

**[Report 1943] / Medical Officer of Health, Chorley R.D.C.**

**Contributors**

Chorley (England). Rural District Council.

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Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year  
1943.

Mr. Chairman and Members,

The Ministry have again suggested that an abridged annual report should be submitted for this year, whilst the full details and figures should be filed for future reference. The form as proposed is similar to the previous year and covers all the main points in a full annual report. The circular suggests the following headings.

Area.

There has been no alteration in the boundries and the area remains 41,111 acres.

Population.

This is estimated to be 24,970.

Inhabited Houses.

These are numbered at 7,250.

Rateable Value.

This is £166,478 and this will give a penny rate representing £645.

The Social conditions are of an Industrial and Agricultural district. The occupations are cotton mill workers coal mining and agriculture. The number employed in the Cotton Industry has increased slightly, and the other sources of employment are about the same. There is little unemployment.



The Staff of the Public Health Department is as follows:-

Medical Officer, (Part-time) John Rigby M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Cheif Sanitary Inspector, (Full-time) R.H.Grayson,

Cert R.S.I. & S.I.E.J.B.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector, (Full-time) A.Fowler, Cert. R.S.I.

Laboratory Services and Hospitals.

The laboratory services are the same as last year and swabs will be examined at the nearest general hospital. They can be delivered by hand and so avoiding the delay in the postal service.

Ambulances.

The Ambulance Service for accidents is provided by the Chorley Municipal Borough, and for infectious diseases the ambulance kept at the Infectious Disease Hospital is always available.

Nursing Service.

The Queen Alexander Nursing Service operates in this District. The areas have grouped together and maintain a nurse who supplied by motor transport is able to cover the area. This service is satisfactory and efficient for both sickness and maternity.

The local hospital has clinics including V.D. and skins.



<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Legitimate	439	209	230
Illigitimate	<u>18</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>
	<u>457</u>	<u>217</u>	<u>240</u>

The Birth Rate per thousand of the population is 18.3

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>
	301	144	157

The Death Rate per thousand of the population is 12.1

#### Maternal Deaths.

These have numbered 1 giving a rate of 2.1 per thousand births.

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>
	18	13	5

The rate per thousand births is 38.

#### Infantile Deaths under 1 year.

<u>Total</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>
24	15	9

<u>Deaths from:-</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Cancer-	13	19
Measles-	0	0
Whooping cough	0	0
Diarrhoea (under 2)	1	0

The sickness rate of the population has not appreciably increased  
The long hours of employment and the difficulties of transport  
to and from the works has been a great strain on their reserves,  
and they have been compelled to stay off for a rest without  
showing any disease.





### Infectious Diseases.

The Infectious Diseases are admitted to the Heath Charnock Hospital under the Chorley and District Joint Hospital Board.

Puerperal Septicaemia is admitted to Sharoe Green Hospital at Preston under the arrangements of the County Council.


There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year.

The immunisation of children against diphtheria has been persisted in. The scheme for the family doctor carrying out the inoculations is carried out in this area. By this means 605 have been immunised during the year.

Whooping cough vaccine has also been available for medical practitioners in the area.

The notifiable diseases are tabulated over leaf.





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The notifiable diseases have been as follows.

Notifiable Diseases.	Total cases at all ages.	Total cases notified.											
		under 1	Age periods-Years.										
			1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	10.	15.	20.	35.	45.	65 & over.
Smallpox.													
Scarlet fever.	74			1	4	9	32	17	2	6		3	
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	31	1				2	11	1	3	10	3		
Enteric fever (including Paratyphoid).	1					1							
Measles excluding German Measles.	306	15	21	35	36	47	137	7	4	3		1	
Whooping cough	50	3	7	6	9	7	15	2					
Acute pneumonia	34		1	2	2	1			2	8	5	9	4
Puerperal pyrexia.	1									1			
Cerebro-spinal fever.													
Acute Poliomyelitis.													
Acute Polio-encephalitis.													
Encephalitis lethargica.													
Dysentery.	1										1		
Ophthalmia neonatorum	1		1										
Erysipelas.	8									1		5	2
Malaria:-													
Contracted in this Country:-													
Abroad:-													
Any other disease notifiable in district													
Any other disease.													
Total.....	507	19	30	44	51	66	197	27	11	29	9	18	6



# Tuberculosis.

No difficulty has been experienced in carrying out the Tuberculosis Regulations. The assistance of the Tuberculosis Officers has been realised and the early diagnosis by means of X Ray appreciated by the general practitioner.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### New Cases and Mortality during 1943.

<u>AGE PERIODS.</u>	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
<u>YEARS.</u>								
0-								
1-			2	1				
5-			3	3				1
10-			1	3				
15-		1		2				
20-		2		4		1		
25-	1			4	1	1		2
35-	5	1			1			
45-	3		1		1			
55-	3	1	1		1		1	
65- & upwards.								
Totals...	12	5	8	17	4	2	1	3
	17		25		6		4	





## Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

### Water.

The bulk of the water supplied in the area is obtained from Manchester Corporation, who have it under constant supervision. Scrapping of mains has taken place in the parish of Ulnes Walton to improve the supply.

### Sewerage.

No change has taken place during the year, although the Council have in preparation a scheme for improving the drainage of large parts of the area, It has not been possible to carry out any work.

### Closet Accommodation.

No large scale conversion of closets have taken place during the year, large scale conversion is of course bound up with improved drainage. At the end of the year there were still in the district a large number of privy middens and pail closets.

### Scavenging.

Because of failure to get sufficient contractors to carry out scavenging the Council were obliged to do some of the work by direct labour in 1942, for the same reason the scheme was extended <sup>in</sup> to 1943.

Salvage collection in addition to wet (pail and privies) and dry (ash pits and ash bins) scavenging, has made this a big task in the area.



#### Camping.

No camping licences were issued in 1943.

No serious trouble was experienced during the year with campers, it was necessary however to control van dwellers of the wandering type on numerous occasions.

#### Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken during the year.

#### Disinfestation of premises.

One house infested with Bed bugs was effectively disinfested during the year.

#### Schools.

With few exceptions all schools in the area are supplied with water from the public mains, in all cases a piped supply is provided.

Twelve of the thirty two schools in the district are on the water carriage system.



### Housing.

It has not been possible to carry out routine housing work during the year, only serious defects being dealt with and these under the Public Health Act.

Present day conditions have without doubt brought about a considerable amount of overcrowding, even taking into account the provision of hostels for workers, it is hoped a large number of cases will right themselves in due course. There are of course a lot of cases where young married couples have been obliged to remain with parents, these will doubtless require accommodation soon.

In connection with the programme of new building for the first period when this is allowed, an undetailed survey of the district was made when approx. 75 houses, the poorest in the District, were considered ready for condemning as soon as such work is possible.

### Inspection of Food.

The centralising of slaughtering has relieved the Council of routine inspection of meat, and the matters which have been dealt with under this heading are chiefly canned foods at retailers and food depots.

### Milk Supply.

It has still not been possible to give the time one would have liked to this work, however more work was done than in the previous year.

The production of milk by all persons capable of doing so has resulted in an increase of producers in the District, at the end of the year the number was 426.





Pasteurised Milk.

There are no pasteurising plants situated in this District, and only one supplementary licence allowing pasteurised milk to be retailed in the area was issued during the year.

Disinfections.

100 Disinfections were carried out during the year.

Petroleum Licences.

56 licences to store petroleum were issued during the year.

Total Inspections.

The total number of inspections during the year was 1,710

Informal Notices.

The total number of Informal Notices served was 376.

The total number of Informal Notices complied with was 369.

Statutory Notices.

The number of Statutory Notices served was 6.

All were complied with.

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

*N. H. H.*

Medical Officer of Health.

