

[Report 1925] / Medical Officer of Health, Burnley R.D.C.

Contributors

Burnley (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1925

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/d3zdm26y>

License and attribution

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

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

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



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

Burnley Rural District Council.

.....

ANNUAL REPORT of DR. H. J. ROBINSON, Medical Officer of
Health, for the Year ending December 31st, 1925.

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

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Report on the health and sanitary conditions of the district, together with the observations and details of work done by your Sanitary Inspector. I have also appended the report of your Surveyor for the year.

You will find in the body of the Report comparative statistics for the last five years, from which it will be evident that the general health and conditions of the district have kept on the whole satisfactory.

The death rate has varied little, being on an average 12·7 for the five years, the highest being 13·5 for 1921, the lowest 11·7 for 1923, whilst the rate for the last year, 1925, was 12.

The chief causes of death for the past year have been Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Heart Disease, and Cancer. I do not find any increase of Cancer as the number for this year is the lowest for the last five years, the returns being :—

1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
26 ...	30 ...	23 ...	21 ...	20

Again, as in previous years, a large proportion of deaths is of persons over 65 years, namely 99 out of a total number of 235—that is nearly a third of whole.

The infantile mortality for the year is 64 per thousand births, but the birth rate is still declining. The mean birth rate for the five years 1895 to 1899 was 23·6. The mean rate for the years 1920 to 1924 16·2, and for the past year 13·5 per thousand of the population.

There was only one death from diarrhoea in children under 2 years of age.

The sanitary conditions of the district are dealt with in the following pages, from which it is evident that many improvements have been effected during the last five years, and further matters requiring attention are being dealt with.

I have again to acknowledge, with appreciation, the whole-hearted constant assistance and co-operation of my fellow officers, and the members of the Council.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

I.

The Burnley Rural District, situated in North-East Lancashire, is very hilly in character, ranging from 200 to 1831 feet above Ordnance Datum, the mean average being about 650 feet.

The District has an area of 41,768 acres surrounding or adjoining the Urban Districts of Burnley, Brierfield, Nelson, Colne, Barrowford and Padiham.

The subsoil of the district is mostly clay. Having an average annual rainfall of over 40 inches the District is very damp and the climate favourable for the weaving of cotton goods.

During the year the following observations were recorded at the Burnley Meteorological Station which is situated practically in the centre of our area and at an elevation of 458 feet above sea level :—

Sunshine was recorded on	...	...	282 days.
Total amount of bright sunshine	...	...	1097·1 hours.
Rain was recorded on	...	...	214 days.
Rainfall for the year	...	...	41·4 inches.
Prevailing winds	...	...	105 days west. 80 days s-west.

The greatest rainfall on any one day occurred on the 10th February, 1925, when 1·2 inches were recorded as against 1·8 last year. Sunshine was recorded on 7 days more than last year, and we had 27 fewer wet days. Generally, the weather was much better than during the preceding three years.

II.

The population, as estimated to the middle of the year is 19,480, as against 19,520 last year, and 19,490 in 1921. According to the last census there were 4,880 inhabited houses and the number of families or separate occupiers 4,927, which seems to indicate that there is not a great deal of overcrowding.

The rateable value of the District is £167,324, and a penny rate produces £697.

Textile manufacturing, coal mining, and dairy farming are the principal occupations of the people, who, generally speaking, are very thrifty. The industries do not appear to have any adverse effect on public health.

Trade conditions still continue to be bad, and there has been much unemployment, as evidenced by the number of persons on the register at the Employment Exchange and those in receipt of Poor Law relief.

The amount of Poor Law relief expended in the various Townships comprised in the Rural District was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Briercliffe ...	164	3	6	Reedley ...	77	5	0
Cliviger ...	106	14	0	Worsthorne ...	257	0	6
Altham ...	22	10	9	Goldshaw ...	2	17	0
Hapton ...	214	2	6	Huncoat ...	100	7	0
Higham ...	49	9	6	Old Launt ...	78	5	6
Read ...	1	8	0	Sabden ...	143	2	6
Simonstone ...	34	7	6	Barley ...	70	9	0
Wheatley Carr ...	14	12	6	Blacko ...	49	13	0
Foulridge ...	43	17	6				
				Total ...	1430	5	3

Hospital and other forms of gratuitous medical relief are utilized to the full extent for necessitous cases.

The general health of the District during the past 5 years appears to have been very satisfactory, and there have been no outstanding causes of sickness or invalidity in any one year which calls for special comment.

(A)—VITAL STATISTICS.

The following Tables and Statistics are based upon the Registrar-General's Returns and are for a population of 19,480:—

Birth Rate.—The total number of births registered in the District during the year was 264 (males 136, females 128). Of these, 7 males were illegitimate. There were three fewer births than last year. These returns give an annual birth rate for the District for 1925 of 13·5 per thousand of the population. The average for England and Wales is 18·3 per thousand of the population.

BIRTH RATE FOR THE PAST 10 YEARS.

Year.	Births.				Rate per 1,000 of Population.
1916	312	...	15·25
1917	282	...	14·66
1918	227	...	12·0
1919	234	...	12·43
1920	389	...	21·33
1921	321	...	16·4
1922	294	...	15·0
1923	288	...	14·7
1924	267	...	13·6
1925	264	...	13·5

Death Rate.—The total number of deaths of residents and those belonging to the District who have died elsewhere, as supplied by the Registrar-General, is 235 (males 109, females 126) which is equal to a death rate of 12·0 per thousand of the population as compared with 13·6 of the previous year. The annual death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for the year 1925 is 12·2 per thousand of the population.

DEATHS DURING THE PAST 10 YEARS.

Year.	No.				Rate per 1,000 of population.
1916	224	...	11·9
1917	246	...	14·2
1918	247	...	14·6
1919	238	...	13·5
1920	237	...	12·9
1921	264	...	13·5
1922	250	...	12·8
1923	229	...	11·7
1924	266	...	13·6
1925	235	...	12·0

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The number of deaths of children under 1 year of age was 17. Legitimate 16 (males 9, females 7), illegitimate, 1 female ; which equals an infantile mortality rate of 64 deaths per thousand births.

DEATHS DURING THE PAST 10 YEARS.

Year.			No.			Rate per 1,000 births.
1916	...	...	20	...	...	64·10
1917	...	...	31	...	...	109·9
1918	...	...	18	...	...	79·0
1919	...	...	23	...	...	101·0
1920	...	...	26	...	...	66·0
1921	...	...	25	...	...	77·0
1922	...	...	19	...	...	64·0
1923	...	...	18	...	...	62·0
1924	...	...	27	...	...	101·0
1925	...	...	17	...	...	64·0

The following tables, as supplied by the Registrar-General, will perhaps be of interest as shewing the birth and death rates for the year compared with the rates for the past 30 years and also the rates for the whole of the country :—

TABLE No. 1.

RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

		Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Death Rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	Rate of deaths under 1 year to 1,000 Births.
Mean of 5 Years—					
1895—1899	...	23·6	14·0	1·08	125
1900—1904	...	22·2	12·7	0·65	121
1905—1909	...	21·7	13·1	0·67	108
1910—1914	...	18·8	12·5	0·58	120
1915—1919	...	13·7	13·5	0·73	93
1920—1924	...	16·2	12·9	0·59	74
Year :—					
1924	...	13·6	13·6	0·71	101
1925	...	13·5	12·0	0·51	64
Increase or decrease in 1925 on :—					
1. Mean of 5 years					
1920—1924	...	—2·7	—0·9	—0·08	—10
2.—Previous Year		—0·1	—1·6	—0·2	—37

TABLE No. 2.

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1925.

	BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.								RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 yrs)	Total Deaths under 1 year.	Certified Causes.	Inquest Cases.	Uncertified Causes of Death.
England and Wales	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.....	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0.6
157 Smaller Towns	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9*	1.1
(1921 adjusted populations 20,000—50,000).															
London.....	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0

TABLE No. 3.
VITAL STATISTICS.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING 1925.

NETT DEATHS, at the subjoined Ages, of Residents, whether occurring within or without the District.

CAUSES OF DEATH. (All causes, certified and uncertified).	ALL AGES.		Under 1 Year.		1-2		2-5		5-15		15-25		25-45		45-65		65-75		75 and upwards.	
	Total	Male	Fem.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Enteric Fever ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza ...	9	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	3	—	—	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	10	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	4	1	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer—Malignant Disease	20	11	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	5	4	4	2	2	1
Rheumatic fever...	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Diabetes ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	18	4	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4	2	4	—	5
<i>Carried forward</i>	69	27	42	—	—	—	1	1	2	1	1	2	6	6	10	14	6	7	2	7

TABLE NO. 3. VITAL STATISTICS.
CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT, DEATH DURING 1925—continued.

NET DEATHS, at the subjoined Ages, of Residents, whether occurring within or without the District.

CAUSES OF DEATH. (All causes, certified and uncertified).	ALL AGES.		Under 1 Year.		1—2		2—5		5—15		15—25		25—45		45—65		65—75		75 and upwards.	
	Total	Male	Fem.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
<i>Brought forward</i> ...	69	27	42	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	—	2	6	6	10	14	6	7	2	7
Heart Disease ...	42	18	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	7	9	6	4	4	10
Arterio Sclerosis ...	14	5	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	2	1	5
Bronchitis... ..	29	18	11	4	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	1	7	5	3	3
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	17	9	8	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	5	2	1	2	1	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ...	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	5	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Debility and Mal- formation, Premature Birth ...	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suicide	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Other Deaths from Violence ...	7	4	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
Other Defined Diseases ...	44	20	24	4	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	3	5	8	2	6	6	6
TOTALS ...	235	109	126	9	8	1	3	1	3	4	2	3	12	13	38	38	24	27	17	31

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

The following Hospital accommodation is available for residents in the Rural Area :—

1. Tuberculosis.—Burnley District Pulmonary Hospital, Marsden Road, Burnley. In September, 1919, the County Council made an arrangement with the Burnley Joint Hospital Board to allow them the use of occasional beds at the above hospital for the treatment of patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. Since 1922, it was found practicable to reserve 10 beds for County patients exclusively, with occasional additional beds.

2. Maternity.—We have no maternity hospital but cases can be accommodated at the Union Infirmary in Briercliffe Road, Burnley.

3. Children.—Accommodation is provided at the Union Infirmary, where there is a splendid children's department.

4. Fever.—Infectious Disease cases are treated at the Kibble Bank Infectious Disease Hospital, Marsden Road, Burnley. This hospital is controlled by the Burnley Joint Hospital Board and the Rural District Council is one of the constituent authorities.

There is no special number of beds set apart and cases are sent until no beds are available.

5. Small-Pox.—Accommodation is available at the Small-Pox Hospital of which we have the joint use. The hospital is situate in Habergham Eaves, in the Rural Area.

Ambulance Facilities.—All infectious cases removed to hospital are conveyed by Motor Ambulance provided by the Joint Hospital Board. Non-infectious and accident cases are removed by motor ambulance belonging to the Burnley Corporation.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Name.	Situation.			By whom provided.	
Maternity & Child Welfare	Briercliffe	...	...	County Council.
Day Nurseries	...	None	...	...	—
School Clinics	...	None	...	...	—
Tuberculosis Dispensaries...	...	Accrington and Nelson	...	...	County Council.
Venereal Disease	...	Victoria Hospital Burnley.	...	...	County Council. (by arrangement)

STAFF.

One Sanitary Inspector has charge of the District and devotes the whole of his time to the duties. In addition to the usual duties the Council have appointed him Inspector under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders, Meat Inspector, and Inspector under the Housing Acts.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

The Burnley District Nursing Association, Church Street, Burnley—a public organisation—undertakes general nursing and also nursing of infectious disease cases such as Measles, Pneumonia, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, etc. A charge is made for services rendered where there is ability to pay. Neither the Rural Council or the County Council provide nursing in the home, nor is there any financial arrangement between the Local Authority and the above Association.

Midwives.—There are 5 certified midwives on the County Council register practising in the rural area. The Rural District Council do not employ or financially assist any midwife.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

The following Acts, etc., are in force in the area :—

1.—Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders, 1885 ... Operative from 1887.

2.—Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.

3.—Part III of the Public Health (Amendment) Act, 1890 ... Operative from 1923.

4.—Bye-laws with respect to :—

(a) Cleansing foot-ways, etc.

(b) Common Lodging Houses ... Operative from 1881.

(c) Nuisances.

(d) Slaughterhouses.

(e) New Streets and Buildings ... Operative from 1924.

The various provisions contained in the above statutes are enforced.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE VOLUNTARY HOSPITALS,
ETC.

Contributions are made by the Council to various Hospitals and the accommodation utilized where necessary.

The Union Infirmary, Maternity Wards and Children's Wards are all utilized as required.

(B)—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.**WATER SUPPLY.**

The water supply for the greater part of the District is good, and is provided by the Council's own waterworks or from those of adjoining public authorities.

The following particulars show the principal water supply to the various Townships :—

Township.	Source of Supply.
ALTHAM AND SIMONSTONE.	Principally from Padiham Urban District Council and Accrington District Gas and Water Board.
BARLEY, BLACKO, OLD LAUND BOOTH, WHEATLEY CARR AND REEDLEY HALLOWS.	Principally from Nelson Corporation ; remainder from private supplies.
HABERGHAM EAVES, WORSTHORNE AND IGTENHILL.	Principally from Burnley Corporation ; remainder from private supplies.
BRIERCLIFFE, CLIVIGER, READ, HAPTON AND FOULRIDGE.	From the Council's own water works. Each Township has a separate supply.
HUNCOAT.	From Accrington District Gas and Water Board.
SABDEN AND DUNNOCKSHAW.	From waterworks owned privately.
GOLDSHAW BOOTH AND ROUGHLEE BOOTH.	Have no systematic supply.
NORTHTOWN.	Principally from Padiham Urban District Council.
HIGHAM.	From Nelson Corporation.

All the sources of water supply in the District are primarily upland surface water. The supply is constant.

It is inevitable that there should exist in the more rural parts a number of private supplies and occasionally we get complaints of insufficiency and pollution of the water.

Complaints of shortage were received from Bridge End, Barley ; and Wood Hagg, Cliviger. The former is due to lack of pressure at certain times. The latter is a private supply which failed once or twice during the spell of dry weather. Repairs were effected by the owners which improved the supply in the case at Cliviger.

With the exception of Newchurch-in-Pendle, where the inhabitants fetch the water from a tank in the centre of the village, practically the whole of the 5,000 houses in the rural area have a direct supply of water laid on.

Further particulars regarding water supply are included in the Surveyor's Report.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

It is inevitable that in rural areas much of the surface water from the roads, and slop water, should find its way direct into the streams, and a few complaints have been received from poultry keepers and farmers of pollution of water-courses running through their land. These complaints were attended to and remedied where possible.

Several farms and houses have their own septic tanks and filters for the treatment of sewage before it enters the streams, and all new property are required to provide these private installations where there is no proper sewerage system.

Although this is the most efficient way of dealing with the sewage in country places the treatment on a small scale is not always entirely satisfactory, largely on account of the irregularity and unequal discharge. Constant supervision must be exercised to assure that the clinker in the filter does not become so fouled as to become impervious.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The following Townships have their own sewage disposal works, viz. :—

Township.	Method of Treatment.
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, 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.

In my Annual Reports for several years past I have consistently drawn attention to the unsatisfactory conditions in the villages of Wheatley Lane, Higham, and Cliviger, and to the need for proper sewerage and sewage disposal works being provided. Until this is done it is impossible to carry out any vital improvements so far as abolishing the present system of tank closets, pail closets, and stone drains. I am pleased to report that schemes are now being prepared by your Surveyor for the sewerage and treatment of sewage in respect of the Townships of Wheatley Lane, Higham, and Blacko, and trust that when same are submitted and approved the work will be put in hand. Cliviger should also be dealt with.

The cesspool at Lane Side, Altham, which received the drainage of 4 houses has been converted into a septic tank, and a filter and effluent drain constructed.

A septic tank and filter has also been constructed for the sewage at Cliviger Mill, Cliviger.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Township.	Approximate population.	System.
Altham, Briercliffe, Hapton, Huncoat, Read, Reedley Hallows, Sabden, Simonstone, Worsthorne.	12,266	Principally waste water closets ; several fresh water closets ; and at a few isolated houses, pail closets.
Cliviger, Habergham Eaves, Ightenhill.	2,149	Partly water carriage ; remainder conservancy system.
Barley, Blacko, Dunnockshaw, Goldshaw Booth, Higham, Old Laund Booth, Roughlee, Northtown, and Wheatley Carr.	3,446	Principally on the conservancy system, although there are many houses in these Townships with waste water closets.
Foulridge	1,348	Principally fresh water closets, though a few tank and pail closets are still in use.

Pail closets are emptied once each week, and as this work is mostly performed by the Council's own workmen, they receive regular attention, and it is very rarely that complaints are received.

During the year we have records that— ...

1 tank closet has been converted into a fresh water closet.

1 privy closet has been converted into 2 pail closets.

During the five years 1921-1925 :—

8 tank closets have been converted into 9 fresh water closets.

2 privies have been converted into 9 fresh water closets.

14 pail closets have been converted into 17 fresh water closets.

11 tank closets have been converted into 16 pail closets.

6 privies have been converted into 11 pail closets.

Additional conveniences erected owing to insufficiency :—

6 fresh water closets, and

7 pail closets.

Whenever possible privies and pail closets are abolished and fresh water closets provided. It is, however, impossible to deal comprehensively with the abolition of this type of closet until several of the Townships are sewered and sewage works constructed.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE END OF 1925 :—

Approximate number of privy closets...	...	43
Do. do. tank closets ...	...	740
Do. do. pail closets ...	...	844
Do. do. waste water closets ...	...	2579
Do. do. fresh water closets ...	...	848

SCAVENGING.

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

Blacko, Foulridge, Ightenhill, and portions of Habergham Eaves and Huncoat are scavenged by contract.

Dunnockshaw is the only township where nightsoil and house refuse are removed by the owners of property. The work done by the contractors has been fairly satisfactory. It is becoming more and more difficult to get farmers to tender for this work and may probably result in our having to send our own men to some of the scattered parts of the district.

The following summary shews the quantity of house refuse, etc. removed by the Council's workmen, and how the District is divided up for the purposes of scavenging :—

TOWNSHIP.	Ashpits emptied.	Ash Bins emptied.	Privy Pails emptied.	Privy Tanks emptied.	Loads of Ashes removed.	Loads of Nightsoil removed.
Briercliffe and part of Reedley	3,634	10,902	4,687	362	945	636
Hapton and Huncoat...	1,172	10,384	8,941	14	887	383
Altham, Simonstone, Read and part of Northtown	894	8,908	6,203	90	659	292
Sabden, and parts of Northtown	631	4,988	3,571	9	455	161
Old Laund Booth, Barley, Higham, Goldshaw Booth, Roughlee, and part of Reedley	639	5,223	11,423	548	525	956
Worsthorne, Cliviger, Habbergham Eaves..	1,132	11,754	7,164	394	1,024	554
Totals ...	8,102	52,159	41,989	1,417	4,495	2,982

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, within reason, from dwelling-houses.

The difficulty of finding suitable tips is becoming most acute.

Fortunately, at Blacko and Briercliffe, where the problem was most acute, tips have been secured which should last for several years. The tip at Read will soon be filled and no alternative site has yet been secured.

Although 'tipping' is the least sanitary of the various methods of disposal of refuse the cost of erecting small destructors in various Townships would be excessive, as also would be the cost of carting the refuse long distances to neighbouring towns.

A great deal could be done to minimise the chief nuisance arising from tips if householders would keep paper out of their ashpits and burn all vegetable refuse on the kitchen fire.

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

Whenever possible, ashpits are abolished and dust-bins substituted.

The number of ashpits abolished during the year	14
The number of houses provided with bins ...	30
Approximate number of ashpits in the District ...	2370
Approximate number of ashbins in the District...	1953

During the five years 1921—1925 :—

The number of ashpits abolished were ...	30
The number of houses provided with bins ...	90

Fresh water closets and galvanised iron dustbins are provided at all new property.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

23 complaints from the public have been received, particulars of which are as follows :—

Accumulations of night-soil or ashes ...	3
Bad smells in house ...	2
Blocked closet drains ...	3
Damp houses ...	1
Disrepair of houses ...	2
Deposit of rubbish near property ...	2
Insanitary cesspools ...	1
Defective eaves-gutters and downspouts ...	2
Pollution of streams ...	2
Unsatisfactory disposal of sewage ...	1
Nuisance from pigs ...	1
Water flowing on footway ...	1
Obstruction of light in kitchen by trees ...	1
Offensive smells from decayed fish ...	1

The premises to which the above relate were at once visited, and the necessary steps taken to secure the abatement of any nuisance.

230 premises have been visited during the year and the following defects were found :—

Defective dustbins ...	25
Do. sanitary pails ...	25
Do. floor boards ...	2
Do. stone floors ...	3
Do. windows ...	4
Do. ashpits ...	8
Do. roofs and walls ...	4
Do. downspouts ...	7

Defective eavesgutters	...	...	...	...	7
Do. drains	...	...	...	...	1
Do. waste water closets	...	...	...	...	11
Do. closet cistern	...	...	...	...	5
Do. yard doors and walls	...	...	...	...	7
Do. chimney stacks	...	...	...	...	2
Do. cesspools...	...	...	...	...	1
General disrepair of houses	...	...	...	...	6
Burst water pipe	...	...	...	...	2
Dirty houses	...	...	...	...	3
Insanitary privies	...	...	...	...	4
No accommodation for refuse	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisance from rabbits	...	...	...	...	1

In connection with the above nuisances 80 informal notices were served upon either the owners or occupiers of premises where defects existed and 70 were complied with. Three Statutory Notices were served but it was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings for unabated nuisances.

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

Altham	...	...	...	11	Huncoat	...	...	...	23
Barley	...	...	...	3	Old Laund Booth	...	...	...	39
Blacko	...	...	...	24	Ightenhill	...	...	...	5
Briercliffe	...	...	...	41	Simonstone and Read	...	...	...	27
Cliviger	...	...	...	39	Reedley Hallows	...	...	...	7
Dunnockshaw	...	...	...	13	Roughlee	...	...	...	3
Foulridge	...	...	...	11	Sabden	...	...	...	15
Goldshaw Booth	...	...	...	5	Worsthorne	...	...	...	31
Habergham Eaves	...	...	...	11					—
Hapton	...	...	...	43					378
Higham	...	...	...	27					—

The Council have continued to supply dustbins and sanitary pails at practically cost price, which practice has been found to expedite the replacement of defective ones.

With each notification of defective bins or pails an intimation is sent that the Council will supply a suitable galvanised bin or pail at a certain price delivered. This saves the owners much trouble and orders are generally given for the article to be supplied.

About 60 dustbins and 66 sanitary pails have been provided in this manner during the past year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Four observations of factory chimneys have been made, and in one case the attention of the stoker and manager was drawn to the excessive amount of black smoke being emitted.

The time limit allowed in our area for the emission of black smoke is five minutes in half-an-hour, which is a very wide limit.

OFFENSIVE TRADES, &c.

We have none of the Offensive Trades, and no Common Lodging Houses or Houses Let in Lodgings in our District.

SCHOOLS.

There are 23 Public Elementary Schools (including 9 Council Schools) in the District.

These are mostly stone built, well-lighted, and in a fairly good state of repair.

The sanitary conditions are very satisfactory, and with the exception of Roughlee School the water supply is also satisfactory.

Towards the end of the year the work of laying a water service pipe to the school at Newchurch-in-Pendle was commenced and will be a great improvement in the Hygienic conditions. Previously the water had to be carried about 160 yards from a public supply in the centre of the village.

The School Medical Officer of the County Council undertakes examinations of schools in the District.

During the year I made several visits to the Wheatley Lane Wesleyan School and examined the scholars owing to an outbreak of Scarlet Fever. The School was closed 2 days, November 19th and 20th and the school was thoroughly disinfected.

HOUSING.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health's instructions particulars of the housing conditions in respect of each parish are given :—

Altham.—Is a scattered district with approximately 207 houses, including farms. Mostly cottage property. Housing conditions generally good. Appears to be no shortage and no new houses have been erected.

Briercliffe.—A district which is Urban in character. Approximate number of houses, 764. Good working class dwellings contain parlour, kitchen, scullery, and 2 or 3 bedrooms. No new houses have been erected during the year. There are a few back-to-back houses in Haggate district where the property, generally, is of a poorer standard.

Blacko.—A small township with several large residences. Number of houses, 170. Houses generally satisfactory but a number of the older houses have no back door or yard. There is no proper sewerage system and the closet accommodation is mostly of the pail type.

Three houses have been erected during the year.

Barley.—A country village at the foot of Pendle Hill. Has about 86 houses, including farms. The houses are small but fairly satisfactory.

Cliviger.—A Township semi-urban in character, containing about 400 houses and a number of detached and semi-detached villas. Houses substantially built but closet accommodation unsatisfactory being mostly tanks. One or two private water supplies are also unsatisfactory.

Three houses and one bungalow have been erected during the year.

Foulridge.—This is another district urban in character with 404 houses. Housing conditions satisfactory with the exception of a few single houses in the centre of the village.

One new bungalow has been erected.

Goldshaw Booth.—A village in the Pendle Forest district. Very old property, but appears satisfactory. Chief water supply from a pipe in centre of the village. No sewerage system and closets chiefly of the pail type.

Hapton.—A fairly compact urban township containing 494 houses. Several defective dwellings, chiefly general disrepair. Twelve new houses and bungalows have been erected during the year.

No case of overcrowding reported, but there would appear to be a need for more houses.

Huncoat.—A somewhat scattered township containing 352 houses. Several blocks of property are unsatisfactory owing to general disrepair.

No cases of overcrowding known.

Two new dwellings have been erected during the year.

Higham.—A scattered district of a rural character. Total number of houses, including several farms, 216. Many of the houses are very old and of a poor standard. The township would be greatly improved by providing a proper sewerage system and repairing several of the streets.

Read.—A township of 251 houses—fairly compact—several farms. Houses in very good condition.

One new house has been erected during the year.

Reedley Hallows.—A township of two widely separated districts. The district adjoining Burnley consists of several detached and semi-detached villas, the other district is chiefly composed of small cottage property. Total number of houses 194.

Five new houses have been erected during the year.

Roughlee.—A rural village with 120 houses. Property very old. No new houses erected during the year.

Sabden.—A township with 444 houses. Housing conditions fairly satisfactory. A few houses of very poor standard.

Simonstone.—Mostly a residential district with good class houses. Also several farms and a few groups of cottages.

Three new houses have been erected during the year.

There are 179 houses in the district.

Wheatley Lane.—A long, straggling village with 200 houses. Several large residences in the District. Some of the houses are very old but generally the housing conditions are satisfactory. Would be greatly improved by up-to-date sanitary conveniences.

Nine new houses have been erected. No case of overcrowding reported.

Worsthorne.—A township of 332 houses including several farms. Housing conditions generally satisfactory. Three new houses have been erected in the district.

Northtown, Ightenhill, and Habergham Eaves.—Mostly scattered districts comprised of farms and villas. Seven houses were erected in Ightenhill during the year and 4 in Habergham Eaves.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS.

The housing conditions are, on the whole, satisfactory, but in some of the Townships there appears to be a need for new dwellings chiefly to replace old property which has fallen below a reasonable standard of fitness.

The Council have not undertaken the erection of dwellings but have offered a subsidy of £100 for each house erected in accordance with the Housing Acts.

During the year 58 houses have been erected, and of this number 35 rank for subsidy.

The following are the districts in which the houses were erected :—

Blacko	3	Ightenhill	8
Cliviger	4	Read	1
Dunnockshaw	2	Reedley Hallows... ..	5
Foulridge	1	Roughlee	1
Hapton	12	Simonstone	3
Huncoat	2	Wheatley Lane	9
Habergham Eaves	4	Worsthorne	3
		Total	58

During the last 5 years 166 new houses have been erected.

The new dwellings consist chiefly of bungalows and detached or semi-detached houses, the principal sites being along the sides of main roads and away from the urban areas.

According to the Registrar General's report there has been a decrease of 10 in the population since 1921 and I do not anticipate any important changes in the future.

During the year one or two isolated cases of overcrowding have been found, but we have no records that overcrowding exists to any great extent.

The principal case of overcrowding during the year was one at Foulridge where a family of eight, of ages from 13 upwards, occupied a house containing one living room and 2 very small bedrooms. The sleeping accommodation was altogether inadequate as regards air space and for the proper separation of the sexes.

The houses in this District are stone built and generally in good condition. The predominating type contain parlour, kitchen, scullery and 2 bedrooms.

The principal defects found to exist were :—dampness, defective plaster on walls, defective ceilings, defective window frames, doors, etc.

Most of the defects are due to the neglect of owners or agents who frequently will not put in the proverbial "Stitch in time—" which is so very applicable to property supervision.

A broken or loose slate is usually the cause of dampness in bedrooms and of defective bedroom ceilings and walls ; want of "pointing" of walls is also the cause of much dampness in houses, and outside woodwork is often allowed to decay for want of a coat of paint.

Advantage has, in practically all cases, been taken to increase rents under the Rent Restriction Act, and it should not be overlooked that a certain proportion of this increase is for the purpose of keeping the property in a proper state of repair.

Informal Notices are usually sent to owners calling attention to the defects, and if these are not complied with Statutory Notices under the Public Health Act are issued. So far the Council have not taken action under the Housing Acts which gives Local Authorities the power to repair defective property if the owner fails to comply with a Statutory Notice.

In consequence of the difficulty in obtaining houses on rental a much larger number of persons now own the house in which they live, and this tends to the property being kept in better condition.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of houses erected during the year :—

(a) TOTAL (including numbers given separately under (b))	58
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts—	
(1) By the Local Authority... ..	0
(2) By other bodies or persons	35

Number of houses in course of erection under the Council's building scheme	0
---	---

Financial assistance for the purpose of increasing housing accommodation :—

Advances made during 1925—

(a) By loans.....	No. ...	Amount of loans.....	£0
(b) By subsidy, Yes. No. 35.		Amount of subsidies	£3500

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	82
--	----

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	23
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under (3)) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation...	...	...	...	...	...	42

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	34
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	...	...	...	...	...	0

B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied...	...	...	...	...	...	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—						
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	...	8
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	...	0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	...	...	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	...	0
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	...	0

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... ..	0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	0
D.—Number of houses demolished voluntarily by owners, or converted to workshops, etc.	... ..	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

The usual inspections of dairies and cowsheds have been made during the year, 120 farms having been visited.

Most of the cowsheds in this district are stone buildings, often open to the barns, and have hay lofts overhead. The floors are mostly flagged or concreted and the drains connected to a manure tank situated under, or near, the midden-stead. Ventilators or pipes are fixed in the roof or walls for the extraction of foul air.

The importance of ventilation and light is becoming better realised as an important factor in the health of the cattle and the sweetness and cleanliness of the shippens, but many farmers still confuse stuffiness for warmth, and one often finds the air vents blocked by hay, etc.

The cleanliness of the cowsheds was generally very satisfactory, but in many cases limewashing had only been done once during the year instead of twice as required by the Regulations. Also, in several instances the manure is deposited too near the shippen door.

A big fault in a good number of cowsheds is the narrowness of the passage behind the beasts, with the result that the wall gets very foul. Where it is impossible to move the beasts further forward the rear walls should be cemented to a height of about 4 feet, which would greatly facilitate cleansing.

With regard to the cleanliness of cattle more powers are necessary to compel grooming of cattle, especially during the winter months when the cattle are only turned out to water. During this period of confinement the hindquarters become very dirty and incrustated with "buttons" and unless these are removed and the udders wiped over there is a danger of particles of filth getting into the milking pail.

The milk supply of the District has been abundant, and is chiefly retailed in the towns of Burnley, Nelson, Colne, Padiham and Accrington.

No bottling plant has been established in our area.

The administration of the Food and Drugs Acts is in the hands of the County Police to whom I am indebted for the information that 32 samples of milk were taken during 1925, all of which were found genuine.

The greater bulk of the milk produced is retailed in the County Borough of Burnley and the Chief Sanitary Inspector has kindly forwarded the following information relative to samples taken by his staff :—

For purposes of Sale of Food & Drugs Acts, 101 samples, all genuine.

For examination by inoculation for tuberculosis, 113 samples, (Negative 102, Positive 8, Undetermined 3).

For Bacterial count, 162 samples.	Very good milk ...	54
	Good milk...	59
	Average Fair Milk...	27
	Bad Milk ...	22

In classifying the latter the following standards have been adopted :—

Very Good—under 30,000 bacteria per c.c.

Good—over 30,000 but under 100,000.

Average Fair—over 100,000 but under 500,000.

Bad—over 500,000.

The number and character of bacteria present being an indication of cleanliness, or otherwise, of the particular milk being sampled, it must be admitted that many of the above samples were anything but satisfactory.

There is absolutely no reason why, with the exercise of clean methods during milking, the thorough cleansing of all utensils, and care in the subsequent storage, all milk should not come within the first two catagories.

It is equally important that greater care should be exercised in the home. The practice—happily now not so prevalent as formerly—of leaving milk jugs on doorsteps or window sills only partly covered by a cup or plate, should be completely discontinued. No milk should be put into jugs which are not thoroughly clean, and the milk should be stored in a cool place and kept away from dust. In summer months the milk should be protected from flies by covering the jug with muslin or gauze.

One of the most important Acts dealing with milk is the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, which, after being postponed for several years, came into operation on the 1st September, 1925.

All cases of tuberculous milk coming from farms in the rural area are reported to the County Council as the administrative authority. The farm is visited and the diseased cow located and subsequently slaughtered in accordance with the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, made by the Ministry of Agriculture. Compensation varying with the condition of the affected animal is paid to the farmer.

The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, requires that all milk dealers should be registered and confers upon Local Authorities the power to refuse registration of, or remove from the register, any retailer if they are satisfied that the public health is, or is likely to be, endangered by any act, or default, of the person seeking registration, in relation to the quality, storage or distribution of milk.

This power is of great assistance in dealing with unsatisfactory premises.

251 cowkeepers and 2 milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers) are registered under the above Act.

No application has yet been received for a licence under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923, to sell any of the different grades of milk.

MEAT.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1925, came into force on the 1st April, 1925, and is undoubtedly the most important of all legislation dealing with the meat trade.

A meeting of the butchers was held in the Council offices, when the provisions of the Regulations were explained and the working of same discussed.

This resulted in a proper understanding being arrived at which has helped materially in the efficient and smooth working of the Regulations.

The Regulations give to Local Authorities a much more effective control over the supervision of meat sold for human consumption in respect of the following matters:—

- (1) The prevention of the sale of any diseased or unsound meat.
- (2) To prevent slaughtering on unlicensed premises.
- (3) The protection of meat from contamination by dust or mud.
- (4) To secure strict cleanliness in shops, vehicles, or stalls.

No animal is to be slaughtered for sale for human consumption unless at least three hours' notice is given to the local authority of the day, time and place of slaughter.

Also, if any part of the carcase or organs of an animal appears diseased or unsound, notice must forthwith be given to the local authority.

The law provides for breaches of these regulations a penalty not exceeding £100, and, in the case of a continuing offence, a penalty not exceeding £50 for each day the offence continues.

Notification of intention to slaughter are received each week from the butchers, and as many as possible of the slaughterhouses are visited at the time of slaughter. Slaughtering on Sundays is not infrequent and the Inspector has made occasional visits on that day.

During the year about 1,113-lbs. of diseased or unsound meat have been condemned. The diseased carcasses are usually sent to the Destructor works at Burnley and burned.

No system of meat marking is in force.

The shops were regularly inspected and were found clean and in a very satisfactory condition.

Different interpretations have been made in several districts throughout the country regarding the enforcement of glass windows in shop fronts, but happily this question does not arise in our district where windows are invariably provided and the meat thus protected from dust, etc. from the road.

Being a rural district there are, naturally, a good many hawkers, and a watchful eye is kept on the vehicles and place of storage.

There are no meat stalls.

The number of private slaughterhouses in the district in 1920 and in 1925 were as follows :—

	In 1920.	In January, 1925.	In December, 1925.
Registered ...	—	—	—
Licensed ...	42	18	18
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	42	18	18

The decrease is chiefly accounted for by the fact that more butchers now obtain their supplies from wholesalers in adjacent towns.

In the case of non-usage the slaughterhouses are removed from the register.

The slaughterhouses in use are, on the whole, in a very satisfactory condition.

During the year when the Foot and Mouth Regulations were in force a great many applications were received from farmers and butchers for permission to slaughter on farm premises. In cases where movement licences could not be obtained these applications were granted. Notification of the time of slaughter had to be given so that the necessary inspection could be made.

BAKEHOUSES.

The bakehouses in the district are usually connected with small retail shops, and rarely employ persons outside those of the family.

They were found to be clean and well kept.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

One notice was received from H. M. Inspector of Factories relative to the insufficiency of sanitary accommodation at a factory.

The various workshops visited were found satisfactory.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the past five years we have been remarkably free from any epidemics of infectious diseases and, as the following table will shew, the notifications received have been fairly constant.

	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Scarlet Fever ...	26	18	17	24	28
Diphtheria ...	13	8	14	10	12
Typhoid ...	1	1	1	3	1
Erysipelas ...	3	5	5	3	3
Malaria ...	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	10	9	4	8	11
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	0	0	0	4
Puerperal Fever ...	0	1	1	0	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	1	0	0	1
Infantile Diarrhoea ...	3	3	1	3	1
(deaths)					

It is also gratifying to report that there was only one death due to Infantile Diarrhoea. The average for the past five years is 2.2.

SCARLET FEVER.—The cases notified were from the following townships :—

Briercliffe	...	...	2	Ightenhill	...	...	1
Cliviger	...	...	2	Read	...	...	1
Foulridge	...	...	3	Reedley Hallows	...	...	2
Higham	...	...	1	Wheatley Lane	...	...	12
Huncoat	...	...	2	Worsthorne	...	...	1

The outbreak at Wheatley was impossible to trace, and one can only surmise that an unsuspected case was responsible. The cases occurred at intervals of 3 to 4 weeks and were of a very mild type. Several visits were made to the school and the children examined.

There were no return cases.

DIPHTHERIA.—There were twelve cases, which is two more than last year but slightly lower than the average for the past five years. The cases occurred at :—

Altham	...	...	1	Habergham Eaves	...	1
Briercliffe	...	...	1	Higham	...	1
Cliviger	...	...	1	Reedley Hallows	...	3
Foulridge	...	...	3	Wheatley Lane	...	1

Two of the cases at Foulridge were from one house.

It is most important that Diphtheria should be early diagnosed so that a full dose of anti-toxin may be administered in the early stages. Anti-toxin is supplied free of charge. Usually the Medical Practitioners obtain supplies from the nearest Health Depot and forward the account for same to the Council.

Measles, though not notifiable, caused one death.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.—Four cases of sleeping sickness were reported from the following townships :—

Foulridge	...	...	2	Reedley Hallows	...	1
Briercliffe	...	...	1			

One of the cases committed suicide and there were other two deaths.

These cases are the first since 1921, when one case was reported.

PNEUMONIA, MALARIA, DYSENTERY AND TRENCH FEVER.—There have been no cases of Malaria, Dysentery or Trench Fever in our district during the period 1921-1925. The number of cases of Pneumonia, viz., 11, is slightly higher than the average for the five year period which was 8.4.

PATHOLOGICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.—Arrangements have been made with the Burnley Corporation for the examination of specimens at their Public Health Laboratory, Victoria Hospital, Burnley.

The number of specimens examined in 1925 were :—

Blood, 2. Sputum, 7. Urine, 1. Throat Swabs, 14.
Swabs for Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 0.

I have no knowledge of any use being made of the Schick or Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively, or of the recently developed artificial methods of immunization against these diseases.

Returns of sickness in schools are received each week from the School Attendance Officers. By these means valuable information is obtained regarding the prevalence, or otherwise, of any sickness and if necessary, steps are taken with a view to school closure.

Immediately upon receipt of Infectious Disease 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 house.

After the recovery of the patient, or, if removed to the Sanatorium, immediately after such removal, the infected rooms and bedding are thoroughly disinfected with formalin vapour or by spraying with formalin. In cases of typhoid fever the beds are usually taken away and burned.

There is no steam disinfecting plant in the district, but arrangements have been made with the Burnley Corporation Health Department for the removal and disinfecting of bedding at their disinfecting station.

During the year 28 cases were removed to the Sanatorium ; 42 houses were disinfected and 60 visits were made to the houses where infectious diseases existed.

There is no special station set apart for the cleansing of verminous persons but there are facilities at the Burnley Union Depot which could be utilised if required.

The following townships have been free from all the notifiable diseases :—Blacko, Sabden and Roughlee.

The following analysis of the total cases of notifiable infectious diseases and deaths therefrom under the various age groups will perhaps be of interest :—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR, 1925.

Notifiable Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.											Hospital.		Total Deaths.	
	Total cases at all ages	Years.									Total cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital of persons belonging to District			
		Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35			35-45		45-65	65 & over.
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	28	—	1	4	7	8	4	1	1	1	2	—	16	—	—
Diphtheria ...	12	2	1	3	1	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	10	2	2
Enteric Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	10	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	3	1	3	—	—	17
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas ...	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	4	—	—	10
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	7	—	1	—	1	1	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles (non-notifiable) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	77	3	2	2	7	9	14	8	6	9	7	9	27	2	34

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of Primary Notifications received from Medical Practitioners, on Form "A" were 15. On Form "B" (notifications by School Medical Officer, 0. The particulars are as follows :—

follows :—		Males.		Females.		Total.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis		5	...	3	...	8
Cervical Glands ...	...	0	...	3	...	3
Fingers ...	...	0	...	1	...	1
Os Calcis ...	...	1	...	0	...	1
Peritoneum ...	...	1	...	1	...	2
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Total	...	7	...	8	...	15

OCCUPATIONS OF PERSONS NOTIFIED.

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.
Cotton Operatives ...	2	...	2
Farm Workers ...	1	...	1
Commercial Travellers	1	...	0
Carter ...	1	...	0
Labourers ...	1	...	0
Housewives ...	1	...	0
School children ...	0	...	2
Not stated ...	1	...	2

Particulars shewing age periods of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the area during the year are as follows :—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—
15—20	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
25—35	1	1	—	—	2	2	—	—
35—45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	1
55—65	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	5	3	2	5	7	3	0	1

TABLE.

Shewing the number of cases for the past five years.

Year.	PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
1921	8	6	14	5	1	16
1922	4	8	12	5	6	11
1923	9	7	16	8	3	11
1924	8	9	17	5	10	15
1925	5	3	8	2	5	7

It is very gratifying to note that the number of cases last year were considerably lower than in any of the preceding four years.

The notification of the disease in the district by Medical Practitioners is very satisfactorily carried out, and there were only 2 out of the 11 deaths which had not been notified as suffering from the disease.

Four patients entered a Sanatorium for treatment and the names of 5 patients were removed from the register as cured.

Wherever possible, the house is fumigated upon the removal of a patient to Sanatorium and 4 rooms were so treated during the year.

A copy of each notification is forwarded to the County Medical Officer of Health and also to the Consultant Tuberculosis Officer for this district. At the same time a notification is forwarded to the Tuberculosis Health Visitor whom the County Council have appointed for our area.

The Health Visitor furnishes a report on the environmental conditions of the patient which, if unsatisfactory, is attended to.

Two important measures came into force during the year, namely :—

- 1.—Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.
- 2.—Public Health Act, 1925.

The former states that no person who is aware that he is suffering from tuberculosis of the respiratory tract shall enter upon any employment or occupation in connection with a dairy which would involve the milking of cows, the treatment of milk,

or the handling of vessels used for containing. The Regulations also give Local Authorities the power to require any person suffering from the above disease and who is employed as stated to discontinue his employment.

The latter Act deals with the compulsory removal to Hospital of infectious persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis where the lodging or accommodation provided is such that proper precautions to prevent the spread of infection cannot be taken.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The supervising authority is the County Council, as in schemes for the treatment of Tuberculosis, the Midwives Act and a Notification of Births Act. By this means the unification of home visiting and the supervision of children under 5 years of age, by the Health Visitor appointed by the County Council is secured.

The Council have taken no action respecting Child Welfare Work, neither has any local scheme been prepared in regard to the supply of food or milk, to mothers and infants.

Briercliffe is the only township in which a Child Welfare Centre has been established by the County Council. The School Medical Officer and a Health Officer—both County Officers for this District—are in attendance at each session which are held an alternate Wednesdays from 2-30 to 4-0 p.m. The average attendance of mothers is considered satisfactory.

There was only one case of Puerperal Fever and one of Ophthalmia Neonatorum reported during the year ; both cases were removed to Hospital. The particulars of each case of Ophthalmia are as follows :—

Noti- fied.	Treated		Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
Hapton	—	Yes.	Yes.	—	—	—

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(signed) H. J. ROBINSON, M.O.

June 23rd, 1926.

Burnley Rural District Council.

.....

Surveyor's Report for the Year 1925.

.....

Water Supply.

The new waterworks at Thursden for the parish of Briercliffe were completed in March and the opening ceremony took place on the 13th May, 1925. So far, the works have proved very satisfactory and economical, a test of the machinery showing that the cost of pumping was 2·183d. exclusive of any repairs and loan charges. The Council pay 3d. per 1,000 gallons to Burnley Corporation for water used from Twist reservoir.

An arrangement has been installed at Herd House by which the 1,000 gallons tank supplying gas plant and Thursden Cottage can be kept full whilst pumping is proceeding at Thursden, thus obviating the necessity for a special journey for engineman to start up the large engine and pump merely for this small tank.

A somewhat serious collapse of the inlet chamber and a portion of the reservoir at Foulridge occurred on August 14th. The trouble appeared to have been caused by water finding its way under the bitumen sheeting and as only the internal concrete lining shewed signs of damage it was decided to cut away the damaged concrete, repair the inlet chamber and refill the reservoir. Careful observation since has failed to reveal any extension of the cracking or leakage from the reservoir. Scarcely any complaints of shortage of supply at Foulridge have been received during the year.

At Read, the small reservoir of rubble lined with sheet lead in Houlkers Plantation having commenced to leak, the Council have decided to substitute a new reservoir. The feeders have been opened out and cleaned and the flow to the reservoir considerably improved. The reservoir, too, has been emptied and cleaned out. The main to Dudley Hill is too small and should be replaced by a larger one.

Cracks in the reservoir at Cliviger have been made good. Gaugings of the flow from the borehole shewed a marked diminution of yield.

The Ministry of Health Inquiry into the purchase of Hapton Waterworks took place on the 28th January, 1925, and sanction was subsequently received. Several of the mains are very old and may soon require renewal. To augment the supply to the reservoir, especially during dry periods, further springs on Hameldon Common should be connected to the feeders. A blockage of one of the main feeders having caused some trouble it has been dealt with and a hatch box fixed which will provide access in the event of future stoppages. The disused tanks at Well Hall and Huncoat lane end should now be done away with. The colony of 24 cottages and bungalows at Valley Gardens, Hapton, draw water from a well and the Council decided to prohibit further building until a further supply is provided.

At Wheatley Lane 60 yards of 2-inches main have been laid to supply new houses.

The work of providing a Receiving Tank and water main at Newchurch for Goldshaw Booth was commenced at the end of the year. This will supply water direct to the school and satisfy a long-felt want.

Excess consumption on several occasions at Altham has led to the discovery of leakages.

During the prolonged drought in the summer none of the Council's supplies gave out, though constant attention had to be given to the works at Hapton, Read (Houlkers) and Cliviger. A number of new services were laid during the year.

Since my last report the Corporation have removed their restrictions upon the supply of water to Habergham Eaves, Worsthorne and Ightenhill.

Bulk meters should be provided to all trunk mains to facilitate the checking of waste.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Some continuance of the subsidence of Worsthorne Outfall Works has taken place and certain temporary works have been done to clarify the leaking sewage to minimise pollution of the stream.

Remodelling of Huncoat sewage works, the provision of sludge-treatment works at Foulridge and Worsthorne and the laying down of sewerage systems at Foulridge, Dunnockshaw, Roughlee, Barley, Newchurch and Reedley Hallows (Quakers Bridge) will sooner or later have to be faced by the Council.

A sewer is indicated for the southern part of Hapton to cope with recent building developments. The sewage from the 24

houses, bungalows, etc. at Valley Gardens is dealt with in a number of small septic tanks and filters. Further building developments may necessitate the sewerage of this area which is very low lying.

At Blacko, a stoppage of the roadside drain which receives the sewage of a number of houses had to be dealt with. A report upon the sewage of this parish with preliminary sketch plans and estimates is being prepared and the Barrowford Urban District Council have been approached upon the question of treating at their works the sewage from Blacko.

The Joint Committee of the Ribble Watershed are pressing the Council to prepare schemes of sewerage for Higham and Wheatley Lane. A number of trial levels have been taken and preliminary outline plans and estimates are being prepared for submission; whilst negotiations with Barrowford Urban District Council are proceeding with regard to the treatment at their works of the sewage from Wheatley Lane.

At Sabden, the method treating the effluent from the filter beds is somewhat primitive.

Housing and Town Planning.

The North East Lancashire Joint Town Planning Advisory Committee formed for the purpose of planning, co-operatively the districts concerned, comprises representatives of the following authorities:—County Boroughs of Blackburn and Burnley; the Boroughs of Accrington, Nelson, Colne and Clitheroe; the Urban Districts of Barrowford, Brierfield, Church, Great Harwood, Padiham, Rishton and Trawden; the Rural Districts of Burnley, Blackburn, Clitheroe and part of Preston. Subsequent to the formation of the Committee, the Urban District Councils of Oswaldtwistle, Clayton-le-Moors and Longridge decided to join.

Mr. G. L. Pepler, representative of the Ministry of Health, was co-opted by the Committee as a member, and the Chamber of Commerce of Blackburn, Burnley and Preston were invited to send one representative each to attend the meetings of the Committee in an advisory capacity.

A Sub-Committee consisting of the Surveyors to the above authorities met on September 3rd to consider the best method of preparing the scheme. This Sub-Committee recommended, and the recommendation was accepted by the Committee on November 18th, that Mr. Reginald Bruce, Manchester, be appointed Specialist at a fee of one thousand guineas (including travelling, out of pocket and incidental expenses) to prepare a General Town Planning Report and Regional Plan.

The Surveyors to the local authorities in the area will assist the Specialist and it will devolve upon them to bring up to date all their ordnance maps on the scale of 6-inches to a mile. The Report and Regional Plan will show:—The Main Transport Routes to be provided or improved; outline Zoning proposals (industrial, business, residential, etc. areas); general Density Provisions (number of houses to the acre in various parts of the area); proposals as to Building Lines and Heights of Buildings; architectural, archaeological or historical features to be preserved or brought into prominence; Open Spaces for amenity, recreation or food production; preservation of existing Village Centres and their development; principal Shopping Centres; outline indications where combination is desirable for drainage or other purposes, and places where Civic Centres might be developed.

During the coming year good progress should be made with the preparation of the skeleton scheme.

Private Streets.

There are a number of private streets in the Council's district which are in urgent need of repair.

The only complaints received related to Cuerden Street, Briercliffe, and Reedley Road, Reedley Hallows.

Highways.

Extensive schemes for diverting a length of Northbank Road, Briercliffe, and of Lower Gate, Huncoat, and for widening Greenhead Lane, Reedley Hallows, were prepared and submitted to the Unemployment Grants Committee, but eventually sanction was refused.

Schemes for Strengthening and Re-surfacing a length of Greenhead Lane and Barden Lane, Reedley Hallows, and for a concrete road at Whinney Hill, Altham, were sent to the Ministry of Transport and promise of a Grant of 50 per cent. of the cost received.

The only widenings actually carried out during the year were at Thorneyholme, Roughlee; Pike Hill Corner, Worsthorpe (proceeding); Roman Road, Sabden and Lower Lane, Foulridge. Schemes have been prepared for small widenings at Top Road, Well House Road, Whalley Road corner, Sabden; Barrowford Road, Fence; Burnley Road, Briercliffe; Station Road, Huncoat, and Barley Lane, Barley. Burnley Corporation have submitted satisfactory plans for considerably altering the level of a portion of Wood Plumpton Road where it will be crossed by the Corporation's new ring road.

A considerable length of Greenhead Lane, Reedley Hallows has been strengthened and re-surfaced and similar work is in progress at Trapp Lane, Simonstone, and the Long Causeway, Cliviger. The junctions of the roads from Roughlee and Wheat-head with the Gisburn Main Road has been improved by the County Council and the Rural District Council jointly.

Re-flagging work has been done at Worsthorne; Church Street, East Street and Jubilee Street, Read, and Burnley Road, Briercliffe. New kerbing has been laid on Manchester Road, Hapton; Skipton Old Road, Foulridge; Burnley Road, Briercliffe; and Beverley Road, Blacko.

Sections of the following roads have been re-surfaced during 1925:—Greenhead Lane, Reedley Hallows; Trapp Lane, Simonstone; Long Causeway, Cliviger; Extwistle Road, Worsthorne; Crown Point Road, Habergham Eaves; Manchester Road, Hapton, and Wood Plumpton Road, Habergham Eaves.

Nelson Corporation opened negotiations with the Council for the taking over by the latter of the Corporation's new road at Barley, but, up to the end of the year the Council could not see their way to accept responsibility for this road.

Surface tarring has again been extended, a total length of 25 miles (226,148 sq. yds.) being so treated during the season, towards the cost of which the Ministry of Transport will give a Grant of 25 per cent. In addition to tar, bituminous compounds have been employed, and further experimental work carried out with compounds which can be laid without heating.

Special attention has been given to the drainage and strengthening of foundations, also to improved methods of surfacing with tarred slag, tarred granite, bituminous-grouted macadam, asphaltic slag, tarmacadam carpeting, etc.

A number of roadside drains have been laid and surface water gullies have been fixed where necessary.

The Council decided to sell the Steam Cart, and all road material has since been hauled by contractors, with financial benefit to the Council. Seven Tool Lockers have been purchased for use in isolated parts of several parishes.

White traffic lines were put down on several roads and a machine has been purchased to enable this work to be considerably extended.

Several new bus services were inaugurated during the year and further extensions are anticipated. Fourteen miles of roads in the rural area are traversed by buses belonging to Burnley, Nelson, and Colne Corporations, the Ribble Motor Services, Ltd., Brunshaw Motors, and Blue Bird Motors, and sanction to further services has been given by the Council.

Unfortunately, most of the rural roads were never constructed to carry the traffic of to-day even if they were of sufficient width instead of being very narrow, and comprehensive schemes of widening, strengthening of foundations, and re-surfacing with superior materials must inevitably receive the attention of the Council in the near future.

Bridges and Culverts.

The rebuilding of Shuttleworth House Bridge at Hapton was completed by the Leeds and Liverpool Canal Co. early in the year.

A portion of the bridge over the Canal at Manchester Road, Hapton, shewing signs of collapse, a scheme for strengthening and partial rebuilding has been sent to the Ministry of Transport, and a grant towards the cost is anticipated.

The Council resolved to erect a steel suspension bridge for foot traffic over the River Calder in place of the stepping stones at Ightenhill, but subsequently the site was altered and amended drawings for a foot bridge of reinforced concrete were prepared and tenders are being obtained for consideration.

Designs were prepared for a new bridge of 30 feet span in connection with the scheme for diverting a considerable length of North Banks Road, Briercliffe.

A new culvert of reinforced concrete tubes 3 feet diameter has been constructed at Thorneyholme, Roughlee, replacing a rubble culvert which collapsed.

The stone-pitched invert of the bridge on Halifax Road, Thursden, has been extensively repaired as the stability of the bridge was threatened.

Few of the bridges and culverts in the district are calculated to take modern traffic.

General.

The Depot and Stables at Haggate, Briercliffe, were repainted during the year.

No further steps have yet been taken in connection with the proposed stables, etc., at Huncoat, the site of which was purchased by the Council last year.

At the Council, etc. offices the conversion of cellars into store-rooms and other alterations have been carried out.

A number of inspections have been made under the Factory and Workshops Act as to means of escape in case of fire and several new fire escapes have been fixed.

Electric cables have been laid by the Lancashire Electric Power Co. in the following roads :—Enfield Road, Station Road, Huncoat ; Blackburn Road, Simonstone Lane, School Lane, Trapp Lane, Simonstone ; Whalley Road, Jubilee Street, Straits Lane, Read ; Wellhouse Road, Watt Street, Pendle Street East, Whalley Road, Padiham Road, Wesley Street, Sabden.

Opposition by the Council to the Bill promoted by Burnley Corporation in Parliament which proposed to enlarge the Borough by taking in portions of Ightenhill, Cliviger and Habergham Eaves resulted in the Council's opposition being withdrawn in so far as Ightenhill and Habergham Eaves were concerned, the Corporation agreeing to drop their application in connection with Cliviger and to make certain concessions to the Rural District Council in their charges for water and gas supplied to consumers in the rural area.

FRANK HEWITT,

June 23rd, 1926.

Surveyor.



