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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, 1915.

BURNLEY:

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

BURNLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

YEAR ENDED 1915.

COUNCILLORS.

Altham	Albert Foster.
Barley	William James Martin.
Blacko	Tom Ridehalgh.
Briercliffe	Bannister Kippax.
Cliviger	John Jobling, J.P.
Dunnockshaw	Stephen Landless.
Foulridge	James Lonsdale.
Goldshaw Booth	S. A. 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,

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, 1915.

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 40·23 inches, being 5·87 inches less than the rainfall of last year.

II.

The estimated civil population is 19,766—a decrease of 734 from last year. This is accounted for by deducting the approximate number of men who have joined H. M. Forces and also making an allowance for people who have left the district to make munitions of war.

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

There are none of H. M. Forces stationed in the district for training purposes.

BIRTHS. The total number of births in the district for the year is 302—males 155, females 147—of which 12 were illegitimate. This gives a birth-rate of 15·27 per thousand of the population, which is the lowest on record for the district. Compared with the average for the preceding ten years—19·7—it is very unsatisfactory.

This low rate is, however, partly accounted for by conditions due to the war, and therefore no remarks would be of any purpose under the abnormal conditions now obtaining in the district, as also throughout the country.

DEATHS. The total number of deaths registered is 244—males 122, females 122—which equals a death-rate of 12·34 per thousand of the estimated population. These figures are, however, altered by the fact that those registered in the district are not always of residents, whilst many who really belong to the district are registered as having died elsewhere. The Returns of these are sent to me every quarter and this year's returns show that the number of non-residents registered in the district is 4 and of residents not registered in the district 30. This means an addition of 26 to the deaths first mentioned and makes the total nett deaths 270—males 130, females 140—which equals a death-rate of 13·65.

The rate for last year was 12·73, so that this year's figures are slightly higher.

The average rate for the five years 1910-1914 was 12·59.

Table III at the end of this Report gives the causes of death and the various age periods. It will be seen from that table that 58 died of Respiratory diseases and of this number 4 died under one year of age and 27 over 65 years of age.

Of Organic Heart Disease 29 died—23 of these being over 45 years of age.

There were 17 deaths from Cancer, as against 11 for the previous year.

15 have died from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 4 from other Tuberculous diseases. Last year the numbers were 13 and 6 respectively.

Diarrhoea and Enteritis accounted for 7 deaths, 3 of which were under one year of age.

Of the others, 54 died of defined, but not specially tabulated, diseases, and 26 from ill-defined or unknown causes.

There were 12 Inquests held during the year.

INFANTILE MORTALITY (see Table IV). Of the 302 children born during the year, 35 have died during the first year of life, which equals an Infantile Mortality rate of 115·89 per thousand births, as against 112·7 for the year 1914, and 120·92, which is the average for the previous five years.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS. The Notification of Births became compulsory on September 1st last.

Since that date 63 notifications have been received from Medical Practitioners, 16 from Midwives, and 3 from Parents—a total of 82.

A copy of each notification is sent to the County Medical Officer of Health.

Although the question has been discussed by the Health Committee, it has not been considered opportune to take any action with regard to the appointment of a Health Visitor nor the establishment of Maternity Centres. However, an Instruction Card is sent to the parents after the receipt of the notification.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. These are detailed in the following pages of the Report. The largest increase is in cases of Scarlet Fever, which are 25 over last year's numbers, Briercliffe alone having had 35 of the total of 81 notified. See notes on page 18.

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 the Padiham Urban District Council and the Accrington District Gas and 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 District Gas and Water Board.
Sabden, Hapton, and Dunnock- shaw.	Water works owned privately.
Goldshaw Booth and Roughlee ... Booth.	Have no systematic supply at present.
Northtown	Principally from the Padiham Urban District Council.
Higham	From Nelson Corporation.

BRIERCLIFFE WATER. In spite of the very dry spells experienced during the past year, a fairly good supply of water has, with judicious handling, been maintained. For about two months the Twist Supply became very weak, as did also the Herd House Supply, but with the aid of the small oil engine and pump at Sweet Well, together with an auxiliary supply from the Burnley Corporation main at Cop Row, the difficulties have been overcome.

The proposed additional water supply scheme commonly known as the Jockey Spring Scheme is at present in abeyance pending the settlement of the purchase of the land, which question is in the hands of the lawyers.

FOULRIDGE WATER. As was the case in 1914, the supply from the original drift again failed during the past summer months, and once again the situation was saved by the deep well supply which has remained quite constant in the quantity of water which it has yielded, thus affording a good and sufficient supply throughout the year of 1915.

NEWCHURCH-IN-PENDLE WATER. After twelve months careful observations the yield of water from the well which the Council caused to be sunk during 1914 has been found to be satisfactory, as during the dry weather a sufficient flow was maintained, whilst in the wet weather more than sufficient water flowed from the well. Samples of the water have been taken and submitted to the Public Analyst of Burnley, who reported as follows:—

“ In accordance with instructions I have examined the sample of water received on the 21st day of April, 1915, and marked ‘Newchurch-in-Pendle Water Supply,’ with the following results.

All results are expressed in parts per 100,000.

Colour	... ..	Bright and clear.
Sediment	... ..	Nil.
Lead present	... ..	Nil.
Reaction	... ..	Alkaline.
Action on lead	... ..	Nil.
(18 hours' contact)		
Free ammonia	... ..	0·0068.
Albuminoid ammonia	... ..	0·0030.
Oxygen absorption	... ..	0·010.
Nitric nitrogen	... ..	0·328.
Chlorine	... ..	1·3.
Total solids	... ..	9·2.
Temporary hardness	... ..	2·0.
Permanent hardness	... ..	5·1.
Total hardness	... ..	7·1.

From the above results I am of opinion that the above is a very good water and quite suitable in every way for drinking and domestic purposes.

(Signed),

FRANK MAUDSLEY, B.SC., F.I.C.

27th April, 1915.

May 27th, 1915.

In accordance with instructions I have examined the sample of water received on the 13th day of May, 1915, and marked 'Newchurch-in-Pendle Water Supply,' with the following results:—

Reaction	...	...	...	...	Alkaline.
Colour	...	...	...	...	Clear and bright.
Sediment	...	...	...	...	Nil.
Lead	...	...	...	...	Absent.
Free ammonia	...	...	...	...	0·0036 parts per 100,000.
Albuminoid ammonia	...	...	...	...	0·0028 " "
Oxygen absorption	...	...	...	...	0·027 " "
Chlorine	...	...	...	...	1·6 " "
Nitric nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0·412 " "
Total solids	...	...	...	...	8·4 " "

A preliminary bacteriological examination revealed the absence of dangerous organisms.

From the above results I am of opinion that this sample is in every way as sound as the previous sample received (April 21st, 1915).

It has in no way suffered from infiltration of objectionable matter.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed),

FRANK MAUDSLEY, B.SC., F.I.C.

The water has now been piped to a covered tank, fitted with spring tap, which has been fixed in the village, and the new supply is available, as a standpipe supply, for the use of the inhabitants.

This scheme will, in my opinion, be sufficient for Newchurch for a few years.

ROUGHLEE WATER. It is hoped that a scheme will be shortly submitted to the Local Government Board for the supply of water to the Crow Trees Area of the Township to be obtained in bulk from the Nelson Corporation.

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.
Foulridge ...	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 Habergham Eaves.

The Whinney Hill district of the Township of Altham is connected with the Accrington and Church Joint Sewerage Board's Outfall Works at Copy Clough.

FOULRIDGE. The Sewage Disposal Works are now receiving the sewage from most of the property in Foulridge village and are giving very satisfactory results.

HUNCOAT. The scheme which was submitted to the Local Government Board in November, 1914, was the subject of a Local Government Inquiry held in Huncoat on 2nd February, 1915, by F. O. Stanford, Esq., A.M.Inst.C.E., one of H. M. Engineering Inspectors, who in due course reported thereon to the Local Government Board. On 23rd April, 1915, the Board wrote to the Council calling their attention to the Board's circular letter of the 25th March, 1915, on "Borrowing on Local Authorities," from which it will be seen that they are not now sanctioning loans for new works, except such as are of pressing necessity for reasons of public health, or an account of war requirements, and informing the Council that "Consequently they will be unable to sanction any loan in this case at the present time." The Board's letter proceeds to enumerate several slight modifications which will be required in the scheme, and concludes with a suggestion that "In the meantime more attention should be paid to sludging out the septic tanks and to maintaining the works in an efficient condition."

Acting on the Board's suggestion, the Council has spared neither time nor money to make the works temporarily as efficient as possible ; though it is practically impossible to bring the existing works into a satisfactory state of working until their scheme has been carried out in its entirety.

WORSTHORNE. Several improvements have been effected at these works during 1915, including the replacement of the first 2 feet of depth of filtering medium with engine clinker, better results having been obtained.

PRIVATE STREET WORKS. The Briercliffe Streets have been completed during the past twelve months, and the benefit derived therefrom is admitted on all sides. The improvement is a great boon to a township of the size of Briercliffe which has been growing so rapidly during the past ten years. The appreciation of the improved conditions by the frontagers themselves may be easily calculated from the fact that within three months of the completion of the works no less than 87 per cent. of the cost had already been recovered.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

<i>Townships.</i>	<i>Population.</i>	<i>System.</i>
Altham, Briercliffe, Hapton, Huncoat, Read, Reedley Hallows, Sabden, Simonstone, Worsthorne.	12,496	Principally waste water closets; several fresh water closets; and at a few isolated houses, pail closets.
Cliviger, Habergham Eaves, Ightenhill.	2,230	Partly water carriage; remainder conservancy.
Barley, Blacko, Dunnockshaw, Goldshaw Booth, Higham, Old Laund Booth, Roughlee, Northtown, and Wheatley Carr.	3,590	Principally on the conservancy system; although there are many houses in these Townships with slop-water closets.
Foulridge	1,450	Principally clean water closets.

In the Township of Foulridge further progress has been made with the abolition of privies and the substitution of clean water closets.

About two-thirds of the closets in this village are now on the fresh water system and the remainder will be dealt with as early as possible.

Since July, 1914, 148 have been converted, and the property owners are to be complimented on the excellent manner in which they have met the Inspector's requirements.

I should like to draw attention here to the unsatisfactory state of the conveniences in the villages of Wheatley Lane and Higham. These, however, it is impossible to alter at present owing to there being no sewers. As soon as the villages are sewered, every endeavour will be made to convert the closets in a similar manner to Foulridge.

Pail closets are emptied once each week, and as this work is performed by the Council's workmen in the greater part of the district, they are well attended to.

For the whole District :—

2 " tank " closets have been converted to pail closets.

4 " tank " closets have been converted to clean water closets.

38 " pail " closets have been converted to clean water closets.

Approximate number of privy middens in the District	...	794
" " pail closets	"	848
" " waste water closets	"	2570
" " fresh water closets	"	545

SCAVENGING. The following Townships are scavenged by the Council's own vehicles and labour :—Altham, Barley, Briercliffe, Cliviger, Goldshaw Booth, a portion of Habergham Eaves, Hapton, Higham, Huncoat, Old Laund Booth, Northtown, Read, Reedley Hallows, Roughlee, Sabden, Simonstone, and Worsthorpe.

Blacko, Foulridge, and Ightenhill are still scavenged by contract, and I am pleased to state that the work has again been performed satisfactorily.

The following summary shows the quantities of house refuse, etc., removed, also how the District is divided up for the purposes of scavenging. These figures only relate to the work done by the Council's own vehicles and labour.

	Ashpits emptied.	Ash Bins emptied.	Privy Pails emptied.	Privy Tanks emptied.	Loads of Ashes removed.	Loads of Nightsoil removed.
Briercliffe and part of Reedley	4769	6314	3471	488	867	790
Hapton and Huncoat.	2131	9480	9408	26	1089	281
Altham, Simonstone, Read, and part of Northtown	1299	9461	5214	199	803	269
Sabden, and part of Northtown	794	4222	3607	26	651	129

	Ashpits emptied	Ash Bins emptied.	Privy Pails emptied.	Privy Tanks emptied.	Loads of Ashes removed.	Loads of Nightsoil removed.
Old Laund Booth, Barley, Higham, Goldshaw Booth, Roughlee, and part of Reedley	652	2283	10479	673	459	1094
Worsthorne, Cliviger, Habergham Eaves.	745	12413	11187	250	887	537
Totals ...	10390	44173	43366	1607	4756	3100

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 Foulridge is gradually becoming filled, and it will soon be necessary to look out for another tipping-place. Otherwise we are well provided with places of disposal for a year or two at any rate.

Refuse bins are emptied fortnightly, and in many cases once each week.

Ashpits are being abolished where possible and bins provided.

Number of Ashpits abolished during the year 40

Number of Houses provided with Bins 40

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

18 written complaints have been received, all of which were given immediate attention.

Systematic inspections of the District have been made, in course of which the following nuisances have been discovered and remedied :—

Accumulations of Nightsoil, Refuse, &c.	35
Insufficient Accommodation for House Refuse... ..	21
Insanitary Privy Pails	35
Defective Waste Water Closets	42
Conveniences in dirty condition	3
Damp Houses	4
Cellars Flooded	4
Defective Water Pipes and Fittings	5

Insufficient Closet Accommodation	...	...	...	...	7
Defective Slop Waste Pipes	...	...	...	...	6
Street Gullies requiring cleaning...	...	...	...	...	2
Defective Yard Flagging	...	...	...	...	3
Drains Blocked	...	...	...	...	14
W.C's Blocked	...	...	...	...	5
Nuisances caused by Piggeries	...	...	...	...	1
Dwellings in dirty condition	...	...	...	...	7
Defective Ashpits	...	...	...	...	5
Defective eaves troughing and down pipes...	...	...	...	...	2
Animals and poultry kept so as to be nuisance	...	...	...	...	5
Defective Yard Doors	...	...	...	...	1
Defective Drains	...	...	...	...	38
Main Sewer blocked...	...	...	...	...	1
Tank Closets insanitary	...	...	...	...	3
Surface-water Drain blocked...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Nuisances	...	...	...	...	5
Total					<u>255</u>
Ashpits Abolished	...	...	...	...	8
Houses Provided with Bins	...	...	...	...	8
Pail Closets Converted to W.C's.	...	...	...	...	20
Tank Closets Converted to W.C's.	...	...	...	...	1
Houses entirely Redrained	...	...	...	...	25

The above are included in the figures given in "Closet Accommodation" and "Scavenging."

120 Informal Notices have been served upon Owners of premises where defects existed ; also 11 Statutory Notices. These include the Notices served under the Housing Act.

It has not been necessary to institute legal proceedings against any person during the year.

The drains at 25 houses in Foulridge have been entirely relaid.

The Council again had printed and circulated throughout the District circulars respecting the destruction of flies and the protection of food from these pests. This, I am of opinion, has done a great deal of good.

I should like to mention once more a matter upon which I have previously commented, viz. : the absence of proper pantries for the storage of food, to the dwelling houses in this neighbourhood.

In the majority of the houses food is kept either in the scullery, under the stairs (where there is neither light nor ventilation) or in cupboards. These places are most unsatisfactory for the keeping of food, and I cannot see any reason why pantries should not be made to the houses here, the same as in other towns.

The following figures shew the number of visits the Inspector has made to each Township during the year :—

Altham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Barley	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Blacko	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Briercliffe	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Cliviger	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Dunnockshaw	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Foulridge	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62
Goldshaw Booth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Habergham Eaves	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Hapton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Higham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Huncoat	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Ightenhill	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Old Laund Booth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Simonstone and Read	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Reedley Hallows	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Roughlee	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Sabden	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Worsthorne	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Total								390

SMOKE NUISANCES. Four smoke observations have been made during the year. There has not been any nuisance arising from black smoke.

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

The water supplies at Roughlee and Newchurch schools are still unsatisfactory, but cannot be attended to until the schemes mentioned elsewhere in this Report are completed.

Owing to the prevalence of whooping cough in the villages of Dunnockshaw and Newchurch-in-Pendle, I deemed it desirable to order the closure of the undermentioned schools for a period extending from the 8th to the 29th January, viz. :—

The Church of England School (Infants' Department)
Newchurch.

Council School (Infants' Department) Dunnockshaw.

Church of England School, Dunnockshaw.

MILK SUPPLY. Inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds have been carried out as usual, and many improvements of an important character have been effected.

There are still several farms at which extensive alterations are required. Some of these will be dealt with during the coming Spring.

During the year printed notices were issued to each registered farmer with respect to the limewashing of the Cowsheds.

I have received no reports as to any tuberculous milk from this District being delivered in neighbouring towns, neither have I received any notifications of cattle suffering from Tuberculosis, under the Diseases of Animals Acts Tuberculosis Order 1913.

One case of Anthrax has been reported. The cowshed affected was thoroughly disinfected by the police, and I am pleased to state that we have had no further cases.

The following improvements to Dairies and Cowsheds have been carried out :—

Improved Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Drains relaid and altered	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Floors reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Improved lighting of cowsheds...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New manure tank constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Yards and cowsheds cleaned (after notice)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

In addition to the above, the Cowsheds at Lower Oaken Eaves Farm, Moorside Farm (1 shippon) and Lower Small Hazels have been entirely remodelled and are now up-to-date as regards air space, lighting, ventilation, and from a sanitary standpoint generally.

At Lower Small Hazels alterations have been made to the dwelling house, which comprise the provision of a new dairy.

Extensive alterations have also been made at Noyna Farm, Foulridge, where a new cowshed has been erected.

All the above improvements have been effected in accordance with the requirements of your Inspector.

BAKEHOUSES. There are 14 bakehouses in the District, all of which upon inspection were found to be clean and well kept.

No notices have been received from H. M. Inspector of Factories with regard to them.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. All the workshops were found in good order.

With regard to factories, some improvements have been effected in the sanitary arrangements, viz. : additional conveniences have been provided at one of the Huncoat factories, at Laneshaw-bridge Mill, and at the New Shed, Foulridge. At the latter an entirely new range of conveniences has been erected.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES. All the Slaughter Houses inspected were found clean and satisfactory.

No new licences have been granted during the year.

The bulk of the meat sold in the District is brought from the abattoirs in neighbouring towns.

No meat has been condemned.

A new Order was issued by the Board of Agriculture with regard to the prevention of the slaughter of young calves.

Under the provisions of this Order it is prohibitive to slaughter calves which have been sold at an auction sale for a sum of thirty shillings or more. Those sold for less than thirty shillings are to be branded by the auctioneer and may be slaughtered. The object is that a calf realising thirty shillings or more is worth rearing.

Up to the end of 1915 this Order has not affected us very much. I have not seen any calves slaughtered in the District since the Order was issued, and there are no auction marts in the area.

I understand, however, that it is proposed to hold weekly sales at Hapton in future for the purpose of the sale of calves under the above mentioned Order, so that the attendance at these sales

of your Inspector will be necessary to see that the requirements of the Act are complied with.

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

Number of Dwelling-houses inspected	42
„ Dwelling-houses where defects existed ...	37
„ Dwelling-houses unfit for habitation... ..	Nil
„ Representations to Local Authority with a view to making Closing Orders	5
„ Closing Orders made	Nil
„ Dwelling-houses where defects were re- medied without making Closing Orders...	7
„ Dwelling-houses put into a fit state of habitation after making Closing Orders...	Nil
„ Dwelling-houses demolished and re-built ...	1
„ Dwelling-houses closed after Preliminary Notice sent to Owner	7
„ Defects remedied	237

Details of defects remedied :—

Defective drains... ..	24
Defective pail closets	16
Yard flagging repaired	23
Defective downpipes and eaves gutters	17
Insanitary tank closets	9
Dampness remedied	27
Windows repaired or new windows fixed	36
Dilapidated out buildings	11
Insanitary ashpits	31
Floors of dwellings repaired	11
Roofs of dwellings repaired	6
Defective slop-waste pipes	2
Yard doors and walls repaired	3
Defective slop-water closets	4
Overcrowding abated	2
Defective water fittings	1
Walls and ceilings repaired	4
Improved ventilation of bedrooms... ..	5

Inadequate closet accommodation	2
Kitchen ranges repaired	1
Other nuisances repaired	2

Total ... 237

Ashpits abolished	32	} These figures are included in the totals given in "Closet Accommodation" and "Scavenging."
Houses provided with bins ...	32	
Tank Closets converted to Pail Closets	2	
Pail Closets converted to W.C's..	18	
"Tank" Closets converted to W.C's.	3	

Dwelling houses entirely redrained... .. 18

As will be observed from the above, much valuable work has been accomplished during the year as regards the improvement of dwelling houses in accordance with the requirements of the Housing and Town Planning Act.

The house at Lower Small Hazels Farm has been practically demolished and rebuilt; whilst four cottages at Roughlee, two at Ightenhill, and one at Foulridge have been closed after informal notices were sent to the owners.

Further progress has been made by Mr. Grimshaw with the alteration of dwelling houses at Sabden. In connection with this scheme five houses in Step Row have been made habitable, and like the Crow Tree Row property, which I mentioned last year, are now not only most satisfactory from a sanitary point of view, but are also a splendid improvement to the village.

Much of your Inspector's time has been occupied in dealing with a block of property at Foulridge, viz., Shelton Row. At his request the owners have purchased a strip of land 20 feet wide at the back of the cottages on which to make backyards, etc.

When this scheme is completed it will not only be a decided advantage to the tenants, but also an improvement to the village, as we shall now be able to get removed some coalhouses, conveniences, and an ashpit which abut on the main road and which have always been a nuisance and an eyesore.

A similar improvement is in progress at a block of property at Blacko, which has also entailed the purchase of land.

It is exceedingly difficult to get these schemes carried out where the purchase of land is necessary, as it so often occurs that

the owner either refuses to sell the land required, or puts such a price upon it as to make the proposed improvement too costly.

I am pleased to say that in both the above cases there has not been much to complain of on that score.

A few months ago I reported to the Council respecting the insanitary condition of the houses in Abner Row and Cromwell Street in the Township of Foulridge. The Council appointed a Sub-Committee to inspect this property, who, after doing so, instructed Mr. Pritchard, the Surveyor, to prepare a plan embodying all the suggestions of the Inspector for the improvement of this area.

This plan has now been prepared, and at an early date I propose to get the owners together to discuss the matter, after which I hope they will agree to carry out the scheme in its entirety, as the property and surroundings are in a bad state. In fact, it ought to have been dealt with long ago only I deemed it advisable to wait before pressing matters until the completion of the new sewerage scheme, so that the drainage of the houses could be efficiently disposed of.

The total number of houses inspected since the Housing Act came into force is 1,678.

Number of houses erected during the year in the	
whole area	23

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 has the assistance of a clerk. He also performs the duties of Inspector of Houses under the Housing and Town Planning 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 is used for Smallpox cases.

D. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER ACUTE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications received during the year are as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	81
Typhoid Fever	3

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Erysipelas...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Membraneous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
								<hr/>
Total	...							112
								<hr/>

This total is an increase of 25 over last year's figures, due to the large number of Scarlet Fever cases notified, viz., 81 as against 55 for 1914.

There were two cases more of Diphtheria than last year; whilst there were only three cases of Typhoid as against 6 for the previous year.

The average total for the preceding 10 years is 98·7 (see Table on page 22) so that this year's figures are above that average.

SCARLET FEVER. The 81 cases were notified from the following Townships:—Briercliffe (35), Worsthorpe (14), Hapton (6), Reedley Hallows (6), Blacko (5), Cliviger (4), Sabden (3), Altham (3), Foulridge (2), Habergham Eaves (2), Old Laund (1).

Most cases were reported in the months of February (16) and September (10). The rest were fairly evenly distributed over the remaining months.

The majority of the above cases were of an exceedingly mild type, and that is the reason, in my opinion, why we have had more of this disease than usual, as I am certain children have been sent to school whilst suffering from the disease—the parents being under the impression that they were suffering from colds. In some of these instances a doctor was not called in until the peeling stage had commenced.

But in many cases, especially at Briercliffe, there was no peeling at all, and some of the children were ill only a few days.

I may say that in this Township two children in one family were found suffering from Scarlet Fever, and although the mother was perfectly aware that the children had Scarlet Fever she refrained from calling in a doctor, and I have no doubt several cases arose from this source.

In future if I come across any more negligence of this description I shall strongly recommend the Council to prosecute the offenders.

Although we had so many cases, it is most gratifying to note that there were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA. The 15 cases of Diphtheria were notified from Blacko (3), Sabden (4), Worsthorne (3), whilst the following Townships had each one case :—Briercliffe, Cliviger, Higham, Ightenhill, and Reedley Hallows.

One patient at Blacko was not a permanent resident in this District and had contracted the disease elsewhere.

Owing to the fact that Diphtheria was prevalent in a neighbouring Borough and also that we had cases in Blacko, I instructed the Inspector to take samples of milk from four farms in that Township from which milk is supplied in the said Borough and also in Blacko.

These samples were forwarded to Professor Delepine for bacteriological examination, who reported that the samples contained no Diphtheria Bacilli.

Two of the three cases at Worsthorne might have been prevented had it not been for the sheer carelessness on the part of the mother of one of the patients.

There were two deaths during the year.

TYPHOID FEVER. I think three cases of Typhoid is the lowest number I have ever had to report in connection with this District, which is exceedingly gratifying, and, compared with the average of 7·4 for the preceding 10 years, is eminently satisfactory.

The three cases occurred at Altham (1), Cliviger (1), and Reedley Hallows (1).

Two out of the three cases died, I regret to say.

There have been no cases of Smallpox, Puerperal Fever, Acute Poliomyelitis, or Cerebro Spinal Meningitis reported.

The undermentioned Townships have been entirely free from any of the diseases enumerated above :—Barley, Dunnockshaw, Goldshaw Booth, Huncoat, Northtown, Read, Roughlee, Simonstone, and Wheatley Carr—which constitutes a large portion of the area.

MEASLES have been prevalent during the year and two have died from the disease, one of whom was an infant under one year of age. Last year there were 12 deaths.

On January 1st, 1916, Measles, at last, becomes a compulsorily notifiable disease.

All the forms, circulars, etc., have been sent out to Medical Practitioners, and posters and handbills have been circulated

throughout the District giving instructions as to the procedure to be adopted.

On the receipt of these notifications, the cases will be visited and dealt with on similar lines to the other infectious diseases.

WHOOPING COUGH. This has also been prevalent during the year, there being two deaths—one of whom was under one year of age.

As mentioned elsewhere in this Report, I found it necessary to close the Infants' Department at two schools, and in another case the whole school.

Rooms fumigated, 95—an increase of 26 over last year.

153 visits have been made to houses where infectious diseases existed, being an increase of 35 over the number of visits made last year.

In cases where proper isolation could not be secured at home, the patients have been removed to Hospital. These numbered 38 as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
								<hr/>
Total	...							<u>38</u>

This equals 33·92 per cent. of the cases notified.

The following cases occurred at farms :—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
								<hr/>
Total	...							<u>4</u>

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

Each week returns of notifications received have been forwarded to the Local Government Board and the County Medical Officer of Health.

The following Table shews the number of cases notified during the year 1915, and the preceding 10 years.

DISEASES.	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915
Scarlet Fever	88	53	130	70	72	64	46	17	28	55	81
Typhoid Fever	10	13	4	8	6	12	5	5	5	6	3
Diphtheria	13	9	5	22	4	4	19	22	24	13	15
Erysipelas	18	11	18	12	12	16	10	10	10	11	12
Membranous Croup	0	1	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Puerperal Fever	2	2	3	1	1	3	2	2	..	1	..
Small Pox	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Poliomyelitis .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Totals.....	133	89	163	114	96	99	82	57	67	87	112

Average for preceding 10 years—98·7.

Distribution during the twelve months:—

1914.	Scarlet Fever.	Typhoid Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Membranous Croup.	Puerperal Fever.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	TOTAL.
January	8	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	11
February	16	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	17
March	3	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	5
April	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
May	5	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	7
June	5	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	8
July.....	6	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	8
August	7	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	8
September.....	10	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	11
October	6	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	8
November	6	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	12
December	7	..	4	2	1	..	..	..	14
Total	81	3	15	12	1	..	..	..	112

TABLE SHOWING DISTRIBUTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES—1915.

TOWNSHIP.	Estimated Population.	Scarlet Fever.	Cases per 100.	Diphtheria.	Cases per 100.	Typhoid Fever	Cases per 100.	Erysipelas.	Cases per 100.	Puerperal Fever.	Cases per 100.	Membranous Croup.	Cases per 100	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Cases per 100	Tuberculosis.	Cases per 100.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Cases per 100.	Total No. of cases in each Township.	Cases per 100.
Altham	930	3	.32	..	..	1	.10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	.10	..	..	5	.53
Barley-with-Wheatley Booth ..	320	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	.62	..	..	2	.62
Blacko	500	5	1.00	3	.60	..	..	1	.20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	1.80
Briercliffe	3000	35	1.16	1	.03	..	..	2	.06	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	.10	..	..	41	1.36
Cliviger	1810	4	.22	1	.05	1	.05	1	.05	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	.16	..	..	10	.55
Dunockshaw	520	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foulridge	1416	2	.14	..	..	..	..	1	.07	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	.48	..	..	10	.70
Goldshaw Booth	156	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Habergham Eaves	290	2	.69	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	.34	..	..	3	1.03
Hapton	2000	6	.30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	.15	..	..	9	.45
Higham	760	..	..	1	.13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	.13	..	..	1	.13
Huncoat	1500	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	.13
Ightenhill Park	130	..	..	1	.77	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	.77
North Town	130	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Old Laund Booth	800	1	.12	..	..	..	..	2	.25	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	.12	..	..	4	.50
Read	970	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Reedley Hallows	720	6	.83	1	.14	1	.14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	.28	..	..	10	1.39
Roughlee	350	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	.29	..	..	1	.29
Sabden	1700	3	.18	4	.23	..	..	1	.06	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	.35	..	..	14	.82
Simonstone	510	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	.39	..	..	2	.39
Wheatley Carr	54	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Worsthorne-with-Hurstwood ..	1200	14	1.16	4	.33	..	..	4	.33	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	.25	..	..	25	2.08
Total	19766	81	.40	16	.08	3	.01	12	.06	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	.18	..	..	149	.75
Corresponding totals for last year ..	20500	55	.27	13	.06	6	.03	11	.05	1	..	..	.005	1	..	30	.14	..	..	117	.57

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

Number of Primary Notifications received from Medical Practitioners, Form A (particulars of which are given hereunder), 36. The number notified last year was 29.

	<i>Males.</i>		<i>Females.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11	...	12	...	23
Spine	1	...	1	...	2
Peritoneum and Intestines ...	3	...	—	...	3
Meninges	1	...	2	...	3
Foot	1	...	—	...	1
Larynx	—	...	1	...	1
Femoral Glands	1	...	—	...	1
Hip	1	...	1	...	2
Totals ...	19	...	17	...	36

Occupations of persons notified:—

Weavers	13
Housewives	5
Ringspinners	2
Baker... ..	1
Labourers	4
Hawker	1
Winder	1
Warehouseman	1
No Occupation	8
Total ...	36

Particulars as to ages are given in Table II.

Three notifications have been received from Medical Officers of Sanatoria (Form C). These are as follows:—

Meathop Sanatorium	1
Bull Hill Sanatorium	1
Elswick Sanatorium	1
Total ...	3

The following notifications have been received after the discharge of patients from Institutions and Sanatoria (Form D) :—

Burnley Union...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Skipton Union	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meathop Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	...	2
Elswick Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	...	1
Bull Hill Sanatorium	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total						<u>7</u>

12 rooms have been disinfected during the year.

Since the County Council put into operation their scheme, there has been considerable over-lapping in dealing with Tuberculosis owing to the County Officers visiting the patients as well as myself or the Inspector. This was very unsatisfactory to all concerned, especially to the patients.

I therefore discussed the matter with Dr. MacPhee, the County Tuberculosis Officer for this area, with the result that an arrangement was made whereby the County Nurse, appointed for the purpose, will in future visit all cases, and a copy of her report on the environmental conditions of the patients will be forwarded to me, so that it will not be necessary for us to visit unless there is something insanitary which requires our attention, or for the purpose of disinfecting the houses.

Each week returns of cases notified are forwarded to the Local Government Board and the County Medical Officer of Health.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

H. J. ROBINSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.—TABLE I.

of Whole District during 1915 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 per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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
1914	20500	346	346	16.87	233	11.36	6	34	39	112.7	261	12.73
1915	19766	302	302	15.27	244	12.34	4	30	35	115.89	270	13.65
		Males..	155							Males..	130	
		Females	147							Females	140	

Total population at all ages, 20,292

No. of inhabited houses, 4,785

Average number of persons per house, 4.25

} At Census of
1911.

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

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1915.—TABLE II.

BURNLEY RURAL DISTRICT.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.										TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.					Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								1 Burnley Reg. Dist.	2 Colne Reg. Dist.	3 Pendle Reg. Dist.	4 Padiham 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...	16	—	7	6	1	2	—	—	8	3	—	5	—	10	—		
Erysipelas.....	12	—	—	—	2	7	2	1	7	2	2	1	—	—	—		
Scarlet Fever.....	81	—	20	52	8	1	—	—	61	7	1	12	—	27	—		
Typhus Fever.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Enteric Fever.....	3	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	—		
Relapsing Fever.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Continued Fever.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Puerperal Fever.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Poliomyelitis.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	24	—	—	2	5	10	6	1	8	3	3	10	—	—	—		
Other Tuberculosis.....	13	—	—	5	2	3	3	—	4	4	1	4	—	—	—		
Totals.....	149	—	27	67	18	24	11	2	90	19	7	33	—	38	—		

VITAL STATISTICS.—TABLE III.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING YEAR 1915.
BURNLEY RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	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.
	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 upwards.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All causes { Certified	266		...	..	...	..	..	..	..	....
{ Uncertified	4		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Enteric Fever	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	....
Small Pox .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Measles	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	....
Scarlet Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Whooping Cough.....	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	....
Diphtheria and Croup	2	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	....
Influenza	5	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	3	....
Erysipelas.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	15	..	..	2	1	3	6	4	1	....
Tuberculous Meningitis	7	1	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	....
Other Tuberculous Diseases	4	..	..	..	2	1	1	..	6	....
Cancer (Malignant Disease)	17	..	..	..	..	1	4	6	2	....
Rheumatic Fever	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	....
Meningitis.....	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	....
Organic Heart Disease	29	..	..	..	..	1	5	13	10	....
Bronchitis.....	39	2	1	1	..	1	..	8	26	....
Pneumonia (all forms)	19	2	3	3	2	..	4	4	1	....
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	7	3	1	..	1	..	..	1	1	....
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	4	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	....
Girrhosis of Liver	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	....
Alcoholism .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	6	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	....
Puerperal Fever .....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition.....	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	....
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth.....	15	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	....
Violent Deaths (excluding Suicides)	7	1	..	1	..	..	4	..	1	....
Suicide	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	....
Other Defined Diseases.....	54	9	..	..	3	1	6	21	14	....
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	26	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	24	....
Totals.....	270	35	6	11	15	10	40	61	92	....

VITAL STATISTICS.—TABLE IV.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1915.

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	16	..	3	..	19	1	6	2	4	32
Uncertified	2	1	..	3
Small-pox
Chicken-pox
Measles	1	1
Scarlet Fever
Whooping Cough	1	..	..	1
Diphtheria and Croup
Erysipelas
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	1
Abdominal Tuberculosis
Other Tuberculous Diseases
Meningitis (no! Tuberculous)
Convulsions	2	1	..	3
Laryngitis	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Bronchitis	1	1	..	2
Pneumonia (all forms).....	1	1	2
Diarrhoea	1	..	..	1
Enteritis	1	..	..	1
Gastritis	1	1
Syphilis
Rickets
Suffocation, overlying	1	..	..	1
Injury at Birth.....
Atelectasis	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Congenital Malformations
Premature Birth	13	..	2	..	15	..	..	..	..	15
Atrophy Debility & Marasmus
Other Causes	2	..	..	..	2	1	1	..	..	4
Totals	16	..	3	..	19	1	8	3	4	35

Nett Births in the Year { Legitimate.... 290
 { Illegitimate .. 12

Nett Deaths in the Year { Legitimate Infants.. 35
 { 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).	50	3	Nil.
WORKSHOPS..... (Including Workshop Laundries).	20	Nil.	Nil.
WORKPLACES.....	..	..	..
Total.....	70	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.....	2	2	..	..
(Insufficient.....	3	3	..	..
Sanitary Accommodation { Unsuitable or Defective...	..	..	..	..
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	..	..	..	..
Other Offences.....	..	..	..	..
Total.....	5	5	..	..

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

WORKSHOPS ON THE REGISTER AT THE END OF THE YEAR. (1)	NUMBER. (2)
Bakehouses.....	14
Various.....	9
Total Number of Workshops on Register.....	23

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 Notified by H.M. Inspector...	2
as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but	
not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5). Report (of action taken) sent	
to H.M. Inspector.....	2
Other.....	..
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :—	
Certificates granted during the year.....	..
In use at the end of the year.....	..