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Contributors

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KNARESBOROUGH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Medical Officer's Annual Report

For the Year ended Dec. 31st, 1923.

*To the Chairman and Councillors of the Knaresborough
Urban District Council.*

KNARESBOROUGH,

June 22nd, 1924.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith lay before you a report upon the health, sanitary circumstances, and housing matters for your district, for the year 1923.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

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

ANNUAL REPORT.

General Statistics.

Area (acres)	609.
Population (1923)	5,350.
Number of Inhabited Houses ...	1,350.
Rateable Value	£20,646 15s. od.
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£90.

Vital Statistics.

Deaths—Male, 56; Female, 39. Total, 95.

Death-rate per 1,000 of the population per annum, 17·7.

Births—Males, 56; Females, 44. Birth-rate, 18·6.

Of the hundred births, nine, *i.e.*, four male and five female, were illegitimate.

Analysis of Deaths.

Diseases of Heart and Arteries, 16; Pneumonia (all forms), 16; Phthisis, 2; other Tubercular Diseases, 6; Cancer, 11; Bronchitis, 2; Diphtheria, 1; Scarlet Fever, 1; Measles, 0; Whooping Cough, 0; Influenza, 5; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 7; Puerperal Sepsis, 0; Suicide, 2; other deaths from violence, 3; other, defined diseases, accounted for the rest.

The increased number of deaths from pneumonia are, perhaps, attributable to the long cold winter, commencing in October.

The deaths from Cancer are, as in other parts of the country, regrettably high.

Indeed Heart Disease, Pneumonia, and Cancer were the chief causes of death. A considerable per centage of the total deaths occurred at ages over sixty, and were attributed to senile decay.

Infectious Diseases.

None of the zymotic diseases were at all prevalent during the year, Four cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and treated in the Isolation Hospital. Three cases of Diphtheria were also notified and treated in hospital. In addition, seven cases of Pneumonia, in its various forms, were notified.

Measles was absent, and no necessity arose for the closing of the schools, except in the case of one school in which a child, scaling after Scarlet Fever, was found. It was thought wise to close the school for a week and thoroughly disinfect it. No other cases traceable to this one occurred.

No deaths were attributed to Diarrhœa.

Efforts to arouse public interest in the prevention of ill-health:—

During "Health Week" addresses were given by Medical Men in the Schools and at the Infant Welfare on simple but necessary means of maintaining health.

Hospital Accommodation and Convalescent Homes.

Cases requiring surgical and special hospital treatment are treated at Harrogate Infirmary, which serves quite a large district, and, in consequence, is now too small, therefore a great effort is being made to provide a more commodious building. Some cases also are treated in Leeds General

Infirmery, and in the Hospital for Women and Children in Leeds. Some also go to York General Hospital.

The Poor Law Infirmary also takes in necessitous cases, not requiring the special treatment of a general hospital.

Rheumatic and Skin Diseases receive treatment in the Bath Hospital, Harrogate.

Convalescents obtain, through the kindness of subscribers in the town and district, residences at various Convalescent Homes.

Cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Typhoid are treated in the Joint Isolation Hospital on Forest Moor, and on Killinghall Moor a small hospital is kept always in readiness for the reception of Small Pox patients.

Water Supply.

This is obtained from Harrogate, and is excellent both in quality and quantity. There was no deficiency at any time during the year. No cases of lead poisoning or any other water-borne disease occurred.

Drainage and Sewage.

There was no development of the sewage system during the year.

Main sewers will shortly have to be laid to serve the new houses on Crag Top and Scriven Road.

No defective sewers were "improved," as none were found, and there were no complaints in connection with the sewage disposal works.

There are not now, in the town, any sink wastes requiring disconnection.

There are no privies with open middens, no pail or tub closets, but there are still 3 privies with covered middens.

Four additional W.C.'s were provided for old property.

The sewage is treated at the Council's Sewage Works, about a mile from the town.

Scavenging.

This is carried out by the Council's carts and men.

No changes were introduced during the year. 1437 loads of refuse were disposed of at the Tip outside the town, and no complaints with regard to the Tip were made.

All houses are supplied with movable ashbins with covers.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are four of these in the town, and all are registered. Forty-eight visits of inspection were paid during the year, and they were always found in a clean and satisfactory condition. No overcrowding was found.

Factories and Workshops.

There are 40 Workshops in the town. Each shop was inspected four times—160 inspections in all. No causes of complaint were found.

Schools.

There are three schools in the town, besides the County Council Secondary School. These schools were visited once during the year. As no epidemics occurred during the year no special attention was called for.

Milk Supply.

Two registers are kept as required by section 2 (3) of 1922 Milk and Dairies Amendment Act.

No licenses were granted under the Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922, to distributors of certified and graded milk.

No arrangements are made for the veterinary inspection of cows.

No retailers have been removed from list during the year.

There is one registered cow-keeper in the district producing and selling milk, one retail milk seller who is also a cow-keeper, and eleven milk retailers only. There is one cowshed in the district, and this was inspected fifteen times during the year.

The supply of milk was adequate, and no cases of sickness were in any way associated with the milk supply.

Foods.

No samples of other foods were taken by your officer for examination under the Food and Drugs Act.

One seizure of unsound meat was made. It was a beast, which, after being killed, was found to be full of tubercle.

There is still no public Abattoir, and there is still much need for one; three out of the four registered slaughter houses being in a bad position. This need you have recognised, gentlemen, and have several times turned your attention to the question of a public Abbatoir; only the cost of such a scheme under present circumstances has prevented progress in the matter.

The four registered slaughter houses have been inspected twice weekly, 416 inspections altogether.

No prosecutions under the Food and Drugs Act, were called for.

There are ten bakehouses—none underground—in the town, and these received a total of seventy visits.

Tuberculosis.

During the year only one case was notified; and two deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and six from other tuberculosis were registered during the year.

Cases receive treatment at the Dispensary in Harrogate, which is open twice weekly. Facilities for the examination of sputum are provided by the County Council Laboratory at Wakefield, and are taken advantage of by the doctors in the district.

Disinfection of the house and bedding, &c., is carried out after the death or removal of the patient.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Infant Welfare and Maternity Clinic is carried on as in past years, under the ægis of the County Council, and with the voluntary assistance of many ladies in the town. It is well, and increasingly, attended, and is doing an excellent work.

Summary of Housing Work.

At the end of 1922 there were 169 houses "not reasonably fit for habitation."

There were 67 houses with minor defects, and there were 58 houses totally unfit.

The total number of houses in the district is 1,434. Of these 1,141 are working-class houses. During the year 20 houses were inspected for "housing defects," and recorded. None were found satisfactory on inspection. 20 were found to be in need of further action.

Houses not reasonably fit.—

20 houses were found with defects.

*Action under P.H. Acts in cases of Houses with Minor Defects not
remediable under Section 28, 1919.—*

10 houses with defects.

20 houses with regard to which formal notices were
served.

20 houses were made satisfactory after formal notice.

Unfit Houses (Action under Sections 17 or 18, 1909).—

7 houses were found to be totally unfit.

9 houses were represented to your Council for closing
orders.

2 houses in respect of which a closing order was made.

1 house made fit after service of closing order.

5 houses were demolished voluntarily.

There were no appeals against closing and demolition
orders.

Houses with defects not disposed of at end of 1923.—

144 houses not reasonably fit for habitation.

47 houses with minor defects.

52 houses totally unfit.

There were no complaints of inhabitant householders
under Section 31 of 1890 Act.

Several houses are in course of erection on Crag Top and
the Scriven district, but there is a great scarcity of
houses suitable for the working classes.

