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# Report

FOR THE YEAR 1904,

PRESENTED TO THE

## Spilsby Rural District Council,

BY

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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SPILSBY :

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1905.



TO THE

**Spilsby Rural District  
Council.**

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GENTLEMEN,

As your Medical Officer of Health, I beg to lay before you my Report for the year ending December 31st, 1904.

The year that has just passed has not been marked by any serious epidemic, and the number of Notifications has again diminished. The Birth-rate has slightly increased. The Death-rate, though higher than that of last year, is still below the



average of the last eight years, but, when we look into details, it is satisfactory to find that there has been a great diminution in the number of deaths in children under one year, and an increase in the number of deaths in persons upwards of 65 years of age, and that the latter number accounts for more than half the total of deaths. The Death-rate from the 7 principal Zymotic diseases is the lowest ever recorded.

I shall, as usual, divide my report under the headings of Epidemic Diseases, Sanitary Work, and Vital Statistics.

### EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

MEASLES.—As in 1903 this disease has been well-nigh absent from the district during the year, for with the exception of an outbreak at Stickney, in December, it has never been brought under my notice. It is now four years since a death has been recorded.

SCARLET FEVER.—Of this disease 42 notifications have been received, a number which is 17 below that of last year, and 12 below the average of the last eight years. The complaint in many instances was so mild in character that diagnosis became a matter of uncertainty, hence it is fair to infer that some cases may have remained undetected, and thus have given rise to a number of small outbreaks. Unfortunately parents are naturally more inclined to take precautions with regard to diseases of a



dangerous nature, though not so infectious, than they are with regard to diseases of a highly infectious nature though not so dangerous. The first outbreak occurred at South Ormsby, and from this and the adjoining village of Ketsby, I received during January eleven notifications. The cause was I have little doubt a mild unrecognised case which was not isolated. I thought it advisable to close the school from January to March. One of these eleven cases proved fatal, that of a child at Ketsby, under two years of age. In the same month the disease declared itself at Well. The patient was removed to Claxby, where all precautions as to isolation and disinfection were thoroughly carried out, and by these means further consequences were prevented. In March two cases presented themselves in one house in Stickney, and in the next month a like number in Thorpe. In both these instances the disease did not spread, and pretty clear evidence was found of it having been imported from without the district. In May a case occurred at Skendleby, which probably was connected with the South Ormsby outbreak, and this happily remained an isolated one. In July the disease broke out in Farlesthorne, but here the victims six in number belonged to one family. Towards the end of the same month there were about twelve cases in Burgh. The disease here was of such a mild character that the greatest care had to be exercised in its detection, and it is



possible some instances may have escaped recognition. In October two solitary cases occurred, one in Hundleby, and the other in Raithby.

WHOOPING COUGH.—As far as I know this disease has been absent from our district during the year.

DIPHTHERIA.—Eighteen notifications have been received, a number slightly in excess of that of last year, but below the average of the last eight years. I first heard of an outbreak in March, when a family in Halton consisting of five children and the mother were stricken with the complaint, and one died. The sanitary surroundings did not seem to be at fault, and the actual cause was not discoverable. In April a mild case occurred in Wainfleet. In June two persons were ill with the complaint in one house in Little Steeping. Here the sanitary arrangements were faulty, but the premises have since been placed in a more satisfactory condition. In August the disease affected two children in one house in Bonthorpe, and in this instance it was clearly imported by a convalescent sister coming to visit the family. In November I heard of three mild cases in Winthorpe, all of which soon recovered, and no consequences ensued. In the following month I received four notifications from Hogsthorpe. Here on inquiry I found that sore throats had been prevalent, but owing to the absence of the characteristic symptoms of Diphtheria, they could not be notified as Diphtheritic.



ENTERIC FEVER.—I have received six notifications during the year, and they all refer to single cases. The first occurred at Langton, and proved fatal after a lingering illness. The drinking water was deficient in quantity and very liable to pollution, but I am glad to say these defects have been satisfactorily remedied by bringing a fresh supply in pipes from a distance. In July a notification was received from Thorpe, and on inspection no fault could be found with the sanitary arrangements of the house. In August two mild cases appeared and were located the one in Ingoldmells, and the other in Sutton. The remaining two were imported from outside the district, one from Louth to Toynton, and the other from Scarborough to Wainfleet. It is satisfactory to note with regard to all the above cases that in no instance did the disease spread.

DIARRHŒA.—One death was returned under this heading, that of an infant aged 4 months at Orby.

INFLUENZA.—This disease still continues to appear in the returns as a cause of death, and this year it is credited with three victims at the respective ages of 55, 56, and 80. No extensive outbreak occurred, but towards the end of the year signs were not wanting that Influenza was about to revisit us in an epidemic form.

CEREBROSPINAL FEVER.—An outbreak of this rare and very fatal disease showed itself in 1903 and 1904 in one house in Scremby, and resulted in the



deaths of all those attacked, namely four, aged respectively 7, 11, 13, and 22. A special report on this outbreak was read to your Council in April, and a copy was sent to the Local Government Board and the Lindsey County Council, so it is scarcely necessary to repeat what was said therein. I confine myself to the remarks that Cerebrospinal fever is a disease but little known in England, that up to the present time its cause remains a matter of mystery, and that it is perhaps the most fatal of all known fevers.

In January I received a letter from the Port Sanitary Medical Officer at Southampton, informing me that two of the passengers who had been on board the S.S. Soudan, from which vessel a case of Small Pox had been landed at Malta, had arrived in England and were coming into this district. One arrived at East Keal, and he was kept under observation until all fear of infection had disappeared. The other was supposed to have gone to Sutton, but he could not be found: probably he was staying in Newark. If the same vigilance could be exercised with regard to suspects from other infectious diseases, I venture to think that many epidemics might be prevented.

The number of notifications received during 1904 was 77, a number which is 20 below the average of the last 8 years. Their distribution under their several headings will be seen in the following table.

Year.	Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Typhus Fever.	Enteric or Ty- phoid Fever.	Continued Fever.	Relapsing Fever.	Puerperal Fever	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Total.
1896		31	20			4	1		1		15	72
1897		27	26			7					9	69
1898		8	19	1		6	1		1		17	53
1899		37	19			13			1		14	84
1900		71	9			5			1		21	107
1901		44	41			10			1		7	103
1902	1	175	12			3	1				9	201
1903		59	13			4					8	84
1904		42	18			6					11	77



## SANITARY WORK.

HOGSTHORPE.—The Town Common Drain having become defective, a new 9-inch sanitary pipe sewer was laid from the Common to the outfall, a distance of 90 yards.

HUTTOFT.—Owing to the erection of buildings in the neighbourhood of the outfall of the Parish Sewer, it was found necessary to extend the latter, and this has been carried out to the extent of 40 yards. In addition to this a new drain 25 yards long has been laid for the purpose of connecting the new buildings with the sewer.

The following is the Surveyor and Inspector's Report for 1904.

Number of nuisances reported	...	...	...	87
Number abated without formal notice	...	...	...	24
Number of formal notices served	...	...	...	63
Total number abated	...	...	...	87
Houses reported unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	3
Houses placed in habitable repair	...	...	...	3
New drainage to houses	...	...	...	13
Defective drainage to houses remedied	...	...	...	19
Houses cleansed and disinfected	...	...	...	28
New earth closets erected	...	...	...	7
Privy vaults filled in and new earth closets erected	...	...	...	6
New dust bins erected	...	...	...	5
Old dust bins repaired and covered in	...	...	...	8
Cases of overcrowding reported	...	...	...	4
Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	4
Common lodging-houses inspected	...	...	...	1
Schools cleansed and disinfected	...	...	...	3
New water supply to houses	...	...	...	3



Wells cleansed and supply improved	...	...	11
Wells sunk for new water supply	...	...	4
Samples of water collected for analysis	...	...	39
Certificates given under Water Act	...	...	29
Dairies, cowsheds, and milkshops inspected	...	...	28
Cowsheds drained and ventilated	...	...	3
Dairies repaired and ventilated	...	...	3
Slaughter-houses inspected	...	...	16
Buildings erected under Bye-laws:—			
Spilsby	...	...	4
Burgh	...	...	3
Wainfleet...	...	...	9
Sutton	...	...	13
Winthorpe	...	...	10
Hundleby	...	...	1
Hogsthorpe	...	...	2
Chapel	...	...	1
Buildings erected in other parts of the district	...	...	12

During the year I analysed 39 samples of drinking water, and the results were that in 19 cases the water was classed as good, in 12 suspicious, and in 8 bad.

The four cases of overcrowding were in every instance abated by reducing the number of inmates.

Under the “Factory and Workshop Act, 1891,” all workshops and bakehouses have been inspected, and were found to be satisfactory. A tabular statement required by the Home Office with regard to the working of this Act, is presented as an appendix to this report.



## VITAL STATISTICS.

In 1904 the Births were 469 and the Deaths 312. The Births were 4 more than last year, and 11 below the average of the last 8 years. The Birth-rate was 23·45 per 1,000 population. The Death-rate was 15·51 which is slightly below the average of the last 8 years.

The Death-rate of children under 1 year to 1,000 births was 59·7, and is 51·5 below the average of the last 8 years. The Death-rate in England and Wales for the same age was 146.

The number of deaths above 65 years is more than half the total number.

The Birth-rate in England and Wales in 1904 was 27·9 per 1,000 of the population, which is ·5 per 1,000 below the rate in 1903, and lower than the rate in any other year on record; compared with the average in the ten years 1894—1903, the Birth-rate in 1904 shows a decrease of 1·3 per 1,000. The Death-rate in 1904 was 16·2 per 1,000, which is ·8 per 1,000 above the rate in 1903; compared with the average rate in the ten years 1894—1903, the Death-rate in 1904 shows a decrease of 1·0 per 1,000.

The class of Zymotic Diseases contributed 8 to the total list, and these deaths were put down to Scarlet Fever 1, Diphtheria 1, Enteric Fever 1, Diarrhoea 1, Erysipelas 1, and Influenza 3, and

they have already been alluded to. The Death-rate per 1,000 of the 7 principal Zymotic Diseases amounted to  $\cdot 20$ , which is the lowest ever recorded. The Death-rate in England and Wales for the same Zymotic Diseases was 1.94.

The Births were distributed according to quarters as follows :—

		LEGITIMATE.		ILLEGITIMATE.	
		MALES.	FEMALES.	MALES.	FEMALES.
Quarter ending March 31st		56	37	3	4
Quarter ending June 30th		54	54	3	2
Quarter ending Sept. 30th		62	62	3	1
Quarter ending Dec. 31st		59	44	13	5
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		231	197	22	12
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Legitimate	... 428	Total Males ...		...	253
„ Illegitimate	... 34	„ Females		...	209
				<hr/>	<hr/>
Grand Total		462	Grand Total		462
		<hr/>			<hr/>



TABLE of DEATHS from the Seven Principal Zymotic Diseases during the last nine years.

	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	—	—	4	—	2	1	1
Diphtheria ...	1	2	3	1	1	10	2	2	1
Whooping Cough ...	1	2	9	—	4	1	2	5	—
Fever, Typhus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
” Typhoid or Enteric ...	3	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	1
” Other or doubtful ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea and Dysentery ...	1	1	—	2	3	3	—	1	1
Total Deaths from the 7 principal Zymotic Diseases ...	7	8	14	5	13	15	6	10	4
Deaths from other causes ...	290	313	363	349	316	299	292	262	308
Total Deaths ...	297	321	377	354	329	314	298	272	312
Death-rate per 1000 Zymotic Diseases ...	·32	·37	·66	·23	·61	·73	·29	·49	·20
Death-rate per 1000 from all causes ...	13·88	15·13	17·92	16·97	15·91	15·22	14·66	13·50	15·51
Death-rate for England and Wales ...	17·1	17·4	17·6	18·3	18·3	16·9	16·3	15·4	16·2

In filling up the tables relating to Vital Statistics issued by the Local Government Board and added as an appendix to this report, I have taken the liberty of altering the averages from 10 years to 8, as it is only for that number of years that the district has been as it is now with regard to area.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS J. WALKER.

Spilsby,

February, 1905.



TABLE I.—For Whole District.

Y <sub>EAR</sub> .	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.		DEATHS AT ALL AGES. TOTAL.		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	Deaths of Non-residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond District.	DEATHS AT ALL AGES. NETT.	
		Number.	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*				Number.	Rate.*
1894.	23,950	545	22.75	52	95.4	324	13.53	17	0	0	324	13.53
1895.	24,382	560	22.96	62	110.0	337	13.82	16	0	0	337	13.82
1896.	21,385	489	22.86	46	94.2	297	13.88	21	5	0	292	13.46
1897.	21,208	459	21.64	47	102.4	321	15.13	16	3	0	318	14.99
1898.	21,031	491	23.34	59	120.1	377	17.92	26	1	0	376	17.87
1899.	20,854	508	24.36	62	122.0	354	16.97	26	2	0	352	16.87
1900.	20,677	452	21.86	60	111.0	365	17.62	17	2	0	327	15.81
1901.	20,500	492	24.00	45	89.4	314	15.22	21	3	0	311	15.17
1902.	20,323	481	23.66	43	89.4	298	14.66	20	1	1	298	14.66
1903.	20,146	465	23.08	38	81.7	272	13.50	13	1	1	272	13.50
Averages for years 1896-1903.	20,764	480	23.10	50	101.2	325	15.61	20	2	0	318	15.30
1894.	20,000	469	23.45	28	59.7	312	15.51	23	2	0	310	15.50

\* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.



TABLE II.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	SPILSBY.				ALFORD.				WAINFLEET.				BURGH.				STICKNEY.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births regis- tered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1894 ..	6310	142	87	15	7012	159	92	13	4843	109	73	14	3533	74	46	7	2252	61	26	3
1895 ..	6260	141	112	18	6992	150	92	14	4814	126	59	15	3488	78	38	8	2828	65	36	7
1896 ..	6212	134	128	15	4149	93	41	9	4752	123	52	12	3502	68	47	5	2770	59	29	5
1897 ..	6167	134	87	8	4121	103	67	11	4679	96	63	8	3538	68	69	9	2703	59	35	11
1898 ..	6127	126	129	19	4065	91	58	4	4648	113	88	23	3539	83	68	4	2652	78	34	9
1899 ..	6083	130	107	23	4015	90	59	6	4613	124	82	13	3541	91	67	10	2602	73	39	10
1900 ..	6039	123	112	12	3963	73	64	10	4582	114	64	11	3542	76	44	7	2551	68	45	13
1901 ..	5994	148	94	15	3919	80	45	3	4539	108	69	9	3543	88	63	8	2505	68	40	9
1902 ..	5949	113	112	17	3875	95	46	6	4496	114	55	10	3543	93	58	6	2460	66	27	4
1903 ..	5909	137	93	11	3831	74	39	4	4453	115	67	11	3543	74	44	5	2415	65	29	7
Averages of Years 1896 to 1903.	6060	130	108	15	3992	87	52	7	4595	113	67	16	3536	80	57	7	2569	67	34	8
1904 ..	5870	110	104	9	3800	96	63	6	4420	108	68	6	3530	83	52	5	2380	65	25	3



TABLE III.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.							TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				
	At all Ages.	At Ages.—Years.						SPILSBY.	ALFORD.	WAINFLEET.	BURGH.	STICKNEY.
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.					
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ...	18	...	1	9	4	4	...	8	2	4	4	...
Membranous croup ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	11	...	...	...	...	9	2	3	1	3	1	3
Scarlet fever ...	42	...	7	29	2	4	...	3	17	7	12	3
Typhus fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever ...	6	...	...	2	1	3	...	2	1	2	1	...
Relapsing fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	77	...	8	40	7	20	2	16	21	16	18	6





## APPENDIX.

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### RAINFALL FOR 1904.

Month.	No. of days on which '01 or more fell.	Amount in inches.	Average for last 29 years.
January .....	22	1·80	2·02
February .....	21	3·10	1·92
March .....	19	1·72	1·80
April .....	13	·77	1·71
May .....	13	1·73	2·05
June.....	8	·69	1·81
July .....	10	3·48	2·71
August.....	11	3·55	2·86
September .....	13	2·90	2·66
October .....	12	1·03	3·43
November .....	16	1·46	2·76
December .....	18	2·40	2·57
Total .....	<hr/> 176 <hr/>	<hr/> 24·63 <hr/>	