

Contributors

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Burnley Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

DR. H. J. ROBINSON,

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1913.

BURNLEY:

JOHN DIXON, LTD., PRINTERS, MANCHESTER ROAD AND STANLEY STREET.



BURNLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

YEAR ENDED 1913.

COUNCILLORS :

Altham	Albert Foster.
Barley	William James Martin.
Blacko.....	Tom Ridehalgh.
Briercliffe	Bannister Kippax.
Cliviger	John Jobling, J.P.
Dunnoekshaw.....	Stephen Landless.
Foulridge.....	James Lonsdale.
Goldshaw Booth	Alexander Bell.
Habergham Eaves.....	Jos. H. Howarth.
Hapton	Frederick L. Riley, J.P.
Higham.....	James Stuttard.
Huncoat.....	John Booth.
Ightenhill	Chas. H. Webster, J.P.
Old Laund Booth.....	Hezekiah Proctor.
Read	Rev. James Robinson, M.A.
Reedley Hallows.....	R. Haythornthwaite.
Roughlee Booth.....	Edwin Whitehead, J.P.
Sabden.....	Wilfred Hargreaves.
Simonstone and Northtown...	T. H. Thompson, J.P.
Worsthorne-with-Hurstwood..	Alfred H. Pickles.

OFFICIALS :

Chairman—T. H. THOMPSON, J.P.

Vice-Chairman—F. L. RILEY, J.P.

Clerk—J. S. HORN, J.P.

Assistant Clerk—H. PURTON.

Medical Officer of Health—H. J. ROBINSON, B.A., M.R.C.S.

Engineer & Surveyor—H. PRITCHARD, M.INST.M.CY.E., CERT.R.SAN.I.

Assistant Surveyor—EDWARD F. SCHOLFIELD, A.M.INST.M.CY.E.

Sanitary Inspector—R. J. ATKINSON, A.R.SAN.I.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BURNLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year ended December 31st, 1913.

A.—NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

I.

The Burnley Rural District, which is situated in North-East Lancashire, is hilly in character, ranging from 200 to 1,831 feet above Ordnance Datum, the average being about 650 feet.

The area is 41,774 acres.

The subsoil is mostly clay, and the district is very damp, having an average rainfall of over 40 inches. The rainfall during the past year recorded at the Burnley Meteorological Station, which is situated practically in the centre of the district, was 39·45 inches. Last Summer was exceptionally dry, and the above total is 8·64 inches less than was the case in the preceding year.

II.

The estimated Population at the middle of the year is 20,500, and the Tables and Statistics contained herein are based upon that figure.

Textile manufacturing, coal mining, and dairy farming are the principal occupations of the people, who, generally speaking, are very thrifty.

The Cotton trade, which is the principal industry, has during the last few years been exceptionally brisk, but I am afraid there are now signs of the cotton boom being over, as several mills are running short time.

At the present time there does not appear to be much poverty in our villages. At the end of the year only 46 persons were in receipt of Poor Law relief.

As stated in my last Annual Report, there are a few cases of overcrowding of dwellings, but this is not by any means general. Where overcrowding does exist it is usually discovered when inspections are being made under the provisions of the Housing and Town Planning Act.

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING TABLES AND PARTICULARS.

As the separate and distinct portions of my report contain full information and discussion of matters which, until last year, were detailed and commented upon in my general statement, I need only briefly call attention to a few of the returns and statistics, namely, the Birth, Death, and Infantile Mortality rates.

BIRTHS.—The total number of births in the District for the year is 347—Males 176, Females 171, and of these 9 were illegitimate. This gives a birth-rate of only 16·92 per thousand of the population. Last year (1912) there were 411 births with a birth-rate of 20·55, whilst the average birth-rate for the five years ending in December, 1912, is 20·22. This cannot be considered satisfactory, nor can I add anything on this matter to what I have said in previous reports. The shirking of the responsibilities and duties of parentage is growing, and I am more than suspicious that the cases of premature births to which reference is made under Infantile Mortality, are often due to other than natural causes, whilst cases of criminal abortion, as is well known, are common enough, and the authorities cannot obtain sufficient evidence to bring the cases into Court. The advertisements in many of our newspapers, the issue and circulation of certain classes of literature pertaining to matters affecting this question, ought, in my opinion, to be prohibited. One could say much on this question, and more than would be prudent in a report of this kind, but it is a serious matter, and is a canker in our young life to which we ought not to close our eyes.

DEATHS. The total number of deaths registered in the District is 251—Males 139, Females 112, which equals a death-rate of 12·24 per thousand of the estimated population. To this number I have to add thirty deaths of residents whose deaths were not registered in the district, they having died in other towns or institutions outside. This makes the total number of deaths actually belonging to the district 281—Males 156, Females 125, which equals a death-rate of 13·70 per thousand. The average death-rate for the previous five years equalled 12·5, whilst for the year 1912 it was 12·. So that in this there is an increase, although the rate cannot be considered high and the general health of the District is satisfactory.

Table III at the end of this Report gives the causes of death and the various age periods. The only items to which I would call attention are the following. 61 died from Respiratory diseases

—Bronchitis and Pneumonia—and of these, 13 under one year, 6 in the second year of life, and then the cases suddenly drop until we get to the ages of 45 to 65 and 65 and upwards, in which the numbers of deaths are 15 and 18 respectively: showing how much greater the chances of life are after two years of age as affected by these diseases. Twenty-one died of Cancer or other form of malignant disease. In the previous year there were only 9, and for 1911, 12. This shows a marked increase, and, whatever be the cause, this increase is noted throughout the country. One cause of this is undoubtedly a more thorough knowledge of the cases and a more correct diagnosis. Eighteen of these twenty-one were over 45 years of age, after which age, of course, it is most common. The next largest figure of defined diseases is 24 from Organic Heart Diseases, and of these only one under 25 years of age. Other defined diseases, but not specially detailed in the return, together with ill-defined or unknown causes, give a total of 97.

From Pulmonary Tuberculosis 11 have died during the year, and 7 from other forms of Tuberculous diseases. Last year the numbers were 13 and 5 respectively. Details of the cases notified and action taken are given later on.

It is a notable fact that in the District we have only had one death from Rheumatic Fever.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. (See Table IV). Of the 347 children born, 43 have died during the first year of life, which gives an Infantile Mortality of 123·9 per thousand births, as against 94·89 for the year 1912. The average for the five years 1908—1912 inclusive being 118·57. This rate, although not high, ought and might be lower if sufficient care and intelligence were displayed in the care of young life. There are only 4 deaths from Infantile Diarrhoea, which is an agreeable feature of the returns. But 13 have died from Bronchitis and Pneumonia, and of these some were probably lost through undue exposure or carelessness. From Premature Births, Malformations, etc., 12 died.

Both the Sanitary Inspector and myself continue to impress upon parents the importance of fresh air, cleanliness, etc., as named in my last report, but it is slow and unsatisfactory work in trying to alter the carelessness and ill-practices to which many parents are wedded. Improvements in care and cleanliness are undoubtedly taking place, and one must avoid the danger of speaking in general terms of a district from the bad cases, which are, after all, in a decreasing minority. I must however call attention to, only to again condemn, the use of bottles with rubber tubes, and “dummy teats” and “baby comforters,” all too common wherever I go either in town or country.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. These are also dealt with in detail in the following pages. The district has this year, as last, been free from any epidemic.

The perusal of the following figures, reports and comments will, I am sure, be on the whole encouraging, hopeful and satisfactory, as indicating the work done and improvements effected. It has meant throughout the year, continual attention to details on behalf of all officers and of the Council, which on the part of each and all has been willingly and heartily given. Of course there are many matters, referred to in this Report, which require attention, and if there were not, there would be no reason for our existence either as officers or members of the Council; but with the same devotion to the general, and particular, interests and requirements of the District which has been characteristic of all, I am sure that the year upon which we have now entered will mark further improved conditions in the homes and lives of the inhabitants, and in the general sanitary arrangements, etc., of the District.

I have to thank your Surveyor, Mr. Pritchard, for the paragraphs on Water Supply, Sewage Disposal and Works, etc., and your Inspector, Mr. Atkinson, for the statistics etc., in the body of this Report. Both of these, your Clerk, and all other officers have rendered at all times most willing and valuable services during the year, and with such hearty and harmonious co-operation which I have always experienced, work must be better done.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. J. ROBINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

B.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER SUPPLY. The water supply for the greater part of the District is good, and I give hereunder particulars showing how the various townships are supplied :—

<i>Townships.</i>	<i>Supply.</i>
Simonstone and Altham.....	Principally from Padiham Urban District Council and the Accrington and District Joint Water Board.
Barley, Blacko, Old Laund..... Booth, Wheatley Carr, and Reedley Hallows.	Principally from Nelson Corporation—remainder private supplies.
Habergham Eaves, Worsthorne, and Ightenhill.	From the Burnley Corporation—remainder private supplies.
Briercliffe, Cliviger, Foulridge ... and Read.	From the Council's own Water Works (each township has a separate supply).
Huncoat.....	Accrington and District Joint Water Board.
Sabden, Hapton, and Dunnockshaw	Water Works owned privately.
Goldshaw Booth and Roughlee Booth.	Have no systematic supply.
Northtown	Principally from Padiham Urban District Council.
Higham.....	From Nelson Corporation.

WATER SUPPLIES. Owing to the extremely dry spell of weather during the summer and autumn of 1913, it has been necessary to reconsider some of the Council's supplies and in some cases to take steps to improve the sources of supply, but generally speaking it may be said that the Burnley Rural District Council has been more fortunate in this respect than might have been expected.

BRIERCLIFFE WATER. During the recent drought the Council's Bore Hole supply at Herd House completely failed, and it was only with great difficulty and care that the township was supplied from the Twist Hill supply.

Briercliffe having grown so rapidly during the last few years, the existing supplies have become inadequate. The Council has therefore acted wisely in deciding to obtain an additional supply from Thursden Valley, where by kind permission of the owners of the land known as Thursden Scarrs a drift has been made in the hill side which has resulted in a splendid supply of pure and wholesome water being found. The yield from this drift, which is constant, is equal to between 56,000 and 60,000 gallons per day.

In order to carry this scheme into effect the Council endeavoured to acquire the Thursden Scarrs, about 12 acres in extent, but unfortunately were unable to come to terms with the owners. The Council, therefore, petitioned the Local Government Board to direct and hold such inquiries and to take such other steps as may be necessary for making and obtaining confirmation by Parliament of a Provisional Order empowering the Council to put into force the Lands Clauses Consolidation Acts, 1845, 1860, and 1869, with respect to the purchase and taking of lands, otherwise than by agreement.

The Local Government Board promptly caused a local Inquiry to be held on the 10th February, 1914, when the Council's Engineer presented a scheme for raising the water from the drift up to the Council's reservoir at Herd House. It is felt not only by the Council, but also by the whole of the inhabitants of Briercliffe, that the problem of supplying water to this township will be completely solved for many years to come if the Council's scheme meets with the approbation and sanction of the Local Government Board.

FOULRIDGE WATER. The drift which supplies Foulridge from White Moor failed completely for about 2 months and were it not for a small supply in the centre of the village and the assistance of a neighbouring authority, Foulridge must have been in a sorry plight. No time was lost in looking for a fresh supply, and a well was sunk near the Council's reservoir at White Moor, with the result that a good supply was at once obtained, yielding nearly 44,000 gallons per day.

Advantage was taken of the stoppage to effect repairs to the reservoir, which had "settled" in places and was therefore no longer water-tight, while at the same time the water level was raised 12 inches, resulting in an increased storage capacity of 16,000 gallons.

It is hoped that there will be no further trouble with this supply for many years to come. During the temporary shortage of water the Council obtained a supply from the Colne Corporation's mains.

NEWCHURCH-IN-PENDLE WATER. Newchurch has been the scene of much activity during the past year, the Council having caused well-sinking and boring operations to be carried out with a view to finding a satisfactory supply of water.

After sinking two wells and boring without result, a third well has been commenced, and though it is somewhat early to predict a supply, this well has every appearance of proving a success, water having been met with almost from the commencement.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL. The following townships have their own sewage disposal works, viz. :—

<i>Township.</i>	<i>Method of Treatment.</i>
Huncoat.....	Open septic tanks and double contact filters,
Sabden.....	Continuous settlement, percolating filters. and irrigation.
Worsthorne.....	Septic tanks, percolating filters, and humus tanks.

The following Townships are connected to the Burnley Corporation Sewers under agreements between the Burnley Rural District Council and the Burnley Corporation, viz. :—

Briercliffe, Hapton, Read, Reedley Hallows, Simonstone and a portion of Habergham Eaves.

ALTHAM. Owing to the sewage disposal works in the Whinney Hill area being in close proximity to the highway and cottages, many complaints of nuisance were received by the Council. It was, therefore, decided to approach the Accrington and Church Joint Sewerage Outfall Board with a view to the Joint Board receiving and treating the sewage from this area. Terms having been settled with the Joint Board, the Council then agreed with the Church Urban District Council to lay a new joint sewer between the Altham Township Boundary through Church to the Joint Board's Outfall works at Copy Clough. This work has been carried out during the past year and the Rural District Council's Disposal Works at Whinney Hill are now disused and dismantled, much to the comfort and peace of mind of the inhabitants in this part of the district.

FOULRIDGE. New Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Works, estimated to cost £5,200, were commenced in the Spring of 1913, and are now nearing completion. These works have been designed to meet the latest requirements of the Local Government Board and embody the recommendations contained in the 5th Report of the Royal Commission on Sewage Disposal. It is hoped that

these works will be finished and in working order towards the end of April, 1914.

WHEATLEY LANE DISTRICT. In September, 1913, the Council approached the Barrowfrod Urban District Council on the question of the Urban District Council receiving and treating sewage from this district at their disposal works, but have not yet received a definite answer. The delay is probably due to the fact that the Barrowford Council are waiting for the sanction of the Local Government Board to their proposed scheme for improving their disposal works.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

<i>Townships.</i>	<i>Population.</i>	<i>System.</i>
Altham, Briercliffe, Hapton, Huncoat, Read, Reedley Hallows, Sabden, Simonstone, Worsthorne.	12,965	Principally waste water closets; some fresh water closets; and at a few isolated houses, pail closets.
Cliviger, Habergham Eaves Ightenhill.	2,360	{Partly water carriage, remainder conservancy.
Barley, Blacko, Dunnockshaw, Foulridge, Goldshaw Booth, Higham Old Laund Booth, and Roughlee.	5,175	{Principally on the conservancy system, but at Higham there are several closets on the slop water principle.

The old-fashioned tank or vault privies are gradually being abolished, especially those situated in near proximity to dwelling houses. If the tanks are as perfect as can be made they are always a nuisance when being emptied owing to the length of time it takes to empty them. In places where there are no sewers, they are converted to the pail system—galvanized iron pails being insisted upon as far as possible; and these are a decided improvement upon the tank closets.

Of course, where it is possible to connect to a sewer they are converted to clean-water closets, and we now advise these instead of the slop-water arrangement.

Pail closets are emptied once each week, and as this work is carried out by the Council's own workmen in the greater part of the district, they are generally properly attended to, and I have very few complaints.

There is no refuse destructor in the District, the refuse being disposed of by filling up disused quarries, ditches, etc., situated as far as possible from dwelling-houses.

The tip at Simonstone, which has lasted several years, is now almost filled up. A new tip has been obtained and is situated, fortunately, in the same field as the existing tip, which is very convenient for Simonstone and Read.

For all the Scavenging Districts we have plenty of good tips.

I reported to the Council during the year that it might possibly be necessary to hire another horse and cart in addition to your own, with a view to assisting with the scavenging at Hapton and Huncoat, but owing to our having obtained a nearer tip, thereby saving a large amount of time in carting, I am glad to report that up to the present it has not been necessary to get any assistance.

Since the Corporation of Burnley took over a portion of Habergham Eaves, there were two or three cottages near the "Bull and Butcher" where the scavenging was somewhat neglected owing to the difficulty in sending men from Worsthorne to carry out the work. This difficulty has now been overcome by letting the scavenging of these particular cottages by contract.

Much progress has been made during the year with regard to the abolition of insanitary ashpits, and the substitution of galvanized iron bins for the same. There are still, however, a few open ashpits in some of the townships, but in most cases the Owners have promised to do away with them and to have bins instead.

The bins generally are emptied fortnightly, but in many cases once a week.

Several letters have been written to persons who persist in depositing paper, vegetable matter, etc., into the ashpits. In some instances the ashpits were found to be full of paper.

Number of Ashpits abolished during the year.....	69
„ Houses provided with bins.....	102

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

31 written complaints have been received during the year, particulars of which are as follows :—

Dwellings in damp state.....	2
Defective Water Supplies.....	5
Privies and Ashpits not emptied.....	5
Defective " Tipplers "	2
Drains blocked	2
Accumulations of Stable Manure.....	3
Defective drains	2
Slop-water Closets blocked.....	2
Insanitary Stables.....	1
General Insanitary Condition of Dwelling.....	1
Other Nuisances	6
	—
Total ...	<u>31</u>

The premises to which the above related were at once visited and the necessary steps taken to secure the abatement of the nuisances. In one case, it was a common nuisance, with which we had nothing to do.

A considerable amount of your Inspector's time has again been taken up in the inspection of dwelling houses under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, and in keeping the necessary records of such inspections. In making these inspections several nuisances have been discovered and are given elsewhere in this report under the heading "Housing."

Apart from this, however, systematic inspections have been made from time to time with a view to discovering nuisances which needed urgent attention, and as a result of this the following nuisances have been abated :—

Accumulations of Nightsoil, Refuse, &c.	33
Defective Closets.....	29
„ Ashpits	39
„ Drains.....	25
Insanitary Tank Closets	5
Dilapidated Privy Pails.....	1
Polluted and Insufficient Water Supplies.....	1
Animals and Poultry kept as to be a nuisance.....	4
Insufficient accommodation for house refuse	6

Dilapidated refuse bins.....	33
Damp Houses.....	2
Absence of, or defective, eaves gutters, downspouts, etc.....	3
Blocked surface water drains	3
Blocked sewers	1
Dwellings in dirty condition	1
Back-yards in dirty state.....	6
Defective Water fittings	2
„ Yard flagging.....	12
Closets limewashed.....	1
Streets in such a state as to be a nuisance.....	2
Insanitary cesspools	3
Defective slop pipes	2
Houses overcrowded	2
Cellars in dirty state.....	1
Insufficient space to back-yards.....	4
Outbuildings in dangerous condition.....	1
Lock-up shop used as a dwelling.....	1
Polluted water-course.....	1
Bath-room without ventilator.....	1
Defective soil pipe.....	1
Piggery being used as a dwelling	1
Other nuisances	8
<hr/>	
Total ...	235
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The cesspool which received the sewage from four houses near Altham Bridge has been done away with, and the drains have been connected to the new sewer which was laid specially for the purpose.

There are temporary Lodging Houses at Roughlee and Worsthorpe. These have been inspected at intervals and I have never had any cause to complain about their not being clean, etc.

At Foulridge, a person was found to be occupying a lock-up shop as a dwelling. This shop had absolutely no sanitary arrangements and was certainly not fit for habitation. After notices had been served on the owner, the tenant was cleared out, and the place is now unoccupied.

Probably the worst case which came under our notice was concerning some Gipsies who were encamped on Hapton Moor.

They had not even a van in which to sleep, and all the protection they had from the weather was a piece of tarpaulin, which covered a space of about 6 feet square, this being occupied by 2 adults and 5 children.

Complaints were also received with regard to another lot of Gipsies who were causing a nuisance on Hapton Common near the Accrington main road.

After visits from the Police and myself, they moved out of the district.

226 Informal Notices have been served upon owners of premises where defects existed, also 33 Statutory Notices.

The above include the Informal Notices served under the Housing and Town Planning Act.

SMOKE NUISANCES. Eight smoke observations have been made during the year, but it has not been necessary to resort to legal proceedings to enforce the abatement of any nuisances in regard to these.

SCHOOLS. The sanitary condition of the schools is fairly good.

Newchurch-in-Pendle Church School is still without a proper water supply. This, of course, cannot very well be remedied until the water scheme for the village is carried out. Particulars relating to the latter will be found in another part of this Report.

The closets at Foulridge School are on the pail system, and as soon as the sewerage scheme for the village is completed, steps will be taken to have them converted to water closets.

Several visits have been paid to schools where infectious diseases have occurred, and I have made many examinations of the children.

It has been necessary to close Blacko School owing to an outbreak of Diphtheria, particulars of which are given under the head of "Infectious Diseases."

MILK SUPPLY. 280 inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds have been made.

The Cowsheds in this district are stone buildings generally open to the barn and have either concrete, flagged, or paved floors; windows made to open at the top for ventilation, and generally there are ventilators in the roof for the extraction of foul air.

It appears that not many years ago drain inlets were allowed inside the shippons provided they were "trapped," and there are still a few which are drained in this manner. These, however, are being removed to a suitable position outside the shippons. The liquid manure is drained into either brick or concrete tanks situated under the middenstead.

On the whole, the Cowsheds are in good condition for a Rural District, not a few being most up-to-date buildings, and I am pleased to say that we note year by year a gradual improvement as regards cleanliness, although this is not yet what it ought to be by any means.

In my Annual Report of three or four years ago I stated that it was then our experience to find invariably the ventilators in Cowsheds blocked up with hay, etc., but I am now pleased to say that since then there seems to have come a complete revolution in this respect, and we now find that farmers are realising the importance of a shippon being properly ventilated.

There are, however, still a few farms at which drastic alterations are needed. Particularly is this the case on one estate, and during the year your Inspector prepared a special report upon the condition of these farms and the alterations required to put the same into sanitary repair. This report has been sent to the owner of the estate, and it is hoped he will have the farms brought up to modern requirements.

Most of the milk is sent into Burnley, Colne, Nelson, and Accrington.

During the year a new Order came into force under the Diseases of Animals Acts, entitled the Tuberculosis Order, 1913.

Under this Order it is the duty of a farmer if he has in his possession a cow or cows which appear to be suffering from Tuberculosis, to report the matter to the Police, owing to the County Council being the Authority under the Act. If the cow is found by the County Veterinary Surgeon to be suffering from Tuberculosis, the County Council notify us, and if the said cow is not slaughtered, it is our duty to see that the milk from that cow is not sold.

16 of these notifications have been received.

Four reports have been received from the Medical Officer of Health to the Borough of Burnley to the effect that samples of milk from four different farms and from which milk is delivered in Burnley, had been found upon bacteriological examination to contain tubercle bacilli.

When the first two reports were received the new Tuberculosis Order had not come into force. I therefore had all the cattle examined at these two farms by a Veterinary Surgeon, and samples of milk were taken from five cows which we suspected. These samples were submitted to bacteriological examination and in one case only was a positive result obtained. This cow was isolated and the farmer was instructed not to sell any milk from that cow.

With regard to the other two reports, I communicated with the Police, who instructed the County Inspector to examine the cattle at the two farms. He reported that he was unable to find that any of the cows were affected with Tuberculosis.

A slight outbreak of Typhoid Fever having occurred at Brierfield, I received a communication from the Medical Officer of Health of that town, to the effect that most of the families where the disease occurred were receiving milk from a particular farm in our area.

On making enquiries I found that this farmer collected milk from two or three farms, and at one of the latter, Typhoid had occurred about 3 years ago. As it was suspected that this farmer or his daughter might possibly be Typhoid carriers, I had samples of their blood taken and examined, the result being negative.

The following improvements to Dairies and Cowsheds have been carried out during the last twelve months :—

Improved Water Supplies.....	4
„ Lighting of Cowsheds.....	10
„ Ventilation of Cowsheds.....	6
Cowshed floors re-laid and improved.....	8
Alterations to Drains.....	20
Improved Middensteads.....	3
Shippons limewashed.....	19
Shippons at which more air-space has been provided	2
Other Alterations	1

In addition to the above the shippons at Dean Top Farm, Simonstone, have been entirely remodelled, and a new shippon erected. At Height Farm, Fence, new shippons, etc., have been built on up-to-date lines; this also applies to Laund Head Farm, Roughlee. Plans have been received for re-modelling the Cowsheds at Dean Farm, Sabden, and Sabden Hall Farm, Goldshaw Booth, while at Cockden Farm, Briercliffe, a new addition to the existing cowshed has been erected.

BAKEHOUSES. There are only 15 Bakehouses in the whole district. These have all been inspected, and with the exception of two were found clean and well kept.

In two instances the floors needed cleansing, and after the attention of the occupiers had been drawn to the same, both floors were cleansed.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. All the Workshops have been inspected and were found in good order.

Three Notices were received from the Factory Inspector with regard to defective and insufficient W.C's at two factories, and insufficient means of escape in the event of fire at another mill.

These matters are in hand and will be remedied at an early date.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES. Many of the Slaughter-Houses are situated at farms, and are only used occasionally for the purpose of slaughtering an odd sheep or pig. These have been inspected at intervals, but most attention has been paid to the premises used regularly for slaughtering purposes, which were clean and in good repair.

A nuisance was caused by offal being deposited in a field near one of the slaughter-houses. The butcher was written respecting the same, and I have not received any further complaint.

One licence has been granted during the year for a new slaughter-house in the Township of Foulridge.

HOUSING. Summary of work carried out under the Housing Act during the year :—

Number of Dwelling-houses inspected.....	451
" " where defects existed ...	386
" " unfit for habitation.....	15
" Representations to Local Authority with a view to making Closing Orders.....	3
" Closing Orders made.....	3
" Dwelling-houses where defects were re- medied without making Closing Orders	3
" Dwelling-houses put into a fit state of habitation after making Closing Orders	1
" Dwelling-houses demolished	2
" Dwelling-houses closed after Preliminary Notice sent to Owner.....	1
" Defects remedied.....	472

Details of defects remedied :—

Dilapidated out-offices	16
Defective Water Supplies.....	17
Waste Water Closets defective	3
Drains altered and relaid.....	69
Yard flagging repaired or relaid.....	49
Dampness remedied	86
Eaves troughing and downpipes.....	12
Windows repaired or new ones fixed.....	52
Overcrowding remedied.....	7
Insanitary Privies	36
Insanitary Ashpits	34
Roofs repaired.....	5
Defective floors, walls and ceilings.....	43
Additional W.C. accommodation provided.....	6
Defective discharge pipes from slopstones	8
Dilapidated refuse bins.....	3
Defective chimney stacks.....	2
Houses in dirty state.....	13
Kitchen ranges repaired	2
Rooms defective as to ventilation.....	2
Additional light provided to rooms.....	3
Stairs repaired.....	1
Bedrooms ceiled	2
Dilapidated privy pails.....	1
Total ...	<u>472</u>

Tank Closets converted to Pails 8	} These figures are included in the totals given in "Closet Accommodation and Scavenging."
Ashpits abolished .....30	
Houses provided with Bins.....63	
Pail Privies converted to W.C's...20	
Tank Privies converted to W.C's 8	

In addition to the above, there are several other alterations to houses in progress.

I am pleased to report that the owner of the houses in Crowtree Row, and Top Row, Sabden, which were condemned two years ago, has during the year commenced with the work of putting these houses into repair, and the work is now nearing completion with regard to ten of the houses.

The houses have practically been gutted internally, the rooms which were only about 6-ft. 9-ins. high at the time they were condemned, are now about 9-ft. The conveniences situated at the front of the property, which were most insanitary, in addition to being an eyesore, have been demolished, and new water closets are to be erected at the back of the houses, and there will be a separate W.C. to each house.

One house at Worsthorne has been demolished and rebuilt, and another house in the Habergham Eaves township has been demolished and is being rebuilt.

Number of houses erected during the year in the whole area	46
Number of houses in course of erection at the end of the year	31

C.—SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

(1)—STAFF. One Inspector of Nuisances has charge of the whole district, and devotes the whole of his time to the duties. He also has clerical assistance. In addition to the carrying out of the duties required by the Local Government Board, the Council have appointed him Inspector under the Housing Act.

(2). There are two Hospitals of which the Council have joint use, along with the Borough of Burnley and the Urban Districts of Brierfield and Padiham. These are situated at Kibble Bank in the Borough of Burnley, and at Crown Point, in our area, the latter being used for Smallpox cases only.

D.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications received during the year are as follow :—

Scarlet Fever.....	28
Diphtheria.....	24
Enteric Fever	5
Erysipelas.....	10
	—
Total ...	<u>67</u>

The above total shews an increase of ten over last year's figures, the principal increase being Scarlet Fever, of which we had eleven more cases than in 1912.

The total number, however, is much below the average for the preceding ten years, and as mentioned in my last Annual Report, we had the least number of cases on record in 1912, so that having regard to the very dry summer we experienced, it is remarkable that the increase has not been much greater.

SCARLET FEVER. The 28 cases of Scarlet Fever were reported from the following Townships:—Hapton (11), Worsthorne (6), Huncoat (5), Cliviger (2), and Altham, Dunnockshaw, Old Laund Booth, and Sabden, one each.

Of the 11 cases at Hapton three occurred in one family, and other two families had two cases each.

Five notifications were received from Hapton in the month of August, and I found that all the children had been playing together and one of them having contracted the disease the others had caught the infection.

At Worsthorne four children in one house suffered from Scarlet Fever.

There were three deaths, but the remainder of the cases were of a mild nature.

ENTERIC FEVER. The cases of Typhoid occurred in different villages, viz. : Cliviger, Higham, Huncoat, Old Laund Booth, and Worsthorne, the total number being the same as last year.

Of the five cases, three of the patients died.

DIPHTHERIA. We had two cases more than last year. These occurred at Blacko (6), Cliviger (5), Sabden (5), Altham (2), and Barley (1), Habergham Eaves (1), Hapton (1), Northtown (1), Read (1), and Worsthorne (1).

There were four deaths.

I am sorry to report that of the six cases at Blacko, three died. This, of course, was somewhat alarming for a small village like Blacko, which has kept pretty free from this particular disease. I have looked up my records and cannot find that a case of Diphtheria has been notified from that village since 1894, which is as far as my records go.

No pains were spared by your Inspector and myself with a view to tracing the source of infection and also as regards taking every precaution to prevent the disease spreading.

As all the patients attended Blacko School, I, along with the School Medical Officer and your Inspector made several visits, and it was deemed advisable to close the school for a short period. The school premises were fumigated on three occasions, as was also the Sunday School in the village.

All the farms were inspected from which milk had been supplied to the infected houses; swabs were taken from the throats of the teachers at the school, and although we made most exhaustive enquiries we never really found anything definite as to the origin of the disease.

The houses where the cases occurred were properly fumigated.

I am pleased to state that we have not had any further cases since the beginning of August last. One of the six cases (the last one) was only of a suspicious nature.

At Cliviger and Sabden, where five cases were reported from each village, they were mostly of a mild character, and in some instances at the moment of my visit, the children were playing about the house.

ERYSIPELAS. The ten cases of Erysipelas occurred at Briercliffe (3), Sabden (2), Altham (1), Foulridge (1), Habergham Eaves (1), Hapton (1), and Worsthorpe (1).

No cases of Puerperal Fever or Poliomyelitis have been reported during the year.

It is gratifying to note that the following Townships have been free from any of the above Infectious Diseases :—Goldshaw Booth, Ightenhill, Reedley Hallows, Roughlee, Simonstone, and Wheatley Carr.

MEASLES. Measles have not been prevalent during the year. A few cases have occurred here and there, with one death.

WHOOPING COUGH. Whooping Cough has been more prevalent. Twenty-four cases have come to my knowledge, with one death.

Immediately upon the receipt of infectious diseases notifications, the houses are visited for the purpose of ascertaining, if possible, the source of infection and also for giving instructions to prevent the spread of the disease. At the same time disinfectants are left at the houses.

In all cases school authorities are notified so that children should not attend school until all danger of infection is past.

After the recovery of the patients, or, if removed to a Sanatorium, immediately after such removal, the infected rooms and bedding are properly disinfected either with formalin vapour, or by spraying with formalin.

We have not got a disinfecting station in the District, but an arrangement has been made with the Burnley Corporation for the removal of bedding to their disinfecter.

Rooms fumigated number 77, an increase of 34 over last year. In addition to the above, one house was disinfected after a case of cancer.

93 visits have been made to houses where infectious diseases have existed, being an increase of 30 upon the visits made last year.

In cases where proper isolation could not be secured at home, the patients have been removed to the Sanatorium, and these number 18 as follows :—

Scarlet Fever.....	12
Diphtheria.....	4
Enteric	2
	<hr/>
Total ...	<u>18</u>

This equals 26·86 per cent. of the cases notified.

The following cases occurred at Farms :—

Diphtheria.....	5
Erysipelas.....	2
Enteric	1
	<hr/>
Total ...	<u>8</u>

At these places special precautions were taken to prevent the milk becoming infected.

The following Table shews the number of cases notified during the year 1913, and the preceding 10 years.

DISEASES.	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913
Scarlet Fever	55	25	88	53	130	70	72	64	46	17	28
Typhoid Fever	6	14	10	13	4	8	6	12	5	5	5
Diphtheria	20	9	13	9	5	22	4	4	19	22	24
Erysipelas	6	9	18	11	18	12	12	16	10	10	10
Membranous Croup	2	1	0	1	3	1	1	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever .....	..	1	2	2	3	1	1	3	2	2	..
Small Pox	18	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Totals.....	107	61	133	89	163	114	96	99	82	57	67

Average for preceding 10 years—100·1.

Distribution during the twelve months:—

1913.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Membranous Croup.	Puerperal Fever.	Small Pox.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	TOTAL.
January	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	3
February .....	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	3
March .....	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	4
April	2	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	6
May	3	1	3	2	..	..	..	..	9
June	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
July.....	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
August	5	1	6	1	..	..	..	..	13
September.....	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	3
October	1	1	3	1	..	..	..	..	6
November	6	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	7
December	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	5
Total	28	5	24	10	..	..	..	..	67

TABLE SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

TOWNSHIP.	Estimated Population.	Scarlet Fever.	Cases per 100.	Diphtheria.	Cases per 100.	Cases per 100.	Erysipelas.	Cases per 100.	Membranous Croup.	Cases per 100.	Small Pox.	Cases per 100.	Tuberculosis.	Cases per 100.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Cases per 100.	Total No. of cases in each Township.	Cases per 100.
Altham	950	1	.10	2	.21	..	1	.10	..	..	..	..	2	.21	..	..	6	.63
Barley-with-Wheatley Booth ..	360	..	..	1	.27	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	.27
Blacko	520	..	..	6	1.15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	.15
Briercliffe	3200	..	..	..	..	..	3	.09	..	..	..	..	3	.09	..	..	6	.19
Cliviger	1940	2	.10	5	.26	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	.26	..	..	13	.67
Dunnoekshaw	530	1	.18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	.37	..	..	3	.56
Foulridge	1475	..	..	..	..	..	1	.07	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	.07
Goldshaw Booth	156	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Habergham Eaves	290	..	..	1	.34	..	1	.34	..	..	..	..	5	.23	..	..	2	.69
Hapton	2170	11	.50	1	.04	..	1	.04	..	..	..	..	6	.78	..	..	18	.83
Higham	765	..	.32	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	.13	..	..	8	.52
Huncoat	1520	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	.91
Ightenhill Park	130	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
North Town	133	..	..	1	.75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	.75
Old Laund Booth	830	1	.12	..	.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	.60	..	..	7	.84
Read	990	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	.50	..	..	6	.60
Reedley Hallows	720	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Roughlee	352	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sabden	1730	1	.06	5	.29	..	2	.11	..	..	..	..	8	.46	..	..	16	.92
Simonstone	530	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wheatley Carr	54	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Worsthorne-with-Hurstwood ..	1155	6	.52	1	.08	1	1	.08	..	..	..	..	5	.43	..	..	14	1.21
Total	20500	28	.13	24	.11	5	10	.05	..	..	..	..	48	.23	..	..	115	.56
Corresponding totals for last year	20000	17	.08	22	.11	5	10	.05	..	..	..	..	18	.09	1	.005	75	.37

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

In my last Annual Report I stated that a new Order entitled the "Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1911" had come into force, which provided for the compulsory notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

At the beginning of the year under consideration the Local Government Board issued an Amending Order to the above under the title of the "Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations 1912." This provides for the compulsory notification of *all* forms of Tuberculosis, and the requirements of the same, so far as it concerns us, have been fully carried out.

No. of Primary Notifications received from Medical Practitioners, Form A (particulars of which are given hereunder). 48

	MALES.		FEMALES.		TOTAL.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	22	...	11	...	33
Cervical Glands.....	3	...	4	...	7
Spinal Vertebrae.....	2	...	—	...	2
Bladder.....	1	...	—	...	1
Epididymis.....	1	...	—	...	1
Misenteric Glands.....	—	...	1	...	1
Larynx	—	...	1	...	1
Membranes of the Brain	—	...	1	...	1
Scapula.....	—	...	1	...	1
	—	...	—	...	—
	29	...	19	...	48

Occupations of persons notified :—

Weavers.....	10
Housewives	8
Attending School.....	5
Labourers.....	7
Clerks.....	2
Cotton Spinner	1
Calico Printers.....	2
Colliers	2
Nurse.....	1
Clogger	1
Stonemason	1
Shuttlemaker	1
Other Occupations	3
No Occupation.....	4
	—
Total ...	48

Particulars as to ages are given in Table II.

Notifications received from Medical Officers of Poor Law Institutions and Sanatoria of Patients who have previously been notified before admission. Form C.

Five notifications have been received under this head: two from Bull Hill Sanatorium, Darwen; two from Burnley Workhouse, and one from Meathop Sanatorium.

Notifications received (after discharge) of patients from Poor Law Institutions and Sanatoria:—

Two from Burnley Union Workhouse; 1 from Haslingden Union Workhouse; 1 from Bull Hill Sanatorium, and 1 from Meathop. Two of these cases I was unable to trace.

All the above cases have been visited as soon as possible after the notifications have been received, when inquiries have been made, the houses inspected, and instructions given as the precautionary measures to be taken.

It is gratifying to find that the majority of people where these cases occur are exercising greater care to prevent the spread of the disease than was the case a few years ago, although in a few minor cases extreme ignorance has been displayed. In one case in particular, I found a patient actually sleeping in the same bed as two boys, but I am pleased to report that this person was removed to a Sanatorium.

“Instruction” cards are left at each house where the disease exists, and the patients are isolated as far as the accommodation will permit.

The houses are properly fumigated when possible to do so.

Each week a return of the cases notified is sent to the County Medical Officer of Health.

H. J. ROBINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.—TABLE I.

of Whole District during 1913 and previous Years.

BURNLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFER-ABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Uncorrected Number.	Nett.				of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.			Number.	Rate.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	19800	427	427	21.5	236	11.9		6	49	114.7	242	12.0
1909	20000	383	383	19.15	276	13.8	..	4	42	109.66	280	14.0
1910	20000	410	410	20.5	252	12.6	..	..	54	131.7	258	12.9
1911	20360	396	396	19.45	227	11.4	7	17	56	141.41	237	11.64
*1912	20000	411	411	20.55	222	11.1	..	18	39	94.89	240	12.00
1913	20500	344	347	16.92	251	12.24	..	30	43	123.9	281	13.70

*Decrease in population accounted for by portion of district being amalgamated with Borough of Burnley.

Total population at all ages, 20,292	} At Census of 1911.
No. of inhabited houses, 4,772	
Average number of persons per house, 4.25	

Area of District in acres (land and inland water), 42,454.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1913.—TABLE II.
BURNLEY RURAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.								TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.				Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						1 Burnley Reg. Dist.	2 Colne Reg. Dist.	3 Pendle Reg. Dist.	4 Padih'm Reg. Dist.		
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.					65 and upwards.	
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup..	24	1	5	14	1	2	1	7	6	1	10	4	4
Erysipelas.....	10	..	..	..	..	5	4	5	1	..	4	18	12
Scarlet Fever	28	..	10	16	2	..	..	9	..	1	..	..	..
Typhus Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	5	..	..	1	2	1	1	2	..	1	2	2	2
Relapsing Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Poliomyelitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	33	..	..	1	8	13	9	12	..	3	18	..	..
Other Tuberculosis....	15	..	1	5	3	3	3	3	..	2	10	..	..
Total.....	115	1	16	37	16	24	18	38	7	8	62	18	18

VITAL STATISTICS.—TABLE III.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING YEAR 1911.
BURNLEY RURAL DISTRICT.

Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.											Total Deaths whether of Residents or non-Residents in Institutions in the District.
CAUSES OF DEATH.											
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
All causes	271	41	11	11	12	9	24	89	74	....
Certified	10	2	..	..	..	2	..	2	4	....
Uncertified	3	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	....
Enteric Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Small Pox	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	....
Measles	3	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	....
Scarlet Fever	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Whooping Cough	4	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	....
Diphtheria and Croup	4	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	1	....
Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Erysipelas	11	..	..	..	..	3	3	5	..	....
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	....
Tuberculous Meningitis	5	..	2	..	1	..	2	..	..	....
Other Tuberculous Diseases	21	..	..	..	..	..	3	11	7	....
Cancer (Malignant Disease)	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	....
Rheumatic Fever	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Meningitis	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Organic Heart Disease	24	..	..	..	..	1	5	8	10	....
Bronchitis	30	4	2	1	..	..	..	11	12	....
Pneumonia (all forms)	31	9	4	2	2	1	3	4	6	....
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	4	4	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	....
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	....
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Alcoholism	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	....
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	5	....
Puerperal Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	....
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	12	12	..	..	2	1	2	..	..	....
Violent Deaths (excluding Suicides)	5	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	1	....
Suicide	5	..	..	..	2	1	1	18	5	....
Other Defined Diseases	34	6	1	1	2	1	..	22	31	....
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	63	7	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	....
	281	43	11	11	12	11	24	91	78	....

VITAL STATISTICS.—TABLE IV.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1913.

Nett Deaths from stated Causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

BURNLEY RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Wk.	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 Months	3-6 Months	6-9 Months	9-12 Months	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes—										
Certified	12	1	2	4	19	6	8	8	..	41
Uncertified	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	2
Small-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculous Meningitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Abdominal Tuberculosis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Convulsions	2	..	..	1	3	2	1	..	..	6
Laryngitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	4
Pneumonia (all forms) .....	..	..	..	1	1	3	2	3	..	9
Diarrhoea .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	4
Enteritis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rickets .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Suffocation, overlying .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at Birth .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Atelectasis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Malformations ....	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Premature Birth	8	..	..	1	9	1	..	..	..	10
Atrophy Debility & Marasmus ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Other Causes	2	..	2	1	5	..	2	..	..	7
Totals	13	1	2	4	20	7	8	8	..	43

Nett Births in the Year { Legitimate.... 338
 { Illegitimate .. 9

Nett Deaths in the Year { Legitimate Infants.. 43
 { Illegitimate „

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.
1.—INSPECTION.

INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTOR.

PREMISES. (1)	Number of		
	INSPECTIONS. (2)	WRITTEN NOTICES. (3)	PROSECUTIONS. (4)
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)	30	3	Nil.
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	27	Nil.	Nil.
WORKPLACES .....	..	..	..
TOTAL	57	3	Nil.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	Number of Prosecutions. (5)
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness .....	..	..	Nil	Nil
Want of Ventilation .....	..	..	..	..
Overcrowding .....	..	..	..	..
Want of drainage of Floors .....	..	..	..	..
Other Nuisances .....	..	..	..	..
Sanitary Accommodation { Insufficient	1	..	..	..
{ Unsuitable or Defective ..	2	..	..	..
{ Not separate for Sexes.....	..	..	..	..
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of Underground Bakehouse.....	..	..	..	..
Breach of special sanitary requirements for Bakehouses	2	2	..	..
Other Offences .....	..	..	..	..
TOTAL.....	5	2	..	..

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

WORKSHOPS ON THE REGISTER AT THE END OF THE YEAR. (1)	NUMBER. (2)
Bakehouses	14
Various	11
Total number of Workshops on Register.....	25

4.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class. (1)	Number. (2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—	
Failure to affix abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133) .....	..
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5)	3
Report (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspector	1
Other .....	..
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year .....	..
In use at the end of the year .....	..

BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR

1913.

THOMAS D. WHITE,

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Burnham-on-Crouch Urban Sanitary Authority.

GENTLEMEN,

In presenting my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1913, I am pleased to inform you that I shall have to trouble you with few matters of urgency.

The amount of illness during the last twelve months has been very small, as will be seen by the returns. Only six cases of Infectious Disease have been notified (four Scarlet Fever, one Erysipelas, and one Diphtheria) exclusive of ten cases of Tuberculosis, and the number of deaths notified during the period has only amounted to 28, whereas the number notified last year was 36, and of these 28, 21 were over the age of 45 years, and 11 out of that 21 were upwards of 65 years of age, and succumbed to causes entirely due to old age.

As the number of Infectious cases notified has been so small, there has been no occasion, fortunately, to re-open our Isolation Hospital which has now been closed since March 12th, 1912.

It can be opened at the shortest possible notice, and considering all things it is in a reasonable state of repair. A responsible nurse visits the Hospital twice weekly in order to keep it well ventilated, warmed at intervals, and ready for immediate use.

The rainfall for the year has been as follows:—

		Inches.
January	...	2·64
February	...	·71
March	...	2·09
April	...	2·37
May	...	1·57
June	...	·94
July	...	1·78
August	...	·39
September	...	1·28
October	...	3·93
November	...	2·92
December	...	·77
		<hr/> 21·39 <hr/>

For these figures I am indebted to Mr. E. Dilliway, the Clerk to the Urban Council. As to last year's rainfall I notice it was 22·8. This slight difference in the figures had no effect upon the general health of the town.

No special or general enquiries have been held during the year, and no new industries have been started.

A very few new houses have been erected during the year but they have all conformed to the Bye-laws. I hope the time is not far distant when the landlords will follow the example set by a royal owner in the Lambeth and Kennington districts of providing a bath fitted with hot and cold water in every tenement. Considering that at the outside, 50 houses in Burnham out of about 800 are thus fitted, there is surely need for improvement in this direction.

The continued attention given to the tarring of the roads and pathways, conduces to the comfort and cleanliness of the town.

The Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk Shops, are regularly visited, and all possible precautions are taken to ensure a pure milk supply, and any suggestions offered by the various boards are willingly carried out.

On account of the prevalence of Foot and Mouth Disease in some parts of the country during the year, frequent visits have been made to the Slaughter-houses which were always found in a cleanly condition, and well supplied with water.

With regard to the wholesomeness of the food in the district, one case of tuberculosis in rabbits was noticed. The rabbits in question were not offered for sale, but were voluntarily submitted for inspection by a resident. The source of supply was clearly traced, and immediate precautions were taken to safeguard the health of the town by warning the inhabitants to submit all doubtful cases to the inspection of the Sanitary Authorities.

The water supplied to the town is analysed from time to time. It was last submitted to the County Medical Officer of Health on 10th July, and I cannot do better than quote from his report.

Dr. Thresh, after stating that he had received one sample from the surface well at the water works, and another from the deep bore at the water works says:—"These samples have been submitted to chemical examination, and the results obtained are of an entirely satisfactory nature. Both are of great organic purity and exhibit no signs of contamination of any form. They are typical examples of waters of their respective class, and of the highest grade. By comparison with previous analyses it is seen that the composition of the deep bore water is subject to no material variation. The waters are pure and wholesome, and well adapted for the use of a public supply."

The privies and pail closets are in much the same condition and number as heretofore, but the Council will have before them an enlarged and greatly improved scheme for sewerage the town and treating the sewage in the near future, whereby I hope that most of these improvable conditions will be swept away.

The scavenging is carried out systematically by contract, including the emptying of the cesspools, and the arrangement appears to work satisfactorily.

There is little or no difference in the accommodation of the housing of the working classes since my last report.

The long discussed public convenience is at last in a fair way of becoming an accomplished fact, the Local Government Board having intimated their willingness to hold an inquiry.

With regard to the notification of Tuberculosis, I find that there are about 14 cases at present in the town (all under the treatment of their respective medical attendants) mostly in the early stages, and able to get about.

None have been removed to sanatoria and no shelters have been provided.

I append a statement of work done by the Sanitary Inspector, and gratefully acknowledge the valuable assistance that he has rendered to me on all occasions when I have sought his advice and help.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS D. WHITE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Table I.—Burnham-on-Crouch (Urban).
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1913 and Previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.		TRANSFERABLE DEATHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.*	of Non-residents registered in District.	of Residents registered beyond District.	Under 1 year of age.		At all ages.	
			Number.	Rate.*					Number.	Rate per 1,000 nett Births.	Number.	Rate.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1908	3,238		65	20.0	32	9.8		1			33	10.1
1909	3,282		55	16.7	42	12.7		0			42	12.7
1910	3,326		70	24.04	36	10.8		0			36	10.8
1911	3,190		54	16.89	26	8.1		5	2	39.2	31	9.69
1912	3,215		59	18.3	36	11.19		9	2	33.9	45	13.9
1913	3,255	61	61	18.7	22	6.7		6	1	16.39	28	8.6

* Rates in Columns 5, 7 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) } 4,517.

Total population at all ages, 3,190. } At Census of 1911.
Average number of persons per house, 3.95.

II.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.

Union House, Maldon.

I.
Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.

Table II.—Burnham-on-Crouch (Urban).

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1913.

... .. during the year 1913.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.								TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH REGISTRATION SUB-DISTRICT.			Total cases removed to Hospital	
	At all Ages.	Years.							Maldon	South-minster.	Tollesbury.		
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65	65 and upwards.					
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranouscroup)	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet fever	4	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	...	...	1	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other forms of Tuberculosis	4	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	16	0	3	5	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Isolation Hospital—Name and Situation, Isolation Cottage, Maldon Road, Burnham-on-Crouch. Sanatoria for Tuberculosis at Heybridge.
 Total available Beds, 18. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 2.

Table III.—Burnham-on-Crouch (Urban).
Causes of, and Ages at Death during Year 1913.

[illegible]

Table V.

Summary of Work done through the Sanitary Inspector and under the H.W.C. Acts, in the Urban District of Burnham-on-Crouch during the year ending December 31st, 1913.

	Total No. for Year.
1 Complaints received	10
2 Nuisances detected without complaint ..	22
3 Nuisances abated	27
4 Nuisances remaining unabated	5
5 Formal Notices served	3
6 Summonses issued	—
7 Convictions obtained	—
8 No. of Cottages inspected	237
9 No. of Cottages found unfit for human habitation	13
10 No. of representations made with the view of Closing Orders being made	3
11 No. of Closing Orders made	—
12 No. of Cottages in which defects were remedied without a Closing Order	4
13 No. of Cottages in which defects were remedied after making Closing Order	—
14 No. of Cottages closed	—
15 No. of Cottages demolished by Order ..	—
16 No. of Common Lodging Houses in District. Frequency of Inspection	—
17 No. of Slaughter Houses in District. Frequency of Inspection, Annually	4 frequently
18 No. of Bakehouses in District. Frequency of Inspection, Annually	5 twice
19 No. of Dairies and Milkshops. Frequency of Inspection	5 quarterly
20 No. of Cowkeepers. Frequency of Inspection	5 quarterly
21 No. of samples of Milk taken for examination for cleanliness, etc.	—
22 Filthy Houses cleansed	2
23 Houses disinfected	7
24 Cases of Overcrowding abated	—
25 New Houses. No. of water certificates applied for	9
26 No. of certificates granted	9
27 Public wells sunk	—
28 Privies. No. in district	3
No. abolished during the year	—
29 No. of pail closets	30
30 No. of W.C.'s with proper flushing arrangement	451
31 No. of hand-flushed W.C.'s	220 about
32 Animals improperly kept removed	2
33 Samples of water taken for analysis ..	—
34 Compensation paid for bedding, clothing, etc., destroyed	—
35 Seizures of unsound food	—

(Signed) CHAS. WEEDON.

