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# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE  
SANITARY CONDITION  
OF THE

## Thorne Rural District

For the Year 1925

BY

J. M. TAYLOR, M.D., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



THORNE

W. WRIGLEY & SON, PRINTERS AND STATIONERS, MARKET PLACE

1926



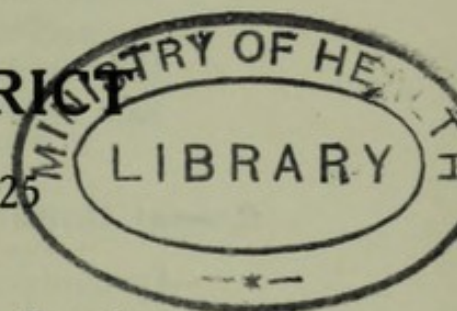


# Annual Report on the Sanitary Condition

OF THE

## THORNE RURAL DISTRICT

For the year ending December 31st, 1925



*To the Chairman and Members of the Thorne Rural  
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report for 1925, as required by the Ministry of Health. The report is a "survey" report, which is required every fifth year, and goes into more detail than is required in the intervening "ordinary" reports.

### **Physical Features and General Character of the District :**

The Rural District of Thorne consists of 38,486 acres of level land, lying between the Goole Rural District on the north, the Doncaster Rural District on the west and south, and Lincolnshire on the east. The Elevation varies from 3'2 feet to about 30 feet. There are five Parishes, as follows :—

Thorne	...	13,047	acres
Hatfield	...	16,159	"
Stainforth	...	2,355	"
Fishlake	...	3,329	"
Sykehouse	...	3,596	"

The District is drained partly by the River Don and partly by the Cateline and North Idle Drains, which feed the River Trent. The Don is tidal throughout the District, the overflow of the tide sometimes being as high as ten feet.

The District rests on the new red sandstone. The overlying strata vary, but the usual sequence is—

- (1) Warp or Alluvium
- (2) Peat
- (3) Sand
- (4) Strong Clay
- (5) Gravel and Sand



### **General Statistics :**

Population at 1921 Census, 11,146  
 Area in acres, 38,419  
 Number of inhabited houses (1921), 2,466  
 Number of families or separate occupiers (1921), 2,520  
 Rateable Value, £71,854  
 Sum represented by a penny rate, £251

### **Social Conditions :**

Agriculture has been ousted from its place as the chief industry of the district. Coal mining now employs more men than all the other industries combined. Both mining and agriculture have passed through a year of depression, but the smaller ship-building and brewery industries have been prosperous.

During the years 1923, 1924 and 1925, 1198 houses have been completed in the district. These have been occupied almost entirely by men employed at the Hatfield Main and Thorne Collieries. Hatfield Main Colliery now employs about 2000 men. By the end of 1925, 76 houses were completed at the new village which is being built by Messrs. Pease and Partners near Thorne. By the beginning of October, 1926, it is expected that a further 724 houses will have been started by the same firm, and a considerable proportion of these finished by the end of 1926.

In May, 1925, the application by the Council to the Ministry of Health for sanction to raise a loan of £32,500 for sewerage works for Thorne, both old and new towns, was investigated. On behalf of Pease & Partners, it was stated at the enquiry that they anticipated being able to employ about 1,000 men by August, 1926, and 2,000 men by August, 1927. This rapid increase of population has made several old deficiencies more acute, and in the near future the Council will have to consider seriously the provision of—

- (1) An adequate Isolation Hospital
- (2) A central Slaughter House
- (3) A Refuse Destructor

At present the provision of any of these things is impossible, as the borrowing powers of Thorne, Stainforth and Hatfield parishes are exhausted with the cost of the three sewerage schemes. This is perhaps not altogether a misfortune, as the developments in the district are wholly based on Coal mining, and this industry is at present in a very uncertain condition.

### Poor Law Relief :

Out-relief has been given in the various parishes as follows during 1924 and 1925. The figures for 1920 are given for purposes of comparison.—

	1920		1924		1925
	£		£		£
Thorne ...	1591	...	2402	...	2488
Hatfield ...	165	...	326	...	957
Stainforth ...	201	...	765	...	2316
Fishlake ...	104	...	107	...	109
Sykehouse ...	91	...	213	...	273

The usual stoppage of work for a few days at the Collieries during Doncaster Race Week in 1925, caused over 200 applications for relief, almost entirely from Stainforth and Dunscroft. This would seem to indicate that the new mining population is less thrifty than the older and settled population of the district.

### Vital Statistics :

The population given by the Registrar General for the calculation of the birth and death rates of the rural district for 1925 is 14,340. As this figure is below the actual population, the birth and death rates will be unduly high.

TOTAL BIRTHS during 1925, 551. Males 280 ; Females 271.

Legitimate, 516. Males, 261 ; Females, 255.

Illegitimate, 35. Males, 19 ; Females, 16.

Birth rate for district is 38'4.

Birth Rate for England is 18'3.

TOTAL DEATHS during 1925, 220. Males, 122 ; Females, 98.

Death Rate is 15'3.

Death Rate for England is 12'2.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR PER 1,000 BIRTHS, 107.

Legitimate, 53 ; Illegitimate, 6 ; Total, 59.

Rate for England, 75 per 1,000 births.

NUMBER OF WOMEN DYING IN, OR IN CONSEQUENCE OF CHILDBIRTH—  
2 from Puerperal Sepsis

Deaths from Measles (all ages) 6.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) 3.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 3.



### Causes of Death in Thorne Rural District for 1925.

Causes of Death—			M.		F.
All causes	...	...	122	...	98
Measles	...	...	3	...	3
Whooping Cough	...	...	2	...	1
Influenza	...	...	4	...	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	—	...	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	6	...	15
Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	5	...	5
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	5	...	4
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	1	...	—
Cerebral Hemorrhage, etc.	...	...	6	...	7
Heart disease	...	...	11	...	5
Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	4	...	3
Bronchitis	...	...	1	...	5
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	17	...	11
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	8	...	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	2	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	1	...	—
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	—	...	2
Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...	15	...	11
Other deaths from violence	...	...	8	...	1
Other defined diseases	...	...	21	...	17
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	2	...	3

### Notifiable Diseases during the Year :

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox ...	None		
Scarlet Fever ...	21	12	0
Diphtheria ...	10	5	0
Enteric Fever ...	1	0	0
Puerperal Fever ...	1	1	2
Pneumonia ...	34	0	7
Erysipelas ...	14	0	0

One of the deaths from Puerperal Fever occurred outside the district, and the case was not notified here.

### Ophthalmia Neonatorum :

Five cases were notified. Four children were treated at home and the vision was unimpaired. One child was removed to Doncaster Infirmary and made a good recovery.

Dr. C. D. WALKER, Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital, reports as follows :—

“ Cases admitted to Hospital, 1925 :

Scarlet Fever	...	...	12 cases
Diphtheria	...	...	5 „
Puerperal Fever	...	...	1 case

Average number of days in Hospital :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	53·5
Diphtheria	...	...	18

All patients made a good recovery.”

With the willing co-operation of the medical practitioners in the district, the Milne method of treating Scarlet Fever cases at home is still used with satisfactory results. The main feature of this treatment is the daily inunction of eucalyptus or carbolic oil, which is supplied free to those who will use it. This has helped to meet the shortage of beds in the hospital. The cases of Scarlet Fever during the year were of a mild type, and there were no deaths from this disease.

### **Tuberculosis :**

The following table gives a summary of the cases notified during the year, also of the deaths, arranged in age periods.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	3
1	4	3	0	1	0	1	2	2
5	3	1	1	1	0	1	0	0
10	3	7	1	0	0	2	0	0
15	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
20	4	0	0	0	1	2	0	0
25	8	7	1	0	2	3	1	0
35	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	0
45	3	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
55	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
And upwards 65	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
	31	22	3	4	6	16	5	5



Out of the 32 Tuberculosis deaths 13 were of non-notified cases. Notification of Tuberculosis is still not efficient, chiefly as regards the non-pulmonary forms.

### **School Closures.**

Closures of Schools in consequence of Epidemic sickness, 1925 :—

			From (inclusive dates)	To	Wks.	Days
Hatfield Levels Council	...	Measles	May 5	May 22	2	4
Sykehouse Council	...	Measles	Jan. 22	Feb. 20	4	2

### **Summary of Nursing Arrangements, etc., in the District.**

#### **Professional Nursing in the Home :**

District Nurse at Hatfield, supported by the Hatfield Nursing Association.

District Nurse at Stainforth, supported by the Stainforth Nursing Association.

#### **Midwives :**

In addition to the Nurses at Hatfield and Stainforth, there is one certified midwife practising at Stainforth.

Three midwives are in practice at Thorne.

#### **Clinics :**

*Maternity and Child Welfare Centre* at Thorne meets every Wednesday at 2-30 p.m.

*Tuberculosis Dispensary* at Thorne under the management of the West Riding County Council, is held on Fridays, 3 to 5 p.m.

*Venereal Diseases.* A Clinic is held at Doncaster Royal Infirmary. Women and Children—Mondays, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Men—Wednesdays, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

#### **Hospitals :**

*The Thorne Workhouse Infirmary* has 44 beds available for the treatment of the sick poor.

*The Isolation Hospital* at Thorne has 7 beds which are only fully available when the cases are all of the same infectious disease. It is a converted farmhouse and the chief objections to it are its smallness, the lack of constant water supply and modern bathroom fittings. The opinion expressed by the Ministry of Health in 1922, that the buildings were not suitable for use as an infectious hospital, and could not be made so, is undoubtedly correct. The usual provision for infectious diseases is one bed per thousand of the population. It is not surprising therefore that many cases of scarlet fever had to be refused admission during the year. The hospital is now reserved for the treatment of enteric fever and diphtheria cases, and is as far as possible being kept empty for possible smallpox cases, which keep occurring in neighbouring districts.

*Cases requiring Surgical Treatment* are mostly sent to Doncaster Royal Infirmary, though the hospitals at Hull, Leeds and Sheffield, also take in some of the cases from the district.

*Maternity Cases* are admitted to the Edenfield Nursing Home at Doncaster. This Home is managed by the West Riding County Council, and any prospective mother in the district can, if she so wishes, arrange to have her confinement there. It is advisable to communicate beforehand with Dr. J. R. KAYE, County Hall, Wakefield, who will send details of the financial arrangements. It may be stated that the charges are strictly in accordance with the income of the household, and that no case is refused on the ground of poverty.

#### **Ambulance Facilities :**

*For Infectious Cases.* These cases are removed to hospital in a horse-drawn ambulance.

*For Accident Cases.* Ambulances are stationed at Thorne Colliery and Hatfield Main Colliery.

#### **Bacteriology :**

Containers for sputum, and sterile swabs for suspected throat cases are supplied on request to medical men. The examinations are made without charge by the County Public Health Laboratory at Wakefield.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is supplied free of charge for use in notified cases and contacts.



## ADOPTIVE ACTS, Etc.

The following Adoptive Acts are in force in the district:—

ACT	ADOPTION
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890	1891
Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890	1890
Notification of Births Act, 1907	1914
P.H. Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (part of)	1923

The following Bye-laws and Regulations are in force in the district :—

BYE-LAWS	DATE OF ADOPTION
Private Scavenging	1883
Prevention of Nuisances	1877
Common Lodging Houses	1883
New Streets and Buildings	1894
" " (amended)	1912
Slaughter-houses	1883
Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-shops Order	1900

### Notification of Births Acts:

The West Riding County Council is the Authority under the Acts.

A whole-time Nurse is stationed at Thorne, for the work of Health Visiting and School Nursing. Her district includes all the parishes of the Rural District, with the exception of Stainforth, which is visited by a Nurse stationed at Barnby Dun.

## SEWERAGE.

**THORNE.**

The sewerage of old Thorne Town is still discharged into the Boating Dyke, an open drain which reaches the Trent, and into the Black Drain at Moorends. This unsatisfactory arrangement will not last much longer, as adequate sewerage works for both old and new towns are being constructed. The part relating to the new town is having priority, but the whole scheme will be completed within the next few years.

**STAINFORTH.**

This town is now adequately drained by the work completed in 1924, with the exception of the houses at the end of East Lane and Station Road, and those houses down the east and west banks of the canal. It is hoped that the houses in East Lane and Station Road will all be joined up to the main system in 1926, but owing to their position the canal bank houses will have to retain their more primitive arrangements for some time.

**HATFIELD.**

The new colliery houses on the Parks Estate are now all adequately drained into the system commenced in October, 1924. This scheme is practically completed, but has not yet been joined up with the electric power system of the Yorkshire Electrical Distribution Company. In the meantime, the sewage of both old and new towns goes into the Hatfield drains, which eventually reach the Trent by means of the South Soak Drain. A new sewer will be necessary for the colliery houses near the railway station.

**FISHLAKE and SYKEHOUSE.**

The scattered houses in these parishes have their sewage led into sewage dykes or straight into the river Don.

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## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr. B. Woodley reports as follows :

**Dairies, Cowsheds, etc. :**

- 53 Wholesale Traders on Register.
- 56 Purveyors on the Register.
- 280 Inspections made during the year.
- 3 Cow-houses required lime-washing.
- 1 Cow-house floor required repairing.

All defects remedied.

**Bakehouses :**

- 9 Bakehouses on the Register.
- All inspected during the year.
- 2 required lime-washing.



**Slaughter-houses :**

13 Slaughter-houses on the Register.

2 needed lime-washing.

**Private Slaughter-houses in Use :**

		1920		Jan., 1925		Dec., 1925
Registered	...	4	...	4	...	4
Licensed	...	8	...	9	...	9
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	...	12	...	13	...	13
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

**Common Lodging Houses :**

1 on the Register, situate at Stainforth.

Kept in satisfactory condition.

**Canal Boats :**

175 on the Register.

23 Inspected.

159 Boats in use.

**Factories and Workshops :**

92 Workshops on the Register.

3 Factories " "

All inspected and found fairly satisfactory.

1 Workshop required lime-washing.

1 Closet required repairing.

These have been attended to.

**House Scavenging :**

The House Scavenging in the parishes of Thorne, Stainforth, and Hatfield is done by contract.

The scavenging has been done in a satisfactory manner.

**Closet Accommodation in the District :**

No. of Box Closets, 1,078.

No. of Privies with covered middens, 1,386.

No. of Water Closets, 1,663.

**New Houses :**

No. of new houses built during the year, 671.

**Nuisances :**

Nuisances were investigated as follows :—

Pigsties	...	...	...	3
Blocked Drains	...	...	...	40
Manure Heaps	...	...	...	2
Privies	...	...	...	12
Fowl Keeping	...	...	...	5
Dirty open Drains	...	...	...	2
Insanitary Yards	...	...	...	7
Cesspools	...	...	...	4
Closets with removable pans	...	...	...	19
				—
		Total	...	94
				—
No. of nuisances abated	...	...	...	89
" " unabated at end of year	...	...	...	5
No. of written notices given	...	...	...	59
No. of verbal notices given	...	...	...	35
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	93
Samples of water taken	...	...	...	8

**Plans :**

No. of Plans approved as follows :—

Bungalows	...	...	...	19
Houses	...	...	...	584
Houses and Shops	...	...	...	8
Lock-up Shops	...	...	...	12
Places of Worship	...	...	...	1
Various	...	...	...	6

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## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

**Milk Supply :**

Samples of milk are examined by the inspectors of the West Riding County Council.

No licences have been granted for the sale of milk under Special Designations under the Fourth Schedule of the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923.



No refusal or revocation of registration of retailers of milk has been made during the year.

### **Meat :**

Meat is inspected at the time of slaughter, or as soon after slaughter as possible.

No marking of meat is done under the Meat Regulations of 1924.

All diseased meat is disinfected and buried.

All stalls, vehicles, shops and stores are inspected regularly.

There is no public slaughter-house.

## GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

Owing to the large number of new houses which have been built during the last three years, the general standard of housing in the district is high. There are still about 100 very old cottages in Thorne which are seriously defective, but still occupied, partly because the tenants cannot get better houses, and partly because the lower rents are all some people can afford. The demand for houses in the district is very keen, and is likely to remain so till the new colliery villages are completed.

Overcrowding is difficult to estimate as there has been a large element of migratory labour in the district owing to the various sewage schemes, water-main laying, and electric cable laying. These men have all had to find lodgings in the district. There are also numerous instances of two families living in one house, but this has been chiefly in the new houses, and due to miners leaving their work at local collieries, and thus losing their houses.

## HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	671
(b) With State assistance under Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923 :						
(i) By Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(ii) By other bodies or persons	...	...	...	...	...	667

**1. Unfit Dwelling-houses.**

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	93
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ...	93
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	2
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	45

**2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers...	nil
--	-----

**3. Action under Statutory Powers.****A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ....	45
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—	
(a) by owners ... ..	45
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	nil

**B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	58
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) by owners ... ..	58
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	nil

**C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.**

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... ..	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	2
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... ..	nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	nil



### Water Supply :

Thorne, Hatfield and Stainforth parishes are served with a public supply obtained from a deep bore into the new red sandstone about one mile from Hatfield. The water is of good quality and is soft for a supply obtained from the new red sandstone. The supply is constant. An analysis made in June, 1925, gave results as follows :—

Total Solid Matters	...	...	23.00	grains per gallon
Chlorine (combined)	...	...	1.10	" "
Nitrites	...	...	none	" "
Nitrogen as Nitrates	...	...	.5960	" "
Free Ammonia	...	...	.0007	" "
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	.0007	" "
Lead	...	...	none	" "
Total Hardness (Clark's Scale)	...	...	8.00	" "
Temporary Hardness	...	...	1.50	" "
Permanent Hardness	...	...	6.50	" "

The Analyst says, "This is a very pure water in its present condition. The nitric nitrogen suggests that there has been infiltration of impurities into the water in times past, but these have been completely oxidised and are harmless. The hardness is not great, and about one-fifth of it is removable by boiling."

All the new colliery houses in Hatfield and Stainforth parishes are served with the Company's water.

Messrs. Pease & Partners propose to supply their own village with water from a deep bore into the new red sandstone.

It is unfortunate that the Thorne and District Water Company has no further capital available for extensions of their mains. Districts like Waterside at Thorne, the south, east and west banks at Stainforth, and the village of Fishlake, are all anxious for a good supply of water, which the Company is unable to give them through want of money. These districts, along with the parish of Sykehouse and the outlying parts of Thorne and Hatfield parishes, are dependent upon shallow wells and rain water.

### Water Supply of Schools :

The Thorne Council School, the Thorne Travis School, Hatfield Travis School, Thorne Grammar School, Stainforth Council and Infants Schools, are all served with the public supply.

Moorends School has a deep bore. Hatfield Woodhouse, Fishlake, Black Bull, and Sykehouse Schools are supplied from shallow wells.

At Medge Hall School rain water is stored for washing and drinking purposes.

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I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health.

*April 15th, 1926.*



