

[Report 1937] / Medical Officer of Health, Clitheroe R.D.C.

Contributors

Clitheroe (England). Rural District Council.

Publication/Creation

1937

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/trshk29d>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

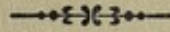
This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



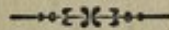
Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

CLITHEROE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



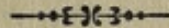
ANNUAL
REPORT

FOR 1937.



J. M. POSTLETHWAITE

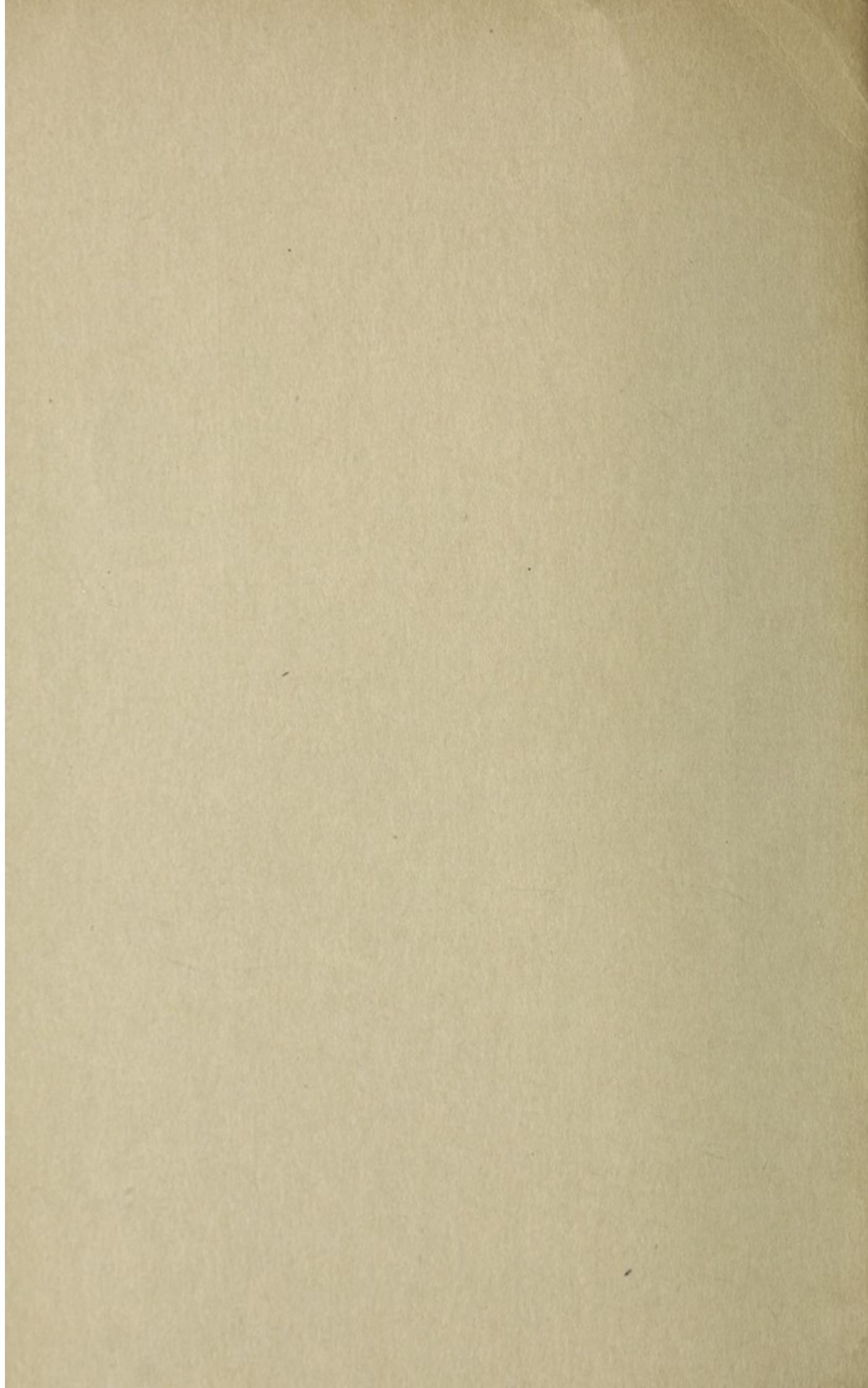
M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (CANTAB.)
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



CLITHEROE.

"Advertiser & Times," Printers, Clitheroe.







TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE COUNCIL.


GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report
for the year ended December 31st, 1937.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

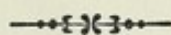
J. M. POSTLETHWAITE.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29115577>

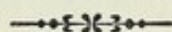
CLITHEROE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report for the year ending 31st December, 1937, on the Sanitary conditions and administration of the Rural District.

In reviewing the last year there does not appear to be anything of outstanding note. The routine work has gone on as usual and a summary of this will be embodied in this report as it goes on.

I will proceed with the Sanitary Administration for the year.

The Staff consists of the Medical Officer (part time), and a Sanitary Inspector (whole time). No other officer.

Area in acres, 32,170.

Population, 1932 Census, 8,644 ; Middle 1934, 8,794 ; 1935, 8,935 ; 1936, 9,051 ; 1937, 9,135.

Number of inhabited houses, according to the Census, 1,569.

Number of inhabited houses, 1937, 1,790.

Number of families or separate occupiers, 1,576 in 1931.

Rateable value at 31st March, 1937, £49,847.

Penny Rate, £200.

The social conditions are good, there being very little real poverty in normal times.

The main occupations are cotton weaving, and farming, and the working conditions are good and call for no special comment.

Nursing in the Home.

GENERAL.

There is a Nursing Association at Whalley which employs one nurse who undertakes general nursing and midwifery, not infectious cases. This association is not assisted in any way by the Local Authority.

The Local Authority does not contribute to any voluntary hospital. Nursing of infectious diseases in the district is not provided for by the Sanitary Authority or directly by the County Council or District Nursing Association.

There is no local scheme for supplying food or milk for expectant mothers.

The Local Authority does not subsidise or employ any mid-wives.

The work of the Local Authority is not related to or administered in co-operation with National Health Insurance.

There are two Mid-wives on the Register, and both are actually practising and seem to be quite sufficient for the needs of the public.

The Mid-wives Act (1936) will provide adequate provision for all expectant and parturient women in every town and district throughout the country which is all to the good of the present and succeeding population.

With ante-natal clinics, whole-time nurses and baby welfare clinics, the health of mothers and children are well catered for and should give the children a good start in life.

Cases that require hospital treatment are usually sent to Blackburn Royal Infirmary for medical, surgical and special cases, such as Eye, X-ray, Throat, Venereal, etc.

Five beds are reserved at the Blackburn Fever Hospital for Small-pox, for which a retaining fee is paid.

There is always difficulty in getting fever cases away to hospitals because the boroughs in which these hospitals are situated have mostly all they can do to provide accommodation for their own people but I must say here that those Authorities always do their best to help me in taking into their hospitals any urgent case that cannot be dealt with at home.

There is no place for the chronic sick in our district. The only places are Coplow View Institution, Clitheroe, or Queen's Park, Blackburn.

There is no provision for unmarried mothers, the nearest is Springfield, Blackburn, but there is St. Denys' Home for homeless children in Clitheroe Borough.

There is a large Institution for Mental Deficients at Calderstones, Whalley.

The Council have made a contract for Ambulance conveyance which is situated at Clitheroe.

The Local Authority has adopted the Infectious Diseases Prevention Act of 1890, and the Public Health Acts of 1890 and 1907, Parts 2, 3 and 4. No new legislation.

There is no particular arrangement made for the investigation of maternal deaths, and cases of puerperal fever. Special cases receive attention as they arise.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

The water supply is from the Clitheroe and Blackburn Corporation Waterworks and wells and springs and is of good quality though rather hard ; the supply from the wells is constant but from the springs intermittent in dry weather.

The number of wells and springs used is 270.

The number of dwelling-houses supplied is 1,524.

The possibilities of contamination are from impurities getting in from surface water. There is little or no possibility of plumbo-solvent action.

There is some insufficiency of supply at outlying farms in dry weather. Roadside wells unsuitable for drinking purposes are still used.

All the villages have a good supply but there are several farms and small hamlets where the supply is not so good.

Sources of Water Supply.

Chatburn, Downham and Worston are supplied from covered reservoirs from Pendle Hill springs.

Chipping from an open reservoir fed from springs off Wolfenden Fell, and some farms from wells and springs.

Thornley from an open reservoir fed from Longridge Fell, and some farms from wells and springs.

Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley, Hurst Green, Stonyhurst and Bankhurst, from the Blackburn Corporation waterworks.

Pendleton from Pendle Hill.

Wiswell from a reservoir fed from Whalley Moor.

Whalley from an open reservoir from Whalley Moor and a supplementary supply from Clitheroe Corporation.

The Local Authority have purchased the water rights on Whalley Moors and have fenced round the gathering grounds.

Water mains have been extended at villages where new property has been built and a supply laid on to each house.

The remaining water conditions are much the same as last year.

Sewerage.

There are sewage disposal works at Barrow, Chatburn, Whalley, and Stonyhurst, and the method of disposal is by sprinklers and land irrigation. The Whalley sewage works have been enlarged.

No special action beyond supervision to check river pollution, acting in conjunction with the Ribble Water Board. Notice Boards fixed.

The character of the Drainage System is by sewers which are periodically flushed.

Certain townships, viz :—Aughton, Bailey and Chaigley, Bowland-with-Leagram, Downham, Twiston, Little Mitton, Pendleton, Thornley-with-Wheatley and Worston are without a proper drainage system.

The Closet accommodation at the end of 1937 was :—

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Privies and privy closets | 563 |
| Fresh water closets | 810 |
| (39 new) | |
| Pails | 234 |
| Waste Water | 310 |

The number of conversions was 3 waste water to fresh water, and 5 pails to fresh water.

Whenever possible, closets are converted to fresh water closets and all new property has the water carriage system, but owners are not complying with the requests to put their property on the water carriage system where sewers are available.

To do so would be to do away with a large number of pails, and reduce the cost of scavenging.

The Council do not contribute towards the cost of conversion.

Scavenging.

The Scavenging of the District has on the whole been efficient, and is done by contractors who remove refuse by day in open carts to tips. There is no destructor in the district.

Fifteen observations taken under Smoke Abatement Act, and no proceedings taken.

No special time limit of black smoke.

Offensive Traders.

Tripe boiler. No action taken or needed. No special Bye-law in force.

Workshops and work places. Good condition.

Common Lodging. Nil.

Tents and Canal boats. Nil.

No special action taken in regard to the publication of information or dissemination of knowledge relating to health or disease.

Rag and Flocks Acts, 1911 and 1928. No premises.

Schools.

All the schools have been visited and all found to be in a satisfactory condition.

With the exception of Thornley all the schools have a water supply laid on from the mains. Thornley has a supply piped from a spring.

The school yards at Pendleton and Thornley are still not in a satisfactory condition.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

These are inspected quarterly and the general condition is distinctly good, the sheds and steddings being clean and scrubbed, the walls and ceilings kept limewashed, and the floors and the milk receptacles kept clean.

The air space when cows are habitually grazed is 400 cubic feet, and where not habitually grazed 600 cubic feet. New sheds 800 cubic feet.

The number of Cowkeepers is 309 and the number on the Register, 210. Number of inspections made, 848.

One pasteurising plant (Silkeborg) and one licence for pasteurised Milk.

At four farms new windows have been fixed, floors of shippens concreted and internal walls cemented to the height of 4 feet. Drains removed to the outside. At another farm the cowshed has been completely modernised. At another a new covered middenshed made and a building has been converted into a dairy containing three rooms, reception, sterilizing and dairy. At two others new cowsheds have been built to tie up 40 head of cattle, new dairies, loose boxes and provender storage rooms, all lighted with electric light. The buildings are all up to date and fulfil all the requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order.

There is no regular arrangements for Veterinary inspection, but the cows are inspected when there is a report of suspected milk at any farm, and samples taken by the County Sanitary Inspector.

During the year 57 samples of milk have been taken and sent away for examination and the result was that tubercle bacilli was found in only three of the samples. The three cows were slaughtered and the carcasses destroyed. Every precaution is taken to see that the milk supplied to the schools is of the highest quality and it is hoped all children will use the milk.

Meat.

Inspection is made daily at slaughter-houses and at the shops weekly.

There is no Public slaughter-house, but eight registered ones. 332 inspections of slaughter-houses have been made.

In a few cases, notice was given to have offal removed and the walls whitewashed, and this was done forthwith.

22 Notices of slaughtering at farms. 21 farms visited and 99 carcasses inspected.

391 inspections were made of meat at slaughter-houses and shops.

The amount of meat condemned and destroyed is :—

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Tuberculous Carcases | 26,520 lbs. |
| Diseased Carcases | 2,080 lbs. |
| Diseased Parts | 5,496 lbs. |
| <hr/> | |
| Total | 34,096 lbs. |

Making a total weight of 304 cwts. 1 qr. 20 lbs.

The number of animals slaughtered was : Cattle, 3,389 ; Sheep, 11,813 ; Pigs, 276 ; Calves, 238 ; Total, 15,716.

Housing.

The housing conditions are good and the types are residential, artisan and farms.

Under the Housing Act, 1936, four houses only were found to be overcrowded containing four families and $28\frac{1}{2}$ persons.

There were four cases of overcrowding relieved this year.

There is no shortage of houses.

During the year 1,391 houses have been inspected and the usual defects such as dampness, blocked drains, etc., have been remedied.

Sundry major repairs have been done such as new roofs, new chimneys, new baths and lavatory basins, new drains laid and external walls cemented and pebbledashed.

The number of new houses built during the year is 21. At Whalley 15, Wiswell 1, Chatburn 1, Hurst Green 1, Chipping 1, Pendleton 1, Thornley 1. All these by private enterprise.

1—*Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year :—*

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|-------|
| (1) | (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 1,391 |
| | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose | Nil. |
| (2) | (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 | 5 |
| (3) | | Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 0 |
| (4) | | Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 21 |

2—*Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—*

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers | 20 |
|---|----|

3—*Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

- | | | |
|-----|---|------|
| (1) | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil. |
|-----|---|------|

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners Nil.

(b) By local authority in default of owners ... Nil.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 10

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 10

(b) By local authority in default of owners ... Nil.

C.—Proceedings under sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil.

D.—Proceedings under section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil.

Housing Act, 1935. Overcrowding :—

| | |
|---|------|
| Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 4 |
| Number of families dwelling therein | 4 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | Nil. |
| Number of cases of overcrowding relieved | Nil. |
| Number of persons concerned in such cases | Nil. |

No special measures taken or suggested as regards insanitary property.

Some outlying farms and a few cottages have not an adequate internal water supply.

There are no houses known that have not an adequate sanitary accommodation within their own curtilage.

Factories and Workshops.

45 inspections were made and all found fairly satisfactory. Four cases of want of cleanliness were remedied.

Bakehouses.

There are 6 Bakehouses.

25 inspections were made and all found clean and satisfactory.

There was no action taken as regards the adulteration of food as there were no cases found.

No dissemination of knowledge as regards Nutrition has been done by the Local Authority.

Dairies.

There are now three in the district which are dealing with a large amount of milk daily.

These dairies are visited frequently and at two of them the Inspector reports a great improvement in cleanliness.

VITAL STATISTICS.

| | Total. | M. | F. |
|---|--------------------|----------|---------------|
| Live Births { | Legitimate | 59 ... | 36 ... 23 |
| | Illegitimate | Nil. ... | Nil. ... Nil. |
| | | — | — |
| | Total | 59 ... | 36 ... 23 |
| Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 6.5 | | | |
| Stillbirths | 4 ... | 1 ... | 3 |
| Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 63 | | | |
| Deaths | 73 ... | 39 ... | 34 |
| Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population *8.1 | | | |

* 1937 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor, 1.29) = 10.4
per 1,000.

Deaths from puerperal causes—

| | |
|------------------------------|------|
| Puerperal sepsis | Nil. |
| Other puerperal causes | Nil. |
| | — |
| Total | Nil. |

Death-rate per 1,000 total (live and
still) births

Nil.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births Nil.

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate
live births Nil.

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegiti-
mate live births Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 11

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) Nil.

Population, 8,994.

| | Per 1,000 of Estimated Population | | | | Maternal Mortality Rate | | Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1000 Live Births |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| | Live Birth- rate | Crude Death- rate | Death-rate from Tuberculosis of Respiratory System | Death- rate from Cancer | Per 1000 Live Births | Per 1000 Total (Live and Still) Births | |
| Mean of 5 years | | | | | | | |
| 1932-1936 | 8.6 | 7.8 | 0.17 | 0.94 | 2.56 | 2.53 | 35 |
| Year 1936. | 7.7 | 7.5 | 0.22 | 1.10 | Nil. | Nil. | 42 |
| 1937. | 6.5 | *8.1 | 0.33 | 1.22 | Nil. | Nil. | Nil. |

Increase or de-
crease in 1937
on—

5 years' aver-
age, 1932-
1936—2.1 + 0.3 + 0.16 + 0.28 —2.56 —2.53 —35

Previous

year ...—1.2 + 0.6 + 0.11 + 0.12 Nil. Nil. —42

* 1937 adjusted death-rate (comparability factor, 1.29) = 10.4
per 1,000.

Infectious Diseases.

| | |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Diphtheria | 17 |
| Scarlet Fever | 25 |
| Pneumonia | 9 |
| Erysipelas | 9 |
| Phthisis | 14 |
| Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 2 |

A total of 76, against 123 in 1936.

Causes of Death.

| | M. | | F. |
|-----------------------------------|----|-----|----|
| ALL CAUSES | 39 | ... | 34 |
| <hr/> | | | |
| Total | | 73 | |
| Phthisis | — | ... | 3 |
| Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis | — | ... | 1 |
| Cancer | 4 | ... | 7 |
| Diabetes | 1 | ... | 2 |
| Cerebral Haemorrhage | 2 | ... | 1 |
| Heart Disease | 9 | ... | 9 |
| Other circulatory diseases | 5 | ... | 1 |
| Bronchitis | 3 | ... | — |
| Pneumonia | 3 | ... | 1 |
| Diphtheria | — | ... | — |
| Other respiratory diseases | — | ... | 1 |
| Diarrhoea | — | ... | — |
| Other digestive diseases | 1 | ... | — |
| Acute and Chronic Nephritis | 2 | ... | 1 |
| Congenital causes | — | ... | — |
| Suicide | 1 | ... | — |
| Senility | 2 | ... | — |
| Violence, not suicide | 1 | ... | — |
| Other defined diseases | 1 | ... | 6 |
| Influenza | 1 | ... | — |
| Appendicitis | 1 | ... | 1 |

| | | M. | | F. |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----|-----|----|
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year | { Total | 1 | ... | 2 |
| | { Legitimate | 1 | ... | 2 |
| | { Illegitimate | — | ... | — |
| Live Births..... | { Total | 36 | ... | 23 |
| | { Legitimate | 36 | ... | 23 |
| | { Illegitimate | — | ... | — |
| Stillbirths..... | { Total | 1 | ... | 3 |
| | { Legitimate | 1 | ... | 3 |
| | { Illegitimate | — | ... | — |

Population, 8,994.

The ratio of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths is Nil.

The notification of Tuberculosis is efficient and there has been no action taken in respect of wilful neglect to notify nor is there any excessive incidence of mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

There has been no action taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62, Public Health Act, 1925.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. POSTLETHWAITE,

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

M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.),

Medical Officer of Health.

