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SELBY

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1895.

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SELBY

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1895.

POPULATION, CENSUS, 1891	...	...	...	6,022
ESTIMATED POPULATION IN 1895	...	...	...	6,200
AREA IN ACRES	...	...	...	3,757

TO THE SELBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

It is again my duty to present to you my Annual Report for 1895. It is prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Local Government Board.

Owing to the extension of the district and the new houses which were first occupied last year, I now estimate the population up to the middle of the year as 6,200.

The births registered during 1895 were 206—males, 96; females, 110. The birth-rate was 33·2 per 1,000; the average rate for the previous five years was 31·5.

Birth and
Death Rates.

124 deaths—males, 71; females, 53—were registered in Selby. Five of the 18 deaths at the Workhouse were of persons belonging

to the rural districts, 2 others were visitors, and 7 are therefore deducted. I have not heard of any person from Selby who has died away from the town, or these would have been added. The corrected number of deaths for the year was therefore 117, and the death-rate 19 per 1,000.

The average rate for the previous five years was 18·4. The death-rate last year was increased through many deaths from diarrhoea among young children.

Deaths
from Zymotic
Diseases, &c.

27 deaths were registered as due to zymotic diseases, viz. :

21 caused by diarrhoea,		
2	„	enteric fever,
2	„	whooping cough,
1	„	diphtheria, and
1	„	membranous croup.

The death-rate from these was 4·3 per 1,000, while the five years' average was 3 per 1,000 less.

Only 3 deaths were registered last year from phthisis, a lessened number when compared with previous years ; 16 were caused by other diseases of the lungs, such as bronchitis, pneumonia, &c. ; 2 of these were also attacked with influenza. The 19 deaths caused by all forms of disease of the lungs were equal to a death-rate of 3·3 per 1,000 which is considerably under the average of previous years.

Deaths
at different
Ages.

The deaths among infants under 1 year were in the proportion of 189 in every 1,000 registered births. The average for the last 5 years was only 139.

Of all the deaths which occurred during 1895, 40 per cent. were of young children under 5 years of age, and 35 per cent. were among persons who had reached 65 years of age and above. It is the aim of sanitary work that a larger proportion of the people may be able to survive to the aged group, and there is yet room to reduce the heavy death-rate among the young.

Only 4 certificates of death were received through the Coroner ; 3 were due to ordinary causes, and 1 was the result of an accident. 1 death was not certified.

16 cases of infectious disease were notified last year.

8 were cases of enteric fever,
 4 „ „ scarlet fever,
 1 was a case of continued fever.
 1 „ „ puerperal fever.
 1 „ „ diphtheria.
 1 „ „ membranous croup.

Cases
 of Infectious
 Disease
 reported.

I have already reported that the deaths from what are known as zymotic diseases were last year 3 per 1,000 above the average. The deaths in that group include others than the infectious diseases which are notified ; in fact, last year 23 out of the total of 27 were caused by attacks of diarrhoea and by whooping cough, and only 4 from diseases which are notified.

It is generally believed, however, than an attack of diarrhoea, and especially when of a severe type, is as much a warning as an outbreak, say, of enteric fever, that some part of our sanitary works are not quite satisfactory. The outbreak of diarrhoea, and the first cases of enteric fever, began in August.

During the first six months of the year there had been exceptionally few cases of any infectious disease in the town, and the death-rate for both the first and second quarters of the year had been less than 14 per 1,000.

During August and September there was a period of high temperatures with a very slight rainfall. It is everyone's experience that even wholesome articles of food quickly "go bad" under those conditions, and how much more is it to be expected that every kind of refuse, either solid or liquid, will also more quickly decompose before it is removed from the neighbourhood of the houses. Several complaints were made in August of offensive smells being given off from ashpits, drains, and from manhole openings from the sewers. The tipping of refuse at the brickyard ponds had not been complained of until the hot weather served to increase the decomposition among the refuse exposed there, and the liquid amongst it became very concentrated sewage. I made inquiries at the houses where the deaths from diarrhoea occurred and learned that they were of weakly and wasting infants of five to eight weeks old. The

Diarrhoea.

majority of the children, however, had lived for ten months, and had previously been in fair good health. In a few houses others in the family had had slight attacks of diarrhoea; 2 fatal cases occurred in each of two houses. 8 out of the 21 deaths occurred in houses in Millgate or yards opening out of it, 3 in Gowthorpe, 2 in Wide Street, 1 in Ousegate, and 7 in other parts of the town. Although so many were in the Millgate district, where, also, the cases of enteric fever occurred, yet no case of both diseases broke out in the same house.

Enteric Fever.

The first case of enteric fever was reported on August 9th; the patient had been ailing a fortnight. Complaints had been made of nasty smells coming into the house from the sewer grate near the door. The fact that he had worked at the brickyards gave a clue as to the probable source of his illness, when, in the following week, 4 cases of the same disease were reported from three of the cottages at the brickyard. A drain had been blocked there, and the well water used, on analysis, was shewn not to be satisfactory, but the workman first ill did not drink that water. The town water was at once laid on to the premises, the blocked drain remedied, and no fresh cases occurred among the houses at the brickyard. Before these last cases were notified as enteric fever children in one of the houses had been ill; their father had returned home ailing—what his illness had been I could not ascertain. At that time complaints were made of very offensive smells which came from ashpits and other refuse which was being tipped into old clayholes in the yard, although at some distance from the houses. No new case occurred until the beginning of October, when 2 adults, who lived under good sanitary conditions, were attacked with enteric fever in one week. Their house was only a few yards from the others, and similar complaints of the smells previously noticed were made by them. A week after another case was reported in Millgate, at least a quarter of a mile from the brickyard houses. The drain from the last house emptied into a separate sewer from these, but into and near the sewer used by the first case in August. In December another of the family of the very first house was notified as ill of continued fever. The beginning of his illness is thought by his friends as caused by smells from an ashpit and privies near, which was found in a very foul, wet condition. To the best

of my knowledge no infected matter had been thrown there. 2 patients died from enteric*fever. All the cases were nursed at their homes. There is only a suspicion of any infection of enteric fever having been brought into the neighbourhood where the cases broke out, say, by the father who returned home poorly, but there were causes in operation which were capable of causing illness. I think the outbreak of diarrhoea and of fever were instances of the direct association of disease and decomposing filth. The General Purposes Committee of the District Council inspected the district and gave instructions which were carried out.

The deaths from diphtheria and membranous croup were in one family. They occurred late in November, and were not due to any sanitary defect. The history was of several in the family having been ill with supposed colds, and a medical attendant was only called in when serious symptoms began. A Committee from the District Council met with a Committee from the Rural Council to consider the question of providing a hospital for the treatment of cases of infectious disease. The meeting decided that their Clerks should make inquiries as to the terms upon which such joint hospitals have been provided by other Sanitary Authorities. Disinfectants are supplied by the Sanitary Inspector to all houses where cases of infectious disease occur, and on the recovery of the case the rooms are stoved or lime-washed.

Hospital
for Infectious
Diseases.

During 1895, the water supply in the town has been constant, and its use has varied from 21 to 25 gallons per head per day. The water-closet system is in use at a majority of the houses in Selby. Sanction was obtained for a loan to extend the water mains in Green Lane and Thorpe Road for the use of that part of the district which was added in the end of 1894. The work was completed in the autumn, and 23 additional houses have now been supplied with water from these mains. A considerable amount of water was used in the autumn in flushing the yard drains and sewers.

Water Supply.

Similar arrangements were made to provide new sewers for houses in the extended district. 1884 yards of suitable sized sanitary pipes have been laid, with all necessary means of ventilation and for flushing. 19 house drains have been connected with these new sewers. On the cases of diarrhoea and enteric

New Sewers.

fever being reported, the Council gave instructions that the main sewers should be flushed every week* and the smaller sewers as often as possible. Better drains have been provided for 7 premises, and the drains for 5 others have been cleaned out and repaired.

Removal
of Ashpit and
other Refuse.

The removal of the refuse from houses and ashpits is carried out by the Council's workmen at a very moderate cost when compared with other towns. I am told that comparatively little of the refuse is now sold, and that the greater part of the 1,400 loads removed last year was used for filling up old clay holes at several brickyards. The disposal of this stuff is always an anxious question. It is urgent that it shall be removed from near the dwelling-houses at short intervals, but how to dispose of it on being removed has repeatedly had to be reconsidered in Selby. In a previous part of this Report I have referred to the complaints made of the nuisance at the tip on the west side of the town. The Committee visited the place, and I decided that no more refuse should be deposited there. I have not heard of any complaints as to the tip on the east side. I am unable to give the actual number of ashpits emptied which have privies emptying into them, but the rule is to cleanse them every six weeks. The Council gave instructions that that work should be begun at 4 a.m. during the summer months, and that the refuse now collected from so-called day ashpits, and from movable boxes, should be collected more frequently.

15 privies were last year altered into W.Cs. 11 privies were reconstructed on being found out of repair, and additional privy accommodation was provided for 6 houses. Many of the water-closets in the town are not provided with a cistern for flushing. This very necessary change was made in 6 last year, and 5 were provided with better ventilation. These alterations are the results of systematic inspections made, at several of which members of the General Purposes Committee were present.

Analysis of
Milk.

On the receipt of a circular from the West Riding County Council, the District Council decided that samples of milk should be taken by Mr. Curry and sent for analysis. The arrangement with the County Council is not yet finally agreed upon.

A license for use of premises as a knacker's yard, away from any dwelling-house, was granted. Complaints were made of nuisances caused from premises where fish is fried through the accumulations of refuse. A better arrangement was made. The trade refuse from works where vegetable matter is used in dyeing was found to cause a serious nuisance; the owner made a more direct outlet sewer and so remedied the complaint.

Offensive
Trades.

Workshops where various trades are carried on have been visited, and notices requiring additional closet accommodation have been served in 3 cases.

Workshops.

4 houses were certified as being unfit for human habitation, and the Council gave notices that they should not again be inhabited. 2 were found over manure and other refuse, they were all without reasonable air space or ventilation, and were also in a dilapidated condition. With the exception of one, all the houses condemned during the last few years are either pulled down or are not now inhabited. Several other dwellings have been reported as being a nuisance and injurious to health, caused by the dampness of the walls and floors. That condition, in most, has been practically remedied.

Houses
Condemned.

The plans passed during the year were 8, for proposed additions and alterations to existing premises.

51 canal boats were inspected.

The list of registered common lodging-houses, bake-houses, and slaughter-houses has not been added to during the year, and their condition has been inspected at intervals and few causes for complaint met with.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MITCHELL WILSON, M.D.,

Dip. Public Health, Cambs.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SELBY, 6th Jan. 1896.

ANNUAL REPORT OF NUISANCES ABATED AND OTHER SANITARY
WORK FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1895.

Inspections made	...	...	...	...	...	1463
Verbal and Written Notices from Inspector	...	...	...	...	...	589
Notices from the Council	...	...	...	...	...	8
New Sewers laid	...	...	...	...	yards	1884
No. of Houses connected with new Sewers	...	...	...	...	...	19
Defective Drains cleansed and relaid	...	...	...	...	...	5
Do. W.C.'s do. repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Branch Drains provided	...	...	...	...	...	7
Sinks disconnected	...	...	...	...	...	4
Damp premises from defective spouting	...	...	...	...	...	2
Houses connected with Town's water supply	...	...	...	...	...	23
Defective and delapidated Privies and Ashpits rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	15
W.C.'s provided with flushing Cisterns	...	...	...	...	...	6
Privies reconstructed...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Privies abutting upon Dwellings removed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ashpits, Privies, etc., cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	2817
No. of loads of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	1400
Wet Ashpits drained	...	...	...	...	...	2
New W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Premises cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Houses unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	4
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Notices served for dangerous Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	1
Plans passed for Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	48
Pigs within 40ft. of dwellings removed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Dairies and Cowsheds registered	...	...	...	...	...	25
Bake Houses registered	...	...	...	...	...	7
Common Lodging Houses registered	...	...	...	...	...	6
Slaughter Houses do.	...	...	...	...	...	8
Workshops do.	...	...	...	...	...	9
Canal Boats inspected	...	...	...	...	...	51
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Yards repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2

W. CURRY,

Surveyor and Inspector.

Town Hall, Selby, 8th January, 1896.

TABLE B.

TABLE of POPULATION, BIRTHS, and NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1895, in the Urban Sanitary District of SELBY :
classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	Population at all ages.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	New Cases of Sickness in each Locality coming to the know- ledge of the Medical Officer of Health.										
	Census, 1891.	1895			Fever.										
SELBY LOCAL BOARD DISTRICT ...	5922	6092	206	Under 5	Small-pox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.
				5 upwards	2	1	1		8	1		1			
				Under 5											
WORKHOUSE	108	108		5 upwards											
TOTALS	6030	6200	206	Under 5	2	1	1			8	1		1		
				5 upwards	2										

Notification of Infectious Disease is compulsory in the District since December 9th, 1889. There is no Hospital for cases of Infectious Disease.

TABLE I.

BIRTH and DEATH RATES during 1895, and Five Previous Years, in the Selby Urban Sanitary District, and in England and Wales.

Year.	Rate per 1000 of the Population.						Deaths in Children under 1 year to every 1000 Births.	
	Births.		Deaths.		Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.		Selby.	England and Wales.
	Selby.	England and Wales.	Selby.	England and Wales.	Selby.	England and Wales.		
1895	33·2		18·0		4·3		189	
1894	33·0	29·7	17·5	16·6	1·3	1·7	141	137
1893	30·8	30·8	21·2	19·2	1·4	2·0	139	159
1892	32·3	30·5	16·9	19·0	0·9	2·4	109	148
1891	30·5	31·4	18·4	20·2	1·8	1·8	152	149
1890	30·0	29·7	16·0	19·2	1·2	2·0	146	151

TABLE II.

SUMMARY of the BIRTH and DEATH RATES during the 10 Years 1881-90.

	Average of the 10 years 1881-1890.
Birth Rate per 1000	31·2
Death „ „	18·4
From Zymotic Diseases	1·5
„ Phthisis or Consumption	1·4
„ other Lung Diseases	2·9
Deaths in Infants under 1 year per 1000 births	133

TABLE III.

MORTALITY FROM SEVERAL GROUPS OF DISEASES DURING 1895.

	Total.	Deaths per 1000 of Population.	Proportion of Deaths in every 1000 from all causes.
1.—Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases	27	4.3	216
2.—Pulmonary Diseases (other than Phthisis) ...	16	2.5	129
3.—Tubercular Diseases	4	0.6	32
4.—Wasting Diseases of Infants	12	1.9	96
5.—Convulsive Diseases of Infants	2	0.3	15

2.—Includes Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy, and Asthma.

3.—" Phthisis, Scrofula, Tabes Mesenterica.

4.—" Marasmus, Atrophy, Debility, and Premature Birth.

5.—" Hydrocephalus, Meningitis, Convulsions, and Teething.

