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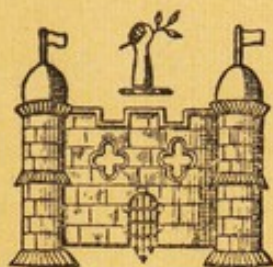
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KNARESBOROUGH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL




MEDICAL OFFICER'S
Annual Report,

FOR THE
Year ended December 31st, 1919.

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KNARESBOROUGH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer's Annual Report

For the Year ending December 31st, 1919.

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

GENTLEMEN,—

I have pleasure in presenting to you for your consideration my Twenty-first Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Knaresborough Rural District, for the year 1919.

You will find in it some things which are very well known to you. These are inserted, however, at the request of the Ministry of Health for his information.

I am indebted to your Sanitary Inspector for his assistance in preparing it, particularly in regard to Housing Inspection.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Knaresborough,

W. J. FORBES.

20th May, 1920.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.

The area of the district is 37,362 acres. It is composed of the rural areas surrounding Harrogate and Knaresborough. On the East side it is 100 feet above sea level, and on the West 675 feet. The low lying districts include Flaxby, Goldsborough, and parts of Ferrensby and Knaresborough Outer, and comprises an area of about 13,000 acres. The remainder of the district is hilly. The North-Eastern and part of the central portions cover limestone and sandstone. The chief industry is agriculture. The parts immediately surrounding Harrogate and Knaresborough are more of a residential nature. The other industries are Brickmaking, Stone Quarrying, Corn Mills, Laundries, and Market Gardens. There are 19 villages in the district. Ten of these have village rooms, or institutes. There are approximately 1,200 cottages, 340 houses of the residential class, 360 farm houses, and 100 schools, colleges, and houses attached to business premises.

Population.

The population of the district was 8,143 in 1911. In the middle of 1919 the population estimated by the Registrar General for the purpose of calculating the birth rate was 7,336, and for the purpose of calculating the death rate 7,042. I think this is underestimated as there are no empty houses (there were 200 in 1911) in the district, and there are many houses in which two families reside owing to the great shortage of houses.

Births.

The number of Births registered during the year in the district was 110—57 males and 53 females. The birth rate is therefore 15 per thousand of the estimated population. This is an increase on last year, when it was only 13·74. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 18·5. The number of illegitimate births was 10.

Deaths.

The number of deaths of residents who died in the district, and of residents of the district who died outside the district was 88—39 males and 49 females. This is 10 less than in the previous year, and gives the low death rate of 11·07 per thousand per annum of the estimated population. The corresponding death rate for England and Wales was 13·8.

Deaths under one year of age.

There were five deaths under one year of age. Four of these were in children of premature birth, which only lived a few hours, and one was due to Influenza. The infantile mortality for the year was 45.4 per thousand births registered. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 89.

Causes of Death at all ages.

The principal causes of death were:—Influenza, 14; Cancer, 11; Heart Disease, 12; Bronchitis, 4; Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases, 2; and Pneumonia, 1. There were 31 deaths in people over 75 years of age, 15 over 80, and 1 was 91 years of age.

Cancer.

There were 14 deaths from Cancer. In the previous year the number was 8.

Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases.

There was only 1 death from Tuberculosis of the Lungs, and 1 of Tuberculosis of the Peritonium.

Diarrhœa.

There were no deaths from Diarrhœa during the year.

Influenza.

The severe epidemic of Influenza which started in October, 1918, extended into the early months of 1919, causing 14 deaths.

Infectious Diseases.

The number of Infectious Diseases notified in 1919 was 46. In the previous year the number was 118.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 13 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year. No deaths were due to this disease.

Diphtheria.

Ten cases of Diphtheria occurred in various parts of the district, and no deaths were caused by it.

Enteric Fever.

No cases of this disease were notified.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.

There were no cases of this disease notified.

Poliomyelitis.

There were no cases of Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) notified during the year.

Measles.

Only seven cases of Measles were notified. The severe epidemic of the previous year evidently rendered all the children immune against the disease. These cases were all in January, 1919, and was really the end of the epidemic.

Whooping Cough.

Whooping Cough was not prevalent during the year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum were notified.

Water Supply.

The Parishes provided with a good water supply cover an area equal to two-thirds of the whole area of the district, and contain three-fourths of the total population. The remainder of the district gets its supply from wells, mostly surface wells. The portions of the district most in need of a pure water supply are Hampsthwaite, Scotton, Brearton, Flaxby, and Ferrensby. The supply at Hampsthwaite (as well as the other villages named) is liable to pollution from surface water, and in most summers there is a shortage. In Scotton there was a serious shortage during the summer months, and the quality of the little that could be obtained was very inferior. These two villages are the most urgent. At Ferrensby the village pump (the chief source of supply) is polluted by the drainage. The remedy here is the provision of a proper drainage scheme. The portions of the district without a pure supply of water are the most difficult parts to provide with it, owing to their distance from a good source, and as the rateable value of these parishes is so small the financial question is a serious one at present.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Twelve villages are provided with sewers. This represents three-fifths of the whole area, and seven-ninths of the whole population of the district. The following places:—Scotton, Flaxby, South Stainley, Bilton, Ferrensby, Kettlesing, Plompton, Starbeck, and Walkingham are not provided with any system of drainage. The urgency for drainage is in the order above given.

Closet Accommodation.

As regards Closet accommodation, see Table C appended.

Scavenging.

Scavenging is carried out in the Parish of Pannal, which contains about one-fourth of the total population of the whole district. Burton Leonard, Knaresborough Outer, and Killinghall require to be scavenged. Dust Bins are mostly used in the Pannal area where scavenging is done, and very little change has been made during the year in substituting these for fixed receptacles.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

A classified statement of the Sanitary Inspection of the District will be found in Table C in the Appendix.

Schools.

The sanitary condition and water supply of the Schools in the district is satisfactory. The closure of several Schools was necessary owing to outbreaks of Influenza, Scarlet Fever, and Diphtheria.

Food.

MILK SUPPLY.—A great quantity of Milk is produced every year in the district. For a detailed statement of the Dairies and Cowsheds, &c., see Table C. There is considerable improvement in the care taken to ensure cleanliness of the Milk at its source.

OTHER FOODS.—Two carcasses of beasts suffering from Tuberculosis were seized and destroyed. The sanitary conditions of the majority of the Slaughter Houses is satisfactory. There is no public Abattoir in the district. The Assistant Sanitary Inspector is also Meat Inspector and visits the Slaughter Houses at the time of slaughter. For further details see Table C.

Sanitary Administration.

The staff consists of Medical Officer of Health, Sanitary Inspector, who is also Surveyor and Housing Inspector, and Assistant Surveyor, who also acts as Meat Inspector.

The Harrogate and Knaresborough Joint Isolation Hospital provides ample accommodation for infectious diseases. During the year 9 cases of Scarlet Fever and 9 of Diphtheria were admitted from the district.

The examination of swabs of the throat for Diphtheria, and sputum for Tubercle bacilli is done by the West Riding County Council Laboratory.

The Public Analyst has examined samples of water from suspected wells.

Housing.

I. GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE DISTRICT:—

1. The total number of houses in the district is 2,021. The number of working class houses is 1,203. Three houses were in course of erection during the year.
2. The Registrar General estimates the population at 7,042, but a more correct estimate would be 8,892.
3. The estimated shortage of houses is:—46, to meet the increase of population; 105, to replace unfit houses; and 29 others, to replace those where two small houses should be made into one satisfactory dwelling.

II. OVERCROWDING:—

1. There is no serious overcrowding in the district.
2. The cause of any slight overcrowding is where two families are living in one house owing to the shortage of houses in the district.

III. FITNESS OF HOUSES:—

1. There are in the district 42 houses with two rooms; 415 with three; 364 with four; 364 with five; and 18 with over five rooms. The four and five roomed houses are a fair standard. These have been built mostly within the last 25 years. The smaller roomed houses are old houses and the standard is low. The general character of defects found in old houses are structural and dampness.
2. No specific action was taken during the year with regard to these houses under the Public Health Acts and Housing Acts, but a scheme is in hand for provision of 170 cottages in various parts of the district, as follows:—

Brearton.—Here the houses are of a low standard; the population is 169; and six houses are to be provided. The water supply and drainage of the village are not satisfactory.

Burton Leonard.—This village contains a large number of unfit houses, and there has been a shortage of houses here for some years. The population is 388. 20 houses are to be provided. There is a good water supply, but the sewerage is unsatisfactory.

Farnham.—The population is 139. The houses to be provided, 8. There is a water supply, but the water is very hard. The sewage disposal is too small for the size of the village.

Ferrensby.—The population is 95, and 6 houses are to be provided. The water supply is polluted by the drainage.

Flaxby.—The population is 70. The houses to be provided, 4. The drainage of the village is bad.

Follifoot.—The population is 335. The houses to be provided, 12. The village has a good water supply and is well drained.

Goldsborough.—The population is 175. The houses to be provided, 12. The old houses in the village, whilst not absolutely unfit, are small and unsuitable for families, and are generally in a bad state of repair. Two houses converted into one would make a good dwelling.

Hampsthwaite.—The population is 450. The houses to be provided, 12. This is a large village, which contains a great amount of poor and small houses. The water supply is bad and the drainage defective.

Killinghall.—The population is 1,067, and 12 houses are to be provided. This is a wide parish, which is largely agricultural, with parts of a residential nature. The village has a good water supply and good drainage. The drainage of Knox is unsatisfactory.

Knaresborough Outer.—The population is 900, and 6 houses are to be provided. The parish is a very wide agricultural district, with a residential area situated between the Knaresborough and Harrogate boundaries. There are a few unfit houses. The residential houses are well provided with water and drainage.

Nidd.—The population is 205, and 2 houses are to be provided.

Pannal.—The population is 1,963, and 20 houses are to be provided. This is the widest parish in the district. It has a large agricultural area. About one-third is a residential district, with a good water supply and good drainage. There are quite a number of houses unfit for habitation.

Plompton.—The population is 165, and 12 houses are to be provided. For its area this parish contains the largest proportion of houses absolutely unfit for habitation—7 houses out of 20 are totally unfit and 8 not reasonably fit. The village has a water supply.

Scotton.—The population is 364, and 10 houses are to be provided. An agricultural village with a few residential houses. The cottages are of a poor type. The village requires a new system of drainage and a fresh water supply.

Scriven.—The population is 183, and 6 houses are to be provided. This is a small village, adjoining Knaresborough. The cottages are of a poor type. It has a good water supply and fair drainage.

South Stainley.—The population is 183, and 4 houses are to be provided. This is an agricultural area containing a poor class of cottage.

Starbeck.—The population is 217. Houses to be provided, 10. The district adjoins the borough of Harrogate, and is provided with water and various parts with available sewers. The cottages are of a very poor class.

Walkingham.—The population is 27. Houses to be provided, 2.

IV. UNHEALTHY AREAS:—

There are no unhealthy areas in the district.

V. BY-LAWS:—

Building by-laws are in force for the whole district. There are no by-laws relating to houses let in lodgings, and none to tents, vans, sheds, &c. By-laws for the latter are required.

VI. GENERAL:—

The Housing Committee of the Council formed for the purposes of the Act, made a survey of the district and confirmed the report of the Housing Inspector, as to the conditions prevailing, and the need for new houses and the improvement of others. Sites have been selected and steps taken to secure land for the provision of new houses.

VII. APPENDICES:—

See Tables C and D.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

| | Males. | Females. |
|---|--------|----------|
| All Causes (Civilians only) ... | 39 | 49 |
| Influenza ... | 8 | 6 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... | — | 1 |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases ... | 1 | — |
| Cancer, malignant disease ... | 7 | 4 |
| Rheumatic Fever ... | — | 1 |
| Organic Heart Disease ... | 3 | 9 |
| Bronchitis ... | 4 | — |
| Pneumonia (all forms) ... | 1 | — |
| Other Respiratory Diseases... | — | 1 |
| Appendicitis and Typhlitis .. | — | 2 |
| Nephritis and Bright's Disease ... | 1 | 1 |
| Congenital Debility, &c. ... | 1 | 3 |
| Other defined diseases ... | 13 | 21 |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age ... | 2 | 8 |

| | Males. | Females. |
|------------------|--------|----------|
| Total Births ... | 57 | 53 |
| Legitimate ... | 52 | 48 |
| Illegitimate ... | 5 | 5 |

Population for Birth-rate 7,836

Population for Death-rate 7,042

TABLE C.—1919.

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

Sanitary Inspector } WILLIAM LUPTON.
Building Inspector }

WATER SUPPLY—

Any developments during 1919? No.

Any insufficiency, and where? Hampsthwaite, Scotton, Brearton, Flaxby.

Any action in regard to unsatisfactory quality, and where? Inspection of Scotton Wells.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Any developments during 1919? No.

Developments still needed as to (a) Want of sewers—South Stanley, Flaxby, Ferrensby, Burton Leonard, Hampsthwaite, Scotton; (b) Improvement of defective sewers—Brearton, Felliscliffe, Scriven.

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

Are there any sink wastes still needing disconnection? No.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

No. of Privies with open middens? 303.

No. of Pail or Tub Closets? 58.

No. of Privies with covered middens? 1,072.

No. of Water Closets? 735.

Waste-water Closets? None.

No. of Privies reconstructed during 1919—(a) as w.c.'s, 3; (b) other, none.

No. of *additional* Closets provided for old property in 1911—(a) w.c.'s, none; (b) other, none.

No. of Closets constructed in 1919 for new houses (a) w.c.'s, 1; other, none.

SCAVENGING—

Any change during 1919? No.

How is refuse disposed of? Tips—Disused quarry.

Total annual cost, £200.

Is there any inadequacy, and where? Killinghall, Knaresborough Outer, Burton Leonard.

NUISANCE INSPECTIONS—

Total No. of Inspections made in 1919? 333.

Informal Notices served, 70; complied with, 65.

Statutory Notices served, 2; complied with, 2.

Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1918, 116; at close of 1919, 89.

Total No. of Nuisances reported during 1919, 79; abated during 1919, 106.

Total No. of Summonses or other legal proceedings, 1.

REGULATED BUILDINGS, TRADES, &c.—

Knackers Yards, 1; No. on Register, 1; Total No. of Inspections made, 5; General Conditions, Satisfactory; Legal Proceedings (if any), None.

Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades, *e.g.*, Fish-frying, Maggot-breeding, &c.? Please give particulars. No.

SCHOOLS—*Statutory Medical Inspection is carried out by the County Education Authority in most of the Districts, but that does not relieve the M.O.H. of his duties in regard to sanitation and the prevention of infectious outbreaks in connection with Schools.*

No. of Visits to Schools? 16.

Action taken? School closure principal action.

MILK SUPPLY—

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for analysis under F. & D. Acts, 2; No. adulterated, 1.

No. of samples taken for bacteriological examination, None.

What arrangement for Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows? None.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1919? No.

No. of Cowkeepers in district, 88; No. Registered, 85.

No. of Milk Sellers who are also Cowkeepers, 88 ; No. who are Purveyors only, None ; Total No. Registered, 85.

Total No. of Cowsheds, 95 ; No. of Inspections in 1919, 69 ; General Condition, Fair.

Approx. No. of Milch Cows in district, 850 ; 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.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919. Any action? No.

OTHER FOODS—

No. of samples (other than Milk) taken by Officer of S.A. for examination under the Foods and Drugs Act, None.

No. of seizures of unsound food, 2 ; Kind and quantity, carcasses, Tubercular beasts ; No. of prosecutions, None.

No. of Slaughter houses, 13 ; No. Registered, 13 ; Kind and Condition, Private ; Fair.

No. of Prosecutions (a) Food and Drugs, None ; (b) Unsound Food, None ; (c) *re* Slaughter Houses, None.

No. of Bakehouses, 1 ; Is there a Public Abattoir ? No.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS—

Any smoke nuisance, and where? No.

No. of Smoke observations taken, None ; No. of Cautions, None ; Legal Notices, None ; Summonses, None.

ADOPTIVE ACTS—

Acts adopted during 1919—(*Please state parts or sections*), None.

Any Urban Powers obtained in 1919? No.

BY-LAWS AND REGULATIONS—

Any adopted or revised during 1919—(*Please attach copies*), No.

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES—

What diseases have been specially prevalent in 1919? Influenza.

Any diseases specially added to notifiable list? No.

Any influences threatening the health of the district? No.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Procedure after notification:—

Inspection of patient's home and workshop, Yes.

Examination for contacts, No.

Disinfection, Yes.

Distribution of advice leaflets, No.

Action *re* spitting, None.

Shelters provided, by C.C.

Is sputum examined? Yes.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries.—Any suggestions? No.

BACTERIOLOGY.—

Is County Laboratory utilized? Yes. Any suggestions? No.

INFANT MORTALITY.—

What organised effort to control it? None during 1919.

Any Voluntary Centres for Child or Mother Welfare? No.

Causes of any excessive Infant Mortality in 1919, None.

VITAL STATISTICS.—

Births during 1919—Males, 57; Females, 53; Total, 110.

No. of illegitimates included in above, 10.

Deaths during 1919—(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, 39; Females, 49; Total, 88.

No. of uncertified deaths (included above), None.

MORTUARIES.—

What Mortuary accommodation—(a) for accidents, None; (b) for infectious cases other than at Hospital, None.

SANITARY STAFF.

What is the present Annual Salary of the M.O.H.? £130.

Name of Sanitary Inspector, William Lupton; Annual Salary as Inspector, £180; Other appointments held, Surveyor; Salary for such other appointments, £135.

Any Assistants? Assistant Surveyor.

Is Staff sufficient? Yes.

TABLE D.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING WORK DURING 1919.

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1918.—

Houses not reasonably fit for human habitation. (Section 15) 1909, or (Section 28) 1919.—100.

Houses totally unfit for human habitation. (Section 17) 1909.—82.

Houses with minor defects (Public Health Acts).—90.

*General Inspection.—No special.**Action under (Section 15) 1909 or (Section 28) 1919.—*

Houses found not reasonably fit for human habitation.—2.

Houses for which notices were given to execute works.—2.

Action under P.H. Acts in cases of houses with minor defects not remediable under (Section 28) 1919.—

Houses found with defects.—2.

*Action under (Section 17) 1909.—None.**Appeals.—None.**Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1919.—*

Houses not reasonably fit for human habitation. (Section 15) 1909 (Section 28) 1919.—122.

Houses with minor defects (Public Health Acts).—120.

Houses totally unfit for human habitation. (Section 17) 1909.—105.

OTHER ACTION IN REGARD TO HOUSING.

Total number of Houses in District.—2021.

Number of Working-class Houses.—1203.

General standard compared with that of the Ministry of Health in Manual Vol. I., 1909.—Generally much under standard, except in Pannal, Knaresborough Outer, and parts of Killinghall.

Obstructive Buildings.—

Any building represented by M.O.H. under Sec. 38 (1) of 1890 Act?—No.

Any building represented by Inhabitant Householders under Sec. 38 (2) of 1890 Act?—No.

Unhealthy Areas.—

Any representations under part I. or II. of the 1890 Act? If so give particulars—No.

Re-construction Schemes.—

Have L.A. directed any to be prepared under Sec. 39 of 1890 Act?—No.

Unfit Houses.—

Any complaints by Inhabitant Householders under Sec. 31 of 1890 Act?—No.

Any complaints by Parish Council under Sec. 6 (2) of the Local Government Act, 1894?—No.

Any action by Public Utility Societies?—No.

Any action under Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899?—No.

Any scarcity of houses, if so, where?—General throughout district. See body of report.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses, and where?—Two families living together in one house owing to house shortage.

No. of cases of overcrowding dealt with during 1919?—None.

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

Number of new Houses built during 1919 by private enterprise.
(a) Working-class dwellings—1. (b) Other—None.

STATE-AIDED HOUSING SCHEMES.

Has Scheme been submitted as required by Section 1 of 1919 Act?—Yes. Estimated need for 170 houses. Scheme for 44 houses.

Sites—No., 9; Acreage, 10½.

Lay-outs, House Plans, and Tenders—None.

Any regulations made in respect of underground sleeping rooms under (Sec. 17, 7) 1909 Act?—No. Any action thereunder?—No.

TOWN PLANNING.

Any scheme prepared during 1919? If so, give details—No.

Any scheme contemplated? If so, for what area?—No.

Name and Address of Officer designated to make inspections under Article II. of Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910?—William Lupton, 11, Bower Road, Harrogate.

W. J. FORBES,

May 20th, 1920.

Medical Officer of Health.