

[Report 1925] / Medical Officer of Health, Clitheroe R.D.C.

Contributors

Clitheroe (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1925

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CLITHEROE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL
REPORT
FOR 1925

J. M. POSTLETHWAITE

M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.),

Medical Officer of Health.

CLITHEROE :
Advertiser & Times Co., Ltd., Printers.





TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.


GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my Annual Report
for the year 1925.

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 have the honour to submit my Annual Report to you on the Sanitary Conditions and Administration of the Rural District.

In accordance with instructions issued from the Ministry of Health I again review the Physical Features and General Characteristics of the area of which I am Medical Officer.

The Rural District of Clitheroe may be described as picturesque; in fact, the Ribble Valley is well-known throughout Lancashire as a holiday resort. There are steep hills with wooded slopes, and there are dales and valleys in which flow streams of various size and rivers of various cleanliness. Along the banks of the streams are meadows and pastures and some plough land. Scattered through the district there are large tracts of moorland, which afford suitable pasture for sheep.

There are numerous streams and three rivers of good size which serve to drain the district of superfluous water, yet in spite of this the land becomes often waterlogged in places. The rivers and streams are for the most part rapid and coursing over rocky and stony beds. There are very few sluggish streams, and the only one is the River Loud ; this, of course, is due to the fact that there is so little flat land in the district. The Rivers Ribble and Hodder are clear, limpid waters abounding in fish, but the Calder is far from clean and is charged with many impurities which mainly come from towns and villages higher up its course and beyond the confines of this district.

The Hodder and Ribble flowing northwards, bounding the township of Great Mytton, in West Yorkshire, and ultimately joining, have the effect of splitting the Clitheroe District into two parts, which make the administration difficult and travelling inconvenient.

There is much clay in the district, and this is the cause of much coldness and damp. There is also, in places, free open gravelly soil, and limestone is found more or less extensively, which is the source of our hard water, which proves so great an annoyance to the housewives of the community.

The principal products of the district are : Milk, butter, and cheese, and, of course, cattle and sheep. Most of the milk is now collected and sent to the towns.

There are a few factories and workshops, which employ quite a large porportion of the population, who, for the most part, live under most favourable conditions as regards environment; that is, in comparision with the operatives in the large towns.

The people are in comfortable circumstances, and are able to clothe and feed themselves well, and their housing accommodation is, for the most part satisfactory. There are very few really poor in the district, and the amount of poor relief is not great.

The population of the district is 9,160.

WATER SUPPLY.

All the larger villages have a good supply of water, but several of the farms and smaller hamlets have a supply which is neither good nor accessible. It is of the utmost importance that an abundant supply of good water should be obtainable at the farms, and that it should be easily got at, so that the farmer should be able to keep his shippens clean and provide for his cattle and the cooling of his milk. At some farms the water has to be drawn from the well by bucket, and the wells are liable to be contaminated by surface water.

SOURCE OF SUPPLY.

CHATBURN, DOWNHAM AND WORSTON.

From covered reservoir fed by springs on Pendle Hill.

CHIPPING.

Open reservoir fed by springs on Wolfenden Fell. Many farms from wells and springs.

THORNLEY.

Open reservoir fed by springs on Longridge Fell and the farms by wells and springs.

AIGHTON, BAILEY AND CHAIGLEY.

Hurst Green, Woodfields and Stonyhurst from the Blackburn main, others by wells, &c.

PENDLETON.

Covered reservoir fed from Pendle Hill.

WISWELL.

Open reservoir fed from 34 acres of grassland. No restrictions as to farming are in force and cattle graze on these watersheds. A stream between the two reservoirs has watering places for cattle along its course and is trampled down and fouled by the cattle.

BARROW.

Supplied by the Calico Printers Association from reservoirs.

LITTLE MITTON, HENTHORN AND COLDCOATES.

Clitheroe Corporation, Blackburn Corporation mains, well and springs.

TWISTON, MEARLEY, LITTLE BOWLAND AND LEAGRAM.

Population 1921, 319.

From springs, wells and streams.

WHALLEY.

The main supply is from the Wiswell side of Whalley to the north and there is a smaller supply derived from Planes Wood adjoining Padiham Road to the South-East of the township.

The Planes Wood supply which will be discontinued when the new arrangements come into force, is derived from three intakes from springs. This water is conveyed underground to a cistern in Archbishop's Wood, and a 4in. pipe distributes the water to the lower part of Whalley with two or three branches.

The analyses of these waters made from time to time state that both are fit for drinking and domestic use.

The Council have purchased the water rights from the private owners and the supply will be supplemented from Clitheroe. Also the pipe track of the Manchester Corporation will run through the north end of Whalley when completed.

The water supply to Pankhurst, Stonyhurst, is insufficient and at times unfit for use. It is obtained from a well in a field which gets very dirty and in dry weather insufficient for the needs of the cottagers. The water main to Hodder House School runs past the doors and could be connected up.

All this was pointed out to the owners two years ago when my Inspector and myself met their representative on the spot.

A constant supply has been laid on to Sands Fold Cottages, Whalley.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Of the rivers, the Calder is the one that is polluted, and that by towns higher up its course before it enters the district at Moreton Hall.

The Sabden Brook is polluted before it enters the Calder by the various works situated near it at Sabden, and adds its quota to the impurities of the Calder.

The Barrow Brook is affected by the Barrow Printworks, but mostly by chemicals and dyes only.

The brook at Chatburn receives certain impurities as it flows through the village and past the cotton manufactory there.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Sewerage and sewage disposal works have been provided by the Local Authority at the villages of Barrow, Chatburn, Whalley and Wiswell. The sewage is treated by sprinklers and land irrigation. Wiswell is now connected to the Barrow sprinklers.

Private works exist for the disposal of sewage at Stonyhurst College. Whalley sewer pipes are 15-inch in diameter at the outfall, and are ventilated by upcast shafts placed at suitable points and are regularly cleaned by means of flushing tanks.

Drainage from property in the villages of Downham, Worston, Pendleton, Hurst Green and Chipping, is conveyed by pipes, or ditches to water courses.

All the sewers are in satisfactory order.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The number of Privy Middens is.....	610
The number of Pail Closets is.....	250
The number of Fresh Water Closets.....	484
The number of Waste Water Closets.....	318

CONVERSIONS :—

	1925	1921-25
Privies to Fresh Water Closets.....	10	18
Privies to Pails	—	13
Pails to Fresh Water Closets.....	6	16
Waste Water Closets to Fresh Water Closets.....	2	2

25 new Fresh Water Closets have been built.

2 new Pail Closets have been built.

SCAVENGING.

This is by contract and on the whole has been efficient. The contents of the middens are removed by day and a considerable nuisance is caused when there is a wind by the dust and ashes being blown about into the yards and the back doors owing to the contractor's carts being just ordinary open carts. The carts ought to be those built for the purpose with lids; this could be made a condition on the reletting of the contracts.

Some form of brick destructor built on the Army pattern would be efficient and not at all expensive to build, but would require a certain amount of intelligence to work. It is quite simple if ordinary care is taken to rake out the residue and keep the draught holes clear.

SCHOOLS.

All these have been visited during the year.

The floors and windows at most of the schools need cleaning more often. I am given to understand that the School Authorities have great difficulty in getting the caretakers to do what is required in that respect.

The Schools were closed for Measles and Mumps in 1925, Diphtheria and Mumps in 1921, and Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Influenza in 1922.

New pails have been provided at Barrow and 4 new lavatory basins at Brabins School, Chipping.

Chatburn School. Old privies converted to Fresh Water Closets and connected to the main sewer.

Wiswell School, 1923, Pail closets converted to Fresh Water Closets and connected to the main sewer and a new lavatory basin fixed.

Pendleton School. Old privies converted to pail closets as there is no main sewer.

In 1924 Walker Fold School got its first water supply, galvanised pipes being laid down from a spring on the fell.

All schools have now a good supply of water and good offices.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The Sanitary Inspector reports that 132 inspections have been made during the year, and in most cases a great improvement in cleanliness had taken place. In the dairies, in every case, the walls and ceilings had been limewashed and the floors and receptacles for milk were clean. A few notices were served for the limewashing of cowsheds and defects in light, ventilation and faulty drains; these defects have been attended to. There are still some of the cowsheds that are lacking in light, ventilation, &c. but I hope the present year will see these remedied.

10 samples taken from the kits of the milkmen's rounds were analysed and found of good quality and, except in one case which was not very bad, clean.

No action has been taken as regard Tuberculous Milk as none has been suspected.

There are 116 Registered Wholesalers and 49 Retailers of milk and 1 Dairyman.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Staff consists of the Medical Officer of Health (part time), and a Sanitary Inspector, full time.

229 inspections have been made during the year of houses and the principal defects were :— Dampness, defective spouting, lack of ventilation and faulty roofs and ceilings. Attention was drawn to these and the defects have been or shortly will be remedied.

One case of overcrowding at Whalley.

One representation was made to the Local Authority for a closing order and an order was made.

There are no unhealthy areas in the district.

HOUSING.

1921.	New Houses built	14
	Bungalows.....	5
1922.	Bungalows.....	2
1923.	Houses	3
1924.	Houses	2
1925.	Houses	6
	Bungalows.....	2

WORK DONE.—

Repairs to roofs and chimneys of 22 houses.

New roofs, ceilings, gutters and spoutings for 3 houses.

New bedroom ceiling and new windows for one house.

New stairs treads and bedroom floor for one house.

New roofs for two houses.

House walls cemented, pebble dashed, new gutters and spouting fixed and dry area round house for five houses.

One gable end cemented.

Seven excreta pails provided.

The following to be mentioned in the "Survey Report" is the number of alterations to the various hotels in the district.

CALF'S HEAD, WORSTON.

Three new Fresh Water Closets and four Urinal stalls for gents and a good stone building with concrete floor built.

One pail closet converted to Fresh Water Closet. New drainage system. New septic tank and filter. All house drainage to septic tank.

SUN INN, CHIPPING.

One new pail closet each for Ladies and Gents. Alteration to the Urinal.

SWAN HOTEL, PENDLETON.

New Fresh Water Closet and Urinal. New septic tank and filter. New drains and inspection chambers from house to tank.

TALBOT HOTEL, CHIPPING.

Two Fresh Water Closets for Ladies. One and a Urinal outside the house with stone walls and concrete floor. One Fresh Water Closet and bath inside. New septic tank and filter and new drainage system.

SWAN HOTEL, WHALLEY

A new Fresh Water Closet and seven stall Urinal for gents, stone walls and concrete floor. New drains of earthenware with chamber and connected to sewer.

DE LACY ARMS, WHALLEY.

A new Fresh Water Closet and Urinal for Gents. Two new Fresh Water Closets and lavatory basin for Ladies. Yard concreted, alterations to out-buildings. New soil pipe, gutters and spouting. New ashbins provided.

SPREAD EAGLE, LAMB ROE, WHALLEY.

New Fresh Water Closet and Urinal for Gents. Two new Fresh Water Closets and lavatory basin for Ladies. New drainage system to a septic tank in the field.

DOG AND PARTRIDGE, BARROW.

Two new Fresh Water Closets for Ladies. New drain of socketed earthenware pipes connected to main sewer.

BAY HORSE, BARROW.

Two new Fresh Water Closets for Ladies. Repairs to the yard area. New drains connected to the main sewer.

There is no special Hospital for Infectious Diseases, but arrangements have been made with Blackburn Borough to take in smallpox cases.

The Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890 and certain sections of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1907 have been in force since 1922.

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.

FOOD.

The milk supply of the district is abundant and satisfactory, most of the milk being kitted to the neighbouring towns.

Samples were taken as before stated.

No action taken *re* tuberculosis milk, as none was found.

No action taken under the Milk Order, 1918.

No action taken *re* Maternity and Child Welfare, as in a district so scattered and so made up of little hamlets no central scheme can be devised that would be workable.

INSTITUTIONS.

Calderstones Mental Institution and Chaigley Convalescent Home are within the District.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 11 Registered Slaughterhouses in the district :—

Chaigley.....	1
Chipping	2
Stonyhurst	1
Downham.....	2
Whalley	4
Little Bowland.....	1

Under the new Public Health (Meat) Regulations many of the slaughterhouses required alteration.

Notices were sent to the owners and the necessary work is now being done.

324 inspections were made during the year and four owners were warned as to infrequent removal of offal.

The number of animals slaughtered was : Cattle, 3,424. Sheep, 13,947. Pigs, 108. Calves, 208. Total 17,687.

MEAT INSPECTION.

324 inspection have been made at the slaughterhouses and 55 whole carcasses and 310 parts found unfit and destroyed representing an approximate weight of 179 cwt.

MEAT INSPECTION AT FARMS.

Under the new Regulations which came into force in April last the Inspector received 143 notices and visited 138 farms and inspected the carcasses of 148 sheep, 21 cattle and 353 pigs.

There are no public slaughterhouses in the district.

The number of Registered Slaughterhouses was :—

1920, 7 : January, 1925, 10 : December, 1925, 11.

The Sanitary condition of Bakehouses and other places where food is prepared is satisfactory.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There has been very little belonging to the District proper. The number is swollen by the number of cases notified from Calderstones Mental Institution, Whalley.

I will tabulate first the cases in the District :—

Scarlet Fever.....	11
Diphtheria.....	3
Paratyphoid.....	2
Pneumonia	3
Sleepy Sickness.....	2
Erysipelas	1
Pulmonary T. B.....	4
Non-Pulmonary T. B.....	4
Total.....	22

There were 130 notifications from Calderstones of which 60 were pneumonia and 33 asylum dysentery.

The Inspector visited 22 cases of infectious disease and supplied disinfectants.

The rooms are disinfected after all cases of infection including cases of Measles, Tuberculosis and Cancer.

There were outbreaks of Swine Fever at Chipping Dairy and at Brick House, Chipping.

There were also Cases of Anthrax at Daub Hall, Chipping, in July and at Park Head, Whalley, in October. These were dealt with in the usual way according to law.

HOUSING CONDITIONS—STATISTICS.

Year ended 31st December, 1925.

1—GENERAL.

(1) Estimated Population.....	9160
(2) General death-rate	8.6
(3) Death-rate from tuberculosis	0.54
(4) Infantile mortality	47
(5) Number of dwelling-houses of all classes.....	1476
(6) Number of working-class dwelling-houses	Unknown
(7) Number of new working-class houses erected	8

2—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.**I.—Inspection.**

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	229
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910.....	30
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	Nil.
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....	10

II—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.....	32
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III—*Action under Statutory Powers.*A. *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning etc., Act, 1919.*

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit— | |
| (a) by owners..... | Nil. |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners.... | Nil. |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... | Nil. |

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied— | |
| (a) by owners | Nil. |
| (b) by Local Authority in default of owners | Nil. |

C. *Proceeding under Section 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc. Act, 1909.*

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders..... | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... | 1 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit..... | Nil. |

- | | |
|--|------|
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... | Nil. |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... | Nil. |
| (6) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... | Nil. |

3—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II. of the Act of 1890 :—

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Name of area..... | Nil. |
| (2) Acreage | Nil. |
| (3) Number of working-class houses in area..... | Nil. |
| (4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced | Nil. |

4—Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.... Nil.

5—Staff engaged on housing work, with briefly, the duties of each officer :—

Sanitary Inspector, the Surveyor, and Medical Officer, who supervise the erection of new houses and inspect and require the owners to keep in in repair and in a sanitary condition the existing ones.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

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

Twenty-three inspections were made, and the workplaces found to be in good condition and clean.

VITAL STATISTICS.

For comparison, the mortality rate of England and Wales and towns are given below :—

	Birth-rate	Death-rate	Infantile Mortality.
England and Wales	18.3	12.2	75
Large Towns	18.8	12.2	79
Smaller Towns	18.3	11.2	74
Clitheroe Rural	9.2	8.6	47

The total number of Births last year (1925) is :—Males 33. Females 52. Total 85.

The Birth Rate is 9.2 compared with 16.0 in 1924.

The number of Deaths is :—41 Males ; 38 Females : Total 79.

The Death rate is 8.6 compared with 10.1 in 1924.

The Infantile Mortality Rate is 47, compared with 45 in 1924. There were three males and one female infants that died.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS.

There were four cases notified belonging to the District and five deaths. Four cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis and two deaths, making a total of seven deaths from Tuberculosis in all forms.

TABLE III.

This shows the causes of death in all forms.

There were 79 deaths.

Diphtheria.....	1
Influenza	5
Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	5
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.....	2
Cancer	8

Rheumatism	1
Apoplexy	7
Heart Disease.....	10
Arterio Sclerosis.....	3
Bronchitis.....	7
Pneumonia	2
Appendicitis	2
Nephritis	5
Premature Birth.....	3
Suicide	3
Deaths from Violence.....	5
Other Defined Disease.....	9
Ill Defined.....	1

The Death Rate is 8.6 per 1,000.

NETT BIRTHS.

Legitimate.....	82
Illegitimate	3
	<hr/>
	85

NETT DEATHS IN INFANTS.

Legitimate.....	4
Illegitimate	0
	<hr/>
	4

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. POSTLETHWAITE

M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (Lond.),

Medical Officer of Health.

