

[Report 1915] / Medical Officer of Health, Chorley Borough.

Contributors

Chorley (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

1915

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Borough of Chorley.

Medical Officer of Health's

Annual Report,

1915.



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CHORLEY,

APRIL, 1916.

TO THE CHORLEY TOWN COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I regret that my Annual Report for 1915 has been considerably delayed owing to the unusual amount of other work which I have had to undertake since the beginning of the year.

The County Medical Officer of Health caused an inspection of the Borough to be made by himself and one of his officials in the Spring of 1915, and sent to you a report of such inspection, which you have considered.

A considerable number of Sanitary defects, &c., have been remedied since, but the unfortunate prolongation of the war has prevented you from obtaining any loan to carry out such of his suggestions as you might have deemed it necessary to do, as well as other improvements which you had already determined to make.

In this report I do not give you so many particulars as has been my custom, as the Local Government Board have decided that "many of such details usually inserted in the Medical Officer of Health's Report may be omitted, and that it may be confined to a record of what has taken place during the year."

The first portion of this Report relates to the Vital Statistics of your Borough during 1915, and, later on, I deal with any Sanitary improvements carried out during the year, and with other matters relating to the health and well-being of the inhabitants of the town.

The number of Births registered in the Borough of Chorley in 1915 was seven hundred and six (706), viz. : of Males, three hundred and forty-seven (347) ; and of Females, three hundred and fifty-nine (359). The Registrar-General has recently issued a circular to the Medical Officers of Health suggesting that the Birth-rate in each Sanitary District should be calculated upon the estimated population in that District in 1914—that is, upon 31,500 for the Borough of Chorley, though the rates may be “seriously in error owing to extensive migration having occurred.”

The Birth-rate for Chorley estimated in this way was, for 1915, 22·35 per thousand—calculated upon seven hundred and four (704) Births to Residents—after transferring elsewhere two (2) Births of Children whose Parents do not reside in the town.

I give in Table I. (Local Government Board Tables) the number of Births and Birth-rates in 1915 and the five preceding years.

It is hardly worth while to make any comparison between the Birth-rates obtaining in Chorley in 1915 with those in previous years, as the basis of estimation is so problematical and liable to considerable error.

The Birth-rate throughout England and Wales in 1915 was 21·8 per thousand, or a decrease of 3·6 per thousand compared with the average rate in the decade 1905-1914.

The average Birth-rate in Chorley for the same ten years was 25·3 per thousand, shewing a decreased rate of 3 per thousand for the Borough—that is to say, 0·6 per thousand less than the average decrease in the Birth-rate for the whole of the country.

Twenty-seven (27) of the Births were Illegitimate—that is to say, 3·8 per cent. of the whole number of Births—slightly less than in 1914, viz., 4·2 per cent., and than in any other recent year except 1910, when only 2·9 per cent. of Illegitimate Births were registered. There

does not appear to have occurred—in Chorley, at any rate—the large increase in the number of Illegitimate Births which has been so much discussed in the Press.

Four hundred and seventy-three (473) Deaths were registered as occurring in the Borough of Chorley in 1915.

The Registrar-General has recently issued for each Sanitary District an estimate of the average *civil* population resident in such District in 1915, and his estimate for Chorley is 28,930.

These estimated populations are calculated upon the number of Males and Females whose names were registered in the National Register in each District in August, 1915, and other factors, and the inmates of public institutions were not included in the estimate.

This estimated population, though necessarily only approximately correct, must give more reliable Death-rates than could otherwise be obtained.

Thirty (30) persons not resident died in Chorley, and their Deaths were registered in the Borough, whilst the Deaths of twenty-three (23) Residents occurred in other Districts. Accordingly, the nett number of Deaths of Residents was four hundred and sixty-six (466), from which, upon the estimated *civil* population of 28,930, I calculate the Death-rate of Residents at 16·11 per thousand.

In Table I. (Local Government Board Tables), I give the numbers of Deaths, and the Death-rates of 1915 and the five preceding years, both as regards Registered Deaths and Deaths of Residents.

As the method of calculating the Death-rates has been so materially altered, I make no comparisons with former Death-rates in this Report.

The Death-rate throughout England and Wales in 1915 was 15·1 per thousand, or an increase of 0·7 per thousand over the average rate for the preceding ten years, 1905-1914.

The average Death-rate for Residents in Chorley Borough during the same decade was 15·6 per thousand, showing that the Death-rate in Chorley in 1915 was 0·5 per thousand above the average of the ten preceding years.

Two hundred and thirty-eight (238) Male and two hundred and twenty-eight (228) Female Residents died during the year.

The number of Deaths registered in the first Quarter of the year was considerably in excess of the average for several years, that in the last Quarter about the average, whilst in the second and third Quarters the numbers of Deaths were decidedly below the average.

The Age Groups at which the Deaths of Residents in 1915 occurred are given in the following Table, and compared with the like statistics of each of the four preceding years :—

TABLE A.

YEAR.	Group 1 Under 1	Group 2 1 and under 2	Group 3 2 and under 5	Group 4 5 and under 15	Group 5 15 and under 25	Group 6 25 and under 45	Group 7 45 and under 65	Group 8 65 and upwards.	Totals.
1915	93	23	17	14	16	57	107	139	466
1914	113	34	33	20	13	57	104	108	482
1913	83	25	18	9	18	61	129	102	445
1912	94	29	32	21	21	67	113	117	494
1911	122	42	36	19	16	56	102	113	506
Av'rage. 4 years, 1911-14	103	32.50	29.75	17.25	17	60.25	112	110	481.75

Decidedly fewer Deaths occurred in Infancy and Childhood in 1915 than in 1914, and the number of Deaths of persons who had reached 65 years or upwards was considerably greater in 1915 than in the preceding year.

Compared with the average of the four years (1911-1914), it will be seen that in every Group—notably the first three (Infants and Children under five years of age)—fewer Deaths occurred in 1915 than the average, whilst the number of Old-age Deaths in 1915 was very remarkably higher than the average.

Nearly thirty per cent. of the Deaths occurring in 1915 were of people aged 65 years or upwards.

In Table III. (Local Government Board Tables) the ages at which the Deaths from **each** Disease occurred in 1915 are given.

In the next Table I give the number of Residents dying from **each** disease, and whose Deaths were registered in Chorley under the Wards or Workhouse in which these Deaths occurred.

TABLE B.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Totals.	WARDS.				Workhouse. Chorley Residents.
		North.	South.	East.	West.	
Enteric Fever.....	2	...	1	1	...	...
Measles	1	...	...	1	...	...
Whooping Cough.....	4	...	1	2	1	...
Diphtheria.....	2	...	...	2	...	...
Influenza.....	8	1	2	2	1	2
Erysipelas.....	3	...	...	1	...	2
Phthisis Pulmonalis.....	28	2	8	7	1	10
Tuberculous Meningitis.....	1	...	...	1	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases.	1	...	1	...	...	...
Cancer.....	23	4	7	6	5	1
Rheumatic Fever... ..	1	1	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	9	...	3	2	4	...
Heart Diseases.....	30	5	7	7	8	3
Bronchitis.....	59	8	11	9	19	12
Pneumonia.....	26	6	4	9	6	1
Other Respiratory Diseases.	11	2	2	2	3	2
Diarrhœa, Enteritis.....	15	3	6	4	2	...
Cirrhosis	3	...	...	2	1	...
Nephritis.....	17	3	5	4	3	2
Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition	2	...	1	1	...	...
Congenital Debility, Pre- mature Birth, & Mal- formation	39	6	11	16	6	...
Violence	15	3	2	5	5	...
Suicide.....	5	...	1	3	1	...
Other Defined Diseases.....	91	7	25	29	24	6
Diseases Ill-defined.....	51	12	11	16	12	...
Totals.....	447	63	109	132	102	41

I am unable to give the Wards in which the Residents lived whose Deaths occurred in Districts outside your Borough, and were transferred from such Districts to Chorley.

Infantile Mortality.—In Table I. (Local Government Board Tables) the numbers of Deaths of Infants under one year of age and the Infantile Mortality per one thousand Births are detailed for 1915 and the five preceding years.

In 1915 the Infantile Mortality was one hundred and thirty-two (132) Deaths per thousand Births. This rate is some improvement upon that obtaining in 1914, viz., 149, and upon the average of the five years (1910-1914), viz., 140, but it is still higher than can be considered at all satisfactory.

That there is some decrease in the Infantile Mortality in the last quarter of a century may be seen from the figures given below :—

Average Infantile Mortality for Decade 1891-1900	...	194
„ „ „ 1901-1910	...	152
„ „ „ Quinquennium 1910-1914	...	140
Infantile Mortality for 1915	... ..	132

I hope that the steps already taken by you to conserve Infant life, viz., the appointment of your Health Visitor and the establishment of the Child Welfare Centre will be of great service in the further reduction of the Infantile Mortality, and that a great number of valuable lives will be saved to the town and Country. The causes of the Deaths of Infants are fully detailed in Table IV. (Local Government Board Tables) which, I shortly, summarize as follows :—Three (3) Deaths from Infectious Diseases, Sixteen (16) from Lung Diseases, Ten (10) from Diarrhoeal Diseases, thirty-five (35) from Congenital Debility and Premature Birth, and twenty-nine (29) from Various other Causes.

Amongst these other causes I wish to draw your attention to the fact that three Deaths of Infants in 1915 have been due to suffocation through Overlying.

Zymotic Death-rate.—A favourable feature in this report is the considerably lower Zymotic Death-rate than has been recorded for several years.

The rate for 1915 was 0·87 per thousand, as compared with 2·38 in 1914, and an average for the decade (1906-1915) of 1·85.

The Zymotic Death-rate was probably not quite so much as 0·87 in 1915, as three Deaths recorded from Diarrhœa in adults may not have been due to Zymotic Diarrhœa or Enteritis.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.—In Table II. (Local Government Board Table) the number of cases of each Infectious Disease in the various Age Groups and from each of the Wards are detailed.

Excluding all cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis which will be discussed under that head, ninety (90) Notifications of Infectious Diseases were notified to me in 1915, as compared with one hundred and eighteen (118) in 1914, and an average of one hundred and eighty-two for the five years preceding 1915 (1910-1914).

This decrease in the number of Infectious Notifications is shown in the following Table :—

		Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Typhoid Fever.	Ery- sipelas.	Other Infectious Dis	Totals.
1915	...	52	4	7	19	8	90
1914	...	82	8	11	10	7	118
Average 5 years 1910-1914	...	138	20	9	12	3	182

The decrease in the number of cases is most marked in Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria, whilst more cases of Erysipelas and of the other non-specified cases of Infectious Diseases (especially Ophthalmia Neonatorum) occurred in 1915 than in 1914, or as compared with the average of the five-years period (1910-1914).

Scarlet Fever.—Fewer cases were notified to me in 1915 than in any year since 1908. The highest numbers reported in any month were 8, 7, & 6 (September, June, and August respectively), whilst in November only 1 case, and in December and February only 2 cases were notified.

Though the number of persons attacked by Scarlet Fever in 1915 was fifty-two (52), only forty-one (41) houses were infected, as in three houses there were two (2) cases, in one house three (3) cases, and in two houses four (4) cases of Scarlet Fever.

The whole of the cases were removed to Hospital, and no Death resulted from this disease.

Diphtheria.—Only four (4) cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, viz., one (1) each in September and November, and two (2) in December. One case was taken to the Isolation Hospital, and two (2) Deaths occurred from Diphtheria.

Enteric Fever.—Seven (7) cases of this Disease were notified, one (1) in June, four (4) in November, and two (2) in December. All of these cases occurred in widely-separated houses, and only one case in each house. Each house was examined in order to discover, if possible, the cause of the disease, or any sanitary defect existing.

Four cases of Typhoid Fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital. Two (2) Deaths resulted, or a case Mortality of 29 per cent.

Acute Poliomyelitis.—One case of this disease was notified to me during 1915, and the child died. No definite cause for the occurrence of the disease could be found.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—Six (6) cases were reported to me during the year. I directed the Health Visitor to make repeated visits to the houses in which the Babies suffering from this disease lived, in order to impress upon the Mothers the urgent necessity for carrying out the Doctors' directions.

Measles.—Very few instances of Measles were reported to me by Head Teachers of the Elementary Schools during 1915, only seventeen (17), as compared with four hundred and twenty-one (421) in 1914. One (1) death was registered from this disease.

I am sorry to say that since the end of 1915 Measles has become prevalent in the town, and in some of the surrounding townships. The Compulsory Notification of Measles and German Measles came into force on January 1st, 1916, and I have received a considerable number of Notifications from the Medical Practitioners, and reports from the Head Teachers of the Elementary Schools, but only one or two from the Parents, upon whom the obligation of notifying is equally incumbent with that upon the Doctors. Leaflets have been distributed throughout the town, with details given as to the symptoms, &c., of Measles, the precautions to be taken, and the legal necessity for the Parents to notify the occurrence of the disease to the Medical Officer of Health. Your Officials (Sanitary Inspectors, School Nurse, or myself) have visited each infected house, and given such recommendations as seemed necessary in those instances where no Medical Practitioner was in attendance.

Further, in the case of those Schools where more than two or three cases of Measles were occurring at the same time, the children under five years of age have been excluded from attendance at School for a period of three weeks.

It is to be hoped that the measures already taken, or to be taken, will impress the public that Measles is not such a trivial disease as it is too often believed to be, and that more care will be taken to prevent children from uninfected houses being brought into contact with others suffering from Measles. There remains, however, in the ordinary class of houses very great difficulty of isolation of infected children.

Whooping Cough.—During the last Quarter of 1915, and to a less extent in the two preceding Quarters, I received many reports from the Head Teachers of cases of Whooping Cough in children attending the Elementary Schools. The total number of cases thus brought to my notice was two hundred and four (204).

Four (4) Deaths were registered from Whooping Cough—all of which were in children under five years of age, two being Infants under 1 year.

I visited the Schools, from which there were reported numbers of cases of Measles, on several occasions and found it necessary to recommend to you the closure of the Infant Departments of the following Schools :—

St. Mary's School.—December 1st, 1915, to Jany. 10th, 1916					
St. Mark's	„	„	10th	„	„
Weldbank	„	„	10th	„	„

There has been a very decided decrease in the reports from the Head Teachers of cases of Whooping Cough since the beginning of 1916, and, I hope, the epidemic has practically subsided.

Diarrhœa and Enteritis.—Fewer Deaths were recorded from Diarrhœa and Enteritis in 1915 than in the previous year, or than the average of the previous five years (1910-1914). Excluding the small number of Deaths occurring from Diarrhœa at ages above five years, I find the following results :—

		Under 1 year.		Over 1 and Under 5 years.		Totals.
1915	... ..	11	...	2	...	13
1914	... ..	13	...	7	...	20
Average 5 years						
1910-1914	...	16.2	...	6.8	...	23

In my Report for 1915 I dealt with one of the chief causes of Diarrhoea, viz., the House Fly nuisance, and I am of opinion that the methods adopted by the Council and carried out by your Officials, viz., the regular covering of the manure heaps in the more congested portions of the town with Chloride of Lime during the summer and autumn has been beneficial not only in reducing the Child Mortality from Diarrhoea, but also in preventing the occurrence of many cases of this disease which, though not ending fatally, tend to lower the vitality and strength of such children.

One hundred and eighty-four (184) Manure receptacles have been so treated. Placards were posted in the summer calling the attention of the public to the evils arising from a plague of flies.

Other Infectious, &c., Diseases.—In addition to the Infectious Diseases already mentioned, other minor Infectious or Contagious cases have been reported to me by the Head Teachers. I give below a complete list of all the Notifications of the Head Teachers of each School :—

SCHOOL.	Scarlet Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Mumps.	Chicken Pox.	Diph- theria.	Ringworm.	Other Diseases.	TOTALS.
Parish ...	4	1	19	3	1	...	4	...	32
St. George's ...	3	7	21	1	8	...	19	12	71
St. Peter's ...	...	...	14	1	14	...	1	1	31
St. James' ...	1	...	19	5	13	1	3	2	44
All Saints' ...	...	1	8	...	6	...	...	...	15
St. Mark's ...	2	1	17	2	5	...	...	1	28
St. Mary's ...	2	...	54	2	12	...	2	1	73
Sacred Heart .	1	1	12	...	5	...	...	2	21
Weldbank ...	2	1	12	7	...	...	6	15	43
St. Joseph's ...	...	3	6	1	...	...	...	...	10
Hollinshead St.	...	1	11	...	1	...	...	...	13
Wesleyan ...	1	1	11	1	6	...	...	1	21
Totals ...	16	17	204	23	71	1	35	35	402

Tuberculosis.—The number of Notifications made to me in 1915 under the Tuberculosis Regulations was seventy-two (72), of which fifty-four (54) were cases of Phthisis Pulmonalis, and (18) of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Two (2) cases of Phthisis and one (1) of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis have died during the year without any Notification having been previously received by me.

The cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified to me affected the following organs :—

Glands	...	...	...	8
Spine	...	...	...	3
Meninges of Brain	...	...	...	2
Bones and Joints	...	...	...	4
General	...	...	...	1
Total				18

The Occupations previously followed by the persons notified as suffering from Tuberculosis—exclusive of the cases from the Workhouse—were as follows :—

Weavers	...	...	...	10
Housewife	...	...	...	8
Labourer	...	...	...	7
Other Work in Mills	...	...	...	6
Shop Assistants, &c.	...	...	...	4
Soldiers	...	...	...	4
Confectioner	...	...	...	1
Hawker	...	...	...	1
School Teacher	...	...	...	1
Cab Driver	...	...	...	1
Pipe-layer	...	...	...	1
Dressmaker	...	..	...	1
Domestic Servant	...	...	...	1
Machinist	...	...	...	1
Railway Chair Caster	...	...	...	1
Children	...	...	...	18
				66

The Death rate from Phthisis Pulmonalis was, in 1915, 1·03 per thousand of the estimated population, which was higher than that in 1914, viz., 0·73, though considerably lower than the average rate that used to obtain in the Borough. On the other hand, the Death-rate from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis was lower in 1915 than in 1914, viz., 0·07, as compared with 0·19 per thousand in the previous year.

The number of cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis arranged under the Groups of Ages and the Wards in which the persons live are given in Table II. (Local Government Board Table).

Relative to the population of each Ward, more cases were notified from South Ward than in any of the other Wards. During 1915 eleven (11) persons suffering from Phthisis had the advantage of Sanatorium treatment for periods varying from two months upwards.

The benefit of Sanatorium treatment ought not, and is not contemplated to cease when the patient is discharged from the institution, but it is expected that the sufferer will have learnt there the rational methods of combatting the disease, and will adopt as far as possible, in his own home, the same methods, such as free ventilation and cleanliness of his room, personal cleanliness, abstinence from alcoholic drinks, &c., &c. If this teaching is followed out, there will be more hope of the complete recovery of the affected person, and less fear of his becoming a source of infection to the healthy members of his family.

The work of the Tuberculosis Officers at the Dispensary, and also in visiting cases or suspected cases of Tuberculosis, has been carried on during the year in the manner detailed in my last report.

I have regularly received from Dr. Jessel a copy of the Tuberculosis Nurse's report of the Sanitary condition of the houses in which Tuberculous patients reside, and in those instances where there have been Sanitary defects your Officials have taken steps to have them remedied. The houses in which Tuberculous patients have died, or from which they have been removed to a Sanatorium, have been disinfected after such Death or Removal.

Bacteriological Examinations.—Fewer specimens have been sent to the Clinical Research Association for Bacteriological Examination

in 1915 than in 1914, especially in cases of suspected Tuberculosis. In these latter cases the Examinations have been carried out by the Tuberculous Officer.

The specimens sent during 1915 were as follows :—

		No. of Cases.	Negative result.
Suspected Cases of Typhoid Fever	...	6	3
„ „ Diphtheria	...	1	1
„ „ Tuberculosis	...	1	• ...
„ „ Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis		1	1
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...		9	5

In doubtful cases of Infectious Diseases it is of great advantage to secure the confirmation or otherwise of the diagnosis, and thereby save trouble and unnecessary isolation in those households in which the results of Bacteriological Examinations do not confirm the provisional diagnosis.

Disinfection.—The houses and clothing of persons suffering from the Notifiable Infectious Diseases have been disinfected as usual during the year, and a liberal supply of disinfectants has been given to any applicant—especially where the presence of Infectious Disease is known to have occurred.

During the year ninety-seven (97) houses were sprayed and fumigated, and one thousand four hundred and forty six (1,446) articles of Bedding, Clothing, etc., were taken to the Disinfector, and in a few instances, with the consent of the owner, were destroyed.

Scavenging.—The Corporation workmen have carried out this work efficiently during the year, notwithstanding the frequent changes of men and temporary deficiency in their numbers owing to the War.

The Refuse has been taken to and consumed at the Destructor, and the quantity so treated increases every year.

The total amount of Refuse treated at the Destructor in 1915 was as follows :—

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.
House Refuse	7205	4	0
Trade Refuse	278	3	1
Fish Refuse	64	5	2
Condemned Meat & Offal	10	3	1
	<hr/> 7,557	<hr/> 16	<hr/> 0

Owing to the scarcity of Fish there has been a very marked diminution in the amount of Fish Refuse removed to the Destructor, and a consequent decrease in the amount of Fish Guano manufactured there.

On the other hand, there has been a great increase in the Trade Refuse consumed at the Destructor in 1915 over that in 1914, nearly 30 per cent., and approximately twice as much Trade Refuse has been treated, at the cost of the Ratepayers, at the Destructor in 1915 as the average for the preceding five years.

The examination and cleaning of Water Closet and Yard Drains has been carried out as usual in 1915. I give the numbers below :—

Number of Fresh Water Closets examined and cleaned...	24,979
„ Waste Water „ „ ...	4,031
„ Yard Drains „ „ ...	55,667
Totals	<hr/> 84,677

The greater frequency in stoppages in Waste Water Closets, as compared with Fresh Water Closets, still continues to hold, as you will see from the percentages given below.

Number of Stoppages in Fresh Water Closets, 557 or 2·2 per cent.

„	„	Waste Water	„	416 or 10·3	„
„	„	Yard Drains		721 or 1·3	„

Besides the routine examinations and cleaning of the Closet and Yard Drains detailed above, many other Stoppages have been relieved by your workmen when notice has been sent to the Sanitary Department by the householders concerned.

Considering the difficulty of obtaining men in 1915, I consider this work of the Sanitary Department has been well done.

Your Council have authorized the Sanitary Inspector to obtain whitewash-brushes to be lent to householders, and to furnish lime at a small cost to such persons as he may think it desirable to do so.

Slaughter House.—The Carcases of the animals killed at the Slaughter House are carefully examined by your Inspector, and when in doubt, he calls me in to inspect such carcasses as seem to be unfit for human consumption.

The number of Animals slaughtered in 1915 were as follows :—

Cattle	...	1617
Calves	...	127
Sheep	...	6917
Pigs	...	808

The following Carcases have been condemned as unfit for food :—

Five (5) Cattle,	weighing	2,564 lbs.
One (1) Calf,	„	49 „
Eleven (11) Sheep	„	507 „
Three (3) Pigs	„	154 „

Total Weight of Meat condemned... 3,274 lbs.

In addition to this amount of Meat condemned, Offal of other Animals presenting signs of disease, but not in our opinion sufficient to render the Meat unfit for food, were seized and destroyed, the weight of such Offal being 7,391 lbs.

The Tuberculosis (Animals) Order was withdrawn early in the year, and, in consequence, no action has been taken under that Order.

Sewering and Sewage Disposal Works.—Considerable work has been done in this department in 1915.

At the Cowling Sewage Works the tanks and filters have been completed, and the old water-wheel and pump have been replaced by a Rotoplunge Pump worked by a Petrol Engine, so that the lagoon and sand-washing water may be pumped into the delivery main and re-treated in the tank and filters ; also, the concrete wall on the brook side has been extended 50 feet.

At Common Bank Sewage Works the main outlet carrier walls have been raised to prevent flooding, and the carrier has been fenced round.

A new boiler has been provided at Botany Sewage Works. Owing to a violent storm the four-feet sewer through Astley Park was considerably damaged, and this sewer is now strengthened by reinforced concrete.

Nine-inch Sewers have been laid in Worthy Street, Duke Street, Yarrow Road, &c.

The Sewers were thoroughly flushed in May, and it was intended to repeat the process at later periods, but owing to the heavy rainfall later on in the year such flushing was not deemed to be necessary.

The total Rainfall for 1915 was 35·32 inches.

Streets, &c.—The paved portion of Pall Mall and part of Steele Lane has been reconstructed during the year. The Stump Lane Bridge has been paved by the Railway Company with granite setts.

Tar-spraying on several macadamized roads—Eaves Lane, Botany Brow, Water Street, Harpers Lane, Bolton Street, and Moor Road—has been carried out.

The main thoroughfares have been swilled periodically during the very dirty weather, and the cleansing of the gullies has been regularly carried out, special care being now taken to seal these gullies after such cleansing.

Owing to the Local Government Board's restrictions with regard to Borrowing Powers, not much work has been done in paving Private streets, but some paving has been carried out at Duke Street, Windermere Road, &c.

Plans for only nine (9) Dwelling Houses have been passed in 1915, but certificates of fitness for habitation have been granted to thirty-nine (39) owners of Dwelling Houses, the plans of thirty-five (35) of which had been passed prior to the commencement of 1915.

Other work has been done in the Surveyor's department—Asphalting Playgrounds for the Duke Street Council School, &c.

Water Supply.—The whole of the town is supplied with Water from the Liverpool Corporation Waterworks.

The supply is constant and sufficient, and I have not received any complaints of deficiency of pressure in the mains during the year. Occasionally there has been shortage of supply to some of the dwelling-

houses owing to partially-blocked service-pipes, but these, when brought to the notice of the Waterworks Officials, have been cleared, and a full supply ensured.

The supply to the higher portions of the town has been considerably improved in the last two or three years.

Cowsheds and Dairies.—There are entered on the Register the names of forty-four (44) Cowkeepers, and two (2) Purveyors of Milk. A considerable number of small shopkeepers sell also a little milk to their customers.

Improvements have been carried out during the year at nine (9) farm premises, and two (2) more are being altered, but the work is not completed.

Thirty-six (36) Notices have been served upon the Cowkeepers to whitewash shippens, &c., and special attention has been called to the necessity of whitewashing the whole of the interior, including the roofs.

Lodging Houses.—At the end of the year there were only three Common Lodging Houses, one of the four existing at the beginning of the year having ceased to be used as a Lodging House.

Owing to so many of the younger men accustomed to frequent these houses having joined the Army, the number of lodgers has been very much less than usual, and there is at present more accommodation than is necessary for the town in the two Model Lodging Houses in King Street and Standish Street. These two Houses continue to be well conducted.

Offensive Trades.—The number of Offensive Trades carried on in the Borough is the same as given in my last Report—one new licence having been granted, and the business at one place has been discontinued.

The Offensive Trades at present carried on are as follows : —

Tripe Dressers	...	...	9
Tallow Melters	...	...	2
Tanners	...	...	2
Gut Scrapers	...	...	2

Smoke.—Not much work has been done during the year with regard to the timing of the emission of Black Smoke from the factory chimneys. In the few instances where Black Smoke was discharged into the atmosphere for a distinctly longer period than your regulations allow, the millowners have been informed and cautioned.

Two (2) cases of chimney-firing have been brought before the Magistrates, with the result that one was fined one shilling and costs, and the other dismissed.

Public Baths.—Owing to the War, not much progress has been made in building the Public Baths, but the Baths Committee have held several meetings, and the Architects have furnished plans for the provision of Plunge Bath, Slipper Baths for both sexes, Shower Baths, Gallery, and Caretaker's House, which have been approved by the Committee. The Town Clerk has been instructed to apply for a Provisional Sanction for the borrowing of the amount required for the purpose of erecting the building and fully carrying out the scheme.

Recreation Grounds.—Further work has been done at the Tatton Recreation Ground, the levelling and draining has been completed, the Shelters have been erected, and Swings, &c., provided.

Housing of the Working Classes.—The inspection of the dwelling-houses under Section 17 of the Housing Act (1909) has not progressed in 1915 as satisfactorily as could be desired owing to your

Inspecting Officer's time being so fully taken up by the many other urgent duties which he has had to perform. However, one hundred and seven (107) houses have been thoroughly inspected. In only eight (8) of these houses were there not found some defective or insanitary condition ; in sixty-nine (69) the owners have, in response to the notices given, remedied the defects ; in ten (10) the work has been commenced, and is partly done ; in thirteen (13) no work has been begun, though in several of these cases contracts have been entered into, but the contractors have been unable to secure sufficient labour to carry out the work.

Thirteen (13) Closing Orders have been made during 1915.

I give in the following Table a list of the defects, &c., in the several houses inspected in the four Wards :—

	North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.	West Ward.	Totals.
Defective Windows and Ventilation ...	30	26	6	11	73
„ Roofs	18	11	2	5	36
„ Ground Floors	7	11	7	3	28
„ Bedroom Floors, &c. ...	13	13	5	3	34
„ Stairs	7	14	3	1	25
„ Fireplaces ... ..	...	1	...	2	3
„ Doors and Doorways ...	2	...	1	1	4
„ Slopstone and Pipes ...	1	...	1	3	5
„ Water Closets	2	3	1	5	11
Damp or Dangerous Walls ...	3	...	...	...	3
Defects in Yards, Passages, Spouts, &c.	15	17	4	5	41
Houses requiring Plastering, White- washing, &c.	20	36	7	7	70
Totals	118	132	37	46	333

Food and Drugs Act.—During the year seventy-two (72) Samples of Food have been taken by the County Police and submitted for examination.

The Samples were as follows :—

Milk	...	...	21	samples
Butter	...	...	8	„
Lard	...	...	7	„
Jam	...	...	6	„
Margarine	...	...	5	„
Coffee	...	...	5	„
Pepper	...	...	5	„
Cocoa	...	...	2	„
Barley	...	...	2	„
Ginger	...	...	2	„
Vinegar	...	...	2	„
Cheese	...	...	1	„
Sugar	...	...	1	„
Sago	...	...	1	„
Arrowroot	...	...	1	„
Rice	...	...	1	„
Mustard	...	...	1	„
Baking Powder	...	...	1	„

There was no prosecution for selling adulterated food in 1915.

In addition to the Meat, Offal, &c., condemned at the Slaughter House, the following articles unfit for food have been taken possession of and destroyed :—

Rabbits	...	...	27
Tripe	...	...	40 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	8 „
Peas	...	...	101 sacks
Apples	...	...	3 barrels
Strawberries ..	...	...	20 baskets
Tomatoes	...	...	16 do.
Plums	...	...	2 do.
Bananas	...	...	12 doz.

Notification of Births Act.—The great majority of the Births occurring in 1915 were notified to me by the Midwives—a few were reported by the Medical Practitioners or the Parents—but in one hundred and ten (110) instances no Notification of the Birth was made to me by any person.

By the courtesy of the Sub-Registrar, Miss Leigh, I obtained periodically the particulars of these Non-Notified Births from her Register, and so was enabled to send the Nurse to the Homes in which these Births occurred.

Most of the Midwives send the Notifications to me punctually and within the time specified in the Act.

The total number of Births in Chorley in 1915, as ascertained by me from all sources, was seven hundred and eight (708), of which six hundred and ninety-two (692) were born alive, and sixteen (16) were still Births.

The Nurse visited and obtained particulars of six hundred and eighty-two (682) of these Births. I did not think it advisable or necessary to send her to eighteen (18) cases, and in seven (7) other instances the mother had left the neighbourhood, &c., before the Nurse could visit. In only one (1) case objection was made to the Nurse's visit, and all information refused.

Ninety-six per cent of the homes of these Infants were visited at least once during the year.

The Nurse enters on a card for each child particulars about the feeding, clothing, place of sleeping, cleanliness, &c., &c., of the Infants, and also information about the houses, number of rooms and cleanliness, state of repair, &c., &c.

The Nurse attends at my office every week or ten days and gives me full details from the cards of those Infants whom she has visited in the intervals, and I enter these in my Register. From such information I decide which cases do not need any further visits, or which Infants require more frequent visits, and give such other directions as may seem to be necessary. The total number of Visits made by the Nurse during the year was 2,977, or an average of 4.2 per house. In some cases only one visit was thought by us to be necessary, whereas in others seven, eight, or more have been paid during the year.

As a result of a careful perusal of the particulars obtained by the Nurse in her Visits, I find that about 87 per cent. of the Infants—at any rate during the first two or three months of their lives—are fed on the natural aliment, viz., Mothers' Milk. This percentage is larger than I had anticipated, and as long as the Mothers do not return to work and keep in good health and well nourished, the growth and well-being of the child is so far ensured.

On the other hand, I find that 87 per cent. of the Babies sleep in the same bed with one or both of the parents. This practice is objectionable on more than one ground. It prevents the Infant getting sufficient fresh air for respiration and consequent full development of their lungs, and also there is considerable risk of the child being overlain by the Parent.

During 1915 three Babies have been suffocated in bed through being overlain, and to avoid this risk and to give the best chance of the child growing up healthy and strong, I consider it very essential that it should be in a cot or cradle near the Mother's beside during the night. There is no heavy cost necessary for this to be carried out in practice, as an old box or banana crate can be easily made to serve as a cot, and I am sure very considerable benefit would result.

Again, I find in about half of the Babies born during 1915 the very objectionable practice of providing the Infant with a Dummy Teat or Comforter in order to prevent it from crying.

In addition to other ill-effects that may be produced by the use of the Comforter, one considerable risk I have already alluded to, viz., the possibility of conveying poisonous bacteria into the alimentary canal of the Infant, with the result that Diarrhœa, Gastro-Enteritis, &c., and even Tuberculosis, may ensue.

Even if the Comforter was always kept sterile and free from Germs, its use would be objectionable; but when not in use, it is generally placed anywhere "handy"—may be dropped on the floor, and only perfunctorily wiped, and in many other ways it is almost sure to be rendered a germ carrier.

I have instructed the Nurse to talk to the Mothers on this and other matters, but Mothers are very slow in changing the habits they have been taught, and, I fear, it will take considerable time to eradicate old habits and prejudices. However, I am glad to find that in a considerable minority of instances the Nurse has been able to record the abandonment of this and other faulty methods of bringing up children.

As regards the houses in which the Births have occurred, upon the reports of the Nurse which I have transmitted to the Sanitary Inspectors, a considerable number of nuisances have been abated and defects removed.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—There have been several meetings of the Committee on Maternity and Child Welfare during 1915, and various methods of carrying out the desired objects have been discussed. Finally, it has been decided that this work should be carried out by a Committee of Ladies interested in the subject, and such Committee, with Mrs. Armitage as Secretary, has been constituted by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

An Infant Clinic or Babies' Welcome has been arranged, to be held every Thursday afternoon in St. George's Street School, at which Mothers and Infants are cordially received by the Ladies, the Babies are weighed, advice as to feeding, clothing, &c., &c., given, when necessary, by the Ladies, Health Visitor, or myself, and card records of the progress of each child are kept.

The Ladies' Committee have established a rota of attendance, the Health Visitor will be present at each meeting, and I purpose to visit and supervise these Clinics regularly.

Tea for the Mothers has been generously promised by the Ladies' Committee.

I hope advantage of this *beginning* of the Child Welfare Scheme will be taken by the Mothers of Chorley, and that when it is fairly established, the question of enlarging the Scheme in the direction of advice, &c., for Expectant Mothers will be carefully considered by the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

The first meeting of the Babies' Welcome was held on Thursday, April 13th, 1916.

Feeding of School Children.—This subject has been dealt with in my Report to your Education Committee. I may say here, however, that there has not been such urgent necessity for a large number of children to be fed at the public expense in 1915 as in the latter part of 1914, and only a few children are now provided with free meals.

In 1915 the Provision of Meals was extended from being given only during School sessions to the holiday weeks during which the children did not go to school.

I give below a list of the Nuisances abated and the Sanitary Improvements made during the year, as the result either of notices served by the Sanitary Inspector or orders issued by your Council :—

Stoppage of Fresh Water Closets opened	...	...	631
,, Waste ,, ,,	...	...	467
,, Drains opened	...	...	891
Defective Fresh Water Closets repaired	...	...	223
,, Waste ,, ,,	...	...	65
,, Drains repaired	...	...	32
Dirty Houses Limewashed	...	...	17
,, Yards and Passages cleaned	...	...	36
Defective Water Supply remedied	...	...	42
Insufficient Ashbins Supplied	...	...	33
Pigs and Poultry kept so as to be a nuisance removed	...	...	16
Accumulations of Manure removed	...	...	57
Defective Manure Receptacles altered	...	...	3
,, Flags in yards repaired	...	...	15
,, Eaves and Down Spouts repaired	...	...	32
Insufficient Closet accommodation remedied	...	...	7
Other Nuisances abated	...	...	18
Total			2585

From a perusal of the above list you will be able to see that your Sanitary Inspectors have, in addition to their many other duties, worked zealously and diligently in this direction.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JAMES A. HARRIS.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1915 and previous Years.

Year	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	BIRTHS			TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.			TRANSFERABLE Deaths		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICTS			
		Un- corrected Number	Nett.		Number	Rate	of Non- residents registered in the District	of Resi- dents not registered in the District	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages		
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births	Number	Rate	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1910	30030	781	781	26.01	427	14.22	23	7	104	133	411	13.69	
1911	30400	714	714	23.45	501	16.48	21	26	122	171	506	16.64	
1912	30700	701	696	22.64	501	16.32	29	22	94	135	494	16.09	
1913	31100	740	738	23.73	455	14.63	25	15	83	112	445	14.31	
1914	31500	757	756	24.00	477	15.14	16	21	113	149	487	15.30	
1915	28930	706	704	22.35	473	16.35	30	23	93	132	466	16.11	

Area of District in acres, 3,613.

Total population at all ages, 30,315
 Total families or separate occupiers, 6,555

} At Census, 1911.

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1915.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified.								Total Cases Notified in each Ward					Total Cases Removed to Hospital
	At all Ages	Under 1	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards	North Ward	South Ward	East Ward	West Ward	Workhouse Chorley Residents	
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	4	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	1
Erysipelas	19	1	...	1	5	3	9	...	...	4	11	4	...	...
Scarlet Fever	52	...	21	27	4	...	...	...	11	8	18	15	...	52
Enteric Fever	7	...	...	1	2	4	...	...	...	3	4	...	...	4
Continued Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Poliomyelitis	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	2	...	...
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	54	...	1	6	12	22	13	...	6	18	16	8	6	11
Other forms of Tuberculosis	18	...	5	7	2	3	1	...	1	4	9	4	...	...
Totals	162	7	29	43	28	32	23	...	21	40	60	35	6	68

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, Sanatoria, &c. :—

Heath Charnock Sanatorium, Chorley Rural District ; Heath Charnock Isolation Hospital, Chorley Rural District.

TABLE III.

Deaths registered during the Calendar Year 1915,
classified by age and cause.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District								Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.		
	All Ages	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards	Work- house Chorley Residents	Chorley Hospital
All Causes—Certified	452	88	23	17	14	16	57	104	133	...	...
Uncertified	14	5	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	...	...
Enteric Fever	2	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Measles	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	8	...	...	1	3	...	3	...	1	1	...
Erysipelas	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	2	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	30	...	...	...	...	4	13	13	...	13	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cancer, malignant disease	24	...	...	...	...	...	3	15	6	3	...
Rheumatic Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Meningitis	9	1	3	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Organic Heart Disease	34	...	...	...	...	2	6	13	13	5	1
Bronchitis	59	9	6	1	...	...	2	14	27	17	...
Pneumonia (all forms)	27	7	6	3	1	...	4	2	4	1	...
Other diseases of respiratory organs	11	...	1	2	...	...	1	3	4	2	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	16	11	1	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	17	...	...	1	1	...	3	5	7	3	1
Other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, in- cluding Premature Birth	39	36	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	18	4	...	...	6	1	4	1	2	...	5
Suicide	5	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	1	...	1
Other Defined Diseases	98	15	3	2	...	4	10	31	33	16	4
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	51	7	...	1	...	...	...	5	38	...	...
Totals	466	93	23	17	14	16	57	107	139	63	13
Sub-Entries, included in above figures— Polio-myelitis	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE IV.
INFANT MORTALITY.

1915. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under
1 Year of Age.

Causes of Death.		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 months & under 6 months	6 months & under 9 months	9 months & under 12 months
All causes—										
Certified	...	17	8	2	3	30	11	16	13	18
Uncertified	..	2	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	1
{ Measles ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
{ Whooping Cough		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>) ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Convulsions ...		2	...	...	...	2	1	2	...	1
Bronchitis ...		...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	3
Pneumonia (all forms)		...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	4
{ Diarrhoea ...		...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
{ Enteritis ...		...	...	...	...	...	3	2	2	3
Suffocation, overlying		...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1
Atelectasis ...		1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
{ Premature birth		5	4	1	1	11	...	..	...	...
{ Atrophy, Debility and		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Marasmus	...	8	4	...	2	14	4	3	1	2
Other Causes	...	3	...	...	...	3	2	3	5	4
Totals	...	19	8	2	3	32	12	17	13	19

Nett Births registered—Legitimate, 679

Illegitimate, 27

Nett Deaths registered—Legitimate Infants, 83

Illegitimate Infants, 10