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SELBY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1947.

SELBY:
E. M. RIMMINGTON LTD., "EXPRESS" OFFICE

1948

SELBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman: Councillor W. Webster, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor H. A. Middlebrook, J.P., C.C.

Medical Officer of Health:

W. BERTRAM HILL, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Retired 31/10/47)

S. KENNAUGH APPLETON, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Sanitary Inspector:

J. R. BLACKLEDGE,

Cert. S.I. Board,

Cert. Meat and Food Inspection R.S.I.

Clerk:

JUNE GRIFFITHS.

**To the Chairman and Members of
the Selby Rural District Council.**

Gentlemen,

I have the privilege to submit to you the Annual Report for the year 1947.

No doubt you would wish me to place on record an appreciation of the long and devoted service rendered to the Rural District by Dr. W. Bertram Hill, as your Medical Officer of Health from 1914 to 1947. During this period, great advances in Public Health were achieved throughout the country, and the sanitary conditions and vital statistics of the District steadily improved.

The health of the district during 1947 was good on the whole, and the incidence of notifiable disease, with the exception of measles, remained low. An outbreak of poliomyelitis was widespread throughout the country in the latter half of 1947, and two cases occurred in the District; neither was fatal.

The Vital Statistics for the district were satisfactory, and, with the exception of 1946, the Birth Rate was the highest for 22 years. A comparative table of the vital statistics for the two quinquennial periods to 1939 and for the war period is included in the Report, and shows that there was no deterioration under war conditions. The low Infantile Mortality Rate over several years is very satisfactory.

As elsewhere in the country, the provision of more and better housing is a health problem of primary importance, and, although the achievement of the Council is very creditable under the circumstances, much remains to be done.

As the number of houses increases, the necessity for an adequate sewage disposal system becomes more urgent, and steps should be taken as early as possible for the establishment of sewage disposal works at least for Brayton, Carlton and Cawood.

In conclusion, I wish to express my thanks to the Members and Officials of the Council for their co-operation and consideration during 1947.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

S. KENNAUGH APPLETON,

September, 1948.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of Rural District ....	....	33,304 acres
Population (mid 1947) ....	....	5,813
Rateable Value ....	....	£25,551
Product of Penny Rate ....	....	£102/1/4

VITAL STATISTICS.

	SELBY R.D.	Aggre- gate West Riding R.D.s	West Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Provi- sional)
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 population)	19.3	21.3	21.5	20.5
DEATH RATES (per 1,000 population)				
All causes	11.5	11.0	12.3	12.0
Principal Zymotic Diseases	0.17	0.16	0.16	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1.03	0.41	0.39	0.47
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0.34	0.11	0.09	0.08
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)	1.20	1.23	1.37	—
Cancer	1.72	1.59	1.80	1.85
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	2.06	3.25	3.98	—
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	27	47	45	41
INFANT DIARRHŒA (Deaths under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births)	8.93	5.74	5.31	5.8
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Deaths of mothers in child- birth per 1,000 total births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0.11	0.21	0.26
Other causes	0	1.63	1.07	0.91
Total	0	1.74	1.28	1.17

COMPARATIVE BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

BIRTH RATE.

Average for	1930-1934	15.1	1946	20.9
" "	1935-1939	15.0	1947	19.3
" " (War years)	1940-1945	16.3		

TOTAL DEATH RATE.

Average for	1930-1934	12.3	1946	11.8
" "	1935-1939	12.2	1947	11.5
" " (War years)	1940-1945	12.0		

TUBERCULOSIS DEATH RATE.

Average for	1930-1934	0.51	1946	0.35
" "	1935-1939	0.27	1947	1.03
" " (War years)	1940-1945	0.24		

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Average for	1930-1934	0.14	1946	0.00
" "	1935-1939	0.06	1947	0.34
" " (War years)	1940-1945	0.14		

RESPIRATORY DEATH RATE.

Average for	1930-1934	1.14	1946	1.04
" "	1935-1939	1.64	1947	1.20
" " (War years)	1940-1945	1.52		

CANCER DEATH RATE.

Average for	1930-1934	1.72	1946	1.56
" "	1935-1939	1.97	1947	1.72
" " (War years)	1940-1945	1.87		

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

(principal notifiable diseases)

Average for	1930-1934	0.20	1946	0.00
" "	1935-1939	0.10	1947	0.17
" " (War years)	1940-1945	0.00		

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

(per 1,000 live births).

Average for	1930-1934	41.4	1946	33.3
" "	1935-1939	45.0	1947	27.0
" " (War years)	1940-1945	34.6		

BIRTHS, 1947.

			Male	Female	Total
Live Births.—	Legitimate	....	48	52	100
	Illegitimate	....	6	6	12
	Total	....	54	58	112
Stillbirths	....	....	1	2	3

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1947.

			Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	....	....	5	1	6
Tuberculosis (other forms)	....	....	1	1	2
Cancer	....	....	4	6	10
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	....	....	3	7	10
Heart Diseases	....	....	7	3	10
Other diseases of circulatory system	....	....	0	2	2
Bronchitis	....	....	2	3	5
Pneumonia	....	....	0	2	2
Ulcer of Stomach	....	....	1	0	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	....	....	0	1	1
Other digestive diseases	....	....	0	2	2
Nephritis	....	....	1	1	2
Congenital causes	....	....	1	0	1
Road traffic accidents	....	....	2	0	2
Other violent causes	....	....	1	0	1
All other causes	....	....	5	5	10
Total	....	....	33	34	67

TUBERCULOSIS.**New cases in 1947.**

			Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	....	....	2	0	2
Non-Pulmonary	....	....	2	1	3
Total	....	....	4	1	5

Total cases on Register.

Pulmonary	....	....	3	1	4
Non-Pulmonary	....	....	0	3	3
Total	....	....	3	4	7

SELBY RURAL DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1947.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED								CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL	DEATHS
	At all Ages.	According to Age								
		Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	Over 65		
Small-pox ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera (C) Plague (P) ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
Typhus Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever (R) Continued Fever (C)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Measles	26	1	7	17	1	..	..	..	..	..
Primary Pneumonia	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	2
Influenzal Pneumonia ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	39	1	10	17	3	3	4	1	3	2

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1947.

Water Supply.

The Selby R.D.C. is the water undertaker for the whole of the district. Water is obtained in bulk from the Selby Urban District Council's deep wells at Brayton Barff, and is of excellent quality. Temporary hardness in 8.4° (Clarke's scale), and permanent hardness 9.8° (Clarke's scale), and chlorination is carried out at the source. No samples were taken by the R.D.C.'s Inspector during 1947, but samples taken by the Urban District Council were satisfactory in all cases.

Approximately 98% of the population has a public water supply laid on to or within a reasonable distance of their houses. The Council have under consideration extensions of its mains to supply 9 farms and 10 houses, and the County Agricultural Committee has been invited to contribute towards the cost of the works. Complaints of insufficiency of water at Gateforth Sanatorium (controlled by Leeds Corporation) will be remedied during 1948 by laying a new 3" main from Hambleton.

One sample was obtained from a shallow well supplying one dwelling house. The sample was satisfactory bacteriologically and chemically. The owner has been requested to provide a supply from the Council's main.

Sewerage.

There are no sewage disposal works in the district with the exception of the plants solely dealing with sewage from Services establishments. Sewage is dealt with by retention in septic tanks and thence into open dykes, and in the more built-up parts of the district, notably at Brayton and Carlton, nuisances are created by this means.

The whole of the district has been surveyed by Consultant Engineers, and schemes for sewerage and sewage disposal have been prepared.

Approximately 75 yards of sewers have been relaid at Brayton during the year.

Scavenging.

Scavenging is carried out in nine parishes by means of horse drawn carts, and refuse is tipped at 8 tips within the area. The Council have approved a scheme for scavenging the whole district by means of motor vehicles, but due to the difficulty in obtaining new vehicles the scheme is not expected to be in operation until 1948.

Housing and Public Health Inspections.

It is regrettable that due to pressure of other duties it has not been possible to devote the requisite amount of time to the Survey of Working-Class Houses as recommended in the Hob-House Report, but the more urgent defects are being dealt with chiefly by informal action. It has not been found necessary to take statutory action in any case.

Food Inspection.

Regular inspections have been carried out at milk-producing farms, which are kept generally in a satisfactory state. Several defects have been remedied without resort to statutory action. Food shops also are kept in a satisfactory condition.

No meat for sale is slaughtered within the area, but the slaughter of cottagers' pigs is carried on, on a fairly substantial scale. No legal facilities exist for the inspection of these carcasses, and one wonders what proportion of this meat is, in fact, unfit for human consumption.

Rodent Control.

The Council do not employ a rodent operative, but rat destruction at the refuse tips is let by contract to the County Agricultural Pests Department, which regularly carries out inspections and treatment.

Disinfection of Premises.

Upon receipt of a notification of a notifiable infectious disease, the premises are visited and disinfected by means of formaldehyde. Four such disinfections were carried out during the year.

Inspections.

The following is a tabulated statement of inspections, etc., carried out during the year, under the Public Health Housing, and Food and Drugs Act.

Houses inspected	....	....	....	97
Informal notices served	....	....	....	29
Statutory notices served	....	....	....	—
Roofs repaired	....	....	....	17
Floors renewed or repaired	....	....	....	10
Eaves gutters renewed or repaired	....	....	....	11
Stopped drains cleared	....	....	....	16
Privies repaired	....	....	....	6
Ashbins provided	....	....	....	22
Firegrates repaired or renewed	....	....	....	5
Cesspools cleansed	....	....	....	19
Damp walls remedied	....	....	....	7
Premises disinfected	....	....	....	4
Cowsheds inspections	....	....	....	40
Dairy inspections	....	....	....	4
Walls and ceilings cleansed	....	....	....	6
Floors and walls repaired	....	....	....	12
Additional lighting provided	....	....	....	2
Food premises inspected	....	....	....	16
Bakehouse inspections	....	....	....	6
Total	....	....	....	329

Factories Act, 1947.

No. of factories with mechanical power	....	8
No. of factories without mechanical power	....	Nil
Contraventions found	....	Nil

Canal Boats. Public Health Act.

A canal owned by the Aire and Ouse Navigation Co. runs between the rivers Aire and Ouse and is approximately 5 miles long. No inspections of canal boats were carried out during the year.

Water Supply.

No. of samples taken	....	....	....	1
No. unsatisfactory (Bacteriologically)	....			1
No. unsatisfactory (Chemically)	....	....		1

New Housing.

New houses have been erected, or are in the course of erection, within the district during the year, as follows:—

Parish	By Council	By Private Developers
Barlow	4	—
Camblesforth	4	7
Cawood	16	1
Hirst Courtney	2	1
Temple Hirst	—	2
Thorpe Willoughby	—	3
Hambleton	8	—
Drax	14	—
Newland	8	—
Brayton	—	2
Gateforth	4	1
	—	—
Total	60	17
	—	—

