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Contributors

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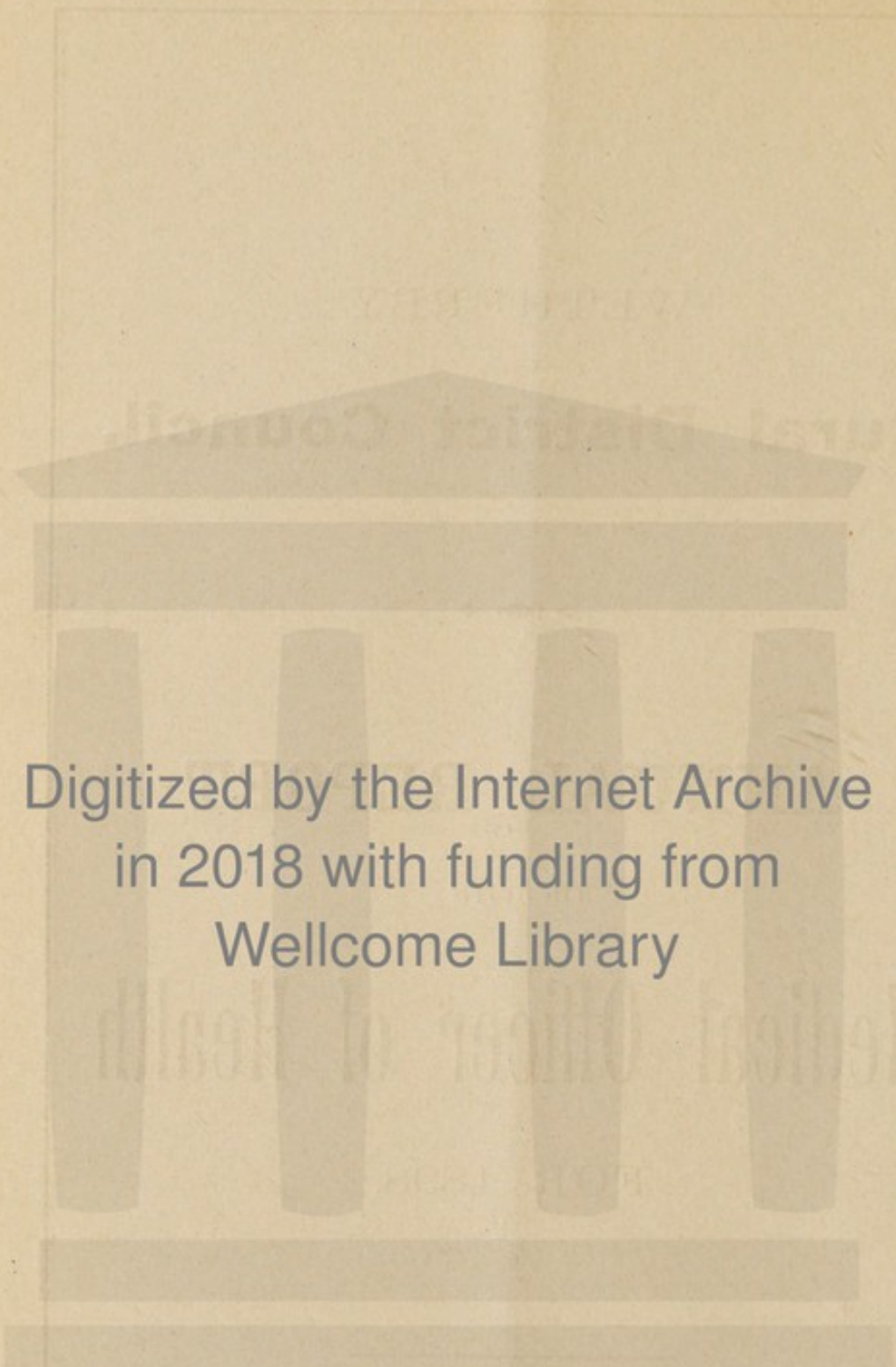
WETHERBY
Rural District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR 1898.

WETHERBY:
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1899.



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WETHERBY
Rural : District : Council.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1898.

TO THE WETHERBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

The year 1898 has been remarkable for the prevalence of Infectious Disease in the district. In all 123 cases were reported as follows :—

Scarlet Fever.....	111
Diphtheria	3
Typhoid Fever	4
Puerperal Fever	2
Erysipelas	3

This is the largest number of infectious cases reported since the Notification Act was adopted, the numbers for each year being :—

1890	107 cases.	1895	94 cases.
1891	No record.	1896	57 „
1892	21 cases.	1897	55 „
1893	38 „	1898	123 „
1894	77 „		

The deaths from the notifiable diseases have been five in number, two from Scarlet Fever, one from Typhoid, one from Puerperal Fever, and one from Erysipelas

**Scarlet
Fever.**

Scarlet Fever has been exceptionally prevalent during the year, and has given rise to much anxiety. The following Table will show the Parishes it has invaded, the number of cases in each Parish in each month, and the number removed to the Isolation Hospital.

TABLE I.

<i>Name of Parish or Institution.</i>	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>March.</i>	<i>April.</i>	<i>May.</i>	<i>June.</i>	<i>July.</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	<i>Cases Reported.</i> <i>Removed to Hosp'l.</i>	<i>Cases Reported.</i> <i>Removed to Hosp'l.</i>	<i>Cases Reported.</i> <i>Removed to Hosp'l.</i>	<i>Cases Reported.</i> <i>Removed to Hosp'l.</i>	<i>Cases Reported.</i> <i>Removed to Hosp'l.</i>	<i>Cases Reported.</i> <i>Removed to Hosp'l.</i>	<i>Cases Reported.</i> <i>Removed to Hosp'l.</i>	<i>Cases Reported.</i> <i>Removed to Hosp'l.</i>	<i>Cases Reported.</i> <i>Removed to Hosp'l.</i>	<i>Cases Reported.</i> <i>Removed to Hosp'l.</i>	<i>Cases Reported.</i> <i>Removed to Hosp'l.</i>	<i>Cases Reported.</i> <i>Removed to Hosp'l.</i>	<i>Cases Reported.</i> <i>Removed to Hosp'l.</i>
Boston Spa		2					1			1			2
Collingham										1			1
East Keswick	2						1			1			3
Kirk Deighton									1	1			2
Kirkby Overblow													2
Shadwell		2				1			1				4
Spoforth								1					2
Thorner				1								5	6
Wetherby							3	19	7	4		2	38
Bilton						5	2	7	6	5	3	2	5
Bickerton						7	2						9
Linton						4	2	1	2				9
Sicklinghall								1					1
Ribston								1		3		1	10
North Deighton										1	6	*7	1
St. John's Institution..	5	6											11
Shadwell Indust'l Sch'l	2									2			2
Isolation Hospital													2
Total	9	10		1		17	8	26	10	12	10	8	111
						3	3	9	6	10	9		40

* Three cases from Ribston notified in October refused removal, but removed in November.

The disease has broken out in 15 Parishes and two public institutions. Until June it gave little trouble, but in that month 17 cases were reported, and the maximum was reached in August, when 26 cases were reported, occurring in 6 Parishes. From August the disease gradually declined, 8 cases occurring in December.

On August 31st. I submitted a special report dealing with the origin and spread of the disease up to that time. I pointed out that the disease originated at Bickerton and Bilton (where it had been prevalent the previous year), and that it then spread to Wetherby, where for a while it threatened to become epidemic, remaining in the town until the end of the year, but gradually decreasing in prevalence. In the case of the outbreak at Linton, where 9 cases occurred during the summer, it is probable the disease was introduced from Leeds. We found it impossible to trace the origin of the 10 cases which occurred at Ribston, and 5 cases which occurred at Thorner could not be satisfactorily traced.

In many instances the want of proper care (either wilful or accidental) has been the cause of infection; in some cases isolation was very badly carried out, while in others disinfection was incomplete. In several instances my attention was drawn to children in the desquamating stage of the disease, whose parents not having realised that they were suffering from Scarlet Fever, were allowing them to run about and associate with other children. Not only had we to deal with the disease thus spreading in our own district, but we had several fresh outbreaks, which were clearly traced to infection imported by visitors. Fortunately these outbreaks were confined to a few cases in each instance.

An interesting incident occurred showing how the disease is spread. A boy having been in the Hospital suffering from Scarlet Fever was discharged on October 3rd. On October 3rd. he commenced attendance at the village school, and continued daily until October 24th. There was no other Scarlet Fever in the village, and neither his brother nor any other child took the disease from him. On October 22nd he revisited the Hospital to bring home some articles of clothing he had left there. The clothing had been disinfected and made into a parcel a week before in anticipation of his visit. Unfortunately the parcel had been placed in the Nurse's kitchen on a shelf adjoining the toy box. The boy did not enter the Hospital premises, but was allowed to take the parcel home. On October 24th his younger brother developed symptoms of Scarlet Fever and was eventually removed to the Hospital. No other children in the village or in the neighbourhood took the disease.

After the Isolation Hospital was opened the value of isolation and disinfection became very evident. If a patient was removed to the Hospital in the early stage of the disease it was a very rare occurrence to have a second case in the same house; on the other hand in some cases where removal of the first case was objected to, 3 or 4 cases afterwards occurred in the house. In cases where other forms of sickness existed in the house, or where business of some description had to be carried on, the Hospital proved of great value. In the early part of the year Scarlet Fever occurred in two instances on large milk farms. In one instance it was possible to remove the cattle to another farm, but in the other case such a course could not be

pursued, and the children had to be isolated at home, entailing a great financial loss upon their parents, which would have been obviated if the Isolation Hospital had been open at this time.

In the early part of the year 11 cases of Scarlet Fever occurred at St. John's Institute. The children had to be isolated in the centre of the building, and it was only by the exercise of most vigilant care on the part of the school authorities that no more children were affected.

At Shadwell Industrial School 2 cases occurred, which were isolated elsewhere. I think the attention of the Council should be given not only to these schools, but to the large number of Private Schools in the district, as it is apparent that failure to check at the beginning an outbreak of Infections Disease in them would seriously handicap their prospects, and might mean ruin to some of them. Our Hospital might be of service to some extent, but its accommodation is only limited.

In connection with the Thorparch Grange Industrial School, the Leeds School Board have this year furnished a sanatorium some distance from the school, and capable of completely isolating 8 children.

Typhoid Fever.

Four cases of Typhoid Fever occurred during the year. Of these 3 were in Thorparch Parish, where 2 occurred in one house. This house is supplied with river water, but it was reported that the victims of the disease had been in the habit of drinking water from the village well. The other case in Thorparch (a fatal one) occurred at a house where a child suffered from the same disease two years ago. At that time the drainage of the house and its surroundings was re-constructed and put into a fairly satisfactory condition. The water supply is derived from the river. A notice was served upon the owner to provide a pure supply.

The fourth case occurred at Marston, and here it was found that the drainage was defective and the well water impure. The former has been remedied, and the use of the latter advised to be discontinued.

Measles and Whooping Cough.

Measles and Whooping Cough prevailed in some parts of the district, but not so extensively as in the previous year. The schools were closed at Shadwell, Spofforth, and Thórner. There were two deaths from Whooping Cough, and 1 from Measles.

Diarrhoea.

Diarrhoea caused 13 deaths, 7 of which were of children under 5 years of age. The deaths were evenly distributed throughout the district, not more than one case in a Parish, except Bramham and East Keswick, each having two deaths. I have not been able to obtain particulars showing the relationship between insanitary conditions and prevalence of Diarrhoea.

Influenza.

I am afraid Influenza has now to be counted an annual visitor. There have been 8 deaths, including 1 in a child under 5 years, from this complaint. In 1897 there were 5 deaths from Influenza.

Phthisis and Tubercular Diseases.

Much attention is at present being paid throughout the country to the prevalence of Tubercular Diseases and the methods of reducing their mortality. It may be an advantage to consider our own position in this matter.

Between 1885 and 1894 the mortality in the Wetherby Union from Phthisis was 1·53 per thousand (England about 1·64); 1895, 1·52; 1896, 1·17; 1897, 0·82.

In 1898 there were 20 deaths from Phthisis, making a death rate of 1·49, and 9 deaths from other forms of Tubercular Disease. In Boston Spa and Thorparch alone there were 5 deaths from Phthisis. It is therefore evident that simple residence in the country is not a sufficient protection against Phthisis and allied troubles, and that if Consumption is to be exterminated in our district more attention must be paid to the causes of the disease. I think the possibility of disinfecting houses after a death from Phthisis should be considered. A case came under my notice during the year in which the father of a family died of Phthisis in a "back to back" house, which had only one bedroom. I found the expectoration of the patient freely distributed not only over the floor of the bedroom, but also over the wall. I explained the condition of the house to the agent of the property and he promptly had it thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. A similar action might be carried out in a systematic manner if the Registrar were asked to notify every death from Phthisis (as he notifies deaths from Infectious Disease). The Sanitary Inspector could then visit the house and advise or assist in disinfection; he could at the same time examine the house and report to the Sanitary Committee any sanitary defect, overcrowding, want of proper ventilation or light. Such a course would entail no additional cost to the Council, but would assist in improving bad dwelling-houses and keeping a watch over milk supplies. It is interesting to find the climate of the district suitable for the open air treatment of Consumption, several cases treated in this manner during the year having given very satisfactory results.

Cancer. Cancer is recorded as a cause of death in 10 cases, 3 being in Boston Spa. The average age of the victims was 63·7 years, and the death rate ·746 per thousand.

Sanitary Work. Many sanitary improvements have been made during the year, and the work of the Sanitary Committee has been very considerable.

Bilton. At Bilton the sanitary improvements commenced in the previous year were carried on. In one instance a prosecution was necessary before an ashpit could be covered in. Most of the ashpits in the village have now been re-constructed, and the houses drained into properly constructed cesspools. The water from the public well (which was bored deeper in 1897), has improved in purity, and no complaints have latterly been made regarding it.

Boston Spa. The new sewerage works at Boston Spa have now been commenced, and are to be completed in a few months' time. Many of the insanitary conditions in the village have to be left over until the completion of the works.

Bramham. Much attention has been paid to the sanitary condition of Bramham, and considering the somewhat high death rate, I am afraid the village still requires attention. In January the Sanitary Committee paid a visit to the village, and were surprised at its insanitary condition. They advised that notices be served upon the owners of 92 uncovered ashpits, that the attention of the scavenging contractor be drawn to the unsatis-

factory state of the privies, etc., and that the advisability of a new drainage system be considered. Most of the ashpits have now been rebuilt, and the condition of the village, in this respect, is much improved. It has been thought advisable to defer the question of a drainage system until a water supply can also be procured, although the West Riding Rivers Board have several times written drawing the attention of the Council to the pollution of the stream passing through the village. Action has been taken in regard to certain old and dilapidated cottages which had become a danger to the public. The necessary legal proceedings have been taken, and the houses have since been pulled down.

Clifford. Little advance has been made with the proposed sewerage of Clifford. The delay is chiefly due to the difficulty of obtaining a suitable site, but it is hoped that difficulty will now soon be removed.

North Deighton. At North Deighton the public well water was analysed and found to be fairly good. The surroundings of the well were in a very unsatisfactory state, and rendered the water liable to pollution. The defects were quickly remedied, and the possibility of pollution rendered remote. The Sanitary Committee decided that all the ashpits should be covered in and some of of them reconstructed. Much of this work has already been done. The Committee also decided that the public pond should be cleansed during the summer. This has not yet been done, but it is hoped it will be accomplished during the year.

Shadwell. The sanitary state of Shadwell has been considered, and an Engineer was appointed to advise the Council on the sewerage of the village. The Engineer submitted plans to the Council in October, and a scheme is now receiving the attention of the Local Government Board.

Spofforth. The plans for improved sewerage arrangements at Spofforth have been several times before the Council. Although the Council has been pressed by the Rivers Board, it is felt that the cost of the proposed scheme is too great, and no satisfactory means of reducing the expenditure have yet been found.

Thorner. The drainage of Thorner has been considered, an Engineer engaged, and the plans for a new system of sewers submitted. The plans were submitted in May to the Parish Council of Thorner for consideration, but though it was understood they approved of them, nothing further has been done in the matter. The County Council and Rivers Board are pressing the matter.

Tockwith. At Tockwith a little more progress has been made. In February a Government enquiry was held regarding the Council's application for compulsory purchase of land. The power was obtained, and the land for outfall works has been purchased. The work will be commenced as soon as the Local Government Board's permission is obtained.

Wetherby. Complaints have been made during the year of offensive odours arising from the Sewage Farm at Wetherby. The management of the sewage on the farm was at times found to be faulty, but this defect it is thought has been remedied. It has been suggested also that the Brewery refuse has some connection with the odours. An intercepting tank fitted with screens has been put down by the Brewery Company, but as the trouble from the farm is most marked in the summer months, the effect of these improvements cannot be fully tested. One

of the sewers of the town has been extended 70 yards along Barley Fields Lane to receive the drainage of some new property, and it is hoped the drain will soon be continued to reach existing houses higher up the lane.

Bickerton. The Local Government Board wrote enquiring about the sanitary condition of the village. The Sanitary Inspector reported several houses defective in their sanitary arrangements, and steps were taken to have these remedied.

Scavenging. The scavenging department of your Council's work has given rise to much trouble and annoyance in some parishes. The public scavenging now applies to six parishes, and judging by the bitter complaints made when the work is at all neglected, I cannot but conclude the annoyances endured by the inhabitants of parishes not provided with public scavenging must be very trying indeed.

In 1897 the contract system in Clifford and Boston was abolished and your Council decided to have the work done under your own supervision. The work was not carried out in a satisfactory way and in May, 1898, deputations from the Parish Councils of Boston Spa and Clifford waited upon the Sanitary Committee, and complained of the enormous cost of the scavenging and of the unsatisfactory manner in which the work was being done. The cost at Boston Spa alone, from October, 1897, to September, 1898, was £370. The Sanitary Committee believed the Parish Councils had cause to complain, and agreed to again let the scavenging by contract. I was also agreed that the Parish Councils should appoint a committee of observation to assist in seeing the work done thoroughly, but not in any way to interfere with the duties or responsibility of the Sanitary Inspector. In November it was discovered that the contractor at Clifford was not doing his work satisfactorily, and the Clerk to the Council had occasion to write to him concerning the matter.

Trouble also occurred in Shadwell. In October the contractor was found to be so neglecting his duties that it was decided to give him notice terminating his contract and to appoint a new contractor.

In Wetherby, where the work is done entirely by the Council, scarcely a complaint has been made, everything being done in a regular and systematic manner.

I have worked out in the following Table the scavenging cost per house per annum. It will be seen the figures vary very much, but speak for themselves. It should be borne in mind that some parishes have many more cesspools than others.

Parish.	Number of Houses in Parish, 1891 Census.	Present Cost of Scavenging.	Cost per House per annum.
		£	£ s. d.
Bramham	248	25	0 2 0
Boston Spa	300	250	1 4 0
Clifford	189	40	0 4 2 $\frac{3}{4}$
Shadwell	198	43	0 4 4
Thorner	216	31	0 2 0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Wetherby	401	141	0 7 0 $\frac{1}{4}$

**Slaughter
Houses.**

The nuisances arising from badly kept Slaughter Houses have been numerous. They have chiefly arisen from the retention of offal and blood too long about the premises, and often in a manure pit. In some instances notices were served upon the butchers to remove all offal, etc., within twenty-four hours after slaughter. There are no bye-laws in the district dealing with Slaughter Houses. An attempt was made to induce your Council to adopt such bye-laws, but the effort failed. This was very much to be regretted as these bye-laws are almost as great a benefit to the butcher as to the general public, the latter of whom, at any rate, have suffered very much from this cause during the past year.

**Isolation
Hospital.**

The new Isolation Hospital, opened in July, owing to the serious outbreak of Scarlet Fever, had to be used before the outside work was complete, and the water supply, the roads, the drainage, and laying out of the grounds are still incomplete. It has also been found that the open verandah is very objectionable in stormy weather, and your Committee decided to cover it in with wood and glass, and to provide the same with sliding doors for use in fine weather. As I have already stated, the Hospital has proved a great success. 40 cases were treated between July 16th and December 31st, and for many weeks running many cases could not be accommodated. The average number of days per case in Hospital was 49. There was only one death and that in a child suffering from the malignant form of the disease. Linton sent 5 cases, Wetherby 20, Kirk Deighton 2, Sicklinghall 1, Ribston 10, Collingham 1, East Keswick 1.

**District
Water
Supply.**

The question of a water supply for the district has occupied much attention during the year. A proposal was before your Council in the early part of the year to obtain water from the millstone grit at Collingham, and supply Wetherby and Boston Spa, with possible extensions to Bramham, Clifford and Collingham. It was felt that a larger scheme to supply also other parishes in the district was necessary, and in August the Leeds Corporation was approached in the matter, but the terms they suggested were considered very unsatisfactory. In September several conferences were held with the promoters of a Company who proposed to supply the whole of the Wetherby district with water obtained from the millstone grit at Shadwell. The Company proposed to supply the most needy parishes within two years, and the remainder of the district within five years. Your Council, after carefully considering the proposals, decided to accept them (on certain conditions), and to give the

Company its support. The Company is at present seeking Parliamentary powers to carry out these proposals.

Vital Statistics. The death rate of the district has been rather higher than usual during the year. There have been 252 deaths, making a death rate of 18.68. The births have been 363, making a rate of 27.02. The death rate from Respiratory Diseases (not including Phthisis) was 2.66. Phthisis 1.49, Cancer 0.746, Zymotic Diseases 1.55, Diarrhoea 0.96. The infantile mortality was at the rate of 121 deaths per 1000 registered births. The above statistics are calculated upon a decreasing population.

In the following Table will be found a comparison of the rates in the Wetherby District with the rest of the country.

1898.	<i>England and Wales.</i>	<i>Thirty- three Great Towns.</i>	<i>Sixty- seven other Large Towns.</i>	<i>England and Wales less the 100 towns.</i>	<i>Wetherby Rural District.</i>
Birth Rate	29.4	—	—	—	27.02
Death Rate	17.6	19.0	17.2	16.7	18.68
Zymotic Death Rate.	2.22	2.85	2.41	1.75	1.55
Infantile Mortality ..	161	178	173	145	121

The following Table gives a comparison of the Birth and Death Rates in the larger Parishes for a few years.



In the following Table will be found a comparison of the Birth Rates and Death Rates in the principal Parishes for five years past:—

Districts arranged according to Parish Council area.	Estimated Population in middle of 1898.	Birth Rate per 1000.					Death Rate per 1000.				
		1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
England and Wales	—	—	30.3	29.7	29.7	29.4	—	18.7	17.1	17.4	17.6
Wetherby Rural District....	—	25.61	23.22	25.82	24.67	27.02	15.61	16.72	16.96	16.33	18.68
Bramham-cum-Oglethorpe..	950	32.00	27.27	34.95	28.12	24.21	17.87	24.24	19.56	18.75	23.15
Boston Spa	1000	23.14	20.32	20.08	29.12	32.00	16.02	20.32	17.55	29.12	19.00
Clifford	625 (1)	28.21	9.0	35.25	25.39	28.00	9.40	21.87	25.24	22.22	22.22
Collingham	310	19.87	4.5	22.96	20.03	11.51	4.5	4.28	22.07	19.32	19.35
Harewood	695	17.35	6.75	4.38	20.09	21.74	6.57	13.1	17.00	5.78	12.94
East Keswick	460	35.61	21.0	35.21	36.15	27.02	21.10	10.92	12.9	17.75	26.08
Kirk Deighton	370	—	31.35	30.82	27.59	33.89	—	24.39	19.02	22.2	10.81
Kirkby Overblow	295	—	27.65	18.35	21.84	28.03	20.85	18.41	22.10	13.79	20.33
North Ripton	321	38.82	23.36	35.50	25.00	22.32	11.14	19.85	14.20	5.76	24.61
Shadwell	1048 (2)	28.28	20.35	23.51	26.27	30.72	24.0	20.35	16.98	8.29	16.75
Spofforth	716	29.35	23.0	30.56	29.62	37.02	17.8	9.68	14.00	17.27	18.51
Thorner	810	22.00	24.9	49.78	16.01	19.60	7.0	24.09	22.62	29.31	19.60
Thorparch	306 (3)	24.22	32.0	27.77	28.00	24.00	10.0	18.00	22.80	14.0	14.00
Tockwith	500	33.61	26.93	20.41	27.58	13.00	10.6	20.2	17.00	10.34	6.25
Weeton	320	6.84	19.69	31.12	25.00	25.26	16.82	16.31	14.15	14.58	15.78
Wetherby	1900 (4)	24.88	25.76	22.16	25.48	15.45	14.34	13.64	16.16	15.15	15.15
Other Parishes	3305	26.40	25.76	22.16	25.48	15.45	14.34	13.64	16.16	15.15	15.15

- (1) Not including St. John's Institution 228.
- (2) " Shadwell Industrial School .. 176.
- (3) Not including Thorparch Industrial School.... 110.
- (4) " Workhouse 51.

I would draw your attention to the high death rates at Bramham and North Ripton, in one instance in four, in the other in five consecutive years. Clifford and Kirkby Overblow are also higher than one would like to see them.

It is also pleasing to note in the following Table that of the total number of deaths in the district one-third were over 65 years of age.

MORTALITY from all Causes at subjoined ages for the year ending December 31st, 1898 :—

Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Total.
44	12	14	16	82	84	252

TABLE SHOWING MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES.

	Under 5 years of age.	Above 5 years of age.
Scarlet Fever	2	0
Typhoid Fever	0	1
Puerperal Fever	0	1
Erysipelas	0	1
Measles	1	0
Whooping Cough	2	0
Diarrhœa	7	6
Rheumatic Fever	1	2
Phthisis	0	20
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy..	12	24
Heart Disease	0	23
Influenza	1	7
Injuries	2	9
All other Causes.....	28	102
Total	56	196

In conclusion, I have again to thank the Members of the various committees and of the Council for the energetic support in the performance of my duties I have received from them during the past year.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. HARGREAVES.

TABLE C. 1898.

WETHERBY RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health—J. A. HARGREAVES, M.B., C.M.

Sanitary Inspector—A. E. CLARK.

WATER SUPPLY—Quality, Various. Action on Lead, Only in the case of rain water.

Any extension or change during 1898? Company propose to supply the District.

Any inadequacy in any part? Yes, in many.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL—

Extensions or Improvements during 1898: Boston Spa now in progress.

Local Government Board Inquiry *re* Tockwith.

Any inadequacy in any part? Several parishes in contemplation of drainage.

SCAVENGING—Are the privy-middens, etc., cleansed by Sanitary staff, by Contractors, or by Owners and Tenants? Wetherby by own staff.

Boston Spa, Clifford, Bramham, Shadwell, and Thorner by Contract.

Remainder of District by occupier.

If scavenging undertaken by District Council, what was the annual cost during 1898? £141 0s. 6d.

ADOPTIVE ACTS—

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890. Not adopted.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890. Adopted June, 1898.

What was the amount paid to practitioners under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Act during 1898? £11 10s. 6d.

BY-LAWS—Any adopted or sanctioned during 1898? None.

Are they properly enforced?

Any deficiency? Yes, except Building.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	Number.		General Condition.	Legal Proceedings (if any).
	Registered.	Inspected.		
Common Lodging Houses	3	3	Good.	None.
Canal Boats	0	—	Troublesome with Offal, &c.	
Slaughter Houses	0	21		
Bakehouses	0	—		
Dairies	71	71		
Cowsheds	71	71		
Milkshops	71	71		
Offensive Trades	0	—		

ISOLATION HOSPITAL—New one opened at Sicklinghall.

Disinfecting Apparatus, Current steam. Type of same, Thresh.

Compensation paid for infected articles destroyed during 1898. None.

DWELLINGS—Number of Houses built during 1898, 31.

General character, Better class.

Any houses unfit for habitation? None at present under notice.

Any overcrowding of persons in houses? Yes.

Any overcrowding of houses on area? No.

Any action taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890? None.

METEOROLOGY—Mean Temperature for the year 1898, Rainfall,
GEOLOGY—Nature of Soil, Various. Subsoil, Various.

MISCELLANEOUS—

Is House-to-house Inspection systematically made? Yes.
Total No. of Nuisances in hand at close of 1897, At close of 1898,
Reported during 1898, 225. Abated during 1898, 298.
Total No. of Summonses or other Legal Proceedings, 4.
No. of Sink wastes disconnected during 1898, 73.
No. of Sink wastes trapped during 1898, 73.
No. of Closets constructed during 1898, Kinds,
Any diseases peculiarly endemic in the district? No.
Any information as to number of deaths from Cancer of all kinds during
1898? Yes, 10.
Any information as to number of deaths from Tabes Mesenterica? One.
Tubercular Meningitis, 3. Tuberculous General, 5.
Vaccination—General efficiency, Good.

What action has been taken in regard to the following matters?

Seizure of Unsound Food—None. Prosecutions—None.
Samples under Sale of Food and Drugs Acts—None. Prosecutions—
None. River Pollution—None.
Smoke Abatement—None. No. of observations taken—None.
Inspection of Factories and Workshops—None.
Schools—No. in District, No. closed on account of outbreaks of
disease, 5. Total duration of closure from this cause, No record.
Burial Grounds—No. in District, Any need for extension?

BIRTHS—Males 194, Females 169; Total 363.

Number illegitimate, included in the above, 26.

Any information as to Still Births, No.

DEATHS—Males 125, Females 127; Total 252.

Number uncertified, included in the above,

RATEABLE VALUE, as stated in Valuation List, calculating Land at half
value, £84,953.

WETHERBY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

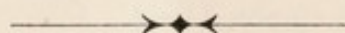
HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector's Report.

TABLE OF NUISANCES Reported and Abated during the Year 1898.

Houses, Dirty	4
„ Overcrowded	1
„ Damp or Dilapidated... ..	7
„ Defective Eaves, Spouts, or Fall Pipes	7
„ Badly Drained	38
„ Without Drains or Sinks	19
„ Without sufficient Privy accommodation... ..	0
„ Dilapidated and Offensive Privies	83
„ Dirty Privies	3
„ Drains Temporarily Stopped	7
„ Dilapidated Pumps	3
„ Want of Cesspools	11
„ Want of Manure Pits	0
„ Want of Water for Domestic Purposes	0

Number of Street Gullies Stopped...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
„ Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ Offensive Pigstyes	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
„ Offensive Cowsheds or Stables...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Pollutions into Rivers, Ditches, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Polluted Wells	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
No. of Houses Nuisances found	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Total Number of Nuisances found	...	...	...	...	...	...	225
Total Number of Houses visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	150
Offensive Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Unregistered Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Unregistered Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1



Notices and Letters Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	384
Dwelling-houses unfit for habitation closed	..	...	...	...	...	...	0
„ „ rendered fit for habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ „ Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ Overcrowded dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Defective Spouting dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of New Midden Privies built	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
„ Old Midden Privies repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	57
„ Old Midden Privies converted into Water-closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ Closets cleansed and whitewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
„ New Drains constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
„ New Drains connected to the Sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ Drains disconnected	...	...	...	...	...	...	73
„ Cesspools constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
„ Public or Private Wells abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
„ Public or Private Wells cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
„ Public or Private Pumps repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
„ Public or Private Pumps erected	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
„ Pollutions into River Streams or Ditches abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
„ Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
„ Manure Pits erected	...	...	...	...	...	...	0
„ Cowsheds, Stables, Pigstyes repaired and drained	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
„ Slaughter-houses visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
„ Lodging-houses visited	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ No. of visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
„ Cowsheds visited	..	...	...	...	...	...	32
„ „ „ No. of visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
„ Houses for work done	...	...	...	...	...	...	265
Total Number of Nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	298

REPORT
ON THE
PROGRESS OF THE
WORK DURING THE
YEAR 1881

Whickham Urban District Council.



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1898.

* * * *

Gateshead-on-Tyne

HOWE BROTHERS, PRINTERS, 85 WEST STREET; WORKS—MELBOURNE STREET.

1899.

General District Council

REPORT

REPORT

General District Council

General District Council

General District Council

General District Council

General District Council

General District Council

General District Council

General District Council

General District Council

General District Council

REPORT.

WHICKHAM,

January 25th, 1899.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your perusal my Report for the year 1898, and to inform you that the number of Deaths registered in the District was 202. To these must be added 7 others, 2 of whom died at the County Asylum, Sedgefield, 4 at the Union Workhouse, Gateshead, and 1 at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Gateshead, thus giving a total of 209. These calculated upon an estimated population of 10,150 to the middle of 1898, gives a death-rate of 20·59. 34 Deaths took place at Whickham, 55 at Swalwell, 26 at Marley Hill, and 87 at Dunston, shewing a slight increase of the death-rate at Swalwell and Dunston, and a decrease at Marley Hill.

The number of Births registered was 351, 61 less than last year, shewing a large decrease in comparison with the previous twelve months. This decrease was more especially in the Dunston and Marley Hill portions of the district. The birth-rate was 35·19.

The number of Deaths of Children under 1 year was 71, as compared with 78 last year, giving an Infantile Mortality of 6·99 per 1,000 Births.

The number of Deaths of Infants in each district was as follows: Whickham 12, Swalwell 20, Marley Hill 5, Dunston 34.

The Deaths due to Zymotic disease, including Diarrhœa, were 23·4 in excess of last year, giving a death-rate of 2·26 per 1,000.

Deaths due to Phthisis were 10, giving a death-rate of 00·98. Last year the death-rate from the same disease was 2·07.

Deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy were 28, giving a death-rate of 2·75 per 1,000, against 1·68 per 1,000 last year.

The number of Infectious Diseases notified was 112, 14 more than last year. Of these, 92 were Scarlatina, 1 Diphtheria, 7 Enteric Fever, and 10 Erysipelas.

For the sake of convenience, it will be as well to comment on the Infectious diseases as they occur in Table A.

Small-pox—nil.

Scarlatina, 92 cases were notified, viz., 25 at Whickham, 9 at Swalwell, 29 at Marley Hill, 29 at Dunston; 2 deaths took place, 1 at Dunston, and 1 at Marley Hill. They were mostly mild cases, and spread pretty generally. All cases notified were at once visited by the Inspector of Nuisances, disinfectants gratuitously distributed, isolation enforced where practicable, and rooms, clothing, and bedding disinfected under his superintendence. A handbill posted throughout the district, cautioning people against visiting infected

houses, was of very little use, as they still continued the practice in spite of everything that was said or done, thus, of course, spreading the infection far and near.

There was one case of Diphtheria notified at Dunston.

No cases of Croup or Typhus.

There were 7 cases of Enteric Fever, as compared with 12 last year, viz., 2 at Swalwell and 5 at Dunston. One case was sent from Swalwell to the Isolation Hospital at Gateshead, and one from Dunston. The Swalwell case unfortunately died, this being the only fatal case in the District.

One case of Continued Fever at Dunston, and 10 cases of Erysipelas.

Measles, one death occurred.

Whooping Cough was prevalent in Dunston, Swalwell, and Marley Hill, and caused 11 deaths. These were mostly complicated with Bronchial Pneumonia, and were caused in a great measure by the carelessness of the parents in allowing their children to run about the streets and get cold.

Diarrhœa was prevalent in August and September, and caused 7 deaths.

Scavenging. This is still improving, but leaves much to be desired, as in several portions of the district sufficient attention is not given to the frequent emptying of the ashpits.

The water is good, but the supply irregular, and no notice is given to the consumers when it is about to be

turned off. This is of frequent occurrence, and causes great inconvenience.

The Annual Survey of the whole of the district by your Council and officers took place as usual, when things requiring special notice were brought to your attention.

No prosecution under the Food and Drugs Act has taken place.

Under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 2 notices were served to owners of property, 1 at Market Lane, Swalwell, and the other at Stokoe Square, Dunston. The one at Swalwell was closed under a magistrate's order, the other was repaired and made fit for habitation.

Several cottages are in course of erection throughout the district.

The Isolation Hospital, I am sorry to say, is still in abeyance.

Appended are 'Tables A and B.

I remain,

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

A. W. ATTWATER,

Medical Officer.

TABLES A AND B

(A) TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1898, in the WHICKHAM URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities. (Columns for Population and Births are in Table B.)		MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.						
		At all ages. (b)	Under 1 year. (c)	1 and under 5 (d)	5 and under 15 (e)	15 and under 25 (f)	25 and under 65 (g)	65 and upwards. (h)
WHICKHAM	...	34	12	4	1	1	6	10
SWALWELL	...	55	20	12	3	5	8	6
MARLEY HILL	...	26	5	1	0	4	8	8
DUNSTON	...	87	34	15	7	6	12	13
TOTALS	...	202	71	31	11	16	34	37

TABLE A (CONTINUED).

MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																						
NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public in- stitutions being shown as separate localities.	(i)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneu- monia, & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	
						Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.												
WHICKHAM	Under 5		1												1			2		1	9	14
	5 upwards											1				2	3	2	2		10	20
SWALWELL	Under 5													6	3			4		2	18	33
	5 upwards																2	2	2	3	13	22
MARLEY HILL	Under 5		1											1	1			1			2	6
	5 upwards														2			1	2	3	12	20
DUNSTON	Under 5												1	4		3		12			31	51
	5 upwards																5	4	2	3	22	36
TOTALS	Under 5		2										1	11	5	2		19		3	60	103
	5 upwards											1			2	3	10	9	8	9	57	99

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality—Deaths occurred outside the district among persons belonging thereto, 25 and under 65, 2 deaths; 65 and upwards, 5 deaths. Deaths occurred within the district among persons not belonging thereto, 65 and upwards, 1 death. Total, 8.

Area and Population of the District or Division to which this return relates: Area in Acres, 5,964. Population (last Census), 9,135; Population (estimated to middle of 1898), 10,150. Death Rates:—General, 20·59 per 1,000 Population, estimated to middle of 1898; Infants (under 1 year), 6·99 per 1,000 Births Registered.

M II. (B) TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS, coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1898, in the WHICKHAM URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT; classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public In- stitutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births. (d)	Aged under 5 or over 5. (e)	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.															
	Last Census, 1891. (b)	Esti- mated to middle of 1897. (c)			1	2	3	4	FEVERS.					9	10	11				
									Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	Typhus.				Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.
WHICKHAM	1835	This can not be estimated as no separate Census of the district was taken before 1891.	69	Under 5 5 upwards.		10														
SWALWELL	2148		88	Under 5 5 upwards.		15						1								3
MARLEY HILL.	1827		39	Under 5 5 upwards.		3						1								5
DUNSTON	3325		155	Under 5 5 upwards.		13														2
TOTALS	9135		351	Under 5 5 upwards.		53	1					6	1							10