

[Report 1909] / Medical Officer of Health, Brierfield U.D.C.

Contributors

Brierfield (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1909

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/aqc8q8xp>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



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

URBAN DISTRICT OF
BRIERFIELD.

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1909,

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



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b2895287x>

BRIERFIELD

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1909.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my sixth Annual Report on the health and sanitation of the district.

The population of the Township at the last census in 1901 was 7,288. I estimate it to be in the middle of the year 8,600, and have calculated my statistics on that basis.

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

	1909.	1908.	1907.	1906.	1905.
Birth-rate	21·39	22 85	21·83	21·79	22·46
Death-rate	11·74	14·2	12·5	13·07	13·5
Zymotic Death-rate.....	·80	1·6	0·6	2·8	1·16
Phthisis Death-rate.....	1·5	1·6	1·5	1·2	1·1
Respiratory Death-rate	2·2	3·2	4·7	4·2	4·0

BIRTHS.

During the year there were 184 births—91 males and 93 females. Of these 13 were illegitimate—11 females and 2 males. This gives a birth-rate of 21·39 compared to 22·85 for last year. This is the lowest birth-rate recorded in Brierfield, and the illegitimate birth-rate is the highest.

DEATHS.

During the year there were 101 deaths—53 males and 48 females. This is equivalent to an annual death-rate of 11.7. There were 24 deaths among children under 5 years of age, equal to 23.7 per cent. of the total deaths. This is a very low death-rate.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The rate of deaths under 1 year to 1,000 births is 98. They were distributed in the following ages:—

7 under 1 month.

8 over 1 month and under 6 months.

3 over 6 months and under 1 year.

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

TABLE B.

	Bronchitis	Diarrhea	Premature Birth	Wasting Disease	Convulsions	Pneumonia.	Measles	Meningitis
Under 1 month	1	...	2	4	...	...	...	...
1 month and under 6 months .....	...	3	...	3	1	...	...	1
6 months and under 12 months.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1

From Table C taken from Dr. Sergeant's Report, you will see the comparative death-rate of children under 1 year in Brierfield, in the Urban and Rural Districts of Lancashire, and England and Wales.

TABLE C.

	1909	1908	1907	1906
Brierfield	98	151	151	164
Rural Districts { Lanes. }	—	97	96	109
Urban Districts { Lanes. }	—	136	129	143
England and Wales ..	—	121	118	133

TABLE D.

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING 1909.

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
Measles	2	1	1				
Diarrhœa	2	2					
Enteritis... ..	3	1	1				1
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) ...	10		1	1	2	6	
Other Tuberculous Diseases...	3			1	1	1	
Cancer, malignant Disease ...	8					6	2
Bronchitis	14	1				9	4
Pneumonia	5	1	2			1	1
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	3					3	
Premature birth	2	2					
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1				1		
Heart diseases	11			1	1	7	2
Accidents	1					1	
Infantile Complaints	8	8					
Senile Decay	13					1	12
Cerebral Hœmorrhage... ..	7					3	4
All other Causes	8	2	1			5	
All causes	101	18	6	3	5	43	26

TABLE E.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1909 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 ...	—	58	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
1907	8200 ...	179	21.83 ...	27	151.00 ...	91	11.09 ...	12	103	12.56
1908	8400 ...	192	22.85 ...	29	151.04 ...	113	13.45 ...	7	120	14.28
Averages for years 1899—1908	7677 ...	188	24.48 ...	28	148.93 ...	103	13.40 ...	—	106	13.80
1909	8600 ...	184	21.39 ...	18	97.88 ...	97	11.27 ...	4	101	11.74

The increase in population in the main is due to an influx from the neighbouring towns and villages. You will note the birth-rate is the lowest on record; there was a slight increase last year.

The infantile mortality is very low this year; this may be in part due to the increased attention the subject of the waste of infant life has received from all classes of the community. At the same time, for a year or two our summers have been cool and showery, and this has doubtless exerted a favourable influence in checking summer diarrhoea in children, which is usually so rife during the third quarter of the year.

Dr. Sergeant's pamphlet showing how a child should be fed, clothed, and generally cared for may still be had at the Sanitary Office, though few applications are made for it.

The Sanitary Authority some time ago adopted by resolution the Compulsory Notification of Births Act, but its opera-

tion was deferred until a nurse had been appointed, as insisted on by the Local Government Board. Arrangements have now been made with the Burnley Nursing Association whereby the services of a District Nurse may be had when required. In the course of a few weeks we expect the Act to be in operation.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There have been 18 cases of infectious disease notified during the year:—Scarlet Fever, 9 cases; Puerperal Fever, 1 case; Erysipelas, 7 cases; Diphtheria, 1 case.

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

TABLE F.

	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905
Scarlet Fever	9	9	16	14	86
Diphtheria	1	1	2	16	8
Typhoid	0	1	1	3	0
Erysipelas	7	4	5	6	8
Puerperal Fever	1	0	0	0	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	18	15	24	39	102

Four cases were removed to the Sanatorium. You will again note we have been very free from all forms of infectious disease, and the few cases we have had have been of a mild character.

VACCINATION.

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

TABLE G.

	Births.	Public Vaccinations.	Private Vaccinations.	Exemption Certificates.
1909	184	54	6	116
1908	192	59	6	121
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 AREA OF THE DISTRICT, &c~~

The water supply has been plentiful and of good quality. There are still a few complaints of insufficient pressure at the bottom of Halifax Road. As a new main has been laid down in that vicinity, probably the defect may be in the old pipes which convey the water from the main to the house.

Those residing in Marsden Heights have to depend on spring water. It is good and plentiful.

Factories and workshops have been visited regularly. The lighting, heating, and ventilation have been satisfactory. The closets and latrines have been inspected, and the various defects found remedied.

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	...	...	...	37	17
WORKSHOPS	...	...	...	22	—
				—	—
	Total	...	...	59	17

The dairies and cow-sheds have been inspected. The regulations of the Local Government Board have been adopted and sanction received; they will be in operation in a few weeks.

The conditions of the roads in the township are good. Taylor Street, part of Hardy Street, and the bottom of Castle Street require attention.

During the year the slaughter-houses have been repeatedly inspected. The majority have been whitewashed ; one has been re-drained, and various other defects remedied.

The bakehouses have been visited ; they are in good condition.

I have sent monthly returns of the infectious diseases and the mortality of the district to the Lancashire County Council, the Joint Hospital Board, and quarterly reports to your Council.

During the year I have made systematic inspections of the district.

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	16
Defective waste water closets	47
Defective ashpits	6
New w.c.'s provided	8
Miscellaneous	18
	—
	95

47 notices have been given relating to the above, nearly all of which have been complied with.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The applications of six persons to have their slaughter-houses registered have been granted, subject to certain alterations, which have since been carried out. A few breaches of the regulations were discovered on visitation, and the occupier's attention called to the same, which were immediately remedied.

CANAL BOATS.

Eleven inspections were made during the year, and they were found to be satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES.

These have been regularly visited and very few complaints have been necessary, as they are kept in a clean and healthy condition.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

These have been periodically visited and generally found in a fairly satisfactory condition. When the new regulations come into force further attention will be given to them.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Numerous visits have been paid to these during the year. A number of notices have been served with regard to various sanitary defects, and several are still being dealt with. A number of tank closets have been abolished at the Brierfield Mills. The owners of Hollin Bank Mills have given an undertaking that as soon as the new gas engine has got to work they will discontinue the practice of flushing the closets with warm water and substitute cold water in lieu thereof.

SCAVENGING.

During the year 796 tons of refuse from Brierfield have been destroyed at the Nelson Destructor Works.

In addition the following loads of refuse have been carted to the various tips:—

830 loads of ashes to the tips near the Sewage Works.

228 loads of excreta from pail and tank closets on to farm land.

REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR.

Area of district, 787 acres. Estimated population, 8,600.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my ninth Annual Report of the work of the Surveyor's Department for the year 1909.

Plans relating to the following buildings have been approved during the year:—Houses, 7; mill warehouse, 1; new school, 1; gas engine house, 1; re-building hotel, 1; bathroom additions, 11; miscellaneous, 6.

PRIVATE STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

The following works have been carried out during the year:—

- 260 lineal yards of curbing.
- 448 lineal yards of channelling.
- 440 superficial yards of flagging.
- 2208 superficial yards of paving.
- 25 gullies and connections to sewer.
- 2 lampholes.

The total cost amounted to £983 16s. 8d.

There are now 64 front streets and 48 back streets paved and sewered.

The total length of front streets paved amounts to 6 miles 1 furlong 84 yards, and back streets 1 mile 4 furlongs 140 yards.

There are 8 miles 1 furlong and 166 yards of sewers; 151 manholes; 81 lampholes; and 817 gullies within the district.

SEWAGE WORKS.

During the year 294 loads of ashes have been carted to these works for replenishing the top of the second contact and storm beds. A large portion of the fine ashes washed during the previous year have also been used for this purpose.

We are also at present engaged in constructing a small detritus tank at the entrance to the works.

206 loads of detritus from gullies and 111 loads of road scrapings have been tipped at the Sewage Works; 505 loads of road sweepings carted on to farm land; 854 loads of snow to various tips; and 89 loads of ashes spread upon the streets and footpaths during frost.

ELECTRICITY.

The following table shows the consumption of electricity for the last five years:—

	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Ordinary consumers ...	11391	12190	11704	14458	22757
Motors	1726	2064	2206	4357	5321
Radiator	991	689	—	—	—
Street lighting	5000	5000	4720	217	—
	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	19108	19943	18630	19032	28078

STREET LIGHTING.

We have now 228 street lamps against 223 last year. The number of mantles used per lamp was 7.73 against 7 in 1908. The average per lamp along the main road being 10.6

We have fixed 12 "Gunfire" controllers for the automatic lighting of street lamps, but they have not been fixed for a sufficiently long period to say whether this method of street lighting will prove satisfactory or not.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

B. HALSTEAD.

