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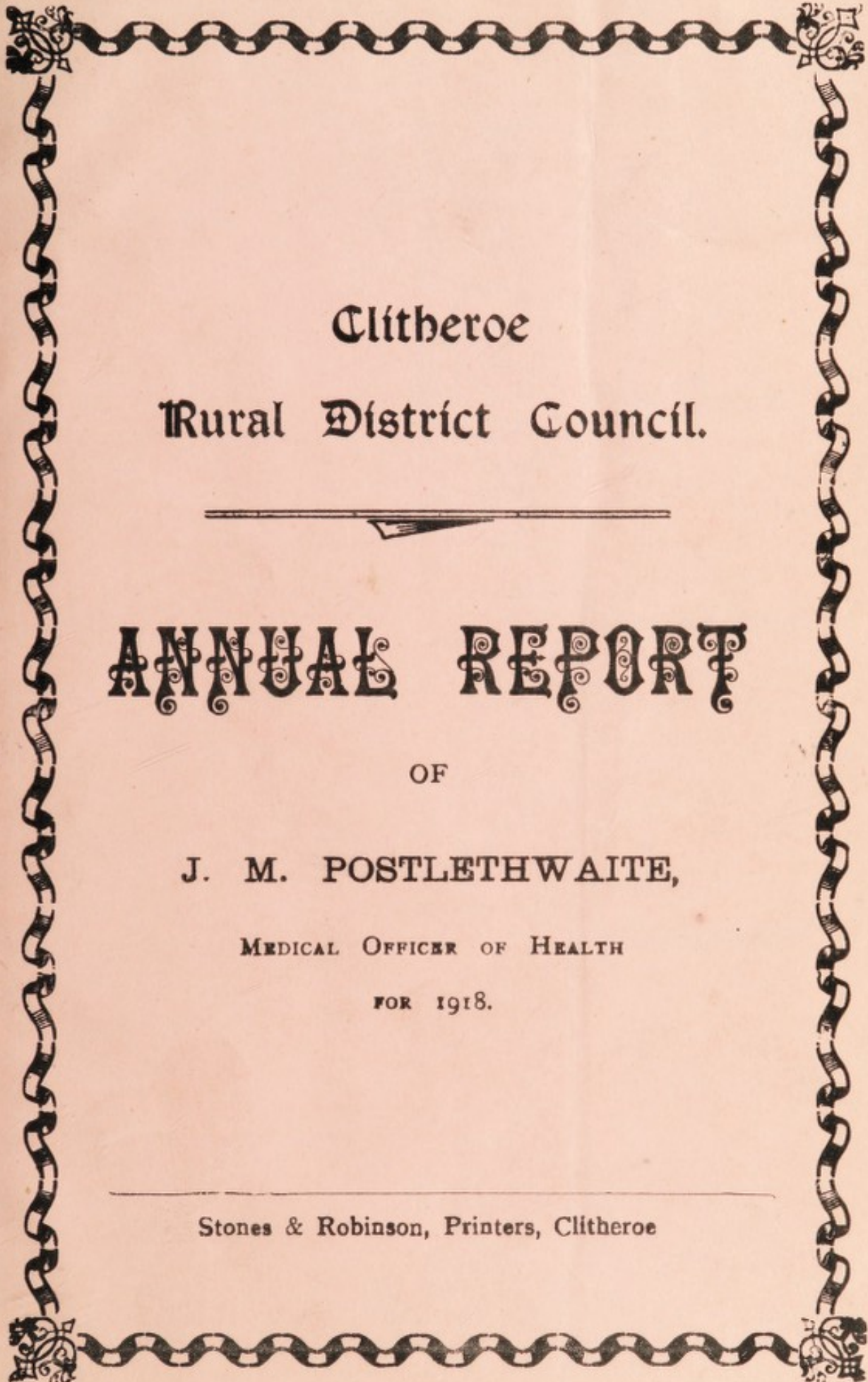
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Clitheroe
Rural District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF

J. M. POSTLETHWAITE,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1918.

Stones & Robinson, Printers, Clitheroe

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.


Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Annual
Report for the year 1918

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. M. POSTLETHWAITE.



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CLITHEROE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Gentlemen,

I regret that in this Annual Report there is very little to report. Sanitary matters are at a standstill almost until such times as labour and material are available and the Sanitary Inspector has been released from his duties as Food Controller,

In the report by the County Medical Officer last year which doubtless you have had read to you, there are a large number of defects that require attention, defects which occur in all parts of the district.

As occurred last year, a Memorandum has been sent to all Medical Officers by the Local Government Board stating that "having regard to the absence of many Medical Officers and to the necessity of strict economy in paper and demands on printing establishments, interim reports only should be made for 1918, and that many details usually inserted in the annual reports, such as description of district and particulars of the water supply, sewage disposal, sewerage, &c., should be omitted." Statistics will not be entered in this Report as they will be sent by the Registrar General, and will be inserted in the Quarterly Reports when they are received from him.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply is much the same as last year, there have been no additions to the existing supplies. Notices have been served on some Landowners in the Chipping Sub-District to provide adequate water supply to their houses, and this they have promised to do.

The County Medical Officer says "Every Rural Sanitary Authority should ascertain the conditions of their water supply and this condition should receive the early attention of the District Council with the view of enforcing where necessary the provision of a sufficient supply."

In his report there were no less than twenty places, mostly farms, in which the supply is unsatisfactory, and in ten of these the words foul or polluted is used in connection with the water supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The present sewers in the various parts of the district are in good order, except one in Whalley which is being repaired. No new developments during the year.

There are still a very large number of Privies in existence, far too many, 773, which is over 45% of all the closet accommodation. This type is very common in rural districts and perhaps not so harmful as where the houses are close together, but still the total abolition of them is what should aimed at, as they are always a menace to health by diseases conveyed by flies.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

		1917	1918
Privy Middens	...	773	773
Pail Closets	...	243	243
Fresh W.C.	...	386	392
Waste Water W.Cs.	...	317	311

The only conversions have been 6 Waste Water W.Cs., to Fresh W.C.s.

SCAVENGING.

The Scavenging done by contract is carried on in a satisfactory manner. The scavenging of the villages of Downham, Hurst Green and Pendleton is not satisfactory, and if not improved ought to be taken over by the Council. Householders complain that there is no one to empty the privies and pails.

SCHOOLS.

All the Schools in the district have been visited during the year and the sanitary arrangements at most of them are very unsatisfactory. In some cases there are about to be remedied. At the Roman Catholic School, Hurst Green, the privies are to be converted to fresh water W.C.'s and additional urinals provided. At the Brabins School, Chipping, the closets are to be reconstructed and the washing accommodation made adequate. All this has had to be postponed owing to lack of material. All the schools have been closed for Influenza and have been subsequently disinfected.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that all Dairies and Cow Sheds have been inspected in the year, and in many cases the fault was in respect to light and ventilation and air space. The County Medical Officer reports "The dairies for the most part are unsatisfactory. In many cases the dairy is also the washhouse, pantry and household store. At some places the milk is cooled in wooden sheds, amidst foul surroundings, in other instances there is an absence of any provision for the storage and cooling of milk, and the water supply to the farms is both adequate and suspicious."

Milk is of course the staple diet of infants and invalids, and it is a medium which readily lends itself to the conveyance and breeding of germs and easy contamination. It is imperative, in my opinion, that the defects in the dairies should be the first to be remedied. In a large number of cases the possible source of contamination is manure stored in close proximity to the dairy and cooling shed and the state of the yards which are frequently full of holes which contains pools of manure in various states. The manure heaps should be well away from all buildings, and if possible on the side away from the prevailing wind.

The water that is used for washing the cans should be of unimpeachable cleanliness, otherwise the whole kit of milk is polluted.

HOUSES.

The Inspector reports that 81 Houses have been inspected during the year, the general defects found to exist being lack of light, ventilation and efficient drainage.

The attention of the owners has been drawn to these and in most cases the defects have been remedied. No cases of overcrowding have been found.

During the year 31 houses have been disinfected.

Attention is drawn to the lengthy report of the County Medical Officer of Health on the housing of the district. There are a large number of houses scattered throughout the district

that are obviously in a most insanitary condition and a few that ought to be shut up altogether. The Sanitary Inspector has this last year been handicapped by having to do the work of the local Food Control Committee as well as to attend to the sanitary needs of the district, and as his means of getting from one place to another is inadequate, often a large part of his time is taken in the journey to and from the place to be inspected so that the actual time available for work is often small.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The number is the same as last year, viz : 48.

10 Inspections have been made and no defects found.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are Seven registered Slaughterhouses in the district.

Chipping	...	1
Stonyhurst	...	1
Downham	...	3
Whalley	...	2

Seven Inspections have been made during the year. Slaughtering is not being done in these Slaughterhouses, all cattle being killed at the Clitheroe Borough Abattoir.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Inspector reports that 81 Inspections have been made during the year. A number of letters and notices written and many personal interviews have taken place to discuss defects due to drainage, insufficient ventilation, and general sanitary defects. Attention is drawn to the special recommendations at the end of the County Medical Officers Report.

MEAT INSPECTION:

Ten Inspections of Meat (at Slaughterhouses and Shops) have been made during the year. The meat inspected was found to be of inferior quality, and in one case unfit. This was removed and buried by the owner.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK,

There is nothing to report under this heading.

The smallness of the bacteriological specimens is accounted for by the fact that the Council do not sanction any specimens being investigated at the public expense unless the people cannot afford to have them done otherwise.

In the place of the usual Tables of Statistics which this year are omitted by order of the Local Government Board, I will, for the information of the Council, give a short description of each Table in place of the complete analysis.

There are no Institutions within the district receiving sick and infirm persons from outside except the Military Hospital.

Within the area of the district there are 32,168 statute acres.

The computed civil population is 5850.

BIRTHS.

There have been 90 Births this year against 82 in 1917.

There were 49 Males and 41 Females against 48 Males and 39 Females in 1917. No Illegitimates.

The Birth rate is 13.84 against 11.94 in 1917.

DEATHS:

The number of Deaths in the district this year, registered in the district, was 68 against 75 in 1917.

The number of Deaths in the district registered this year, was 68 against 75 in 1917.

The number of Civilian deaths belonging to the district but which have occurred outside, has not yet been received. The Registrar General will forward them when they are published and they will be incorporated in the Quarterly Report.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

This unfortunately is rather high this year, no less than 5 Infants under one year having died.

The Infantile Mortality rate calculated per 1000 Births is 55 . 55 against 97 . 56 in 1917.

TABLE II.

During the year there was 36 cases of Measles. There were no deaths.

DIPHTHERIA.

There was 1 case at Whalley. No deaths occurred from that disease.

There was one case of Erysipelas and none of Puerperal Fever.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 11 Cases. 8 cases at Chipping, 2 in Whalley, and one in Clitheroe. No deaths.

ENTERIC FEVER.

There were no cases of this disease.

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

INFLUENZA.

This has been rampant in our district as in all other parts. 7 deaths have been notified as directly due to this cause.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

Seven new cases were notified, not including those from the Military Hospital, and one death.

There was one death from Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis making 8 deaths from Tuberculosis in all forms.

TABLE III.

Shows the causes of death and ages at death, this will be supplied by the Registrar General later in the present year.

TABLE IV.

Deals with the Mortality of Infants under one year.

There were 5 deaths under one year.

The causes of these were :—In Chipping, 2 Convulsions and Premature Birth.

Clitheroe, nil.

Whalley, 3. Broncho Pneumonia, Congential Heart, Convulsions.

NETT BIRTHS during the year.

Legitimate	...	90
Illegitimate	...	0
		<hr/>
		90

NETT DEATHS OF INFANTS.

Legitimate	...	5
Illegitimate	...	0
		<hr/>
		5
		<hr/>

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. M. POSTLETHWAITE,

M.A., M.B., B.C., Cantab. M.R.C.S., Eng.

L.R.C.P., Lond. Medical Officer of Health.

