[Report 1910] / Medical Officer of Health, Clitheroe R.D.C.

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

CLITHEROE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report

OF

T. THORNTON MACKLIN,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR 1910.

M. A. Whewell, Printer, Clitheroe.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Annual Report for the year 1910.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. THORNTON MACKLIN

CLITHEROE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Gentlemen,

The year 1909 was noted for the amount of rain that fell and for the general inclement condition of the weather, but it is very questionable whether 1910 has not been still more notorious in this respect than its predecessor. I think I might with perfect justice repeat what I said of 1909 as being characteristic of 1910, with perhaps this qualification, that it was even worse.

The Rural District of Clitheroe is a somewhat awkward one to get round and supervise owing to the fact that it is practically divided into two rather widely separated parts by the wedge-shaped portion of the West Riding of Yorkshire which lies between the Rivers Ribble and Hodder. This means that in passing from the Eastern division to the Western, on the Northern side there is about two miles of neutral or foreign territory to be crossed before one again enters the District of Clitheroe. This, of course, adds very much to the mileage covered in getting round the district and to the amount of time consumed on the way which is out of all proportion to the actual area in acres which has to be supervised, and which is comprehended within the borders of the District.

Necessarily, therefore, the sanitary condition of the District is not all alike equally familiar, nor can the more distant and outlying portions be nearly so much under observation and become so well-known as that part of the District which one traverses from day to day while pursuing his ordinary avocations.

This is, of course, a drawback, but one which it is difficult to see how to obviate under present conditions.

It would be difficult, or almost impossible to say that, apart from the personal habits of certain sections of the community in the matter of diet and domestic hygiene, and to which I have referred in previous reports at some length, there are any active influences directly endangering the public health at the present time. There are, however, some conditions obtaining in one or two parts of the District which possess possible potentialities for evil which might, under certain circumstances, threaten injuriously the public health of the community.

The want of a proper and easily obtained Water Supply in the Chipping Sub-Division of the District is, of course, not calculated to promote and favour habits of personal and domestic cleanliness and to that extent may be considered a prejudicial influence as regards public health. Whenever water has to be carried by hand, and more especially when the distance is great, it may be taken as perfectly certain that as little as possible will be used for it is only natural that people should endeavour to reduce labour to a minimum and hence it is that cleanliness is not a virtue likely to be highly extolled nor to be put very prominently into practice. Then, too, the manner in which it is collected and the methods in common use of carrying the water to the dwellings of the people lay the supply open to various forms of pollution which are not calculated to improve the well-being of the consumer. Though it may not be possible to point to any definite outbreak of disease epidemic in form to an impure water supply, yet the general effect of such a supply is harmful, and, of course, at any time may become highly virulent.

Similar possible influences of harm obtain in Chaigley, where some of the farms and other houses have no proper water supply laid on, and are dependent upon wells, water courses and streams for such supply as they can obtain. The village of Wiswell, also, in Whalley sub-division, is exposed to the same kind of possibly harmful influences as regards the matter of water supply.

Other influences in the district which are likely to be deleterious from a public health point of view are the large number of privy middens still existing in many parts, mostly in the more scattered and outlying parts, I am glad to be able to say. Yet, wherever found, they are unclean, fetid, unsalubrious institutions which can only be detrimental in their effect.

Dyspepsia in some form or other of its many manifestations is responsible for a good deal of the impaired health that occurs amongst various sections of the community.

Frequently in former reports I have made repeated reference to the unsatisfactory manner of living, more especially as regards diet, among many of the workers in factories, and I have more than once called attention to the superiority of ground flour over the fine white flour in common use. As bread in some form or another constitutes a large proportion of the daily food of the working classes, it is of the utmost importance it should be as perfect and nutritious as possible, hence the movement that is taking place in the direction of a whole wheat flour deserves support and is one which I hope will end in universal adoption. The rising generation will reap the benefit, and we may confidently look for evidences of improved bone, muscle, teeth, and general pysique before many years are over.

With the exception of two epidemics, both of which were practically confined within the borders of the two large public schools in the district, there has been no infectious or epidemic disease prevalent in the district as a whole during the year.

There were a few sporadic cases of Scarlet fever, Enteric fever, and Erysipelas in various parts, mostly widely separated from each other, and having no direct connection the one with the other.

In Little Mytton, in the month of January, a case of scarlet fever occurred which was clearly traced to Preston as the source of infection. There was no furthre spread of the disease from this case as the family in which it occurred shewed an intelligent appreciation of the instructions given as to isolation and the efficient use of disinfectants. The cottage was but a small one, and it required careful attention to the rules and reg-

ulations laid down for their guidance in order to prevent further mischief taking place. Again, early in April, another solitary case occurred in Downham upon a farm, and here, too, the precautions used prevented the further spread of the disease.

Then, in the very end of April, a case occurred in Stonyhurst College which ultimately lead to a very serious epidemic amongst the students and finally to the closing of the school one month before the end of the term as the only effectual means of staying the plague.

The first case occurred on the 29th April, and was removed to the isolation hospital which is well situated for the purpose, standing as it does far apart from other houses, in extensive grounds of its own, with a surrounding fence to protect it. As no further case appeared for more than three weeks, there was every reason to anticipate a successful arrest of the disease. Unfortunately, 24 days afterwards, on the 23rd May, two more cases occurred, and, on the following day, two more. Then, after every three days, a fresh series of cases appeared until the 12th June, when there was a temporary arrest of the infection for a period of 11 days, after which, on the 23rd June, there was another outbreak, and, 3 days later, more, and which ended in the school being closed. With all the means at command—a good isolation hospital, a good staff of nurses and doctors, and the regulations and discipline of a well-organised school, it does seem surprising that the disease was not arrested at the outset. It certainly seems to point to great carelessness or indifference on the part of some one, or more, in authority, and to a grave relaxation of the usual measures attending strict isolation.

About a month after the last school case, and while yet a few of the later cases remained in the sanatorium, two cases occurred at Kemple End, a small hamlet near by, which

probably came from contact with those in ~~and~~ or supposed to be in the isolation hospital, as on enquiry I could not find there had been exposure to infection in any other direction.

A month after that, three cases occurred in another farm nearly two miles distant, and a fourth case in Hurst Green. This was at the very end of August, after which there were no more cases till two children of the same family, returning home to the farm where it had been, became ill on the 14th and 27th November respectively. This was unfortunate, and only goes to prove that ordinary sulphurous acid fumigation is not reliable as a disinfectant in destroying the germs of the disease, and up to the present we have no better at command.

There were 25 cases in all of the group belonging to the school. Throughout the district there were 10 in all—one being a doubtful case—and these represented five different centres or foci of infection. Then of the 10 cases in the district eight of them can be directly or indirectly ascribed to the College as the centre of infection.

Early in the year, beginning on 24th February, there was a short, sharp epidemic of diphtheria in Hodder College which ended in March, eight cases in all having occurred, and fortunately without any fatalities. The cases were promptly isolated as they arose, and the Medical Officer to the school treated all of them with anti-toxin, I believe.

There was no outbreak of the disease among the ordinary members of the community in the immediate vicinity of the school, nor indeed was there a single case of diphtheria anywhere in the whole district.

Investigation of the internal sanitary arrangements of the school disclosed nothing to throw light upon the source of the epidemic. The milk supply, etc., was beyond suspicion, nor was the water supply in any doubt.

However, immediately behind the school buildings I found a very large open and uncovered midden, full to overflowing of all sorts of refuse: Portions of old clothing, old boots, fragments of crockery, old iron utensils, garbage of all sorts, ashes, scraps of food and paper. The steep bank of the river Hodder close by was littered all over for many yards and from top to bottom with some kind of rubbish. There was also an outhouse which served partly as a stable, partly as a kind of coach-house and storage for hay, which was very damp and through which water trickled from the steep bank against which it was built, near by to the midden. This whole combination of affairs so close to the school buildings was not likely to be favourable to the general health of the boys and was the only thing which seemed to throw any reasonable light upon the epidemic.

There were two cases of Enteric fever, one in the early part of the year, in March, and the second was in October. Both cases occurred in the Chipping Sub-Division of the District but very far apart from each other, and there was nothing in common between them. Nothing was discovered which could throw any light upon how they originated. The probabilities are that the infection was contracted while the parties were absent from the district, though the disease did not develope until after their return.

The only other form of infectious disease which occurred in the district was Erysipelas. There were six cases in all, scattered throughout the year from the beginning to the end, and they all occurred in the Clitheroe sub-division and the Whalley sub-division, and all far apart from each other.

The measures taken for the prevention of further infection in the case of epidemic disease is as follows:—

The most suitable room in the house that is available, is selected for purposes of isolation; the more this room is cut off from the rest of the house the better, as, for example, by a passage or lobby. One's choice, however, is often limited either by the smallness of the house or by the exigencies of domestic economy. Then again, very frequently the room in which the case began must be used, as there would be no space left for the other members of the family if the case were moved, the already infected room being necessary for accommodation of the healthy. A large sheet sufficient to cover the whole doorway is fastened up and then kept constantly saturated with a strong solution of disinfectant. The sick attendant, who is very frequently the mother, is requested to wear a cotton overall for use in the sick room, and which can be left off before rejoining the healthy members of the family. Then the free use of disinfectants about the premises generally are of value, in addition to which free ventilation is enjoined, the importance of fresh air being strongly impressed upon those responsible. Further, the advisability of boiling the milk and water is pointed out.

In the case of an infectious disease such as Scarlet fever and Diphtheria occurring on a farm, strict injunctions are given that no one handling the milk must come in contact with the disease in any shape or form, and unless the dairy or premises in which milk is stored is distinctly separate or cut off from all infection, then the sale of milk is prohibited. In the case of Enteric fever, very similar measures are adopted, varying according to the requirements of the situation in each case.

The success attending these measures of precaution and prevention is very satisfactory, and more especially so when intelligently, efficiently and explicitly carried out, and I must add for the credit of all concerned, that a willing and ready obedience to instructions is generally experienced.

From time to time, as opportunity offered, I made a visit to various outlying parts of the district and took a general review of sanitary conditions over all, and with the exception of such especial enquiries as visits to schools and workshops involved and which will be referred to further on there is very little to record.

I found on enquiry that the block of houses situated close by the Higher Hodder Bridge have no water laid on, and are entirely dependent for their supply upon the brook which, running close by the end of the houses, enters the Hodder at this point. This water is exposed to any and every form of contamination that may be about, both at the collecting point in close proximity to the highroad and in any part of the stream higher up. The brook has the advantage of being a rapid running one which never falls very low, and so to that extent may be said to purify itself. The occupants of the houses make no complaint, and say the water is very good, but, of course, would much prefer to have water laid on so as to save themselves the trouble of carrying.

Higher up the hill and close upon the roadside is a small farm called Darwin's Farm, which has no proper water supply. All the water has to be carried by hand from an open well in a field some 120 yards away This so-called well is not railed in and is quite free of access to cattle and all surface drainage. It is said to be hard and not very good. There is another supply nearer at hand, but it is utterly bad and quite unfit for domestic use.

Most of the other farms about this neighbourhood have a good supply of water laid on.

The drains of a house in Chatburn, where there had been a good deal of sickness of a kind generally connected with an

unsanitary environment, were found to be defective, resulting in the overflowing of the yard and the saturation of the soil with the discharge from the water closet. The landlord took the repairs in hand, and the nuisance was soon rectified with satisfactory results, I believe.

Then towards the close of the year, during the course of road repair which was being carried out in Whalley, it was discovered that an old drain which drained the premises behind the Swan Hotel and some other premises adjacent thereto was in a defective state and had become in danger of being a nuisance to the Whalley Arms Hotel below which it passed after crossing the Accrington road. There was some little difficulty in deciding what was the best course to pursue in order to remedy the trouble, but this was ultimately very satisfactorily settled, and I think the Council may rest assured that it is not likely to cause any further trouble for a long time to come.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

This is perhaps somewhat straitened at the present time, as there is a considerable demand in the neighbourhood of Whalley for lodgings on the part of men who are employed by the contractors for the building of the new asylum. Of course, it is a more or less temporary condition of affairs, though it may last a few years yet until the asylum works have been completed. Apart from this purely local demand I do not think, taking the district as a whole, there is any lack in numbers of houses or efficiency of accommodation. Certainly many new houses, of a distinctly improved class and type have been erected in various parts of the district during the last few years.

Chatburn, Whalley and Barrow are the parts of the district in which most building has been carried in. In Whalley, two new houses have been erected in Nethertown, and a new bank, with house attached, is being erected in King street.

The 13 new houses on the asylum site which were reported in my report for 1909 have been completed, and 12 of them are now in occupation.

New Offices and store rooms have also been built in connection with the building of the asylum.

At Barrow Gardens in Wiswell a new shippon has been erected. Nothing else of any importance has been done in the way of building during the year.

IMPORTED LABOUR.

There is no labour imported for the purpose of "picking hops," "fruit and peas" in this district.

There may be a large addition to the labour brought into the district before long in connection with the new asylum, but I understand the contractors are debarred from erecting huts on the asylum grounds for the accommodation of these labourers, so that it may be necessary for the contractors to import the bulk of the labour by train daily.

WATER SUPPLY.

There are waterworks in most parts of the district which furnish a more or less abundant supply of water. The quality of the water varies in different localities and while sufficiently good and pure on the whole is frequently very hard. In some places it is extremely hard, which, from many points of view is a very serious drawback. It is very apt to induce constipation, and the evils which flow from this condition when it becomes habitual are so many and varied that they may be described as protean. In any case, a very hard water is not calculated to improve the general health of the community where it is habitually in use.

From a domestic point of view it is wasteful in the extreme not only as regards the excessive consumption of soap, but from the fact that washing can never be so efficiently performed, especially in the case of woollen garments, but also because they require more frequent washing as they are never satisfactorily cleansed at any one operation.

It must also be remembered that some hard waters are capable of causing diarrhœa depending upon the composition of the salines to which the hardness may be attributed. Such waters, however, are not commonly met with in this district.

The following places have a constant supply at command: Chatburn, Downham, Worston, Pendleton, Mearley, Barrow, Whalley, Hurst Green, Bailey, Stonyhurst, Woodfields, Little Mytton, Chaigley. But the latter place is only supplied in part, as three farms have a very scanty supply. Thornley is supplied by Lord Derby. Leagram is partly supplied from Leagram Hall, but a few farms are very badly off, and Little Bowland is said to have a good supply from springs. Twiston has a very scanty supply in dry weather.

Chipping, the condition of which has been reported upon in late years ad nauseam, has an uncertain supply from troughs and wells which is not beyond reproach. It is, however, very satisfactory to be able to record that the water supply of Chipping is now within measureable reach of being finally settled, to the advantage of that community, and I hope I may be able to state in my next annual report that this long delayed work has been accomplished, at all events, there is every prospect of its being commenced before many weeks or months are over.

The supply at Hesketh Lane is very bad, as the analysis in my last year's report very clearly demonstrated.

Wiswell still derives its supply from troughs at the road-side, and nothing has yet been done to put in operation the scheme referred to at some length in my last annual report and which would go far to solve the problem as regards this village.

A new main to supply houses at Smithies Bridge in Chatburn has been laid along the Sawley road for 950 yards.

In Whalley, some 14 houses, offices and committee rooms on the new Asylum site have received a full supply of water from the Blackburn Corporation. In addition, Brook House Farm and two houses at Brickfields are being supplied from the same source.

In Thornley, the Earl of Derby has provided several farms, etc., with an excellent supply of good water, and one farm also in Chaigley.

The following is a list of places which have been provided: Derby Arms Hotel, Bradley Hall, Elliott's Farm, Wood Top Farm, Lower Anchor farm and cottage, and the Cherry Tree Farm in Chaigley.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

The new houses and offices on the new Asylum site have been fitted with fresh water closets and connected with the Asylum sewer.

In Nethertown, two new closets on the waste water system have been erected and connected with the main sewer.

I have already referred to the matter of the old drain in Whalley which was threatening to become a nuisance to the Whalley Arms Hotel, and only wish to add that the course of the drain has been diverted from its old course and relaid with 9 inch sanitary pipes.

At Old Hall, two new closets have been built, and three others reconstructed and put on the pail system.

In Chipping several closets have been reconstructed and adapted to the pail system.

In this village, also, it has been necessary to take up defective house drains at the back of Talbot street which have been relaid.

In Chatburn, at Venture Villas, faulty house drains have been taken up and relaid. A new gully and grate has been fixed outside of the kitchen; an old grate has been removed from inside of washhouse and a new slop stone pipe put in with a new gully and grate outside, and finally, a new drain laid to settling tank.

Hurst Green. In this village a new closet has been built and new drains have been laid to carry surface water from the house.

In Wiswell, behind New Row, a long-standing defect of drains, causing very great nuisance, has been remedied by relaying the faulty drain.

Scavenging has, on the whole, been satisfactory. In Chatburn and Chipping it is done by contract, and in Barrow and Wiswell by the Council's men.

NUISANCES.

During the year 1910, 19 notices were served upon owners for the abatement of nuisances which were, in due course, complied with and rectified.

The following is the list:—

Hurst Green	1
Chatburn	1
Wiswell	7
Chipping	9
Chaigley	1
	19

Below is appended a list of privy middens, pails, fresh water closets, and waste water closets throughout the district.

	Privy Middens	*Fresh Water Closets*	*Waste Water Closets*	*Pails.*
Aighton	133	140		14
Bailey	36	2		4
Chaigley	33	2		
Bowland Little	19	2		
Chatburn	108	31	60	40
Downham	48	1		
Twiston	18			
Worston	26	5		3
Pendleton	56	2		
Whalley	72	83	199	5
Wiswell	52		2	7
Barrow	25		41	23
Chipping	142	3		54
Thornley	72			
Leagram	15	1		
Little Mitton	13	2		
	868	272	302	150

PRIVY MIDDENS.

It will be seen from this list that privy middens have diminished by 27 only, as in 1909 there were 895. This is, of course, satisfactory so far as it goes, but it does not appear to me to be either far enough or fast enough. The sooner the ballance is wiped off, the better for the district.

FRESH WATER CLOSETS.

The number of these closets has increased by 15, which is a much higher number than was recorded for last year when the increase was only two.

WASTE WATER CLOSETS.

There is no change in the number of these closets for 1910 but they remain as before.

PAIL SYSTEM.

This system has been adopted in 29 cases, and is to that extent an advance along the line of sanitary improvement.

Speaking generally, the character of the drainage throughout the district is quite good. The form of sewerage disposal is by means of irrigation works and settling tanks in most places of any importance.

HOUSE REFUSE.

The disposal of house refuse is performed by the Sanitary Authority in the villages of Chatburn, Chipping, Barrow and Wiswell, either through a contractor or by the Council's men, and where so done the duty is carried out for the most part quite satisfactorily.

In Whalley and Hurst Green owners and occupiers are responsible for the removal, with the result that the duty is sometimes neglected or very inefficiently attended to.

POLLUTION OF RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Things in this respect remain much the same from year to year. The Ribble and Hodder are entirely free from any gross impurities, so that in them one may bathe with impunity during the summer months.

Fish are also to be found in greater or less abundance which proves that the waters are comparatively pure and sweet.

The Calder, unfortunately, cannot be included in this category, for it is very much polluted at times, and in summer when the waters are low and when the sun shines out strongly there is sometimes an offensive effluvium given off which is, to say the least, anything but pleasant for those living near by, or for such as may desire to wander along its banks. This unpleasantness was not at all noticeable during 1910, as the water never fell very low, owing to the wet summer, nor was the sun overpoweringly strong at any period of the year.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 8 Slaughter Houses in the district and they are distributed as follows:—Whalley, 2; Chipping, 1; Downham, 2; Chatburn, 1; Stonyhurst, 1; and Hurst Green,1.

The Inspector of Nuisances reports that they have all been kept clean, the walls well limewashed from time to time, and the floors well swilled with water after killing. Several of the butchers have been warned about the necessity for immediate removal of garbage after killing is over.

LODGING HOUSES.

There are no registered Lodging Houses in the district.

INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

During 1910 I visited almost all the schools within the District and found the sanitary conditions of all of them in a fairly satisfactory state.

I do not propose to give any detailed description except with regard to one or two I have not specially referred to in former reports.

DOWNHAM SCHOOL.

This is a small school having an average attendance of 38. The situation of the school is close upon the roadway but at the same time standing well above it and fenced by a low stone wall.

The school was quite satisfactorily clean when I saw it, but the weather was dry and bright so everything was in favour of cleanliness. During wet weather, matters might not be quite so satisfactory, as I found the drainage from the roof was allowed at one point to run over the playground or enclosure, and this being unpaved, doubtless a considerable amount of mud and dampness is carried into the school on the boots of the children. This certainly might be remedied without very much difficulty or expense.

The lighting of the school is good as the windows are on both sides of the building, facing west and east.

Ventilation is quite satisfactory. There is a Boyle's ventilator in centre of roof, and two of an old type at each end. Then there are four Tobin's tubes at each corner of the building.

The windows also have ventillators fixed to them.

Heating, also, is good, indeed, almost too efficient, I am informed. It is by means of hot water pipes. Water supply is good and abundant. An enamelled mug is kept for drinking purposes. Towels and soap for cleansing purposes are also provided. There is also a sponge, which latter I do not approve of at all as it is quite impossible to keep it perfectly clean after it has been in use for some time.

SANITATION.

This is good in every respect except that privies are provided—the pail system or waste water closets would be much better. The privies, however, were clean and free from smell on the occasion of my visit. They are well lighted and ventilated. There are two for girls of different heights, which is a wise arrangement. For boys there is one with a urinal. All are kept locked to prevent the use of them by tramps.

WHALLEY C.E. SCHOOL.

This is a large school built in two blocks. The w.c's. and urinals are situated between the two wings of the school, and quite separate.

The main room of the west block has a cubic capacity of 30,240 feet. The lighting of this room is derived from six windows, three to the west and three to the east. The centre window of the latter, however, is a borrowed light from the cloak room and is not of much value. On the whole, the room is well lighted and the desks are as suitably arranged as can be in relationship to the source of light.

The heating is by means of hot water pipes, and the headmaster reports it as satisfactory.

VENTILATION.

This appears to be sufficient as there are two exhausts in the roof and three Sherringham inlet velves in the walls; in addition, there are inlet valves in each of the windows except the borrowed light to the east. The room has two points of entry through cloakrooms to the south and east.

At the end of this main room, and on a higher level is a classroom for girls. It is separated from the main room by a wooden partition with door in it. The cubic capacity is 5,280 feet, and there is an average attendance of 36 per day, and this is equal to 161.8 cubic feet per scholar, which is not very much. Of course, it must be remembered that the pupils are confined in school for comparatively brief periods at a time. Floor space is of more importance, and I find there is in the main room, 18 square feet per unit of average attendance, and this, of course, is quite satisfactory. In the classroom adjoining there are 14 square feet of floor space per unit, and this, too, is well up to the standard of requirements in most schools. The lighting and ventilation of this room is good and efficient for all ordinary requirements.

INFANT SCHOOL.

The main room is 78 feet long, having a cubic capacity of 29,952 feet. There are windows at each end, east and west and along the south side. These windows do not open, but each alternate window has a ventilating valve, or four in all. In addition, there are four Tobins' tubes, two at each end of the room; then there are two exhausts in the ceiling of each half of the room. The ends of the room are rather stuffy and close, I am informed, so that the ventilation cannot be considered quite satisfactory.

Heating is by hot water pipes, but it is not easily regulated and varies, being sometimes excessive and sometimes low.

The main entrance is to the south through a porch. Opposite is another door which leads into a narrow cloakroom or passage, lighted by a window at the north end, and by a skylight.

This cloakroom communicates with the class room which it also serves. It is also used as a store room for ladders, boards and trestles, and as the room is small enough for its own purpose of cloakroom it ought not to be encumbered with such articles.

CLASS ROOM.

This is a small room of 1,680 cubic feet capacity which has three ventilators in roof and has two Tobins' tubes, besides which both windows are made to open. Ventialtion here may be considered quite satisfactory.

SANITATION.

This is not so satisfactory as it might be. In the boys' quarters there are only two water closets and an urinal. These can be flushed only by caretaker, not being automatic. On the occasion of my visit, the urinal was smelling very strongly, and was evidently not sufficiently flushed. Though it was a fine day, I found the whole premises wet and dirty. The water closets are rather dark when the doors are shut, there being no windows.

In the girls' quarters, things are rather better, cleaner and less wet. I found the seats for the infants rather too high, also things were rather wet.

The playground is rough and uneven, and it is rather muddy in wet weather, I infer from its appearance.

I think it would be an advantage to pave the playground with tar macadam; it certainly would become much cleaner in wet weather, and water would not lie about in puddles.

In the Infants school a great deal would be gained in many ways by sub-dividing the main room by means of a wood and glass partition. Ventilation and heating would be better regulated, and there would be much less noise and disturbance by cutting off the two sections from each other.. Then the desks in the eastern end of the room are arranged the wrong way for the light. I found the children while writing, working in their own shadow instead of having the light falling on the desks from the left. The main room in the mixed block might gain a great deal too by having a further sub-division, but not so much so as in the other case. The boys' water closets certainly require more frequent flushing, sweeping, and general cleaning up. If damp sawdust could be used for sweeping out in the evenings there would be less disturbance of dust, simply to settle elsewhere, after a short time.

I omitted to record that the area of the main room in Infants' school is 1,062¾ square feet, and this is equal to 20 square feet per unit of average attendance. The smaller class room has an area of 642 square feet, and this gives 14.7 square feet per unit of attendance on the average.

I do not propose to refer to any other schools at this time.

VITAL STATISTICS.

In statute acres the area of the district is 31,338 The population at the last census was 5,845. Taking this figure to represent the population at the present time, it gives an average of 5.362 persons per acre. There is thus ample room for the whole community within the borders of the district.

INHABITED HOUSES.

The number of inhabited houses at the last census was 1,427. On this basis there was an average of 4.10 per house. At the close of 1910 it is estimated there were 1312 inhabited houses.

There has been no pronounced cases of overcrowding brought under my notice in 1910, but in one or two cases, notably, in Wiswell, certain houses were strained to their utmost allowable capacity. This, however, was only of temporary duration, pending accommodation being found elsewhere.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered during 1910 was as follows: Males, 73; Females, 60; total, 133.

This is five more than for 1909, and is the highest number recorded since 1901, except the year 1906, when there was 137. The average for the last ten years was 128.8. This constitutes a desirable improvement.

There were three illegitimate births during the year, or two more than for the year 1909.

BIRTH RATE.

The birth rate for the year is therefore 22.76, and this is the highest rate since 1906 when it was 23.44. The birth rate for 1909 was 21.90. This is 0.86 per 1,000 higher than the rate for the preceding year, which in turn was 0.70 higher than the year 1908. This upward tendency is hopeful and satisfactory, more especially as it seems to be maintained.

The district, however, does not stand very high in the matter of fecundity among the Rural Districts of England. The general tendency of the birth rate throughout the country as a whole for many years has been steadily downwards, and no

doubt we should feel gratified at the small measure of success as has been granted to us within the last year or two. The average of births per 1,000 of the population for the last 10 years was 20.59.

The birth rate of England is 25.00 per 1,000.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths registered during 1910 was 80, and this includes the deaths which have occurred in public institutions outside the limits of this district.

The number of deaths of males was 44, and of females, 36. As is commonly found to be the case, the deaths among males exceeded that of females, though the difference between the two sexes was not so great in the year we are now considering as in 1909. The figures are as follows:—In 1909 there were 15, while in 1910 the difference is eight only.

There were three deaths of persons belonging to the district registered in public institutions beyond the district, but, as already said, they are included in the total.

DEATH RATE.

The death rate for the year 1910 is 13.68 per 1,000 of population. The average death rate for the last 10 years was 13.89, so that there is a slight improvement within the last year. The death rate for 1910 is very nearly 1 per 1,000 higher than the rate for Rural England as a whole, which is 12.80 only. Indeed, the whole of England, including the large towns is only 13.40 per 1,000 of the population, while the rate for this district is 0.28 higher. This is distinctly unsatisfactory.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 9 deaths registered of infants under one year of age. This is nearly four less than the average for the last ten years, and is one less than for the years 1908 and 1909 when the number was 10. This of course is satisfactory, and perhaps points to the dawning of a glimmering apprehension on the part of parents that mother's milk is far superior as a food for infants than all the varieties of prepared and patent foods on the market.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

The rate of infantile mortality for the year 1910 is 67.60, and this is a considerable improvement upon the average for the last ten years, which is 96.48. It is gratifying to be able to note that the infantile mortality rate has been steadily falling for the last five years. I wish again to emphasise the fact that this rate is not calculated upon the population of the district, but according to the number of births within the year.

There were no deaths among illegitimate children under one year of age.

DEATH RATE FROM THE SEVEN PRINCIPAL EPIDEMIC DISEASES.

This rate is calculated per 1,000 of the population. I am glad to be able to record that there was not a single death from any zymotic disease.

This is all the more satisfactory when we consider the epidemics of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever already referred to in the early part of this report. This is, of course, extremely satisfactory. In 1909, there were two deaths from zymotic disease, and in 1908 there were four.

TABLE I.

This table does not require very much explanation. It is a summary of the vital statistics of the whole district for the year 1910 and for the ten preceding years. The averages of the ten previous years are shewn also, and these appear immediately above the figures for the year under review so that comparisons are easily made. It is probable however, that the population of the district, after diminishing steadily for many years is again on the increase, at all events the Census for 1911 will put this to the proof.

In columns 9 to 13 only 7 previous years' statistics are available but this defect will remedy itself as the years roll on.

This table also shews the area of the district in acres, the number of inhabited houses and the average number of persons per house.

This table again shews on the back information regarding public institutions outside and inside the district receiving sick and infirm persons either coming from within or without the district.

Regarding column 1 we have at present no institution within the district receiving sick and infirm persons from without the district. While as regards column 2, there are, of course, numerous institutions outside the district receiving sick and infirm persons from within the district, viz: Clitheroe Workhouse, Blackburn Infirmary and various Asylums.

TABLE II.

This table shews the vital statistics of the separate localities, and also of the whole district, so that each of the separate localities may be compared, the one with the other and

also each with the figures for the whole district. The figures for this year are given and the averages of the ten years, and below this the figures of the present year are shown.

It will be seen that in 1910 there were 133 births, and this is fully four more than the average for the last ten years, and five more than for 1909. This is a tendency in the right direction, and we can at least wish it to be maintained. The following figures show at a glance the position of affairs:—

1909 ... 128 Births.
1910 ... 133 ,,
Previous 10 years' average ... 128.8 ,,

So far as Chipping is concerned the number of births is exactly the same as for 1909, and practically the same as the average for the last ten years, viz: 55.

While in Clitheroe there is an increase of one over the number for 1909, and actually an advance of two upon the ten years' average, the figures are as follows:

1909 ... 27 Births.
1910 ... 28 ,,
Average for 10 years ... 26 ,,

In Whalley there is an improvement of four upon the numbers for the previous year and there is practically an advance of one upon the ten years' average, as the following figures show:—

1909 ... 46 Births
1910 ... 50 ,,
Average previous ten years ... 49.1 ,,

Then as regards the deaths there is again a satisfactory record to make. There are fewer deaths both as regards the previous year and the average for 10 years. The figures are:

1909 ... 83 Deaths
1910 . . 80 ,,
Previous 10 years' average ... 87 ,,

In Chipping there is a great improvement upon past records which the following figures show:

1909 ... 42 Deaths
1910 ... 34 ,,
Previous 10 years' average ... 37 ,,

In Clitheroe, the following is the state of affairs:

1909 . 16 Deaths
1910 .. 12 ,,
Previous 10 years' average ... 19 ,,

As regards Whalley, there is a change for the worse:

1909 .. 23 Deaths
1910 ... 34 ,,
Previous ten years' average ... 33.4 ,,

There is a very large increase in the number of deaths for 1910 as compared with 1909, and yet notwithstanding this enormous difference of 11 deaths, the number for this year we have now under review is only 0.6 more than the average for the previous ten years

1910 has been the most disastrous year as regards mortality, since 1900 and 1901.

Now as regards infantile mortality it is still possible to record an improvement. There is one death less for 1910 than occurred in 1909, and this marks progress, though it may not be very great. This is the best year since 1905, that is, taking the district as a whole. The figures are:—

1909 ... 10 Infantile Deaths
1910 ... 9 ,,
Previous 10 years' average ... 12.7 ,,

There are only three occasions on which the number of deaths was less than that for the year under review. In 1904 the number was seven, and in 1902 and 1905 it was eight. This, I am afraid, rather indicates that the position is more or less accidental and not due to increasing knowledge on the part of mothers as to how to treat and nurse their offspring in a really intelligent manner. It is very strange how the human mother, in very many instances, possesses the instinct of mothering so very slightly, while the lower animals possess it to such perfection. How very very often the human mother proposes with the utmost coolness and indifference to bring up her infant—her most precious charge—"on the bottle" so as to be saved the bother or be freed from the ties that suckling involves. The milk which a beneficent Providence has bestowed upon her for the proper and most perfect sustenance of her young must be arrested and dried up by "backening plasters" or some other method, while her poor infant must suffer all the penalties and run all the risks only too frequently attending the artificial methods of bringing up a child.

Some very curious "dainties" are sometimes given to very young children. As an article of dietary, chipped potatoes are not unknown, small pieces of meat to suck, bread not always soaked in milk (perchance in tea or beer); sometimes soup, and many other odds and ends have been given under the mistaken belief that such things are good for baby and will help it to grow strong and vigorous.

The mortality rate among infants is quite gratifyingly low for 1910, and if it can be kept down about the present level of 67.70 per 1,000 of births should furnish some strong evidence that women are acquiring some adequate idea of how more perfectly to fulfil the duties that nature and the sacred obligations of motherhood have laid upon them

The figures for the several sub-divisions of the district are as follows:

Chipping.....	109.7	per 1,000	of births
Clitheroe.....	71.40	,,	,,
Whalley	20.00	,,	,,
District	67.00	,,	,,
Rural England ...	96.00	,,	,,

As regards Chipping, there is no improvement, and matters are about stationary, though tending to be worse. In the case of Clitheroe, the state of affairs is also much the same, though the tendency is towards improvement, while in the case of Whalley, improvement is very marked indeed.

TABLE III.

This table shews the cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year.

It is also intended to shew the ages at which the cases occur according to certain groups; but, unfortunately, the information in regard to age is very rarely given, so that I am quite unable tocomplete the table in a manner satisfactory either to myself or others.

All medical men notifying should state the age of the patient, but in as much as all the printed forms supplied for notifying purposes do not indicate "age" on the face of them, they cannot be held responsible for their neglect to do so.

There were 51 cases of infectious disease notified during the year 1910, and of that number 35, or more than two-thirds, were cases of scarlet fever. Diphtheria accounted for one-sixth nearly of the total, and numbered eight in all. Then there were six cases of erysipelas, and two of enteric fever.

Chipping sub-division has by far the largest proportion of the total number, for no less than 43 of the cases occurred therein. Scarlet fever accounted for 33. All the eight cases of diphtheria also occurred here, as also the two enteric fever cases.

The other eight cases were equally divided between Clitheroe and Whalley sub-divisions, three cases of erysipelas having occurred in Clitheroe, and one of scarlet fever, and the same number occurred in Whalley. I have already commented upon the scarlet fever epidemic, as also that of diphtheria, at some length in a previous part of this report, so need not dwell on the matter further at this point. It is, however, desirable that I should call attention to the fact that there were no deaths due to any form of infectious disease throughout the whole district. The death rate from zymotic disease for England and Wales is 0.99 per 1,000, and for Rural England, 0.74.

This table also shews what isolation hospital accommodation there is for the district and where it is situated, also the number of beds available, and the number of diseases which can be concurrently treated. In the case of the rural district of Clitheroe, there is joint hospital accommodation for smallpox only in conjunction with the borough of Clitheroe, and the total number of beds available is 12. As the hospital is for smallpox, no other disease can be treated there.

TABLE IV.

This table shews the causes of, and ages at, death, according to certain age groups during the year 1910. The localities also, and the number occurring in each locality, is shewn.

In connection with this table, I propose to discuss the causes of death in somewhat greater detail.

There was no death from any of the first nine causes of death mentioned in the table, and this is satisfactory so far, as it shews that none of the commoner infectious diseases had a fatal termiation. Epidemic influenza was accountable for one death in the Chipping sub-division, in a person under 65 years of age. Gastritis in an infant under one year of age was the cause of death in the Clitheroe sub-division, in all probability due to improper feeding.

Phthisis, or pulmonary tuberculosis, has been the cause of death in no less than seven instances, and four of them were under 25 years of age. Three of the cases occurred in Chipping, one in Clitheroe, and three in Whalley. In 1909, there were four deaths only from this cause, and four occurred in Whalley, four in Chipping, and one in Clitheroe. In looking still further back over former reports, I find that while numbers vary, the incidence of the disease almost invariably falls upon Chipping and Whalley, which seems to point to some influence or other which affects them in this respect more so than it does Clitheroe. It is, of course, very possible, that the age distribution of the respective sub-divisions is such that there are not relatively nearly so many at the susceptible period of life in Clitheroe as in the other two places.

The number of deaths being seven, it is equal to a death rate of 1.19 per 1,000 of the population, which must be considered very high for such a district as this, where at least half the population are leading an open-air life. It represents no less than 8.75 per cent. of all the deaths in the district, and is much to be deplored. Three only of the cases followed in-door occupations, or such as might tend to favour the onset of the disease, while three followed open-air occupations to a large extent, and the remaining case was the young daughter of a farmer. In this connection, more especially since two of the

deaths from phthisis were amongst weavers, it may be well for me to call attention to the fact that the Medical Officer of Health for Bacup has been definitely able to trace the origin of the disease in three instances to the practice of "kissing the shuttle." This habit or custom amongst weavers is, to say the least, not a very clean one considering how many different people may be called upon to use one and the same shuttle from time to time, and it appears to me remarkable that no outcry has been raised against it on the part of those most interested long ere now. There is no question but that infection can take place through saliva, and it is equally certain that the saliva from the lips must adhere to the eye of the shuttle and other parts, and so it is quite possible for infection to be transmitted in this way. There are infinite possibilities for widespread harm in the continuation of this unpleasant method of threading the shuttle, and more particularly so when we know it need not be persisted in since a shuttle has been patented by M. Brooks, of Whalley, which obviates all necessity for the present insanitary method being continued. This shuttle has been put to many practical tests and has been found to present no difficulties in use and to be as rapid in action as the "kissing" manner of procedure. Now that attention is being called to the matter the present shuttle may, in time, be superseded by a newer, better and more sanitary form.

Then, in addition to the above, seven cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, there were other three cases of tuberculous disease affecting other organs, which makes a total of 10 deaths from some form or other of tuberculosis, which raises the percentage of deaths from this very fatal disease to the formidable total of 12.50 per cent. The last three cases of more generalised tuberculosis occurred in very young people under six years of age. This fact raises the suspicion that the milk supply was not entirely above suspicion, more especially so because the abdominal organs were chiefly affected in all three cases.

Yet, on the other hand, my attention has not been called to the presence of any tuberculous cows in the district within the last few years. Indeed, to judge from the absence of any evidence to the contrary, the whole district appears to be remarkably free from tuberculosis amongst the cattle. This absence of tuberculosis is a matter of the utmost importance, especially as regards the milk supply for infants and young children, and the reputation of the district as a source of a fine supply should stand high and earn recognition in the towns supplied by it.

Cancer, in one form or another, has been accountable for a very large number of deaths during 1910. There were six deaths from this cause, three of which occurred in Chipping, and three in Whalley. As far as I can trace back, this is the greatest number which ever has occurred in any one year. In 1909, there were two deaths, and in 1908 there were four. Cancer appears to be more common now than in former years, and yet it is quite probable that its frequency is only apparent and not real, one reason being that it is probably much more easily recognised now than at one time, and, secondly, that statistics are more reliable.

Bronchitis claimed four victims, three of which were in Chipping and one in Whalley.

Pneumonia was responsible for six deaths, one each of which occurred in Chipping and Clitheroe, while no fewer than four took place in Whalley. In 1909, there were 10 deaths from pneumonia and six from bronchitis, so that this year there is a sensible diminution of such cases.

There were two deaths also from other diseases of the respiratory organs, which occurred in Chipping.

Premature birth accounted for two deaths one being in Clitheroe, and one in Whalley.

Heart disease, as a cause of death, presents a great contrast between 1910 and 1909, for whereas there were 12 deaths due to this cause in 1909, there are only two in the year we now have under review. These extreme contrasts between one year and another are very remarkable, and, of course, are more or less accidental.

Senile decay was the cause of death in 12 instances. They were distributed as follows: Six belonged to the Chipping sub-division; two to the Clitheroe sub-division; and four to Whalley. This represents 15 per cent. of all the deaths, and is a very satisfactory porportion, as things are at the present time. In 1908, there were also 12 deaths due to this cause.

Inquests were held in 11 cases, and this is a very large number in such a comparatively small population. Of this large number, three were held in Chipping, one in Clitheroe, and the very large balance of seven were held in Whalley.

All other causes comprehends the remainder of the deaths which number 23 in all. I need not enter into any further detail with regard to them as they do not call for any very special mention.

TABLE V.

This table shews the infantile mortality during the year, and gives the deaths from stated causes in weeks and months under one year of age.

As already shewn in an earlier part of the report, there were nine deaths under one years of age. This table shews they were all certified. It also shews that of the nine, there were seven which took place within the first month of life, and

of the seven, no less than five occurred within the first week of life. Two of these were due to premature birth, and one to convulsions. One was due to bronchitis, and one to some other cause which need not be more fully specified.

In the third week of life, one death was due to suffocation from over-lying. This is a cause of death which should never occur, and is easily preventible.

In the fourth week of life, there was one death from gastritis, which belongs to the diarrhœal group of diseases, and can probably trace its occurrence to improper feeding.

In the first or second month of life, there were two deaths, one being of tabes mesenterica (one of the tubercular group of diseases, and for which a tainted milk supply is often responsible). The remaining death was from a cause which does not call for special mention.

The point most worthy of notice in regard to this table is the fact that no fewer than seven of the nine infantile deaths were under one month of age, and the remaining two did not exceed two months.

This table also gives the number of births in the year, and distinguishes between legitimate and illegitimate, of which latter there are three in the total of 133.

The table also distinguishes between deaths of legitimate and illegitimate infants under one year of age. Finally, it gives the total number of deaths from all causes at all ages.

There were no deaths among illegitimate infants during the year.

Lastly there is the table or form No. 572, furnished by the Home Office for the purpose of tabulating the results of the inspection of factories, workshops and workplaces within the district. To this I have already referred in a previous part of this report.

The table is very nearly a blank, as practically no defects were found about which it was necessary to make any comment.

There is not any other matter, which at this time I think is desirable to bring under your notice in connection with any of the tables which accompany my report.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. THORNTON MACKLIN,

M.D., D.P.H., M.O.H.

Whalley, Feb. 12th, 1911.