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HORSFORTH  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT

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OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st,

1911.

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# HORSFORTH

## Urban District Council.

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Report of the Medical Officer for the Year  
Ending December 31st, 1911.

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*To the Chairman and Councillors.*

GENTLEMEN,

The area of the Urban District of Horsforth comprises 2801 acres. Lying on the North side of the River Aire, it has an elongated tongue-like shape, somewhat broader in front than behind—the tip being represented by the area lying in front of a line drawn between Calverley and Newlay Stations.

In length it measures about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and at its widest part,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles. The elevation at Newlay and Calverley is about 140 feet above the sea level, whilst at the northern portion or base a height of 700 feet is attained. The circumference of the area is, with a very small exception, on falling ground, streams marking most of the boundaries. It will thus be readily seen how favourably the district is situated for the natural ablution which follows a rain storm; impurities, not otherwise provided for, quickly reaching an outlet. This result is facilitated by the fact that the sub-soil for the greater part is clayey.

Bounded on the North and East by districts belonging to the Wharfedale Rural District—on the South it is co-terminus with the Borough of Leeds, whilst on the South-east and West lie respectively the districts of Calverley and Rawdon. The district is well wooded, and beautiful walks abound in all directions. There is an excellent full-sized golf course, which in a short time will be equal to any in the neighbourhood of Leeds.

The Horsforth and Calverley Gas Company and the Yorkshire Electrical Distribution Company supply light and power, most of the main streets being now illuminated by electricity.

The agricultural part of the district is divided up into small farms, chiefly dairy in character, the surplus milk being sent into Leeds. Stone is plentiful in all parts, and many of the inhabitants have, more so in the past, than in the present, been engaged in the working of it, the particular variety being a good sandstone.

The chief portion of the population is now a residential one. Of late years the large increase of population has been due to a greater influx of residents from the neighbouring towns of Leeds and Bradford. Having for many years had a record for health rarely excelled by health resorts; offering all the advantages of a rural life, yet directly connected by train and tram services to the great arteries of the adjacent cities, it is not to be wondered at, that unusual progress has from time to time been made regarding the statistics of the district. In addition, however, there are several industries which contribute towards the employment of the inhabitants, chief amongst these may be mentioned trades allied to the manufacture of woollen goods, dyeing, tanning, bleaching, boots, laundry, corn mill, soap works, and others, the majority of the manufactories lying adjacent to either Cow Beck in Woodside, or to the River Aire. Only one mill (worsted spinning) has been built in recent years, and if I were to make an estimate, I should say that employment is found for men within this district to about the same extent as that of twenty years ago, but for women and girls there has been a decided increase of work.

The older part of the town, the main street of which lies at an altitude of 400 to 470 feet, has a straggling distribution, and is composed for the greater part of substantially built stone houses and shops irregularly arranged, several of the "garrett-high" type, where the hand-loom weaver plied his trade, being distributed, here and there. Side streets abutt from many points. Woodside might be termed the industrial portion, whilst the larger residential houses are found in Scotland Lane, Newlay, Outwood Lane, and Calverley Lane, and quite recently a new colony of better-class houses has appeared

near the Rawdon boundary on the Leeds road. In Victoria Gardens many houses of a semi-detached variety, rents varying from £14 up to £24 per year have been erected. These houses let well, and for this particular variety there is a great demand, in fact, at no time do I remember less houses "to let" than at the present time.

Trade, on the whole, that for building being excepted, has been better than that for several years past, and there has been no necessity for the organisation of any unusual system of charity.

The Poor-Law relief for the past year amounted to £460 7s. 6d.

Medical assistance is often received by residents from the neighbouring hospitals of Leeds and Bradford, and I am afraid that the return by way of contributions from the district is very inadequate.

There are about 150 old age pensioners.

The rainfall amounted to 25.17 inches during the year. The summer months were unusually fine, and as is customary under these circumstances the ordinary death-rate was somewhat exceeded, particularly that for infants under one year. It is also curious that a greater number of deaths were recorded from respiratory diseases, viz., Phthisis, Pnuemonia, and Bronchitis. In the height of summer there was quite a small epidemic of Acute Pneumonia, which goes to prove that severe climatic conditions are not the chief of the causes of this disease. In two or three fatal cases gastro-intestinal irritation preceded the affection of the lungs, suggesting the possibility of primary infection by means of the alimentary tract.

**Sanitary Circumstances of the District.** - The water supply is in the hands of the Urban Authority. There are, including the Compensation, three reservoirs; the upper has a capacity of 8,000,000 gallons, the middle one of 27,000,000; the top water level is 614ft. above the sea level. In addition water is obtainable from the Bore-hole in Scotland Lane, this being connected to the middle reservoir.

In consequence of the summer drought the water in the upper reservoirs almost reached the vanishing point, and were

it not for the supply from the Bore-hole, a water famine would have been imminent. Serious alarm was raised on the repeated breakdown of the pump, and resort to depletion of the compensation water became necessary in order to have a continuous supply. For over three years the catchment area has been sufficient to supply the needs of the district, and adverse criticism of the need of the Bore-hole supply has not been wanting. However, this year the value of the undertaking has been exemplified. Under extraordinary circumstances, an efficient supply may now always be assured. At the present time the reservoirs are fuller than they have been for years past.

Several Analyses of the water under varying circumstances have been made during the year, including that from the compensation reservoir—all were satisfactorily reported upon, and one which was specially tested with a view to the possibility of plumbo solvency was found to be free from any suspicion.

Of the few remaining sources of supply in the district I think two of them require attention. The first is that from the Town's Well behind the Fleece Inn. The supply itself, as proved by several analyses, is pure, but that it is open to outside contamination there is no doubt, and I cannot but emphasise the advice I have previously given, viz., that the source used for domestic purposes should be better protected. The further supply is one in Hall Lane upon which the cottages opposite entirely depend. There has been a shortage this year, and it appears to me that the source is capable of much pollution. I have therefore recommended that the houses be attached to the mains, which pass up to West End.

**River Pollution and Streams.**—The continued pollution of the River Aire was a serious cause for trouble during the drought, and it will be a boon to the inhabitants in the vicinity of Newlay if the enormous sewage treatment shortly to be carried out by the Bradford Corporation proves effective. Cow Beck is polluted by the various factories along its source, and I cannot say that its condition has greatly improved during the past few years.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—The New Sewage Works were completed in May, 1911. So far they promise well, and the effluent is everything to be desired. I often think that

much of the surface water which now finds its way into the sewers could be diverted with advantage. During the summer months nuisances arising from the open sewer grates were occasionally complained of. I have frequently stated that I think more regular inspection of the sewers should be made—I think this is very important.

**Closet Accommodation.**—This is, on the whole, very good. During the past ten years great progress has been made in the conversion of the ordinary closet or privy into the water closet. At the commencement of that time there were but 327 w.c.'s, now there are 1157; in addition to these there are 18 waste water closets, 207 covered privies, and 64 uncovered privies. 38 closets were reconstructed during the year, and 6 additional ones were added to old properties. 28 new w.c.'s were erected.

**Scavenging** is done very well, one contractor doing the whole work at a cost of £300 per annum. The only difficulty experienced regarding this work is that of the provision of a "tipping place." The one at Cragg Hill is now full, and so far many efforts to arrange for another have proved futile. Failing success, a destructor must be erected, and that at an early date.

**Schools.**—The new Elementary School in Featherbank Lane was opened in September. It has accommodation for 500 scholars. From a sanitary point of view it is perfect in all detail, and the result of its supersession of the old Grove School must have a marked influence on the health of the scholars. Drastic action for infectious disease was not required in any of the Schools during the past year. The abatement of the severe epidemic of Measles fortunately permitted a re-opening of Schools in early January, and from that date there has been no serious trouble.

In October I had occasion to recommend the abstention from school of about one dozen children attending the Rodley School. Two cases of Scarlet Fever having occurred amongst the children from Horsforth attending that school I felt, as both Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were markedly prevalent there, that the wisest course would be to advise abstention for 14 days; this was readily done by the Sanitary Committee.

The Sanitary arrangements of all the Schools are in good condition.

The Medical Inspection of School Children in this District is in the hands of the West Riding County Medical Officer.

**Milk Supply.**—Generally the milk supply in this district is good. I am confident that an improvement in cleanliness has taken place in recent years. The great improvements in the Cowsheds may, of course, account for this. The approximate number of cows is 360. One cow suffering from Tuberculosis was dealt with. Six specimens of milk were analysed—in all cases with a negative result. The Cowsheds are now in good condition with the exception of four or five, and these are to be dealt with shortly. One cowshed was reconstructed during the year. In all there are 38 Cowkeepers and 5 registered Purveyors of Milk.

**Slaughter-houses.**—These number 13, of which 7 are registered, 6 being licensed. Of late years the condition of all has greatly improved. During the year an extra license was granted to the owner of an old slaughter-house where for some years killing had been almost discontinued. An application for the alteration and registration of another old slaughter-house was refused, the site being unsuitable. There were no proceedings taken in regard to the sale of unsound meat during the year.

**Housing**—As previously inferred there is a scarcity of houses to let throughout the whole of the district, the only class which does not readily let being the large house. At no time have I known so few houses unlet as in the past year. Particularly so is this true of the cottage and the smaller houses under £20 per year. Several cases came to my knowledge of newly married people who were unable to secure a house early enough for the wedding because of this difficulty. It is my emphatic opinion that were 300 houses erected during the next year as against 32 in the past year they would all be readily let. There was one case of overcrowding dealt with. In accordance with the House and Town Planning Act a house inspection has been commenced, fifteen houses having so far been scheduled. I have inspected and reported upon certain houses in Troy, and for several of these I have advised closure. In addition, a general scheme of improvement is necessary, because of the dangerous condition of the road. As a result of my advice a Sub-Committee was formed, and the matter

is receiving consideration. In December I reported upon four houses in Finkhill; two of these were entirely unfit for habitation, and a closing order was issued. The remaining two were found unfit unless many improvements were effected; some of these have been carried out, others still require completion, and are being dealt with by the House Inspector. During the past year great headway has been made with the Private Streets Act. Clarence Grove, Clarence Road, Sunnybank Avenue, Back Sunnybank Avenue, and Kerry Street, have been or are being dealt with. The progress of Clarence Road has been much retarded because of the death of the Contractor, and the Kerry Street improvement has been held back by the severe frost. How necessary these improvements were needed is best exemplified by Kerry Street. Many drains were found defective, and the sewer itself was so unsatisfactory that a contract for a new one had to be arranged for. After an instance of this sort it is apparent that nothing should prevent the further carrying out of the Act. I understand that resolutions have been passed dealing with Back Rose Terrace, Rose Avenue, part of Regent Road, and Lee Lane. I also think that Gaunt's Fold should be included in the above list.

**Workshops, &c.**—Of these there are 53 (see special report). There are no Outworkers in this district. 85 inspections were made. In two instances better sanitary accommodation was provided. General cleanliness was very fair.

**Sanitary Administration of the District.**—Appended to this report is that of the Sanitary Inspector shewing with some degree of detail the work effected during the past year. The infectious cases removed to the Isolation Hospital at Menston were 17 in number, and include besides Scarlet Fever, 1 case of Enteric, and 3 of Diphtheria.

The Adoptive Acts in force in this district are parts I. and II. of the Public Health Amendment Act of 1890; parts II., III., IV., V., and S.95 comprised in part X. of the Public Health Amendment Act of 1907; The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890; The Notification of Births Act, 1907; The Private Streets Works Act, 1892.

**Infectious Diseases.**—During the year 28 cases were notified (see Table II.), of these six were of Diphtheria.

Throughout the year, and more particularly in the autumn, odd cases of sore throat with glandular enlargement, mostly of a trivial nature, were fairly commonly met with. Occasionally one of these cases would have a diphtheritic appearance—swabs bacteriologically examined were reported upon as containing the *Diphtheria Baccillus* in six cases; none of the cases were serious, and now I think the epidemic has altogether abated. All possible sources of infection were enquired into but nothing definite could be made out except that other neighbouring districts were suffering in a similar way. 17 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified—this is rather above the normal of past years. 10 of these cases, all of a mild type, occurred in three houses, and quickly succeeded each other. This was in August, and all were sent to the Isolation Hospital. The infection was brought into the district by a visitor to an infected area. The remaining cases, with one exception, were mild, careful isolation being carried out in their own homes. There was no connection between any of them. The exception mentioned was that of a severe case in an infant treated in the Isolation Hospital. The disease was imported from Scotland, and the case proved fatal. The usual disinfection of the premises by formalin (fumigation and spraying), and the clothing by superheated steam at the Isolation Hospital, took place. Three cases of Enteric Fever were notified. The first one ran an atypical course and proved fatal after several weeks' illness. The succeeding cases were those of a man and his wife: the man having evidently contracted the disease in a neighbouring township where he had been working. As almost two months have elapsed since the last notification, one can be hopeful that the disease has been eradicated. Influenza made its appearance as usual in the early part of the year, and again in a marked degree in the early part of December. On the whole the type was mild. Epidemic Diarrhœa was more common than usual in consequence of the long continued drought. There was a fatality of two (both infants), but I feel confident that never again shall be seen the frightfully acute cases which were so very common in this district before the system of water carriage for closets was adopted. It should be clearly understood that acute diarrhœa occurs almost always as a defect of cleanliness, either in the keeping or the handling of food, or in the contamination of that which is drunk—such as milk, aerated waters, etc. Flies act as ready carriers of filth,

and I would like to point out that domestic pets are also open to grave suspicion from a hygienic point of view. In consequence, therefore, it behoves all parents who have young children to be extremely cautious before admitting such into their households. So impressed am I by the need of a reduction in the number of dogs that I think no license should be granted unless it can be clearly shown that proper outside provision for the keeping of such is possible.

The most notable feature amongst the infectious diseases occurring in this district was an outbreak of Acute Poliomyelitis, or what is more popularly known as Infantile Paralysis. Six cases came to my notice in September, October, and November, ages varying from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 10 years. There was no direct communication between the cases, and in most, effects of a serious nature are left. The occurrence of this disease in many parts of the United Kingdom has caused serious alarm. That it is infectious is undoubted; how the disease is transmitted does not appear to be at all clear, although there is evidence in support of the theory that it has access by the nasal mucuous membrane. In December I recommended the addition of this disease to the list of those to be notified by all general medical practitioners, so that in the future cases occurring will be intimated to your Sanitary Authority.

**Tuberculosis.**—Phthisis was made voluntarily notifiable in December, 1910. Since that time 19 cases were notified. For several years past Horsforth has been held to be a suitable place where phthisical patients might with advantage migrate from Leeds. Seven such are included in the above number. No less than eight patients owe their disease to the association of their family with the stone trade of the district. There is evidence to justify one in the opinion that two of the victims received infection whilst working in unsuitable circumstances, viz., in badly ventilated offices. The number of deaths registered were 12, the death-rate being equal to 1.3 per 1000. There is no accommodation made for phthisical patients by the Sanitary or Poor-law Authorities. The Dean Head Sanatorium in Scotland Lane (under private proprietorship) has accommodation for 20 male patients.

**Infantile Mortality.**—This year a larger number of deaths have been recorded, fifteen having occurred throughout

the year. Two deaths were due to Acute Diarrhœa, of which disease no doubt the dry and warm summer had special relation. It is curious that in a phenomenal year of mild and fine weather seven deaths were due to pneumonia and bronchitis—the true inference being that both these diseases in young life have most frequently an infective origin. The Infantile Mortality rate is 85 per 1,000 children born alive. The Notification of Births Act was adopted by the Council in 1908. It is worked in conjunction with the District Nursing Association, whose two nurses do their work with great tact and ability. All babies are visited. So far the work has not created any difficulty, the visits are looked forward to by the mothers, and if our infant mortality, which for some years has been low, is not much affected, I cannot but feel that the better feeding and general management of babies must have a definite result in the improved physique of the coming generations.

**Vital Statistics of the District** (see Table I).—The census population of the district was 9134. In the past year I estimate the population to be 9273. 175 births were registered, 92 males, 83 females, the resulting birth-rate is the lowest ever recorded for this district, viz., 18·9 per 1000. Ten years ago it was 30·7. This decline is in proportion to that of the other parts of the United Kingdom. The continued fall in the number of births is reaching an alarming stage, and from a national point of view must be deplored. Another feature to be viewed with concern is that the proportion of the children born to the better or more thrifty classes is relatively small, whilst those who are not so well equipped to give their off-spring the advantages of careful training and discipline are producing their species in much the same proportion as in past years. Fortunately the loss of infant life is far short of that of 10 or 15 years ago. On referring to past statistics I find at that time that it was usual for infants to die at the rate of 100 to 170 per annum per 1,000 children born alive. For the past five years the infantile mortality rate for this district has averaged less than 70 per 1,000 children born alive.

**Deaths** numbered 114, 52 males, 62 females, the death-rate being equal to 12·2 per 1,000. This is slightly in excess of that of late years, but will compare well with similar

townships. There was an unusual number of deaths of old people this year, viz., 45 of the age of 65 and upwards, this being about 10 above the average of past years.

In conclusion I should like to take this opportunity of acknowledging my indebtedness to Mr. Grimshaw, the Sanitary Inspector, for the ready help given to me throughout the year; and, to you, gentlemen, for the courtesy invariably extended.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY BAILEY.



TABLE I.  
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1911 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.—Nett.		Total Deaths Regd. in Dist.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to Dist.			
		Number.	Rate.	Number	Rate.	Of Non- residents regd. in District.	Of Resi- dents not regd. in district.	Number	Rate per 1000 Nett Births	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1901	7785	195	25	106	13.6			19	97	106	13.6
1902	7800	219	28	115	14.7			22	100	117	15
1903	7924	197	24.8	92	11.6		9	23	117	101	12.7
1904	8050	177	21.9	99	12.1		9	15	84	110	13.6
1905	8100	190	23.4	81	10		14	14	73	95	11.7
1906	8980	186	22.1	88	10.5		7	20	107	95	11.3
1907	8660	198	22.8	73	8.4		14	14	70	87	10.1
1908	8992	208	23.1	96	10.6		8	17	81	104	11.5
1909	9172	173	19	93	10.1		14	9	52	107	11.6
1910	9292	194	20.8	87	9.3	2	3	10	51	89	9.5
Averages for years 1901-1910	8415.5	193.7	22.18	93	11.09			16.3	83.2	101.1	12.06
1911	9273	175	18.9	103	11.1	1	12	15		114	12.2

\*Rates in Columns 4, 6, 10, and 12 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

TABLE II.

**Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1911.**

Notifiable Diseases.	At all Ages	Under 1 year	1 to 5 years	5 to 15 years	15 to 25 years	25 to 45 years	45 to 65 years	65 and upwards
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	6	—	—	6	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever ...	17	—	2	14	1	—	—	—
Enteric Fever ...	3	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Totals ...	28	—	2	20	2	3	1	—

TABLE III.

**Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the year 1911.**

Causes of Death	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 yrs.	2 and under 5 yrs.	5 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 25 yrs.	25 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs.	65 and upwards.
All causes, certified	114	15	6	4	2	8	10	24	45
Enteric Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...)	12	—	—	—	—	2	4	6	—
Tuberculous Meningitis ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cancer, Malignant Disease ..	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4
Bronchitis ...	14	5	—	1	—	—	—	3	5
Broncho-Pneumonia	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all other forms) ...	8	1	2	—	—	1	1	2	1
Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	4	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Violent Deaths, including Suicide	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Suicides ...	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1
Other Defined Diseases ...	47	—	—	2	1	4	2	7	21
Diseases ill-defined or unknown ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

TABLE IV.

**Infant Mortality during the year 1911,**

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 wk.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Tot. Deaths under 1 yr.
All Causes, Certified ...	3	—	—	3	6	—	7	1	1	9
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Congenital Malformations ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Premature Birth ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Convulsions ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	2	2	—	3	—	—	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2

## TABLE C, 1911.

# Horsforth Urban Sanitary District.

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### WATER SUPPLY.—

In what parts is there a piped supply laid on? To nine-tenths of the population.

Any developments during 1911? None.

Any insufficiency, and where? No.

Any curtailment during drought? No.

Any unsatisfactory quality, and where? No.

Any unchecked plumbo solvent action? No.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—

What parts have sewers and outfall works? About nine-tenths of the population.

Any developments during 1911? No.

Developments still needed? None urgent.

Any inadequacy of Sewage Disposal Works or complaints as to smells? No.

No. of sink-wastes disconnected during 1911? 2.  
Trapped? 4.

Proportion of sink-wastes still needing disconnection? None known of. Untrapped? None known at the present.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—

No. of Privies with open middens? 64. No. of pail or tub closets? 11. No. of Privies with covered middens? 207. No. of Water Closets? 1157. Waste-water Closets? 18. No. of Closets re-constructed during 1911 as w.c.'s? 38.

No. of additional Closets newly constructed for old property for 1911 as w.c.'s? 6.

No. of Closets constructed in 1911 for new houses as w.c.'s? 28.

SCAVENGING.—

In what parts do the Council undertake public scavenging?  
By contractors. The entire district.

Is there any inadequacy, and where? No.

NUISANCE INSPECTION.—

Total No. of Inspections made in 1911? 854.

Informal Notices served? 67. Complied with? 65.

Statutory Notices served? 9. Complied with? 7.

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1910? 35.  
At close of 1911? 21.

Total No. of Nuisances reported during 1911? 398.  
Abated during 1911? 412.

REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, &c.	No. in Dis- trict	No on Reg- ister.	Total No. of Inspections made.	General Conditions.	Legal Pro- ceedings (if any).
Common Lodging Houses...	None				
Canal Boats ... ..	None				
Knacker's Yard ... ..	1				
Offensive Trades ... ..	2	1	11	Soap Works.	

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades, *e.g.*, Fish-frying, Maggot-breeding, etc.? No.

SCHOOLS.—

No. of Visits to Schools? Twelve Visits.

Action taken? Disinfection of rooms advised and carried out.

MILK SUPPLY.—

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for analysis under F. & D. Acts? 6. No. adulterated? None.

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for bacteriological examination? None.

What arrangement for Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows? None.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1911? No.

No. of Cowkeepers in district? 38. No. registered? 38.

No. of Milk Sellers? 5. No. registered? 5.

Total No. of Cowsheds? 45. No. of Inspections in 1911? 136. General Condition? Very fair.

Approximate No. of Milch Cows in district? 360.

Any insufficiency in Milk supply? No.

Legal proceedings under D.C.M. Orders? None.

Any Inspection or other action by Districts to which Milk is sent? No.

#### OTHER FOODS.—

No of samples (other than milk) taken by Officer of S. A. for examination under the Food and Drugs Acts? None.

No. of seizures of unsound food? None.

No. of Slaughter houses? 13. No. registered? 7.

Kind and Condition? 6 licensed. Condition good.

No. of Prosecutions? Food and Drugs—None; Unsound Food—None; *re* Slaughter houses—None.

#### HOUSING.—

Is there any scarcity of houses, and where? Yes, generally; houses let well in any part of the district.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses? One case. No. of cases dealt with? 1.

Any special activity in house building, and where? No.

No. of new houses built in 1911? 32. General character? Small semi-detached.

Are there any working-class dwellings erected by the S.A.? No.

Any Town Planning Scheme contemplated? No.

Who has been designated as the Inspecting Officer under Article II. of the Housing Regulations, 1910? Sanitary Inspector.

No. of Houses Inspected during 1911 ? (Statutory house to house)—15 ; Other house inspections—Many.

No. of Notices served as a result of house inspections ? 15.

Are the records regularly submitted to the S.A. at each ordinary meeting ? Yes.

No. of houses represented as unfit for habitation ? 4.

No. dealt with by Closing Order ? 4. Any compulsory demolition ? No.

Are there still any occupied houses unfit for habitation, and where ? Yes, eight.

Any cellar dwellings ? 3.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—

Any Smoke nuisance, and where ? No.

No. of Smoke observations taken ? 5.

Legal notices ? None.

#### ADOPTIVE ACTS.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, parts 2 and 3, adopted 15th March, 1902.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, parts 2, 3, 4, and 5, and S95 comprised in part 10, adopted 28th February, 1910.

Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890, adopted 21st February, 1898.

Notification of Births Act, 1907, adopted 20th March, 1909.

Private Street Works Act, 1892, adopted 26th April, 1897.

#### BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS.

Private Scavenging ? None.

Prevention of Nuisances ? 1903.

Common Lodging Houses ? 1903.

Houses let in Lodgings ? None.

Offensive Trades ? 1903.

Mortuaries ? None.

New Streets and Buildings (P.H. Act, 1875) ? 11th July, 1902.

New Streets and Buildings (P.H. Amendment Act, 1890) ? None.

Slaughter Houses ? 1903.

Tents and Vans ? None.

#### INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.—

Cemeteries ? None.

Markets and Fairs ? None.

Baths and Washhouses ? None.

Pleasure Grounds ? None.

Fried Fish Shops ? None.

Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order ? 1903.

Does the M.O.H. possess a printed copy of each of the Bye-laws which are operative ? Yes.

Are any other Byelaws needed ? No.

#### INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.—

What Diseases have been specially prevalent in 1911 ? None specially. Influenza in the latter part.

Is Hospital accommodation adequate and sufficient ? Yes.

What arrangements for the supply of antitoxin ? May be had on application to the Medical Officer.

Any diseases specially added to Notifiable List ? Voluntary Notification of Tuberculosis.

Any Influences threatening the health of the District ? No.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.—

Any Sanitary Inspection of Patients' Houses ? Yes, in all cases. Any Disinfection ? Yes.

Any distribution of advice ? No.

Any action *re* spitting? No.

Any disinfection of Public Rooms, Vehicles, etc.? No.

#### INFANT MORTALITY.—

What organised effort to control it? The District Nursing Association having nurses to visit all houses under the Infant Notification Act.

Is Health Visitor appointed by S.A.? By arrangements made with the District Nursing Association. By other body? No.

Causes of any Excessive Infant Mortality in 1911? None.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.—

Births during 1911?—Males 92, Females 83, Total 175.

No. illegimate included in above? 6.

Deaths during 1911—(1) Gross Deaths, *i.e.*, Total actually registered in the District without any correction? 103.

(2) Nett Deaths on which the rates are calculated?—Males 52, Females 62, Total 114.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.—

Rainfall? 25.17.

#### SANITARY STAFF.—

Annual Salary as Inspector? £106.





# Report of the Sanitary Inspector,

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1911.

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Council Offices,  
Horsforth,  
*February, 1912.*

*To the Chairman and Councillors.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year 1911, on the work performed in the Sanitary Department, with regard to the abatement of Nuisances and the general improvement of the sanitary condition of the Township.

This is my second Annual Report, and as one report so much resembles another I have endeavoured to make it interesting, so that the steady but persistent course of sanitary progress may be more readily appreciated.

During the year under review 854 inspections have been made, and where defects were found to exist the parties responsible were either personally interviewed or made the subject of a letter or notice.

## Correspondence.

Number of Letters written	...	...	...	125
” ” ”	written as Preliminary Notices			67
” ” ”	Statutory Notices served	...		9

### Nuisances.

The number of Nuisances detected during 1911 was	398
The number of Nuisances unabated Dec. 31st, 1910,	35
	—
Total	433
	—
Nuisances abated during 1911	412
	—
Unabated Dec. 31st, 1911	21
	—

The following is a tabulated statement of defects remedied :

Houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Overcrowding dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	1
Damp and Dilapidated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Eave Spouts and Fall Pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
Sink Wastes liberated and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
Traps provided to existing Sink Wastes	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains liberated and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	62
„ re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	6
W.C. Drains liberated and repaired	...	...	...	...	...	91
W.C.'s and Privies cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	7
Sufficient Closet Accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	56
Ashpits repaired	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ abolished	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bins provided	...	...	...	...	...	32
Gullies liberated	...	...	...	...	...	32
Flooded Cellars dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	12
Other Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	40
Offensive Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Other Outside Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	12
						—
Total						412

## Sanitary Improvements Made.

### *Privies and Water Closets.*

No. of Privies converted into Water Closets ... ..	38
„ Water Closets constructed where accommodation was insufficient ... ..	6
„ Water Closets re-constructed ... ..	3

### *Middens and Ashpits.*

No. of Middens and Ashpits abolished ... ..	23
„ Dry Ashpits substituted for Middens ... ..	4
„ Bins substituted for Middens and Ashpits ... ..	22

### *Waste Pipes.*

No. of Waste Pipes trapped ... ..	4
„ „ „ disconnected from Drains ... ..	2
„ Fallpipes „ „ „ „ ... ..	7

### *Drains.*

No. of Drains disconnected from Sewer ... ..	3
„ „ provided with Inspection Chambers ... ..	10
„ „ „ „ Ventilating Shafts ... ..	13
One Sewer provided with Ventilating Shafts ... ..	1

## Housing.

The housing of the working classes question has been much in evidence during recent years, and it appears as though during the next few years it is to occupy a prominent position in the administration of public health by the extension of powers to local authorities under the later Act of 1909, *i.e.*, the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act.

As you are aware, it was not until the latter part of the year that the procedure to be adopted was determined, after which a system had to be instituted for the purpose of keeping the records of inspections made under the Act.

15 houses have been inspected and representations made concerning each one. The outcome of such representations was that four houses were deemed unfit for habitation, for which closing orders were served (sec. 17). Eleven statutory notices were served under sec. 15 for specified works to be carried out.

### Infectious Disease and Disinfection.

As regards the Infectious Diseases which have been notified during the year, I must refer you to the report of the Medical Officer of Health, in which I have no doubt they will be explicitly dealt with. The following are the particulars of disinfection which has been carried out following such and other notifications.

Disease.	1st qr.	2nd qr.	3rd qr.	4th qr.	Total.
Chicken Pox ...	—	1	—	—	1
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	3	3
Enteric Fever ...	—	1	1	—	2
Measles ...	1	—	—	—	1
Phthisis ..	2	2	4	3	11
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	6	5	11
Scabies ...	1	—	—	—	1
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	4	4	11	11	30

It will be noticed that diseases other than those specifically notifiable appear in the above list, but in addition to the ordinary disinfection following cases of infectious disease I have from time to time been requested to disinfect houses following other diseases, to which requests I have readily responded. Periodical visits are paid to infected houses, and disinfectants are supplied gratis. The number of visits paid was 92.

### Factories and Workshops.

No complaints have been received from H. M. Inspector of Factories. Two defects have been remedied which were outstanding 31st December, 1910, viz.:—Insufficient sanitary accommodation and absence intervening of ventilated space. Three Workshops have been added to the Register, viz.:—one Bootmaker, one Cabinet-maker, one Joiner.

The following is a list of Workshops on the Register, including Bakehouses.

Bakehouses	...	15	Milliners	...	4
Bootmakers	...	8	Saddlers	...	2
Brushmakers	...	1	Tailors	...	2
Cabinet-makers		1	Tinners	...	2
Dressmakers	...	12			—
Joiners	...	5			53
Knitters	...	1			

Of the 15 Bakehouses on the Register four are underground, as was the case last year; no further certificates have been granted for the use of Underground Bakehouses.

### Water Supply and Samples.

Four samples of Water have been taken for the purpose of analysis, three of which were from the supply to the Township, and the other from a private source of supply. The report of the County Analyst in each instance was satisfactory.

During the year four houses and one cowshed, which were previously deriving their water supply from sources other than that of the public supply, have been connected to the Council's mains, either by reason of inadequacy of supply, or as the result of previous analysis.

### Drains.

On seven occasions drains have been inspected at occupied houses in consequence of complaints of smells, and for other causes. In five cases the drainage was found to be defective, and the remainder satisfactory. All the defects have been remedied, in one instance the whole of the drainage system was re-modelled. The following are the particulars of the drains inspected:—

#### *Drains inspected at occupied houses:*

Description—	9in.	6in.	4in.	gullies.	chambs.
	14 yds.	143 yds.	474 yds.	43	10

*Drains inspected for new property :*

Description—	9in.	6in.	4in.	gullies.	chambs.
—		368 yds.	473 yds.	92	23
Total yds. :	9in. 14.	6in. 511.	4in. 947.	gullies 135.	chambs 33.

All drains for new property and drains that are re-laid are inspected while the work is in progress, and are examined before being covered. The hydraulic test is, as a rule, applied to new drains.

**Slaughter-houses.**

There are 13 Slaughter-houses in the district, 7 of which are registered, the remaining 6 being subject to an annual license. There is also 1 Knacker's Yard, the subject of an annual license.

**Offensive Trades.**

Of the list of Offensive Trades which before being instituted within an Urban District must have the consent of the Sanitary Authority we have but two, viz.: Soap Boilers. These places are visited periodically, and are free from complaint.

**Smoke Observations.**

There has been little cause for complaint from the emission of black smoke during the period which this report covers. Observations have been taken on five occasions when the amount of black smoke was apparently abnormal, but in no case did it reach the limit of eight minutes per hour.

**Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.**

There are 38 cowkeepers in the district, and five purveyors of milk who are not cowkeepers. 136 visits have been paid to same. During the year one cowshed has been entirely reconstructed.

It is most essential that milk should be produced under hygienic conditions. Some cowsheds are kept splendidly, while others are less satisfactory. More attention should be paid to the cleanliness of the animals; not only should the teats and udders be kept clean, but it is essential that cows

should be regularly groomed, as there are dangers lurking in the dung on a despattered cow, which should by no means gain access to the milk.

Six samples of milk have been submitted to the County Analyst for the purpose of analysis, all of which have been reported genuine.

### Refuse Disposal.

During the past year 5306 loads of nightsoil, dry ashes, and refuse have been removed; 2323 loads from the 'A' district, and 2983 loads from the 'B' district. The average number of loads removed per day was 19.22, at a cost of 13.56 pence per load.

This question of refuse disposal is daily becoming a subject of the utmost importance; the Cragg Hill tip, which has hitherto been the chief depot for dry refuse, has now a very limited capacity for further tipping; indeed, so unsightly and detrimental to the surroundings has it become, that, had your committee been able to secure any other suitable site, operations at Cragg Hill would have long since been suspended.

It would almost appear that the time is not very far distant when Horsforth will be faced with another municipal undertaking, viz:—A Destructor.

At the commencement of the year there were 309 privies, and 307 dry ashpits. Since then 17 privy middens and 7 dry ashpits have been abolished, and substituted by 4 dry ashpits and 23 bins.

The following is an estimate of the number of water-closets, privies, dry ashpits, and dustbins in use in the district:—

Water Closets	...	1157	Dry Ashpits	...	308
Privies	...	...	Dust Bins	...	750

The following table, shewing the number of privies, dry ashpits, etc., from the year 1902, will no doubt be of interest.

	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911		
Water Closets	...	312	342	408	420	—	—	—	981	1068	1157	
Privies	...	...	464	446	422	422	383	380	—	323	309	271
Dry Ashpits	...	...	248	248	—	—	291	296	—	303	307	308
Bins	...	...	—	—	—	—	183	186	—	397	475	750

**General.**

It is a matter for regret that attention has to be drawn year after year to the fact that some householders will persist in depositing waste vegetable and in some cases animal matter, slops, etc., into the ashpits or on to the public or private road or yard. Also to the deposit of slops or refuse water into the street gullies. These practices, whether due to carelessness or ignorance, are to be deprecated. One wonders if the subject of hygiene could not be introduced to advantage either in the upper standards of the elementary schools or at the evening classes, which might be the means of instructing parents, through the children, in these and other matters of domestic sanitation.

In conclusion I wish to express my appreciation to the members of the Council for their kindness and courtesy, and to the Medical Officer of Health, and to the official staff for their assistance and support in the execution of the multifarious duties appertaining to the administration of public health.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

LUTHER GRIMSHAW, Cert. R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.



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HORSFORTH:

GRIMSHAW TEALE, PRINTER, "ADVERTISER" OFFICE,

1912.

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