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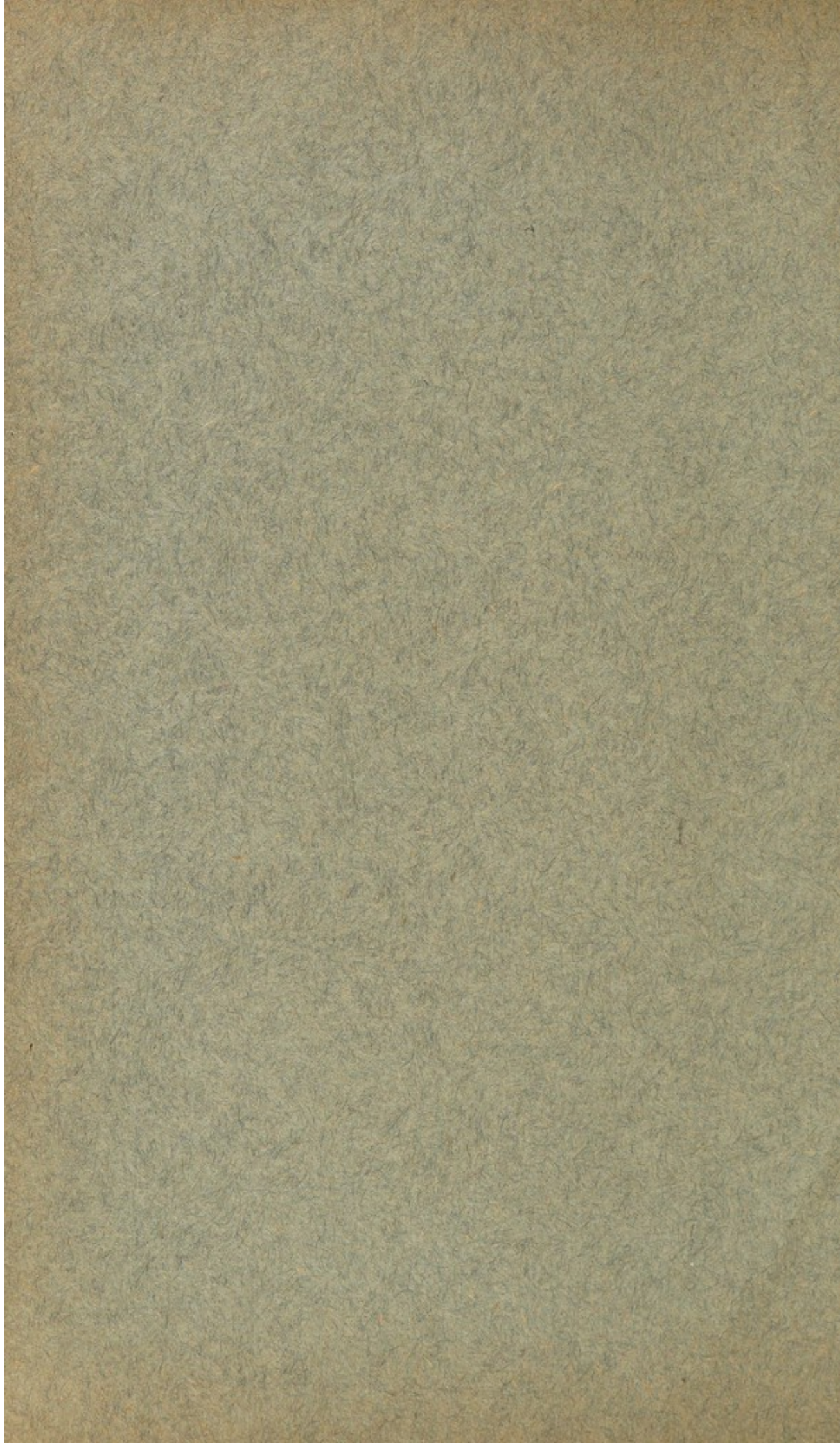
NORTHALLERTON
Urban District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S
AND
INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES'
ANNUAL REPORTS,

FOR THE
Year ended December 31st, 1908,

BY
W. BAIGENT, M.D., Medical Officer of Health
AND
Wm. WATSON, Inspector of Nuisances.

NORTHALLERTON :
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Northallerton Urban District.

NORTHALLERTON,

JANUARY 13TH, 1909.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

for the Year Ending December 31st, 1908.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of again presenting the Medical Officer's Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1908. The statistics in this report will, I think, compare favourably with preceding years.

Population.

The population shews an increase of 176 since the last census was taken in 1901, and estimated to the middle of the year is 4,181.

TABLE 1.

Year.	Inhabited Houses.		Average.	Population.		
1901	...	988	...	4.05	...	4009
1902	...	997	...	4.04	...	4035
1903	...	1008	...	4.02	...	4057
1904	...	1048	...	3.88	...	4080
1905	...	1109	...	3.07	...	4104
1906	...	1125	...	3.67	...	4129
1907	...	1134	...	3.66	...	4154
1908	...	1147	...	3.64	...	4181

Deaths.

The total deaths at all ages registered in the district number 64, 12 occurred in public institutions, 7 of which were those of non-residents. The deaths belonging to the area number 57, giving a death rate of 13.6 per 1,000 estimated population. This is much the same as last year. The average death rate for the previous ten years is 14.5.

Of the 64 deaths, 19 attained the age of over 70 years, 4 being over 80, the oldest 89 years. 38 of the deaths were those of males, the average being 39 years; 26 were those of females, the average being much higher, viz.: 51.3 years. The average age at death of the whole being 44 years.

As to causation, 1 death was due to Cancer, 3 to Bronchitis, 4 to Pneumonia, 2 to Premature Birth, 7 to Heart Disease, 4 to Meningitis, 1 to Appendicitis, and 22 to general causes mostly in aged people. To prevent repetition, the gratifying absence of deaths from Diarrhœa, due to food contamination will be dealt with under infantile mortality, and those due to infectious diseases under Zymotic Death Rate.

TABLE 2.

Average age at Death.			Over 70 years.		
1899	...	39.4 years.	70 to 75 years	...	8
1900	...	45.3 "	75 to 80 "	...	7
1901	...	35.2 "	80 to 85 "	...	2
1902	...	41.0 "	85 to 89 "	...	2
1903	...	45.3 "			
1904	...	41.3 "			19
1905	...	40.2 "			
1906	...	38.9 "			
1907	...	58.0 "			
1908	...	44.0 "			

Infant Mortality.

Twelve infants died under one year of age, nine of these being males and three females. This gives an **infant mortality per 1,000 births registered of 106.1**, against a ten years' average of 104. Four of these deaths occurred before the age of 1 month, two from Premature Birth and two from Convulsions; of the remainder, two were caused by Meningitis, one from Convulsions, two from Bronchitis, two from Pneumonia. None of these deaths were those of illegitimate children, and none were caused by overlying, improper feeding, Enteritis or Diarrhœa. This satisfactory infantile death rate is due in my opinion to the intelligent care shewn in the feeding of children by mothers in country districts, as compared with congested districts in large towns.

TABLE 3.
Infantile Deaths.

1 hour, Premature Birth	...	...	...	1
1 day, do.	...	...	...	1
3 days, Convulsions	...	...	...	1
7 days, do.	...	...	...	1
3 months, Convulsions, Tubercular Meningitis, Cardiac Disease	...	...	...	3
4 " Meningitis	...	...	...	1
6 " Bronchitis, Pneumonia	...	...	...	2
7 " Pneumonia	...	...	...	1
8 " Bronchitis	...	...	...	1
				12

Zymotic Death Rate.

There has been one death from Membranous Croup, giving a zymotic death rate due to notifiable infectious disease of .23 per 1,000 estimated population. Amongst other infectious diseases one death was due to Measles, three to Epidemic Influenza, five to Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and two to other Tubercular Disease.

TABLE 4.

Year.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Death Rate (notifiable).
1899	12.3	0.25
1900	18.0	0.50
1901	13.2	0.74
1902	12.8	0.49
1903	17.7	0.49
1904	11.2	—
1905	15.3	0.41
1906	15.2	—
1907	13.2	—
1908	13.6	0.23

Births.

The total Births registered during the year number 113, viz.; 65 males and 48 females. 4 males and 4 females were illegitimate. The Birth Rate is 27.0 per 1,000 estimated population, against a 10 years' average of 28.2. Again the birth-rate is as nearly as possible double the death rate, viz.: 27 per 1,000 births, 13.6 per 1,000 deaths.

General Health.

The year which has closed may possibly be considered one of the healthiest, if not the healthiest year on record, so far as sickness from general diseases is concerned. This particularly applies to the closing months of the year, when the weather was foggy and dull, which is generally spoken of as unhealthy, but which is in reality seasonable and healthy. During December, there was remarkably little sickness of any kind and no deaths.

There were 16 cases of infectious disease notified, which is considerably below the average number, but 7 more than last year, when we had the record small number of 9 only. During five months, January, February, September, November and December, this area was free from infectious diseases, and one case only during March, May and October. So that during 8 months of the year, the area contained only 3 cases of notifiable infectious diseases. There were no noteworthy outbreaks of other infectious diseases. During the Spring months there was a slight epidemic of Measles causing one death in a child, and also cases of epidemic Influenza causing three deaths.

TABLE 5.

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	
Diphtheria	...	...	1	1	1	1	
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	3	...	...
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	1	
	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	...	...	1	4	1	2	
	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	...	...	5
Scarlet Fever	4	1	...	..	...	...	8
Typhoid Fever	...	2	...	...	...	...	3
	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	4	3	...	1	...	...	16

SCARLET FEVER.

Eight cases in all. One case in the Spring, probably contracted from a visitor, isolated in the Fever Hospital and although other children were in this house it was followed by no further case. Two sisters in April also isolated with the same result. The source of infection could not be detected. In July, four cases at an isolated farm house. Here an old drain had been opened which no doubt produced the disease. The cases were isolated at home and all recovered. Butter-making and milk selling were stopped, and the outbreak did not spread.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were five cases in different households. Three of the patients were young children, one a young adult, and one a female over 60 years of age. One severe case of Membranous Croup in a young child ended fatally. All were isolated at home where proper precautions were taken to prevent the spread of the complaint. As a precautionary measure I must give the same advice and warning to parents and teachers as I did in my last two Annual Reports, viz. :—

“It is important when Diphtheria is prevalent that the throats of ailing children should be examined by their parents, as it is not uncommon in Diphtheria for a child not to draw attention to or complain of the throat until the disease is well advanced in severe cases, or not at all in mild ones. It is undetected cases of this kind which spread the disease to others, particularly if allowed to go to school under the impression that the child is suffering from some trifling ailment. During outbreaks of this kind it is the duty of parents to regularly examine the throats of their children.”

TYPHOID FEVER.

Three cases of this disease were notified in different households ; two were mild cases and one a doubtful one. Two were removed to the Fever Hospital ; all recovered. One patient probably contracted the disease at work. Where cases are nursed at home, a proper pail is provided to receive the excreta, which is emptied regularly by the Sanitary Authority.

THE FEVER HOSPITAL has been kept in readiness so that it could be opened for patients on short notice. Five cases above referred to have been isolated. As this hospital is adjacent to the main road, with the town spreading in that direction, and as it is small and not suited in other respects for the purposes of a fever hospital, the Council have decided to build another fever hospital further removed from the highway. For this purpose they have purchased a piece of land about two acres in extent, adjoining the site chosen for the Rural District Fever Hospital, and here propose to erect a new fever hospital. The site is excellent, and the hospital no doubt will be an improvement upon the present one.

TABLE 6.

URBAN HOSPITAL.				RURAL HOSPITAL.			
Year.	Urban Cases.	Rural Cases.	Closed.	Urban Cases.	Rural Cases.	Hospital Closed.	
1899	12	5	4 mths.	11	3	7 mths.	
1900	8	8	6 wks.	6	4	9	„
1901	10	5	5 mths.	9	8	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	„
1902	7	12	18 wks.	4	5	permanently in May.	
1903	19	1	5 mths.				
1904	5	1	5 „				
1905	4	0	9 „				
1906	1	0	49 wks.				
1907	0	2	9 mths.				
1908	5	1	6 „				
	71	35	60 mths.	30	20	28 mths.	

Total in 10 years—Urban Cases, 101 ; Rural Cases, 55.

CONTROL OF TUBERCULOSIS.

No general system of notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis either compulsory or voluntary is in operation. Public Elementary School Children when suffering from this disease are struck off the school register, and the cases are notified. With the object of giving clear instruction as to the causation and prevention of this disease, the Urban Council have sanctioned the printing of a suitable card to be given to parents and others, which is in course of preparation.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.

During recent years many new workmen's dwellings have been built and now the supply of suitable houses is ample to meet present requirements. These new houses have open spaces about, and the surroundings are clean. Many of the older houses down the yards are small, dark, with untidy and dirty surroundings, others again are clean and well built. Supervision over the erection of new houses is properly carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. The occupation of the working classes is of a mixed variety amongst the trades usually found in a small country town; some work on the railway, others follow Agricultural pursuits. There are no occupations in the area likely to have a prejudicial influence on the public health.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Nearly the whole of the main sewers of the town have been relaid during recent years with new sanitary pipes, and are now in an efficient condition. Each year additional ventilating shafts are erected in selected places, and have been most efficient in preventing the escape of sewer air from the manholes and grates in the roadway. In all new house property or where the drains have been laid under proper supervision they are in good order, but in some of the old property when it is necessary to take them up, they are invariably found bad or imperfectly laid.

The sewage of the town is treated by precipitation in the old sewage works in Springwell Lane, which unfortunately for the Council have proved a failure. During the year large quantities of precipitated sludge have been removed from the tanks which when dried has amounted to as much as 250 loads, and to this extent the beck into which the effluent falls has been saved from pollution. In spite of this, the Romanby Beck is much polluted, and complaints are made by land occupiers down the stream. This beck is polluted by villages both higher up the stream and also further down than the outfall of Northallerton, and the urban area should not have the whole onus cast upon it for this pollution. From the time these works were proved a failure the Urban Council have ever been mindful of the fact that new sewage disposal works were needed, that the small stream would not be free from pollution by Northallerton until efficient works were erected, and with little intermission have been enquiring for schemes likely to be successful. They have visited many modern sewage disposal works, and have engaged engineers to prepare schemes, none of which unfortunately could be carried to a conclusion with a full prospect of success.

During the Autumn of 1907 the disposal works at Stratford-on-Avon, Kenilworth, Hanley, and Newcastle-under-Lyme were visited. As Kenilworth possessed the first small efficient works the Council had

inspected which appeared to meet the full requirements of Northallerton, and which compared with this area in many ways, especially with regard to population, character and amount of sewage, as well as a small sluggish river to receive the final effluent, they unanimously decided to have a similar works erected at Northallerton. Competent engineers were at once engaged, a site was chosen, and instructions given to proceed with the plans with all possible haste, so that the work might be put in hand at the earliest possible moment. The engineers prepared plans in due course, which at first, to the surprise of the Council, only provided for single filtration and not for double filtration as the scheme approved of at Kenilworth. These plans after amendment were submitted to the Local Government Board, but here there has been serious delay, and no answer was forthcoming until near the close of the year. The gradient of the outfall sewer unfortunately did not meet the requirements of the Local Government Board, and it is most disheartening to think another year has slipped by and nothing of the new works is to be seen except upon paper. The scheme is however being vigorously pressed forward.

HOUSE REFUSE.

House refuse is removed by public scavenger and is disposed of to farmers for manurial purposes. Last year under this heading I reported as follows, and the same may be said to-day:—

“The area contains insanitary, offensive ashpits, and some which are emptied by the contents being wheeled in barrows and deposited in the roadway before carting away. The fouled surface of the road is always well sprinkled with disinfecting powder, but this method is uncleanly and dangerous to health. Privy ashpits have been improved of late years, and many have been abolished, but there is still a great deal to be done in this direction. I trust when we have an increased water supply and efficient sewage disposal works all these places will be abolished, polluted buildings and collections of filth will be removed—conditions which pollute the atmosphere, taint the food in crowded areas, and breed the germ-spreading house-fly—and their place taken by w.c.’s. and the zinc dust bin to be emptied each week. Some new houses have pan closets, which in theory are an improvement on the obsolete privy ashpit, but in practice the improvement is very questionable, as so much depends upon the cleanliness and orderly habits of the individual users, and when carelessly used or improperly kept are as bad as, if not worse than, the old system.”

WATER SUPPLY.

The public service water supply is pure, clear, and soft. It is gathered at the springs after natural filtration through oolitic limestone on the Hambleton Hills and is free from the risks of pollution.

During protracted drought unfortunately the quantity is insufficient to meet requirements, and it is necessary to give an intermittent supply by turning off at night. With the object of increasing the supply, engineers have prepared a scheme, which will probably be carried out, for constructing an additional reservoir, on a higher level than the present compensation reservoir, to collect the water from a small up-land burn. A bill has been deposited in Parliament for the coming session for carrying this scheme into effect.

PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS. General Review.

The Northallerton school is a well built structure situated in a central position, and the surroundings are good. The ventilation of the infant school is not satisfactory, it is overcrowded, the average attendance being 166·8. This however will soon be relieved as early in the year this department will be removing to the new school building in Springwell Lane. The girls' school is also a little crowded, the average attendance for the year being 176. The accommodation of this department, on the 10 sq. ft. basis, is suitable for 162 children, and on the 8 sq. ft. basis 202 children. This portion of the school is badly lighted by gas, consequently the dark afternoons this winter have been very trying to teachers and scholars alike.

The sanitary conveniences and lavatories of the whole premises are quite out of date, and are not in a good sanitary condition. They consist of a wet, sunk, privy ashpit, with rows of privy seats falling into it on either side, and on the boys' side opposite the seats is a urinal with flag partitions having no flushing arrangement. This urinal is cleaned twice a week but is foul and wet. The whole is roofed over, is badly kept, and should be replaced by an entirely new building, containing suitable water closets, with automatic flushing arrangement.

The water supply for washing and drinking purposes is very good, but the basins are out of repair and are not inviting. In common with all country schools I have entered, the cleanliness of the whole premises is not what it should be. Personal hygiene and cleanliness are supposed to be part of a child's instruction at school, yet schools in general are allowed to remain in a dirty stuffy condition. This is not due to any want of care or attention on the part of the teachers, but is due I should imagine to the payment allowed for cleaning not being adequate for the work to be thoroughly done. It would be interesting to know how often the average school gets a thorough washing with soap and water, and to have this compared with the time generally considered proper to have an ordinary kitchen or living room so washed and cleaned. The playground surface is composed of ashes, worn in holes in places, especially where there is most traffic. These holes hold water in wet weather. This condition not only wets the children's

boots, but the ashes adhering to the feet are a cause of much dust and dirt in the school. It would be a great improvement if the playground of this school was asphalted, or failing this the approaches to all the doors were so treated. More door mats should also be provided or duplicate mats found for change in wet weather, as with an ordinary supply it is quite impossible to keep them dry, or for the children to wipe their feet efficiently.

By providing all schools with good out-offices, clean lavatories with a plentiful supply of towels, door mats on which all could dry their feet; and have all these kept in a model way, I cannot doubt such practical demonstration carried out with regularity during school life would do more to teach personal hygiene and general cleanliness to children than much theorising.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOPS.

These places have been inspected, some are clean but in the case of others a higher standard of cleanliness is desirable. The milk produced within the area is wholesome and clean. Some dairymen and farmers have their suspected cattle tested for tuberculosis, but no methods are in vogue for the detection of tuberculous milk.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

Workshops and Workplaces when inspected are found in a generally clean condition. The out-offices in some cases are insufficient and in others not good. There are no out-workers. The bakehouses are clean and regularly whitewashed. Two have been given up and three new ones commenced during the year. Of the latter, one only commencing, has a privy ashpit adjoining which requires to be abolished, and a second has a small clean sink in the bakehouse requiring alteration. The license to the small underground bakehouse is still continued. Slaughter-houses, several of which are improperly in the yards, are kept moderately clean; the offal is quickly removed from the premises, and the blood not allowed to enter the drains. There are no dangerous or offensive trades in the area.

In closing this report I have to thank Mr. Watson, your Surveyor, for his attention to sanitary matters, and for his general help during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM BAIGENT, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Inspector of Nuisances' Annual Report

OF THE

Urban Sanitary District of Northallerton.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Report for the year just closed, and have pleasure in stating that steady solid progress has marked the year.

The progressive tendency of previous years has been fully maintained during the past year, and it is with pleasure that I report the permanent improvement of some of the worst places in your district, by demolition of useless but filth harbouring buildings and thorough re-drainage on modern principles.

There are still a good many of the small cottages where the open space is limited unoccupied, while all the new cottages continue to be occupied as soon as completed. This shows an improved ideal on the part of the occupiers as to what is desirable in a home and is at the same time an encouraging feature and promises well for the future of the public health. There is still room for great improvements, but the tendency is in the right direction.

BUILDING.

Building has continued at much the same pace as last year and chiefly of the better class cottage with baths and W.C.'s. In only two cases have ashpits been provided and this was in connection with two farm cottages built away in a field. Eight houses built during the year viz.: 2 of 7 rooms, 2 of 6 rooms and 4 of 5 rooms. No houses of this class are to let and appear to point to a further demand.

NOTIFICATIONS.

Three statutory notifications have been served during the year, but in all cases the necessary work was carried out without having to carry it further.

The following Sanitary Improvements have been carried out:—

W.C.'s displacing privies and ashpits	...	...	13
New baths in old property	...	...	6
„ „ in new property	...	...	3
New houses occupied	...	...	13
Premises re-drained	...	...	9
Ashpits abolished	...	...	5

SEWERS.

No new sewers have been constructed during the year but a drain has been constructed in South Parade, in such manner and at such levels as to be available for the South side of this street when the necessity shall arise.

VENT SHAFTS.

Further ventilation of the sewers has been carried out by the erection of three ventilating shafts. at the most important points, this makes a total of six *tall* shafts on the town sewers and has had a marked effect in reducing the quantity of sewer gas emitted from the surface grates.

OVERCROWDING.

Two or three cases of overcrowding have been investigated, but while more accommodation was desirable the conditions were not such as to warrant any drastic proceedings being taken.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

No new slaughter-houses have been registered during the year, and those that are in use are fairly well kept. I have inspected them frequently and have not found anything to seriously complain of. Small matters due almost entirely to the habits of the men employed, being all that required attention.

BAKEHOUSES.

There has been some change in these premises. Two have ceased to exist while three new ones have been started. They have been inspected, and the new owners have been directed what to do in order to comply with the regulations in force, and all have been anxious to comply. The old ones are well kept and in good order.

COWSHEDS.

1908 has been an active year among cowkeepers. During the summer I issued a special notice to each cowkeeper on the register informing them that the regulations would be strictly enforced during the coming winter, and pointed out to them the need for structural and other improvements if they wished to continue to use them for that purpose. The result has been a great improvement in the condition of these buildings. One old one has been pulled down and a new one built, which though not built on the most up-to-date plan is a good and suitable building. Others have been re-drained, all inside drainage removed, and old cobble, brick, and wood floors have been taken up and cement concrete put in their place. The insistence on limewashing has also led to the removal of a good deal of dirt retaining lumber, and after the limewash has been applied they present a greatly improved appearance. Several new premises have come under the regulations during the year, and in all cases I have inspected and measured them, and seen to the cleansing, limewashing, and drainage.

SCAVENGING.

The system of scavenging is the same as before, viz., your own men with contract team labour; this has worked very satisfactory on the whole, and there has been very little complaint, but the team

labour is somewhat expensive. Since my last report a commodious and suitable tip has been secured, and if the contract for team labour was replaced with own horses, it would be more convenient and probably cheaper in the end.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

Last year I reported that the common lodging-house had ceased to exist. I have again to report that no other has been provided.

WORKSHOPS, 1901.

There are one or two changes in the Workshops and Workplaces, but the conditions generally are much the same. Some are not provided with the proper amount of Sanitary conveniences for the different sexes and these are in hand at the present time and I have every reason to believe the requirements will be met without trouble.

FEVER HOSPITAL.

The unsatisfactory condition of some parts of the present Fever Hospital has led to a joint arrangement with the Rural District Council as to drainage and water supply to a more suitable site. This will be a great improvement in many ways, as there will be a good and efficient drain and water supply. A more suitable site, being more thoroughly isolated from inhabited houses and will also be the means of confining the infection (so far as the hospital is concerned) to one area instead of two or more.

GENERALLY.

Generally, the sanitary condition of your district is improved on that of last year as will be seen from the foregoing statement, and the appreciation on the part of the general public of a higher standard of sanitary efficiency is increasing. The willingness on the part of owners, agents and others responsible, to comply with all reasonable requirements still continue, and where any work is contemplated, I am generally called in or seen before anything is done, this saves both time and unpleasantness and at the same time secures greater efficiency both to the owner and the public health, and I am always glad to act in this way if I have the opportunity.

I wish to record my appreciation of the assistance accorded me by the Council, and also the personal support of the members outside the Council room. This is a considerable help or hindrance just as it is given or withheld, and I trust it will continue during the year upon which we have now entered. I also wish to express my thanks to the Medical Officer for the support he has been ever ready to give, and trust the same pleasant relations may still continue, and that with the combined efforts of Council and Officers the next report may record still greater achievements.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours obediently,
WM. WATSON.