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NORTHALLERTON *50*  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S  
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE  
Year ending December 31st, 1902.



J. A. HUTCHINSON, M.D., M.S., M.R.C.S.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Clerk: W. Fowle, Solicitor.

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# NORTHALLERTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

CLERK:  
WILLIAM FOWLE, SOLICITOR.

## MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

For the Year ended December 31st, 1902.

NORTHALLERTON, JANUARY, 1903.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my tenth Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your area.

Number of Deaths 110.	Population at Census, 1901 7,581.
General Death Rate per 1,000 14.48.	Infant Mortality per 1,000 Children registered 70.75
Zymotic Death Rate <del>7.2</del> per 1,000.	Average age at death 47.03 years.

Number of persons belonging to other districts who died within your area, *nil*.

Number of persons belonging to area who died elsewhere, 7.

Number of Births registered, 212, of these 101 were males, 100 were females. 11 were illegitimates.	Birth Rate per 1,000, 27.9.
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Notable features shewn in the Tables:—

I.	A higher general death rate 14.48, as against 11.3 4 for 1901.
II.	A lower infant mortality 70.75, " 106.3 "
III.	A stationary Zymotic death rate .79, " .79 "
IV.	A higher average age at death 47.03, " 40.6 "
V.	A higher birth-rate 27.9, " 24.9 "
VI.	A decrease in the No. of illegitimates 11 " 15 "

Of 54 persons who died aged 65 and upwards, 23 were septuagenarians, 15 were octogenarians, and 1 was 92.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,710 = 4.43 per house.



## SANITARY WORK FOR THE YEAR.

ROMANBY.—80 yards. of 8in. sanitary pipe sewer, 129 yards of 6in. sanitary pipe sewer together with inspection chamber and ventilating shaft.

GREAT LANGTON.—126 yards of 6in. sanitary pipe sewer, with two inspection chambers and ventilating shafts.

A TEMPORARY SMALL POX HOSPITAL erected at Northallerton.

INSPECTIONS.—House to house inspections were made of the villages of Thornton-le-Beans and Appleton Wiske. Systematic inspections were also made at Great Smeaton, Cowton, Welbury, Deighton, Ainderby, Morton, Thrintoft and Langton, in addition to inspections in consequence of complaints and outbreaks of infectious diseases, inspections of dairies, slaughter-houses, schools, lodging houses, workshops and workplaces.

38 statutory notices issued.

1 prosecution for overcrowding.

8 plans for new houses examined and approved.

29 new sanitary pipe house drains put in.

1 old drain taken up and relaid.

67 new trapped gullies put down.

8 new privies and ashpits built.

22 old privies and ashpits repaired and covered.

24 galvanised sanitary pans furnished to privies.

3 new urinals built on licensed premises.

2 ashpits cleaned out by order.

2 offensive gutters cleaned out.

9 houses disinfected by the inspector after infectious disease.

2 pumps put into order.

## WORK AT PRESENT IN HAND OR UNDER CONSIDER- ATION BY THE COUNCIL.

**BROMPTON.**—A complete scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for this village. Much time and labour has been expended over the drainage of Brompton ; at least three schemes have been adopted, and plans prepared for carrying them out, only to be abandoned each in its turn, at the last moment.

**ROMANBY.**—An extension of the Willow Garth, and the laying of 800 yards of 12in. sanitary pipe sewer along Race Course Lane. Plans for the new sewer and requisite inspection chambers are at present in preparation by the Surveyor.

**OSMOTHERLEY.**—Negotiations for the provision of a new burial ground for this parish are proceeding.

**THORNTON-LE-BEANS.**—Negotiations are proceeding with the North Eastern Railway Company by which it is hoped a suitable and convenient burial ground may be obtained for Thornton-le-Beans.

**ISOLATION HOSPITAL.**—A site for a new Isolation Hospital has been secured, subject to the approval of the Local Government Board, and plans for the buildings are being prepared.

## CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DEALT WITH.

Eighty-seven cases of notifiable infectious disease were dealt with during the year, against fifty-two for the previous year : of these two proved fatal—one of scarlet fever and one of puerperal fever ; in addition, however, three deaths are attributable to whooping cough and one to epidemic influenza, making in all six deaths due to infectious diseases—the same number as for the previous year.



The following analysis shews the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases for the past year.

JANUARY.	SCARLET FEVER—Brompton 3.
FEBRUARY.	SCARLET FEVER—Brompton 7. ERYSIPELAS—Brompton 1.
MARCH.	SCARLET FEVER—Brompton 4, Romanby 1. DIPHThERIA—Brompton 1.
APRIL.	SCARLET FEVER—Brompton 2, Cowton 1. DIPHThERIA—Romanby 1. SMALL POX—Brompton 1.
MAY.	SCARLET FEVER—Cowton 1. TYPHOID FEVER—Brompton 1.
JUNE.	SCARLET FEVER—Cowton 5.
JULY.	SCARLET FEVER—Little Smeaton 1.
AUGUST.	SCARLET FEVER—Brompton 1, Little Smeaton 3, Great Smeaton 2, Yafforth 1. DIPHThERIA—Brompton 8. ERYSIPELAS—Osmotherley 1. PUERPERAL FEVER—Brompton 1.
SEPTEMBER.	SCARLET FEVER—Brompton 2, Borrowby 2, Hornby 1, Great Smeaton 6, Yafforth 2.
OCTOBER.	SCARLET FEVER—Brompton 2. DIPHThERIA—Brompton 3, Yafforth 2, Deighton 2.
NOVEMBER.	DIPHThERIA—Brompton 1.
DECEMBER.	DIPHThERIA—Brompton 1. ERYSIPELAS—Lovesome Hill 1.

Of these seventeen were isolated in the fever cottage, one being small pox and the remainder scarlet fever, all others were isolated at home. Of unnotifiable infectious diseases there have been outbreaks of whooping cough, measles, and influenza. Measles prevailed over a large part of the area and interfered seriously with educational work, necessitating the closing of schools at Langton-on-Swale, Danby Wiske, Appleton Wiske and Lovesome Hill. Schools were also closed at Brompton, Smeaton, and Cowton owing to outbreaks of scarlet fever. The need for closing a school on account of infectious disease is always to be regretted, and when exclusion of children from infected households offers a reasonable prospect of success, the schools are kept open. In the case of many schools here, scholars are drawn partly from the village and partly from widely scattered farm houses bordering on other parishes. When an outbreak of infectious disease occurs in a village and the cases cannot be satisfactorily isolated, nothing short of closing the school will prevent a wide extension of the epidemic. Infected households were visited, verbal and printed instructions given to those in charge of the sick, and where necessary, disinfectants were supplied by the Council. In cases calling for great watchfulness disinfection was carried out under the direction of your officers. Additional form-

aline lamps have been obtained and have given satisfactory results. Sulphur candles have also been used where great care was indicated.

Especial care has been taken whenever infectious disease has appeared in houses from which milk is sold, in houses where tailoring is done, and in houses where school teachers reside.

## PRESENT CONDITION OF AREA.

As shewn by the summary of work for the past year, the sanitary condition of your area continues to improve slowly: much, however, remains to be done before the general sanitation of the district can be described as satisfactory.

**Water Closets.**—Outside large country houses these offices are very few in number.

**Earth Closets** are practically unknown in the district, which is to be regretted, as they would prove an immense improvement on many wretched offices at present in use.

**Pan Privies.**—In 24 houses, during the past year, galvanised sanitary pans have been fitted in place of old privy middens, with satisfactory results.

**Privy Middens** are generally adopted throughout the area, and are for the greater part miserable and dangerous appurtenances, badly placed and constructed, uncemented, uncovered, and receiving rain water from neighbouring buildings, with the result that the contents, instead of being dry and inoffensive, are foetid, the soil sewage sodden, the air foul, and the well in danger of pollution.

Refuse is removed by private arrangement with neighbouring farmers, and in nearly all our villages it is found impossible to get this done as often as is desirable.

## **Systematic Scavenging.**

Romanby has been regularly scavenged during the past year at a cost of £5 5s. 0d., and the village of Brompton at a cost of £5 0s. 0d. In the case of other villages efforts to let the scavenging to responsible persons have not been successful. This is much to be regretted as nothing would conduce so much to the cleanliness, comfort, and well-being of village households, as the frequent and regular removal of all filth. The adoption of systematic scavenging for all villages would lessen infantile mortality, and reduce the incidence and severity of such diseases as Diarrhœa, Enteritis, Diphtheria, Erysipelas, Pneumonia, Consumption, Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, Puerperal Fever and



others. The chief difficulty in getting our villages regularly scavenged is objection to the work of clearing out the ashpits and privies, and unless the Council is prepared to spend a reasonable sum in meeting this difficulty, I am afraid that systematic scavenging will not become general in this area.

### **House Drainage.**

Much is being done each year to improve house drainage which, however, is still generally bad throughout the district.

### **Sewerage of District.**

During the past three years several village sewers have been relaid. These include the whole of Harlsey village and Romanby village, and portions of Thornton-le-Beans, Yafforth, Great Langton, Danby Wiske, Thrintoft, Ainderby Steeple, Morton-on-Swale, Great Smeaton, Hornby, and East Cowton.

Much still remains to be done before the sewage of your district can be properly described as satisfactory. Faulty sewers, formed of common field pipes, are still to be found at Brompton, East Cowton, West Rounton, Great Smeaton, Borrowby, and other villages, while at Ainderby Steeple and West Rounton portions of the village may be found without any covered sewer. The outfalls of some of our sewers are a serious nuisance in summer time, and ought to be carried further away. This is particularly the case at East Cowton, Morton-on-Swale, and West Rounton.

### **Pollution of Streams.**

The Sewage of Romanby is treated by land filtration in the Willow Garth, which has hitherto given most satisfactory results. There is now a considerable increase in the volume of sewage to be dealt with at Romanby owing to extensions of the sewers in order to take in new houses, which will necessitate an increase in the size of the Willow Garth.

All other villages contribute to the pollution of streams, Brompton being the greatest offender in this respect. The Beck, as it flows through the village, is often extremely offensive in summer time. Fortunately the nuisance caused by the pollution is felt only in Brompton—the stream purifying itself before reaching Northallerton. Throughout the summer and autumn months the nuisance and danger to health arising from the pollution of Romanby Beck by Northallerton sewage is as great as ever.

Several villages pass their sewage through interception tanks, but do not further deal with it before discharging into streams; while others—notably Osmotherley and Borrowby—discharge their sewage direct into water courses.



With reference to the outlets at Borrowby and Osmotherley, I have to note that in both cases sewage is very largely diluted by spring water carried off by the drains which discharge into rapid running streams not drawn on for domestic purposes.

#### **Water Supply of Area—**

Mainly from surface wells.

Brompton, Osmotherley, and High Silton have good water supplies, but at Brompton several property owners fail to provide water from the mains, and their tenants are consequently compelled to use impure water from surface wells.

With regard to Low Silton, the garth above the high pump is still under plough. The pump was condemned and locked last year in consequence of the danger of pollution from ploughing in of village refuse. Notwithstanding this, however, the pump is again being used.

#### **Slaughter Houses and Dairies**

from which milk is sold are on the whole satisfactorily kept as to cleanliness and lime washing. Some are structurally defective and badly placed, being too near pigstyes and other objectionable surroundings.

#### **Factories.**

Satisfactory as to sanitation.

#### **Workshops and Workplaces**

have been visited and examined in accordance with the requirements of the new act which came into operation on January 1st, 1902. In all cases sufficient air space was found. In one there was not adequate ventilation. In four the walls were not lime washed or otherwise attended to with sufficient frequency. In one general cleanliness was not satisfactory; and in seven the out-offices were not satisfactory. In all cases occupiers were found ready to comply with all requirements of the act, and I trust that shortly all requirements with regard to out-offices will have been satisfied.

In no case was any work "put out" during the past year.

In obedience to the act the following registers are now kept and posted :—

A Register of Workshops.

A Record of Workshops.

A Record of Outworkers.



### **Schools**

On the whole satisfactory as to cleanliness, ventilation, and out-offices.

The privy ashpit at Silton is covered in, but is still much too large. There are also two smaller privies built on to the School wall which are objectionable, and ought to be removed. Privies in a similar position may also be found at East Cowton. Nothing has been done to improve the heating of schoolrooms since my last report. In severe weather the temperature is far too low, notwithstanding excessive consumption of coal. A little judicious outlay in the adoption of slow-combustion and radiating fireplaces would result in great saving of coal, and would greatly increase the comfort and efficiency of many of our schools.

### **Offensive Trades.**

None. There is, however, considerable traffic in town refuse at some of our country stations, and your officers continue to receive complaints of nuisance arising therefrom at Cowton Station. More effort is now made by farmers to get their consignments away promptly, but there is still cause for complaint in this respect. It is not uncommon for trucks of town manure to stand for 36 and 48 hours before removal. As the siding from which delivery is made is close to and parallel with the station platform, and quite near the station offices, there will continue to be serious cause for complaint whenever trucks of town refuse are discharged from the present siding, which ought to be supplemented by another at a suitable distance from the station and dwelling-houses.

Delivery of South Shields manure containing putrid fish has, I am pleased to say, been discontinued at this station.

### **Burial Grounds.**

**Osmotherley.**—Negotiations are now proceeding with a view to acquiring a new burial ground for this parish, as the churchyard is filled, and is surrounded by dwelling-houses in close proximity. There appears to be no doubt that a new burial ground will be available at an early date.

**Thornton-le-Beans.**—The Council is at the present time afforded a favourable opportunity to secure a burial ground for Thornton-le-Beans, which is much needed, especially by the poorer inhabitants of this parish, who have to travel five miles for burial purposes.

**Danby Wiske Churchyard.**—It is frequently impossible to inter in this burial ground in graves that do not contain water at the regulation depth.



Other burial grounds are sufficient for present requirements, but in the case of some it will soon become necessary to consider the expediency of making further provision.

### **Isolation Hospitals.**

I have pleasure in reporting that a temporary smallpox hospital is now ready for the reception of any cases that may occur in your area. The hospital consists of a single ward capable of accommodating six patients ; a similar hospital is provided by the Urban Council.

By mutual arrangement, one of these hospitals will be used for the reception of males and the other of females from either area. Small, temporary administration offices are also provided, and your Medical Officer is authorised to incur any reasonable expenditure to render these more efficient in case of pressing necessity. As regards a general isolation hospital, I regret to report that we have been without one during several months of the past year. The old isolation cottage was sold as a building site, and pulled down ; and arrangements are not yet completed for commencing the erection of a new hospital.

The necessity of an isolation hospital was frequently demonstrated during the latter part of the year, when we were confronted by outbreaks of scarlet fever and diphtheria in many parts of the area. We were unable to remove first cases, and the disease spread widely in consequence. Fortunately the outbreaks were of an exceptionally mild type, or the result would have been most disastrous. In support of previous reports as to public appreciation of efficient hospital accommodation for infectious diseases, I may state that great disappointment was frequently expressed at our inability to remove infectious cases from households which afforded no satisfactory means of isolation. Adequate provision for the prompt isolation of infectious cases is urgently needed, and it is to be hoped the Council will press forward the necessary business with as little delay as possible.

### **Bye-Laws.**

The model Bye-Laws (Buildings) of the Local Government Board are adopted. Plans for new houses are now submitted to the Council, and we are able to secure adequate provision for proper drainage, out offices, etc.

### **Notification of Infectious Diseases.**

It is again my privilege to acknowledge the assistance and invariable courtesy accorded me by my professional neighbours in carrying out my duties under this act.



**Sanitary Inspector.**

I have pleasure in again recording my appreciation of Mr. Easedale's work as Inspector. The energy, tact, and good temper with which he succeeds in discharging his duties are most praiseworthy.

## INDICATIONS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION AND ACTION.

- I.—The supply of pure water by property owners at Brompton to those tenants who are still without wholesome water, should be insisted upon.
- II.—The adoption of systematic scavenging for all your larger villages.
- III.—**WEST ROUNTON.**—The continuation of main drain northwards, and the building of an interception tank at the end of same, so as to abolish the present offensive gullies by the roadside.
- IV.—**AINDERBY STEEPLE.**—The laying of a 6in. public sewer from the Schools up to the "Wellington Heifer" Inn, for the connection of drains from this row of houses.
- V.—**MORTON-ON-SWALE.**—Extension of village sewer so as to remove the outlet further away from dwelling-houses and the highway.
- VI.—**EAST COWTON.**—The provision of about 300 yards of 9in. sewer for the western end of this village—from interception tank near the Chapel up to Pepper Arden Lodge.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. A. HUTCHINSON, M.D.





