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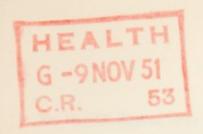
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SELBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1950

SELBY:
E. M. RIMMINGTON & CO., FINKLE STREET

1951

SELBY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman: Councillor F. Wray, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor S. B. Mooney.

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Councilor S. B. Mooney.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor D. Foster.

Medical Officer of Health:

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

Sanitary Inspector:

W. LITTLE,
Cert. S.I. Board,
Cert. Meat and Food Inspection R.S.I.

Pupil Assistant:

ERIC K. PHILPOT (on National Service from July, 1950)

JOHN BASIL SAWDON (October, 1950)

Clerk:

JOAN SMITH,

To the Chairman and Members of the Selby Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my fourth Annual Report on the health of the Urban District and the work of the Public Health Department for the year 1950.

The population of the town, as estimated by the Registrar General, for 1950 was 10,240, a decrease of 130. Population and vital statistics in the next Report will be calculated on the revised Census figures. The previous Census was taken in 1931.

The Birth Rate of 15.8 per thousand was again a slight decrease on the previous year, but the fall is less than that which has occurred throughout the country as a whole.

The infant Mortality Rate was 19 per thousand live births, and shows a great improvement on recent years, comparing favourably with rates of 35 and 30 for the County and England and Wales respectively.

The Crude Death Rate was 14.3 per thousand and the Adjusted Death Rate 13.4. This is an increase on the previous year and is, in fact, the highest rate for thirteen years. The increase was entirely due to a sharp increase in deaths from diseases of the heart and circulation which were the highest on record, giving a rate of 5.37—well over one third of all deaths.

The Maternal Mortality was nil for the fourth year. Actually there has been only one death from maternal causes in the last seven years.

The incidence of notifiable infectious diseases was again light. Measles was practically absent from the Urban District but can be expected to increase in 1951. Three cases of poliomyelitis occurred and one proved fatal. There were no cases of diphtheria. It is estimated that about 86% of the children have been immunised against diphtheria, but it should be noted that protection does not continue indefinitely. For those immunised in infancy a refresher dose should be given before entering school, and it is advisable for school children to have a refresher dose about the age of ten years.

The year 1950 brings to a close the half-century, and I thought it would be of interest to include in this Report a summary, with brief comments, of the Vital Statistics of the last fifty years. The figures are given as the mean of the quinquennial (five yearly) periods and illustrate the statistical improvements in the health of the town.

Finally, I wish to record my appreciation of your co-operation and that of the Officers of the Council and the continued help of the Voluntary Workers at the Clinic.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

S. KENNAUGH APPLETON,

Medical Officer of Health.

September 1951.

GENERAL STATISTICS, 1950.

Area of Urban District	 3,883	acres
Population (mid 1950)	 10,240	
Number of Inhabited Houses	 3,008	
Rateable Value	 £58,621	(Mar. 1951)
Product of Penny Rate	 £221/3/8	(Mar. 1951)

VITAL STATISTICS.

	SELBY U.D.	Aggre- gate West Riding U.D.s	West Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Provi- sional)
BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 population)	15.8	15.9	16.3	15.8
CRUDE DEATH RATES (per 1,000 population)				
All causes	14.3	12.4	11.8	11.6
Infective & Parasitic Diseases	0	0.10	0.10	-
Respiratory Tuberculosis	0.29	0.26	0.26	0.32
Other forms of Tuberculosis	0	0.04	0.04	0.04
Respiratory Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis)	1.27	1.26	1.18	
Cancer	2.34	1.94	1.83	1.99
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	5.37	4.66	4.39	_
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	1.27	1.70	1.59	_
INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	19	33	35	30
INFANT DIARRHŒA (Deaths under 2 years of age per 1,000 live births)	6.2	-	_	1.9
MATERNAL MORTALITY (Deaths of mothers in child-birth per 1,000 total births)	0	0.95	0.98	0.86

Comparability Factors:

For Births, 1.04 Adjusted Birth Rate, 16.5 For Deaths, 0.94 Adjusted Death Rate, 13.4

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES FOR TEN YEARS.

1950		15.8			RATE opulation)		
1949		16.0	1946		21.3	1943	 16.2
1948		16.6	1945		15.2	1942	 17.4
1947		22.4	1944		21.1	1941	 15.9
			STIL	LBI	RTHS		
			(per 1,00	0 tot	al births)		
1950		18.1					
1949		29.2	1946		31.3	1943	 52.3
1948		22.5	1945		19.6	1942	 82.5
1947	****	12.9	1944		39.4	1941	 67.5
]	LLEGITI	MAT	E BIRT	HS	
			(per 1,00	0 tot	al births)		
1950		24.2					
1949		39.3	1946		54.1	1943	 87.2
1948		39.0	1945		45.7	1942	 77.3
1947		60.1	1944		79.8	1941	 61.8
			TOTAL I	DEA'	гн кат	Έ	
					ΓΗ RAT	Έ	
1950		14.3	(per 1,0		pulation)	Έ	
1949		13.8	(per 1,00 1946		pulation) 10.6	1943	 13.8
1949 1948		13.8 11.9	(per 1,00 1946 1945	00 po	10.6 14.0	1943 1942	 12.8
1949		13.8	(per 1,00 1946	00 po	pulation) 10.6	1943	
1949 1948		13.8 11.9	(per 1,00 1946 1945 1944	00 po 	10.6 14.0 12.5	1943 1942 1941	 12.8
1949 1948		13.8 11.9	(per 1,00 1946 1945 1944 ZYMOTI	00 po	10.6 14.0 12.5 ISEASE	1943 1942 1941 S	 12.8
1949 1948 1947		13.8 11.9 12.6	(per 1,00 1946 1945 1944	00 po	10.6 14.0 12.5 ISEASE	1943 1942 1941 S	 12.8
1949 1948 1947		13.8 11.9 12.6	(per 1,00 1946 1945 1944 ZYMOTI (principal no	00 po	10.6 14.0 12.5 ISEASE	1943 1942 1941 S	 12.8 13.4
1949 1948 1947 1950 1949		13.8 11.9 12.6	(per 1,00 1946 1945 1944 ZYMOTI (principal no 1946	00 po C D otifial	10.6 14.0 12.5 ISEASE:	1943 1942 1941 S es)	 12.8 13.4
1949 1948 1947 1950 1949 1948		13.8 11.9 12.6 0 0 0.10	(per 1,00 1946 1945 1944 ZYMOTI (principal no 1946 1945	00 po	10.6 14.0 12.5 ISEASE: ble disease 0 0.20	1943 1942 1941 S es) 1943 1942	 12.8 13.4 0 0
1949 1948 1947 1950 1949		13.8 11.9 12.6	(per 1,00 1946 1945 1944 ZYMOTI (principal no 1946	00 po C D otifial	10.6 14.0 12.5 ISEASE:	1943 1942 1941 S es)	 12.8 13.4
1949 1948 1947 1950 1949 1948		13.8 11.9 12.6 0 0 0.10	(per 1,00 1946 1945 1944 ZYMOTI (principal no 1946 1945	00 po	10.6 14.0 12.5 ISEASE: ble disease 0 0.20	1943 1942 1941 S es) 1943 1942	 12.8 13.4 0 0
1949 1948 1947 1950 1949 1948		13.8 11.9 12.6 0 0 0.10 0.10	(per 1,00 1946 1945 1944 ZYMOTI (principal no 1946 1945	00 po	10.6 14.0 12.5 ISEASE: ble disease 0 0.20 0.09	1943 1942 1941 S es) 1943 1942 1941	 12.8 13.4 0 0
1949 1948 1947 1950 1949 1948		13.8 11.9 12.6 0 0 0.10 0.10	(per 1,00 1946 1945 1944 ZYMOTI (principal no 1946 1945 1944	00 po	10.6 14.0 12.5 ISEASE: ble disease 0 0.20 0.09	1943 1942 1941 S es) 1943 1942 1941	 12.8 13.4 0 0
1949 1948 1947 1950 1949 1948 1947		13.8 11.9 12.6 0 0.10 0.10 PUI	(per 1,00 1946 1945 1944 ZYMOTI (principal no 1946 1945 1944	00 po	10.6 14.0 12.5 ISEASE: ble disease 0 0.20 0.09	1943 1942 1941 S es) 1943 1942 1941	 12.8 13.4 0 0
1949 1948 1947 1950 1949 1948 1947		13.8 11.9 12.6 0 0.10 0.10 PUI 0.29	(per 1,00 1946 1945 1944 ZYMOTI (principal no 1946 1945 1944 MONARY	C Dotifial	10.6 14.0 12.5 ISEASE ble disease 0 0.20 0.09	1943 1942 1941 S es) 1943 1942 1941 LOSIS	 12.8 13.4 0 0 0.09
1949 1948 1947 1950 1949 1948 1947		13.8 11.9 12.6 0 0.10 0.10 PUI 0.29 0.19	(per 1,00 1946 1945 1944 ZYMOTI (principal no 1946 1945 1944 MONARY	OO po	10.6 14.0 12.5 ISEASE ble disease 0 0.20 0.09	1943 1942 1941 S es) 1943 1942 1941 LOSIS	 12.8 13.4 0 0 0.09

NTONT	TOTAL T	MONTADA	TUBERCU	TOCTO
1111-		VILLINARY	TERRET	1117

	1/1	JN-P	ULMONA	KY	LUBER	CULUSI	0	
1950 .		0						
		T	1046		0.20	10/12		0
		0.19	1946			1943		0
		0.10	1945		0	1942		0
1947 .		0.10	1944		0	1941		0.19
		RI	ESPIRATO	ORV	DISE	ASES		
			20111011	51(1	DIDL	10110		
1950 .		1.27						
1949 .		1.73	1946		1.96	1943		2.10
		1.05	1945		2.42	1942		2.15
		1.46	1944		1.54	1941		
1777 .		1.10	1211		1.01	1711		2.10
				~				
				CAN	NCER			
1950 .		2.34						
1949 .		1.54	1946		1.96	1943		2.21
		2.10	1945		2.53	1942		2.00
		1.66	1944		1.65	1941		2.40
1217 .		1.00	1211		1.00	1711		2.10
т	TE	DT	AND CID	TIT	ATODA	DICEA	CEC	
1	TE	AKI	AND CIRC	UL.	AIOKI	DISEA	SES	
1950 .		5.37						
		3.18	1946		1.17	1943		2.62
40.10		3.44	1945		2.53	1942		2.26
		2.34	1944		2.24	1941		2.11
1247 .		2.54	1944		2.24	1241		2.11
		T.	TDA MOLL	F 3.5	ODTAI	TOY		
		11	NFANTIL:					
			(per 1,00	00 liv	e births)			
1950 .		19						
1949 .		72	1946		41	1943		74
1010		34	1945		47	1942		62
1015		52	1944		49	1941		90
		02	1211			17.11		20
		M	ATERNA	I M	OPTAI	ITV		
		IVI				PAR 1900		
1050		0	(per 1,00	U tot	ai births)		
	••••	0	1016			10.10		10 -
		0	1946		4.5	1943		10.6
		0	1945		0	1942		10.3
1947 .		0	1944		0	1941		5.6

BIRTHS, 1950.

Live Births.	—Legitimate	 Male 78	Female 80	Total 158
	Illegitimate	 1	3	4
	Total	 79	83	162
Stillbirths		 1	2	3

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1950.

				Male	Female	Total
Acute Poliomyelit	IS			 1	0	1
Tuberculosis (Res	pirato	ry)		 2	1	3
Tuberculosis (Oth	er for	ms)		 0	0	0
Cancer				 11	13	24
Influenza				 0	0	0
Vascular Lesions			System	 4	10	14
Heart Diseases				 18	33	51
Other diseases of	circula	tory	system	 4	0	4
Bronchitis				 5	4	9
Pneumonia				 2	1	3
Other respiratory				 1	0	1
Gastritis, Enteritis			1	 0	1	1
Hyperplasia of Pro				 1	0	1
Nephritis				 0	6	6
Motor Vehicle Acc				 1	1	2
All other accident				 2	1	3
Suicide				 2	0	2
All other causes .				 12	9	21
		Т	otal	 66	80	146

INFANTILE MORTALITY. Causes of Death in Age Groups

	Under 1 week	1 to 2 Weeks	2 to 5 Weeks	3 to 4 Weeks	1 to 3 Months	3 to 6 Months	6 to 9 Months	9 to 12 Months	TOTAL
Prematurity	1								1
Gastro- Enteritis					1				1
Convulsions					1				1
	1				2				3

SELBY URBAN DISTRICT.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1950.

				Number of Cases Notified								BD ,	
NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.			ges.	According to Age							ASES REMOVE TO HOSPITAL	DEATHS	
Total Control of the		At all Age	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	Over 65	CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL	DE		
				_	0	_					_		
Small-pox												100-00	
Cholera (C) Plague (P)			***							***			***
Diphtheria (including Mer	nhear	one Cr	(aun)									***	***
13				4		***			1	3	**		***
Conul. + Donon			***	29	1	9	19			1.2		23	
(P1 T2	10.4	***	***		-		1000		***	***	***		
Entonio Foron		***			***	***		***				***	***
	inna	Pone	100				***						
	muec	l Fever	r (C)	2	**		***	1	1	**	***	2	
Puerperal Pyrexia			• • • •		**				1000		***	2	111
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1-11-		***				144		1			,	
Acute Poliomyelitis, para		42.	***	1	141	65	1	.111	10237		1.0	1 2	1
,, non-	paraly	tie	2.00	2	***	**	1	**	1	**		2	***
Acute Encephalitis		***	**							**	***		***
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		***		***	***		***					0	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis				12	***	***	1	4	4	4		8	3
Other forms of Tubercule	sis			7	***	***	4	2			1		
Measles				5	4.4	2	2	1	100				
Primary Pneumonia			***	7	1	4	0.5	99	1	1			3
Influenzal Pneumonia				1						1			
Whooping Cough				14	2	9	3		**				
Dysentery						***		191		111	***	***	***
Encephalitis Lethargica					***	***							
То	tals			84	4	24	29	8	9	9	1	36	7

TUBERCULOSIS. New cases in 1950.

Pulmonary					Male 6	Female 7	Total 13
Non-Pulmonary					2	6	8
		7	Cotal		8	13	21
,	Tota	al case	s on F	Regist	er.		
Pulmonary					22	14	36
Non-Pulmonary					7	15	22
400 400 400		7	Cotal	-,,,	29	29	58

WEST RIDING COUNTY DIVISIONAL HEALTH SERVICES IN SELBY, 1950.

1. BIRTHS.	
A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	
Total notified	165
Stillbirths	3
Illegitimate	4
Males	80
Females	85
2. PREMATURE BABIES. Babies weighing 5½ lbs. of at birth.	or less
	tillborn
(i) Born at home 6	0
(ii) Born in an institution 5	1
T-+-1 11	_
Total 11	1
The number of those born at home:	
(i) who were nursed entirely at home	4
(ii) who were transferred to hospital	2
(iii) who died during the first 24 hours	-
(iv) who were alive at the end of a month	6
(iv) who were anve at the end of a month	O
The number of those born in an Institution:	
(i) who died during the first 24 hours	_
(ii) who were alive at the end of a month	5
Still-born	- 1
2 HEALTH VICITORS WORK +	
3. HEALTH VISITORS' WORK. †	
The following is a Summay of the visits made by Health Visitors during 1950:	
Primary visits to babies	240
Visits to children under 1 year of age	1944
Visits to children between 1 and 5 years	1025
Primary visits to expectant mothers	113
Subsequent visits to expectant mothers	109
Other visits	2086
Total	5517

4.	CHILD WELFARE CLINICS. *				
	(a) Total number of children under first attended the Clincs durin who at the date of their first a	ig the	year,	and	
	(i) under 1 year				58
	(ii) over 1 year				15
	(b) Total number of children under who attended the Clinics duri who at the end of the year we	ng th			
	(i) under 1 year (ii) over 1 year				73 99
	Number of Sessions held:				
	Selby Methodist School Room				50
	Total Attendance				1577
	Average per session				31.5
5.	SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.				
	Total number of children attend	ing C	linic		744
	Total attendances				1369
	Total number attending Pædiati			it	
	(at Goole)				6
	Total number attending Orthop				44
	(at Goole) Total number attending County	Oculi	····		120
	Total number inspected in School			м О	831
	Total number inspected in Schoo				
	Total number of verminous head				288
6.	ANTE-NATAL CLINIC. *				
	Number of patients attending				211
	Total number of attendances				956
	Number of sessions held				49
	Average attendance per session		••••		19.5
7.	MOTHERS CONFINED IN HOSE	PITAI	L.		
	Leeds Maternity Home				18
	York Maternity Home				9
	Hazlewood Maternity Home				61
	Harrogate Maternity Home				1
		7	Cotal		89

8. HOME HELPS.

There were 4 full-time and 2 part-time Home Helps employed during the year and they attended the following cases:—

Lying In 43 Expectant Mothers 2 Illness 16 Aged and Ill 3

9. IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Immunised during 1950.	Children under 5 years Children over 5 years	119 23
	Refresher Dose	142 66
	Total	208

Total number of children under 15 years of age who have been immunised up to the 31st December, 1950:

Age—Years	0—1	1-2	2—3	3-4	4—5	5—10	10-15	Total
Number	1	73	128	132	138	756	711	1939
Percentage .		5	6.26%			100)%	85.92%

[†] The Health Visitors cover Selby Urban and Rural Districts. This is a block figure for the two areas.

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The following figures supplied by the Superintendent of the St. John Ambulance Brigade show the work carried out by the ambulances at the Selby Depot:

Accident cases	68	Mileage	3150
Maternity cases	67	Mileage	
Urgent cases	393	Mileage	
Total	528		15599

^{*} This includes any Rural or East Riding Patients that attended Selby Clinic as the nearest Centre.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT.

This Unit for the taking of miniature X-ray films of the lungs visited the area during the year and some 1,516 persons availed themselves of this free service.

			Male	Female	Total
Miniature films			 549	967	1516
Large films (repeat ex	kamin	ations)	 15	27	42
Active tuberculosis			 2	1	3
Inactive tuberculosis			 2	5	7
Other abnormalities			 4	2	6

CLINICS.

The following Child Welfare, Maternity, School Health Service, and Specialists' Clinics are now held in the Methodist School Room, Selby:—

Monday 10-12: Minor Ailments	Dr. E. M. R. Bell-Syer Miss C. M. Richardson
Monday 2-4: Ante-Natal Clinic	Dr. E. M. R. Bell-Syer Miss A. Ridsdale Miss C. M. Richardson
Tuesday 2.30—4: Remedial Exercises	Miss E. M. Alderson (physiotherapeutist)
Friday 10-12: Minor Ailments	Miss A. Ridsdale Miss C. M. Richardson
Friday 2-4: Child Welfare	Dr. E. M. R. Bell-Syer Miss A. Ridsdale Miss C. M. Richardson

The County Oculist holds eye-testing sessions fortnightly, or as required, in the Selby Abbey School.

The Children's Specialist and Orthopædic Surgeon have a monthly session in Goole which is available to the children of Selby.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. Section 47.

No action was required under this section of the Act during 1950.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

(Extract from separate report to the Director of Statistics of the Ministry of Labour on Form 572, 1950).

Premises	No, on Register	Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Owners Prosecuted
Factories with Mechanical Power	50	23	0	0
" without Mechanical Power	0	0	0	0
Workplaces	0	0	0	0

Defects.

Particulars	Defects Found	Defects Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	Prosecu- tions instituted
Want of Cleanliness	0	0	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences unsuitable or defective	3	3	0	0
	3	3	0	0

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT. Inspection Work, 1950.

Inspections (including re-inspection of dwellinghous	ses)	1038
Visits in connection with Letting of Houses		164
Visits in connection with Verminous Premises		21
Visits in connection with Infectious Disease		42
Factories inspected		23
Inspection of Milkshops and Dairies		21
Street work in connection with Milk and Dairies		
Acts and Orders		38
Inspection of Food		197
Premises used for the preparation and sale of food		219
Pigstyes and premises used for keeping of animals		16
Tents, vans and sheds		29
Water Samples taken		19
Water Supply, Inspection		49
Rats and Mice Destruction Acts		341
Drains inspected		279
Cinemas, Visits		27
Other visits, unclassified, interviews, no access,		
miscellaneous		678
Total Number of Visits		3205
TT . A 12		1252
Housing Applicants interviewed		1352
During the year, 152 notices were served under the Health and Housing Acts, of which number 88 viplied with.		
Details of Sanitary Improvements effected as a	resi	dt of
Inspections made and Notices issued under Public I		
Housing Acts.	reart	ii and
Troubing Trees.		
Dwellinghouses.		
Roofs repaired and made weatherproof		234
Rainwater gutters repaired or renewed		67
Rainwater downspouts repaired or renewed		41
External walls repaired		27
Fireranges and firegrates repaired or renewed	d	53
Walls plaster repaired		95
Ceiling plaster repaired		19
Floors repaired		64
Window frames repaired		85
Doors repaired or renewed		23

Inadequate ventilation improved		 	31
Deficient water supply remedied		 	22
Sinks provided		 	20
Worn and defective sinks renewe	ed	 	8
Sink waste pipes repaired or rene	ewed	 	15
Paving of yards repaired		 	15
Water Closets.			
Roofs repaired			10
Basins renewed		 	11
Flushing apparatus repaired			23
Doors repaired or renewed		 	5
Seats repaired or renewed		 	12
Seats repaired of Tenewed		 	14
Drainage.			
Defective drains repaired		 	45
Inspection chambers provided		 	7
Choked drains cleansed		 	203
New drains constructed		 	10
Storage of Refuse.			
Accumulations of refuse removed		 	13
Defective dustbins renewed		 	97

Water Supply.

All houses in the District, except two, have piped water supplied by the Urban District Council. During the year 12 samples were taken and tested, 11 bacteriologically and 1 chemically. All samples were found to be satisfactory. 7 Samples of water from a well in the District were also taken and tested bacteriologically, Negotiations with the owner of the cottages resulted in the installation of a piped supply from Council's mains.

Cinemas.

The sanitary conveniences were periodically inspected. Certain defects were found, but after interviews with the persons in charge, these were promptly remedied.

Inspection of Food.

Food found to be unfit: 22 cwts, 1 st, 13 lbs.

Rats and Mice Destruction.

Number of unpoisoned baits laid	 	771
Number of unpoisoned baits taken	 	652
Number of poisoned baits laid	 	244
Number of poisoned baits taken	 	164
Number of bodies found	 	295

Total kill according to Ministry's formula, i.e., for every body found six more bodies undiscovered 1770

For the greater part of 1950 this work was carried out by a part-time operative from the Surveyor's Department, but in October the Council appointed a pupil assistant to the Health Department who devoted part of his time to the duties of Rodent Operative.

Clean Food.

There was little to complain about regarding the manner in which Dairies were kept and maintained Recently there has been much publicity given to the question of the handling, etc., of food, and the public are probably becoming more conscious of the necessity for cleanliness of premises and personnel where food is stored and handled.

During the year the Council adopted the model Byelaws for the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food, and also published a brochure of recommendations to food handlers. These publications were distributed free to all premises from which food is sold or served to the public.

It has been noted that the sweeping of the pavement in front of shops by shopkeepers, highly desirable as this is, does produce on occasion a considerable amount of dust pollution of the atmosphere, to the detriment of the passers-by. This could be avoided by sweeping before 9 a.m., by first sprinkling with water or wet sawdust, or by swilling down.

SELBY URBAN DISTRICT.

FIFTY YEARS OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

It is interesting, in this Festival Year, to look back through the records in the Annual Reports of your Medical Officers of Health during the first half of the Twentieth Century.

A detailed report on all aspects of hygiene and sanitation and the improvements achieved would make excellent reading, but would be lengthy and costly, nor should I assume the role of health historian whilst Dr. W. Bertram Hill is still happily resident in the town.

I shall limit my remarks to a few comparisons of the past and present, and follow that with a tabular statement of the Vital Statistics, in quinquennial (five yearly) periods, with suitable comment.

General.

It might not be out of place to first list some of the more obvious public health measures recorded in the Reports, starting with the least cheerful. 1898 Mortuary; 1901 Public Baths; 1902 Joint Smallpox Hospital; 1903 Borehole at Brayton; 1905 Joint Isolation Hospital; 1908 Completion of new Waterworks; 1911 First Council houses; 1914 Tuberculosis Dispensary (WRCC); 1921 Maternity and Child Welfare Centre (WRCC); 1930-39 Slum Clearance.

By the beginning of the century the first Public Health Act of 1875 had been in operation for 25 years and considerable attention was being given to the three fundamentals of hygiene—water supply, sewage disposal and housing. Sewage disposal by discharge into the River Ouse was well established by this time in Selby.

Prior to the establishment of the Brayton Waterworks the water supply in Selby had been inadequate, and the early Annual Reports contain references to outbreaks of enteric fever attributed to the drinking of water from the River Ouse. The excellent water available from 1908 onwards did much to remove the menace of infection from the drinking of river and shallow well water, both heavily polluted.

The position with regard to housing was causing concern fifty years ago, and, although substantial improvements have been effected, still continues to do so.

Dr. Bernard Stedman wrote in 1902: "...but there are still about 70 courts or yards in which something like 1,500 persons live. It is here that most of the sanitary defects are found. During the last five or six years many of these yards have been improved but a considerable number still remain in their old unsatisfactory and insanitary condition."

Again in 1910, "Owing to the rapid increase of population during the last twelve months, and practically no new cottages being erected, a good deal of overcrowding exists. No houses for working men are obtainable and a large number of those existing are occupied by two or more families." The position today is not so dissimilar, though for very different reasons.

The difficulty in housing is perhaps best summed up by the words of Dr. Hill in the 1925 Report: "Like many another ancient town it (Selby) is characterised by old and time-worn buildings, narrow streets and squalid courts, in which overcrowding is largely prevalent and which can in no degree be said to comply with the requirements of modern Sanitary Science."

The housing progress of the Council, however, is a good one. The first Council houses were built in 1911 and by 1919 totalled 240. Writing in a special report on housing in 1919, Dr. Hill says: "Your Council is to be congratulated on its past work under the Housing Acts, as being one of the few authorities of its size that realised its responsibilities in that direction before the War." He goes on to point out, however, that "rather less than one eighth (of New Property) is occupied by people who have removed from existing unhealthy dwellings."

The only solution was and still is slum clearance. By the beginning of the last War some 200 houses had been demolished or closed in Clearance Areas, and a number dealt with as individual unfit houses. But for the War, slum clearance might well have been complete by now, but there still remains evidence of the price that Selby pays for its antiquity.

By 1937 the Council had built 474 houses, and the total at the end of 1950 was 730.

Vital Statistics.

The population of Selby increased steadily in the early part of the century but has not shown any startling increase since and has for many years been almost static. In 1895 the population was 6,200, and by 1913 had reached 10,000. The peak population was recorded in 1918 with 11,044 and since then has fluctuated round about the 10,000 mark.

A study of the following tables, which summarise the vital statistics as the mean of ouinquennial periods, shows some interesting points. The Crude Death Rate stood at over 19 per thousand of population in 1899, but fell sharply in the first decade of the twentieth century to about 12. It has remained round about that average ever since. A closer look at the classified groups of deaths shows that the composition of the total death rate has changed considerably.

The Zymotic Death Rate (measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, diarrhoea, smallpox and enteric fever) Table shows a fall from 1.9 per 100 to practically nil. Deaths from tuberculosis fell by two-thirds. Deaths from Respiratory Diseases remained steady through the fifty years except for noticeable increases during the war periods.

This Cause in conjunction with a steady rise in the Rate for diseases of the heart and circulation and a moderate rise in the Rate for cancer has cancelled out the fall due to the infectious diseases.

The Birth Rate declined steadily from over 30 per 1000 at the end of the nineteenth century to 14.8 in the pre-war quinquennial period. It recovered in the war and post-war period to 18.4. The high Birth Rate at the beginning of the century was associated with a high Infantile Mortality Rate. In 1899 232 babies per 1000 born failed to survive to their first birth-day; in 1950, only 19 per 1000 died.

The diminuation of infant deaths has been most marked in infectious diseases and particularly in the almost complete disappearance of summer diarrhoea.

The Stillbirth Rate has improved, but the Illegitimate Birth Rate has remained fairly steady around the 5% mark, except for peak figures during wartime. 1918 over 8%; 1943 almost 9%.

Although the decline in tuberculosis deaths has been satisfactory, the number of new cases notified each year has not maintained the improvement apparent in the decade before the war. There has been, in fact, a sharp increase since the war in the number of cases of both pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

This fact alone must modify any tendency to complacency in summing up. Much has been achieved, many sound public health measures have materialised with good results. The township of Selby is undoubtedly more healthy that it was fifty years ago. But with overcrowding to be abated, slum clearance to be resumed, and tuberculosis to be defeated, there is need for active, persistent and progressive Public Health work for many years to come.

SUMMARY TABLES, 1901-1950

CRUDE DEATH RATES Expressed as the mean of each quinquennial period								BIRTH RATES		
			All Causes (per 1,000 of population)	Diseases of Heart and Circulation	Zymotic Diseases	Respiratory Diseases (excl. T.B.)	Cancer (all types)	Live (per 1,000 of population)	Still (per 1,000 total births)	Illegitimate (per 1,000 total births)
-1896-1900)		18.5					30.0		
1901-05			15.1	0.9	1.9	1.8	1.1	28.2		
1906-10			12.4	1.1	1.2	1.6	0.8	26.1		39
1911-15			12.7	1.2	0.8	2.1	1.1	24.6		49
1916-20			13.2	1.4	0.5	1.7	1.2	21.3	38	48
1921-25			11.2	1.3	0.4	1.4	1.4	21.6	29	41
1926-30			12.4	1.8	0.5	1.7	1.8	17.9	48	52
1931-35			10.8	2.1	0.3	1.4	1.6	16.2	52	33
1936-40			12.6	2.7	0.2	1.8	1.9	14.8	44	44
1941-45			13.3	2.4	0.1	2.1	2.2	17.2	52	70
1946-50			12.6	3.1	0.04	1.5	1.9	18.4	23	43

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES (deaths under one year of age per 1000 live births) and MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE (deaths due to childbirth per 1000 total births), in quinquennial periods.

		TOTAL (all causes)	Prematurity	Birth Injuries Congenital Defects, etc.	Infectious Diseases	Diarrhoea, Gastro- Enteritis	Respiratory Diseases (excl. T.B.)	Tuberculosis	Maternal Mortality
1896-190	0	 159							
1901-05		 149	21	46	14	26	15		4.1
1906-10		 106	15	37	5	16	8	4	6.1
1911-15		 100	19	29	3	14	18	4	5.0
1916-20		 95	21	23	4	12	15	3	5.1
1921-25		 55	14	15	2	5	8	2	4.1
1926-30		 70	16	23	6	10	9	1	2.1
1931-35		 51	14	14	4	4	10	4	2.3
1936-40		 47	9	11	3	2	14	2	5.0
1941-45		 64	15	23	2	2	13	0	5.3
1946-50		 44	19	10	1	2	9	0	0.9

TUBERCULOSIS RATES

per 1000 population, in quinquennial periods.

		PULMO	ONARY	ARY OTHER		TOTAL	
		New Cases	Deaths	New Cases	Deaths	New Cases	Deaths
1901-05	 		1.03		0.36		1.39
1906-10	 		0.87		0.36		1.23
1911-15	 	0.85	0.65	0.24	0.51	1.09	1.16
1916-20	 	1.19	1.19	0.21	0.37	1.40	1.56
1921-25	 	1.78	0.78	0.47	0.20	2.25	0.98
1926-30	 	1.09	0.65	0.31	0.14	1.40	0.79
1931-35	 	1.04	0.63	0.50	0.19	1.54	0.82
1936-40	 	0.58	0.55	0.31	0.13	0.89	0.68
1941-45	 	0.52	0.36	0.12	0.04	0.64	0.39
1946-50		1.05	0.29	0.38	0.12	1.43	0.41



