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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1875.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

On the HEALTH of the  
Urban Sanitary District of the Borough  
of Bacup during 1926,

— BY —

**J. Percival Brown,**

M.B., Ch.B., Vict.,

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,**

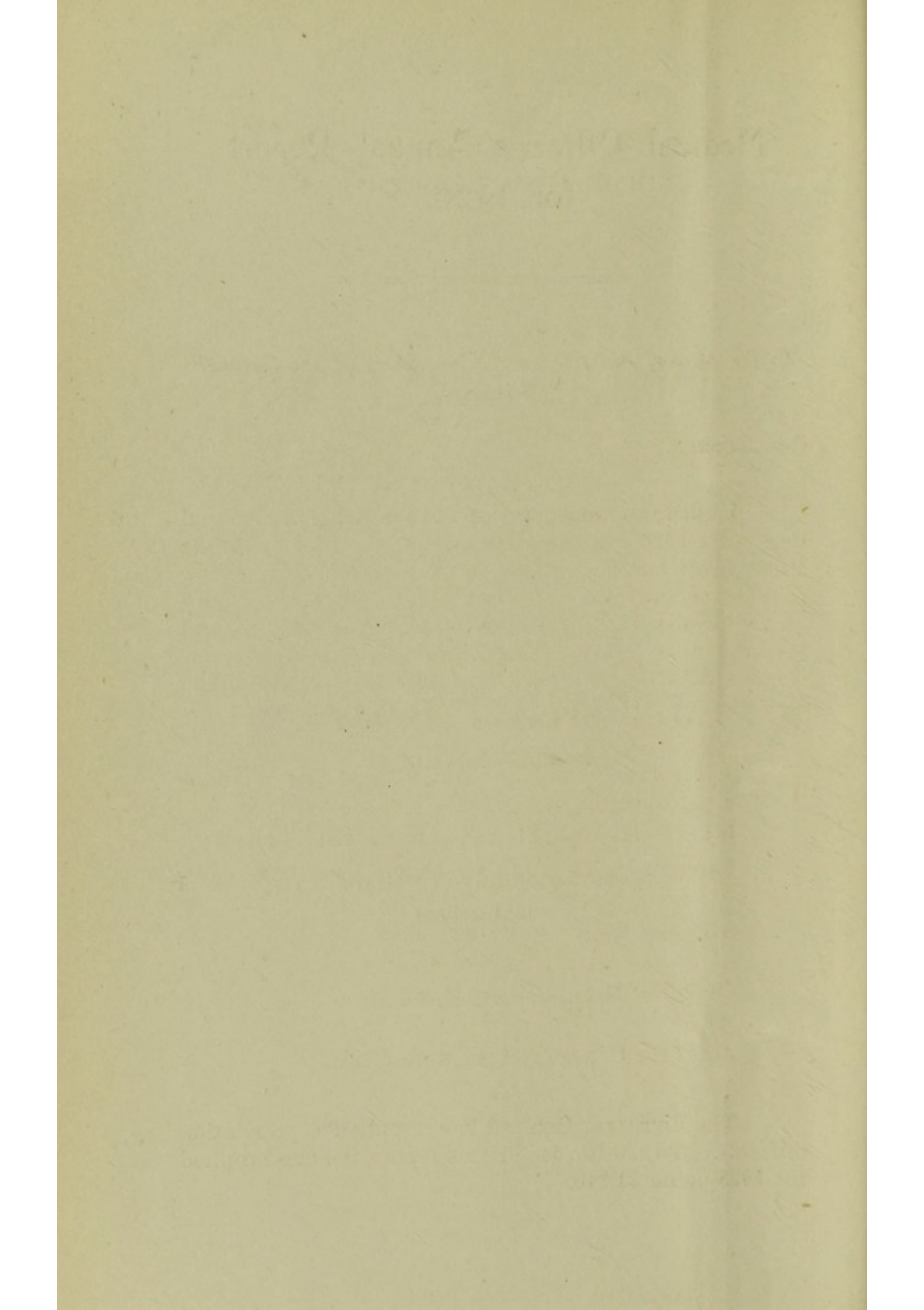
Maternity and Child Welfare

Medical Officer.

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BACUP:

Standard Printing Co., Old Corn Mill.



# Medical Officer's Annual Report for 1926.

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

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present you with my Annual Report for 1926, which complies with Circular 743 of the Ministry of Health of December 20th, 1926. According to that circular, this time it will be an ordinary report, i.e.:—extensive comparative tables, also all general remarks re water, drainage, physical characters, etc., there will be no reference to unless needed to explain statistics, etc.

The numbers and rates in brackets which follow the figures, unless otherwise stated, refer to 1925.

Rateable value—£113,598 on April 1st, 1926.

A Penny Rate yields £421.

Census 1921 population 21,263.

Acres for Census Return were 6,121.

The Registrar General has supplied a population estimate of 20,550 for use in this report, the one supplied for 1925 being 21,240.



## VITAL STATISTICS, ETC.

The deaths occurred in the following age groups :—

	1926	1925
Under 1 year ...	27	31
1 and under 2 years	9	9
2     „     5     „	6	10
5     „     15     „	5	7
15     „     25     „	9	12
25     „     45     „	32	35
45     „     65     „	85	104
65 years and upwards	118	128
	<hr/> 291	<hr/> 336

According to the Registrar General's 32 groups of causes of death, the deaths were as follows :—Enteric Fever 1, Measles 4, Whooping Cough 3, Diphtheria 1, Influenza 7, Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System 14, other Tuberculous Diseases 4, Cancer, malignant disease 18, Rheumatic Fever 3, Diabetes 1, Cerebral Haemorrhage etc. 22, Heart Disease 48, Arterio-Sclerosis 7, Bronchitis 29, Pneumonia (all forms) 18, other Respiratory Disease 1, Cirrhosis of Liver 1, Acute and Chronic Nephritis, 10, Puerperal Sepsis 1, other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition 2, Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth 10, Suicide 3, other deaths from Violence 3, other defined diseases 79 causes ill-defined and unknown 1.

Special causes included in the above 79 other defined diseases were Anthrax 1, Erysipelas 1.

	Total	Male	Female
Births in 1926 ...	351	176	175
Deaths in 1926 ...	291	127	164

Per 1,000 of Population.

Per 1,000 of population.

	Birth- rate	Death- rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births
Mean of 5 years				
1921-25	18·0	14·6	0·73	86
Year				
1925	1·63	15·8	0·75	89
1926	17·0	14·1	0·68	76
Increase or decrease in 1926 on mean of 5 years 1921-1925	—1·0	—0·5	—0·05	—10
Previous year	+0·7	—1·7	—0·07	—13

The illegitimate births were 13 (12), males 10 (8) females 3 (4).

The provisional birth-rate for England and Wales for 1926 was 17·8 per 1,000 death-rate 11·6 per 1,000.

### RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

The deaths were Bronchitis 29, Pneumonia 18, other Respiratory Disease 1, a total of 48 at 2·33 per 1000 per year, a low rate for this district.

### DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS (under 2 years old).

No deaths. Death-rate for England and Wales in 1926 was 8·7 per 1,000 births.

### CANCER AND MALIGNANT DISEASE.

Deaths were 18 (15), males 6 (7), females 12 (8), which are again lower numbers than a few years ago.



## RENAL AND ARTERIAL DEGENERATION.

Includes Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc., Arterio Sclerosis Acute and Chronic Nephritis. Deaths were 39, compared with 46 in 1925, 61 in 1924, 51 in 1923, and 40 in 1922.

CHIEF HOSPITALS USED are Royal Infirmary, Manchester. Rochdale Infirmary, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, St. Mary's Hospital, Manchester for women and children, Royal Manchester Eye Hospital.

The Mayor's Central Aid Fund assists at times as regards nourishments, medical and surgical appliances, etc.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Professional Nursing in the Home (a) General is undertaken by the Bacup Nursing Association, two Nurses; (b) Infectious Diseases, e.g. Measles. Whooping Cough, Puerperal Fever, Puerperal Pyrexia, Pneumonia, Typhoid Fever, and Ophthalmia Neonatorum by the same nurses.

The Bacup Nursing Association has no connection with the Local Authority.

Seven Midwives are in private practice. The Bacup Nursing Association nurses are midwives and practice. Seven live in and practice in the district. Birth Registers show that few cases, even on the boundary lines of the Borough, are attended by midwives from adjoining districts.

Clinics and Treatment Centres. Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and its work is put in Infant Mortality Section. School Clinics are under the Education Committee. Tuberculosis Clinic is under the Lancashire County Council Tuberculosis Committee.



## Hospitals Provided or Subsidised by the Local Authority

**Maternity.** Special arrangements made with Moorlands House, Rawtenstall, joint agreement with Haslingden Union Board of Guardians according to number of cases sent in.

**Children.** None, except that if mother is fit to leave Moorlands House, after confinement there, the baby may remain, if necessary, for special treatment.

**Smallpox.** Joint Hospital at Sourhall, Todmorden, with 32 beds.

**Fevers.** Agreement with Bury Joint Infectious Hospital Board—beds unlimited for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Enteric Fever, Puerperal Fever, Puerperal Pyrexia, Cerebro Spinal Fever, Poliomyelitis, Encephalitis Lethargica, Polioencephalitis.

**Other Diseases.** Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases can obtain admission to the Royal Eye Hospital, Manchester. Special arrangements for diseases when required, e.g. Influenza Epidemic 1918, the Haslingden Guardians had a special arrangement for Influenza—Pneumonia cases in their hospitals.

**Ambulance Facilities.** (a) In infectious cases—provided by hospitals. (b) Non-infectious and accident cases—the Borough Motor Ambulance.

## PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

M.O.H. is also Maternity and Child Welfare M.O. and S.M.O. One Sanitary Inspector. Two Health Visitors are also School Nurses.

Legislation in force is given in a table at the end of the Report.



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

Water Supply.—Town's Water supply is from moorland gathering grounds and is passed through Bell's Patent Mechanical Pressure Filters.

The Borough and Water Engineer's Report below gives details of water supplies, also drainage and sewerage :—

1. New connections to Town's Water Supply :—

Private Houses, domestic use	90
Works and Mills (by meter)	2
Urinals ... ..	none
Sprinklers ... ..	none

2. New Districts connected to Water Supply :—

Irwell Springs (Bent), Heath Hill, Tunstead Road, Fern Hill, Weir Terrace, King Street, Rose Hill Street, Allan Street, Rakehead (extension), Booth Road (extension).

3. New connections to existing Service Pipes :—

Baths and W.C's. ...	186
Mills and Works (by meter)	5

4. Total number of connections and Consumers on Town's Water Supply :—

Domestic connections ...	4710
Domestic Consumers ...	18840

At four persons per connection.

Workshops, Mills and Urinals	114
Sprinklers ... ..	18

5. New Sewers :— Oakenclough district.

Total length laid 9" diameter 400 yds.

•New Surface Water Sewers :—

Alma Street, Rockliffe Road, and Heathfield Road.

Total length laid 9" diameter 265 yds.

Total length laid 6" diameter 16 yds.

6. New connections to Sewers 218 yds.

### SCHOOLS.

Are in a satisfactory sanitary condition, with also supply of water.

As S.M.O. I am always in touch with them as regards the prevention and spread of infectious diseases.

RIVERS AND STREAMS attended to by the Mersey and Irwell and Rivers Board.

INSPECTION, CLOSETS, SCAVENGING, &c. are in the Sanitary Inspector's part of the Report. Conversion of pail closets to fresh water W.C's. is progressing, and has been a big problem. The conversions in 1926 were 227.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES. There are three which are kept in a satisfactory condition.

### HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1926.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total including (b) ... .. 46

(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts 1919, 1923 or 1924 :—

I. By the Local Authority ... .. 38

II. By other bodies or firms ... .. 6



## 1. Unfit dwelling-houses :—

Inspection. (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) None

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (inspection of district) Regulations 1910, or the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 ... 19

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 1

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. ... None

## 2. Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... None

## 3. Action under Statutory Powers :—

## (a) Proceedings under Section 3, Housing Act 1925

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... None

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—

(a) by owners	...	...	19
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	None

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... 2

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... 616

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :--

(a) by owners	...	...	534
(a) by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	None

(c) Proceedings under sections 11, 14 & 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :--

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... ... 1

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made 1

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... ... None

- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made None

- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... None



## INSPECTION and SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk supply is good, being from local farms, regularly inspected. When necessary Cattle are inspected by a Veterinary Surgeon. Certified Milk is sent into the Borough from one place for which a license is issued For Meat, under Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924, the Sanitary Inspector has been appointed an Inspector. Meat Stalls are closed in on three sides. There are only private Slaughter-houses.

		1926
No. registered	...	None
No. licensed	..	14
		<hr/>
	Total	14

Bake-houses and places where food is prepared are inspected.

The Chief Constable and the Sanitary Inspector are the sampling officers and there is close co-operation between them as regards sampling as well as supervision of those who prepare and distribute food.

24 Samples of New Milk, 1 of Pure Cream and 1 of Condensed Milk were taken, all being found by the analyst to be genuine.

Further particulars as Meat and Food Inspection etc., are in the Sanitary Inspector's part of the report.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As regards 1926, tables are at the end of the Report In following sections, unless otherwise stated, the numbers will be cases, or deaths in 1926.

## DIPHTHERIA.

There was 1 Death. 9 Cases were notified and 1 was removed to hospital.

## ANTHRAX.

1 Case notified of Malignant Pustule on the face of an engineer's labourer who worked at a felt works. Removed to hospital where he died.

## ERYSIPELAS.

1 Death. 21 Cases notified.

## SCARLET FEVER.

71 Cases. No deaths. Cases were evenly distributed throughout the year. 9 Cases removed to hospital. No return cases.

## ENTERIC FEVER.

2 Cases which were nursed at home. 1 Death.

## PUERPERAL FEVER AND PUERPERAL PYREXIA

There were 2 Cases of Puerperal Fever and 1 death.

Arrangements have been made for hospital treatment of Puerperal Pyrexia.

Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia have been dealt with by the Ministry under Statutory Rules and Orders 1926, No. 972, and Circular 722. Both are notifiable but the Minister is advised that it will be ultimately desirable to replace Puerperal Fever by the term Puerperal Pyrexia which involves no theory as regards causation. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia is notifiable and its definition is given as "Puerperal Pyrexia." ~~It means~~ means any febrile condition (other than a condition which is required to be notified as puerperal fever under the Infectious Disease (Notification) Acts) occurring in a woman within 21 days after childbirth or miscarriage in which a temperature of 100.4° Fahrenheit (38° Centegrade) or more has been sustained during



a period of 24 hours or has recurred during that period." Very definite and enough to make a midwife call in a doctor who would notify the case and she would cease to attend any other Confinement cases until after the prescribed disinfection etc. The word Puerperal Fever has caused so much annoyance to doctors and midwives that a well defined new term is welcome to both, and the early notification thus caused is a protection to other confinement cases.

The public should realise that such cases can arise where doctors and midwives have taken all precaution and in the past statements to the contrary have made notification delayed until too late to save the mother's life, also other confinement cases have been infected. To-day we owe a lot to the Press for their help in the correction of such things and in the education of the public to see how disease may be prevented from spreading.

#### WHOOPING COUGH.

There were 3 Deaths. It was mostly prevalent from August to November.

#### PNEUMONIA.

There were 34 cases notified and 18 deaths.

#### ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

One case, a boy aged 6 years who was removed to hospital in September. He is now at home, and paralysis of legs is improving but he is blind. His mental condition is exceptionally good.

#### CHICKEN POX.

There were 14 cases notified.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases			Vision Un- impaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	at Home	in Hospital				
1	yes	—	yes	—	—	—
2	yes	—	yes	—	—	—
3	yes	—	no	yes	Left Eye	—
4	yes	—	yes	—	—	—
5	yes	—	yes	—	—	—

The Ministry of Health has been concerned about failure to notify early or even at all such cases. Mild cases have been treated for a short time then when worse notified. Very definite instructions, advice as well as definition have been given in Statutory Rules and Orders 1926, No. 971, also Circular 617A. "Ophthalmia Neonatorum means a purulent discharge from the eyes from an infant commencing within 21 days from the date of its birth." Such a case a doctor is required to notify at once. It is the chief cause of blindness. Children are not born blind but become blind.

Any midwife who has such a case, however slight, must now send for a doctor, also must send a notice to the Local Supervising Authority that she has called in a doctor.

The public should realise that such cases can arise with the healthiest of parents, also in spite of the greatest care of doctors and midwives. Statements to the contrary have in the past caused delay in notification and loss of sight, even, all through the fear of uncalled for blame etc.



## MEASLES.

Never very prevalent but there were 4 deaths.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Table at the end of the Report.

Pulmonary cases 21, and 14 deaths. Non-Pulmonary cases 9, and 4 deaths. Pulmonary Tuberculosis death-rate per 1,000 was '68 against '75 for 1925. Tuberculosis notifications were 15 males, and 15 females, deaths were 10 males, 8 females.

## INFLUENZA.

There were 7 deaths, though the disease was never prevalent.

## GENERAL.

There is a disinfecting and cleansing station where verminous persons and their belongings can be disinfected, also cases of scabies in school children may have baths etc. At York Place, Manchester, 9 specimens of sputum were examined for Tubercle Bacilli and 2 were positive.

Many sputum tests are done through the Tuberculosis Dispensary.

As I am School Medical Officer and the Health Visitors are also School Nurses I am kept well in touch with Schools as regards infectious diseases.

The drying of clothes out of doors especially on Mondays is a question which affects even our improvements in the streets and lanes. There are large districts off the main roads which are mostly hilly too and well known to the occupiers of the houses, and to doctors who use motor cars, where on dry Mondays



visiting with a car is almost impossible, front and back streets being obstructed by clothes. If a front street must be used for clothes lines then half the street should be left open, and in my opinion, neighbours could settle the question. Fortunately for the patients during an extensive epidemic of Influenza in March, 1927, we had very wet weather which helped the doctors to get round anywhere, anytime as required, all to the advantage of the patients. Monday is the heaviest visiting day for doctors and under present conditions I am not the only doctor here who in winter and summer is delighted to have a wet Monday. A doctor is only human in energy and temper and when on a very fine day he loses time by being obstructed in nearly every hilly street off the main road, he is tempted to leave certain districts alone if possible that day or rushes his work to make up for lost time. With a full morning's work of going up and down staircases and the walking up all the steep streets, people must know what a doctor's temper can be like about noon. I should like to see how a workman would tolerate such an interference with him getting on with his work. A doctor's car is for the benefit of his patients, as thereby he gets to a place quickly also is fresh and alert, the better able to go into his case. It is no wonder that some doctors here at times do rush the streets and dust the car top with the clothes or break the clothes lines, finding out too late that the car cannot get under the lines. Mondays are not the only bad days, nor are doctors the only ones who complain especially in such districts where also at times steep streets are dangerous for cars owing to snow, or worse still, ice.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Infantile Mortality was 76 per 1,000 births per year, against 89 in 1925. It is the lowest rate recorded being 10 below the mean average of the previous five years. The Infantile Mortality rate for England and Wales was 70. The Legitimate death-rate per 1,000 was 73·96. The Illegitimate death-rate per 1,000 was 153·84 2 out of 13 children having died, 1 from Bronchitis and the other from want of attention at birth.





Baby Day was on Tuesday, June 29th, held in Olive House and grounds. About 80 children were judged for prizes by Dr. Jessie M. Valentine of Rochdale, the classes being under 1 year, and 1 and under 5 years. Prizes were given for garments made out of worn out clothes, suitable for children. Miss Priestley of Bacup was in the Chair, Lady Maden, J.P., distributed the prizes. About 500 persons were present on a glorious afternoon when refreshments were served out.

This Report has been condensed as much as possible, yet I have tried to show the results in such a manner that they can be compared with previous ones.

The work has been a pleasure to me as M.O.H. also S.M.O., and Maternity and Child Welfare M.O., besides I am sure to my Staff during the year for we have had the continued keen interest and co-operation of the Chairman of the Health Committee, Alderman Whitehead, also the Members of that Committee and its various Sub-Committees for which I am deeply grateful.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. PERCIVAL BROWN,  
M.B., Ch.B., M.O.H.

Burwood House,  
Bacup,  
April 11th, 1927.



LIST OF ACTS PROMOTED BY AND OF THOSE  
ADOPTED BY THE CORPORATION OF BACUP.

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Public Health Acts Amendment Act	...	1890
Local Government Board's Provisional Orders Confirmation (No 7 Act)		1890
do. do. (No. 10 Act)		1890
Bacup Corporation Water Act	... ..	1894
L. G. B.'s Provisional Orders Confirmation Act (No. 19 Act.)		1897
Bacup Corporation Water Act	... ..	1898
do. do. Act	... ..	1906
Public Health Acts Amendment Act	...	1907
Sections 18, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28, 31 and 33 of Part II.		
„ 34, 45, 49 and 51 of Part III.		
„ 55, 56, 59, 60, 62 and 66 of Part IV.		
L. G. B.'s Provisional Orders Confirmations Act (No. 4) Act	... ..	1912
L. G. B.'s Provisional Orders Confirmation Act (No. 16) Act	... ..	1913
L. G. B.'s Provisional Orders Confirmation Act (No. 3) Act	... ..	1919
Public Health Act	... ..	1925
Part II. Sections 13 to 35		
„ III. „ 36 to 44		
„ IV. „ 45 to 50		
„ V. „ 51 to 55		

# TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0—1 ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
1—5 ...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1
5—10 ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
10—15 ...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1
15—20 ...	2	1	1	1	1	1	...	...
20—25 ...	2	3	...	1	1	1	...	1
25—35 ...	2	1	...	...	4	...	...	...
35—45 ...	3	2	...	...	3	1	...	...
45—55 ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55—65 ...	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
65 and upwards ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	12	9	3	6	10	4	...	4



# INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of cases of infectious diseases notified, number of deaths from these diseases, number of cases removed to hospital, and deaths in hospital during the year 1926.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED.													Hospital		
	Total Cases at all Ages notified	YEARS.												Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to district
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over			
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ...	9	...	...	...	2	2	2	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Erysipelas ...	21	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	4	12	1	...	1	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	71	...	1	2	9	14	33	2	8	2	...	...	...	...	9	...
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...

Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	5	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Anthrax ... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Acute Primary Pneumonia	34	2	4	2	3	1	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Influenza "	21	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	9	1	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
*Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
*Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox ... ..	14	3	...	2	...	2	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
TOTALS ...	190	11	5	6	13	20	49	9	16	22	14	23	2	48	30	10	...	...	...	...

\* Not Notifiable.







BOROUGH OF BACUP.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Sanitary Inspector,

### Arthur E. Barnes,

A.M.R.S. Inst., Cert. R.I.P.H. (by exam.)  
Mem. Inst. of Cleansing Superintendents.  
Honours Cert. Plumbing, Hygiene, &c.

For the year ended December 31st, 1926.

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BACUP :  
The Standard Printing Co., Old Corn Mill,



SANITARY INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,  
ROCHDALE ROAD,  
BACUP,  
JANUARY 19TH, 1927.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Gentlemen,

Herewith I submit my Twenty-fifth Annual Report of the work done by the Sanitary Department during the year 1926.

SUMMARY OF WORK.

Visits and Re-Visits to Houses	...	...	3170
Notices and Letters served	...	...	506
Worshop Inspections	...	...	109
Cowshed Inspections	...	...	126
Slaughter-house and Offensive Trade Inspections			511
Complaints received	...	...	74
Rooms Disinfected	...	...	133
Drains tested	...	...	11
Visits to Fried Fish Shops	...	...	43
Visits paid to Infected Houses...	...	...	326
Dust-bins sold and delivered	...	...	324
Steam Disinfector used on 3 occasions.			

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.

Frequent inspections have been made of premises and shops where food was prepared or kept for sale, also the Market has been visited twice weekly.

The following quantities of unsound food were destroyed :—

7 Beast Livers  
16 lbs Beef  
24 lbs Strawberries  
376 lbs Pork  
2-6 lbs Tins Corned Beef  
2 Trees of Bananas  
2 Bags of Mussels

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

We have Fourteen Licensed Slaughter-houses situate in different parts of the Borough. These have been regularly inspected and the Bye-laws strictly adhered to

## MEAT REGULATIONS.

All the Butchers shops in our Borough, with the exception of one, are situated on the main road, and with the traffic this makes it imperative that these shop windows should be closed to prevent mud, filth or any other contaminating substance being splashed or blown thereon.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number on Register—	Tripe Boilers	2
„	„ Fat Melter	1

These premises have been regularly inspected and the Bye-laws strictly adhered to.

## FRIED FISH SHOPS.

There are Thirty-nine in the Borough for the sale of fried fish and chip potatoes. Provided good and sound materials are used and the cooking carried out in a satisfactory manner no objection can be taken to these places

## SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

Seven observations of 1 hours duration were taken. In two cases an excessive amount of black smoke was emitted ; an improvement has since been effected.



## FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

We have on our Register the following : Workshops 84, Workplaces 7, viz. ;—Kitchen of Restaurants 6, Livery Stable Yard 1. One hundred and nine visits have been made under the above Act, several defects were noted and improvements effected. Four notices were served, in other cases the owners' or occupiers' attention was drawn to the defects or contraventions observed. Twenty-nine pail closets have been dispensed with and the water carriage system adapted.

## MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926.

We have on our register 97 Cowkeepers and Milk-sellers. During the year 126 inspections were made. Some farmers supply milk in our Borough from an adjoining district. One application for supplementary license to sell certified milk was received and granted. In accordance with the above Order a list of Cowkeepers and Milksellers with the situation of their premises has been sent to the County Council.

## SALE OF FOOD AND DRUG ACT.

Six samples of Milk have been taken, after analysis all were certified genuine.

## HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING ACT, 1909 AND 1925.

Nineteen inspections were made under the above Act and 802 inspections under the Public Health Acts. Several of our back to back houses can be converted into through houses which will make them satisfactory. Along with these alterations in other cases houses will have to be taken down to relieve the congestion and improve the light and ventilation. The houses in one area in the centre of the town should be entirely removed. I would like to mention that at several of our back to back houses pail closets are provided some distance away from the dwellings. In such cases, when the houses are altered into through houses, these pail closets can be removed and water closets provided and fixed inside. A great improvement has been effected by



the provision of new sewers in Todmorden Road, this has enabled us to make progress in the conversion to the water carriage system. At present the outlying portion of Burnley Road district is receiving attention. The pail closets in Plantation Street and the central part of the town has received attention. A great improvement has been effected in these areas.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Three hundred and six visits were made to infected houses, enquiries made as to the cause or origin of the disease, instructions given with regard to the isolation of the infected person and disinfection of the infected articles, etc., connected with the disease. Sanitary pails, disinfectants and carbolised oil are supplied free. In case the infected person was a child attending school, the school authorities were informed and instructions given to keep all children from school until the Medical Attendant certified the children to be free from infection

One hundred and thirty-three rooms have been disinfected. Houses in which there were tubercular diseases were visited and an offer made to disinfect. On request from the owners or occupiers any infected material is destroyed by our own men. Forty-two mattresses, beds and a large quantity of bed linen has been destroyed on such request during the year, in each case I always endeavour to have this request in writing. Other articles are either disinfected in the bedroom with formic aldehyde gas or removed to the steam disinfecter. During the year 12 articles have been removed, disinfected and returned to the owners from houses in which had been infectious cases.

### CLEANSING DEPARTMENT.

During the year the work of collecting the pail contents has been continued during the night-time. Some complaints respecting night-time work were received. I have gone into this matter but cannot see that the complaints can be remedied until the water



carriage system is generally adopted throughout the Borough. During the year I dispensed with the services of one horse and two men one night each two weeks. This not only meant an actual saving of the amount paid for this horse and two men, but a great sanitary improvement was effected which cannot fail to be of benefit to the ratepayers. In dealing with the conversion of pail closets to water carriage, although good progress is being made, I would again strongly urge the Committee to proceed with a general scheme throughout the Borough, instead of the present piecemeal system. I consider our present system is wasteful and slow, the amount we spend in emptying pails, contributions towards conversions, etc., would provide a sinking fund, and interest payments towards a loan for a general scheme, and leave some margin for other improvements, or reducing the cost of the Health Committee's estimates. This would not only effect a financial gain but also one of our most needed sanitary improvements. This matter is worth your urgent consideration. I would also draw your attention to the fact, though sewers have been provided in the outlying districts on account of no suitable supply of water we cannot have these closets converted. This entails wasteful expense in travelling to and from these outlying districts for the collection of these pails, this matter is receiving my attention.

The collection of domestic and trade refuse is done by two Albion 3 ton waggons, fully employed on this work. In dealing with the collection of refuse certain governing factors have to be taken into consideration; towns cannot be judged from the same standpoint. After an extensive trial with motors for our town, I am convinced the work is more efficiently done than when done by horses, especially during the present time when the place of disposal is such a long distance from the point of collections. By having a Vulcan wagon in reserve one difficulty has been overcome, viz. :— that on account of our motors being fully employed, should any repairs be required which necessitated taking any time during the day, our work was not impeded. The removal of trade refuse brings in a revenue of £85 per annum which barely covers the cost, but is of service to the various tradesmen. Refuse is removed systematically and disposed of; thus preventing it accumulating at the various premises and becoming a nuisance.



We have a few places in the Borough where it is not practicable to get with our Albion motors for which we occasionally engage a horse and cart, or use the Vulcan motor. All the refuse collected is disposed of by tipping on land; several complaints were received during the year respecting paper being blown off the tips. If occupiers and householders could be prevailed upon to dispose of their paper at home, an improvement would be effected. I have carefully examined the refuse collected and find that a great quantity is useable or saleable material which should be disposed of at home. We are removing too great a quantity of refuse which entails a two-fold loss to the ratepayers. During the year a notice has been posted inside the lid of each dustbin sold by us drawing the occupier's attention to this waste. Respecting the disposal of refuse I would recommend the Committee to give the modern methods of refuse disposal their earliest attention, so that the present method of dumping refuse on "Tips" could be dispensed with. Few complaints have been received respecting fires on our tips, to obviate this, is a difficult problem in our Borough, as at some houses the ashes are only removed from the householders grates during the time the collection of refuse is taking place, this means live ashes are mixed with other refuse. I have drawn the occupiers attention to this matter.

During the year the sale of dust-bins has been continued, we have sold and delivered 324. Twelve ash-pits have been abolished and bins supplied in lieu thereof. The owners of property are finding it is to their own advantage to dispense with ashpits, boxes, etc., and provide up-to-date dust-bins. When dust-bins are generally adopted a great sanitary improvement will have been effected and the work of refuse removal will be greatly facilitated. There is some difficulty experienced in several of our houses by lack of provision for any place outside the premises to store the bin. During the year the smaller bin which was adopted for the back to back houses have given every satisfaction.

The following are the number of the various types of closets, ashpits, etc., in the Borough (these do not include isolated houses or several of our farm houses in the outlying districts which are attended to by the occupiers themselves).



Fixed ashpits in combination with privies	...	2
" " " " cesspool	...	3
" " not in combination with privy or cesspool	... ..	73
Moveable receptacles of galvanised iron	...	4210
Other receptacles, boxes, etc. (this is a varying quantity)	... ..	1593
Fresh water closets	... ..	2892
Cesspools and privies	... ..	12
Pail closets	... ..	991
Waste water closets	... ..	445

Your Inspector gratefully recognises the valuable assistance he has received from His Worship the Mayor (Councillor Rhodes), the Ex-Mayor and Chairman—Mr. Alderman Whitehead, and Members of the Health Committee during the year.

I am Gentlemen,

You obedient Servant,

ARTHUR E. BARNES,

*A.M.R.S.I. Cert. R.I.P.H. (by exam.) Mem. Ins. of Cleansing  
Superintendent; Hons. Plumbing, Hygiene, etc.*

Chief Sanitary Inspector.