

[Report 1899] / Medical Officer of Health, Bacup Borough.

Contributors

Bacup (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1899

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/yjb8fknn>

License and attribution

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

THE HEALTH

OF THE

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT OF THE
BOROUGH OF BACUP,

DURING 1899.

By JOHN BROWN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., VICT.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

PRESENTED FEBRUARY, 1900.

BACUP :

ALBERT BOOTH, PRINTER, 23, ST. JAMES' STREET.

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS :

THE MAYOR (EX-OFFICIO).

Chairman—MR. ALDERMAN MADEN, J.P.

Vice-Chairman— „ COUNCILLOR T. SMITH.

„ ALDERMAN SALMON, J.P.

„ COUNCILLOR BRIERLEY.

„ COUNCILLOR COLLINGE.

„ COUNCILLOR CROPPER.

„ COUNCILLOR HEYS.

„ COUNCILLOR HOWORTH.

„ COUNCILLOR J. CRAVEN HOYLE.

„ COUNCILLOR J. H. HOYLE.

„ COUNCILLOR J. A. LAW.

„ COUNCILLOR E. LORD.

„ COUNCILLOR THOMAS.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1899.

*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 1899.

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 1899, as 24,400.

BIRTHS.

During 1899 there were 543 births—Males 255 Females 288, which is at the rate of 22·68 per 1,000. There were 18 illegitimate births—Males 7, Females 11. The birth-rate for England and Wales for 1899 was 29·26 per 1,000. The natural increment of the population, due to excess of births over deaths, is only 145.

DEATHS.

There were 398 deaths registered—Males 190, Females 208, which is at the rate of 16·62 per 1,000. The death-rate for England and Wales for 1899 was 18·30 per 1,000. The number of deaths is the lowest

ever recorded. The vital statistics for 1899 include 53 weeks.

The following table gives the number of births and deaths for the past 22 years :—

Year		Births		Deaths
1878	...	990	...	645
1879	...	916	...	459
1880	...	824	...	532
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
1894	...	581	...	409
1895	...	543	...	451
1896	...	596	...	451
1897	...	542	...	466
1898	...	589	...	422
1899	...	543	...	398

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

Deaths under 1 year	...	89	} Total under 5 years, 138.
„ above 1 year and under 5 years	49		
„ „ 5 „ „ 15 „	28	} Over 5	
„ „ 15 „ „ 25 „	19		
„ „ 25 „ „ 65 „	120	} years, 260.	
„ „ 65 „ and upwards ...	93		
Total	...	398	

CAUSES OF MORTALITY.

The deaths were due to the following causes:—

Cause	Under 5 Years	Over 5 Years
Measles	9	1
Diphtheria	0	2
Scarlet Fever	8	2
Croup	2	0
Whooping Cough	1	0
Diarrhœa	11	4
Influenza	0	17
Rheumatic Fever	0	2
Puerperal Fever...	0	3
Typhoid Fever	0	4
Bronchitis and Pneumonia	39	54
Phthisis	0	14
Injuries, &c.	3	10
Infantile Convulsions	7	0
Erysipelas	0	2
All other Diseases	50	260
Uncertified	8	5
	<hr/> 138	<hr/> 260

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

There were 42 deaths from the seven principal zymotic diseases. 29 were under 5 years, and 13 over 5 years of age. The zymotic death-rate is 1.72 per

1,000. The zymotic death-rate for England and Wales for 1899 is 2·19 per 1,000. The mortality is higher than the previous year, and has been due to the epidemic of measles, scarlet fever, and infantile diarrhœa. Measles caused 10 deaths, Scarlet Fever 10, Diarrhœa 15, Typhoid Fever 4, Diphtheria 2, Whooping Cough 1.

The following table gives the zymotic death-rate for the past 16 years:—

Year	...	Zymotic death-rate per 1,000
1884	...	2·16
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
1894	...	1·57
1895	...	0·68
1896	...	1·19
1897	...	2·93
1898	...	0·98
1899	...	1·72

SMALL-POX.

During the year this disease has not invaded the Borough. The Sourhall Hospital has been ready to receive any patient that might have needed it.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 10 deaths, 8 under 5 years and 2 over 5 years of age. The death-rate is ·40 per 1,000

For England and Wales for 1899 it was 0·12 per 1,000.

In January there were 13 cases, all of a mild type. None proved fatal. They were scattered over various parts of the Borough, viz.:—Albert Terrace, Hill Street, Osborne Terrace, Tunstead Mill, Newchurch Road, David Street, Back Spring Terrace, Tunstead Terrace, Acre Mill Road, and Walter Street. In one case, a young man probably caught the infection in this way. He worked at a machine with another person who was only away with Scarlet Fever for a few days, and must have been in an infectious condition when he returned to his work. In February Scarlet Fever existed in 11 houses, of a mild type, and scattered in various parts of the Borough, viz.:—Waterbarn, Taylor Holme, North Parade, Dale Street, Back Acre Mill Road, Newchurch Road, Cow Toot Lane, Moss Street, Greens Nook, Grafton Street, and Elm Street. There were no fatal cases. In March, the disease decreased, and only six houses were reported, viz.:—William Street, Branch Street (two houses), Church Street, Co-operation Street, and Plantation Street, Stacksteads. One case, a child aged 18 months, died. In April there were 5 cases of a mild type, viz., in Bankside Lane, Regent Street, Co-operation Street, Branch Street, and New Line. In May the disease existed in nine houses, viz., Todmorden Road, Russell Street, Union Street, Brex Farm, Lower Top o'th Bank, Ash Street, Rockcliffe Road, Hey Street, and Regent Street. In June two cases occurred, one in New Line and the other Tong Lane. No fresh cases occurred until August, when there was a case in Newgate, and another at Sandholes. In this case the medical attendant desired to have the patient removed, as there were five other children, and no means of isolation. Having no Isolation Hospital we could not remove the patient. The

results show the value of speedy isolation. In this house three other children took the infection. When convalescent one of the children was playing with another child. The latter took the disease. The disease ended fatally. In this house four others caught the infection.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL

is urgently needed. The foregoing cases, as well as others that have occurred during the year, have convinced the Health Committee of the pressing need of an Isolation Hospital. I know the Health Committee has had the matter under consideration, and that His Worship the Mayor is doing what he can to secure a Hospital for the Borough.

In October there were 7 cases, two in Blackwood; Siding Street, Warburton Buildings, Blackthorn, Higher Tunstead, and Newchurch Road one each.

In November and December there were a few sporadic cases; four proved fatal.

We took active measures to prevent the spread of the disease by keeping children from attending school, from infected houses, informing the school authorities, free use of disinfectants, carbolised oil for inunction, also disinfection of the rooms by

FORMIC ALDEHYDE VAPOURS.

We have used this for about 3 years, and I am convinced that it is better than fumigation by sulphur fumes. It is safer, more rapid and effective. In order to disinfect bedding, &c., we need a

STEAM DISINFECTOR.

I recommend the Council to provide the Borough

with this effective means of disinfecting bedding, clothes, &c.

The following table gives the death-rate for Scarlet Fever for the past 13 years:—

Year	...	Death-rate per 1000
1887	...	0·61
1888	...	0 03
1889	...	0·50
1890	...	0·40
1891	...	0·16
1892	...	0 16
1893	...	0·04
1894	...	0 04
1895	...	0·08
1896	...	0·08
1897	...	0·29
1898	...	0·04
1899	...	0·40

DIPHThERIA.

There were only two deaths, both over 5 years of age. The death-rate equals 0·08 per 1,000. For England and Wales for 1899 it is 0·29 per 1,000. During the year there were no cases of Diphtheria reported. The deaths registered came to my knowledge through the Registrar's death returns. One occurred in February at Back Acre Mill Road, and the other in October in Cow Toot Lane. There were two deaths registered from Croup, both under 5 years of age. Some Medical Officers of Health include Croup with Diphtheria. In my opinion some cases are not Diphtheria, and should not be included. From enquiries which I have made from some of the large towns I find that 66 per cent. do not include Croup with Diphtheria. The common practice is to include

Membraneous Croup with Diphtheria, which course I shall adopt.

MEASLES.

There were 10 deaths, 9 under 5 years and one over 5 years. The death-rate equals $\cdot 40$ per 1,000. England and Wales for 1899 was $0\cdot 31$ per 1,000.

The following table gives the deaths for the past 12 years:—

Year	...	Deaths	Rate per 1000
1888	...	13	$0\cdot 55$
1889	...	4	$0\cdot 15$
1890	...	4	$0\cdot 15$
1891	...	12	$0\cdot 44$
1892	...	1	$0\cdot 04$
1893	...	20	$0\cdot 85$
1894	...	10	$0\cdot 42$
1895	...	1	$0\cdot 04$
1896	...	1	$0\cdot 04$
1897	...	37	$1\cdot 57$
1898	...	1	$0\cdot 04$
1899	...	10	$0\cdot 40$

Measles is a disease which comes in cyclical waves. In 1897 we had a severe epidemic. In the first nine months of 1899, only one case of measles came to our notice, which was in January. On October 4th, a severe epidemic of measles occurred in Stacksteads, and by the 26th of the month there were 66 houses in which the disease existed. There are four day schools in this district. One school suffered severely; at two the attendance was not greatly diminished, whilst one school almost entirely escaped. The disease existed lower down the valley, and travelled upwards. The houses were visited and disinfectants freely used. The disease spread very rapidly. There were five fatal

cases, four of which were under two years of age. It soon died out. Early in November an outbreak of Measles occurred in the village of Weir. This village is $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the north of Stacksteads. It was impossible to trace the source. It occurred suddenly, and was widely spread. There were 34 houses in which the disease existed. It was of a very mild type, and not a single case proved fatal. On November 13th, there were only 5 children in attendance out of a possible 55. The attendance was so greatly reduced that I closed the schools for four weeks. At the expiration of that time the disease had died out.

WHOOPIING COUGH.

There was only one death, which was under 5 years. The death-rate equals 0.04 per 1,000. The death-rate for England and Wales for 1899 was 0.30 per 1,000.

The Borough was remarkably free from Whooping Cough. There was only one death reported. This occurred in February. Later on two other cases came under our notice, both in one house. These would not have occurred had ordinary precautions been observed. It is far too common for persons having children suffering from Whooping Cough to ignore the fact that the disease is infectious, and that isolation should be strictly carried out. In the tram cars, railways, and other places one may hear the characteristic "whoop." In regard to the two cases referred to, a relative from another town brought her child on a visit. The result was that two contracted the disease, one of which almost proved fatal. The following table gives the deaths for the past 12 years:—

Year	Deaths	Rate per 1,000
1888	2	0·07
1889	16	0·61
1890	3	0·11
1891	2	0·07
1892	7	0·29
1893	8	0·34
1894	5	0·21
1895	4	0·17
1896	12	0·51
1897	2	0·08
1898	10	0·40
1899	1	0·04

TYPHOID FEVER.

There were 4 deaths, all over 5 years. The death-rate equals 0·16. The Fever death-rate for England and Wales for 1899 was 0·20 per 1,000.

During the year only 5 cases came under our notice. Four of these were ascertained through the Registrar's death returns. — We have had no serious outbreak of this disease for several years. Nearly every case is sporadic, and often cannot be traced to its origin. In only one instance was there any insanitary condition which might have caused the disease. In one, the disease was contracted whilst away in the South of England for holidays. There was one death in each of the following months:—July, August, and October. There was one case in the following places: Back Ash Street, King Street, Troughgate, Farholme Lane, and Blackwood. Disinfectants were used.

BACTERIOLOGICAL DIAGNOSIS OF TYPHOID FEVER AND DIPHTHERIA.

For two years I have recommended the Council to

make arrangements for the "Serum Test" to be carried out in doubtful cases of Typhoid Fever. I would also recommend that doubtful cases of Diphtheria be tested. As I have been able to make private arrangements that cases can be tested for the nominal fee of 2s. 6d. each, the cost is very trifling, especially as the results may be of great value. Many sanitary authorities have made arrangements, and from correspondence that I have had, the results are very satisfactory. I sent letters to 12 important sanitary authorities, and received replies from 10. The replies in brief were as follows:—Fees vary from 2s 6d. to 5s. per case for Diphtheria. The results well worth the cost. Where hospital accommodation is provided, immense saving was effected. All cases certified are paid for whether results were negative or positive. Many medical men in doubtful cases only certify after the Bacteriological examination has proved it to be positive. In regard to Croup and Diphtheria, three sanitary authorities classify Croup with Diphtheria. Four only include Membraneous Croup with Diphtheria. The total number of Typhoid cases tested was 1,213. Results were as follows:—

733 Positive—60·42 per cent

477 Negative—39·31 „

3 Doubtful— 0·2 „

so that about 40 per cent. were negative.

In Diphtheria there were 808 cases tested:—

285 Positive—35·27 per cent

507 Negative—60·74 „

16 „ but diagnosis adhered to by

the medical men.

DIARRHŒA.

There were 15 deaths, 11 under 5 years and 4 over

5 years. The death-rate equals 0·61 per 1,000. England and Wales for 1899 is 0·98 per 1,000.

There were only 3 deaths from Diarrhœa for the first seven months of the year, viz., one in April, one in May, and one in July, aged 4 months, and two 11 months. In August, September, and first week of October, summer Diarrhœa was rather general. There were 11 deaths registered from Diarrhœa. Of these 3 were adults. Under the term "Diarrhœa" are included some deaths which are not of a preventible character, and not of bacterial origin. We had a hot summer, and as the result of the high soil temperature diarrhœal diseases were more fatal than for any year since 1893. In September there were 7 deaths registered from Intestinal Catarrh and Gastro-Ententis. All were infants. These were probably of bacterial origin, and were all more or less of a preventible character. Many of these infants are fed from the bottle, and in hot weather it is most difficult to keep the ordinary feeding bottle with the India-rubber tubing free from organisms that set up putrefaction changes in the milk. The old-fashioned boat-shaped bottle is by far the best for hand-fed babies. It is easy to clean, but it needs the nurse to hold the bottle until the infant has taken its meals.

Diarrhœa as a cause of death is gradually being discarded, and our returns are of little value as an index of "Epidemic Diarrhœa." The terms "Intestinal Catarrh," "Gastro-Ententis," &c., are used instead. It is most desirable that the term "Diarrhœa" should be given up, and that "Zymotic Enteritis" be used for Diarrhœa of zymotic or bacterial origin.

The following table gives the death-rate for the past 12 years:—

Year	Deaths	Rate per 1,000
1888	11	0.44
1889	6	0.23
1890	6	0.23
1891	11	0.44
1892	7	0.29
1893	17	0.72
1894	1	0.04
1895	4	0.17
1896	5	0.21
1897	3	0.12
1898	5	0.21
1899	15	0.61

REMARKS ON OTHER DISEASES.

PHTHISIS.—There were 14 deaths, all over 5 years of age. The death-rate equals 1.02 per 1,000. The following table gives the deaths for the past 15 years:

Year	Deaths	Rate per 1,000
1885	31	1.22
1886	28	1.11
1887	32	1.23
1888	26	1.00
1889	26	0.99
1890	36	1.53
1891	28	1.19
1892	36	1.53
1893	24	1.02
1894	31	1.31
1895	31	1.31
1896	22	0.93
1897	34	1.43
1898	25	1.02
1899	14	0.57

It is one of the most interesting features of my report to be able to state that the deaths from Phthisis, which has averaged 29 per year for the past 14 years, was reduced to 14, being only 0·57 per 1,000. The average death-rate for Lancashire is 1·13 per 1,000, *i.e.*, twice as great. For many years past, I have urged the necessity of destroying all the expectorations, in which the Tubercle bacilli exist, by burning. Also the importance of fresh air, sunlight, good food, dry and airy dwellings. The public, having had their attention called to the nature of the disease, and how to stamp it out, through the lay press, also by Medical Officers of Health, we may hope that the disease will be still further reduced.

BRONCHITIS AND PNEUMONIA.

There were 93 deaths, 39 under 5 years and 54 over 5. The death-rate equals 3·81 per 1,000. The following table gives the death-rate for the past 13 years :—

Year	Deaths	Rate per 1,000
1887	113	4·48
1888	118	4·34
1889	81	3·11
1890	127	4·88
1891	177	7·53
1892	130	5·33
1893	101	4·25
1894	99	4·09
1895	101	4·28
1896	111	4·72
1897	101	4·17
1898	102	4·17
1899	93	3·81

Diseases of the respiratory organs are always high in our borough, being generally at least 1· per 1,000

above the average for the County. This year is the lowest for 10 years, being 3·81 per 1,000. Owing to the cold and damp climate, also to the extremes of temperature to which the mill operatives are exposed in going from the warm atmosphere of the mills and sheds to the open air, respiratory diseases are very common.

INFLUENZA.

There were 17 deaths, all adults. A few cases occurred in February; one proved fatal. In March the disease spread rapidly and attained its maximum in the second and third week. The disease died out in April. It was of a severe type and was complicated with Pneumonia. There were 14 deaths during March and April. In March there were many cases of Bronchitis and Pneumonia of a severe type. No less than 17 deaths were registered. Probably some of these were influenzal in origin. During the remainder of the year we were almost entirely free, only two deaths being registered from Influenza.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 89 deaths under 1 year, which equals a death-rate of 163 per 1,000 births. In 1898 it was only 121 per 1,000 births. England and Wales for 1899 is 163 per 1,000 births. Our infantile mortality is not excessive when compared with some other manufacturing towns in Lancashire. Still it ought to be reduced and will be as the masses of the people are better educated in regard to the laws of health, and when mothers will stay at home and not go to the mills. Diseases of a diarrhoeal type are in many cases preventible, being due to errors of feeding, foul air, and overcrowding. Last summer Infantile Diarrhoea was very common. Nearly one-fourth of the infants died from this class of diseases, viz., Infantile Diarrhoea and Gastro-Enteritis, 20 deaths. More than one-

fourth died from diseases of the respiratory organs, viz., 26 deaths. Debility from birth, premature births and immaturity account for nearly one-fourth, viz, 17 deaths. No less than 6 infants, the deaths were uncertified. Infantile convulsions, 10 deaths. Three deaths were due to measles.

GENERAL REMARKS.

During the year we have inspected the Borough, and have taken action to remove various kinds of nuisances and insanitary conditions. The sanitary condition of the Borough is fairly satisfactory. Most of the streets are well paved, sewered, flagged, channelled and lighted. There are a few streets which are unpaved, but I believe they are receiving the attention of the General Works Committee.

WATER SUPPLY.—The water supply was severely tested by the long and excessive drought. There was an ample supply for the absolute needs of the Borough. Many private water supplies failed, and much inconvenience was caused thereby. The Borough supply was excellent in quality. The filter beds give great satisfaction.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.—The offensive trades have been carried on in a satisfactory manner.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.—These have been kept in fairly good condition. Many of them are ill adapted for the purpose. A Public Abbattoir would be very useful. Until one is provided we cannot close the present slaughter houses.

SMOKE NUISANCES.—No action has been taken in this matter. Little or no improvement has taken place in

the amount of black smoke poured forth from our mill chimneys.

SCAVENGING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL.—The work has been done for several years by the Corporation, and on the whole it is satisfactory. Much more so than when it was done by Contractors.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.—The Main Sewer is completed, and the Surveyor has connected many of the houses with sewerage system.

WASTE WATER CLOSETS.—The Health Committee has generously encouraged property owners to substitute Waste Water Closets for the pail and the midden by offering to find all the labour free of cost, the owner to pay for the material used. This offer has been accepted by some, and more would have done so, but in many cases it is impossible. In these cases I believe it would pay, if the Water Closets were supplied with water free. The saving in expense of removing the pail would be considerable, besides being more healthy.

BAKEHOUSES.—We have inspected the Bakehouses and found them in fairly good condition. There are 8 in the Borough. We have none underground; no regular night baking; no W.C. inside or in direct communication with the bakehouse; no defective or untrapped drains. Cubic space varies, being from 450 cubic feet to 3,758 for each person.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.—Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops are dealt with under the Chief Constable's Report.

SANITARY WORK.—The Sanitary Inspector, Mr.

Tattersall, gives a report of the work in this department.

PUBLIC WORKS, STREET IMPROVEMENTS, &c.—The Surveyor, Mr. F. Wood, A M.Inst., C.E., gives a report of the work done in his department.

I am, Gentlemen, yours obediently,

JOHN BROWN, Medical Officer of Health,
M.D., D.P.H., Vict. Univ.

*Burwood House, Bacup,
February 27th, 1900.*

TABLE OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1899 IN THE BACUP URBAN DISTRICT.

MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.		MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.	
At all ages			
Under 1 year		Scarlatina	8
1 and under 5		Diphtheria	2
5 and under 15		Croup	2
15 and under 25		Enteric or Typhoid	4
25 and under 65		Puerperal	3
65 and upwards		Erysipelas	2
		Measles	1
		Whooping Cough	1
		Diarrhœa & Dysentery	11
		Rheumatic Fever	2
		Phthisis	14
		Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Pleurisy	54
		Heart Disease	26
		Influenza	17
		Injuries	3
		All Other Diseases	65
		Total	138
398	89	5 upwards	2
	49	Under 5	4
	28		3
	19		2
	120		1
	93		4
			2
			1
			4
			2
			14
			54
			26
			17
			3
			65
			138
			260

NUISANCE INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

Report of the work done in Health Department for the year 1899:—

The scavenging of the Borough has been done by the servants of the Corporation, and, I think, in a manner satisfactory to the ratepayers generally. The smoke emitted from the various works in the Borough is very fair, yet there is room for improvement at several works which might be named. The following is a brief summary of the work done in the Health Department. Zymotic diseases were as follows:—Scarlatina, 72 cases; Typhoid, 5; Measles, 112; Diphtheria, 4. Disinfectants were used in all the cases, and 14 houses have been fumigated. The parties suffering have been isolated where possible, and precautions taken to prevent the spreading of the various diseases. 59 defective closets have been converted to the pail system, and 27 converted to the waste water system; 3 defective ashpits closed, 12 defective drains have been opened and made good; 8,877 loads of ashes have been removed, and 54,844 pails or cess-pools emptied. 176 houses have been visited within the Borough and were found in fair condition, and all defective traps were attended to and disconnected where possible.

BOROUGH SURVEYOR'S REPORT.

During the year 1899, 77 Building Plans have been dealt with by the Corporation. In 10 cases the plans were disapproved, the majority of those that have been approved are for alterations to existing houses and structures, which are properly speaking sanitary improvements. These include 30 pail closets and 6 coal

places, 22 extensions and additions to houses, of the nature of sculleries, wash-houses, &c. Then there are 16 water-closets, 2 baths, and 1 urinal. Five plans show new work-shops, store-rooms, mill alterations, &c. There were 3 new stables, and 2 new barns and shippens. Plans were also passed for 40 new houses and shops (there were 5 of the latter).

The net number of houses completed has been 22, all of which are supplied with waste water closets.

The Corporation's willingness to defray the cost of the labour, when executed by their staff, in converting pail closets and wet middens into water closets and waste water closets, when they are not a nuisance, has been taken advantage of this year in 27 cases.

Owners of property should note this offer of the Corporation, as every substitution renders a more sanitary state of affairs and is also of some slight relief to the rates, as the scavenging for the pails is correspondingly decreased, whereas the contribution for sewage disposal purposes is based on the rateable value of the town.

There is continually a work going on which increases the sanitary efficiency of the town. During the year 88 houses have been connected to the sewerage system, and in this direction also a length of main sewer (500 yards) has been laid down in Burnley Road. Another length of sewer has been and is now proceeding up Back Huttock End, which will serve to take away the sewerage of the houses in that quarter.

The naming of the streets has received attention. The improvements which have been carried out are

also worthy of notice, and have affected the comfort and convenience of the public.

The main road through Stacksteads having been in a bad state of repair for some years, the work was taken in hand this year and the roadway for a distance of close upon a mile was repaved, kerbed, channelled and flagged, the contour of the road remodelled, and several obstructions removed. The new condition must have given satisfaction in that part of the Borough.

The same may be said, but in a lesser degree, for Burnley Road, which has also been receiving attention during the later end of the year.

An improvement which will doubtless have some local effect on the property about Bridge Street and St. James' Street has been negotiated with the County Council. The work is about to be proceeded with, and when completed will add 2 feet 9 inches to the roadway, and in addition will give a footpath 7 feet wide, thus covering about 10 feet of the open river space adjoining the Mechanics' Institution.

The present archway will be taken up for some distance, the course will be widened, given an increased waterway, and will meet the stream from the Todmorden Road Valley at a V point instead of almost at right angles as now exists. Thus the flow will be accelerated rather than decreased as at present, and the course left more clear of deposit.

In nine streets and back streets, notices have been served for the paving, channelling, kerbing and flagging of the same.

FRANCIS WOOD,
Borough Surveyor.

CHIEF CONSTABLE'S REPORT.

Mr. J. Harland reports:—

Common Lodging-Houses.—The Police continue their daily visits to the five common lodging-houses in the Borough.

Food and Drugs Act.—Twenty-five samples were submitted to the Borough Analyst, who certified that two of them were adulterated.

Diseases of Animals Act—The dairies and cowsheds in the Borough have been visited as usual. One case of Anthrax was reported to the police, in which one cow only was affected, and died.

 BATHS MANAGER'S REPORT.

I have the honour to lay before you my Annual Report on the work of this Department.

The number of bathers who have used the various kinds of baths for the year is 36,996, or an increase of 1,680 over the previous year, which had exceeded all others in numbers.

There is a decrease in revenue of £17 7s. 11d. The total amounted to £348 12s. 9d., as compared with £366 0s. 8d. for the previous year. The swimming or recreative portion of the establishment still accounts for the major portion of the bathers and revenue, 29,282 bathers having used the Plunge Baths, an increase of 1,651 over the previous year, and 7,714, various other Baths, an increase of 29.

In May a new departure in the bathing of school children was inaugurated. Members of the School Board arranged with your Committee for bathing scholars from the Central School at one half-penny per head. A professional swimming master was engaged by the Board to instruct and take charge of their scholars.

783 children bathed at this rate. The encouragement of young children and providing of a competent instructor is worthy of commendation, and from the rising generation a community of swimmers may be expected.

The following table will show the number of bathers for the last four years :—

1896	...	29,689
1897	...	33,889
1898	...	35,316
1899	...	36,996

STATEMENT SHOWING THE NUMBER OF BATHERS IN

Description of Bath.	January	Feb.	March	April	May	June
Special Turkish, 1st Class ...	1	.	1	2	2	
1st Class Turkish	56	67	87	64	96	8
Vapour	3	2	8	6	9	1
Slipper, 1st Class	78	97	97	112	242	44
Slipper, 2nd Class	186	141	160	198	432	65
Swimming, 2nd Class	310	345	335	559	941	136
Boys, 2nd Class	255	228	268	493	1000	115
Swimming, 1st Class ... ..	...	...	...	147	428	38
Boys, 1st Class ... ..	..	...	...	53	177	17
Contracts ... ..	...	...	...	600	1350	1080
School Children ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	240
Drawers	33	28	48	128	181	19
	5	2	0	7	10	9
	£9 12	£10 3	£11 19	£22 4	£45 10	£52 7
	5	2	0	7	10	9
Total per month...	889	880	976	2234	4677	5594

CH CLASS OF BATH, AND THE FEES RECEIVED.

July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total Number of Bathers.	Receipts from each Class. £ s. d.
4	4	3	3	4	2	32	2 8 0
67	67	57	34	65	34	782	39 2 0
18	35	4	5	3	10	114	4 5 6
347	650	157	95	134	91	2544	42 8 0
314	953	312	180	229	187	4242	35 7 0
088	2143	1059	629	512	371	9675	80 12 6
267	2113	1240	817	540	242	9619	40 1 7
233	558	179	102	13	...	2043	34 1 0
98	224	67	40	...	...	832	6 18 8
930	870	870	390	240	...	6330	52 15 0
...	...	...	...	...	...	240	0 10 0
159	365	131	72	57	26	School Children not paid for. 543	5 18 6
8	9	5	6	6	2		Total Receipts
13	6	15	8	15	10		344 7 9
£42	£70	£33	£19	£16	£9		Sundries— 4 5 0
666	7617	3948	2295	1740	937	36996	348 12 9

The following Table will show the number of Bathers in each class of Bath compared with previous years :—

Description of Bath.	Rate.	1896	1897	1898	1899
Turkish, Special	1/6	85	42	43	32
Turkish, 1st Class	1/-	961	974	969	782
Slipper, 1st Class	-/4	1674	2694	2726	2544
Slipper, 2nd Class	-/2	1668	2968	3784	4242
Swimming, 1st Class	-/4	1032	2186	2406	2043
Swimming, Youths, 1st Class	-/2	2029	1683	890	832
Swimming, 2nd Class	-/2	6470	9461	11082	9675
Swimming, Youths, 2nd Class	-/1	9398	9161	7913	9619
Vapour	-/9	222	190	163	114
Contract Tickets	-/2	6150	4530	5340	6330
School Children	-/½	...	...	...	783
		29689	33889	35316	36996



