With the Compliments of Dr. Coates.

BLEAK HOUSE, PATRINGTON,

JANUARY, 1898.

To the District Council of Patrington.

GENTLEMEN,—I present my second annual report of the health of the district covering the year ending December 31st, 1898.

The estimated population of the district is 8,812.

The number of births have been 193, of which 17 were illegitimate, or 1 in 11·35; 105 males and 88 females were born.

The birth rate per 1,000 has been 21·9, against 25·06 in 1896, 24·08 in 1895, 22·4 in 1894.

Only 57 children were vaccinated either publicly or privately out of the 193 births. This is not a sufficient proportion.

The total number of deaths has been 113, of which 54 were males and 59 females. The death rate per 1,000 is 12·82, against 1896, 14·9; 1895, 15·5; 1894, 12·6.

The average age at death for the whole district during 1897 was 44 years 6 months 1 week and 3 days, against 47 years in 1896.

The number of deaths at the different cycles of life were as follows: Under 1 year, 26; over 1 and under 5 years, 3; over 5 and under 15 years, 8; over 15 and under 25 years, 4; over 25 and under 65 years, 24; over 65, 48.

The Coroner has held four inquests in the district to ascertain the cause of death.

The following are the chief causes of death: Scarlet fever, 1; Diphtheria, 3; Enteric fever, 2; Diarrhœa, 4; Rheumatic fever, 1; Consumption, 10; Respiratory diseases, 15; Heart diseases, 20; Cancer, 8; Injuries, 3; all other diseases, 46.

No death occurred during 1897 in the parishes of Frodingham, Outnewton, Owthorne, and Rimswell.

The following will show at a glance the birth rate, death rate, and average duration of life in each parish :

	Births.	Deaths.	Comparative death rate per 1000.	Average age at death.
Burstwick	14	7	15 5	40 years
Burton Pidsea	7	2	5·71	30 ,,
Easington	10	13	33·67	48 ,,
Frodingham	2	—	—	
Halsham	3	2	8·3	73
Hilston	—	1	26·3	15 ,,
Holmpton	1	1	7·14	1 day
Keyingham	14	11	18 64	30 years
Kilnsea	2	1	6·25	79 ,,
Ottringham	11	4	7·54	45 ,,
Outnewton	1	—	—	—
Owstwick	3	2	32·47	56 ,,
Owthorne	—	—	—	—
Patrington	20	17	14·4	39 ,,
,, Union	2	8	—	74 ,,
Paull	12	9	16·07	30 ,,
Rimswell	2	—	—	—
Roos	16	3	6·12	57 ,,
Ryehill	7	2	7·60	28 ,,
Skeffling	4	2	14·38	79 ,,
Sunk Island	7	5	11·11	32 ,,
Thorngumbald	7	5	17·18	53 ,,
Tunstall	4	1	8·3	68 ,,
Waxholme	4	2	28·57	39 ,,
Welwick	4	3	9·49	50 ,,
Winestead	3	1	7·14	27 ,,
Withernsea	29	9	7·82	45 ,,
Convalescent Home, W'sea	—	—	—	—

During 1897, there has been a recrudescence of influenza in Holderness, and three deaths are attributed to this cause.

During the year it has been found necessary to close the Keyingham Schools twice, and Thorngumbald once.

There has been an outbreak of diphtheria at Keyingham on two separate occasions. These epidemics resulted in three deaths. There is no doubt that these deaths were due to absence of proper sanitary disposal of sewage, and a committee has been appointed, and a report drawn up. It is to be hoped that some diligence may be observed to prevent a return of this preventable disease by promptly attending to that report.

During the year typhoid fever (enteric), has existed at Thorne, Keyingham, Patrington, and Hollym with two fatal cases. Enteric fever is caused by contamination of drinking water with sewage, and I would point out to the inhabitants of the district generally, and the Council specially the great danger of surface sypings into wells. Many of the wells in Holderness have pipes at or near the surface leading water into the well, this is simply inviting disease, and should (as frequently happens) a large collection of manure be stored within a short distance of the well it is absolutely certain that sooner or later the persons using the well will be attacked with diarrhœa, dysentery, or enteric fever.

There are some good wells in the district and some very bad.

In some cases the privies are built alarmingly near the wells, and all such closets should be cemented so as to prevent the soil becoming impregnated with sewage.

It is the duty of the owners to see that their tenants have a good supply of water, and in default the Sanitary Authority has power to compel the establishment of such proper supply.

It would be better if the owners of wells would have them cleaned out periodically, say once in six or seven years, and a small quantity of lime and Condy's fluid put in the wells. Afterwards water should be boiled as well as filtered if the quality is not of the highest type. The Council will note that they are the body responsible for the water supply of the district, and the Local Government Board has just issued a reminder of this fact, pointing out the grave danger from contaminated water.

During 1897, I have made 29 analyses of water, 15 being good, 10 fair, and 4 bad. The owners have had notices to cleanse, and in one instance unfortunately it was necessary to take out a summons before the evil could be remedied. The result shewed such a course to be justified. Scarlet fever has been noted in the district, but in a very extremely mild form only one death having been returned from this cause.

Now that the Council have adopted the Infectious Disease (Notification Act) of 1889, it is necessary to point out to the inhabitants that it is a misdemeanour punishable by a fine of forty shillings to neglect to notify any case of small-pox,

cholera, diphtheria, erysipelas, scarlet fever (or scarlatina), typhus, enteric (typhoid), relapsing, continued or puerperal fevers, immediately on their becoming aware of its presence. This applies to any person in charge of a patient whether a medical man or not.

Steps will be taken to properly disinfect after every case by the Sanitary Authority.

During the year a number of nuisances have been inspected, and orders issued to abate. Ventilating shafts have been erected at Withernsea, and new drainage carried out at Burstwick.

During the year considerable attention has been paid to the sanitary condition of Withernsea, but there still remains much to be done, especially in regard to flushing the drains periodically during summer, and the private drainage of many houses requires investigating and some record kept of the connections. A system of drainage is efficient only just in proportion as its private drainage is superintended with the same amount of care expended upon the public mains. This in the past has been the weak link in the drainage systems of Patrington and Withernsea, and it is of little use putting down expensive system of drainage if the private connections are to be made without the oversight of the District Council's Officers, and I trust that the special resolution of the Council upon the subject will be insisted upon. Not only as regards permission to connect, but by not passing the drains until they have been inspected by the Sanitary Authority. If this is done a vast amount of trouble will be obviated in the future.

The Infant Life Protection Act of 1897 is now in force, and no person can now receive more than one infant under the age of 5 years, to keep or board without due registration by the Council.

On the whole the Council is to be congratulated on its work, for there has been an evident desire to see that the sanitary requirements of the district shall not be neglected.

I am, gentlemen, yours, &c.,

W. H. COATES,
Licentiate in Sanitary Science,
M.A., M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.S.A., F.C.S.,
H.M. Certifying Surgeon, &c.,
Medical Officer of Health, Patrington.
Member of the Inner Temple.

Bleak Work
Saturday
Jan 28/98

Dear Sir

Herewith find my annual report for 1897 as desired

Kindly acknowledge to

H E
W Boales.