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Contributors

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Clitheroe
1911

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health
Committee of the Borough of Clitheroe.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my (tenth) Annual Report for the year 1911, and in explanation of the repetition therein, of some details with which you are already familiar, I may say that the instructions of the Local Government Board to Medical Officers point out "that it should be remembered that these reports are for the information of the Board, and of the County Council, as well as of the Council of the District, and that a statement of the local circumstances, etc., which may seem superfluous for the latter, may often be needed by the former bodies."

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WM. E. BARKER.



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CLITHEROE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1911.

**Physical Features and General
Character of the District.**

The Borough of Clitheroe is situated in the valley of the Ribble, in the North-Easterly portion of the County of Lancashire.

The district is drained principally by the Mearley Brook, which runs through the town in a South-Westerly direction to join the river Ribble.

Through the kindness of the Rev. W. Sidgreaves, S.J., F.R.A.S., of Stonyhurst College Observatory, near Clitheroe, I am enabled to give the following Summary of Meteorological Observations.

Barometer, mean for 1911	29.549 inches
Temperature, adopted mean for 1911	48.6
Mean degree of Humidity (saturation 100).....	81
Total Rainfall	44.220 inches
Greatest Monthly Rainfall	7.155 inches, December
Least Monthly Rainfall	0.935 inches, July
Prevailing wind.	

Direction	N.	NE.	E.	SE.	S.	S.W.	W	NW.
No. of days	34	76	17	10	48	83	86	11

From this it will be observed that whilst the more generally prevailing winds are SW, and W, there are considerable spells of wind from the NE., this latter being usually cold and dry.

The area of the Borough is 2,385 statute acres.

The number of inhabited houses at the last census (March 1911) was 2896 ; and the population exactly 12,500, and this latter figure has been retained for the purposes of the Tables in the present Report.

With the exception of 42, all the above houses were occupied.

The assessable value of the Urban District is £49031 0s. 4d. ; and its income from all sources, £25,647 ; expenditure on improvement works, £3,578 ; total expenditure, £26,623.

The principal industry of the town is Cotton Weaving but there are rather extensive Lime Quarries in the neighbourhood, and a considerable number of hands are employed at a local Printworks.

On the whole the district is a healthy one, and no trades especially harmful to health are carried on in the town.

The following is a Statement of Poor Law out-relief distributed during the year :—In money, £561 11s. 6d. ; In kind, £79 16s. 4d. ; total, £641 17s. 10d. The total number of persons relieved, including able-bodied, and not able-bodied, men, women and children was 377.

House Accommodation.

On the whole the housing accommodation for the working classes is satisfactory, and in some parts of the town it is good. In the older portions, however, there are a considerable number of single and back-to-back houses, 231 of these still remaining. Fortunately, most of the former have windows admitting of through ventilation. Four of the latter have been converted into one house and shop, and one lock-up shop during 1911. Seventeen houses have been built during the year, and forty-one are in course of erection, whilst plans have been passed for five more.

Four cases of over-crowding were dealt with during the year.

Seeing that the census returns disclosed 42 empty houses in March last, the accommodation would appear to be adequate, although the margin may be a rather narrow one. The average number of persons per inhabited house is 4.3, or allowing three persons for each of the 231 single and back-to-back houses, (presuming them all to be occupied), the average of persons for each double inhabited house would be nearly 4.7

Under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, 222 houses have been inspected during 1910. Two of these were considered unfit for habitation, and a notice to this effect being sent, the houses were closed forthwith. In addition, notices have been served on owners requiring them to remedy defects in respect of 145 houses

In the case of 93 houses, these defects have been, or are in process of being, remedied at the close of the year, whilst in respect of 52 houses the notices have not yet been complied with.

The following is a List of Defects in connection with which notices have been served, several defects sometimes occurring in the same house. The figures show the number of defects which have, or have not, so far been remedied, as the case may be :

NATURE OF DEFECTS.	Remedied or being remedied.	Not remedied
Water supply	4	2
Closet accommodation	57	17
Drainage	12	2
Lighting	11	—
Circulation of Air	70	35
Dampness	38	11
Cleanliness	1	—
Paving, drainage and sanitary condition of Back-yards	58	20
Deposit of Refuse and Ashes	22	8
Floors to be repaired	9	2
Stairs to be repaired	3	1
Plaster to be repaired	5	—
Walls to be repaired	4	—
Roofs to be repaired	—	1
Pigeon Cotes to remove	2	2
	—	—
	296	101

It will be noted above that the chief defects calling for remedy, so far as inspection has gone, are defective closet accommodation ; insufficient ventilation ; and unsatisfactory paving of back yards.

It should be remarked here that the scheme of house-to-house inspection was drawn up with a view to commencing operations in one of the portions of the town where it was known that sanitary improvements were most urgently called for.

Water Supply.

This is from neighbouring upland sources, the works being the property of the Corporation. The supply is constant, and has invariably been more than adequate in amount. Its quality is sufficiently indicated by the appended report dated April, 1911, of the Borough Analyst, Mr. Stenhouse.

WATER SUPPLY.

BOROUGH ANALYST'S REPORT, APRIL, 1911.

Borough Analyst's Laboratory,
166, Drake Street, Rochdale,
13th April, 1911.

Dear Sir,

The sample of water received from you last week, which was collected just before entering the reservoir, is clear, bright, slightly alkaline, soft, and of great organic purity. Only traces of ammonia yielding compounds are present, nitrates and nitrites are practically absent, chlorides

are low and oxygen absorption is negligible. Quantitative particulars are given below :

	Grains per gallon.
Total solid matter	4.9
Loss on Ignition of Residue	0.5
Non-volatile Mineral matter	4.4
Combined Chlorine.....	0.7
Chlorine calculated to common salt.....	1.15
	Parts per Million.
“ Free ” or Saline ammonia	0.02
Albuminoid ammonia	0.04
Oxygen absorbed in four hours	0.13
Total hardness (in Clark's degrees)	2.4 deg.
Temporary hardness (in Clark's degrees)	2.1 deg.
Permanent hardness (in Clark's degrees)	0.3 deg.
Nitrates and Nitrites—absent.	
Lead and other poisonous metals—absent	

A comparison of these results with those obtained in 1902 shows that the water at present is broadly similar in composition to the supply 9 years ago.

It is difficult to imagine a more excellent town's supply.

Yours faithfully,

E. STENHOUSE.

The greater part of the gathering ground is already the property of the Corporation, and no opportunity is lost of securing further portions where this is possible.

In this connection a Local Government Board Enquiry was held in September, 1911, in regard to an application from the Council for power to borrow £8,300 for the further purchase of land, and £2,200 for the laying down of conduits, &c., and the application was granted.

By an arrangements of the collecting pipes, the water from any particular area can be excluded when this is deemed desirable.

Milk Supply.

This is entirely from neighbouring farms, none being imported into the district. It is satisfactory in quality. There are 39 Registered Cowsheds in the Borough, with accommodation for about 570 head of cattle. They are inspected periodically, and found to be kept in a cleanly state, but the local Bye-laws in regard to lighting and air space are not rigorously enforced.. As mentioned below, one sample of milk was found deficient during the year.

Food and Drugs Act.

Under this Act, 26 samples were purchased by the Police during 1911, viz : spirits, 8 ; new milk, 8 ; butter, 5 ; Cheese, 2 ; Lard, 2 ; and margarine, 1 ; and on examination by the Public Analyst, one sample of milk was found deficient, the vendor being brought before the Justices and fined. All the other samples were satisfactory.

No tuberculous meat came under notice, and no Tuberculosis was dealt with in cattle.

Bakehouses.

The number of these remains as in my last report, viz : 25. All are reported as having been kept in a satisfactory condition. None are "underground."

Slaughter Houses.

The Public Slaughterhouses are adequate as regards accommodation for all the butchers in the town, but six private Slaughter Houses are still in use, and three other butchers slaughter outside the Borough.

The private Slaughter Houses are regularly inspected, and there are no complaints against them, but it is very desirable that all this work should be concentrated at the public abbatoirs.

Sewage and Drainage.

The surface drainage is apart from the sewage system and is conveyed into the brook running through the town.

The sewers are periodically flushed and adequately ventilated, and further extensions of branch sewers have taken place during 1911.

The sewage is conveyed into detritus pits and settlement tanks, and the sludge from these removed on to farm lands. The more liquid portions are passed into Bacteria Beds, and ultimately treated by broad land irrigation.

The effluent has been satisfactory to the Ribble

Watershed Joint Committee

Excrement Removal.

Water carriage is gradually replacing the old tub system, 623 fresh water closets, 20 latrines, and 1406 slop water closets being now in use. 39 Fresh water closets

have been added during the year, and 77 slop water closets, 67 of these latter being put into old property and 10 into new property, 1233 excreta pails now remain.

Five old midden privies have been abolished during the year, the number now remaining being 17, 12 of these being in outlying situations.

House Refuse.

This is deposited in tubs, (of which 2,745 are in use), and removed by the Public Authority to tips outside the town. There is no destructor.

Nuisances.

Detailed information under this heading will be found in the appended Report of the Inspector of Nuisances. The figures are as follows :—Nuisances on the books, 105 ; Notices and letters sent to abate Nuisances, 3 ; Abated without notices, 102. There were no prosecutions.

There is no time limit for Smoke emission in force in the Borough.

Common Lodging Houses.

The one Common Lodging House in the town is registered under three heads, with accommodation for 267 persons. The average attendance during 1911 is stated to have been 192.7 persons of both sexes per night, but in the early portion of the year there was some overcrowding, day rooms being used for sleeping purposes. This circumstance led me to make representations to the Health Committee on the subject.

Subsequently the police took action on the grounds that some of the rooms were not swept, before ten in the forenoon.

There were no further complaints.

Schools, and School Inspection.

There are five elementary schools within the Borough, four of which are Voluntary and one Council, the latter building being rented from the Wesleyan Trustees.

The accommodation provided is for 2,344 scholars, whilst the number on the register for 1911 was 1822, and the average attendance 1,500.

Some of the buildings are out of date, with deficient cloak-room and play-ground accommodation. All the schools are supplied with the town's water, and at all of them the conveniences are on the water-carriage system.

As I also hold the appointment of School Medical Officer, there is no difficulty in regard to the co-relation of these services

The whole of the work of inspection is done by me personally, the only duties relegated to teachers being the sending out of Notices of Inspection to parents.

When parents are not present at inspection, notice of defects, where necessary, are delivered personally at the homes of the children by the School Attendance Officer, who is thus able to use his influence towards the obtaining of necessary treatment. In future, however, it is hoped to enlist the assistance of teachers in this work by supplying

them after each inspection visit to a school with a list of those scholars needing attention.

All children are examined four times during their school career, viz : on entrance, at the seventh and tenth year of age, and shortly before leaving. 800 children were so inspected during 1911, and a further 280 re-inspections were made of children known to be suffering from defects.

Beyond this, Teachers, and the School Attendance Officer, are at liberty to submit children to me at any time for my opinion as to their fitness or otherwise to attend school and in this way 162 children (chiefly suffering from Ringworm, Impetigo, Blepharitis, dirty heads etc.) involving 500 inspections and re-inspections were reported on by me during 1911.

Infectious Diseases.

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act has been in force since 1890, but there is no Infectious Diseases Hospital, and no Disinfecting Apparatus.

A small Isolation Hospital for Small-pox was provided some years ago jointly with the Bowland and Clitheroe Rural Districts. Fortunately it has never been required.

Cases of Infectious Diseases are isolated so far as possible in the patients homes, and subsequently the room and its contents are fumigated with sulphur or formal-de-hyde.

Sometimes clothing and bedding are destroyed by burning.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Birth Rate.

The number of births registered during the year was 286, an increase of 22 upon 1910, and of this number, 150 were males, and 136 females. This gives a birth-rate of 22.8 per 1000 per annum of the population, a figure which is .6 above the corrected rate for 1910, and .3 below the corrected average for the five years from 1906 to 1910 inclusive.

In explanation of the terms "corrected rate," and "corrected average," I may say that the Census figures for 1911 have shown that the population of the Borough had been overestimated for that year to the extent of 850 persons. It would follow from this that the estimates for the years 1906 to 1910 in Table I. of my Annual Reports for those years, were also too high, and I have therefore in Table I. of the present report, re-estimated the population for those years, and corrected the birth and death rates accordingly. In this respect then the present report is more nearly accurate than were those for immediately preceding years.

Death Rate.

The number of deaths registered as occurring within the district during 1911 was 186, and deducting from this total the deaths of 9 "non-residents," and adding the deaths of 7 "residents" which occurred in Public Institutions outside the district, we get a nett total of 184 deaths actually belonging to the Borough, and this gives a death

rate of 14.7 per 1000 per annum. This is .5 above the average for the last five years.

Infant Mortality

44 deaths occurred during the year of infants under twelve months of age, and this number is equal to a rate of 153 per 1000 births registered. This is an increase upon recent figures, the rate for 1909 and 1910 being 83, whilst the average for the past ten years was 125, and for the past twenty-five years 141.

As will be seen later this increase of Infantile Mortality was by no means unexpected, the Local Government Board indeed sending out a warning circular to Medical Officers on the subject, and that Clitheroe fared no worse than some neighbouring towns, is shewn by the fact that during 1911 the Infantile Mortality in Church was 251 ; in Burnley 209 ; in Colne 144 ; in Accrington 182 ; in Padiham 166 ; and in Darwen 153.

In analysing the causes of Infantile Mortality in Clitheroe during 1911, I have adopted the system of dividing them into three main groups, accordingly as they may be regarded as preventable, non-preventable and doubtfully preventable, though of course it will be understood that in some cases it is impossible to decide positively to which of these groups certain deaths should be relegated.

In spite of this, however, the classification is a useful and instructive one, and the following table sets out in this form the forty-four infantile deaths which occurred in Clitheroe during 1911.

TABLE I.

YEAR.	Population estimated to middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths †		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.				of Non- residents registered in the District †	of Resi- dents not registered in the District. †	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number.	Rate.	Number. *	Rate per 1000 Nett Births 11			Number. *	Rate.		
			†									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1906	11600	258	258	22·2	183	15·7	7	1	34	131	177	15·2
1907	1200	296	296	24·6	167	13·9	8	8	31	104	167	13·9
1908	12250	298	298	24·3	175	14·2	12	3	36	120	166	13·5
1909	12300	286	286	23·2	174	14·1	5	8	24	83	177	14·3
1910	12400	264	264	21·2	164	13·2	13	7	22	83	158	12·7
1911	12500	286	286	22·8	186	14·8	9	7	44	153	184	14·7

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

TABLE II.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole district.								Total Cases Notified in each Locality	
	At all ages.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65	65 and up- wards.	Clitheroe Proper.	Low Moor.
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria(including Membranous croup)	14	..	5	9	..	..	..	..	12	2
Erysipelas	5	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	5	..
Scarlet fever	9	..	4	4	..	1	..	..	6	3
Typhus fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric fever	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	..
Relapsing fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal fever	2	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	1
Plague	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis										
Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908	6	..	..	..	1	3	2	..	6	..
Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1911	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	38	..	9	13	3	5	7	1	32	6

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1911.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non- Residents" in Institu- tions in the District.
		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	
All Causes	{ Certified { Uncertified ...	183 1	43 1	9 ..	7 ..	2 ..	7 ..	18 ..	45 ..	52 ..	29 ..
Enteric Fever		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Small-pox		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles		6	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever.....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup....		3	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Erysipelas.....		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)		13	..	..	..	..	4	5	3	1	1
Tuberculous Meningitis ..		2	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous diseases		4	..	..	2	..	1	1	..	..	..
Rheumatic Fever		1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease.....		12	..	..	..	..	..	1	7	4	..
Bronchitis.....		12	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	4
Broncho-Pneumonia ...		1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia (all other forms)		4	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	1
Other diseases of Res- piratory organs ...		3	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..		17	14	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Appendicitis & Typhlitis		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcoholism		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cirrhosis of Liver		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease		8	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	5	..
Puerperal Fever		1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Other accidents and dis- eases of Pregnancy and Parturition		..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth		14	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Suicides.....		1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Other Defined Diseases ..		76	5	3	1	1	2	6	22	36	19
Diseases ill-defined or unknown.....		3	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	1
		184	44	9	7	2	7	18	45	52	29

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
All Causes { Certified	10	2	1	..	13	8	7	12	3	43
{ Uncertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Small-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Chicken-pox	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	3
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria and Croup	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diarrhoea	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	3
Enteritis	..	..	1	..	1	3	2	4	1	11
Tuberculous Meningitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Abdominal Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Tuberculous Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Congenital Malformations	1	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	3
Premature birth	5	..	..	..	5	2	..	..	..	7
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	3	..	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	4
Atelectasis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at birth	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Rickets	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Gastritis	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	2
Laryngitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	2
Suffocation, overlying	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other causes	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	..	4
	10	2	1	..	13	8	8	12	3	44

Nett Births in { legitimate, 280.
the year { illegitimate, 6

Nett Deaths in { legitimate infants 44
the year of { illegitimate infants 0

1.—Preventable.	
Diarrhœa, Inflammation of Bowel, etc.,	
Infectious diseases as Measles, Whooping	
Cough, etc.	17
2.—Non-preventable.	
Premature Births, Congenital Defects, etc.	14
3.—Doubtfully preventable.	
Debility, Wasting, Convulsions, Bronchitis,	
Pneumonia, etc.....	13
	—
Total	44

Confining one's attention for the moment to those deaths regarded as preventable, I find that fourteen of the seventeen were due to Diarrhœa and Enteritis, whilst the remaining three were referable to Measles.

Statistics published during the summer, had shown that the hot and dry weather was being reflected, throughout all parts of the country, in an excessive child mortality, and to such an extent was this the case, that during the third week in August, a Local Government Board Circular was issued to Medical Officers of Health, drawing special attention to the circumstance, and requesting that all possible steps should be taken in each district to stem the tide of infantile deaths.

Within three days of the receipt of this Circular, the following local circular letter had been printed and distributed to every house in Clitheroe, at which, as shown from the Early Notification Returns, an infant was known to be resident; and at the same time instructions were given to the Inspector of Nuisances with regard to the careful and repeated scavenging and cleansing of those parts of the town in particular, in which the incidence of infantile mortality might be expected to be most heavy.

BOROUGH OF CLITHEROE.

PREVALENCE OF EPIDEMIC DIARRHŒA AMONGST
CHILDREN.

Epidemics of Infantile Diarrhœa being prevalent throughout the country at the present time, it is desired to warn parents against the serious nature of this affection.

Breast-fed children seldom suffer from Diarrhœa, the disease being usually conveyed through the medium of contaminated milk, and the greatest care is therefore necessary in the storage of that article, and in the preparation of food for infants.

Milk should be scalded (brought up to the boiling point) immediately it is received, and subsequently stored in the coolest place available.

It is very important that milk should be kept free from dust and flies, as if these gain access to it, it is quickly rendered quite unfit for use. For this reason it should always be kept in a **covered** vessel.

Scrupulous cleanliness, within and without the house is necessary, and waste scraps of food should not be allowed to accumulate, but should be at once destroyed by burning.

Do not give young children fruit, or any indigestible or unsuitable articles of diet, and send for your Medical attendant on the first symptoms of Diarrhœa.

WM. E. BARKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Clitheroe,

25th August, 1911.

That this circular was not ineffectual, was shown by the large number of requests which the District Nurse immediately received from mothers of young children for advice and assistance, and notwithstanding the fact that the total of deaths from Epidemic Diarrhoea during September and October reached twelve, the Nurse was strongly of opinion that its issue was of great utility.

That no efforts were spared by the Nurse herself, is shown by the fact that during September alone nearly 200 visits were paid to infants in connection with Early Notification work, attention of course being especially concentrated upon those cases most likely to need assistance.

During September Measles was introduced into the town by a child returning from a visit to the sea-side, and of six deaths which occurred from this cause during 1911, three, as shown above, went to swell the total of Infant Mortality.

The Early Notification of Births Act was adopted in 1909, and whilst 286 births were registered during 1911, early notification was received in 250 cases, or 87 %. This is not satisfactory, the leakage being considerable, and one which I am strongly of opinion the Council should take an early opportunity of rectifying, by drastic measures if necessary.

An arrangement is in existence by which the Council have part time use of one of the local Association's Nurses. Notifications are handed on as received, and the cases at once visited, and I am in constant touch with the Nurse on the subject, and receive frequent interim reports. In very few cases indeed is a proffered visit refused, but

notifications are occasionally, though very seldom, accompanied by an intimation that the Nurse's visits are not required. Generally they are welcomed, and in several cases where early notification was not received, the fact of the birth having occurred has been brought to the Nurse's notice by a request for a visit.

From an interesting report on the year's working, for which I am indebted to Nurse Mellor, I find that 164 infants were regularly visited during the year, and in all, 1091 visits were paid, an increase of 249 visits upon the figures for 1910.

Thirty-one of the infants were nursed out daily, and three weekly. In 98 of the 164 cases breast feeding was attempted though often for a very short time, many mothers being unable to continue it, though honestly desiring to do so. In a few cases mixed feeding was resorted to. A striking item in this respect is the fact that every one of the fourteen children dying during the year from Gastro enteritis was bottle fed.

I may mention, in connection with this subject of the prevention of Mortality in Infancy, that the County Council is the Authority for the administration of the Midwives' Act in this district.

Zymotic Death Rate.

During the year 12 deaths were referable to the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, viz. : Smallpox, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ; Fever—Typhus, Typhoid, and continued ; Measles, Whooping Cough and Diarrhoea ; these deaths including 6 from Measles, 3 from

Diphtheria, and 3 from Diarrhoea. This gives a Rate of .96 per 1000 per annum, a rate which approximates closely to the average of the last ten years.

Infectious Diseases.

Reference to Table II. shows that 38 cases of Infectious Disease were reported during the year. This is an increase upon 1910, when the number was extremely low, viz : 21 ; but it is below the figures for previous years, the average for the period 1902 to 1910 inclusive, being 54.

Scarlet Fever was responsible for 9 reports, the lowest number since 1897, whilst the notifications for the last twenty years have averaged 50. The mortality during 1911 from this disease was nil.

Measles.

This disease was introduced into the town during September by a child returning from a visit to the sea side. The result was a sharp and extensive outbreak, many of the cases being of considerable severity. The ease and rapidity of spread was no doubt due to the fact that for the past few years the town has been comparatively free from this ailment, the consequence being that a large percentage of children, at a most susceptible age, were unprotected by a previous attack.

The infant departments of all the schools in the town were closed for varying periods during September and October. This undoubtedly helped to check the epidemic, but so lightly is the disease regarded by the generality of parents, that healthy children are frequently allowed to associate with those already affected. As a matter of fact

6 deaths were referable to measles during the last quarter of the year.

Whooping Cough.

The town was comparatively free from this disease, and no deaths were referable to it.

Erysipelas.

Five cases of Erysipelas were reported, with no deaths.

Diphtheria.

Fourteen reports of Diphtheria were received during 1911, and three deaths resulted.

The first case occurred during the first week of the year, the origin not being apparent. After an interval of nearly two months the second case occurred, the child being a scholar in the infant department of the Council School. Shortly subsequent to this, several cases were reported over a limited period, the children in nearly every instance being scholars at the Council School, so that there is small doubt but that it was in this way that the infection was now being spread.

In the latter part of the year, the cases were more widely distributed, no particular school, and no particular portion of the town being especially affected. No milk supply came under suspicion, the disease being probably spread by personal contact outside of school hours. It is worthy of note that Diphtheria has been widely prevalent in the rural districts surrounding the Borough of Clitheroe during the latter half of 1911.

The fact of the matter is that it will be always difficult, if not indeed impossible, to exercise any efficient control over the spread of infectious diseases, where no Isolation Hospital is available, and where even one's means of disinfection are of the most antiquated and shadowy description.

As mentioned in my last Annual Report, a supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin (2000 and 4000 units) is now kept at my Surgery, and at the local Police Station, for the immediate use of the Medical men in the town, and it is supplied free of cost in cases where the Health Committee are satisfied that the recipients are not in a position to pay for it.

In order to facilitate the earliest possible diagnosis of infectious disease, the Council has an arrangement with the Pathological Institute in Manchester, for the examination of bacteriological specimens, and during 1911 the following reports were obtained: Throat Swabs, in suspected cases of Diphtheria, eighteen, of which six were positive and twelve negative; Blood Tests for Widal's Reaction, five; Sputum Examination in suspected cases of Phthisis, four, three being positive and one negative. It should be mentioned that some of the reports on Throat Swabs which proved negative, were obtained at my especial request in order to ensure that children who had suffered from Diphtheria were free from infection before returning to school.

In my dual capacity of Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, I am in constant touch with Mr. Dewhurst, the School Attendance Officer, and in this

way I am in a position to gain early notice of the threatened prevalence of any Infectious Disease even when that disease is not notifiable by Practitioners in the ordinary course. In this way the onset of such affections as Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken-pox, etc., is early brought to my notice.

Puerperal Fever.

Two cases of Puerperal Fever occurred during the year, one in February and one in May. In the former case which recovered, the infection was almost certainly contracted locally, the dwelling being a small back-to-back house, with damp floors and generally insanitary surroundings. The houses in this neighbourhood have been flooded from time to time during heavy rain storms, and as these subside the floors and foundations are of necessity left in a sewage-sodden and germ-laden condition.

In the second instance the infection was attributed to a case of Scarlet Fever which had recently occurred in the next house. This case ended fatally.

Phthisis.

Thirteen deaths occurred from Phthisis during 1911, and six from other Tubercular affections, giving death rates of 1.04, and .48 respectively, or a total rate of 1.52 per 1000 per annum from all Tubercular Diseases. The average rate for the last five years is 1.4. No deaths from Tubercular affections were registered of children under one year of age.

Under the 1908 Poor Law Regulations four Notifications were received during 1911 that persons suffering from Phthisis had been admitted to the Union Workhouse,

and during the same period notification was received from Poor Law Institutions that three persons similarly affected had become resident at private houses in the town. In the latter cases the patients are visited by the Inspector of Nuisances, and verbal advice given, along with printed pamphlets of instruction as to the best methods of guarding against infection. In the same way houses recently vacated by persons suffering from Phthisis are visited, and advice tendered to the remaining residents.

As already pointed out the Bacteriological Laboratory in Manchester is available for Sputum examination which may assist in the early recognition of this disease.

In several instances rooms occupied by persons dying from Phthisis have been disinfected by the Inspector of Nuisances.

No Sanatorium or Hospital accommodation is available in the district for either early or late cases of this disease, and this is a matter which must engage the attention of local authorities when the new Insurance Act comes into force.

Factories and Workshops Act.

There are 177 places in the Borough which come within the provisions of this Act.

All are regularly inspected, proper lists are kept, and also lists of out workers, and the houses of the latter are periodically visited.

A summary of the work done will be found in the appended tables.

Factories, Workshops, Workplaces and Homework.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ..	65	..	..
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	70	..	..
Workplaces	32	..	..
Total	167	..	..

2.—DEFECTS.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of cleanliness	6	6	..	..
Want of ventilation	..	..	..	..
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..
Want of drainage of floors	..	..	..	..
Other Nuisances	4	4	..	..
Sanitary accommodation	insufficient ..	..	..	..
	defective ..	..	..	..
	not separate for sexes ..	..	..	..
<i>Offences under Factory and Workshop Acts :</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake house (S. 101)	..	..	..	..
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (SS. 97 to 100) ..	..	..	..	..
Other Offences	..	..	..	..
Total	10	10	..	..

3.—HOMEWORK.

NATURE OF WORK.	OUTWORKERS' LISTS, SECTION 107.						Number of Inspections of Outworkers premises.
	Twice in the year.		Contractors.	Workmen	Addresses of Outworkers Received from other Councils.	Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists.	
	Lists.	Outworkers.					
Wearing Apparel— (1) making, &c. (2) cleaning and washing .. Lace lace curtains and nets .. Furniture and upholstery .. Fur pulling Umbrellas Paper Bags and Boxes .. Brush Making Stuffed Toys File Making Electro Plate Cables and Chains Anchors and Grapnals Cart Gear Locks, Latches and Keys ..	8 .. 						

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s.131) at the end of the year.		Number.
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bakehouses, may be enumerated here.	With Mechanical Power and over 40 persons employed	20
	With Mechanical Power and under 40 persons employed	44
	No Mechanical Power	73
	Domestic	40
	Total number of Workshops on Register	177

5—OTHER MATTERS.

CLASS.	Number.
<i>Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories :—</i>	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 133)	..
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) {	Notified by H.M. Inspector .. 4
	Reports of (action taken) sent 4
Other	..
<i>Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :</i>	
Certificates granted during the year	..
In use at the end of the year... .. .	..

Report of Nuisance Inspector.

Inspector of Nuisances' Office,

Church Street, 1st January, 1912.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you a Report of the work done in this department during the year ending December 31st, 1911.

Infectious Diseases (Notification Act.)

The following will show the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever	9 cases
Typhoid Fever	2 „
Puerperal Fever	2 „
Erysipelas	5 „
Diphtheria	14 „
Phthisis	6 „
Making a total of.....	38 „

The previous year there were 21 cases.

After the termination of the cases each house is fumigated with sulphur or formaldehyde, and afterwards thoroughly cleansed.

Several beds and bed covers have been destroyed after fever cases.

Four lots of bedding have been destroyed by fire after cases of consumption.

In all infected houses where books are borrowed from the Free Library, the books are taken and disinfected before they are returned to the Library, and every precaution is taken to prevent the cases from spreading

We have distributed during the year to various persons for disinfecting purposes, 306 gallons of Disinfecting Liquor and 48 cwts. of Disinfecting Powder.

Nuisances.

The work done under this heading may be summarised as follows :—

Nuisances on the Books.....	105
Notices and Letters sent to abate Nuisances	3
Nuisances abated without Notices.....	102

The following will show the nature of the Nuisances abated :—

- 91 Choked drains and tippers opened and cleaned.
- 4 Tippers repaired.
- 5 New Tippers fixed.
- 5 Broken Bog Hole doors repaired.

Bog holes are regularly cleansed and disinfected.

There are 17 Old Midden Privies, 12 of which are in the outlying parts of the district where the population is thin and scattered.

Five Old Midden Privies have been done away with during the year.

All Vans used as dwellings attending the Fairs have been inspected and found clean and free from sickness.

Four cases of overcrowding have been attended to and the same have been remedied.

230 Tubs for house refuse and 110 Excreta Pails have been replaced during the year.

There are 2,745 Tubs for house refuse and 1233 Excreta Pails in use.

There are 623 Fresh Water Closets, 20 Latrines and 1,406 Slop Water closets in use.

There are 57 Single and 174 Back-to-Back Houses, and most of the Single Houses have windows at the back, thus giving the means of having a through current of air. Four Back-to-back houses have been converted into one House and Shop and one Lock-up Shop during 1911.

Two Houses not fit for human habitation have been closed.

We estimate the number of houses at the end of the year at 2,939, out of this number 2,855 are connected to the main sewer, leaving 84 to be connected. About 30 of these are in the outlying districts and beyond our present sewage system.

17 New Houses have been built during the year and there are 41 in course of erection and plans passed for 5 more.

The population at the Census, 1911, was 12,500.

The work of laying branch sewers and connecting the houses to the same is still being carried on.

Ventilating shafts are fixed at the end of all branch sewers.

The mains and branch sewers are periodically flushed.

The Corporation are still going on with the paving and sewerage of the back streets and converting the closets from the pail system to the water carriage system.

There are eight Public Urinals in the Town, but the Waterloo, Bawdlands and Woone Lane districts are greatly in need of urinal accommodation.

Refuse Removal.

The quantity of refuse collected during the year was as follows :—

	LOADS.
House refuse from Tubs taken to the Tips at Horrocksford and Henthorn	2878
Nightsoil from Midden Privies taken to the Tips at Horrocksford and Henthorn.....	16
Sundries	10
Excreta from Pails taken on to the land of various farms in the district and emptied down the sewer	931
Making a total of.....	3835

Smoke Nuisances.

I have taken several observations of the smoke emitted from the various mill chimneys during the year, and the longest period during which dense black smoke was emitted in one hour was 13 minutes.

We have no time limit in force in the Borough.

Bakehouses.

There are 25 registered Bakehouses in the Borough which are frequently inspected. They are well adapted for the purpose and are kept clean.

Shop Hours Act.

There are 25 places that come under this Act. I have no violation of the Act to report.

Cow Sheds and Dairies.

There are 39 registered Cow Sheds with accommodation for about 570 head of cattle.

These places are visited periodically and as far as cleanliness is concerned we have no complaints to make.

Slaughter Houses.

There are 6 private Slaughter Houses in use in the Borough, they are periodically inspected, they are well conducted and generally kept clean.

The new Public Slaughter Houses at Foullykes are occupied by 6 butchers out of the 15 butchers in the Borough.

Six butchers slaughter in private Slaughter Houses and three slaughter outside the Borough.

There is accommodation at the new Public Slaughter Houses for all the butchers in the town.

Common Lodging Houses.

There is one Common Lodging House in the Borough registered under three heads, with accommodation for 267 persons.

The average attendance per night during the year has been about 192.71 persons of both sexes.

There are also furnished apartments in connection with this house to accommodate about 24 persons.

The house is owned by a company with a manager in charge.

The premises are kept clean and well conducted.

We have had no serious violation of the Bye-laws to report during the year.

Factory and Workshop Act.

There are 20 Factories including the five stone quarries where mechanical power is used and over 40 persons employed and 44 where no mechanical power is used and under 40 persons employed. There are 73 workshops where no mechanical power is used and 40 domestic workshops, making a total of 177 places that come under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

Two places have been registered as Workshops during the year, both without mechanical power. These places are visited periodically, they are kept clean and not overcrowded and the sanitary accommodation is in good order.

Five Notices were served on occupiers during the year to remedy certain defects and in each case the notices have or are being complied with.

ARTHUR R. BLEAZARD,

Borough Surveyor and Nuisance
Inspector (pro tem).

