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Contributors

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Newbiggin-by-Sea Urban District Council.

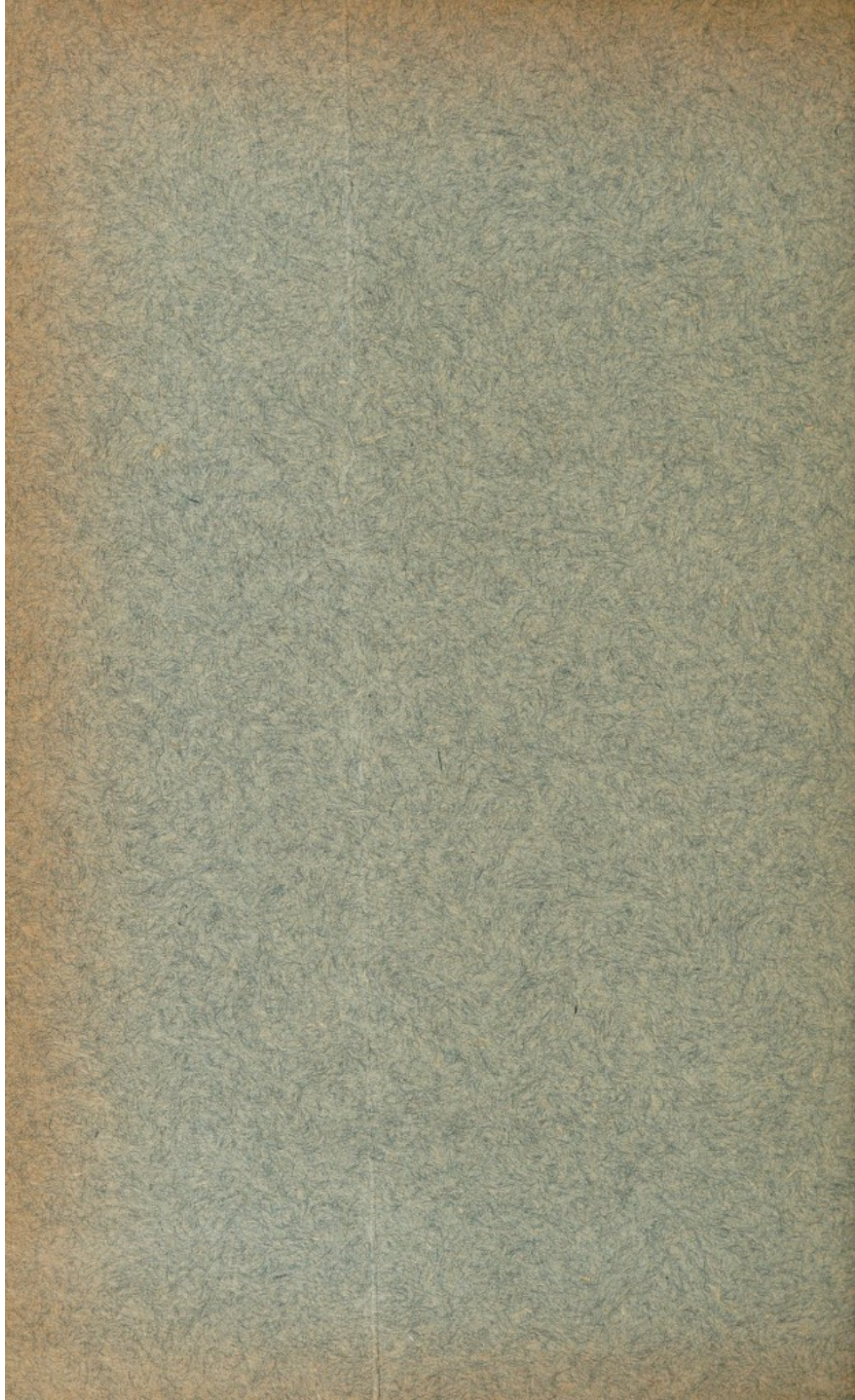
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

For Year Ending 31st of December, 1906.





To the Members of the Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my Annual Report for 1906, I bring before you the General Sanitary State of the District, the Public Health during the year, any influences affecting or likely to affect the same, the Sanitary Work performed during the year, the improvements effected and the Vital Statistics.

Climatology :- The year 1906 differed from the four previous years, in affording during the reputed summer months a much warmer and more genial climate than is usual on this bleak and exposed coast. To this cause may perhaps be attributed the fact that the Death Rate was 2·2 per 1000 below the average for the previous decennium.

House Accomodation :- At midsummer there were but two more houses occupied than at the same period in 1905, but as I shall inform you later, 31 houses had been built up to the end of the year. The chief defects occur in the older buildings; in my report for 1905, I entered fully into this matter, giving the number of houses and locality where insanitary conditions prevailed. Since writing that report the houses in Store Yard have been provided with through ventilation and 2 houses in Prospect Place, have improved privy and ashpit accomodation.

Scavenging of House Refuse, Ashes, etc., as performed by contractor, has in my opinion not been very satisfactorily carried out. The ultimate solution of the question must however depend on the attainment or not of a proper water supply.

Water Supply :- The number of Wells and Pumps remains the same viz :- 3 public wells. The water itself varies in quantity and quality and especially after heavy rain, contains an abnormally large amount of solids in suspension, for this reason drinking water should be filtered; water for flushing and cleansing purposes in connection with Yards, Stables, Cowsheds and so on, is directly dependent on the rainfall at any particular time, thus it happens that there is often none available for such purposes.

Factories and Workshops Act, 1901 :- There are 2 factories in the district and 7 or 8 workshops. There are apparently no home-workers employed. These places have been inspected from time to time.

Nuisances :- A nuisance which I report to you regularly every year, exists at Henderson's Buildings, namely the large Uncovered Privy Ashpit. I hope you will deal with this matter this year.

The much needed **Bye-laws** you have dealt with and provisionally framed and will in due course come into force.

Sanitary Work :- Inspections of the district have been made both by the Inspector of Nuisances and myself; advice has been given to tenants and property owners when necessary and reports made to you at your ordinary meetings. The scavenging has thus been supervised and nuisances from Blocked Gullies, Drains, etc. dealt with.

Public Health :- The year 1906, has been remarkable, not only as regards climate, but also for the small number of cases of infectious disease notified, namely 14 as compared with 38 in 1905. The whole of these cases with only one exception occurred in the first three months of the year, 10 of these were cases of Scarlet Fever, which was so prevalent in 1905, the remainder consisted of one case of Erysipelas and 3 of Diphtheria.

At the end of the year except for one case of Diphtheria and a few cases of Influenza and Infective Colds, the public health was satisfactory.

Amongst non-notifiable diseases, Phthisis, Respiratory diseases, and Cerebral Apoplexy proved the most fatal.

Circumstances threatening to affect the Public Health.

- 1.—**Burying Ground :-** I am given to understand that there are only a few yards of virgin ground in the Churchyard and some extension should be quickly made for future needs.
- 2.—**Possible Failure of Water Supply :-** Plans were before you some months ago in connection with the proposed coal mine to be started near the edge of the moor and not far from Newbiggin. If this proposed mine is worked, there is a possibility, nay, in the opinion of many, a strong probability that our wells will be affected and drained; a more serious condition could hardly be imagined.

IMPROVEMENTS DURING 1906.

- (a)—**Houses, etc., built :-** 6 Houses in Buteland Terrace, with Gas laid on and a constant water supply from Milburn Estates Co.
- 1 House in Front Street, adjoining Delaval House.
 - 10 Houses in Marine Street.
 - 10 Houses in Moor View.
 - 2 Houses in Vernon Place, Front Street, on site of very old cottage and out-buildings.
 - 2 Shops with dwelling house at Burnside, Front Street, on site of very old house and shop.
- (b)—Footpaths laid with Cement Concrete in Marine Street, Moor Road, Moor View and East View.
- (c)—Improved Privy and Ashpit arrangement to 2 Houses in Prospect Place.
Improved Privy and Ashpit arrangement to 2 Houses in Wansbeck Square.
- (d)—Gas and Lighting—Seaton Avenue and Buteland Terrace lighted with Gas. Gas mains laid in Queen's Street, Moor Road, Marine Street, Moor View and East View.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated population to middle of 1906, is 2550.

Births, 82. Birth rate, 32·1.

Deaths, 39. Death rate, 15·2

The Birth rate shows a decrease of 2·2.

The Death rate shows a decrease of 2·1.

Of the Deaths, 11 occurred in infants under 1 year.

" " persons of 65 years of age and upwards.

The Zymotic Death rate is 1·17 (in 1905 it was 1·18).

The Phthisis Death rate is 1·96 (in 1905 it was 1·97).

These 2 rates are therefore practically identical with those of 1905.

The Infant Mortality rate is 134, a decrease of 26·9.

Ages at Death.		Causes of Deaths.
Under 1 year	11	Pertussis 1. Epidemic Influenza 1.
1 year and under 5 years ..	5	Diarrhoea & Enteritis 2. Phthisis 5.
5 years ,, ,, 15 years ..	0	Cancer 2. Bronchitis 4. Pneumonia 2.
15 years ,, ,, 25 years ..	1	Heart disease 3. Suicides 1.
25 years ,, ,, 65 years ..	11	Cerebral Apoplexy 7.
65 years and Upwards	11	All other causes 11.
	—	
	39	

V. BURROW, M.D.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

VITAL STATISTICS DURING 1906 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the Dist.	
		No.	Rate.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.		No.	Rate.
				No.	Rate per 1000 Births Registered	No.	Rate.		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1896	1775	88	49.5	11	125	26	14.6		
1897	1822	75	41.1	14	185.3	41	22.5		
1898	1872	69	36.8	13	188.4	35	18.6		
1899	1925	77	40	12	155.8	33	17.1		
1900	1981	75	37.8	7	93.3	30	15.1		
1901	2032	84	41.3	21	250	39	19.1		
1902	2250	79	35.1	7	88.6	34	15.1		
1903	2400	88	36.6	15	170.5	33	13.7		
1904	2450	86	35.1	11	127.9	52	21.2		
1905	2530	87	34.3	14	160.9	44	17.3	41	16.2
Averages for years 1896 to 1905	2103	80	38.7	12.5	154.5	36	17.4		
1906	2550*	82	32.1	11	134	39	15.2		

NOTE.—Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 10 calculated per 1000 of estimated population.

*In addition—about 400 or 500 visitors during the summer months.