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Contributors

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER

of HEALTH.

Year ended 31st. December, 1947.

T. G. RICHARDS,

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

Medical Officer of Health.



CLITHEROE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH for the year
ended 31st December, 1947.

PARTICULARS OF DISTRICT.

Area in acres 32,170.

Population-Census 1931, 8644.

Registrar-General's estimate of
population, mid-1947 8716.

Number of inhabited houses - (a) Census 1931 ... 1569 (b) End of 1947 according to
rate books 1919.

Rateable Value £54,150. Sum represented by a penny rate £216.

VITAL STATISTICS.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality occurred during the year which required special comment. There were no cases of sickness or invalidity worthy of special note. There do not appear to be any conditions of occupation or environment which have had a prejudicial effect on health.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

	Total	Male	Female
Live births { Legitimate	121	62	59
{ Illegitimate	4	2	2
(Total	<u>125</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>61</u>

Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population mid-1947 14.3

	Total	Male	Female
Still births	4	2	2

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 31.

Compared with 1946 the birth rate per 1,000 estimated population shows an increase from 13.7 to 14.3, whilst the mean of the 5 years 1942-1946 was 11.7

	Total	Male	Female
Deaths	78	41	37

Death-rate per 1,000 estimated population 8.9

Compared with 1946 the death rate shows a decrease from 9.1 to 8.9 whilst the mean of the 5 years 1942-1946 was 8.8

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 of age:-

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	3	3	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>

Death rate of infants under one year per 1,000 live births 24

The comparative figure for 1946 was 16, whilst the mean of the 5 years 1942-1946 was 22.

For the whole of England and Wales the live birth rate per 1,000 population was 20.5, and the still births per 1,000 population 0.50, whilst the death rate per 1,000 population was 12.0

	Per 1,000 of estimated population.				Maternal mortality rate.		Rate of deaths under one year per 1,000 still births.
	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).	
Mean of 5 years, 1942 - 1946.	11.7	8.8	0.27	1.58	3.75	3.66	22
Year 1946.	13.7	9.1	0.11	1.60	nil	nil	16
Year 1947.	14.3	8.9	0.57	1.26	nil	nil	24
Increase or decrease in 1947 on 5 years average 1942-1946.	+2.6	+0.1	+0.30	-0.32	-3.75	-3.66	+2
Previous Year	+0.6	-0.2	+0.46	-0.34	nil	nil	+8

The total number of deaths (78) may be classified as follows.

Cause of death.	No. of deaths.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3 M 2 F
Influenza	2 M - F
Measles	- M 1 F
Cancer of buc: cav: and oesoph;(M) uterus (F)	- M 4 F
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1 M - F
Cancer of all other sites	4 M 2 F
Diabetes	1 M 1 F
Intra cranial Vascular lesions	5 M 4 F
Heart diseases	16 M 15 F
Other diseases of circulatory system	1 M - F

Cause of death.	No. of deaths.
Bronchitis	- M 1 F
Pneumonia	1 M 2 F
Diarrhoea under 2 years	1 M - F
Appendicitis	1 M - F
Other digestive diseases	1 M - F
Nephritis	- M 1 F
Premature Births	2 M - F
Other Violent Causes	1 M 1 F
All other causes	1 M 3 F
Total	41 M 37 F

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the incidence in age groups of infectious diseases occurring during the year. Two cases of scarlet fever were removed to Isolation Hospital.

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

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 disinfectors.

Twenty-one premises were disinfected during the year.

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

During the year 18 specimens were submitted for examination, 12 being in relation to diphtheria, 1 for typhoid fever, 4 for Scarlet Fever, and one blood test.

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 district.
		1	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65 & over	
Scarlet Fever	4				1	2	1						2	
Measles	14		3		2	2			4	3		1		
Whooping Cough	16	1	1		5	2	7							
Acute Pneumonia	1								1			3		
Dysentery	1											1		
Totals.	36	1	4		8	2	11	1	5	3		1	4	2

TUBERCULOSIS.

The total number of cases notified in the year was 13 compared with 6 in 1946.

Ten of these cases were pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary.

Five deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System occurred.

The register at December 31st, 1947 stands thus:-

Pulmonary		Total	Non-Pulmonary		Total	Total Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary.		Total M & F
M	F		M	F		M	F	
13	9	22	4	9	13	17	18	35

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.


Again the immunisation 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 1085. During the year 52 children underwent a course of immunisation and 46 children received reinforcing doses.

There were no cases of diphtheria notified during the year. In the past 5 years only 4 cases have been notified as compared with 29 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



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Downham, Pendleton, Twiston and Little Hutton 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. 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 in 1946 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.

During the present year the Joint Report on Bowland and Clitheroe Area Water Supplies was presented, and the Clitheroe and Bowland Area Water Supply - Joint Working Party was formed, to review existing water supplies and potential resources of the areas.

Below is a table showing 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.	Estimated 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	298	986	179	555	96	348	25	85
Bowland with Leagram	38	190	6	32	25	122	7	36
Chatburn	342	1103	341	1099	1	4	-	-
Chipping	227	802	154	549	47	172	26	81
Downham	61	226	-	-	60	222	1	4
Little Hutton	10	51	10	51	-	-	-	-
Hearley	8	30	-	-	8	30	-	-
Pendleton	80	244	29	88	51	156	-	-
Thornley with Wheatley	78	317	20	82	48	174	15	61
Twiston	22	59	-	-	20	53	2	6
Whalley	537	4036*	522	1737	13	42	2	7
Wiswell	186	542	77	223	109	319	-	-
Worston	32	128	3	92	9	36	-	-
Total	1919	8716	1361	4508	482	1678	76	280

*Includes approximately 2,250 persons at Calderstones Institution for Mental Defectives.

Samples from 6 parish supplies were submitted for Chemical and Bacteriological examinations. Bacteriological examination showed 1 satisfactory and 5 unsatisfactory, but Chemical data showed there had been no gross pollution. Chemical examination showed 5 to be satisfactory and 1 doubtful.

14 samples of proposed private supplies to outlying properties were submitted for examination with the following results:-

- | | |
|---|----|
| 1. Satisfactory | 5. |
| 2. Within satisfactory limit for rural supply | 6. |
| 3. Unsatisfactory | 3. |

The ex War Department main to Moreton Hall Polish Camp was taken over during the year. Arrangements are being made for supply from Accrington and District Gas and Water Board and connections to be made to properties between Cock Bridge and Portfield Bay.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The existing sewage disposal works at Chatburn and Barrow 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. One sample taken in September from Whalley effluent was reported as unsatisfactory followed by a similar result in March, 1948. This indicated that the plant is working to full capacity, although modification of treatment methods has given more satisfactory results.

The work on the proposed sewerage scheme for the village of Downham, and the extensions to the works at Chatburn were practically completed at the end of the year.

Hurst Green Sewerage scheme commenced in March 1947 and good progress was maintained. Technical difficulties have arisen and been overcome and the scheme is nearing completion.

The contractor for the Chipping Sewerage scheme commenced work on the site during March 1948; little actual progress was made up to the year end.

Schemes in preparation for the sewerage of the villages of Pendleton and Worston have had to be temporarily abandoned as a result of the Government retrenchment policy.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION AT END OF 1947.

Privies	536	Pail Closets	196
No. of houses on water carriage system			1093.
No. of fresh water closets			895.
No. of waste water closets			298.
No. of privies converted to fresh water closets			6.
No. of pail closets converted to fresh water closets			15.
No. of waste water closets converted to fresh water closets			5.
No. of privies converted to pail closets.			2.

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, (52 were converted during the year) and the extension of the service to cover the whole of the district.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1946.

No. of premises visited 1071.
 Defects or nuisances discovered 187. No. abated 162.
 No. of notices served.....informal 82.statutory.....nil.
 Legal proceedings.....none.

HOUSING.

No. of new houses erected during year.

- (1) By the local authority.....
 (2) By other local authorities.....
 (3) By other bodies or persons.....

1. Inspection of dwelling during year.

- (1) (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 721.
 (b) No. of inspections made for the purpose .. 987.
 (2) (a) No. of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932. 117.
 (b) No. of inspections made for the purpose... 143.
 (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. -.
 (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. 126.

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... 57.

3. Action under statutory powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs. -.
 (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
 (a) By owners -.
 (b) By local authority in default of owners... .. -.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.. 43.
 (2) Number 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 the Housing Act, 1936:

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

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

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

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 unfavorably 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's Housing programme was seriously curtailed as a result of Government's revised allocations during the year.

The Chipping Housing Scheme - 32 houses -. During the year good progress was maintained all the houses being under construction at the end of the year and the first six completed houses were occupied during the early part of 1948. This scheme was unaffected by the revised allocations.

The Hurst Green Housing Scheme was reduced from 18 traditional houses to 1 pair of Airey precast houses, for agricultural workers; after negotiations with the Ministry of Health permission was given for the erection of 6 traditional houses, for agricultural workers. The work on the six houses commenced in March 1948.

The Chatburn Housing Scheme was reduced on the revised allocation from 12 traditional houses to 1 pair of Airey precast houses for agricultural workers only. Work on the pair of Airey precast houses commenced in the early part of 1948.

The Whalley Housing Scheme was reduced on the revised allocations from 24 traditional houses to 1 pair of Airey precast houses for agricultural workers only. Owing to the abandoning of the Whalley Site, through technical difficulties encountered in providing sewer and drainage services, no progress has been made with Airey precast houses.

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.

No. of new and converted shippons and dairies. 10.

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.	228.
No. of cowkeepers.	312.
No. of dairymen other than cowkeepers.	2.
No. of farms producing T.T. Milk.	13.
No. of farms producing Accredited Milk.	19.
No. of licensed pasteurising plants.	1.
No. of licences issued for bottling T.T. Milk.	1.
No. of licences issued for bottling T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk.	1.

Sampling of Milk.

Tuberculous Milk - No. of samples submitted.	17.
No. satisfactory.	17.

Bacteriological Examinations.

No. of samples submitted.	40.
No. satisfactory.	32.
No. unsatisfactory.	8.

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 unsound meat was found.

Whenever practicable pigs slaughtered for home consumption have been inspected for the protection of the consumer. During the year 459 pigs were slaughtered for home consumption, the majority of these were inspected and no diseased or unsound carcasses were found.

A licence for the slaughter of animals was granted to the Co-operative Wholesale Society of Manchester for their premises at Shaw House Farm, Whalley. These premises are under the control of the Ministry of Food and used for storage only.

ICE CREAM.

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

27 samples were submitted for examination and reported upon as follows:-

Grade I	-	9
Grade II	-	4
Grade III	-	4
Grade IV	-	10.

The results of the samples were communicated to the respective manufacturers, unsatisfactory results were followed by repeat visits of inspection and instruction.

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. Two defects were discovered and remedied without recourse to statutory action.

