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Halifax Rural District Council.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1896.

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MEREDITH YOUNG,

M.B., C.M. (Univ. Edin.), D.P.H. (Univ. Vict.),

Medical Officer of Health to the Borough of Brighouse ;

Fellow of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health, etc.

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With which is appended the

Report of the Inspector of Nuisances,

ARTHUR ROWE,


Member of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, &c.

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BRIGHOUSE:

J. S. JOWETT, PRINTER, "NEWS" OFFICE.

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1897.



# Halifax Rural District Council.

1896-7.

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## **Chairman :**

COUNCILLOR B. SUTCLIFFE, J.P.

## **Vice-Chairman :**

COUNCILLOR J. BOOTH CARTER.

## **Members of Council :**

COUNCILLOR G. E. ABBOTT (Upper Greetland).

„ G. J. ARMYTAGE (Hartshead).

„ A. CROWTHER (Fixby).

„ J. RAMSDEN (Clifton).

„ D. U. SUTCLIFFE (Skircoat).

„ L. W. H. SHOESMITH (Skircoat).

„ LEWIS WHITTAKER (Norland).

## STATISTICAL MEMORANDA.

Population of whole District, estimated to middle of 1896... 8492

Inhabited Houses, 1891 ... 2088.

Acreage (present), 7062.

### Rateable Value and Acreage (1896-7):—

			Rateable Value.		Acreage.
			£		
Clifton	...	...	14408	...	2207
Fixby	...	...	1961	...	937
Hartshead	...	...	4524	...	863
Norland	...	...	5942	...	1104
Norwood Green & Coley...			4031	...	619
Skircoat	...	...	8724	...	526
Upper Greetland			2753	...	806
TOTAL			<u>£42343</u>		<u>7062</u>

Birth-rate per thousand of population ... 28·1.

### Death-rates:—

			Per thousand of population.
General	...	...	16·0
Zymotic	...	...	2·1
Respiratory	...	...	3·8
Phthisis	...	...	0·8
Infant Mortality	...	...	96 per 1000 Births.

# INTRODUCTION.

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BRIGHOUSE, FEBRUARY, 1897.

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

GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I present to you for your consideration my Report on the Health of your District for the past year.

You will find in it many matters which I trust will be of interest, and which certainly are of importance.

First amongst these is the question of Sewage and Refuse Disposal, upon which I gave you a Special Report in October.

In accordance with the request of the Local Government Board, I have given in this Report some details of the state in which these matters now are in the various districts under your charge.

I feel confident that if your Council will but give these questions serious consideration they will be carried to a satisfactory termination. The responsibility now rests with you, for as your Health adviser I have, I think, done my duty.

Another matter which seriously threatens the health of many of the inhabitants of Upper Greetland, still hangs fire in a most unsatisfactory manner.

The water supply of a large portion of this district is in its present state utterly insufficient in quantity, and is liable to constant pollution. This matter has been reported upon by your Medical Officers of Health for the last nine years, and is yet in absolutely the same state as when first mentioned. This, however, is only the fault of your Council, insofar as you have not held the Parochial Committee to *its* duty.

I trust most sincerely that this matter will not be put aside again as it has been so often before. If something is not done in the matter shortly, I shall certainly feel it my duty to make it the subject of a Special Report to the Local Government Board.

I have to thank your Council for the courtesy and kindness with which you have invariably received any matters I have brought before you.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MEREDITH YOUNG.



# HALIFAX RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

## REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1896.

**Population.**—Estimated to the middle of 1896 this is about 8492—an increase of 21 on the previous year's estimate. The further one gets from the census year, of course, the more likely is an estimate of population to be wrong, but I do not think the error will be so great as to affect the calculations materially.

In the districts of Norland, Upper Greetland and Fixby it is estimated as decreasing to a small extent, as you will see from the table below, but in the other districts it is increasing, the net result being a slight increase.

DISTRICT.	Census Population.		Estimated to middle of 1896.	Increase since 1895.	Decrease since 1895.
	1881.	1891.			
Clifton ... ..	2182	2275	2326	10	—
Fixby ... ..	503	485	475	—	1
Greetland (Upper) ...	535	405	350	—	9
Hartshead ... ..	842	991	1080	18	—
Norland ... ..	1493	1437	1408	—	6
Norwood Green & Coley..	852	875	890	6	—
Skircoat ... ..	1913	1946	1963	3	—
Total ... ..	8320	8414	8492	21	—

**Births.**—There have been 239 births registered during the year, namely, 126 of males and 113 of females, or at the rate of 28·1 per thousand, as compared with a rate of 25·38 for the previous year, and 29·7 the rate for England and Wales for 1896.

The rates for the different districts are given below.

**Deaths.**—There have been 133 deaths registered during the year, namely, 73 of males and 60 of females. A correction is necessary, however, for the deaths of 4 males in institutions outside the district. This makes the total 137, or 77 males and 60 females, equal to a rate per thousand of the estimated population of 16·0.

Compared with the rate for the previous year, 14·8, this shews a slight increase, whilst compared with the rate for England and Wales for 1896—17·1—it is favourable.



TABLE SHEWING BIRTHS, DEATHS, &amp;c., IN SUB-DISTRICTS.

SUB-DISTRICT.	BIRTHS.			DEATHS.		
	Male.	Female.	Rate.	Male.	Female.	Rate.
Clifton ... ..	39	27	28·3	16	19	14·6
Fixby ... ..	3	4	14·7	4	5	18·1
Greetland (Upper) ...	6	6	34·2	5	4	25·7
Hartshead ... ..	16	19	32·4	17	7	22·2
Norland ... ..	25	18	30·5	16	10	18·4
Norwood Green & Coley	9	11	22·4	4	2	6·74
Skircoat ... ..	28	28	28·5	15	13	14·2
Total ... ..	126	113	28·1	77	60	16·0

The highest birth-rate has been in Upper Greetland, in which it was 34·2, and the lowest in Fixby, in which it was 14·7.

The highest death-rate occurred also in Upper Greetland, in which it was 25·7, and the lowest in Norwood Green and Coley, in which it was only 6·74.

## CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

### I.—The Seven Principal Infectious Diseases.

In this class are to be included the following deaths:—

Scarlet Fever.....3	Measles .....4
Diphtheria .....1	Whooping Cough..2
Typhoid Fever ...5	Diarrhœa .....3

The total deaths are thus 18, equal to a rate of 2·1 per thousand of the population, as compared with 1·7, the corresponding rate for the previous year.

The greatest number of deaths from this class of disease occurred in Clifton, but in proportion to the population Hartshead suffered worst and Norland second worst.

### II.—Respiratory Diseases (excluding Phthisis).

Here we have included deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Congestion of the Lungs, Pleurisy, &c., &c.

In all these have been 33, equal to a rate per thousand of the population of 3·8, as compared with a rate of 3·07 for 1895. All the districts have practically suffered alike from these diseases.

### III.—Phthisis (Consumption of the Lungs).

This disease has caused 7 deaths during the year, equal to a rate of 0·8 per thousand of the population, as compared with a rate of 0·94 for 1895.

### IV.—Infant Mortality.

The deaths of infants under the age of one year have been 23, equal to a rate of 96 per thousand of the registered births. This is not an unfavourable rate exactly, compared with that in most districts in the North of England, but as it means that out of every thousand children born about one-tenth do not survive the first year of life, it is decidedly capable of improvement.

### V.—Other Diseases.

Of the other causes of death the most important have been convulsive diseases in infants and nervous diseases in adults, though heart disease has claimed 9 victims.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

I have received during the year no fewer than 86 notifications of cases of infectious disease—a number more than twice as great as that for 1895.

Of these 48 have been cases of Scarlet Fever, and as you will see from the table below, the districts which have suffered most from this disease have been Norland and Hartshead.

Twenty-five cases of Typhoid Fever have been notified, Hartshead and Clifton being principally affected.

Diphtheria has also been more than usually prevalent, and out of a total of 10 cases 7 occurred in Norland.

You will see from this that Norland has been most unfortunate in regard to the visitation of zymotic disease—a state of affairs for which the insanitary condition of the district is in my opinion mainly responsible.

Hartshead occupies the second worst place in this respect, and from a consideration of its sanitary condition also, one would class it as second only to Norland.

TABLE SHOWING CASES OF NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS  
DISEASE IN SUB-DISTRICTS.

DISTRICT.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.	Diph- theria.	Mem- branous Croup.	Erysipe- las.	Puerp'r'l Fever.	Total.
Clifton ... ..	7	6	—	—	1	1	15
Fixby ... ..	4	4	—	—	—	—	8
Greetland (Upper)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hartshead ... ..	14	8	2	—	—	—	24
Norland ... ..	18	4	7	1	—	—	30
Norwo'd G.&Col'y	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Skircoat ... ..	2	3	1	—	—	—	6
Total ... ..	48	25	10	1	1	1	86

As the Hospital at Clifton was not in use, five cases of infectious disease were removed to the Halifax Fever Hospital—2 cases of Scarlet Fever and 3 of Enteric Fever.

In 3 other cases nurses were supplied, and so far as could be done also nursing appliances.

Both of these measures are of course expensive, and this expense has naturally been demurred at, considering that your Council has at the same time had to bear a large proportion of the expense of maintaining the Hospital at Clifton in idleness.

This unsatisfactory state of matters, however, though it has been such a long time in existence, will be remedied in a few months from now.

Epidemics of **Measles** have occurred in Hartshead and Norland, and in both of these places I advised the closure of the public elementary schools for a few weeks.

The schools in some other districts have been inspected, and at various times when infectious disease seemed to threaten they were disinfected.



## SANITARY REPORT.

My work as Medical Officer of Health has increased to a very great extent during the past year.

My Journal shews that 345 visits of inspection have been paid during the past year, as compared with the following numbers for the previous years :—

1893 (one quarter)...	47 ;
1894 .....	154 ;
1895 .....	197.

In addition to the number of visits having increased, other work—correspondence, consultations, special reports, attendance at meetings, etc., etc.—has also grown largely.

A few details of this work are given below.

About 47 **New Houses** have been erected during the year, and in Skircoat and Clifton a fair amount of building is going on. It is high time, however, that some control was exercised over the sanitary and other arrangements of these new buildings.

Your Council prepared some **Bye-laws** for New Buildings in May, and sent these to the Local Government Board for their approval or otherwise in June.

It is sincerely to be hoped that before many months are past they will be returned in a satisfactory form, and that then no time will be lost by your Council in putting them into force.

**Nuisances.**—Altogether about 225 nuisances have been abated during the course of the year, and 41 others are at present in course of remedy.

In only one instance was recourse to legal proceedings necessitated. This was in a case of offensive accumulations of bones near to dwellinghouses in Littlethorpe (Hartshead).

The owner of these bones caused some annoyance by changing them from one place to another when notice was served upon him to remove them, but on one occasion he was given 48 hours' notice to remove an accumulation and failed to remove the whole of it. Proceedings were therefore taken against him, and medical evidence was brought to shew that these offensive heaps of bones had actually caused sickness in adjoining houses.

The defendant conducted his own case, and called evidence in support of a statement that the bones were not kept any longer than was necessary for the proper carrying on of his business, but as he failed to shew that he had used due diligence to prevent a nuisance arising from them, the Bench fined him 20s. and costs—about £4 10s. in all—and made an order prohibiting the recurrence of the nuisance.

Other nuisances were of the nature of defective or insufficient privy accommodation, and 25 new dry privy-middens have been constructed in the abatement of these nuisances.

Amongst other things two cases of overcrowding have been abated, one house has been informally closed on my certificate as being unfit for human habitation, and one case of river pollution by solid refuse has been abated.

Four **Workshops** have been inspected and found in a satisfactory condition. From the report of the Inspector of Nuisances, which is appended, you will see the nature of the other cases dealt with.

In the matter of **Smoke Abatement** I cannot say that any progress has been made. Observations have certainly been taken, and a few cautionary notices issued.



A special visit was paid by the Inspector and myself to Sheffield, where, through the courtesy of Dr. Harvey Littlejohn, the City Medical Officer of Health, we saw a large variety of smoke-preventing appliances. We also had the benefit of discussion of the matter in all its bearings with Dr. Harvey Littlejohn and with Professor Ripper, of the Technical College. The results of these visits and interviews were given to your Council in the form of a private report, a copy of which I hope to be able to send to each member of the Council shortly.

In the usual course of my duty I have inspected two **Bakehouses**, which were found in satisfactory condition; a number of Cowsheds and Milkstores, which varied in their sanitary condition; and 7 Offensive Trades, one of which (bone-boiling) was found unsatisfactory. In the latter case steps were taken successfully to remedy the evils in connection with the process.

**Slaughterhouses.**—There are about 6 of these in your district which are not licensed or registered. Some of them are not satisfactory, and should, in my opinion, be controlled by Bye-laws providing for such licensing and registering, and for the usual requirements as to cleanliness, linewashing, disposal of offal, etc., etc. If the slaughterhouses were licensed in this way we should, I think, be much better able to control the sale of unsound meat.

**Sewage and Refuse Disposal.**—In October I presented your Council with a Special Report on the unsatisfactory state of these two matters in most of your districts, and the associated unusual prevalence of infectious disease, the latter being in my opinion caused in a number of cases by the former.

Copies of this Report were forwarded in due course to the Local Government Board and the West Riding County Council, and by special resolution of your Council the Report was printed, and copies sent to the members of the various Parochial Committees.

The Local Government Board, in acknowledging the Report, desired me to give some details of these matters in my Annual Report, and I have therefore drawn up a few short notes on individual cases met with, in the form of a table.

### Clifton.

Reference.	Reason of Inspection.	Drainage.	Refuse Disposal.
Z D. 7, 8	Typhoid Fever 2 cases	Unventilated—otherwise satisfactory	P. M. emptied about 4 times a year—Ashpit uncovered
Z D. 29 D 54	Typhoid Fever	Walled drain under house—Sewage passes on to land about 12 yards from house	P. M. emptied 6 or 7 times a year—Roof & sides dilapidated—Contents wet and offensive

### Hartshead.

Z D. 10-15	Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever	Unsatisfactory box traps—Walled drain emptying on to land below house	Privy satisfactory—No ashpit
Z D. 16-19	4 cases of Typhoid Fever	Sink not disconnected and house drains unventilated—Joins main sewer	P. M. emptied about 6 times a year—Deep, wet and very offensive
Z D. 36	Scarlet Fever	Four inch pot pipe opens direct into house—Sewage passes into hole in ground in croft, 4 yards from house	P. M. emptied once a year—No ashpit

## HARTSHEAD (continued).

Reference.	Reason of Inspection.	Drainage.	Refuse Disposal.
Z D. 41 D. 159 &c.	Fatal case Scarlet Fever	Untrapped gullies—Sewage passes into ditch opposite house about 8 yards distant	P. M. 3 houses to each— No ashpit
Z D. 42	Fatal case Scarlet Fever	House drainage empties on to land	9 Houses to 1 privies
Z D. 43	Scarlet Fever	Sewage conducted on to pasture land 10 yards from house	No ashpit
Z D. 71	Typhoid Fever	Sink untrapped and direct to walled drain—Open cesspool 2ft. square, and full of decomposing solids, under washkitchen window	P. M. emptied 4 times a year— Ashpit open at top
Z D. 76	Scarlet Fever	2 Box traps, one choked—Walled drain conveys sewage on to field 10 yards from houses, and is here completely choked up	P. M. emptied half-yearly— No ashpit
Z D. 83	Typhoid Fever	Drainage piped through field into small stream	P. M. emptied four times a year

**Norland.**

Z D. 2, 3, 4	3 cases Scarlet Fever	Several untrapped gullies—Walled drain conveys sewage on to pasture land 3 or 4 yards below houses	P. M. 8 houses to one privy, which is in a foul state and is emptied about six times a year
Z D. 24	Membranous Croup	No sink—Untrapped yard gulley—Walled drain—Sewage on to pasture land 3 or 4 yards below houses	P. M. emptied sometimes once, sometimes twice a year
Z D. 27	Fatal case Diphtheria	Badly fixed and leaking gullies—Cesspool under washkitchen floor—Walled drain into field 4 yards below houses	P. M. excreta running out at back down hillside—No ashpit— —Emptied once a year
Z D. 30	Scarlet Fever 2 cases	No sink—Box trap in yard—Sewage passes on to land on other side of road	Fairly satisfactory
Z D. 34	Typhoid Fever	Sewage passes into tank, which is constantly overflowing on to land	No ashpit
Z D. 35	Scarlet Fever	No sink—Sewage passes on to fields	P. M. emptied 4 times a year— Wet and offensive
Z D. 46 D. 179	Scarlet Fever (Diphtheria last year in same house)	Sink waste water runs along grooved stone and trickles down house wall—2 sham gullies or T-pieces—Cesspool constantly overflowing—16 yards off—All pipes choked	Satisfactory
Z D. 51 D. 195	Diphtheria (same disease epidemic here in 1892)	Sham gulley traps (T-pieces)—Sewage passes on to field 20 yards below houses—Field riddled with sewage streamlets	P. M. 1 for 4 houses—Emptied twice a year—Uncovered ashpit leaking into road below
Z D. 53	2 cases Diphtheria	Sewage from house and w.c. passes direct into river	Satisfactory



## NORLAND (continued).

Reference.	Reason of Inspection.	Drainage.	Refuse Disposal.
Z D. 54	Scarlet Fever	Walled drain—Sewage on to fields 10 yards below houses	3 Houses to 1 P. M.—Emptied once a year—Uncovered ashpit
Z D. 57	Scarlet Fever	No sink—Untrapped stone gully—Walled drain across road takes sewage into fields 8 yards below houses	Fair
Z D. 65, 66, 75, 80	3 cases Diphtheria 1 case Typhoid Fever	No drains at all—Grip in soil 1 foot wide, 6 inch deep, and about 4 yards in length, delivers sewage into shallow uncovered hole in ground in garden, about 6 yards from house 1 House has untrapped walled drain emptying on to land 8 or 10 yards below house	P. M. emptied once or twice a year—Ashpit uncovered and contents very wet and offensive
Z D. 70	2 cases Scarlet Fever	No sink—Untrapped walled drain runs past house door, and sewage empties on to land at back of houses and directly under windows	P. M. emptied three times a year—No ashpit
Z D. 78	2 cases Scarlet Fever	Sewage of about 40 houses disposed of by turning it on to land 10 or 12 yards below houses	9 Houses to 2 P. Ms., which are emptied sometimes once a year sometimes twice
Z D. 58	Typhoid Fever	Walled drain runs past house doors, and sewage passes on to pasture land 8 yards below houses	P. M. Stream of water constantly runs through this and carries excreta immediately on to land; never needs emptying

**Skircoat.**

Z D. 62, 67, 69 D. 263	3 cases of Typhoid Fever	Drains under houses—Sewage passes into milldam	P. M. uncovered—Deep, very wet and offensive—Emptied about 3 times a year
Z D. 48, 49	2 cases of Scarlet Fever	No sink—Walled drains outside	Dilapidated P. Ms.—Uncovered ashpit—Emptied 3 times a year

**Norwood Green.**

Z D. 63	Scarlet Fever	Fairly satisfactory	P. M. emptied about 3 times a year—Ashpit uncovered—Wet and offensive
Z D. 47	Scarlet Fever	Sewage from several houses passes into walled drain and thence into stream	Satisfactory

**Fixby.**

Z D. 55	Typhoid Fever	Partly piped and partly walled drain, emptying into crudely constructed cesspool (which acts only as a settling tank) and thence on to land	Four houses to 1 P. M.—Emptied 4 or 6 times a year
Z D. 82, 84	2 cases of Typhoid Fever	Slop water runs under house floor—Walled drain conveys sewage into stream used lower down for drinking purposes	1 P. M. for 3 houses—Emptied half-yearly



## FIXBY (continued).

Reference.	Reason of Inspection.	Drainage.	Refuse Disposal.
Z D. 85	Scarlet Fever 2 cases	House drainage bad—Empties into small half-choked cesspool in area opposite cellar kitchen—Sewage laded out of this in buckets, carried up steps and disposed of on fields	P. Ms. emptied twice a year, rarely three times
Z D. 86	Typhoid Fever	Walled drain delivers sewage on to pasture land about 100 yds. from a well used for drinking purposes	P. M. emptied twice a year— No ashpit

From the data given in the above table you will see that the Special Report on the Sanitary condition of several of your districts did not go any further than the facts warranted.

To put it shortly, the sewerage and refuse disposal systems in none of your districts are satisfactory. In Norland and Hartshead more particularly they are most unsatisfactory.

And the most unsatisfactory part of the whole matter is that nothing short of a radical remedy will be of the slightest use, and until this remedy is actually carried out our work in securing the abatement of nuisances can only be little more than half done. For example, we find on certain premises an untrapped walled drain, running past the windows and doors of houses, covered with loosely laid flags with gaping joints and containing several inches of filthy decomposing sediment; this runs through the yard and empties its contents into a field in which cattle are frequently found grazing. The owner of the houses is asked to relay the drain with suitable pipes, and to trap and ventilate it, etc.; he asks how much better the condition of the place will be when a few lengths of pipe are laid to carry the sewage still into the field; and probably he also says that inasmuch as there are two or more houses concerned the 'drain' is in reality a public sewer, and that he will not have the authority turning sewage on to his land. This is a fair sample of the cases met with every week.

Many of the insanitary conditions found in connection with zymotic disease we found it impossible to remedy at all, and most of them are as yet only half remedied for the want of a proper system of sewerage or a proper system of refuse disposal.

And now as to the requisite remedy. If cesspools are to be planted down here, there and everywhere, they will not only prove expensive and a constant source of nuisance, but they will probably not be much of an improvement on the existing state of things. The plan of sub-irrigation of the land, that is, conducting the sewage into a system of loose fieldpipes laid at a depth of about a foot beneath the surface, involves either the use of automatic flush tanks and grease traps to prevent choking of the pipes, or else the frequent relaying of the pipes. And I should regard it as a dangerous experiment in a place like Norland, for example, where a very large number of people take water from springs and wells.

There is nothing left then but a regular system of sewerage with a proper system of sewage disposal by precipitation and filtration.

So far as one can judge from the present action of the West Riding Rivers Board the time is close at hand when every district will have to render a substantial account of itself in this matter.

Why wait for compulsion? The expense will have to be borne



sooner or later, and in most districts it will be a heavy expense. These are both unpleasant facts, but they must be faced. And surely you will get something worth having for your money in the shape of fewer zymotic diseases, better health, and increased capacity for work, as well as the additional though somewhat indirect advantage that there will be some encouragement for building.

Consider the applications you have had in Skircoat from persons desirous of building, but wanting to know first of all whether they could drain their houses satisfactorily, and the difficulty you have had in arranging for this drainage. This difficulty will be repeated before long in other of your districts, and it may not lend itself to such an easy solution.

The remedy to the first condition of affairs then is provision of proper systems of sewerage and of sewage disposal in all your districts.

The second condition, that of refuse removal, is capable of a simpler and less expensive solution.

Sanitarians have been agreed for fifty years at least that the privy-midden system is not a good one, but when it is improperly carried out it becomes a distinctly bad one. My own opinion is, however, that if privy-middens are properly constructed and properly maintained they are quite well suited to a rural district, and they may be more sanitary than the tub system, which is held so generally to be an advance on the privy-midden system.

For a rural district I think proper construction may be taken to mean :—

1. That both the privy and ashpit shall be constructed at least six feet from the walls of any dwelling house, and as far as possible from any source of water supply.
2. That the privy-midden shall be covered in such a way as to prevent the rain wetting the contents, and to prevent the heat of the sun accelerating fermentation.
3. That the privy-midden be so constructed that the dry ashes shall mix with the excreta. I regard this as of prime importance.
4. That the capacity of the privy-midden shall be such as to necessitate **at least** monthly scavenging.
5. That the floor shall in no case be below ground level, but shall be from three to six inches above ground level, and in all cases shall be paved to prevent pollution of the soil and percolation of offensive matters under buildings, &c.
6. That proper means for emptying the contents without causing a nuisance be provided.
7. That proper cross or through ventilation shall be provided.
8. That at least one such privy-midden be provided for every two houses.

With respect to old buildings these conditions can only be enforced if the privy is in such a state as to be a nuisance, or in the case of uncovered ashpits by dealing with them under section 36 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

With respect to new buildings they can best be enforced through proper bye-laws.

So far the authority can go without increasing the rates. But that will not entirely remedy the matter for in some districts the privy-middens are only emptied once, twice, three times, or in fortunate cases four times a year. The remedy for this has been found in two of your districts—Clifton and Hartshead—and in these I have every reason to believe it is thoroughly appreciated by the



ratepayers. This remedy of course is the contracting for the scavenging of the district, or better still scavenging by the Authority's own sanitary staff.

I should strongly recommend the adoption of the system of contract scavenging, certainly in Skircoat and perhaps also in Norwood Green. It may have its evils—people may complain of inattention or imperfect emptying of ashpits, but surely that is a matter easily remedied by a vigilant inspector, and it is one which is generally avoided altogether if the Authority employ its own sanitary staff.

Your Council has been, so to speak, hovering round these two matters of sewage disposal and refuse disposal for some time, but up to now there has been no definite advance made.

Deputations have visited various insanitary places and have been unanimous in condemning them: but as a result I cannot say that much more has been done than the preparation and consideration of sewerage schemes terminating in their eventual postponement *sine die*.

And yet it wants but the carrying out of these two projects to place your district in an excellent condition.

The roads are almost everywhere good, the water supply with perhaps two exceptions is also good, public lighting is far in advance of the generality of rural districts, you will shortly have an excellent Fever Hospital at your disposal, and in practically all else you are in the van of progress.

As your Medical Officer of Health, therefore, seeing almost daily the serious and often fatal consequences of delay in the matters referred to, I ask you to urge forward with the utmost possible speed the actual carrying out of systems of sewerage and sewage disposal in all your districts and all parts of those districts, and of a proper system of regular and frequent scavenging in those districts in which it is practicable.

I do not mean to imply from the above remarks that the district has not made any advance in the matter of sewerage or refuse disposal during the year. On the contrary several of the Parochial Committees have undertaken small schemes for portions of their districts.

The drainage of Kiln Fold, Clifton, appears to be a little nearer the actual carrying out than before, but as it has been in hand for close upon two years congratulation would be premature as yet.

Your Inspector calls attention to another portion of the same district which is in need of drainage, viz., Birkhouse.

In Norland I am happy to be able to report that the recommendations made in my last Annual Report with regard to the drainage of Prospect Terrace are now being carried out.

In Skircoat the Sewage Disposal question is exciting considerable attention, and it is high time that a scheme was actually commenced, for new houses are being put up in large numbers, and the Authority will find itself in a very awkward position, and will probably be put to very great expense if something be not done very soon.

The Norwood Green and Coley sewage tanks have also come in recently for a considerable share of attention. In my last Annual Report I suggested the construction of extra settling tanks and the use of chemical precipitant, but up to within the last few months I am not aware of these recommendations having been entertained. As a matter of fact the tanks not being in duplicate are too hard-worked and get no time for aeration and self-purification. It cannot be too strongly insisted on that sewage filter-beds, which do their work in great part by virtue of the oxygen contained in the pores of the filtering material, should have ample time for the renewal of this



supply of oxygen from the atmosphere. On sewage irrigation farms the land is only allowed to receive sewage for 6 hours in the 24, the remaining 18 hours being allowed for the oxygenation or aeration of the soil.

I understand, however, that the provision of duplicate tanks at Norwood Green is impossible until more land be acquired, and I am afraid nothing can be done towards securing a purer effluent until the tanks are increased in size and duplicated. Certainly the more frequent renewal of the coke of the filter-beds, or the provision of "Polarite," might improve the effluent for a time. The "Polarite" could be purchased at about £6 per ton (a ton of the material being practically equivalent to a cubic yard), and it is claimed for it that it never needs renewal—that it is to all intents and purposes everlasting. This being so, even if the tanks were altered and enlarged the "Polarite" could still be utilised.

Hartshead will probably have to look to Brighouse for the solution of its sewage scheme difficulty; there is, I believe, a complete scheme drawn up.

In Fixby and Upper Greetland complete schemes would be out of the question, as the houses are so scattered.

### WATER SUPPLY AT UPPER GREETLAND.

There are about 45 houses in Upper Greetland which have not in my opinion an available supply of wholesome water sufficient for the consumption and domestic use of their inhabitants.

In the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1888 practically the same statement has been made, and it has been repeated I think every year since that date. I have myself made the same complaint to your Council on at least two previous occasions. I have also received complaints, verbal and written, from residents of that district, and in response to an urgent complaint in 1895 I visited the place, reported the matter in detail to your Council, and succeeded in getting a deputation appointed to inspect the water supply. This they did, accompanied by several members of the Parochial Committee. The water supply was, I believe, unanimously condemned, and the Surveyor was instructed to prepare a scheme on sanitary lines.

The first scheme to be drawn up was so costly that it was disapproved, and a second one estimated to cost about £1350 was substituted.

Though the cost of this last scheme excited some unfavourable comment on the part of the District Council, it was sent to the Parochial Committee for discussion.

Here it was to all intents and purposes scornfully rejected and a host of alternative schemes were proposed.

A meeting of ratepayers was called to consider the merits of various schemes, and, as often happens in such cases, if one can judge from newspaper reports at any rate, personal objurgation obscured rational discussion. Amongst the schemes proposed was one to provide a water-cart and carry water to each house every morning—a most unsatisfactory method, not only because of the small quantity each house would probably obtain, but also because the water would have to be stored for 24 hours, and would be exposed to inevitable pollution in many cases during such storage. The cost, too, of this would be very much greater than its supporters imagine if all houses were to receive a sufficient quantity each day.

Another scheme—to obtain the water from Spring Rock Quarries—was abandoned as impracticable.



Still another scheme—to obtain the water from Halifax—was found to be too expensive.

After this free ventilation of the Upper Greetland water supply question it was put on one side as hopeless and admitting of no remedy.

But there is a remedy for it, one which is fraught with absolutely no difficulty except the cost, and it is altogether unreasonable to imagine that a serious state of affairs such as this can be remedied without cost. It is the duty of your Council to see that these houses in Upper Greetland are provided with a sufficient and wholesome supply of water.

In my opinion it can be supplied at a much less cost than £1350, for it will only be the duty of your authority, I imagine, to take it within a reasonable distance of the houses to be supplied, and then call upon the owners of the property to make the necessary connections.

At present the water supply comes from a spring on Norland Moor and runs in an open stream across a number of fields. During its course it is often seriously fouled by cattle, pigs, ducks and other animals. And not only that, but in summer time, when the supply perhaps runs low, a great deal of water is wasted.

The remedy lies on the lines of constructing a kind of service reservoir near the spring, conducting the water from this in 3 or 4 inch iron pipes in such a way as to bring it within reasonable reach of the houses, and providing small compensation troughs in the fields for the cattle. The water is good at its source—indeed it is practically the same water as is supplied to the greater part of Norland at present—and all that requires doing is to impound it and protect it during its course so as to prevent pollution and waste.

I have viewed with the greatest regret the indifferent and *laissez faire* policy of the Greetland Parochial Committee in this important matter, and as I owe a duty to the Local Government Board and the West Riding County Council, it is my intention to bring the whole of the facts of the case to their notice and ask for their intervention at an early date.

The water supply at **Burn, Fixby**, about which I complained last year, has now been remedied; filtering beds have been laid down and the analyst's report shews that the result is satisfactory. Of course if the filtration of this water continues to keep it pure no further action will be necessary.

**Lead Poisoning.**—A curious instance of the manner in which this may occur was discovered by me in Upper Greetland in June. The medical attendant of a case of pneumonia and lead poisoning combined wrote to me and asked me to investigate it for him. I immediately visited the place and asked about the water supply. Finding that it was from an adjoining well, used by all the other members of the family and by another house in which no symptoms of lead poisoning were to be detected, I dismissed that as a probable cause for the time being, and questioned the man about his employment. He said he was a 'finisher' or folder of pieces at a certain dyeworks, and often had to complain of the dust generated in this work, which he said 'got on to his lungs.' I imagined that I had got a clue to the cause and I took some of the patient's sputum for analysis. Before leaving the place, however, I examined the surroundings of the well, which is, I was informed, about 60 feet deep and was provided with an ordinary pump. The depth of the well at once arrested my attention, for the following reason,



The maximum height to which water can be lifted by a hand pump is 27 feet ; therefore the suction tube of the pump could not be longer than this.

Assuming that the water kept at about 6 or 8 feet deep in the well, and that the suction pipe dipped two feet into this, this would mean that the length of the barrel above the valve at its junction with the suction-pipe would be about 27 feet. Of this 27 feet only about 20 inches in which the piston (or "bucket") works is lined with copper—above this the barrel is usually lead. Take the total length of this lead barrel then at 25 feet. As the barrel is generally 4 inches in diameter the cubic contents of 25 feet of it would be 3600 inches, or roughly 2 cubic feet, and as a cubic foot of water is equivalent to  $6\frac{1}{4}$  gallons there would be about  $12\frac{1}{2}$  gallons of water in contact with this lead barrel, often for a long time—always of course overnight. Add to this about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  gallons which would be contained in the 'suction-pipe,' and we should have about 14 gallons in contact with lead for some time.

Probably the whole of this 14 gallons would not be removed in one day but would remain for longer exposed to contamination. The well was surrounded by filth-accumulations of all kinds : its gathering-ground was manured land, 2 heaps of manure and a liquid manure tank were within 10 yards of it, a walled drain which was leaking passed within 6 yards of it, and a privy-midden was also placed about 8 yards from it.

I prophesied that the water would be bad, as impure water acts quickly as a rule on lead, but the residents strongly maintained that it was pure, and said that they had given hundreds of gallons to passing people in the summer season.

Samples were taken and submitted for analysis. In the meantime I wrote to the dyeworks and asked if any lead salts were used there for dyeing processes ; whilst awaiting the reply I examined the sputum for any possible traces of lead and found no trace of it.

The reply from the dyeworks was to the effect that lead salts had been used a few years ago, but had been abandoned probably for 3 or 4 years.

A few days after this the analyst's report came to hand and shewed the well water to be very badly polluted and to contain four-fifths of a grain of lead per gallon.

This then was the noted well water which Sunday excursionists had been so eager to secure—polluted by manure and drainage percolation and poisoned with lead !

**Sanitary Institute Congress.**—By the special kindness of your Council your Inspector and myself were enabled to attend the Fifteenth Congress of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

There we had the benefit of seeing the way in which the various departments of sanitary science were carried on in this city, and of hearing the great questions of the hygienic world discussed in all their bearings by the foremost men of the day—not only by specialists in the various branches of hygiene, but also by the public administrators of the health laws. A large number of Sanitary Authorities had sent representatives from their Health Committees as well as their officials, and their speeches formed one of the most interesting parts of the debates—the practical view which they took of the case, toning down in many instances the excessive and distorted views of the specialist.



In addition to the healthy stimulus which every delegate feels in being brought in contact with a number of kindred spirits bent on the attainment of a common object, a large number of matters were discussed with a view to future legislative action.

The expense that an Authority goes to in sending delegates to such a Congress is money most decidedly well spent, and indeed the number of Congresses held in connection with various bodies, scientific, religious and commercial is testimony enough that they are productive of good.

Another fact, familiar to anyone in the habit of attending such gatherings, is that the same Authorities continue year after year to send representatives: this would hardly be done, as it is done even with small Authorities, did the visits not provide ample compensation.





(A)

# TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1896, in the HALIFAX RURAL DISTRICT, Classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Classified according to

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the pur- pose of these Statis- tics.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.								MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS OF AGE.																							
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)	FEVERS.										Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phtisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	Total.
										At all ages.	Under 5.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and under wards																
CLIFTON . . . .	34	8	4	1	2	13	6	Under 5 5 upwds	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	12				
FIXBY . . . . .	9	1	1	—	1	4	2	Under 5 5 upwds	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2			
GREETLAND (Up.)	8	2	—	—	—	6	—	Under 5 5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	—	—	2	2			
HARTSHEAD . .	24	4	5	—	2	5	8	Under 5 5 upwds	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0	1	—	0	4	0	0	0	1	8	15			
NORLAND . . . .	24	5	5	2	2	6	4	Under 5 5 upwds	1	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	0	0	3	0	0	0	—	4	10				
NORWOOD G. & COLEY	6	—	—	1	—	3	2	Under 5 5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	—	—	—	0	0				
SKIRCOAT . . . .	25	3	2	2	1	8	10	Under 5 5 upwds	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	—	—	0	1	0	0	0	—	3	5				
Totals	131	23	17	6	8	45	32	Under 5 5 upwds	1	0	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	0	3	0	0	0	1	2	43	91			

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths occurring out- side the district among persons be- longing thereto.	4	1	3	Under 5	5 upwds	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
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(B) TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS,  
coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1896, in the  
**HALIFAX RURAL DISTRICT,**  
Classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Regis- tered 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 SUCH CASES REMOVED FROM THEIR HOMES IN THE SEVERAL LOCALITIES FOR TREAT- MENT IN ISOLATION HOSPITAL.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
	(b)	(c)			(d)	(e)	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	FEVERS.					Cholera	Erysipelas	Smallpox	Scarlatina	Diphtheria	Membranous Croup	FEVERS.					Cholera	Erysipelas																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																									
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Notification of Infectious Disease, compulsory in the District since Jan. 1st, 1890.

Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District: Brighouse and District Joint Hospital, Clifton (marked H).



## TABLE C. 1896.

HALIFAX RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, MEREDITH YOUNG,  
M.B., C.M., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTOR, ARTHUR ROWE.

### WATER SUPPLY—

Quantity { Adequate in most parts of Clifton, Hartshead,  
Norwood Green and Coley.  
Inadequate in part of Upper Greetland, Clifton,  
and Norland.

Quality, Good. Action on Lead, Varies.

Extensions or change during 1896: Eight more houses  
supplied.

### SEWERAGE—

System: Single.

Ventilation by { Lampholes } Both.  
{ Manholes }  
{ Special Shafts: Few cases.

Special flushing arrangements: In places by disc-valves in  
manholes, but mostly hand-flushing.

Extensions or improvements during 1893? In Norland and  
Skircoat (*vide* Report).

### SCAVENGING—

Privy-middens, etc., are cleansed by contractors in Clifton  
and Hartshead; in other places by tenants.

Is the present system satisfactory? Fairly so in Clifton,  
Hartshead, Fixby, Upper Greetland and Norwood  
Green; not in Norland and Skircoat.

### ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS, AND REGULATIONS—

Infectious Disease Notification Act, 1889, adopted Jan. 1, 1890.  
Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops  
Orders, adopted Jan. 1st, 1889.

### REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, &c.

	Number Registered.	Number Inspected.	General Condition.	Legal Proceedings (if any).
Canal Boats ... ..		28	Good.	None.
Slaughter Houses ... ..		6	Only fair.	"
Bakehouses ... ..		2	Satisfactory.	"
{ Dairies ... .. }	98	80	Fair.	"
{ Cowsheds ... .. }				
{ Milkshops ... .. }				
Offensive Trades ... .. (Boneboiling, Tannery, &c.)		7	One unsatisfactory Others fair.	"

## SCHEMES BEFORE L. G. B.—

Bye-laws (New Streets and Buildings) sent up for approval,  
May, 1896.

## SPECIAL REPORTS—

Number made by M.O.H. during 1896: One on Sewage and  
Refuse Disposal, October, 1896. Copies have been  
forwarded to the County Council and L. G. B.

BIRTHS—Number of each sex, Male 126, Female 113.

No information as to still births.

DEATHS—Number of each sex, Male 76, Female 60.

No correction is necessary for non-residents dying within  
the District.

Returns are obtained of deaths of residents occurring in  
public institutions (Workhouses, Hospitals, &c.) outside  
the District, and the above numbers are duly corrected  
in this respect.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL—In course of erection.

## SANITARY WORK—

Number of Houses built during 1896: About 47.

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1895: 24. At  
close of 1896: 41.

Reported during 1896, 242.

Abated during 1896, 225.

Total No. of Summonses or other legal proceedings, One  
(bone-storage).

House Drainage—No. of Sinks trapped and disconnected  
during 1896, 102.

CLOSETS—Number constructed during 1896, 25.

Kinds—Dry Privy-middens.

Action taken in regard to the following matters:—

Houses unfit for habitation. One closed informally.

Overcrowding. Two cases abated.

Seizure of Unsound Food. None.

Samples under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts. None.

River Pollution. One case of river pollution by solid  
refuse abated.

Smoke Abatement. Cautionary notices issued.

Workshops. Four inspected and found satisfactory.

Schools. Five inspected by M.O.H., disinfected, etc.; two  
closed (*vide* report).



# REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES FOR THE YEAR 1896.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present you herewith with a short Report on my work during the past year.

You will see from this that the work of the Sanitary Department has largely increased, and is likely to go on increasing rapidly.

At the monthly meetings of the Council I have usually presented Reports in detail, so that I need now but give a brief summary of the year's work.

The following is a summary of Nuisances abated during the past year :—

House Drains repaired and cleansed.....	13
Premises Disinfected after Infectious Disease.....	14
Ashpits and Closets provided.....	25
W.C.'s „ „ .....	1
Premises Re-drained .....	30
Sink Pipes disconnected, Gulleys provided, &c. ...	102
Privy Middens converted to Tub System .....	9
Premises condemned as unfit for Habitation .....	1
Animals kept so as to be a Nuisance .....	2
Slaughterhouses Limewashed .....	2
Cow Houses „ .....	3
Water supplied to Premises .....	8
„ Supply „ improved and purified	2

**Parochial Committees** appointed under Sec. 201 of the Public Health Act of 1875, and composed of the members of the various Parish Councils, together with the Rural District Council representatives of the several districts, have met as follows:—Clifton 12 times, Skircoat 8, Hartshead 10, Norland 10, Norwood Green and Coley 10, Greetland twice, and Fixby 4 times, making in all 56 meetings at which the various matters concerning the Health of the Districts were discussed.

**Water Supply.**—In most of the Districts the water supply is ample and of a good quality, but portions of Clifton, particularly Wool Row and Birkhouse, Norland and Upper Greetland are without a constant supply, and the want of the same is sadly felt during the summer months. Two houses at Norland and six at Norwood Green have been supplied during the year with a pure supply. Eight samples of water have been submitted for analysis. In five cases the report was favourable, whilst the other three were considered unfit for domestic use. In one of these latter cases, after the source had been cleansed, another sample was taken which the analyst certified as of fair quality. The remaining two are at present *sub judice*.



**Dairies, Cow-Sheds, and Milk Shops.**—During the year a new register of persons carrying on business under the Dairies and Cowsheds, &c., Order has been compiled, and at the present time there are ninety-eight persons so registered. It is my intention to revise the register periodically. Several inspections under this head have been made, and in three cases requests were made to have the places cleansed and limewashed, which were attended to.

**Slaughterhouses.**—Four Slaughterhouses have been inspected, two of which were found in an unclean state, notice of which was sent to the respective occupiers.

**Bakehouses.**—Two Bakehouses have been regularly inspected, and found on each visit well kept and very clean.

**Sewering.**—During the year the various Parochial Committees have taken into their consideration several small schemes of sewerage at Clifton. The drainage of Kilnfold has constantly been brought to the fore, and it is to be hoped that ere long this nuisance, which has for several years engaged the attention of the Authorities from time to time, will be removed. Birkhouse is another portion of the District to which the Authority should turn their attention. The sewage at present runs in walled drains and thence on to the land, by which the water supply, which is derived from wells, is liable to serious pollution.

The Surveyor having reported that the sewage of Copley would have to be raised by some means to a higher level, a deputation visited Grimsby for the purpose of inspecting one of "Adams" patent automatic sewage lifts in operation there. The working of this lift was kindly explained by Mr Petree, the Engineer, and the Committee conceived a very favourable opinion of the apparatus.

At Skircoat, where the land is rapidly being opened out for building purposes, a recommendation has been made that a quantity of land be purchased and the sewage conveyed thereto and treated upon the "International" system of precipitation and filtration. With the object of gaining some experience in the matter, a deputation of the Council and Parochial Committee visited the Crigglestone and other Outfall Works within the Wakefield Rural District, where Mr Massie, the Engineer, kindly offered the deputation every facility for gaining knowledge upon this important question. A scheme for this District is now in course of preparation by your Surveyor. I sincerely trust that the sewerage of Delph Hill will engage your attention at an early date.

Norland is annually making progress in providing efficient sewers for the District, and the necessity of draining Prospect Terrace, pointed out by the Medical Officer in his last report, has received attention, and a 6in. pipe sewer is in course of construction from West Bottom and Goose Nest to Scar Head, into which the sewage from Prospect Terrace will be received. The drainage at Sowerby Croft is considerably improved.

The Norwood Green and Coley Committee have had like Skircoat a new scheme of sewage disposal under consideration, which it was proposed should be carried out upon the same lines as that at Crigglestone. This Committee was also enabled, through the kindness of Mr Massie, to see the very effectual way in which sewage can be disposed of. As the works contemplated would cost some £1800, the matter will be brought before the ratepayers for consideration. This sum would include the construction of sewer from Under Hill, which would remove the cause of complaint received from the West Riding Rivers Board.



For Hartshead a complete scheme of drainage was prepared by the late Surveyor, by which the sewage was to be dealt with at Cooper Bridge by the Brighthouse Corporation. The scheme was estimated to cost some £4000. Negotiations are pending between the authorities as to the sum to be paid for dealing with the sewage. It is to be hoped that, ere long, this or some alternate scheme may be adopted, and thus save the expense and trouble at present caused by the cesspools.

Fixby and Greetland call for little comment, as the population is very sparse and the quantity of sewage very small.

During the summer months the whole of the sewers and house drains in Clifton, Hartshead, Norwood Green and Coley, and Skircoat were thoroughly flushed and disinfected under my own superintendence. By this means many nuisances and insanitary drains were detected.

**Scavenging.**—In the districts of Clifton and Hartshead, where the Authority contract for the scavenging and removal of domestic refuse, it appears to be fairly well done; but as the buildings are constantly increasing and the "tub system" becoming more popular, the necessity has arisen of providing some more efficient method of removing and dealing with the contents of the tubs, as well as of cleansing and disinfecting the receptacles. To this end I would recommend the Council to take into consideration the desirability of providing a waggon in which to remove the tubs, and of making arrangements with the Contractors to cleanse and disinfect them before returning them to the various premises. In the other districts, with the exception of Skircoat, I think the present arrangements by which the privy-middens, &c., are cleansed by the tenants are satisfactory, but I would suggest that the scavenging of the district of Skircoat should be undertaken by the Authority.

**Food and Drugs Act.**—No instructions having been given I have not submitted any samples to the Analyst during the past year.

**Canal Boats Act.**—I append copy of my Annual Report.

**Smoke Abatement.**—Several observations have been taken and reports made to your Council. Leeds and Sheffield were visited by the Medical Officer and myself, a special private report being given to our Council on our return.

**Offensive Trades.**—Seven premises were examined at which the following offensive trades were carried on, viz., that of Fellmonger 2, Bone Boiler 2, Tripe Boiler 2, Tallow Melter 1. In two cases the trade was so carried on as to become a nuisance. On the representation of the Authority the nuisance was abated after legal notice had been served.

**Nuisances.**—There were 24 nuisances in hand at the close of 1895, and 242 were reported during 1896, making a total of 266, of which 225 have been dealt with and 41 are in course of remedy at present. The nature of these has already been pointed out.

**Sanitary Inspectors' Congress.**—By the kindness of the Authority I was enabled to attend the Annual Meeting of the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, held in Leeds in the month of August last, under the presidency of the late Sir B. W. Richardson. Many interesting and instructive papers were read by gentlemen interested in the Association. Perhaps the most interesting of these was that read by R. W. Evans, Esq., L.L.B., of Halifax, on the "Codification of the Law relating to Public Health," in which he described the present state of the Law in one word "Chaos," and stated that it was a system enshrined in 161 Statutes and interpreted by 5,500 decisions.



The delegates were taken to many places of interest, including the Refuse Destructors; Messrs. Manning and Wardles, to see their patent Smoke Washing apparatus; Leeds Fire Clay Co.; Farnley Iron Works; &c., &c.

In company with your Medical Officer of Health, I was also enabled by the kindness of your Council to attend the **Congress of the Sanitary Institute** at Newcastle-on-Tyne.

This was most admirably arranged, and every branch of sanitation received due attention. In the sections of Sanitary Engineering, and in the Conference of Sanitary Inspectors, questions of vital importance were dealt with by experts, and one had the unusual opportunity of asking questions and eliciting opinions upon matters which were of special interest to his own district.

In the Health Exhibition, which formed a part of this Congress, we had the rare opportunity of seeing in actual work all the most recent appliances in connection with sewerage, drainage, refuse disposal, warming, lighting, ventilation, Hospital construction, food analysis, disinfection, etc., and, in fact, the Exhibition alone was well worth a week's visit.

One came in contact, too, with leading Engineers, Medical Officers, Surveyors, Inspectors, and others, who were always ready to give and receive information on matters relating to sanitation.

I have to thank your Council for the opportunity you gave me to attend this Congress, from which I derived a great deal of information which I hope to turn to practical account.

**Public Lighting.**—The Public Lighting of the District is only carried out in Clifton and a portion of Skircoat. At Clifton there are at present 125 street lamps maintained by the Authority, the gas being supplied by the Brighouse and Huddersfield Corporations, North Bierley and Bailiffe Bridge Gas Companies, at prices varying from 3/- to 2/3 per 1000 feet. The cost, exclusive of expenditure on new fittings and mains, is about £2 per lamp per annum. At Skircoat a portion of the main road is lighted by agreement with the Sowerby Bridge Urban District Council.

**Further Powers.**—Application has been made to the Local Government Board to put in force within the Rural District Section 49 of the Public Health Act, 1875, which will enable the Authority to deal with offensive accumulations. If the powers under this section are conferred upon the Council, it will enable me to deal with Nuisances of this character in 48 hours instead of about six weeks as at present.

I would also like to suggest to your Authority that they should make an application to extend the provisions of Sec. 169, Sub-Sec. 2 and 3, of the Public Health Act, 1875, to those portions of the district in which it is not already in use, in order that a more systematic supervision of Slaughterhouses may be adopted.

I have to thank your Council for the hearty support you have given me in my work during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR ROWE.



## CANAL BOATS ACTS, 1877 & 1884.

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GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report upon the Canal Boats inspected by me during the year ending Decr. 31st, 1896. The length of canal in your district is  $3\frac{3}{4}$  miles, distributed as follows:— $1\frac{3}{4}$  mile in Skircoat and Norland; 5-8 mile in Clifton; 1 3-8 mile in Hartshead. The number of boats inspected during 1896 was 28 as against 34 in the previous year. This number would in all probability have been considerably increased were it not for the fact that on ten occasions when attendance was given for inspection, no boats were met with.

Infringement of the Acts and Regulations were found in three cases, viz.:

Absence of Certificate...	1
No Registration Mark...	1
No proper Water Vessel	1

Printed notice forms were sent in each case, and the same have been attended to.

No legal proceedings with respect to infringements have been taken.

No case of Infectious Disease has been met with, and no boats have been detained for cleansing and disinfection.

The boats inspected were without exception clean and well-kept, and the sleeping accommodation satisfactory.

One boat met with was, in my opinion, registered for too many persons, and a letter was sent to the Registration Authority, who promised to inquire into the matter.

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR ROWE.