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Halifax Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the year 1898.

F. A. STORR.

To which is appended the
REPORT of the INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES,



ARTHUR ROWE.

And a Report by the Surveyor,

F. GORDON.



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Halifax Rural District Council.

1898-9.

Chairman :

Councillor J. BOOTH CARTER, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor A. CROWTHER.

Members of Council :

Councillor S. JACKSON (Hartshead).

Councillor J. RAMSDEN (Clifton).

Councillor L. W. H. SHOESMITH (Skircoat).

Councillor B. SUTCLIFFE (Clifton).

Councillor D. U. SUTCLIFFE (Skircoat).

Councillor M. SYKES (Upper Greetland).

Councillor LEWIS WHITTAKER (Norland).

STATISTICAL MEMORANDA.

————— : 0 : —————

Population of whole District, estimated to middle of 1898 ... 8,524.

Inhabited Houses, 1891 ... 2,088.

Acreage (present), 7,062.

Rateable Value and Acreage (1898-9):

				Rateable Value.	Acreage.	
				£		
Clifton	...	...	...	15,994	...	2207
Fixby	...	...	...	2,087	...	937
Upper Greetland	...	...	...	2,800	...	806
Hartshead	...	...	...	4,904	...	863
Norland	...	...	...	6,286	...	1104
Norwood Green & Coley	...	...	...	3,552	...	619
Skircoat	...	...	...	9,716	...	526
				<hr/>		
				£45,339	7062	
				<hr/>	<hr/>	

Birth-rate per thousand of population ... 27·8.

Death-rates :

						Per thousand of population.
General	...	...	...	...	...	15
Zymotic	...	...	...	...	...	1·6
Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	3·1
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	·7
Tubercular Diseases (including Phthisis)	...	...	...	...	...	1·7
Infant Mortality	...	...	...	...	...	143·5 per 1000 births.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1898.

1898.	ENGLAND AND WALES.	Thirty- three Great Towns.	Sixty-seven other Large Towns.	England and Wales <i>less</i> the 100 Towns.
BIRTH-RATE . . .	29·4	—	—	—
DEATH-RATE . . .	17·6	19·0	17·2	16·7
Zymotic Death-rate .	2·22	2·85	2·41	1·75
Infantile Mortality. .	161	178	173	145

INTRODUCTION.

CLIFTON, MARCH, 1899.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my report for the year 1898.

The death-rate for the year was 15, and the birth-rate 27.8, both of which compare very favourably with the general rates throughout the country.

Your attention is again drawn to the insanitary state of various places in your district, which are in urgent need of remedy.

Unfortunately the Skircoat sewage scheme has been delayed owing to the proposed annexation of Skircoat to Halifax. Whatever may be the ultimate result of this inquiry, the sewage disposal of Skircoat is of the gravest importance, and is a matter which undoubtedly requires immediate attention. This, I know, is fully appreciated by you.

The scheme for supplying Upper Greetland and part of Norland with water will no doubt be undertaken during the year.

The Fever Hospital was opened for the reception of patients in the early part of the year, and has proved of great service.

An outbreak of measles occurred at Norwood Green, which necessitated the closing of the schools.

I take this opportunity of thanking you for the constant courtesy received at your hands, and for the consideration you have invariably given to matters which have been brought to your notice from time to time.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

F. A. STORR.

Halifax Rural District Council.

— : 0 : —

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1898.

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POPULATION.

The population of your district, estimated to the middle of 1898, is 8,524. It will be seen from the subjoined table that the populations of Fixby, Upper Greetland, and Norland are decreasing. The populations of these districts undoubtedly decreased from 1881 to 1891, but whether this decrease still continues can only be proved by a census, which might very easily be taken, and at very little cost. This would render statistical reports much more accurate.

The populations of the various districts estimated to the middle of 1898, and also the natural increase for the last five years—i.e., the excess of births over deaths—are given below:—

DISTRICT.	Census Population 1891.	Estimated to Middle of 1898.	Natural Increase during the last Five Years.
Clifton - - -	2275	2345	134
Fixby - - -	485	473	13
Greetland (Upper) -	405	332	13
Hartshead - - -	991	1115	79
Norland - - -	1437	1397	69
Norwood G. & Coley	875	892	53
Skircoat - - -	1946	1970	149
Total - - -	8414	8524	510

BIRTHS.

During the year 237 births have been registered, of which 120 were males and 117 females, equal to a birth-rate of 27.8 per thousand per annum. Of these births 7 were illegitimate, or 2.9 per cent., compared with .9 per cent. for 1897.

The birth-rate during the year 1898 for England and Wales was 29.4.

The following table gives the number of births for 1898, and the three preceding years, together with the rates:—

DISTRICT.	1898.		1897.		1896.		1895.	
	Bir'hs	Rate.	Bir'hs	Rate.	Bir'hs	Rate.	Bir'hs	Rate.
Clifton - - -	70	29.8	57	24.4	66	28.3	65	28.5
Fixby - - -	8	16.9	12	25.3	7	14.7	12	25.2
Greetland (Upper) - -	14	42.1	7	20.5	12	34.2	10	27.8
Hartshead - - -	29	26	30	27.3	35	32.4	28	16.9
Norland - - -	32	22.9	32	22.8	33	22.1	31	20.7
Norwood Green and Coley -	20	22.4	22	24.7	20	22.4	18	20.3
Skircoat - - -	64	32.4	55	28	56	28.5	51	26.6
Total - - -	237	27.8	215	25.3	239	28.1	215	25.3

Upper Greetland claims the highest birth-rate with 42.1, and Fixby the lowest with 16.9.

The birth-rate compares very favourably with that of the whole of England and Wales, and is only 1.6 less.

DEATHS.

During the year 1898 there were registered 134 deaths, of which 71 were males and 63 females—equal to a rate of 15.7 per 1,000 per annum.

The death-rate during the year for England and Wales was 17.6, and for England and Wales less 100 large towns was 16.7.

The number of deaths for 1898 and the three preceding years in each of your districts, together with the rates, are given below:—

DISTRICT.	1898.		1897.		1896.		1895.	
	D'ths.	Rate.	D'ths.	Rate.	D'ths.	Rate.	D'ths.	Rate.
Clifton - - -	46	19.6	39	16.7	35	14.6	40	17.2
Fixby - - -	15	31.7	6	12.6	9	18.1	6	12.6
Greetland (Upper) - -	8	24.1	3	8.8	9	25.7	10	27.8
Hartshead - - -	13	11.6	10	9.1	35	32.4	10	8.9
Norland - - -	20	14.3	22	15.6	26	18.4	14	9.9
Norwood Green and Coley -	8	8.9	11	12.3	6	6.7	21	23.7
Skircoat - - -	24	12.1	30	15.2	28	14.2	25	12.7
Total* - - -	134	15.7	121	14.2	137	16.0	126	14.8

* In Clifton, Fixby, and Norwood Green some corrections are necessary. There were 6 deaths in the Hospital in persons who resided outside your district; in Fixby there was one death of a non-resident, and as regards Norwood Green and Coley one death occurred of a resident in one of the Asylums. This correction will give —

	Deaths.	Rate.
Clifton... ..	40	17
Fixby	14	29.6
Norwood Green and Coley	9	10

The total number of deaths—corrected—will be 128, and the death-rate 15.

Comparing this death-rate with that of England and Wales, excluding 100 large towns, it will be seen that your death-rate is less by 1.7 per thousand per annum.

In Table (A) will be found the deaths in each district at the various age periods.

CLASSIFICATION OF CAUSES OF DEATH.

I.—The Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases.

Number of deaths.....		20	
Scarlet Fever	4	Measles	2
Typhoid Fever	3	Whooping Cough.....	2
Diarrhœa.....		9	

This is equal to a rate of 2.3 per thousand of the population, or 14.9 per cent. of the total number of deaths.

The figures above, though, require correction owing to deaths occurring in Hospital of non-residents.

The corrected figures are:—

Number of deaths.....		14	
Scarlet Fever	1	Measles	2
Whooping Cough.....	2	Diarrhœa	9

This is equal to a rate of 1.6 per thousand of the population, or 11 per cent. of the total number of deaths.

In 1897 the figures were 1.3 and 9 respectively.

The Zymotic death-rate for England and Wales, less 100 large towns, was 1.75.

There were no deaths in this class in Fixby, Upper Greetland, and Hartshead. Eight of the fourteen deaths occurred in Clifton, and these include six deaths from Diarrhœa.

II.—Respiratory Diseases (excluding Phthisis).

Deaths from Pneumonia, Bronchitis, and Pleurisy are included in this class.

The number of deaths was 27, compared with 12 in 1897 and 33 in 1896.

The rate per thousand is 3.1. The rate for 1897 was 1.4, and for 1896 it was 3.8.

All the districts have been equally affected with the exception of Hartshead. Here there has only been one death in two years to be recorded in this class.

III.—Tubercular Diseases.

In this class are included deaths from Phthisis or Consumption of the Lungs and other diseases included under Tuberculosis.

The number of deaths was 15, Phthisis accounting for 6 of these deaths.

This equals a rate of 1.7 of the population, or slightly over 11 per cent. of the total number of deaths.

In 1897 the figures were 1.5 and 10.7 respectively.

Of the 15 deaths 7 occurred in Clifton. No death was recorded from Norwood Green and Coley.

IV.—Phthisis (Consumption of the Lungs).

Six deaths were reported in this class.

This is equal to a rate of .7 per thousand, or 4.4 per cent. of the total number of deaths.

The corresponding rates for 1897 and 1896 were 1.3 and .8 per thousand, and 9 and 5 per cent.

Four of these deaths occurred in Clifton; Fixby, Upper Greetland, Norland, and Norwood Green and Coley having no deaths registered from this cause.

V.—Infant Mortality.

Number of deaths of children under one year of age—31.

This is equal to a rate of 143.5 per thousand of the registered births. The rates recorded in the three previous years were 125.5, 96, and 139 respectively.

In England and Wales, less 100 large towns, the rate was 145.

The rate for 1898 indicates that more than one-ninth of the children born do not survive the first year of life.

In Fixby the infantile death-rate reaches the very high figure of 308. In Hartshead the rate is 210; in Clifton 172, and in Norwood Green and Coley it is 150.

VI.—Other Diseases.

Of the other causes of death, senile decay and cancer are the most important. Nine deaths were due to the former and six to the latter.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There have been 53 notifications of infectious disease during the year as compared with 72 in 1897 and 86 in 1896.

There were 34 cases of Scarlet Fever, compared with 47 in 1897 and 48 in 1896.

„	„	7	„	Typhoid	„	8	„	25	„
„	„	11	„	Erysipelas	„	8	„	1	„
„	was	1	„	Puerperal Fever	„	0	„	1	„

There have been no cases of diphtheria reported.

This shows a continued decrease in the number of cases reported. In three of your districts, viz., Fixby, Upper Greetland, and Norwood Green and Coley, there have been no cases notified; and in Hartshead there were only two cases.

In the following Table you will see the distribution of the various infectious diseases:—

DISTRICT.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.	Erysipe- las.	Puer- peral Fever.	Total.	Removed to Hospital.
Clifton	16	3	7	...	26	4
Fixby ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Greetland (Upper) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hartshead ... ..	...	...	1	1	2	...
Norland	5	1	2	...	8	...
Norwood Green & Coley	...	...	...	...	...	...
Skircoat	13	3	1	...	17	3
Totals	34	7	11	1	53	7

Scarlet Fever.

Number of cases.....34 Number of deaths.....1

As will be seen from the above Table, 16 of these cases occurred in Clifton, 13 in Skircoat, and 5 in Norland.

Two cases were removed to the Hospital from Clifton and three from Skircoat. The majority of the cases occurred in the early months of the year, before the Hospital was opened for the reception of patients. Twenty-one houses were affected altogether, and I don't think that any of the above cases were responsible for outbreaks in other houses. The Hospital has been invaluable in removing the infection from houses where isolation could not be carried out, and has thus ensured the safety of others living near.

Typhoid Fever.

Number of cases.....7 Number of deaths.....0

Three cases occurred in Clifton, and two of these were removed to Hospital.

Three cases were notified from Skircoat, and one from Norland.

The drainage of the house in Norland from which Typhoid Fever was notified was exceptionally bad. The basement of one side of the house must have been saturated with sewage from a cesspool for years and years. Of course, this has now been altered.

Measles.

Several cases occurred in Skircoat Green in the early part of the year, but the outbreak did not attain serious dimensions. In Clifton, too, there were a few isolated cases.

An outbreak of Measles at Norwood Green was reported to me in the early part of July, and necessitated the closure of the schools for a period of three weeks. The infants' department was specially affected, for out of 47 on the books only 7 were present. Handbills were immediately issued to every house, and the instructions contained therein were well carried out. It is worthy of note that not a single death was reported as being due to Measles or its sequelæ, although there must have been some 70 or 80 cases.

Removal to Hospital.

The immediate removal of infectious cases to Hospital has proved to be very beneficial to your district, and especially in those parts where the population is greatest.

There have been objections raised to the removal of patients, but I think in time, when parents begin to appreciate the true value of a Hospital these difficulties will disappear.



G E N E R A L R E P O R T

Sewage Disposal

During the year several important improvements have been carried out in various parts of your district with respect to main sewers, but some general scheme is still necessary for other portions.

As mentioned in my last annual report, permission was refused by the Local Government Board for borrowing powers for the purposes of constructing main sewers in Clifton until either some arrangement could be made with a neighbouring authority to receive the sewage or until some outfall works were contemplated. Unfortunately the neighbouring authority have not been able to fix any terms, and consequently nothing further has been attempted. If only some charges could be made for a definite period, and afterwards revised, if necessary, progress in this important matter might be made.

Birkhouse, Clifton, is still unprovided for so far as its sewage is concerned. Practically the same difficulties have arisen here with respect to the disposal of the sewage.

A sewage scheme for Hartshead has lately been under your consideration. The tanks, in addition to being a continual nuisance, are very expensive, and the money spent annually would go a long way towards the cost attending the proper treatment of the sewage.

In the early part of the year a Local Government Board inquiry was held, and a provisional order has since been granted, for the compulsory purchase of certain lands necessary for the Skircoat sewage scheme.

Owing to the proposed annexation of Skircoat by Halifax no further steps have been taken.

Houses are continually being erected, and therefore the sewage disposal is of the gravest importance.

The result of the inquiry has been further delayed owing to an application of Sowerby Bridge to the County Council to include this portion of your district.

Norland, Pickwood Scar, Sowerby Croft, and Longley require attention, and it is to be hoped that something will be soon accomplished to remedy the insanitary condition of these places.

Water Supply

During the year about twenty samples of water from various parts of your district have been analysed by me. Many of these have been found to be contaminated, and a wholesome supply has been provided.

Many isolated places suffer in the summer time from an insufficiency of water. Your Council, I know, is fully alive to the importance of this matter, and wherever practicable these places will be provided for.

The schemes for the supply of water to Upper Greetland and part of Norland have progressed during the year, and are ready to be placed before the Local Government Board. I trust that the works will be commenced within the next few months.

Cowsheds and Slaughterhouses

Special attention has lately been drawn throughout the country to the important subject of Tuberculosis. In your district the ventilation of cowsheds has been, to my mind, most inefficient, due to a great extent to the inadequate amount of air space allowed by the Bye-laws. The ventilation of cowsheds has a very important bearing on Tuberculosis in cattle, and I sincerely hope that the air space will shortly be increased. Many of the cowsheds visited have been found to be very stuffy and hot. In my lectures I intend to make a special point of this, and to impress upon Cowkeepers the serious necessity of properly housing their cattle. In my opinion Farmers in this neighbourhood err in ignorance, and think that it is necessary for the cattle to be huddled together for the purposes of warmth.

The complete control of Slaughterhouses by the Sanitary Authority in Rural Districts is another matter I think of some importance. At present anyone may have a slaughterhouse, and there is no necessity to have it licensed or registered, and the natural result is that they may only be accidentally discovered. It is almost impossible to inspect the slaughtering of cattle on account of the scattered condition of the slaughterhouses and the varying times of slaughtering. I have even heard it stated that advantage is taken of this to have unsound beasts slaughtered in these out-of-the-way districts, and it is easy to see, under the present conditions, how difficult it is to prevent this state of things. Rural authorities should have more power in these matters.

Lectures on Domestic Sanitation.

By the kindness of your Council, the Inspector, Surveyor, and myself were enabled to attend the Congress of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain at Birmingham. The papers and discussions were again most valuable, and the exhibition was also well worth visiting. A report was presented, a copy of which is appended at the end of my Annual Report. At one of the discussions at the Congress it was suggested that lectures should be given throughout every district dealing with the elementary principles of hygiene. Your Council deputed me to lecture in your several Parishes, and at the time of writing three have been given, viz., in Hartshead, Norwood Green and Coley, and Clifton. Arrangements have been made for lecturing in the other Parishes. The attendances have so far been very satisfactory, and the audiences have fully appreciated the subjects, and the opinion has been expressed that these lectures are supplying a long-felt want. There can be no doubt that the opportunity afforded to the public to discuss certain matters affecting their health must be invaluable. Although much can be accomplished by authorities to improve the general health of the community at large, there yet remain many details affecting the health of individuals which can only be accomplished by education. The objects of the lectures have been to impress on the people the avoidance of nuisances, often due to carelessness or ignorance, cleanly habits, ventilation, &c. Wherever possible the subject matter is fixed upon the memory by means of lantern slides, which include Dr. Teale's "Dangers to Health," and many of Dr. Hunter's "Slipshod Sanitation."

The following is a list of subjects usually dealt with:—"Duties of Householders," "Gullies and Traps: their uses and abuses," "The Abuse of Ashpits," "Ventilation: Necessities and Results," "Feeding and Clothing of Children," "Consumption," "Diarrhœa," "Habits and Cleanliness," "Precautions against Infectious Diseases."

Your Council has taken a deep interest in these lectures, and although the benefits which it is hoped may accrue from them may not be apparent for some time, yet I feel confident that eventually some good must come.



SANITARY INSTITUTE CONGRESS.

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

GENTLEMEN,

We beg to submit to you our report of the Sanitary Institute Congress, held at Birmingham during the week ending October 1st, 1898.

The attendance was found to be 50 per cent. better than at Leeds, the number of tickets issued being nearly 2,000, and number of papers read about 100. About 430 public bodies were represented, including over 30 County Councils, nearly 90 Urban Districts, over 50 Rural Districts, and the rest representing County Boroughs and the various Learned Societies.

The Inaugural Address was given by Sir Joseph Fayrer.

Five conferences were held on the Wednesday, viz., (1) Municipal Representatives, (2) Medical Officers of Health, (3) Municipal and County Engineers, (4) Sanitary Inspectors, and (5) Domestic Hygiene.

The conference of M.O.H. was opened by the President, Dr. McVail, the subject of his opening address being "The Relation of the Medical Profession and the State, especially with regard to Vaccinal Legislation." All at that meeting heartily agreed that re-vaccination as well as primary vaccination requires legal provision; that Sanitary Authorities should have charge of vaccinal administration; and that all vaccination certificates should place on record the area and number of marks. The net result of the new law would be that "individual option would take the place of local option, which had existed in practice, and it would be rash to prophecy that under the new system the vaccination default will be greater than, or as great as, under the old." The public had to be educated, and they must pay for their education. In so far as they would accept no other schoolmaster than smallpox, their education would be all the more costly, but the lesson once learned would be all the more thorough. In conclusion, the President urged upon M.O.H. the duty of educating the public by every means in their power, and not to stand aside and sulk, because compulsion had been temporarily abolished.

The Section of Physics, Chemistry, and Biology was opened by an address from Dr. Sims Woodhead, who gave us some most interesting facts as regards Tuberculosis, Diphtheria, and Sewage Treatment. He pointed out that it had been proved by actual experiment that it is possible to obtain a perfectly healthy progeny from tuberculous herds, if care be taken to remove the calves, as soon as they are born, from the tuberculous mothers. This being true, we ought in process of time to be able to stamp out the disease in cattle by putting the rising generations under conditions favourable to the building up of sound, healthy bodies. The children of tuberculous parents may also be placed under such conditions that they will never contract the disease. Dr Woodhead strongly advocated the use of tuberculin as a diagnostic agent in cases of tuberculosis.

As regards diphtheria, Dr. Woodhead was satisfied that antitoxin, where given early enough and in sufficient quantity, was practically a specific. On an outbreak of diphtheria, the first thing to be done was to inject not only the patient with a curative dose, but all who can possibly be exposed to infection with a protective dose of antitoxin.

Dr. Woodhead then gave us some very interesting figures relating to the nitrogen in sewage, and our future wheat supplies.

A paper was read by Dr. Niven, in the Preventive Medicine Section, on Tuberculous meat and milk. He considered that some standard should be established in reference to tuberculous carcasses as regards seizure, and that there should be some efficient system of meat inspection. No system can be efficient which involves the retention of a large number of private slaughterhouses. The public should also be protected as regards tuberculous milk (1) by eliminating tuberculosis from the herd, (2) the proper housing of cattle, especially in Rural districts. Dr. Niven then described in detail what was done in Manchester, and advocated the creation of a Public Health Veterinary Service.

What is undoubtedly becoming a popular section of the Congress is that dealing with the questions of domestic sanitation. Papers were read dealing with the teaching of hygiene in elementary schools. The following extract from one of the papers is worth repeating:—"Were rate-payers more alive to their own interests, educational and sanitary, it was conceivable that they would demand that a definite proportion of the huge sum they annually contributed for educational purposes should be used in inculcating a practical knowledge of health laws."

Many other interesting and valuable papers in the Preventive Medicine Section were read, e.g., "Bacteriological and Clinical Diagnosis in Relation to Notifiable Infectious Diseases," "Disinfection of Excreta," "Typhoid Fever," &c.

In the Conference of Municipal Representatives a paper was read on Village Sewerage Schemes, the results of certain experiments.

At the Conference of Sanitary Inspectors, which was exceedingly well attended, a novel idea was advocated, viz., "The Sanitary Inspector as a Teacher of Sanitation, especially in Rural Districts." Something should be done at once for these parts, and it was urged that a fund should be created for the purchase of apparatus, lantern, diagrams, &c., for the teaching of this subject. Other subjects discussed were "The Training and Education of Sanitary Inspectors," "The Ethics of Sanitary Inspectors," and "Overcrowding and its Remedies." The discussions following these papers were of a most interesting character.

The Conference of Ladies we were unable to attend, but there were evidently some good papers read, referring to such subjects as "Fever Nursing in Villages," "Domestic Sanitation," &c.

The Health Exhibition was again a great success. There were over 200 stalls, and almost every firm of eminence in the sanitary world was represented.

There was little in the Exhibition which was absolutely new, yet there were many things of peculiar interest. The Septic Tank was again shown, together with samples of effluent water. New disinfectants were to be seen; various forms of slop water closets and many other sanitary appliances. A new drain-tester was worthy of note, and we purpose giving it a practical trial. It might be added that Adams' Patent Sewage Lift, which it is proposed to adopt in connection with the Skircoat Sewage Scheme, was one of the exhibits, and received the highest award.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

F. A. STORR, M.O.H.

FRED GORDON, Surveyor.

ARTHUR ROWE, Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my annual report or resume of the work of the Sanitary Department of your Council.

The number of nuisances abated, the number remaining to be dealt with, and the description of the same, will be found in the table appended to this report.

During the past year Parochial Committee Meetings have been held for the most part at monthly intervals in all the Districts under your authority with the exception of Upper Greetland. Although the powers of these Committees are somewhat limited, yet the recommendations passed by them often tend to simplify matters and assist the Council in questions to be dealt with under the head of "special expenses."

Water Supply.

During the past year the water supply in your District has been somewhat improved, and notably by a small extension of mains at Clifton, the connection of several farms and houses to proper service mains in Skircoat, Hartshead, Norwood Green, and Clifton. The use of several shallow wells has been discontinued.

It is to be regretted that arrangements for a proper supply of wholesome water to Birkhouse and Woolrow, Clifton, have not been carried out, and it is to be hoped that before the warm weather sets in your Council will take such steps as will ensure to these Districts a pure supply of water. I refrain from mentioning the schemes for the supply of Upper Greetland and Norland, as these are in the hands of your Engineer.

Sewage Disposal.

Several short lengths of sewer have been constructed to relieve pressing necessities as they arise, but it is a very difficult matter in a scattered Rural District to deal with the sewage in such a satisfactory manner as if the Districts were more compact.

There are, however, several portions of the District to which the attention of the Council might be with profit directed. Amongst these is first and foremost Hartshead, with its present cesspools, which are a greater nuisance than the evils they were constructed to abate; Skircoat, with its numerous unsatisfactory and temporary outlets, Clifton, including more particularly Birkhouse, where no sewer at present exists, and the disposal of sewage is most unsatisfactory, Clifton Common, &c.; Sowerby Croft, Pickwood Scar, and New Longley, Norland, and the District of Stone, Fixby.

With reference to Sowerby Croft, Norland, it would be a very simple and inexpensive matter to deal with the sewage thoroughly and permanently, the Council having agreed with the Sowerby Bridge U.D.C. as to terms for receiving the sewage, and that authority now possess a sewer in very close proximity to the particular houses referred to.

Upper Greetland and Fixby (with the exception of Stone), being very sparsely populated, are at present enabled to dispose of their refuse by irrigation on the adjoining land. All the sewers and water connections have been cleansed and flushed wherever a water supply was at hand.

Scavenging.

The Scavenging and removal of House Refuse is, I am glad to say, greatly improved. During the past year this work has been let to contractors in Skircoat, in addition to Hartshead and Clifton, where this work has been well carried out since the Council undertook the work. Considering the rural character of the remainder of the District, the cleansing of the ashpits and privies is done in a fairly satisfactory manner by the owners and occupiers, though owing to the size of the receptacles, some containing many loads, the removal of the refuse is not done quite often enough.

Lighting.

The Lighting of your District is carried out in Clifton and Skircoat only, with the exception of four lamps at Fixby and four at Hartshead. The question of extending the supply to Hartshead and Norwood Green is receiving the consideration of the respective Parish Councils. In the Township of Skircoat, owing to the rapid development of certain portions of the District, many additional lamps have been erected.

Dairies, Cowsheds & Milkshops' Order.

During the year several persons have been registered under this order and many inspections have taken place, the chief defects found being want of light and ventilation, overcrowding, and unclean premises. Most of these have been attended to.

Bakehouses.

Two Bakehouses have been inspected and found in a satisfactory condition.

Offensive Trades.

Seven premises were examined in which the following trades were carried on, viz., tripe boiling and leather currying, and in each case the premises were found satisfactory.

Food and Drugs Acts.

No samples have been taken under the Food and Drugs Act, as no instructions to do so have been issued by your Council. A few samples of milk were taken, but owing to their obvious purity they were not submitted to the Analyst.

I should be glad to receive any complaints where there is any suspicion of the adulteration of milk, which would, of course, be treated confidentially.

Smoke Abatement.

Several observations have been taken and cautionary notices issued in two cases with the desired result.

Canal Boats Act.

I append copy of my annual report.

Slaughterhouses.

These premises are not situated so as to ensure a systematic and regular inspection, and for the most part they are not in such a condition as one would desire. Any further legislation, requiring slaughterhouses in rural districts to be licensed and the meat inspected and marked, as is done upon the Continent, would be of great service, and would tend to prevent unsound meat being placed in the market, and might also aid in the endeavours now being made to check the spread of Tuberculosis.

I beg to thank the Council for affording me the opportunity of visiting the Sanitary Institute Congress at Birmingham, a report of which has been presented to you; also for the hearty support you have accorded to me in my work during the past year.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

ARTHUR ROWE



(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 1898, 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.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																			
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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 : Brighthouse Joint Hospital, Clifton (marked H).

The Inspection of Canal Boats.

—————:o:—————

Copy of the Annual Report of your Inspector dealing with
the Inspection of Canal Boats.

—————:o:—————

GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with section 3 of the Canal Boats Act, 1884, I beg to submit to you my Annual Report upon the Canal Boats inspected by me during the year ending December 31st, 1898.

The number of boats inspected is 10, as against 19 in the previous year. The number would be very considerably increased if there were in your district better facilities for inspection, the only stopping place in the rural area being at Cooper Bridge. I find that I have during the year spent eight afternoons at this work in company with your Medical Officer without seeing a single boat.

Of the 10 boats inspected, 9 complied with the regulations. The tenth was in an uncleanly state. There was no proper water vessel on board, and the person in charge could not produce his certificate. All these defects have since been remedied.

No cases of sickness were met with.

The persons in charge of the boats were invariably civil and obliging, their only complaint being, as usual, that of "over-inspection."

I append statistical supplement, and remain,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR ROWE.

Canal Boats Acts, 1877 and 1884.

STATISTICAL SUPPLEMENT to the (1898) Annual Report of the Halifax Rural District Council.

Number of boats inspected in 1898.—Ten.

„ conforming to the Acts and Regulations.—Nine.

„ infringing the Acts and Regulations.—One.

Total number for which the cabins were registered.—Forty-nine.

„ occupying the cabins.—Twenty-six.

Details of occupation.—Male adults, 19; Female adults, 3; Children of school age, 1; Children under school age, 3; Total, 26.

Details shewing infringements.—Absence of certificate, 1; Painting, 1; No proper water vessel, 1; Total, 3. All these cases have been remedied.

TABLE C. 1898.

HALIFAX RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, F. A. STORR.

SANITARY INSPECTOR, ARTHUR ROWE.

WATER SUPPLY—

Quality, Good. Action on Lead, Variable.

Any extensions or change during 1898? Several small extensions.

Any inadequacy in any part? Parts of Clifton, Upper Greetland and Norland.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL—

Extensions or Improvements during 1898? Clifton, Norland and Skircoat.

Any inadequacy in any part? In portions of most of the Districts.

SCAVENGING—

Are the privy-middens, etc., cleansed by Sanitary staff, by Contractors, or by Owners and Tenants? Contractors in Clifton, Hartshead and Skircoat; Tenants in other parts.

ADOPTIVE ACTS—

Infectious Disease (**Prevention**) Act, 1890. September, 1897.

What was the amount paid to practitioners under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act during 1898? £6 15 0.

BY-LAWS—

Are they properly enforced? Yes.

Any deficiency? Drainage regulations with regard to old buildings.

REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, &c.	Number Registered.	Number Inspected.	General Condition	Legal Pro- ceedings (if any).
Common Lodging Houses.				
Canal Boats		10	Fair.	
Slaughter Houses		7	Hardly satisfactory.	
Bakehouses		2	Satisfactory.	
{ Dairies }	101	63	Not satisfac- tory with regard to air space and ventilation.	
{ Cowsheds }				
{ Milkshops }				
Offensive Trades	7	7	Fair.	

ISOLATION HOSPITAL—Brighthouse Joint Hospital, Clifton.

Disinfecting Apparatus? At Hospital.

Type of same? Steam Disinfecting Apparatus.

Compensation paid for infected articles destroyed during 1898? 10s.

DWELLINGS—

Number of Houses built during 1898? 93.

General character? Artisan class chiefly, and some few vill-s.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses? A few cases which have been remedied.

GEOLOGY—Nature of Soil, Variable.

MISCELLANEOUS—

Is House-to-house Inspection systematically made? As far as possible.

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1897, 64. At close of 1898, 34. Reported during 1898, 233. Abated during 1898, 263.

No. of Sink wastes disconnected during 1898, 68.

" " trapped " 54.

No. of Closets constructed during 1898, 12. Kinds, Privy Mid-dens. Also about 30 waste water closets to new property.

Any information as to number of deaths from cancer of all kinds during 1898? 6 deaths.

Any information as to the number of deaths from Tabes Mesenterica? No cases of death reported as due to this.

Vaccination—General efficiency, inefficient.

WHAT ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN IN REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING MATTERS?

Smoke Abatement, 4. No. of observations taken, 25.

Inspection of Factories and Workshops, 9 inspected.

Schools—No. in District, 5. No. closed on account of outbreaks of disease, 1. Total duration of closure from the cause, 3 weeks.

Burial Grounds—No. in District, 7. Any need for extension? None.

BIRTHS—Males, 120; Females, 117; Total, 237.

Number illegitimate, included in the above, 7.

DEATHS—Males, 71; Females, 63; Total 134.

Number uncertified, included in the above, 6.

RATEABLE VALUE as stated in Valuation List	Value upon which the General District Rate is Assessed.			Rate in the £ 1897. General District Rate, including Poor Rate, &c., 3s 8d. Special Rate for sanitary & light- ing purposes varies from 1d. to 1s.
	Full Rateable Value (Houses, etc.)	One-fourth Rateable Value (Land, etc.)	Two-thirds Rateable Value (where owner is assessed).	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
£45,339				

Sanitary Requirements of District, and Suggestions of Medical Officer
of Health :—

Drainage schemes for several places. Vide report.

Increased cubic space for cowsheds.

Water supplies for several isolated places.

More efficient control over slaughterhouses.

