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**Contributors**

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CLITHEROE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER

of HEALTH

Year ended 31st December, 1946.

T.G. RICHARDS,

M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.



Council Offices,  
Church Brow,  
Clitheroe, Lancs.

December 15th, 1947.

To the Chairman and Members  
of the Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my fifth Annual Report,  
for the year ended December 31st, 1946.

The district is largely agricultural, there being no  
area in which there is a large occupation whose entire dependance  
is based on a single industry. The conditions brought about by war  
are still manifest, this particularly with regard to food and  
housing.

In May, Mr. R. Bridge, additional Sanitary Inspector,  
terminated his service with the Council on being appointed to a  
similar position with the Howden R.D.C. Mr. H. Barton was appointed  
to the vacancy and commenced his duties in August.

The following pages detail the principal statistics of  
the year under review.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

T.G. RICHARDS.

Medical Officer of Health.



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GLITHEREE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for the year  
ended 31st December, 1946.

PARTICULARS OF DISTRICT.

Area in acres 32,170

Population-Census 1931, 8644.

Registrar-General's estimate of  
Population, mid-1946 .. .. . 8705.

Number of inhabited houses - (a) Census 1931 ...1569 (b) End of 1946 according  
to rate books ... 1896.

Rateable Value at December 12th .. .. . Sum represented by a penny rate £216.  
1946 .. .. . £54,301.

VITAL STATISTICS.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality occurring during the year which requires special comment. Apart from the cases of dysentery, the majority of which were notified from the Calderstones Institution for Mental Defectives, there were no specially noteworthy cases of sickness or invalidity. There does not appear to be any conditions of occupation or environment which have had a prejudicial affect on health.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

	Total	Male	Female
Live births { Legitimate	118	53	65
{ Illegitimate	2	2	-
{ Total	120	55	65

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1946 .. .. . 13.7

	Total	Male	Female
Still births	2	2	-

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .. .. . 16.4

Compared with 1945 the birth rate per 1,000 estimated population shows an increase from 12.1 to 13.7, whilst the mean of the 5 years 1941-1945 was 10.9

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths.	80	43	37

Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population .. .. . 9.1

Compared with 1945 the death rate shows a decrease from 9.5 to 9.1 whilst the mean of the 5 years 1941-1945 was 8.5.

It is pleasing to be able to report that there were no deaths from puerperal causes, postabortive sepsis, or other maternal causes.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:-

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	2	1	1

Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 live births .. .. . 16.

The comparative figure for 1945 was 21, whilst the mean of the 5 years 1941-1945 was 29.



For the whole of England and Wales the live birth rate per 1,000 population was 19.1, and the still births per 1,000 population 0.53, whilst the death rate per 1,000 population was 11.5.

#### DEATHS.

	Per 1,000 of estimated population.				Maternal mortality rate.		
	Live birth rate.	Crude death rate.	Death rate from T.B. and respiratory system.	Death rate from Cancer.	Per 1,000 live births.	Per 1,000 total (live and still births.)	Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 still births.
Mean of 5 years, 1941 - 1945.	10.9	8.5	0.29	1.60	5.88	5.75	29.
Year 1945 .. .. .	12.1	9.5	0.34	1.86	9.61	9.34	nil
Year 1946 .. .. .	13.7	9.1	0.11	1.60	nil	nil	16.
Increase or decrease in 1946 on 5 years average 1941-1945.	+2.8	+0.6	-0.18	nil	-5.88	-5.75	-13
Previous year .. ..	+1.6	-0.4	-0.23	-0.26	-9.61	-9.34	+16

The total number of deaths (80) may be classified as follows.

Cause of death.	No. of deaths.	Per 1,000	Per 1,000
		1945.	1944.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.	1 M - F	.115	.348
Other forms of Tuberculosis.	1 M - F	.115	-
Cancer of stomach and duodenum.	- M 3 F	.345	.348
Cancer of all other sites.	6 M 5 F	1.265	1.044
Intra cranial Vascular lesions.	4 M 4 F	.920	.464
Heart diseases.	16 M 11 F	3.105	2.784
Other diseases of circulatory system.	- M 2 F	.230	.464
Bronchitis.	3 M 4 F	.805	.348
Pneumonia.	1 M 1 F	.230	.116
Other respiratory diseases.	3 M - F	.345	.238
Diarrhoea under 2 years.	1 M 1 F	.115	-
Appendicitis.	1 M - F	.115	.116
Other digestive diseases.	1 M - F	.115	.116
Nephritis.	- M 2 F	.230	.580
Infant diseases.	1 M - F	.115	-
Other Violent Causes.	2 M 1 F	.345	.696
All other causes.	3 M 3 F	.690	.580





# INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the incidence in age groups of infectious diseases occurring during the year. An outbreak of dysentery was notified, the majority of the cases being inmates of the Calderstones Institution for Mental Defectives. Four cases of scarlet fever were removed to Isolation Hospital, and one case of enteric fever.

Hospital facilities for ordinary infectious diseases are available by agreement with the Corporation of Darwin at their Isolation Hospital at Ball Hill, Darwin. For smallpox cases an arrangement exists with the Blackburn Corporation for isolation should this be necessary.

One case of diphtheria and one of cerebro-spinal meningitis were reported. Both were mild cases and recovered.

Disinfection is carried out by means of fumigation when required. Formalin is used and only terminal disinfection is done by the Council. An arrangement exists with Clitheroe Corporation by which means steam disinfection of bedding etc. can be effected. There is no suitable vehicle for the transport of infected bedding to the steam disinfector.

Eleven houses were disinfected during the year and three disinfections were carried out at the Whiteacre Lane Camp School. From this school bedding was removed to Clitheroe for steam disinfection.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is supplied to medical practitioners by the Council on request and stocks are kept at the Council Offices.

During the year 27 specimens were submitted for examination, 26 being in relation to diphtheria and 1 for typhoid fever.

## TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.

Diseases.	Total cases at all ages.	AGE PERIODS - YEARS.													Total deaths.	Total cases removed to hospital from the district.	Deaths in hospital of persons belonging to the district.
		under															
		1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over.				
Scarlet fever	10	1			1		5	2						1		4	
Diphtheria	1													1			
Enteric fever	1													1		1	
Measles	3						1	1		1							
Whooping Cough	14	1	2	2	1	3	3			1	1						
Acute Pneumonia	2									1	1						
Cerebro Spinal fever	1							1									
Dysentery	79									7	50	21	1				
Erysipelas	1											1					
Any other diseases notifiable in district e.g. chickenpox.	1										1						
Totals.	113	2	2	2	2	3	9	4	8	54	25	1	1	-		5	





### TUBERCULOSIS.

The total number of cases notified in the year was 6 compared with 8 in 1945. Five of these cases were pulmonary and 1 non-pulmonary.

Two deaths were notified. One being pulmonary and one non-pulmonary.

The register at December 31st, 1946 stands thus:-

Pulmonary		Total.	Non-Pulmonary		Total	Total Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary.		Total M & F
M	F		M	F		M	F	
12	6	18	4	6	10	16	12	28

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Again the immunisation campaign constitutes one of the features of the public health service in your district. There have been immunisation sessions at all the clinics in the Villages.

The prophylactic A.P.T. is used and the total child population under 15 years of age having been protected by immunisation is 1075. During the year a total of 192 children received immunisation.

Only one case of diphtheria was notified during the year and the patient was in the 35 to 45 age group. The fact that for the second consecutive year no notification was received of a person suffering from diphtheria under the 15 age group is significant, and points to the advantageous effect of the immunisation campaign. In the past 5 years only 7 cases have been notified as compared with 43 cases in the previous 5 year period.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supply throughout the district is provided chiefly by mains either in public or private ownership. The sources of supply are from moorland springs. Water to the Council's mains is derived from Blackburn Corporation for Hurst Green and Woodfields, and from Clitheroe Corporation for portions of Pendleton, Barrow, and to supplement the Council's own supply at Whalley. The villages of Downham, Pendleton, Twiston and Little Mitton and the greater portion of Barrow are supplied from sources and mains in private ownership. Chatburn, Worston, Chipping and Thornley with Wheatley are supplied from the Council's mains which receive water in bulk from springs in private ownership.

The quality of the water supplied to the district is generally satisfactory. The water supply at Whalley which is regarded as being of doubtful bacteriological quality has been safeguarded in this respect by the installation of a chlorination plant. Chemical analyses made during the year show the various supplies to be satisfactory. None is liable to plumbo-solvent action.

As regards quantity there has been no shortage of water to the properties supplied. Some areas of the district are in need of an increased supply, particularly for agricultural requirements. Many farms rely on independent supplies which are known to be inadequate. With a view to ascertaining the estimated present and future needs of the district a report was presented on your instructions by Mr. A. Brooksbank, M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., Consulting Engineer. The report sets out proposals for the future supply of the district and was submitted to the Ministry of Health. At the end of the year consideration was being given to the recommendations contained in the report.

The following table shows particulars of the number of dwelling houses and the population supplied:-





No of houses and population supplied  
direct with constant supply.

Parish	No. of houses.	Population	From public mains.		From other piped approved sources.		Without piped and constant supply.	
			No. of houses.	Pop.	No. of houses.	Pop.	No. of houses.	Pop.
Aighton Bailey & Chaigley	262	958	148	541	92	336	22	81
Bowland with Leagram	35	181	5	26	22	114	8	41
Chatburn	347	1118	346	1114	1	4	-	-
Chipping	229	802	154	545	47	168	28	89
Downham	61	226	-	-	60	222	1	4
Little Mitton	10	51	10	51	-	-	-	-
Mearley	8	30	-	-	8	30	-	-
Pendleton	78	238	28	85	50	153	-	-
Thornley with Wheatley	77	314	20	82	42	171	15	61
Twiston	22	59	-	-	20	53	2	6
Whalley	554	4073 <sup>+</sup>	538	1721	13	42	3	10
Wiswell	182	530	73	211	109	319	-	-
Worston	31	125	22	89	9	36	-	-
<b>TOTAL.</b>	<b>1896</b>	<b>8705</b>	<b>1344</b>	<b>4465</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>1648</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>292</b>

+ Includes approximately 2,300 persons at Calderstones Institution for Mental Defectives.

No. of samples submitted for Analysis:-

- (a). Bacteriological.....5 results, 3 satisfactory 2 unsatisfactory.  
(b). Chemical.....5 results, 5 satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The existing sewage disposal works at Chatburn, Barrow, and Whalley performed satisfactorily during the year. Frequent visits were made to the works by the inspector of the Lancashire Rivers Board and no complaints were received. Samples of effluent were submitted for analysis and in each case proved to be of a satisfactory quality.

The work on the proposed sewerage scheme for the village of Downham commenced in August. At the end of the year little progress had been made due to labour difficulties and the nature of the ground.

In February public inquiries were held by the Ministry of Health at Hurst Green and Chipping in connection with the proposed sewerage schemes for these villages. Approval to the schemes were received later. When the works are completed a much needed sanitary improvement will result.

Schemes were in preparation at the end of the year for the sewerage





of the villages of Pendleton and Werston.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AT END OF 1946.

Privies	510	Pail Closets	211
No. of houses on water carriage system			1171
No. of fresh water closets			869
No. of waste water closets			297
No. of privies converted to fresh water closets			2
No. of pail closets converted to fresh water closets			8
No. of waste water closets converted to fresh water closets			3

#### REFUSE COLLECTION.

The greater portion of the district is scavenged by a system of direct labour with the exception of Hurst Green, Woodfields and Stonyhurst which is carried out by contract.

The scheme provides for the collection of domestic and trade refuse and includes the emptying of pail closets. Disposal is by means of tipping at tips under the Council's control in various parts of the district.

There is still a need for the substitution of regulation bins for those ashpits still in existence, although the number of these is gradually being reduced, and the extension of the service to cover the whole of the district.

#### SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1946.

No. of premises visited 2322.  
Defects or nuisances discovered 125. No. abated 106.  
No. of notices served.....informal 93. Statutory... nil.  
Legal Proceedings.. .....none.

#### HOUSING.

No. of new houses erected during year.	
(1) By the local authority.....-	
(11) By other local authorities.....-	
(111) By other bodies or persons.....4	
1. Inspection of dwelling houses during year.	
1 (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	976
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose.	1023
2 (a) No. of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 & 1932.	755
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose.	802
3 No. of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	-
4. No. 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.	195
2. Remedy of defects during year without service of formal notices.	
No. of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers.	52
3. Action under statutory powers during year.	
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act 1936.	
(1) No. of Dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	-
(2) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.	
(a) by owners.	1
(b) by local authority in default of owners.	-
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	65
(2) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.	
(a) by owners.	-
(b) by local authority in default of owners.	-





(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act 1936.

- (1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. -  
(2) No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. -

The housing conditions in the district are fairly good judged by rural standards, although houses are suffering from lack of attention and maintenance which accrued during the war and is continuing due to the shortage of materials and labour. The operation of the Rent Restrictions Acts has a detrimental influence on the condition of tenanted houses by the prohibition of rent increases for repairs. The steep rise in building costs continued during the year and compared unfavourably with the stabilised rents of houses.

The survey of houses recommended in the Hobhouse Report continued during the year, the information gained will be a reliable guide to the housing conditions of the district and the future needs. It is unfortunate in this respect that present conditions do not permit more definite action under the Housing Acts.

Overcrowding continues as in the previous year and is due mainly to the shortage of houses for newly married couples.

With regard to the provision of new houses the Council as housing authority are preparing for the erection of 32 houses at Chipping, 18 at Hurst Green, 24 at Whalley, and 12 at Chatburn. Before the end of the year site preparation commenced at Chipping.

#### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

##### Milk Supply.

The administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts, Orders, and Regulations depends entirely on the frequent and regular inspection of cowsheds and dairies which was maintained during the year. The number of milking machines in operation continues to increase and attention is directed towards the proper cleansing of the various parts of the equipment.

During the year every effort has been made to encourage producers to consider the advantages in the production of designated milk.

No. of dairy farms.	225.
No. of cowkeepers.	312.
No. of dairymen other than cowkeepers.	1.
No. of farms producing T.T. Milk.	6.
No. of farms producing Accredited Milk.	18.
No. of licensed pasteurising plants.	1.
No. of licences issued for bottling T.T. Milk.	1.

##### Sampling of Milk.

Tuberculous Milk - No. of samples submitted.	12
No. satisfactory.	12

##### Bacteriological Examinations.

No. of samples submitted.	12
No. satisfactory.	10
No. unsatisfactory.	2

##### Meat Distribution, Slaughterhouses etc.

The slaughter of animals for human consumption and the inspection of carcasses continued under the control of the Ministry of Food in the Borough of Clitheroe. Inspections of meat in shops and vans in your district have been made, no diseased or unbound meat was found.

Two applications for licences for slaughter houses, licensed before the government control of slaughtering were received and rejected. In one case an appeal to the magistrates was made by the applicant, the case was dismissed.

With the exception of one at Stonyhurst College, who hold a licence to slaughter issued by the Ministry of Food, there were no slaughter house licences in force in the district.





One application was received for a licence in respect of premises proposed to be used as a knackery and rejected. Subsequent inspections proved the premises in use as such and proceedings were instituted under section 57 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938. The case of the Council was successful, a £10 fine being imposed on the owner.

#### ICE CREAM REGISTRATIONS.

Eight premises were registered during the year for the manufacture of ice-cream. All were frequently visited during the summer months.

#### FACTORIES ACT 1937.

The factories in the district are in fairly good condition.

42 factories are in operation in the district all of which were inspected. Three defects were discovered and remedied without recourse to statutory action.

