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KNARESBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



MEDICAL OFFICER'S
ANNUAL REPORT,

FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1904

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

1905.



KNARESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT,

For the Year ending December 31st, 1904.

KNARESBOROUGH,

February 26th, 1905.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have now the honour to lay before you a report, including that of your Inspector of Nuisances, for the year 1904.

VITAL STATISTICS.

During the year 1904, the total number of deaths registered in your district was 124, giving a death rate per 1,000 of the population per annum of 23·3.

Of these 124 deaths however, 22 occurred in the Workhouse, which leaves 102 for your district proper, with a death rate of 19·2.

Your district has during the year been increased by the incorporation of part of Scriven.

BIRTHS.

The births registered are in numbers exactly the same as last year, but the birth rate, owing to increased area of population, is slightly smaller.

165 births were registered, 80 male and 85 female, giving a birth rate per 1000 of the population per annum of 31.11.

The following table compares the Deaths and Death Rates for three consecutive years:—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 per annum.
1902.....	97.....	19.4
1903.....	88.....	17.6
1904.....	102.....	19.2

The following tables show the deaths due to preventable causes, comparing them with the two previous years:—

TABLE I.

Deaths due to preventable causes:—

	1902.	1903.	1904.
Small-pox	0 ...	0 ...	0
Scarlet Fever	0 ...	0 ...	0
Diphtheria	1 ...	0 ...	0
Membranous Croup }	0 ...	0 ...	0
Measles	8 ...	5 ...	0
Whooping Cough	0 ...	0 ...	1
Enteric Fever.....	1 ...	1 ...	2
Typhus Fever.....	0 ...	0 ...	0
Diarrhœa	0 ...	3 ...	0
Enteritis	6 ...	1 ...	4
Phthisis, and	0 ...	7 ..	11
Other Tubercular diseases }	12 ...	4 ...	4
Erysipelas	0 ...	0 ...	0
Influenza	5 ...	3 ...	9
Puerperal Fever.....	1 ...	0 ...	3

The total number of deaths from preventable causes being 34.

Phthisis and other tubercular diseases account for 13 deaths. Influenza, which was somewhat prevalent in the latter months of the year, for 9.

Although the summer was a dry one, there was much less diarrhœa than in some previous years, and no death was ascribed to this cause.

Four deaths are ascribed to Enteritis, all of them under one year of age, and no doubt improper feeding, inattention, and want of cleanliness in the storage of milk and foods in the houses, were the causes of the disease in these cases.

Only one case of Small-pox occurred in the town during the year, although the disease was so prevalent all around us, and in spite of the fact that so many tramps pass through the town.

In the case referred to, the man worked at Starbeck, and was in contact with a fellow workman, members of whose family had the disease. The patient was promptly removed to the Isolation Hospital, where he made a good recovery. All the other members of the household where he lived were re-vaccinated, as well as relatives not resident in the house, with the gratifying result that no other cases occurred.

There were a few sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever, 12 in all, throughout the year, but it never became epidemic, nor necessitated the closing of the schools. In some of the cases importation from other towns was clearly proved.

Measles was practically unknown in the town throughout 1904, and the schools had not to be closed for any epidemic.

TABLE II.

Infectious diseases notified :—

Small-pox	1
Diphtheria	2
Scarlet Fever	12
Enteric Fever.....	6
Puerperal Fever	2
Erysipilas	5
	<hr/>
	28
	<hr/>

TABLE III.

Deaths from non-preventable causes:—

	1902.		1903.		1904.
Pneumonia and Bronchitis ...	5	...	4	...	4
Heart Disease	12	...	7	...	12
Cancer.....	6	..	10	...	11
Alcoholism and Cirrhosis of Liver.....	5	...	2	...	1
Convulsions	0	...	0	...	0
Senile Decay	6	...	0	...	5
Premature Birth ..	0	...	8	...	5
Injuries and Accidents	2	...	0	...	3
Suicides	0	...	1	...	0

TABLE IV.

The ages at which death occurred:—

Deaths under 1 year of age.....	29
„ at 1 year and under 5.....	6
„ „ 5 years „ 15.....	2
„ „ 15 „ „ 25.....	6
„ „ 25 „ „ 65.....	30
„ „ 65 and upwards	29

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The deaths among infants under 1 year of age is still too large for a country town practically devoid of mills. But some of the young mothers work in the linen mill, and others at the steam laundry. Their babies have then to be put out to nurse during the day, and have to be bottle-fed, depriving them of the natural sterilized food which nature intended for them. Further, “bread pobs” is still a favourite food with many of the mothers, alone or in addition to the breast, and no doubt accounts for some of the mortality among children under one year of age. Carelessness in the cleansing of jugs, &c., intended for the reception of such articles of diet as milk, and general want of cleanliness in many of the houses, produces in the infants that

state of physical feebleness which renders them easy victims to any disease they may contract.

The total number of deaths under one year of age, viz., 29, is equivalent to a rate of 171 per 1000 births registered.

PART II.

SANITARY WORK ACCOMPLISHED.

DISTRICT INSPECTION.

In this department the report for the whole year is not available, as there is no record of the work done in the earlier months by your late inspector, Mr. Walker. Therefore the present report deals with the last seven months only.

CHANGE OF STAFF.

Upon the departure of Mr. Walker your district was for two months without an Inspector, consequently, during this period, and for some time after the arrival of the present Inspector, owing to arrears of other work, practically nothing was done.

The various duties of the Sanitary Inspector were taken over on June 1st by Mr. F. Cartlidge, who had a month before been appointed Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances. Mr. Cartlidge who is an Associate of the "Institute of Sanitary Engineers" and a member of the Royal Sanitary Institute, came to us from the sanitary department of the Leeds Corporation, where for two and a half years he had been engaged in various capacities under Dr. J. S. Cameron, Medical Officer of Health. He had also previously acquired considerable experience in matters pertaining to the duties of a Surveyor and Inspector, and this, with his Leeds training, may be a guarantee that he will prove to be an energetic and reliable Inspector.

HOUSE INSPECTION.

During the last seven months of the year 114 houses were inspected. These visits were made either on account of infectious disease, complaints being made, or in the general inspection of the district. Various defects were found as specified in the table appended. These have been dealt with by notice, or by personal interviews with the owners or occupiers, and in this way much work has been got through without having to report the matter to the Committee, except to notify them that a certain number of nuisances had been abated during the month.

You will see that to inspect works in progress 101 visits have been paid. These often take up a good deal of time, owners have to be met, contractors seen, and work arranged. As the work proceeds it is many times necessary, to facilitate matters, that certain portions of the work should be inspected and "passed" daily, thus necessitating daily visits.

There has, however, not been experienced any special difficulty in getting work done; as a rule, the necessity and benefit to be derived from doing the work has been pointed out, and shortly afterwards such work has been put in hand.

It has not been necessary to prosecute in any case where nuisances were found to exist.

In many of the houses inspected the drains and sanitary fittings were tested and found to be defective, others were damp and dilapidated, yards required paving, and improved sanitary conveniences were wanted to replace the existing offensive, and in many cases dangerous privy middens.

Of these latter there are still a large number in the district, and every opportunity should be taken to have them superseded by the more sanitary water closet, and a galvanized iron bin for ashes.

During the year complaints have been received with regard to certain privies, as to their insanitary condition, and in most of these cases water closets were substituted; in all 23 privies

were converted to w.c.'s, while 11 new additional w.c.'s were provided.

In place of the old middens galvanized iron ash bins to the number of 49 were provided, which being of comparative small capacity, and convenient to handle, greatly facilitate the removal of house refuse, as their size and weight is such, that their contents may be tipped direct into the collecting cart with practically no nuisance when reasonable care is exercised. The rule is to empty all bins at least once a week, and in many cases, especially during the winter months, twice a week.

The advantages of this system of scavenging, as compared with that necessary with large fixed middens or ash-pits, are obvious, the latter at each cleansing creating a nuisance of no little importance, by remaining in the street often a very considerable time before it can be removed, and also during the interval, portions of it blowing (in windy weather) about the street, not to mention its unsightly appearance.

It will be seen that during the year something like 1,650 tons of refuse of various kinds were removed. Of this, about one half was dry refuse, and the difficulty of disposing of this to farmers is daily increasing; consequently large quantities are deposited at the Council's tip, from which paper and other light material is frequently blown into the adjoining main road and hedges.

Many complaints as to this have been received. Your own men have several times been sent to clear up the road, and on one occasion horses took fright which might have resulted in a serious accident.

This, of course, might occur again at any time, and the advisability of providing a more effectual method of destroying this waste material is worthy of your most careful consideration, bearing in mind that the old privy middens are slowly, but surely, giving way to the more sanitary w.c. and ash bin, with a natural increase of dry refuse, quite apart from the greater area from which such refuse has now to be removed.

Another matter of importance that might receive your attention is the necessity for sheeting up the carts engaged in the scavenging department, especially in windy weather.

These are matters that would greatly improve the town and add to its status as a health resort.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The whole of these have been visited from time to time but none of them can be considered to be in a perfect sanitary condition. The means of access, drainage, lighting, and general surroundings, leave much to be desired, and they originally were never intended to be used as Slaughter Houses. Some are undoubtedly beyond repair and ought to be closed; none are either licensed or registered as required by Act of Parliament.

The general advantages of a Public Slaughter House in some convenient part of the town are inestimable, not only in facilitating inspection, but ensuring that the preparation of food for human consumption would be done under cleanly and sanitary conditions.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

These have been inspected from time to time and were found to be in a fairly clean and sanitary condition.

A number of other houses appear to be used surreptitiously as common lodging-houses and are visited from time to time during the night to ascertain their condition. In one case proceedings were taken and the occupier convicted of keeping an unregistered common lodging-house.

By strict supervision, and the reduction of such houses, we shall, to some extent, prevent the invasion of our town by many of the vagrant class, who are in themselves a source of nuisance and very often the cause of the spread of infectious disease.

WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

These have been systematically inspected and have been found to be almost without exception in a cleanly condition, and defects, so far as were notified, have been remedied without delay.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

The requirements of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders of 1885, 1886, and 1889, do not appear to have been fully carried out, as many of these places are not on the register. They have however been from time to time inspected, and no serious defects were found although in several places there is room for improvement.

It is intended early in the new year to give notice in the Council's district of the requirements of the Order of 1885, Article 6—That all dealers must be registered.

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, AND SIMILAR STRUCTURES.

On the town been visited at the different "Hirings and Fairs," these have been regularly inspected and the necessary conveniences provided for the use of the occupants. No infectious disease has been noted therein, and the general conditions have been all that could be desired.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Under this head the work has been somewhat light, requiring only 20 visits and the disinfection of 24 rooms in eight houses where the illnesses had occurred.

CATTLE MARKET.

Still another year has gone by without the accomplishment of the scheme for a Cattle Market and the removal of the cattle out of the High Street at the fortnightly fairs.

Their presence in the High Street constitutes a nuisance, and a costly one to the ratepayers, owing to the constant repairs to the street necessitated and also the swilling and purifying the street after them.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

IAN D. MACKAY, B.A., M.B., C.M.,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of the Whole District during 1904 and Previous Years.
KNARESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate per 1,000.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.			Number.	Rate per 1,000.
				Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number	Rate per 1,000.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1894.	4540	132	27.07	19	144	106	23.1	15		
1895.	4507	150	32.2	36	233	121	26.02	31		
1896.	4475	147	31.5	16	109	94	21.0	11		
1897.	4442	150	32.2	23	153	117	25.1	17		
1898.	4410	153	34.7	33	229	151	29.0	24	124	27.31
1899.	4700	166	35.3	33	201	132	28.08	27	105	22.3
1900.	4979	177	37.6	36	203	133	29.29	24	109	23.1
1901.	5000	138	27.6	31	217	143	28.6	28	115	23.0
1902.	5000	144	28.8	18	125	124	24.8	27	97	19.4
1903.	5000	165	33.0	29	175	114	22.8	26	88	17.6
Averages for years 1894-1903.	4505	152	32.1	27.4	178	123	25.7	24	104	22.0
1904.	5300	165	31.11	29	171	124	23.3	22	102	19.2

Inspector's Report for the seven months ending December,
1904 :—

Houses and Premises examined	...	...	...	114
Drainage and Sanitary Fittings tested	...	...	...	30

Sanitary Defects found, viz.:—

Defective Drainage	...	...	...	...	55
Damp and Dilapidated	...	...	...	...	8
Overcrowded	...	...	...	...	3
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	5
Defective Privies and W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	48
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...	23
Visits paid to inspect work in progress	...	...	...	...	101

Visits of Inspection paid to—

Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	8
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	13
Workshops and Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	6
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	3
Total Nuisances found	...	...	...	...	157

Other visits paid to Houses on account of—

Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	20
Nuisances found	...	...	...	...	65
Other causes	...	...	...	...	2
Total	...	...	...	...	87

Preliminary Notices and Letters sent, or Owners seen	...	...	...	...	110
Statutory Notices sent	...	...	...	...	10
Rooms Disinfected	...	...	...	...	24
In Houses	...	...	...	...	8

New Drains provided	...	...	...	...	13
Drains Cleaned, Repaired, or Ventilated	...	...	...	...	23
Privies converted into W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	23
Insanitary W.C.'s removed	...	...	...	...	3
New W.C.'s provided	11
New Ashbins	49
Other Nuisances removed	18
Total Nuisances abated	140
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Middens and Ashpits emptied	399
Number of Loads	659
Dry Ashpits and Ashbins					
Number of Loads	...	...	...	...	480
From June 1st to May 31st, 1904	...	...	...	...	695
					<hr/>
					*1834
					<hr/>

* Equals 1650 Tons.





