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HALIFAX RURAL .  
DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1908,  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,  
F. A. STORR.

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BRIGHOUSE :  
JOHN HARTLEY LTD., PARK STREET.  
1909.



# Halifax Rural District Council.

1908.

## Chairman :

SIR GEO. J. ARMYTAGE, BART.

## Members of the Council :

Clifton	...	...	Councillor J. BLACK.
"	...	...	" W. SYKES.
Fixby	...	...	" J. H. BROOK.
Hartshead	...	...	" S. JACKSON.
Norland	...	...	" J. WHITTAKER.
Norwood Green & Coley			" J. B. CARTER.
Upper Greetland	...		" J. GEE.



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## *Statistical Memoranda.*

Population of District, Census 1901 ... 6,478

Inhabited Houses, 1901 ... 1,469

Acreage ... 6,536

These are distributed as follows :—

	Acreage.	Inhabited Houses.	Census Population, 1901.		1901 Total.
			Males.	Females.	
Clifton ...	2207	533	1169	1327	2496
Fixby ...	937	105	211	233	434
Hartshead ...	863	208	490	466	956
Norland ...	1104	311	621	668	1289
Norwood Green } and Coley }	619	160	310	345	655
		56	109	115	224
Upper Greetland	806	96	216	208	424

.....

### Rateable Value of the various Parishes.

	Rateable Value of Agricultural Land.	Rateable Value of Buildings and other Hereditaments.	Total Rateable Value.
	£	£	£
Clifton ...	2,026	13,081	15,107
Fixby ...	587	1,617	2,204
Hartshead ...	898	4,866	5,764
Norland ...	827	4,905	5,732
Norwood G. & Coley	812	2,908	3,720
Upper Greetland ...	574	2,253	2,827
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£5,724	£29,639	£35,354

**A Comparison between the various Rates of the  
Halifax Rural District for 1908 and 1907 and  
those of England and Wales for the year 1908.**

	1908.	1907.
<b>Birth-rate</b> (per thousand of population) :—	22·8	19·7.
<b>Death-rate</b> :—		
General	13·2	15·2.
Zymotic	0·3	0·61.
Respiratory (excluding Phthisis)	1·8	2·3.
Tubercular	1·4	1·38.
<b>Infantile Mortality</b> :—(per 1000 births)	94·2	79.

**Vital Statistics for England & Wales for  
the Year 1908.**

1908.	ENGLAND AND WALES.	Great Towns. (76)	Smaller Towns. (142)	England and Wales less the 218 Towns.
<b>BIRTH-RATE</b> - - -	<b>26·5</b>	27·0	26·0	26·2
<b>DEATH-RATE</b> - - -	<b>14·7*</b>	14·9	14·0	14·7
Zymotic Death-rate - -	<b>1·29</b>	1·59	1·26	0·99
Infantile Mortality - - (per 1000 births)	<b>121</b>	128	124	110

\* Lowest ever recorded.



# Halifax Rural District Council.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1908.

The year has not been marked by any special sanitary advancement, yet good work has been effected by a steady and continuous improvement in the sanitary condition of your area. The statistical portion of the report shews that the health of the district has been highly satisfactory. The Birth-rate is higher than the average for the last seven years; the Death-rate is well below the average; the Zymotic Death-rate is very low (the lowest recorded); the infantile mortality is small comparatively; and the list of Infectious Diseases notified is the smallest since your area was formed. This is undoubtedly very gratifying and more especially when compared with the previous year (1907) which also proved good from a health point of view.

## **Population.**

If the population be estimated on the increase during the last census it would be 6485. If each district be separately calculated the population would be 6512. This difference is due to the various rates of increase or decrease in the different Parishes. I do not, however, think that this rate is being maintained. For instance from 1891 to 1901 Clifton increased from 2275 to 2496. If this rate had been continuous the population at the middle of 1908 should be 2669. This, I think, is too high as the average per house at the last census was 4.4 and this would mean an addition of about 60 houses. Then, again, the population of Norland fell from 1437 to 1289, and reckoned on this rate of decrease the population should be 1192, which I imagine is too low.

I have therefore estimated the population to be 6489.



It may be of interest to see the natural increase, *i.e.* excess of births over deaths since 1901 in the various districts:—

Clifton ... ..	109	Norland ... ..	104
Fixby ... ..	27	Norwood Green & Coley	23
Hartshead ... ..	56	Upper Greetland...	17

Thus the increase here shewn is 336 and the population reckoned on this natural increase and excluding migrations would be 6804.

The following table gives the populations I have based my calculations on; also the natural increase for the year:

DISTRICT.	Census Population 1891.	Census Population 1901.	Estimated to middle of 1908.	Natural Increase during the year 1908.
Clifton .. ..	2275	2496	2620	23
Fixby ... ..	485	434	400	2
Hartshead ... ..	991	956	930	11
Norland ... ..	1437	1289	1221	17
Norwood G. & Coley	875	879	882	7
Upper Greetland ...	405	424	436	2
Total ...	6468	6478	6489	62



## BIRTHS.

Number, 148.

Birth-rate, 22·8.

Of these births 68 were males and 80 females. There were 7 illegitimate births.

The birth-rate is an increase of nearly three compared with last year. In England and Wales, less 218 towns, it was 26·2.

The birth-rates for the various districts were as follows:—

Clifton	...	...	...	18·3.
Fixby	...	...	...	22·5.
Hartshead	...	...	...	28·0.
Norland	...	...	...	30·3.
Norwood Green and Coley	...	...	...	22·6.
Upper Greetland	...	...	...	18·3.

Thus Norland has the highest birth-rate and Clifton and Upper Greetland the lowest.

The following table gives the number of births during 1908, and the four preceding years, in the several parishes:—

DISTRICT.	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	Average for years 1904 to 1907
Clifton ... ..	48	45	52	60	43	50
Fixby ... ..	9	16	13	13	7	12
Hartshead ... ..	26	23	24	25	30	25
Norland ... ..	37	24	40	28	29	30
Norwood G. & Coley	20	14	15	16	14	15
Upper Greetland ...	8	6	5	8	9	7
Total ... ..	148	128	149	150	132	139

The following figures will enable you to compare this year's birth-rate with those of former years:—

1907	...	19·7	1903	...	22·5
1906	...	22·9	1902	...	22·5
1905	...	23·1	1901	...	24·7
1904	...	20·3			

The average for these seven years is 22·2. The rate for 1908 shews a slight increase above the average.

## DEATHS.

Number of deaths 86.

Death-rate 13·2.

Of these deaths 45 were males and 41 females. This is the corrected figure, and includes residents who have died outside the district, and excludes non-residents who have died within the district.

The death-rate for England and Wales was 14·7; and for England and Wales, less 218 towns, 14·7. Thirty-three deaths, or over 38 per cent., occurred in persons over 65 years of age. Twenty-three, or over 26 per cent., were over 70 years of age; 4 of whom were over 80, and two females attained the ages of 90 and 93 respectively—one being from Clifton and one from Norwood Green and Coley.

Of those who attained the age of 65 years 17 were males, 16 females.

“ “ “ 70 “ 11 “ “ 12 “  
 “ “ “ 80 “ 1 was a male, 3 “

There were 13 deaths in children under one year of age, so that nearly 40 per cent. of the deaths were in persons over 70 years and in children under one.

The average age at death of males was 43, and of females 48 years.

The number of deaths for 1908 and the four preceding years in each of your districts are given below:—

DISTRICT.	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904
Clifton	25	34	53	34	25
Fixby	7	7	4	9	5
Hartshead	15	17	14	14	21
Norland	20	25	19	25	16
Norwood G. & Coley	13	11	7	18	10
Upper Greetland ...	6	5	6	6	8
Total	86	99	103	106	85



The following figures will enable you to compare this year's Death-rate with those of former years:—

1907, ...	15.2 ;	1904, ...	13.1 ;	1901, ...	15.4 ;
1706, ...	15.8 ;	1903, ...	12.6 ;		
1905, ...	16.3 ;	1902, ...	15.5 ;		

The average for these seven years is 14.8.

The Rates for the various districts were as follows :

Clifton ...	...	9.5 ;	Norland ...	...	16.3
Fixby ...	...	17.5 ;	Norwood Green and Coley	...	14.7
Hartshead ...	...	16.1 ;	Upper Greetland	...	13.7

The deaths in the various age periods were distributed as follows :—

Number of deaths.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.
	13	6	2	4	28	33

The number of residents who have died outside your area is ten. These deaths represent, of themselves, a death-rate of 1.5. Although it is quite equitable, under certain conditions, that deaths occurring in Public Institutions should be allocated to their proper districts, there are one or two anomalies in this connection. When the census is taken are the inhabitants of public institutions reckoned in the population of the area where their homes are? If a birth occurs is that birth added to the account of births where the institution is or to where the mother comes from? Let me give a concrete instance. A child is born in the workhouse. The mother's home is in your area. The child dies in the workhouse. For statistical purposes the death is debited to your area. Why should not the birth be credited to your area?

## Classification of Causes of Death.

### I.—Zymotic Diseases.

Number of Deaths ... .. 2.

viz.—Diarrhoea ... .. 1      Measles ... .. 1

This is equal to a rate of 0.3 per thousand of the population, or 2.3 per cent of the total number of deaths.

The Zymotic Death-rate for England and Wales, less 218 towns, was .99

Both deaths occurred in Clifton, the other districts being entirely free. The Zymotic Death-rate for Clifton was .76.

The rates for the whole district in previous years were :—

1901	...	1'4	1904	...	0'9
1902	...	1'5	1905	...	0'6
1903	...	1'4	1906	...	2'1
		1907	...		0'6

Giving an average for these seven years of 1'2

The Zymotic Death-rate for 1908 is only a fourth of the average for the previous seven years and is the lowest recorded.

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

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

Number of deaths ... 12

This is equal to a rate of 1'8 per thousand of the population or 14 per cent. of the total number of deaths.

The rates for 1907, 1906 and 1905 were 2'3, 2'7 and 4 respectively.

The districts affected were :—

	Pneumonia	Bronchitis.
Clifton	...	1
Hartshead	...	1
Norland	...	0
Norwood Green		
and Coley	...	1
Upper Greetland	0	...

Two of these deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age and two in children under one.

## III.—Tubercular Diseases.

In this class are included deaths from Phthisis or Consumption of the Lungs, and other diseases due to the same cause, but affecting different parts of the body.

Number of deaths ... 9

This is equal to a rate of 1'4 per thousand of the population, or 10'4 per cent. of the total number of deaths.

In 1907 the figures were 1'4 and 9 per cent.

„ 1906	„	„	0'9	„	5'8	„
„ 1905	„	„	1'7	„	9'6	„
„ 1904	„	„	2'0	„	15'0	„



The deaths were distributed as follows :—

		Consumption of the Lungs.		Other Tubercular Diseases.
Clifton	...	0	...	1
Fixby	...	1	...	1
Hartshead	...	0	...	1
Norland	...	3	...	0
Norwood Green & Coley	...	1	...	0
Upper Greetland	...	1	...	0

As Consumption of the Lungs in persons in receipt of poor relief is now notifiable it will be interesting to see how far Tubercular Diseases have affected your district as regards the death-rate.

Taking the last ten years—from 1899 to 1908 inclusive—I find that the total number of deaths from Consumption of the Lungs has been 71, or just over 7 per cent. of the total number of deaths. This is practically the percentage for the year 1908, and apparently there has been no increase nor diminution in the Phthisical death-rate. With respect to the other tubercular diseases there have been, in the same period, 30 deaths, or three per cent. of the total number of deaths. The percentage for 1908 is a little more. Here again there is apparently little change.

The chief difficulty which exists in controlling the spread of Phthisis is that the sufferers in the early stages do not appreciate the infectiveness of the disease. They fear it and know that there is a hereditary tendency in connection with it, but they do not adopt or carry out the simple instructions with respect to disinfection of sputum and fresh air.

People still continue to sleep in rooms with closed windows and sealed up fireplaces. They still believe in warming their rooms by lighting the gas and closing doors and windows, forgetting that whilst warming the air, they are destroying its purity. Prejudices handed down from generation to generation become fixed convictions, and a persistent educational drilling in the laws of health alone will remove these as it has done others in connection with the prevention of the notifiable infectious diseases.

#### IV.—Infantile Mortality.

Number of deaths of children under 1 year of age ... 13.

This is equal to a rate of 92·4 per thousand of the registered births. The Infantile Mortality for England and Wales, less 218 towns, was 110.

The rate in 1908 indicates that nearly one-eleventh of the children born did not survive the first year of life.

The deaths were distributed as follows :—

			Deaths under one year.	Mortality per 1,000 births.
Clifton	...	...	4	95.2
Fixby	...	...	1	66.6
Hartshead	...	...	2	83.3
Norland	...	...	3	103.4
Norwood Green and Coley			1	45.4
Upper Greetland	...	...	2	333.3

The Infantile Mortality rates for previous years were :—

1907	...	79.0	1904	...	88.8
1906	...	119.7	1903	...	109.0
1905	...	166.6	1902	...	88.6
		1901	...	129.2	

The average for these seven years is 111.6

The rate for the year therefore is well below the average.

## V.—Other Diseases.

Of the other causes of death the following are the most important :—

Heart Disease	...	12 deaths.
Cerebral Apoplexy		12 „
Cancer	...	9 „
Senile Decay	...	5 „

So that 14 per cent. of the deaths were due to Heart Disease, 14 per cent. to Apoplexy, and over 10 per cent. to Cancer.

During the last ten years the percentage of deaths from Heart Disease has been over 8, from Apoplexy over 6 per cent.—the two combined just over 15.

Cancer has been responsible for over 6 per cent. of the total number of deaths during the last ten years.

## Infectious Diseases.

During the year there have been 11 notifications of Infectious Diseases received, and this number is the lowest recorded.

The numbers for the previous years are as follows :—

1895 ...	37	1901 ...	30
1896 ...	80	1902 ...	55
1897 ...	51	1903 ...	21
1898 . .	36	1904 ...	49
1899 ...	43	1905 ...	27
1900 ...	20	1906 ...	38
1907 ... 12			

Giving an average for the previous thirteen years of a little over 38.

The following table shews the distribution of the various Infectious Diseases :—

DISTRICT.	Scarlet F	Enteric Fever.	Erysip's	Removed to Hospital.
Clifton	1	1	1	2
Fixby	1	...	1	0
Hartshead	2	...	1	1
Norwood Green	1	...	...	1
Upper Greetland	2	...	...	0
Total ...	7	1	3	4

The percentage of removals to Hospitals—excluding Erysipelas—was 50.

It will be seen that there were no cases of notifiable disease at Norland.



## Scarlet Fever.

Number of cases, 7.

Number of deaths, 0.

Three of these were removed to Hospital. Of the remainder, one was well isolated at home, one contracted measles and the other two had almost finished peeling when notified. They were isolated cases and in different houses.

The numbers of notifications for previous years were :—

1900	...	13	1904	...	27
1901		15	1905	...	17
1902	...	29	1906	...	28
1903	...	8	1907	...	7

The average for the above years was 16·7.

The incidence was as follows :—

	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
Clifton ...	—	—	—	1
Fixby ...	—	—	—	1
Hartshead ...	1	—	—	1
Norwood Green ...	—	—	—	1
Upper Greetland...	1	—	1	—

## Enteric or Typhoid Fever.

Number of cases, 1.

Number of deaths, 0.

There was only one case, from Clifton, notified during the year. This was removed to Hospital and proved to be mild. No cause could be found. This is only the third case which has occurred during the last four years.

The figures in the previous years were :—

1895	...	7	1899	...	9	1903	...	2
1896	...	22	1900	...	1	1904	...	7
1897	...	7	1901	...	3	1905	...	0
1898	...	4	1902	...	6	1906	...	0
			1907	...	2			

This gives an average of 5·4 for these thirteen years.

**There have been no cases of Diphtheria notified during the year.**

As insanitary conditions and contaminated water are undoubtedly causal effects of Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever, it is very satisfactory to find such a slight incidence of both these diseases. In fact, the progress made in sanitary improvements might almost be gauged by their prevalence, together with the Zymotic Death Rate.

## Non=Notifiable Diseases.

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There was an outbreak of Measles in Norwood Green in the early part of the year. Commencing in January, the disease became very prevalent in February and continued throughout March, necessitating the closure of the School.

Sporadic cases occurred in Clifton during January, May and October, otherwise the district was free. There were no other infectious diseases prevalent.

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In conclusion, I would mention that several samples of water have been tested, and in two cases have proved to be bad. This matter is now receiving the consideration of the Council.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

F. A. STORR.





