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CHORLEY
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



Annual Report

For 1925

BY

JOHN RIGBY

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

AND

HERBERT F. FROES

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE

FOR THE YEAR
1881

IN
1881

BY
J. H. HARRIS

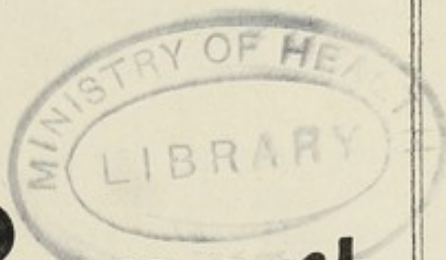
CHIEF OF THE LAND OFFICE

REPORT OF THE
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TO THE CHORLEY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

The Ministry of Health state that every five years the annual report of the Medical Officer should be augmented so as to give a resume of the steps that have taken place during the last five years for the improvement of the conditions and general health of the population.

In order that the reports of the Medical Officers of Health of the different areas are drawn up on some common plan, the Ministry have forwarded a scheme, and this will be followed in the subsequent report.

Most of the information required in this scheme you will have already received through the quarterly reports, but the information is now required by the Ministry. They require to know full particulars of the general health of the population in this area, the advancements made in regard to sanitation, and the housing conditions of the people so that they may come to some conclusions for their Annual Report.

Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

The extent of the Chorley Rural District stretches over an area of 39,983 acres. In this area at the last census, which was in 1921, there was a population of 21,837 persons, and up to the present year this has increased to 22,510 persons.

The physical features of the area varies in the different townships. In the Western townships the contour is flat and open to the sea, which is about eleven miles distant. On the Eastern boundary there are the hills, part of the Pennine Chain. The Eastern townships are, therefore, of a more hilly contour.

The climate is temperate, but the rainfall is above the average of that for the country. This is due to the prevailing wind being westerly and the hills being on the eastern limit of the area.

The housing of the population in the area compares favourably with that of the country. At the last estimation there were 4,804 inhabited houses, and these were divided amongst 4,895 families, each family averaging between 4 or 5 persons.

The rateable value of the district is calculated to be £186,313, and the amount which is raised by a penny rate is £660.

The occupation of the people varies in the different townships. The majority are agriculturalists, farming small areas, the farms being generally worked by the occupier with the help of his family. Most of the land is laid in grass for grazing, for the raising of stock and the production of milk. For the area there are 635 cowkeepers, and of these 281 produce milk for sale.

In the Coppull and Duxbury districts the occupation is coal mining, whilst in Mawdesley it is that of basket making.

All over the district there are cotton mills, and these find occupation for the majority of the women-folk.

Birth Rate.

The number of births registered in the district during the year has been (368) three hundred and sixty-eight. Of these (192) one hundred and ninety-two have been those of boys, and (172) one hundred and seventy-two of these girls. From these figures I calculate the birth rate to be 16.3 per thousand. This is a decrease on the previous year, which was 17.1 per thousand, and a much greater decrease on the mean of the previous five years, which was 19.1 per thousand. The birth rate for England and Wales has been returned at 18.3 per thousand.

Nine of these births were registered as illegitimate, giving a percentage of 2.4, whilst in the previous year it was 3.1 per cent. and for the country 3.6 per cent.

Death Rate.

The total number of deaths of residents in this area for the year has been (277) two hundred and seventy-seven. Of these (137) one hundred and thirty-seven have been of males, and (140) one hundred and forty of these females. These numbers are different from the number of the total deaths as in the quarterly reports and are arrived at after the deduction of deaths of persons visiting the district, as at the Sanatorium and the addition of those who die whilst away, but who are usually resident in this district.

From these figures I calculate the death rate to be 12.2 per thousand as compared with 12.1 per thousand for the previous year and 11.9 per thousand for the mean of the previous five years.

The death rate for England and Wales has been returned at 12.2 per thousand.

It will be noted that in this area the birth rate is falling but the death rate is remaining constant as compared with that of the rest of England and Wales.

In Table A will be found an analysis of the deaths that have occurred in the district. It will be seen that there has been (28) twenty-eight deaths certified as due to cancer, or 10.1 per cent. of the total deaths.

Last year the percentage was 9.8, compared with the county rate of 9.7 per cent. of the total deaths.

The death rate from cancer in the district for 1924 was 1.19 per thousand as compared with the County Rural death rate of 1.19 per thousand.

This year I have to record a death rate from cancer of 1.24 per thousand.

The deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis have numbered (9) nine, or 3.2 per cent. of the total deaths.

Last year the percentage was 5.4, as compared with the County rate of 5.43, and a rate for England and Wales of 6.9 per cent. of the total deaths.

The death rate for Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the district for 1924 was .66 per thousand as compared with the County Rural rate of .54 per thousand, and .84 per thousand of England and Wales.

This year I am able to report a rate of .39 per thousand, showing a decrease of .27 per thousand on the previous year and also a decrease of .03 per thousand on the mean of the previous five years. In Table B will be found an analysis of these deaths, showing the sex and age at which they occurred.

The Zymotic Death Rate is .31 per thousand, which includes 1 for Measles, 1 Scarlet Fever, 2 Whooping Cough, 2 Diphtheria, and 1 from Infantile Diarrhoea.

In 1924 the rate was .17 per thousand, and then it included 1 Measles, 1 Diphtheria, and 2 from Infantile Diarrhoea. The number of cases is so small that the rate figure is of little value as compared with the type of case, which is of importance.

Infantile Mentality.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age per thousand births has increased this year, giving a rate of 84. This is an increase of 20 on the preceding year, but only an increase of one on the average of the previous five years. Analysis of these figures show that of the (29) twenty-nine, deaths, (11) eleven died of bronchial trouble and (15) fifteen of congenital debility.

In 1924 the rate was 64, as compared with the County Rural rate of 68 per thousand.

The great increase in this rate may be due to the hot summer which was experienced. In modern villages this factor does not increase the rate very much, but where the sanitary arrangements for scavenging and lavatory accommodation are not of the latest type, there is always a conclation between the factors, infantile death rate and summer temperature.

In these reports reference has always been made to the Infantile Mortality of Coppull, that being the township in which we have to deal with the most cases of overcrowding. During the last five years the Infantile Mortality has been above that of England and Wales in every year with the exception of 1924. In 1920, which was an average summer, the figures were nearly the same as that prevailing through the country, being 98 as compared with 80. In the hot summer of 1921 and 1922 the figures were more distant, being 126 as compared with 83, and 137 as compared with 77. The summer, 1923, was cooler, and 1924 was wet, so the figures, therefore, approached each other, being 101 as compared with 69, and 69.3 as compared with 75. This year the figure is 105.7 as compared with 75. These figures are those always obtainable from a township whose population is in an overcrowded state, and whose sanitary arrangements are not of the best type. Steps have been taken and are being continued to remedy these defects, so I hope to be able to show a falling infantile death rate in subsequent reports.

The hospital accommodation for the inhabitants of the Rural District is mostly provided for by the surrounding large towns, as the districts could not afford to keep one for themselves. The inhabitants are admitted to the large hospitals at Preston, Blackburn, and Wigan, to which schemes they contribute andso become eligible for admission.

For infectious diseases the Rural District has joined with the Joint Hospital Board, and accommodation is available at their institution at Heath Charnock. There is provided bed accommodation for 35 patients and motor transport. Together with the other members of the Joint Board they support five beds at Finnington for the reception of Small-Pox cases. The Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, established in Coppull, continues to increase its number of patrons. This is open every Thursday from 2-0 to 4-0 p.m., for rendering assistance of every kind to infants and nursing mothers.

School Closure.

Measles was not one of the notifiable diseases, but due to its prevalence in Rivington, the local school was closed during the month of March for two weeks.

Bacteriological Examinations.

Facilities are still extended to Medical Practitioners in the district for the free examination of samples of sputum, blood, or throat swabbings. Four samples of blood, nine samples of sputum, and eight throat swabs have been examined.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied free in response to the application from a medical practitioner. The form adopted has been the highly concentrated antitoxic serum, being a potency of 8,000 units in the 10 c.c. phials supplied.

Four phials have been supplied for the treatments of patients in this area. I find that larger doses of the antitoxin are administered now that it is supplied in this concentrated form.

Tuberculosis.

There have been (33) thirty-three cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year. Of these (17) seventeen were Pulmonary and (16) sixteen Non-Pulmonary. Twelve of the Pulmonary cases have already had the benefit of sanatorial treatment. In Table B will be found the distribution of these cases according to age and sex.

Infectious Diseases.

Scarlet Fever was reported to me in (31) thirty-one cases. These were evenly distributed amongst the districts and through the year. All except three cases, two being in Eccleston, were removed to hospital. The other case, in Hoghton, was

an adult and in an isolated home. Diphtheria was reported to me in (5) cases, and four of these were removed to hospital. I am pleased to see that a greater percentage of diphtheria cases are going for treatment to the hospital. The skilled nursing, quietness, and apparatus at hand for the patients' immediate need, greatly aid the patients chances of recovery without leaving any permanent disability. Of the three deaths in the district, two being of residents, two required operative treatment on admission to hospital. In one instance, two cases came from one house. The second patient, no doubt, catching the disease from the former whilst at home awaiting the pathological report before admission to hospital. Observation wards are provided at the hospital, and their more extended use would be of benefit to the other members of the family where the housing is such that isolation is impracticable.

Primary Pneumonia and Influenzal Pneumonia have been notified tome in (8) eight cases as compared with (11) eleven in the previous year.

Erysipelas has been notified in (7) seven cases as compared with (9) nine in the previous year.

During the year the Sanitary staff has been augmented by the addition of an Assistant Sanitary Inspector. This was rendered necessary by the increased amount of work to be done by the extension of the Meat Regulations to the Rural Districts. In the area there are no Public Slaughter-houses where the meat could be inspected, but there are (13) private ones, all of which require visiting for the inspection of their meat. Authority is also given in the Meat Regulations to farmers for the occasional slaughter of animals on the farms on conditions laid down in the Regulations, and these carcasses also require inspecting.

Midwifery is carried out by the assistance of (10) ten registered midwives, all of whom are in practice.

During the year they conducted, without assistance, (206) two hundred and six out of the (368) three hundred and sixty-eight births registered in the district.

Water.

Fifteen of the twenty-one townships are supplied with a constant supply of water from the Manchester Aqueduct. In Coppull the supply has been inadequate at times, but great improvements have taken place during the year. Parts of the

mains have been cleaned and by the adjustment of valves all parts of the village can now obtain a supply. An electric "Booster" plant will soon be installed and when working this will prevent any shortage being experienced in the outlying districts. In the other townships the supply from the mains is satisfactory.

Of the six townships which are not connected with the main,

Anglezarke, with a population of 51, is supplied by wells and springs, which are satisfactory.

Brindle being very scattered, one part is supplied by a private main belonging to Sir James de Hoghton, and this is satisfactory. Another part is supplied by water from the Walton-le-Dale Council mains and the remaining areas by springs. Water from four of these springs have been analysed this year and as the water from one could not be made satisfactory, it was proposed to close the well. Because of urgent representation from the township, pointing out the hardship closure would entail to farmers and users of the road who utilise the water for watering cattle and horses, the well was not closed, but a notice has been erected stating that the water should not be used for drinking purposes.

Hoghton being also a scattered township, part is supplied by water from Sir James de Hoghton's main, whilst the Council houses are supplied from Preston Rural District mains. The supply is satisfactory.

Cuerden is supplied from the Walton-le-Dale mains and from the Cuerden Hall Estate. The supplies are satisfactory.

Mawdesley, a township of 1,028 persons, still obtains its supply from wells. For a township of this size, and where the use of cesspools constitutes the main method of sewerage disposal, I do not consider this a satisfactory source. An opportunity now presents itself of combining with Heskin and so enabling the main to form a circuit, which arrangement would benefit the supply to both townships. This source of supply would, perhaps, be cheaper than trying to utilise any available source which can be found in the district itself.

Rivington has its own supply and is satisfactory.

Heskin.

Part of this township is supplied from the main, but part by wells. The water from these wells was analysed, but the result showed it not to be satisfactory. It was thought that

some of these wells could be repaired and made to produce water which would be uncontaminated. An attempt was made, but further analyses showed that they could not be relied upon, even some of the wells considered fit by the first analysis showed pollution by the second. It was, therefore, decided that a water scheme was imperative if the people were to have clean water to drink.

A scheme has been formulated which will supply the greater number of the houses with Manchester water by means of a blind main. This has been accepted by the township and will be put into operation at once. If a main is decided to be laid in Mawdesley it will be connected to the end of this Heskin main, but to enable a satisfactory volume of supply to be available for Mawdesley a larger pipe will have to be laid through Heskin.

In the townships of Bretherton, Whittle and Duxbury extensions of the existing water mains have taken place, enabling (32) thirty-two more houses to be supplied with water.

Sewerage.

Thirteen out of the twenty-one townships in the area have a sewerage system.

These works have been giving satisfactory results, but slight additions and re-organisations has taken place at Coppull to enable the increase in volume to be dealt with. With the exception of Coppull the works have been adequate to deal with the sewage. A committee has been appointed to consider the position which has arisen at Coppull.

There are many conversions to water closets necessary, but too much sewage must not be created for the present works as they would be unable to deal with it and yet produce a satisfactory effluent.

During the last year the conversion of the privy closet has been urged with a result that there are 105 less privies in the district. Many more conversions have been carried out by the owners without notice, but the numbers given are those carried out under notice from the Sanitary Authority. This is a great increase on the average reduction for the previous five years, which was 46.

As a result of these conversions the additional sewerage of 49 water closets and those of all the new houses is added to the already existing 854. Conversions at this rate, which I

should like to be maintained will, of necessity, throw a great amount of work on the sewerage works and necessitate their enlargement.

Scavenging.

In nine townships refuse is collected weekly under contract. On the whole these arrangements have worked very satisfactorily. The refuse is deposited in tips which have been passed as suitable and are kept under observation by the Sanitary Authority. One of the great difficulties has been the selection of suitable sites for tips. These should be selected so as to hold as much as possible and thus obviate the necessity of numerous and unsightly accumulations of house refuse. In the remaining townships, which are composed of scattered houses, individual arrangements have to be entered into for the removal of their refuse.

The number of **Sanitary Inspections** of the houses of the area have been enabled to be increased by the addition to the sanitary staff. As will be seen by the appended Sanitary Inspector's Report, any work requested to be done has been amicably completed by the owners. As a result for 230 houses inspected, only 11 Statutory Notices have had to be issued. The requirements of these notices have been carried out without further proceedings being taken.

Housing Statistics.

Forty-nine new houses have been built in the area by private enterprise during the year, and the subsidy of £75 has been granted in the case of fifteen of these. There are still ten houses in course of erection in the Coppull district under the Council's housing scheme.

The type built by the Council contain not less than three bedrooms, and a large kitchen and necessary offices. This is the type I consider the best, with the view of improving the housing conditions of the district in preference to the house with only two bedrooms.

A survey was made of each district during the year with a view of ascertaining the actual needs of further houses for the residents. It was then noted that the type of bungalow and houses built by the private owner was of the two-bedroom type. There are now plenty of houses of this type, but they

will not relieve cases of overcrowding in a family. I therefore recommend the Council to press for the three-bedroom type in granting the subsidy.

The conclusion arrived at after the survey was that houses were still required, and it was decided to built 4 in Eccleston, 6 in Charnock Richard, 2 in Hoghton on the present site, 8 in Heskin, 7 in Whittle-le-Woods, 12 in Coppull, 6 in Clayton-le-Woods, and 4 in Wheelton on new sites.

During the year our attention will be directed chiefly towards improving the housing and sanitation of Coppull and reducing the deaths of infants from one out of every ten born.

Whereven possible the people ought to have a pure and plentiful supply of water, which will necessitate the extension of some water mains.

The milk producing farms in some cases are badly supplied with water, making it very hard to produce clean milk. If the proposed 1926 Milk Bill becomes law, it will necessitate great improvements being made.

In the country isolated colonies of houses are gradually springing up. These areas are developing and their present system of sewage disposal, carried out by septic tanks, is not suitable for a large collection of property. Small sewerage schemes will eventually have to be formulated for these areas.

These are the most urgent requirements for the improvement of the sanitation and health of the district.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN RIGBY,

Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1926.

TABLE A.
DEATHS OF RESIDENTS.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Age Groups.									Districts.				
	At all Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Chorley.	Brindle.	Croston.	Leyland.	Rivington.
Typhoid Fever ...	...	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..
Measles ..	4	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	5	4	4	6	1	4	..	2
Influenza ..	13	..	..	..	..	4	1	2	1	3	1	2	3	..
Phthisis ..	9	..	..	..	2	..	1	2	1	3	1	2	1	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	7	1	..	..	..	2	6	5	15	8	3	7	7	3
Cancer ..	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	14	8	1	4	3	3
Cerebral Hemorrhage ...	19	..	..	..	..	..	5	17	34	14	13	9	15	5
Heart Diseases..	56	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	5	3	3	4	2	..
Arterio-sclerosis ..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	19	15	3	8	2	4
Bronchitis ..	32	7	4	2	1	1	5	7	1	9	7	5	4	..
Pneumonia ..	25	4	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	2	..	1	3	..
Other Respiratory Diseases	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3	2	..	..
Appendicitis ..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	3	3	..	..	1	..	..
Nephritis ..	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	..
Disease of pregnancy	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	2	3	4	1
Cong. Debility ..	15	15	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	5	..	2	..	1
Accidents ..	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	1	..	2	..	1
Suicide ..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	..	..	2	..	1
Other defined diseases	13	2	1	..	..	..	2	3	5	1	..	2	2	1
Diseases Ill-defined ..	16	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	8	6	3	3	4	1
Rheumatic Fever ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diabetes ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Totals ..	277	31	7	5	7	9	26	84	115	96	44	61	54	22

TABLE B.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY OF TUBERCULOSIS IN 1925

Ages	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0-1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
1-5	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
5-10	...	...	4	1	...	...	1	1
10-15	...	...	...	2	...	2	1	...
15-20	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
20-25	...	6	...	...	...	1	...	...
25-35	2	2	3	...	1	2	1	...
35-45	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
45-55	...	2	1	...	...	1	2	...
55-65	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...
65—	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Totals	17	17	16	16	9	9	7	7

TABLE C.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1925.

	Total Cases	Under 1 Year	1 and under 2	2 and under 3	3 and under 4	4 and under 5	5 and under 10	10 and under 15	15 and under 20	20 and under 35	35 and under 45	45 and under 65	Over 65	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	31	...	...	...	3	2	14	5	3	4	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria ...	5	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	2
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...
Primary Pneumonia } Influenzal "	9	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	3	...	2	1	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Erysipelas ...	7	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	4	...	2	0
Pul. Tuberculosis	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	4	3	4	9
Non. Pul. Tuber- culosis ...	16	...	...	2	...	...	5	2	1	...	3	1	2	7
	86	—	—	3	3	3	24	8	5	14	11	6	9	20

CHORLEY RURAL DISTRICT.**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY
INSPECTOR, 1925.**

To the Chairman and Members of the Chorley Rural District
Council.

Gentlemen,

In accordance with the request of the Ministry of Health, sanctioned by yourselves, I beg to submit my first Annual Report on this district.

To facilitate reference I have divided it into sections, each section dealing with some important work connected with the Public Health Department.

SECTION I.**OVERCROWDING AND HOUSING.****OVERCROWDING.**

The housing shortage and consequently overcrowding is a subject of national interest. I expect there is hardly an Urban or Rural District in this country that is not suffering from that calamity; our district is no exception.

In the Chorley Rural area the township mostly effected is Coppull.

The worst cases of overcrowding are invariably found among the very poor for two reasons; firstly, because they cannot afford the size of house their family require, and secondly, because, in many cases, in spite of lack of accommodation they take in lodgers to increase the family income.

These factors, no doubt, largely influence the high infantile mortality rate in the township of Coppull.

In the Public Health Act, 1875, it states "overcrowding" is a nuisance, but beyond this it does not define what "overcrowding" actually is.

The standard taken, therefore, will naturally vary with different authorities.

I take as my minimum basis the requirement for a common Lodging House 300cubic feet for an adult and 150 cubic feet for a child under ten years of age.

The following table gives some of the cases of Overcrowding and houses occupied by more than one family, in the township of Coppull :—

Bedrooms	Families	Adults		Children	Other Lodgers		Total Occupants.
		M.	F.		M.	F.	
1	1	1	4	2	...	...	7
2	1	2	4	1	...	...	7
2	1	5	1	2	..	...	8
2	2	2	2	4	...	...	8
2	2	3	2	6	...	...	11
2	1	6	1	3	...	...	10
2	2	3	4	4	...	...	11
2	3	5	3	3	...	...	11
2	2	4	5	3	...	...	12
2	2	6	3	3	...	...	12
3	2	2	2	2	1	...	7
3	2	3	3	2	..	...	8
3	2	2	3	3	...	...	8
3	2	3	4	2	...	...	9
3	2	5	3	1	...	...	9
3	2	2	3	4	...	..	9
3	3	3	5	1	...	...	9
3	2	2	2	4	1	1	10
3	2	2	2	6	...	...	10
3	3	3	4	5	...	...	12
Total 49	39	64	60	61	2	1	188

The above table shows that 20 houses are occupied by 39 families. In addition I have before me as I write another 10 houses occupied by two families, and this, by no means, exhausts the number of cases for which houses are required.

Taking the remaining townships in the Rural Area, although overcrowding exists, it is in n ocomparison to that of Coppull.

In fact, I may safely say that the cases of overcrowding in that township exceed those of all the other townships combined.

But houses are required not only to relieve overcrowding, but to find accommodation for persons desirous of marrying; the need in this respect is fairly general throughout the district.

HOUSING.

In this portion of my report I deal with the condition of the houses now existing.

A great many of them lack those common necessities of a workman's dwelling, viz., a bath, a good larder where the food can be kept in a wholesome condition, a scullery, and a wash-house.

In some cottages the scullery sink and the washing boiler are fixed in the living kitchen, consequently on washing days the family are living in an atmosphere of steam.

Another factor is the lack of bedroom accommodation. It is astonishing the number of houses with only two bedrooms, as demonstrated in the following Table, dealing with many of the Townships in the Chorley area.

Township.	Approximate Number of Artisan Houses with only 2 Bedrooms.	Approximate Percentage for every 100 Artisan Houses.
Anderton	56	23
Heath Charnock	138	54
Coppull	282	23
Wheelton	125	63
Whittle-le-Woods ...	284	56
Clayton-le-Woods ...	58	34
Eccleston	96	40
Hoghton	80	54
Brindle	99	66
Heskin	31	—
Mawdesley	77	44

In the township of Coppull about 60 houses, situated on Coppull Moor, are constantly requiring repairs owing to mining subsidence.

In some parts of the Rural Area dwelling-houses have been constructed of wood. This may be controlled in the townships where our building Bye-laws apply, but in the remaining townships persons have "carte blanche" to erect dwellings of what materials and dimensions they may think fit without being subject to the supervision of the Council, except in respect to drainage and water supply. This is detrimental and can only be remedied by an extension of the Bye-laws to apply to those townships.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES:—

- Inspection.—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 230.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 230.
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..147.

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

- Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 83.

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY NOTICES.

(A) PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 3 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1925.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 6.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit, by owners, after service of formal notices..... 6.

(B) PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 5.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied, by owners, after service of formal notices 4.

SECTION II.

COW-SHEDS AND MILK PRODUCTION.

An Important Order that came into force this September was the Tuberculosis Order of 1925.

It is now incumbent on all farmers to notify to the police or to an Inspector of the Local Authority:—

- (1) Any cow which is suffering from Tuberculosis of the udder, indurated udder, or other chronic disease of the udder.
- (2) Any bovine animal which is or appears to be suffering from Tuberculosis emaciation.
- (3) Any animal which is suffering from a chronic cough and showing definite clinical signs of Tuberculosis.

There are also precautions to be adopted with respect to milk and also in respect to the Detention and Isolation of suspected animals.

This Order is of importance in the Chorley Rural District which is a large milk producing area.

Some farmers I have had conversation with seem to imagine that the Order is optional, and that they are at liberty to weigh the pros and cons, from a financial aspect, before deciding to report.

In this way they make a grave mistake as the Order is compulsory.

I will now make a few observations in respect to the conditions under which milk is produced in this district.

COWSHEDS.

The lighting, ventilation, and drainage are in many cases up to the standard, while those in default are each year being reduced in number by notices served under the directions of the "Farming Committee."

To remedy structural defects, the farmer, unless he owns his farm, has to depend on the good will of his landlord, and so is entitled to a certain amount of sympathy.

The most important requirement of all, however, "cleanliness," depends almost entirely on the farmer himself, and I regret that at times some are neglectful in this matter.

In the Council's Regulations in respect to Cowsheds, it states that these buildings have to be thoroughly swept and all dung and other offensive matter removed at least twice a day. Unfortunately no hour is named. This section requires amending by the insertion of a particular hour in the forenoon and another in the afternoon before which this work must be done.

If a shippon is swept just before milking time dust is often generated and dirty milk is the result.

CATTLE.

Our Regulations require that at the time of milking the udder and teats of a cow are to be thoroughly clean.

Even if this Regulation is adhered to and the hind-quarters of the cows are allowed to remain coated with manure and filth, as I have frequently seen, there is great danger of the milk becoming contaminated by particles of this filth being brushed into the milking pail through contact with the milkers.

MILKERS.

Our Regulations require that the hands of the milkers are to be clean and free from all infection and contamination. I should very much like to see added to this requirement these words: "and for that purpose must be washed with soap and water immediately before milking."

MILK VESSELS AND STORING.

Our Regulations require the cleansing of all milk vessels and prohibit the storing of milk in certain places.

Apart from this there is no definite injunction as to the provision that must be made for the storing of milk and milk vessels.

In addition the Regulations do not touch on the screening and cooling of the milk.

I have seen the refrigerator hanging in the most insanitary surroundings, e.g., a few yards from the middenstead, against the pig sty, etc.

The following Table gives the Intimation Notices served, in respect to farms, during the last twelve months:—

To lime-wash cow-sheds	338
Defective flooring in cow-sheds	4
Defective lighting in cow-sheds	2
Defective ventilation in cow-sheds	4
Defective drainage of cow-sheds	5
Storing articles in dairy likely to contaminate milk	2
To remove privy-midden from proximity of cow-sheds ...	1
To provide building for refrigerator and milk vessels....	4

Total 360

The following Table gives the number of cow-keepers on the Register, for each Township:—

Anderton	14
Anglezarke	1
Bretherton	9
Brindle	33
Charnock Richard	15
Clayton-le-Woods	13
Coppull	26
Cuerden	10
Duxbury	3
Eccleston	8
Euxton	24
Heapey	14
Heath Charnock	14
Heskin	10
Hoghton	25
Mawdesley	6
Rivington	2
Ulnes Walton	6
Wheelton	21
Welch Whittle	6
Whittle-le-Woods	21

Total number on Register 281

SECTION III.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND MEAT INSPECTION.

On the 1st January, 1925, came into effect "The Rural District Councils (Slaughter-Houses) Order, 1924.

This enacted the Registration or Licensing of all the slaughter-houses in the Chorley Rural area.

At the present time we have on our Register 6 Registered Slaughter-houses and 7 Licensed. These are situated in the following townships, viz:—

Anderton	1
Bretherton	1
Brindle	1
Eccleston	1
Euxton	1
Heskin	1
Coppull	2
Heapey	2

Welch Whittle	1
Clayton-le-Woods	1
Wheelton	1

The slaughter-houses are, on the whole, kept in a very sanitary condition as the Council's Bye-laws, relating to slaughter-houses, are stringently enforced.

The Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, became operative on the 1st April of this year.

Under these regulations butchers, although previously allowed to slaughter "ad lib," are now obliged either to have fixed hours and days or give previous notice to the Health Authorities, each time they mean to kill. In this district there are 7 butchers in the former category and 6 in the latter.

The days at present notified for slaughtering are:—

Monday	6 butchers.
Tuesday	2 butchers.
Wednesday	4 butchers.
Thursday	2 butchers.

The butchers who have not fixed hours frequently notify, by telephone, late in the forenoon, their intention to slaughter. When the message is received at the office, if we have started on our rounds, the beasts notified may be slaughtered and removed without our having a chance of inspection.

Last September legal proceedings were instituted against the owner of a slaughter-house for slaughtering without having given notice, and a fine of £2 2s. was inflicted.

Last October, owing to Blackburn having become an infected area, under the Foot and Mouth Disease Order, a number of butchers from that locality began slaughtering cattle on farms in the Chorley Rural District.

Although the required three hours' notice of their intention to slaughter was invariably given, nevertheless, there was a violation of the Public Health Act owing to the animals being slaughtered on unlicensed premises.

After consultation with the Veterinary Inspector and the Meat Inspector of the Blackburn Borough, I finally decided to refuse any further sanction to the continuation of this practice.

This the more so as the Blackburn Authorities fully approved of my action and assured me that I would in no way be jeopardising the meat supply in their Borough.

Below is a Table showing the number of animals slaughtered during the year in the various slaughter-houses, but it does not include the full number slaughtered by butchers with fixed hours.

MONTH.	BEASTS	SHEEP	CALVES	TOTAL	INSPECTED
April ...	40	29	6	75	29
May ...	19	25	3	47	19
June ...	19	76	3	98	61
July ...	16	51	11	78	45
August ...	20	71	11	102	22
September ...	34	127	...	161	80
October ...	38	113	1	152	71
November ...	35	143	1	179	125
December ...	28	44	1	73	40
Total ...	249	679	37	965	492

The following Table shows the meat destroyed during the 154 visits, which have been paid to the various slaughter-houses in the District:—

	Lungs	Livers	Whole and Offal	Fore-Quarters	Hind-Quarters	Whole Carcases
BEASTS...	15	29	3	4	2	2
SHEEP ...	2	3	...	...	...	...
Total ...	17	37	3	4	2	2

The written notices that have been served during the year in respect to the Slaughter-house Bye-laws or the Public Health (Meat) Regulations are as follows:—

Requiring cleansing and lime-washing of slaughter-houses	29
Requiring provision of metal offal pails	2
Storing prohibited articles in slaughter-house ..	2
Not adhering to specified hours of slaughtering ..	1
Failing to have meat protected from flies	3
Hawking meat in van with sides open	2
Failing to have organs of animal for inspection	2
Conveying meat, not properly covered, through streets	1
Total	42

In addition to the above various cautions and verbal notices have been given.

It is compulsory on farmers also to notify the Health Authorities before killing pigs on their various farms.

That those concerned might be made aware of this requirement, in addition to publication in the local press, all the farmers on our registers were given special notice, large circulars were posted throughout the district and also in every public house in each township.

A Table is affixed, giving the number of pigs notified since 1st April:—

Townships	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total Notified	Total Inspected
Anderton	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	7	9	—
Anglezarke	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	—
Bretherton	14	3	—	4	5	6	10	22	8	72	15
Brindle	11	11	29	4	12	25	25	32	18	167	52
Charnock Richard	4	2	—	—	2	3	5	8	16	40	3
Clayton-le-Woods	11	3	—	2	—	26	8	24	8	82	20
Coppull	8	—	—	—	—	4	19	8	8	47	5
Cuerden	14	3	—	—	1	—	15	11	7	51	10
Duxbury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	5	—
Eccleston	5	—	—	—	3	10	2	12	20	52	6
Euxton	5	14	—	2	3	14	19	31	26	114	18
Heapey	9	—	—	—	1	3	13	9	7	42	4
Heath Charnock ...	4	—	—	—	5	5	—	20	—	34	—
Heskin	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	2	5	—
Hoghton	7	2	6	—	—	15	1	15	19	65	14
Mawdesley	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	17	28	51	18
Rivington	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	4	—
Ulnes Walton	19	10	—	—	—	14	8	9	11	71	4
Welch Whittle ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	6	1
Wheelton	17	4	—	—	—	20	21	6	4	72	14
Whittle-le-Woods	9	3	11	—	6	16	8	7	14	74	16
TOTALS	139	55	46	12	38	163	169	237	206	1065	200

During the year several farmers have had to be cautioned for slaughtering pigs without notification.

There have been cases in which the notification of slaughtering has been given, the date and time specified, but the hour omitted.

I find the farmers, on the whole, anxious and willing to comply with the Regulations.

Since the 1st April all shops, in which meat is sold or exposed for sale, have to be registered and inspected as to cleanliness; the protection of the meat from flies and other sanitary requirements.

A Table is affixed, showing the number of shops, in each township, we have on the register.

Townships	Grocer	Grocer and Confectioner	Baker and Confectioner	General Store	Confectioner	Grocer	Refreshment Rooms	Butcher	Total Registered under Meat Regulations
Anderton	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
Anglezarke .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Bretherton	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Brindle	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Charnock Richard ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Clayton-le-Woods ..	5	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	7
Coppull	26	4	2	...	1	1	...	5	39
Eccleston	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	11
Euxton	3	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	5
Heapey .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
Heath Charnock	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Heskin	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
Hoghton	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mawdesley	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ulnes Walton	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wheelton	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	5
Whittle-le-Woods ..	9	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	12
Totals	73	10	4	3	2	1	1	12	106

As regards cleanliness and other requirements, the majority of the shops are all that can be desired.

In some cases, however, more precautions might be taken as to protection against flies.

If the general public had only been more familiar with the danger of food contamination from these pernicious pests there would have been no need for legislation on the subject as public opinion would long ago have demanded what now the law enforces.

Another important enactment, that came into force this year, requires the adequate protection of all meat from dust and dirt when conveyed in vehicles through the streets.

It is to be regretted that there is no similar legislation in respect to fish hawkers; the sanitary condition of some of these carts falls far below the ideal.

In concluding this portion of my report I may state that in one shop a quantity of cheese, margarine, pies, tin tongue and ham shanks were destroyed as unfit for human consumption.

The shop was afterwards kept under observation, with the result that there was a marked improvement both regarding the quality of the goods and general cleanliness.

SECTION IV.

WATER SUPPLY.

The majority of the townships in this district are supplied with water from the Thirlmere mains.

The supply to Coppull has not been at all satisfactory, although during the latter months of the year it has greatly improved and still further improvement is to be expected when the scheme, decided on by the Council, has been carried out.

In the townships of Cuerden and Hoghton, although there is no public supply, there is a substitute, viz., the private mains of Mr. Tatton, in Cuerden, and those of Sir James de Hoghton, in Hoghton.

This, however, is not the case in Mawdesley, where the only water supply is that derived from the wells and springs; this matter will require consideration in the near future.

Although the major portion of Heskin is supplied with water from the Council's mains, Banister Green has still to depend on its wells and springs.

A number of these wells having been found, by analysis, to be subject to pollution, notices were served on the owners to have them cleaned and reconstructed.

This has now been done and on 14th of December further samples were taken for Chemical and Bacteriological examination; we are now waiting the Analyst's report.

In some isolated portions of our district the inhabitants have still to depend for drinking water on what I call dip wells. These consist in wells with sides of rubble or of brick, and are generally about eighteen inches or a couple of feet in depth. The water is obtained by each user dipping his own bucket or other utensil.

This form of supply is so open to contamination, in a variety of ways, by careless users, that it is not to be recommended.

A far better method is where the water, before entering the well, can be caught from a pipe.

SECTION V.

HOUSE REFUSE DEPARTMENT.

The removal of the house refuse of a district is a most important consideration, as any serious neglect may greatly jeopardise the health of its inhabitants.

In this district, comprising twenty-one townships, the Council has arranged for the removal of house refuse in seven through local contractors, i none through direct labour, and in two through contractors for only the emptying of cesspools.

The house refuse removal contracts are let for a term of twelve months and then re-advertised. This, in my opinion, is too short a period as it does not encourage a man to acquire special equipment for the job when at the end of twelve months he may be cut out by some one quoting a lower figure for the work.

It would be a great encouragement to a contractor if he knew that, provided he had given satisfactory service, his contract whenit expired was likely to be renewed at the same figure adjusted to balance any changes in the labour market since his last tender.

In respect to Coppull, where the Council execute the removal of house refuse by direct control, there has hardly been a single complaint since this method was adopted.

The following Table shows the approximate number of sanitary conveniences in those townships where the Council undertake the removal of house refuse:—

Townships.	Water Closets	Waste Water Closets	Pail Closets	Privy Middens	Closets attached Privy Middens	Dust Bins	Dry Ashpits
Anderton and Heath Charnock ...	162	38	76	78	132	245	25
Clayton-le-Woods	80	...	127	5	12	186	7
Coppull ...	267	2	211	170	483	468	8
Duxbury ...	7	...	17	14	15	15	3
Eccleston ...	64	...	28	101	101	40	4
Euxton ...	52	...	55	74	77	50	20
Wheelton ...	13	...	193	12	24	135	19
Whittle-le-Woods	44	4	308	64	66	275	13

In those townships where the Council have not undertaken the removal of house refuse, the onus, under the Council's Bye-laws, rests on the occupiers of property, not on the owners. The occupiers again have to depend on the good will of the farmers, consequently at certain periods of the year when the farmers are busy the emptying of the sanitary conveniences is sadly neglected.

Some occupiers empty their own closets and bury the contents in their gardens which, when of small dimensions, soon become saturated with sewage from this constant tillage.

The only satisfactory method to adopt in respect to the removal of house refuse in those townships where property is at all congested is for the Council, through a contractor, to undertake the work.

SECTION VI.

THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

In the Chorley Rural District the number of workshops, 60, is comparatively small. These are mostly of the domestic type, except in the township of Mawdesley, and its environments where the basket industry flourishes.

These basket workshops are mostly wooden sheds and the workers sit against the walls on stools or on the floor.

The chief complaint is that in some cases these sheds are very badly ventilated and also some times overcrowded.

Their situation, however, in the heart of the country, somewhat mitigates these evils.

Under this Act come bakehouses of which we have 10 on our register.

The three best bakehouses in the district are at Whittle-Woods, Euxton, and Coppull.

The bakehouse at 75, Spendmore Lane W., Coppull, is also used as a scullery.

Notice has been given that next year the existing bakehouse, after alterations to adapt it to its purpose will have to be only used as such, and that an additional building will have to be erected for a scullery.

During the year, on more than one occasion, I have found bakehouses being used as an airing place for clothes after the weekly wash.

The bakehouses, on the whole, are kept in a satisfactory condition, and cleanliness, a most important factor in all places in which food is prepared for sale, is observed.

SECTION VII.

NUISANCES AND SANITATION.

Among the various duties under this Section is included the protection of the atmosphere from pollution by Black Smoke

This is a duty very often neglected, as a study of the manufacturing chimneys, in various localities, will demonstrate.

This being a Rural District the matter is not quite as urgent as in large towns, although it is of importance even in the country to see that the pure air suffers no serious pollution.

During the year five Smoke Observations were taken in this district.

One chimney, belonging a weaving and spinning mill, we found was emitting as much as 36 minutes Black Smoke in the hour.

The representatives of the firm were asked to appear before your Council; after this interview they were given two months in which to abate this nuisance; this was accomplished by shortening the bars of the fire boxes belonging three of the boilers. The final smoke observation resulted in only 2 minutes 20 seconds of Black Smoke in the hour.

The following Table shows some of the work accomplished under this Section, during the year :—

Number of premises inspected	968
Number of nuisances found	468
Number of Informal Notices served	145
Number of Statutory Notices served	21
Number of nuisances abated	309
Number of privy-midden converted to water-closets	38
Number of privy-middens converted to pail-closets	61
Number of pail-closets converted to water-closets	11
Number of waste water-closets converted to water-closets	2

Before closing my report I should like to express my great appreciation of the work of my Assistant, Mr. Albert Fowler, who's wholehearted co-operation with myself has enabled work to be accomplished which otherwise would have been impossible.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

HERBERT F. FROES,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

