

[Report 1925] / Medical Officer of Health, Horsforth U.D.C.

Contributors

Horsforth (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1925

Persistent URL

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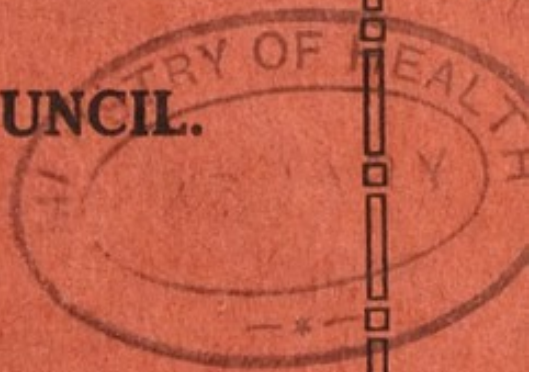


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**HORSFORTH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**



Annual Report

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE
Year ending 31st December,
1925.

HORSFORTH :
A. R. FACER, ADVERTISER PRESS,
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The Urban District of Horsforth.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for 1925.

To the Chairman and Councillors.

GENTLEMEN,

The Report for the above year is a Survey Report, and contains statistics and comments not only for the above year, but also for some relating to the past five years, in order that a comparison of sanitary progress might be possible.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.—The district comprises in area 2,801 acres. The population in 1921 was 9,350; it is now estimated by the Ministry of Health to be 9,860. There is reason to believe that this, however, is far less than the actual population.

The area extends in length to a little over 3 miles, and is in breadth at its widest part about $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles. Lying on the North Side of the River Aire on the map it has a tongue-like shape, the tip being anterior to the Midland Railway Line, whilst the base extending to the North rises considerably in elevation until it reaches in some portions almost 700 feet above the sea level. The whole area lies on millstone grit with some few exceptions in the coal measures. The sub-soil generally is clay; it is, however, sandy in places. The conformation of the area is such that there is a natural drainage on all sides, for most of the boundaries are formed by streams. This is undoubtedly of some sanitary importance.

The number of inhabited houses at the time of the Census in 1921 was 2,379, and the number of separate occupiers 2,382. The number of houses is now 2,755, a difference of 376. If an average of 3 persons per house be allowed for the new houses, this will account for a population of 10,478. Besides, it is known that there are many cases of overcrowding in the old houses.

The Rateable Value is £52,992, and the sum represented by a penny rate produces £192. In 1921 these figures were respectively £38,695 and £141.

The population comprises all classes. Originally an agricultural district containing a typical West Riding village of some antiquity, Horsforth has gradually become a township, where there are several Manufacturers employing Textile, Metal Workers, Stone Workers, etc. The bulk of the population, however, find their occupations in the neighbouring Cities, to which they are easily accessible by tram, train or bus. Justice to the recent developments of the District makes it necessary that I should mention the large area of land between Broadgate Lane and Cragg Hill, which, having been purchased by the Council for its Building Scheme, is now developing very rapidly, aided also by many private Builders. The widening of Broadgate Lane also is a great feature.

I think, considering the post-war difficulties of trade, Horsforth has been more fortunate than most places in regard to employment. This is largely due to the diversity of occupations represented.

Building is proceeding at the present time at an unprecedented rate, and developments are taking place in all directions, most of the land in the area being on the market. At this juncture I should like to state that I think the Council would find the present a fitting one to acquire without delay, helped by the recent legislation, some open spaces for means of recreation, before the available land is still further cut up.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of Births registered during the year was 131; of these 70 were males and 61 females, the resulting birth-rate

being equal to 13·2 per 1,000 per annum. 4 Births were illegitimate, namely 3 males and 1 female. The corresponding birth rate for England and Wales was 18·3. Below are the birth rates for the past 5 years :

1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
14·4	15·9	14·5	15·7	13·2

The number of Deaths was 126, being 65 males and 61 females. The resulting death rate is equal to 12·8 per 1,000 per annum, this being slightly above the average for England and Wales, which was 12·2. Below are the death rates for the past 5 years :

1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
10·4	10·9	13·3	10·3	12·8

The causes of death are shown in detail in the following Table M13 :

Causes of Death in Horsforth Urban District in 1925.

Causes of Death.						Males.	Females.
All Causes	...	...	...	...	...	65	61
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	..	..	—	3
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	6	4
Other Tubercular Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	6	10
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
Cerebral hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	2	6
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	7	7
Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	10	3
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	6	6
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
Congenital Debility and Malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	10	8
Deaths of Infants under 1 year—Total	...	...	...	...	...	9	2
" " " " Illegitimate	...	...	...	..	..	1	—
TOTAL BIRTHS	...	...	...	...	...	70	61
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	67	60
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Population 9,860.							

THE ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE was $\cdot 6$ per 1,000 of the population, this being due to 3 deaths from Whooping Cough and 3 from Diarrhœa. There were no deaths from Enteric Fever, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria or Small-pox. The Zymotic death rates for the past 5 years are given below :

1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
$\cdot 4$	$\cdot 3$	$\cdot 2$	$\cdot 2$	$\cdot 6$

2 deaths took place from Influenza, and 5 occurred from violence.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—12 infants died before reaching the age of 1 year; of these 10 were males and 2 females. The resulting death rate per 1,000 children born alive was 91; this is higher than the averages as shown below :

1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
73	105	51	84	91

The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 75.

Below are given the causes of this mortality :

Prematurity	....	....	....	3
Congenital Deformity	....	....	....	2
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	1

The amount of Poor Law Relief expended during the year amounted to £1,226.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The district is fortunate in having close at hand important hospitals always ready to assist those in need. Of these the General Infirmary at Leeds, the Women and Children's Hospital, and the Maternity Hospital of the same city, are of the greatest value. 12 Horsforth residents died during the year at the General Infirmary at Leeds.

Besides the usual epidemic of Influenza there were also epidemics of Measles and Whooping Cough, both of them being extensive, affecting more or less the whole area. On perusal of Table M13 it will be noticed that Cancer is the cause of the greatest number of deaths, 6 men and 10 women dying from this

dreaded disease. Below I give the Cancer mortality figures for the past 5 years :

1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	Total
14	10	11	17	16	68

This mortality shows here in common with the statistics of the whole county a steady increase. By way of comparison I have looked up Cancer Mortality of this district for 5 years from 1901. These are :

1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	Total
2	6	6	9	12	35

The result is startling and brings home very clearly the justification of the Cancer Campaign which is now being so ably conducted throughout the country. In a short time the Cancer Campaign will extend to this district, and I trust and feel confident that it will be largely supported, as such a worthy object deserves.

Tuberculosis accounts for 10 deaths—6 males and 4 females. This disease is steadily on the decline. Our statistics are always inflated by patients who come from the neighbouring overcrowded towns, and this year 3 of the deaths belong to this class. Only 2 of the deaths were of minors, the remainder were well past middle life, the ages ranging from 55 to 79 years. Below are the statistics of the last 5 years :

1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
8	14	10	9	10

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.—6 males and 6 females died from Pneumonia. This is above the average and is accounted for, I think, by the inclement weather generally prevailing throughout the year. There is some delinquency in the notification of this disease.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or County Council:—

(1) Tuberculosis Cases are treated in the West Riding Sanatoria; the men at Middleton (Ilkley) and the women at Morton Banks.

(2) Fever Cases are treated at the Isolation Hospital at Menston, belonging to the Wharfedale Union Authorities, where there is a total of 76 beds.

Small-pox Cases are provided for at Guiseley, also belonging to the Wharfedale Union. Accommodation is for 8 cases.

Fever cases are always well cared for, and an ambulance is provided for the conveyance of the patients.

CLINIC.—The child welfare Clinic provided by the County Council is held in the Parish Hall every Wednesday afternoon. It is well attended and the advice given is much valued. Some voluntary workers assist the Nurses. The Tuberculosis Clinic is held every Friday at the Drill Hall, Guiseley, where one of the West Riding Tuberculosis Officers attends.

Venereal Cases are treated by arrangements made with the West Riding County Council, at the General Infirmary at Leeds.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.—The only whole time officer is the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Luther Grimshaw. The Medical Officer is part time. The Sanitary Inspector is also the Meat and Food Inspector.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.—The Horsforth District Nursing Association, purely voluntary in character, provide 3 Nurses—2 for general cases and 1 for maternity cases. They do much useful work and all classes of the population take advantage of their help. For infectious cases there is no nurse provided; this is regrettable, as in this district the minor infectious diseases being notified the value of such a measure is of little worth without the patients are visited. During the past year I have suggested to the Sanitary Committee that a nurse holding the Sanitary Inspector's Certificate should be appointed to assist in Sanitary work and to give the necessary supervision over these cases.

MIDWIFES.—As I stated above, the District Nursing Association provide a Maternity Nurse, who also attends cases as a midwife. She is the only practising midwife.

LABORATORY WORK is done by the West Riding County Council, and is made use of by all Practitioners.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE :—

Infectious Diseases Prevention Act.

Public Health Act (Amendment Act 1902-1907), and
Parts 2, 3, 4, 5, and Sect. 95 of Part 10, 1910.

Cleansing of Footpaths and Pavements, 1903.

Prevention of Nuisances, 1903.

Slaughterhouses, 1903.

Offensive Trades, 1903.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The Water Supply is maintained by the Council's own gathering grounds, the borehole supply in Scotland Lane, and by an augmentation from the Yeadon Waterworks Co. A continuous supply throughout the year was secured. Most houses have now the public supply. A scheme to join up certain houses in the West End not yet connected is about to mature. Various analyses of the water have been made, all of which were satisfactory. Improvements for protecting the supply have been made on the gathering grounds, and steps are being taken to obtain more powers over certain farms there to more fully assure the purity of the supply. No case of Plumbo Solvency has been reported.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—Pollution of the River Aire still takes place at Newlay, several houses there still remain unconnected to the sewer. Certain delay has occurred which is unfortunate; it is, however, hoped that the difficulties will be got over shortly. Carr Beck also receives certain trade and domestic effluents; a scheme to avoid this is under consideration.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Various sewers have been laid to meet the requirements of new property. The Disposal Works are proving to be inadequate to the demands now made upon them by the greatly increased population, and an extensive scheme for further additional resources is being prepared.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Conversion to water carriage proceeds satisfactorily. 14 Privies were converted during the past year, and 12 additional water closets were provided for old property. The number of new water closets constructed during the year was 109. There are now 1,960 water closets, 7 waste water closets, 9 privies with open middens, 40 privies with covered middens, and 9 pail or tub closets.

SCAVENGING is done directly by the Council; on the whole this is efficient. A new system is being prepared by which all ashbins and privies will be emptied weekly. Movable ashbins are replacing many of the fixed receptacles.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The total number of Inspections made during 1925 was 926. Nuisances reported were 438.

Notices served (informal) 329.

„ „ (statutory) 47.

„ abated (1925) ... 444.

„ completed were 282 (informal).

„ „ „ 47 (statutory).

No summonses or legal proceedings were necessary.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.—Generally there were more complaints made regarding smoke nuisances. 19 smoke observations were taken. 5 cautions were necessary, after which there was considerable abatement. No legal action was taken.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—There is one only—Soap Works—from which no complaint was made.

There are no common lodging houses.

SCHOOLS.—The sanitary arrangements at St. Margaret's School were found defective; these were efficiently reconstructed.

During the epidemic of measles, National Infants' School (St. Margaret's) was closed for 3 weeks in April, and the Broadgate Lane Infants was closed for 3 weeks in May. The latter School was also closed for whooping cough for 2 weeks in June, and for a further period of 2 weeks for chicken-pox in October.

HOUSING —As previously stated, the building of houses has during the past year been unprecedented in the history of this district. 109 new houses were erected, and of these 101 were of the subsidy class, all being built by private builders. There is still, however, a great shortage, and a further scheme for the provision of 200 houses has been adopted by the Council under Government (C) Scheme, 1924 Act. Many of the new houses have been built in Broadgate Lane on land purchased from the Council. Many others have been erected in Victoria Walk, Outwood Lane, and Hall Lane.

OVERCROWDING exists to a great extent, and so far the building operations do not appear to have relieved this condition. I am hoping that provision will be made for many of these serious cases in the new scheme. It is absolutely necessary that this should be done, for the circumstances under which some of the houses are overcrowded is simply staggering and must react seriously on those having to tolerate them. No action was taken during the past year in these cases, because the economic difficulties made it impossible.

FITNESS OF HOUSES.—The general fitness of houses is fairly good. Certain old property requires more supervision, and the shortage of men in the building trade often delays repairs. I am anxious that more house to house inspections should be made, but the excessive duties of the Sanitary Inspector prevent this.

There were no legal actions taken in regard to unfit houses under the Public Health Act or the Housing Acts. Certain houses in Cornmill Fold are badly in need of repairs, but the owner has expressed a wish to close these as soon as the tenants can be found further accommodation. Pressure was successfully brought upon one owner to make an empty house habitable. A summary of Housing Work done in 1925 is given in Table D.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—This is generally fairly good. Several analyses were made, all of which were satisfactory. The

Milk Dealers' Houses have been inspected ; in certain cases improvements were suggested and carried out. I should like, however, to see special premises kept for the washing and storing of milk utensils, and for the keeping of milk. The trade is too important now to be carried on as is often the case in private houses, often little more than a cottage. The price paid for the delivery of milk is sufficient to justify better conditions. Most of the Milk Dealers turn out smartly, for people now realise that generally the well cleaned can and the white overall means cleaner milk. There has been a great improvement in this respect during recent years. So far no Grade A or Certified Milk is produced nor, I believe, sold in the district.

There was no action taken with regard to tuberculous milk. In the early part of the year all dairy cattle were inspected by a Veterinary Surgeon. The stock was generally well reported upon. One cow recently purchased was found with a tuberculous udder. This shows the importance of a more regular inspection, and my recommendation is that all dairy cattle should be inspected by the Sanitary Inspector once quarterly. So far his other duties will not permit this, but I am hoping that arrangements will be made by which this will become possible. One cow was reported by the owner as being suspected of tuberculosis ; a Veterinary Inspection confirmed this. The number of milk cows kept in the district is about 470. The number of cow-keepers producing and selling milk is 28, all of these being registered. The number of retailers who are also producers is 7, and there are 8 other retailers of milk. The total number of retailers is therefore 15.

MEAT INSPECTION.—The Sanitary Officer is the Meat Inspector. The new regulations relating to the inspection of slaughtered animals are very onerous in our widely spread district. There are 11 Slaughterhouses :

	1920	January, 1925	December, 1925
Registered	7	7	7
Licensed	4	4	4

Much of the meat sold is now bought from the Wholesale Butchers. In spite of this, however, as I have previously stated, the supervision of killing takes up much of the Sanitary Officer's time, and in view of the fact that several of our slaughterhouses are not very satisfactory, either from their surroundings or from structural defects, also because they are so far apart, I am convinced that either a public abattoir or a series of slaughterhouses arranged together is a public necessity for the district. Receptacles for the offals have now been provided by each butcher, and arrangements are being made for a systematic collection. 630 inspections of slaughtering were made. There were 12 seizures of unsound meat; no legal proceedings were necessary.

There are 12 BAKEHOUSES, 3 of which are underground. The condition of these is satisfactory.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Beyond the prevalence of certain minor infectious diseases, viz: Chicken Pox, Measles, Whooping Cough, and a few cases of mild Scarlet Fever, spread over the whole year, there was nothing specially noteworthy.

Below I give the total number of notifications received :

Disease.				Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small-pox	...	..	...	None	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	15	12	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	4	4	—
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	None	—	—
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	None	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	3	—	—
Ophthalmic Neonatorum	...	...	...	1	—	—
Other diseases notified locally :						
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	63	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	58	—	3
Measles	...	...	..	204	—	—
German Measles	...	...	...	5	—	—

Most of the Scarlet Fever Cases were mild—widely distributed, and were spread over the year.

The Diphtheria Cases affected two houses, three of the cases occurring in one overcrowded house.

In all cases disinfection of houses was carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, the bedding, etc., being sent to the Isolation Hospital for disinfection by superheated steam.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Eight new cases were notified.

Below are the age distribution of these, also that of the deaths taking place during the year :

Age Period.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5					1			
10								
15		1					1	
20	1							
25	1	2			1			
35		1					1	
45					1	1		
55		2			2			
65 and up.					1			
Total	2	6			6	3		

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.—45 Inspections of Factories were made during the year, 136 of Workshops, and 12 of Workplaces. Five written notices were given. There were no prosecutions. Five nuisances were found and remedied. Sanitary accommodation was found in two cases to be defective and these were adjusted.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY BAILEY,

Medical Officer of Health.



