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BOROUGH OF



HARROGATE.

Report of Medical Officer of Health.

Annual, 1907.

HARROGATE,

JANUARY 27TH, 1908.

To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the Sanitary Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the following Report for the year 1907.

The Births and Deaths registered within the Borough during the year were as follows:

BIRTHS.

Males 318. Females 313.—631.
35 Illegitimate included.

DEATHS.

Males 206. Females 196.—402.
49 Visitors included.

Deaths of Residents in Public Institutions outside the Borough.

Males 8. Females 9.—17.

The Birth Rate is 19·7 per 1000 resident population.

The General Death Rate including Visitors is 12·5 per 1000.

The Death Rate of Residents only is 11·5 per 1000, including those of Residents in Public Institutions outside the district.

TABLE—COMPARED WITH PREVIOUS YEARS.

BIRTH RATE.					DEATH RATE.				
1901	...	...	...	29·7	1901	...	...	...	13·2
1902	...	...	...	23·1	1902	...	...	...	11·8
1903	...	...	...	23·7	1903	...	...	...	12·2
1904	...	...	...	24	1904	...	...	...	12·5
1905	...	...	...	22·6	1905	...	...	...	12·2
1906	...	...	...	20·9	1906	...	...	...	12·1
1907	...	...	...	19·7	1907	...	...	...	11·5

AVERAGES FOR 7 YEARS: Birth Rate 23·4; Death Rate 12·2. These are of Resident Population only.

Mortality from Infectious Diseases.

	1901		1902		1903		1904		1905		1906		1907	
	Totals	Rate per 1000	Totals	Rate per 1000	Totals	Rate per 1000	Totals	Rate per 1000	Totals	Rate per 1000	Totals	Rate per 1000	Totals	Rate per 1000
Small-Pox	nil.	nil.	nil.		nil.		nil.		nil.		nil.		nil.	
Cholera	"	3	"	06	"	05	"	09	"	3	"	2	"	2
Diphtheria	nil.		nil.		nil.		nil.		nil.		nil.		nil.	
Membranous Croup	2	06	3	1	1	03	"		"		1	03	"	
Erysipelas	nil.		nil.		1	03	2	06	6	2	1	03	2	05
Scarlet Fever	"		"		nil.		nil.		nil.		nil.		nil.	
Typhus	12	4	4	13	1	03	"		"		1	03	1	03
Enteric	nil.		nil.		nil.		"		"		nil.		nil.	
Relapsing	"		"		"		"		"		"		"	
Continued	1	03	"		2	05	"		1	03	1	03	1	03
Puerperal														
Total Mortality from Infectious Diseases (Notifiable)	24	8	9	3	7	2	5	15	16	5	11	3	13	4

SUMMARY OF TABLES.

The Birth Rate is 1 per 1000 lower than in 1906.

The Death Rate is .8 lower than in 1906.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is 69 per 1000 births registered. This is 61 per 1000 less than in 1906. A wonderful and satisfactory decrease.

The number of Notifications of Infectious Diseases received during the year is 190 or 61 less than in 1906.

Nine fatal cases of Diphtheria occurred out of the 64 cases notified. Of these, 36 were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital, of whom 5 were fatal.

Two fatal cases of Scarlet Fever occurred out of 117 notified. Of these 86 were removed to the Joint Isolation Hospital, where the fatal cases occurred.

Small Pox. No cases during the year.

Enteric Fever. One fatal case at Isolation Hospital.

Diarrhoea and Enteritis. No fatal cases of the former and only 5 of the latter.

Puerperal Fever. One fatal case.

Pulmonary Phthisis produced 29 deaths, or a mortality rate of .9 per 1000 per annum.

Measles produced one fatal case, against 14 fatal cases in 1906.

Meteorological Records for the year.—Rainfall 34.44 inches, 4 inches more than in 1906. Mean Temperature 46.2 degrees, two degrees lower than 1906. Total Sunshine 1408.6 hours or 146.9 hours less than 1906, and 300 hours less than in 1905.

SANITATION.

Summary of Action taken during the Year for the prevention of the spread of Disease.

A large map of the Borough indicating the numbers and nature of all Infectious Diseases in each street and locality has been kept during the year, which has been most useful in pointing out where special efforts as regards flushing Sewers, disinfecting Drains, special scavenging were carried out.

On my recommendation a conference of this Committee with the Education Committee was held in the early part of the year, with the result that a Medical Officer was appointed to examine all the children in the public schools, quarterly, and report thereon.

This has decidedly diminished the number of Diphtheria cases in school children, but not so markedly in the number of Scarlet Fever cases.

These diseases have existed more or less during the year; Diphtheria only to half the extent in 1906; Scarlet Fever about the same. In May I issued a special report thereon. This Committee

ordered the drains of all the Public Schools to be tested; two of these were found defective, one of which the whole system was opened out and relaid. Whilst this was in progress I closed the School for a fortnight.

Eighty occupiers of houses requested that their drains should be tested. Of these 59 were found defective.

Forty one houses where Diphtheria occurred the drains thereof were tested, and 27 found defective.

Every case of infectious disease is registered at the Sanitary Office with details of source of milk supply, attendance at each Public School, locality, removals to Hospital and dates of disinfection of rooms, bedding, clothing, &c.

All these cases I have visited, and investigated as to origin, nature of isolation and the full use of disinfectants. I have always urged the removal of them to the Isolation Hospital, and this year with more success than last.

The defective Main Sewers, discovered at the general survey of the entire system are being relaid, two lengths of which are completed.

Additional tall Ventilating Shafts, six added this year, makes the total in operation 80. Two Webb's Sewer Lamps are in constant operation.

Antitoxin has been supplied gratis to all cases of Diphtheria.

Every infected house, with clothing, bedding, &c., has been stoved and disinfected by our own staff, immediately on removal or recovery of the case.

The Bacteriological Laboratory of the West Riding County Council at Wakefield has again rendered us valuable assistance during the year in the solution of doubtful cases. Twenty seven specimens have been dealt with there, viz: Serum 2, Sputum 16, Diphtheria 9.

Sanitary Condition of the Borough generally at the end of the year.

When the two defective Main Sewers are re-laid I think our general Main Drainage system will be as nearly perfect as possible. Even now I have no fault to find with it, especially since the open street Ventilators were sealed up, and the tall Ventilating Shafts erected throughout the Borough.

The general system of Scavenging of Roads and Streets, Back Streets, with the weekly and bi-weekly removals of refuse from portable dust bins, and the monthly removals and cleansing of ashpits, maintains a very high standard of cleanliness and freedom from offensive smells. The making and asphaltting of Back Roads and Streets has progressed rapidly during the year. Only the newer Streets in outlying parts of the Borough practically now remain to be done.

No houses unfit for human habitation, or with insufficient light and ventilation, or overcrowding exist within the Borough. The houses occupied by the working classes are good. Many of the more recently erected contain bath rooms.

The water supply is plentiful and maintains its high standard of excellence. Analyses are made monthly.

The Public Schools, Lavatories, Slaughter Houses, Dairies, Cowsheds, Bake Houses, Workshops, &c., are all in a satisfactory sanitary condition. The low death rates of November and December, viz: 7.2 and 8.7 respectively, afford excellent testimony to the satisfactory condition of the Borough generally. The total absence of deaths from Diarrhoea during the year is also evidence of the efficient scavenging and clean condition of the Borough.

Accounts of Enquiries

made by the Medical Officer of Health as to the conditions injurious to health, or capable of such existing within the Borough, and of his proceedings relating to such—

Where Infectious Diseases have occurred, I have visited and urged removal to the Infectious Hospital, and enquired as to origin, milk supplies, isolation, sanitary condition of premises, methods of disinfection in operation and the presence or otherwise of home work or laundry work therein.

All cases reported to me by the Inspectors as to the existence of nuisances or insanitary premises, I have visited and removed without recourse to legal proceedings.

Localities where Infectious Diseases have specially prevailed I have visited and inspected, noting the existence of open street ventilators, the prevalence of offensive smells therefrom, the condition of ashpits, &c. I ordered extra flushing of Sewers in all cases.

In several instances where outbreaks of Scarlet Fever occurred suspicion rested upon the milk supplies. I visited these Dairies—one outside the Borough—and investigated the conditions. I found them quite satisfactory.

Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria cases have existed through the year. I am very doubtful however of the extent to which the notifications point.

In 1906 there were 114 cases, producing one death.

In 1907 there were 117 cases, producing two deaths.

The fact that 231 cases yielded only three fatal cases from this disease and its sequelae, makes me very doubtful as to the reality of a considerable percentage of the cases notified.

Of children attending the Public Schools, 76 of the Scarlet Fever cases occurred in them, and 44 of the Diphtheria cases of the 64 cases notified. This seems to indicate that cases still escape detection and continue to attend School.

Samples of milk from Dairies within and outside the Borough have been taken quarterly and sent to the Public Analyst. All these came up to the required standard of purity, &c.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM J. C. WARD,

Medical Officer of Health.