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NORTHALLERTON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S
ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1908.



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

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Clerk : W. FOWLE, Solicitor.

Inspector : GEO. EASDALE, A.R.S.I.

NORTHALLERTON :

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Northallerton Rural District Council.

Chairman: WM. SHOUT, Esq. Vice-Chairman: C. A. EMERSON, Esq.
Clerk; WM. FOWLE, Esq. Inspector: MR. G. EASDALE, A.R.S.I.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1908.

January, 1909.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

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

Area of district in acres	...	...	63,350
Population at census, 1901	...	...	7,581
Increase of population at census, 1901	...	...	111
Number of inhabited houses, 1901	...	...	1,710
Average number of persons per house	...	...	4.43
Population estimated to middle of 1908	...	...	7,671
			RATE PER 1,000
Number of Births registered	...	...	188=24.56
Number of Illegitimates	...	...	8
Number of Deaths registered in Area	...	...	91=11.89
Nett deaths belonging to Area	...	...	94=12.28
Number of Infants who died under one year	...	...
of age	...	...	13=69.14
Deaths from Chief Epidemic Diseases	...	...	2= .26
Deaths from Phthisis	...	...	2= .26
Average age at death	...	...	49.5 years

Notable features shewn in Tables :—

I. A higher Birth-rate, 24.56 as compared with 21.0 for the previous year, and 22.2 for the year 1906. The Rural Birth-rate for the North Riding was 21.73 for the year 1907. The Urban Birth-rate for the Riding was 30.65, and the General Birth-rate for the whole of England and Wales, 26.3.

II. A low General Death Rate, 12.28 as compared with 13.83 for the previous year, and 13.72 for the year 1906. The Rural Death Rate in the North Riding was 13.72 for 1907. The Urban Death Rate in the Riding for the same period, 16.72, and the General Death Rate for the whole of England and Wales, 15.

III. A low Infantile Mortality, 69·14 as compared with 93·16 for 1907 ; and 100·5 for the year 1906. The Infant Mortality rate for the County was 113·16 for 1907, and 127·68 for the year 1906. The Rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1907 was 118.

IV. A low Death-rate from the "Chief Epidemic Diseases"—0·26 as compared with ·78 for the previous year, and 0·65 for the year 1906. The Rural rate, from these diseases, for the County was 0·68 ; and the Urban rate 1·72 for 1907, and for the whole of England and Wales for the same period 1·26.

Note.—"Chief Epidemic Diseases" includes :—Small Pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup, Whooping Cough, Typhoid Fever, Continued Fever, and Diarrhœa.

V. The Death-rate from Phthisis, 0·26, compares most favourably with the three preceding years — 0·78, 1·17, and 1·57 respectively. The Phthisis Death-rate for the County was 0·87 for the year 1907.

Note.—An explanation of the high Phthisis Death-rate obtaining here for the preceding years will be found in previous Annual Reports.

VI. Epidemic Influenza is accountable for five deaths, as compared with six for the year immediately preceding. The number of deaths from Pneumonia is the same as for 1907—5. The number from this cause in 1906 was 10.

VII. A higher average age at death, 49·5 as compared with 49 for the previous year, and 47·8 for 1906. Of 44 persons who died aged 65 and upwards, 22 were septuagenarians, 14 octogenarians, and 2 nonogenarians.

VIII. An increasing number of Illegitimates—8 as compared with 7 for the previous year, and 3 for the year 1906.

SANITARY WORK FOR THE YEAR.

The record of actual structural work accomplished by your Council during the past year is less than for several preceding years. Sanitary matters of much importance within the Area have, however, actively engaged the attention of the Council throughout the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

YAFFORTH.—110 yards of 18 in. sanitary-pipe sewer, one ventilating shaft, and two trapped surface-water grates to drain the higher end of village, and to cover in an open drain opposite Yafforth House.—Completed.

MORTON-ON-SWALE.—50 yards of 9 in. sanitary-pipe sewer, one interception tank, and one inspection chamber, to extend the village sewer and carry out-fall farther away from the high road and cottages at West end of the village.—Completed.

NETHER SILTON.—130 yards of new sanitary-pipe sewer together with interception tank, to carry out-fall further away from the village.—In hand.

GREAT SMEATON.—250 yards of 6 in. sanitary-pipe sewer, together with four inspection chambers and three trapped gullies to replace the present defective sewer.—Approved, but not yet commenced.

BROMPTON.—Heavy expenditure on drainage was incurred by Brompton in 1906-7. The remaining half of the village had, therefore, to stand over for the past year, but it is hoped the Council will now be able to resume operations and complete their scheme by relaying and extending the sewers and installing tanks on both sides of Water End. Although the scheme adopted is far from satisfactory, as there is no provision for sewage treatment either by land filtration or by contact beds, it must be recognised that the works already carried out have resulted in great improvement.

A ventilating shaft for the tank at Northallerton end of the village has been taken down because it was unsightly. This would be a good and sufficient reason for replacing the original shaft by an ornamental one, which might be made to carry a lamp, but it is no justification for incurring the increased risk of Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, etc., necessarily arising from insufficient ventilation of sewers and sewage tanks.

ROMANBY.—After a Public Enquiry by the Local Government Board in 1903, a loan was granted for sanitary improvements at this village. The Willow Garth, upon which the sewage of Romanby is treated, was extended to $2\frac{1}{4}$ acres, over 800 yards of 12 in. sewers together with interception tanks and inspection chambers were put down, and it was hoped that your difficulties in connection with sewage disposal for this village were at an end. But the increased volume and changed character of sewage now to be treated have proved too much for the surface at present available. Failure of the present Willow Garth is no doubt largely due to the trade effluent turned into your sewers by the milk factory, the effect of which has been to render the land sick and to kill off vegetation. Coke filters which were required by your Council when plans for this factory were approved, appear to have been found more or less troublesome to maintain in efficient order, and have been discontinued. Some idea of the extra work thrown upon the Willow Garth may be given by stating that the

milk factory consumed during the past summer about 8,000 gallons of water daily for the washing of vessels and appliances; it may also be stated that practical and experienced sanitarians recognize the effluent from dairies as being one of the most difficult of trade effluents to be dealt with by a Sanitary Authority. The coke filters are to be replaced and efficiently maintained at the factory, and will, no doubt, considerably relieve the overworked Garth. The Council recognize, however, that something more must be done in order to obviate pollution of the Beck by Romanby sewage, and negotiations for the purchase of additional land with a view to further extend the present Garth were entered upon, but the cost of this appears to be considerable, and the possibility of simple extension of the present system proving a satisfactory and permanent solution of the difficulty is so questionable that the Council is now considering alternative schemes.

General Sewerage of District.

During the past five years, several village sewers have been re-laid with properly jointed and cemented earthenware pipes, and furnished with interception tanks, inspection chambers, trapped gullies, and ventilating shafts. These include the whole of the villages of West Rounton, East Harlsey, Romanby, and East Cowton, and portions of Thornton-le-Beans, Yafforth, Great Langton, Danby Wiske, Thrintoft, Ainderby Steeple, Morton-on-Swale, Hornby, Great Smeaton, and Brompton.

Much, however, still remains to be done before the sewerage of your area can be described as satisfactory. Faulty sewers formed of common field pipes are still to be found at Brompton, Welbury, Great Smeaton, and Borrowby, whilst at Ainderby Steeple a portion of the village is unprovided with a sewer. The outfalls of some of our sewers give rise to serious nuisance in Summer time, and ought to be carried further away. This is especially the case at East Harlsey and Yafforth.

House Drainage.

Although considerable improvement is being gradually effected in this respect, the house-drainage of the District is still generally bad. Properly constructed drains, with trapped gullies are far from general in your Area; there is also cause for complaint in respect of houses which discharge drains into ditches by the roadside without first passing through cesspools. The ditches referred to are often in a neglected condition, and give rise to offensive nuisances in hot weather.

Sewage Disposal.

Romanby, already referred to, is the only village in your Area at which sewage is treated otherwise than by settling or interception tanks.

Pollution of Streams.

With the exception of Romanby, all your villages contribute to the pollution of streams.

Several villages pass their sewage through interception tanks, but do not further deal with it before discharging it into streams, while others — notably Osmotherley and Borrowby — discharge 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 upon for domestic purposes. Contamination of the Wiske by Osmotherley sewage is however increasing, and has given rise to complaints of nuisance by residents and stock owners immediately below.

With regard to the pollution of Romanby Beck, it has been stated in previous Annual Reports that the Urban District Council were taking steps for the better treatment of Northallerton sewage below the village of Romanby. As Medical Officer of Health for your Area, I have watched with care the progress of this scheme, and am satisfied that the delays in developing and carrying it through have been unavoidable.

Systematic Scavenging.

Brompton and Romanby have been regularly scavenged. Efforts to let the scavenging for other villages have again failed. In response to advertisements for tenders the following were received :—

Village.	Estimated Number of Houses.		Estimated Population.		Lowest Tender.
Ainderby Steeple	...	40	...	200	£15
Morton-on-Swale	...	40	...	200	£12
Appleton Wiske...	...	56	...	250	None
Borrowby	...	60	...	300	"
East Cowton	...	55	...	250	"
East Harlsey	...	44	...	176	"
Osmotherley	...	100	...	450	£12

No tender was accepted. Failure to accept the tender for Osmotherley is to be regretted. £12 is not well saved here, as it would have ensured the regular quarterly cleaning-out of all ash pits in the village—a matter of increasing importance to a community such as Osmotherley.

Refuse Disposal.

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

Your officers are in constant conflict with property owners and tenants with regard to the proper construction of ashpits, and there appears to be an impression that it is neither compulsory nor desirable to cover in ashpits. It may be well, therefore, to quote the Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 36.

“If a house within the district of a local authority appears to such authority by the report of their Surveyor or Inspector of Nuisances, to be without a sufficient water closet, earth closet, or privy, and an ashpit furnished with proper doors and coverings, the local authority shall by written notice require the owner or occupier of the house, within a reasonable time therein specified, to provide a sufficient water closet, earth closet, or privy, and an ashpit furnished as aforesaid, or either of them as the case may require.”

INSPECTIONS.

In addition to inspections in consequence of complaints and outbreaks of infectious diseases, inspections under the Factories and Workshops Act, inspections of Schools, and inspections under the Regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops, house to house inspections have been made of Appleton Wiske, Thimbleby, Nether Silton, and Thornton-le-Beans; and portions of Osmotherley, Brompton, Morton-on-Swale, and Romanby. Below is summary of work done in connection with these inspections:—

- 8 samples of water taken and examined.
- 170 new inspections made.
- 200 re-inspections.
- 6 statutory notices served.
- 59 letters written *re* sanitary defects.
- 12 households supplied with disinfectants.
- 12 *new* sanitary pipe drains laid.
- 8 *old* drains opened out, repaired, and re-laid.
- 38 *new* trapped gullies provided.
- 1 new water closet.
- 3 new urinals.
- 16 new privies and ashpits.
- 17 existing ashpits repaired, covered, and cemented out.
- 8 sanitary pans provided.
- 2 offensive gullies cleaned out, and offensive deposits removed.
- 6 ashpits cleaned out by order of the Council.
- 1 new cesspool.
- 1 old cesspool abolished.
- 2 yard pavings repaired.

- 2 new spoutings provided.
2 new wells sunk.
5 pumps repaired and wells cleaned out and attended to.
1 animal carcass ordered to be buried.
2 cowhouses better ventilated and provided with more light.
13 plans for new houses submitted and approved.
2 " " " " and not "

New offices at Welbury Station.

WATER SUPPLIES.

BROMPTON.—In January last a new agreement was made with the Urban District Council for the supply of water to this village at the rate of 1/- per 1,000 gallons. This includes the sum of 2d. per 1,000 gallons wayleave payable to the owners of the water main between Northallerton and Brompton.

During several weeks of the past Summer much inconvenience was experienced in consequence of the necessity for cutting off the supply at night, and occasionally for a few hours during the day. The Urban Council are at the present time seeking Parliamentary powers for the erection of a large storage reservoir for service whenever the ordinary supply falls below normal. There are still several houses in Brompton without wholesome water. Three samples were recently examined and reported unfit for domestic purposes, but the Council declined to take any action.

OSMOTHERLEY.—During the past year the water supply for this village has been frequently under discussion, owing to repeated complaints of shortage by householders. The works were installed by voluntary subscription in 1852, and have since been maintained by voluntary subscription and administered by a Local Committee. A Committee, appointed by your Council in September last, examined the supply and made a satisfactory report; and upon further complaints your Surveyor was instructed to make a systematic examination of the tank, mains, and distribution, and to advise the Council. Mr. Easdale's report will be found appended, together with an extract (Section 64) from the Public Health Act, 1875. Osmotherley is certainly fortunate in the possession of a gratuitous supply of pure water, and it is to be regretted that there should be any grounds for complaint as to shortage or fitfulness of supply. A constant and sufficient supply of pure water is more than ever necessary for the village of Osmotherley—more gallons per head of population are consumed than formerly owing to the adoption of baths and water-closets, and to influx during Summer and Autumn of holiday-seekers and invalids. There is an abundant supply available, and comparatively little addi-

tional expenditure would be required to secure sufficient increase of supply and storage to meet all requirements. These considerations, and reference to Section 64 of the Public Health Act, make it clear that your Council ought to see that Mr. Easdale's suggestions as to increase of storage, etc., are carried out. The service reservoir, in addition to being too small, is not well placed, and the present is a favourable opportunity for replacement by a larger tank in a safer position. The water mains should be extended at the South and West ends of the village. Stop cocks on the distal sides of both branches are necessary for the location of leakages and waste, and would prove invaluable in case of fire. The West end sewers have always been troublesome owing to deficient fall and lack of facility for flushing, a good supply of water to this portion of the village is therefore especially important.

NETHER SILTON.—A scheme for the service of a good water supply for this village is being undertaken by voluntary effort, and in consequence the proposal of the Council to do the necessary work was suspended. As there is an ample supply of excellent water at a good elevation, and conveniently near, we may hope that voluntary effort will succeed, and that the village may soon be possessed of the best water supply in your area. It is now two years since your Council consented to suspend operations on the understanding that the work should be carried out as soon as practicable.

Plans have been prepared and approved by the Council, and present delay appears to be due to one of the largest landowners having withdrawn his support.

WINTON.—Arrangements are being made for bringing down a supply of pure spring water from higher ground to the two large homesteads at Winton. The present wells at Winton are dangerously polluted, and have already given rise to serious illness.

HIGH SILTON is well supplied with spring water. There are also surface springs at Thimbleby, Borrowby, and Thrintoft. The remainder of your villages are served by wells, many of which yield only ground water of bad quality, and at some of your villages, in a dry season, water of any kind is scarce. This is the case at East Harlsey, East Cowton, Appleton Wiske, and Rounton. With regard to private wells generally, it may be said that they are very badly placed, and that many users exercise no care whatever to prevent or reduce surface contamination. At Harlsey Hall during the past year a boring was driven 350 feet without finding a supply more than adequate for the requirements of the establishment.

EAST COWTON.—A new well was sunk and a pump erected for public service at the high end of this village. During the Summer, however, the well failed, and it will therefore be necessary to find additional water either by boring deeper or by sinking another well.

MILK TRADE.

There are two large societies within the area dealing with milk and milk products, cream, butter and cheese. These are the Smeaton Creamery, Ltd., at Great Smeaton, and the Wensleydale Pure Milk Society at Romanby. The bulk of the milk, etc., dealt with by these factories is disposed of outside the area. In the case of Smeaton Creamery the milk is obtained entirely from the immediate neighbourhood. All milk received here is first Pasteurized and then chilled. About two-thirds of it is separated for cream, and the remainder for butter. Cheese is made only when there is excess of milk supply. Separated milk is returned to the farm. Drainage from this dairy is disposed of separately and does not discharge into the public sewers.

In the case of the Wensleydale Pure Milk Society the bulk of the milk passing through the factory is imported from neighbouring areas. During the Summer months the milk is Pasteurized as soon as received. During the Winter months it is chilled to 34 degs. Far. Nearly all the milk received at this dairy is sent out again as whole milk, either in bulk or in bottles, only a remainder being made into butter and cheese. All bottles and other vessels used for the transport of milk are washed and sterilized at the dairy. With regard to the sanitary conditions obtaining at this dairy, the only complaint I have to enter is that the effluent turned into your sewers is unsatisfactory.

MILK SHOPS.

As this is a purely Rural Area there are few milk sellers other than those supplying the large dairies. The Area has been posted with notices requiring all such to register according to the requirements of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order, 1885, but hardly any have registered, and the Council has, so far, declined to take any action to secure compliance with the Order.

The new regulations with respect to Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops, came into operation for your Area on Jan. 1, 1908.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES, &c.

On the whole these are satisfactory as to cleanliness and limewashing. In three instances sufficient care was not exercised to prevent blood passing into the drains.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The quality of meat killed and sold within this and the Urban Areas is perhaps the best in the country. We are at the centre of excellent grazing country, and it may safely be stated that unsound meat of any kind is unsaleable here. Unsound animals, if not destroyed, are disposed of elsewhere than here; and carcasses of animals killed under suspicious circumstances, if sold at all for human consumption, are dealt with surreptitiously. There have been three cases of anthrax, all these carcasses were cremated, and the instructions of the Board of Agriculture carried out.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

No action under this Act has been taken or needed.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES DEALT WITH DURING THE YEAR.

Twenty-eight cases of dangerous infectious diseases were notified during the past year, as compared with thirty for the previous year, and forty-one for the year 1906.

The notification of Infectious Diseases Act was adopted for your Area in 1896, and below are the numbers of notifications received since that date:—

1896	...	105	1903	...	14
1897	...	48	1904	...	45
1898	...	59	1905	...	62
1899	...	95	1906	...	41
1900	...	65	1907	...	30
1901	...	52	1908	...	28
1902	...	87			

Average for the thirteen years, 56.2.

It may be noted that the number for the past year is, with the exception of 1903, the lowest recorded. The past year is also noteworthy for the fact that the register records no death from notifiable infectious disease.

With regard to non-notifiable infectious or contagious diseases, I have to note two deaths from Pulmonary Consumption, five from other Tubercular diseases, five from Pneumonia, three from Influenza, and

five from Whooping Cough. No death was registered as due to measles, diarrhœa, or septic diseases. It is satisfactory to note that these figures also show a decrease on comparison with previous years.

The following analysis shows the incidence of notified infectious cases during the year :—

JANUARY.	DIPHTHERIA—1 at Yafforth.
FEBRUARY.	„ 2 at Brompton.
MARCH.	Nil.
APRIL.	DIPHTHERIA—1 at North Otterington. 2 at Osmotherley.
MAY.	DIPHTHERIA—1 at Sigston. SCARLET FEVER—1 at Danby Wiske.
JUNE.	„ 1 at Great Smeaton. DIPHTHERIA—1 at Yafforth. ENTERIC FEVER—1 at East Harlsey.
JULY.	SCARLET FEVER—1 at Romanby. „ 1 at Brompton. ENTERIC FEVER—1 at East Harlsey.
AUGUST.	„ 1 at Osmotherley. SCARLET FEVER—1 at Romanby.
SEPTEMBER.	DIPHTHERIA—2 at Brompton. „ 1 at Cowton. ENTERIC FEVER—1 at Danby Wiske.
OCTOBER.	DIPHTHERIA—1 at Sowerby Cotcliffe. „ 1 at Danby Wiske ERYSIPELAS—1 at Brompton.
NOVEMBER.	ENTERIC FEVER—1 at Osmotherley. „ 1 at Brompton. ERYSIPELAS—1 at East Harlsey.
DECEMBER.	DIPHTHERIA—1 at Great Langton.

It may be seen from the analysis that of 28 cases notified 15 were diphtheria, 5 scarlet fever, 6 enteric fever, and 2 erysipelas.

Cases occurred in all parts of the area and throughout the year, March being the only month during which no notification was received.

It may also be observed that at no time during the year was infectious disease epidemic in any part of the Area.

Diphtheria.—15 as compared with 24 for the previous year and 21 for the year 1906. Cases were widely scattered over the Area, and occurred during eight months of the year. In January a severe case developed in a hind's house at Yafforth, where there were several children and quite insufficient means of isolation, serum was therefore supplied for prophylaxis, as well as for treatment, and with satisfactory results, as no further case developed in the household.

In April two severe cases occurred at Osmotherley in an isolated cottage with very insanitary surroundings. Serum and disinfectants were supplied, both made good recoveries, and there was no further spread. All children attending the schools were examined with a view to detect and isolate any unrecognised cases. In December a severe case also occurred at Great Langton, and is still under treatment. The remaining cases were of milder degree. All were isolated at home. In February it was necessary to close Kepwick and Silton Schools owing to a severe and fatal outbreak of Diphtheria at Kepwick, in Thirsk Rural Area, as a large proportion of the children attending Silton School are drawn from the village and neighbourhood of Kepwick. Happily all children belonging to your Area escaped.

Scarlet Fever.—5 as compared with 2 for the previous year, and 10 for the year 1906. Two patients were young people who had been sent into the country for isolation from infected houses in neighbouring Areas. Fortunately the disease did not spread in either instance. Two cases occurred at Romanby; all children attending School were examined for indications of infection and were found free. All cases were of a mild character, were isolated at home, and made satisfactory recoveries.

Enteric Fever.—6 as against 3 for the previous year, and 3 for the year 1906. The first case at Harlsey was imported, the patient having recently returned from nursing a fever case in a distant area. This case was followed in a few weeks by another in the same house. One of the Osmotherley cases appeared to be due to a fall-pipe which ventilated the sewer, and over which the window of a newly-erected attic bedroom opened.

The case at Danby Wiske occurred in a cottage where the patient could not be isolated. He was therefore removed to the Urban Fever Hospital. None of the cases proved fatal and all made good recoveries.

Erysipelas.—2 against 1 for the previous year, and 6 for 1906. Neither of these cases present anything noteworthy.

With regard to *non-notifiable infectious diseases* we had outbreaks of Mumps, Chicken Pox, Whooping Cough, and Epidemic Sore Throat, all of which interfered more or less seriously with school work. Thornton-le-Beans School was closed owing to an outbreak of Chicken Pox which affected nearly all the school population. In other instances exclusion of children from infected households sufficed to prevent extension of outbreaks.

All children known or suspected to be suffering from Phthisis were excluded from School. Infected households were visited, verbal and printed instructions given to those in charge of the sick, and where necessary, serum and disinfectants were supplied by the Council.

Fever Hospital.—It is now my privilege to record the fact that your Council has definitely undertaken the provision of a suitable Isolation Hospital for the Area. After a further Public Enquiry by the Local Government Board a loan was granted for the purchase of land, making of roads, drainage, water supply, and furniture; approval was also obtained for putting down a small sewage disposal plant. Since the date of enquiry the Northallerton Urban District Council has also decided upon the erection of a Fever Hospital upon an adjoining site; and, after enquiry and report by a Joint Committee, the two Councils have undertaken to join in providing a common water main, and a sewer from the Hospital Field to the Town. This arrangement, while not increasing your expenditure, will obviate any nuisance that might arise from sewage disposal works so near the Hospital, and will relieve you of the trouble and upkeep charges which would be unavoidable in connection with a separate disposal plant. The Hospital to be erected by your Council is designed by Messrs. Spiers and Co., of Glasgow, to meet the requirements of your Area. The building is of wood and iron, and comprises an administrative block, two wards accommodating four beds each, and two single wards which may be used by private patients.

The Temporary Small Pox Hospital has been strictly reserved for possible cases of Small Pox, fortunately none have occurred. It is now six years since this hospital was erected, and it has never been occupied.

Overcrowding.

From time to time we are placed in difficulty by cases of overcrowding in villages. The householder may be in regular work, but his means will not afford rent for a larger house; even if able and willing to take a larger house often none is available, while to move elsewhere means loss of work. In the majority of instances families have grown large under the same roof, and it is, in practice, impossible

to deal with the overcrowding as a nuisance and turn out the family, all we can do in these circumstances is to exercise patience and see that no reasonable opportunity for obtaining better accommodation is lost.

Offensive Trades.

None. There is, however, considerable traffic in town manure at some of our country stations, which occasionally gives rise to nuisance and danger to health. In response to repeated representations by your Council, this traffic is now dealt with more promptly.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1902.

Factories.—Satisfactory as to means of escape from fire,

Bake Houses.—There is only one in your Area.—Satisfactory.

Workshops and Work Places.

These have been visited in accordance with the Act. In all cases sufficient air space was found. In one case there was not adequate ventilation.

There are very few Workshops in the Area, and these are nearly all served by members of the same family.

Lists of Outworkers have been returned, but in only ten cases was work put out during the year.

There has been no case of notifiable infectious disease in the dwellings of outworkers. Section 22 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment), 1890, is not in force in this Area.

In obedience to the requirements of the Act the following registers are kept:—

1. Register of Workshops.
2. Workshop Record Book.
3. Fire Escape Book.
4. Record of Outworkers.

Common Lodging Houses.

There is now only one in your Area — at Osmotherley. The premises have been improved, and the constable stationed at the village appointed Inspector, with satisfactory results.

Burial Grounds.

BROMPTON CHURCHYARD is now full and should be closed. Other burial grounds are sufficient for present requirements, but in some cases it will be necessary to provide new ground in the near future.

DANBY WISKE CHURCHYARD.—It is frequently impossible to inter in this burial ground in graves that do not contain water at the regulation depth.

Bye-laws.

The model Bye-laws (Building) of the Local Government Board are in force. Plans for new houses are now submitted to the Council, and we are able to secure adequate provision for proper drainage, out-offices, etc., etc. No legal proceedings have been necessary during the past year.

Notification of Infectious Diseases Act.

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

Sanitary Inspector.

I have again to express my indebtedness to Mr. Easdale, A.R.S.I., for his efficient and ready help at all times; this acknowledgment is especially due in consideration of the fact that Mr. Easdale's time and energies are much occupied by other duties and responsibilities.

Indications for Future Consideration and Action.

- I.—The supply of pure water by property owners at Brompton to all tenants who are still without wholesome water, should be insisted upon.
- II.—BROMPTON.—Completion of the re-sewering of Brompton.
- III.—The adoption of systematic scavenging for all your larger villages.
- IV.—AINDERBY STEEPLE.—The laying of a 6in. sewer from the Schools up to the “Wellington Heifer” Inn, for the service of this row of houses. At present there is no sewer whatever for this portion of Ainderby Steeple.
- V.—EAST HARLSEY AND YAFFORTH.—Extension of the village sewer so as to remove outlets further away from highways.
- VI.—WELBURY.—The laying of a properly constructed sewer for this village.
- VII.—THORNTON-LE-BEANS.—The completion of the re-sewering of this village.
- VIII.—Extension or modification of sewage disposal arrangements at Romanby.
- IX.—The registration of all Dairies and Cow Sheds. This is especially important at the present time.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. HUTCHINSON, M.D.

Medical Inspection of Children attending Schools with- in the Area of Northallerton Rural District Council.

NOTE.—The Schedule and Report relates only to children who joined or left the various schools during the past year.

SCHEDULE.

Particulars for the Year 1908.

1. Number of visits paid to Schools and Departments, 38.
2. Total number of children inspected, 377.
3. Number of children inspected at various ages.

AVERAGE HEIGHT AND WEIGHT IN ENGLISH MEASURES.

			HEIGHT.		WEIGHT.	
			Ft.	Ins.	St.	Lbs.
20 at 3 years of age	male	14	3	1	2	4 $\frac{1}{3}$
	female	6	3	1	2	4 $\frac{1}{6}$
31 at 4 years of age	male	10	3	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	2	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
	female	21	3	4	2	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
99 at 5 years of age	male	47	3	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	3	1
	female	52	3	5 $\frac{1}{3}$	2	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
42 at 6 years of age	male	20	3	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	3	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
	female	22	3	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	3	1 $\frac{1}{2}$
11 at 7 years of age	male	4	3	9	3	5 $\frac{1}{4}$
	female	7	3	10	3	6
17 at 12 years of age	male	8	4	6 $\frac{1}{8}$	5	2 $\frac{1}{8}$
	female	9	4	11 $\frac{1}{8}$	6	6 $\frac{7}{8}$
101 at 13 years of age	male	51	4	11 $\frac{1}{4}$	6	6
	female	50	4	10 $\frac{1}{8}$	6	6
21 at 14 years of age	male	13	4	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	9
	female	8	4	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
2 at 15 years of age	male	2	4	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	4
	female					

4. Number of children referred for } 8, exclusive of those referred to
subsequent or further examin- } Dentist, Occulist, or their
ation } own medical adviser.
5. Number of children in respect } 110, exclusive of directions for
of whom directions were given } the care of sound but neglect-
for treatment of defects ... } ed teeth.
6. Average time per head occupied } 8 minutes.
by inspection }
7. Statement of assistance given } There are no School Nurses
by Nurses, Managers of } for this Area. In only two
Schools, Teachers, Attendance } instances were Managers pre-
Officers, or other persons ... } sent at the examinations.
Teachers, without exception,
have taken great interest in
the medical examination of
children in their charge, and
have afforded me every assist-
ance and information re-
quired. Parents were present
at about one-fourth of the in-
spections.
8. The extent to which disturbance } This question could be more satis-
of school arrangements was } factorily answered by the tea-
involved by the inspection. } chers. In the case of each
school, appointments for the
examinations were made only
after consultation with the
teacher.

CLASSIFIED STATEMENT OF DEFECTS in respect of which notice was sent to parents :—

							Number of Children.
1.	Cleanliness and condition of skin	...	...	...	...	...	5
	„ „ head	...	...	...	...	...	6
	„ „ body	...	...	...	...	...	1
2.	Teeth . . .	{	Overcrowding	...	...	...	20
			Carious	...	...	...	46
			Sound, and fairly good, but untended	...	...	...	161
3.	Nose	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
	Tonsils	...	...	...	...	...	99
	Adenoids	...	...	...	...	...	6
	Submaxillary and Cervical Glands	...	...	...	...	...	4
11.	External Eye Disease	...	...	...	...	...	1
12.	Vision	...	...	...	...	...	33
13.	Ear Disease	...	...	...	...	...	5
14.	Hearing	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
15.	Speech	...	...	...	...	...	1
16.	Mental condition...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
17.	Heart and circulation	...	...	...	...	...	2
18.	Lungs	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
19.	Nervous system	...	...	...	...	...	2
20.	Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
21.	Rickets	...	...	...	...	...	1
22.	Deformities, Spinal Disease, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	3
23.	Infectious or Contagious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
24.	Other disease or defect	...	...	...	...	...	7
26.	Particulars as to blind, deaf, defective, and epileptic children.	{ 3 Epileptics, all properly cared for.					

REPORT.

(a) Generally it may be said of schools in this area that they are well and conveniently situated. One school, Kirby Sigston, stands in a Churchyard, and is difficult of access in wet weather. Arrangements

are in progress for discontinuing this building and providing the school area with new premises in a more suitable position. Great Smeaton School serves a very wide area, and children from the more distant side are brought to school and taken home in a covered conveyance.

Ventilation and lighting are generally satisfactory, with the exception of Kirby Sigston and East Cowton Schools, which are defective in these respects. With regard to warming, it may be said that there does not as yet appear to be any entirely satisfactory method of maintaining an equable temperature in the ordinary type of elementary school. Much has already been done to improve the sanitary offices at schools within this Area, and they may now be taken as generally satisfactory with the exception of Kirby Sigston and East Cowton. At the latter school these offices are altogether bad. Negotiations for acquiring more land for new offices are pending, and steps should be taken to ensure their completion without further delay. During the year under review entirely new conveniences were provided for Kepwick and Silton Schools. It is regrettable to note, however, that so little care and consideration have been shewn in choosing positions for these. The offices for girls are placed in front of the schoolhouse kitchen window, and those for boys in front of the sitting-room window; both windows hitherto commanded charming views. With regard to cleanliness of schoolrooms, they appear to be as clean as the money allowed for this purpose will permit. It is impossible that schools can be kept sweet and wholesome without much more frequent applications of soap and water than any of them get. Dusting of furniture and sweeping of floors are very well so far as they go, but they are poor substitutes for the good wash which all our schools should receive at least once a week. There are no special arrangements for drying children's cloaks and boots.

(*d*) The impression left by the examinations is that taken altogether children attending schools in this area are a healthy race, and are as well cared for as most other children. The averages of height and weight for the various ages are found, with unimportant variations, to compare satisfactorily with those obtaining for English children generally. Of 377 children examined, 110 were found suffering from conditions requiring more or less attention; by far the larger proportion of these were quite minor ailments, such as commencing decay in untended teeth, and moderate degrees of tonsil enlargement, requiring little more than regular applications of tooth brush, mouth wash, or gargle. Of conditions more immediately important were found: marked Enlargement of Tonsils, 6 cases; High Refraction Errors, 23; Otorrhœa, 5; Epilepsy, 3—all satisfactorily managed; cases of obvious Adenoids, 6; and of Glandular Enlargements, 4; one case of Incontinence; 6 Verminous heads; and 3 children (members of one family) Insufficiently fed.

(e) This is a typically rural district there being only one manufacturing village within the area—Brompton. At Brompton Schools an undue proportion of enlarged tonsils were found, owing no doubt to the low lying position of the village, the proximity of a slow flowing stream which skirts the village, and consequent high level of ground water. With regard to other schools nothing noteworthy under this heading was found.

(f) Directions for the care and treatment of children suffering from minor ailments were given to parents and teachers. With regard to more serious cases, if not already under treatment, parents of affected children were urged to consult their own medical adviser, a dentist, or an oculist, as the case required. Children unable to pay fees were attended to by the Medical Officer; four were supplied with spectacles, in two instances by the Guardians, the remaining two by private persons. Underfed children were brought to the notice of the Relieving Officer and the District Medical Officer, and suitably relieved. In the case of one family with Verminous heads, instructions were ignored until a visit was paid by the Cruelty Inspector, which had the desired effect.

(g) During outbreaks of infectious diseases schools in affected neighbourhoods were visited, and all children present examined, with a view to the detection and exclusion of unrecognised cases. Silton and Kepwick Schools were closed owing to a sudden and fatal outbreak of Diphtheria. Thornton-le-Beans School was closed owing to an outbreak of Chicken Pox affecting nearly the whole school population. In all other instances exclusion of children from infected households sufficed to prevent the spread of infection.

(h) There have been no cases requiring the application of powers under the Acts of 1893 and 1899. One child, whose parents are itinerant musicians, was found to be suffering from paralysis of both sphincter; after a visit to the parents of this child the family disappeared.

With regard to the number of children registered as suffering from noteworthy degrees of ailments, it would appear desirable that some method should be adopted whereby cases involving actual disability may be shewn differentiated from those which do not, otherwise, it will be difficult to present figures which are not gravely misleading as to the proportion of physically unfit to be found in the school population. Many children necessarily registered as suffering from enlarged tonsils, do not present tonsils which require excision, or which are likely to interfere with health and development. Many of these cases will subside or give no further trouble; such children should, however, be taught to gargle regularly with some cleansing fluid. A similar observation would apply to adenoids. With regard to teeth

also, many children present extensive caries of temporary teeth, and are registered accordingly, but it does not in any way follow that a badly developed and carious set of permanent teeth will occur in a mouth which may be conspicuous by the faulty character of its deciduous teeth. Again, with regard to visual defects, it is to be recognised that more or less of defects of vision in one or both eyes are often met with in subjects who have proved anything but physically unfit. These indications point to the need for extreme care in the publication of figures which might otherwise give rise to quite needless concern.

J. A. HUTCHINSON,
Medical Inspector.

OSMOTHERLEY WATER SUPPLY.

Section 64 Public Health Act, 1875.

“All existing public cisterns, pumps, wells, reservoirs, conduits, aqueducts, and works used for the gratuitous supply of water to the inhabitants of the district of any local authority, shall vest in and be under the control of such authority, and such authority may cause the same to be maintained and plentifully supplied with pure and wholesome water, or may substitute, maintain, and plentifully supply with pure and wholesome water other such works equally convenient—they may also (subject to the provisions of this Act) construct any other such works for supplying water for the gratuitous use of any inhabitants who choose to carry the same away, not for sale, but for their own private use.”

Special Report by Mr. Geo. Easdale, A.R.S.I.

I inspected this water supply on Thursday, November 19th, 1908, and beg to report as follows:—

The scheme for the supply was inaugurated and laid down in July, 1852—56 years ago—by private subscription, a committee being formed of several of the principal inhabitants of the village to carry out the work. It consists of one storage tank (or reservoir) placed immediately on the south east side of the “pound-fold,” at the higher or northern end of the village, a 3-in. cast iron main and seven public taps.

The storage tank is supplied from a spring situated immediately under the “pound-fold” (of course the latter is not now used and is strongly walled round with stone). The size of the tank is 14 ft. 0 in. long by 7 ft. 0 in. wide by 5 ft. 0 in. deep, and holds according to these measurements $3062\frac{1}{2}$ gallons.

The population to be served is about 470, which would mean about $6\frac{1}{2}$ galls. per head per day. There are five water closets and four baths supplied with the water in the village.

The fall from bottom of storage tank to pipe at centre of village is about 67 feet.

I had the main examined in different places, and found it, as far as could be seen, though very much corroded on the outside, in good order.

On the system of pipes there are three stop taps. One at the top of the village, to turn the water off altogether ; one almost opposite the "Cross" in centre of village, to shut the water off from West End and lower part of the village ; and one at the lowest part of all for wash-out purposes.

I had the water stopped at the *second* stop tap (near the centre of village), and the water in the storage tank rose to its highest point and passed away down the overflow. This, I think, proved that the main, as far as this portion was concerned, was not defective.

The water was then let down into the whole length of pipes, when the water level in tank quickly dropped two inches, and then slowly fell a further two inches. This continued falling in the water level, taking into consideration that the supply from the spring was constantly running into the tank, proves, I think, that there is a leakage in the lower section of the pipes, or else the supply running in is not sufficient for the daily use of the village.

If the supply running in *was* sufficient (unfortunately I was not able to see this) the water level in tank should not have fallen as well.

When the water was kept in the higher portion of the main alone, the supply to all the higher taps and to the Vicarage was ample. As soon, however, as the water was let down fully to the lower portions of the system, the pressure was reduced on these taps at High end, and no water at all was to be had at the Vicarage.

The supply was satisfactory to the Lower and West ends, including Mr. T. Yeoman's and Dr. Luard's bathrooms.

To enable the Vicarage to get water, it has been customary for the stop cock at centre of village to be partly closed, although this reduces the pressure of water to the Lower and West ends.

From enquiries made at the Higher end of the village from four or five different cottages, I understand that many times they were without water.

I noticed traces of leakage at the Vicarage connection, and also near one of the taps in Vicarage Yard the pipe was bound with string, and had evidently been burst. This should be seen to.

The overflow from storage tank should pass down to a trough at what is called Keld Head (?) at the top of the village, but is at present not in working order. This is to be seen to and put right.

The present Committee who have the care of the supply consists of 6 or 7 members. As one falls out another is apparently selected by the Committee itself.

No charge is made for the water from the public taps, but as private supplies are put in, a charge of 20/- is made for the connection to the main. Should any large or special expenditure at any time be needed, I understand subscriptions are collected. Many give something, but others, I am told, give nothing.

I would suggest that a fourth or extra stop cock should be placed on the lowest section of the main (as marked in blue ink on accompanying plan) immediately below where the west end portion branches off—this would reduce the pressure to the lowest end, without affecting the west end, except that it would increase the pressure thereto.

I would also suggest that the storage tank should be increased in size to hold not less than a three days' supply. This would ensure a regular and sufficient supply throughout the year.

I think the amount of water coming from the spring and the daily flow should be ascertained. Possibly it would be found advisable to try and increase this. (*Note.*—There is a bountiful supply coming out of the hill not 50 yards away).

I think all taps as they are renewed, or new ones fixed, should be of the self-closing pattern and not "screw down" as at present. This would obviate the difficulty as to any of the taps being left open, and the water consequently allowed to run to waste.

With regard to the method of charging for new connections to main, this, I understand, is at times abused, as different users have taken a supply off the *private* pipe instead of from the main itself. Should the original pipe be only small, this double or treble tapping would no doubt affect the supply to those originally taking the water from that particular connection.

With reference to the manner in which payment for the use of the water is made (either compulsorily or voluntarily), I consider it is very unfair, and think that some arrangement should be made whereby those using the water paid for it at per thousand gallons, or according to rental of premises occupied.

I wish to express my indebtedness to Mr. Dobson for his help and the information he was kind enough to furnish me with. Also to thank Mr. T. Yeoman and Mr. J. Hugill for their assistance and advice.

GEO. EASDALE, A.R.S.I.,

November, 1908.

Surveyor.