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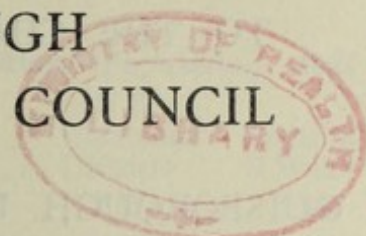
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GUISBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



NORTH RIDING (GUISBOROUGH)
COMBINED DISTRICTS.

. REPORT .
for the Year 1945
of the Medical Officer of Health,
C. R. GIBSON, M.A., M.B., CH.B.
D.P.H.



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
GUISBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1945, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 28/46.

The population of the Urban District at the middle of 1945, according to the Registrar-General's estimate, was 7,813—an increase of 76 from the previous year and of nearly 1600 from the census of 1931. As regards the latter, it must, however, be remembered that the District was enlarged shortly after the census.

The number of births in the District during 1945 was 139, compared with 146 in the previous year and an average of 137 in the five years 1939 to 1943. The birth-rate per thousand of the population is 17·8, the lowest figure of any of the five Combined Districts, but still above the average figure for England and Wales, which is 16·1.

The deaths of residents during 1945 numbered 105, corresponding to a death-rate of 13·4, which may be compared with an average rate of 15·0 over the five years 1939—43, and of 12·7 over the five years 1934—38.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 6, corresponding to an infant mortality rate of 43 deaths per thousand births. I referred last year, when the infant mortality rate was 82, to the unreliability of rates calculated from such small numbers, and now that the rate is below the average for England and Wales the warning may be repeated. The rate for the Combined Districts as a whole is more trustworthy: this in 1945 was 50½ compared with a rate of 46 for England and Wales.

The deaths among young children, aged from one to four years, continue to show a satisfactory decrease. The number of these deaths in successive periods of five years has been: 1924—28: 31, 1929—33: 21; 1934—38: 17; and 1939—43: 13; while in 1944 there was one death only at these ages, and one only in 1945. Compare this with the average of six deaths per year in 1924—28. A great deal of this saving of young life may be ascribed to better feeding and wiser parental care.

All these vital statistics, and the figures for earlier periods for comparison, are given in Table I of the appendix to this report. The figures for notifiable diseases are given in Table II, and most of them mark a big increase over the number of notifications received in 1944. Comparison with the Combined Districts as a whole and with England and Wales may be made from the following table.

Notified Cases per thousand (Civilian) Population, 1945

		Guisborough U.D.	N.R. Combined Districts	England & Wales
Scarlet Fever	....	3.20	2.55	1.89
Diphtheria	....	1.92	1.12	0.46
Enteric Fever	....	0.00	0.00	0.02
Cerebro Spinal Fever		0.00	0.03	0.05
Measles	....	16.65	16.60	11.67
Whooping Cough	....	2.18	1.59	1.64
Puerperal Pyrexia	....	7.05	4.49	9.93
<i>(per thousand births, live and still)</i>				

Of the 25 cases of scarlet fever seven occurred in the Wilton Parish, from February to April ; the remaining cases were in Guisborough itself and the close vicinity and were spread over the whole year.

The 15 cases of diphtheria all occurred in Guisborough township and thirteen of them occurred in September and October. There were no deaths.

In Circulars No. 193/45 and 194/45 issued by the Minister of Health on the 14th November, 1945, the Minister intimated his decision that as from 1st January, 1946 the responsibility for immunising children under five years of age should be placed upon Welfare Authorities, instead of, as previously, on Borough or District Councils. The Minister further intimated that, where a Borough or District Council which is not itself the Welfare Authority at present provides facilities for immunisation of children under school age, these arrangements need not be disturbed, and in Circular 8/46 of the 18th January, 1946, he suggested that in such cases the expenditure should now be borne by the County Council as Welfare Authority. In Circular 193/45 the Minister asked that all Medical Officers of Health should keep individual case records of children who receive immunisation in their area and it was suggested that the responsibility for printing record cards and ensuring that a supply is available when required at every centre of whatever kind where immunisation is carried out, should rest on the Welfare Authority. Owing, doubtless, to shortage of cards and slowness of execution of orders a supply of record cards was not received until the end of May, 1946. The Minister also asks for half-yearly and yearly returns summarising the immunisations in each District.

Immunisation against diphtheria was fairly well attended to during the year and the percentage of school children immunised is rising. The statistics are given in the following table :

Diphtheria Immunisation : N.R. Combined Districts

	Guisborough U.D.	Loftus U.D.	Redcar Borough	Saltburn & Marske U.D.	Skelton & Brotton U.D.
No. of children immunised					
during 1944	134	114	437	111	58
during 1945	256	152	529	137	212
Estimated number of children under 5 years of age	640	616	2050	550	1072
Estimated percentage of these immunised at end of 1945	58	38	47	62	35
Estimated number of children aged 5—14 years	1185	1019	3780	877	1912
Estimated percentage of these immunised at end of 1945	72	95	64	70	50
Cases of diphtheria in 1945 in children under 15 years	13	13	12	3	3
Number of these known to have been previously immunised	9	7	7	2	1
Deaths from diphtheria in 1945 in children under 15 years. (all in non- immunised)	—	3	1	—	—

Of the 130 cases of measles 123 occurred in the months of January and February. The epidemic affected the whole District but fortunately there were no deaths from it.

Five new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, and there were three deaths from this disease, all from tuberculosis of the lungs. The number of cases notified was above average in the early years of the war, from 1939 to 1942, but has lessened since then.

Venereal Disease. The Minister of Health's Circular 42/45 dealt with propaganda against venereal disease and suggested that Local District and Borough Councils should co-operate with the County Council for this purpose. In this area the County Council supplied posters and the District Council undertook their display on hoardings and such like.

Verminous Infestation. No case of scabies was reported through the Schools during the year, but information was received otherwise of several cases, the treatment of which was satisfactory. The Sanitary Inspector disinfested one verminous house during the year.

Ambulance Facilities. A motor-ambulance for non-infectious cases has been maintained in the District for many years by the British Red Cross Society. The Local Committee approached the District Council during the year with a request that the Council assume responsibility for the maintenance of the ambulance service. It was finally agreed that the Admiral Chaloner Hospital take over the ambulance and that the District Council would increase its annual contribution for the ambulance service from £50 to £100.

Water Supply of the Area. The water supply of the District was satisfactory in quantity during the year. Samples from the Guisborough Water Company's Supply were submitted for bacteriological examination fortnightly and the results are summarised in Table 5 in the appendix. During July and August the water was brownish and somewhat turbid as is, unfortunately, usual when the reservoir is low in the summer. The sample taken on July 17th was reported as "showing evidence of pollution ; unsuitable for domestic use." This report was telephoned to the Water Company and a sample taken that day, July 23rd, showed some improvement but was not entirely satisfactory. A further sample taken on July 31st was bacteriologically satisfactory, but again on August 17th a sample was reported as "polluted and unsafe for domestic use." The Water Company stated that on July 17th they had had no chlorine.

The raw Guisborough water has been found to be plumbo-solvent and the Water Company treat it by the addition of soda ash to prevent this. Chemical analysis on three occasions showed lead to be absent.

The village of Upleatham is supplied from a spring in the hill above the village : a sample from a tap in the village taken on April 24th was reported as satisfactory.

Upsall Cottages and a few houses near there are supplied from a spring on the hill-side to the north of Barnaby Farm. A sample was submitted on August 21st and was found to contain lead, 0.12 parts per 100,000. I reported to the Guisborough Rural District Council in 1925 to 1927 that this water was plumbo-solvent and I would recommend that ordinary lead pipes should not be used with it. No case of lead poisoning ascribed to this water has come to my notice since 1927.

The proportion of the population and of dwellinghouses supplied from public water mains direct is estimated at 86% ; the proportion supplied by standpipes 11%.

Post-War Housing. The contract for the streets and sewers in connection with the Council's immediate programme of sixty-six houses was let in December, 1945.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. R. GIBSON,

Guisborough.

Médical Officer of Health.

August 7th, 1946.

APPENDIX

Statistics and Social Condition of the Area

Area (in acres) : 18,924.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1945 : 7,813.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1945) according to Rate-books : 2,237.

Rateable value : £30,477.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £123.

The main industries of the district are ironstone mining, iron and steel works, and agriculture ; there is also a shirt factory in Guisborough.

APPENDIX.

1. SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Period.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths at Ages		Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis.	Yearly Birth-rate.	Yearly Death-rate.	Infant Mortality Rate (Infant deaths per thousand births).
				Under 1 year	1—4 years.				
1884—1888	6,100	1100	552	161	88	—	36.1	17.1	146
1889—1893	5,623	849	410	94	56	—	30.2	14.6	108
1894—1898	5,630	910	413	98	44	—	32.4	14.7	108
1899—1903	5,645	932	468	132	50	—	33.0	16.6	142
1904—1908	6,300	1026	509	132	69	42	32.6	16.2	129
1909—1913	7,062	1044	542	128	56	58	29.6	15.4	122½
1914—1918	6,600	997	548	106	—	40	30.2	16.6	106
1919—1923	7,104	964	495	94	30	30	27.1	13.9	97½
1924—1928	6,656	651	440	53	31	33	19.6	13.2	81½
1929—1933	6,888	575	486	36	21	23	16.7	14.1	62½
1934—1938	7,987	665	506	31	17	28	16.6	12.7	46½
1939—1943	7,556	685	570	38	13	26	18.1	15.0	55½
1944	7,737	146	89	12	1	3	18.9	11.5	82
1945	7,813	139	105	6	1	3	17.8	13.4	43

2. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1945
(other than Tuberculosis).

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2	3	4	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—	Cases Admit'd Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	25	—	—	—	1	—	1	14	2	3	1	2	—	22	—
Diphtheria	15	—	—	—	—	1	2	9	1	—	2	—	—	14	—
Pneumonia	12	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	2	2	1	3	—	4
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	130	4	11	17	22	15	57	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	17	2	2	—	4	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

**3. PATIENTS ADMITTED TO GUISBOROUGH & DISTRICT
JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL
(from North Riding Combined Districts).**

	1/4/33 to 31/3/34	34/35	35/36	36/37	37/38	38/39	39/40	40/41	41/42	42/43	43/44	44/45
Scarlet Fever	149	290	148	220	227	128	26	48	27	32	110	85
Diphtheria	54	132	23	30	32	73	32	56	73	36	22	92
Enteric Fever	2	3	—	44	4	1	2	1	2	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
Puerperal Fever	3	3	4	5	3	1	—	—	1	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	2	1	—	1	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	12	18	5	6	4	3
Others	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	29	30	36	40	56
TOTAL,	210	429	177	301	266	210	85	154	139	114	179	236
Service and outside patients (included)	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	25	24	29	32	52

TABLE 4.

Summary of the Work of the Sanitary Inspector's Department.

Number of Nuisance Complaints investigated	....	....	....	226
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	....	....	....	122
Number of Dairies improved	....	....	....	1
Inspections of Food Retail Premises and Meat Distributing Centre	....	....	....	154
Inspections of Factories	....	....	....	3
Number of houses inspected for defects under Public Health Acts	....	....	....	45
Number of Informal Notices served in connection with above	....	....	....	45
Number of Informal Notices complied with	....	....	....	45
Number of Temporary Dwellings	....	....	....	2
Informal Notices to provide new closet pans (all complied with)	....	....	....	108
Informal Notices to provide new refuse bins (all complied with)	....	....	....	48
Pail Closets converted to Water Closets	....	....	....	1
Informal Notices re Defective Drains (complied with)	....	....	....	3
Informal Notices re Defective Closets (complied with)	....	....	....	3
Verminous Premises Disinfested	....	....	....	1
Infectious Diseases : Enquiries and Disinfection	....	....	....	41
Premises treated under Rat Disinfestation Order 1943	....	....	....	2
Number of Sewer Treatments under Rat Disinfestation Order	....	....	....	3

TABLE 5

Reports on Bacteriological Examination of water samples from domestic taps on Guisborough Water Co.'s supply (all from the North Riding Laboratory of Pathology and Public Health, Scarborough, with the exception of the samples taken 9th Jan., 23rd Feb. and 2nd May, 1945, which were submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories, E.C.4).

Date of Sample	Colonies from 1 c.c. on Agar in 3 days at 22°C.	Colonies from 1 c.c. on Agar in 2 days at 37°C.	Coliform Organisms in 100 c.c.	Strept.	B. Enteritis Sporog.
Jan. 17	8	10	0	0	0
Jan. 9	0	1	0	0	0
Feb. 8	14	4	0	0	0
Feb. 23	25	3	0	0	0
March 28	10	3	0	0	0
April 12	520	6	0	0	0
May 2	2	0	0	0	0
May 17	160	34	0	0	0
May 30	40	0	0	0	0
June 13	2160	90	160	present 10 c.c.	0
June 29	4	2	0	0	0
July 9	1800	1640	90	present in 10 c.c.	present 250 c.c.
July 17	450	6	1	0	do.
July 23	22	18	0	present in 1 c.c.	do.
July 31	5	5	0	0	0
Aug. 17	160	65	160	present in 10 c.c.	0
Aug. 23	800	20	0	0	0
Sept. 27	620	360	2	0	0
Oct. 11	4	30	0	0	0
Oct. 25	25	4	0	0	0
Nov. 6	8	4	0	0	0
Nov. 29	8	7	0	0	0
Dec. 13	9	6	0	0	0

TABLE 6

Summary of results of Chemical Analysis of Water Samples Nos. 1, 3 & 5 from domestic taps on Guisborough Water Co.'s Supply, No. 2 from Upleatham Supply and No. 4 from Upsall Supply.

(Analysed by the Counties' Public Health Laboratory, E.C.4.).

	1	2	3	4	5
Date of Sample	March 14th	April 24th	June 19th	August 21st	Sept. 13th
Turbidity, parts per million Silica Scale	5	—5	5	—5	20
Reaction p.H.	6·6	7·0	9·0	5·8	8·8
Total Solids dried at 180°C.	7·5	23·5	11·0	9·0	120
Free Carbonic Acid	0·4	0·7	—	1·1	—
Chlorine in Chlorides	1·6	4·2	1·9	2·4	2·0
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	1·2	5·0	3·5	0·5	4·0
Hardness : Total	2·5	12·5	2·5	3·5	3·5
„ Temporary	0·0	3·0	1·5	0·0	2·0
Nitrogen in Nitrates	—	0·24	0·08	0·00	0·00
„ Nitrites	—	—	—	—	—
Free Ammonia	0·0012	0·0000	0·0008	0·0000	0·0036
Albuminoid Ammonia	0·0018	0·0000	0·0048	0·0000	0·0110
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C.	0·095	0·015	0·150	0·015	0·250
Metals : Iron	0·007	0·007	0·040	0·020	0·10
Manganese	0·014	—	—	0·014	0·005
Lead	—	—	—	0·12	—
Free Chlorine, parts per million	—	—	—	—	—

(Chemical results in parts per 100,000)

TABLE 4

Summary of results of chemical analysis of water samples No. 1 & 2 from domestic
supply and No. 3 from
the city water supply.

(Analyzed by the Central Public Health Laboratory, H.C. 11.)

Name of sample	Date of sample	Analysis			
		1	2	3	4
Temperature	April 1914	50	50	50	50
Specific gravity	April 1914	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000
Alkalinity (as CaCO ₃)	April 1914	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
Hardness (as CaCO ₃)	April 1914	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
Calcium	April 1914	10.0	10.0	10.0	10.0
Magnesium	April 1914	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Total solids	April 1914	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15
Dissolved solids	April 1914	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15
Total suspended matter	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Free ammonia	April 1914	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Nitrogenous organic matter	April 1914	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Iron (as Fe)	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Manganese	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Copper	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lead	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mercury	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Barium	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sulfur	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chlorine	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fluorine	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bromine	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Iodine	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Phosphorus	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Silica	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Carbon	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hydrogen	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oxygen	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nitrogen	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sulfur	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chlorine	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fluorine	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bromine	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Iodine	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Phosphorus	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Silica	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Carbon	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Hydrogen	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Oxygen	April 1914	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00