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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.



ANNUAL REPORT

ON

THE HEALTH

OF THE

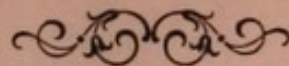
BACUP URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT,

DURING 1893.

BY

JOHN BROWN, M.D., B.S., D. SAN. SCI. VICT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



BACUP :

T. SHEPHERD, ROSSENDALE PRINTING WORKS.

—
1894.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT 1875

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1876

JOHN W. BARNES, M.D., F.R.S.

SECRETARY

LONDON

1877

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.



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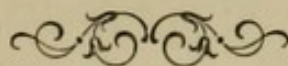
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THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS :—

THE MAYOR (*ex-officio*).

CHAIRMAN—MR. ALDERMAN SALMON.

VICE-CHAIRMAN— „ COUNCILLOR RUSHTON.
„ ALDERMAN HARDMAN.
„ ALDERMAN TAYLOR.
„ COUNCILLOR M. CLEGG.
„ COUNCILLOR R. CLEGG.
„ COUNCILLOR JAS. COLLINGE.
„ COUNCILLOR JOHN COLLINGE.
„ COUNCILLOR FIELDEN.
„ COUNCILLOR KAYE.
„ COUNCILLOR LAW.
„ COUNCILLOR STOCKDALE.

Medical Officer's Annual Report, FOR 1893.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the
Borough of Bacup.*

GENTLEMEN :

In accordance with the instructions of the Local Government Board, I have the honour of presenting you with my Annual Report on the sanitary condition and vital statistics of the Borough of Bacup, for the year 1893.

The area of the Borough is 6,400 acres. The population at the last census was 23,498. I have estimated the population to have been, in the middle of 1893, as 23,500.

BIRTHS.

During 1893, there were 655 births registered—Males 351, Females 304, which is at the rate of 27·34 per 1000. There were 22 illegitimate births—Males 12, Females 10. The birth-rate for England and Wales for 1893 is 30·8 per 1000. Our natural increment of population, due to excess of births over deaths, was 231. As some families have migrated to other towns, this natural increase will probably only make up for this loss, and leave our population practically stationary.

DEATHS.

There were 424 deaths—Males 210, Females 214, which is at the rate of 17·70 per 1000. The death-rate for England and Wales for 1893 was 19·2 per 1000. The

vital statistics for the year are for 53 weeks. The year 1893 has been exceptionally healthy. The deaths being the fewest recorded for the last 16 years. The death-rate of 17.70 per 1000 may be considered very good for a manufacturing town. In my experience of over 16 years, I have never known such a comparatively small amount of sickness of adults. The deaths of persons over 5 years of age were only 234; this includes 53 weeks. In 1892, there were 323 for 52 weeks; and 1891, were 338 deaths; so that this year the total decrease of deaths is *one-third less*. In 1893, only 84 died aged 60 years and upwards; whilst in 1892, there were 140 deaths. The mortality among children under 5 years of age was much above the average, there being 190 deaths, as compared with 155 for the previous year. The heavy mortality is almost entirely due to measles, which caused 19 deaths; and diarrhoea, which caused 15 deaths.

The following table gives the number of births and deaths for the past 16 years:—

YEAR.		BIRTHS.		DEATHS.
1878	...	990	...	645
1879	...	916	...	459
1880	...	824	...	531
1881	...	809	...	483
1882	...	809	...	533
1883	...	785	...	452
1884	...	715	...	504
1885	...	745	...	455
1886	...	725	...	517
1887	...	639	...	490
1888	...	672	...	503
1889	...	678	...	444
1890	...	618	...	471
1891	...	661	...	505
1892	...	589	...	478
1893	...	655	...	424 (53 weeks)

The following table gives the mortality from all causes, at the subjoined ages :—

Deaths under 1 year	...	126	} Total under 5 years 190.
„ above 1 year and under 5 years		64	
„ „ 5 „ „ 15 „		16	} Over 5 years 234.
„ „ 15 „ „ 25 „		13	
„ „ 25 „ „ 60 „		121	
„ 60 years and upwards	...	84	
		<hr/> 424 <hr/>	

CAUSES OF MORTALITY.

The deaths were due to the following causes :—

Cause.	Under 5 years.	Over 5 years.
Measles	19	1
Diphtheria	2	0
Scarlet Fever	1	0
Croup	6	1
Whooping Cough	8	0
Diarrhœa	15	2
Rheumatic Fever	0	3
Puerperal Fever	0	5
Typhoid Fever	0	2
Phthisis	0	24
Bronchitis & Pneumonia	46	55
Heart Disease	1	23
Injuries, &c.	0	14
Infantile Convulsions	15	0
Erysipelas	0	0
All other Diseases	62	114
Totals	<hr/> 190 <hr/>	<hr/> 234 <hr/>

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

There were 50 deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases—45 were under 5 years, and 5 were over 5 years of age. The zymotic death-rate is 2·11 per 1000. The zymotic death-rate for England and Wales for 1893 is 2·47 per 1000. The increase of our zymotic death-rate is due to measles and diarrhœa, which have been more general and fatal than for several years previous. The following table gives the zymotic death-rate for the past 10 years:—

In 1884 the zymotic death-rate was 2·16 per 1000.

„ 1885	„	„	1·02	„
„ 1886	„	„	2·23	„
„ 1887	„	„	1·74	„
„ 1888	„	„	1·16	„
„ 1889	„	„	1·75	„
„ 1890	„	„	0·92	„
„ 1891	„	„	1·53	„
„ 1892	„	„	0·97	„
„ 1893	„	„	2·11	„

THE COMPULSORY NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

It is more than four years ago since the 'Infectious Diseases Act' was passed. The adoption of the Act was left optional with Sanitary Authorities. The benefits of the measure have been appreciated by the custodians of the public health, and already over 80 per cent. are under its provisions. Lancashire has not been slow to show its appreciation of the value of the Act. At the close of 1893, 90 Urban Sanitary Authorities, out of a total of 114; and 18 Rural Sanitary Authorities, out of 22, have adopted the Act. From what I have observed of the working of the Act, I am convinced that we shall, by adopting it, place ourselves in a more effective condition for stamping out zymotic diseases. With small-pox in neighbouring towns, it is important that we should have early notification

SMALL-POX.

In the early part of the year several of the neighbouring towns were suffering from small-pox. The Joint Committee of the Sourhall Hospital decided that the Hospital should be used exclusively for small-pox, until the Medical Officers of Health for the Joint Authorities should decide otherwise. On February 1st, there were nine cases of small-pox in the Hospital; none, however, from Bacup. The first case of small-pox came to my knowledge on February 26th; the husband was unable to get medical attendance, and I was asked to visit the patient, and found the woman suffering from this disease. The patient was removed the same day to Sourhall, and the husband placed in quarantine. The following day another case was reported. In this family there were six workers, besides the young man who had small-pox. The patient was removed to the Hospital, the family placed in quarantine, and vaccination was carried out. None of the family caught the disease. On February 28th, the third case was reported, at a common lodging-house. This woman's husband died of small-pox in another town. The patient was removed. Six women who slept in the same bedroom were placed in quarantine, none took the infection. On March 1st, the fourth case occurred in the same lodging-house; a young man, who was removed to the Hospital. The Public Vaccinator was instructed to vaccinate all the lodgers. All these cases came under my observation early, and were immediately removed. All the patients recovered, for which much praise is due to the careful nursing of the Master and Matron (Mr. and Mrs. Barritt). By the prompt and effective measures taken, the disease was speedily stamped out, although the locality was one of the lowest in the Borough. All four cases could be traced to the same centre, viz., the lodging-house. The only other case which came to my knowledge occurred about the middle of March. It was not reported by the medical attendant. It appears that the patient objected to be removed. The medical attendant informed me that the case could be isolated at home, and that all

precautions should be taken to prevent the disease spreading. The patient lived in a sparsely populated part of the Borough. No other case occurred from it. In this case the disease was probably caught in one of the neighbouring towns. After March month no other cases occurred. Of the five cases, four could be traced to one lodging-house, directly or indirectly, and it was introduced by a tramp. In my sixteen years' experience, I have observed that nearly all the outbreaks of small-pox in our Borough have been due to tramps. In times of epidemic, vagrants become a serious danger to the health and lives of the people. During the past two or three years, tramps have conveyed the germs of small-pox from one town to another. Mr. Armstrong, Medical Officer of Health for Newcastle-on-Tyne, states that of 63 towns invaded by small-pox, the Medical Officers of Health report that in 37, or 59 per cent., the infection had been primarily introduced by vagrants. In epidemic times, Sanitary Authorities ought to have power to so control vagrancy, and the migration of tramps from town-to-town, spreading infection in their path, so as to prevent their being such a public danger. At present, our powers are very limited. The tramp can go where he likes. You cannot detain him, or place him in quarantine against his will. Very often, when a case of small-pox occurs in a lodging-house, the other lodgers in the same room leave at once, and thus disseminate the disease. It surely is not too great a demand on the personal liberty of the subject, that such persons should be placed in quarantine, and their clothing disinfected, so that they are safe to be allowed to go on their journey. When public opinion is sufficiently enlightened on this matter, I am confident that the Government will deal in an effective manner with this serious matter, without unjustly limiting the freedom of action of vagrants. There is no disease which can be so readily conveyed by clothing, books, papers, &c., as small-pox. The license or freedom allowed to vagrants in our country is such, that there is the best possible chances of spreading the disease from town-to-town. They meet in our common lodging-houses

or casual wards, and go from house-to-house selling their wares, &c., and thus spread the disease. In this way we may account for some of those sporadic cases of which we have been unable to trace the origin. Some time ago such a case occurred, the medical attendant informed me that a tramp called at the house in question, who had suffered from small-pox, and the person who gave him refreshments afterwards developed small-pox. When Sanitary Authorities possess the power to control vagrancy, we may expect to have effective power over this fertile source of spreading the disease. Then it ought to be compulsory to have not only Isolation Hospitals, but also quarantine accommodation. It would be a great advantage for all common lodging-houses to be the property of the Sanitary Authorities. The Chief Constable, Mr. Harland, rendered me much assistance by the police making daily inspections of the lodging-houses, and reporting any suspicious cases of illness. The result being that patients were at once removed. All the necessary precautions and disinfections were carried out satisfactorily by our Sanitary staff.

SCARLET FEVER

There has been only one death from this disease, which was under five years of age. The death-rate was only 0·04 per 1000. England and Wales for 1893 was 0·23 per 1000.

The following table gives the deaths for the past ten years:—

In 1884 there were 7 deaths			
„ 1885	„	2	„
„ 1886	„	28	„
„ 1887	„	15	„
„ 1888	„	1	„
„ 1889	„	13	„
„ 1890	„	10	„
„ 1891	„	4	„
„ 1892	„	4	„
„ 1893	„	1	„

During the year there were only four cases of scarlet fever in the Borough, with one fatal case. Isolation was carried out, and disinfectants were used.

DIPHTHERIA.

There were only two deaths registered from diphtheria, both under five years of age. The death-rate is 0·08 per 1000. England and Wales is 0·30 per 1000. We enjoy a remarkable immunity from diphtheria; this, however, is common to the whole county of Lancashire. No other county in England has a lower death-rate than Lancashire. Cheshire, an adjoining county, is double; and North Yorkshire nearly three times the death-rate. Croup caused six deaths—five under five years, and one over five years.

MEASLES.

There were 20 deaths registered—19 under five years, and one over five. The death-rate is 0·85 per 1000. The death-rate for England and Wales for 1893 is 0·36 per 1000.

In 1884 there were 16 deaths

„ 1885	„	9	„		
„ 1886	„	2	„		
„ 1887	„	14	„	which equals	0·55 per 1000
„ 1888	„	13	„	„	0·55 „
„ 1889	„	4	„	„	0·10 „
„ 1890	„	4	„	„	0·15 „
„ 1891	„	12	„	„	0·44 „
„ 1892	„	1	„	„	0·04 „
„ 1893	„	20	„	„	0·85 „

The mortality from measles for 1893 was the highest recorded for many years. It is only one less than the total for the four previous years. The disease tends to occur epidemically, usual at intervals of two years. In January and February there were a good many cases in Blackwood and Stacksteads, among children under five years, five of

which proved fatal. In March there were a few cases, and in April the disease assumed an epidemic form in Stacksteads; in that locality four deaths occurred. In May and June the disease became general in the centre of the Borough, and six deaths occurred, all under five years of age. It seriously diminished the attendance of the children in the infant day schools. Some of the schools were closed for a few weeks. By the middle of July the disease had almost died out. The disease was, with few exceptions, confined to children under five years. Of the 20 deaths, only one was over five. It was spread by children attending the day schools. The infection is given off during the catarrhal stage, before the eruption appears, so that it is easily to understand why measles is spread so rapidly, and how very difficult it is to stamp it out. From reports received from some of the schools, children were sent to school with the rash fully developed. Such carelessness merits severe condemnation.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

This disease caused eight deaths, all under five years of age. The death-rate equals 0·34 per 1000. Death rate for England and Wales for 1893 equals 0·33 per 1000.

In 1884 there were 4 deaths

„ 1885	„	4	„	
„ 1886	„	15	„	
„ 1887	„	2	„	which equals 0·07 per 1000
„ 1888	„	2	„	„ 0·07 „
„ 1889	„	16	„	„ 0·61 „
„ 1890	„	3	„	„ 0·11 „
„ 1891	„	3	„	„ 0·11 „
„ 1892	„	7	„	„ 0·29 „
„ 1893	„	8	„	„ 0·34 „

Whooping cough was more or less prevalent all through the year. The curve of mortality was greatest in March and April months. All the deaths were aged two years and

under. The mortality is much greater under one year than at any subsequent year. Owing to its early infectiveness, it is spread by attendance at schools, visiting, &c., by children developing the disease. Many persons, however, are very careless, and take their children, whilst suffering from the disease, to places of amusements, &c., and spread the disease most effectively. Nearly all the cases were children under five years of age; of these, the greater number were children two years and under. It is most desirable that public opinion should be educated on this matter, and that all ordinary precautions should be carried out to stamp out the disease. Also that the use of Carbolic Acid, as a disinfectant, should be the rule in all cases. This disinfectant, when used daily, carbolises the air, and when breathed constantly, it soothes the cough, and lessens the severity of the spasms.

TYPHOID FEVER.

During the year there were only two deaths reported from enteric fever. The death-rate equals 0·08 per 1000. The death-rate for England and Wales for 1893 was 0·24 per 1000.

In 1884 there were 5 deaths

„ 1885	„	3	„	
„ 1886	„	5	„	
„ 1887	„	8	„	
„ 1888	„	3	„	which equals 0·11 per 1000
„ 1889	„	3	„	„ 0·11 „
„ 1890	„	1	„	„ 0·03 „
„ 1891	„	3	„	„ 0·12 „
„ 1892	„	3	„	„ 0·12 „
„ 1893	„	2	„	„ 0·08 „

The mortality is the lowest since 1884, with the exception of 1890, when only one death occurred. There were only three cases that came under our notice, and only one was reported. The other two were ascertained through the

Registrar's death returns. The case which was reported occurred at a farm. The water supply was contaminated with manure whenever there was any rain, and this may have been the source of the disease. Disinfectants were used. The sale of milk was stopped. No other case occurred. In one of the fatal cases, the water supply was a possible source, and in the other, the sink pipe was untrapped. The usual precautionary measures were carried.

The typhoid virus is believed to be a living organism, and is given off by the bowel excreta. This organism can live, grow, and multiply in the soil, in water, and in milk. Therefore the importance of thoroughly disinfecting the motions. In times of epidemic, all milk and water should be boiled, as the disease is generally spread by using milk or water containing the typhoid poison or germ.

DIARRHŒA.

There were 17 deaths—15 under five years, and two over five. The death-rate equals 0·72 per 1000. The death rate for England and Wales for 1893, was 0·96 per 1000.

In 1884 there were 19 deaths

„ 1885	„	7	„		
„ 1886	„	10	„		
„ 1887	„	5	„		
„ 1888	„	11	„	which equals	0·44 per 1000
„ 1889	„	6	„	„	0·23 „
„ 1890	„	6	„	„	0·23 „
„ 1891	„	11	„	„	0·46 „
„ 1892	„	7	„	„	0·29 „
„ 1893	„	17	„	„	0·72 „

The mortality is the highest since 1884. Of the 17 deaths, 13 were under one year, two were aged two years, and the others were 65 and 71. The long continued fine weather was one of the chief factors of the diarrhœa mortality among infants. In some cases, irregular and unsuitable diet, foul

air, and insanitary surroundings. Feeding infants artificially instead of the breast-milk. In Lancashire manufacturing towns, where female labour is in demand, and mothers are allowed to go to the mill, or factory, there will ever be a high infantile mortality. Feeding infants by the *bottle* is very general, unless there is much care and cleanliness, it is a great factor in producing diarrhoea, and wasting diseases.

REMARKS ON OTHER DISEASES.

Phthisis—There were 24 deaths, all over five years of age. The death-rate is 1·02 per 1000.

In 1885 there were 31 deaths, which equals 1·22 per 1000					
„ 1886	„	28	„	1·11	„
„ 1887	„	32	„	1·23	„
„ 1888	„	26	„	1·00	„
„ 1889	„	26	„	0·99	„
„ 1890	„	36	„	1·26	„
„ 1891	„	28	„	1·19	„
„ 1892	„	36	„	1·53	„
„ 1893	„	24	„	1·02	„

The death-roll from phthisis is the lowest it has been my pleasure to record. The number of deaths is one-third less than the year previous. That phthisis is to a great extent a preventible disease is generally admitted. The exciting cause is the tubercle bacillus, but there are many predisposing causes, such as damp and unhealthy dwellings, want of light and ventilation, indoor occupations, breathing solid particles of stone, dust, &c., as among stone masons, and weavers, &c.

In tubercular diseases of the lungs, the germs are contained in the expectorations. It is important, therefore, that the sputum should be thoroughly disinfected, or collected on sawdust, or paper, and burnt. In tubercular diseases of the bowels, which is the form of the disease most common in children, the bowel discharges should be thoroughly disinfected.

If strict measures of disinfecting all discharges from consumptive patients be carried out ; also the rooms, furniture, &c., where death occurs from phthisis, disinfected ; the gradual decrease in the mortality from this scourge will continue.

BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA.

There were 101 deaths—46 under five years, and 55 over five years of age. The death-rate equals 4·17 per 1000.

In 1884 there were 124 deaths

„ 1885	„	123	„		
„ 1886	„	118	„		
„ 1887	„	113	„	which equals	4·48 per 1000
„ 1888	„	118	„	„	4·34 „
„ 1889	„	81	„	„	3·11 „
„ 1890	„	127	„	„	4·88 „
„ 1891	„	177	„	„	7·53 „
„ 1892	„	130	„	„	5·33 „
„ 1893	„	101	„	„	4·17 „

It is very satisfactory to report that the death-rate from respiratory disease has declined nearly 20 per cent. less than for the average for the past ten years. It is the lowest except for the year 1889. This is accounted for by the exceptionally dry spring, and long spell of fine weather. In our district, with its cold, and humid atmosphere, and the sudden changes which our mill operatives are exposed to, predisposes to diseases of the chest.

INFLUENZA.

Early in November a few sporadic cases occurred in the lower part of the Borough. The disease, as in each of the previous epidemics, crept up the valley. In December it became very general, especially in the central parts of the Borough. But in the outlying villages, as Change, Weir, and Britannia, but very few, if any, cases occurred. The type of the disease

was very mild, only three deaths were registered from this disease ; in two there were chest complications. In the previous epidemics, young children enjoyed remarkable immunity from it, but in this, large numbers were attacked, but none ended fatally. Persons attacked, instead of treating the disease lightly, at once took the necessary measures to throw off the disease by rest and nursing, hence the remarkably small number of deaths. Early in January the epidemic suddenly disappeared.

RHEUMATIC FEVER & HEART DISEASE.

There were only three deaths from Rheumatic fever, all over five years of age. This disease was remarkably scarce, due no doubt to the very fine summer, and dry spring and autumn. Heart disease, which so often follows rheumatic fever, only caused 24 deaths. The average number of deaths for the past ten years is 33·6 per year. The death-rate for last year is nearly one-third less than the average :—

In 1884 there were 30 deaths from heart disease

„ 1885	„	30	„	„
„ 1886	„	34	„	„
„ 1887	„	38	„	„
„ 1888	„	39	„	„
„ 1889	„	38	„	„
„ 1890	„	48	„	„
„ 1891	„	24	„	„
„ 1892	„	31	„	„
„ 1893	„	24	„	„

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 126 deaths under one year, which give a death-rate of 207 per 1000 births. The death rate for England and Wales for 1893 was 159 per 1000. Our infantile mortality is very high, and will continue to be more than that of rural districts, so long as female labour

continues under present conditions in our manufacturing towns. The time has come when something ought to be done to prevent mothers returning to the mill, leaving the infant to the care of children, or taken from the warm bed early in the morning to a neighbour's house to be nursed. The exposure to cold, deprivation of the breast, the substitute of the bottle, are some of the factors which cause the high death-rate. In some Lancashire towns, day nurseries are provided. These serve a good purpose, but they are a poor substitute for the mother's loving devotion to the needs of her infant.

The following table gives the number of deaths for each year since 1878, sum of the ages, and mean age at death:—

Year	Deaths	Sum of ages at death	Mean age at death
1878	645	13,979 yrs. 3 mths.	21 yrs. 8 mths.
1879	435	13,874 „ 11 „	30 „ 2 „
1880	531	13,482 „ 6 „	25 „ 4 „
1881	483	13,625 „ 4 „	28 „ 2 „
1882	533	14,174 „ 3 „	26 „ 7 „
1883	452	13,560 „ 8 „	30 „ 0 „
1884	504	14,373 „ 0 „	28 „ 6 „
1885	455	14,393 „ 9 „	31 „ 7 „
1886	517	15,493 „ 5 „	29 „ 11 „
1887	490	14,480 „ 6 „	29 „ 6 „
1888	503	13,679 „ 2 „	27 „ 2 „
1889	444	12,850 „ 6 „	28 „ 11 „
1890	471	15,763 „ 1 „	33 „ 5 „
1891	505	15,998 „ 9 „	31 „ 8 „
1892	478	16,889 „ 1 „	35 „ 3 „
1893	424	11,596 „ 2 „	27 „ 4 „

GENERAL REMARKS.

During the year we have inspected the Borough, and have taken action in the removal of nuisances, and dealing with insanitary conditions. We have inspected 182 houses, which

have been reported to the Health Committee. Where necessary, insanitary conditions have been dealt with. In no case have legal proceedings been necessary to enforce our recommendations.

CHOLERA PRECAUTIONS.—As an outbreak of this disease was considered very likely to occur in England, we again took all necessary precautions to prevent the disease becoming epidemic. The Nuisance Inspector and myself gave special attention to removing nuisances, and conditions associated with the back streets, alleys, and passages, which might be a nidus for cholera, and filth diseases. There was extra flushing of the grids, and sewers, although it was not possible to the same extent as in the previous year, owing to the long continued drought; closets, pails, and ashpits were disinfected, and the public were supplied gratis with disinfectants.

WATER SUPPLY.—The Rossendale Waterworks Company supply 2032 houses. Their supply, notwithstanding the long absence of rain, did not fail, nor was it cut off for an hour. The consumers were careful in the use of the water. Many of the private supplies failed, and much inconvenience was caused in some parts of the Borough.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—The offensive trades were carried on in a satisfactory manner. One tripe license was applied for, which I was unable to recommend to be granted.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—Most of these are unsuitable. On the whole they have been kept in a satisfactory condition. One new license was applied for, which was the converting of a coach-house and stable into a slaughter-house. The license was granted.

There is one matter which I would draw the attention of some of the butchers to, namely:—the slaughtering of cattle and sheep in the slaughter house, whilst cattle and sheep are being killed and dressed. It is objectionable on several

points, and is no doubt done more from want of thought, than from want of heart and feeling. It is inhuman. The meat may be tainted with the effluvia. It is stated that the meat of animals suffering from fear, does not keep so well. I know many of the slaughter houses are small, but I am sure this evil may be lessened greatly, if not entirely avoided.

We need a Public Abbatoir, and as soon as the Corporation have possession of the Waterworks, and is able to guarantee an efficient and constant supply of water, this work should be taken in hand.

THE ANTHRAX ORDER OF 1892.—Under this Order, one case of anthrax was reported. From the information which I obtained, it is most probable that the cow got the disease by inhaling the anthrax bacilli in the woollen waste, which is used for bedding. In my opinion, woollen waste ought not to be allowed to be used for bedding for cattle.

SMOKE NUISANCE.—During the year the Nuisance Inspector has taken a large number of observations, and made a valuable report on the black smoke emitted from the mills and factories. The chief offenders were informed. It is gratifying to be able to report a great lessening of the nuisance. There is room for considerable improvement yet.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.—The work in this department was never done so well. This, I believe, is due to the fact that the Corporation have undertaken to do the whole of the work. It may be more costly, but it gives more satisfaction.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—This important question, which for years has been under the consideration of the Council, is now happily in a fair way to be dealt with in an efficient manner, by joining with Rawtenstall and Haslingden in a conjoint scheme.

THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1891.—This Act transfers from the Inspector of Factories to the Sanitary Authorities the duty of seeing to the sanitary conditions of the factory and workshops situate within their district. The Health Committee have taken no action in the matter.

Common Lodging Houses, Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops are dealt with under the Chief Constable's Report.

SANITARY WORK.—The Nuisance Inspector, Mr. Tattersall, has done a good deal of sanitary work, of which a report is given. His assistance during the small-pox outbreak merits special commendation.

PUBLIC WORKS, STREET IMPROVEMENTS, &c.—The Surveyor gives a report of the work done in this department.

In conclusion, it is very gratifying to be able to report progress in regard to the sanitary condition of the Borough. The death-rate was never lower. The public baths—the munificent gift of Mr. Maden, M.P.—will add to the health of the burgesses, if they will only avail themselves of them. Up to the present they have been well patronised.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JOHN BROWN,

Medical Officer of Health,

M.D., B.S., D. San. Sci. Vict.

Burwood House,

Bacup, February 26th, 1894.

THE CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT.

I have to report for your information, that there are 176 farms within the Borough of Bacup, 170 are registered under the Dairies and Cowsheds Order, 1886, and on which about 1,400 cattle are kept.

These have all been visited during the year, and were found in a fairly satisfactory condition.

There are five registered common lodging-houses within the Borough, all of which have been fairly conducted.

THE SURVEYOR REPORTS

That the following work has been done in his department during the past year:—14 new cottages, 2 clubs, public baths, theatre, four shippens and barns, 81 houses drained, new recreation ground, five streets paved, flagged and channelled; six streets sewered, one street macadamised, seven closets rebuilt, 14 new closets.

THE NUISANCE INSPECTOR REPORTS

Of the work done in the Scavenging department for the year ending December, 1893. The scavenging of the Borough has been an improvement on previous years, as all of the work is done by the servants of the Corporation. During the year we have had a case of small-pox imported into the Borough by a tramp, lodging at one of the common lodging-houses, which caused three other persons to be afflicted with small-pox. The parties suffering were at once taken to the Hospital at Sourhall, and the lodging-house closed. All the other lodgers in the house were kept in quarantine till all danger was passed. All bedding was burnt, the house thoroughly fumigated, limewashed, and cleaned throughout.

All the houses in the same street were limewashed ; slop-stones, gullies, main drains, and closets were all flushed, and thoroughly disinfected and cleaned, and no further cases occurred. Observations have been taken as to the length of time black smoke was emitted from the various works within the Borough, which resulted in a marked improvement after being published in the local papers.

The following is a brief statement of the work. The Medical Officer and myself have visited 182 houses in the Borough, and found them in fair condition ; the various defects were requested to be attended to by the owners, which was done without further trouble. The number of houses where zymotic diseases existed, is as follows :—scarlatina seven, measles 30, small-pox five, typhoid two, and dyptheria two. Disinfectants were used, isolation carried out as far as possible, the children kept from school, and precautions taken to prevent the further spreading of any of the above diseases. 101 defective privies have been altered to the pail system, seven new ones have been built, 17 defective and made-up drains were attended to, opened, cleaned out, and made good where required ; five cases where offensive smells occurred were seen to, and the cause removed ; four defective ashpits were closed, and 9724 loads of ashes removed, and 44,069 pails or cesspools emptied.

