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# ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Public Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

SELBY URBAN DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1903.

BY

BERNARD STEDMAN,

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


MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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SELBY

# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Public Health and Sanitary Condition for 1903.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in again presenting to you my Annual Report upon the State of the Public Health and Sanitary Condition of the Selby Urban District for 1903. The satisfactory condition of the health of the district, judging by the mortality statistics, has been maintained. The contour of this district is flat, no part being more than 25 feet above ordnance datum. It is bounded on the east by the river Ouse, and in other directions by the Selby Rural District.

The nature of the soil is warp overlying clay.

The industries are varied, and at present there are indications that the trade of the town is improving. Many women and girls find work at the lace, twine, and mustard mills. Wagon building, flax, oil, and flour mills, brick making, and malting are the principal employments upon which men are engaged.

The excrement is disposed of by means of water closets, privy, and pail closets. The number of the former is increasing and the privies rapidly diminishing. Many of the water closets are still supplied directly from the mains.

The town is well sewered and the sewers sufficiently ventilated, the sewage being discharged directly into the river Ouse. When the tide is too high for the sewage to flow by gravitation it is pumped into the river, and so never fills up the sewers.

The scavenging is done by the Council's own staff, and is efficiently carried out. Many towns now perform this work during the night, thus removing the objection of carrying refuse through the streets in the day-time. I hope the Council will give this matter their consideration.

All houses are drained, the drains being trapped, and in new houses disconnected from the sewers.

The Public Health Amendment Act and Infectious Diseases Prevention Act have been adopted.

The rainfall during the year, as registered by the Council's gauge at the water works, was 26.75 inches.

Public Baths were erected by the Council in 1901, and are much used, especially by the juvenile portion of the population. The price of admission on certain days of the week is sufficiently low to enable even the poorest to avail themselves of this privilege.

A mortuary was built by the Council in 1898.

### POPULATION.

The estimated population is 8400, and the number of inhabited houses 1826. This gives an average number of persons per house of 4.6 which is the same as that at the census in 1901. This estimate of population is therefore probably about correct.

### BIRTHS.

254 births have been registered giving a rate of 30.2 per thousand. This is higher than that of the last two and is about the average for the last eight years.

The birth rate for England and Wales was 28.4.

### DEATHS.

125 deaths have occurred in Selby of which 20 took place in the Workhouse. Five of these latter were persons not belonging to the town. The death rate is 14.4. With the exception of last year, this is the lowest for the last nine years, and is 3 per thousand below the average.

The death rate for England and Wales in 1903 was 15.4.

The infantile mortality (the number of deaths under 1 year for every thousand births) is 126, the average being 160.



## ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

This is the death rate from the seven principal zymotic diseases viz.: Small-pox, Scarlet Fever, Typhoid, Diphtheria, Measles, Whooping Cough, and Diarrhoea.

During the year, 12 deaths have taken place from these causes. The zymotic death rate is thus 1·4. This low rate and also the low infantile mortality is largely due to the absence of any epidemic of those diseases which usually attack young children, notably Measles and Whooping Cough.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

19 cases have been notified during the year. They were 3 of Small-pox, 2 Erysipelas, 10 Scarlet Fever, 3 Typhoid, and 1 case of Puerperal Fever.

Although no hospital is yet available, except for small-pox cases, every precaution is taken to prevent spread of infection by careful isolation at the patients home, and by frequent visits of the sanitary officials and liberal distribution of disinfectants and soap.

At the termination of the case, the room which the patient has occupied is first disinfected in the ordinary manner with sulphur, after this, the Council employs a man to strip off the paper and lime-wash the walls and ceiling and thoroughly scrub the floor with disinfectant. This is the most important part of the process, and, although somewhat costly, I am confident it is the only way of carrying out anything like real disinfection.

In addition to this, in cases of small-pox, after the patient has been removed, all infected articles of clothing, &c., which cannot be rendered innocuous by boiling are burnt, and compensation for them paid by the Council.

I may here mention that the County Council's Bacteriologist at Wakefield will examine free of cost at the request of any Medical Practitioner specimens for the detection of diphtheria, typhoid or tuberculosis. During the year two specimens have been sent from Selby both for the detection of tubercle bacilli. For cases of diphtheria in the town the Council supplies Antitoxin free of charge, and any Medical man can obtain it from the Town Hall.

## SMALL-POX.

Three cases have been notified, the first was at the Workhouse in February. The man, a tramp, had come from Wakefield where



other cases existed and where he had probably contracted it. He was at once removed to the Sherburn Hospital. The case proved a severe one, the man being in hospital nine weeks. All casuals who had slept in the workhouse the previous night were revaccinated and the cells were disinfected and not occupied again for several days.

The next case was in April, and occurred in a woman who was visiting her sister in Ladysmith Yard. She had probably caught the disease at Pontefract, and had walked from that place to Selby with the rash developed. The day after her arrival in Selby a doctor was called in and she was then removed to hospital. The other inmates of the house were revaccinated, the house disinfected, and infected articles burnt. The house was visited daily for the next fortnight.

The last case, although notified in Selby, only came into the town from Hambleton for the purpose of consulting a Medical man. The patient, a boy, had contracted the complaint at Barkston a fortnight previously. As soon as the nature of his illness was discovered, he was isolated in a shed belonging to the Council until the ambulance arrived.

In consequence of these cases a considerable number of persons have been revaccinated during the year.

### SCARLET FEVER.

Ten cases have been reported, four of these occurred in January and were the last of a small series of cases which commenced the previous October, the rest were all isolated cases at different parts of the year. Of course in small houses containing large families, satisfactory isolation cannot be carried out, and for these patients the isolation hospital when available will be most beneficial.

### TYPHOID FEVER.

Three cases have occurred, two of these were children living in one house, and the other was a woman from a house in the same row. The two last were probably infected from the first patient, but there was no evidence as to the source of the first case. All these cases were fatal.

The germs of typhoid fever are found not only in the stools, but often in great numbers in the urine also; the latter fact is a somewhat recent discovery, and there is no doubt that often insufficient care has been paid to the disinfection and disposal of it.

All persons nursing this disease should be most careful in the washing and disinfection of their hands after attending to the patient.



Cases of typhoid require more skill in nursing than almost any other disease. As a rule this can only be obtained in hospital, and it is well recognised that typhoid patients have a better chance of recovery here than when nursed in their own homes.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

The plans for the proposed Selby Urban and Rural Joint Hospital have been prepared, and have met with the approval of the County Council, also the proposed site of four acres on the Thorpe and Wistow road.

A Local Government Board Inquiry was held at Selby in October, but the decision of that body has not yet been received.

### TUBERCULAR DISEASES.

11 deaths have occurred, 6 being from phthisis (tubercular disease of the lungs or consumption), and 5 from other forms of tuberculosis. Of the deaths from phthisis, 3 were persons over 50 years of age.

In my report last year, I mentioned the great danger of expectorating in railway carriages or other public places. During the year, the West Riding County Council have passed a bye-law to prohibit this, and making it a penal offence.

This is no doubt an important step in the right direction, as inhalation of the tubercle bacilli is by far the most frequent manner in which this disease is contracted.

### SANITATION.—WATER SUPPLY.

The main portion of the General Powers Bill (at present deposited in Parliament) is the provision of a new water supply. Owing to the gradual diminution in height of the water in the present bore hole in the town, the Council have obtained the advice of an engineer, and also a geologist on the subject. They both report against further work at the present site, and recommend that a new bore hole be made at the foot of Brayton Barff (two miles west of the town) and a reservoir on the top. They consider that a larger supply will thus be available. The pressure will also be greater than at present, allowing water to be carried to the top of the highest building in the town.



The supply will come from the same stratum as at present, viz., the red sandstone. During the year I have analysed a sample from a new bore well at Brayton and found it of good quality; also one from Gateforth, which was also pure and wholesome.

On the East side I analysed a sample from a new bored well at Barlby (about a mile from the present works). This was far inferior to either of the other waters, being considerably harder and shewing a larger amount of organic impurity.

## HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

In September, with your Surveyor, I reported upon four of the yards in the town, viz., Duke of York, Clarkson's, Banks', and Addinal's, and made some suggestions for their improvement. For the DUKE OF YORK YARD we recommended

- (1) That notice be served on the owner to put the upper six houses on the north side in proper repair and provide better ventilation.
- (2) That he be asked to pull down the three houses on the south side of the yard and put those opposite to them in good repair. Failing this, that proceedings be taken against the owner for the closure of these six houses.
- (3) That notice be served to provide sufficient and suitable sanitary conveniences.

These notices were served and the work is now being carried out.

### CLARKSON'S YARD:

We recommended that the owner be asked to provide better ventilation for the houses by means of windows at the back or a sky-light in the roof.

Nothing has at present been done in this yard.

### BANKS' YARD:

The owner was asked to provide through ventilation by means of windows at the back of the houses. These have all been put in.

### ADDINAL'S YARD:

Three houses were unfit for habitation, but two of these had not been used as dwellings for several years. The owner was asked to close the third one. This he agreed to do. All are now used as store places.



## SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

In the General Powers Bill it was originally intended to provide for a Public Abattoir. Owing to the opposition which this met with I was asked, with your Surveyor, to report upon the state of the existing slaughter houses and to make suggestions for their improvement.

We reported that at present there are 12 in use, all of which were registered before 1875. They are built of brick and slate, above ground and of sufficient size. The town's water is laid on in all of them. The floors generally are defective, being of Yorkshire flags, the joints of which are loose, allowing percolation of refuse. In four cases the gully is inside the building, and in four the only entrance to the slaughter house is through the butcher's shop.

In most of them there is sufficient light and ventilation; the refuse is removed in a satisfactory manner.

We made the following suggestions for their improvement :

- (1) That all floors be concreted and sloped to a trapped gully outside the slaughter house.
- (2) That an impervious lining be carried up the inside walls for at least 18 inches all round; and that where portions of the carcase are hung against the wall, the height of this lining be 6 feet.
- (3) That where possible an entrance should be made to the slaughter house other than through the shop.

These suggestions were sent to the owner of every slaughter house, and they stated that they were willing to carry them out.

## DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

In my last year's report I mentioned that the refuse was deposited in a disused brickyard at East Common. Owing to an exceptional flooding of the river this became almost full of water. It was suggested that the water should be pumped back into the river. I visited the place in May and concluded that it would be wiser to leave the water, as otherwise all the conditions would be present to produce a most offensive nuisance during the summer. I recommended that the refuse should be tipped above the water level or deposited elsewhere. The former is now being done.



## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The factories and workshops have been regularly inspected during the year. They were found to be clean and kept in good condition. The air space and ventilation is sufficient. In one factory the conveniences are not in a satisfactory condition. They are box closets opening directly into the factory. Notice has been served upon the owners to remedy, and plans are prepared for alterations to the factory, including removal of the closets from the building.

There are three retail bakehouses, all above ground and in good sanitary condition. Lists of outworkers have not been received as regularly as is required. No case of infectious disease has been reported during the year at the house of any of these outworkers.

## COWSHEDS.

The model regulations of the Local Government Board for Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops have been adopted and came into force on January 1st, 1902. The section compelling eight hundred cubic feet of air space for each cow could not, however, come into force until January 1st, 1904. Every cowshed in the district will now be brought thoroughly up to date.

Details of a large amount of other sanitary work done and improvements carried out during the year are found in the table prepared by Mr. Gray at the end of this report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

BERNARD STEDMAN,

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

Medical Officer of Health.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF NUISANCES ABATED AND OTHER SANITARY WORK

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1903.

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Inspections made ... ..	2173
Verbal and written notices from Inspector (not water notices)	242
Notices from Council ... ..	11
Do. do. for contravention of Bye-laws ...	3
Notices for waste of water ... ..	128
Plans passed for dwelling houses ... ..	11
Do. other buildings... ..	8
Plans disapproved for buildings... ..	4
Number of houses connected with sewers ... ..	21
Number of new houses occupied during the year ... ..	21
Number of new houses connected with town water supply ...	21
Water Mains laid ... ..	60 yds.
Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces registered ... ..	67
Do. do. do. inspected ... ..	67
Notices to get workshops limewashed ... ..	4
Dairies and Cowsheds on the register and inspected ... ..	19
Dangerous Buildings (notices sent) ... ..	4
Canal Boats inspected ... ..	48
Notices under Canal Boats' Act ... ..	10
Common Lodging houses on the register and inspected ...	5
Slaughter houses registered ... ..	13
Do. repaired ... ..	2
Number of loads of refuse removed ... ..	1522
Ashpits, Privies, &c. cleansed (including 188 box-closets weekly)	13711
Dust-bins emptied ... ..	28,652
Dust-bins emptied, number of loads of refuse ... ..	728
Rooms disinfected... ..	14
Notices to abate smoke nuisances ... ..	6
Overcrowding notices sent ... ..	4
New Spouts for houses ... ..	4
W.C.'s provided with flushing cisterns (new houses) ... ..	10
Do. do. do. (old houses) ... ..	41
W.C.'s cleansed and repaired ... ..	39



Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	19
Defective privies and ashpits rebuilt	...	...	...	...	3
New W.C.'s built for old property	...	...	...	...	41
Yards repaired and paved	...	...	...	...	21
Notices to get yards cleaned	...	...	...	...	5
Notices to remove wood erection from back yards	...	...	...	...	2
Old and defective ashpits removed	...	...	...	...	9
Defective drains cleansed and relaid	...	...	...	...	16
Sinks disconnected (old)	...	...	...	...	4
Disconnecting chambers for drains of old property	...	...	...	...	5
Back roads repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Notices sent to improve cowsheds	...	...	...	...	6
Notices to get cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	4
Old cowsheds rebuilt	...	...	...	...	1
Pigs removed from vicinity of buildings	...	...	...	...	4
Houses closed as unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	13
Through ventilation for old houses	...	...	...	...	3

## NOTES.

The lodging houses are now used almost wholly as boarding houses with regular lodgers.

All the slaughter houses are to be brought up to date in 1904.

We are gradually getting rid of the old fashioned and unsatisfactory W.C.'s.

Bill in Parliament for the better government of the Urban District.

The numbers of closets of various kinds in Selby are as follows, viz. :

Cistern W.C.'s	...	...	...	870
Wash out	...	...	...	319
Privies	...	...	...	219
Box closets	...	...	...	140
Trough closets	...	...	...	6

BRUCE MCGREGOR GRAY,

A.M.I.C.E., Mem. San. Inst.,

Surveyor and Inspector.

I GIVE BELOW PARTICULARS OF RAINFALL AT WATERWORKS,  
SELBY, DURING THE YEAR 1903.

		<i>Total for Month.</i>		<i>Amount of Rainfall on wettest day during Month.</i>		<i>Date of wettest day during Month.</i>
		INCHES.		INCHES.		
JANUARY	...	1'12	...	'32	...	5th
FEBRUARY	...	1'02	...	'27	...	21st
MARCH	...	2'09	...	'70	...	17th
APRIL	...	1'22	...	'23	...	27th
MAY	...	3'18	...	'77	...	9th
JUNE	...	1'54	...	'79	...	13th
JULY	...	2'47	...	'67	...	11th
AUGUST	...	2'08	...	'48	...	20th
SEPTEMBER	...	3'11	...	1'11	...	10th
OCTOBER	...	6'89	...	1'27	...	8th
NOVEMBER	...	'89	...	'31	...	2nd
DECEMBER	...	1'01	...	'32	...	8th

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TOTAL DURING YEAR 26'62 INCHES.

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BRUCE MCGREGOR GRAY,  
Waterworks Engineer.



TABLE I.

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

Year.	Popula- tion estimated to Middle of each year	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in the District.				Total Deaths in Public Insti- tu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Insti- tu- tions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Insti- tu- 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.*						
1895	6200	206	32.2	43	189	124	20.0	18	7	...	117	19.0
1896	6250	188	29.0	34	180	117	18.4	11	3	...	114	18.0
1897	6300	188	30.0	26	138	113	17.9	7	4	...	109	17.3
1898	6500	192	29.3	27	159	125	18.7	10	5	2	122	18.3
1899	7500	228	30.4	53	232	155	20.6	16	11	...	144	19.2
1900	8000	242	30.2	26	107	161	20.0	17	9	1	153	19.1
1901	7786	224	28.7	37	165	125	16.0	10	6	1	120	15.4
1902	8200	237	28.9	29	122	119	14.5	11	7	1	113	13.8
Averages for years 1895-1902	7092	213	30.3	34	160	130	18.3	12	6	...	124	17.5
1903	8400	254	30.2	32	126	125	14.8	20	5	1	121	14.4

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

Area of District in acres }  
(exclusive of area } 3,713.  
covered by water }Total population at all ages ... 7,786 }  
Number of inhabited houses ... 1,686 } At Census of 1901.  
Average number of persons per house ... 4.6 }

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

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.
Small-pox ... ..	3				1	2	
Cholera ... ..							
Diphtheria ... ..							
Membranous Croup							
Erysipelas ... ..	2					1	1
Scarlet Fever ... ..	10	1	2	5	2		
Typhus Fever ... ..							
Enteric Fever ... ..	3		1	1		1	
Relapsing Fever ...							
Continued Fever ...							
Puerperal Fever ...	1					1	
Plague ... ..							
Totals ... ..	19	1	3	6	3	5	1

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 URBAN.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN OR BELONGING TO WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.
	All Ages.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up-wards.	
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Mem- branous Croup }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever { Typhus ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric ... ..	3	...	1	1	...	1	...	...
Other continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epipemic Influenza ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Cholera ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa ... ..	7	5	1	...	...	1	...	...
Enteritis ... ..	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases ...	4	...	...	2	1	1	...	...
Phthisis ... ..	6	...	...	...	2	3	1	2
Other Tubercular Diseases }	5	...	...	2	1	2	...	...
Cancer, Malignant Disease }	7	...	...	...	...	6	1	2
Bronchitis ... ..	7	3	1	...	...	3	...	...
Pneumonia ... ..	7	1	3	1	...	1	1	1
Pleurisy ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases of Res- piratory Organs }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism Cirrhosis of Liver }	5	...	...	...	...	4	1	1
Venereal Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth ...	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition }	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Heart Diseases ... ..	8	...	...	...	...	4	4	3
Accidents ... ..	7	1	...	...	...	4	2	...
Suicides ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
All other causes ...	43	14	2	...	1	5	21	11
All causes ... ..	121	32	9	6	6	36	32	20

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

BERNARD STEDMAN, *Medical Officer of Health.*