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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

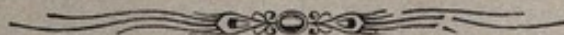
## RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF THE

*SEDDGEFIELD UNION,*

For the Year ended

DECEMBER 31st, 1896.



DURHAM:

GEORGE M. WATT,

WALKER'S PRINTING AND PUBLISHING WORKS, 6 SADLER STREET.

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THE  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF THE  
SEDFIELD UNION.

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MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

In conformity with the instructions of the Local Government Board, I beg to submit for your consideration my 19th Annual Report on the health and Sanitary condition of the Sedfield Union Rural Sanitary District for the year ended December 31st, 1896.

The Mortality from all causes during the year, exclusive of 150 deaths of inmates of the Durham County Asylum, amounts to 345, of whom 178 were males and 167 females.

The Births registered during the same period amount to 740, of whom 355 were males and 385 females.

The Vital Statistics are computed on an estimated population of 18,432.

The Rate of Mortality is 18.7 per thousand; the average mortality for the last 18 years that I have acted in the capacity of Medical Officer of Health being 19.5 per thousand.

The Birth Rate is 40.0, the average during the above-named period being precisely the same.



**The Infant Mortality** amounts to 125, the death rate being 168 per thousand births which is somewhat below the average. The causes which have contributed to this mortality may be briefly summarised as follows, viz. :—Premature Birth 14, Protracted and difficult Labour 9, Congenital Debility 21, Cerebral Diseases 28, Gastric and Intestinal derangements 23, Marasmus 5, Pulmonary Affections 14, Zymotic Diseases 6, Congenital Malformations 4, Injuries 1.

**Longevity.** Forty-five persons attained the allotted period or 2.4 per thousand, of whom 32 were septuagenarians, 12 octogenarians, and 1 nonagenarian.

**The Zymotic Class of Diseases** are accountable for 44 deaths or 2.3 per thousand, which compares favourably with that of former years, the average being 2.8.

**The Number of Notifications** received during the year amount to 225, and include Scarlatina 134, Diphtheria 4, Croup 1, Typhoid Fever 33, Continued Fever 8, Puerperal Fever 4, Erysipelas 41, whilst 14 cases terminated fatally; 4 resulting from Croup (three of which were not notified), 7 from Typhoid Fever (one being an inmate of the County Asylum,) 1 from Continued Fever, 1 from Puerperal Fever, and 1 from Erysipelas. Thirty deaths also resulted from diseases of the Zymotic class, not included in the Schedule of the Notification Act, viz.—Measles 17, Whooping Cough 7, Diarrhoea 7, and Influenza 1.

The number of visits made during the year amounts to 154. The usual course of procedure was taken with respect to verbal and printed instructions and the distribution of disinfectants.

Scarlatina has been generally prevalent throughout the year, the incidence of the disease being more distinctly marked in the Cornforth, Ferryhill and Trimdon Divisions. The disease was however of an exceedingly mild type which is sufficiently testified by the fact that of 134 cases notified no death resulted.

At Bishop Middleham I deemed it advisable to close the School in consequence of an outbreak of that disease.



**Diphtheria** has been of less frequent occurrence than in former years. The four cases notified occurred at Cornforth, none of which had a fatal result.

**Enteric or Typhoid Fever** the prevalence of which was most marked at Trimdon Colliery village where 13 cases occurred, whilst 3 cases occurred at Trimdon Grange, 7 at West Cornforth, 1 at Cornforth Lane, 3 at Coxhoe, 1 at West Howle, 2 at Metal Bridge, and 4 at the County Asylum, making a total of 34 cases, resulting in 7 deaths.

But few cases occurred during the Spring and Summer months with a slight increase in the Autumn, but in December a recrudescence of the disease occurred at Trimdon Colliery village which was attended with fatal results.

Owing to the inadequate accommodation, filthy condition of the premises, and the want of proper nursing, one case was sent to the Easington Hospital but terminated fatally. I have so frequently referred to the deplorable condition of the Trimdon Colliery villages where Enteric Fever appears to have found a congenial soil for its propogation, to repeat which is but tiresome reiteration: it is however but justice to the owners of the Colliery to say that they are making considerable progress in the reconstruction of the houses belonging to them, a work of considerable magnitude, as out of about 700 dwellings in the villages 500 belong to them and with the exception of those already rebuilt the whole will require to be reconstructed.

**Measles** has been more or less generally prevalent during the year. The incidence of the disease was most marked in Ferryhill, Trimdon, and Cornforth, and resulted in 17 deaths, which is considerably above the average. At Bishopston, where the disease was imported from Stillington I deemed it expedient to close the School.

**Whooping Cough** and its pulmonary complications is accountable for 7 deaths. The disease was widely disseminated throughout the Sanitary District during the Spring and Autumn months, and attended with the usual fatal result to children of tender years.



**Diarrhœa**, the mortality of which was considerably below the average, the victims being children under five years of age.

**Influenza** became generally prevalent during the months of October, November, and December, but of a less virulent type than it assumed in former years, only one death having resulted from this cause.

**Phthisis Pulmonalis** from which 19 deaths resulted, the death rate being 1.0, is considerably below the average of former years which is 1.5 per thousand.

**Pulmonary Diseases** are accountable for 52 deaths, the death rate being 2.8 per thousand, the average being 2.9.

**The General Sanitation of the District** has not been neglected the Sewerage Works of the Authority have been maintained in an efficient state, and due attention paid to the flushing of the sewers and the cleansing of filtering beds, subsiding tanks, etc.

Sewer extensions carried out during the year amount to 800 yards, viz.—at Trimdon 400 yards, Ferryhill 200 yards, Cornforth 150 yards, and Chilton 50 yards of 9 inch sewer. Great improvement has been made in house drainage, ashpit and privy accommodation and in many cases pan closets have taken the place of the old privy-midden. Arrangements are being made for the extension of the outlets and the erection of sewerage disposal works at Ferryhill, East Howle Colliery Village, Metal Bridge Village, Coxhoe, Cornforth Lane, Old Cornforth, West Cornforth, and the Trimdon Colliery Villages.

**Nuisances arising from accumulation of House Refuse, &c.**, have been of frequent occurrence and 91 statutory notices were served, and 4626 nuisances abated.

Dr. Fletcher of the Local Government Board held a public inquiry with respect to the advisability of adopting a system of scavenging in the Sedgefield, Cornforth, Ferryhill, and Chilton townships, the result of which has not yet transpired. It is



gratifying to learn that the District Council has resolved to adopt Part III. of the Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890, which will do much to strengthen the hands of the Council in dealing with nuisances arising from this cause.

Legal Proceedings were taken under Section 32 of the Housing of the working Classes Act, 1890, against the several owners of 43 houses situated in the townships of Sedgefield, Ferryhill, Cornforth, and Trimdon, which were successfully sustained.

Proceedings were also instituted under the Nuisance Clauses of the Public Health Act of 1875, against the owners of 16 houses and orders made.

The Common Lodging Houses situated within the district have received close attention and found to be maintained in a satisfactory state as regards cleanliness and ventilation. The average number of lodgers per week is 210.

The number of vagrants admitted to the Casual Wards of the Workhouse during the year amounted to 3,879, against 4,348 the previous year.

Cow Sheds and Dairies have been as usual subjected to frequent inspection and were found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

The Register now contains the names of 116 persons who are engaged in this branch of industry.

The Water Supply of the District has been maintained in a satisfactory condition. Extension of the water mains have been made at Ferryhill and Trimdon, affording facilities to houses hitherto having an imperfect supply.

Building Operations comprise 8 new houses erected during the year in Sedgefield, 6 at Cornforth, 1 at Ferryhill, 12 at Trimdon, together with 21 reconstructions of houses belonging the Owners of the Collieries at the latter place.



The Infectious Diseases Hospital question is one which will demand the attention of the Council in the near future, Sedgefield being one of the ten Authorities within the County who have failed to provide accommodation for the reception of infectious cases, and it is to be trusted that it will give this momentous question its serious consideration.

In conclusion, I have to thank the medical men practising within the District for their uniform courtesy and kindness and the assistance they have rendered, and also Mr. Snowdon, your Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances, for having supplemented my efforts in the performance of the duties entrusted to me.

*I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,*

*Your obedient Servant,*

G. R. SHERATON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

*Sedgefield, January 11th, 1897.*

Table of Deaths during the Years 1878 to 1896 inclusive, in the Rural Sanitary District of Sedgfield.

Year	Deaths.				Deaths from all causes at different ages.												Deaths from other Diseases.												Rate per 1000 of Population.										
	Deaths.				Mortality from all causes at different ages.												Deaths from other Diseases.												Rate per 1000 of Population.										
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.	Infants.	Children.	Adults.	Older.	Infants.	Children.	Adults.	Older.	Infants.	Children.	Adults.	Older.	Infants.	Children.	Adults.	Older.	Infants.	Children.	Adults.	Older.	Infants.	Children.	Adults.	Older.	Infants.	Children.	Adults.	Older.	Infants.	Children.	Adults.	Older.			
1878	1560	410	1970	17.7	177	555	1080	103	145	180	145	180	145	180	145	180	145	180	145	180	145	180	145	180	145	180	145	180	145	180	145	180	145	180	145	180	145		
1879	1580	440	2020	18.2	180	560	1100	105	150	185	150	185	150	185	150	185	150	185	150	185	150	185	150	185	150	185	150	185	150	185	150	185	150	185	150	185	150	185	
1880	1600	460	2060	18.7	190	570	1120	110	155	190	155	190	155	190	155	190	155	190	155	190	155	190	155	190	155	190	155	190	155	190	155	190	155	190	155	190	155	190	155
1881	1620	480	2100	19.2	200	580	1140	115	160	195	160	195	160	195	160	195	160	195	160	195	160	195	160	195	160	195	160	195	160	195	160	195	160	195	160	195	160	195	
1882	1640	500	2140	19.7	210	590	1160	120	165	200	165	200	165	200	165	200	165	200	165	200	165	200	165	200	165	200	165	200	165	200	165	200	165	200	165	200	165	200	165
1883	1660	520	2180	20.2	220	600	1180	125	170	205	170	205	170	205	170	205	170	205	170	205	170	205	170	205	170	205	170	205	170	205	170	205	170	205	170	205	170	205	
1884	1680	540	2220	20.7	230	610	1200	130	175	210	175	210	175	210	175	210	175	210	175	210	175	210	175	210	175	210	175	210	175	210	175	210	175	210	175	210	175	210	175
1885	1700	560	2260	21.2	240	620	1220	135	180	215	180	215	180	215	180	215	180	215	180	215	180	215	180	215	180	215	180	215	180	215	180	215	180	215	180	215	180	215	
1886	1720	580	2300	21.7	250	630	1240	140	185	220	185	220	185	220	185	220	185	220	185	220	185	220	185	220	185	220	185	220	185	220	185	220	185	220	185	220	185	220	185
1887	1740	600	2340	22.2	260	640	1260	145	190	225	190	225	190	225	190	225	190	225	190	225	190	225	190	225	190	225	190	225	190	225	190	225	190	225	190	225	190	225	
1888	1760	620	2380	22.7	270	650	1280	150	195	230	195	230	195	230	195	230	195	230	195	230	195	230	195	230	195	230	195	230	195	230	195	230	195	230	195	230	195	230	195
1889	1780	640	2420	23.2	280	660	1300	155	200	235	200	235	200	235	200	235	200	235	200	235	200	235	200	235	200	235	200	235	200	235	200	235	200	235	200	235	200	235	
1890	1800	660	2460	23.7	290	670	1320	160	205	240	205	240	205	240	205	240	205	240	205	240	205	240	205	240	205	240	205	240	205	240	205	240	205	240	205	240	205	240	205
1891	1820	680	2500	24.2	300	680	1340	165	210	245	210	245	210	245	210	245	210	245	210	245	210	245	210	245	210	245	210	245	210	245	210	245	210	245	210	245	210	245	
1892	1840	700	2540	24.7	310	690	1360	170	215	250	215	250	215	250	215	250	215	250	215	250	215	250	215	250	215	250	215	250	215	250	215	250	215	250	215	250	215	250	215
1893	1860	720	2580	25.2	320	700	1380	175	220	255	220	255	220	255	220	255	220	255	220	255	220	255	220	255	220	255	220	255	220	255	220	255	220	255	220	255	220	255	
1894	1880	740	2620	25.7	330	710	1400	180	225	260	225	260	225	260	225	260	225	260	225	260	225	260	225	260	225	260	225	260	225	260	225	260	225	260	225	260	225	260	225
1895	1900	760	2660	26.2	340	720	1420	185	230	265	230	265	230	265	230	265	230	265	230	265	230	265	230	265	230	265	230	265	230	265	230	265	230	265	230	265	230	265	
1896	1920	780	2700	26.7	350	730	1440	190	235	270	235	270	235	270	235	270	235	270	235	270	235	270	235	270	235	270	235	270	235	270	235	270	235	270	235	270	235	270	235

\* Expression of "the group" as "Tenth Avenue Cemetery, 1891-1901."

\* Description of Low Spontaneous with the Spontaneous Urban District, with an area of 800 acres and a population of 194.





