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Contributors

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SELBY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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SELBY

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1899.

POPULATION, CENSUS 1891	...	...	...	...	6,030
ESTIMATED POPULATION IN 1899	...	...	...	...	7,500
AREA IN ACRES	...	...	...	...	3,757

TO THE SELBY URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have now to present to you my Annual Report for 1899.

It is very difficult at present to get at a trustworthy estimate of the population, owing to the large number of new houses being built and occupied month by month, and also that more overcrowding has been met with last year in old houses from lodgers than I have ever known of.

I have estimated the number of the population in Selby at Population. the end of last June at 7,500. That time is chosen as the fair average for the year, for in the earlier 6 months the numbers would be less than the estimate, but in the latter 6, the numbers

would probably exceed the estimate. I think the following returns of the births and deaths for last year shew that the estimate I have made is fairly accurate.

Births.

228 births were registered in 1899—males 119, females, 109 ; the birth-rate was 30·4 per 1000. The average number of births during 1896-7-8 was 189, and the average birth-rate was 29·7, while for the last five years the average was 30·8. The large increase in the population allowed for is therefore in the same proportion as the birth rate.

Deaths.

155 deaths were registered in Selby last year—males 83, females, 72. 11 of these occurred at the Workhouse among inmates belonging to the rural parishes or were strangers to the town. These cases are deducted, and the corrected number (144) is equal to a death-rate of 19·2 per 1000. The average of the 5 previous years was 17·8.

Zymotic
Diseases.

From zymotic diseases there were 21 deaths.

5 were caused by diphtheria.

7 „ „ „ whooping cough.

7 „ „ „ diarrhœa.

1 was caused from choleraic diarrhœa.

1 „ „ „ enteric fever.

The death-rate from these was 2·8 per 1000. Last year it was only 1·2, but the 5 years' average rate is exactly that of 1899.

Diseases of the
Lungs.

13 deaths were caused by tubercle of the lungs, 6 were females who died at ages from 10 to 52 ; 7 were males who died at ages from 5 to 70.

4 deaths were also registered from tubercle of other organs of the body, chiefly of the brain, so that the death-rate from this preventable disease was 2·3, an increase upon the rate for previous years.

11 deaths were caused by other diseases of the lungs. That number is considerably below the average, for the death-rate in 1899 was 1·4, while the average was 2·9.

3 deaths were caused by influenza, associated with some disease of the lungs.

The proportion of deaths among children under one year was 23 per cent. of the births registered. The average of the previous 5 years was 16 per cent., and it is among young persons that the larger share of the increased number of deaths occurred. Deaths among children under 5 years equalled 42 per cent. of all registered last year, and among aged people over 65 they were 17 per cent. Deaths at different ages.

12 deaths were registered on the Coroner's certificate—5 were caused by drowning, 6 from natural causes, and 1 suicide.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED.

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified in Selby last year :—

Scarlet fever	...	...	...	11
Enteric fever	...	...	...	13
Continued fever	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	21
Erysipelas	...	...	...	11

The total number, 57, is considerably more than has been notified for any year.

Among the 21 cases of diphtheria there were 5 deaths; 3 of these were under 5 years of age and 2 over, one of these was aged 26. A disease which caused the deaths of nearly one-fourth of those attacked with it is certainly a dangerous one, and there was ample proof of it being infectious, yet I had repeatedly to report to you how little care was being taken in nursing the patients, the result was second cases at some of these houses; at one house there were 3 cases, and also that fresh cases were soon after reported from houses near to the earlier infected ones. In the first week in July 2 cases were reported from adjacent houses in South Parade. From one of these houses 3 children were then attending the Roman Catholic School, and 11 of the 21 cases that occurred were among children who attended there. During the whole time the outbreak continued there was no real separation of the infected child in the household, repeatedly was the patient found in the living room of the house, and my suggestion as to the urgent Diphtheria.

need of separation in a bedroom was not even carried out when a second case occurred. There were 4 deaths among the 13 cases that were notified up to the end of September. The Council agreed to provide supplies of the anti-diphtheritic serum; since then it has been repeatedly used, and only one fatal case has occurred among the last 8 cases reported. There have been very few cases of diphtheria in Selby before 1899, and it has not yet been realized that this is a highly infectious and very fatal disease. The experience in Selby last year has proved these points. To prevent the spread of this disease more satisfactory means of separating the patient must be adopted, even at some inconvenience to the family, and some effectual means of disinfecting the bedding and clothing is much needed. At several of the houses there was considerable overcrowding, and in a case of infectious disease breaking out that condition increased the risk of infection and made the overcrowding even worse among the healthy. The conditions I have named as helping to spread the disease among the early cases still helped to continue it until the end of the year. 8 additional cases were reported from October 1st to December 2nd. There were 4 persons attacked over 20 years of age; one of these died. There were certainly other cases not reported, for inquiries showed that an actual case of diphtheria had been preceded in the house by a case of slight cold and sore throat.

Scarlet Fever.

There were 11 cases of scarlet fever reported. 5 of these were reported at long intervals up to the end of October, then in November and December 6 cases were notified. At the same time many cases were occurring in the rural parishes around Selby, and which was the infecting source it is difficult to say. The usual statute hiring fairs were being held just before the disease became so general, and these attractions bring crowds to Selby, and it is not at all unlikely that some infection was conveyed at these gatherings. All the cases recovered; in 2 houses there were second cases.

Enteric Fever.

13 cases of enteric or typhoid fever were notified, one case died. One case was taken from an outside parish to the Workhouse. 4 other cases were taken ill immediately before returning home to Selby or within a week after.

6 of the remaining 8 cases were relations of one of these probably introduced cases. These relations lived in three separate houses, but all visited the first infected, so the infection spread when it was brought to their own homes, for there were 2 cases at the first house, 4 cases at another, and one at a third. These cases illustrate how mistaken the view is that cases of enteric or typhoid fever have no power, or very little power, of infection. When that opinion is acted upon there is a great risk of the disease spreading, if it is nursed under the ordinary conditions of home nursing, and this risk is greatly increased when infected matters have to be disposed of in a midden privy, as was the case at the first and second of these cases.

12 cases of this fever occurred at 8 dwelling houses (not including the case at the workhouse). At 4 of these there were serious overcrowding of the house as the following figures shew : In a cottage with only 2 bedrooms there were 4 adults, 4 children

„	„	1	„	„	6	„	5	„
„	„	1	„	„	2	„	3	„
„	„	2	„	„	3	„	4	„

It is very difficult under such conditions, either to properly nurse the sick one or to protect those of the family who are well. The overcrowding is a nuisance injurious to the health of the inmates, apart from infectious sickness, and wherever such cases are discovered steps are taken to have the conditions remedied, but I do not know of any remedy which will meet the double misfortune of an overcrowded house and a case of a dangerous disease other than providing a hospital, to which the infected patient could be removed. There would be more hope of a speedy and safe recovery, and there would certainly be fewer cases to be reported.

The Committee appointed to consider this hospital question, Fever Hospital. with members of the Rural Council, held several meetings in 1899. A site has been decided upon if it can be purchased at a reasonable price ; the facts I have had now to put before you shew that there is an urgent want of some means of isolation, and also of some apparatus where infected clothing can be effectually disinfected.

The rapid growth of the town, which was noted in my report for 1898, has continued. Plans for 321 houses and for 6 new streets were passed in 1899, and during last year building was carried on rapidly in the new streets, which had been previously passed or were sanctioned this year. It is this which makes it difficult to make a trustworthy estimate of the population for any one year. In the next census, which will be taken in 1901, it would be a great assistance if the town was divided into clearly defined census districts. The health statistics for the town would be of far more value if one part of the town could be compared with another, rather than as is the case at present, when the whole population is dealt with as one district. This continued increase of numbers requires the whole sanitary requirements of the town to be correspondingly enlarged.

Water Supply.

The Council have before them a scheme for sinking a new well close to the site of the present one, from which it is hoped that the present supply will be at least doubled. Judging by the number of new houses—162, which were newly connected with the water mains last year, there is already a large new population to supply. The well waters used at houses in the outlying parts of the district are not satisfactory. 4 of these were analyzed last year, but none of them could be classed as a good, wholesome water. It is equally important that all cow keepers in these outlying portions should have a supply of good water if the mains are within a reasonable distance. Another demand for water will be for the large additional number of water closets provided. 130 new houses and 23 old houses had cisterns for w.c's. provided last year.

sewers and
rains.

The extent of the increase in the town can be better gauged by the figures given me by Mr. Gray as to the new sewers laid last year. A new outfall of nearly 1,000 yards in length, and 2,825 yards of main sewers in various streets were provided and 163 houses were attached to these new sewers.

clearing of
refuse.

The removal of all house and ashpit refuse is carried out by the workmen of the Council. The ashpits are emptied once in every 3 months, while the contents of a largely increasing number of boxes are removed weekly. These boxes are a

satisfactory method of storing ordinary house refuse for a week, but if the number of these now used where there is neither water closet or privy is to increase some more thorough means of cleansing and disinfecting these soil boxes will be needed.

The building and street bye-laws, which were sanctioned in 1886, were last year revised and added too with the approval of the Local Government Board in December last.

Several members of the General Purposes Committee made an inspection on two occasions of common yards as to the paving, draining, &c., and of houses in several parts of the town. The paving was seen in many cases to be broken, in others there was no actual paving only the yard surface unequal, which became, after rain, collections of wet and mud. Notices were ordered to be served in some of these which were considered to cause a nuisance. It is most difficult even to hope to get a thoroughly healthy dwelling in those yards where the houses have so very little free space, and even when an open space exists at the rear there are no windows in the back wall of the house. One group of back to back houses, closed a few years ago, were last year altered into through houses with greatly increased accommodation.

31 dairies and cowsheds are on the register and three new ones were added last year. A copy of Dr. Woodhead's lecture on tubercular disease among cows was sent to every cow-keeper; the conditions of the sheds and premises have been inspected. Similar inspections have also been made of the registered bakehouses, common lodging houses, and slaughter houses. The result is usually that the premises are kept in agreement with the bye-laws which apply to the several premises, but on any omission or defect being found a notice to remedy the complaint is served.

A very suitable mortuary has been built from Mr. Gray's plans in a convenient situation, near to the Works and the canal.

The Public Park was first opened in June last. Although not large (it is two acres in extent), yet it is an open space laid out

artistically, and where the inhabitants can enjoy the pleasures of a flower garden, &c.

baths, &c.

The Baths are now in course of erection. Among other desirable improvements is the erection of a Steam Laundry, and the evidence of prosperity is shewn by plans having been passed for a new Bank, and also for the re-construction and enlargement of another.

Mr Gray has prepared the following table, which gives the full details of all the sanitary work carried out in 1899.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MITCHELL WILSON,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

SELBY, 31st January, 1900.

TABLE I.

ANNUAL REPORT OF NUISANCES ABATED AND OTHER SANITARY

WORK FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1899.

Inspections made	...	...	...	...	1964
Verbal and written notices from Inspector...	...	...	...	...	481
Notices from the Council	...	...	...	...	32
New Streets passed, length	...	...	...	...	732 yds
New Main Sewers passed	...	...	...	...	782 "
New Main Sewers made	...	...	...	...	2825 "
New Main Outfall Sewer	...	...	...	...	948 "
Number of houses connected with new sewers	...	...	...	...	163
Defective drains cleansed and re-laid	...	...	...	...	34
Sinks disconnected	...	...	...	...	2
New Water Mains laid	...	...	...	...	782 yds
New Houses connected with town water supply	...	...	...	...	162
W.C.'s provided with flushing cisterns—New Houses	...	...	...	...	130
Old Houses	...	...	...	...	23
Defective " W.C.'s " cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	163
Notices issued for waste of water (W.C.'s)	...	...	...	...	232
New W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	153
Defective and dilapidated privies and ashpits rebuilt	...	...	...	...	3
Ashpits, privies, &c., cleansed	...	...	...	...	4449
Number of loads of refuse removed...	...	...	...	...	1436
Ash Boxes emptied	...	...	...	...	13,461
Overcrowding—Notices sent	...	...	...	...	6
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	35
Other Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	51
Plans passed for buildings, dwellinghouses, &c.	...	...	...	...	354
New Spouts for houses	...	...	...	...	6
Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	43
Dairies and cow-sheds registered	...	...	...	...	34
Bake-houses registered...	...	...	...	...	30
Canal Boats inspected	...	...	...	...	49
Notices under Canal Boats Act	...	...	...	...	5
Common Lodging-houses registered	...	...	...	...	5
Slaughter-houses registered	...	...	...	...	8
Slaughter-houses repaired, &c.	...	...	...	...	1
Cow-sheds cleansed and lime-washed	...	...	...	...	4
Notices sent to abate smoke nuisances	...	...	...	...	5
Disconnecting chambers to old drains	...	...	...	...	4
Notices from Council for contravention of Bye-laws	...	...	...	...	5
Other notices for contravention of Bye-laws	...	...	...	...	36

BRUCE MCGREGOR GRAY,

Surveyor and Inspector.

TABLE II.

BIRTH and DEATH RATES during 1899, 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.
1899	30·4	29·3	19·2	17·1	2·8	2·2	232	163
1898	31·5	29·4	18·3	17·6	2·6	2·2	159	161
1897	29·7	29·7	17·3	17·4	2·0	2·1	138	
1896	29·7	29·7	18·2	17·1	4·0	2·1	180	148
1895	33·2	30·3	18·0	18·7	4·3	2·1	189	161
1894	30·0	29·7	17·5	16·7	1·3	1·7	141	137

TABLE III.

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 IV.
MORTALITY FROM SEVERAL GROUPS OF DISEASES DURING 1899.

	Total.	Deaths per 1000 of Population.	Proportion of Deaths in every 1000 from all causes.
1—Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases	21	2.8	140
2—Pulmonary Diseases (other than Phthisis)	11	1.4	76
3—Tubercular Diseases	18	2.4	125
4—Wasting Diseases of Infants	19	2.5	135
5—Convulsive Diseases of Infants	12	1.6	83

- 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.

TABLE A.

TABLE OF DEATHS during the year 1899 in the Urban Sanitary District of Selby, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.		Mortality from all causes at subjoined ages						Mortality from subjoined causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five years of age.																						
		At all ages.						FEVERS.																						
		Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Small-pox	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membraneous Croup.	Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever	Influenza.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Diseases.	Injuries.	All other Diseases	Total.	
SELBY	139	53	13	4	9	38	22	Under 5	5 upwards	3	2	1	1				1			7	7		3	13	8	7	4	1	44	66
WORKHOUSE	16	...	...	1	1	4	10	Under 5	5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	155	53	13	5	10	42	32	Under 5	5 upwards	3	2	1	1				1			7	7	...	3	13	8	10	4	1	44	66
Deaths occurring outside the District among persons belonging thereto	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Under 5	5 upwards.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths occurring within the District among persons not belonging thereto	11	...	...	1	...	3	7	Under 5	5 upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	10	11

TABLE B.

TABLE of POPULATION, BIRTHS, and of NEW CASES of INFECTIOUS SICKNESS coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1899, 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 knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health.											
	Census, 1891.	1899.			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	FEVERS.							
									Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	
SELBY LOCAL BOARD DISTRICT ...	5922	7392	228	Under 5 5 upwards	.....	1	6	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	11
WORKHOUSE	108	108		Under 5 5 upwards	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals	6030	7500		Under 5 5 upwards	.....	1	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	11

Notification of Infectious Disease is compulsory in the district since 9th December, 1889.

There is no Hospital for cases of Infectious Disease provided in the District.

