TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WALSOKEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Gentlemen,

The Annual Report for the year ending December 31st 1909, which I again have the honour of submitting to you, is, taken as a whole, of a very satisfactory character, as the District throughout the year has again enjoyed a remarkable immunity from outbreaks of infectious and contagious diseases. Your District being so intimately connected with the town adjoining, naturally it shares to a great extent in common the same visitation of these Zymotic diseases, but it is again very gratifying to note that only three deaths were caused by infectious illness, and these were caused by Diphtheria, which is at all times a serious complaint, and one which requires very prompt attention.

At all times vigorous measures have been taken to limit the spread of these diseases, and have proved very valuable, at the same time the District has been kept in a very cleanly and sanitary condition, and we have endeavoured to improve the health of the people generally whenever possible.

Reviewing the various infectious diseases scarlet fever has this year been somewhat more prevalent, but the cases taken generally were of a mild type, there were 11 cases reported compared with 5 last year and of these one was removed to the Isolation Hospital. Diphtheria proved again to be by far the most serious illness with which we had to deal, the cases occurred in different parts of the District, and in isolated houses throught the year. There were 20 cases notified and of these 7 were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Erysipelas made its appearance in three cases only, all of which were of a mild character.

Measles this year was entirely absent, which is very gratifying, as you will remember the trouble this malady caused us so recently.

Typhoid Fever existed again in two cases only which again shews the great value of the excellent supply of water with which the District is supplied, and which now is practically the only water supply of the District, excepting the outlying country houses.

In every case of infectious illness which has been notified great care has been taken in the supplying of disinfectants and in obtaining proper isolation, in addition to this, any nuisance which has come to my knowledge has been attended to and removed as soon as possible. I am glad to know that the condition of the houses and yards in Old Walsoken has much improved, and that the disposal of sewerage matter etc in this part of the district is having your careful consideration.

The working of the main and smaller sewers, and drains, as a whole has been very satisfactory, very few complaints have been made and the drainage of George Street, Duke Street, and Prince's Street continues much more satisfactory. Periodical flushing of these would further greatly assist in their efficiency. There is a decided improvement in the conditions surrounding the various Slaughter Houses, Cowsheds, Milk Supplies, and other buildings. The Printing Factory continues employing a large number of workpeople, and I am glad to find that great care continues being taken in providing ample Sanitary accommodation for those working there.

The number of Births during the year was 118, compared with 106 last year. Of these 65 were males and 53 females, giving a birth rate of 32.5 per 1000, which is again a very large percentage for such a District.

The number of deaths from all causes was 43, compared with 35 last year, when the death rate was so exceptionally low, giving a death rate of 11.8 per 1000. This very small percentage of deaths conclusively proves what a very healthy District this is to live in. Out of this number there were 17 deaths in infants, still

too large a proportion, giving a death rate of 140 per 1000 of the births registered.

The deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs were from Pneumonia 4, Bronchitis 2 and from Heart Diseases 4, whilst cancer caused 1 and accidents 2 deaths.

I have now to note the prevalence of Phthisis but fortunately this year no death has been caused by this affection.

Herewith I beg to hand you full tabular statements of Births, Sickness and Mortality for this period together with records of previous years for comparison.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

Harry Groom. M.D.

Medical Officer of Health.