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**Contributors**

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ROTHBURY,  
NORTHUMBERLAND.

March 10/97.

Dear Sir

I have much pleasure  
in forwarding copy of the  
Annual Report for <sup>Rothbury</sup> District Council,  
unfortunately that for the  
Rothbury District Council is not  
printed.

Yours very truly  
F. Barron

Per A. G. G. G.

ROYAL SOCIETY  
OF MEDICINE



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**ROTHBURY**  
**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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**REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER**

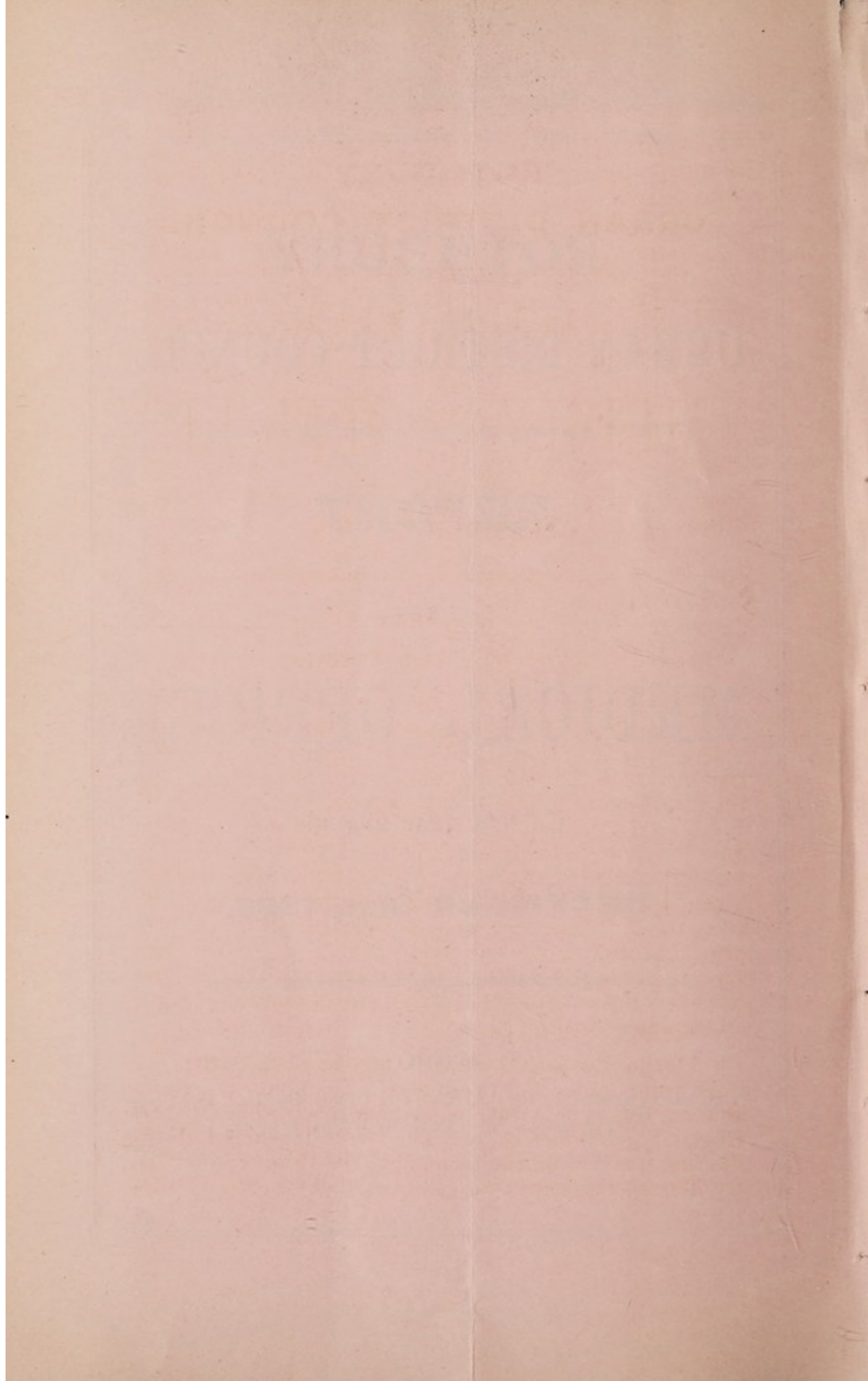
FOR THE YEAR ENDING

**DECEMBER 31st, 1896.**

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ALNWICK :

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**ROTHBURY**  
**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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**R E P O R T**  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER**

FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
**DECEMBER 31st, 1896.**

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ROTHBURY, JANUARY 23RD, 1897.

TO THE ROTHBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

Allow me to congratulate you, and Rothbury, upon your first year of formation as an Urban Council, and to thank you for allowing me the privilege of presenting this, the first Annual Report to you, as your Medical Officer of Health. Possessing its own Council, Rothbury will now have ample time and power to attend to its own requirements. Of necessity, a great deal of your time has been taken up with routine work, and the framing of the Bye-laws. These, ere long, I believe, will be ready for printing, and to be enforced. Still, during the year, several important matters have been attended to, and from this report you will see that the district has been in an extremely healthy condition.

During the year there were registered 24 births, 10 of these being males, and 14 females. Taking the population at 1200, this is at a rate of 20 per 1000, while that for England and Wales is 30. They were registered, during the first quarter, 6; the second, 5; the third, 8; and last, 5. The deaths were 15 in number, but as two of these

were strangers, 13 were belonging to the district, which gives the very low rate of only 10·8 per 1000 per annum, which is extremely satisfactory (country towns about 17·0). Of these 13, four were males, and nine females; and they occurred as follows:—In March, 2; April, 1; May, 1; July, 2; August, 1; September, 3; October, 2; November, 1. There being 24 births, and 13 deaths, it follows that there were 11 naturally added to the population, which is at a rate of 9·1, that for England and Wales being 12·0. Of the 24 births, it appears that two died while under one year of age, which gives the low infantile death rate of 83·3 per 1000 born; that for England and Wales being 120. There was only one death in the epidemic or zymotic class of disease, producing a rate of only 0·83 per 1000 living; England and Wales, 2·1. This was due to diarrhœa in an infant. Other chief causes of death were heart disease, 1; brochitis, 1; injuries, 1; consumption, 0; influenza, 1; apoplexy, 3; others, 6. The periods of life at which these occurred were, under one year of age, 2; five and under fifteen, 1; fifteen and under twenty-five, 1; twenty-five and under sixty-five, 9; above that, 2, one of these being 96. From injuries, a child was accidentally scalded, a Coroner's enquiry being held on this. Of the strangers, one was a man who died suddenly while in charge of a horse and cart, on whom an inquest was also held; and the other, a visitor who came here for change, in the last stage of consumption. There were a few cases of diarrhœa, and it caused one death in an infant. A case of measles was imported with a visitor's child in June. Isolation and disinfection were well carried out, and it did not spread, the child recovering.

A few cases of Influenza, mostly in mild form, and often amongst children (on whom it was more severe), but it caused the death of an adult male, having complications.

There were no cases of scarlet fever or typhoid.

I inspected the Lodging House, and found it clean and tidy; also the Slaughter Houses, which are much cleaner kept than they were, being whitewashed at proper intervals, and the offal is carted away on the day of

slaughter, thus removing a very foul nuisance next to Mr A. Dixon's, which was complained of by him. Your Inspector has effected this.

Great improvements have been made in Bridge Street. The discharge of the South Terrace sewer above watermark has been rectified. A very great improvement has been effected at the foot of the town, by the clearing out of the conduit of the Cobletch Burn. This was done by a joint committee, thus, let us hope, preventing the occurrence of such floods as used to occur at the low end of the town. The unsanitary condition of the premises behind Henderson's shop has been rectified. A proper W.C. has been provided, and a covered in ash-midden.

I feel it my duty to point out to your Board, that several towns on the east coast are agitating to secure the Tosson Springs of Water, and convey them there. If Rothbury extended much, I fear that the spring at present used might not be sufficient, and then we should need some from Great Tosson. It would be advisable for your Board to petition the owner, Lord Armstrong, to kindly safeguard your interests, in case this was attempted.

I would also strongly advise your Board to adopt the Notification of Diseases Act, so far as small pox, scarlatina, diptheria, membranous croup, typhoid, continued, and puerperal fevers, erysipelas, and cholera are concerned.

Your Inspector (Mr Bell) advises me that the following have been attended to by him besides above:— Increased storage has been provided for Penniston Well and the stone conduit hitherto supplying Addyheugh Well has been replaced by a properly laid socketed pipe, with cemented joints, preventing waste and pollution.

Two blocks of buildings have had their drainage quite renewed.

Six privies have been replaced by w.c.'s, and five more are under construction. One ash-midden has been provided, and two reconstructed. Three more are in



course of the same. Seven defective gullies have been replaced with efficient ones, and three more being attended to. Several w.c.'s have had their soil pipes properly ventilated.

Provision is being made for storm water in the town, and to try all possible means to prevent the overflow of Cobletch, and the drains at the low end of the town.

The provision of the Rubbish Depot, well out of the town, has enabled your Authority to all but abolish the depositing of ashes and refuse, in unauthorised places.

I am indebted to Mr. Bertram of Cragside, for the following table of Rainfall registered there :—

			INCHES.
January	...	...	1·38
February	...	...	0·80
March	...	...	2·94
April	...	...	1·12
May	...	...	1·17
June	...	...	2·54
July	...	...	3·58
August	...	...	3·37
September	...	...	3·91
October	...	...	8·75
November	...	...	2·22
December	...	...	7·38
			<hr/>
Total	...	...	39·16
			<hr/>

Thus there was the greatest rainfall in October and December, indeed I have no such records for 14 years ; the average of these has been 33·0 inches. The finest month was February.

Your obdt. servant,

**F. BARROW,**

Medical Officer of Health.

