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Contributors

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Rural District Council of Pickering.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health for the year ending
December 31st, 1937.



Rural District Council of Pickering.

ANNUAL REPORT

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December 31st, 1937.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith submit my report on the health and on the conditions which affected the health of your district during the year 1937.

No change has taken place in the boundaries of your district since I last made my Report.

SECTION A. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

The area in acres is 74,865.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population, middle of 1937 is 5,431.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to the rate books is 1581.

Rateable value £15,775. Sum represented by a penny rate is £65 : 10 : 0.

Social Conditions.

Agriculture and Market Gardening are the main occupations of the inhabitants. Several large Flour Mills are placed within the district. The Forestry Commissioners have a large area under their control, this industry finds work for a considerable number of men, both as full-time and part-time workers.

There has been no large amount of unemployment during the last year. The Catchment Board and Building Trade have continued to find employment to many who would otherwise have been idle.

I do not think the health of the children has greatly suffered from unemployment.

The Instructional Labour Centre situated at Dalby continues to do good work, but the numbers attending have not been so great as in the previous year.

No trade or occupation within the district is of an injurious nature to the health of the workers.

This district is divided into two parts, by the main road running from Sinnington to Ebberston. The northern part comprises a moorland track of country interspersed with villages and hamlets, and is entirely of an agricultural nature. The lower half is low lying land, with villages scattered along the main road the whole extent of the district.

The inhabitants of these villages are greatly employed in Market Gardening, much of their produce going to the Scarborough Market.

Vital Statistics.

Live Births	{ Legitimate Illegitimate	Total	M	F	Births Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...
		59	35	24	
		5	3	2	
		—	—	—	11.78
		64	38	26	

Still Births	Total	M	F	Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births ...
	3	2	1	44.77

Deaths	69	38	31	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ...
				12.70

Deaths from Puerperal Causes, Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List:—

		Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total Live and Still Births.
No. 29.	Puerperal Sepsis	none	none
No. 30.	Other Puerperal Causes	none	none

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	31.25
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			31.25
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			none

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	6
„ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	1
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	none
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	none

I have no comment to make on any causes of sickness which have been especially noteworthy in the area during the year. A rather extensive epidemic of measles occurred in the early part of the year which was the cause of one death. I do think parents are beginning to recognise that measles is a disease of a serious nature, and wants treating from the start with all care. One death occurred from Diphtheria, the illness was not recognised in its true form until a late stage, the illness did not spread.

SECTION B. General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The Public Health Officers of your authority are as follows. A part-time Medical Officer of Health, a Sanitary Inspector who is employed also by the Pickering Urban District, and possesses the certificates A.R.S.I. & M.I.H. There are Five Nurses who all hold Maternity and Nursing certificates employed within your district in Maternity, Nursing, and Child Welfare Work.

Laboratory Facilities.

The North Riding Laboratory at Scarborough under the care of Dr. Fox-Linton does all the Laboratory work for your authority.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Ambulance Facilities that are available are adequate for present day requirements. There is an Ambulance Stationed at Pickering which is shared by the Urban Council.

As Pickering is in the centre of the Rural District the Ambulance stationed there is easily accessible to all parts of your district.

An Ambulance stationed at Kirbymoorside on the West border of the district is available for cases on that side.

Nursing in the Homes.

Your authority does not contribute to the home nursing in the district, but Voluntary Nursing Associations exist which aided by grants from the Connty Council now provide for the nursing of the great majority of the people.

Since I made my last report the Maternity Act has come into operation, and the villages of Lockton, Levisham and Newton have been provided for.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

There are no Clinics or Treatment Centres within the district, Tubercular and Venereal cases go to Scarborough, and Orthopedic cases to Kirbymoorside.

Hospitals.

No Hospitals exist within the district. The Hospitals which are chiefly used are the Scarborough General Hospital, and the Malton Cottage Hospital.

The newly built Hospital at Scarborough is chiefly used by the inhabitants of your district for all general medical and surgical requirements. This is a Hospital supported by voluntary effort, and it is hoped that the inhabitants who take advantage of its benefits will join the scheme of weekly contributions which is in force in the district.

SECTION C. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

The villages of Newton, Sinnington, Marton and Normanby still remain without a satisfactory supply of water. Your Council has this matter in hand. Newton is entirely dependant on the rainfall caught in cisterns for its water supply, at the end of a period of drought a deplorable condition exists. Several attempts have been made to supply this village with water. Each scheme that has been brought forward has had to be abandoned owing to the fact that the cost would be too great for the ratepayers to pay, after taking into consideration the grants that have been promised towards the cost by the District Council, County Council and the Ministry. We are thus seemingly no nearer providing a better supply of water to the village than we were some ten years ago when the matter was first taken into consideration.

The water supply of Sinnington, Marton and Normanby is from surface wells, and those existing at Sinnington and Marton have both been found during the past year (unsuitable for domestic use). An inspector from the Ministry has recently held a local enquiry, and has asked for further information to be supplied by the engineer before giving his final report.

Thornton-le-Dale.

A large burst in the water main which was flowing into a sewer was discovered, and this was found to be one of the chief sources of the unsatisfactory supply to the village. Although the quantity of water now seems to be adequate, the difficulty of keeping a constant supply to the highest parts of the village still remains to be dealt with. I wish to draw the attention of your Council to the fact that nothing has been done to rail off the ground around the springs from which the water comes, so that there is no protection from pollution by cattle, this has been a matter that has been brought to your notice for some years, and should have immediate attention.

Bacteriological Examinations have been made from the pipe supplies of the following waters—Thornton-le-Dale, Allerston, Hartoft, Ebberston and Cropton and all found suitable waters for domestic use.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Extract for Sanitary Inspector's Report. ("Extensions to sewers have been carried out at Peaslands and Roxby Terrace in Thornton-le-Dale. In conjunction with the North Riding County Council a new sewer has been laid at Wrelton, this has abated a serious nuisance caused by the flooding of a pasture field with sewage. Repairs and alterations have been carried out in several parts of the district. At Middleton a certain amount of reconstruction is required to the settling tanks and filter; I find the way they are constructed is such that it is almost an impossibility to clean them out and renew the filtering material. It would also increase the efficiency of the system if a catchpit for grit was installed to receive road washings. Part of the sewer in Westgate, Thornton-le-Dale has been relaid, as I found it was laid with unglazed open jointed pipes."

Rivers and Streams.

Septic tanks are built to all the new houses of a larger size, and to all groups of smaller houses to receive the sewerage before entering into the main sewer, this together with the fact that under the catchment board the streams are kept much more cleanly, has done something to improve their condition.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

SANITARY INSPECTORS REPORT, 1937.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith submit the report on the Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number of visits under Public Health Acts	...	178
" " Housing Acts	...	203
" " Slaughter Houses	...	89
" " to Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops	...	56
" " to Conversions to Water Carriage Systems	8	
" " to Works in Progress	...	341
" " to Shops, etc.	...	38
Drainage System improved or renewed	...	11

Closet Accommodation.

Ashpits and outdoor Privies are the main closet accommodation, but in recent years a great number have been placed on the pail system. Where there is a piped water supply all new houses are placed on the water carriage system, thus bringing nearer the day when each village will have to have its own approved sewage disposal system.

Refuse Disposal and Public Cleansing.

There is no systematic scavenging in the district, the privies and ashpits are emptied by the occupiers as required. Farmers often do this for the sake of the Manure for the land. In some of the villages the refuse is lead into disused quarries, but in other villages it is being placed in side lanes. In one village a disused pinfold is made use of for this purpose, and as this is near some dwelling-houses, an unsatisfactory condition is created, provision should be made for the periodic emptying and disinfection of this pinfold until a more suitable place can be found.

I should like your Council to appoint a Committee to go into the question of the disposal of refuse in the villages where there is no satisfactory place for its disposal, this only refers to the disposal of dry refuse and not to the emptying of privies.

Smoke Abatement.

There is no nuisance caused from smoke in this area.

Shops.

No action has been found necessary to be taken under the Shop Act, 1934.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no private or public swimming baths open to the public in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No houses have been found infected with bugs. The general cleanliness of an average agricultural population, allied to the fact that the atmosphere and climate of the district is not conducive to the breeding of this particular vermin, no doubt accounts to a great extent for this. Isolated cases of infection from fleas were found, especially where the thatched roofs were being removed during the course of re-conditioning. The old thatch and wood were burnt and the houses fumigated and sprayed with insecticide. The local authority undertakes the disinfection.

Slaughterhouses.

The Slaughterhouses have been kept in a well conducted and cleanly manner throughout the year. Seven emergency slaughters were notified and had to be carried out at the farms. Court proceedings were taken in one instance for failing to give notice of slaughter and slaughtering in unlicensed premises. The condemnations will be dealt with in tabulated form in the Medical Officer's Report.

I am, Gentleman,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. STOREY, A.R.S.I., M.I.H.,
Sanitary Inspector.

Schools.

The Schools in your district which require an improved water supply are Newton, Marton and Sinnington, all these villages are under your consideration for an improved supply of water. Now that the village of Kirby Misperton has a piped water supply which passes close to the School, notice should be given to the Managers to have the School connected, as at the present time the water supply is not satisfactory. With regard to preventing the spread of infectious illness, the Schools are visited constantly by the district Nurses who report on any infectious illness found or suspected. The Headteachers also report to the M.O.H. on the absence of any child said to be suffering from infectious disease, by this means early knowledge of infectious illness is obtained.

SECTION D. Housing.

I am disappointed at the slow progress that has been made during the year with the erection of the new houses that your Council has decided to build, from one cause or another constant delay takes place, one of the chief causes of delay has been having to wait a month between the meetings of your Council before any decision could be obtained, now that you have delegated to the Building Committee power to act, I think this will greatly expedite matters, the delay is getting serious, for the owners of the houses that have received demolition orders will do nothing to prevent the houses from becoming more dilapidated, the condition of these is going from bad to worse.

There is an undoubted demand in parts of the district for new labourers houses, so I trust advantage will be taken of the new act and more houses built during the present summer.

Housing Statistics.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	147
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	172
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	28
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	43
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	8
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	38

2. Remedy of defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	11
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Acts, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	16
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	22
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	20
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil

C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	nil

D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ...	nil

4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding :—

A. (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	14
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	14
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	70
B. Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ..	nil
C. (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	14
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	76

An undertaking was accepted as to the re-conditioning of two houses within a certain period. This was not carried out, but the owners demolished the houses.

SECTION E. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

The supervision of the supply of milk is partly under your supervision and partly under the County Council. The inspection of cattle is entirely dealt with by the County Council. In 18 cases where farmers supply milk, improvements to Cowsheds and Dairies have been made. Milk Coolers have been installed in many of these cases. The Cowsheds and Dairies are kept under observation as regards to cleanliness. The majority of those who are registered for the sale of milk only sell to neighbours as a matter of accommodation.

Meat and other Foods.

Slaughter Houses. (Extract from Inspector's Report). The Slaughter Houses have been regularly visited and have been found to be kept in a cleanly condition. Seven emergency slaughters were notified, and had to be carried out on the farms. Police Court proceedings were taken in one instance for failing to give notice of slaughter, and of slaughtering on unlicensed premises. The following is a table of :—

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs.
Number killed (if known) ...					
Number inspected	127	24	12	212	64
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis.</i>					
Whole carcases condemned		3		5	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned.	15	7	nil	17	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis.	11.8	41.66	8.33	10.3	12.5
<i>Tuberculosis only.</i>					
Whole carcases condemned	1	2	nil	nil	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned.	11	8	nil	nil	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	9.44	41.66	nil	nil	20.3

Prevalence of and control over Infectious and other Diseases.

The district has been very free from notifiably illness, the only illnesses notified were :—
Scarlet Fever 5. Diphtheria 1. Pneumonia 1.

The cases of Scarlet Fever were of a mild nature and occurred in three different parts of the district, two of the cases were undoubtedly imported from outside the district.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1937.

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	none	1	none
Scarlet Fever	5		none
Diphtheria	1		1
Enteric Fever	none		none
Puerperal Fever	none		none
Puerperal Pyrexia	none		none
Pneumonia	1		none

One of the cases of Scarlet Fever occurred at the Allerston Instructional Centre (for unemployed). As we are still without any isolation hospital for our district, I was placed in a somewhat difficult position to know what to do. It is one thing having to deal with Scarlet Fever in an isolated country cottage to having to deal with a case in a centre of this description.

I was fortunate in being able to get the case taken into the York Isolation Hospital, and no further spread took place. Arrangements have now been made by the Ministry of Labour to take any cases that may occur of an infectious nature in the Allerston Centre into the York Isolation Hospital.

The negotiations with the Scarborough Corporation for them to take cases from your district into their hospital have not, as yet, arrived at any agreement.

We have an arrangement with Middlesbrough with regard to any cases of smallpox that may occur.

Prevention of Blindness.

The County Council deals with cases of treatment for diseases and injuries to the eyes.

Tuberculosis.

No case has yet been detected of any person suffering from Tuberculosis that is employed in the milk trade, if such a case were found to exist it would be at once reported to the County M.O.H.

There has been no death from either respiratory or non-respiratory Tuberculosis during the past year.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0				
1				
5				
15				1				
25				
35				
45				
55				
65 and upwards				...				
Totals ...				1				

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

R. A. SCOTT,

Medical Officer of Health,
Pickering Rural District

June 7th, 1938.



