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SKELTON AND BROTON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



NORTH RIDING (GUISBOROUGH)
COMBINED DISTRICTS.

. REPORT .
for the Year 1945

of the Medical Officer of Health,
C. R. GIBSON, M.A., M.B., CH.B.

D.P.H.



TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
SKELTON AND BROTTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1945, in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 28/46.

The population of the Urban District at the middle of 1945, according to the Registrar-General's estimate, was 12,130—an increase of 70 from the previous year, but a decrease of 1,580 from the census of 1931. As the natural increase, that is, the excess of births over deaths, has been 751 in the interval since the last census, it follows that in that period the District has lost 2,331 of its inhabitants by emigration elsewhere.

The number of births in the District during 1945 was 239, 30 less than in 1944, but above the average rate since the period 1924—28. The number of births in the year corresponds to a birth-rate of 19·7, which is above the average figure, 19·0, for the Combined Districts, and the rate of 16·1 for England and Wales.

The deaths of residents during 1945 numbered 175, compared with 156 in 1944 and a yearly average of 167 in the five years 1938—43. The death-rate for the year is 14·4, compared with 12·9 in 1944 and 16·0 in 1943. The average figure for the Combined Districts in 1945 was 13·4.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age was 14, corresponding to an infant mortality rate of $58\frac{1}{2}$ infant deaths per thousand births, compared to an average over the Combined Districts of $50\frac{1}{2}$, and of 46 over England and Wales. The infant mortality rate in the District is therefore somewhat high, although showing an improvement since 1939—43 when it averaged 60, and from 1934—38 when the figure was as high as 78. The most frequent causes of infant deaths in the year were prematurity and congenital debility or malformations which together were responsible for nine deaths. Then bronchitis and pneumonia caused four deaths, and tuberculous meningitis one. Five of the fourteen infants died in the first day or two of existence, two more in the first four weeks, three under 3 months of age, three under six months, and one at eleven months. Four of the infant deaths occurred in the village of Boosbeck, three each in Skelton, Brotton and Lingdale, and one in Margrove Park. There were no infant deaths in Charltons, Carlin How or Moorsholm. Where the housing conditions are bad and the tenants are, on the whole, more careless or less intelligent, there the infant mortality is highest.

Deaths of children aged from one year to four numbered 2, the same as in 1944. Deaths at these ages has shown a steady decline, from a total of 103 in the five years 1919—23, then in successive five years, 68, 38, 22, down to 20 in 1939—43. One must remember of course that since 1919—23, the number of children in the District has halved, so that only about one half of the reduction can be ascribed to improvement in health.

All these vital statistics and the figures for earlier periods for comparison are given in Table I of the Appendix to this Report. The figures for notifiable diseases are given in Table II of the Appendix. On comparing this with the Table in the Report for the previous year it will be seen that notifiable disease has been more prevalent. With the exception of scarlet fever, however, the incidence of infectious disease has been less than in neighbouring Districts, as will be seen from the following table.

Notified Cases per 1,000 (Civilian) Population, 1945.

		Skelton and Brotton U.D.	N.R. Combined Districts	England and Wales
Scarlet Fever		3.55	2.55	1.89
Diphtheria		0.50	1.12	0.46
Enteric Fever		0.00	0.00	0.02
Cerebro-Spinal Fever		0.00	0.03	0.05
Measles		6.02	16.60	11.67
Whooping Cough		0.25	1.59	1.64
Puerperal Pyrexia		0.00	4.49	9.93
<i>(per thousand total births)</i>				

There were no deaths in the District during the year from any of the above infectious diseases.

With the exception of two cases in 1937 and one in 1940 the District has been free from enteric fever (typhoid and paratyphoid) since the epidemic in 1936 when there were 17 cases. One of these patients in 1936 has continued in the carrier state, that is, capable of giving the infection, ever since, and still is a carrier. This has necessitated special arrangements by the Sanitary Inspector during all this time for the disposal of refuse, etc., and it is satisfactory to record the complete absence of the occurrence of any subsequent case that could be traced to this carrier.

In Circulars No. 193/45 and 194/45 issued by the Minister of Health on the 14th November, 1945, the Minister intimated his decision that as from 1st January, 1946 the responsibility for immunising children under five years of age should be placed upon Welfare Authorities, instead of, as previously, on Borough or District Councils. The Minister further intimated that, where a Borough or District Council which is not itself the Welfare Authority at present provides facilities for immunisation of children under school age, these arrangements need not be disturbed, and in Circular 8/46 of the 18th January, 1946, he suggested that in such cases the expenditure should now be borne by the County Council as Welfare Authority. In Circular 193/45 the Minister asked that all Medical Officers of Health should keep individual case records of children who receive immunisation in their area and it was suggested that the responsibility for printing record cards and ensuring that a supply is available when required at every centre of whatever kind where immunisation is carried out, should rest on the Welfare Authority. Owing, doubtless, to shortage of cards and slowness of execution of orders a supply of record cards was not received until the end of May, 1946. The Minister also asks for half-yearly and yearly returns summarising the immunisations in each District.

More attention has been paid to immunisation in the District than in the previous year, but the number of children immunised fell short of the number of children reaching one year old by fifty.

Diphtheria Immunisation : N.R. Combined Districts

	Guisborough U.D.	Loftus U.D.	Redcar Borough	Saltburn & Marske U.D.	Skelton & Brotton U.D.
No. of children immunised					
during 1944	134	114	437	111	58
during 1945	256	152	529	137	212
Estimated number of children under 5 years of age	640	616	2050	550	1072
Estimated percentage of these immunised at end of 1945	58	38	47	62	35
Estimated number of children aged 5—14 years	1185	1019	3780	877	1912
Estimated percentage of these immunised at end of 1945	72	95	64	70	50
Cases of diphtheria in 1945 in children under 15 years	13	13	12	3	3
Number of these known to have been previously immunised	9	7	7	2	1
Deaths from diphtheria in 1945 in children under 15 years. (all in non- immunised)	—	3	1	—	—

Intimation was received during the year of the entry into the District of two contacts with smallpox and one typhus contact. These were kept under surveillance until all danger of them developing the disease had passed.

Twenty new cases of tuberculosis were notified during the year, seven of them affecting the lungs, and thirteen other organs of the body. In the North Riding Combined Districts as a whole the number of new cases of tuberculosis notified has dropped from the figure it reached in 1942 to 1944 but in this District the number both in 1944 and 1945 has been much higher than in any year since 1931, due to a great increase in the number of notifications of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. The number of deaths from tuberculosis was six, a figure which has remained almost constant since 1942, and double the average number from 1939 to 1941. Three of the deaths were due to pulmonary and three to non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

Venereal Disease. The Minister of Health's Circular 42/45 dealt with propaganda against venereal disease, and suggested that Local District and Borough Councils should co-operate with the County Council for this purpose. In this area the County Council supplied posters and the District Council undertook their display on hoardings and such like.

Verminous Infestation. No case of scabies was reported through the schools during the year but I am informed that some were treated at school clinics. No case of infestation with body-lice has come to notice.

Water Supply of the Area. This has been generally satisfactory in quantity and in quality during the year. Consultation has been maintained with the Cleveland

Water Company who supply the greater part of the District, regarding the increase of their collecting and storage arrangements to cope with a dry season.

The improvement of the Council's supply to the village of Moorsholm and neighbouring farms was considered in the early part of the year and negotiations were opened with the Cleveland Water Co. with a view to the possible bulk purchase of water from the Company to increase the Moorsholm supply.

None of the water supplies in the District has ever been reported to have a solvent action on lead and no chemical or bacteriological examinations were made during the year.

The proportion of dwellinghouses and of population in the District estimated to be supplied from public water mains direct to the houses is 86%, and by means of stand-pipes 12%.

Housing. Twenty-eight houses were inspected under the Housing Acts by your Sanitary Inspector during the year. I am informed that the number of notices served during the year were : under the Housing Acts 44 informal and 1 statutory ; under the Public Health Act, 381 informal and 2 statutory. Most of the work has been carried out.

Milk. Eighteen samples of milk were submitted by your Sanitary Inspector for bacteriological examination as to cleanliness. In six of these the Methylene Blue test was used and five of the samples failed to satisfy the test. In the other twelve samples the bacterial count was estimated and the percentage of the samples reaching the different standards is given below, with comparison of the results in 1944 and the last two pre-war years.

	Percentage with Bacterial Count per 1 c.c.				Percentage with B. Coli. not found in 1/100th c.c.
	under 10,000	10,000— 30,000	30,000— 100,000	over 100,000	
1937	5	19	67	9	71
1938					
1944	19	0	36	45	19
1945	17	42	17	25	50

The figures suggest that there has been a distinct improvement in cleanliness since the previous year.

I am Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Guisborough,

August 14th, 1946.

C. R. GIBSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres) : 15,309.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1945 : 12,130.

Number of inhabited houses (1945) according to Rate-Books : 4,020.

Rateable Value : £47,996.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £191.

The district consists of ten villages separated and surrounded by agricultural land. The population is largely industrial, employed in ironstone mining and in iron and steel works.

APPENDIX.

1. SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Period.	Population.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths at Ages		Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis.	Yearly Birth-rate.	Yearly Death-rate.	Infant Mortality Rate (Infant deaths per thousand births).
				Under 1 year	1-4 years.				
1884—1888	12,700	2553	1073	382	185	—	40.2	16.9	149½
1889—1893	11,842	2073	900	331	166	—	35.0	15.2	159
1894—1898	12,200	2088	945	315	133	—	34.2	15.5	151
1899—1903	13,240	2257	999	329	118	—	34.1	15.1	145½
1904—1908	14,500	2349	1088	299	167	118	32.4	15.0	127
1909—1913	15,202	2385	1023	268	157	69	31.4	13.5	112
1914—1918	15,000	2196	1211	273	—	81	29.3	16.2	124
1919—1923	15,860	2040	955	196	103	58	26.0	12.2	96
1924—1928	14,716	1389	839	85	68	62	18.9	11.4	61
1929—1933	13,702	1128	881	91	38	31	16.4	12.9	80½
1934—1938	12,986	1077	866	84	22	23	16.6	13.3	78
1939—1943	12,420	1131	836	68	20	19	18.2	13.5	60
1944	12,060	269	156	13	2	6	22.3	12.9	48½
1945	12,130	239	175	14	2	5	19.7	14.4	58½

2. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1945
(other than Tuberculosis).

	Total	Under 1 year	1 year	2	3	4	5—9	10— 14	15— 24	25— 34	35— 44	45— 64	65 and up	Cases Admit'd Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	43	—	—	2	2	3	20	11	4	1	—	—	—	38	—
Diphtheria	6	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	6	—
Pneumonia	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	7
Measles	73	2	5	10	4	40	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	3	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

**3. PATIENTS ADMITTED TO GUISBOROUGH & DISTRICT
JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL
(from North Riding Combined Districts).**

	1/4/33 to 31/3/34	34/35	35/36	36/37	37/38	38/39	39/40	40/41	41/42	42/43	43/44	44/45
Scarlet Fever	149	290	148	220	227	128	26	48	27	32	110	85
Diphtheria	54	132	23	30	32	73	32	56	73	36	22	92
Enteric Fever	2	3	—	44	4	1	2	1	2	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
Puerperal Fever	3	3	4	5	3	1	—	—	1	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	6	1	2	1	—	1	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	12	18	5	6	4	3
Others	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	29	30	36	40	56
TOTAL	210	429	177	301	266	210	85	154	139	114	179	236
Service and outside patients (included)	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	25	24	29	32	52