

[Report 1903] / Medical Officer of Health, Scalby U.D.C.

Contributors

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Scalby Urban District Council.

REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health.

Scarborough :

"GAZETTE" PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY, LIMITED, 31, ST. NICHOLAS STREET.

1904.

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Scalby Urban District Council.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE SCALBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

In bringing before you the Annual Report for the year 1903, I must point out that it is the first report for a whole year since the Council was formed.

We have made several advances since the opening of the year which, I think, all tend to promote the health of the district.

It being principally an agricultural district, we cannot have one single system of drainage for the whole district, but in the village of Scalby we have made a notable advance, namely, the new Drainage Scheme. This scheme, sanctioned by the Local Government Board, will be a great improvement to the village. It will shortly be commenced, and I hope in my next report to say it has been completed. In the part of Scalby, around Scalby Village, the drainage is disposed off by means of cesspools and privies, the excrement being used on the land. There have been no cases of infectious disease occurring in the district which can be traced to defective drainage or to defective disposal of excrement. The disposal of refuse is carried out by means of ashpits, and they are emptied for the most part by the occupier, and the contents spread on the land.

The Water Supply of the district is in the village of Scalby from upland spring water supplied by the Water Company. This water supply is to be taken over by the Council. The large majority of houses is supplied by this means, but five houses at Throxenby, only one of which is occupied, is supplied by means of a tank outside the house, which is filled with water periodically. Another instance, where there are several children, they obtain their supply from a well unsuitably situated, into which surface water or contaminated water may percolate. The Water Supply to the houses at Throxenby is good quality and hard. I had a sample of it taken and analysed, giving the following analysis:—

CONTAINS IN GRAINS PER GALLON :

<i>Chlorides</i> —equivalent to Common Salt	...	...	...	...	2.54
<i>Nitrates</i> —	..	Calcium Nitrate	...	...	0.13
<i>Nitrites</i>—	...	...	...	...	none
(1) <i>Calcium, Magnesium, Salts, &c.</i>	...	...	...	...	11.84
(2) Volatile and Organic Matter	...	...	...	...	1.54
Total Dissolved Solids					16.10

The Slaughter-Houses in the district are in private hands and are all well kept. The Dairies also are in good condition.

At present the Cowsdeds and Byres are being inspected by Mr. W. H. Scott, the Inspector, who will report at a later date.

The Milk supply of the district is from the surrounding farms, and there have been no complaints as to the quality of the milk.

There are no Bakehouses in the district.

Factories are conspicuous by their absence; but we have a few Workshops, all of which comply with the Act.

During the year two nuisances have been abated.

With regard to Infectious Diseases occurring during the year I think the Council can congratulate themselves on the freedom of occurrence. Only one case—a case of Scarlet Fever—being notified in the whole year, against five in the 8½ months of 1902.

This case was an imported one, and as soon as it was notified the patient was isolated and the contacts watched. The house and bedrooms were thoroughly disinfected by Mr. Scott, and all due precautions were taken, happily with excellent results.

A few cases of Measles occurred during the year. We had three contact cases of Smallpox to watch during the year, fortunately without any developing the disease.

I must take this opportunity of thanking neighbouring Medical Officers of Health for so kindly informing me of such cases.

The Death Rate for the year 1903 was 7.7 per 1000, as against 6.8 in the preceding year.

Ten deaths were registered as belonging to the district, as against 9 in the preceding year. Two of these deaths occurred in Public Institutions beyond the district.

Two deaths occurred under one year as against one the year before.

One death was registered as due to Phthisis. The house in which this death took place was thoroughly cleansed and disinfected by the owner, and precautions taken to check any recurrence of the disease.

The Birth Rate for the year was 11·5 per 1000, against 16·8 for the 8½ months of the preceding year.

The population for the year is estimated as 1,297. An increase of 11 over 1902.

The supervision of the erection of buildings is much more satisfactory than hitherto, but I should advise the Council to draft a New Code of Bye-Laws, which, I understand has been contemplated, which will materially strengthen the Inspector and my hands.

In conclusion, I beg to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their kind help and consideration during the past year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

BERNARD GILPIN FORMAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

