

**[Report 1905] / Medical Officer of Health, Knaresborough U.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Knaresborough (England). Urban District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1905

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/pged6kbm>

**License and attribution**

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

KNARESBOROUGH  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



MEDICAL OFFICER'S  
ANNUAL REPORT,

FOR THE  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1905.

Knaresborough:  
GEORGE D WOOD, PRINTER, FINKLE STREET.

1906.







KNARESBOROUGH  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.  

---

MEDICAL OFFICER'S  
ANNUAL REPORT

*For the Year ending December 31st, 1905.*

---

KNARESBOROUGH,

*March 10th, 1906.*

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith lay before you a Report upon your district for the year 1905, including that of your Sanitary Inspector.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The total number of deaths recorded during 1905 in your district is 97, giving a death rate of 18·2.

Of these 15 occurred in the Workhouse, and eliminating these, leaves 82 for your district proper, giving a death rate per 1000 of the population per annum of 15·4. This is the lowest death rate in your district for many years past, as shown by the table at the end of this Report, which compares the past ten years.

The following Table compares the deaths and death rates for 3 consecutive years :—

	Deaths.	Death Rate.
1903.....	88 .....	17·6
1904.....	102 .....	19·2
1905.....	82 .....	15·4

### BIRTHS.

161 births were registered in 1905, giving a birth rate of 30·3. Of these 88 were male and 73 female.

Returning to the deaths, the following Table shows the deaths due to preventable disease, comparing 1905 with the two previous years.

TABLE I.

Deaths due to preventable causes ;—

	1903.	1904.	1905.
Small-pox .....	0 ...	0 ...	0
Scarlet Fever.....	0 ...	0 ...	0
Diphtheria .....	0 ...	0 ...	0
Membranous Croup ...	0 ...	0 ...	0
Measles .....	5 ...	0 ...	0
Whooping Cough.....	0 ...	1 ...	3
Enteric Fever .....	1 ...	2 ...	0
Typhus Fever .....	0 ...	0 ...	0
Diarrhœa .....	3 ...	0 ...	1
Enteritis.....	1 ...	4 ...	3
Phthisis .....	7 ...	11 ...	5
Other Tuberculous Diseases.....	4 ...	4 ...	5
Erysipelas .....	0 ...	0 ...	1
Influenza .....	3 ...	9 ..	5
Puerperal Fever .....	0 ...	3 ...	0



The total number of deaths from preventable causes was 20, as against 34 last year.

Tuberculous disease and Influenza accounted for 15 out of the 20.

The year 1905 was remarkably free from infectious disease, as shown by the fact that from March 25th to November 19th, only 3 cases were notified.

TABLE II.

Infectious Diseases notified :—

Diphtheria .....	3
Scarlet Fever.....	15
Enteric Fever .....	1
Erysipelas .....	2
	<hr/>
	21
	<hr/>

The outbreak of Scarlet Fever occurred at the end of the year, and as the spread was threatening to be rapid, and I found that there were many mild cases, the nature of which was not suspected by the parents, thus leading them to allow other members of the family to attend school, I advised you to close the schools on the 18th December for the few days that remained before the Christmas holidays. The result was satisfactory for no new cases were notified after the closing of the schools, which re-opened after the usual holiday.

TABLE III.

Deaths from non-preventable causes :—

	1903.		1904.		1905.
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	4	...	4	...	6
Heart Disease .....	7	...	12	...	13
Cancer .....	10	...	11	...	7

	1903.	1904.	1905.
Alcoholism and Cirrhosis } of Liver .....	2 ...	1 ...	3
Convulsions .....	0 ...	0 ...	3
Senile Decay.....	0 ...	5 ...	3
Premature Birth .....	8 ...	5 ...	2
Injuries and Accidents.....	0 ...	3 ...	0
Suicides .....	1 ...	0 ...	2

TABLE IV.

The ages at which death occurred :—

Deaths under 1 year of age .....	20
„ at 1 year and under 5 .....	7
„ at 5 years „ 15 .....	5
„ at 15 „ „ 25 .....	3
„ at 25 „ „ 65 .....	18
„ at 65 „ and upwards .....	29
	<hr/>
	82
	<hr/>

The total number of deaths under 1 year of age, viz., 20, is equivalent to a rate of 126 per 1,000 births registered.





PART II.

---

SANITARY WORK ACCOMPLISHED.

---

## DISTRICT INSPECTION.

This work has been continued much on the lines recorded in my last year's Report. Attention to complaints received, visits to houses where illness has been reported, and the inspection of these premises, with occasionally a systematic inspection of a small portion of the district, have amply filled up the time that your inspector has at his disposal for these duties.

In the table appended it will be seen that from causes above mentioned, in 116 of the houses and premises that have been inspected, sanitary defects of various kinds, to the number of 202 were found. Of this number about one-third were due to defective drainage. In some no means of drainage whatever existed, the occupiers using the nearest street gully or even the channel of the street itself as a receptacle for their waste liquids.

Of defective sanitary accommodation, mostly privies, 66 were dealt with, 3 cases of overcrowding, 6 of offensive accumulations (chiefly stable refuse), and 56 "Other Nuisances." This term includes such defects as—Want of eavespouts or fall pipes, Yards requiring paving, Houses to cleanse and limewash, Keeping fowls in houses, Want of ashbins, and Stopped drains, &c.



To obtain the removal of these "Nuisances found," required the sending of 172 letters and notices, in addition to interviews with owners not recorded.

As a result no less than 341 nuisances of various kinds have been removed during the year, consisting of:—93 connected with drainage, 106 to sanitary conveniences, 89 new ashbins provided, either in place of worn-out ones, or where none had before been provided; and 53 "Other nuisances." These latter, as before explained, were of a miscellaneous character, and many of minor importance.

The difference between the number of nuisances recorded as found and those abated, is due partly to some 20 outstanding at the end of last year, and to many defects not discovered on first inspection when the notices were sent out, being subsequently found whilst the work required was in progress, and which were abated without any further notice to the owner, consequently they are not brought into the foregoing total of nuisances found.

The work caused by the improvements here recorded also required some supervision, and under that head we have "Visits to inspect works in progress," 311; or on an average one for each working day of the year.

It is also necessary from time to time to visit premises where nuisances have been found, in order to ascertain whether anything has been done, before finally bringing the matter before you in committee. In this way you will see that 113 visits have been made.

Infectious disease has again, fortunately, been light, only requiring 28 visits and the disinfecting of 9 rooms in 7 houses.

#### COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The common lodging houses, four in number, have been



periodically inspected; they are kept in a clean and orderly condition and require no special comment,

### SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The slaughter houses have received 41 visits of inspection. In connection with these there is nothing new to report. The condition of some is well known to you, and I can only repeat what I have before said, "that their means of access, drainage, lighting, and general surroundings leave much to be desired."

### WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

During the year four bakehouses and one workshop have been placed on the register, the latter only being a new business, the former having been in existence some years, but not having previously been on the register.

### COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

In the early part of the year the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order of 1885 was enforced. This requires the registration of all dealers. There are now 17 dealers on the register, and their premises have been from time to time inspected. Several sanitary defects were noted, but these have been removed, and various improvements in and about them have been effected.

### SCAVENGING.

The getting out and removal of nightsoil and house refuse was in April last let in one contract, and so far this has proved itself to be an improvement upon the former state of things. No complaints have been made as to the night soil lying in the streets until nearly noon as formerly, but the emptying of bins is somewhat irregularly done at times, causing complaints to come in from householders who thus find themselves inconvenienced. On the whole the change has been one for the better up to the present, though the



ideal is far from having been reached. The quantity reported as removed is 566 loads of night soil, and 1311 loads of dry house and shop refuse, a total of 1877 loads, compared with 1139 for the preceding year. This increase is due partly to the inclusion of the newly added area, of which we had no record prior to April 1st, 1905, and partly by the provision of nearly one hundred water closets in place of privies, whose contents formerly removed by team labour, are now conveyed by the less expensive system of water carriage to the sewerage disposal works.

### PROSECUTIONS.

Two prosecutions were instituted during the year. The first was a case of diseased meat prepared for food. It was seized by your inspector in a local slaughter-house, and after examination by myself and a Justice, was ordered to be destroyed. Proceedings were taken under the Public Health Act, but the evidence of the prosecution was considered insufficient to convict and the Justices dismissed the case.

The second, a case against an owner of property, is at present *sub judice*, but likely to be settled at an early date. This case was the result of complicated ownership of the property in question more than an unwillingness to comply with the Council's notice.

### CATTLE MARKET.

The Cattle Market being now within reasonable distance of completion, the nuisance in the streets to which I have drawn your attention in previous reports, is soon likely to be a thing of the past.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

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

*Medical Officer of Health.*

TABLE V.  
Vital Statistics of the whole District during 1905 and Previous Years.  
KNARESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population is estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Net Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		No.	Rate per 1000.	Under 1 year.		At all Ages.			No.	Rate.
				No.	Rate per 1000 Births regis- tered.	No.	Rate per 1000.			
1.		3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
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	27.3
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
1904	5300	165	31.11	29	171	124	23.3	22	102	19.2
* Aver- ages for years 1895- 1904.	4781	156	32.4	28.4	180	125	23.7			
1905	5300	161	30.3	20	124	97	18.2	15	82	15.4



TABLE VI.

Houses and Premises examined	...	...	..	116
Drainage and Sanitary Fittings tested	...	...		60
Sanitary Defects found, viz.:—				
Defective Drainage	...	...	...	71
Overcrowded	...	...	...	3
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	6
Defective Privies and w.c.'s	...	...		66
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	56
Total	...	...	...	202
<hr/>				
Visits paid to inspect work in progress	...	...		311
<hr/>				
Visits of Inspection paid to—				
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	41
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	14
Workshops and Bakehouses	...	...		31
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	22
Other visits paid to Houses on account of—				
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	28
Nuisances found	...	...	...	113
Other Causes	...	...	...	15
Total	...	...	...	156
<hr/>				

Preliminary Notices and Letters sent	...	...	150
Statutory Notices sent...	...	...	22
Rooms Disinfected...	...	...	9
In Houses	...	...	7
<hr/>			
New Drains provided	...	...	60
Drains Cleaned, Repaired, or Ventilated	...	...	33
Privies converted into w.c.'s	...	...	52
Insanitary w.c.'s removed	...	...	20
New w.c.'s provided	...	...	34
New Ashbins	...	...	89
Other Nuisances removed...	...	...	53
<hr/>			
Total Nuisances abated	...	...	341
<hr/>			
Wet Ashpits emptied	...	...	260
Number of Loads	...	...	560
Dry Ashpits and Bins			
Number of Loads	...	...	1311
<hr/>			
Total	...	...	* 1871
<hr/>			

\* Equals 1684 Tons.





