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Contributors

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CLITHEROE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

R E P O R T of the M E D I C A L O F F I C E R
of H E A L T H

Year ended 31st December, 1942.

T. G. RICHARDS,
M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Medical Officer of Health.



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THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL of CLITHEROE

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for the
Year ended 31st December, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Council.

Gentlemen,

Herewith my Annual Report for the year 1942, for the last quarter only of which I was directly in charge of the Public Health work of the District.

STATISTICS and SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Births: Total 93; Live births Males 47
Females 44

Still births Males 0
Females 2

In this Area, the population of Calderstones Institution, while included in the total population, is excluded from the returns as above.

Deaths:

Males (all causes) 37
Females (all causes) 39
76

They can be classified as under:-

Cause of death	Males	Females	Total
Influenza	1	-	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2	1	3
Cancer, stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
Cancer, breast	-	2	2
Cancer, all sites	6	2	8
Heart disease	9	13	22
Other circulatory diseases	1	1	2
Bronchitis	1	4	5
Pneumonia	2	-	2
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	-	1
Other digestive diseases	1	-	1
Nephritis	1	2	3
Premature birth	1	1	2
Birth injury	-	1	1
Intracranial vascular lesions	5	7	12
Road Traffic accidents	1	-	1
Other violent causes	2	1	3
All other causes	2	3	5
Total	37	39	76

With the exception of cotton weaving in the village of Chatburn, and the people of Whalley, many of whom work in the larger towns outside the District, the work in the District is almost entirely agricultural.

There is, especially during the War, almost no unemployment among the adult population.

GENERAL PROVISIONS of HEALTH SERVICES.

Medical Officer of Health: T.G. Richards, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector: W.H. Jackson

Other Officers: Services such as Tuberculosis, V.D., Maternity and Child Welfare, Veterinary Services, School Nurses and Health Visitors are controlled and staffed by the Lancashire County Council.

The Midwives Service is through the District Nursing Association of Queen's Nurses.

HOSPITALS.

There is no hospital in the District.

General, Medical and Surgical cases are attended at the hospitals of Blackburn and Preston.

Infectious Diseases, by arrangement with the Medical Officer of Health for Blackburn. Such cases as require admission to hospital are admitted to the Infectious Disease Hospital of that town.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES in the DISTRICT.

Water Supplies: There have been no notable changes in the year. The position is still not quite satisfactory in the Hurst Green and Stonyhurst area, which has a piped supply.

Drainage and Sewage Disposal: This is satisfactory, with the exception of the area of Hurst Green and the villages of Chipping, Downham, Worston and Pendleton. Formal drainage schemes are urgently required in all these places, and it is hoped that the Council will pursue this matter energetically when the present emergency ends.

Scavenging: Is by direct labour (with the exception of Chatburn, Hurst Green and Wiswell which are scavenged by contract) and is satisfactory.

HOUSING.

There has been little activity in building, but the necessary inspections of property have been carried out, and in almost all cases, the recommendations have been affected. Dampness, insufficient ventilation and blocked drains are the commonest defects in this District.

INSPECTION of FOOD.

1 (a) Milk and Dairies:

Samples have been examined on 26 occasions, the results in all cases being satisfactory.

Under the Special Designation Order (1936) the number of persons licensed to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk is 2, and Accredited Milk, 21. There is one licence to Pasteurise milk. This large plant is:-

(b) Chaigley Creamery:

A scheme has recently been undertaken whereby the Authority makes regular examinations of milk, apart from those made by the bacteriologists of the Dairy Company. The samples collected by the Authority have been found satisfactory.

2 Meat and Slaughterhouses:

The only slaughterhouse in the District which has a licence to slaughter is at Stonyhurst College.

Inspections following notification of the slaughter of pigs were made, and in all cases the meat was found to be fit for human consumption.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases have been notified during the year:-

<u>Infectious Disease</u>	<u>No. of notifications received</u>
Enteric fever	-
Scarlet fever	17
Whooping cough	4
Diphtheria	3
Erysipelas	4
Smallpox	-
Measles	19
Pneumonia	7

There have been no notifications of Puerperal Pyrexia this year, as against a rate of 12.61 (Puerperal fever, puerperal pyrexia) for England and Wales.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of cases on the Register at 31st December, 1942, was:-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
Pulmonary	3	4
Non-Pulmonary	7	3
Total	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u> giving 17 cases in all.

New cases were as follows:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
End of 1st quarter	-	1	-	-
End of 2nd quarter	2	-	-	3
End of 3rd quarter	-	-	1	-
End of 4th quarter	-	-	-	-
Total	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>

There were no cases removed from the Register in this year.
The deaths from Respiratory Tuberculosis were 3.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

In the year a considerable number of children have been immunised bringing the totals up to very satisfactory figures. It may be said that at the end of the year almost all the "school-age" children had been immunised in the schools in this area, including Whiteacre Camp School. There remains a small but definite group of the under-five years and a programme for their immunisation has been commenced.

In the school children, the approximate numbers are:-

<u>Age</u>	<u>Number</u>
5-8 years	200
8 +	<u>371</u>

Total 571 out of a population at risk of 625.

This gives a percentage of 91.2.

Under 15 years, the population at risk is harder to estimate accurately. However, 351 cases had been immunised and recorded. In a District such as this, it is fairly easy to observe individual families, and my estimate, based on figures obtained from the Food Authority and the Infant Welfare Workers, is a percentage of 93. This does not include children under one year of age.

SCHOOLS.

All the schools in the Council's Area have been visited, and were all found to be very clean.

With the exception of Thornley, Pendleton, Downham and Chaigley, all the schools are supplied with water from the public supply. Thornley and Chaigley Schools are supplied from springs, the water being conveyed in pipes to the school, and Downham and Pendleton are supplied from the privately owned village supplies.

Eight of the schools have fresh water closets. Of the remaining five:

- (a) Hurst Green R.C. School has 6 privy closets as well as fresh water closets;
- (b) Hurst Green C.E. School has privy closets only;
- (c) Downham School has pail closets;
- (d) Barrow Congregational School has pail closets;
- (e) Thornley has privy closets.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T.G. RICHARDS,

Medical Officer of Health.