

**[Report 1898] / Medical Officer of Health, Chorley R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Chorley (England). Rural District Council.

**Publication/Creation**

1898

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/edp3ct47>

**License and attribution**

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



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



---

CHORLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

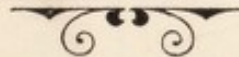
---

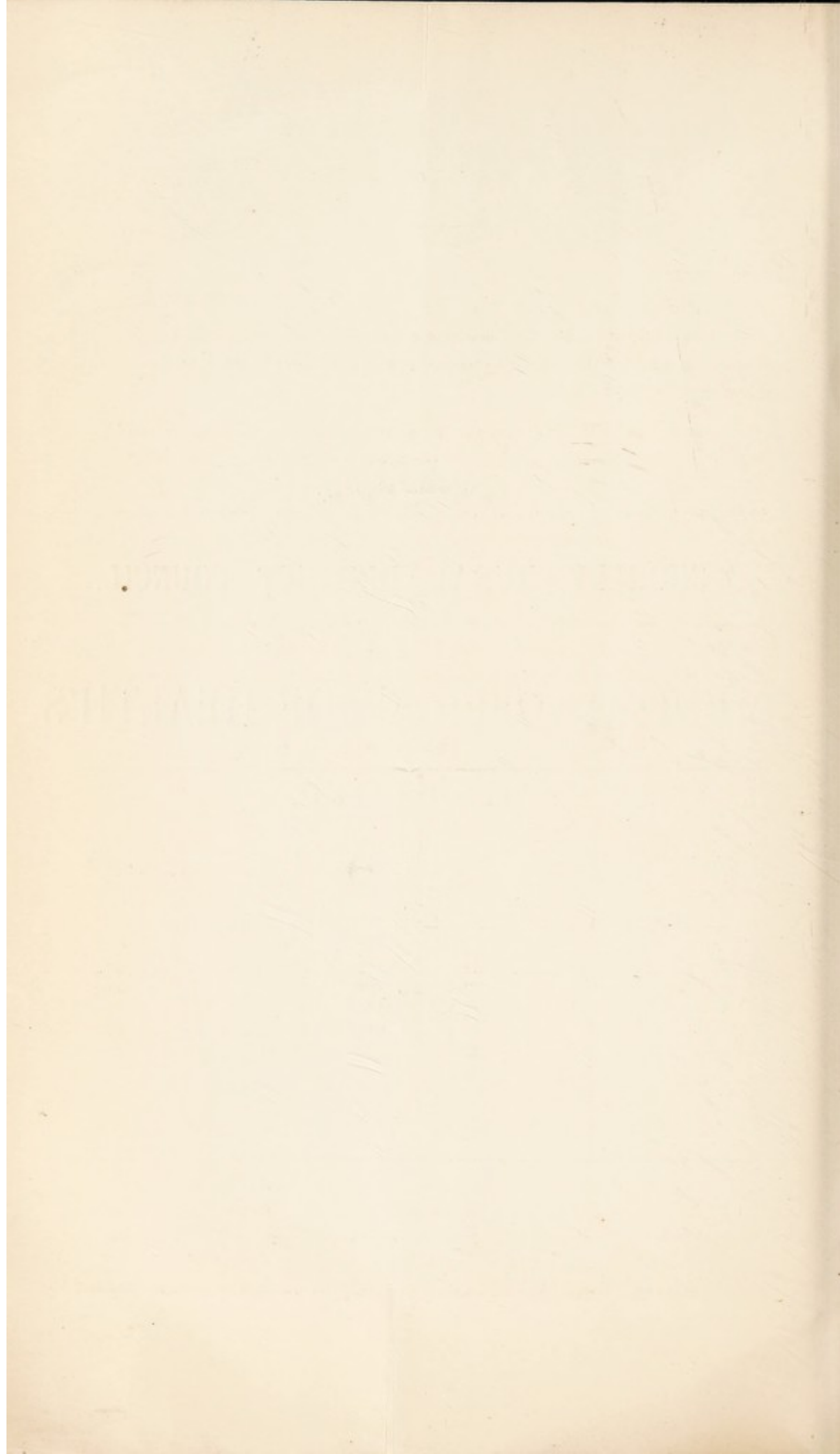
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S  
REPORT.

---

1898.

---





CHORLEY,

MARCH, 1899.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHORLEY.

GENTLEMEN,—

Whereas in my report to your Council for the year 1897, I had to note an increased Birth-rate and Death-rate—in this my report for the year ending December 31st, 1898, you will observe that both these rates are lower than in the preceding year.

The Birth-rate throughout the country has been gradually declining and in 1898 it was below any previously recorded, viz., 29·4. I have calculated the rate in your district upon an estimated population of 18,100 at 29·4 per thousand, the number of Births registered during the year being Five hundred and thirty-two (532), as compared with a rate in 1897 of 30·4 per thousand obtained from Five hundred and forty-eight (548) Births. It will be seen that the Birth-rate of the Chorley Rural District is exactly the same as the average rate throughout the country. From Table A you will see that the sub-districts of Chorley and Leyland have yielded higher rates than the average of England and Wales, Croston almost the exact average, whilst in Brindle, and, especially, in Rivington the Birth-rate is very considerably below the average.

Table A.

Sub-Districts.	1898.		1897.		1896.	
	Number of Births.	Birth Rate.	Number of Births.	Birth Rate.	Number of Births.	Birth Rate.
Chorley .....	142	34·5	143	35·0	133	33·2
Brindle .....	90	25·3	92	25·9	94	26·8
Croston .....	109	29·3	119	32·5	109	30·0
Leyland .....	142	30·9	131	28·5	132	29·4
Rivington .....	49	22·7	63	30·3	54	26·2
Totals.....	532	29·4	548	30·4	522	29·57

Two hundred and Seventy-nine (279) Males, and Two hundred and Fifty three (253) Females were born during the year. Whilst it is not satisfactory to report an almost constant and gradual decrease in the Birth-rate, which has been the case not only in your District, but throughout England and Wales for many years, it is much more pleasing to draw your attention to the decrease in the Death-rate in the Rural district of Chorley in 1898.



Two hundred and eighty-four (284) deaths—one hundred and forty-seven (147) Males, and one hundred and thirty-seven (137) Females were registered during the year; yielding upon the same estimated population (18,100) a rate of 15.59. In my report for 1897 I had to note a rate of 16.77 obtained from Three hundred and two (302) Deaths during the year.

The Death-rate throughout England and Wales in 1898 was 17.6 or 2 per thousand more than that obtaining in your district in the same period. If we exclude the large Urban populations throughout the country, and compare our Death-rate with the remaining more or less Rural districts we find that the average rate of such districts in 1898 was 16.7, or 1.1 per thousand more than the rate yielded in the Rural District of Chorley. From Table B you will be able to ascertain in which townships the decrease in the number of deaths was most manifest.

Table B.

Townships.		1898. Number of Deaths.	1897 . Number of Deaths.	1898. Increase.	1898. Decrease.
Chorley Sub-District.	Charnock-Richard .....	9	8	1	—
	Coppull .....	49	55	—	6
	Duxbury .....	1	4	—	3
	Heapey .....	3	7	—	4
	Welch Whittle .....	1	3	—	2
Brindle Sub-District.	Brindle .....	12	15	—	3
	Hoghton .....	11	10	1	—
	Wheelton .....	33	20	13	—
Croston Sub-District.	Bretherton .....	11	19	—	8
	Eccleston .....	20	15	5	—
	Heskin .....	5	11	—	6
	Mawdesley .....	11	16	—	5
	Ulnes Walton .....	8	8	—	—
Leyland Sub-District.	Clayton-le-Woods .....	15	14	1	—
	Cuerden .....	8	4	4	—
	Euxton .....	13	23	—	10
	Whittle-le-Woods .....	46	41	5	—
Rivington Sub-District.	Anderton .....	7	6	1	—
	Anglezarke .....	2	1	1	—
	Heath-Charnock .....	14	12	2	—
	Rivington .....	5	10	—	5
Totals .....		284	302	34	52

Euxton, Bretherton, Heskin, Coppull, Mawdesley, and Rivington show the most marked decrease in deaths—whilst Cuerden, Eccleston, Whittle-le-Woods, and more especially Wheelton have yielded a larger number of Deaths in 1898 than in 1897.

Table C gives the Deaths occurring in each quarter of 1898 as compared with the number of Deaths in the corresponding quarters of 1897.

Table C.

Year.	First Quarter.	Second Quarter.	Third Quarter.	Fourth Quarter.	Total.
1898 ...	81	70	65	68	284
1897 ...	83	74	59	86	302

The Deaths in each quarter of 1898 were less numerous than in the corresponding quarter of 1897 except in the third quarter, when there was a slight increase. This decrease was most marked in the last quarter of the year.

The Ages at which the various deaths in each sub-district occurred are given in Table D, and the total number of Deaths in 1898 at these Ages are compared with similar totals in 1897.

Table D.

Sub-Districts.	Deaths at Subjoined Ages.						Total
	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Chorley ...	25	4	2	4	15	13	63
Brindle ...	11	3	4	5	12	21	56
Croston ...	7	4	3	5	20	16	55
Leyland ...	25	7	3	2	21	24	82
Rivington ...	6	2	1	—	13	6	28
Totals in 1898	74	20	13	16	81	80	284
Totals in 1897	77	33	15	18	84	75	302

In only one Age group were there more Deaths registered in 1898 than in 1897, viz., in old people of 65 years of age and upwards, whilst in each of the other groups, most noticeably in children between one and five years of age, there was a decrease.



The Infantile Mortality or the ratio between the number of Deaths under one year and the number of Births was in your district One hundred and thirty-nine (139) per thousand, as compared with One hundred and forty (140) in 1897 and One hundred and sixty-one (161) per thousand, the average Infantile Mortality throughout England and Wales in 1898. I regret, however, to say, that though this is less than in 1897, it is more than in either 1896—one hundred and thirty-four (134), and in 1895 One hundred and twenty-eight (128) per thousand.

I now give in Table E the number of Deaths due to the several causes in 1898 and 1897, and note the increase or decrease due to each Cause.

Table E.

Cause of Death.	Deaths in 1898.	Deaths in 1897.	Increase in 1898.	De- crease in 1898.
Scarlet Fever .....	4	3	1	—
Diphtheria .....	1	2	—	1
Membranous Croup .....	2	4	—	2
Typhoid Fever ..	2	5	—	3
Intermittent Fever .....	—	1	—	1
Relapsing Fever. ....	1	—	1	—
Puerperal Fever.....	—	3	—	3
Erysipelas .....	1	1	—	—
Measles .....	—	9	—	9
Whooping Cough .....	—	2	—	2
Influenza .....	4	11	—	7
Diarrhœa and Dysentery.....	10	3	7	—
Rheumatic Fever .....	2	1	1	—
Phthisis .....	14	18	—	4
Bronchitis, Pneumonia, & Pleurisy...	46	56	—	10
Heart Disease .....	23	28	—	5
Injuries .....	13	10	3	—
All other Diseases.....	161	145	16	—
Totals.....	284	302	29	47

Zymotic Diseases, with the exception of Diarrhœa and Disease of Lungs, were markedly less fatal in 1898 than in 1897; but Diarrhœa and Diseases not otherwise specified yielded a larger number of deaths.

The decrease in the number of Deaths from Diseases of the Lungs may for the most part be attributed to the mild winter; whilst the increase in the Deaths from Diarrhœa was probably caused by the unusually hot summer of 1898. It has been ascertained that prolonged hot weather raising the tempera-

ture of the ground to a high level is the most constant antecedent of Diarrhœa. When the temperature of the ground four feet below the surface reaches 54 degrees Fahr. Diarrhœa begins to prevail and the cases become more numerous with each additional degree of temperature recorded, decreasing also as the ground temperature declines. When in addition to the ground heat there are nuisances present, such as slop water or sewage on the surface, leaking drains, &c., the probabilities of Diarrhœa occurring become very great. It cannot be too strongly urged upon householders that, whilst it is right and proper to keep their premises clean, and the drains in a satisfactory condition at all times, such action is doubly necessary after a prolonged period of drought and heat.

The Zymotic Death-rate for the seven principal Zymotic Diseases in 1891 was only .99 per thousand, which is a considerable improvement on the rate of 1.55 obtaining in your district in 1897; and also a marked contrast to the average Zymotic rate throughout England and Wales during 1898, viz., 2.22 per thousand. This marked decrease was chiefly due to the absence of any Deaths from Measles.

One hundred and three (103) cases of Zymotic Diseases were reported to me in 1898. This number is below that of any year, except 1892, since you adopted the Infectious Diseases Notification Act. I have compared the number of cases of each Zymotic Disease in 1898 with the numbers reported in each of the four preceding years in Table F.

Table F.

Years.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Scarlet Fever.	Erysipelas.	Typhoid Fever.	Other Fevers.	Puerperal Fever.	Totals.
1898...	11	2	36	22	27	5	—	103
1897...	7	—	32	22	43	1	3	108
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

The cases of Typhoid Fever reported in 1898 were markedly fewer than those in 1897; Erysipelas yielded in the two years exactly the same number of cases—whilst the cases of Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, and other Fevers were somewhat more numerous in 1898 than in the preceding year.

In Table G the cases of each Zymotic Disease are grouped under the respective townships in which they occurred, and the total number of cases in each township are compared with similar totals which obtained during 1897.



Table G.

Townships.	Mem- branous Croup.	Diph- theria.	Scarlet Fever.	Ery- sipelas.	Typhoid Fever.	Other Fevers	Puer- peral Fever.	1898 Totals	1897 Totals
Charnock Richard	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Coppull.....	—	—	7	2	9	1	—	19	29
Duxbury.....	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	2
Heapey.....	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	3
Welch Whittle...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Brindle.....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Hoghton.....	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	4	5
Wheelton.....	1	—	3	1	1	—	—	6	16
Bretherton.....	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
Eccleston.....	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	3
Heskin.....	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	11	4
Mawdesley.....	—	—	3	—	6	—	—	9	—
Ulnes Walton....	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	1
Clayton-le-Woods.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Cuerden.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Euxton.....	—	—	4	2	1	—	—	7	8
Whittle-le-Woods	1	7	—	5	2	1	—	16	12
Anderton.....	—	—	2	4	—	1	—	7	1
Anglezarke.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heath Charnock..	—	—	1	3	5	2	—	11	9
Rivington.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Totals....	2	11	36	22	27	5	--	103	108

You will notice no cases of Zymotic Diseases were notified from Welch Whittle, Anglezarke, Rivington, Clayton-le-Woods, and Cuerden; and in the other townships the numbers varied from one (1) in Charnock-Richard, Brindle, and Bretherton, to sixteen (16) in Whittle-le-woods, and to nineteen (19) in Coppull.

Eleven (11) cases of Diphtheria were notified to me, viz., from Whittle-le-Woods seven (7), Ulnes Walton three (3) in the same house, and Hoghton one (1), but only one (1) case was fatal which occurred at Ulnes-Walton. The houses infected with Diphtheria were by your direction ordered to be cleaned and lime-washed.

Thirty-six (36) cases of Scarlet Fever have been reported in 1898, as compared with thirty-two (32) in 1897. Heskin yielded eleven (11) cases, Coppull seven (7), Euxton four (4), Wheelton, Eccleston, and Mawdesley three (3) each, Anderton two (2), and Duxbury, Heath-Charnock, and Heapey one (1) each. Four (4) Deaths were registered from this disease, yielding a rate of 11 per cent. of those attacked. To each of the infected houses disinfectants were supplied and the houses were ordered to be cleansed and lime-washed after the disease had subsided.

Typhoid Fever has been notified in twenty-seven (27) instances, and twenty (20) of these have been reported from three townships, viz., Nine (9) from Coppull, six (6) from Mawdesley, and five (5) from Heath-Charnock. The disease has again been of a mild type, as only two (2) Deaths, or 7.4 per cent. of



those attacked, resulted : viz., one (1) at Brindle and Coppull respectively. The cases were widely separated and no general cause of infection was discovered. Where sanitary defects were ascertained, orders have been issued by your Council to make the necessary alterations, and the infected houses have been supplied with disinfectants and subsequently lime-washed.

Measles has not been prevalent in any township except Brindle, and no deaths resulted. I had, however, to recommend the closing of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic School, in Brindle, owing to the number of cases of this disease in that neighbourhood.

Towards the close of the year Mumps was unusually rife at Rivington. I therefore recommended the Managers of the Elementary School to close their school.

Influenza which caused four (4) Deaths was more or less prevalent in many of the townships at the beginning and end of the year. In 1897 eleven (11) deaths from this Disease were registered.

I am glad to be able to give you a satisfactory report as to progress in the erection of the Infectious Hospital. The building was commenced in the summer of 1898, and has so far proceeded that all the wards are completed and the administrative blocks nearly finished. The foundation stone was laid by the Chairman of the Joint Hospital Board in September, in the presence of many members of your Council. I hope in my next Annual Report to be able to state that the Hospital is ready for the reception of patients, and in full working order. I am sure that no greater benefit could be conferred upon the district than the provision of this Hospital, to which any one suffering from Infectious Disease can be conveyed and there efficiently nursed and attended to without the liability of infecting other people.

Considerable work has been done in sewerage some of the townships.

COPPULL.—The Local Government Board have held an inquiry about the drainage of the Church-lane and Coppull Moor district, and sanctioned a loan of £4,930 to your Council. Contracts have been entered into for the laying of the sewers, and land has been obtained for the purification works and irrigation. You have adopted the latest type of purification tanks on the continuous flow principle, with automatic discharge on the polarite and sand filters. The effluent from these filters will be discharged on to an irrigation area before passing into the stream.



The settling tanks and filters in Spendmore-lane are now acting well, and the effluent is being pumped up on to higher land, for the purpose of irrigation before entering into the stream. Ventilating shafts have been erected to relieve the pressure of sewer gas, near the Oak Tree, &c., &c. Your Council has directed that some drainage be undertaken at the Grey Horse district.

CLAYTON-LE-WOODS AND WHITTLE-LE-WOODS.—Subsequent to an inquiry by the Local Government Board Inspector, the Scheme prepared by your Surveyor was approved by that Board. A loan of £1,232 was sanctioned—tenders were advertised for and the contract let. The work was nearly completed at the end of the year.

Your Council has agreed to the requirements of the Local Government Board that the effluent from the purification works at Whittle-le-Woods should be at all times irrigated over land before passing into the stream, and your Surveyor was directed to prepare the land for that purpose. The Ribble Pollution Prevention Committee have analysed the effluents from these and the other works under your jurisdiction, and have generally reported very favourably upon them.

ECCLESTON.—The irrigation area at these works became water-logged, and your Council has given directions that the effluent from the precipitation tanks be conveyed by pipes on to a larger portion of the land. This will render the water discharged into the stream much more satisfactory than heretofore.

EUXTON.—This scheme has been improved during the year by increasing the area of the sludge lagoons and of the irrigation land.

WHEELTON AND HEAPEY.—These works continue to act satisfactorily.

MAWDESLEY.—The Ribble Pollution Prevention Committee complained to your Council that the drainage from sixty houses was finding its way into Bentley Brook. The township was visited by a sub-committee of the Council, and the Surveyor was directed to make plans and estimates for the efficient drainage of the district. These plans, &c., were submitted to your Council, and by your order laid before the Mawdesley Parish Council, who sent a deputation to you to object to the scheme and to propose an alternative plan. I recommended that the scheme proposed by your Surveyor or some similar one be adopted by you during the ensuing year.

HEATH-CHARNOCK.—A new drain has been laid in Rawlinson-lane to take the sewage from the houses in that lane, and in Bolton-road.

The question of Water Supply to some of the townships has occupied a great deal of your attention during the year.

WHITTLE-LE-WOODS.—Not much progress has been made in this township in 1898. The water from the Bore Hole made by the Parish Council near the Oddfellows Arms has been several times analysed and found of a fairly good



character. A sub-committee was appointed to visit the locality, and your Council requested the Parish Council of Whittle-le-Woods to give their opinion to you as to what steps they desired to be taken in the matter. Suggestions were made by the Parish Council that Two hundred and twenty (220) houses on Whittle Hill, &c., be supplied by water from the Bore Hole, that a wind engine be erected to pump the water into a reservoir, and that stand pipes be placed along the main road. Subsequently a comprehensive scheme for supplying the townships of Heapey, Wheelton, Clayton-le-Woods, Whittle-le-Woods, and Euxton, was by your order prepared by your Surveyor, and along with the estimated cost submitted to you. Nine hundred and fifty (950) houses would be supplied by this scheme with water from the Thirlmere Aqueduct at a total cost of £7,200, exclusive of the price of the water. I must say that in my opinion this large scheme seems more satisfactory than any that has been brought under your notice, as it will furnish the whole of Whittle-le-Woods with a constant supply of water of known excellence.

HEATH-CHARNOCK AND ANDERTON.—The Manchester Corporation have agreed to supply this district with water from the Thirlmere Aqueduct. During the year this subject has been repeatedly under discussion, and an improved scheme has been prepared by your Surveyor, and has received your approval, and also that of the Local Government Board. Fresh sites for the Storage reservoir and pumping stations have been secured—a loan has been sanctioned by the Local Government Board, and at the close of the year tenders for portions of the work were considered by your Council. The contracts are now let and the work is proceeding satisfactorily.

BRINDLE.—As I stated in my report for 1897, Messrs. Bourne's cottages are not supplied with good water. Your Council appointed a deputation to interview the Walton-le-Dale Urban Council with a view to that Authority providing a supply from their mains, which run near these cottages. Subsequently the Manchester Water Committee have given permission to the Walton-le-Dale Council to supply water to your Council for this locality, and also to Mr. Whitehead, of Brindle Lodge, to supply his house and four farms. I trust that this very necessary work will be carried out during the ensuing year, as the district is much in need of a supply of good water.

MAWDESLEY.—Your Officers have visited this township and examined again into the Water Supply. Several houses near the Church have no wholesome water for use and your Council are intending to give notice to the owners of such houses to provide a proper supply.

During the year a County Council enquiry was held as to the transference of a portion of Wheelton from your council to the Urban District of Withnell: sanction has been given and this small district transferred.



Urban powers have been granted to several townships by the Local Government Board during the year under section 47, sub section 3.

Twenty (20) samples of food and drugs have been submitted to the County Analyst by the Police during the year ; but in no case has there been adulteration to warrant prosecution. The articles submitted were as follows : Whiskey, eight (8), Gin, three (3), Rum, two (2), Butter, three (3), Milk, two (2), Tincture of Rhubarb, two (2).

Certificates of sufficient water supply have been granted for twenty-seven (27) newly erected houses, viz. : Coppull, seven (7), Whittle-le-Woods, six (6), Hoghton, five (5), Wheelton, Eccleston, and Ulnes Walton, two (2) each ; and Mawdesley, Euxton, and Heath Charnock, one (1) each.

In conclusion, I append Table H in which I give a list of the various orders issued by your Council to abate nuisances or to remedy sanitary defects.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

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

Table H.

Townships.	Drains Laid, Repaired or Cleaned Out.	Privies Erected or Repaired	Dirty Houses, or Houses Infected with Fever, Lime-Washed and Disinfected.	Water Supply Im- proved.	Other Nuisances Abated.	Totals.
Coppull .....	2	6	6	—	—	14
Duxbury .....	1	—	—	—	—	1
Heapey .....	1	—	1	—	1	3
Brindle.....	12	5	2	—	—	19
Hoghton .....	1	—	2	—	—	3
Wheelton .....	3	—	1	—	—	4
Bretherton .....	1	—	—	—	2	3
Eccleston.....	1	2	3	—	1	7
Heskin .....	1	—	4	—	—	5
Mawdesley .....	3	2	3	—	—	8
Ulnes Walton.....	4	—	1	—	1	6
Clayton-le-Woods..	1	—	—	—	—	1
Cuerden .....	1	—	—	—	—	1
Euxton.....	3	—	2	—	—	5
Whittle-le-Woods...	6	2	—	—	—	8
Anderton .....	—	—	1	—	—	1
Heath Charnock....	4	1	4	—	—	9
Rivington.....	1	—	—	2	—	3
Totals.....	46	18	30	2	5	101

