

The inspector-T.W. Thompson- commented that the York Sanitary Authority had not adopted the Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act 1890, nor any clauses of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890. He made these points about senior officers of the Authority:

MOH: Dr A. Raines was appointed in March 1888. He's a private practitioner in York. His MOH salary is 80 shillings a year, half repaid from County funds. His annual reports had brought to the attention of the SA...cases of illness in association with, and in his belief, dependent upon, insanitary conditions, especially contaminated water supplies...drawn attention to the need for isolation accommodation and means for proper infection of clothing.

Inspector of Nuisances: Mr G. Smallwood appointed May 1874. He'd secured the disconnection of a large majority of sink waste pipes, and covering of many middens and ashpits. Salary 120 shillings a year.

Surveyor: Mr W.G. Penty appointed 2.9. 1876. Salary: 20 shillings a year.

Conclusion: That the SA will earnestly set about the removal of so many unwholesome conditions which now exist.

And a PS: cholera on the Continent presents a fresh and serious danger.

City of York Sanitary Committee minutes also draws attention to the dangers posed by cholera. It meets with the Rural Sanitary Committee (RSC) re. inspection of vessels passing through Naburn Lock from Hull. It's agreed a retain a medical man at an allowance of £3 3s a week, plus board and lodging at the Lock House at a further cost of 28s a week. It was noted that the RSC had bought and fitted a barge as a floating hospital at a cost of £78, to be moored above Naburn Weir, for reception of cholera cases. (2)

SOURCES

1. York Rural Sanitary District (T.W.Thompson) Report to the Local Government Board on the general sanitary condition of the York rural sanitary district. This is item 486 in Thomas, M. (1979) Urban and rural social conditions in industrial Britain, series 2, reports of the Local Government Board 1869-1908. A complete listing and guide to the Harvester microfiche collection, Hassocks, Harvester Press, available at the British Library, Boston Spa.

(2) Minutes of York Sanitary Committee, 30 September 1893 (York City Archives)