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Contributors

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SKELTON & BROTTON URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

COMBINED DISTRICT COUNCILS

GUISBOROUGH UNION.

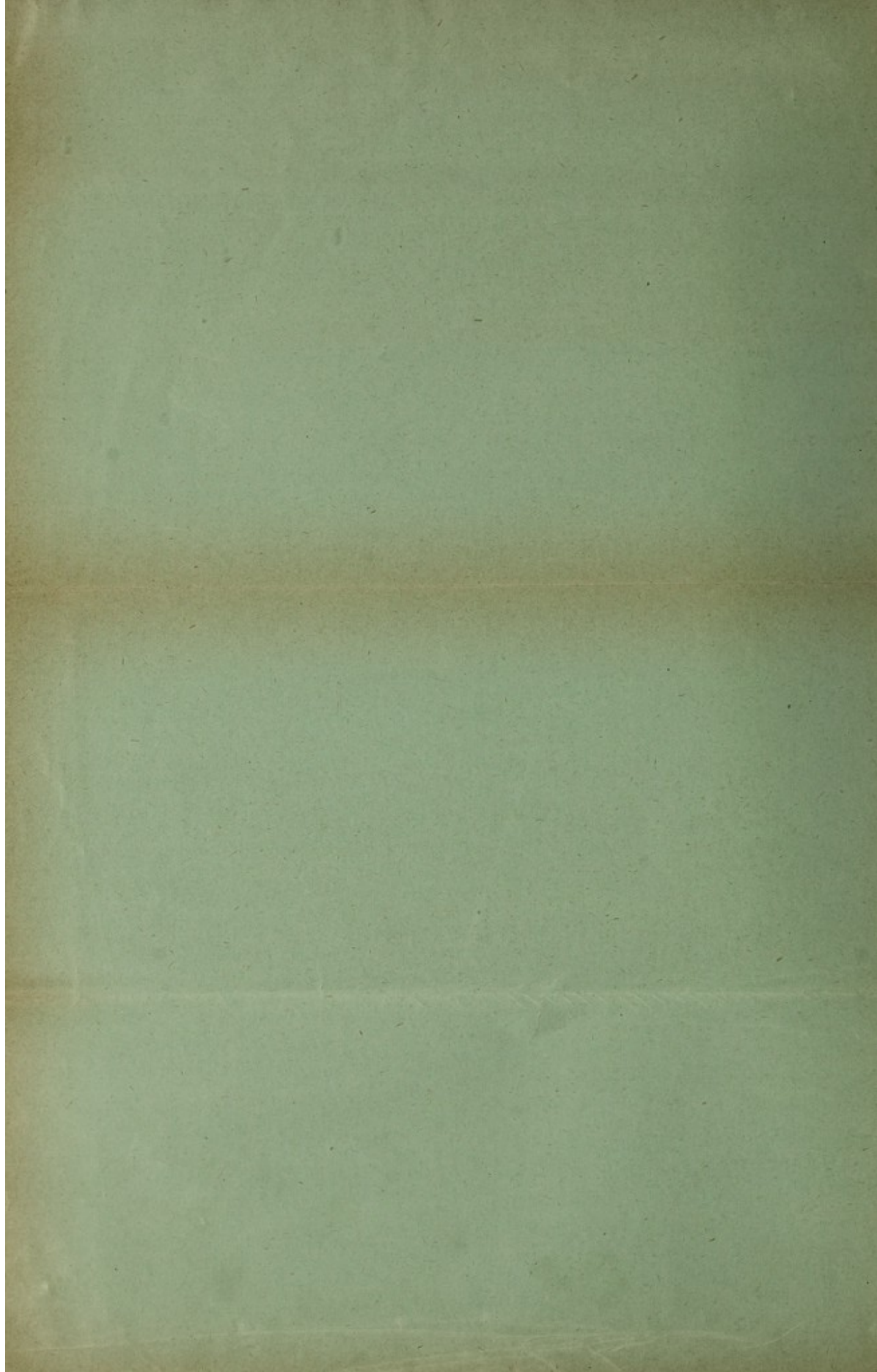
REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1913

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

W. W. STAINTHORPE, M.D. C.M., D.P.H.



To the Chairman and Members of the Skelton & Brotton Urban Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1913.

Birth and Mortality Rates.

Population at middle of 1913 (estimated) ...	16,000.
Births (corrected) ...	465 (238 males, 227 females).
Birth rate ...	29.06.
Deaths (corrected) ...	197 (109 males, 88 females).
Death rate ...	12.31.
Infant mortality rate (per 1000 births)	124.7.
Infectious diseases death rate (tuberculosis excluded)	0.56.
Tuberculosis death rate ...	0.93.
Diarrhoeal diseases death rate	0.62.

Inspections.

Nuisances ascertained to exist during visits made by the Inspector are either reported by entry in his journal, or the particulars are forwarded to the owner or agent of the property, or to me. Those which come under my own observation are either reported direct to the Council or particulars are forwarded to the Inspector for entry in his journal, or are communicated to the owner or his agent. The Inspector's journal and my report are placed before the Council (or a Committee) at each of its monthly meetings. The several items in the journal and the report are considered and instructions are given for the serving of the necessary notices. In most cases an informal notice is issued, if not complied with the matter is reported to the Council.

The usual ordinary inspections were made by me:—special visits being paid when required. In some of the inspections the Inspector, Mr. Cranmer, accompanied me.

Number of Inspections under Housing Acts ...	...	2439
Ditto under Factory and Workshop Act		95
Ditto under Dairies and Cowsheds Order		118
Ditto of slaughterhouses ...	...	274
Ditto of premises where food is prepared		64
Ditto of common lodging-house ...	...	14
Number of visits under Notification Act ...	...	175
Number of notices sent to Teachers (re infectious cases) ...	...	358
Number of premises disinfected ...	...	119
Number of informal notices served ...	...	120
Number of statutory notices served ...	...	3
Number of notices complied with ...	...	98
Number of outstanding notices ...	...	41

Scavenging, &c.

Number of fixed ashpits in combination with conveniences ...	...	506.
ditto not in combination ditto ...	...	nil.
Number of moveable iron receptacles with covers ...	...	5.

Number of moveable receptacles of other forms 2592.

(Note —the 2952 receptacles are for excreta as well as house refuse).

Number of middens replaced by moveable receptacles during 1912 and 1913 208.

Number of conveniences replaced by water-closets during the year nil.

The receptacle for house refuse required to be provided in connection with new houses is the closet pail where this type of convenience is constructed,—where a water-closet is provided a galvanised iron vessel is used. Pails are scavenged once a week, fixed receptacles once a month. Most of the refuse is removed in covered carts. The contents of pails are emptied direct into carts, that of fixed receptacles is first thrown on to the back streets. The material is conveyed to small tips (15) in the district, it is not sorted but dealers in old iron, &c., are permitted to take such articles as can be disposed of. All nightsoil and refuse is disposed of to farmers in the district.

Street scavenging is carried out by the Council's employees under the supervision of the Surveyor.

No arrangement exists as to the removal of trade refuse. Horse and cow keepers make their own arrangements for the removal of animal manure :—the byelaw requires such manure to be removed once a week.

Water Supply.

A Table is attached giving particulars of the water supply, &c., in the several parts of the district. It having been found difficult to maintain a constant supply to the houses in the higher parts of the district owing to the height of these compared with that of the reservoir (of the Cleveland Water Company) storage tanks have been erected by arrangement with the Company at two points, Brotton and Skelton Green.

Cowsheds and Dairies.

The Register contains the names and addresses of forty-three cowkeepers and four dairymen. The inspections of cowsheds, &c., numbered 112. The notices served under the Regulations were as follows :—to cleanse, 26; to provide efficient lighting, 1; to provide efficient ventilation, 3; to remedy various defects, 12; total 30,—29 complied with.

Elementary Schools :—particulars of.

School.	Is Water on Premises ?	Sanitary Conveniences.	Yard Pervious or Impervious.
Carlin How ...	On premises ...	pails ...	Impervious.
Brotton ...	ditto ...	water-closets ...	part impervious part pervious
Boosbeck ...	ditto ...	water-closets ...	Impervious.
Lingdale Mixed ...	ditto ...	pail closets ...	ditto
Lingdale Infant ...	ditto ...	ditto ...	ditto
Margrove Park ...	ditto ...	ditto ...	ditto
Moorsholm ...	Not on premises ...	ordinary closets ...	ditto
New Skelton (Infant) ...	On premises ...	water-closets ...	ditto
Stanghow Lane ...	ditto ...	pail closets ...	ditto
Skelton (Infant) ...	ditto ...	ditto ...	ditto
Skelton Green ...	ditto ...	water-closets ...	ditto

Table giving particulars of the Water Supply, Sewage Disposal, etc., of the several places in the District.

Place.	Description.	Geological Strata.	Population.	Class of Population.	Water Supply.	Sewage Disposal.	Sanitary Conveniences.	Scavenging.
Carlin How ...	Situated on the top of a ravine.	Upper Oolite Shale.	720	Engaged in iron-stone mining.	Cleveland Water Co.	To small stream. Sewer in course of construction.	86 Ordinary with pits. 218 Pail closets. 17 Water closets.	Contracted for by Council.
Charlton's Terrace	Lies at the base of a hill facing north east.	Upper Oolite Shale.	644	do.	From reservoir to standpipes.	To main sewer, thence to sea.	128 Pail closets. 1 Water closet.	do.
Boosbeck ...	Situated on the slope of a hill.	Lower Lias (Estuarine beds).	1460	do.	Cleveland Water Co.	do.	34 Ordinary with pits. 269 Pail closets. 10 Water closets.	do.
Brotton ..	Situated on the face of a hill.	Lower Oolite (Estuarine beds of sandstone and shales).	3750	do.	do.	do.	48 Ordinary with pits. 725 Pail closets. 48 Water closets.	do.
Lingdale ...	Situated on the slope of a hill.	Lower Oolite (Estuarine beds of sandstone and shales).	2788	do.	do.	do.	99 Ordinary with pits. 407 Pail closets. 6 Water closets.	do.
Margrove Park	Two rows of houses situated on a hill side one facing north, the other west.	Upper Oolite Shale.	560	do.	do.	do.	68 Ordinary with pits. 52 Pail closets.	do.
Moorsholm ...	Situated on a hill adjoining moors.	Lower Oolite (Estuarine beds).	605	Agricultural and ironstone mining	Standpipes.	On to land.	58 Ordinary with pits. 67 Pail closets. 1 Water closet.	By Occupiers.
New Skelton...	Situated on the slope of a hill.	Lower Oolite, Shales (Estuarine beds).	559	Engaged in iron-stone mining.	Cleveland Water Co.	To main sewer, thence to sea.	25 Ordinary with pits. 115 Pail closets. 4 Water closets.	Contracted for by Council.
North Skelton	Situated on a plateau.	Lower Oolite, sandstone and shales (Estuarine beds).	1818	do.	do.	do.	1 Ordinary with pit. 229 Pail closets. 3 Water closets.	do.
Skelton	Situated on the slope of a hill.	West End on Upper Lias. East End on Lower Oolite Shales (Estuarine beds).	9235	Mixed.	do.	do.	95 Ordinary with pits. 184 Pail closets. 18 Water closets.	do.
Skelton Green	Situated on the side of a hill.	Back Lane and Boosbeck Rd. are on the Lower Oolite (Estuarine beds). Hacker and Cleveland Streets are on the Lower Oolite (Grey Limestone series).		Engaged in iron-stone mining.	do.	do.	do.	95 Ordinary with pits. 227 Pail closets. 10 Water closets.	do.

Slaughterhouses.

Of these there are thirteen in the district:—the inspections made numbered 268. Thirteen notices to remedy defects (of a minor nature) were served, eleven complied with. A large number of carcasses (579) were examined, none found unfit for food.

Common Lodginghouse.

The only common lodging-house in the district is that at Brotton. Frequent visits of it were made:—the bedrooms are kept in clean condition.

Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected under the Housing, Town Planning &c., Act, 1909	243
Number of dwelling-houses considered unfit for habitation	nil
Number of representations made with a view to making closing orders	nil
Number of closing orders made	nil
Number of dwelling-houses in which the defects were remedied without the making of closing orders	nil
Number of dwelling-houses made fit after making of closing orders	nil

Condition of houses inspected as to

Lighting.		Air Circulation.		Cleanliness.	
Good ...	190	Good ...	197	Clean ...	201
Fair ...	45	Fair ...	39	Fair ...	26
Bad ...	8	Bad ...	7	Not clean ...	10
				Dirty ...	6

Note.—The word "Fair" is used when the conditions are such as to leave room for improvement: "Not clean" where the room for improvement is considerable: "Dirty" where it is desirable to give notice under Section 46 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Particulars of defects found:—

House yards in defective condition	56
Sanitary conveniences ditto	88
Damp or defective walls	31
ditto ditto floors	96
ditto ditto pantries	13
Defective windows	9
ditto roofs	66
Other defective or insanitary conditions	108

Of the 243 houses 1 had 1 room

4	2 rooms
12	3 "
143	4 "
83	5 or more.

The average number of persons per house was 5·0.

" " " per bedroom was 2·1.

House Accommodation.

In the houses inspected (243) under the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, the average number of persons per house was 5·0. Though this is a slight increase in that (4·9) noted during the inspections made in the previous year there was a decrease in the number of houses occupied by two families, the per-centage in 1912 being 16, last year (1913) the per-centage was 9. The average number of persons per bedroom was 2·1. Of the eighty-five houses erected during the year 53 are in Carlin How, 11 at Boosbeck, 11 in Lingdale, 8 in Skelton, and 2 in Brotton. The figures given indicate that house accommodation keeps pace with the population.

It does not always follow that the occupation of a house by two families results in overcrowding; nor does it always follow that this is a sign of lack of houses, reduction of the amount spent in rent is sometimes the cause.

Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act.

Cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1913.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY IN THE DISTRICT.							NUMBER OF HOURS IN WHICH CASES OCCURRED.	
	At all Ages.	At Ages.—Years.						Brotton.	Lingdale.	Boosbeck.	Mangrove Park.	Charlton's Terrace.	Carlin How and Kilton.	Skelton, New Skelton.		Other Places.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.										65 and upwards.
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) ...	67	18	47	6	1			46	4	3	1	3	3	8	4	57
Erysipelas ...	6				2	3	1		1		1	2	1		1	5 (One Patient twice attacked)
Scarlet Fever ..	65	1	19	85	6	4		11	10	16	15	2	1	10		47
Enteric Fever ...	1				1									1		1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	15		1	9	3	2		5	3				2	4	1	15
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	20	2	7	4	3	4		6	2	3	4	1	1	1	2	20
Totals ...	174	3	89	87	15	5	1	68	20	22	21	8	8	19	8	145

No case of any of the following diseases was notified :—
small-pox, typhus fever, puerperal fever, poliomyelitis, cerebro-spinal meningitis.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act.

There are certain factors influencing the spread of the infectious diseases of childhood which require fuller appreciation than is accorded them at present. Given two districts or two parts of a district, A and B. Let the child population in A be greater proportionately than in B, then in A the number of cases will, other things being equal, be larger than in B. Let there also be in A the existence of some condition (not present in B) which favours the spread of the disease, such as the aggregation of a large number of houses of one type the occupants of which intermix freely with their neighbours, then the greater prevalence of the disease in A can be readily understood and does not require for its explanation the assumption that it results from some local insanitary condition. It is very important that the public should understand the conditions which lead to the dissemination of infectious diseases. Anything which fosters the belief that this is due to defects in sanitary arrangements induces carelessness. It is natural that it should be argued that if such defects are the cause, it is useless to take the usual precautions as to isolation, &c.

On receipt of a notification the following information is obtained and entered on a Form:—the day and Sunday schools attended by children living in the infected house, the occupation of the householder and of other adults, the milk supply, the number of occupants, the number of rooms. Where it appears necessary or desirable I visit the infected house. Disinfection of bedrooms is carried out by the Council's workmen under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Scarlet Fever.

Number of cases notified	...	65.
Number of deaths	... ..	Nil.
Case rate mortality	... ..	Nil.

Of the 65 cases notified nineteen occurred during the first quarter of the year, twenty-six in the second, seventeen in the third, and three in the last quarter. Of the 47 houses in which cases occurred, twelve were in Boosbeck, nine in Brotton, eight in Skelton, eight in Margrove Park, six in Lingdale, two at Charlton's Cottages, and one each at New Skelton and Carlin How. It will be seen that the fever was not confined to any particular part of the district. One patient was removed to the Loftus Sanatorium.

When several cases of scarlet fever occur among children grouped together in a school it is probable that in many instances the medium of infection was a child suffering from the disease in its initial stage. It is not uncommon to be informed when making enquiries at school that such and such a child was sent home as it appeared to be feverish or was sick. Assuming that the child was subsequently found to be suffering from the fever it can readily be understood that it may have affected children sitting near it.

Diphtheria.

It does not follow when the specific bacilli of diphtheria invade a body that the disease will manifest itself (if ever it does so) after the ordinary incubation period. Diphtheria is first a local disease then a general. If the local conditions, that is the state of the mucous membrane of the mouth, throat, nose, &c., are unfavourable to the growth of the bacilli at the time of invasion they fail to produce the disease. But the bacilli may remain in contact with the membrane for a considerable time ready to take effect should the conditions change in such a way as to favour their growth and the production and absorption of the poison which renders the disease general.

Number of cases notified	...	67.
Number of deaths	... ..	8.
Case rate mortality	... ..	11.9 per cent.

During the first quarter of the year twenty-seven cases were reported, twenty-six in the second, six in the third, and eight in the last quarter. The following Table shows the number of cases, &c., in the several parts of the district:—

Place.	Number of cases.	Number of infected houses.	Deaths.
Brotton ...	46	37	8
Lingdale ...	4	4	
Moorsholm ...	4	4	
Boosbeck ...	3	3	
Carlin-How ...	3	2	
Chariton's Terrace	3	3	
Skelton ...	2	2	
Margrove Park ...	1	1	
New Skelton ...	1	1	

The facts connected with the prevalence of the disease in Brotton indicated that its spread was in part due to 'neighbourly visits,' in part to attendance at public entertainments, and (to a minor extent) to school influence. Seven of the infected houses were in one comparatively short street. On April 22nd, I took 'swabs' from the throats of six children (at the school) who had returned after an attack of diphtheria: in none were the specific bacilli found. At the same time a swab was taken from a child who was suffering from 'sore throat': in this case the bacilli were found.

An impression prevailed that the disease resulted from the discharge of foul air into one of the school-rooms from under the floor. An inspection showed this supposition to be without foundation. The Managers nevertheless caused the wood flooring to be removed, replacing it with concrete.

Arrangements were made for the taking of 'swabs' from convalescents, final disinfection not being carried out until two successive swabs gave a negative result.

The total number of bacteriological examinations of swabs was seventy-six. Of these fifty-four were negative, twenty-two positive. Twenty-three of the swabs were from 'contacts,' eleven from convalescents. One 'contact' (not resident in Brotton) though never ill continued to harbour the bacilli for a period of three months; there is no reason to believe that any one contracted the disease from this person.

Measles.

No death from measles was recorded during the year.

Much difference of opinion exists as to whether or not children living in a house infected with measles should be permitted to attend school. In his Supplement to the Annual Report of the Local Government Board for the year 1912—1913 Dr. Newsholme (the Chief Medical Officer of that Board) says "Not infrequently objection is raised to the attendance at school of children "who have had measles and are over the age of attendance in infant schools, who come from "households in which there is a case of measles. Such attendance under the common conditions "of town life is justifiable, so long as it remains true that most of the children above the infant "classes have already had measles. All clinical evidence points to the conclusion that measles "is infectious chiefly by direct conveyance from the patient, and that its conveyance by fomites " (clothing, etc.), is negligible."

Enteric Fever.

The total number of cases of enteric fever notified in the whole of the districts in the Union was four. Three of these occurred in the Redcar district, the fourth in the Skelton and Brotton. One of the three in Redcar apparently was contracted from one of the other two in that district. The source of infection of the others I was unable to trace definitely:—one was possibly due to infected shell-fish, one probably contracted out of the district.

Tuberculosis.

The following Table shows the number of cases, &c., notified in the several districts.

District.	Pulmonary.	Other Forms	Total.	Males.	Females.	Rate per 1000 of the population.
Guisborough Rural ...	11	6	17	7	10	2.16
Guisborough Urban ...	12	8	20	10	10	2.81
Loftus Urban ...	11	4	15	11	4	1.61
Redcar Urban ...	18	10	28	15	13	2.43
Saltburn Urban ...	2	4	6	2	4	1.71
Skelton & Brotton Urban	15	20	35	24	11	2.18
Totals, &c. ...	69	52	121	69	52	2.18

The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912, which came into force February 1st, 1913, require the notification of cases of tuberculosis of all forms. The medical officer of health or an officer of the Local Authority acting under the instructions of the medical officer of health is required to make enquiries and take such steps as are necessary or desirable for investigating the source of infection, for preventing the spread of infection and for removing the conditions favourable to infection. The Local Government Board suggest that the Tuberculosis Officer should undertake the duties, or some of them, of the medical officer of health. As no such officer has as yet been appointed I have had no assistance in carrying out the duties.

For the better appreciation of the difficulty met with in endeavouring to trace the source of infection it is desirable to make a short statement of what is known as to the cause of tuberculosis and of the means by which it is disseminated. The disease is due to the invasion of the body, generally by inhalation or ingestion, of the specific bacilli. The time the symptoms manifest themselves bears no relation to the time of invasion. It is probable that in some instances the invasion is accompanied by symptoms of an indefinite character. In one individual the bacilli may be overcome and destroyed, in another they may be imprisoned in some organ or tissue of the body remaining there in a dormant state ready to resume activity if by any means they are liberated. It will thus be understood that the true source of infection may be difficult to trace.

The sputum of a patient suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis contains the specific bacilli:—infection may be contracted therefrom by the inhalation or ingestion of fine particles of the dried sputum. The disease may be contracted by the use of tuberculous milk or meat:—the information at present possessed renders it impossible to say to what extent the one or the other is responsible.

Of the 121 houses in which tuberculosis was notified to exist 105 were visited by me, to 29 subsequent visits were paid. In by far the larger number of cases it was impossible to arrive at any conclusion as to the source of infection.

In each of thirteen instances it was ascertained that the disease had been contracted before the patient had come into the district. In each of five cases it is probable that the infection proceeded from a previous case in the house. Two patients, a soldier and an ex-soldier, apparently became infected whilst serving in the Army. Four either contracted the disease whilst resident in asylums or it was latent in them at the time of admission.

Predisposing Causes. Post-mortem examinations show that very many persons who have died from diseases other than tuberculosis have at one time or another been invaded by the tubercle bacilli:—the many are invaded, the few (comparatively) become the prey;—the many overcome the foe, the few are unable to do so. The inability to overcome appears in some

instances to be inherited, in others it results from living under conditions inimical to health generally. It is assumed therefore that whatever promotes the attainment of 'the sound mind in the sound body' increases resisting power. Soundness of mind, using that term in its broadest sense, is an important factor, a factor which is not sufficiently appreciated. There is little doubt that grief and worry lower the vital power considerably, probably to a greater extent even than unhealthy environment.

In one third of the cases enquired into it was ascertained that one or other near relative was suffering from or had succumbed to consumption. Could precise information on the point have been obtained there is little doubt that this proportion would have been found larger. The cause of death of a relative is not always known especially if that relative has died during the childhood of the patient whose case is under enquiry. Nor is it to be overlooked that whilst death from pulmonary tuberculosis (consumption) may be known to members of the family, death from some other form of the disease is not so likely to be.

Of the predisposing causes the chief are :—

- Deficient nutrition resulting from unsuitable or improperly cooked food or its insufficiency.
- Inefficient bedroom ventilation.
- Inadequate or excessive clothing.
- Neglect of minor ailments.
- Prolonged physical or mental strain.
- Bad home conditions causing neglect of children.
- Alcoholic or other excesses.
- Anxiety or grief.
- Unhealthy environment.

Of the 105 houses visited by me it was found that in 72 the environment was good, in 32 it was fair, in one bad :—in 62 the home conditions were good, in 28 they were fair, in 15 bad. In the 15 mentioned there were signs of general neglect. There was no indication that the disease unduly affected persons following any particular employment. Of the male adult patients ten were miners, five labourers, three clerks, three engineers, two masons, two draughtsmen :—the employment of the remainder varied. Of the female adults four were or had been in domestic service,—twenty-three were 'housewives.' Two members of one family were attacked the disease manifesting itself in each at such time as precluded any probability that the one contracted it from the other, moreover they resided in different districts and had not, previous to being attacked seen each other for some time. Many years ago this family came under my observation owing to the very bad home conditions which existed, conditions which undoubtedly contributed very materially to the members mentioned becoming a prey to the disease.

Action Taken.—Such advice was given in each case as the circumstances called for. Cuspidors and cards of instructions were supplied where needed. Where insanitary conditions existed (in very few instances were such found) steps were taken to have them remedied. In such cases as appeared desirable the names and addresses of school children living in the houses were forwarded to the Medical Inspector of school children in order that they might receive special attention. Bedrooms occupied by those suffering from tuberculosis were disinfected after the death or removal of the patient. In a few instances it was found either unnecessary or undesirable for various reasons to take any action.

Of the persons notified to be suffering from tuberculosis forty-two were insured (under the National Insurance Act) and forty-seven were the dependents of insured. Fourteen of the insured received Sanatorium treatment, one Domiciliary treatment. Of the fourteen mentioned four were discharged after periods varying from seventeen days to ten weeks :—these four died soon after discharge. Three improved after eight weeks treatment and are now following their usual employment. Two on discharge left the district,—their condition is unknown. The condition of two remains the same. One subsequently was admitted to another sanatorium,—one is at present very ill,—one is still in the sanatorium.

The number of deaths resulting from tuberculosis in the several districts was as follows:—

	Pulmonary.	Other forms.	Total.
Guisborough Rural ...	8	1	9
Guisborough Urban ...	8	4	12
Loftus Urban ...	3	2	5
Redcar Urban ...	10	7	17
Saltburn Urban ...	2	1	3
Skelton & Brotton Urban ...	8	7	15

There are certain desiderata in the treatment and prevention of tuberculosis (and these cannot be divorced) which require very careful consideration,—these are:—

(1) The exercise of the greatest possible care in the selection of cases sent to sanatoria; unless this be done this one form of treatment will fall into disrepute.

(2) The provision of a hospital for those in a hopeless condition whose return home would be a menace to the health of the family.

(3) The provision of some arrangement for the after-care of patients discharged from sanatoria.

Accommodation for the Isolation of cases of infectious disease.

For the purpose of isolating cases of infectious disease the Council has obtained two attached cottages near Lingdale and sufficient ground on which to erect any extension required. Alterations are being carried out, when completed accommodation will be provided for eight patients, a caretaker and nurse.

Factory and Workshop Act.

On the Register there are 3 Factories and 66 Workshops, namely:—

Workshops:—			
Dressmakers	...	...	13
Shoemakers	...	...	17
Carpenters	...	...	12
Tailors	...	...	8
Blacksmiths	...	...	3
Milliners	...	...	4
Tinsmiths	...	...	2
Plumbers	...	...	2
Saddler	...	...	1
Fish-friers	2
Bakers	2

Factories:—			
Gas works	1
Blacksmith	1
Aerated waters	1

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Inspections:—including those made by the Inspector these numbered 95.

Twenty-seven notices to remedy defects were served under the Act and complied with.

**Table of Birth and Mortality Rates
in the several Districts in the Union.**

DISTRICT.	Population estimated to middle of year 1913.	Births:— Uncorrected number.	Births:— Corrected number.	Birth Rate.	Deaths registered in District.	Death Rate.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in the District.	Deaths of Residents not registered in the District.	Deaths of Infants (under 1 year of age).	Infant Mortality Rate.	Total number of Deaths at all ages.	Death Rate.	Infectious Diseases Death Rate (excluding tuberculosis).	Tuberculosis Death Rate.	Diarrhoeal Diseases Death Rate.
Guisborough Rural	7860	190	190	24.17	119	15.13	2	7	17	89.4	124	15.77	1.14	1.14	Nil
Guisborough Urban	7100	214	211	29.71	114	16.05	16	3	22	109.0	101	14.22	1.25	1.69	0.14
Loftus Urban	9300	279	279	30.00	121	13.01	0	9	37	132.6	130	13.97	1.62	0.54	0.9
Redear Urban	11500	255	258	22.16	142	12.34	6	13	28	108.5	149	12.95	1.04	1.21	0.52
Saltburn Urban	3500	53	53	15.08	36	10.28	4	7	5	94.4	39	11.14	0.86	0.86	Nil
Skelton & Brotton Urban	16000	463	465	29.06	186	11.62	1	12	58	124.7	197	12.31	0.56	0.98	0.62
Totals and Averages	55260	1455	1456	26.34	718	12.99	29	51	167	114.6	740	13.39	1.04	1.10	0.47

Table III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the year 1913.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.								
		All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
All causes	Certified									
	Uncertified									
	All									
1.	Enteric Fever ...									
2.	Small Pox ...									
3.	Measles ...									
4.	Scarlet Fever ...									
5.	Whooping Cough ...	1	1							
6.	Diphtheria and Croup ...	8			1	7				
7.	Influenza ..	4						1	2	1
8.	Erysipelas ...	1						1		
9.	Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	8			2		3	1	2	
10.	Tuberculous Meningitis ...	1				1				
11.	Other Tuberculous Diseases ...	6	2	2				2		
12.	Cancer, malignant disease ...	12		1				1	4	6
13.	Rheumatic Fever ..									
14.	Meningitis ...	1				1				
15.	Organic Heart Disease ...	15				1			9	5
16.	Bronchitis ...	15	7	2					2	4
17.	Pneumonia (all forms) ...	13	3	1	3			1	3	2
18.	Other diseases of respiratory organs ...									
19.	Diarrhœa and Enteritis ...	10	8	1						1
20.	Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	1				1				
21.	Cirrhosis of Liver ...	2							2	
21a.	Alcoholism ...									
22.	Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	3							2	1
23.	Puerperal Fever ...									
24.	Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ...									
25.	Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth ...	23	23							
26.	Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide ...	7	1			2	2	1		1
27.	Suicide ...	1						1		
28.	Other Defined Diseases ...	63	13	3	9	1		2	11	24
29.	Diseases ill-defined or unknown	2							1	1
		197	58	10	15	14	5	11	38	46

Infant Mortality.

Over twenty-two per cent. of the deaths in the Guisborough Union during the year occurred among infants (under one year of age). There is no doubt that a very large proportion of these had an ante-natal cause, that is, they resulted directly from the unhealthy condition of one or both parents. The large number of deaths certified to be due to premature birth, marasmus, inanition, convulsions, &c., indicates this. A reduction in the number of such deaths cannot be expected until individuals recognise that as they are so their children will be and recognising this will lead healthy lives.

It is a matter for congratulation that Education Authorities have at last realised the necessity of teaching cooking and house-work. Much of the unhealthy condition existing proceeds from lack of nourishment, not from lack of means to obtain that nourishment but of lack of knowledge of the feeding value of the various foods and of the best means of so cooking foods as to render them digestible. This teaching requires to be carried further, general hygiene should be taught practically.

Future Action.

The steps to be taken in the future for maintaining and improving the public health in any district will depend upon the conditions prevailing in that district, one of which is the area over which the population is spread. Though urban in name the Skelton and Brotton district is rural in character consisting as it does of eleven distinct and separate centres of population embraced in an area of nearly 16,000 acres. The conditions therefore are quite different to what they would be were the population (16,000) massed.

Practically the whole of the adult population is employed in iron-stone mining and allied work.

The condition of the houses in the several centres varies, in many it is good in others it approaches the uninhabitable. It is admitted that in some instances dilapidations are due to carelessness or worse on the part of tenants. Owners of good property get rid of this class of tenant. Unfortunately the result often is that worst of all combinations—dirty tenants in dilapidated houses. The structural defects of a house may not in themselves be sufficient to warrant its condemnation, but these in conjunction with defects in lighting and air circulation may be. In rural and semi-rural districts the last named conditions are rare. It is by no means a simple matter to decide whether or not a certain house is unfit for habitation. Each must be dealt with on its merits or rather its demerits. There are some houses in the district which it may be necessary for me after careful consideration to condemn as unfit for habitation.

In some parts of the district the old type of convenience with fixed receptacle continues to exist; closets of this type should be abolished and some other form substituted.

During the summer months it is desirable that fixed nightsoil receptacles be emptied more frequently than at present (once a month).

This part of the report would not be complete without a reference to remarks made in previous years as to the necessity of *individual* action, remarks no less needed now than then. Inspections and special visits made show that in many houses the most elementary laws of health are unfulfilled,—domestic and personal cleanliness being neglected, ventilation of bedrooms more honoured in the breach than the observance, sunlight excluded by drawn blinds, &c. In too many instances little attempt is made to maintain conveniences in a cleanly condition, lime-washing of the walls of these is very rarely done. Reform of the conditions under the control of the individual is as requisite as that depending on the action of the local authority.

There is a consensus of opinion that a connection exists between the occurrence of tuberculosis and defective housing. Improve housing by all means, but unless such improvement be accompanied by reform in the house it will be of little avail.

ADDENDUM.

Since this report was printed I have received from the Local Government Board a copy of a report on the Statistics of the Incidence of Infectious Diseases in England and Wales during the year 1913.

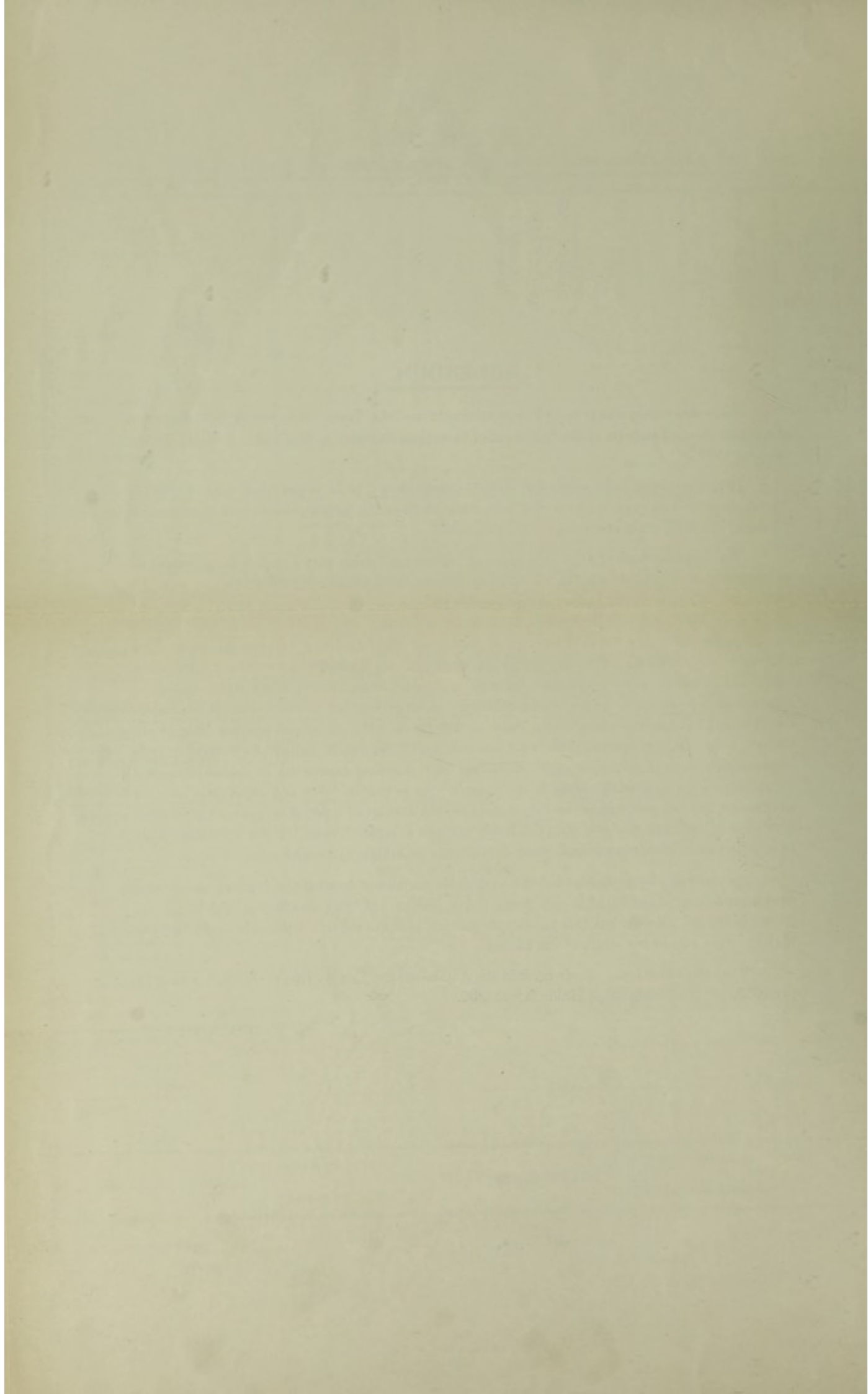
In an accompanying circular the Medical Officer says "It is hoped that you will utilise these statistics in comparing your own with other districts similarly circumstanced in the same county, and with other districts in other counties."

The factors influencing the prevalence of infectious diseases vary so much as to render it difficult to make a true comparison between one district and another. An urban district with its population massed together cannot be compared with one in which the population is scattered over a wide area. A town in which the inhabitants are mainly employed in some industry cannot be compared with one the inhabitants of which are chiefly of the commercial class. The proportion of children to adults may be much larger in one district than another; unless the proportion be known a true comparison cannot be made. One district differs from another as regards the importation of infection from without. A large number of the residents in Redcar travel to and from neighbouring towns daily, a number of children attend schools outside the district, a very large number of visitors (season and day) come into it during the summer: it is thus specially open to the importation of disease and therefore cannot be compared with any district where the conditions named do not prevail. As to scarlet fever and diphtheria no true comparison can be made unless the figures used are the average of a period of years. One district may have an epidemic one year with the result that the number of cases in the following years (4 or 5) is small. The next year another district may be subject to an epidemic.

Guisborough Rural district has the unenviable position of having the highest attack rate from scarlet fever of any rural district in the North Riding and only one *urban* district in the Riding is higher. Redcar has this unenviable position so far as regards diphtheria, it having the highest attack rate in the whole of the Riding.

The attack rate from enteric fever in the Administrative County (North Riding) was 0·19 per 1000,—in the Guisborough Union it was 0·06.

W. W. STAINTHORPE.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

1913.

To the Chairman and Members of the Skelton and Brotton Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure to present to you, pursuant to the Order of the Local Government Board, my first Annual Report in which is recorded the particulars of the work done in connection with the inspection of the district during the year 1913.

Inspection of District.

The total number of miscellaneous inspections made to premises in connection with the work was 5,449.

House to house inspection, inspection of the Common Lodging House, Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, Workshops, Slaughterhouses, and premises where foods are deposited, prepared or exposed for sale, have each and all received attention. Visits have also been made under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health to all houses in which cases of infectious disease have occurred. A large amount of time has been taken up with the administration of the Housing Town Planning, etc. Act, 1909, the statistics of which are dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health in his Annual Report.

I am pleased to report that the majority of the complaints discovered in the district have been abated by the owners and agents on receipt of a preliminary notice, thereby obviating the necessity of specially reporting all nuisances to the Council for power to serve statutory notices.

Legal proceedings were instituted in one instance but in the intervening period between the service of the summons and the date of the holding of the Court the repairs were completed and the costs of the case were settled by the defendant.

Number of Nuisances reported to Council	...	...	...	110
Number of Statutory notices served	..	...	...	3
Number of Informal notices served	...	...	...	120
Number of Informal notices complied with	...	...	...	98
Number of Informal notices outstanding	...	...	...	41
Number of Ashpits and privies converted into pan closets				107

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

No conversions from ashpits and privies to water closets have been made under the above Act during the year, and the Council have not required water closets to be provided to new houses.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

There are 47 names of Cowkeepers, Dairy men and Milk sellers on the Register.

The premises have been regularly inspected, special attention being given to cleanliness. With few exceptions all were found to be well kept.

Number of Inspections	...	...	...	112
Number of notices served	...	...	...	31
Number of notices complied with	...	...	...	30

Slaughterhouses.

There are now 13 slaughterhouses in the District (one was discontinued during the year). Five are situate at Brotton, three at Skelton, two at Lingdale, two at Moorsholm, and one each at Boosbeck and North Skelton.

These have been systematically inspected, and on the whole found to be in a cleanly and sanitary condition.

Number of Inspections	...	...	...	268
Number of notices served	...	...	...	13
Number of notices complied with	...	...	...	11
Number of carcasses examined	...	...	...	579

Inspections were also made of the various meat shops in the district but no meat in such a state as to be unfit for food was discovered.

Common Lodging House.

There is only one Common Lodging House in the district, this has been inspected as occasion required, at least once monthly. The bedrooms are kept in a clean condition.

One case of Diphtheria occurred in it, and efforts were made to remove the patient to the Loftus Hospital, but on enquiry no vacant bed could be spared. The patient was the daughter of the Lodging House keeper. No other case occurred in the house.

Factory and Workshop Act.

On the register there are 66 Workshops and 3 Factories. 80 Inspections of these were made, and 20 notices served, all of which have been complied with.

Offensive Trades.

The premises whereon offensive trades are carried on have been regularly inspected and found to be kept, so far as the nature of the business will allow, in a cleanly condition.

No application was received during the year for the Council's consent to carry on an offensive trade.

Disinfections.

During the year 119 rooms were disinfected after cases of Infectious Disease.

Scavenging.

The scavenging is divided in 11 Districts, and is let out by Contract to local farmers and others. The Council also employ 3 permanent Scavengers and 3 part time Scavengers. On the whole the work is done well. All the ashpits and privies are emptied monthly and the pan closets weekly.

Sanitary Conveniences.

Ashpits and privies emptied	...	...	Monthly
Pan closets emptied	...	...	Weekly
Method of disposal	...	...	To Farmers in district
No. of Pan closets	...	...	2,592
No. of Ashpits and privies	...	...	506
No. of Water closets	...	...	108
No. of Privies	...	...	20

No. of Defects Remedied during 1913.

Nuisances abated.

Houses cleansed	...	...	10
Overcrowding dealt with	...	...	9
Damp remedied	...	...	49
Spouting provided or repaired	...	...	22
Roofs repaired	...	...	48
Plaster repaired	...	...	24
Floors repaired	...	...	62
Other faults remedied	..	...	66

Drainage.

Defects repaired	...	...	9
Disconnected	...	...	1
Stopped Drains, Gullies, etc., cleansed	...	...	21
Sink fixed	...	...	1
Sink wastes repaired or replaced	...	...	7

Closets.

Pan closets substituted for ashpits and privies	...	...	107
Closet structures repaired	...	...	11
Closet Fittings repaired	1
New pans provided to closets	128

Outbuildings.

Structures repaired	35
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Paving.

Yards repaired	62
Accumulations removed	8
Keeping of animals discontinued	6
Rooms disinfected	...	...	119
No. of premises inspected in connection with Infectious Diseases	...	...	127

A fair amount of nuisances have also been abated or prevented at the verbal request of your Inspector.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. R. CRANMER,

Inspector of Nuisances.