost. All classes in Goole are every year becoming more willing to use the hospital as the very best means of dealing with cases of infectious disease.

SANITARY WORK.

The work of deepening the well at Rawcliffe Bridge has been almost completed, the bore hole has been sunk to nearly 1000 feet, and it is reported that an abundance of water wholesome in quality has been obtained. Although the inhabitants may not have suffered to any great extent, still a more ample supply for all private and public uses will be an additional safeguard to the health of the town.

Water Supply

Proposals to improve the present system of sewers have been agreed to by the Council, and are in part carried out. Among these is the new outlet sewer for the district lying between the Dutch River and the Canal, a nuisance oft occurring at the old outlet is now prevented, and the old sewer is now more effective for carrying

Sewers

off all the sewage from that district. The flushing there has also been systematically and thoroughly carried out from the dock sluices. Flushing the sewers in other parts of the town has been done by water from the town's mains, and by water pumped by the Council's engines into special flushing wagons.

It has been decided to relay the sewers now discharging into the Hook drain, and to convey the sewage to the main sewer in Pasture Road. Another nuisance caused by the condition of that old drain will be remedied by covering it over from the Board School to the Railway Crossing. The sewers at Mount Pleasant, Couper Street, Old Goole, and at the rear of Mason's Terrace have also been relayed, and made more efficient, with great advantage for the house drains. Additional manholes have been ordered to the sewers in Bridge Street. In consequence of repeated complaints of smells coming from the sewer in Lower Bridge Street and its continuation, an examination was ordered, and it was found that refuse from manufacturing and other works was being discharged into that sewer in amounts beyond the limits laid down in the Public Health Acts. This matter can readily be prevented.

Streets repaired

The Council have dealt with the unsanitary state of several of the streets. Richard Couper Street is now being paved, &c, under the 150th section of the Public Health Act, and in other cases the owners have been called upon to carry out such improvements as will at least abate the nuisance arising from the wet and dirty condition of the open spaces in front, and at the rear of the houses.

Public Baths

A matter of the first sanitary importance has been discussed and is now in a fair way of being carried out, viz., to provide public baths. Goole has been somewhat behind neighbouring towns in this matter, but their experience of the great benefit to the health of a working population by encouraging the free use of baths may serve to encourage the Goole Council in their present endeavour. I cannot but think that with a good swimming bath provided some of the fatal accidents which so frequently occur may in the future be prevented, especially if encouragement be given to young people to learn swimming.

Plans passed

A special committee of the Council have held many meetings in order to revise the existing bye-laws. Building has not been so brisk in Goole of late. Plans for 23 new houses were last year passed, and several for alterations.

The cost of the removal of night soil and house refuse in Goole is high compared with several other towns, but the systematic method of removing all such refuse at very short intervals is essential if the health of the inhabitants is not to suffer. The present system is now well in hand, and works with the least possible number of complaints.

Cleansing of
Ash-pits, &c.

In the early part of last year the condition of the large slaughter-house in Bridge Street was complained of. The tenant had been very neglectful, and the complaint was well founded. Several conferences have been held, and endeavours made for the Council to take over the place as tenants. Terms have not been agreed upon, and at present the Council are unwilling to undertake the responsibility of building a public slaughter-house.

Slaughter
House

The constant inspection of all such premises, as cow-sheds, dairies, and bakehouses, where articles of human food are prepared is needed, and the attention of some occupiers has had to be drawn to the need for observing the utmost cleanliness on their premises. It is on the other hand satisfactory to note premises in Goole which are models of what is required on sanitary grounds.

Cowsheds

Workshops

The Council have agreed to a suggestion from the West Riding County Council to appoint the inspector for the town to take samples of milk for analysis.

Analysis of
samples of
Milk

On account of the prevalence of cases of infectious diseases much time had to be given to the work of visiting premises, and disinfecting the houses. 239 houses were disinfected or otherwise purified. 3 houses were found to be seriously overcrowded, the families removed.

A larger number of Canal boats were inspected last year than in 1894, and notices requiring various defects to be remedied had to be served, but no case of infectious disease was found among those living on board the boats.

Canal Boats

The following list of work done, and nuisances abated, prepared by Mr. Ellis, is, I think a record of sound sanitary improvements carried out, all contributing to the better health and welfare of the inhabitants.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MITCHELL WILSON, M.D.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

GOOLE, 15TH JANUARY, 1896.

TABLE I.

LIST OF NUISANCES ABATED, AND STRUCTURAL ALTERATIONS
MADE DURING THE YEAR 1895.

No. of Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	2224
„ Verbal notices given	...	...	...	...	...	111
„ Written notices served	...	...	...	...	...	188
„ Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	294
„ Nuisances partly abated or in progress	...	...	...	...	...	5
The Nuisances abated include :—						
No. of House drains repaired and defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	317
„ Closets and Ash-pits	...	...	...	...	...	892
„ Middens emptied	...	...	...	...	...	10381
„ Closets and Ash-pits repaired	...	...	...	...	...	63
„ Box Closets and Dry Ash-pits	...	...	...	...	...	1016
„ „ emptied	...	...	...	...	...	13324
„ Sinks and Cisterns disconnected from drains	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ Dry Ash-boxes emptied	...	...	...	...	...	11720
„ Loads of Night-soil removed	...	...	...	...	...	8965
„ Houses disinfected and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	239
„ Houses overcrowded	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ Other Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	49
„ Animals causing a Nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ Manure Heaps removed	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ Canal Boats Inspected	...	...	...	...	...	200
„ Boats on Goole Register	...	...	...	...	...	773
„ „ Registered in 1895	...	...	...	...	...	14
„ Regulations cancelled	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ Canal Boats Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	29
„ „ Letters as to	...	...	...	...	...	84
„ „ No Certificate on Board	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ „ Not Registered	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ „ Change of Owners not notified	...	...	...	...	...	19
„ „ Requiring better ventilation, cleansing, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Transfer of Ownership and Certificate	...	...	...	...	...	34
„ „ „ Captain's and Boat's Names	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ „ Duplicate Certificate provided	...	...	...	...	...	19
„ Houses now supplied with Town Water	...	...	...	...	...	3091
„ Cow-sheds, Dairies, and Milk-shops registered	...	...	...	...	...	48
„ Common Lodging-Houses inspected	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ Bodies placed in Mortuary	...	...	...	...	...	2

W. H. ELLIS, INSPECTOR.

TABLE II.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES IN GOOLE, IN 1895, AND FOR THE PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS, COMPARED WITH THOSE OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY.

Year.	Rate per 1000 of the Population.						Deaths in Infants per 1000 Births.	
	Births.		Deaths.		Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.		Goole.	England and Wales.
	Goole.	England and Wales.	Goole.	England and Wales.	Goole.	England and Wales.		
1895	36.0	30.3	18.8	18.7	2.8	2.14	161	161
1894	35.8	29.6	18.9	16.6	3.5	1.7	150	137
1893	36.6	30.8	17.4	19.2	3.0	2.4	187	159
1892	39.6	30.5	16.6	19.0	1.9	1.9	152	148
1891	38.7	31.4	17.5	20.2	0.9	1.8	141	149
1890	35.8	29.7	20.8	19.2	3.4	2.0	200	151

TABLE III.

DEATHS FROM THE PRINCIPAL ZYMOTIC DISEASES IN 1895, AND DURING THE FIVE PREVIOUS YEARS.

	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890
Small-Pox	0	0	3	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	8	3	1	0	2	8
Membranous Croup..	1	2	2	2	0	0
Diphtheria.....	10	6	2	1	1	0
Fever, Enteric.....	2	1	3	3	6	6
Puerperal Fever.....	1	1	1	1	0	0
Measles.....	0	21	0	7	0	4
Whooping Cough....	11	20	2	18	2	23
Diarrhoea.....	16	4	33	3	4	16
Total.....	49	58	47	35	15	57
Rate per 1000.....	2.8	3.5	2.9	1.9	0.9	3.4

TABLE IV.
DEATHS IN 1895 FROM SEVERAL GROUPS OF DISEASES, CHIEFLY AMONG CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.

	Total.	Deaths per 1000 of Population.	Proportion of Deaths in every 1000 from all causes.
1.—Seven principal Zymotic Diseases.....	49	2.8	149
2.—Pulmonary Diseases.....	38	2.2	116
3.—Tubercular Diseases.....	42	2.4	128
4.—Wasting Diseases of Infants.....	34	2.0	103
5.—Convulsive Diseases of Infants.....	25	1.4	76

- 1.—Includes Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Enteric and Continued Fevers, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, and Diarrhoea.
- 2.— „ Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy, and Asthma.
- 3.— „ Phthisis, Scrofula, Tabes-Mesenterica.
- 4.— „ Marasmus, Atrophy, Debility, and Premature Birth.
- 5.— „ Hydrocephalus, Infantile Meningitis, Convulsions, and Teething.

TABLE V.
SUMMARY OF CASES ADMITTED INTO THE FEVER HOSPITAL, GOOLE, DURING 1895.

DISEASES.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June.	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Recov- eries.	Died.
Scarlet Fever.....	3	7	10	7	5	17	19	29	17	20	11	2	146	1
Enteric Fever....	1	1										1	2	1
Diphtheria							5	3		2			9	1
Totals.....	4	8	10	7	5	17	24	32	17	22	11	3	157	3

TABLE A.

TABLE OF DEATHS, during the year 1895, in the Urban Sanitary District of Goole, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES of LOCALITIES adopted for the purposes of these statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages.						Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.													Total.						
	At all Ages.	Under 1 Year.					Under 5 5 upwds	Small-Pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Members. Croup.	Fevers.		Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea.	Erysipelas.	Rheumatic Fever.	Ague.		Phtisis.	Bronchitis and Pneumonia.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases	
		Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.						65 and upwards.	Enteric or Typhoid.													Puerperal.
(A) Goole Town.....	296	98	35	20	21	74	48	Under 5 5 upwds	6	2	2	...	2	5	1	...	1	...	...	...	21	8	13	...	94	133
The Cottage Hospital	5	...	1	1	...	1	2	Under 5 5 upwds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
The Fever Hospital	3	...	1	1	...	...	1	Under 5 5 upwds	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
The Workhouse.....	23	1	...	1	...	8	13	Under 5 5 upwds	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	17	22
Totals.....	327	99	37	23	21	83	64	Under 5 5 upwds	6	2	2	3	2	6	5	1	1	...	...	20	26	8	13	104	191	
The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.																										
Deaths occurring within the District among persons not belonging thereto.	6	...	...	...	...	3	3	5 upwds	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	6

TABLE B.
 TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES of SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year 1895, in the Urban Sanitary District of Goole; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES, adopted for the purpose of Statistics; Public Insti- tutions being shown as separate localities.	Population at all ages.		Registered Births,	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each locality, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.						Number of Cases removed from their homes in the several Localities for treatment in Isolation Hospital.			
	Census 1891.	Estimated middle of 1895.			Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS. Enteric or Typhoid.		Puerperal.	Erysipelas.	Small-Pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhod Fever.
Goole Town	15305	16892	619	Under 5 5 upwds	81	5	4	2	2	23	...	50	4	2
The Cottage Hospital....				Under 5 5 upwds	149	27	...	11	...	...	...	93	6	...
The Workhouse	108	108		Under 5 5 upwds	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	15413	17000	619	Under 5 5 upwds	81 149	5 27	4 ...	2 12	2 2	23	...	50 93	4 6	2 2

“Notification of Infectious Disease” is compulsory in the District since 9th December, 1889.
 The name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick in the District is the Fever Hospital.

