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Knaresborough (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1906

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KNARESBOROUGH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



MEDICAL OFFICER'S
Annual Report,

FOR THE

Year ended December 31st, 1906.

KNARESBOROUGH:

W. PARR, GENERAL AND COLOUR PRINTER, HIGH STREET.

1907.



KNARESBOROUGH

Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT,

For the Year ended December 31st, 1906.

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

GENTLEMEN,—

I have pleasure in laying before you my Eighth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Knaresborough Rural District for the year ended December 31st, 1906.

The population of the district has not increased much **Population.** during the year. The number of houses built, viz., 52, being much less than in previous years. The estimated population of the district up to the middle of the year 1906 is 9,062.

The number of births registered in the district during the **Births.** year was 253, viz., 138 males and 115 females. This is 70 more than the previous year. Consequently the annual birth rate per thousand of the estimated population has been raised from 20·9 for the year 1905, to 27·9 for 1906. This is a very satisfactory state of affairs, being the highest birth rate in the district for the last five years. The birth rate for England and Wales for the same period was 27·0 (the lowest on record).

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the district during the year was 106. This is 6 more than the previous year, and gives the very low annual death rate of 11·69 per thousand of the estimated population. The death rate for England and Wales for the same period was 15·4.

Deaths under one year of age.

The deaths in children under one year of age were 17 in number. This is 9 less than the previous year. Five of these were premature infants, and 10 did not survive one month. It is difficult to point to a single death in this list (see Table V.) which one might call preventable. The infantile mortality for the year was 67·1 per thousand births registered. For England and Wales during the same period the infantile mortality was 133, or nearly double that for your district.

Causes of Death.

Between the ages of 1 and 25 the number of deaths was 21; between 25 and 65 the number was 33; and in persons over 65 there were 35 deaths. The principal causes of death were:—Heart Diseases, 14; Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases, 13; Cancer, 6; Bronchitis, 4; Pneumonia and Pleurisy, 4; Scarlet Fever, 4; and Diphtheria, 3. (See Table IV.)

Zymotic Diseases.

Zymotic Diseases caused 11 deaths. This gives a Zymotic death rate of 1·21 per thousand per annum of the estimated population. The Zymotic death rate for England and Wales for the year 1906 was 1·73 per thousand.

Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases.

Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases caused 13 deaths. The deaths under this heading in previous years were—1902, 5; 1903, 9; 1904, 11; 1905, 14. Only one death was due to tubercular disease of organs of the body other than tubercular disease of the lungs, and this case was in a child nine months of age.

Cancer.

The number of deaths due to Cancer was 6. The death-rate for the district from this cause has varied very little during the last few years.

Diarrhœa.

Not a single death from Diarrhœa has occurred in the district for the last two years; and in the previous two or three years they were very few in number.

The number of Infectious Diseases notified to me during the year was 51. In the year 1905 there were 36, and in 1904 58 cases notified. They were as follows for 1906:—Scarlet Fever, 30; Diphtheria, 11; Enteric Fever, 5; Erysipelas, 4; and Puerpural Fever, 1.

The Scarlet Fever cases have been confined to a great extent to Follifoot and neighbourhood. 22 out of the 30 cases notified occurred in that parish. The other 8 cases were isolated cases in different parts of the district. The outbreak at Follifoot was confined to the houses situated on each side of the main sewer which runs down the village. This sewer consists of a small stream, which at some time or other has been covered over, forming a sort of rubble drain. During the dry months of the summer this stream became practically dried up, and consequently became a nuisance from want of flushing. And as the severe drought also caused a shortage in the water supply, any attempt at flushing this sewer was impossible owing to the large volume of water that would be required for the purpose.

I find that one of the principal causes of the spread of this disease is that when a mother hears that her child is going to be removed to the Isolation Hospital she dresses it in its best clothes instead of using the clothes that it had been wearing when it became ill. The latter (such as cannot be washed) are laid carefully away (and not left out for disinfection) until the child returns home, when they again come into use. The consequence is that another member of the family gets infected from these clothes, and has also to be removed to the Hospital. Or perhaps the child has a favourite toy. On the removal of the child to the Hospital this toy is put aside until the child's home-coming. Here again an infected article is brought into use with similar results to that from the infected wearing apparel. These causes we hope to eliminate in the future. There were 4 deaths from this disease. 28 of the 30 cases were treated in Hospital.

The number of cases of Diphtheria was 11. Of these 3 were fatal. There were 8 different outbreaks in different parts of the district, viz.:—Knaresborough Outer, Killinghall, Hamps-

thwaite, and Burton Leonard. In most of the cases infection could be traced to sources outside your district. Two of the cases were treated in Hospital.

**Enteric
Fever.**

There were 5 cases of Enteric (Typhoid) Fever during the year, one of which proved fatal. Some of these cases contracted the disease outside the district, and in the others the source of infection could not be traced.

**Whooping
Cough.**

There was one death from Whooping Cough. This disease was not prevalent during the year.

Measles.

Two deaths were caused by Measles. There was no severe outbreak of Measles during the year.

Small Pox.

No cases of Small Pox occurred during 1906.

**Sewerage
and
Drainage.**

In Forest Moor (Knaresborough Outer) 372 yards of Sewer were laid, and in Hampsthwaite 48 yards were relaid. This was the total amount of sewers for the year.

The scheme for Pannal has got a step further, as a Local Government Board inquiry is shortly to be held in reference to the borrowing of the money to carry it out.

The Pannal end of Follifoot requires your early attention. Other schemes for the drainage of the villages of Kettlesing and Follifoot will, I hope, be completed during the coming year. The removal of the nuisance caused by the rubble drain in Follifoot, mentioned above, requires attending to before the summer months, seeing that it was the cause of so much illness last summer.

**Water
Supply.**

The private works at Plompton for the supply of Plompton Square and the neighbouring farms have been working successfully for some time. This part had, I think, the worst supply of water in the whole district. The supply is derived from a deep well by means of a windmill. This is the fourth windmill in use in your district for the purpose of water supply. On the whole they have been very successful, except for some little

difficulty experienced at Killinghall and Follifoot during the severe drought in the summer months. These difficulties have, I hope, been overcome, and in the future the supply ought to be without intermission. The district as a whole (except the villages of Kettlesing and Scotton, as I have mentioned in other reports), is well supplied with pure, wholesome water.

There are 13 Slaughter Houses registered in the district. **Slaughter Houses.** These are frequently visited, and the slaughtered animals inspected. The houses are in a satisfactory condition.

There are 89 Cowsheds on the register. One of these has **Cowsheds.** been the cause of complaint, and has since been put into proper condition.

The number of Factories and Workshops in the district is **Factories and Workshops.** 73, viz., Factories (including Factory Laundries), 14; Work Places (including Workshop Laundries), 12; Retail Bakehouses, 7; Domestic Workshops, 5; and other workshops, 35.

No defect of sanitation of workshops as regards cleanliness, **Sanitation of Workshops.** air space, ventilation, or drainage of wet floors, has been found.

There are 7 Retail Bakehouses in the district. These comply **Sanitation of Bakehouses.** with the Act as regards closets, drains, water cisterns of w.c.'s, sleeping places, and limewashing. It was not necessary to give any notice to limewash.

There are no underground bakehouses in the district. **Underground Bakehouses.**

This portion of the Act does not apply to any of the Factory **Safety from Fire.** Workshops in the district.

There is no Home Work in the district within the meaning **Home Work** of the act.

I believe, gentlemen, that this is the most satisfactory annual report that I have yet had the pleasure to place in your hands. The low death-rate (being 3.71 below that for England and Wales), the increased birth-rate, an infantile mortality of about

half that for England and Wales, the absence of deaths in infants from Diarrhoea or other diseases pointing to improper feeding, the good water supply of the district generally, and the drainage already completed in the district, together with the several schemes in hand, are all highly satisfactory.

I have the honour, Gentlemen, to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. FORBES,

Medical Officer of Health.

February 27th, 1907.



TABLE I. Vital Statistics of the Whole District.

TABLE III. Infectious Diseases notified during 1906.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-residents in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Residents in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.		NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole District.					No. of cases removed to Hospital
		No.	Rate.	Under 1 Year.		At all Ages.					At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							
				No.	Rate per 1000 Births regis- tered.	No.	Rate.					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	No.	Rate.							
1896	9700	318	32.7	54	169.7	167	17.21				12	13	Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	2
1897	10000	361	36.1	50	138.5	149	14.90						Cholera...	...	...	...	...	...
1898	10500	393	37.4	65	165.4	195	18.57						Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...
1899	11400	375	32.9	59	157.0	213	18.68						Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...
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	Erysipelas	...	4	...	...	1	3
1902	7550	192	25.4	19	99.0	100	13.20	...	...	...	100	13.20	Scarlet Fever	...	30	...	4	23	2
1903	8100	183	22.6	12	65.5	89	10.98	5	3	...	86	10.60	Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
1904	8130	204	25.1	13	63.7	108	13.28	5	3	...	105	12.91	Enteric Fever	...	5	...	...	...	5
1905	8655	180	20.9	26	144.4	104	12.01	6	4	...	100	11.55	Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
													Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
													Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1
													Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...
*Aver- ages for years 1896- 1905.													Totals	...	51	5	30	9	7
1906	9062	253	27.9	17	67.1	112	12.35	13	8	2	106	11.69							30

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)—37,390. Total population at all ages—7,102. Number of inhabited houses—1,488. Average number of persons per house—5. (At census of 1901). Isolation Hospital—Harrogate and Knaresborough joint. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District—West Riding Lunatic Asylums.

* The statistics for the years 1896 to 1900 are for the district previous to the Harrogate extension. Those for 1901 to 1903 are for the district previous to the Knaresborough extension. Those for 1904 to 1906 are for the district as it now stands. Averages of these would be useless and misleading.

TABLE IV.
KNARESBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1906.

Causes of Death.	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.	
Measles	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	4	...	3	1	...	...	...	6
Whooping Cough.....	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria & membranous croup	3	...	...	2	...	1	...	7
Fever—Enteric.....	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza.....	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Phthisis, Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12	...	1	1	1	8	1	...
Other tubercular diseases	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	6	...	...	...	...	4	2	...
Bronchitis	4	...	1	...	...	1	2	...
Pneumonia	3	2	...	...	...	...	1	...
Pleurisy	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	14	...	1	...	...	9	4	...
Accidents	6	...	1	2	...	2	1	...
All other Causes	41	8	...	...	2	7	24	...
All causes	106	17	11	6	4	33	35	13

TABLE V.

KNARESBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT.

Infantile Mortality during the year 1906.

Deaths from stated causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes.												
Certified	5	1	2	2	10	1	1	1	1	2	1	17
Uncertified												
Premature Birth.....	4	...	...	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Convulsions	1	...	1	1	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	4
Pneumonia .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2
Other Causes .....	...	1	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	4
All causes	5	1	2	2	10	1	1	1	1	2	1	17

District of Knaresborough (Rural).—Population (estimated to middle of 1906), 9,062. Births in the year, 253. Deaths in the year, 17. Deaths from all Causes at all Ages, 106.

TABLE C.—1906.

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

Sanitary Inspector }
Building Surveyor } —WILLIAM LUPTON.

WATER SUPPLY—

Any extension or change during 1906?—Plompton.

Any inadequacy in any part?—Scotton.

Any complaint as to action on Lead?—No.

SEWERAGE—

Extensions or Improvements during 1906.—Sewers, 372 yards, 6 Manholes, 5 Ventilating Shafts, and 2 Flushing Chambers in Knaresborough Outer; 48 yards re-laid at Hampsthwaite.

Any Inadequacy, and where?—Lack of Sewers, Follifoot and Kettle-sing (schemes in preparation for these); Faulty Sewers, Burton Leonard.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL—

Any modification recently?—No.

Any marketable produce grown on Sewage plots?—No.

SCAVENGING—Performed by Occupiers and Owners.

ADOPTIVE ACTS—Acts adopted during 1906 (or parts)—None.

BYE-LAWS—

Any adopted or sanctioned during 1906?—Under the Public Health Act, 1875—No.

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

REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, &c.—

Common Lodging Houses—None. Canal Boats—None. Slaughter Houses—Number in District, 13; Number on Register, 9; Number of Inspections made, 23; General Condition, Generally Satisfactory. Legal Proceedings (if any).—None. Cowsheds—Number in District, 89; Number on Register, 89; Number of Inspections made, 39; General Condition, Generally Satisfactory. Legal Proceedings (if any).—None. Offensive Trades—None.

FRIED FISH SHOPS—Number in District—None.

COWSHEDS—

Any special inspection made during 1906?—No.

Are “Rules for Milkers” still exhibited in all Cowsheds?—Distributed.

Any action taken by outside authorities, *e.g.*, under “Milk Clauses” concerning milk supplied from this district?—One complaint from Leeds.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE—

What apparatus is available for disinfecting clothing, and where?—
Steam Disinfector, at Isolation Hospital.

How are dwellings disinfected?—Formalin, Sulphur and Spray.

Any placards or handbills issued during 1906?—No.

SCHOOLS—

Any ailment or contagious disease associated particularly with school life during 1906?—No.

MIDWIVES ACT, 1902—

Number of Midwives disinfected by the Sanitary Authority during 1906?—None.

Any information as to the use of abortifacients?—No.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT—

Number of Workshops in the district, as per Register—59. Number of Inspections during 1906—73. Legal Proceedings—None.

Number of Retail Bakehouses included in above—7.

„ of Domestic Workshops—5.

„ of Workshop Laundries—2.

„ of Workplaces—10.

„ of Workshops—35.

Other matters—None.

Any cases of anthrax in factories or workshops during 1906?—No.

DWELLINGS—

Number of Houses built during 1906—52.

General Character—18 Residential, 34 Cottages.

Any occupied houses unfit for habitation?—No.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses?—No.

Any action taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts?—
2 Cases.

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

Are records kept?—Yes.

PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION—

- Any system of notification?—No.
- Any Sanitary Inspection of Patients' Houses?—No.
- Any disinfection of Patients' Houses?—No.
- Any distribution of advice?—No.
- Any action *re* spitting?—No.
- Any disinfection of public rooms, vehicles, &c.?—No.

NUISANCES—

- Total Number of Nuisances in hand at close of 1905—7. At close of 1906—30. Reported during 1906—153. Abated during 1906—130.
- Total Number of Legal Notices served for Abatement of Nuisances during 1906—18.
- Total Number of Summonses or other Legal Proceedings?—None.
- Number of Sink wastes disconnected during 1906—2, and all new houses.
- Number of Sink wastes trapped during 1906—4, and all new houses.
- Number of Closets newly constructed during 1906—2, and one to each new house. Kinds—Ash Closets.
- Number of Closets reconstructed during 1906—7. Kinds—Ash Closets.

What action has been taken in regard to the following matters?

- Seizures of Unsound Food—None. Prosecutions—None.
- Samples under Sale of Food and Drugs Acts—1 of milk. Prosecutions—None.
- Any poisoning during 1906 (1) by arsenical beer?—No. (2) Ptomaines?—No. (3) Lead-contaminated water?—No.
- Number of Smoke observations taken—2. Legal Notices—None. Summonses—None.
- Burial Grounds—Number in District—14. Any need for (a) extension—No. (b) closure—No.
- Number of Allotments provided under the Acts or otherwise during 1906—None.

BIRTHS DURING 1906—Males, 138; Females, 115; Total, 253. Number illegitimate, included in above—No information. Number of Still Births (not included)—No information.

DEATHS DURING 1906—(1) Gross Deaths, *i.e.*, Total actually registered in the district, without any correction—115. (2) Nett Deaths, on which the rates are calculated—Males, 56; Females, 50; Total, 106. Number uncertified, included in the above—1.

*Sanitary Requirements of District, and suggestions of Medical Officer of Health:—*See body of Report.