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KNARESBOROUGH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Medical Officer's
Annual Report,

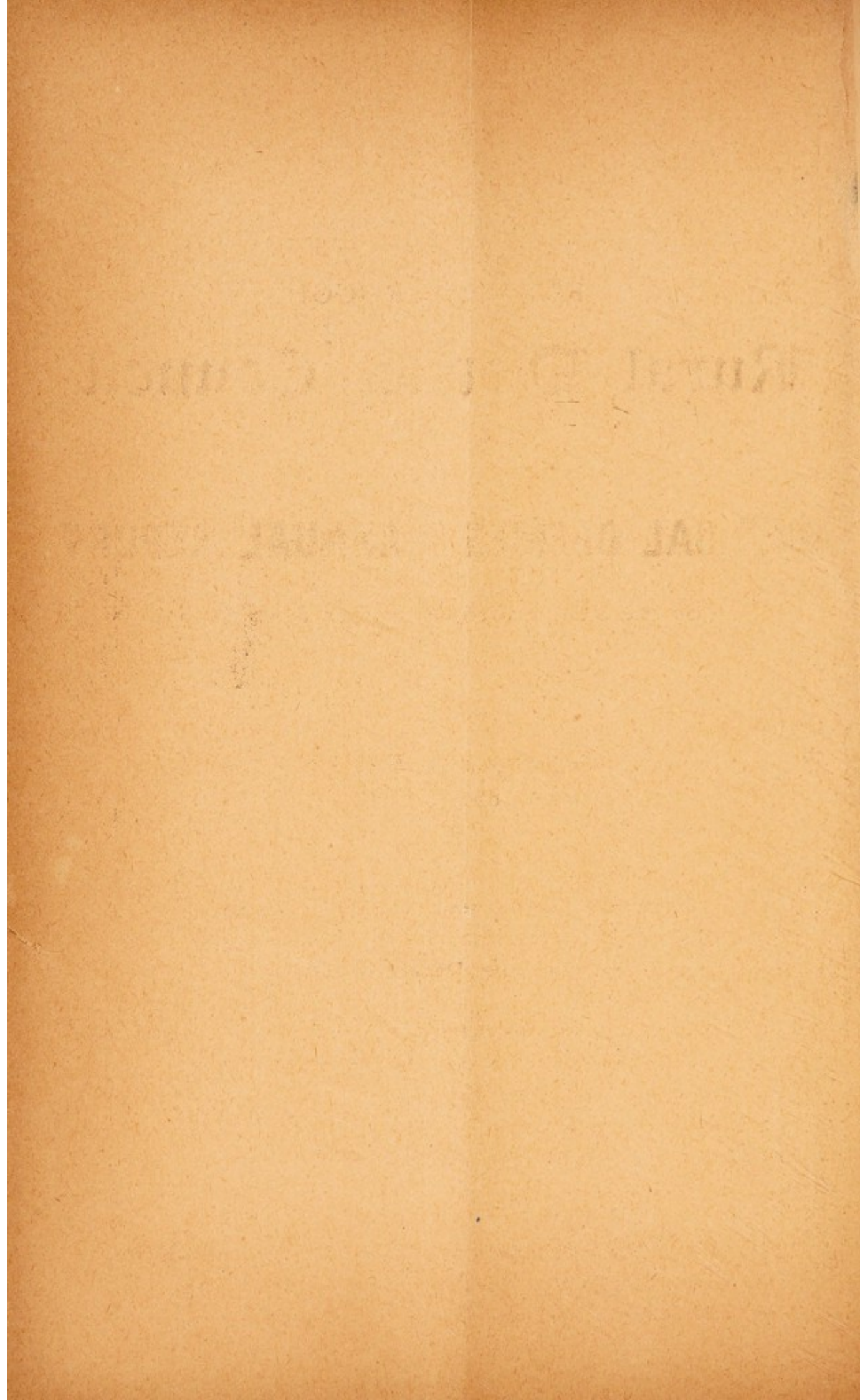
FOR THE

Year ended December 31st, 1903.

Knaresborough:

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KNARESBOROUGH

Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ended December 31st, 1903.

*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Knaresborough Rural
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,—

I have pleasure in laying before you my Fifth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Knaresborough Rural District, for the year ended December 31st, 1903.

The population of the district has not increased much **Population.** during the year. The chief increase has been at Oatlands and Scriven where building has been fairly brisk. 108 new houses have been built during the year in the district. The estimated population up to the middle of the year 1903 is 8,100.

The number of births registered during the year was **Births.** 183, viz., 99 males and 84 females. This is 9 births less than that for the year 1902, and 19 less than that for 1901.

The annual birth rate is 22·6 per thousand of the estimated population of the district. This is exceedingly low, and is by far the lowest birth rate we have had in the district. The birth rate of England and Wales for the same period was 28·4 per thousand.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the district during the year was 86. This is 14 less than that for the previous year. The annual death rate is very low, being only 10·6 per thousand of the estimated population. The death rate for the year 1902 was 13·2 per thousand. This I told you was the lowest for the district of which I had any record. It is therefore very gratifying to still be able to keep up "breaking records" in low death rates. The death rate for England and Wales for 1903 was 15·4 per thousand.

The deaths in children under one year of age were only 12 in number, as compared with 19 in the year 1902 and 30 in 1901. The infantile mortality for the year is very low as compared with previous years, being 65·5 per thousand births registered. If you turn to Table IV. you will find that 4 of these were from premature birth, so that only 8 children under 1 year of age died from actual disease. The infantile death rate of England and Wales was 132 per thousand births.

Between the ages of 1 and under 25 the number of deaths was 13. Between 25 and 65 years there were 33 deaths. In persons over 65 years of age there were 28 deaths. 21 of these were over 70 years of age. The chief cause of death in more than one half of those over 70 was natural decay.

Causes of Death.

Leaving out the deaths due to old age, which I have already mentioned, the other principal causes were Phthisis and other tubercular diseases, 9; Pneumonia, 6; Cancer,

5; Heart Diseases, 5; Epidemic Influenza, 4; and Diarrhœa, 4.

Zymotic diseases caused 7 deaths. This gives a zymotic death rate of 0·8 per thousand per annum. The zymotic death rate for England and Wales for the same period was 1·46 per thousand.

Of the 4 deaths from Diarrhœa only one was in a child **Diarrhœa.** under one year of age, the others being in persons over 65. The district during the last two years has been wonderfully free from illness from this cause. This is due no doubt to the absence of any hot summer weather during that time. Diarrhœa is always prevalent during hot dry weather, when the dust of the streets, &c., is blown about, and so taints food, particularly milk, which forms, or ought to form, the chief food of children under one year of age.

Phthisis and other Tubercular diseases caused 9 deaths. **Phthisis.** This is an increase on previous years. The number for 1902 was 5. This increase is probably due to the prolonged damp weather during the year, a damp atmosphere being deleterious to chest affections.

The deaths due to Cancer were 5 in number. This is a **Cancer.** slight improvement on last year, as 7 deaths were caused by it in that year.

There were 36 cases of Infectious diseases notified **Diseases** during the year, viz.:—Scarlet Fever, 17; Small Pox, 10; **Notified.** Diphtheria, 5; Enteric Fever, 3; and Erysipelas, 1.

Scarlet Fever was not so prevalent in 1903 as in the **Scarlet** previous year, the numbers being 17 and 30 respectively. **Fever.** The cases have for the most part been mild, no deaths having occurred from it. I was able to trace the infection in most cases to sources outside the district. The outbreaks were

in Goldsborough, Knaresborough Outer, Follifoot, Starbeck, Pannal, Scriven, Farnham. and Brearton. About one half of the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Small Pox.

Two distinct outbreaks of Small Pox occurred during the months of March and April. At Haverah Park 9 cases occurred amongst the navvies working at the Harrogate Waterworks. By strict isolation of the patients and those who came in contact with them, as well as by vaccination or re-vaccination of all who would submit to it, the disease was kept within small dimensions. Two of these cases died. The other outbreak was at Oatlands. In this case the patient came into the district whilst suffering from the disease. He was removed to the Isolation Hospital, where he died. Those who came in contact with him were re-vaccinated at once and kept under observation for a fortnight, with the result that no more cases occurred.

Measles, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, and Enteric Fever.

One death was caused by Measles. There were no deaths from either Whooping Cough, Enteric Fever, or Diphtheria. These diseases have not been so prevalent during the year as they had been previously.

Sewerage and Drainage.

I am pleased to say that we have made some headway during the year in the drainage of those portions of the district which have been very much in need of a sewerage scheme. Killinghall has been very satisfactorily dealt with in this respect. Knaresborough Outer (Forest Moor district) will, I expect, soon be in hands. Pannal is, I think, getting somewhat nearer the solution of its sewerage problem. Follifoot and Scotton are much in need of drainage. The expense of a sewerage scheme for Scotton is almost prohibitive unless the Local Government Board are willing to extend the repayment of the loan from 30 years to 60 years,

The Killinghall Water Supply has been taken over by **Water Supply.** your Council, and an extension of it has been made to Knox. This extension was greatly needed as Knox has been a hotbed of Enteric Fever for the last few years owing to the wells there being polluted.

The Follifoot Water Supply will soon be in working order. I hope no time will be lost in extending this supply to Plompton, where it is very much needed. The water supply in this district is very impure and requires remedying as soon as possible.

I have examined a great number of samples of water from wells in different parts of the district. In cases where these were polluted we have tried to find out the source of pollution, and to remedy the same where possible.

There are 8 Slaughter Houses in the district all of **Slaughter Houses.** which are in a satisfactory condition.

The number of Cowsheds registered is 97; these are **Cowsheds.** also in a satisfactory condition.

The number of Factories and Workshops in the district **Factories and Workshops** is the same as last year, viz., Domestic Workshops, 1; **Workshops** Retail Bakehouses, 8; Laundries, 3; and other Workshops, 36. In addition to these there are 10 work places.

No action has had to be taken during the year in res- **Sanitation of Workshops** pect to sanitation of Workshops.

The 8 Bakehouses in the district are in a satisfactory **Sanitation of Bake-houses.** condition and comply with the Act in every respect.

There are no underground Bakehouses in the district. **Und'gr'nd Bakeho'ses**

**Safety
from Fire.**

This portion of the Act does not apply to any Factory Workshop in your district.

**Home
Work.**

There is no "Home Work" in the district within the meaning of the Act.

I am pleased to place in your hands such a satisfactory report concerning the health of the district.

I have the honour Gentlemen, to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. FORBES,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 9th, 1904.

TABLE I. Vital Statistics of the Whole District. TABLE III. Infectious Diseases notified during 1903.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		Total DEATHS Registered.				Deaths in the District.					Deaths of Non-residents in Public Institutions.		Deaths of Residents in Public Institutions beyond District.		Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.		NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole District.				
		No.	Rate per 1000.	Under 1 Year.		At all Ages.		Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Residents in Public Institutions beyond District.	No.	Rate.	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.										
				No.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	No.	Rate per 1000.							Un-der 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65						
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.												
1893*	8742	268	30.6	50	186.5	168	19.20											10	...	1	4	...	5	
1894...	8788	274	31.1	45	164.2	154	17.53											...	...	...	...	...	...
1895...	8866	291	32.8	42	144.3	171	19.28											5	...	1	4	...	...
1896...	9700	318	32.7	54	169.7	167	17.21											...	...	...	...	...	...
1897...	10000	361	36.1	50	138.5	149	14.90											1	...	...	...	...	...	1
1898...	10500	393	37.4	65	165.4	195	18.57											17	...	1	13	3	...	
1899...	11400	375	32.9	59	157.0	213	18.68											...	...	...	...	...	...
1900...	12000	464	38.6	61	131.4	216	18.00	...	...	1	217	18.08						...	...	...	...	...	...
1901...	7150	202	28.2	30	148.5	119	16.60	3	3	1	117	16.30						3	...	...	...	...	3	
1902...	7550	192	25.4	19	99.0	100	13.20	...	...	...	100	13.20						...	...	...	...	...	...
Aver-ages for years 1893-1902.																		...	...	...	...	...	...
1903...	8100	183	22.6	12	65.5	89	10.98	5	3	0	86	10.6						36	...	3	21	3	9	

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—35,314. Harrogate and Knaresborough Joint Isolation Hospital.

Total population at all ages—7,102. Number of inhabited houses—1,488. Average number of persons per house—5. (At census of 1901).

*The statistics in columns 1893 to 1900 are for the original district. Those under 1901 and 1902 are for the district as it now stands. Averages of these would evidently be useless and misleading.

TABLE IV.

KNARESBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1903.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	4
Measles	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Fever—Enteric .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Epidemic Influenza	4	...	2	...	...	1	1	...
Diarrhœa.....	4	1	...	...	...	...	3	...
Phthisis	7	...	...	...	1	6	...	...
Other Tubercular Diseases...	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease ...	5	...	...	...	...	5	...	...
Bronchitis	3	1	...	...	...	1	1	...
Pneumonia	6	1	1	1	...	2	1	...
Alcoholism, cirrhosis of liver	2	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Premature birth.....	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	5	...	...	...	1	2	2	..
Accidents.....	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Suicides	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
All other causes.....	37	5	...	1	1	10	20	...
All causes	86	12	4	5	4	33	28	5

Institutions within this District receiving Sick and Infirm persons from outside the District—Harrogate and Knaresborough Joint Isolation Hospital.

TABLE C.—1903.

Medical Officer of Health—W. J. FORBES, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor—WILLIAM LUPTON.

WATER SUPPLY.

Quality.—Variable. Action on Lead.—None.

Any extension or change during 1903?—Killinghall and Knox have been supplied.

Any inadequacy in any part?—Plompton, Scotton, and Farnham.

SEWERAGE—

Is the district systematically sewered?—Portions.

Is rainfall excluded?—Front Streets.

Extensions or Improvements during 1903.—2,699 yds. of Sewers and 30 manholes at Killinghall.

Any inadequacy, and where?—See body of report.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL—

System adopted.—Broad Irrigation.

SCAVENGING—

Are the privy-middens, ash-pits, &c., cleansed by Sanitary staff, by Contractors, or by Owners and Tenants?—Scriven, by Contract.

Number of each type of receptacle :—Open privy middens, 634 ; Covered privy middens, 194 ; Pail or tub closets, 10 ; Water closets, 274.

ADOPTIVE ACTS—

Acts adopted during 1903 (or parts).—None.

Any disease added to Notification schedule, *e.g.*, Measles, Chicken-pox, &c.?—No.

Any system of voluntary notification of Phthisis?—No.

BYE-LAWS.

Any adopted or sanctioned during 1903?—Under the Public Health Act, 1875?—No.

Under the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890?—No.

REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, &c.—

Slaughter Houses—Number Registered, 8 ; Number Inspected, 8 ; General Condition, Satisfactory. Cowsheds—Number Registered, 97 ; Number Inspected, 97 ; General Condition, Satisfactory. Legal proceedings (if any).—None.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL—

Name and Situation of Hospital for Small-pox cases and for general infectious diseases.—Temporary Joint Isolation Hospital at Killinghall.

Does the Sanitary Authority provide antitoxin (gratis) for diphtheria cases?—No.

SCHOOLS—

Number closed during 1903 on account of sickness, 6 ; total duration of such closure, 16 weeks.

Any ailment or contagious disease associated particularly with school life during 1903?—No.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT—

Number of Workshops in the district, as per Register—58.
Number of Inspections made during 1903—58. Legal proceedings.—None.

Number of Bakehouses included in above—8.

„ of Underground Bakehouses in district—None.

„ of Domestic Workshops in above—1.

„ of Domestic Factories in the district—None.

„ of Lists of Outworkers' received—None.

Any action as to unwholesome or infected Outworkers' premises—No.

DWELLINGS—

Number of Houses built during 1903—108.

General Character—Residential and Cottages.

Any houses unfit for habitation?—No.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses?—No.

Any action taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act?—No.

Is house-to-house inspection systematically made?—Yes.

Are records kept?—Yes.

NUISANCES—

Total Number of Nuisances in hand at close of 1902—34. At close of 1903—25. Reported during 1903—140. Abated during 1903—149.

Total Number of Legal Notices served for Abatement of Nuisances during 1903—6, others by letter.

Total Number of Summonses or other Legal Proceedings—None.

Number of Sink wastes disconnected during 1903—All new houses, and 6 others.

Number of Sink wastes trapped during 1903—All new houses, and 6 others.

Number of Closets newly constructed during 1903—108. Kinds, Chiefly W.C.

What action has been taken with regard to the following matters:—

Seizures of Unsound Food—None. Prosecutions—None.

Samples under Sale of Food and Drugs Act—1 of Milk. Prosecutions—None.

Has there been any poisoning during 1903 attributable to arsenical beer?—No.

River Pollution—None.

Burial Grounds—Number in District—14. Any need for extension?—No.

Mortuaries—None.

BIRTHS DURING 1903—Males, 99; Females, 84; Total, 183. Number of illegitimate included in the above—No information. Number of Still Births (not included)—No information.

DEATHS DURING 1903—(1) Gross Deaths, *i.e.*, Total actually registered in the district, without any correction—89. (2) Nett Deaths on which the rates are calculated—Males, 46; Females, 40; Total, 86.

Number uncertified, included in the above—None.

Sanitary Requirements of District, and Suggestions of Medical Officer of Health.—See body of report.



