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Contributors

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NORTHALLERTON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Reports

BY
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR


FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1945.

Clerk :—JOSEPH HUNT, Esq., Solicitor.

Medical Officer of Health :

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

Inspector :—H. TEMPLEMAN, A.R.S.I., C.R.S.I.,
Cert. Meat and Other Foods.



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NORTHALLERTON
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT
for 1945.

Chairman—HERBERT ATKINSON, ESQ.

Vice-Chairman—JOHN WALKER, ESQ.

Clerk—JOSEPH HUNT, ESQ., Solicitor.

Medical Officer—J. A. HUTCHINSON, M.D., M.S., M.R.C.S.

Deputy Medical Officer—A. E. MILNE, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector—H. TEMPLEMAN, A.R.S.I., C.R.S.I.
Cert. Meat and Other Foods.

Isolation Hospital Matron—MISS M. B. GARLAND, S.R.N., R.F.N.

Population—1931 Census	..	..	..	7,683
Population—Estimate for middle of 1945	..	..	..	7,620 R.C.
Number of dwelling houses	..	..	..	2,800
Density of population 7·90 acres per person.				

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1945.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my annual report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1945. During the past year 143 **Births** were registered, 80 being males and 63 females, yielding a Birth-rate of 18·76 per 1,000 of population, 5 Births were illegitimates. The Birth Rate for the whole of England and Wales for last year was 16·1.

Deaths registered were 89—40 males and 49 females, yielding a Death-rate of 11·67 per 1,000. Death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1945 was 11·4.

30 Notifications of Acute Infectious Disease were received. These were Measles 20, Scarlet Fever 7, and Diphtheria 3. Notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1 and Non-pulmonary 3.

The General Health of your area has again been quite good. We had no serious outbreak of infectious disease throughout the past year ; Measles and Whooping Cough, however, interfered somewhat with school attendance. 20 cases of Measles were notified, while many were not notified except by Head Teachers—an indication that the type of outbreak was not severe. It is true that few children escape Measles and that here relatively few have sustained permanent injury from an attack. But in regard to the country generally, Measles, and the complications of Measles, are accountable for many deaths and much permanent injury to health—it is therefore, **most unwise**, to neglect having children, suffering from Measles, seen by the Family Doctor. There were also cases of Whooping Cough but few were notified. Seven cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and all were treated in hospital, all made good recoveries and we had no return cases. Three cases of Diphtheria were notified and dealt with in hospital—one, an

unimmunised girl of three years, unhappily died of heart failure within a few hours of reception from Brompton where immunising clinics for "under-fives" have been regularly held, and parents notified. Other children in this family had been immunised and all yielded negative swabs. The other Diphtherias had been immunised; they were not critically ill but yielded positive swabs and were therefore isolated and treated till negative for a full week before discharge.

Tuberculosis.

Only one new case of pulmonary, and three of glandular tuberculosis were dealt with during the year. Dr. Cubie, County Tuberculosis Officer holds a tuberculosis dispensary and clinic every Wednesday at the Rutson Hospital where patients and contacts receive treatment and are examined under X-rays according to indications.

I am indebted to Dr. Fraser for the information that the County Council is responsible for administering any allowance scheme that may be found necessary for tuberculosis cases.

V.D.

Posters have been displayed in all suitable places, calling attention to the urgent need for all sufferers to avail themselves of the strictly private and confidential facilities for treatment provided. Personally, I have not received any applications for advice and treatment during the past year and enquiries from neighbouring hospitals where V.D. clinics are available reveal only one case giving an address within this area.

Preparation for possible post-war epidemic.

In compliance with the wishes of the Ministry an effort was made to compile lists of those who would volunteer to help in case of an outbreak similar to that which overtook the country after the first world war. Happily, however, nothing more than an epidemic of infectious colds has yet occurred here. All notified Small Pox contacts from overseas have been visited—all have been vaccinated and remain well.

Housing.

There are within your area 2,800 occupied houses, 56 being Council houses, and demand continues. Your present building programme is for a further 62 :—

	32 at Brompton.
	4 at Ainderby.
	4 at Cowton.
	4 at Appleton Wiske.
	8 at Romanby.
	6 at Osmotherley.
	4 at Borrowby.
	—
Total	62
	—

Statutory Inspections to 31st December, 1946.

There are 2,250 houses of up to and including £26 Rateable Value.

During 1945, 783 of these were thoroughly inspected and classified as under :—

(1) Fit in all respects	.. ..	59
(2) Minor Defects	.. ..	238
(3) Major Defects ..	.. ..	72
(4) Suitable for reconditioning under Workers Act .. ..	.. ..	1
(5) Cannot be made fit at reasonable outlay .. ..	.. ..	22

With the exception of one village, conditions found are on the whole not so bad as might be feared. Statutory inspections are being continued—at date the number already inspected is over 1,300. All defects recorded will be reported to the Housing Committee in detail.

General Sanitation.

The General Sanitation of your District has been more or less fully described in previous annual reports and conditions there referred to for the most part continue. At date, the most pressing matters requiring active attention are, 1 **The provision of a piped supply of wholesome water to the greater part of your area.** 2. Authority to

proceed with your approved scheme for a sewage disposal works for Romanby (the practicability of combining with this the disposal of Brompton sewage is a matter for immediate enquiry and consideration.

3. The advisability of providing an additional Motor Scavenging Unit.
4. The completion of your building programme.
5. The Isolation Hospital Ambulance was **not new** when purchased and is now not sufficiently dependable for the **Special Service** required—a new Ambulance is needful—the area served extends in one direction to 20 miles from the hospital.

A new sewer is required for Thornton-le-Beans, and a new sewer with a new outlet for Nether Siltan. The new sewer for the northern part of Great Smeaton has been completed.

Scavenging.

A few years ago over a large part of your area, where water closets are not yet possible, public and official opinion was strongly against the continuance of the privy-ashpits which are regarded as a serious nuisance and danger to health—many were uncovered, few had impervious floors and walls, very many were difficult of access for scavenging, few were provided with absorbents, for application after use, and the danger of seepage within reach of well was common. In addition, the work of scavenging these places was so objectionable that it was difficult and sometimes impossible to obtain a tender for the work, the cost too was heavily increasing year by year. To relieve these difficulties privy—ashpits have been practically abolished and replaced by pan or box closets for frequent emptying. Results from this change have undoubtedly been beneficial, but the difficulty in securing **regular emptying** substitutes another nuisance and complaints become constant :—to meet this, your Council provided a whole time team and motor unit which is proving a great relief and comfort in all places within reach of the unit's capacity. It is, however, **impossible** for one team to cover the whole of your area with any regularity. As the Public Health cannot be adequately protected without effective scavenging I have to urge the desirability and pressing need for a second motor vehicle and wholtime team to meet the requirements of **all** your villages and hamlets with **regularity**.

Food and Water Supplies.

(a) Direct piped water supply to houses.

	Houses.	Population.
Brompton ..	450	1,447
Osmotherley ..	234	579
Romanby ..	372	841

(b) Water supply by means of stand pipe.

	Houses.	Population.
Nether Silton ..	38	116
West Rounton ..	48	179

Other dwellings within the area are supplied from wells.

Brompton, Romanby, Osmotherley, Rounton and Nether Silton, and a few separate farms have piped supplies of satisfactory water; the remainder of your area is served by wells, **some of these** yield excellent water—the majority, however, are far from satisfactory as to quality of the water: and in drought, several farms had to lead water from neighbouring streams or from the village pumps for stock. Your scheme for providing the greater part of your area with a piped supply of wholesome water will prove a great boom to the countryside when carried out. Your Council is devoting continuous effort and anxious care to get this done as speedily as circumstances permit.

Bakery. Only two—satisfactory.

Butchers Shops and Vans. Satisfactory except that more frequent applications of limewash is desirable.

Milk. This is an extensive area, and almost entirely agricultural; there are 382 cowkeepers on your register four of these have fairly large herds, are well equipped and produce satisfactory milk, 4 of these have tubercle tested herds and there are 14 herds producing accredited milk. All dairy herds are examined by veterinary inspectors at least twice a year—those producing bottled milk for schools three times a year. The milk produced is collected in churns at or near the farm and conveyed to the dairy factory at Romanby where it is **pasteurised** and **cooled** before dispatching to distributors in neighbouring

towns. Samples are taken in rotation from all contributing dairies for examination by a qualified chemist on the staff of the dairy and unsatisfactory results lead to rejection. Although samples are frequently being taken for laboratory examination by health officials of the towns supplied we are now having practically no complaints of unsatisfactory milk. The volume of milk dispatched from the factory dairy varies from 21,000 to 30,000 gallons per day according to season. I am indebted to Mr. A. J. Muller, M.R.C.V.S. Divisional Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture for the following record of veterinary inspection results relating to your area during 1945.

The cows on 382 premises have been inspected in accordance with the Milk & Dairies Order, 1926.

Under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938, 25 animals have been slaughtered and found to be diseased :—

Cows in milk	20
Other cows	5

Found on post mortem examination to be suffering from :—

Tuberculosis of udder	10
Tuberculosis with chronic cough ..	15

Several cases of suspected Anthrax were reported by the Police but pathological examination proved negative in all cases.

Immunisation.

Clinics have been held at all schools with satisfactory results as regards children attending school. Parents of under-fives were urged by District Nurses to bring their younger children for this simple treatment but with the exceptions of Brompton, Langton, Rounton and Osmotherley the response was very poor, responsibility for the immunisation of 'under-fives' is now to be transferred to Welfare authorities. The protection afforded by immunisation is now beyond all question, and **neglect to secure this protection for every child is a very serious responsibility.**

After a Census of all children on school registers within the area, parents of every unimmunised child are circularised and given the date and time of the next clinic to which they are invited.

Group Isolation Hospital serving Northallerton Urban with Northallerton, Bedale, Thirsk and Helmsley Rural Districts.

1945 was another busy year—159 cases were received, of these 90 were sent in by the Military who have to isolate certain cases which are usually dealt with at home *e.g.*, German Measles, Chicken Pox, Mumps. Satisfactory isolation of a variety of disease at the same time is occasionally difficult and transfer becomes necessary; during the year 4 Diphtherias and a Scarlet Fever were transferred to other hospitals. Of the 159 treated here, 51 were scarlet fever; 18 Diphtheria; 42 Measles; 13 Rubella; 27 Mumps; 7 Chicken Pox and 1 Cerebro Spinal Fever. One Diphtheria, a girl of three, unhappily died within a few hours of reception of heart failure. This child had not been immunised, although 4 clinics for under-fives have been held within a stone's throw of the girl's home, other children in the family had been immunised and all yielded negative swabs. None of the other Diphtherias were critically ill but yielded positive swabs and were therefore isolated and treated till negative for a full week. Excepting spinal puncture, no surgical interference was called for. No return cases occurred. The fabric and equipment of the hospital are unchanged, floors should be re-stained and more painting, especially of the interior, **is now quite needful**, the pathways also need attention, administration of the hospital has been satisfactory. We are still without an extra ward maid. There was difficulty at times in securing **prompt** service for driving the Ambulance. A new Ambulance is now needful and the driver should be required to undertake **to be at all times on call**, and be responsible for the care and cleanliness of the Ambulance.

In concluding my report, I wish to acknowledge the prompt and efficient help always accorded me by Mr. Templeman and my professional neighbours.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
J. A. HUTCHINSON, M.D., M.O.H.

Northallerton, 5th October, 1946.

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