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ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Public Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

SELBY RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1903.

BY

BERNARD STEDMAN,


M.D. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Camb.),

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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❧ **SELBY** ❧

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

❧ **ANNUAL REPORT** ❧

UPON THE

Public Health and Sanitary Condition for 1903.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1903.

The district is a purely rural one, and the inhabitants are engaged almost exclusively in agriculture.

With the exception of the two elevations at Brayton and Hambleton the whole neighbourhood is flat.

The water is obtained chiefly from surface wells, but an increasing number of bored wells are now being put down. The supply of water from the former is variable both in quantity and quality and liable to serious pollution.

The excrement is disposed of on the privy system, the scavenging being done by the householders. The villages generally are sufficiently sewered and the house drains are trapped.

POPULATION.

The estimated population is 5,800 ; 3,600 being in the Selby Rural Sub-district, and the remaining 2,200 in the Carlton Sub-district.

The number of occupied houses at the time of the Census in 1901 was 1342. It is about the same at present, and so the average number of persons per house is 4·3.

BIRTHS.

159 Births have been registered during the year, giving a rate of 27·4 per thousand. This is the highest recorded since 1895, and is 1 per thousand above the average.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE.

98 Deaths have taken place in the district, and six persons belonging to the district have died in the Selby Workhouse or West Riding Asylum. The death rate for the year is 17·9. This is about 1 per thousand higher than last year and 2 above the average.

The infantile mortality (the number of deaths under one year of age to every thousand births) is 119. This is somewhat high, seeing that diarrhoea was not prevalent, nor were there any deaths from the other infectious diseases which generally attack young children.

Below is given the birth and death rates for the sub-districts and some of the larger parishes.

		Birth Rate.		Death Rate.
Selby Rural District	...	27·4	...	17·9
Selby Rural Sub-District	...	26·4	...	16·4
Carlton Sub-district	...	29·0	...	20·4
Cawood Parish	...	23·0	...	21·0
Carlton „	...	30·0	...	15·0
Wistow „	...	19·0	...	11·0
Hambleton Parish	...	32·0	...	14·0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

37 Cases were reported, of which three terminated fatally. There were no deaths from measles, whooping cough, or diarrhoea. The zymotic death rate for the year is only ·5 per thousand. In 1902 it was 2·2.

SMALL-POX.

One case was notified from Hambleton in September. The patient, a boy, was engaged in potato picking and lived in some sheds erected for the reception of these workers. A fortnight previously a boy had been taken ill here and had walked to Selby to consult a doctor, when he was found to be suffering from small-pox, and removed to the Sherburn Hospital. The sheds were immediately disinfected, infected articles of clothing destroyed, and almost all the persons living here were re-vaccinated. (At this time the mother of

the second boy refused to be vaccinated or allow the lad to be done). The sheds were visited regularly for the next fortnight, and as soon as the second case was discovered he was also removed to hospital and the process of disinfection repeated. Fortunately no other cases arose. Both these proved of a mild type. As evidence of the value of vaccination, I may state that those persons who slept in the same compartment as the first patient were re-vaccinated and escaped the disease, whereas the second lad who developed it had slept in a compartment at some distance.

TYPHOID FEVER.

Fifteen cases have been reported during the year. The first was at Cawood in July and was fatal. The next was at Chapel Haddlesey. As several cases have occurred at this house during the last few years, careful search has been made to discover, if possible, any cause for this recurrence. The sanitary condition of the premises is good. The drinking water on chemical analysis is of fair quality, although the source of supply is a surface well. A sample has also been examined bacteriologically and is reported to be satisfactory. This is the only house in the village which has been visited with the disease, but so far no apparent cause has been discovered.

In September a case was notified at a farm in Newland, and about the same time a boy, who also worked at this farm, was taken ill with the disease. He lived in a cottage at Newland, occupied by a large family, and was nursed there. A fortnight later another of the children in this cottage contracted the complaint. At the end of November, before the latter patients had recovered, another son was notified as suffering from typhoid, and two days later three other children developed it.

At this time three of the sons who had been living away as farm servants came home for a few days holiday. The house was now overcrowded, and arrangements were made for moving all the members of the family who were well to an empty cottage, and their house was converted into a temporary hospital. Two nurses were provided by the Council. About a week later the father was attacked, and after a few days two other sons and a small child, thus making a total of ten cases in this family, one of which was fatal.

The later cases were doubtless due to the insufficient skill and attention which could be given to the nursing of the earlier ones. Had an infectious hospital been available, there is every reason to believe that many of the cases would never have occurred.

That the stools from typhoid fever patients are infectious and are best treated by disinfection and burying has long been known, but during the last few years it has been discovered that the germs are often present in great number in the urine. That this requires the same disinfection as the stools is not generally recognised, and it is possible that the disease has often spread from want of attention to this detail.

It will be noticed that all the above cases have occurred in houses close to the rivers Ouse or Aire. The water from these sources is often used for drinking purposes, and is much polluted by sewage. Even if not used directly for drinking, it is possible that owing to the high level of the water during the year the surface wells in close proximity may have become polluted, and so have been the means of causing the the disease.

DIPHTHERIA.

Seven cases have been notified, and one of membranous croup, which was fatal. One case occurred at Barlow and the other at Drax. The first two at Drax were in one house in January. The other five were in two houses in October, and it is probable that those in the second house were infected from a child attending the village school, where it contracted the complaint. Instructions were given to the schoolmaster to immediately exclude children showing signs of sore throat or illness of any kind.

SCARLET FEVER.

Nine cases have occurred. They were in various parts of the district and at different periods of the year. With one exception they were in houses admitting of sufficient isolation, and the fact that the disease did not spread shows that the necessary protective measures were carried out by the parents.

MEASLES.

A number of children in Barlow had the complaint in February. On the 16th I recommended closure of the school for four weeks. At the end of this time, as cases still existed, I closed them for another

fortnight. Although almost all the children had the complaint, no deaths occurred. The district appears to have been quite free from chicken pox and whooping cough throughout the year.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Plans for the above Joint Urban and Rural Hospital have been prepared and met with the approval of the County Council, A Local Government Board Inquiry on this matter was held at Selby in October, but so far their decision has not been received.

It is proposed to build two blocks to accommodate 20 patients. In addition there is to be a house for administrative purposes, and a laundry block, which includes disinfecting and ambulance sheds, and a mortuary.

The outbreak of typhoid fever this year at Newland, and a somewhat similar outbreak at Biggin, which I reported on last year, together with the alarming epidemic of diphtheria which occurred at Cawood in 1902, shew how greatly this institution is required. I hope during the present year the building will be completed and ready for occupation.

SANITARY WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR.

Much has been done in improving the drainage and water supply of various parts of the district.

At Drax a considerable extension has been made to the Main Sewer, and many houses (the drainage of which was unsatisfactory) have been connected with it.

In June, with the Inspector, I examined the Hambleton Drainage, and reported the Town Dyke as satisfactory, but that known as Bayle's Dyke, which received the drainage from the factory and ten cottages, was very foul. I recommended that all the sewage should be removed from the latter and taken into the Town Dyke, in which there is a much larger volume of water and better flow; also that the factory drainage system should be reconstructed in order to allow of purification before discharging it into the public sewer. The former has been completed and the work at the factory is proceeding.

At Carlton a New Sewer has been laid in place of the old one which was defective.

At Hirst Courtney 300 yards of new sewer has been made.

I have analysed 13 samples of water, of which 8 were unsuitable for drinking.

The only registered workshop in the district is a carpenter's shop at Cawood. The factories have been inspected and are in satisfactory condition. There are no known outworkers in the district.

Details of other sanitary work is given in the Inspector's table at the end of the report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

BERNARD STEDMAN,

M.D. (Lond.),

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1903 and previous Years. Name of District, SELBY RURAL.

YEAR.	Popula- tion to Middle of each year	BIRTHS.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions be- yond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Under 1 year of age.		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
				Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered	Number.	Rate.*					
1895	5950	166	27.8	20	126	103	17.2	5		5	108	18.0
1896	5950	161	27.0	12	74	84	14.1	1			85	14.2
1897	5950	159	26.7	19	120	78	13.1	2	2	2	78	13.1
1898	5950	158	26.5	24	152	80	13.4	5	2	5	83	14.0
1899	6000	161	26.8	30	186	82	13.6	5	2	5	85	14.1
1900	6000	149	24.6	20	134	117	19.5	5		5	122	20.3
1901	5822	144	24.7	17	118	86	14.7				91	15.6
1902	5810	151	26.0	16	106	97	16.7			2	99	17.0
Averages for years 1895-1902	5929	156	26.3	20	128	91	15.2	3		4	94	15.8
1903	5800	159	27.4	19	119	98	16.9			6	104	17.9

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres }
(exclusive of area } 32,922.
covered by water) }

Total population at all ages ... 5,822 }
Number of inhabited houses ... 1,342 } At Census of 1901.
Average number of persons per house ... 4.3 }

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1903 and previous years.

Name of District, SELBY RURAL.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	SELBY RURAL.				CARLTON.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1895	3689	101	63	13	2261	65	40	7
1896	3689	95	45	7	2261	66	39	5
1897	3689	101	48	11	2261	58	30	8
1898	3689	94	52	17	2261	64	28	7
1899	3776	107	59	22	2264	54	23	8
1900	3776	89	73	13	2224	60	53	7
1901	3617	91	66	14	2205	53	25	3
1902	3610	92	59	9	2200	59	40	7
Averages of Years 1895 to 1902.	3691	96	59	13	2238	60	35	7
1903	3600	95	59	11	2200	64	45	8

TABLE III.
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING
THE YEAR 1903.
SELBY RURAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Selby Rural	Carlton.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and up- wards.		
Small-pox	1			1				1	
Cholera									
Diphtheria	7			4	1	2		1	6
Membranous Croup	1	1							1
Erysipelas	3					3		1	2
Scarlet Fever	9		4	5				4	5
Typhus Fever									
Enteric Fever	15	1	2	5	5	2		3	12
Relapsing Fever ...	1			1					1
Continued Fever ...									
Puerperal Fever ...									
Plague									
Totals	37	2	6	16	6	7		10	27

Isolation Hospital:—Small-pox Hospital at Sherburn in the Tadcaster Rural District.

No Hospital for other Infectious Diseases.

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death During Year 1903.

Name of District, SELBY RURAL.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO LOCALITIES (AT ALL AGES).	
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Selby Rural.	Carlton.
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup }	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
{ Enteric ...	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	1
{ Other continued ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	1
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases ...	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	1
Phthisis ...	8	...	...	...	2	6	...	5	3
Other Tubercular Diseases }	8	2	1	1	2	2	...	2	6
Cancer, Malignant Disease }	6	...	...	...	...	4	2	4	2
Bronchitis ...	3	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	2
Pneumonia ...	3	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	2
Pleurisy ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Diseases of Res- piratory Organs }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver }	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...
Venereal Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth ...	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases ...	9	1	...	...	...	3	5	7	2
Accidents ...	4	...	1	...	...	1	2	3	1
Suicides ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other causes ...	46	10	...	2	1	6	27	25	21
All causes ...	104	19	5	5	5	25	45	59	45

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III., and IV., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

BERNARD STEDMAN, *Medical Officer of Health.*

SELBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Sanitary Work carried out during year ended December, 1903.

Inspections made, 2637.	Notices served, Nuisances, 79.	Notices served, Water Supply, 3	Old Wells deepened and bored, 3	New Sewers laid by Sanitary Authority, 845 yards.	Old Drains cleansed by Owners, 953 yards.	New Drains laid by Private Owners, 990 Yards.	Open Sewers cleansed by Sanitary Authority, 39683 yards.	Pipe Sewers cleansed by Sanitary Authority, 1878 yards.	Old Privies demolished, 23.	New Privies and Covered Ash-pits built, 23.	New Urinals to Licensed Houses, 1.	Sinks disconnected, 8.	New Brick Wells and Tube Wells, 4.	New Cesspools put down, 5.	Cesspools cleansed, each four times during year, 107.	New Gullies fixed, 44.	Dangerous Buildings unfit for habitation taken down or closed, 2.	Rooms disinfected, 23.	Canal Boats inspected, 46.	Workshops inspected under Factory and Workshops' Act, 1901, 19.	Inspections of New Buildings and alterations to Old Buildings, 71.	Number of Slaughtershouses, 12.	Inspections of Slaughtershouses, 41.	Dairies and Cowsheds Registered, 22.	Cowsheds where Milk is not Sold from, 181.	Inspections of Cowsheds Registered & Unregistered, 297.	Smoke Observations taken 25.	
Barlow ...	68	1			150		3212	200	1					1	4	2			1	1	1	6				11	21	
Biggin ...	63				130	30	5302	120	6	6	1	1			19	3				12	1	3	2			9	15	
Burn ...	183		1		60		6386	420	1	1			1		13	1				11	1	5			2	13	19	
Brayton ...	174				70		3795	169							7										4	10	21	
Camblesforth ...	84	1			280		200	65							12	11			1	1	2					11	20	
Carlton ...	304	5			200	140	2120	260	8	8		3			11	13		1	1	9	4	7	2			9	28	10
Cawood ...	351	11			20		3751	180	4	4					7	2			5	3	2	7	1			11	15	6
Chapel Haddlesey ...	57				50		1760	180							7											11	10	
Drax ...	148	14				300							1		1	10		1	4		2	11	2		4	7	7	9
Gateforth ...	103	1			41	183	3518	186	3	3				1	11					2						6	13	
Hambleton ...	286	24			27	200	1288								2						7					9	15	
Hirst Courtney ...	57																		3							6	9	
Little Fenton ...	49																									3	11	
Long Drax ...	57						1890																			7	10	
Newland ...	157	7		2			1106												3							21	33	
Temple Hirst ...	68				300		1980							3	3	1			1							3	8	
Thorpe Willoughby ...	63	8	1		41		1925	206					1		3			1							2	3	8	
West Haddlesey ...	54												1								4				1	6	9	
Wistow ...	311	7	1		68	30	880	80							12	1			4		10	1		4	1			

Yours obediently,

THOMAS BRAITHWAITE, Sanitary Inspector.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO