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NORTHALLERTON

Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

Year ended December 31st, 1904.

BY

W. BAIGENT, M.D., Medical Officer of Health.

NORTHALLERTON :

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NORTHALLERTON URBAN DISTRICT.

NORTHALLERTON,

FEBRUARY 2ND, 1905.

Medical Officer's Annual Report for the Year ending December 31st, 1904.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting the Annual Report of the Urban District of Northallerton, for the year ending December 31st, 1904.

In dealing with the sanitary condition, birth and death rates of your area, I shall follow, as usual, the same order in this report as those of preceding years.

Population.

The estimated population to the middle of 1904 is 4,080, which shews an increase of 71 since the last census year. In 1901 the population was 4,009, the inhabited houses 988, making the inhabitants 4.05 per occupied house.

The average increase in the population during the past twelve years is 21 per year.

40 new houses have been built and occupied during the year.

TABLE 1.

Year.	Inhabited Houses.	Average.	Population.
1901	988	4.05	4,009
1902	997	4.04	4,035
1903	1,008	4.02	4,057
1904	1,048	3.88	4,080

Deaths.

The absolute number of deaths which have occurred in the district is 63, which is 17 less than last year, but almost equal to the average for the past 8 years. This gives a general death-rate before correction of 15.4 per 1,000 estimated population—a little under the past 8 years' average. After correction, that is, after deducting deaths of non-residents in public institutions, who have come here on account of sick-

ness, and adding any who may have gone under similar circumstances and died elsewhere, the number of deaths falls to 46, making the *correct death-rate for the year 11.2 per 1,000 estimated population.*

This, I think, you will agree, is a highly satisfactory return; it is the lowest death-rate for 7 years past, and less than the average death-rate for the past eight years by 3.4. Of the total deaths 14—(nearly one-quarter of the number)—reached the age of 70 years and over. Two were 70 to 75, four 75-80, six 80-85, one 85-90, and one 93 years of age.

TABLE 2.

Under 1 Year.				Over 70 Years.			
3 days	...	1		70 to 75	...	2	
15 "	...	1		75 to 80	...	4	
18 "	...	1		80 to 85	...	6	
22 "	...	1		85 to 90	...	1	
5 weeks	...	1		93	...	1	
Under 6 months	...	1				—	
" 9 "	...	3				14	
" 12 "	...	4					

13

Infant Mortality.

The number of deaths in infancy is 13, and the infant mortality per 1,000 births registered is 114. This is a trifle higher than the past 8 years' average, which works out at 112.6. The average age at death continues to be satisfactory; for the year under review it is 41.3 years, the females having the longer life, the difference being—males 37.6 years, females 46.6 years. By deducting the infant deaths, the average increases to 50.9 years, against 54.1 for 1903.

TABLE 3.

Average Age at Death.		
1899	...	39.4 years.
1900	...	45.3 "
1901	...	35.2 "
1902	...	41 "
1903	...	45.3 "
1904	...	41.3 "

Zymotic Death Rate.

There have been no deaths from notifiable infectious diseases, but 3 deaths have followed Measles and 2 Whooping Cough, four of the five deaths being young infants.

TABLE 4.

Year.		Death Rate.		Zymotic Death Rate.
1896	...	9.47	...	0.50
1897	...	19.3	...	1.27
1898	...	16.4	...	0.25
1899	...	12.3	...	0.25
1900	...	18	...	0.50
1901	...	13.2	...	0.74
1902	...	12.8	...	0.49
1903	...	17.7	...	0.49
1904	...	11.2	...	—

Of the other deaths 4 were due to Tubercular Phthisis, 3 to other Tubercular Diseases, 4 to Bronchitis, 2 to Pneumonia, 3 to Alcoholism, 6 to Heart Disease, and 16 to other general causes.

Eighteen deaths occurred in public institutions, 17 of which did not belong to the area, and have been referred to their several localities.

Births.

The number of births registered is 114, making a *birth-rate of 27.9 per 1,000*, the average being 27.4 for the past 8 years. Of these births 59 were males and 55 females, one male and 4 females being illegitimate.

Comparison of the birth and death rates is highly satisfactory, the birth-rate being 27.9 and the death-rate 11.2 per 1,000. Taking the average for the past 8 years, there are 51 more births than deaths per year, and of this apparent increase 20.8 ultimately remain to swell the population of your area, and 30.2 leave the neighbourhood and probably gravitate into populous and overcrowded centres. In other words, of your young adults two-fifths remain at home and three-fifths depart, tempted no doubt by the supposed greater advantages of city life. I do not know if this average is more or less than other rural or semi-rural communities, but it no doubt points to a very serious state of affairs, so far as the general health of the nation is concerned, and, if allowed to go on at the present rate unchecked, will lower the physical vitality of the nation.

General Health.

The general health during 1904 has been remarkably good, and will compare favourably with other years, both with regard to general sickness and infectious disease. There has been no serious outbreak of disease, and the summer has been noted for its airy freshness, dryness, and absence of close, oppressive, unhealthy weather. During seasons of this type we have little summer Diarrhoea or Typhoid Fever.

TABLE 5.

	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.	June.	
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	2	...	...
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Diphtheria	...	...	1	3	1	...	
Erysipelas	1	...	...	1	...	...
	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	1	...	1	6	1	1	
	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Small Pox	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	1	...	...	...	...	4	7
Typhoid Fever	1	2	2	2	...	...	8
Diphtheria	...	1	...	...	3	...	9
Erysipelas	...	1	...	...	1	...	4
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	5	2	2	4	4	29

The total cases of infectious diseases for the year is 29, against 62 for 1903 and 37 for 1902. 23 of the cases were treated at home, and 6 at the Fever Hospitals. The town was free from infectious disease during February, and there was one case only during January, March, May, and June. 15 of the 29 cases occurred during school age.

SMALL POX.—During August a young man came home on account of illness from Raskelf, and, on being visited here soon after arrival, was recognised to be suffering from Small Pox. He was at once isolated in the Small Pox Hospital, and all contacts were vaccinated. Fumigation and disinfection of the premises was carried out under proper supervision. The case recovered, and was followed by no further spread.

SCARLET FEVER.—Seven mild cases were notified during April, July, and December. They were in different parts of the town, and were, with one exception, treated at home. All recovered.

TYPHOID FEVER.—The cases of Typhoid Fever during June, July, August, September, and October numbered 8, against 22 last year. Three were treated in the Fever Hospital. Those treated at home were supplied with Typhoid pails to receive the excreta.

THE FEVER HOSPITAL has again received cases from both Urban and Rural areas during the year, but these cases have been fewer than usual.

TABLE 6.

Year.	Urban Hospital.				Rural Hospital.			
	Urban Cases.	Rural Cases.	Closed.		Urban Cases.	Rural Cases.	Closed.	
1899	12	5	4 months		11	3	7 months	
1900	8	8	6 weeks		6	4	9	"
1901	10	5	5 months		9	8	5½	"
1902	7	12	18 weeks		4	5	permanently	in May
1903	19	1	5 months		...	...	...	...
1904	5	1	5 months		...	...	...	...
	—	—	—		—	—	—	
	61	32	25 months		30	20	28 months	

Total in 6 years :—Urban cases isolated, 91 ; Rural cases isolated, 52.

The temporary Small Pox Hospital was again used for the Small Pox case above spoken of, and the arrangements worked satisfactorily.

The scheme for the proposed new Joint Fever Hospital, which has been under consideration for a few years, is at present in abeyance.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.—The demand for better house accommodation for the working classes is still not fully met, and new houses of this class when erected are quickly occupied and over applied for. Houses of a better class are apparently sufficient to meet the present demand. The majority of the workmen's dwellings are small, unhealthy houses in the yards, many of which are narrow, dark, damp, and insanitary.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—During the past year two of the oldest brick sewers in the town have been taken up and re-laid with sanitary pipes, viz., the east side drain and the drain at the north end of the main street. The east side drain was mentioned in my last annual report as in bad repair, patched, and silted up, and the re-laying of this drain is a great sanitary improvement. Practically the whole sewage of the town is still treated by precipitation with lime in the present sewage works, and the effluent discharged into the Romanby Beck. These works have proved a failure, the method of treatment anything but efficient, and the watercourse is frequently very foul and offensive from sewage contamination, the effects of which are evident in the course of the stream much below Romanby. Several schemes for a better up-to-date method of sewage treatment have been prepared and considered of late, and, by the scheme chosen, which appears to meet the requirements of the district admirably, it is proposed, by means of a new drain, to conduct the whole sewage much below Romanby to the neighbourhood of Howden Bridge, and there treat it by means of Septic tanks, sprinklers over contact beds, and, if necessary, by land filtration. The site and land chosen for this purpose is apparently much the best available, and should meet present and all future needs of the area.

HOUSE REFUSE.—The area still contains many offensive, insanitary ashpits, and several have no other means of being emptied, excepting by the contents being wheeled in barrows and deposited in the street. The condition of these ashpits frequently receives attention, and each year some are improved and others abolished, but the process is a slow one, and should, I think, proceed at a more rapid rate. All are regularly emptied by public scavenger, and the soil removed by local farmers, or carted to a tip on the outskirts of the town.

THE WATER SUPPLY continues to be excellent in quality: it is pure, clear, and soft. After an unusually dry summer, the autumn drought was serious, and the springs ran very low indeed. On this

account it was necessary to turn off the supply for a short time during the evening.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.—Numerous workshops and workplaces have been inspected during the year, and the sanitary condition and cleanliness found to be satisfactory. Limewashing and other cleansing has been properly carried out, and the floors kept drained where wet processes are in operation. Privy accommodation in many of the workplaces is not good. The Bakehouses have all been inspected. Slaughter-houses, Dairies, and Cowsheds have also been visited. The Slaughter-houses have been better kept, more attention given to cleanliness, and the early removal of offal. Some of these are, however, in badly chosen places, in yards in the town.


I take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of Mr. Watson's services, for the thorough manner in which he discharges his sanitary duties, and for the zeal and interest he shews in his work.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM BAIGENT, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.



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