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CHORLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.


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→ MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT, ←

1896.

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# RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHORLEY.

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## MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

For the Year ending December 31st, 1896.

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CHORLEY, MARCH, 1897.

To the Rural District Council of Chorley,

GENTLEMEN,

I am pleased to be able to present to you a considerably more favourable Report of the Vital Statistics obtaining in your District in 1896 than I could do in my Annual Report for 1895.

The Birth rate was unfortunately lower in 1896 than in 1895, but the Death rate was very much lower last year than in 1895, and indeed is the lowest I have had to record since the passing of the Public Health Act in 1875.

The number of Births registered in 1896 was Five hundred and twenty-two (522). As I estimate the population of the Rural District at 17,650, I calculate the Birth rate at 29·57 per thousand per annum. In the previous year, 1895, Five hundred and thirty-one (531) Births were registered, yielding a rate of 30·3 per thousand. The Birth rate in 1896 is the lowest I have had to report during the last twenty-one years, and is lower even than the average rate throughout England and Wales, viz., 29·7, which is the lowest but one on record.

In the first Table (Table A) I arrange the Births under the Sub-Districts, estimate the Birth rate of each sub-district, and compare the rates with those obtaining in the two preceding years.

TABLE A.

Sub-districts.	1896.		1895.		1894.	
	Number of Births.	Birth Rate.	Number of Births.	Birth Rate.	Number of Births.	Birth Rate.
Chorley .. ..	133	33·2	145	36·1	135	33·9
Brindle .. ..	94	26·8	96	27·4	97	27·2
Croston .. ..	109	30·0	115	31·7	119	32·5
Leyland .. ..	132	29·4	127	29·4	137	31·8
Rivington .. ..	54	26·2	48	24·0	59	29·5
Totals .. ..	522	29·57	531	30·3	547	31·3

Just as was the case in the preceding year, the Birth rates in Chorley and Croston sub-districts were higher than the average Birth rate throughout England and Wales, whilst the rate in Brindle, Leyland, and Rivington sub-districts were lower than the average.

Two hundred and fifty-three (253) Deaths were registered during the year, from which I estimate a Death rate of 14·40 per thousand per annum. In the preceding year, 1895, Three hundred and two (302) Deaths occurred, yielding a rate of 17·26 per thousand. The Death rate throughout England and Wales in 1896 has been estimated at 17·1 per thousand; so that, whether we compare the rate obtaining in 1896 in your District with that of 1895, or with the average Death rate of the country in 1896, we have reason for congratulation.

In several of the Townships comprised in your District the number of Deaths in 1896 was very markedly less than in 1895, as you will see from the following Table.

TABLE B.

Townships.		1896 Number of Deaths.	1895 Number of Deaths.	1896 Increase.	1896 Decrease.
Chorley Sub-District	Charnock Richard..	7	11	..	4
	Coppull .. ..	45	50	..	5
	Duxbury .. ..	4	1	3	..
	Heapey .. ..	7	5	2	..
	Welch Whittle ..	Nil.	Nil.	..	..
Brindle Sub-District	Brindle .. ..	14	13	1	..
	Hoghton .. ..	9	16	..	7
	Wheelton .. ..	19	30	..	11
Croston Sub-District	Bretherton ..	17	16	1	..
	Eccleston .. ..	16	12	4	..
	Heskin .. ..	9	11	..	2
	Mawdesley ..	12	18	..	6
	Ulnes Walton ..	3	12	..	9
Leyland Sub-District	Clayton-le-Woods..	8	17	..	9
	Cuerden .. ..	11	4	7	..
	Euxton .. ..	14	10	4	..
	Whittle-le-Woods..	47	44	3	..
Rivington Sub-District	Anderton .. ..	1	8	..	7
	Anglezarke ..	Nil.	1	..	1
	Heath Charnock ..	8	22	..	14
	Rivington .. ..	2	1	1	..
Totals .. ..		253	302	26	75

Cuerden yielded seven (7) more Deaths in 1896 than in 1895, Euxton and Eccleston four (4) each, Duxbury and Whittle-le-Woods three (3) each, Heapey two (2), and Brindle, Bretherton and Rivington one (1) each. On the other hand there was a decrease of fourteen (14) in Heath Charnock, eleven (11) in Wheelton, nine (9) in Ulnes Walton and Clayton-le-Woods respectively, seven (7) each in Anderton and Hoghton, six (6) in Mawdesley, five (5) in Coppull, four (4) in Charnock Richard, two (2) in Heskin, and one (1) in Anglezarke.

I give the Death rates in each sub-district in the next Table (Table C.), and compare them with similar statistics for the two preceding years.

TABLE C.

Sub-Districts.	1896.		1895.		1894.		1893.	
	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate.	No. of Deaths.	Death Rate.
Chorley .. ..	63	15.7	67	16.7	71	17.8	58	14.9
Brindle .. ..	42	11.9	59	16.6	46	12.9	79	22.0
Croston .. ..	57	15.7	69	19.0	56	15.3	62	17.1
Leyland .. ..	80	17.8	75	17.3	71	16.5	80	18.5
Rivington .. ..	11	5.4	32	16.0	18	9.0	25	12.5
Totals . . .	253	14.40	302	17.26	262	14.97	304	17.37

The most marked decrease in the Death rate has occurred in the Rivington sub-district. There is a decided decrease in Brindle and Croston and a slight decrease in Chorley sub-districts; whilst Leyland shows a little increase in the number of Deaths.

The decrease in the Mortality of 1896, obtained throughout each quarter of the year, as you will see from the following Table.

TABLE D.

Year.	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Totals.
1896	66	71	49	67	253
1895	86	73	60	83	302
1894	75	68	68	51	262
1893	68	86	72	78	304

Whilst the mortality in each quarter of 1896 was below that of the similar quarter of 1895, the number of Deaths in the first and third quarters in 1896 was lower than any recorded in the similar quarters of the three preceding years.

From Table E, in which the Deaths of each Sub-District are arranged under the respective Ages at which they occurred, you will see that the decrease in the number of Deaths in 1896 as compared with that in 1895 was chiefly in Adults between 25 and 65 years of age, and in old people, and to a less extent in Children between 1 and 5. There was, however, a slight increase in the Deaths of Infants under one year of age.

TABLE E.

Sub-Districts.	No. of Deaths under 1 Year of age.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	Totals.
Chorley .. ..	20	9	3	1	19	11	63
Brindle .. ..	12	1	1	5	10	13	42
Croston .. ..	10	3	6	2	20	16	57
Leyland .. ..	26	7	4	2	25	16	80
Rivington .. ..	4	1	1	..	4	1	11
Totals in 1896 ..	72	21	15	10	78	57	253
Totals in 1895 ..	68	31	17	10	101	75	302

The Infantile Mortality, estimated from the ratio between the number of Deaths of Infants under one year and the registered Births, was at the rate of 134 per thousand. This rate is not quite so satisfactory as that obtaining in 1895, viz., 128 per thousand, but it is below the average rate of Infantile Mortality for the last ten years throughout the country, viz., 148 per thousand.

In the next Table (Table F) I arrange the Deaths of 1896 under the respective Causes to which they were due, and compare them with a similar classification of Deaths occurring in 1895, and show the Increase or Decrease of Mortality in each disease.

TABLE F.

Cause of Death.	Deaths in 1896	Deaths in 1895	Increase.	Decrease.
Scarlet Fever .. ..	1	2	..	1
Diphtheria .. ..	1	1	..	..
Membranous Croup ..	5	4	1	..
Typhoid Fever .. ..	5	4	1	..
Intermittent Fever ..	1	..	1	..
Puerperal Fever .. ..	4	2	2	..
Erysipelas .. ..	2	1	1	..
Measles .. ..	2	..	2	..
Whooping Cough .. ..	2	2	..	..
Influenza .. ..	3	11	..	8
Diarrhœa and Dysentery ..	3	1	2	..
Rheumatic Fever .. ..	3	1	2	..
Phthisis .. ..	12	20	..	8
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy .. ..	47	50	..	3
Heart Disease .. ..	33	24	9	..
Injuries .. ..	12	8	4	..
All other Diseases .. ..	117	171	..	54
Totals .. ..	253	302	25	74

The decreased Mortality in 1896 was chiefly due to a very marked decline in Deaths caused by Influenza, Phthisis, and diseases not otherwise specified, whilst Zymotic Diseases and Diseases of Heart showed an increase.

The Death rate from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases in 1896 was 1·07 per thousand. This is not so good a rate as the one I reported to you for 1895, viz., 0·68 per thousand. It is, however, markedly below the Zymotic Death rate of England and Wales in 1896, viz., 2·18 per thousand.

Though the Zymotic Death rate has been somewhat higher in 1896 than in 1895, the number of Infectious Cases reported to me has been smaller than in the previous year, as you will see from the following Table.

TABLE G.

Years	Small Pox.	Diphtheria.	Mem-branous Croup.	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Typhoid Fever.	Other Fevers.	Puer-peral Fever.	Totals.
1896	..	6	3	67	23	31	2	1	133
1895	..	28	3	101	30	25	2	2	191
1894	..	31	3	51	26	33	1	..	145
1893	6	2	3	67	13	32	5	2	130

Cases of Zymotic Diseases have been reported from every Township in your District during 1896, but there have been considerably fewer notifications than in 1895. This decrease has been most marked in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever; only six (6) cases of the former disease having been notified in 1896 instead of twenty-eight (28) in 1895, and sixty-seven (67) instances of Scarlet Fever in 1896 against one hundred and one (101) in 1895. Whittle-le-Woods again yielded the greatest number of Zymotic Cases—thirty-seven (37), Coppull twenty-nine (29), and Clayton-le-Woods and Heath Charnock each ten (10).

I have arranged in Table II the notifications of each Zymotic Disease under the several Townships, and compared the total number of cases reported from each Township in 1896 with the number notified in 1895.

TABLE II.

Townships.	Diphtheria.	Croup.	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Typhoid Fever.	Other Fevers	Puer-peral Fever.	Totals in 1896.	Totals in 1895.
Charnock Richard..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1
Coppull ..	..	..	17	6	5	..	1	29	27
Duxbury ..	..	1	1	1	1	..	..	4	2
Heapey ..	1	..	2	..	2	..	..	5	4
Welch Whittle ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
Brindle ..	1	..	2	..	4	..	..	7	16
Hoghton ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	5
Wheelton ..	..	..	3	1	1	..	..	5	10
Bretherton ..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2	3
Eccleston ..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	3	2
Heskin ..	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	4	1
Mawdesley ..	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	4	32
Ulnes Walton ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Clayton-le-Woods ..	2	..	5	1	2	..	..	10	7
Cuerden ..	..	..	4	..	1	..	..	5	3
Euxton ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	6
Whittle-le-Woods..	2	1	20	8	5	1	..	37	47
Anderton ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	3
Anglezarke ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
Heath Charnock ..	..	..	3	3	3	1	..	10	13
Rivington ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	6
Totals ..	6	3	67	23	31	2	1	133	191

Six (6) cases of Diphtheria have been reported to me during the year, but only one (1) proved fatal. The cases occurred in Whittle-le-Woods, two (2); Clayton-le-Woods, two (2); and Brindle and Heapey one (1) each.

Scarlet Fever has been notified to me every month in the year except August, (the greatest number of cases having been reported in January), and from fourteen out of the twenty-one Townships. Whittle-le-Woods yielded twenty (20) cases, and Coppull seventeen (17). The disease was of a very mild character, and only one (1) Death has resulted out of sixty-seven notified cases.

Thirty-one (31) cases of Typhoid Fever have been reported, and one (1) each of Relapsing Fever, Continued Fever, and Puerperal Fever. The number of cases of Typhoid Fever is about the average since the adoption of the Notification Act. Five (5) Deaths have resulted from this disease, one (1) from Relapsing Fever and four (4) from Puerperal Fever, three (3) of which were not notified prior to death.

Measles has been prevalent in some Townships, notably Rivington and Heath Charnock; and I requested the Managers of the Rivington Elementary School to close in July for three weeks.

In connection with the subject of Zymotic Diseases, I regret to say that very little progress has been made in the matter of the Infectious Hospital. A site was purchased in Heath Charnock in 1895, but in making plans for the building great difficulty was experienced in the matter of sewage disposal. The Manchester Corporation, apprehensive of the possibility of the sewage overflow percolating into the Thirlmere Aqueduct, objected to the proposed system of sewage disposal. In company with the Medical Officer of Health for Manchester and the County Medical Officer, I visited the site, and another method of drainage was discussed and decided upon. However, the Infectious Hospital Board were not able to secure from the adjoining landowners the necessary way-leave and site for the treatment of the sewage. The Board have now made an advantageous transfer of site for the erection of the Hospital, and secured ample land for treatment of sewage. In October a deputation, including one of your Councillors, your Surveyor, and myself, had an interview with one of the medical officers and an architect of the Local Government Board, and several modifications of the original plans were suggested by them and subsequently adopted by the Infectious Hospital Board. Plans and estimates have been before the Local Government Board for some months, and they have given notice that an Inspector will hold an inquiry on March 31st, so that we may reasonably hope that steps will be immediately taken towards the erection of this most necessary institution.

I beg to recommend your Council to authorise your officers to make use of the Chorley Corporation Disinfecting Apparatus for the purpose of disinfecting clothing, bedding, &c., contaminated by Zymotic Diseases, in every case where practicable. The Corporation have a tariff of charges for such use in case of Infectious Disease outside the Borough. The chief difficulty will be in the conveying of Infected articles to the Disinfecting and removing them when disinfected. I think that your Council might take this subject into your consideration.

The Sewage Works in the various Townships under your jurisdiction have on the whole been well attended to, and have acted satisfactorily.

*Coppull.*—Several complaints were made to your Council of the neglect of the caretaker of the Spendmore Lane Tanks, and you have appointed another man in his place. Your Council has given directions for the construction of a tank to receive the sandwashing water from the filters, which will be pumped into the precipitation tanks for retreatment. This re-treatment is quite necessary, but hitherto in almost all the Sewage Works on the International system throughout the country it has not been employed. The erection of a Pumping Station to raise the sandwashing water has been ordered, and this will enable you to carry out the requirements of the Local Government Board for the irrigation upon land.

The Parish Council of Coppull has requested you to go on with the drainage of Church Lane and Coppull Moor Districts. Plans and estimates have been drawn up by your Surveyor. I hope that the work will be proceeded with during the next year, so that this populous and increasing Township may be put into a thoroughly sanitary state.

The Sewering of the Grey Horse District has also received your attention, and land has been sought to be acquired from Lady Fanshawe for tanks according to the plans of your Surveyor. The necessity of this Sewer, formerly urgent owing to the liability of the water supply to the houses in this district being fouled, is not now so apparent since the establishment of the Public Water Supply, and I think with periodical attention to the clearing out of the ditches no further action need be taken at present.

*Heapey and Wheelton.*—The land for irrigation purposes has been drained and the Sewage Works are now in good order.

*Whittle-le-Woods and Clayton-le-Woods.*—The Sewage Works for these Townships have been completed and are in working order. The Sewering of Rock Villa Road is now in hand, and will shortly be finished. Owing to the number of newly-erected houses in Preston Road, *Clayton-le-Woods*, an extension of the sewers has been rendered necessary. Various schemes have been discussed by your Council and you have resolved to extend the main sewer along Preston Road northwards as far as St. Bede's Roman Catholic Church. Plans and estimates have been before your Council and received your approval.

*Euxton.*—I cannot report favourably about the Sewage Works in this Township. The tanks are too small, and there is not sufficient space of irrigation ground for the effluent to flow over.

*Ecclleston.*—Some alterations and improvements have been made in the Sewage Works in this Township, and the land is to be under-drained and means used for bringing the whole of the irrigating area under use.

*Heath Charnock.*—The question of the Sewering of Rawlinson Lane has been under discussion. Plans have been made by your Surveyor which will probably occupy your attention during the year.

The subject of Water Supply to the various Townships has occupied a great amount of your time and thought.

*Heath Charnock.*—The Parish Council has evinced much anxiety to obtain a good supply of water. Your Council contemplated obtaining a supply from the Liverpool Corporation Waterworks and several analyses of the water from the goit above Allance Bridge were made for that purpose. The Manchester Corporation were interviewed in order to waive their right of supply, but before a reply was obtained from that body another scheme was propounded by Mr. Beck, and received the support of your Council. You have determined to obtain a supply from the Thirlmere Aqueduct passing through the Township, and the Manchester Corporation has agreed to waive the two years' notice and give the supply immediately the works are erected and the pipes laid. A site for the Pumping Station has been acquired, and plans and estimates of the cost of the supply have been laid before you, and have received your approval, and are now awaiting the consideration of the Local Government Board.

*Coppull.*—The Water Supply of this Township has been practically completed by the addition of mains laid towards Grey Horse District, Bogburn Lane, and Clincutts Lane.

The Water Charges have received the sanction of the Local Government Board, and now this Township, which was so destitute of water for domestic purposes, is provided with an ample supply of good water.

It will be a matter for your consideration whether the existing wells which have never yielded a thoroughly satisfactory supply either in quality or quantity should not be closed.

*Mawdesley.*—Part of this Township is badly supplied with water. I made a report to your Council on the subject, and at the instigation of the Parish Council of Mawdesley you directed your Clerk to write to the various owners of property insufficiently provided with water, stating that unless an adequate supply were provided in three months, your Council would consider the question of making such supply. I recommend this subject again to your careful consideration. A well in this Township has been cleared out, and with further improvement will yield a tolerably satisfactory supply.

*Heapey*.—The Parish Council of Heapey sent a resolution to your Council calling attention to the insufficient supply of water to several of the Farms in that Township, and requesting you to urge upon the Landlords the necessity of making a better provision of water to their property. An analysis of water from a spring on Mr. Wiggans' farm yielded very good results, and I recommend that this water should be conveyed to the Station Cottages and neighbourhood.

*Brindle*.—A well at Jack Green has been repaired, and a well near Mr. Joseph Hatch's house has been constructed, and a pipe carried to the main road. The Water Supply to Messrs. Bourne's Mill Cottages has been analysed and found to be polluted. Typhoid Fever has occurred in houses supplied by this water, and the matter has received both your attention and that of the Parish Council. I consider this subject ought to be taken in hand at the earliest possible opportunity.

*Charnock Richard*.—The Parish Council have written to your Council stating that owing to the detached character of the houses it would be a very costly matter to make a general water supply from extraneous sources. The well near the Post Office is now being cleaned out, pipes laid, and a stand pipe erected.

*Bretherton*.—A well at Moss Lane End has been repaired and a pump erected.

*Whittle-le-Woods*.—This Township is still badly supplied with water. A bore hole has been sunk in order to find good water, but analysis does not yet yield satisfactory results.

Certificates of Sufficient Water Supply have been applied for in the case of eighty (80) newly-erected houses, viz., Clayton-le-Woods, twenty-five (25); Euxton, nine (9); Bretherton, (8); Coppull seven (7), Whittle-le-Woods and Heapey six (6) each, Heath Charnock (5), Wheelton four (4), Eccleston three (3), Mawdesley, Heskin, and Anderton two (2) each, and Duxbury one (1).

Samples of Food and Drugs have been taken and subjected to analysis in twenty-two (22) instances, viz., Butter six (6), Whisky eight (8), Lard one (1), Vinegar one (1), Sulphur one (1), Cinna-mon one (1), and Coffee two (2). No prosecution has been instituted.

I have seized and caused the carcase of a cow dressed for food to be condemned.

The ordinary work of the year has been carried on as usual.

I annex a Table with a List of the various Nuisances ordered to be abated and Sanitary Improvements made.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES A. HARRIS, M.D. (LOND.)

Medical Officer of Health.

Townships.	Drains laid, repaired, or cleaned out.	Privies erected or repaired.	Dirty Houses or Houses infected with Fever, lime washed and disinfected.	Water supply improved.	Common nuisances abated.	Totals.
Charnock .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Coppull .. ..	4	..	16	..	2	22
Duxbury .. ..	1	..	1	..	..	2
Heapey .. ..	2	..	4	..	..	6
Brindle .. ..	7	1	5	2	..	15
Hoghton .. ..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Wheelton .. ..	..	..	3	..	..	3
Bretherton .. ..	3	..	..	1	..	4
Eccleston .. ..	5	..	..	..	2	7
Heskin .. ..	2	..	3	..	..	5
Mawdesley .. ..	1	1	3	..	..	5
Ulnes Walton .. ..	3	..	..	..	..	3
Clayton-le-Woods .. ..	1	1	1	..	..	3
Cuerden .. ..	1	..	4	..	..	5
Euxton .. ..	2	..	..	..	1	3
Whittle-le-Woods .. ..	21	..	9	..	..	30
Anderton .. ..	7	..	..	..	1	8
Anglezarke .. ..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Heath Charnock .. ..	2	..	1	..	2	5
Rivington .. ..	1	..	1	..	..	2
Totals .. ..	63	3	53	3	9	131

