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Contributors

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KNARESBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S
ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year ending December 31st, 1909.

KNARESBOROUGH,

May 3rd, 1910.

GENTLEMEN,—

Owing to the fact that I was laid aside by illness for several weeks, I have been unable until now to lay before you my Report for the year 1909, but have pleasure in now doing so. Let us first, then, consider the vital statistics of the year, and secondly the sanitary work accomplished, by the Inspector and myself, including reports on the Factories and Workshops in your district.

VITAL STATISTICS.

During the year 1909, 91 deaths in all were registered. This includes deaths in the Workhouse of eight persons belonging to other districts, and gives a total death rate per 1000 of the population per annum of 16·2. But eliminating those eight deaths, and including deaths of Knaresborough people in the Workhouse, we find a total of 83 deaths, giving a death rate of 14·8, which is the lowest death rate but one for the last ten years, as the table appended to this part of the report shows.

TABLE I.

Showing deaths due to preventable causes, comparing 1909 with the two previous years:—

	1907.	1908.	1909.
Small-pox	0 ...	0 ...	0
Scarlet Fever	0 ...	0 ...	0
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup... }	1 ...	1 ...	0
Measles	0 ...	1 ...	2
Whooping Cough	0 ...	4 ...	0
Enteric Fever.....	0 ...	0 ...	0
Typhus Fever.....	0 ...	0 ...	0
Diarrhœa	0 ...	4 ...	0
Enteritis	1 ...	1 ...	1
Phthisis	5 ...	4 ...	5
Other Tubercular Diseases	2 ...	0 ...	1
Erysipelas	0 ...	0 ...	0
Influenza	9 ...	4 ...	2
Puerperal Fever.....	0 ...	0 ...	0
Anthrax	1 ...	0 ...	0

The death rate from these causes is 1·7 per 1000 of the population, and is a marked decrease upon previous years.

Measles was prevalent in January and February, and the infant schools were closed in consequence, otherwise the year has been remarkably free from epidemic disease; and, as is shown in Table IV., only five cases of scarlet fever were notified, and two of typhoid, and these latter were imported cases. During the year only two deaths from zymotic diseases occurred.

TABLE II.

Showing deaths from non-preventable disease :—

	1907.	1908.	1909.
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	10	11	12
Heart Disease.....	6	19	9
Cancer	6	10	8
Alcoholism and Cirrhosis of Liver	2	2	3
Convulsions	3	1	2
Senile Decay	4	7	8
Premature Birth	2	1	0
Injuries and Accidents ...	1	0	0
Suicides	0	0	2

TABLE III.

The ages at which death occurred :—

Deaths under 1 year of age	10
„ at 1 year and under 5	3
„ at 5 years „ 15	1
„ at 15 „ „ 25	1
„ at 25 „ „ 65	29
„ at 65 „ and upwards	39
	<hr/> 83 <hr/>

Ten deaths occurred at ages under one year, giving a rate of 71 per 1,000 births, as compared with 152, the average of the

previous ten years. This is a very satisfactory improvement. The infant mortality in past years has been too high, and the improvement points to better sanitary condition of the houses and yards in the poorer parts of the town, and also probably to better care on the part of the mothers in the feeding of their children and protecting milk from sources of contamination.

TABLE IV.

Infectious diseases notified during 1909 :—

Typhoid Fever	2
Scarlet Fever	5
Erysipelas	3

None of these cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

BIRTHS.

The Births of 139 children were registered in 1909. This gives a birth rate of only 23·6, the average for the previous ten years being 31·1.



TABLE V.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909 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.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond 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	12	13		
1899.	4700	166	35.3	33	201	132	28.0	27	..	..	105	22.3		
1900.	4979	177	37.6	36	203	133	29.2	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	24.4	27	..	..	97	19.4		
1903.	5000	165	33.0	29	175	114	22.8	26	..	..	88	17.6		
1904.	5300	165	31.1	29	171	124	23.3	22	..	..	102	19.2		
1905.	5300	161	30.3	20	124	97	18.2	15	..	..	82	15.4		
1906.	5400	177	32.7	9	57	116	21.4	33	..	..	83	15.3		
1907.	5600	157	28.0	16	101	100	17.8	23	..	..	77	13.7		
1908.	5600	149	26.6	19	127	122	21.7	25	12	..	97	17.3		
Averages for years 1899-1908.	5187	160	31.1	24	152	120	23.5	25	..	..	95	18.6		
1909.	5600	139	23.6	10	71	91	16.2	8	..	..	83	14.8		

Total population at all ages, 4,979 (at Census of 1901); Number of inhabited houses, 1,405 (at Census of 1901).
Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 646.

PART II.

SANITARY WORK.

The work accomplished during the twelve months is quite up to the average of the past few years. In nuisances found and abated an increase is shown of 38 % on the previous year, the total number of nuisances removed, as shown in Table VII., is 210. Of this number 70 were new, or repairs to existing house drains; 36 the removal, or conversion to water closets, of privy middens, of which latter now there is no great number remaining except in those parts of your district not yet provided with proper sewers; 81 are grouped under the general heading of "other nuisances," and consist of such things as making good defective roofs, spouting, cleaning and limewashing outbuildings, removing accumulation of rubbish, replacing worn out ash bins, and other work of a similar character. The paving of back yards with flags or concrete in places of cobble stones, or in some places a gravel path or earth surface, has only lately been seriously taken up, and 11 stand recorded as having been carried out. Another year a considerable increase on the small beginning may reasonably be expected. The systematic house to house inspection of the district mentioned in last year's report has been continued, and resulted in the discovery of no less than 45 sanitary defects in the premises examined. Most of the defects have been remedied.

In order to ensure that the work necessary to abate the nuisances complained of is properly carried out, frequent visits of inspection and in the case of drains (for testing purposes) are required; 143 being recorded for this purpose. Other visits of inspection to cowsheds, lodging houses, &c., and on account of infectious disease number 241.

No prosecutions have been instituted during the year, although 29 defaulters were served with statutory notices, followed in several instances with very pressing invitations from your clerk to proceed with the execution of the works asked for, a proceeding which fortunately was generally sufficiently effective in bringing the lagging owner into such a frame of mind that a visit to the court of summary jurisdiction was avoided.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

These have been frequently visited both by myself and your inspector. The number on the register is the same as last year. Since the visit of the sanitary committee early in the year, improvements in the drainage and ventilation of several have been carried out by the occupier.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The number and condition of these is as last year. There is nothing new to report. They have received 51 visits of inspection during the year.

The Inspector of Nuisances is also the meat inspector; he has not a special certificate in meat inspection. No carcasses have been found tuberculous. The slaughter houses are visited at all times.

LODGING HOUSES

have been regularly visited; the condition and conduct of the houses being generally satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES

are possibly more cleanly in one or two cases than formerly ; on the whole they are in a very fair sanitary state and limewashed more frequently than required. No underground bakehouses are on the register.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The number of visits on this account is less than last year, and is an indication of the comparative freedom of the district from illness of this nature.

HOUSE SCAVENGING.

This is still done by a contractor, notwithstanding that nearly a year has elapsed since the Council decided to undertake this work themselves. The provision of covered vehicles for use, either by your own staff or by the contractor, is still amongst the unattained, though, on windy days, one still hopes it is not relegated to the unattainable. Following the continual conversion of privies to up-to-date water closets, the quantity of soil removed again shows a decrease, with a corresponding increase in the dry refuse, the total number of loads having gone up by nearly 200 for the year.



PART III.

FACTORY & WORKSHOPS ACT.

The administration of this Act, so far as it affects the local authority, is not a great matter.

Forty workshops are on the register, an increase of five on the previous year. Although 62 visits of inspection were made, only one written notice, and that relating to your own property, was required. Needless to say the work asked for has been carried out.

In Table VI. the work done is enumerated in detail.

TABLE VI.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

	Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories	11	0
Workshops	35	1
Workplaces	16	0
	<hr/> 62	<hr/> 1
Sanitary accommodation :—		
	Defects found.	Remedied.
Insufficient	0	0
Unsuitable or defective	1	1
	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 1

TABLE VII.

Houses and Premises examined	...	...	...	...	82
Drainage and Sanitary Fittings tested	...	...	...	...	20
Sanitary Defects found, viz.:—					
Defective Drainage	...	...	...	...	55
Damp and Dilapidated	...	...	...	...	5
Overcrowded	...	...	...	...	2
Offensive Accumulations	...	...	...	...	15
Defective Privies and W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	38
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...	81
Total	...	...	...	...	195
<hr/>					
Preliminary Notices and Letters sent, or Owners seen	...	...	...	...	173
Statutory Notices sent	...	...	...	...	29
Houses Disinfected	...	...	...	...	6
<hr/>					
New Drains provided	...	...	...	...	40
Drains Cleaned, Repaired, or Ventilated	...	...	...	...	30
Privies converted to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	28
Insanitary W.C.'s removed	...	...	...	...	8
New W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	12
Yards paved	...	...	...	...	11
Other Nuisances removed	...	...	...	...	81
<hr/>					
Total Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	210
Nuisances outstanding	...	...	...	...	15
<hr/>					

Number of Loads of Nightsoil removed	...	...	151
„ „ Dry Refuse	...	...	1850
Total Number of Loads	...	...	*1980

* Equals 1782 Tons.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

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

Medical Officer of Health.



