Scunthorpe
Doncaster
January 11th 1898

Sir

Herewith I beg to submit my seventh annual Report being that for the year ended Decr 31st last, as required by the Local Government Board's Order dated March 1891, Art 18 (sec 14).

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant

M. R. J. Behrendt.

M. O. H.

To

Joseph Fletcher, Esqre J.P.

Chairman of the Urban District Council

Seventh Annual Report on the Health of the Scunthorpe Urban District (1897).

Infectious and Zymotic Diseases.

A. Notifiable. — The number of Notifications registered during the year was 34, and related to the following diseases: —

1. Scarlatina. — 24 cases. No cases occurred in the 1st quarter of the year. Of the remaining months July only was free. There were no deaths. This disease appears to have been absent from the district for 4 months when it was reintroduced from Goole. The visit which should to have been the cause of the 1st case was made on April 23rd, & on April 28th the first symptoms of the disease came on. In all 17 houses were invaded, 6 of these being in Manley Street. The disease mostly ran a very mild course.

2. Diphtheria — 3 cases were reported, one in July & two in November. The origin of these cases is somewhat obscure. In one of them, that of a child I learnt that it had been on a visit to relatives in Manley Street, & fell ill shortly after return home. Enquiry at Manley Street shewed that the yard attached to the house was unpaved & filthy. There was a good deal of chicken keeping, not conducted on the tidest principles. There was also a stable with faulty flooring, & defective arrangements for carrying off the fluid excreta of the animal. The ground around the well was through & filthy & there was no provision against filth finding entrance into the well.

3. Enteric Fever. — Of this 2 cases were notified, 1 in September (High Street) and 1 in October (Belgrave Square). There had been trouble with the drainage in both localities, though there is some doubt whether the earlier case was not an importation.

4. Erysipelas — 10 cases distributed over various parts of the district. In some, enquiry led to the detection of defects in the sanitary condition of the premises, in others no fault could be found.

B. Not Notifiable: —

1. Measles which prevailed during the last quarter of 1896 continued to do so during the 1st quarter of 1897. Seven deaths were registered as directly due to this disease. All occurred in the month of January, & all were of children under 5 years of age.

2. Whooping Cough which also was prevalent in the last months of 1896 remained so during the 1st quarter of 1897, when 12 deaths were attributed to it, all of children under 5 years old.

3. Influenza. — Cases of this disease were met with during the first year and 3 deaths of adults were registered from this cause.

4. Diarrhoea — The number of deaths from diarrhoea was 6. Of these 5 were of children under 5 years, & one of a person 21 years old. How prevalent this kind of disease may have been there is no means of forming an estimate, but probably there was a good deal of it during the summer.
5. Phthisis. — Five deaths were recorded all of persons over 15 years of age. There were also 4 deaths attributed to Tuberculosis & Tubercular Meningitis.
6. Pneumonia. — In addition to the occurrence of Pneumonia as a complication of Influenza & Phthisis, 5 deaths are ascribed in the returns as due to Pneumonia.

Prevention of Disease.

Visits were paid to the places where infectious disease was known to exist, and such measures as under the circumstances of each case were possible for the isolation of the sick were taken. Children from infected houses were prohibited from attending school until it was reasonable to consider them free from the danger of spreading infection. Where necessary disinfectants were supplied and instructions for their use given. The closure of the schools, which I had recommended towards the end of 1896, as stated in my report for that year, seemed to have a marked effect in checking the spreading of both Measles and Whooping Cough.

Dairies and Milkshops.

Regulations which have been approved by the Local Government Board, have been framed by the Council & will come into force in February next. These should prove of considerable benefit to the community affording control over the sources of milk supply.

Inspection of the District.

Systematic inspections were made in addition to such as were called for owing to the presence of infectious disease, or to complaints of the existence of sanitary defects. As a result of these inspections, nuisances from defective drainage were removed. Unpaved yards, allowing the soil to become polluted, were paved & made impervious to fluids, and the general sanitary condition of the district was thus further advanced. The accompanying report kindly furnished me by Mr. Cobbard shews well the amount & kind of work done in his department during the year.

Water Supply.

In former reports the danger & inadequacy of supplies from surface

wells was pointed out, the Council mindful of the needs of the District in this respect, has had under consideration the provision of a public supply which should at once be sufficient & of a reasonably good quality. Reports on several schemes have been considered, and one of these has now been submitted to the Local Government Board with a view to obtaining the necessary powers to proceed with it. It is to be hoped it will fulfil expected requirements, thus remove a source of danger to the health of the community.

Statistical.

The total estimated area of the district is 1041 acres. The number of inhabited houses is 1075. Estimating the population by the usual method it should have been 4796 in the middle of the year. This would give an average of 4·6 for every house. But considering the somewhat crowded condition of the houses and the rapidity with which every new house is occupied, this estimate must be considerably under the mark. In 1891 the average of persons per house was found to be 5·4 and reckoning on this average the population should be 5805 and this is probably not very far from the truth. In the subjoined calculations the number 4796 has been used, in order not to change the basis on which it and all previous calculations have been made.

The number of Births registered during the year was 237, viz. Boys 139; Girls 168.

The number of Deaths registered was 101, viz Males 56; Females 45.

The number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year old was 41. —

From the foregoing figures respective rates are: —

Birth Rate 49·4 per 1000 of population

Death Rate 21 " " " "

Infantile Death Rate 173 per 1000 births.

The following Table compares the years 1891 to 1897 in respect (1) of the number of births & deaths, birth & death rates & population and (2) the amount of mortality at each of six age groups and the infantile mortality.

Year.	Births.	Birth Rate.	Deaths.	Death Rate.	Population.
1891	140	39·2	65	18·2	3512
-2	154	40·5	45	11·8	3794
-3	170	43·2	61	15·5	3929
-4	196	47·4	60	14·5	4130
-5	199	45·8	86	19·8	4341
-6	229	50·1	68	14·9	4563
-7	237	49·4	101	21	4796

Years	Ages in periods of years: Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 & over	Deaths under 1 year per 1000 births
1891	27	5	4	3	14	10	193
-2	26	6	0	2	9	2	169
-3	22	16	0	5	11	7	129
-4	28	11	1	0	15	5	143
-5	40	8	0	8	22	8	201
-6	29	12	2	1	15	9	126·6
-7	41	20	1	4	20	15	173

Concluding Remarks.

Examination of the foregoing tables shews first, that there has been a large increase in the number of deaths and the death rate, & secondly that this increase is due to the number of children dying under 5 years old & of persons 25 years & upwards.

Comparing tab A for 1896 with that for 1897 the result is as under:-

	Measles	Whooping Cough	Diarrhœa	Bronchitis &c.	Injuries	All other causes
1896	3	3	3	12	0	19
1897	7	12	5	7	2	27

This shows that there has been an increase under each heading save one, viz Bronchitis & there has been a decrease on the previous year. The increase comes mainly under the heads of Measles, Whooping C., & "All other Diseases". Now the deaths from Measles & Whooping cough removed from the list, the number of deaths would have been 82 against 101, & the death rate a small fraction over 17 instead of 21 per 1000. Whilst efforts are made to prevent the spreading of Scarlatina which of late years has been much less fatal than either Measles or Whooping Cough, none that can be considered systematic is made to check the ravages of the latter diseases, and this for the reason that a great outlay in cash might be the result of notification without a corresponding gain in way of prevention. This need not be the case were the Infectious Diseases Notification Act amended, so as to legalize payment not for case notification but for notification of infected houses which is really all the notification required by the Health Officers, who could easily find out for themselves the number of cases occurring in each house. The increase in the number of deaths of children under 5 years old classed under "All other causes" on analysis shews that the deaths in 1896 ascribed to "Immaturity & Debility" was 10, in 1897 — 17. If these numbers be subtracted from the respective totals of the 2 years, there remain 9 & 10, the increase over 1896 is therefore due to the greater number of deaths from "Immaturity & Debility" in the past year.

M. R. J. Behrendt M.O.H.

Scunthorpe
January 10th 1898.

To

Mr. R. J. Behrendt, Esqre
M. O. H.

Dear Sir,

Subjoined is a report on the work done in my department during the year ended Decr. 31st 1897.

I am
Yours faithfully
A. M. Cobban
Inspector & Surveyor.

Report of the Inspector and Surveyor (Jan 1st to Decr. 31st 1897)

Sewerage and Drainage: — The sewerage of the District has caused comparatively little trouble. A new 9" pipe sewer has been laid in the 10 foot road to the South of Frodingham Road, extending from the back of the Oswald Hotel to the manhole on the main in Kemp's paddock, a length in all of 220 yds., with junction pipes & diminishing pipes to connect the house drains with the sewer. The work was done by the Council's staff of men, & should lessen the pressure on the High Street sewer.

Growth of the Town (New Buildings): — The increase of the town has been well maintained; 112 houses have been certified fit for habitation, 7 new streets laid out, & plans passed for 120 dwelling houses & 23 buildings other than dwelling houses. Steps were taken to divert the footpath at the west end of the town and leading to Crosby to allow the laying out of a new street (Parkinson Road). Application was made at the October Quarter Sessions at Grimsby, when a certificate was obtained for this purpose.

Private Streets. — Four streets and 10 back roads to the south of the Frodingham Road, have been metalled, kerbed, channelled, & the footways paved under the supervision of the Council's special surveyor who had planned the work prior to my taking up duties in the district. I prepared & laid before the Council the plans, estimates, specifications, & provisional apportionments for the streets to the north of Frodingham Road & High Street, viz. Wells, Cross, North, Chapel, Gilliat, West, & Burnell Streets, & Cemetery Road, with their back roads. This very necessary work will probably be taken in hand ere long. — Wells Street & Cemetery Road would be much improved by the planting of trees.

Inspections &c.

I have made 3111 ordinary inspections & 122 special inspections on complaint. Some of the complaints were groundless, others I had to bring before the Council, whilst in others again action taken by myself was enough to have the matters complained of remedied. 112 clerk's orders & others were served. Most of them were to remedy defective spouting, to lay cross channels (37). Steps were taken to abate nuisances from insanitary yards & premises, 32 houses have in consequence had their courtyards levelled & paved with impervious materials. Nuisances arising from defective drainage have called for 5 orders, defective privies (3); manure receptacles required (3); defective or deficient water supply attended to (2); notices were served under the Highways Act (4). The remainder were nuisances of various kinds.

Dairies and Milkshops. – A code of regulations was adopted & comes into force on Feb 1st next.

Workshops, Bakeries, Slaughterhouses &c. – There are 20 workshops viz bootmakers 3; tailors 3; milliners & dressmakers 6; joiners &c 3; machinists 4; & stone mason 1; 4 Bakeries & 5 slaughterhouses. All these have had careful attention during the year. A list of the same was prepared & the general conditions of the premises recorded after the various visits.

Details previously referred to.

Months of:	Jan	Feb	Mch	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Inspections of: Buildings	36	61	73	53	49	62	60	47	51	49	53	50	644
Nuisances	9	11	14	7	9	15	8	16	11	4	7	11	122
Ordinary	237	301	293	210	296	307	271	284	290	190	201	231	3111
Workshops &c	16	23	27	11	14	19	13	15	24	9	15	13	199
Notices served	4	6	5	7	32	20	14	17	9	4	3	11	132

Houses certified	19	25	40	18	112
Plans passed, Drghs.	60	13	31	16	120
" " others	9	5	4	5	23
" rejected	7	2	3	4	16
" for new streets	1	0	5	1	7

Notices – to provide spouting	37
Highways Act	4
Houses unfit for habitation	1
To provide manure receptacles	3
" repair defective privies	3
" " faulty drains	5
" pave courtyards	32
on acct. of water supply	2
to remove accumulations	2
unclassified	43
Letters written	81