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URBAN DISTRICT OF
BRIERFIELD.

Annual Report

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1907,

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(J. S. WILSON, M.B., C.M.),


AND

Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector

(B. HALSTEAD),

Member of the Incorporated Association of Municipal and County Engineers,
and Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

COULTON & Co., LTD., "LEADER" OFFICE, BRIERFIELD.



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BRIERFIELD.

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S Annual Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1907.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Fourth Annual Report of the health of the District.

The population of the Township at the last census in 1901 was 7,288. I estimate it to be to the middle of the year 8,200, and have calculated my statistics on that basis.

From Table A you will be able to compare birth-rates, death-rates, and zymotic death-rates for the last five years.

TABLE A.

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.	1903.
Birth-rate	21.83	21.79	22.46	22.8	26.9
Death-rate	12.5	13.07	13.5	15.7	14.1
Zymotic death-rate....	0.6	2.8	1.16	2.5	1.2
Phthisis death-rate....	1.5	1.2	1.1	1.0	0.13
Respiratory death-rate	4.7	4.2	4.0	5.13	4.40

BIRTHS.

During the year there were 179 births—94 males and 85 females. Of these 14 were illegitimate. This gives a birth-rate of 21.83, compared to 21.79 for last year. This is a very low birth-rate, and is just above that of last year, which was the lowest on record.

DEATHS.

During the year there were 103 deaths—40 males and 63 females. This is equivalent to an annual death-rate of 12.5. There were 34 deaths among children under five years of age, equal to 33.99 per cent. of the total deaths. The death-rate this last year is again very low, being under the average for the last five years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The rate of deaths under one year to 1,000 births is 151. They were distributed in the following ages:—

8 deaths under one month.

12 over one month and under six months.

7 over six months and under one year.

From Table B you will see the cause of death in each case:—

TABLE B.

	Bronchitis	Diarrhoea	Premature Birth	Wasting Diseases	Tuberculous Dis.	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia
Under 1 month .....	...	...	5	3	...	...	...
1 mon. & under 6 mon.	4	3	...	3	1	...	1
6 mon. & under 12 mon.....	2	...	...	...	2	1	2

From Table C, taken from Dr. Sergeant's Report, you will see the comparative death-rate of children under one year in Brierfield, in the Urban and Rural Districts of Lancashire, and England and Wales.

TABLE C.

	1907.	1906.	1905.	1904.
Brierfield	151	164	156	149
Rural Districts { Lancs. }	—	109	101	124
Urban Districts { Lancs. }	—	143	137	162
England and Wales...	—	133	128	146

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING 1907.

TABLE D.

CAUSES OF DEATH. 1	Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents," whether occurring in or beyond the district.						
	All ages 2	Under 1 year 3	1 and under 5 4	5 and under 15 5	15 and under 25 6	25 and under 65 7	65 and up- wards 8
Whooping-cough	1	1					
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	1		1				
Epidemic Influenza	1					1	
Enteritis	3	3					
Erysipelas	1						1
Phthisis (Pul. Tuberculosis) ...	10			1	3	6	
Other tubercular diseases ...	4	3		1			
Cancer, malignant disease ...	5					4	1
Bronchitis	18	6	3			3	6
Pneumonia	11	3	1	1		6	
Premature Birth	5	5					
Heart diseases	14	1		1		9	3
Suicides	1					1	
Nephritis	2					1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	10					6	4
Infantile Complaints	7	5	2				
Diabetes	2						2
Senile Decay	2						2
Intestinal Obstruction	3				1	2	
All other causes	2				1	1	
All Causes	103	27	7	4	5	40	20

TABLE E.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1907 AND
PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths Registered in District.				Nett Deaths all ages.		
		No.	Rate.	Under 1 year.		At all ages.		Deaths in Public Institutions beyond District.	No.	Rate.
1900	7200 ...	214	29·72 ...	22	102·71 ...	84	11·66	...	84	11·66
1901	7300 ...	206	28·20 ...	40	194·17 ...	116	15·89	...	116	15·89
1902	7400 ...	183	24·73 ...	25	137·10 ...	98	13·24	...	98	13·24
1903	7500 ...	202	26·93 ...	32	158·41 ...	106	14·13	...	106	14·13
1904	7600 ...	174	22·89 ...	26	149·42 ...	120	15·78	...	120	15·78
1905	7700 ...	173	22·46 ...	27	156·06 ...	102	13·24	2	104	13·50
1906	7800 ...	170	21·79 ...	28	164·70 ...	102	13·07	...	102	13·07
Averages for years 1900-1906	7500 ...	189	25·24 ...	29	151·79 ...	104	13·86	...	104	13·86
1907 .....											8200 ...	179	21·83 ...	27	151	91	11·09	12	103	12·56

Area of District in Acres	787
Total Population at all ages	8200
Number of Inhabited Houses	1800
Average number of persons per house	4·5

You will again note that the birth-rate, though a fraction above last year, is still very low, practically the whole increase of population being due to an influx from neighbouring counties.

The infantile mortality, though not so high as last year, is still very high. The majority of the deaths occurred during the last quarter of the year. Nine were due to respiratory diseases, and eleven due to premature birth or wasting disease.

I am glad our Sanitary Authority has adopted the Compulsory Notification of Births Act. We propose in suitable cases whenever a birth has been notified, to leave at the house of the mother a printed form—that formulated by Dr. Sergeant—showing how a child should be fed, clothed, and generally cared for during the first twelve months of life. This should tend in some measure to reduce the waste of infantile life in industrial centres.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There have been 24 cases of infectious disease notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.—There were 16 cases notified during the year with no deaths.

Diphtheria.—There were two cases notified with one death.

Erysipelas.—There were five cases with no deaths.

Typhoid.—There was one case notified, which recovered.

From Table F you will be able to compare the number of infectious diseases notified during the last five years:—

TABLE F.

	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903
Scarlet Fever ...	16	14	86	8	27
Diphtheria	2	16	8	63	11
Typhoid	1	3	0	0	6
Erysipelas	5	6	8	14	7
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	1	0
	24	39	102	86	51

You will note we have been very free from all forms of infectious disease during the last two years, and the few cases we have had have been of a very mild character.

VACCINATION.

From Table G you will see the number of children vaccinated successfully and the number of exemptions granted:—

TABLE G.

	Public Births.	Public Vaccinations.	Private Vaccinations.	Exemption Certificates.
1907	179	39	11	76
1906	170	69	12	81

The area of the district is 787 acres; the subsoil clayey and damp, but from its sloping situation there is a direct fall of at least 500 feet from Marsden Heights to Pendle Water, it lends itself very readily to drainage, and neutralises to some extent the nature of the soil. The cultivated land in the vicinity is all pasturage and meadow, the produce from it being milk, butter, and eggs.

The water supply from the Nelson Corporation has been in the main plentiful and of good quality. A new service pipe has been put down in Halifax Road and carried along Walter Street. The supply there is now good, but from Walter Street to the bottom of Halifax Road there is not enough pressure, and a few complaints have been made. The condition is now under consideration by your Committee. Those residing on Marsden Heights have to depend on spring water, and some of the residents have to carry it a rather long distance; it is good water, and plentiful in amount.

Factories and Workshops have been visited regularly; the lighting, heating, and ventilation have been satisfactory. The closets have been inspected, and with one or two exceptions found in fair condition. The latrines and closets at the Brierfield Mills have now been connected with the main sewer passing under the canal.

From Table H you will see the inspections made in connection with factories and workshops:—

TABLE H.

Premises (1)	Number of Inspections. (2)	Number of Written Notices (3)
FACTORIES	36	3
WORKSHOPS	24	—
	—	—
Total	60	3

Dairies and Cowsheds have been inspected. We are waiting the sanction of the Local Government Board to adopt their regulations.

The condition of the roads in the township are much improved this year. The upper part of Castle Street and Clegg Street are still bad.

During the year I have inspected the Slaughter-houses and Bake-houses, and have made systematic inspections of the district. I have also sent monthly returns of the infectious diseases and the mortality of the district to the Lancashire County Council and quarterly reports to your Council.

I am indebted to the sanitary staff for so willingly supplying me with the required statistics.

Appended is Mr. Halstead's report of the work done in the Sanitary and Surveyor's department.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. S. WILSON.

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The following is a summary of the nuisances dealt with during the year:—

Defective and untrapped Drains	14
Defective Waste Water Closets	156
Defective Ashpits	6
Miscellaneous	25
Total	201

115 Notices have been served relating to the above, and they have all been complied with.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.—We have six registered slaughterhouses within the District. These have been visited periodically and in several instances the occupiers' attention called to the necessity of whitewashing and thoroughly cleansing the premises.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—Numerous inspections have been made and various defects been found in the Sanitary Conveniences at several of the factories; some of these have been remedied and others are at present receiving attention. At the Brierfield Mills a number of the tank closets have been abolished and clean water closets constructed with automatic flushing cisterns attached thereto. During the year it is proposed to make further alterations in this direction.

BAKEHOUSES.—These were visited, and in one instance the drainage was found unsatisfactory, but this has since been remedied.

CANAL BOATS.—10 inspections were made during the year, and the boats were found to be registered and to comply with the regulations.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.—Inspections have taken place from time to time, and in some cases it was found necessary to insist upon cleansing and whitewashing, but generally they are fairly well attended to.

SCAVENGING.—During the year 637 tons of refuse from Brierfield have been destroyed at the Nelson Destructor Works.

In addition to the above, the following loads of refuse have been carted to the various places mentioned below:—

- 106 loads of ashes to the Recreation Ground.
- 888 loads of ashes to the Sewage Works.
- 217 loads of excreta from pail and tank closets on to farm land.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR.

Area of District, 787 acres.

Estimated population, 8,200.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my seventh annual report of the work of the Surveyor's Department for the year 1907.

Plans relating to the following buildings have been approved during the year:—

Houses	43
School	1
Estate Plans	2
Mill Extensions	2
	—
Total	48

Alterations to existing buildings—3.

PRIVATE STREET IMPROVEMENTS.—The following works have been carried out during the year:—

- 623 Lineal yards of Curbing.
- 1273 Superficial yards of Flagging.
- 2418 Superficial yards of Paving.
- 448 Lineal yards of 9in. Sewer.
- 30 Gullies, and connections to Sewer.

the total cost amounting to £1,533.

There are now 60 front streets and 43 back streets paved and sewered.

The total length of front streets paved amounts to 5 miles 6 furlings and 141 yards, and back streets 1 mile 3 furlongs and 54 yards.

There are 8 miles and 60 yards of sewers, 145 manholes, 74 lampholes, and 671 gullies within the district.

SEWAGE WORKS.—The reports of the Chief Inspector to the Ribble Joint Committee continue to be satisfactory, but the capacity of the contact beds having been considerably reduced, it is proposed during the coming year to remove the ashes and wash them. By this means the capacity and efficiency of the Works will be greatly increased and the necessity for constructing further beds postponed for some time to come. This method has been very extensively tried at Burnley and found to work very satisfactorily.

356 loads of sludge have been removed from the Septic Tanks and carted on to adjoining land.

373 loads of furnace ashes have been carted to the works, for the purpose of replenishing those which have become fouled on the surface of the contact beds, and for adding to those which we propose to wash for refilling the beds.

SECONDARY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS.—The following works have been carried out during the year:—

- 40 Lineal yards of Curbing.
- 294 Superficial yards of Flagging.
- 63 Superficial yards of Paving.
- 100 Lineal yards of 12in. Sewer.
- 1 Road Gully.

250 tons of Limestone have been used upon the above roads.

225 loads of detritus from gullies, and 291 loads of road scrapings have been tipped at the Sewage Works; 654 loads of road sweepings carted on to farm lands, and 328 loads of snow to the various tips. 20 loads of ashes have been used in repairing footpaths.

ELECTRICITY.—The following table shews the consumption of Electricity for the last five years:—

	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Ordinary consumers.....	4970	9372	11391	12190	11704
Motors	1116	1534	1726	2064	2206
Radiator	—	779	991	689	—
Street Lighting	5300	5000	5000	5000	4720
Totals.....	11386	16685	19108	19943	18630

A Sub-Committee has been appointed to enquire into the supply of Electricity, and will present its report in due course.

STREET LIGHTING.—The Council having decided to discontinue the lighting of the Main Road by Electricity, the work of erecting incandescent gas lamps is now proceeding. When completed we shall have 78 lamps upon the Main Road, against 25 electric lamps last year. Previous to adopting electric light on the Main Road we had only 29 gas lamps of the flat flame type. At that time we had only 139 gas lamps in the whole of the District, and these had all flat flame burners, whereas when the lighting of the Main Road is completed we shall have 216 lamps, all fit up with incandescent lights.

The number of mantles used per lamp during 1907 was 5, against 4.5 last year.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

B. HALSTEAD.

