

[Report 1919] / Medical Officer of Health, Bury (Union) R.D.C.

Contributors

Bury (Greater Manchester, England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1919

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/ysguw6vd>

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>

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF BURY.

La

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
Medical Officer of Health,
1919.



TRIMBLE & BURTON, PRINTERS, PARSONS LANE, BURY.



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

<https://archive.org/details/b28969145>

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

For 1919.

Population at Census, 1911	-	-	-	9,043
Estimated Population for 1919	-	-	-	9,063
Estimated Civilian Population for 1919	-	-	-	8,600
Area of District in Statute Acres	-	-	-	12,014

To the Rural District Council of Bury.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Report on the health and sanitary condition of the district for 1919. The Report is based on the population estimated by the Registrar General. The estimated civilian population being taken for the death rate and the estimated total population for the birth rate.

The district is a wide and scattered one, being composed of all that part of the Bury Union which is not urban, and is composed of five townships, Ainsworth, Birtle-cum-Bamford, Outwood, Unsworth, and Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth. It is of an undulating character, the highest land is at Shuttleworth, rising at Whittle Pike to 1500 feet above sea level, and at its lowest point at Molyneux where it is only 125 feet above sea level. The subsoil varies from clay and gravel at Ainsworth to a heavy soil overlying rock at Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth.

The district contains both agricultural and industrial communities. The chief centres of population are in parts of each of the five townships, especially Ainsworth, Bamford, Outwood, and Unsworth, Birtle to a less extent, while Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth is mainly agricultural. The inhabitants in these centres of population are chiefly employed in textile industries, consequently there is a large demand for female labour, many married women being employed. The agricultural part of the

population are mainly engaged in the milk supply, most of which is carried for sale to the urban districts in the neighbourhood. There is a colliery in Outwood.

The area, number of inhabited houses, population, assessable value, &c., of the several townships are given in the following Table, which is taken from the Report on the condition of the district recently presented to the Lancashire County Council by the County Medical Officer of Health.

Township	Area in Statute Acres	Inhabited Houses			Population			Persons per house			For purposes of poor rate		For purposes of special expenses rate	
		1901	1911	Jan.	1901	1911	Jan.	1901	1911	Jan.	Assessable Value	Amount produced by rate	Assessable Value	Amount produced by rate
		(Census)		1920							£	£	£	£
Ainsworth ..	1460	365	421	524	1718	1903	1960	4·70	4·52	3·74	13858	54	13858	47
Birtle-cm-Bamfrd	2410	358	439	484	1447	1676	1580	4·04	3·81	3·26	10441	39	7510	31
Outwood ..	1938	312	433	518	1514	2099	2364	4·85	4·84	4·56	20285	84	17520	73
Unsworth ..	3067	583	659	655	2698	2707	2479	4·62	4·10	3·78	12613	52	11713	49
Walmersley-c-Sh.	3139	153	155	153	711	658	448	4·64	4·24	2·92	2728	12	..	..
Rural District	12014	1771	2107	2334	8088	9043	8831	4·56	4·29	3·78	£59925	£241	£50601	£200

Birth Rate.—126 births have been registered during the year, of which 72 were of males and 54 of females. This gives a Birth Rate of 13·9 per 1000 persons living, compared with 12·3 in 1918.

Death Rate.—133 deaths of residents have been registered, 68 of males and 65 of females. This on the estimated civilian population gives a rate of 15·2 per 1000 persons living, compared with 18·9 in 1918.

Infantile Mortality.—10 deaths of infants under one year old have occurred, compared with 14 in 1918. The death rate being 79 per 1000 births as against 125 per 1000 in 1918. This is the lowest infantile mortality rate ever recorded. The causes of these deaths were 2 from Premature Birth, 1 from Malformation, 2 from Atelectasis, 1 from Gastro-enteritis, 1 from Convulsions, and 1 from Drowning.

The deaths occurred at the following ages, 5 in the first week viz: (Premature Births, Malformation, and Atelectasis) 1 in the second week (Convulsions) 3 between three and six months (Respiratory Diseases and Drowning) and 1 between nine and twelve months (Gastro-enteritis.) These deaths occurred in the following townships, 3 in Birtle-cum-Bamford, 8 in Outwood, 3 in Unsworth, and 1 in Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth.

5 illegitimate births have been registered during the year, and 1 death has occurred under one year old.

The other deaths occurred at the following ages. 4 between one and five years, 4 between five and fifteen years, 6 between fifteen and twenty-five years, 20 between twenty-five and forty-five years, 43 between forty-five and sixty-five years, and 46 over sixty-five years of age.

Mortality under Five years of age.—14 out of the total number of deaths occurred among children under five years of age. This is at the rate of 10·5 per cent. of the total deaths.

Mortality over Sixty-five years of age.—The deaths of 46 persons over sixty-five years of age occurred. This is at the rate of 34·5 per cent. of the total deaths.

Zymotic Death Rate.—1 death has occurred from Scarlatina, 2 from Diphtheria, and 1 from Diarrhoea, a total of 4. This gives a death rate of ·45 per 1000 persons living, compared with ·49 in 1918.

Tubercular Diseases.—5 deaths have occurred, all of them from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, giving a death rate of ·57 per 1000 persons living, compared with ·85 in 1918.

Cancer and other Malignant Diseases have caused 17 deaths as against 12 in 1918, giving a death rate of 1·9 per 1000 persons living, compared with 1·4 in 1918.

Respiratory Diseases have caused 23 deaths compared with 31 in 1918, giving a rate of 2·6 per 1000 persons living, as against 3·8 in 1918.

The following Tables supplied by the Registrar General are inserted for comparison and information.

Birth-rate, Death-rate, & Analysis of Mortality during the year 1919.

	Birth-rate per 1,000 Total Population	Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Civilian Population								Rate per 1,000 Births		Percentage of Total Deaths			
		All Causes	Enteric Fever	Small-pox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping-cough	Diphtheria	Violence	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	Total Deaths under One Year	Deaths in Public Institutions	Certified Causes	Inquest Cases	Uncertified Causes of Death
England and Wales -	18.5	13.8	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.03	0.07	0.13	0.47	9.59	89	23.9	92.5	6.2	1.3
96 Great Towns, including London, Populations exceeding 50,000 -	19.0	13.8	0.01	—	0.13	0.04	0.07	0.14	0.45	12.24	93	29.2	92.3	6.9	0.8
148 Smaller Towns, Populations 20,000-50,000 -	18.3	12.6	0.01	—	0.10	0.03	0.08	0.12	0.39	8.67	90	16.6	93.6	4.9	1.5
London -	18.3	13.4	0.01	—	0.08	0.03	0.05	0.18	0.47	16.22	85	44.7	91.2	8.6	0.2

	Per 1000 of Population				Rate of Deaths under 1 year to 1000 Births
	Birth-rate	Death-rate	Epidemic Death-rate	Phthisis Death-rate	
1919	13.9	15.2	0.45	0.57	79
1918	12.3	18.9	0.49	0.85	123
Mean of 10 years 1909-1918	18.4	14.2	0.95	0.79	97
Increase or Decrease in 1919 on— Previous Year	+1.6	—3.7	—0.04	—0.28	—44
Ten Years' Average	—4.5	+1.0	—0.50	—0.22	—18

The following Table shows how the births and deaths are distributed over the five townships of the district:

Locality	Area in Statute Acres	Population			Births				Deaths		
		Census 1911	Estimated Popln. 1919	Civilian Popln. 1919	Male	Female	Illegit	Rate per 1000 of Populn	Male	Female	Rate per 1000 of Populn
Ainsworth ...	1460	1903	1944	1866	14	18	1	16.4	21	17	10.3
Birtle-cum-Bamford ...	2410	1676	1644	1578	7	7	—	8.5	10	14	15.2
Outwood ...	1938	2099	2167	2080	28	11	1	17.9	17	13	14.4
Unsworth ...	3067	2707	2665	2558	15	16	2	11.6	17	12	11.3
Walmersley-cum-Shilwh	3139	658	643	618	7	3	1	15.5	4	8	19.2
Totals ...	12014	9043	9063	8700	71	55	5	13.9	69	64	15.2

Notifications of Infectious Diseases.—By a Local Government Board Order, dated January 7th, 1919, the following diseases were made notifiable from March 1st, 1919: Malaria, Dysentery, Trench Fever, Acute Primary Pneumonia, and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia. 26 cases of the ordinary infectious diseases were notified during the year, compared with 29 in 1918. In addition to these there were 107 cases of Measles or German Measles, 8 cases of Acute Primary Pneumonia, 5 cases of Influenzal Pneumonia, and 2 cases of Malaria. Both of these latter were in men who had first contracted the disease while serving abroad in the Army. As regards Tubercular Diseases 18 cases were notified, as compared with 22 in 1918. Of these 14 were of the lungs and 4 of other parts.

Removal to Hospital.—11 cases in all were removed to the Institutions of the Bury and District Joint Hospital Board, of these 7 were suffering from Scarlatina, 1 from Diphtheria, and 3 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The following Table shows the distribution of the cases in the various localities:

Locality	Estimated Pop- ulation Civilian	Ordinary Infectious Cases								Tuberculosis Cases					
		Measles	Scarlet Fev.	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Puerp. Fever	Pneumonia	Malaria	Total Infectious Cases removed to Hospi	Per cent. of cases to Pop.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Tub. Diseases	Total	Tuberculosis cases removed to Sanatorium	Per cent. of Tuberculous cases to Pop.
Ainsworth	1866	45	3	2	1	—	4	—	55	2.9	3	—	3	1	.16
Birtle-c-Bamfrd	1578	4	1	—	1	1	5	—	12	.7	4	1	5	1	.31
Outwood.....	2080	36	6	9	—	—	—	—	51	2.4	2	2	4	1	.19
Unsworth	2558	22	2	1	—	—	4	2	31	1.1	5	1	6	1	.23
Walmersley-c-Shuttleworth	618	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total...	8700	107	12	12	2	1	13	2	149	1.7	14	4	18	4	.20

Water Supply.—Nearly the whole district is served by Water Boards which provide a constant supply. Many of the farms and some of the outlying portions of the district have private supplies. The Boards that serve the district are the Bury

and District, the Heywood and Middleton, and the Bolton Corporation. No complaints have been received. As regards the private supplies the water appears to be of good quality, but no chemical analyses have been carried out. This matter will be attended to during next year.

Pollution of Rivers.—This is under the control of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal Works.—The sewage treatment is under the jurisdiction of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee. Outfall works are provided in the populous parts. Particulars of the sewage treatment in each township are as follows, which I have taken from the County Medical Officer's Report.

AINSWORTH.

Bradley Fold.—Treatment is affected by septic tanks, storm tanks, continuous filtration. These works are designed for a population of 3000, and an approximate dry-weather flow of 75000 gallons per day.

Black Lane.—These are small works and have about 70 houses connected with them. They consist of a detritus tank, septic tank, cinder filter beds, and a humus tank. The sewage passes into a brook which discharges into the River Irwell. These works will be done away with as soon as the scheme of the Radcliffe Urban District Council, which this area joins, is completed.

BIRTLE-CUM-BAMFORD.

Bamford.—The approximate dry weather flow per day is 30000 gallons. Treatment is by septic tanks, double contact beds and storm filters. To meet the requirements of the Mersey and Irwell Joint Committee reconstruction of these works is to be carried out. Tenders have been received for new sprinklers.

OUTWOOD.

Irwell Bank.—The Spinning Co. has constructed a small up-to-date sewage works for the mills and houses in the neighbourhood. The works have now been taken over by the District Council.

Prestolee.—These works serve a population of about 700 and consist of a detritus chamber, septic tank and cinder beds. Re-cindering of the beds, provision of extra screening and cleaning of the septic tanks have recently been carried out.

Ringley.—These works are designed for a population of about 675 and consist of septic tanks and continuous filtration.

Outwood.—These are situated at the north-west end of the township near the Colliery, and provide sewage treatment for about 300. They consist of detritus tanks, screens in duplicate, covered septic tank, and a filter bed with circular sprinkler.

UNSWORTH.

Croft Lane, Hollins.—The daily dry-weather flow is about 11000 gallons, and the approximate population dealt with is 800. The method of treatment is by sedimentation, continuous filtration and finally land filtration.

Parrs Lane, Unsworth.—Treatment at these works is by means of a septic tank, filter beds with circular sprinkler and humus tank. This provides for a population of about 700.

Kilner Croft.—The sewage from a few houses in this area discharges on to a filter bed and thence to the Foxley Brook.

WALMERSLEY-CUM-SHUTTLEWORTH.

Drainage from the houses in this township is connected to cesspools or discharges on to land.

I would urge upon the Council the importance of extending the sewerage in some parts of the district, especially in Seddon Lane, Outwood, and in the village of Ainsworth. It is most essential that the number of privy middens should be considerably reduced, but this is quite impossible until further provision is made for the conveyance of sewage to the present or other works.

The Council having recently appointed an experienced manager for the supervision of all its works I have no doubt the results as shown by the effluents will be more satisfactory.

Excrement and Refuse Disposal.—The following Table shows the types of closets and the provision for house refuse in the various townships :

Locality	No. of Privy Middens	Privy Closets	Pail Closets	Fresh Water Closets	Waste Water Closets	Ashpits	Ashbins
Ainsworth ...	167	298	21	149	23	17	146
Birtle-cum-Bamford ...	30	88	126	166	26	122	44
Outwood ...	168	348	3	162	6	72	6
Unsworth ...	215	464	9	40	46	32	34
Walmersley-cum-Shlwth	35	86	26	3	—	20	—
Totals ...	615	1284	185	520	101	263	230

About 70 per cent. of the closet accommodation is midden privies and pails. During the year 1919 there were 10 conversions to water closet effected.

To emphasise what I have said earlier in my Report the following is taken from the Report of the County Medical Officer of Health :

"The dangers attending the continued existence of so many privies, which are frequently situated much too close to dwelling houses, are so great as to render imperative the acceleration of the rate of conversion. Every effort should be made to remedy the lack of sewerage, and to overcome any other difficulties which hinder the adoption at an early date of the water carriage system in the more populous portions of the district."

Scavenging.—In Ainsworth this is done under contract and is satisfactorily carried out. This system should be extended to other districts until the Council are prepared to carry out the work by their own employees. In the remaining portions of the district the tenants are responsible for the removal of the contents of the privies and ashpits, which is done by arrangement between the tenants or owners and the local farmers under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Farms, Dairies, and Cowsheds.—The usual inspections have been carried out. There are 90 cowkeepers on the register. The condition of the shippens is fairly satisfactory but in some instances they have insufficient airspace and the ventilation and sanitary arrangements require attention. In several instances as I have before mentioned in my Reports the manure heaps are too near the shippens. Mr. Hurst and I invariably take every opportunity of impressing on the farmers the importance of removing the manure as quickly as possible from the vicinity of the shippens. The dairies are kept in a clean condition. There is, however, very little storage of milk.

Elementary Schools.—There are 7 in the district, viz : at Ainsworth, Buckhurst, Hollins, Prestolee, Ringley, Turn, and Unsworth. They are in a clean and satisfactory condition, except that only Prestolee and Unsworth are on the water carriage system, the others all have either privy middens or pail closets. I consider it is most essential that this should be remedied without delay, wherever the sewage arrangements will permit. The water supply of these schools is good, and with the exception of Buckhurst and Turn they are all supplied by Water Boards. The medical inspection of the children is entirely in the hands of the County Council.

Housing and Town Planning Act.—Little has been done under this Act during the year except in the way of effecting minor repairs, on account of the difficulty in finding accommodation for any occupiers displaced. The County Council Inspector went very fully into this question recently and according to the report of the Medical Officer of Health found a number of houses which did not reach a sufficiently high standard, many with insufficient bedroom accommodation, and a certain amount of overcrowding. To meet these requirements and to provide accommodation for possible industrial development the conclusion arrived at was that about 300 houses throughout the district were required. During the last few weeks (May, 1920) the Council have selected sites in the various townships and are preparing a scheme to provide the additional houses required.

Factory and Workshops Act.—The usual inspections have been carried out and the factories and workshops have been found in a clean and satisfactory condition. There are 32 factories and 15 workshops in the district. They are situated in the various townships as follows :

Locality.	Ainsworth	Birtle-cum-Bamford	Outwood	Unsworth	Walmersley-cum-Shuttleworth	Total
Factories	11	5	3	10	3	32
Workshops	4	3	1	6	1	15
Total	15	8	4	16	4	47

The factories consist of 3 cotton spinning mills, 6 cotton weaving sheds, 1 woollen mill, 2 fulling mills, 6 dyeworks, 1 calico print works, 5 bleach works, 2 wheelwrights' shops, 1 joiner's shop, 1 engineer's works, 2 quarries, 1 firelighter's works, and 1 spindle and flymaker's works. The workshops consist of 2 milliners, 1 barber, 3 clog makers, 1 undertaker, 1 brewery, 1 tripe dresser, 2 bakehouses, 1 plumber, and 3 dress-makers. No complaints of nuisances have been received from His Majesty's Inspector of Factories. There are no outworkers in the district.

The following are the recommendations for improvements in the sanitary condition of the district contained in the report of the County Medical Officer of Health:

- (1) Take such steps as will ensure that the purity and sufficiency of all water supplies are above suspicion.
- (2) Adopt such measures as will secure a system of scavenging which will fully meet the requirements of each township.
- (3) Give special attention to the removal of all hindrances which may delay the abolition of privy middens and the adoption of the water carriage system.
- (4) Provide fresh water closets and displace ashpits and middens by portable iron bins in all conversions.
- (5) Remedy defective conditions existing at cowsheds.
- (6) Meet the urgent need for additional and suitable housing accommodation, so as to be in a position to carry out the obligations imposed by Sections 15-18 of the Housing Townplanning &c. Act, 1909.
- (7) Give special consideration to all observations and suggestions embodied in this Report.

Appended is the Annual Report of the Inspector of Nuisances.

I beg to remain, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES W. COOK,

Bury, May 18th, 1920.

Medical Officer of Health.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

UNION OFFICES,

BURY,

18th May, 1920.

To the Rural District Council of Bury.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1919.

Table of Nuisances, &c., from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, 1919	Ainsworth	Birtle-cum- Bamford	Outwood	Unsworth	Walmersley- cum- Shuttleworth	TOTAL
No. of Journeys made to each District	77	51	72	78	20	298
„ Visits and Inspections made in each District	341	180	260	239	89	1109
„ Notices sent (Legal and Preliminary)	11	10	20	13	2	56
„ Notifications received & reported upon to the M.O.H. (Measles included)	55	12	51	31	—	149
„ Rooms disinfected & cleansed (schools included)	33	15	45	30	—	123
„ Dairies and cowsheds inspected	36	33	16	35	10	130
„ Cowkeepers, and Purveyors of milk registered	20	30	7	25	10	92
„ Houses inspected under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909 ..	30	20	30	17	3	100
„ „ with improvements carried out	4	8	5	3	—	20
„ „ „ „ to be carried out	26	12	25	14	3	80
„ „ demolished	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ „ built during the year	—	—	—	—	—	—
„ „ with improved sanitary requiremtns	18	16	5	19	3	61
„ „ Privy closets, converted to F.W.C..	—	8	2	—	—	10
„ Other Nuisances dealt with	17	6	19	17	—	59
„ Nuisances abated	35	30	26	36	3	130
„ „ receiving attention	10	10	19	20	3	62
„ „ found, including connections to sewer	45	40	45	56	6	192

Dairies and Cowsheds.

Owing to the sale of many of the farmsteads in two of your districts (Outwood and Unsworth) and the scarcity of labour no structural alterations have been made to the buildings. The Dairies and Cowsheds are kept fairly clean and those possessing any undesirable features, such as low ceilings, insufficient cubic capacity, bad floors, and frequency of manure accumulations too near the shippens, are receiving attention. I wish to report that many of the farmers are paying more attention to the grooming of the cattle in the Autumn and Winter and in keeping the milk vessels in more suitable places after being cleaned.

Factories and Workshops.

I have to report that the new scheme at one of the factories for the conversions to F.W.C. will shortly be completed, this delay has not been the fault of the owners. Smoke observations have been taken re emission of black smoke, and am glad to report that plans have been passed for two mill chimneys, one of which is in course of erection, this I am hoping will do away with a long standing nuisance in one of your districts. The liming and cleansing of the rooms and other sanitary matters have received the owners' attention and are clean and well ventilated.

Dwellings.

During the year much time has been spent with the County Sanitary Inspector and his M.O.H. in the inspections of insanitary dwellings and of all other sanitary matters in your various districts. 10 conversions of privy closets to F.W.C. and other sanitary improvements to streets and drains have been carried out, and infected dwellings have received strict attention, 123 rooms having been disinfected and cleansed.

Yours obediently,

HENRY HURST,
Inspector.