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Contributors

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SALTBURN & MARSKE-BY-THE-SEA
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



NORTH RIDING (GUISBOROUGH)
COMBINED DISTRICTS.

. REPORT .

for the Year 1946

of the Medical Officer of Health,
C. R. GIBSON, M.A., M.B., CH.B.

D.P.H.



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
SALTBURN & MARSKE-BY-THE-SEA
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my twenty-eighth Annual Report, that for the year 1946.

As I have had to write this before the Registrar-General's estimate of population and corrected figures for births, deaths, etc., are available, my figures for these are provisional only and are subject to alteration when the more exact figures are known.

The population of the district at the middle of 1945 was estimated by the Registrar-General to be 6,519, an increase of 127 from the previous year. With this as a guide I would estimate the population at the middle of 1946 to be approximately 6,650.

The number of births registered as occurring in the district during the year was 74 ; taking into account the possible number of women going into institutions outside the district for their confinements, I would estimate that the final number of births assigned to the district for the year may be as high as 120, corresponding to a birth-rate of 18·0 per thousand population. There were 135 births in 1945, giving a birth-rate in that year of 20·7.

The deaths of residents during the year numbered 97, giving a death-rate of 14·6, as against a rate of 14·9 in 1945, and an average of 16·3 over the five years 1939—43.

Five infants died under the age of one year, giving an infant mortality rate of 41 deaths per thousand births, a very similar rate to that in the previous two years. There were, however, two deaths of children of ages from 1 to 4 years, as against no deaths at these ages in each of the two previous years. The average however is satisfactory. In the five years 1919—23 the deaths of children at ages 1—4 years in this district were 33 per thousand births ; in 1924—28 this figure rose to 41 ; then in the two succeeding periods of five years it fell to 27 and 7 respectively, rose to 14 in the five years 1939—43, and in the three years since then has reached a new low level of 5 deaths per thousand births.

Notified Cases per thousand Population

	Saltburn & Marske		N.R. Combined	
	U.D.		Districts	
	1946	1945	1946	1945
Scarlet Fever	1.82	1.07	1.89	2.55
Diphtheria	0.00	0.61	0.40	1.12
Measles	1.97	15.04	5.78	16.60
Whooping Cough	1.37	3.22	3.62	1.59
Puerperal Pyrexia	0.00	14.7	4.70	9.93
<i>(per 1,000 births)</i>				

The above Table shows that, except for scarlet fever, the district has suffered less from the notifiable infectious diseases than in 1945 and the incidence of these diseases has been lighter here than in the North Riding Combined Districts as a whole.

One case was notified as diphtheria but the diagnosis was not confirmed on bacteriological examination. The only years during the last thirty when there has been any considerable epidemic of diphtheria in this district were 1934 and 1935, when there were 17 and 31 cases respectively. Apart from these years the annual number of cases never reached double figures.

At the beginning of 1946 the responsibility for the immunisation against diphtheria of children under 5 years of age was transferred from the District Council to the County Council, as the Child Welfare Authority, while the arrangements for immunising older children were left in the hands of the District Council. This change was not to replace any schemes that the District Council might be operating for the immunisation of younger children, although the expense of these would be borne by the County Council.

Record Cards showing that 192 children had been immunised against diphtheria were received during the year : 117 aged under 5 years, 54 between 5 and 14 years, and in 21 the age was not stated. The number immunised in 1945 was 137 and in 1944, 111. Immunisation can, therefore, be regarded as satisfactory.

Twelve cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year, compared with 13 in the previous year and 31 in 1944, but a considerable proportion of these earlier cases were in service personnel from Camps in the district. Of recent years this disease has been very mild, with few complications, and it is now the practice to discharge uncomplicated cases from the Joint Hospital after a fortnight.

Thirteen cases of measles were notified, against 102 in the previous year, when there was a considerable epidemic. Whooping Cough was also less prevalent, with 9 cases and one death, against 21 cases in 1945. Like the other common acute infections these two diseases are becoming of less importance as causes of death. The following table shows the experience of the Combined Districts in this respect :—

N.R. COMBINED DISTRICTS

Number of Deaths from Common Acute Infections

	Deaths from Scarlet Fever	Deaths from Diphtheria	Deaths from Measles	Deaths from Whooping Cough
1919—23	4	33	54	53
1924—28	9	14	27	32
1929—33	3	5	17	27
1934—38	2	29	17	9
1939—43	2	18	11	6
1944—46	0	7	2	5

(3 Years only)

The yearly combined death-rate of these four diseases per thousand children under 15 years of age has fallen from 1·57 in 1919—23 to 0·34 in 1944—46.

The district has suffered heavily from tuberculosis during the year, with 11 new cases and six deaths (five of them from tuberculous disease of the lungs). The number of new cases has only been exceeded in 1942, when there were 14, and the number of deaths in 1939, when seven persons died from this disease.

Deaths from Tuberculosis in two-year periods

N.R. Combined Districts

	From tuberculosis of lungs or larynx	From other tuberculosis
1921—22	64	22
1923—24	74	18
1925—26	76	21
1927—28	53	31
1929—30	51	13
1931—32	45	19
1933—34	43	15
1935—36	44	13
1937—38	36	14
1939—40	43	8
1941—42	54	12
1943—44	49	5
1945—46	45	19

Deaths both from tuberculosis of the lungs and from tuberculosis elsewhere now stand at a considerably lower level than at the beginning of the period reviewed but, while deaths from tuberculosis of the lungs reached their lowest level in 1937—38, just before the war, and then rose during the war to a peak in 1941—42 when air-raids were most frequent and the general situation was at its most anxious, since when the number has again diminished, the deaths from other forms of tuberculosis—meningitis, abdominal tuberculosis, tuberculosis of bones and joints, etc.— have not followed a parallel course.

They diminished more irregularly than the deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis and reached their lowest level in 1943—44. In the following two years, 1945—46, they have risen again sharply, to as many as in 1931—32. There are two main varieties of the tubercle germ, the human type, found in practically all cases of tuberculosis of the lungs in man, and the bovine type, found in tuberculous cows and also in a very considerable proportion of cases of tuberculosis in children affecting other parts of the body than the lungs. This rise in the death rate from tuberculosis of other parts of the body than the lungs should lead one to pay special attention to the possibility of tuberculous milk being a present danger, especially in view of the increased quantity of milk consumed by children in the last few years. All milk for children should either be from tuberculin-tested cows, or should be pasteurised, or, failing that, boiled, to ensure that any tubercle germs it may contain are killed.

Foods. One sample of milk pasteurised in the district was submitted for laboratory examination in July. The report was that the Phosphatase Test placed it in Group I, and the bacterial count per c.c. was satisfactory, at 26,000 ; coliform bacilli were, however, present in 1/100 c.c.

Nine samples of ice-cream on sale in the district were submitted in August and September by your Inspector for bacteriological examination, from seven retailers. Four were reported as giving bacterial counts of under 100,000 per c.c., and five over that figure. Of the four with low or moderate bacterial counts three showed an absence of coliform bacilli in 1/10 c.c.; of the five with high bacterial counts, four showed coliform bacilli present in 1/1000 c.c. Regulations made by the Minister of Health in the Autumn should lead to an improvement in the standard of cleanliness of this commodity.

On receipt of a complaint that shell-fish (i.e. winkles) collected from possibly sewage-contaminated rocks within the district were being sold for human consumption, a sample of winkles from this source were submitted for laboratory examination in July. The report stated that the winkles were heavily contaminated with B. Coli. The Council then proceeded to make an Order under the Shell-fish Regulations, 1934, prohibiting the sale for human consumption of shell-fish collected from layings within the district.

Water Supply. The Urban District, except for a few houses in Marske, dependent on wells, is supplied with water by the Cleveland Water Co. from its main reservoir at Lockwood Beck and a subsidiary one at Upleatham. It was reported at the end of January that, after a year of under-average rainfall, the Lockwood Beck reservoir was not full. The first half of the year was drier than usual so that the level of the reservoir fell seriously. Discussions were held between the Water Company and the districts concerned and the Company sought powers to execute a temporary scheme to pump water from the Sleddale Beck at Comondale into their reservoir and also to carry out a long term plan to obtain more water by constructing a new reservoir near Scaling to collect water from a moorland gathering ground there. A Ministry of Health enquiry was held and approval given to the short term plan.

A sample of water was submitted by your Inspector on June 24th, from a tap on the Cleveland Supply at Marske. This sample showed slight bacterial impurity, with

B. Coli, Type I, present in 50 c.c. The Water Company was at once informed and took steps to investigate the matter : two samples they submitted from reservoir water were reported as of a high order of bacterial purity but a sample from a house tap in Marske showed some degree of contamination. The Company thereupon decided to empty and clean out the Upleatham Reservoir and to flush the mains thoroughly.

Housing. Very good progress was made during the year in the erection of 36 temporary houses at Marske. By the end of the year 13 houses were occupied and a further 21 ready for occupation, but awaiting the supply of electricity.

As regards permanent houses a start was made in the erection of 20 houses at Saltburn ; at the end of the year foundations had been laid and brickwork commenced on all 20 houses.

Work was commenced on roads and sewers for a permanent site in Marske and another site for permanent houses in Saltburn.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. R. GIBSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

Guisborough,

February 22nd, 1947.

APPENDIX

Statistics and Social Conditions of the District.

Area (in Acres) : 4,573.

Estimate of resident population, mid-1946 : 6,600.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to Rate-books : 2,189.

Rateable Value : £50,595.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £194.

The area is residential and a sea-side resort, with a proportion of the population employed in iron and steel works, and on the railway.

APPENDIX.

1. SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Period.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths at Ages		Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis.	Yearly Birth-rate.	Yearly Death-rate.	Infant Mortality Rate (Infant deaths per thousand births).
				Under 1 year	1-4 years.				
1884—1888	1,939	226	101	25	—	—	29.2	13.2	111
1889—1893	2,232	242	115	—	—	—	21.7	10.3	89
1894—1898	2,400	221	102	22	8	—	18.4	8.5	100
1899—1903	2,578	224	158	13	8	—	17.4	11.9	58
1904—1908	2,930	310	162	29	6	21	21.2	11.0	94
1909—1913	3,324	301	204	24	12	14	18.1	12.3	80
1914—1918	3,400	287	177	15	—	14	16.9	10.4	62
1919—1923	3,844	300	228	20	10	14	16.0	12.1	67
1924—1928	3,869	219	225	11	9	12	11.3	11.6	50
1929—1933	4,956	223	310	13	6	8	9.0	12.5	59
1934—1938	6,713	407	463	20	3	14	12.1	13.8	49
1939—1943	6,508	504	531	30	7	17	15.5	16.3	59
1944	6,392	123	102	5	0	1	19.2	16.0	40½
1945	6,519	135	97	6	0	3	20.7	14.9	44½
1946	(6,650)	(120)	97	5	2	5	18.0	14.6	41

2. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1946

(other than Tuberculosis)

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2	3	4	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—	Cases Admit'd Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	12	—	—	1	—	—	5	3	—	—	2	1	—	7	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	9	1	2	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	13	—	4	—	1	2	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE 3. PATIENTS ADMITTED TO GUISBOROUGH & DISTRICT
JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL

	1/4/40 to 31/3/41	41/42	42/43	44/45	45/46	Year 1946
Scarlet Fever	48	27	32	110	85	74
Diphtheria	56	73	36	22	92	30
Enteric Fever	1	2	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas	—	—	3	1	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	1	1	1	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	18	5	6	4	3	—
Others	29	30	36	40	56	20
TOTAL	154	139	114	179	236	126
Service and outside patients (included)	25	24	29	32	52	5

