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**Contributors**

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SELBY  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1948.



SELBY:

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

1949

SELBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman: Councillor W. Webster, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor C. E. Anson, J.P., C.C.

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Medical Officer of Health:

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

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Sanitary Inspector:

J. R. BLACKLEDGE,  
Cert. S.I. Board,  
Cert. Meat and Food Inspection R.S.I.

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Clerk:

WALTER WILBY.

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

I have the honour to present to you my second Annual Report on the health of the District and the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1948.

The health of the District was reasonably good, but there was an appreciable increase in the number of infectious cases notified. This was due primarily to measles, which was troublesome towards the end of the year, and secondarily, to a sharp outbreak of scarlet fever in Cawood between the end of October and mid-December. Altogether nineteen cases occurred in that parish and it was found advisable to close the school for two weeks.

No cases of poliomyelitis were reported during the year, and for the second year in succession the District was free from diphtheria.

A provisional table showing the percentage of immunised children according to existing record cards is included in the Report. A figure of 45% is quite inconsistent with the figure of 77% recorded in the Annual Report for 1946 and also with the intensive campaign carried out by Dr. W. Bertram Hill. Obviously the records are incomplete and will have to be amplified by information from other sources.

It will be seen from the Vital Statistics that there was a substantial fall in the Birth Rate from 19.3 to 17.2; a similar fall was general throughout the country. The Death Rate was down slightly and the Infantile Mortality Rate at 29 well below the new record of 34 for England and Wales.

On the 5th July, the National Health Service Act, 1946, came into operation, but as the Part III services were already administered by the West Riding County Council, little change occurred.

Monthly specialists' clinics for Pædiatrics (diseases of children) and Orthopædics (deformities) were established in Goole to serve the Division, and a weekly session for remedial exercises conducted by a physiotherapist is now held in Selby.

A Home Help service to provide domestic assistance for mothers during the lying-in period and for cases of chronic sickness recommended by the doctors was inaugurated.

The Joint Isolation Hospital was transferred to the Regional Hospital Board after continuous service since 1905. Approximately 470 cases from the Rural District were admitted to the Hospital during that period.

The whole of the District south of Selby town has never had the services of a Home Nurse. Free nursing in the home is provided for under the new Act, but this essential service is in abeyance, and likely to remain in abeyance, until accommodation for a nurse is available.

I would draw your attention to the Sanitary Inspector's remarks under Sewerage. In my opinion adequate sewage disposal plants for the larger villages are an urgent necessity.

Requests for permission to use temporary or moveable dwellings are becoming more frequent and will continue to be made until the acute housing shortage is alleviated. The strict attitude of the Council to these requests is commendable, and every effort should be made to keep this type of dwelling to the absolute minimum.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Members and Officials of the Council for their co-operation and consideration during 1948.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

S. KENNAUGH APPLETON,

Medical Officer of Health.

September, 1949.

## GENERAL STATISTICS, 1948.

Area of Rural District ....	....	33,304 acres
Population (mid 1948) ....	....	6,050
Rateable Value ....	....	£23,055
Product of Penny Rate ....	....	£94/7/5

## VITAL STATISTICS.

	SELBY R.D.	Aggre- gate West Riding U.D.s	West Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Provi- sional)
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 population)	17.2	19.2	18.5	17.9
DEATH RATES (per 1,000 population)				
All causes ....	11.2	9.8	11.3	10.8
Principal Zymotic Diseases ....		0.12	0.12	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis ....	0.33	0.36	0.37	0.44
Other forms of Tuberculosis ....	0.17	0.07	0.07	0.07
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis) ....	0.83	1.15	1.29	—
Cancer ....	1.65	1.49	1.74	1.86
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	3.64	3.03	3.74	—
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	29	40	39	34
INFANT DIARRHŒA (Deaths under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births)		4.97	4.38	3.3
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Deaths of mothers in child- birth per 1,000 total births)				
Puerperal Sepsis ....	0	0.13	0.10	0.24
Other causes ....	0	1.12	1.05	0.78
Total ....	0	1.25	1.15	1.02



## 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	1948 ....	17.2

## 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	1948 ....	11.2

## PULMONARY 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	1948 ....	0.33

## NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Average for	1930-1935 ....	0.14	1946 ....	0.00
" "	1935-1939 ....	0.06	1947 ....	0.34
" " (War years)	1940-1945 ....	0.14	1948 ....	0.17

## 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	1948 ....	0.83

## 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	1948 ....	1.65

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	1948 ....	0.00

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.  
(per 1,000 live births)

Average for	1930-1934 ....	41	1946 ....	33
" "	1935-1939 ....	45	1947 ....	27
" " (War years)	1940-1945 ....	35	1948 ....	29

**BIRTHS, 1948.**

			Male	Female	Total
Live Births.—	Legitimate	....	50	47	97
	Illegitimate	....	3	4	7
			—	—	—
	Total	....	53	51	104
Stillbirths	....	....	1	2	3

**CAUSES OF DEATH, 1948.**

			Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	....	....	1	1	2
Tubercluosis (other forms)	....	....	0	1	1
Cancer	....	....	5	5	10
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	....	....	3	4	7
Heart Diseases	....	....	11	9	20
Other diseases of circulatory system	....	....	1	1	2
Bronchitis	....	....	3	1	4
Pneumonia	....	....	1	0	1
Ulcer of Stomach	....	....	1	0	1
Diabetes	....	....	0	2	2
Other digestive diseases	....	....	1	1	2
Nephritis	....	....	0	5	5
Congenital causes	....	....	3	0	3
Road traffic accidents	....	....			
Other violent causes	....	....	1	0	1
All other causes	....	....	3	4	7
			—	—	—
Total	....	....	34	34	68

**TUBERCULOSIS.****New cases in 1948.**

			Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	....	....	1	3	4
Non-Pulmonary	....	....	0	0	0
			—	—	—
Total	....	....	1	3	4

**Total cases on Register.**

Pulmonary	....	....	3	3	6
Non-Pulmonary	....	....	0	2	2
			—	—	—
Total	....	....	3	5	8

## SELBY RURAL DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1948.

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		
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera (C) Plague (P) ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	20	...	3	14	3	...	...	17	...
Typhus Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever (R) Continued Fever (C)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... ..	4	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	65	...	19	45	...	1	...	...	1
Primary Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenzal Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	7	...	4	3	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ... ..	97	...	26	62	5	3	1	17	3

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunised during 1948: Children under 5 years	...	54
Children over 5 years	...	16
		70
Refresher Dose	...	187
		257
Total	...	257



Total number of children under 15 years of age who have been immunised up to 31st December, 1948.

Age—Years	0—1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	Total
Number ....	8	21	53	25	39	243	204	593
Percentage ....	29.02%					54.71%		44.91%

## REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1948.

### 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 is 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 1948, 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.

850 yards of 3" Asbestos Cement pipes were laid during the year to augment the supply to Gateforth Sanatorium. Since the work was done no further complaints have been received.

### Sewerage.

There are no sewage disposal works in the district with the exception of the plants solely dealing with sewage from service 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 54 yards of sewers have been relaid at Hambleton and West Haddlesey during the year.

### **Scavenging.**

On December 1st, 1948, the Council undertook the collection of house refuse within the whole district. Two 'Karrier' seven cubic yard motor refuse collectors have been acquired, each manned by a crew of three men.

Refuse is tipped on six tips in the district, and every endeavour is made to comply with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health on Controlled Tipping.

### **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 Hobhouse Report, but the more urgent defects are being dealt with chiefly by informal action. One Statutory Notice was served during the year, the terms of the notice being complied with.

### **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. Three 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 Act, Housing Act, and Foods and Drugs Act:—

Houses inspected	....	....	....	56
Informal notices served	....	....	....	27
Statutory notices served	....	....	....	1
Roofs repaired	....	....	....	16
Floors renewed or repaired	....	....	....	5
Eaves gutters renewed or repaired	....	....	....	16
Stopped drains cleared	....	....	....	12
Privies repaired	....	....	....	3
Ashbins provided	....	....	....	54
Firegrates renewed or repaired	....	....	....	7
Cesspools cleansed	....	....	....	17
Damp walls remedied	....	....	....	5
Premises disinfected	....	....	....	3
Cowsheds inspections	....	....	....	31
Dairy inspections	....	....	....	6
Walls and ceilings cleansed	....	....	....	6
Floors and walls repaired	....	....	....	3
Additional lighting provided	....	....	....	—
Food premises inspected	....	....	....	21
Bakehouse inspections	....	....	....	3
Total				292

### 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 & 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—Nil.

No. unsatisfactory (bacteriologically)—Nil.

No. unsatisfactory (chemically)—Nil.

### New Housing.

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

Parish	By Council		By Private Developers	
	Completed	Course of erection	Completed	Course of erection
Barlow ....	—	2	—	—
Burn ....	—	—	—	2
Brayton ....	—	—	3	—
Camblesforth ....	—	—	7	—
Carlton ....	—	—	2	—
Drax ....	14	—	—	—
Gateforth ....	4	—	—	—
Hambleton ....	8	—	—	1
Long Drax ....	4	—	—	—
Newland ....	8	—	—	—
Thorpe ....	—	—	2	—
West Haddlesey ....	—	—	—	1
Wistow ....	—	—	1	—
	—	—	—	—
	38	2	15	5
	—	—	—	—

