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Contributors

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KNARESBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



MEDICAL OFFICER'S
ANNUAL REPORT,

FOR THE
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1906.

Knaresborough:
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—
1907.



KNARESBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S
ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ending December 31st, 1906.

KNARESBOROUGH,

March 25th. 1907.

GENTLEMEN,

I now lay before you my Report for the year 1906, dividing the same into two parts, viz., (I.) that concerned with vital statistics, and (II.) that concerned with Sanitary work, and in which is included the Inspector's Report on work done.

VITAL STATISTICS.

During the year 1906, the total number of deaths recorded in your district, including the Workhouse, was 116, giving a death rate per 1000 of the population per annum of 21·4, but eliminating those deaths in the Workhouse of people not belonging to Knaresborough, reduces the total number of deaths to 83, giving a death rate of 15·3. This is practically the same as that of last year (15·4), which was, as I remarked in last year's Report, the lowest death rate for 10 years.

The following Table compares the deaths and death rates for three consecutive years.

	Deaths.	Death Rate.
1904	102	19·2
1905	82	15·4
1906	83	15·3

The following Table shows the deaths due to preventable diseases, comparing 1906 with the two previous years.

TABLE 1.

Deaths due to preventable causes:—

	1904.	1905.	1906.
Small-pox	0 ...	0 ...	0
Scarlet Fever.....	0 ...	0 ...	0
Diphtheria	0 ...	0 ...	0
Membranous Croup ...	0 ...	0 ...	0
Measles	0 ...	0 ...	0
Whooping Cough.....	1 ...	3 ...	0
Enteric Fever	2 ...	0 ...	1
Typhus Fever	0 ...	0 ...	0
Diarrhœa	0 ...	1 ...	1
Enteritis.....	4 ...	3 ...	1
Phthisis	11 ...	5 ...	5
Other Tuberculous Diseases.....	4 ...	5 ...	4
Erysipelas	0 ...	1 ...	1
Influenza	9 ...	5 ...	0
Puerperal Fever	3 ...	0 ...	1

From this we see that the total number of deaths from preventable diseases was 14, as against 20 last year, and 34 the year before. The death rate from these causes works out at 2·5 per 1000 of the population.

TABLE II.

Deaths from non-preventable causes :—

	1904.	1905.	1906.
Pneumonia and Bronchitis...	4 ...	6 ...	8
Heart Disease	12 ...	13 ...	10
Cancer	11 ...	7 ...	6
Alcoholism and Cirrhosis of			
Liver	1 ...	3 ...	4
Convulsions	0 ...	3 ...	0
Senile Decay	5 ...	3 ...	8
Premature Birth	5 ...	2 ...	3
Injuries and Accidents.....	3 ...	0 ...	4
Suicides	0 ...	2 ...	0

TABLE III.

The ages at which death occurred :—

Deaths under 1 year of age	9
„ at 1 year and under 5	6
„ at 5 years „ 15	3
„ at 15 „ 25	2
„ at 25 „ 65	28
„ at 65 „ and upwards	35
	<hr/> 83 <hr/>

It is very satisfactory to note that there has, this year, been a great diminution in the deaths under one year of age, only 9 being registered, giving a rate per 1000 births of 57, as against 20 last year, giving a rate of 124. This is a very great decrease, the nearest to it being in 1906, when 16 deaths under 1 year, with a rate of 109, were recorded.

BIRTHS.

The births of 177 children were registered in 1906, giving a birth rate of 32·7. 77 were male and 100 female.

In the year 1905, 161 births were registered: 88 male, 73 female, giving a birth rate of 30·3.

TABLE IV.

Infectious Diseases notified during 1906 :

Diphtheria	14
Scarlet Fever	35
Enteric Fever	3
Erysipelas	2
	<hr/>
	54
	<hr/>

Although a considerable number of cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria were notified during the year, in neither case, did it ever amount to an epidemic. The cases were scattered over the whole year. Many of the cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in the same family. Almost all the Scarlet Fever cases were promptly removed to the Isolation Hospital. It never became necessary to close the schools throughout the year.



PART II.

SANITARY WORK ACCOMPLISHED.

The work done in the Inspector's department again shows steady progress, although the total number of nuisances abated is less than in the preceding year. This is due to a larger portion of the Inspector's time having been occupied in carrying out work, and preparing new schemes for the Council in his capacity as Surveyor ; and also to the smaller number of sanitary defects requiring to be dealt with.

A portion of the district was thoroughly inspected from house to house during the summer, and here a number of defects were found, which at the present time have all been removed, necessitating the complete re-drainage of several properties and the abolition of some very unsanitary privy middens.

As will be seen from the annexed Table (No. VI.) altogether one hundred houses and premises have been inspected, some on account of complaints received, others through the occurrence of infectious disease, and also the house-to-house inspection before mentioned. On these premises 165 nuisances were found, of which nearly half were due to defective drainage, one fourth to insanitary privies, and the remainder to other causes. There are still some 150 of these privy middens left in the town, which at the present rate of conversion ought in another three years or so to be a thing of the past, as probably they will be.

Altogether, 149 nuisances have been abated, leaving only 16 outstanding at the end of the year, and of these, with the exception of two, the work is either promised or is already in progress.

Work done to abate these nuisances includes the provision of 42 new drains, of 54 water closets to supersede privies, or to increase the accommodation where found to be insufficient, and the balance is made up of such things as—Repairs to eavespouts and roofs—Paving back yards—Cleansing and limewashing—and the removal of offensive accumulations.

In carrying out this work 141 preliminary notices or letters were sent or the owners interviewed, 19 cases were reported to the Sanitary Committee, who directed that statutory notices should be sent in seven instances; and 279 visits of inspection to works in progress were made during the year.

Altogether, from one cause or another, no less than 672 visits have been made by the Inspector, and many myself of which no record has been kept.

The removal of the Cattle Market from the streets to a properly equipped market, with impervious floor and abundant air space, is a matter for congratulation from a hygienic standpoint, and removed from the town an obvious though perhaps not very dangerous nuisance.

DISINFECTION.

Infectious disease has been the cause of 73 visits—55 rooms were disinfected in 24 houses. This work is now carried out with thoroughness and dispatch, including disinfection of bedding and clothing, sent to the Hospital as soon as possible after the removal or recovery of the patient.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

These, four in number, have been regularly inspected. All are in a cleanly condition and well kept.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The Slaughter Houses have received 39 visits of inspection. One has been re-drained and repaired during the year. Of the others there is nothing new to report.

NOXIOUS TRADES.

You have now in your district two trades established that come within this definition. One, a tripe boiler, is of old standing, and the other, a bone grinding business, has, with the sanction of the Council, been commenced during the year. These are visited periodically.

WORKSHOPS AND BAKEHOUSES.

Four Workshops have been added to the register, and two Bakehouses registered under new occupiers. These have received 39 visits of inspection during the year. The Bakehouses are clean and well kept, and no causes for complaint have occurred.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

There are now 18 names on the register as either cow keepers or milk sellers. The premises have had 42 visits of inspection. In some of the shippens the lighting and ventilation is not all that it might be, and several small improvements have recently been carried out, working in the absence of regulations of our own upon the lines laid down in the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders.

SCAVENGING.

The removal of nightsoil and house refuse has again

been carried out by contract, the contractor providing both team and manual labour as in the previous year.

Although this is probably the cheapest method you could adopt, and as such has something to recommend it, the questions of efficiency and control, the more regular working of the districts, and the greater satisfaction to householders, who are often under the present system complaining of neglect, may be worthy of your consideration. The number of loads of refuse removed is equal to 1565 tons, a decrease of 119 on the preceding year.

PROSECUTIONS.

There has been no case to take before the justices during the year. The single case in hand carried over from last year was withdrawn after the owners responsible for the work had come to an agreement between themselves. The work asked for has since been carried out.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

IAN D. MACKAY, B.A., M.B., C.M.,
Medical Officer of Health.

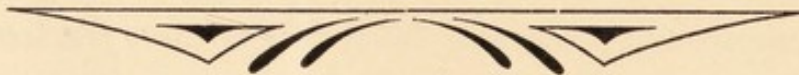


TABLE V.
Vital Statistics of the whole District during 1906 and Previous Years.
KNARESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED in the District.				Total Deaths in Public 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.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
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
1905	5300	161	30.3	20	124	97	18.2	15	82	15.4
*Aver- ages for years 1896- 1905.	4860	156	32.2	26	171	122	25.0	21		
1906	5400	177	32.7	9	57	116	21.4	33	83	15.3

TABLE VI.

Houses and Premises examined...	...	...	...	100
Drainage and Sanitary Fittings tested	...	...	...	21
Sanitary Defects found, viz. :—				
Defective Drainage	...	...	...	77
Damp and Dilapidated	...	...	...	10
Overcrowded	...	...	...	1
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	8
Defective Privies and w.c.'s	...	...	...	46
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	23
Total	...	...	...	165
				<hr/>
Visits paid to inspect work in progress	...	...	...	279
				<hr/>
Visits of Inspection paid to—				
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	39
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	27
Workshops and Bakehouses	...	...	...	39
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	42
Other Visits paid to Houses on account of—				
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	73
Nuisances found	...	...	...	71
Other causes	...	...	...	2
Total...	...	...	...	146
				<hr/>

Preliminary Notices and Letters sent, or Owners seen	141
Statutory Notices sent	7
Houses Disinfected	24
New Drains provided	42
Drains Cleaned, Repaired, or Ventilated*	15
Privies converted to w.c.'s	44
Insanitary w.c.'s removed	3
New w.c.'s provided... ..	10
Other Nuisances removed	35
<hr/>	
Total Nuisances Abated	149
Nuisances outstanding	16
<hr/>	
Wet Ashpits emptied... ..	200
Number of Loads	399
Dry Ashpits and Bins	1340
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Number of Loads	* 1739
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* Equals 1565 Tons.



