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KNARESBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



MEDICAL OFFICER'S
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

Year Ending December 31st, 1914.

Knaresborough:
GEO. D. WOOD, PRINTER, FINKLE STREET.

1915.



KNARESBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S
ANNUAL REPORT

KNARESBOROUGH,

May 26th, 1915.

GENTLEMEN,

I have now to lay before you my Report upon the Urban District of Knaresborough for the year 1914.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The total number of deaths recorded in the year was 115, giving a death rate per 1000 of the population per annum of 21·6. But of these a number were deaths of people not belonging to the District, also a few deaths of people who did belong occurred away, so that the corrected nett number for your district is 82, giving a death rate of 15·4 per 1000 of the population per annum. This is a decrease of 3·4 upon the death rate of last year.

The following tables compare the deaths from preventable and non preventable causes, and give a comparison with 1913.

TABLE I.

	1913.	1914.
Small Pox	0 ...	0
Scarlet Fever	0 ...	0
Diphtheria and Membraneous Croup	3 ...	2
Measles.....	0 ...	0
Whooping Cough	0 ...	3
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	0 ...	2
Enteric Fever	0 ...	0
Phthisis	6 ...	2
Tubercular Meningitis	1 ...	1
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	3 ...	0
Influenza	0 ...	0
Puerperal Fever	0 ...	0
Meningitis	1 ...	4

TABLE II.

Deaths from non-preventable diseases:—

	1913.	1914.
Pneumonia	8 ...	8
Bronchitis	4 ...	5
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	4 ...	2
Cancer	10 ...	5
Alcoholism and Cirrhosis of Liver	3 ...	0
Premature Birth, &c.	6 ...	4
Heart Disease.....	5 ...	8
Suicides	0 ...	0

Table I. shows a satisfactory decrease in deaths from Phthisis and Diarrhœa, while there is a complete absence of deaths from Scarlet Fever and Enteric Fever. Towards the end of the year Whooping Cough prevailed in the town, and three deaths were attributed to it.

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified :—

	1913.	1914.
Diphtheria	11 ...	5
Scarlet Fever	14 ...	10
Enteric Fever	0 ...	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	13 ...	9

TABLE IV.

The ages at which death occurred :—

Deaths under 1 year of age	11
„ at 1 year and under 2	5
„ at 2 years „ 5	4
„ at 5 „ „ 15	3
„ at 15 „ „ 25	1
„ at 25 „ „ 45	8
„ at 45 „ „ 65	10
„ at 65 and upwards.....	40

The deaths under one year of age, 11 in number, give a rate per 1,000 births of 88, which is again a decrease upon the year before.

BIRTHS.

125 births, 70 male and 55 female, were registered during the year, and this gives a birth rate of 23·5.

TABLE V.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1914 and previous Years.
KNARESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT.

YEAR.	Population Estimated to Middle of each Year.			Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
	1.	2.	Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	Of Non- residents registered in the District.	Of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
				Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
			3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
1909.	5600	...	139	23.6		99	16.2	12		16	71	83	14.8
1910.	5600	...	123	21.9		96	17.1	8		8	65	74	13.2
1911.	5315	...	114	21.4		108	20.3	22		11	96	89	16.7
1912.	5315	...	119	22.3		107	20.1	19		13	109.7	84	15.7
1913.	5315	...	122	22.9		125	23.6	25	1	12	98.3	100	18.8
1914.	5315	...	125	23.5		115	21.6	33	6	11	88	82	15.4

MILK SUPPLY.

There are seven registered Cow-keepers in the district, and there are nine purveyors only.

The number of Cowsheds in the district is ten. They have been inspected regularly, in all 60 inspections have been made. Their condition has mostly been satisfactory.

There has been no insufficiency in the Milk Supply, no illness attributable to milk, and no prosecutions or legal proceedings called for.

HOUSING.

SUMMARY OF HOUSING WORK DURING 1914.

Table showing action under Sections 15, 17, and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909, and the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, dated September 2nd, 1910, of matters arising therefrom.

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1913.—

Houses not reasonably fit for human habitation. (Section 15).—8.

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

Houses with minor defects. (Public Health Act).—Nil.

Houses inspected under the Act and Regulations in 1914.—150.

Houses found satisfactory on inspection.—79.

Action under Section 15.—

Houses found not reasonably fit for human habitation.—42.

Houses for which notices were given to execute works.—42.

Houses in respect of which notices were satisfactorily complied with.—12.

Action under P.H. Acts in cases of houses with minor defects not remediable under Section 15, owing to the tenancy having commenced before December 3rd, 1909.—

Houses found with defects.—20.

Houses made fit after preliminary notice.—15.

Houses in regard to which notices were served to remedy defects.—5.

Houses made fit after notice.—5.

Action under Section 17.

Houses found to be totally unfit for habitation.—9.

Houses represented to Local Authority as being totally unfit for human habitation.—9.

Houses closed voluntarily.—3.

Houses in respect of which closing orders were made.—6.

Houses closed as unfit for human habitation after closing orders were made.—6.

Appeals.—Nil.

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1914.—

Houses not reasonably fit for human habitation. (Section 15).—30.

Houses with minor defects. (Public Health Acts).—5.

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

PART II.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

No troops have been billeted in the town, and no other conditions have arisen in 1914 to influence the incidence of death and sickness during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no deficiency or curtailment, no failure in quality, and no case of lead poisoning attributed to water.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.

The scheme for the drainage of High Bondend has not been completed yet. Plans have been passed and tenders let, but owing to the war the work has not been proceeded with.

There has been no failure of the Sewage Disposal Works, and no complaints of smell therefrom. Complaints have been made from time to time of the refuse tip on the Goldsborough Road, but it has been further fenced in so as to prevent paper, &c., blowing on to the road.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

The four registered Common Lodging Houses have been regularly inspected and found in a satisfactory condition.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

As I have reported in previous years these have none of them been built for the purpose. However, their condition during the year has been fairly satisfactory, and such improvements as could be, and were needed, were carried out.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Disinfection of houses after infectious diseases or

the death, or removal of phthisical patients has been regularly carried out.

Throughout the year ten cases of Scarlet Fever, and five of Diphtheria were notified. Careful examination of the houses and surroundings were made in all cases, any defects found remedied, and enquiries made as to the possible sources of infection. In all cases the patients were removed to the Isolation Hospital, and the houses disinfected. Notification of Births has been in force. One case of Ophthalmia neonatorum has been notified. Systematic visiting of the houses where births have occurred, is carried out by nurses appointed for the purpose. The babies are periodically weighed as a test whether they are thriving or not, and instructions given, when necessary, to the mothers, as to feeding and other hygienic matters.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The following is a list of those in your district:—

Dressmakers	9
Tailors	3
Smiths	5
Joiners and Wheelwrights	8
Cycle Dealers	2
Boot Repairers.....	4
Tinsmiths, &c.	2
Painters.....	5
Plumbers	3
Bakehouses	2
Upholstering.....	2
	<hr/>
	45

These were regularly inspected and four small nuisances detected and remedied.

I am, Gentlemen, Your obedient Servant,

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

ANNUAL REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

GENTLEMEN,—

I herewith present my first annual Report of the work accomplished in the Health Department and the sanitary circumstances of the District during the past year. A tabulated summary of the various inspections made and nuisances discovered will be found.

Systematic inspection of the District has been made in accordance with the General Orders of the Local Government Board, sec. 92 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and sec. 17 of the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, and the Regulations made thereunder.

During the year 20 complaints of nuisances were received, an increase of 5 upon the number received during the previous year. All complaints are immediately investigated and the necessary steps taken to enforce the proper compliance of the Council's By-laws and Regulations, and to secure the abatement of any nuisance found to exist. The majority of nuisances discovered were remedied upon receipt of informal notice only, but in several cases the matter had to be reported to the committee, and after approval by the Council, legal notices served. In no case have legal proceedings been found necessary. Ten statutory notices were served, a decrease of five upon the number of notices served during the previous year.

During the year two hundred and fifty houses and premises have been inspected, the chief defects found consist in defective drains with open joints, fall-pipes connected direct to drains, &c. The sinks found in many of the older houses are old stone ones, worn hollow, will not drain, and therefore become a nuisance.

The objectionable Wash Out Pan Closets are generally found in the larger old houses, though I am glad to say they are never renewed, as they become foul and consequently a nuisance.

In no case was admittance to premises for purposes of inspection refused.

There are yet many cobbled paved back yards (several of which are common to different owners) which owing to the pervious character of the paving, are difficult to keep clean and become a nuisance in bad weather.

There is now no doubt that the paving of yards exercise a powerful influence in the causation of certain illnesses. Impervious yards prevent the pollution of the subsoil and consequently pollution of ground air, hence the necessity that all yard surfaces should be concreted.

The following is a summary of Sanitary Defects found, and action taken.

Houses and Premises examined	250
Drainage and Sanitary Fittings tested	70
Sanitary Defects found, viz.	
Defective Drainage ..	30
Damp and Dilapidated	5
Overcrowding.....	1
Offensive Accumulations	9
Defective Privies and Water Closets	5
Other Nuisances.....	12
	<hr/>
	62
	<hr/>
Preliminary Notices and Letters sent or Owners seen	60
Statutory Notices sent	10

Houses disinfected	12
New Drains provided	6
Drains cleaned, repaired, & ventilated	22
New Water Closets provided	5
Other Nusances removed	18
Total Nusances abated	<u>63</u>
Nuisances outstanding	5
Number of Loads of Night - soil removed	30
Number of Loads of dry Refuse removed	1310

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year twenty five cases of infectious disease have been notified, necessitating forty visits to the houses. Eighteen houses have been disinfected, and the bedding, clothing, &c., disinfected. Disinfectants were supplied to occupiers of all premises. The houses are always inspected as to their sanitary condition and the drains tested where deemed necessary.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are six registered slaughter houses in the district. The limewashing and cleansing of these are strictly enforced. The structures and the position of the premises are not ideal, but the occupiers endeavour to make the best of matters and conduct the premises in as sanitary a manner as possible.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

With the exception of that part of the law dealing with sanitary accommodation and conveniences the legislation regarding factories is administered by the Home Office. Regular visits are made to all the workshops in the district, all are kept in a satisfactory condition,

and no overcrowding has been found. No notice was served during the year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

These have been regularly inspected and are kept in satisfactory condition. No overcrowding has been found.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909.

(Sec. 14, 15, 17, and Regulations made thereunder).

Houses inspected under the above Act are examined as to the following matters, namely:—

1. The arrangements for preventing the contamination of the water supply.
2. Closet accommodation.
3. Drainage.
4. The condition of the dwelling-house in regard to light and ventilation, dampness and cleanliness.
5. The paving, drainage, and sanitary condition of any yard or outbuildings.
6. The existence of any room which in pursuance of sub-section (7), Section 17 of the Act, 1909, be a dwelling-house so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.

The chief defects found are defective roofs and spouts, damp floors and walls, defective drainage and yard paving in bad condition.

During the year the following buildings were completed and certificates of occupation granted.

New houses, 6.

Alterations and additions to existing buildings, 5.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. PREST, Cert. R.S.I.